

# dallasvoice

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## Having a Ball

GDMAF's Metroball set for  
'Lucky No. 13'

Page 8



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9



16



22

## headlines

### TEXAS NEWS

- 9 Former Mayor Pro tem Loza has died
- 10 Grindr scam targets gay man
- 12 Folkerth leaving Northaven UMC

### LIFE+STYLE

- 16 Singer Betty Who is on the move
- 18 Re-imagining Ibsen's 'Enemy'
- 22 Porowski on food and fame

### ON THE COVER

Exposé, Shannon & Asia O'Hara coming to Metroball.

Design by Kevin Thomas

## departments

- |    |                |    |             |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6  | The Gay Agenda | 25 | Best Bets   |
| 8  | News           | 28 | Cassie Nova |
| 14 | CommUNITY      | 29 | Scene       |
| 16 | Life+Style     | 32 | MarketPlace |

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## instanTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instantea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instantea)

### Hidden Door security guard injured by car burglar



A security guard for The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St., was shot outside the club shortly after midnight Tuesday, when he confronted a man trying to break into his car. He was taken to Parkland Hospital with a gunshot wound to his shoulder.

Officers were dispatched to The Hidden Door at "about 12:10 a.m.," according to police reports. When they arrived they "discovered the victim, a licensed security guard, [who] was working at the call location, suffering from gunshot wounds."

Police reports indicate that the security guard had gone outside to get something from his own vehicle when he saw someone inside the car. He said something to the suspect, who then got out of the car and shot him before running away.

Police said the security guard suffered gunshot wounds to his chest and bicep, and was taken by Dallas Fire Rescue to Parkland Hospital, where he is reported to be in good condition. A friend said he was released later Wednesday afternoon.

Harvey Meissner, president and general manager of The Hidden Door Inc., said security video "showed the assailant to be someone who first walked by the bar on the street before walking along the sidewalk in front of the bar and entered the security officer's car, which had been left unlocked. The officer had just stepped inside the bar for a couple of minutes before going back out and finding the assailant inside his car. He was shot as he approached his car."

Meissner also said, "The assailant was never inside the bar, and he was not recognized while viewing the security recordings."

Meissner described the suspect as a "black man wearing what appeared to be hospital scrubs or something similar, average to stocky build as I recall from the surveillance video. He fled immediately after the shooting."

No arrests have been made and the investigation is ongoing.

— Tammye Nash

### Holocaust Museum to continue programs and exhibits on LGBT rights

The new Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum will house a permanent exhibit on the history of LGBT rights in Dallas. The new building is being constructed across the DART tracks from the current museum in the West End.

As part of that new initiative, Robert Emery presented a program on the history of LGBT rights in Dallas at the Holocaust museum on Tuesday, June 20. The presentation was drawn from a show he put together with Uptown Players

for the Pride edition of Late Night at the Dallas Museum of Art last Friday.

The presentation was billed for Millennials, and many younger people attended.

Emery said what was frustrating was how much of the city's history had to be omitted simply because of time restraints.

He touched on local legal battles, successful political campaigns — a picture of gubernatorial candidate Lupe Valdez drew cheers — gay bars and churches, and how Dallas and Texas have changed. For example, in 1962, you could be jailed for 15 years in Texas for being gay. By 1970, MCC, which became Cathedral of Hope, began meeting in Dallas.

Emery explained how Dallas has the largest LGBT church, the largest annual sit-down fund-raising dinner and the most-recorded gay men's chorus.

Museum director Mary Pat Higgins said she hoped to present more programming like Emery's.

— David Taffet



Robert Emery

### Atheists planning protest at 1st Baptist

Metroplex Atheists will be rallying outside First Baptist Church in Dallas on Sunday, June 24, from 10-11 a.m. in protest of the pastor's upcoming sermon series, "America is a Christian Nation."

Metroplex Atheists President Courtney Stewart said her organization planned the protests because "The claim that America is a Christian nation is a lie," and "Propagating this exclusionary, divisive and false message only serves to divide our nation even further."

Jeffress has a record of inflammatory and bigoted statements about other religions. In 2010, he called Catholic Church an instrument of Satan, calling it "a cult-like, pagan religion" that had been corrupted. In 2011, he told reporters that Mormonism is a "cult" and that voting for Mitt Romney would "give credibility to a cult."

Jeffress has also said that Jews, Muslims and Hindus are going to hell.

— Tammye Nash



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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.

## JUNE

• **Through June 30: Pride at City Hall**  
The exhibit The Impact of HIV / AIDS in Dallas on display in the lobby of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.

• **June-September: Pride at the Library**  
From UNT's LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT's LGBT 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 22-24: TAG camping trip**  
Tyler Area Gays is going camping. To RSVP or ask questions, contact Ryan Benicky at [Benicky.who@gmail.com](mailto:Benicky.who@gmail.com).

• **June 23: Ascend**  
Oak Lawn Band presents Ascend, its fifth annual march for freedom concert featuring singers Donald Jones and Jodi Crawford Wright. Pillar of Pride awards will be presented to John Fullinwider and Michael Doughman for community service at 4 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St.

• **June 23: Bears at the Zoo**  
Dallas Bears go to the Fort Worth Zoo from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1989 Colonial Parkway, Fort Worth.

• **June 23: Houston Pride**  
40th anniversary celebration. Parade at sunset in downtown Houston.

• **June 24: Birthday Show for Dana Bloom**  
Linze Serrell hosts a Special Birthday Show for Dana Bloom with AmeriMonte Records at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Buffet meal from 3-4 p.m., show and live auction at 4 p.m. \$10.

• **June 26: Texas Business Equality Conference**  
Attendees will network, hear remarks from national speakers about the importance

of diversity in the workplace, and attend breakout sessions designed to help businesses to grow and thrive from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Toyota North America, 6565 Headquarters Drive, Plano. Register at [GLBTChamber.com](http://GLBTChamber.com).

• **June 26: "From Sodomy to Same-Sex Marriage: 15 Years Since Lawrence v. Texas"**

Dallas Morning News reporter Lauren McCaughy moderates a panel including Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, Lambda Legal's Sharon McGowan, activist Dick Peeples, state Rep.-elect Jessica Gonzalez and trans activist Trenton Johnson to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Lawrence v. Texas at 6:30 p.m. at SMU Dedman School of Law, Walsh Classroom in the Underwood Law Library. Free parking after 6 p.m. in the Daniel Parking Center at 3330 Daniel Avenue (at Hillcrest Ave).

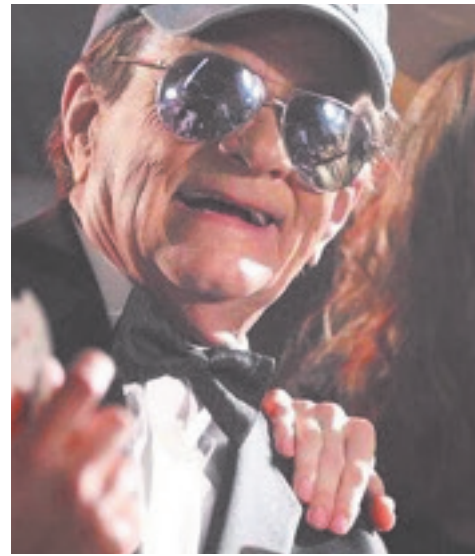
• **June 26: Resource Center tour**  
CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to [kfields@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:kfields@myresourcecenter.org).

• **June 26: Pride Night at Durkins**  
GALA meets at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 Hwy. 121, McKinney.

• **June 27: LGBTQ Book Club Webchat with Madeline Miller**  
Chat with author Madeline Miller about her novel The Song of Achilles at 6-7 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 27: National HIV Testing Day**  
Rainbow LULAC and Prism Health team up for HIV testing night at 7 p.m. at Havana, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. No appointment necessary. Dr. Steven Pounders offers from HIV and Hep C testing from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave. RSVP to 214-520-8833.

• **June 27: National HIV Testing Day**  
Testing from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. with Prism Health at Walgreen's, 3802 Cedar Springs Road; with Abounding Prosperity at Walgreen's, 1461 Robert B. Cullum Blvd.; with UT Southwestern at Walgreen's, 2060



Linze Serrell hosts a Special Birthday Show for Dana Bloom on Sunday, June 24, with AmeriMonte Records at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. The event includes a buffet meal, a live auction and show featuring performances by Bubba T, pictured left, Shane Owens, pictured right, and more.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.** This week's guest is Texas House candidate **Nancy Bean; 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](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org). LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every

Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

S. Buckner Blvd. and 8310 Abrams Road. Elsewhere at Walgreens stores in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Amarillo, Beaumont and Port Arthur. More info at [GreaterThan.org](http://GreaterThan.org).

• **June 27: Red Ribbon Society appreciation event**  
Prism Health and Red Ribbon Society present an annual appreciation event with words from CEO John Carlo from 6-8p.m. at Mercado 369 Gallery, 369 Jefferson Blvd. RSVP to [development@prismntx.org](mailto:development@prismntx.org) by June 25.

• **June 28: Tall Tales & High Heels**  
Dallas Public Library hosts its first LGBTQ-themed adult story hour. Sit, stand, or shimmy, but be dazzled by these lovely ladies as they read you classic tales we all know and love. This program is intended for adults only at 11 p.m. at JR's Bar & Grill, 3932 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 28: Becoming a Better Ally**  
GALA Ally Committee presents The ABCs of LGBT+. A discussion on how to be better allies, friends and neighbors from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Grace Avenue United Methodist Church, 3521 Main St., Frisco.



• **June 29: MetroBall**

Expose and Shannon headline the fundraiser for Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund from 7 p.m.-midnight at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Info at GDMF.org.

• **June 29-July 1: Beyond Vanilla**

Beyond Vanilla takes place at the Doubletree Inn, 4099 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Day passes \$75. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.

• **June 30: QueerBomb**

Meet in Main Street Garden as DJ Wylie spins and local groups host tables at 7 p.m. in Main Street Garden, 1902 Main St. Facebook.com/qbdallas.

