

# dallas voice

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Friday, May 25, 2018

## History in the Making

Valdez, Burch & other  
LGBT Candidates win in runoffs

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**Please see Brief Summary of Patient  
Information with important warnings  
on the adjacent pages.**





## Brief Summary of Patient Information about BIKTARVY®

### BIKTARVY (bik-TAR-vee) (bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

**Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with BIKTARVY.** For more information, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?”

### What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

**BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:**

▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** If you have an HBV infection and take BIKTARVY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking BIKTARVY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of BIKTARVY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your BIKTARVY is all gone.
- Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider. If you stop taking BIKTARVY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking BIKTARVY.

**For more information about side effects, see “What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?”**

### What is BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY is a prescription medicine that is used without other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults:

- ▶ who have not received anti-HIV-1 medicines in the past, **or**
- ▶ to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines for people whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

BIKTARVY contains the prescription medicines bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if BIKTARVY is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

**Do not take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

**Before taking BIKTARVY, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:**

- ▶ have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection
- ▶ have kidney problems
- ▶ are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant during treatment with BIKTARVY.

**Pregnancy Registry:** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- ▶ are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take BIKTARVY.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - At least one of the medicines in BIKTARVY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in BIKTARVY can pass into your breast milk.

Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may interact with BIKTARVY. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- ▶ You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with other medicines.

*Continued on next page.*



Continued from previous page.

### How should I take BIKTARVY®?

- ▶ Take BIKTARVY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. BIKTARVY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- ▶ Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.
- ▶ Do not change your dose or stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care during treatment with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take antacids that contain aluminum, magnesium, or calcium, take BIKTARVY on an empty stomach 2 hours before you take these antacids.
- ▶ If you take supplements that contain iron or calcium, take these supplements with food at the same time that you take BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Do not miss a dose of BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take too much BIKTARVY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- ▶ When your BIKTARVY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to BIKTARVY and become harder to treat.

### What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **See “What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?”**
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- ▶ **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys when starting and during treatment with BIKTARVY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Too much lactic acid is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

### What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY? (continued)

- ▶ **Severe liver problems.** In rare cases, severe liver problems can happen that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

**The most common side effects** of BIKTARVY are diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### General information about the safe and effective use of BIKTARVY.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use BIKTARVY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give BIKTARVY to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about BIKTARVY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about BIKTARVY that is written for health professionals. For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.BIKTARVY.com**.

**Keep BIKTARVY and all medicines out of reach of children.**

Issued: February 2018



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Lupe Valdez on election night. Photo by David Taffet. Design by Kevin Thomas



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### Lost Souls Rugby headed to Bingham Cup

Dallas' Lost Souls Rugby team is headed to Amsterdam to compete in the Mark Bingham Cup.

Team captain Bruises McGee said the team would play in at least six games from June 7-9 to qualify for the June 10 championship. Lost Souls is the defending Division 3 champ.

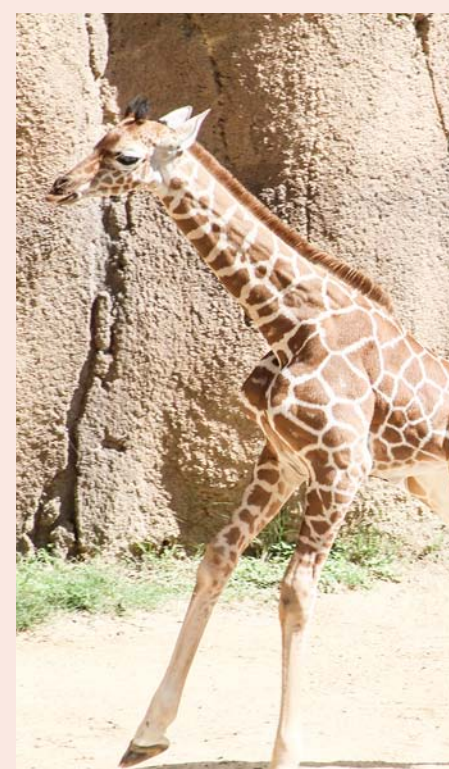
At least 42 teams are headed to Amsterdam. Lost Souls has 25 team members going, the maximum number allowed on the roster. Two additional players are planning to make the trip, but won't be allowed to play.

The Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Tournament — aka the Bingham Cup — is a gay rugby union tournament held every other year. The competition, first held in 2002, is named after the gay 9-11 hero who was a rugby player.

The send off will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, with a pie-in-the-face fundraiser at the Round-Up Saloon with free pizza. The team will introduce its new jersey at the event.

The team will send scores during the tournament, and we'll post info as we receive it.

— David Taffet



### County Commissioner Daniel to present Pride Month resolution

Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel will present the 2018 LGBT Pride Month resolution during the Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday, June 5.

Daniel and the other commissioners invite members of the community and anyone else who is interested to attend.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Allen Clemson Courtroom on the first floor of the historic School Book Depository Building, 411 Elm St. Daniel's chief of staff, Erin Moore, noted that while resolutions are usually presented at the beginning of the meeting, those attending should "budget an hour" for the event.

Paid parking is available behind the building in Lot C for an \$8 flat fee, and for \$10 in surrounding lots. There is limited on-street metered parking. The DART Rail West End stop is two blocks from the building.

Those who know they plan to attend are asked to RSVP to Moore at [Erin.Moore@dallas-county.org](mailto:Erin.Moore@dallas-county.org) by June 1.

— Tammye Nash

### Witten makes Dallas Zoo debut

Witten, the Dallas Zoo's new giraffe named after Dallas Cowboy Jason Witten, was introduced to the public Thursday, May 24.

Born on April 25, Witten weighs 185 pounds, and Dallas Zoo Vice President Harrison Edell said he expects the giraffe to remain in Dallas with his mom Chrystal for several years.

He said he expects Witten — who is curious and outgoing and always wants to know what zookeepers are doing — to do well because Chrystal is an experienced mom. After coming into the savanna exhibit, Chrystal came over to the bridge where reporters were filming to see who we were and what we were doing before she allowed Witten to come over.

Edell said there are only 80,000 giraffes living in the wild in Africa today, a 40 percent decline in 15 years. Dallas Zoo participates in the Giraffe Species Survival plan.

For now, Witten will be out on the savanna on Fridays and Sundays and possibly a day during the week as well.

— 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](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

## MAY

### • May 28: HRC Mondays

HRC Mondays series continues with a program on "Access to Healthcare" from 6:30-9 p.m. at Chino Chinatown at Trinity Grove, 3011 Gulden Lane, # 110. For information email; [cozette.kosary@gmail.com](mailto:cozette.kosary@gmail.com).

### • May 29: 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 30-June 28: Pride at the Library

New Artwork inspired by the writings of Oscar Wilde by James Behan at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Lillian M. Bradshaw Gallery (4th floor), 1515 Young St.

### • May 31: Comedy Kicks Cancer with Tig Notaro

Cancer Support Community North Texas presents comedian Tig Notaro in Comedy Kicks Cancer, 7:30 p.m. at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. For tickets visit [EisemannCenter.com](http://EisemannCenter.com).

### • May 31: GALA Spring Movie Event

Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas hosts a screening of two LGBT films at the Angelika Film Center, 7205 Bishop Road in Plano, at 6:30 p.m. The films are *Sisak*, "India's first silent LGBTQ love story set in Mumbai," and *Real Boy*, "an intimate story of a family in transition." Tickets are \$12 in advance online at [Galantx.org](http://Galantx.org) and \$15 at the door.

### • May 31-June 3: TBRU

### • May 31: Real Boy screening

GALA North Texas presents the film *Real Boy* and the short film *Sisak* with a lobby reception at 6:30 p.m., screening at 7 p.m. and raffle and wrap at 8:30 p.m. at Angelika Film Center, Shops at Legacy,

7205 Bishop Road, Plano. \$12.

## JUNE

### • June 1: Pride at City Hall

Unfurling of the Pride flag in the lobby of Dallas City Hall and opening of the exhibit The Impact of HIV / AIDS in Dallas at noon at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. Everyone welcome.

### • June 1: Hope Cottage's 100th birthday

Hope Cottage: Pregnancy Care and Adoption Service Center Dallas celebrates its 100th birthday at 6 p.m. at Lakewood Country Club, 6430 Gaston Ave., with dinner, dancing and sharing memories. For information visit [hopecottage.org/hc](http://hopecottage.org/hc).

### • June-September: Pride at the Library

From UNT's LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Archive, documenting the history and culture of the LGBT community in Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas History & Archives (7th floor), 1515 Young St.

### • June 2: Bloomin Ball

Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 6 p.m.-midnight at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway.

### • June 2: Two Charities in One Show

Linze Serell raises money for North Texas Pride, GDMAF, Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network and Miss Gay Texas Pageant System at 8 p.m. at 5115 Bar, 515 S. Jennings Ave., Fort Worth.

### • June 3: Miss Big Thickette

The Turtle Creek Chorale's raise money for LifeWalk with their annual fundraiser pageant from 7-10 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • June 4: Dallas Cakes watch party

Watch party for an encore showing of the Food Network series *Dallas Cakes* episode filmed during Toast To Life from 6:30-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP at [DallasCakesWatchParty.eventbrite.com](http://DallasCakesWatchParty.eventbrite.com).



On Friday, June 1, City Hall Pride begins with the unfurling of the Pride flag in the lobby of Dallas City Hall at noon.

### • June 5: Pride proclamation

Dallas County Commissioners present a Pride proclamation at Commissioners Court meeting at 9 a.m. at Dallas County Commissioners Court, first floor, 411 Elm St. (former Texas School Book Depository). Everyone welcome.

### • June 6: LifeWalk Pep Rally

Kick off the 28th Dallas AIDS walk from 6:30-9 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane.

### • June 7: Brewing Up Business

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce meets from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

### • June 8-10: Turtle Creek Chorale

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents *Outlaws*, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com).

### • June 8: Calcutta, Caddy and Team Auction

Fairway to Equality kickoff at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

### • June 8: DFW Pride Happy Hour

At the former Monica's Aca y Alla in Deep Ellum owned by longtime managers Jose and Angel from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Maracas Cocina Mexicana.

### • June 9: Tall Tales & High Heels

Dallas Public Library hosts its first LGBTQ-themed story hour featuring Cassie Nova, Your Highness and Jenna Skyy. Children will sing, dance, and interact with these fabulous ladies in a safe environment to learn about the LGBTQ community in Dallas from 2-3 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Youth Discovery Center on the second floor, 1515 Young St.

### • June 9: Fairway to Equality

Tournament shot gun start at 1:30 p.m. at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton.

### • June 9: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9 a.m., at Twin Creeks Golf Course, 501 Twin Creeks Drive, Allen. \$60 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [info@DSGADallas.org](mailto:info@DSGADallas.org).

### • June 9: North Texas Pride

Come As You Are Festival with live entertainment from RHD, Walter Lee and Mr. and Ms North Texas Pride, food, drinks, kids zone, vendors and raffles from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Haggard Park, Saigling House, 902 E. 16th St., Plano.



• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with **David Taffet**, **Lerone Landis** and the late **Patti Fink**. **Monica Roberts** is this week's guest; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United

Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasusquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Front-runners** 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.

## pet of the week / BLUE



loyal to her new owner. She is house trained, rides well in the car and knows how to sit, stay and come. Blue would prefer to be the only pet in your life and would do best in a home with kids 12 and older. Blue is spayed, microchipped and current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. #160514

**Blue** is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness

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exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



## May is Melanoma Awareness Month! Have you had your skin checked?

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# Historic Wins

Valdez tells crowd: I am the candidate of the everyday Texan

FROM STAFF REPORTS

**T**uesday's primary runoff elections provided for some really big wins for LGBT and progressive candidates around Texas and the rest of the country. In one of the most watched races anywhere, former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez defeated Andrew White, son of former Gov. Mark White, to become the first openly lesbian Latina candidate to win a major party endorsement for governor in Texas — or any other state, for that matter.

In other closely-watched races, lesbian attorney Lorie Burch won the Democratic nomination to face Republican Van Taylor in the race for U.S. House District 3 in November. Incumbent Rep. Sam Johnson is retiring.

