

daily voice

The Premier

asVoice.com | Volume 35 | Issue 13 | FREE | Friday, August 3, 2018

Getting Political

Kathy Griffin is surviving
and thriving in the
age of Trump

by Arnold Wayne Jones
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Kathy Griffin receives a Rainbow Key Award from the city of West Hollywood. Photo by Chris Pizzello Invision/AP.

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Lesbian named head of Fortune 500 company



Beth Ford

For the first time in U.S. corporate history, a Fortune 500 company has named an out lesbian as its CEO.

Land O'Lakes Inc. named Beth Ford as its new president and CEO. In its announcement, the company wrote, "Beth Ford brings decades of experience across six different industries as the company seeks to build on its track record of sustainable growth."

Before being named CEO, Ford was Land O'Lakes chief operating officer, and she previously headed the company's Purina Animal Nutrition division.

"At a time of unprecedented change in the agriculture and food industries, no person is better suited to lead us into the future than Beth Ford," Board Chair Pete Kappelman wrote in his announcement of Ford's appointment. "Since joining our company in 2011, Beth has proven she's not afraid of hard work, and she sees every challenge as an opportunity to deliver more value for our cooperative."

In the final sentence of the press release, the company wrote, "Ford and her spouse, Jill Schurtz, have three teenage children and live in Minneapolis."

A couple of gay men head Fortune 500 companies. In 2014, Apple CEO Tim Cook came out and in March this year James Fitterling, who is out, became Dow Chemical's CEO.

— David Taffet

Sessions creates 'religious liberty task force'



Jeff Sessions

Attorney General Jeff Sessions this week announced the creation of a "religious liberty task

force" to stop all the discrimination that's happening to religious people when the government stops them from exercising their religious right to discriminate.

The task force's goal is to protect religious groups from persecution. Unless, of course, one of your religious beliefs is nondiscrimination.

"The promise of freedom of conscience brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth, the Catholics to Maryland, the Quakers to Pennsylvania, the Scot-Presbyterians to the middle colonies, and Roger Williams to Rhode Island," Sessions said in his July 30 announcement, oddly using the example of immigrants escaping persecution in other countries and coming to this country to justify his "task force."

"A dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom," Sessions said. "There can be no doubt. This is no little matter. It must be confronted and defeated."

Speaking of the principle of religious freedom, Sessions said, "It arose in large part from the principals delineated in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom — and its effective advocates: Madison and Jefferson."

Isn't it interesting that the two biggest defenders of religious freedom — Jefferson and Madison — maintained no religious affiliation?

— David Taffet

Same-sex couples are more likely to foster and adopt

A new study by the Williams Institute found that same-sex couples are more like to be raising foster and adopted children than opposite-sex couples.

The Aderholt Amendment, which the House Appropriations Committee voted to add to the Labor and Health and Human Services appropriations bill, would allow child welfare providers to discriminate against LGBT people in adoption and foster care services.

"This amendment is not just a petty attack on the LGBTQ community — it's also going to hurt innocent children who are waiting for nothing more than to be adopted by a loving family," said House LGBT Equality Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y.

An estimated 114,000 same-sex couples in the United States are raising children and many of them have become parents through adoption or fostering, according to the Williams Institute's report.

One in five same-sex couples (21.4 percent) are raising adopted children compared to just 3 percent of opposite-sex couples, and 2.9 percent of same-sex couples have foster children compared to 0.4 percent of opposite-sex couples.

The Aderholt Amendment is an attempt to get around nondiscrimination laws in some cities and states that prevent agencies receiving government money from discriminating. If the amendment passes, states that prohibit adoption and foster agencies from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or family structure could lose substantial federal funding.

The Williams Institute also found that 20 percent of youth in foster care in Los Angeles were LGBT.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA



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

AUGUST

• Through 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.

• Aug. 3: Spin

Purple Foundation presents Spin with DJs Nina Flowers and Wilpower from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• Aug. 3-5: Queer Occurrences

Youth First and Lantern Productions present a comedy, romance and murder mystery Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Dallas Children's Theater, 5938 Skillman St. \$10.

• Aug. 4: Score

Purple Foundation presents Score with DJ James Anthony from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

• Aug. 4: TX Latino Pride pool party

Music by DJ Charlie Phresh, photo booth

and open bar from 5-9 p.m. at Sisu, 2508 Maple Ave. \$15. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.

• Aug. 5: HRC Back to School kick-off

Back to school donation drive kick-off from 4-6 p.m. at Central Market, 320 Coit Road, Plano. Info at Cozette.kosary@gmail.com.

• Aug. 5: Lez Play Dallas

Lez Play Dallas Girl Pool Party with DJ Stetra and DJ LUV Ssik takes place from 1-8 p.m. at Crown Plaza, 1015 Elm St. \$20 cash only at the door.

• Aug. 7-15: DIVA new member clinics

Dallas Invitational Volleyball Association new member clinics for the fall season on from 7-9 p.m. on Aug. 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15 at Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Info at DIVADallas.org.

• Aug. 8: Homeless Solutions

The Office of Homeless Solutions is seeking public feedback on a proposed Homeless Solutions Strategy to address homelessness in Dallas. Town Hall hosted by Councilman Adam Medrano at 6:30 p.m. at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.

• Aug. 9: Our Stories, Our History: This is Us

A roundtable discussion on the history of the transgender community in Dallas presented by The Dallas Way and Trans-Cendence from 7-9p.m.

At Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Aug. 10: DFW Pride Happy Hour

DFW Pride Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lekka Cafe & Gifts, 17606 Preston Road.

• Aug. 10: SpiN Austin

Emcee Mandy Quinn presents a pride-themed interactive ping pong show benefit Out Youth from 9 p.m.-midnight at SpiN Austin, 213 W. 5th St., Austin.

• Aug. 11: Landmark Dinner

Lambda Legal's annual fundraising dinner featuring the plaintiffs in Marouf v. Azar from 6-10 p.m. at The Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. For info, contact Carla McKinzie at 214-219-8585.

• Aug. 13: Caven Employees Turnabout Show

Cassie Nova hosts a benefit for Caven Employee Benevolent Association at 11 p.m. at JR's Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• Aug. 14: 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.

• Aug. 14: Grief support group

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

• Aug. 16: School supply drive

The Rainbow LULAC, Congregation Beth El Binah, Arttitude, DMPT Adam Medrano, J.P. Sara Martinez school supply drive at 6:30 p.m. at Havana, 4000 Cedar Springs Road. Bring school supplies or cash donations.

• Aug. 17: MLK Back to School Festival

Free school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, haircuts, medical screenings and immunizations from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at MLK Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Accepting new socks, underwear and t-shirts for boys and girls of all sizes now through Aug. 16 at the community center.

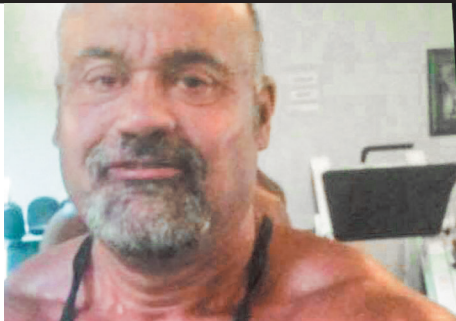
• Aug. 18: Geek Chic Gaybingo

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **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 community counselor **Candy Marcum**; **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; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on

Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the **Fuse** space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email 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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

OBITUARY



Victor G. Elam, a longtime Dallas resident, died July 15 as a result of an accident in his Dallas home. He was 55 years old.