• **June 30: Pride San Antonio**

Crockett Park

**JULY**

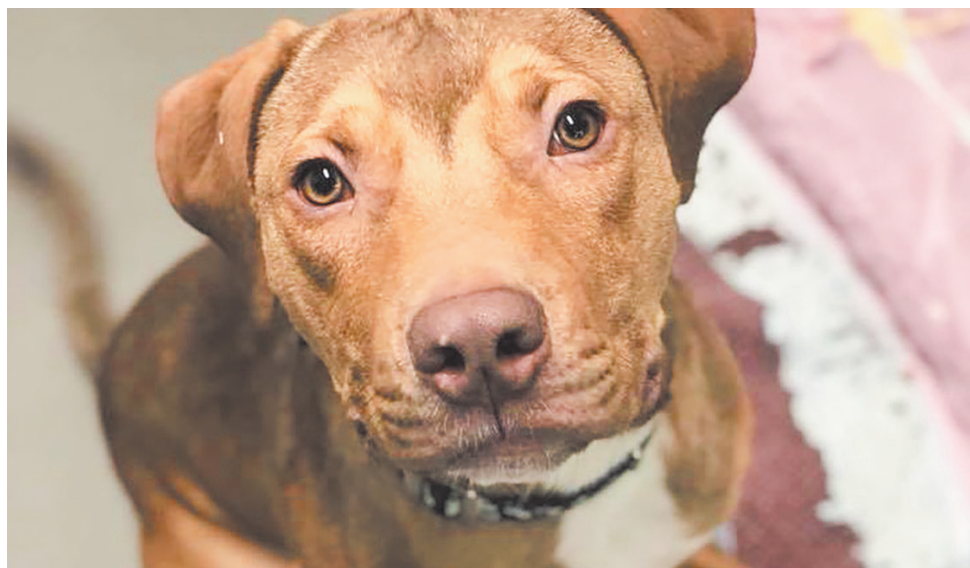
• **July 19: Mr. Gay Texas America**

Preliminary to Mr. Gay America 2019 emceed by Chanel LaMasters at 9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$20.

• **July 10: Resource Center tour**

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

▪ **pet of the week / NINO BROWN**



Meet **Nino Brown**, a 1-year-old, brown-and-white pit bull mix weighing 55 pounds. He's an outgoing, energetic guy who is active, playful, goofy and sweet. He loves people and lives for attention, and he loves to play with all kinds of toys and other dogs. He enjoys being outdoors, going for walks and learning tricks for treats. He already knows how to sit on command. He really likes hanging out with other dogs and playing rough. If you have another dog at home, bring it in for a meet and greet to see if they get along. Nino Brown has been neutered, microchipped and current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. #158456

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Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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# Ready for 'Lucky No. 13'

This year it's "Lucky No. 13" for Metroball, the largest annual fundraiser benefitting the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. This year's party starts at 7 p.m. Friday night, June 29, at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

Asia O'Hara, a Rose Room cast member and top four finalist on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10, is the opening act and emcee for the evening, which will also feature dance music stars Exposé and Shannon, along with raffles and a silent auction with more than 125 items.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, available online at GDMAF.org, and \$40 at the door.

David Hearn, founder and executive director of GDMAF, said that each year Metroball is "tailored to those who have a limited budget but still want to experience a great night of headliners from the 1970s, '80s and '90s, as well as some of Dallas' greatest talents."

He added, "We have always said we are a 'B' event, because Metroball costs less than some other fundraising parties, everyone can come and be as casual as they want while enjoying the night of music and auctions.

"We want everyone to enjoy a night out," Hearn said. "You can have a great time, help a great organization and still have money to go have breakfast or brunch the next day."

Metroball started in 2006 and 2007 at TMC: The Mining Co., before it moved into its current location on Cedar Springs Road. Hearn said about 75 people attended that first event, and today, "we're expecting about 700 people to attend Metroball 13 next weekend." All proceeds from Metroball each year go to GDMAF, an HIV/AIDS service agency that steps in to help with clients' emergency needs when other agencies can't, Hearn said.

"They come to us as a last resort," he said, explaining that other, larger agencies are often faced with grant dollars and other funding that are restricted to specific areas. He said the areas 10 large HIV/AIDS organizations "act as our screeners and are allowed three requests per organization, per month. GDMAF can only help a person one time during a year, and it is just to get them through that crisis. So if someone calls us, we refer them to the other organi-

zations where they can get the full benefits of case managers and help them in other needs."

GDMAF is a 100-percent-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. Hearn said that thanks to donations from organizations and events like Dallas Bears, Texas Bear Round-Up, DIFFA Dallas, The United Court of the Lone Star Empire and the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System, along with Metroball and the GDMAF Lifewalk Team, "GDMAF has been able to increase our help to include Fort Worth and Denton and Collin counties. ■

— Tammye Nash

Asia O'Hara, top; Exposé, middle; Shannon and her dancers, bottom.



# Exposé

The trio known as Exposé and solo performer Shannon — who had some of the hottest dance hits in the LGBT nightclubs of the 1980s and have continued to have successful careers ever since — are the headlining performers for Metroball 2018: Lucky No. 13, the annual fundraising party for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, being held next Friday, June 29, at S4.

Dallas Voice got the entertainers to sit down and answer a few questions to help their fans gear up for the party. ■

— Tammye Nash

**Dallas Voice: The three of you have been performing together since 1986, and are still drawing crowds. To what do you credit the longevity of Exposé?** Exposé: It seems that most people have an Exposé story for us. A memory of when they heard our music from a specific time in their lives. Coming to see us perform reminds them of those memories.

**I have seen an interview in which Jeanette Jurado said the three of you are truly like sisters. My sister and I get in arguments sometimes, so I would think you three do, too. How do you settle the arguments? And what role do you think the close relationship between the three of you plays in your continued success?** As with siblings. There are various ways to settle arguments, we try to talk things out whenever possible. It's natural that in life feelings get hurt and opinions vary, but we've been together for so long that when something comes up that's really an issue we try to compromise and consider everyone's feelings. Performing together definitely plays in our success. How can anyone sing "Point of No Return" while being angry? Never happen!

**Musical trends are constantly changing, and a lot of the stars from the 1980s have not adapted. What makes your music from those early years remain so popular, and how has your music evolved through the years?** Our music reminds people of a simpler time in their lives. Our world is complicated now, and hearing those great dance songs has a way of transporting people back to a happier place. We have stayed the course throughout our careers and have done well. We're not trying to reinvent the wheel or be something that we're not. We have fun and that fun is infectious.

**Exposé has always been a gay favorite. What role have your gay fans played in**



# John Loza has died

Former mayor pro tem remembered as a beloved curmudgeon who was dedicated to his community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

John Loza, 54, passed away suddenly at his home on Tuesday, June 19.

Councilman Adam Medrano made the announcement at the June 20 morning council briefing.

"I'm still in shock," Medrano said at the council meeting. "I have a broken heart. We lost former Mayor Pro Tem John Loza last night. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Mr. John Loza."

Medrano said Loza asked him to run for school board and the council.

Councilwoman Sandy Greyson served her first four terms on the council, from 1997-2005, with Loza. He was, she said,

"probably my favorite council member. He could be so snarky, but you just had to like him."

"John was a trailblazer," City Councilman Omar Narvaez said of Loza. "He always stood up for what he believed in. He's a big reason we have a nondiscrimination ordinance in Dallas. We've lost a great man."

City Councilman Philip Kingston said he couldn't comment on Loza's death and stay dry-eyed. "He was a really good friend to have and a trusted advisor," he said. "He left the city significantly better than he found it."

Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway ordered city flags to fly at half-staff in honor of Loza.

While on the council, Loza helped write and pass the city's non-discrimination ordinance. After leaving City Hall, he returned to practicing law full time and continued serving the community.

He served on the board of Prism Health North Texas, then known as AIDS Arms, from 2005-2012 and was board chair from 2011-2012. It was during his tenure as board chair that the agency opened its Oak Cliff clinic.

"He was a huge community champion and leader," Prism Health North Texas' Chief Marketing and Development Officer Tori Hobbs said. "We were honored to have him serve on the board."

Loza served for two years as a city of Dallas representative on the DFW Airport Board.

A number of elected officials, including council members Rickey Callahan, Narvaez and Medrano, credited Loza with encouraging them to run and advising them once they were in office. Loza was serving as treasurer to DISD school board member Miguel Solis' campaign when he died.

Also at the time of his death, he was serving on the board of OutLast Youth, founded by members of the Mayor's LGBT Task Force and an off-shoot of Promise House that deals with youth homelessness.

Loza's husband, David Hill, said going to Transgender Day of Remembrance events was always important to them.

Loza grew up in Mesquite. After graduating from St. Marks School in Dallas, he earned a B.A. in government from Harvard University in 1985, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist School of Law in 1988. He was elected to the Dallas City Council at the age of 33 and served four terms.

He worked as an associate Dallas County district attorney from 1989-1994. From



1994-2015, he maintained a private law practice, then joined Escamilla & Poneck, LLP in 2015.

Loza met his husband before he was first elected, and they had their first date on Valentine's Day in 1997. They were married in November 2015.

In addition to his husband, Loza is survived by his brothers, Michael and Vincent, and his sister, Cynthia, several nieces and nephews and several cats.

"You are a trailblazer that lifted many of us Gaytinos," Rainbow LULAC founder Jesse Garcia said in tribute to Loza. "Thank you for fighting the good fight in the courthouse, Dallas City Hall and the community."



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



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# It's a trap!

Scammers using Grindr to target gay men for money

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**I**t shouldn't be news to anyone that Grindr and similar apps can be dangerous for gay men.

Last December, three men were attacked and robbed after being lured through Grindr to a vacant apartment in the Pleasant Grove area. Something similar happened in the Aubrey/Frisco/Plano area in January and February 2017, when suspects ranging in age from 18 to 21 used Grindr to find gay men to assault.

But the app is being used to target gay men in other, perhaps less violent but no less damaging ways as well.

Dallas attorney Adam Swartz this week warned of scammers using Grindr to target gay men and extort money by later claiming to be underage and threatening to turn the men into police. And this isn't the first

time Dallas Voice has heard of this scam.

Swartz said his client had contacted him about three weeks ago "in an absolute panic. He told me, 'I don't know what to do. I just gave these people \$800. I think I made a huge mistake.'"

Swartz's client (referred to from here on in this story as "the client" to protect his identity), said he had communicated through Grindr with someone calling himself "Sam," who said he was 20 years old and had a girlfriend, so he had to be "discrete."

After the two had exchanged photos, however, the client was quickly contacted via text and by phone by a woman claiming to be "Sam's" mother, who told the client that her son was in fact a 15-year-old high school student who had just gotten caught showing friends at school the nude photos the client had sent him on Grindr.