Lesbian candidate Gina Ortiz Jones beat Rick Trevino and will face incumbent Will Hurd in November for the District 23 seat in the U.S. House. And in the U.S. House District 27 Democratic runoff, gay candidate Eric Holguin beat Rick Barrera and will face Republican runoff winner Michael Cloud in November.

In the Democratic runoff in state Senate District 17, lesbian candidate Fran Watson fell to Rita Lucido.

While LGBT candidates in many runoffs were claiming victory on election night, far-right candidates were not faring as well. According to the Texas Tribune, in runoffs featuring centrist Republicans against far-right, Tea Party-aligned candidates backed by conservative groups like Empower Texans and Texas Right to Life, voters backed the more centrist candidates — by well over 10 percent in most cases.

That included the Republican Primary

race to replace outgoing House Speaker Joe Straus, a champion of moderation in the last few legislative sessions who helped defeat anti-transgender bathroom bills last year. Moderate Steve Allison, who had Straus' endorsement, beat far-right candidate Matt Beebe.

And here in Dallas County, Vickers "Vic" Cunningham — who made headlines when his gay brother went to the Dallas Morning News with allegations that Cunningham was a racist and a homophobe who had established a trust with requirements that his children marry only white, Christian, opposite-gender spouses or be cut out of their inheritance — lost his bid for a seat on the commissioners court to attorney J.J. Koch by 25 votes.

The Morning News, which ran the story on Cunningham on the last day of early voting, also withdrew its endorsement of him after he acknowledged that allegations about his trust were true.

"I think it's pretty clear that, at least on the Democratic side, the progressives have done pretty well this cycle," Jay Narey, state president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus and state Democratic Executive Committee member. "Lupe's race was a classic example of that."

Noting the overwhelming victories by moderate and center-right Republicans over far-right candidates — which mirrored results in the March primary balloting — Narey said, "It's a bit of a push back to the far-right wing of the Republican Party, and

that's good to see. It will be interesting to see what happens in the congressional races in November."

Narey said he is "cautiously optimistic" about chances for Democrats to take control of the U.S. House in November midterms, pointing to Colin Allred's campaign to unseat Republican incumbent Pete Sessions in 32nd Congressional District as "a key race to watch." Allred is not LGBT but has pledged support to the community and was endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

"The key will be those critical suburban swing districts" along the east coast. "Pennsylvania will play a big role. But we could pick up some seats in the South, too, Pete Sessions' district being one of them,







Lupe Valdez, opposite, Burch with family, above

since Hillary Clinton carried that district in 2016," Narey said.

The U.S. Senate "will be hard to take over, but that remains a possibility," he added. "Anything could happen in the next several months. Mueller could come out with some indictments — who knows what will happen."

Narey said he is "slightly optimistic" in regards to Texas House races, but that he was glad to see that the "Joe Strauss wing" of the Texas Republican Party did very well, and they will be the ones choosing the next person to hold the critical position of House Speaker.

"Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick wanted their right-wing candidates to win those races, and they didn't," Narey said. "That means we have a better chance of getting someone as speaker who is at least pseudo-rational."

## Candidates speak

In her acceptance speech for the Democratic nomination for governor, Valdez called herself "the candidate of the everyday Texan."

She described her childhood growing up in the poorest neighborhood in San Antonio, but added, that she "got a quality education, had the honor of serving in the military, earned a living wage and got healthcare when I needed it." That's what she credits for giving her a fighting chance

to get ahead in her life.

She acknowledged that, as everyone has told her, the race for governor will be an uphill battle. But added, "Please! Tell me when I didn't have an uphill battle."

After polling 20 points higher than second-place finisher Andrew White in the primary, Valdez won the runoff by just six points. Throughout the evening, the lead moved back and forth, but Houston, White's hometown and stronghold, reported votes early and Valdez's hometown Dallas reported much more slowly. Returns from Brownsville and El Paso also came in slowly.

As more tallies rolled in, news organizations declared her the winner before 10 p.m., just in time for the evening news.

Lorie Burch told Dallas Voice that she and her team are "overjoyed" with the runoff results. "I am very excited for the opportunity to continue connecting with voters and building our campaign's momentum for November."

She acknowledged that District 3 has been pretty solidly Republican in the past. "If we are going to win in November, we will need to inspire individuals in our community to participate — by volunteering their time and talents, and by getting to the ballot box," she said. "I've been a Collin County voter my whole life, and I know that our ballots don't have a lot of choices. As a result, people feel unrepresented and

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# Police ID trans woman found in White Rock Creek

Vigil set for 7 p.m. Saturday for Nicole Hall

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
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The transgender woman whose body was found May 12 in White Rock Creek was identified this week by police as 39-year-old Nicole Hall. Friends are planning a vigil for 7 p.m. Saturday, May 26, in the park area in the 6900 block of Merriman Parkway, near where Hall's body was found. Organizers said Dallas police officers would be on hand to help en-

sure the safety of those gathering.

Friends have also established a GoFundMe page — [gofundme.com/nicoles-final-arrangements](https://gofundme.com/nicoles-final-arrangements) — to help the family pay for final arrangements.

Police had not, as of Thursday afternoon, May 24, released any information regarding Hall's cause of death.

But Shannon Walker, a local trans activist, said she had been told by someone in the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office that Hall's death had been ruled a suicide by hanging. The question remains, however, how Hall's body would have then ended up in the creek.

Walker had gone out to the area around Merriman Parkway after Hall's body was found, looking for anyone who might have seen something or might have any infor-

mation that would help police identify the dead woman.

Walker said she had also spoken to the Dallas police detective handling the case. But when he stopped answering her messages, she reached out to a person in the medical examiner's office she had talked to before. Although the ME's office at first had no information for her, she said the person there called her back later "and gave me two names of people who had been reported missing and asked if I knew anything about either of them."

One of the names rang no bells for Walker, but "then she said the other name, Eric Tyrone Hall, and I thought, wait a minute! I know that person! That's Miss Nicole!"

Walker said she and Hall had grown up together and "went through our transitions together."

When she told the ME's office employee she knew Hall well, "she asked me to tell everything about her, from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet. And I did. She asked if Nicole had any tattoos; I said no. She only had one piercing, in her belly button. And she had the biggest hips and the biggest butt in Dallas.

"She told me yes, I think this is her," Walker said, but added that the ME's office

couldn't confirm the identification without further proof. "She said they were having trouble getting dental records, but I told her that Nikki had gone to Parkland [in 2013] when she had some problems with one of her cheek implants, and they did a CAT scan or an MRI of her head, and maybe they could get that to confirm."

Walker said the ME's office then requested those images and records, and used them to confirm Hall's identity.

Walker said that she had talked to a number of people who had been upset when police first released an artist's sketch, before Hall had been identified. Although police said the body was that of a transgender woman, the sketch showed a person with short hair and who was more masculine in appearance.

"A lot of people called me with concerns about the sketch, saying how did the police expect somebody to identify a trans woman from a sketch that they felt like was extremely masculine," Walker said. "But people have to remember, when they found her Nicole did not have on any hair, no wig or weave. And the body was so severely decomposed, [the ME's Office employee] told me they really couldn't even determine her skin tone."

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“But when I look at that sketch next to a photo of Nikki, I can certainly see the resemblance there. I think they did the very best they could with what they had,” Walker said.

She said many people were also upset that when police announced they had identified the body, they dead-named Hall. But again, Walker said she believes that was more a matter of necessity rather than disrespect.

“Nikki never had her name legally changed. So her other name was the only legal name they had to use,” Walker said. “If it hadn’t been for me telling them, they wouldn’t have known the name Nicole at all. But I will be reaching out to them to try and get them to recognize her name as Nicole.”

Overall, Walker said, police have been “extremely respectful” throughout the process, “and I am so happy that we are at this point now. It’s been a long time coming. In the past, it’s been extremely difficult working with police [on transgender issues]. But especially in these last two cases [Hall and trans murder victim Carla Flores-Pavon], they’ve done a great job.”

Carla Flores-Pavon, 26, was found strangled to death in her apartment on LBJ Free-



A police artist's sketch issued after a trans woman's body was found in White Rock Creek, left. The woman has since been identified as Nicole Hall, right. (Photo courtesy Shannon Walker)

way in North Dallas on May 9, making her the 9th trans woman murdered in the U.S. this year. Jimmy Eugene Johnson III was arrested May 17 during a traffic stop in Walker County after being found to have some of Flores-Pavon's belongings in his possession.

Police have not classified Flores-Pavon's death as a hate crime; they said they believe that Johnson, who met her online, killed Flores-Pavon during a robbery, not because she was transgender.

Two more trans women have been murdered since Flores-Pavon died. Nino Fort-

son, 36, was shot to death in Atlanta on May 13, and Gigi Pierce, 28, a homeless woman who lived in Portland, Ore., was shot to death by another homeless woman, 33-year-old Sophia Grace Adler, on May 21. Friends said Pierce was trying to help Adler get off drugs.



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WINS, From Page 10

## Election News Roundup

Lisa Keen | Keen News Service  
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### ARKANSAS

In a dramatic comeback story, Tippi McCullough won the Democratic nomination for a House seat in the Arkansas Legislature this week, just five years after being forced to resign from her private school teaching job in Little Rock because she married a woman.

Because there is no Republican candidate competing for the seat representing the state's most liberal district, the win sets up McCullough to become the first openly LGBT person to be elected to the Arkansas State House.

### GEORGIA

Six openly LGBT candidates for the Georgia state House have advanced to the general election. Five of them ran unopposed for their Democratic nominations. Two other candidates lost, but one incumbent, State Rep.

Park Cannon, breezed to the nomination for re-election to her House seat representing the Atlanta area.

An openly gay candidate for mayor of Athens, Richie Knight, lost his bid for the Democratic nomination, garnering only 10 percent of the vote in a three-way race.

### KENTUCKY

An openly gay candidate for the State House, Josh Mers, lost his bid for the Democratic nomination to represent the Lexington-Fayette district.

Jim Gray, the popular openly gay mayor of Lexington, was beat out for the Democratic nomination for a U.S. House seat. His opponent was a newcomer to politics and to the state: a retired military fighter pilot, Amy McGrath.

Gray, who had been considered the front-runner for months, won only 41 percent of the vote. Republicans have already started calling McGrath, who sports a tough military-like demeanor, as a "radical liberal."

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Eric Holguin, above, Gina Ortiz, left



choose to stay home. We need to reach out and let them know they have choices."

Burch said that Collin County voters "are fortunate to have some incredible Democratic candidates who have already built strong grassroots campaigns." She said she is proud to know these other candidates and "excited for our teams to continue to work together to build a better Collin County. Working together is going to be simple — with our teams working toward the same goal, we'll be able to cover a lot more ground than any single campaign could cover alone."

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# Strokes: The quicker the care the better the outcome

Wynne Voorhees is a prime example of the importance of getting help quickly

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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When Rett Evans told his partner, Wynne Voorhees, he was having a terrible sinus headache, Voorhees responded, "It must be catching. I'm getting one now."

Voorhees went into the master closet then to change into his pajamas. He closed the door behind — and fell.

Evans had already fallen asleep. It was about 2 a.m. when he woke up and realized Voorhees wasn't in bed. Evans got up, saw the closet light was on and realized Voorhees was inside. But he couldn't open the door.

"He tried to get me to move so he could open the door," Voorhees said. "He said I was slurring."

In addition to slurring, Evans said, Voorhees' left hand was clenched, and his face was drooping. He was unable to move.

Voorhees told his partner he had no idea what was going on and didn't understand why he couldn't move. Evans told Voorhees he was going to call 911, but Voorhees protested. "Don't do that," Voorhees said. "It's not that bad."

But Evans called anyway, and Dallas Fire and Rescue arrived within minutes. They were able to get the closet door open, but it took six people to get Voorhees downstairs. They rushed him to nearby Clements Hospital.

Emergency Room personnel quickly realized that Voorhees had had a stroke. So they had DFR transfer him down the street to Zale Lipshy, where a specialist on duty saved his life.

## Being aware

May is National Stroke Awareness Month. Someone in the U.S. has a stroke every 40 seconds, and every four minutes, someone dies from a stroke.

Dr. Robin Novakovic, the specialist who treated Voorhees, said immediate response is vital. "The sooner we can intervene, the

better the outcome," she said.