Victor worked for Quest Diagnostics for 22 years, and 10 years ago he transitioned to being the world's best house

husband. As he was able, he enjoyed volunteer work at both the Resource Center and the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

Victor was an avid fitness enthusiast and could be seen every day at the Uptown LA Fitness. He will be remembered by many for his gentle soul, his acerbic wit and his love of dogs.

Victor is survived by his husband of 18 years, Tom Froehlich, and two brothers, Mike and Chris.

His ashes will be interred in the columbarium at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Dallas in a private service at a later date. Any memorial contributions would be appreciated, directed to the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/
gaybingo.

• **Aug. 18: Party on Lake Lewisville**
Party aboard the Abigail Rose from 10
a.m.-3 p.m. leaving from Pier 121 Marina,
Lake Lewisville. Tickets are \$49 at
GALANorthTexas.org.

• **Aug. 18: Team ASD car wash**
Get your car washed for \$7 and SUV or
truck for \$10 benefiting Team ASD from
9a.m.-1 p.m. behind the Round-Up Saloon,
3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 21: Classic Chassis Car Club**
See, share and enjoy classic cars the third

Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
at JR.'s Bar & Grill,
3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 21: Chorale auditions**
New members auditions for the Turtle
Creek Chorale at the Sammons Center for
the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **Aug. 21: Stonewall**
Democrats of Dallas
Stonewall Democrats monthly meeting at
6:30 p.m. at Matito's,
3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

• **Aug. 25: Austin Pride**


pet of the week / OREO




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housetrained. He enjoys lounging on the couch while you watch
TV, running outside and playing with his favorite toys. He loves
other dogs and gets along fine with cats and calm, older kids. He
is very loyal, and likes to stay close to his favorite person. He's
protective, too. He can be a little nervous meeting new people
because of his rough start, but his foster mom can tell you, he's
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News LGBT health services offered

PrEP, trans health and new alternatives for people with HIV are available around DFW

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Advances in care for people with HIV or those looking to avoid HIV infection are happening at a rapid pace, and North Texas' transgender population are also seeking services in higher numbers. And now, services offering those treatments are expanding to meet the need.

AOC, Planned Parenthood, Methodist Hospital and others are offering new PrEP clinics, transgender health services and STI testing and treatment clinics.

AIDS Outreach Center



Shannon Hilgart

AIDS Outreach Center, Tarrant County's largest HIV services agency, is now offering several new health services.

AOC recently opened its new transgender clinic offering hormone replacement therapy, counseling and navigators at no charge. Currently, the clinic is open on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Patients should call for an appointment.

"We've gotten great feedback from people who've come in," said Shannon Hilgart, AOC's CEO.



Dr. Steven Klemow, center, with his Partners Clinic staff. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

She said about 30 clients have already taken advantage of the new services, and some said the clinic is the best medical experience they've ever had.

"I'm so glad we're filling a need," Hilgart said.

Navigators help clients with any referral to get through the system, whether it's to another doctor for any other medical procedures or with a pharmacy for hormones or other medication needed.

AOC has also expanded its sexually transmitted infection clinic to include testing and treatment for syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea, all at no charge. Hilgart said funding for the STI programs comes from AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which operates an HIV/AIDS clinic in the same building that houses AOC. But these new programs are run by AOC.

The clinics also offer free HIV testing Monday through Thursday until 8 p.m. Call for an appointment. Hilgart said treatment

at AOC is cheaper than anything offered by the county health department.

And in addition to the new AOC clinics, AHF also has a PrEP clinic planned.

Hilgart said that AOC and AHF are looking for more nurse practitioners and physicians to work part-time in the clinic. And when they find the right people, not only will the PrEP clinic open, but evening hours will be added to the transgender clinic as well.

Once that starts, Hilgart said, AOC navigators will be involved in that program as well.

"Navigators will insure those health outcomes are positive," she said.

For more information, visit AOC.org.

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood has launched gender-affirming hormone services at five of its Texas clinics, according to spokeswoman

Autumn Keiser. And, she added, the agency is committed to expanding those services to all 21 of its health centers in the state.

Currently, trans healthcare services are offered at the clinics in Plano, Arlington and Denton in North Texas and at the North Austin and downtown health centers in Austin.

In addition, every Planned Parenthood clinic in the state is offering PrEP and PEP.

Keiser explained that Planned Parenthood doesn't provide counseling, but does offer hormone therapy through "informed consent."

"Informed consent means you can demonstrate understanding of both the risks and the benefits of hormone therapy, and you and your clinician have both decided that this is the appropriate time for you to begin this process," the organization explains on its website.

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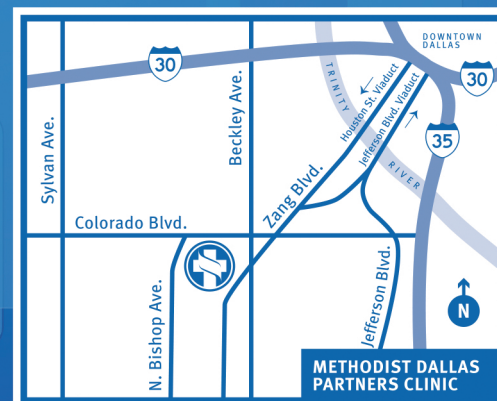
Steven Klemow, MD, AAHIVS
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Hood County Clerk still won't issue marriage licenses

Gene McNeely thinks his county deserves elected officials who will do the job they're elected to do

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Gene McNeely was happily retired and living on a small farm in Hood County southwest of Fort Worth when the Supreme Court handed down its *Obergefell* marriage equality decision. When it happened, McNeely said he was delighted his LGBT friends were finally going to enjoy the same rights he had.

But on June 26, 2015, when same-sex couples across Texas and around the U.S. began getting married, it still couldn't happen in Hood County.

"Our county clerk, Katie Lang, refused to issue a same-sex marriage license to a pair of ranchers who'd been in a committed relationship for decades," McNeely recalled.

And it was Lang's continued refusal to do her job that prompted McNeely to step into the political arena.

Unlike Kentucky County Clerk Kim Davis, who had right-wing grandstanders like former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee standing at her side later in the summer, Lang stood alone refusing to issue a marriage license in Texas. She got mixed signals from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who supported her on a superficial level, but at the same time made sure to let her know that she could be sued and held personally liable for damages.

By the end of that first weekend, Lang had relented and allowed someone else in her office to issue and sign the marriage license for the couple.

"But," McNeely stressed, "to this day, she still refuses to issue [a marriage license to a same-sex couple] with her signature."

Visitors to the Hood County Clerk's Office website are greeted with this message from Lang:

"I am grateful that the First Amendment continues to protect the sincerely held religious beliefs of public servants like me. And the reli-

gious doctrines to which I adhere compel me to personally refrain from issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Nonetheless, the County Clerk's Office of Hood County will have staff available and ready to issue same-sex marriage licenses.

Lang is up for re-election this fall, and rather than allow her to run unchallenged, McNeely decided to throw his hat in the

That first couple that Lang refused to issue a marriage license to not only got their license from her office, they also filed a lawsuit against her. Rather than allowing Lang to be held personally liable, the county settled with the couple.

"The Republican taxpayers are not happy with that," McNeely said.

because they've worked with her, but he hopes some of those elected officials will tell their constituents that she treats the position as a part-time job and about how she treats others she works with.