"He [Sam] sent me a nude photo supposedly of himself. I stupidly sent him two nude photos of me, one that showed my face," the client told Dallas Voice. "I thought I was talking to a 20-year-old guy.



Adam Swartz

I had no reason to think I was dealing with some underage kid."

Grindr's terms of use require users to be at least 18 years old.

The client said that the woman, who called herself Lisa Wright, sent texts claiming that she had been contacted by school officials and was on her way to talk to them, and threatening to "put the laws on you if you cannot call back and settle this like a grown-ass man."

She also demanded, via text that he "give me a call ASAP before this gets worse," and threatened to contact police "unless you call me in 10 minutes to discuss this situation."

The client said that when he spoke to the woman on the phone, she said the school had kicked her son out, that she had not known her son was gay, and that she was sending him to some sort of rehabilitation camp in East Texas because she did not want him in her house anymore. She then demanded that the client send her money to pay to send her son to the camp.

"At first she said it was \$1,250. Then she told me to send her \$1,000," he said, noting that she instructed him to use various apps to send the money, none of which he was familiar with and all of which failed to work for one reason or another. He finally wired the \$800 through WalMart.

Even more frightening, the client said,

was the fact that the woman "knew everything about me when she called." She had photos of him, knew where he lived and where he worked. She also knew the names of two of his three sisters and where they lived. And she was threatening to show the nude photos and the Grindr conversations to his family and his boss if he didn't pay.

The client said the woman called him repeatedly, demanding money and each time giving him deadlines to pay up before she went to police or shared the photos and information with his family.

"She told me, 'This is not a joking matter. You don't have very long to call me so I can solve this problem,'" he said. "It really hit me like a ton of bricks. I mean, she knew everything there is to know about me. But I know nothing about her, and I don't know if there really is a 15-year-old boy."

Swartz said that as soon as his client contacted him and told him what was happening, "My partner and I recognized it for what it was. We told him, don't worry about it. We jumped in then, and we texted [the scammers], told them we know what's going on and that they needed to stop immediately."

Swartz said he warned the scammers that they were guilty of fraud for "creating and dispersing" a fake profile and then

TRAP, Page 13

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# Folkerth transferred from Northaven UMC

Northaven congregation members say they are 'heartbroken' over the move

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After 17 years as pastor of Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas, the Rev. Eric Folkerth is being transferred to The Woods United Methodist Church in Grand Prairie.

Folkerth is the longest-tenured pastor at Northaven, which was founded in the 1950s. Remaining at one congregation that size for that long is unusual in the Methodist church. However, his passion for equality is part of what prompted the move.

Northaven chair of the Board of Trustees Nan Arnold called Folkerth's move "bittersweet."

"I'll miss him," she said. "I consider him my friend, and it's hard to see him go."

But Arnold is confident about the congregation's future. Folkerth will be replaced by the Rev. Marti Soper, and Arnold said, "She's going to be great."

About 12 years ago, with Folkerth at the helm, the Northaven congregation constructed a new building. Arnold acted as contractor, and she said there was lots of teamwork that went into that effort.

Also, during his tenure, Northaven became a reconciling congregation and a Black Tie Dinner beneficiary. For his work toward LGBT equality, Folkerth won Black Tie's Ray 2017 Kuchling Award for service to the community.

Although same-sex weddings are forbidden by the Methodist Church's Book of Discipline, a number of congregations — including Northaven and Oak Lawn UMC — have decided to perform them. Next February, a conference will meet to discuss a proposal to allow each church and minister to decide whether to perform same-sex marriages.

But Folkerth didn't want to put all of the reason for the decision to move him on one issue.

"There comes a time where I've stayed too long," Folkerth said. "I love this church way too much to let that happen."

He said new leadership would help the church grow.

As for his new church, Folkerth said, "They believe I'm a good fit, especially for growth in the contemporary worship service."

He said she was looking forward to serving The Woods, because it's one of the most diverse, multi-cultural congregations in the conference.

"I was very clear," he said. "My commitment to social justice was part of my life, values and Christian ministry well before coming to Northaven."

Folkerth spoke in favor of gay clergy in 1993. When there was an opening at Northaven, he was a natural fit. Northaven has a history of welcoming "the stranger." When the LGBT community found itself unwelcome at other Methodist churches in Dallas in the late 1980s, Northaven opened its doors, before the idea of reconciling congregations was commonplace within the Methodist Church.

Folkerth is active in refugee issues in Dallas and has regularly offered programming with the Muslim community. He also opened the doors for fellow Black Tie Dinner recipient Congregation Beth El Binah, a Jewish Reform synagogue founded by LGBT community members, to make its home in the church.

After the U.S. Supreme Court issued its marriage equality ruling, Folkerth walked a thin line between equality for all of his church's members and the mandates of the church. On Marriage Equality Day in 2015, he joined the celebration at Cathedral of Hope. But when a couple married with a dozen other clergy on the pulpit, Folkerth stepped off, because of his denomination's mandate.

Last year, the church voted to conduct weddings in the main sanctuary at Northaven. Although no announcements were made about those marriage ceremonies and the intent was never to flaunt it in the face of other Methodist churches, a complaint was filed with the diocese against Folkerth for violating church policy. The complaint was settled, but Folkerth was warned not to continue performing marriages, so earlier this year he agreed to a transfer.

The Woods in Grand Prairie is not a reconciling congregation. Yet.

LauraMae Sorkin George, minister of



Cantor Sherry Allen and Beth El Binah President Josh Manes with Northaven's pastor, the Rev. Eric Folkerth. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

youth and communications at Northaven, said she is "so sad" over Folkerth's departure, but she added that she is also excited for the pastor. She said his new church is a growing congregation, and Folkerth would be a good match.

"He'll have the opportunity to meet and influence new people," she said. "He'll bring a sense of vitality to the church," and a sense of social justice.

"He'll help it grow in new directions," she said.

Several years ago, Folkerth welcomed Congregation Beth El Binah to make

Northaven its home when construction at Resource Center, where the synagogue had met for more than 20 years, forced a move.

The friendship and cooperation between the two congregations have grown since the move as the two congregations have worked together on social justice issues.

"Beth El Binah was treated very well by Eric," said the synagogue's religious leader Cantor Don Croll. "He loved the fact that we pray in his building. We'll miss his humor, humility and ability to speak extemporaneously. We wish him luck and hope he'll come visit."



TRAP, From Page 10

try to scam money from his client. But the woman was persistent, he said, and when she didn't stop calling or texting, he started asking very direct questions, such as what school her son had attended.

"She hung up on us then," he said.

While the calls and the texts stopped, the scammers had one more trick up their sleeve, the client said. He said he was on his way back to work last Thursday when, as he was walking to the door of his workplace, a very tall young man who appeared to be in his 20s approached him, carrying two cell phones.

"I've never seen this man before. But he walked up to me and asked if I was Craig. When I said yes, he said, 'My mom and I have come to collect the extra \$400 you owe us. You promised my mom \$1,200, and you only gave her \$800. We want the rest.'"

"I told him that he could contact my lawyer if he wanted, but I wasn't paying him any more money," the client said. At that point, the man said he was going to get his "mother" from the car and that they would go into the client's workplace and talk to his boss. The client said that he had by this time explained to his boss some of what was going on, so when the man threatened him, "I

told him, that's fine. Go ahead."

The man walked away then "but they never came back. Still, that's when it really hit me. I'm a mark! They got money, but they just don't give up!"

Swartz said he had contacted police and talked to them about the situation, and they told him "our client is not in any danger of being charged with anything. They said this is something they have seen before."

He said that a police detective told him "this was the first time he's heard of somebody running one of these scams who was stupid enough to actually, physically show up" to demand money. But because they did, and because nearby security cameras got video footage of the man and woman, police have "some real workable leads" to go on.

"Either these two just don't care about the consequences, or they are just ignorant enough to show up," Swartz said. "Either of those options can be dangerous. If they show up, things can turn bad quickly."

Another Dallas man said he, too, had recently been targeted in a similar scam. After communicating through Grindr with someone claiming to be 18 and then exchanging photos, he said, he was contacted by some-

TRAP, Next Page





EXPOSE, From Page 8

**your success through the years?** Our gay fans have been with us from the beginning and that's really where we got our start. Many of our songs came out of the gay clubs and then became popular in the mainstream. Let's face it — gay clubs play the best music! And the fans are unbelievably loyal. Through thick and thin, we can always count on our gay fan base to keep us going and keep us smiling.

**How are your concerts/performance for mainly LGBT audiences — like the one coming up at MetroBall — different from the other performances?** We get to let loose and not worry about our show being G-rated. Expect to hear a few crass comments. You're gonna love it!

**What's your favorite part of touring/performance? And what's part you dislike the most?** Favorite is performing and hanging out with each other. Least favorite part is the flying! Oh, and packing! You'd think we would have it down to a science, but there always seems to be that nagging feeling that we forgot something.

**What's coming up for Exposé ? Where are you headed to after Dallas?** We are packed with shows this year and will be headed off the following weekend to Santa Barbara. Really, there are worse places to be.

**What have I not asked about that you want people to know?** Just how grateful we are to still be out there, performing and getting to know people. Not many artists these days have the opportunity as we all do, and we are constantly reminded of the blessing we have all been given through music and the audience that comes out to have fun with us. Thanks, everyone! See you in Dallas

## Shannon

**Dallas Voice: For many of us who were coming out in the 1980s and finding our community and ourselves in the gay bars, your music was the soundtrack for much of our lives. Why do you think your music has resonated so well with the LGBT community?** Shannon: It represented a new era and genre, coming out. I had the No. 22 best song in the world ever recorded, a top club track that cranks up a party.

**How do you think your LGBT fans have affected your career?** I have had staying power in the music industry for 35 years and counting because of the LGBT community.

**Why do you think you have remained popular for more than 30 years, when others have not?** My fans love me. My music is timeless, and so am I.

**How has your music evolved over the years?** Dance, EDM and Freestyle.

**How do you think you as a person have evolved and grown?** I believe support and allegiance is the best thing we can do for one another.

**What is your life like outside of your music**

**career? What causes/events are especially dear to you?** Caring for family and friends. All my events are special.

**What's coming up for you? Tours? New music?** Concerts, one hour special of my life's story( TV One) *UNSUNG*. New music and classic releases coming up in October and my 35-year anniversary ... For updates, join my Instagram page, "Shannon, The Queen of Freestyle."