Voorhees said he thought if the stroke happened more than a couple of hours earlier, there was no way to treat it, that the damage was done. But he learned that recent studies show treatment up to 24 hours after the incident can have positive results.

Still, sooner is always better than later.

Novakovic removed the stroke-causing clot in Voorhees' brain by going in through the femoral artery in his groin. "She had to go in twice to get all of the [4-cm] clot," Voorhees said.

Voorhees' stroke affected the right side of his brain, which is not the side that affects language or cognitive thinking. "If it had gone to the other side, it would have taken out the language centers," he said, making a full recovery a slow and arduous process.

But he was lucky: "When I woke up in Zale Lipshy's neurological ICU, my speech was back and my body unclenched," Voorhees said.

Voorhees recovered so quickly in fact, that he went back to work the next week — but only for a week — before going into rehab. The stroke affected his balance, so he began speech, occupational and physical therapy.

Part of his rehab included 45 minutes of daily exercise, something Voorhees said he had never done before.

The stroke occurred on March 21, and less than two months later, on May 18, Voorhees was discharged from rehab. He said he plans to return to work by next week.

"I'm probably 95 percent recovered," Voorhees said. "I'm testing in the high normal range for someone my age." He's 61.

Now he has to prevent another stroke from happening. "If you don't do anything about your life, you're likely to have another," he said.

Voorhees is exercising and looking for a gym. So far, he's lost 25 pounds. He's been diabetic since he was 30, but his blood sugar is now normal.

## Watch for the signs

Novakovic said it is important to be aware of the warning signs of a stroke. Some people experience temporary blockages, she said, adding that "Symptoms last for less than five minutes. It can be a warning."

A third of people who have warning strokes will go on to have a more severe stroke within a year, the doctor said.



Rett Evans, left, and Wynne Voorhees

cholesterol, poor diet, obesity, atrial fibrillation, smoking and illicit drug use.

"The best thing to do is get yearly physicals," Novakovic urged.

She also encouraged people to eat healthy. That includes eating fresh fruit and vegetables daily and a diet of white meat and fish rather than red meats. Get 30 minutes of exercise a day, she said.

Strokes can affect all ages, and while some people have a genetic predisposition for having a stroke, Novakovic said, the threat increases when people reach their mid-40s to 50s. Nearly a quarter of all strokes occur in people under the age of 65, but the risk of stroke doubles each decade after the age of 55.

If you or someone near you has a stroke, Novakovic urged, "Get to the ER as fast as possible. Stroke has a sudden onset of symptoms. Call 911 if you suspect someone is having a stroke."

She said to use EMS, which will not only get you there fast, but they'll triage you faster. You're more likely to get stroke treatment when transported by ambulance than if someone drives you to the ER.

For partners who aren't married, Evans had some additional advice.

He said Voorhees was trying to communicate, but just wasn't able to do it, so he had to approve the transfer to Zale Lipshy and sign papers for treatment.

"Get your paperwork done, so when you have to make decisions, they have to listen to you," Evans said.

## BE FAST: Know the warning signs of a stroke

B.E. F.A.S.T. is a tool to help remember the warning signs of a stroke. Timely treatment is key to saving someone's life or quality of life.

- B** – **Balance:** Sudden loss of balance or coordination
- E** – **Eyes:** Sudden change in vision or trouble seeing
- F** – **Face:** Does one side of the face droop?
- A** – **Arms:** Raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- S** – **Speech:** Is the speech slurred or strange?
- T** – **Time:** If you observe any of these signs, time is of the essence. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Among the symptoms are weakness on one side, slurred speech, vertigo and balance. Also, look for the face drooping on one side.

Novakovic said Voorhees could be treated beyond just the first few hours after his stroke because the blockage was in a large artery. But she warned, "Only a few people can be treated up to 24 hours later."

Some strokes can be treated by an anti-platelet medication like aspirin, and some patients need a blood thinner like Coumadin.

Novakovic said stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S. But it is the leading cause of disability.

While anyone can have a stroke, some indicators that someone may be at higher risk include high blood pressure, diabetes, high





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# The sound of silence

Indian filmmaker defies  
government's ban on  
homosexuality in his film *Sisak*

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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**F**araz Ansari was in Dallas for the South Asian Film Festival in February to speak about his film *Sisak*, which he described as the first silent-movie Indian gay love story ever made. He said he chose to make it a silent movie so that language would be no barrier for audiences in India's multi-lingual society or around the world.

"No one wanted to produce [the film]," Ansari said. So he sold his car and moved in with his mom to produce it himself.

Ansari said the situation in India for gays and lesbians has gotten worse since the last election, when a current right-wing government took over. In fact, even though homosexuality was de-criminalized in 2009, it was re-criminalized — with the possibility of jail time added — in 2013 by the current fundamentalist Hindi government.

"No one practices openly anymore," he said. "I'm in extreme danger for making the film."

Ansari has to tell the government when he's leaving to country, and he said he was attacked at an airport by someone who called him an abomination.

He is shielded to some extent by the fact that the film has already won 34 international awards. Still, just making a love story is a political statement.

Ansari describes himself as a non-practicing Muslim from Mumbai who grew up speaking English. In fourth grade, he told his music teacher, "I like boys," and she answered, "How amazing." So he grew up comfortable with himself and who he is.

But these days in India, he said, homosexuality is seen as a western concept that takes away from the Indian ethos.

Ansari, 30, has staged about 150 school musicals working with kids 6-8 years old, and he has worked in Bollywood for the last nine years as an associate director and writer. He co-wrote the film *Stanley's Lunch-*

*box*, about child labor, that was India's 2011 Academy Award entry.

He also made a 12-episode web series about a trans man who returns to India to visit his dying mother. "Trans are treated worse than gays in India," he said.

Ansari said people, both gay and straight, have been deeply affected by his film.

He said the actors in his movie — "sisak" is an Urdu word that he translated as "a cry that is stuck inside your chest and unable to come out" — are straight. He said that





appearing in the movie would have been too dangerous for gay actors, and the actors originally lined up as the leads withdrew just weeks before shooting began.

One of the actors who did appear in *Sisak* comes from a conservative Hindu family, and 35 of his family members came to see the film. "All of them had tears in their eyes," Ansari said. "His dad said, 'Thank you for making this film.'"

Ansari said he heard about a 7-year-old who watched the promo for *Sisak* on a loop

for months and then came out to his parents. The boy's sister told the filmmaker, "My brother's sleeping peacefully, because you had the courage to make this film."

Ansari said it's important for him to continue making films that grow out of his own experience.

"The more deeply rooted, the more universal," he said. ■

*GALA screens Sisak on May 31, along with the award-winning film Real Boy, about a transgender teen searching for his own voice, at the Angelika Film Center, 7205 Bishop Road in Plano. Tickets are \$12 in advance, available online at Galantx.org and \$15 at the door.*



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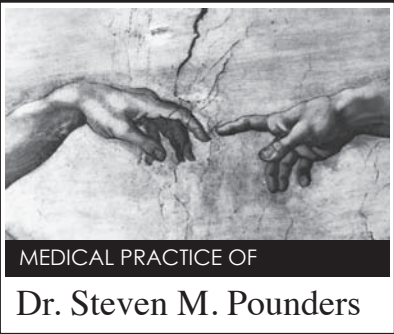
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# Reaching out; building relationships

Irving PD names Sgt. Jerry Sanderford as the department's first LGBT liaison

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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**S**gt. Jerry Sanderford was recently named LGBT liaison for the Irving Police Department.

When he was named LGBT liaison, Sanderford called around to other cities in the area to see which ones, in addition to Dallas and Fort Worth, had created similar positions.

Arlington, with about 150,000 more people than Irving, hasn't. Plano, with about 50,000 more people than Irving, hadn't either, but the chief's assistant, who answered the phone, commented, "Hmmm. That's a good idea."

In fact, Sanderford is the first LGBT liaison to be appointed in a suburban city in North Texas.

He explained that new Irving Police Chief Jeff Spivey is making some changes in the department. And new Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer and City Manager Chris Hill support the idea.

"One of my goals as the somewhat new chief of police is to build relationships," Spivey told Dallas Voice. "I looked at where we were falling short in community building."

Spivey said he and Sanderford "go way back," and he knew Sanderford would be a great officer to fill the liaison role.

That support didn't surprise Sanderford at all.

"Since I came out, there've been no issues," Sanderford said. "I've had no problems. They [the department] don't tolerate [discrimination or harassment]."

Sanderford said he came out to himself, his family and friends when he divorced his wife, with whom he had two children. After his divorce, he said, he asked himself,

"Why am I living a lie?"

He came out to city and IPD officials when he was promoted to sergeant.

Sanderford said he and his husband, James Fannin, have been together for 18 years. "I met him a year into the divorce," he said.

Sanderford had gotten custody of his children. He said being a working dad and taking care of the children wasn't a big change for him since he had always done the cooking and cleaning and had always been the one to take the kids to school.

"The children were my focus," he said.

That's why, he said, he waited for six months after meeting Fannin to introduce his boyfriend to his children. And it was another three years before the two men moved in together. But from that point on, they raised the two children — now ages 20 and 27 — together.

Sanderford was born in Midland and raised in Houston. After serving in the military, he moved to Irving, where he had family and began working in the Irving jail. From there, he became a police officer.

He said he comes to the position of LGBT liaison with plenty of experience under his belt. He's been a detective, worked undercover, worked in youth services with juvenile crimes, worked with runaways and missing persons, and worked on cases of domestic violence and crimes against children.

Creating the position of liaison made sense, Sanderford said, especially considering that it doesn't cost the city any money since he continues in his current position as patrol sergeant on the night shift.

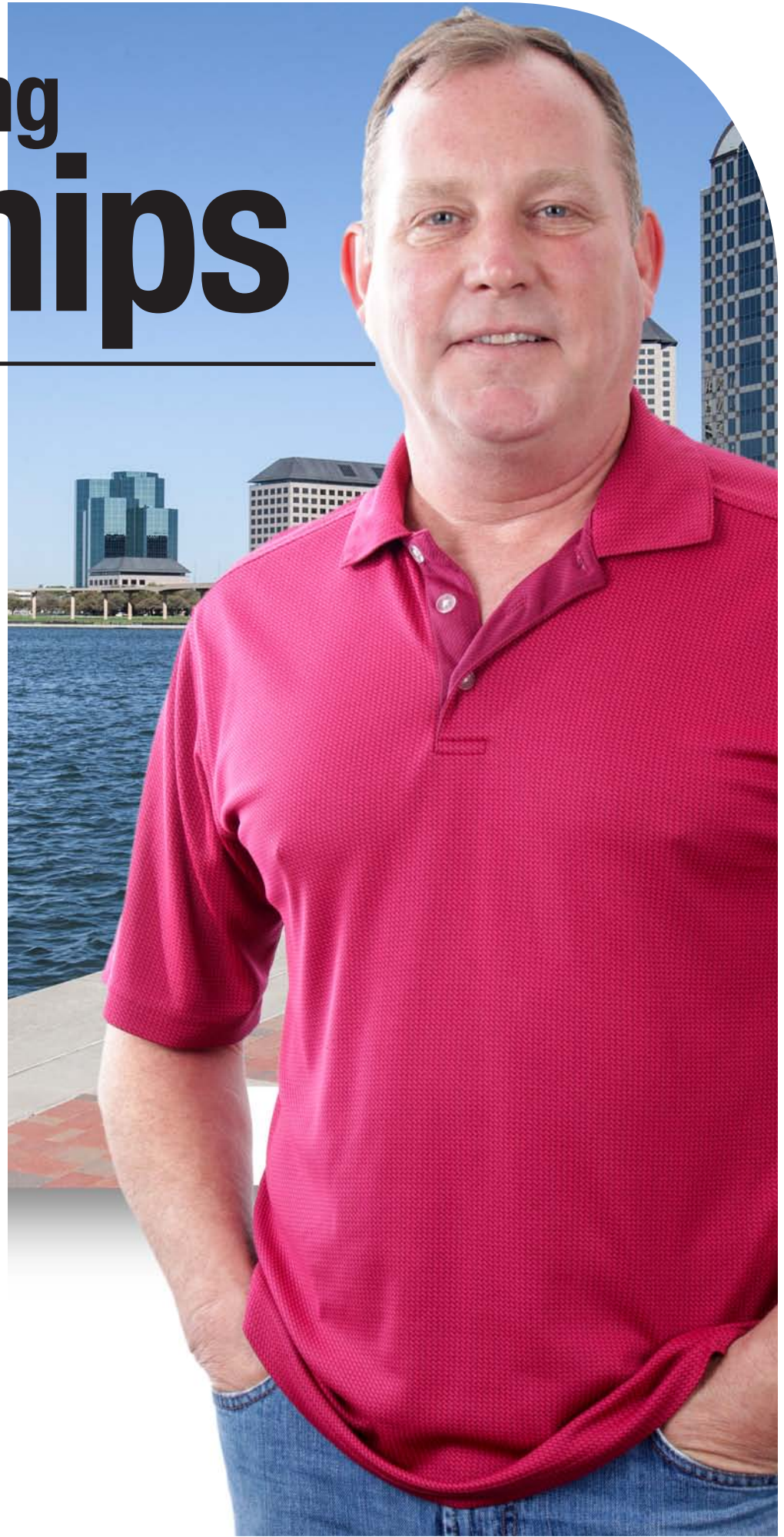
The position of liaison, Sanderford said, will be different in Irving than it is in Dallas. Irving has no gayborhood, no cluster of LGBT-owned businesses and no bars. In fact, the city actually had no bars at all, and an exception had to be made when the Toyota Music Factory opened to turn that area into an entertainment district.