McNeely worked for MoPac, the railroad company, for a number of years before going into banking. He was with Citibank



Gene McNeely campaigning in Granbury. (Photo courtesy Gene McNeely)

ring. He said he told his wife, "Somebody needs to step up and do this," and it turned out that he's "somebody." He said his wife told him it would be different — exciting and fun.

So in Hood County, where 80 percent of the voters went for Trump in 2016, McNeely is running as a Democrat, and he believes he has a shot at winning. He's not unrealistic in his assessment.

"The Republican machine is very formidable here," he said, but the race is winnable. For example, he said one thing Republicans hate is wasting tax dollars.

And, he said, the settlement makes his blood boil, too: "With that money we could have bought another police car. Or we could have used the money for something else we needed."

Lang has received tens of thousands of dollars in support, but McNeely has had donors who've told him they're lifelong Republicans who never thought they'd ever donate to a Democrat.

He said he has support among city council members from Hood County's various cities, including Granbury, the county seat. He said other elected officials know Lang

in Richardson, Albuquerque and Kansas City before retiring as a vice president of Providian, with 350 people working under him.

He said he and his wife loved Granbury but they wanted some land. So when he retired, they bought a 20-acre farm in Lipan, in northwest Hood County.

McNeely hopes the county clerk race doesn't come down to gay vs. straight or Republican vs. Democrat. "It's a clerical job," he said. "I hate that it's political."

"The winner should be the best person for the job."



Planned Parenthood does not require patients to provide a letter from a therapist in order to begin hormone therapy.

Keiser said that Planned Parenthood does recommend counseling as part of good, comprehensive care and offers referrals to clients who would like to speak to a therapist before beginning hormone treatments.

Planned Parenthood follows the World Professional Association for Transgender Health guidelines and requires patients to be able to give informed consent, be at least 18 years old, have persistent gender dysphoria and have other medical or mental health issues reasonably well controlled before they can begin hormone therapy.

Keiser said its clinics are offering PrEP to more than just gay men, but noted 12 percent of Planned Parenthood's patients already are men.

"Gay men are more likely to already know how important PrEP is as a tool to prevent HIV," she said.

Keiser said Planned Parenthood is also reaching out to other vulnerable populations, such as women of color, in offering PrEP treatments. For those without insurance, the organization is helping clients fill

out forms to receive assistance through the drug company.

For more information, visit PPGreaterTx.org/transgendercare.

Methodist Dallas Medical Center

Methodist Dallas Medical Center was one of the first hospitals outside New York and San Francisco to offer transplants to people with HIV. So it may be surprising that it's just opening its first full-scale HIV/AIDS clinic.

Dr. Steven Klemow, who worked for years at Parkland Hospital's Amelia Court, approached Methodist about their teaching program. His new clinic is training residents working with infectious diseases as well as treating people with HIV, their partners and others working to avoid becoming infected.

The clinic is located on the third floor of the Golden Cross Clinic, across the street from the main hospital at the intersection of Beckley and Colorado avenues in Oak Cliff.

"By the end of their training, these doctors will be HIV providers," Klemow said

of the residents training at his clinic. "They will have a good understanding of the ambulatory care of HIV."

The medical center hopes to attract more residents by offering this specialty.

To create the most effective practice, Klemow said he's hired a pharmacist to help patients with drug compliance and point them to 340B pharmacies throughout the area. The 340B Drug Discount Program is a federal program that requires drug manufacturers to provide drugs to eligible healthcare organizations at significantly reduced prices.

To make medications available at the best prices to his patients throughout the area, Klemow said he's already made arrangements primarily with Walgreens pharmacies located in zip codes with the highest rates of HIV throughout Dallas. But if he finds that some of his patients are not being served, he can locate pharmacies closest to them and expand his network.

Klemow said his new practice is the only hospital-affiliated HIV practice in Dallas. For patients with HIV, he said, "If you're admitted to Methodist, I will be involved in your care."

When HIV-positive patients are in the hospital for something not related to HIV, Klemow said it is important to monitor their HIV drug adherence and interaction between HIV medications and any other drugs. That was something Methodist was careful about when it began doing transplants for people who were positive, because HIV medications aim to boost the immune system but transplant patients take drugs to suppress the immune system to help prevent organ rejection.

Methodist will offer its infectious disease medical residents a rotation in HIV. Few hospitals offer this specialty and few doctors are being trained in providing care to people with HIV.

At Parkland Hospital, Klemow partnered with Trans Pride Initiative to offer healthcare to the transgender community. Because of that experience and treating trans people with HIV, Klemow said he welcomed those patients as their primary care physician and would manage their hormones as part of their overall care.

The clinic is known as Partners Clinic at Methodist Dallas and is located at 122 W. Col-



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IGRA finals returning to North Texas



Photo courtesy IGRA

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The International Gay Rodeo Association's World Gay Rodeo Finals event returns to North Texas this year, being held Oct. 26-28 at the Mesquite Arena.

The Finals Rodeo will feature more than 100 men and women competing in 11 traditional rodeo events and three "light-hearted but fiercely competitive" camp events that are exclusive to the world of LGBT rodeo, organizers said.

Events will include Bull Riding, Bronc riding, Steer Riding, and Chute Dogging. Speed events will include Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, and Flag Racing. Last, but never least, are the camp events: Steer Decorating, the Wild Drag Race, and Goat Dressing.

IGRA, founded in 1985, is the largest group coordinating rodeo events that specifically welcomes LGBT contestants, as well as hetero contestants, and spectators. IGRA comprises various regional rodeo as-

sociations, including the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, and sanctions rodeo events throughout the season, culminating in the World Gay Rodeo Finals event each fall.

Organizers stress that IGRA events allow anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, to compete with discrimination. The organization and its state and local chapters also helps spread appreciation for Western culture and the sport of rodeo, while also raising money for a variety of charitable organizations.

At the state and local rodeos, cowboys and trophy buckles — and points to advance to the finals. At the World Finals rodeo, competitors vie for titles in individual events and for the titles of All-Around Cowboy and All-Around Cowgirl.

LGBT rodeos started out as fundraising vehicles to help organizations in the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. While the rodeos have evolved into highly structured and competitive events, more than 30 years later they remain, at their heart, fundraising events aimed at aiding improving those same communities.

For information visit IGRA.com.



orado Blvd. Surface parking is available in a lot behind the building. Parking can be accessed off Madison Avenue. The clinic is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For an appointment, call 214-947-6780.

Dr. Steven Pounders



Steven Pounders

Dr. Steven Pounders, one of the most experienced HIV specialists in Texas, has opened a PrEP clinic in his office. Rick Por-

ter is running the clinic on Saturdays, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

"We're reaching out to people who are not necessarily patients — anyone having trouble getting access to PrEP," Porter said.

He said he's heard from people whose doctors are unwilling to prescribe the preventive treatment or inexperienced in treating people with HIV. Some patients have come in and said their doctors have equated PrEP with a license to have unprotected sex. Others use that as an excuse not to treat their gay patients, he said.

Porter said he thinks of PrEP the same way he thinks of vaccines: PrEP prevents disease.

The first consultation will take about 30 minutes. Some blood work is necessary to make sure prospective patients are candidates for PrEP. Clinic staff confirms that a patient is indeed HIV-negative and then check the patient's liver function.

Subsequent visits should be no more than 15 minutes and four visits per year are necessary, Porter said.

The office takes insurance, and Porter said he's working on a cash price for people without insurance. That price will include assistance from Gilead, maker of Truvada, the drug used in PrEP.