What have I not asked about that you want people to know? Shannon is the Queen of Dance, EDM and Freestyle!

Visit [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) to see Shannon's video message for her fans in Dallas.



TRAP, From Previous Page

one claiming to be the young man's father and saying that the person with whom he had exchanged photos was actually only 15.

This man said he was on his way to get money from his account when he decided to talk to a friend, who then told him not to send the money and not to communicate further with the scammers.

That, Swartz said, is the best advice: "Don't give them the money. As soon as you do, they are going to be relentless until you give them more."

The first thing to do, he continued, is to "call your attorney. That's the person who can give you the best advice. That's also the person who can contact the police for you, just to make sure you are protected. And completely disengage with those folks. Ignore them, and under no circumstances should you hand over any money.

"We don't want to give these folks an excuse to show up," he said. "If you give a mouse a cookie, it's gonna want some milk."



# You're Invited National HIV Testing Day



**Wednesday, June 27  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Steven M Pounders, MD  
3500 Oak Lawn Ave,  
Suite 600  
Dallas, TX 75219  
214-520-8833  
**Walk-ins Welcome!**  
**No RSVP Necessary**

We will be hosting **FREE** HIV and Hep C tests on National HIV Testing Day, Wednesday, June 27. Visit our office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to receive your **FREE** tests. You do not need to be a current patient, and no appointments are necessary. We will also be hosting PrEP talks every 30 minutes for anybody interested in HIV prevention. There will also be special cash pricing available for other STI testing that can be done in office. Parking is available in the garage behind the building, accessible off of Welborn Street.



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# communityvoices

## If you're gonna hate on gays, at least get a good sign

By the time you read this we might be at war with Canada. Or Trump may have invited Kim Jong Un for a sleepover in the Lincoln Bedroom. Anything could happen!



D'Anne Witkowski  
Creep of the Week

We're literally living in the most dangerous reality show ever televised. And the most hateful people are feeling more emboldened than ever.

Which brings me to Jeff Amyx, owner and proprietor of Amyx Hardware and Roofing Supplies in Washburn, Tenn., and the crudely scrawled "No gays allowed" sign in his store window.

He originally hung the sign up after the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples could get legally married. Though some news reports have claimed that Amyx put the sign "back up" following the court's "gay cake" ruling, it's actually not clear that he ever took the original sign down.

It's possible that he just doubled down on his message by adding more signage.

There are many things that bother me about this sign, but one thing that is simply not being commented upon enough is its ugliness. I mean, yes, it's figuratively ugly. But I'm talking literal here!

Keep in mind, I have never been to this store. For one thing, it is in Tennessee and I am not. For another, well, the owner is clearly a hateful person.

But I have the magic of the interwebs.

So from what I've seen in photos, the anti-gay sign is taped on the glass of the store's front door surrounded by other signs, some of which are professionally done (like the grammatically-troubled "SMILE your on Camera" sign).

The sign is a plain white sheet of office size paper with "No gays allowed" handwritten in black marker. The letters are unevenly spaced, and the width of the marker strokes lack uniformity.

So definitely no points for presentation.

Compare this to the banner hanging be-

low his store's roadside sign that reads, "God destroyed all the SODOMITES for an EXAMPLE. 2nd Peter 2:6." This banner was clearly done by some kind of professional sign-making entity, though the color scheme — red writing on white background — leaves a lot to be desired. It's of the same colors and font used in the Amyx store sign right above it. While I can appreciate the stylistic continuity, the anti-gay message could really use a splash of color to make it pop.

And speaking of color, there's a smaller red-and-white sign hung from the bottom of the Sodomites banner that reads, "Now mixing paint."

It is very confusing.

I mean, if the only sign above it were the one reading "Amyx Hardware and Roofing Supplies," then the meaning of the paint sign would be clear: This is a hardware store and we mix paint.

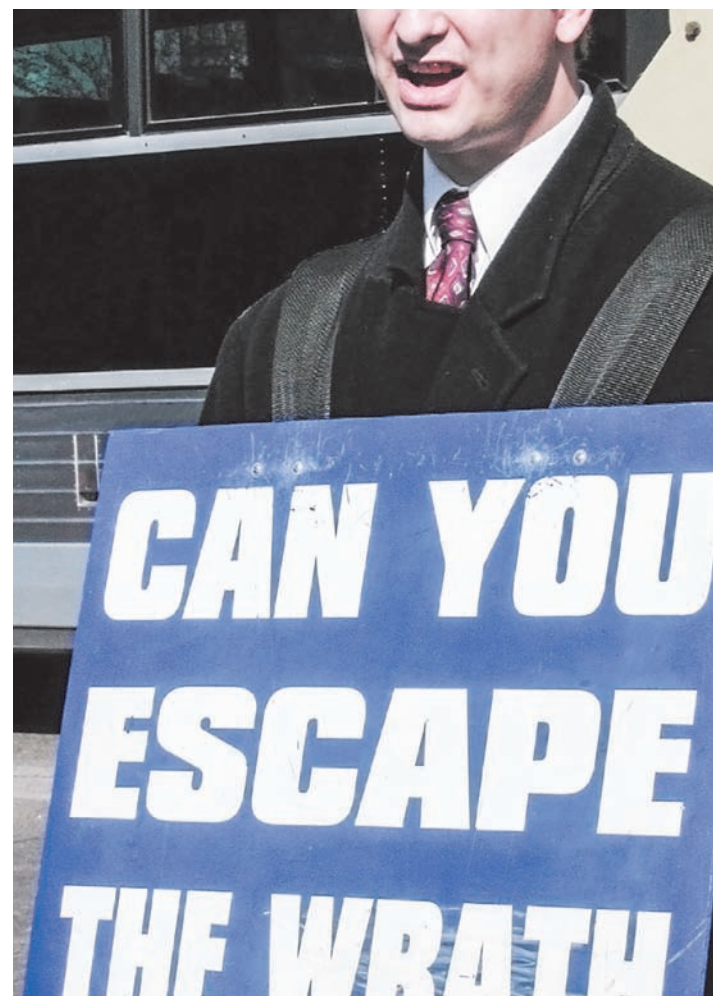
But the paint sign being separated from the store sign by the sodomites banner, to which it is also attached, muddies the context.

So I find myself wondering, "What are the gays doing with paint? Does this have something to do with the rainbow? There is a prohibition about mixing in Leviticus, but isn't it about mixing fabrics?"

In other words, there is a real lack of message continuity.

But the effort is there. Clearly, the sodomites banner took some planning and money, while the "No gays allowed" sign is a slapdash embarrassment.

It's also worth noting that, according to Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Trump is just fine with shop owners putting up signs re-



fusing gays. This is, of course, not the first time Trump has given his nod of approval to something totally lacking in quality or grace.

But to be fair to Amyx, the nearest Hobby Lobby to his store looks to be about 30 miles away according to Google Maps. That said, it's a hardware store! It sells paint (mixed, even!), brushes, rulers, duct tape (which comes in all sorts of colors and patterns these days), adhesives, lighting, fasteners of all kind. Anything you could conceivably need to make an impressive sign was available to him at cost.

In other words, Amyx had everything he needed to #BeBest, but he didn't.

And Jesus wept.

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



# National HIV Testing Day

Each year, National HIV Testing Day raises awareness about the importance of HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV. Get tested, know your status and get linked to care and treatment services at Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic on Wednesday, June 27.

**FREE walk-in HIV/Syphilis/HCV testing and other low-cost STI testing from 9 a.m. - 5p.m. on Wednesday, June 27**

**FREE HIV/Syphilis/HCV testing and other low-cost STI testing available year-round during regular Clinic testing hours:**

Day:	By Appointment:	Walk-In Hours:
MONDAY	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	none
TUESDAY	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	none
WEDNESDAY	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	none
THURSDAY	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
FRIDAY	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	none
SATURDAY	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	none
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*Nelson-Tebedo Clinic is a division of Resource Center.*





# Who's that girl

Dance diva Betty Who, on her music, her gay fans & 'Queer Eye'

When I ask how she's doing, Betty Who replies unhesitatingly with one simple word: "Tired!" We speak on the telephone as a driver whisks her to the airport. The pop princess is traveling from her home in Los Angeles to New York for concert rehearsals with her band. In just a few days, Who kicks off a summer mini-tour.

"I'd say tired is definitely how I'm feeling right now, but, you know, in kind of like a good way," Who says, her native Australian accent detectable even though she has lived state-side for many years. "[I'm exhausted] in a way that I've never really experienced before. I've never literally been this tired in my entire life, but I've never liked it so much."

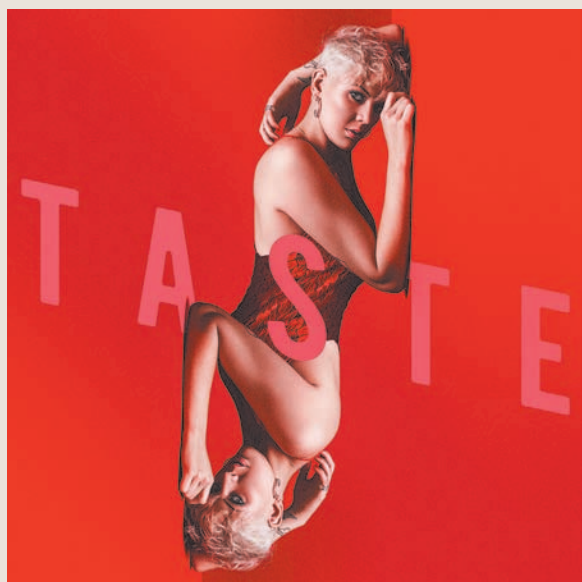
Fortunately, Who's fatigue is remediable. And, truth be told, she also likely has never felt more energized. After recently separating from a major record label, the singer-songwriter is free once again to produce and release music entirely on her own terms. It is a prospect which, at the moment, both frightens and invigorates her.

"For the first time in a long time, I feel like I have a lot to prove right now," Who says. "It's actually exciting and satisfying. I hate feeling like I'm trapped or [that] I don't have an opportunity to show off what I know I can do. I feel like I was in a position that made me feel that way for a long time. On the other side of it, I feel very much like, 'Here I am! I'm ready to go! I'm gonna fuck some shit up!'"