While Irving doesn't have any neighborhoods where the LGBT community has clustered, Sanderford said, "We have a vast

LGBT community in Irving, spread out throughout the city."

Diversity is Irving's trademark, he said, despite the bad press the city got under its

previous, anti-Muslim mayor, who left that position when she was appointed by the Trump administration as U.S. Housing and Urban Development regional administrator





overseeing Texas and the four contiguous states.

A third of Irving's population was not born in the U.S. Irving's 75038 zip code, just east of DFW Airport, is the most diverse neighborhood in the country, with a population that is 26 percent Asian, 25 percent black, 23 percent Hispanic, 23 percent white and 2.5 percent multiracial.

To Sanderford and the Irving police department, the LGBT community is just part of that diversity.

But Irving doesn't have a Resource Center, AIDS agencies, its own Federal Club or other service, social or LGBT political organizations. Instead, Sanderford is offering his services directly to Irving citizens.

He said he is the contact person for LGBT residents in police-related matters. People might have a question about the process, he said: How would a case work, either for a victim or the accused?

Sanderford recognizes that many LGBT people haven't had good experiences with police. If that's the case in Irving, he said, he wants them to contact him. He said Irving wants to know if an officer has had an attitude with someone and it seems to be related to the person's sexual orientation or gender identity. He also acknowledged that with the fast-growing and ever-more-vis-

ible transgender community, his services may be needed now more than ever.

Sanderford talked about how policing has changed in the 25 years he's been on the Irving police force: "Body cameras, cams in cars recording everything, computers in cars."

While incidents recorded on body cams have made national news highlighting discrimination and over-reaction by police, Sanderford said his experience is different. "Cams have saved a lot of complaints," he said. "In more cases, it shows officers have done what they should."

On Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Irving scored a 6 (compared to Dallas' and Fort Worth's scores of 100). Sanderford's appointment should add 10 points to this year's score. In addition, hate crime reporting to the FBI that includes bias crimes based on gender identity and sexual orientation will add another 12 points.

Sanderford said in his 25 years on the force, he's never heard of a crime reported as anti-LGBT hate. With no identified LGBT neighborhood in the city, targeting the LGBT community is more difficult than in a bigger city. But now that the police

department has an LGBT liaison officer, if such a crime does occur, the victim may be more willing to report those details of the incident.

Spivey summed up the role he sees for Sanderford: Sanderford will be the point of contact for LGBT people in Irving who have a question or might have been a victim of a crime.

If they don't feel comfortable talking to another officer or have ever had a bad experience with the police, the liaison can make sure LGBT Irving residents are treated with respect.

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# communityvoices

## At least I didn't get murdered

3 more trans women have died in 2018, and a school shooter murdered 10 in a Texas high school. We must do better

When I came home from work that Friday, Katie looked at me and asked, "Are you ok?" I'm so glad I have a relationship where I can answer honestly and say, "No. I'm not OK. I am, in fact, just thoroughly exhausted and emotionally spent."

But hey — at least I didn't get murdered.

When something happens to someone in the trans community, whether I knew them or not, it affects me. It affects the whole community.

When I heard that Carla Flores-Pavon had been murdered — and not all that far from where we live — it hit hard. She was so young and her death so senseless.

Then a few days later, my phone started blowing up with news of another trans woman found dead in Dallas. Her body was found in White Rock Creek. Her name is Nicole Hall, but as I write this, cause of death has not been officially determined.

Shortly after I learned of her death, TV stations started calling wanting comments from someone from the community.

Here's what they wanted to know:

- Am I scared? No, I'm not. None of the trans people I know live their lives in fear. We are well aware that living authentically, sadly, carries a price in the "Land of The Free."

- Am I'm bothered that Carla's death was not ruled a "hate crime?" No, I'm not. What bothers me is that, regardless of circumstances, her murder can't be considered a hate crime in Texas because gender identity is not one of the protected classes in this state.

- Do I feel safe in Dallas? Yes, I do. Dallas has its share of problems, like any big city. But I've found the city of Dallas, specifically, to be safe, welcoming and supportive of the LGBT community. That's not so in other places, especially in the hallways of the Texas Capitol in Austin.

- They also wanted to know why people want to murder us. That one hurts me to contemplate, but one thing I know is when the fires of hatred are fanned, people die.

When politicians brand transgender



Leslie McMurray  
Accidental Activist

people as "predators" or "mentally ill," when we are labeled as unfit

for military service because of our gender identity, or when someone decides we should not have safe access to emergency shelters because we might make someone "uncomfortable," it can give those with a simmering hatred of anyone different from themselves permission to act on that hatred.

But we have no evidence that this was the case in Carla Flores-Pavon's case. Fortunately, an arrest has been made, and it appears he will be brought to justice.

The suspect in Carla's murder was arrested in Walker County with some of her possessions. Carla met her accused killer online. So another question the TV reporter asked is whether I would urge the trans community to be more careful in meeting people online.

On one hand, I would suggest caution be exercised even in making purchases on Craigslist, let alone meeting a date on Tinder. On the other hand, isn't that just another case of victim blaming? ("Well, she met him online; she should have known better.")

It's not our responsibility to get up in the morning and "not get murdered."

Hopefully, we will learn for sure what happened to Nicole Hall. If she was murdered, she will be the 10th trans person to be murdered this year. (There has since been an 11th, a homeless trans woman named Gigi Pierce, who was shot to death in Portland, Ore., by another homeless woman she was trying to help.)

And then, last week ended with the news of yet another school shooting in which 10 children were murdered in a Texas high school.



So much death.

The shooter, some have said, was a kid that was bullied in school. He was an outcast. Some classmates said he smelled bad.

Look, I was bullied in school, and I didn't kill anyone. But there seems to be a common thread in many of these murders: Kids with a bright future, lots of friends and a loving family don't do these things.

Our idiot lieutenant governor, Dan Patrick, was quick to offer a possible solution: Too many doors in the schools! If a school had fewer entrances and exits, it would be easier to defend, he claimed.

Really? Ask the fire department what they think about a large number of people and only a few exits.

Even Gov. Greg Abbot insisted we need to find a solution — but he also insists it be a solution that doesn't threaten "gun rights."

Gee whiz! Is this the best we have?

I know it's simplistic, but let's look at how we treat each other. A quote from Dr. Martin Luther King used at the Royal Wedding last weeked is a good start: "We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will be able to make of this old world a new world. Love is the only way."

Thoughts and prayers haven't worked. Finger-pointing hasn't worked. Legislating an atmosphere of fear or exclusion certainly hasn't worked. Some people can be hard to love, but sometimes, it's those people who need it the most.

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](http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com).



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# Bear with Us

Bigger and better, BearDance is now about more than the pursuit of the hirsute

**RICH LOPEZ** | CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
richlopez.dallas@gmail.com



**B**earDance is growing up right in front of our very eyes. From its origins in a generic warehouse space to the dance floor of Station 4, the nonprofit event started out as a way to celebrate the burly and the beats. Today, it's a staple part of Texas Bear Round-Up weekend and a perpetual fundraiser for area nonprofits.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of BearDance, but the team putting it together — which includes Jake Briscoe, Kevin Click, Paul Crisantes, Jared Wilson, treasurer Ami Sadeh and president Mark Trimble — are already blowing up the celebration with a slew of guest DJs and marquee performers this year.

Do a little dance? Have a little fun? No. BearDance is anything but “little” — especially this year.

“We’ve never had more than one special guest, and then this many guests in total,” Mark Trimble says. “Why not go a little bigger?”

As part of its lollapalooza, BearDance:

Inferno will feature drag performer Varla Jean Merman and queer rapper Cazwell. Four DJs will set the mood on the main floor and upstairs.

“We’re taking the party in two directions,” Trimble adds in regards to TBRU’s



# POSE

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# Flying 'Solo'



'Star Wars' prequel is a squishy bore for fanboys only

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Donald Glover's Lando, above, would be a better subject for a prequel.

Legacies are precarious things — just ask Bill Cosby. You can build up good will over decades, but all it takes is one false move to erase it. *Alien3*

undercut the prior two films in its opening scene; and remember midi-chlorians? Yeah, I bet you wish you could forget them. And so it goes with the new *Star Wars*

prequel *Solo*. Over four prior films (Episodes 4 through 7), Han Solo, as played by Harrison Ford, progressed from an unrepentant scoundrel to a reluctant hero to a

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# KNOW YOUR STATUS



guilt-ridden father and unwilling martyr. But truth be told, we didn't know much about Han's backstory: He did the Kessel run in 12 parsecs (don't get me started). He cheated Jabba and murdered Greedo (Han *did* shoot first — end of story). Oh, and he also sired a supervillain. What more do you need to know?

As it turns out, we *don't* need to know much more, which is a serious downside for the entire *raison d'être* of *Solo*. We learn more about Han (played by Alden Ehrenreich) in the first 15 minutes of this film than we ever learned before ... or wanted to know. And what we learn ain't pretty.

Well, "pretty" isn't the problem exactly; it's that what the screenwriters (amazingly, Jonathan and Lawrence Kasdan, who should know better) choose to focus on and what they don't that derails the film almost before it begins. We don't know anything, for instance, about Han's parentage, and are then blessed with the knowledge that his last name Solo was assigned, Ellis Island-style, by a functionary of the Empire. We learn he's a great pilot, but not how he got his training. We learn he's a lovesick puppy over sweetheart Qi'ra (Emilia Clarke), and that he's kind of a scaredy-cat. Not everyone starts out as a rascal — you work your way there. But much of the backstory for Han feels entire-

ly unrelated to the *Star Wars* universe, but cribbed from discarded Dickens chapters: Orphan, Fagin-like mentor, broken heart, betrayal on all sides. How does this add to his myth? It doesn't, nor does it flesh out what we love about the character.

Even worse, the opportunities to develop what we *do* know about Han are missed. Never once does he say, "It's not my fault!" — his refrain from *A New Hope*. A perfect opportunity for him to say "I love you" to Qi'ra, and her to respond, "I know" — setting up a classic exchange from *The Empire Strikes Back* — is overlooked. We do get a sense for his relationship with Lando (Donald Glover), but when Lando is not around — which is often — the action lacks momentum. (I think I'd prefer a prequel dedicated to him.)

We certainly don't get a sense of the stakes from Paul Bettany, playing the putative villain — a generic Blofeld-esque bureaucrat with a heated knife he wields only once for a few seconds, but which apparently is meant to establish his shtick. *Meh*. Other characters come and go so quickly — even those played/voiced by Thandie Newton, Jon Favreau and Linda Hunt — that you sense they would have been better off excised from the script entirely.