"The community needs more PrEP providers," Porter said, noting that some people prefer a more casual setting, which is being offered elsewhere, while some prefer to have PrEP offered in a doctor's office.

To make an appointment, call 214-520-8833 ext. 201 or 203.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation



Bret Camp

AIDS Healthcare Foundation has opened a new pharmacy in the atrium of Building B at Medical City Hospital, adjacent to the AHF office.

"Doctors have embraced having a pharmacy there that can service the specialty needs of their patients," said Bret Camp, AHF Texas regional director.

This is AHF's second pharmacy in Dallas. There's another in the organization's Out of the Closet thrift store on Cedar Springs Road as well as one in its facility in Fort Worth, in the same building as AOC.

In addition, AHF has expanded in Texas, with three clinics in Houston, and the agency has plans to open facilities in Austin and San Antonio.

The Medical City office has expanded its services by adding a staff of four to do case management and medical case management. And AHF's STI clinic has a new app that Camp likens to a medical record portal.

The app reminds patients when it's time to make an appointment to come in for testing, gives results and stores them and even allows a patient to check in for an appointment without going to the window.



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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George Orwell's been expecting you

Jeff Sessions, the Religious Liberty Task Force and double-speak

On Monday, July 30, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the formation of the Religious Liberty Task Force. As to his justification, let me just quote from his speech announcing the task force:

"A dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom. There can be no doubt. This is no little matter. It must be confronted and defeated.

"We have gotten to the point where courts have held that morality cannot be a basis for law; where ministers are fearful to affirm, as they understand it, holy writ from the pulpit; and where one group can actively target religious groups by labeling them a 'hate group' on the basis of their sincerely-held religious beliefs.

"But in recent years, the cultural climate in this country — and in the West more generally — has become less hospitable to people of faith. Many Americans have felt that their freedom to practice their faith has been under attack.

"In addition to protecting the safety of people of faith, we [the Department of Justice] are also protecting them against unjust discrimination. And, of course, we were proud to file a brief in support of Jack Phillips [the baker in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case.]"

So, what is he actually saying. It's simple. What it all boils down to is, "Our religious liberty is under attack as never before. Our right to believe what we want to believe is being seriously eroded. And unless the federal government intervenes, we may not be able to worship the way we have a right to."

Sounds reasonable, right?

Reasonable — until you look at who makes up this task force. Just one example will do to make my point: Tony Perkins.

Who is he? Tony Perkins is the head of the Family Research Council.

What is that? Family Research Council is a socially conservative group that the Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled an anti-gay hate group.

Family Research Council lobbies against equal rights for LGBT people, and they believe that "homosexual conduct is harmful



Jon Nelson
Special Contributor

to the persons who engage in it and to society at large, and can never be affirmed."

They don't care that their opinions are contrary to the findings of the mainstream

medical community, which has found that homosexuality is a normal and healthy variation of human behavior.

And Tony Perkins — what does he espouse and what are his positions? Well for one, he was against the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, arguing that repeal would infringe on the religious liberty of chaplains and service members who hold negative religious views about gays.

He also championed a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, and he believes that civil unions and same-sex marriage "pose a serious threat to the health of our culture."

Finally, he believes that natural disasters are divine punishments for tolerance of homosexuality.

Let's be clear: The real purpose for forming this task force is to further the agenda of these ultraconservative religious zealots, and that translates into increased attacks on the LGBT community.

But you sure couldn't tell that from the words spoken by the attorney general.

Jeff Sessions' speech reminded me of George Orwell's 1984 and what has turned out to be doublespeak.

Doublespeak is language that deliberately obscures, disguises, distorts or reverses the meaning of words. Doublespeak may take the form of euphemisms (e.g. saying "downsizing" instead "layoffs," or "servicing the target" instead of "bombing"). Doublespeak in these cases it is primarily meant to make the truth sound more palatable.

It may also refer to intentional ambiguity in language or to actual inversions of meaning. In these cases, doublespeak disguises the actual nature of the truth.

Doublespeak is most closely associated with political language.

Here's what Edward S. Herman, a political economist, said about doublespeak:

"What is really important in the world of doublespeak is the ability to lie, whether knowingly or unconsciously, and to get away with it; and the ability to use lies and choose and shape facts selectively, blocking out those that don't fit an agenda or program."

That's exactly what Session's speech and his justification for this nefarious "Task Force" is — doublespeak.

For example, he references a "dangerous movement." Now, I'm fairly up on the news, but I haven't heard of this movement. I have heard of people and groups holding bigots accountable for their prejudice, even when it emanated from "religious" organizations.

Sessions decries the fact that courts have held that morality cannot be a "basis for law." Now, this guy is a lawyer — the U.S. attorney general for God's sake — so he should know that the Supreme Court has, almost from its beginning, held that it cannot judge a particular person's or group's morality, but must uphold and interpret the law.

Finally, Sessions is aghast that "one group can actively target religious groups by labeling them a 'hate group' on the basis of their sincerely-held religious beliefs." If their "sincerely-held religious beliefs" are that gays are subhuman and should be shot on sight, you bet I'll call them a hate group.

This task force isn't a shield to protect religious freedom; it's just another sword they can use to attack us as LGBT people.

When Tony Perkins and others of his ilk try to impose legislation that treats us a second-class citizens to satisfy their particular religious beliefs, that's not protecting religious liberty, that's defiling it.

This isn't the free exercise of religion; it's the unwanted imposition of a distorted and dangerous religious belief system on others who don't share these rotten and festering beliefs.

But listening to Session's speech, one would get the opposite impression.

Doublespeak.

Here is the stark reality: This administration's game plan is all about doublespeak, and, just like in Orwell's book, people are lining up to listen and blindly follow.

This is, indeed, a dangerous time for freedom.



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What's **new** with you?

A year after a photo, a firestorm and a federal investigation, Kathy Griffin is back... and more political than ever.

Our exclusive interview on how she's surviving — even thriving — in the 'pearl-clutching era'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

The voice on the other end of the phone says, "Please hold — I'll put Kathy on."

Although we've talked more than a dozen times over the years, this time feels different, even historic. "How are you, Kathy?" I reflexively ask.

"I'm ... better!" she replies in the unmistakable bubbly, conversational, gossipy way of hers. And I realize, that was the only answer she *could* give. "Good god, a lot can happen in a year," she adds.

There's energy to her that exudes a sense of relief, like someone who has overcome a cancer diagnosis or emerged from a divorce with renewed hope. But it would have been hard to imagine a year earlier that Kathy Griffin could see any light at the end of the tunnel. Except, perhaps, a train.

That train took many forms: The Twittersphere, the pundit class, the Fake News industry (the real one, manipulated by Steve Bannon and Macedonian hackers, not just journalists critical of the bloviating gasbag of ignorance who occupies the Oval Office). It started on May 30, 2017, when, during a photoshoot, Griffin released a snapshot of her holding aloft a nondescript, orange-colored severed head that may or may not have been an effigy of the Commander-in-Cheeto. Anyone with a classical education or even a passing curiosity in art (or even cheesy sand-and-sandal movies) could have spotted it as a parody of Cellini's statue of Perseus wielding the snake-covered head of the gorgon Medusa. But the universe of permanently offended, humorless trolls declared it much, much more sinister: Treason. A death threat. "Too far." Even some of Griffin's friends and allies begged off. Her contract for a once-a-year New Year's Eve hosting gig with Anderson Cooper was torched; concerts and appearances quickly canceled. It was summarized as a career-killer moment... and possible crime. She found few supporters during this time, though she singles out Margaret Cho and Bill Maher for standing up for her.