One week ago, Who dropped her latest musical effort, an independent EP entitled *Betty Pt. 1*. She considers the release — her first EP in five years — a re-introduction to her fans and, in many ways, to herself. Its five tracks, all catchy pop tunes, are songs that make a collective statement about Who's newly-regained







creative freedom.

"I wanted to show that this next part of my journey is dictated by me," Who says. "It is curated by me.

The choices that are being made were made by me. I feel really connected personally to everything that I'm making right now."

Even before the EP dropped, though, Who was on the rise. She was recently asked to retool the *Queer Eye* theme song "All Things (Just Keep Getting Better)" in a video promoting the second season of the Netflix series (see stories on Pages 20 and 22). The songstress, already a big fan of the show, was as surprised as anyone when the unexpected opportunity arose. Who says that working with the Fab Five was nothing short of serendipity.

"I really love the universe sometimes when I feel like there are things I'm super excited about and am connected to and love," Who says. "When those things that I personally think are amazing cross into my career... that's one of the cooler things about my life."

A longtime LGBT ally, Who has always held a special fondness for her gay fans, a community she considers early adopters of her music. One gay man, in fact, used Who's breakout single "Somebody Loves You" as the soundtrack to a flash mob wedding proposal five years ago. The video went viral and helped to propel the single. Who, of course, heartily approved of its use. The song remains one of the pop star's favorites to perform to this day.

"It's the only song in my whole career that I never get tired of singing," she says. "There is such a community around it. The story of the song was really beautiful. I think people who love the song a lot of the time love it for a really nice reason and are connected to it in a way that [makes it] more than a pop song. There is heart to it. There is so much love in that

song... in the fabric of it."

In addition to touring, Who is currently creating *Betty, Pt. 2*, a follow-up EP, which

she plans to release later this year. More importantly, perhaps, she also intends to take a well-deserved break to be with family and friends. Who feels that giving up personal time, moments that otherwise might have been spent with loved ones, is the biggest sacrifice she has made for her career.

"I think it's a part of what you give up to do this," she says. "You sort of sell your soul to the devil if the devil is the music industry. You hope it will all pan out the way you want it to. I kind of feel like I had to grow up really fast, so I had to be like, 'All right, you are going to get to hang out with all your friends and family eventually, but not right now.' I guess that's a hard thing to come to terms with. Once I got my head around it a little bit, I was like, 'I can do this. It's OK. That's how being a grown up is.'"

Making connections with her fan base, however, is an upside to the pact. In fact, it keeps Who doing what she loves to do.

"I really am so in love with my fans," she says. "The people who come to the shows, they deeply, deeply inspire me when they share their stories with me and talk to me about the songs they love specifically and tell me their stories. The part of me that connects with them... I don't know how to say it... I stay shook at the fact that I've had an impact on anybody's life. [They are] beautiful, smart impassioned people. To be a part of their lives, even remotely through their headphones, is the coolest part of my life."

— Scott Huffman

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L+S stage

# Trouble the waters

'Enemies/People' updates Ibsen in the age of fracking



Tim (Alex Organ center) explains the dangers of pollution? in 'Enemies of the People' (photo courtesy Karen Almond)

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

The town of Hammon, Texas, had been on a slow slide into ghost town for decades when the discovery of hot springs outside of town spurred local politicians, led by the priggish mayor, Peter (Gregory Lush), to borrow heavily so they could open a hotel resort and spa. The economy is on the rebound, and the future looks promising. At least until Peter's estranged brother Tom (Alex Organ), an urban planner with a troubled past, throws a wrench into the works. On a hunch, Tom hires a scientist to examine the water table whence the "healing waters" emerge, only to reveal they are filled with benzene, sulfides and other carcinogens, likely the result of hydraulic shale fracturing and extraction. Nothing will heal those who book a room here; if they are lucky, some will take 20 years to develop acute myeloid leukemia.

Tom, of course, lobbies for construction on the project to halt immediately and further testing be done; Peter says the panic will ruin the town — what's acquiring non-Hodgkin lymphoma compared to

a Club Monaco and two Starbucks on Main Street?

Henrik Ibsen wrote *An Enemy of the People* more than a century ago, where a doctor in a resort town rang a similar alarm bell; that was long before fracking and Flint, Mich., and climate change made us woke to the environment. And yet nothing is noticeably different.

That's the point of Blake Hackler's reimagining of Ibsen, *Enemies/People*, getting its world premiere from Second Thought Theatre. He's trimmed the fat (culling the cast by at least half, and updating the background and the language), but

the message of social justice hasn't varied much: One man, standing against a passionate, concerned but misinformed populace, can't really

make a difference, except as an abstraction. It's both reassuring and depressing to realize how slowly the arc of history bends toward justice. The Man always wins.

Hackler's smartest move it to set the story in this age of social media and dug-in opinions. Confrontations are Facebook Lived; ad hominem invectives and

### ENEMIES/PEOPLE

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**Good vibes:**  
**'Buzz' chronicles**  
**the history of**  
**sex toys**

*Buzz: A Stimulating History of the Sex Toy*  
by Hallie Lieberman  
(Pegasus Books 2017)  
\$26.95; 359 pp.

Double-A: It has many uses, that little word-dash-letter. It's good for future baseball players. Good for a pre-teen girl. Great if you're a student trying to bring those grades up. And, as you'll see in *Buzz: A Stimulating History of the Sex Toy*, if you're an adult, double-A is something you never want to run out of.

A dozen years ago, to make a little money, Hallie Lieberman found an unusual job: she was a home-party sex toy salesperson in a state where the selling of sex toys was illegal. Ever afraid of being arrested, she stuck to the "script" that the company gave her; it was stilted and full of euphemisms, and the job was demeaning and embarrassing. She felt like she "wasn't actually teaching people anything."

From her Ph.D. studies, Lieberman learned that sex toys were ancient. Some 30 millennia ago, ancient Germans carved phallic objects, though some historians argue that sex mightn't have been their intention. At any rate, the practice of using artificial devices for sexual pleasure spread across Europe and into Asia and, soon after the Middle Ages, mentions of sex toys began showing up in literature.

Closer to home and beginning in Victorian times, rectal dilators and vibrators were made in the U.S. and sold as "medical devices," approved by doctors; the former were made by "respected rubber companies," while the latter were available for discreet purchase in department stores for decades. Until laws were created against it, you could even have the devices mailed to your home; later, to circumvent those and other laws meant to keep sex toys out of the hands of everyday citizens, vibrators, dildoes, and dilators were sold as "novelties."

In 1965, a ventriloquist who was an engineer by profession started manufacturing sex toys; in the early 1970s, a paraplegic

welder began making them for women, and advising the disabled on their use. Others joined the revolution until, in 1972 (and though they'd long been a staple of sleaze), sex toys gained respectability inside a narrow waterbed-store-turned-sex-shop run by two gay men, hetero people welcome.

Of course, there's so much more to this story but here's one interesting thing about this book: while you might think it'd be titillating with maybe a few nudge-nudge-winks, that's not the case. Lieberman doesn't do that to her readers. Instead, what you get is exactly what its subtitle promises: *Buzz* is a history of sex toys, from antiquity to modern day, and its use by straight people, the disabled, the LGBT community and feminists. Through the narrative, you'll see how advocates tied sex toys to equality and self-confidence, and how the struggle to make the devices acceptable unfolded but is still not over (including a surprise-not-surprise toward the end). That's serious stuff and Lieberman offers it in a well-rounded way, though not without lightheartedness when appropriate.

This isn't a book to shock — it's meant to inform and that's accomplished, enjoyably. The prurient, the curious and pop-culture fans will love *Buzz*, no batteries required. ■

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# PrideTV

3 excellent shows hit the airwaves just in time for June Pride Month

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

"I'm not ashamed — just scared," says a closeted star college athlete when explaining, with distorted voice and in shadow, why he doesn't feel empowered to come out and be an openly gay athlete. It's an observation that resonates strongly, especially in light of how Michael Sam — the top defensive player in a tough college conference — was a last-second draft pick only *after* coming out. It is still almost unheard of for players in the five major American professional male team sports to be out (there have only been two — the NBA's Jason Collins and MLS' Robbie Rogers — and currently, there are none). That means few role models for younger gay athletes, and not a great history of tolerance in today's environment.

*Alone in the Game*, which premieres on the Audience Network on DirecTV June



28 during Pride Month, interviews Rogers, and Collins, and others in the NFL, NCAA, NBA and media (including out ESPN commentator LZ Granderson) about the state of queerness in the universe of major

league sports.

Some of the stories will be familiar to gay audiences who follow sports; others will be fresh even to hardcore armchair quarterbacks. But the feature length docu-

mentary does an excellent job of profiling the homophobia that still exists in the locker room *and* the boardrooms and back offices. You'll be enraged and saddened, but also heartened by those unheralded

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Daniel Doheny plays the goofy, wonderful Q kid in Netflix's 'Alex Strangelove,' above; opposite, Netflix's second season of 'Queer Eye;' below, DirecTV's rewarding sports doc 'Alone in the Game.'

heroes who make a difference for others at great personal cost.

I'm on record as saying the year's most overrated movie was *Love, Simon*, which was effectively marketed as the first major-studio gay teen romantic comedy (even though it came from the indie arm of a studio, Fox 2000). "It was sweet!" people chimed like mynas taught to mimic talking points. Sweet, maybe, but not very good. Pretty bad, in fact, from plotting to character development to its middle-brow sensibilities, *Love, Simon* felt suspiciously

like a 50-year-old gay man in 2018 making the film he wanted to see as an 18-year-old closeted teen in the 1980s. (Which is what it is.) We deserved better. And we got better, albeit via Netflix which is, let's face it, a more powerful entertainment entity today than the movie studios are. *Alex Strangelove*, newly out on the streaming service, is the film *Love, Simon* wanted to be and fans pretended it was. Alex Truelove (Daniel Doheny, who's adorable) is the nerdy high school senior who also happens to be fairly popular with

■ PRIDE TV Page 24



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# Taste maker

'Queer Eye' food expert Antoni Porowski, on coconuts, fame and his celebrity banquet

Even though Antoni Porowski is known for his avocados, on a recent afternoon he was contemplating the coconut — every sultry detail of the tropical fruit meticulously combed like that of someone's body during a first date. The fleshy inside, the milky liquid.

It's the first day of June when the Polish-Canadian wine-and-dine expert on Netflix's *Queer Eye* reboot (the second season of which we reviewed on page 20) rings and, oh right, we're talking about food. But gay America isn't hungry — it's thirsty AF. And because real lives are being changed thanks to Porowski, designer Bob-ber Berk, culture advisor Karamo Brown, stylist Tan France and groomer Jonathan Van Ness, it is also joyfully crying.