The McGuffin that drives the plot is



## 'A FANTASTIC WOMAN' NOW ON BLU RAY

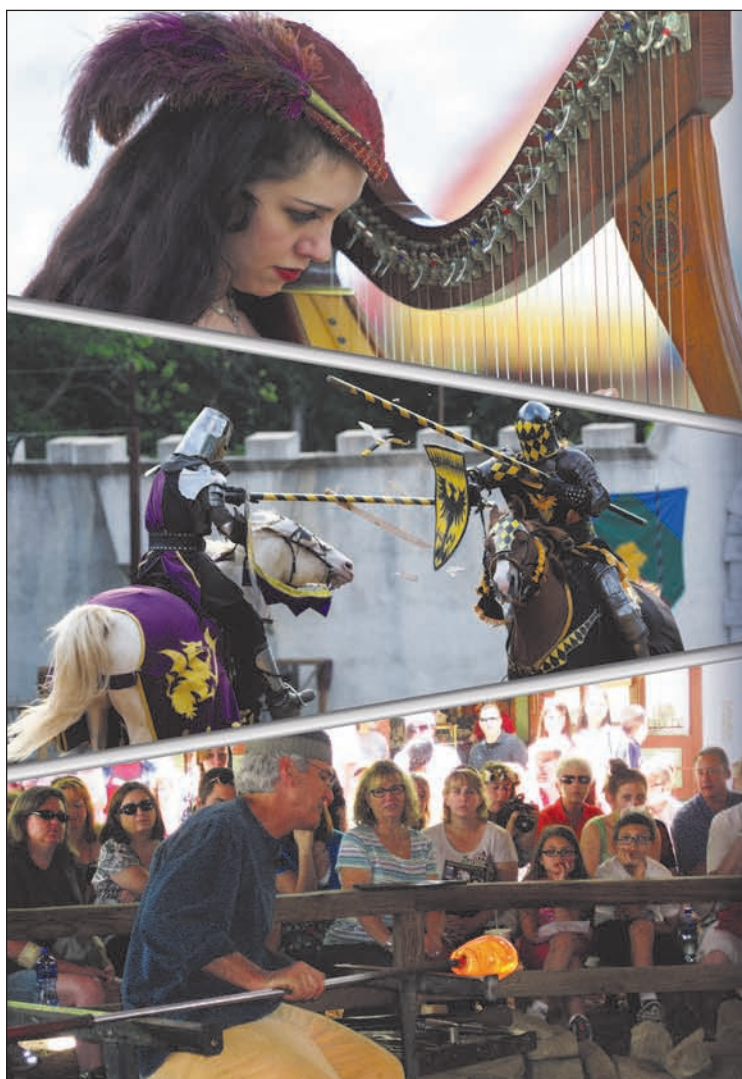
This year's Oscar winner for best foreign language film was a Chilean drama about a woman rejected by her late lover's family when he dies suddenly. It could sound like a Lifetime movie, but *A Fantastic Woman* is something more. The widow in question is a trans woman (played with remarkable dignity by trans actor Daniela Vega), and it explores the continued bigotry faced by the LGBT community... especially the T. Director Sebastián Lelio uses visuals as much as dialogue to tell this important story, which is available on Blu Ray starting this week.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

the smuggling of "hyperfuel" — a power source that, so far as I can tell, was invented singularly for this film and does not arise elsewhere in countless hours of *Star Wars*iana. Why come up with such blah motives when the entire universe is out there waiting for Han to conquer?

Ehrenreich appears to be a head shorter than his descendant, and while he does have a smugness to him, it's the wrong

brand of smugness — he's more Bruce Willis than Harrison Ford. Glover is the shining light among the cast, but acting isn't the selling point here. *Solo* is meant as a fanboy Valentine, but with sluggish pacing by replacement director Ron Howard (I drifted off once or twice for a few seconds) and complex but uninteresting plotting, *Solo* appeals only to die-hards who can't see the forests of Endor for the trees. ■



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Dj John LePage spins at Bear dance.

■ **BEAR** From Page 22

fireman theme. “We are calling our party Inferno to encourage the fireman dress but upstairs we are going for a more *Dante’s Inferno*/hellfire vibe.”

For that, the board enlisted DJs Decoding Jesus and New Dad for a grittier, darker vibe. For the more festive side on the main dance floor, circuit DJ John LePage makes his return after a slight hiatus, with Dallas’ own Ryan Tiffin opening.

But underneath all the sexy fun and fur beats a big heart. BearDance has become a two-pronged approach to goodwill both personally and publicly. This year’s beneficiaries include AIN, the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and the Sharon St. Cyr Fund.

“That’s always exciting, to raise money for the entire community,” Sadeh says.

On the other side of that, the event has always been intended as a safe space. The guys know not everyone is comfortable amid a dance floor of glistening ripped abs and 28-inch waists.

“The term has recently come into vogue but we’ve always been about body positivity,” Trimble says. “We love seeing every-

one take off their shirt and be happy. We are all loved, and we just reassure that you are someone’s cup of tea.”

## The queen

While drag has risen to new heights of popularity thanks to *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, Varla Jean Merman built her cred long before social media, viral videos and sassy memes.

Jeffery Roberson gave birth to Merman sometime in the ‘90s. He would only say she’s the same age as Britney only more grown up — or maybe he meant himself.

“Varla and me started out as the same person — irresponsible and drunk,” Merman says from his New Orleans home. “I hope I’ve grown up because the things that are cute at 28 aren’t so cute now.”

Although Merman gained a fanbase barking around Provincetown to get people to her show, her movie debut in *Girls Will Be Girls* cemented her drag icon status. Roberson shrugs it off, though.

“I’ve been called a legend but they just really mean old ladies,” he laughs. “The world has changed for drag. *Drag Race* changed that, which is great, but now

people just want to take photos and not actually watch them perform.”

But Merman has gathered a bear following and is ready to perform a sort-of greatest hits performance from his recent show *Wonder Merman*.

“I love the bears. They are out to have a good time. There is a lot of acceptance and no attitude or weirdness,” Roberson says. “I have no idea though why Varla has such a bear following.”

Regardless of the fact that he’s a solid muscle daddy (look it up on Instagram), he attributes it more to getting older.

“I think it’s my really hairy forearms? I’ve gotten hairier as I’ve gotten older. If I start shaving I’d look like a plucked chicken. That’s why all you see now is my face and neck and hands,” he says.

Roberson is also a virgin — or perhaps Varla is. Either way, this is the first round-up type appearance Varla Jean Merman has done, and she is ready.

“Come and see! There’s going to be a lotta shit you’ve never seen before and maybe never see again,” she says.

## The stud

Cazwell has made a music career of mixing sexy with provocative. From his 2006 debut *All Over Your Face* to his signature hits “Rice and Beans” and “Ice Cream Truck,” his songs are laced with in-your-face innuendos and plenty of single- and double-entendres. Recently though, he’s unveiling a whole new side.

In 2017’s “Loose Wrists,” amid lyrics about orgies and “daddy” moans, he declares *We about to make America fem again* and *Hit the White House/ Rearrange some things*. He teamed with *Drag Race* season nine contestant Peppermint this year for an EP release “Blend,” which also became an immediate trans anthem. Simply put, Cazwell got woke.

“It’s definitely the time. Ever since he became president, I feel like I live in an alternate reality,” he says from a Los Angeles cafe. “All these things are happening. He doesn’t support gay rights. It’s shitty the way trans people are treated in the military. We have someone in charge who wants to take everything away. It’s impossible to be gay and not resist. Pride is more important than ever now.”

Along with some added perspective to his club-ready music, he’s dabbled in fashion recently and started his own label Snow Cone. He’s navigating his very independent music career on his own terms.

“I just wanna do what interests me and

have my hand in as many pockets as possible,” he says. “I like having my own label because I can put out music on my own schedule.”

As for the bears, he admits he isn’t sure what the connection is between the demographic and him. “They’ve always been in my audience, but I have no idea how we connected,” he says. In mid-thought, he may have figured it out. “I talk about food a lot in my songs and bears like food,” he says.

## The DJs

John LePage has spun before at BearDance, so he’s no stranger to the event or circuit events in general. But this audience resonates just a little more with him.

“I don’t play any different just because it’s a bear event versus different kind of gay event,” he says. “When it comes to the crowd though the fact that it’s a bear event is very special to me because the bear crowd is my crowd, so it’s definitely special.”

He’s ready to see the bears fill the floor and dance to his tracklist because that’s what fuels him to push his set to the limit.

“It’s a huge sense of gratification to see people letting their guard down and just let the music move them,” he says. “I respond to the dance floor.”

Part of his response will be one track he’s likely waiting to drop on the bears. Without details, he announced he will premier a new remix at Inferno.

Michael Brodeur AKA New Dad from Houston will open the upstairs dance party with his deep house and techno beats, but expect him to paint a picture as well.

“I’m a grown-up shoegaze kid, so I love big, colorful washes of noise that help smudge everything together,” he says. “At BearDance I’ll be moving in between a DJ set and some live performance and improvisation. I’ve been working on music lately inspired by bathhouses — long-form poly-rhythmic stretches that screw with your sense of time and put you in the bone zone.”

He’ll come to his set armed with a DJ arsenal that includes a sampler, synth and drum machines to enhance his set. Whatever happens, he’s ready to get the bears’ groove on and welcomes the prospect of the darker upstairs vibe.

“I’m much more comfortable in a small room environment where people might be hungry for unexpected vibes,” he says. “A common complaint I hear from folks is that bears don’t dance, but that hasn’t been true in my experience. You just gotta rub ‘em the right way.” ■

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# Honey holes



Thrift Town in Oak Cliff has one of the most welcoming atmospheres of any vintage store, plus a huge selection of shoes for your inner (and outer) drag queen.

A picker's guide to finding fresh fashion in Dallas' best thrift stores

ELAINE LINER | Special Contributor  
[theelaineliner@gmail.com](mailto:theelaineliner@gmail.com)

There it was: Jammed among a row of used jeans, a long blue silk skirt folded into tiny, stretchy pleats. A peek at the waistband tag revealed its provenance: Mary McFadden Couture, vintage 1980s, when McFadden's luxe Fortuny-style fabrics draped the bods of starlets and society doyennes. How this treasure found its way to Family Thrift Center Outlet in Plano may be a mystery, but the price was a miracle: \$2. (It was Thursday, when every item at this store is two bucks.) A quick check of "comps," as thrifters call comparable items being sold online, showed McFaddens going for \$200 to \$500. Be still, my thrifting heart.

Poshmark, The Real Real, Tradesy, Mercari — these and other online selling platforms now compete with eBay as places to resell clothes, jewelry, bags and shoes. Whether as a hobby, or as a career (some sellers earn six-figure incomes), peddling fashionable finds means hitting resale and consignment stores regularly (plus

garage and estate sales, and Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace listings), looking for things somebody will buy for less than retail, but for more than the picker paid for it.

Whether you're a reseller or just a bargain-hungry shopper with a taste for upscale labels on a downsized budget, you need to find the "honey holes," what pickers call favorite spots for high quality used and donated goods. There's a bunch of sweet places with low prices in and around Dallas.

**Genesis Benefit Thrift Store** (3419 Knight St.) benefits from its location in the heart of Oak Lawn on the edge of Highland Park. Regulars hit this shop daily to snag top-label jeans (\$8.99–\$24.99), gently used Ugg boots (\$9.99), beautifully framed art prints (\$9.99–up) and high-end furniture, rugs and chandeliers (a gigantic crystal one was recently priced at \$50). Lurk outside at the donation area to nab deals as the swells drive up in Lamborghinis to drop off donations (we've seen it).

Out of the Closet (3920 Cedar Springs Road) sells donated, heavily discounted secondhand clothing, shoes, housewares and furniture in support of AIDS Health-



care Foundation, with 96 cents from every dollar in sales going to the nonprofit's HIV/AIDS programs and services. Let the good vibes factor into purchases because prices here aren't picker-friendly; more like consignment store levels. Recently browsed: new-looking men's Cole Haan suede saddle oxfords (\$25), an overstuffed armchair upholstered in a Warhol-flower-style print (\$150) and pre-loved graphic tees and starched button-downs marked for quick sale to \$1 and \$2.