So much for progressive unity. (More on that later.)

Griffin has never hesitated to speak truth to power, though her jokes on politics were mostly focussed on personal passions — gay rights, feminist causes, generalized hypocrisy and abuse of power. In general, though, she was more concerned with *Real Housewives* than the White House. So when her pic made her the poster *enfant-terrible* of the Radical Left, Griffin wasn't entirely prepared for it. She was more comfortable as the successor to Joan Rivers, not Lenny Bruce.

"Johnny Depp sleeps in his clothes and hasn't bathed since the second *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie," Griffin opines, in the kind of one-liner that exemplifies her bitchy-shady brand of standup. It's why the gays love her.



But for the moment, she's gonna have to get political.

On the first day we talk — we'd do a followup chat more than a month later — Griffin was in especially good spirits. She had just heard the news that Michael Cohen, the shady consigliere of Donald Trump, had been wiretapped and it suffused her with hope.

"My new fantasy is that [Mueller's team] keeps digging until they get to May 30 [2017] when the photo posted, or May 31 when the president Tweeted about me, and they find the call where [Trump] says, 'Let's ruin her! Let's decimate Kathy Griffin!'"

The photo *did* trigger a federal investigation ... and that's no joke.

"In my show, I actually take my audience into the actual interrogation after they tried to perp-walk me," she says. "I was scared shitless and on the verge of diarrhea all the time."

But what started as a lark and progressed into a possible criminal matter and career seppuku has, a year later, blossomed into something of a creative renaissance for Griffin.

"The picture that was supposed to ruin my life is the picture that made me the eighth-most Googled person in the world," she notes, putting the sunniest look on the most devastating period in her 57 years.

Griffin has now achieved a level where she *attracts* political coverage; she was the biggest celebrity by far at last April's White House Correspondents Dinner — her first red-carpet event this side of the pond in 11 months. That was the same event where another female comedian, Michelle Wolf, got vilified (even by some liberals) for criticizing Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the administration's chief propagandist — a Ross Dress For Less Goebbels in cheap shoes. Griffin, of course, was one of Wolf's few defenders.

"I was in a vintage Oscar de la Renta gown which means Oscar OK'd it," Griffin explains about the dinner, conscious, as always, to include a fashion summary for "my gays." "I had a train longer than Amtrak; poor Randy [Bick, her boyfriend] was holding my train like an engineer. I admit, I sort of set up shop outside the men's room," with the intent of ambushing some of her detractors at the one spot they would all inevitably come to. "All those old farts [have to run there] when the colostomy bag breaks," she jabs.

It's where she cornered *Fox and Friends* co-host Brian Kilmeade. "He said, 'Would you consider [targeting] half [the time] of the right and half of the left?'" she relates. "I said, 'You first, fucker.'" She got into a fight with Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Then she went to the MSNBC after-party, where she met up with Michael Avenatti, whom Griffin describes as "Stormy [Daniels'] lawyer-daddy."

"I also want you to know that I contributed to the Stormy Daniels Legal Defense Fund," she declares. "We are girlfriends on the pole. That's what I'm kinda doing."

That is a position Griffin feels comfortable in. She's long been the champion of underdogs (an advocate for marriage equality from way back) and stands on principal when others cower behind spin doctors and cultural tides. She uses coarse language against those who attack Parkland shooting student-activist David Hogg.

"You have to love that when the pink-haired guy [gay Cambridge Analytica whistleblower Christopher Wylie] is in front of Parliament, his shit is tight. Republicans don't like him [because] he's fearless and inspirational," she says.

And she holds no quarter for the hypocrites and haters who piss her off. Take, for

instance, Conservative Union lobbyist Matt Schlapp and his wife Mercedes, a Trump administration communications flak. "Here's what I'm alleging: His wife Mercedes has a beard like a member of ZZ Top. That's all I'm suggesting. I am my only source for that rumor."

She's terribly concerned that something she says — comparing Michael Cohen to a gay man — might be construed as favorable. "Please don't print that I said anything nice about him." (Weeks later, when we talk again — after news has broken that Cohen *recorded* at least some conversations with the president — she can barely contain her glee. "I mean, it's pure heaven," she coos.)

Griffin's comeback actually isn't as new as you might think. Although the North American leg of her Laugh Your Head Off Tour started only this summer, she has spent months rebuilding all over the world. "Europe, Reykjavik, Singapore, New Zealand ... and yes, I got detained at *every single airport*," she says. "No American citizen should have to be denied a

■ GRIFFIN Page 23

KATHY GRIFFIN

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Pride Festival for Kids!

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Give a little respect

Erasure frontman
Andy Bell on 30 pioneering
years of music

It's been 30 years since the release of *The Innocents*, the third album from supergroup Erasure. That disc aided the duo of gay vocalist Andy Bell and synthesizer mastermind Vince Clarke (formerly of Depeche Mode and Yazoo) into crossing over into mainstream success with songs such as "A Little Respect" and "Chains of Love." Of course, the gays (and the cool kids) had been dancing to them, and songs such as "Oh, L'Amour," "Who Needs Love Like That," "Victim of Love" and "Sometimes" for a couple of years by then. Since the release of *The Innocents*, Erasure has put out more than a dozen studio discs. Bell has even released a handful of solo albums.

An interesting musical experiment if ever there was one, Erasure's *World Beyond* (Mute) is a "classical reworking" of the 10 tracks from its 2017 *World Be Gone* disc. Given the subject matter of the album, the current chaotic political mood, the chamber music setting, backed by Echo Collective, is quite fitting. Songs such as "Be Careful What You Wish For!," "Oh What A

World," "World Be Gone," "Take Me Out of Myself" and "Lousy Sum of Nothing" in particular, actually benefit from these new renditions. It's not all doom and gloom as you can hear on "Love You To The Sky" and "Just A Little." Nevertheless, it's "Still It's Not Over," Erasure's queerest and most overtly political statement, that is sure to have the greatest impact on LGBTQ listeners.

Before Erasure settles into a concert at Toyota Music Factory on Aug. 3, we spoke with Bell about writing the album and the current tour.

— Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: When the 10 songs that appear on both *World Be Gone* and *World Beyond* were originally written, did they begin in electronic or acoustic arrangements?

Andy Bell: They were written electronically. Vince had sent me the musical parts and chord arrangements. It was done over a period of six months. I was sitting on the songs for probably three months. I was hemming and hawing. I couldn't come up with any

ideas. Once Vince and I got together... we had three writing sessions — one in London, one in Miami and one in New York. Each time we met up, all of a sudden, my confidence came. I was singing into the mike. It was almost like I needed Vince there, as my muse, for the songs [laughs]. He's kind of a confidence booster. When I first heard the music, I thought, "Oh, wow, the music is so good, it doesn't really need any vocals [laughs]." It sounded like a film soundtrack. It took me a while for the songs to settle in. I think I get a bit nervous when I first hear the music. I kind of don't know what to do. You have to leave it for a while. You can listen to it, but the trick is not to listen to it too much. Otherwise you can kind of OD on the music.

You don't want to overthink it. Yes!

With the exception of switching the placement of the songs "Love You To The Sky" and "Oh What A World," both albums are essentially mirror images in terms of the track listings. Why were those songs switched in the order? The running order worked itself out on the electronic version. It was almost like a DJ list. It's not like you're telling a narrative all the way through. Each one finds its own place. When I redid the vo-

cals for the orchestral version, I felt like "Oh What A World" was so strong. I think it had been a bit overlooked on the first version. Rather than overlooking it again, we should put it first so people notice it.