Season 2 of *Queer Eye* doesn't skimp on giving you opportunities to feel good about this otherwise not-good world, as the Fab Five imparts their best-life insight and general gay wisdom on a diverse group of clients, including the franchise's first woman and transgender man.

As Porowski continues to process his experience with the sudden upswing in gay male thirst and avocado sex puns (one Facebook commenter claims he was so compelled by Porowski's hotness, "I'm now cooking my own bloody guacamole"), the 34-year-old subject of culinary controversy talked critics and why variety truly is the spice of life.

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice:** After the new *Betty Who* theme-song video for the show, where you're cradling avocados and wearing a crop top, the avocado dick puns are out in full force. Antoni Porowski: I guess I asked for it, right? I'm literally wearing a crop top and unsuccessfully trying to juggle avocados, so I shouldn't be surprised.

**I must say, I do hope the crop top becomes a regular clothing theme of yours in the third season.** Thanks! I do have to give credit where it's due, and that was 100 percent Tan France.

**When it comes to you, the thirst is real. What is that kind of attention like from the gay community?** I do maintain a certain amount of ignorance to it and a kind of detachment. I



learned quite early on, because there's been a lot of really amazing and positive and nice attention from the show. But with that, there's also gonna be certain haters and some negative and not-so-nice comments, so I've sort of decided that if I'm gonna take the good, I have to take the bad, so I've decided to take neither.

I take it all very lightly, with a small pinch of salt. It's entertaining and it's funny, but I just try to focus on what my next move is with this show, with press that we're working on, living out of hotels for the past couple of months, and hoping that people really enjoy [this season] as much as they did the first.

**When you're living out of hotels, how do you maintain a healthy diet?** I don't! That's the honest truth of it. My only thing is, I always love to have a proper gym, because I get up fairly early, and when you're jet-lagged, you don't really know what day of the week it is or what city you're in, which is often the case with me.

When we do go on press trips, and we discovered we were in London recently and Tan introduced me to the wonders of Nando's, which is a chain that they don't have here yet in the States, but it's this awesome PERi-PERi chicken. Had that for, like, four meals in a row with a bunch of PERi-PERi mayo, guilt-free with chicken livers, 'cause, I mean, I wanna live my life too. I'm not one to deny myself of the pleasures of, like, a good ripe stinky cheese on a fresh crusty baked bread in Paris.

**Oh, I've seen you indulge on the show.** It happens.

**You're not afraid of some macaroni salad.** There ya go! Well, but that wasn't my recipe.

**It wasn't, but you still ate it.** Oh, I ate it. I'll try

anything twice.

**Are you still trying to wrap your head around your overnight fame?** Yeah. I mean, it certainly hits in waves. The next level of kind of acceptance of what's actually going on was when we were just recently in London, and when you experience people who've been waiting outside of your hotel with magazines to sign. It's kind of like, "Wow, you're a human with a life and a job, presumably, who wanted to wait to have a moment," and I'm grateful for it, but it's not something I want to be too comfortable with. It's very bizarre and very overwhelming, and it's a perpetual state of shock.

What my therapist tells me is, "Don't trust your feelings right now because you're constantly basically running on adrenaline — your life right now is pure adrenaline." It's been like overdrive, so it's just, take everything very lightly, focus on the next move, make sure you always have a bottle of water in your hand and that you're not drinking too much coffee, and that you rest whenever you can. And remember not to lean into your workaholic self, which is very alive and well in this new chapter of my life.

**What are your gay fan interactions outside of hotels like?** I feel like I'm pretty good at reading people, but with fans it's very different because the connection, like the energy and the direction of it, is very different. I always think, "Oh my gosh, I'm so uncomfortable after that interaction and I don't know why." Tan will tell me, "No, because they're experiencing this concept of being starstruck, of seeing someone on TV, and then you meet them in person and you don't really know how to behave."

So my thing is, ask them a question about

themselves, try to make this a human interaction, and try to normalize it in the best way that you can, just to make sure that the person kind of has a nice, meaningful experience and they can leave happy. Sometimes I'm left, like, taking care of people. They'll come up and their mouth opens and they don't say anything, and you don't want to be presumptuous and be like, "Yeah! I'm the guy from that show!" But then once it becomes clear what show I'm on and the work that I do, it's like, I have to kind of take care of them and be like, "Are you OK? It's fine. Here, do you want a hug? Do you want a photo?"

**You don't just go right in for the hug?** No, I have more of a European sensibility. We like to kiss twice. Or... I don't know, healthy boundaries.

**Kiss twice, though? Everyone must just enjoy meeting you.** [Laughs]

**How has helping other people on this show changed your approach to your own life?** I've had many passions: I studied psychology, that's what my bachelor's is in; I worked as a gallery director; I photographed vintage furniture; and on the acting side of things, that was something that was always very ego, where it was always how I want to be perceived. I wanted people to look and see and feel my presence, whereas with the show, it actually isn't that at all. That became very clear with episode one: the energy is directed in the other direction, so it's really us being of service to this person that we're helping and figuring out how best we can benefit their lives in such a short amount of time and try to impact them in a meaningful way.

**We see that happen in the first episode of**



**Season 2, with Tammye.** Mama Tammye is an example who spun it on us, and doesn't even taken care of herself and shows up as a teacher and as a member of her church, and for the five of us.

**You cried at the end of that episode. Of you five, who cries the most?** You're talking to him! When you hear somebody's struggle, or especially when they've overcome something or made a choice like Tammye — there was a lot of pain and a lot of fear and borderline hateful feelings toward gays, and she realized that it was her perspective that was wrong, and she's a beacon of hope for people. It's possible at any age. If you have people like Tammye who were able to figure it out, there's no excuse for the rest of us.

**Even though you've been with men and women, you've said that you don't like to call yourself bisexual. Have you found the best way to explain your sexual orientation to people yet?** Not really. And it's not something that I feel too pressured to figure out. Sometimes I have very strong opinions about how to cook a filet of salmon so the skin remains crispy and doesn't stick to the pan, but with a lot of things, I don't like being the expert. I'd rather go in and be like, "I don't know." There's a power in that for me. It's sort of like going in with humility and saying, "I'm still trying to figure it out."

While I don't think I'm trying to figure out my sexuality, I'm just not as concerned with it anymore. My 20s were a really hard time for me of figuring out what the hell I wanted to do with my life. And being in my 30s, now that I kind of have a point and purpose with what I'm doing in this chapter of my life, it's just, I'm happy where I'm at and that's all that really matters.

Look, that [coming out] conversation with AJ in that changing room in Season 1, that was seriously a byproduct. Tan brought me along because we both had similar experiences. He as a Muslim and me just as the individual that I am. We're both so completely different, but we have the same feelings about what it was like to come out, and that it's this dynamic process, like [out actor] Charlie Carver recently — a fellow Gay Times alum — feels he's constantly still coming out, that it's this continued thing, that it doesn't just happen once and you shoot your proverbial load and it's done; you have to keep doing it over and over again. Some people don't, but it's not like a start, stop. And I don't need that pressure in my life to try to find myself in any way where I feel like I'm locked into something. I'd just rather keep it open and fluid, because that's how I am with the books that I read, the music that I listen to. All of my interests are always changing, and it's a constant dynamic process, and so is my sexuality.

**These days, there is obviously less pressure to subscribe to any one label, or stick to the binary.** For people who want to be not binary, go right ahead. If that helps you sleep better at night and you feel more like you're a better and truer version of yourself, then 100 percent, you should be able to pursue that

with freedom and ... this is June ... It has me thinking about Pride and what Pride means: the ability to be the truest version of yourself without any negative consequence or fear of being persecuted or judged or criticized or hurt for it. And whatever that is for a person, however you define yourself or don't define yourself, you should be able to do that with total freedom. I know that's utopian and idealistic, but that's really something to strive for and something the show has reminded me of.

**I read that you were a private chef for some high-profile clients. High profile as in celebrities?** So with food, it was something

that kind of happened accidentally, cooking for people. There were some I'm not allowed to discuss, but in the sports world in New York there was somebody I was working for in particular where we would host these intimate dinner parties. And I remember as a kid when we would have dinner parties at my parents' house, everyone would always gravitate toward the kitchen; that's where the heart of the home is.

**Where the smells originate.** Exactly. That's where the slow-roasted garlic wafts are emanating from. And for me, I'm not a traditional classically trained chef where I'm in a kitchen and I'm doing my own thing; I am an

entertainer, that's who I am. And I love food and I love playing with it, and I love preparing it for people. It's how I show my love. So, it sort of became this whole thing. We would make short ribs and I would just talk to people. She's a close friend who works in the sports world and she was the one who kind of started this whole thing for me, kind of recommended me to other people in the biz, and then afterwards, I met [original *Queer Eye* foodie and *Chopped* host] Ted Allen and worked as his personal assistant but also cooked for him and we did dinners, like *Chopped* barbecues, for some of his

■ ANTONI Page 24



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all the cliques. He's had a hot girlfriend for months, but they haven't gone "all the way" because, well, he wants his first time to be special. (It's not her first time, but she finds his prudishness quaint.)

Then Alex meets another teen who is openly gay, flirty and genuinely nice. They become bros... but is there more to it than that? Even Alex isn't sure, and it's not because he's in the closet. He is the Q in LGBTQ. And the audience can't be certain, either.

"I think I'm bisexual," Alex confides to his best friend, who is neither shocked nor

bothered, but dismissed the suggestion out of hand anyway. "Do you listen to Panic! At the Disco while jerking off to pictures of vampires? ... Then you're not bisexual," the friend advises.

It's lines like that — and the overall tone set by writer-director Craig Johnson (*The Skeleton Twins*) — that makes *Alex Strangelove* such a charming winner. Yes, it still cleaves to many of the tropes of the teen sex comedy; that's why we see rom-coms. But it doesn't pander, it doesn't create unreasonable conflicts and it plays out its emotions exactly the way real people

would who are friends and supportive and also easily hurt. There are no artificial bad guys, unbelievable eleventh hour redemptions. Just a modern romance for millennials. Good for them.