**Thrift Town** (1516 S. Westmoreland Road at Illinois) is the Oak Cliff outpost of a California chain that offers generous coupons (\$15 off a \$30 purchase) and the most welcoming atmo of all the thrifts. Good a/c and a lively rotation of Motown hits keep things fun, even when checkout lines grow long. What will you find? Artfully distressed jeans with good labels (\$5–10), a huge selection of graphic tees (\$1–10) and groovy vintage items like Gunne Sax prom dresses and trendy-again denim overalls. The best shoes are locked in a case up front, but friendly clerks will happily get them out for try-ons, meaning you can leave this honey hole looking well-heeled without tapping out your budget.

**Thrift Giant** (3039 W. Northwest Highway) is a locally owned company with half a dozen locations. The newest one in northeast Dallas on Northwest Highway (go figure) is tops for bargains on clothes. Neatly organized by sizes, Thrift Giant offers frequent half-off and by-the-pound sales, and discounts everything 25 percent for seniors on Tuesdays. Found here recently: Josie Natori silk pajamas (\$5), a rack of NWT (new with tags) LuLaRoe skirts (\$3.99 each), on-trend vintage straw handbags (\$6) and lots of sparkly six-inch eff-me platform heels for less than 10 bucks and in drag-worthy sizes (12 and up).

Two-dollar day is the priciest it gets at **Family Thrift Center Outlet** (2430 K Ave., Plano). Thursdays are "new stuff" day when everything is a flat \$2. After that, prices descend daily till the following Wednesday when everything left from the previous week's haul is sold for a quarter apiece till doors close for restocking at 11:30 a.m. (Get there early to beat the crowds.) Nothing's organized by size or style, but in the jumble of "Just do it for Jesus" T-shirts and hospital scrubs, you can find Miss Me jeans (big sellers on Poshmark), Coogi jeans and dresses, Betsey Johnson purses, Sperry topsiders, Patagonia jackets, Lululemon yoga pants and Dansko clogs, all in what resellers call EUC (for "excellent used condition"). On

a recent 50-cent Tuesday, there was a rack of handsewn Indian saris next to a row of Halloween costumes. A clothing crapshoot.

Two blocks south is **The Thrift Store** (1806 K Ave., Plano), packed and stacked with old and new men's and women's clothes, shoes, bags and household goods like lamps, dishes and framed art prints. Prices can range from 99 cents for a still-crisp Brooks Brothers button-down to \$15 for a vintage leather Coach crossbody laptop bag that originally sold for 20 times that. Among recent finds here: Balenciaga Couture women's jacket with delicate handsewn stitches (\$8); nearly-new Cole Haan patent leather women's loafers (\$3); and an Italian-made Missoni men's sweater (\$12.99). Shop weekdays to avoid pushy weekend pickers.

**Urban Thrift** (19 W. Kingsley Road, Garland) recently upped stakes from Lake Highlands to Garland and they're still refilling stock. But on a Saturday last month, there was a shelf of just-donated early Kate Spade "Sam" bags (\$10–15), a couple of big Vera Bradley totes (\$5–15) and enough still-nice tweed men's jackets for under \$10 to outfit a dozen productions of *My Fair Lady*. (Local theater costumers haunt thrift stores to dress actors on the cheap.) Oddities show up here now and again, like vintage roller derby skates and military uniforms.

**Casa View Thrift** (2303 Gus Thomasson Road) may look dreary from the outside, but inside, treasures abound, like an all-silk white pleated negligee (\$5) with a Marilyn Monroe flair, and hanger after hanger of 1960s and '70s slinky full slips for two and three bucks. (Tons of shoes here, too, but mostly down-market brands, not EUC.) On hooks on the wall, however, hang top-name handbags, including Coach, Kate Spade, Aigner, Fossil and sometimes the elusive and desirable Dooneys, most priced in the \$20 range.

**Second Chance Thrift** (3160 Saturn Road, Garland) is a dusty but glorious cave of other people's discards. Atop of every row of clothing racks scores of shoes lie toes up, tossed this way and that. Take time to paw through to strike gold, like not-quite-worn-out Louboutin sandals for \$3 and Paris-made LaCroix leather mules for \$3.99. Handbags in a back corner recently included some darn cute 1960s-era Mexican straw totes dangling among lesser designer knockoffs.

How can you pick out a picker? They're always checking labels and prices on their phones as they shop. ■



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# Hitch yer wagon!

TourX is Buicks' way way back Outback

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

One of my all-time favorite cars is the green 1970 Buick Estate wagon, woodgrain and all, that co-starred in the movie *The Way Way Back*. It's a classic America family car, so familiar to Baby Boomers and Gen-Xers. In a world of crossovers, wagons have taken a third-row seat to SUVs of all types. The Subaru Outback is now the nation's best-selling wagon. Somewhere between the Outback and *The Way Way Back* is a new-generation Buick wagon: The 2018 Regal TourX.

Despite the freshly-colored Buick badge in the grille, the TourX is a legit European wagon — a virtual clone of the Opel Insignia and built in Russelsheim, Germany. Sure, there's plastic body cladding around the wheelwells and covering the rocker panels, but that's just to keep up appearances. You can see waterfall in the grille, but it's fronted by Buick's chrome wing-hung badge. Flanking it are LED headlamps and cornering lamps. Portholes stay in the past; the side profile is very Euro with its chiseled bodysides, subtle chrome accents and unique rear window brightwork that weaves into the taillamps. It's sleek and

long, poised over 18-in. alloy wheels.

Interiors belie both the wagon's European origins and Buick kinship. The winged dash design with integral touchscreen connects TourX to Buick's crossovers like the Encore, Envision and Enclave. While elegant, it's also pretty simple with stitched covering distinguishing it. Woodgrain on the doors and console is fake, but warms the austere interior. Settle into heated leather seats, adjust the dual-zone automatic climate control, grip the heated steering wheel and enjoy.

You can get dual-pane moonroof, adaptive cruise, forward collision warning and lane keep assist, but our car went without that jazz combo. It did come with an intuitive touchscreen for the Bose audio system, navigation and phone. I'd prefer a proper tuning knob, but you can swipe to browse stations and your music library. Bluetooth, 4G Wi-Fi and wireless phone charging make connections easy while safety is enhanced with blind spot warning, rear cross path detection and rearview camera.

Engineers conjured a powertrain wholly appropriate for the TourX: A 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine delivering 250 horsepower and 295 lb.-ft. of torque — routed to the standard all-wheel-drive system through an eight-speed automatic



transmission. Auto stop/start, which pauses the engine at rest, is undefeatable, but is mostly unobtrusive and enables fuel economy ratings of 21/29-MPG city/highway.

Beyond the smooth thrust of the engine, you notice a serene quiet and refined suspension that tames pavement with the right balance between handling and comfort. Bumps are rumbled over without drama and the five-link rear suspension cribs the world's best. It's entirely more enjoyable to whip through corners than a high-riding crossover. The suspension is raised slightly for light off-roading, but it will not challenge an Outback when rocks

and rough terrain conspire. Our test car had a strange groaning that came from the front while parking, but otherwise was a pleasure.

I'm probably just feeling nostalgic for the back of my parents' station wagon, but I think the TourX is exactly the kind of car Buick needs. Like Volvo and Subaru, Buick seems sadder without a wagon in the line-up. It's a natural fit. Instead of selling some fluffily wood-sided behemoth, Buick sells a proper German touring car with all of the performance and luxury that suggests. It's a model that appeals to Baby Boomers, Gen-Xers and Millennials alike.

It's also aggressively priced starting at \$29,070 and coming to \$38,815 as-tested. ■

#### '18 REGAL TourX

**Buick.** 250hp 2.0-liter Turbo-4.  
21/29-MPG city/hwy. As-tested  
price: \$38,815



# Inside Barbie

*You Don't Own Me: How Mattel v. MGA Entertainment Exposed Barbie's Dark Side* by Orly Lobel (W.W.Norton 2017) \$27.95; 304 pp.

As a kid, what was your favorite toy? You can probably remember it instantly: the thing you couldn't bear to leave at home, the doll you spent hours with, the toy truck that road-tripped your imagination. Just thinking of it gives you a warm feeling and a wistful smile.

Years after it happened, Carter Bryant couldn't tell you what spurred him to think the way he did that sunny afternoon. Maybe it was dissatisfaction with his on-again-off-again job at Mattel. Maybe it was a recent, nasty break-up with his on-again-off-again boyfriend. Or maybe it was a quirk in his impressively creative mind that made him notice three teenagers as they left their small-town-Missouri school, and that made Bryant think of his huge idea.

All his life, he'd been an artist and he'd dreamed of designing clothes. After grad-

uating from fashion school, he landed a job at Mattel to work with Barbie but Mattel had no tolerance for spontaneous creativity, says Lobel, and that was something Bryant couldn't abide. And so, as he moved from Los Angeles to his parents' home in Missouri then back to Mattel a few times, Bryant obsessed about three hip teenage dolls, drawing and re-drawing, putting them away and revisiting them, creating their fictitious lives, rounding them out and making them real.

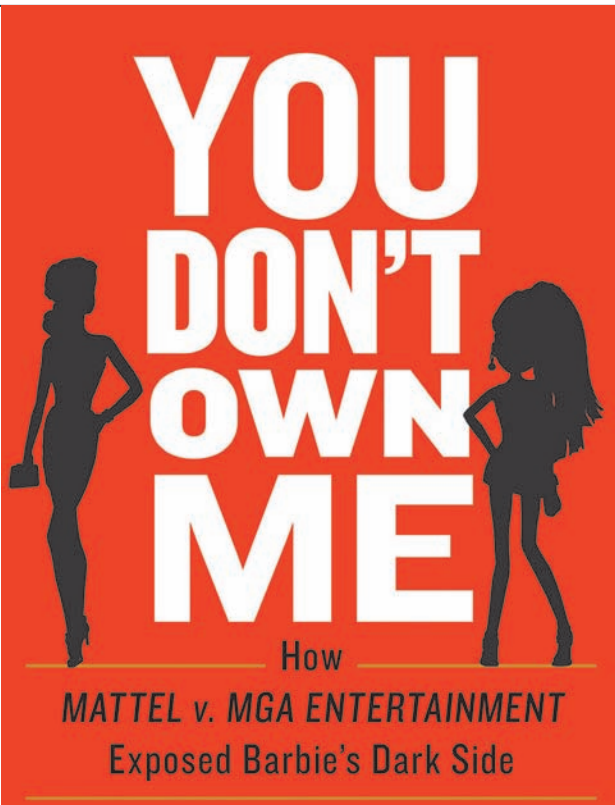
In August 2000, a friend and former Mattel co-worker introduced Bryant to two people who would change his life; both were executives at Mattel rival MGA. And both were excited to see what Bryant had been calling his "Bratz."

For many years, Isaac Larian, a Jewish-Iranian immigrant and the owner-founder of toy company MGA, had been looking for a blockbuster toy. He wanted to own it, not just distribute it, and he was "no stranger to litigation." That was a good thing because, after many attempts to get Barbie back on her molded

feet to fight against Larian and MGA's newly-purchased Bratz fashion-doll line, Mattel got mad. And in 2004, it filed the first lawsuit.



Do you own the ideas you concoct on your own time? Or can your employer take them for free? Those are just two of the intriguing questions inside *You Don't Own Me*. Of course, in the case of Mattel vs. MGA, many arguments were made, and Lobel recounts them here. While there's some lean in the narrative, and well-considered author opinion, Lobel also presents a nice full background of both companies, as well as biographies, to allow for better understanding before she launches her subtle argument-starters. Mixed with the story, Lobel looks at gender and the nature of play, which lends a nostalgic tone to a book that's highly readable, even if you're not in business.

This book — and the story — ends on an uneasy note; absolutely, it'll give inventors



pause and businesspeople a reason for eagle-eyed vigilance. For sure, *You Don't Own Me* shows that the ownership of ideas is nothing to toy with.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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# Born again

Photography courtesy Megan Leigh Barnard.



Out singer-songwriter Trey Pearson moves on from Christian-rock roots and discovers silver horizon in pop

**T**rey Pearson is living the out gay life he never thought he could. After 20 years as frontman of Christian rock band Everyday Sunday, Pearson — who was married for seven of those years to Lauren and with whom he has two children — came out in May 2016. Publicly revealing his sexuality led organizers of Joshua Fest, an annual Christian music festival in Northern California, to nix him from the lineup after staff members kicked up a fuss about his scheduled appearance.