Can you please say something about what was involved in the decision process to re-record the songs on *World Be Gone* with the Echo Collective and transform them into what they are on *World Beyond*? I think it was an idea that was sparked by Daniel [Miller of Mute Records] and Vince having dinner together. I think it was because I had been working on this "Torsten" project, which was two theatrical albums [*Torsten the Bareback Saint* and *Torsten the Beautiful Libertine*], and there's a third part to come. It was a thing of letting me explore my vocals more. When you're singing with electronic instruments, they tend to soak up a lot of the nuances in your vocals. I feel like I have to add backing vocals, just to emphasize the choruses and things like that on the electronic versions. On the orchestral versions, I think it's much more about the character of the voice. It was kind of a bit of an experiment to maybe bring the "Torsten" project closer to Erasure.

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Gus'next chapter

Olympian/activist Gus Kenworthy on his Hollywood aspirations, a promising future for LGBTQ athletes and being a 'bad gay'



Nobody reminds Olympic silver medalist Gus Kenworthy that he was in *Sharknado 5*, and it's hard to tell how that makes him feel after I casually drop that nugget of info as you do if you've studied his IMDB page. "Global Swarming," I say, naming the film's subtitle. He laughs big. "Never before has anyone said that to me."

It's 9 a.m. when Kenworthy calls, and he's either in serious-guy interview mode, a low-key (or sleepy?) version of his perky Instagram self ... or he just rolled out of

the air mattress he's been snoozing on since recently moving to Los Angeles. If you're an aspiring actor like Kenworthy, this is where you aspire. This is where Kenworthy will spend time writing his latest and greatest chapter, maybe host a game show or a talk show. (Whatever he does, let there be dogs, because Kenworthy loves dogs.) And he's in the right place with the right man, his actor-boyfriend of three years, Matthew Wilkas. So, why not?

Before pursuing acting, Kenworthy gained global notoriety after taking silver



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in men's slopestyle at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. But after the 26-year-old British-born freestyle skier came out as gay the following year in an interview with ESPN, he was recognized as an LGBTQ trailblazer for being one of only a few athletes to do so. This year, Wilkas and Kenworthy expressed their unabashed affection for each other during the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, when their televised kiss before his qualifying run in the men's slopestyle became, like his triumphant sports career itself, a notable moment of visibility for LGBTQ athletes.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: At the end of a recent Stars on Ice performance, when you shot your interview with fellow Olympian Adam Rippon, for *Nightline*, fans swarmed you. Are you used to being recognized in public? Gus Kenworthy: Yes and no. It still seems strange, but I've gotten used to it. I got a little bit of recognition prior to the Olympics four years ago from skiing. And then when I came out, I feel like my platform definitely changed and grew, and it took a different shape in terms of the people who would approach me. It's sort of been a slow grow, not completely overnight. It must be much more insane for Adam, because heading into this Games, he hadn't been to another Games and his platform wasn't super huge and now it's insane. He had more growth than any other Olympian at the Games. That's very much night and day.

How do the conversations you have with fans change depending on if you're at, say, a ski shop versus a gay bar? At a ski shop it's often like, "Oh, what's up man? Where do you ski?" It's pretty surface. Who comes up to me most are other gay guys and usually they're really, really sweet and they say something really nice. And they'll want a photo; it's kind of a short exchange. Sometimes it's more earnest, but often it's not. And it definitely does happen a lot at gay bars.

What's a not-earnest exchange like? I think one type of interaction is like "Oh my god! I love your Instagram! Can I take a photo?" And then like, "I saw you in the Olympics; can I have a photo?" Or another one: "Hey, just wanted to say thank you so much for coming out and for using your platform." It's just really, really, really sweet. It means a lot to me.

Adam told me he most identifies with Dorothy and Blanche. Which Golden Girl are you? I don't know. To be completely honest, I don't watch *Golden Girls*, so I'm a bad gay. Honestly, it's not a choice, it's just, I never did. But I have an ongoing list of things that my boyfriend is like, "You're a bad gay; you haven't seen this."

Where are you at now with your sexuality compared to when you first came out? I'm in a way better place in my life. Right after I

won the silver medal I was not out. I was in a low point in my life too because it was sort of a time where I wanted to be out; I didn't think it was a reality. Suddenly, I did have this elevated platform from the Olympics and the dogs [Kenworthy rescued a bitch and her four puppies at the Winter Olympics in Sochi], and it sort of made me feel uncomfortable because I wasn't being my true self. I just felt fake and had a boyfriend in the closet at the time. I wasn't sharing him with my world, and vice versa, and I think that took a toll. So, I wasn't in the best place.

Now, at this moment in my life, another Olympics just ended, I didn't get a medal at this Games, but I still feel like I had a good season at the qualifying events in order to get to the Olympics. I still got to be at the Olympics and compete out loud and proud, and cheer on Adam and my other friends, and got to be who I am and represent myself and my country and my community and the things I believe in. It was an awesome experience. I don't know what the next chapter of my life is, but I'm in LA right now and I'm planning on spending more time here and auditioning and trying to get into some acting and do TV hosting.

What are your acting aspirations? I would love to be on Broadway. I would like to work on my voice, and maybe get it to a place where I feel confident with my singing so that I can do more theatrical-type stuff. It would be a dream to be on TV and in movies. Growing up, I did theater. My dream was to be an actor, not a skier.

Acting doesn't always promise overnight success. Does that scare you? No. I feel like I've had success in my sport and this is something I'm really into and passionate about and would love to pursue. I wanted it as a kid and then something else presented itself and I spent my life skiing, and I'm not done with it either completely, but this is a new thing. It'd be great and fun, and if it doesn't [work out], it's not the end of the world.

Will you compete in the next Olympics? Maybe. I haven't decided.

You've been a brand ambassador for H&M, for their recent Pride collection, and Head & Shoulders, for their "Shoulders of Greatness" campaign. [The Head & Shoulders campaign] was a really cool experience because it was the very first time that there was ever a Pride flag in a TV commercial in a national commercial. So, it was cool and I was like, "Oh my god, that's never happened."

As an out gay man, what it's like to partner with these LGBTQ-inclusive brands? It's amazing. It's important brands align themselves with the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ people should be represented in every part of life, and so that's also in the arts and in commercials and on billboards. Things shouldn't just be catered to straight people and white people and men. So, it's cool to do

■ GUS Next Page



Family PRIDE Zone

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Pride Festival for Kids!

Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!

Family PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space located at Reverchon Park in conjunction with the Music Festival in the Park, on **Saturday, September 15th** - 11am to 7pm.

Family PRIDE Zone is a fenced off safe space with security professionals. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

The Family PRIDE Zone will include games, entertainment, bounce houses, face painters, vendor booths and much more. Special feature: Dennis Lee & Nana Puddin', ventriloquist. dallaspride.org.







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a campaign that highlights that and highlights me as a gay man.

You were recently the Pride grand marshal in Montreal and Miami Beach. What was your Pride message to the LGBTQ community?

I think that Pride is so important. It's a moment for us as a community to celebrate who we are but also to look back on where we've come from. It's important to remember the people who put their lives and their careers and their necks on the line to try and really, really fight for equality. And then also just to reflect on each of our own journeys, because every single LGBTQ person has struggled at some point in their life coming to terms with themselves and identifying themselves and embracing it and living their truth. It's a hard thing to do. It's a scary thing to do. But once you start doing it, there's no other way to live.