Also on Netflix now is the (already) second season of the reboot of *Queer Eye*. The first season, which debuted just months ago, was a smash hit with its emotional power and discussion of serious issues — not just gay acceptance, but coming out, racism and romance. If you thought Season 2 would slide into routine,

or miss the bar set by Season 1, well sister, think again. One of the great developments on the reboot is the dropping of *For the Straight Guy* part. This series of eight episodes kicks off with a straight woman diagnosed with cancer who leads a church, so the makeover is not just of the hair-and-makeup variety, but of perceptions of religion and faith and mortality. (It took me all of six minutes into the first ep to get goosebumps.) The Fab Five don't shy from expressing their personal conflicts with organized religion; they aren't being the mainstream "aren't-we-adorbs-as-we-zhuzh?" gays of the original series. (Not that there's anything wrong with that.) The guys also invade small towns in Georgia, not the cosmopolitan centers of the Atlantic Corridor or Midwestern metropolises. The show is truly about winning hearts and minds... but also being wholly yourself.

I haven't watched every episode of this season of *Queer Eye* yet; that would feel like a disservice to how it has been designed to be savored. No need to rush through such heartfelt emotions.

■ ANTONI From Previous Page

cast members and crew on his show. It sort of evolved in this weird, organic way while I had other jobs. It was sort of a side thing I did every now and then. It wasn't a regularly occurring everyday thing where I showed up and made breakfast, lunch and dinner for someone. I was never one like that for any job. I've always had, like, 10 different things going on at the same time.

**You're on a desert island and you can survive off one food, what's the food?** I love a fresh coconut. You crack it and you have the milk, which is so delicious, but the flesh too. There's that creamy part on the inside that you can scoop with a spoon, and then there's the really hard shell part that, if you roast it with sugar, it gets caramelized and really nice and crunchy. So, I think coconuts. I'd get fed up with them after a week, but I don't know what food I wouldn't get fed up about, truly. Ask me again tomorrow.

**I've never thought about the flesh of a coconut until now, and it sounds weirdly sexy.** Oh, think about it. Go buy a fresh coconut and think of me.

**If you could cook for any celebrity, who would it be and what would you cook?** Dead or alive? ... I would take something off of the menu at Voltaire in Paris and I would prepare it for Oscar Wilde, and I would slap my copy of *De Profundis* in front of him and be like, "We're gonna talk about this for five hours and I'm gonna feed your belly and I'm gonna get you drunk, and you're just gonna tell me everything and answer all of my questions." And then I would also maybe throw Allen Ginsberg in there, and why not Jack Kerouac? And who else? I'd throw in Virginia Woolf and she'd tell me all about *Orlando*.

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Taste of Dallas has long been a staple of Fair Park, but for its 32nd year, the three-day event of food and music moves to a new locale — Gas Monkey Live, a great venue for fighting the summer heat. Not only will there be more than 50 restaurants and

food vendors, but also 40 musical acts, all covered in the price of admission. And you can break down your tasting experience into departments, including Backyard Bites, Latin Flavors and Curbside Eats.

**DEETS:** Gas Monkey Live, 10110 Technology Blvd. Friday from 5–11 p.m., Saturday from noon–11 p.m., Sunday from noon–8 p.m. \$14. TasteOfDallas.org.



**Friday 06.22 —  
Sunday 07.07**

### Theatre 3 sizzles with 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses'

Bored with their aristocratic lifestyle, former lovers the Marquis de Valmont (Brandon Potter)

and Madame de Merteuil (Cindee Mayfield) place a cynical wager, the results of which doom many lives. Christopher Hampton's bristling adaptation of the 18th century epistolary novel by the mysterious Choderlos de Laclos, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* has been a showcase for great performances for 30 years, with two of Dallas' best actors getting to dig their teeth into this story of brutal sexual gamesmanship

**DEETS:** Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.



**Friday 06.22 —  
Sunday 07.14**

### Classics Theatre Project launches with an update on 'The Cherry Orchard'

Last week, we wrote about a new theater company dedicated to

producing 19th and 20th century classics of theater — called, natch, The Classics Theatre Project. The first show, a new adaptation (by Dallas' Ben Schroth) of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, kicks off its inaugural season. Emily Banks stars in this comedy of country manners. Joey Folsom directs.

**DEETS:** Trinity River Arts Center, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. TheClassicsTheatreProject.com.



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## calendar highlights



Downtown Dallas Movie Night hosts a free outdoor screening of the 2007 film 'Hairspray' Monday in the Arts District.

### ARTSWEEK THEATER

**Bright Star.** Bluegrass musical from Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

**The Cherry Orchard.** Local playwright Ben Schroth adapts Chekhov's comedy for the newly-formed Classics Theatre Project. Trinity River Arts Center, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. June 22–July 14. TheClassicsTheatreProject.com.

**Enemies/People.** Local actor, director and playwright Blake Hackler loosely adapted Ibsen's health-crisis social drama *An Enemy of the People* for a modern environmental rights age. *Reviewed this week.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 36346 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 7. 2TT.co.

**Picasso: Matador de Malaga.** Written and directed by Matt Posey in conjunction with the Dallas Flamenco Festival. Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. Through June 30. OchreHouseTheater.org.

**The Last Five Years.** Jason Robert Brown's two-character musical drama, about a failed relationship, told both linearly and in reverse chronological order. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through July 1. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Les Liaisons Dangereuses.** Christopher Hampton's biting adaptation of the 18th century novel about sexual gamesmanship near the end of the French aristocracy. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through July 8. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**The Lion King.** The Tony Award-winning megahit returns for three weeks; based on the Disney animated film. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through July 7. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Waitress.** Sara Barreilles wrote the score. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

**White Rabbit Red Rabbit.** One actor, no rehearsal, a mystery to solve. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through July 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

### FINE ART

**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 MADI Art, 3109 Carlisle St. Through July 15. 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.

### FRIDAY 06.22

#### COMMUNITY

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

### SATURDAY 06.23

#### 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.

### MONDAY 06.25

#### FILM

**Hairspray.** Free outdoor screening of this musical classic, part of the Downtown Dallas Movie Night. Downtown Arts District. Arrive by 7:45 p.m.; screening begins at 8 p.m. Free.

### THURSDAY 06.28

#### 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.





## FRIDAY 06.29

### CONCERTS

**MetroBall.** Expose and Shannon perform. Hosted by Asia O'Hara. Benefits GDMAF. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. GDMAF.org

## this week's solution

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

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■ ENEMIES From Page 18

competing pundits pollute the discussion as much as the water; slow-burn toxins we can't see or taste don't matter if the investment pays dividends... at least until the faucets catch fire and children are born sterile and deformed.

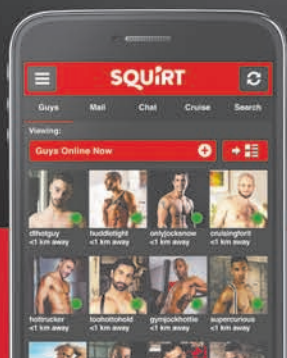
And Hackler does another thing I wasn't quite expecting: He makes Tom kind of a dick. The flawed hero is a trope in modern theater, but Tom is a case-study in ego over outcome. He seems weirdly and overly jazzed at discovering the water table in his small town is poisoned; good liberals don't usually take such smug satisfaction from accurately predicting a devastating environmental disaster. His motivations are murky, as is his methodology of reporting the news, choosing to sandbag his brother (and his wife, played by Allison Pistorius, who seems irked that he didn't warn her their drinking water might be contaminated earlier) and let his citizen-journalist friend (Jovane Caamano) leak the results online. Tom's character seems to be that it isn't enough to be right; you must also be a jerk about it.

Those are frustrating moments, though they are largely limited to Act 1; in Act 2, the play becomes more interactive, with the audience engaging as the voters of

Hammon, raising their hands and offering their opinions about gun violence, immigration, MeToo, Black Lives Matter and trans rights, all cast against the deflection of demagoguery. It culminates with so much hectoring from every character onstage, each drowning out the other, that the cacophony is anarchic — nothing can get done, and nobody can be heard, right or wrong. Victory is had by ignorance and obfuscation. Truth is the victim of the face-off between libtard elites and Trumpian rednecks.

The ending doesn't quite work; Hackler repeatedly invokes meta-theater, consciously commenting on the play's roots in Ibsen, and his contemporary twist seems wrong; he drills a well he can't get out of. But aside from the confusing character choices in Act 1, Organ delivers a fiery performance as Tom, and Christie Vela as a Latina businesswoman torn between her community and her livelihood gets off some juicy bits. The overall message to, literally, "drain the swamp" takes on a secondary meaning; hard decisions become a last resort... and Hammon may construct *its* last resort, sacrificing its legacy for its comfort. It's hard to say that wouldn't happen in real life; it's happening now. ■

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# Cassie Nova

Gay Pride month is not about a lifestyle

Happy Pride month, y'all. Sometimes I wish we had Dallas Gay Pride in June like the rest of the world, but then I think how freaking hot it has been and how awful it would be to be on a float in drag on a 99 degree day. So yay! Happy Dallas Gay Pride in September.

A friend of mine sent me this piece he wrote. He was inspired by his gay Pride and saddened by a recent Supreme Court ruling. Caine Langford beautifully asks the question that many of us would like the answer to.

"I don't agree with that lifestyle."

I heard someone say that in a news report the other day in reference to the Supreme Court ruling about the Colorado baker not wanting to bake a cake for a wedding. I questioned what about our "lifestyle" would someone not agree with?

Do you have neighbors? We are your neighbor. We take care of our home, the lawn and the landscaping so that the neighborhood shows well to visitors. We bring in our waste cans on a timely basis so they don't clutter up the street. We participate in the Neighborhood Watch program so our homes are more secure. We work from home, so we pay attention to what's happening on our street during daylight hours when you are more than likely not home and we will contact the authorities to help protect our properties. We wave when we

see children playing in the yard and we drive slowly through our neighborhood in case one darts out to retrieve a ball.