Inspired to share his story, Pearson switched gears, cutting a seven-song, pop-oriented EP called *Love Is Love*, which was released in November. Led by first single “Silver Horizon,” the album taps into the range of emotions the 37-year-old Columbus native harbored at one of the most pivotal, and painful, points in his life.

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: What song would you most recommend to someone trying to reconcile their religion with their sexuality?**

Trey Pearson: I could go on for hours about these songs. But every once in a while a song comes out of nowhere, in the moment.

I wrote “Hey Jesus” in less than a half hour, and then I spent another hour or two lying on the floor bawling my eyes out. The song encompasses all the emotions that I always felt growing up and even into my adult life, until I could accept myself.

I feel the most free I’ve ever felt. The most joyful, the most peace. I never knew I could feel this way. I did not believe it was possible, and to finally feel this way is the most amazing feeling in the world. But it hasn’t been without loss: having your teenage years robbed from you — it’s OK to allow yourself to grieve that.

**How do you feel about being an example for other queer people who are also struggling with self-acceptance?** It’s exciting. It feels like it’s something I’m passionate about, and I also feel a responsibility, too, because I know if it wasn’t for people like Ellen [DeGeneres] coming out and being vulnerable in her truth, I might not have been able to own mine. Ever since my story came out, there’s almost not a day that goes by where people don’t reach out to me on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. I think there’s a great honor in having these people share their stories back to me, but also, we need to tell our stories because there’s so much power in them. I’ve experienced that.

**After you came out, you were driving for Uber to make ends meet, right?** Yeah, I had to cancel a tour and figure out how to make money over a two-month period, so I was like, I’m gonna drive for Uber and

make money. So, I picked up this guy — and this was right after I came out to my family — and he was like, “So, what do you do besides this?” and I was like, “Well, I usually tour around the world in this Christian rock band and I just came out of the closet to my family.” He ended up being the editor of a magazine, which is where I originally came out publicly. But rumors were spreading. When you’ve been in the Christian music industry your whole career, and you’ve played in thousands of churches, it’s amazing how quickly gossip can spread in churches around the world.

**Are you still being asked to perform in churches?** Actually, there have been a lot of affirming churches that have asked me to come. I started this private group on Facebook called Trey’s Safe Space and there are hundreds of thousands of people who are sharing this space. People who are either queer or allies, and they just tell their story. But I’m not playing in churches; I’m playing in music clubs. A lot of progressive and affirming churches are asking me to share my story, so I am speaking at a lot of these churches on Trey’s Safe Space tour. I’ll do a Pride festival on a Saturday night, and then Sunday morning I’m speaking to these churches. It’s been really cool.

**Did anyone in the Christian music community reach out to you when you came out?** Yeah, actually lots of people did. A lot of people in the industry expressed love toward me. But none of them did it publicly because they’re all scared of their careers

being on the line, and that’s a shame. If every Christian artist that reached out to me would have done it in a public way, I think it would force the industry to rethink their view on the subject, and hopefully one day that’ll happen. Unfortunately, we’re not there yet. I’m doing everything I can to change the conversation, though.

**What did it feel like writing and recording your first song, “Silver Horizon,” as an out gay man?** Liberating. The fact that I suppressed so much of myself for my entire life, and to finally have that out in the open — there are so many emotions that come with finally extending myself in that way. Joy and freedom, and a lot of grieving. I missed out on certain things. I knew I would lose people in my life, but this weight that I had been carrying my whole life finally was lifted from me. There’s a part of myself I couldn’t be even as an artist because I wasn’t able to face it in my own life. This valve burst open with creativity and another level of my songwriting. It was another level of intimacy and vulnerability. I wanted the EP to be long enough to really explore some of these emotions I have experienced since coming out. I literally just played those songs on my floor bawling my eyes out as I wrote them. But I started to turn the corner. It just feels almost like a diary. And with every song I either wanted to make you dance or cry. *[Laughs]*

**Sounds like you’ve been doing a lot of dancing and crying in the last year.** Thank God it’s turned into a lot more dancing than crying these days.





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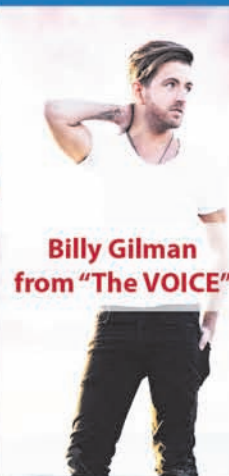
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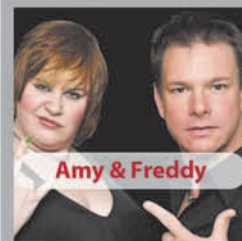
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**Friday 05.25 —  
Sunday 06.03**

**TBT ends season with  
'Swan Lake'**

A beautiful swan, a glorious romance, an evil spell that turns everything on end. Tchaikovsky's ballets are among the most celebrated, and few more so than Swan Lake. Sir Ben Stevenson's staging of this classic concludes Texas Ballet Theater's season, with performances starting this weekend at Bass Hall before moving to Dallas next week.

**DEETS:** Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, May 25–27. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. June 1–3. [TexasBalletTheater.org](http://TexasBalletTheater.org).



**Thursday 05.31**

**Out cancer survivor Tig Notaro performs benefit at Eisemann**

About five years ago, Standup Tig Notaro went from respected comic to revered hero when, after her own diagnosis with breast cancer, she performed a scathingly original set that had audiences laughing through tears. She's now cancer-free, but still an icon to other survivors, as she'll demonstrate as the headliner for the Comedy Kicks Cancer show, which benefits the Cancer Support Community North Texas group, which provides assistance to those dealing with all forms of cancer. It's a one-night-only performance at Richardson's Eisemann Center.

**DEETS:** Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 5231 Performance Drive, Richardson. \$62.50. [ComedyKicksCancer.com](http://ComedyKicksCancer.com).

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**Thursday 05.31 —  
Sunday 07.01**

**Mysterious play 'White Rabbit, Red Rabbit' opens at Wylly**

It's one of the most talked-about theatrical sensations of the last decade... only nobody knows what it is. That's because the playwright, Nassim Soleimanpour, has very

specific instructions about its performance: The script is sealed, and the actor performing it (it changes *every single performance*) reads the script for the first time in front of the audience ... and must perform it all the way though. What happens? Well, don't Google it! Just come see *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit*. Maybe you'll understand what the title means. Maybe not. We don't know, either!

**DEETS:** Wylly Theatre Studio, 2400 Flora St. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org)

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## calendar highlights



Jessica Cavanaugh tells what it's like to parent an autistic child in 'Self-Injurious Behavior' at Theatre Too.

### ARTSWEEK THEATER

**Let Me Talk My Dreams.** Ana Hagedorn, a newly-minted MFA recipient from SMU, wrote and performs in this one-woman show about the pioneering theater impresario Margo Jones ... which she mounts at a theater named for Jones. Margo Jones Theatre at Fair Park. Through Sunday. [LetMeTalkMyDreams.com](http://LetMeTalkMyDreams.com).

**Hir.** A twisted take on the modern American family from gender-bending playwright Taylor Mac. A regional premiere. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through June 17. [StageWest.org](http://StageWest.org).

**Self-Injurious Behavior.** Local actress Jessica Cavanaugh wrote and stars in this autobiographical play about dealing with parenting a child on the autism spectrum. Directed by Marianne Galloway. Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Through June 10. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**The Full Monty.** Terrence McNally-David Yazbek musical based on the Oscar-winning film about out-of-work schlubs who decide to raise money by doing a strip tease show. *Final weekend.* Dupree Theatre at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. [IrvingArtsCenter.com](http://IrvingArtsCenter.com).

**Footloose — The Musical.** Presented by Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through June 3. [TheatreArlington.org](http://TheatreArlington.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 Monday. [SRFestival.com](http://SRFestival.com).

### 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.

**Sign and Symbols: Mobile Tagging Art by Pedro Morales.** The gay artist's modernist work continues at the Uptown museum. The Museum of Geometric and MAD! Art, 3109 Carlisle St. Through July 15. [GeometricMADIMuseum.org](http://GeometricMADIMuseum.org).

**Laura Owens.** The controversial, eclectic artist is featured at a show at the Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through July 29. [DMA.org](http://DMA.org).

**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](http://G-MF.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](http://MeadowsMuseumDallas.org).

### FRIDAY 05.25

#### COMMUNITY

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

#### FILM

**The Incredibles.** Free outdoor screening of this new family classic, part of the Downtown Dallas





Aquaria, a breakout star of the current season of 'RuPaul's Drag Race,' performs Saturday at Marty's Live.

Movie Night. Farmers Market, S. Pearl St. Arrive by 7:45 p.m.; screening begins at 8 p.m. Free.

PERFORMANCE

**Celebrity Autobiography.** The long-running sensation, where celebrities — in this case, Mario Cantone, Laraine Newman and Robert Wuhl — read from actual memoirs by other celebrities, from Britney Spears to Suzanne Summers. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. May 25–26 at 8 p.m. ATPAC.org

FRIDAY 06.01

THEATER

**20th Annual New Works Festival.** Kitchen Dog Theater celebrates its landmark 20th season of this festival with an expanded schedule of nine staged readings, several by local playwrights (Blake Hackler, Jenny Ledel) and several by returning favorites (Zayd Dohrn, Steve Yockey). Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. June 1–17. Get full schedule at KitchenDogTheater.org.

SATURDAY 05.26

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.

**Aquaria.** The current Drag Racer performs live at Marty's Live. 4207 Maple Ave.

TUESDAY 05.29

FILM

**To Sir, With Love.** One of Sidney Poitier's huge hits, which he plays a black man teaching at a tough British school. The theme song is an enduring classic. 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.

THURSDAY 05.31

CABARET

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

this week's solution

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 **browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

 **submit**

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).



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- 2 **Cedar Springs Tap House**  
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214-377-7446  
CedarSpringsTapHouse.com
- 3 **The Grapevine Bar**  
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214-522-8466  
thegrapevinebar.com
- 4 **Havana Lounge**  
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214-886-6804
- 5 **JR.'s Bar & Grill**  
3923 Cedar Springs Road.  
214-528-1004  
jrsdallas.com
- 6 **Kaliente**  
4350 Maple Ave.  
214-520-6676
- 7 **Liquid Zoo**  
2506 Knight St.  
214-221-3004  
LiquidZooSportsbar.com
- 8 **Marty's Live**  
4207 Maple Ave.  
214-559-2151

- 9 **Pekers**  
2615 Oak Lawn Ave.  
214-528-3333  
PekersBar.com
- 10 **The Round-Up Saloon**  
3912 Cedar Springs Road.  
214-522-9611  
RoundupSaloon.com
- 11 **Station 4 (S4) and  
The Rose Room**  
3911 Cedar Springs Road.  
214-559-1004  
Station4Dallas.com
- 12 **Sue Ellen's**  
3014 Throckmorton St.  
214-559-0707  
SueEllensDallas.com
- 13 **TMC: The Mining Co.**  
3903 Cedar Springs Road.  
214-521-4205  
TMCDallas.com
- 14 **Woody's Sports  
& Video Bar**  
4011 Cedar Springs Road.  
214-520-6629  
DallasWoody's.com

- 1 **Pub Pegasus**  
3326 N. Fitzhugh Ave.  
214-559-4663
- 2 **Zippers**  
3333 N. Fitzhugh Ave.  
214-526-9519

- 1 **The Dallas Eagle**  
5740 Maple Ave.  
214-357-4375  
DallasEagle.com
- 2 **Hidden Door**  
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214-526-0620  
HiddenDoor-Dallas.com
- 3 **The Tin Room**  
2514 Hudnall St.  
214-526-6365  
TinRoom.net

- 1 **Barbara's Pavillion**  
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- The 515 Bar**  
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2637 E. Lancaster Ave.  
817-413-2332

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# Cassie Nova

Sometimes we are the bullies

Hello, my people. How's life? In my last column, I talked about my bullies growing up. Well, this week I found out that I was — unintentionally — a bully myself. I am not saying I have never bullied anyone before this, because I am sure I have. Being a drag queen with a loud mouth, some people don't always take you the way intended ... or maybe they do, but let's not psychoanalyze too much. My point is, it was brought to my attention that I have been hurting someone's feelings for years, so I want to own up to it and apologize.