What was your first Pride like? A whole new world. I was with my very first boyfriend years and years and years ago and we happened to be in San Francisco because we were driving up to Vancouver from where he's from, Colorado, and we woke up in San Francisco and it was Pride. We walked outside and there were naked people and painted people and Pride flags and people all getting ready for San Francisco Pride, and I was like, "What the fuck?" I didn't even know what it was. I was totally in the closet with him, and I remember being nervous to watch it but so excited. That was kind of my first Pride. But I definitely wasn't embracing myself and proud of myself

and enjoying Pride in the sense that it should be. New York Pride was the first time I was out and excited and wearing rainbow shit and cheering and screaming and dancing.

You recently attended Life Ball, the biggest charity event in Europe supporting people with HIV or AIDS. I heard people lose their shirts in flight en route to Vienna. This is a thing? Yeah. Basically, there are no rules at all. Like, Kelly Osbourne did our in-flight announcement and as soon as the flight took off everyone was out of their seats, everyone was switching seats, walking around, people were drinking in the aisles of the flight straight out of the bottle.

Who wasn't wearing a shirt? Or who was?

I think most people. I definitely didn't know everyone on the flight. It was packed with people. But there was a whole congregation of people at the back of the plane, in the back galley. And they were flipping the lights on and off and playing music and people were drinking. And some shirts came off. And people were making out. And I think some people might have maybe gone into the bathroom together. It was really wild.

And what were you doing the whole time?

I was part of the process! I was in the back with people! And I don't know, just chatting with people, meeting people, drinking, hanging out. Witnessing all that was going on around me.

Is it weird that this is your life now? I mean,

yeah, I guess. This was definitely different than anything I've ever been to. I was like, this is crazy. Definitely pretty surreal.

Which famous person that you've met has left the biggest impression on you? In just short meetings like that I'm often starstruck and just excited to say "hey." But I met Miley Cyrus after the last Olympics and we've become friends, sort of. We don't hang out all the time, but she's definitely had a big impact on me. I just think she's amazing. I think she does a lot for the LGBTQ community, a lot for animals and she's just a really nice, good, kind person.

You work with her charity, the Happy Hippie Foundation, which serves homeless youth and the LGBTQ community. Yeah, I do. And I think that's another way that she's inspired me. I feel like I've tried to do a lot for charity because I just believe in it.

You appeared in the documentary *Alone in the Game*, about the lack of out LGBTQ athletes. What do you think the future holds for LGBTQ athletes? I think it's important to have representation, and the reason we haven't had more gay people in sports isn't because we haven't had more gay people in sports, it's because we haven't had more gay people in sports that have been willing to put their life on the line and be open and honest about who they are. But there are gonna be more of us in the future. Whether it's just because more and more people are gonna come out who are currently competing,



or it's the next generation.

I feel like there are so many kids who are out in high school, and it's crazy because I'm not that much older than that and I don't feel like that was an option for me. So, that's great to see, and I think that will change things. But the only way to change misperception is just through visibility. The more that we can show that we're here and we're queer and we're just as capable as anyone else, it will be better for everyone and more people will feel safe to come out.



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living for disagreeing with the president. But I'm not bitching, because I'm very lucky. I save every penny, and I have no debt, so I was in a position where I didn't have to make any money for a year, but I was able to tell my story."

The experience was eye-opening for her as well. "The minute [people overseas] hear an American accent, they start talking about Trump. I played Germany and my beloved Angela Merkel is facing [attacks from the right], and I said I understand — we're trying to fix it. There were cities like Stockholm or Antwerp [where] I would ask my audience, if my TV specials haven't been aired here, how do you know me? And they said, 'YouTube.'"

It was a risk for Griffin to come to the U.S. and try to book a tour schedule, even a year later. Initially, she figured if she could find five cities willing to host her, she'd be grateful. But it quickly rose to 25 cities.

"My first American show was in San Francisco, because I'm not crazy," she says. "When I was [overseas], people were like, 'What's going on in your country?' and [at] my shows in Canada, which went really, really well, [people said], 'We love you as a neighbor and to laugh at him with you.' But now I'm getting audiences who are relating to my story. Now everyone gets death threats on social media! If it can happen to me it can happen to you. It is astounding."

There's still tons of backlash — "I tell my audiences, 'If you post something nice about me, you will be flooded with hate for a half hour.... then really people will come back,'" she cautions — but she's also noticing that after a year-and-a-half in Trumplandia, people are becoming more aware of the direness of the situation.

"While the nation is terrified every day as we worry about nuclear war — literally — more and more people are coming around, going, 'Not only did we make too much over the [Medusa] picture, now we see Kathy has something to say.' I don't



think this kooky phase will be solved by the midterms. I don't know about you, but my security clearance was stripped today — and I had very high clearance, even though I am in ISIS."

Her set in Dallas won't be limited to attacking the conservative straight white men who are the target of many of her jokes, though. She's fed up on all sides.

At the White House Correspondents Dinner, "Michelle did 20 minutes of the tightest set I've ever seen. She went for the jugular, but you could actually fact-check her jokes. But the people on the dais started giving Michelle the stinkeye. They all looked around at their Republican friends and said, 'Oh is this person not laughing and sitting in the back. [and even the liberals remained silent. I got on my feet and clapped. I'm someone who has lived through the faux outrage of the pearl-clutching era. As a lifelong feminist and LGBT activist, I am a bitter party of one that so many white women voted for Trump. Those white bitches might get a stern talking-to.'"

It's a magnificent progression for a comedian who was written off barely a year ago. Now, Kathy Griffin is as empowered and as on-message and she's ever been.

"I can talk to every single person in that beautiful Dallas hall without being told to stay in my lane," she says. "I'm having the time of my life." ■

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You sing about “Sweet Summer Loving” in the song of the same name and “summer romance” in the song “Love You to the Sky.” Would it be fair to say that summer is your favorite season? Well, it would be fair to say that my new husband [Stephen Moss] is from Florida. I associate him with the sunshine. He’s got such a beaming smile. He lights up the room when he comes in. It’s about that and it’s a bit of salvation song. After I lost [longtime partner] Paul [Hickey], Stephen was instrumental in helping me through that. It’s still kind of tough. It feels like you’ve lost your home in some ways. Even though me and Stephen are building a new life together. When you’ve been with

someone so long, it leaves such a gaping hole. You’re not trying to fill it with the other person. You have to find a new way.

To my ears, “Still It’s Not Over” is one of the most overtly queer and political songs Erasure has ever recorded. The arrangement on the song really brings out the emotional power of the song. It’s about my love affair with San Francisco and New York City. Being out from the very beginning of my career, going to San Francisco was very hard. We were embraced by the city, by the LGBT community. At the same time, you felt the ghosts of all the people who had gone before us, especially in the U.S., who had fought to

get HIV medicines and such. It’s about those polar opposites. I remember coming across an ACT UP demonstration in New York City. It was very exciting, but at the same time quite scary [laughs], because of all the things tied in with it. Especially being HIV-positive myself, you kind of felt a bit like a wild animal. It’s difficult to explain it. I think the song was a nod to that and a thank you to all of the people who have helped us. I know it’s tough — the amount of times we’ve been bashed literally to the ground, physically and emotionally. The amount of times we had to get up again, pick up our stuff and start from scratch.