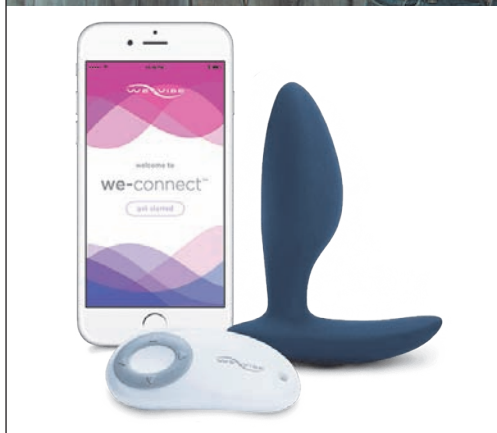
Do you have children? We do now. We fought for guardianship of our niece and nephew because their parents were unable to properly care for them. This allowed the kids to attend a high school where they will graduate with an associate's degree in a few years and go onto a university without debt. Our niece has shown an interest in modeling and has become much more confident in the way she conducts and handles herself. Our nephew has his eye on an MBA in the future, which for a freshman in high school to have the foresight to look that far ahead is incredible.

Do you have pets? We rescue. Over the years we've rescued a number of dogs who are typically seniors or disabled in some form. Most people looking to adopt want a younger, healthy dog. These older or challenged dogs need our love as well, so our hearts are open to providing for all the health needs, belly rubs, and snacks that are required.

Do you hug or kiss your spouse in public? We don't. Please don't think we're ashamed or worried about a public display of affection. A simple nudge or a silly face to each other is enough for us to display our affection.

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quiet people who live our lives and happen to be a married gay couple. We were both raised in rural Midwestern states and like most people, we didn't feel comfortable in our own skins till our mid-20s. Accepting ourselves wasn't a choice or a decision, it's who we are just like accepting we'll never be good at music or being an artist. We were both taught to treat other people as we want to be treated. We listen and try to accept others who we may not understand. We give of ourselves and expect nothing in return.

So please help me understand — how do you not agree with our lifestyle?

And now for a question from our audience... and yes, this was a real question sent to me.

*Hi, Cassie! Hope you're well! A fun question: would you rather be a vampire or a werewolf or something else? If a were-creature, what animal for your red-tide once-a-month changing? Thanks! The Werelion*

Dearest Werelion, I can't even call you weird for sending in this question, because you know I have thought, even dreamt, of this scenario. A vampire would be cool mostly for the not ageing thing. As a drag queen of a certain age, I would definitely drink blood and kill a few folks to stay young. Don't judge me, I would only eat really bad people like jerks that are cruel to animals or Nickleback fans.

I'd be OK being a werewolf, too. Or possibly a weredragon that could fly. And if any of you

tell me that I couldn't be a dragon because they don't exist I would politely slap the shit out of you. This whole scenario is fantasy, dumbass.

This question actually reminds me of my youth. When I was a kid, actually I was in my teens, I went through a phase where I tried to convince one friend that I had powers like a witch. Another friend I tried to convince I was bitten by a vampire, I went so far I even cut my neck with a razor so it looked like I had bite marks. I was a really weird 14-year-old.

I got a book from the library on lycanthropy and learned one myth of becoming a werewolf was to sleep outside, on a Friday under a full moon. I tried it, it didn't work, but I still tried to convince my friends that it was going to work someday and I would be a powerful werewolf.

Looking back I think I just wanted to be someone that I wasn't. Someone not gay. If I was powerful or scary no one would care if I was gay. Now I know I did transform into something strong and powerful; first I accepted that I was gay and that made me strong. I started doing drag and that made me powerful. My transformation is complete. The sun goes down, the make-up goes on and no one is safe! I am a *werequeen*!

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.*





The staff at the AT&T Performing Arts Center celebrates Pride Month



Hanging at Havana's



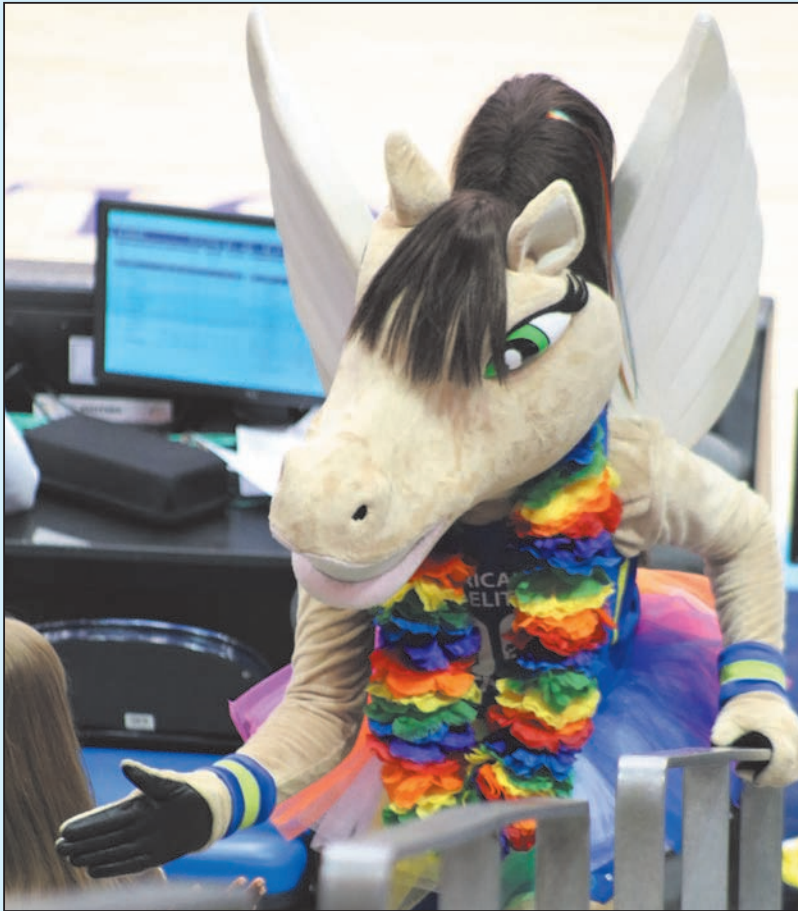
This beauty's not hidden at The Hidden Door

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 22-28:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Stephanie Sallie** on Friday. **Anton Shaw Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Carymel** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Miss Divas Mega Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m., **Cookout** at 4 p.m. and **Show** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court** on Friday. **TGRA Queen of the Closet** from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Diablos Cookout** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** **United Court Cookout** from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Drag Queen Story Hour** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Birthday Show for Dana Bloom** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Dance lessons — Couples free-style** at 8:30 p.m. on Monday. **Couples basic shadow** at 8:30 p.m. and **line dance caliente** at 10 p.m. on Tuesday. **Line dance lessons** at 8:30 p.m. and **honky tonk twist** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **Red neck angel** at 10 p.m. on Thursday. **Roger's final night** on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Hey Boy Fashion Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Southpaw Preachers** from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturday. **Anton Shaw Band** on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Karaoke** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Tasha Kohl** at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Christina Ross** on Friday-Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Mr. and Miss Imperial Pride** at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Show Tunes** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

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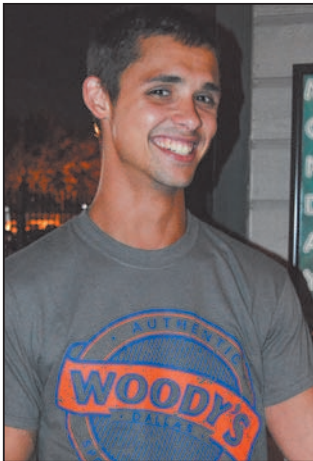
Maggie's surprised face at The Grapevine



Friends having fun on The Strip



Girls' night out on The Strip



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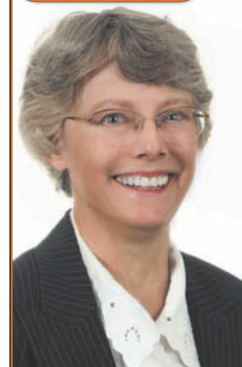
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## q-puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20									
21							22						
			23		24	25			26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33		34			35	36		37			
38			39						40				
41					42						43		
44				45			46			47			
				48	49	50			51		52	53	54
	55	56	57				58	59					
60										61			
62					63					64			
65					66					67			

## Sign of the times

Solution on Page 27

### Across

- 1 \_\_\_ spit (kiss)  
5 Dog in *The Thin Man*  
9 Recess at St. Peter's  
13 Guy embraced  
by homophiles?  
14 Illegal block by  
Esera Tuaola  
15 Cry before claiming  
immortality  
16 Maneuver slowly  
17 Tru friend?  
19 Start of a message on  
a Denver church's  
marquee sign  
21 Witherspoon of  
*Legally Blonde 2*  
22 Dry, to Antoni Porowski  
of *Queer Eye*  
23 Slippery swimmers  
26 Name of many gay bars  
31 Gasteyer of SNL  
34 Cross-dressing artist  
Frida  
37 Used firehouse poles  
38 More of the message  
41 Sherman Hemsley  
religious sitcom  
42 Subway token taker  
43 Queens on a chessboard,  
ironically  
44 Yellow Brick way  
and others

- 46 Travel with your  
first mate  
48 Canon camera  
51 Hangout for  
Natalie Barney  
55 End of the message  
60 *Giant* star  
61 Continent of  
Margaret Cho's parents  
62 Catch sight of  
63 Enchanted Disney  
character  
64 Courteous chap  
65 Dick Tracy's girlfriend  
Trueheart  
66 Circle of life for  
*The Lion King*?  
67 And so

### Down

- 1 Weapon of Caesar's day  
2 *Show Boat* director James  
3 Way of the theater  
4 Tickle pink  
5 BenGay target  
6 Cabbage salad  
7 Foursome of drivers  
8 Fruit of Adam and Steve?  
9 Big hairdo  
10 Key West tree  
11 Barrie buccaneer  
12 Wide shoe spec  
18 Homo leader to

- toga-wearers?  
20 Offends the olfactories  
24 Actor Jude and family  
25 I \_\_\_ *Andy Warhol*  
27 What hangs from  
a Cuban  
28 David Bowie genre  
29 Vidal's \_\_\_ *from Golgotha*  
30 Biblical garden  
31 Open a crack  
32 Sea bottom captain  
33 In midvoyage, maybe  
35 Thornton Wilder's *The  
Bridge of San \_\_\_ Rey*  
36 Chili pot  
39 And, to Rilke  
40 Franklin, religiously  
45 Goes out with  
47 \_\_\_ *aux Folles*  
49 More queer, but not  
less straight  
50 Upright erection  
52 Cutting light  
53 Rubber-stamping  
54 "Faboo!"  
55 Home, to Glenn Burke  
56 Part of Etheridge's  
equipment  
57 Elton John's 88  
58 In good shape  
59 Like the end of  
a bacchanal?  
60 Shark foe in  
*West Side Story*



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