I apologize to Melissa, my friend of more than 20 years, for a nickname I used on her. What I thought was just a light-hearted nickname was actually hurting her feelings, and now looking back I get it. Not everyone thinks like I do, and I see where offense could be taken. I wish I could have heard her or been more receptive to what she was saying when she tried to tell me she didn't like it. But alas, I am thick-headed and didn't take the hints. I would like to share my side of the story.

Years ago, a bunch of drag queens (me, Onyx, Aspen Tyler and a few others) were joking that most of us were gaining weight and should have big girl names. It was just stupid, backstage, drunk queen banter. Onyx was Black Zilla, I was Sue Weeee Nami (cuz I am a pig), Aspen was Wilda Beast and someone else was Watta Beast. It became a thing for us for a while. So when I heard someone call Melissa "Chewbacca," I figured it was the same thing. After that, every time I saw Melissa I'd said "Hey, Chewy" ... just like I would say "Hey, Zilla" to Onyx. Sometimes I would make the Chewbacca sound at her and sometimes she would do it back. I loved that someone else spoke Shyriiwook, the Wookiee language. I honestly never thought it bothered her. (Side note: If you know me at all, you know that I am a huge *Star Wars* fan almost to the point of obsession. Chewbacca is one of the all-time best things about *Star Wars*. I swear I have two different stuffed Chewbaccas in my bedroom. Better than any teddy bear ever.) When I called her Chewy, it came from a place of love. It wasn't like I called her Jabba or Jar-Jar.

A few weeks ago, Melissa posted on Facebook where she sounded hurt and was reading someone for filth. When I saw the post, I was like, "Wait a minute, I just saw her." That was the first time it ever occurred to me that the Chewbacca thing might be bothering her. I reached out to her and asked if she was OK. I got crickets. That let me know that her post was absolutely about me. So I made a mental note that the next time I saw Melissa I would pull her aside to talk about it.

Last Monday, I did just that.

She let me know that my name-calling has always bothered her and that she was even told that I was the person that started it. I was not, but I did run with it. She said that over the years she has even tried to tell me that it bothered her by saying things like, "Is that even funny?" or "Isn't that played out?," which I either never heard or didn't get what she was trying to say. I can be an idiot sometimes, and if you need to say something to me — you should just come out and say it. I am not close friends with subtlety.



Even while I was trying to explain my side of the story and apologize, I was rude to another friend of hers who came up and interrupted us. I joked that the adults were talking or something like that. Whatever I said, it came off more rude than funny. So now I need to apologize to him! Ugh! I have a problem.

I want to take a moment to publicly say a big "I'm sorry" to Melissa. I met you the first year I competed in Miss Texas America. You did a full Mariah Carey illusion and I did Taylor Dayne. We supported each other then and I like to think we will continue to support each other and be friends. I honestly never meant to hurt your feelings, and hope we can move past this.

My point is, sometimes you are bullied, and sometimes you are the bully. It is all about perspective. My mouth and frenetic energy can sometimes get in the way of me seeing what's

in front of me, but when I know better, I do better.

Moving on, let me help the downtrodden.

*Dear Cassie, Do you ever give money to homeless people? I am always torn on whether or not to do it. I feel like most of them are scammers, but I don't know when someone is actually in need. It makes me feel guilty, and I hate it. Signed, Guilty for no reason.*

Dear Guilty, I totally get it. We've all seen the news story of the homeless guy on the corner with a sign that pulls at your heartstrings, just to find out he drives a Mercedes and he's actually a professional beggar. Or the disabled woman that begs all day then when she gets around the corner she walks fine and the only thing weighing her down is her purse. Seeing stuff like that can make you cynical. I don't have a good answer for when you should help some-

one on the street or not. To help with your guilt, give to an organization that helps or feeds the homeless. The thing that gets me is seeing a homeless person with I dog. I have been known to buy food for a homeless person and his dog just to make sure the dog is eating.

One guy asked me for some money one day. When I said I didn't have any cash, he pulled out his phone with a credit card reader and said I could charge it. I rolled my eyes and said no thanks and got called a bitch as I walked away. There are a lot of homeless people out there in need and each has their own story. Use your heart to decide when and where to give. You can't go wrong if you do that.

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

*If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.*





Two boys in love in the Bishop Arts District



The Street's Fine Chicken crew celebrate the restaurant's second anniversary

Making the **SCENE** the week of **May 25-31**:

- **Alexandre's:** **JaQuay and the Elm Street Kids** on Friday. **Filter Kings** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. • **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and **Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **DFW Sisters Red Dress Party** with **DJ C-Rail** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Diablos Cookout** at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** **"Church"** at the **Hidden Door** starts at noon on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Asia O'Hara** hosts a watch part for this week's episode of **RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10** on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Aquaria** appears with meet-and-greet at 10:30 p.m. and show at midnight on Saturday. **Nicole O'hara Munro**, **Bleach**, **Raquel Blake**, **Mulan** and **Sunel** also perform. \$25 at the door.
- **Pekers:** **Totally Twisted Karaoke** with cash prizes at 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Pie in the Face Dundraiser** and **Lost Souls Rugby** send-off to the **Bingham Cup** from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Cherry Bomb** on Saturday. **Honey Folk** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Harlem River Noise** on Sunday. **Tyla & Ed** on Tuesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **JazelleBR** appears Friday-Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **IGRA Birthday Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Memorial Day Weekend** kickoff to summer.
- **Zippers:** **Wicked Wednesday** with **DJ Ellz**.

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



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Girls' night out on The Strip



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Stripes on The Strip



Athena Sapphire at Kristin Maldonado of Pentatonix at TMC



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Friends at The Hidden Door



Dallas on The Strip



Snuggling on The Strip



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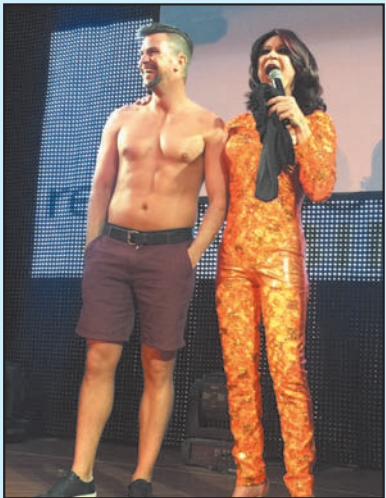






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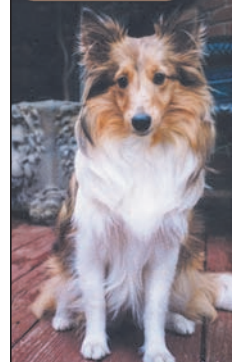
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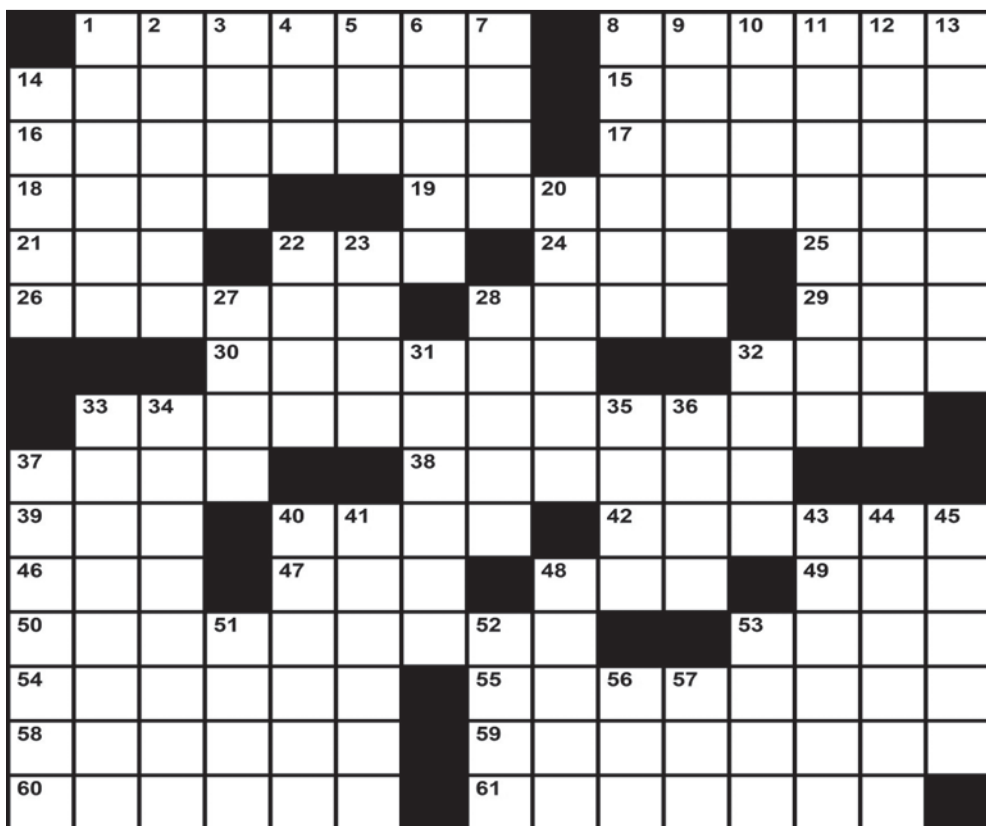
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Solution on Page 37

### Across

- 1 With 19-Across,  
Broadway revival of a  
1970 film
- 8 Home fit for a queen
- 14 Wonder Woman's  
wrist ornament
- 15 Cook of  
*The Maltese Falcon*
- 16 Word after poet
- 17 Draws a bead on
- 18 Gay rights defender,  
at times
- 19 See 1-Across
- 21 Sandra, in a *Grease* song
- 22 Cukor's \_\_\_ Girls
- 24 Fabric suffix
- 25 Bio. or chem.
- 26 Izzard in a whirlpool?
- 28 Lovers of Ellen,  
for example
- 29 Title for Ian McKellen
- 30 Poughkeepsie campus
- 32 Pre-kiss insert, perhaps
- 33 With 50- and 61-Across,  
line from the Chinese  
version of the revival?
- 37 Is worthwhile
- 38 Circumcision, e.g.
- 39 Brief endorsements
- 40 \_\_\_ bit (slightly)
- 42 Like a *Queer Eye* client,  
at first

- 46 Where they shoot

*Will & Grace*

- 47 West of Hollywood

- 48 Legal matters

- 49 They could come

from Uranus

- 50 See 33-Across

- 53 Pastry with fruit,

perhaps

- 54 Saut  ed delicacies

- 55 Veggieburger, at

Hamburger Mary's

- 58 Fashion designer Pucci

- 59 Maidenhead, for

example

- 60 Spruce up

- 61 See 33-Across

### Down

- 1 Followed a trail

- 2 With "ass," hurried

- 3 Tan relative

- 4 One ruled by a queen

- 5 Plug attachment

- 6 Hairy Himalayans

- 7 British carbine

- 8 Showy cock's partner

- 9 Sigourney Weaver sequel

- 10 Life partner

- 11 Margaret Cho show

- 12 Meeting unexpectedly,

with "upon"

- 13 Crash into the ground,

slangily

- 14 Zorro was a gay one

- 20 Cause anguish to

- 22 Ballet move

- 23 Canadian gas brand

- 27 Burl of

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

- 28 Prima \_\_\_ evidence

- 31 Castro, in San Francisco

- 32 Kunis of *Black Swan*

- 33 Escort from the bar

to your room

- 34 Off rhyme for a lane on

*Desperate Housewives*

- 35 Activist Clare Boothe \_\_\_

- 36 Vietnam neighbor

- 37 They ring twice,

in film noir

- 40 Tennis star Mauresmo

- 41 Jude Law in

*Sherlock Holmes*

- 43 Political analyst Ron

- 44 Like Christmas

tree lights

- 45 Lauded makeup

maker Lauder

- 48 Poet Vivien

- 51 Salmon after becoming

a breeder

- 52 Mary had a little one

- 53 Spelling of Trick

- 56 "What \_\_\_, chopped

liver?"

- 57 JFK's successor

BURSTING WITH

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