And still we rise. Yes! It’s never over. You think

there’s going to be one day when you can take a sigh of relief, but it’s never going to be over, ever.

The *World Beyond* album is not the first time that Erasure has gone all-acoustic. That honor goes to 2006’s *Union Street*. What do you enjoy most about the experience of re-recording Erasure songs in these kinds of musical settings? I really love it. *Union Street* was one of those albums that was quite misunderstood, especially in the U.K. with all of the music journalists. I have a sincere affection for country music. I was brought up on it where I grew up. When you’re singing to strings, whether it’s violins or guitars, your voice almost floats on it. That’s why I love harps [laughs] they’re very angelic. It’s like another voice singing a duet with you. I really do love singing with live instruments.

The new Erasure U.S. tour began in Miami. Is this a nod to your fans in one of your home bases? It is now. We never used to play in Florida. We didn’t have the fan base down there. I think it’s a natural progression because we’ve played there now a number of times. The gay community is so strong and it’s building back up again, especially in Miami Beach. You feel like you’re a homecoming queen [laughs] in those kinds of places. It’s true! You’re almost adopted by the place. It’s a thrill for me to go and play there. You’re in your home territory.

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Friday 08.10 — Sunday 08.12

Inaugural Otter Weekend celebrates the fit and furriest

Dallas Bears have TBRU and Dallas leathermen (and women) have ILSb, but what of the lonely, orphan otter — hirsute but smaller gay men, who bridge the gap between bear and twink? Well, now they have Otter Weekend, the inaugural activity for the smaller-framed hairy man. It all kicks off Aug. 10 at Woody's, with a Mr. Otter contest, and includes a pool party and other activities over the weekend.

DEETS: For information, search Facebook and Eventbrite.com for Dallas Otter Weekend.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

**Friday 08.03
— Sunday 08.05**

**'Queer Occurrences'
play reaches out to gay youth**

We wrote about *Queer Occurrences* last week — a new play targeting queer youth, written by a young gay woman and directed by her recently-out mother, Noelle Carmen, pictured. Now is your chance to see the show, which is subtitled *A Good Old-Fashioned LGBTQ Comedy Romance Murder Mystery*. Anyone under 18 is admitted free, and adult tickets are only \$10. Presented by Lantern Theatrical Productions in association with Resource Center.

DEETS: Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. QueerOccurrences. Eventbrite.com.

**Friday 08.03
— Sunday 08.26**

**I swear! 'Hand to God'
opens in Addison**

A young, devout man, suffering the loss of a parent, seeking comfort in a Christian puppet ministry in Cypress, Texas. Only the puppet seems to have a mind — and a spirit — of its own. *Hand to God* was the irreverent hit of the 2015 Broadway season, scoring five Tony Award nominations, including best play. WaterTower Artistic Director Joanie Schultz will direct this Bible Belt comedy about faith and a lot more

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. In previews through Aug. 5. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



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ARTSWEEK
THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The 20th annual series of eight rotating performance from small companies, including WingSpan, Echo, Imprint and more. *Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org for complete schedule.

Hand to God. An immersive, open-seating production of the hit play about a Christian congregation and puppet ministry, and a man who speaks only through a hand puppet... although all is not what it seems. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Aug. 3–26 (in previews through Aug. 5). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Love Never Dies: The Phantom Returns. Andrew Lloyd Webber’s follow-up to his international smash, set decades after *The Phantom of the Opera* with new goings-on, this time on Coney Island. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Aug. 5. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Aug. 7–12. BassHall.com.

The Revolutionists. Laura Gunderson’s wicked feminist quartet, about four historical figures of the French Revolution (including Marie Antoinette and Charlotte Corday) leaving their mark on history. Presented by the new company Imprint Theatreworks. *Final weekend.* Margo Jones Theatre in the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

FINE ART
An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and

Modern Art. The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and now on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17, 2019. DMA.org.

EXHIBITIONS
Ultimate Dinosaurs. Exhibit analyzing the history of the creatures that would come to occupy Jurassic Park. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 N. Field St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 08.03
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

CONCERTS
Erasure: World Be Gone Tour. The iconic dance gods perform in support of their new CD. The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory, 300 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY 08.04
CONCERTS
Panic! At the Disco Pray for the Wicked Tour with special guest Hayley Kiyoko. The hip alt-rock band led by super-ally Brendon Urie performs, with hot queer sensation

Hayley Kiyoko opening. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

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 08.06
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

THEATER
Ms. Fortune’s Cookie. A free reading/workshop of this new play about a drag queen psychic. Feedback appreciated. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. 7–9 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY 08.07
FILM
The Thin Man. One of the classic sophisticated mystery comedies. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 08.09
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.

SHOW
Marvel Universe Live! A live-action stunt show, featuring character from the comics. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave., Aug. 9–12. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth, Aug. 16–19. MarvelUniverseLive.com.

this week’s solution

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Cassie Nova

My summer reading list

Hello all. I read a lot of books. At any given time I usually have about three books going on. I have a book at home that I actually read, a bathroom book (usually a graphic novel) and an audio book in the car. I'm not sure what's wrong with me that I need constant mental stimulation. I guess I use books to dull the loud annoying worry wart of a voice in my head. I also watch way too much television and see way too many movies. I'm not sure if that is right brain or left brain activity, but it needs almost constant stimulation. I have times when I need quiet and relaxation, but even then I'm thinking of my next book or movie.

I like to think that every book, comic, TV show or movie is necessary for my job. It keeps me sharp and ready to engage anyone at any time on pop culture and worldly events. I believe it helps me emcee a show and connect with people, even those much, much younger than myself. I know more about Cardi B than a man my age should, and I'm sad that Offset might be going to jail, leaving her alone to care for their baby. I'm worried about Ant-Man and all of those heroes that vanished. I'm excited to see how ridiculous the movie MEG is going to be. The book was a lot of fun and seemed so scientific on how and why the megalodon shark could even exist today. I was like, that is totally plausible, but then the way they kill the shark (spoiler alert) at the end is hilarious and ridiculous, but so much damn fun.

Speaking of books, I get asked a lot... what are you reading? So here is my summer reading or listening list!

FantasticLand by Mike Bockoven, it reminded me of *Lord of the Flies* but with Millennials. Instead of a shipwreck, it is a hurricane, instead of on island, it is an amusement park. It is told from the point of view of the young adults that survived this over the top story. The book is gory and at times suspenseful, it's even heartbreaking. I really liked it though. The real takeaway from this book is that I hope we never lose cell phone service. Kids lose their fucking minds. When the folks in this book were forcibly unplugged, they went feral. It would make a great movie.

The Outsider by Stephen King. You know I love Mr. King and this is a great book. An innocent man is charged with the brutal murder and rape of a young boy because they found his fingerprints at the scene and even have eyewitnesses saying they saw him with the boy. It has great character development and really makes you feel for these people. Plus the return of one of my favorites from the Mr. Mercedes/Bill Hodges trilogy, Holly Gibney. She is such an unassuming bad ass. She registers on the autism spectrum and has social anxiety issues, but she is crazy smart and connects clues that no one else can see. It's a detective story with a King twist. I loved it.

The Cabin at the end of the Woods by Paul Tremblay. Very well written and weird. The story of a gay couple and their young daughter and what happens when a group show up at their secluded cabin by the lake and tell them they have to make some heartbreaking decisions that will save the world or end it. I think the ending is very polarizing. I loved it...I think. It's been almost a month since I finished the book



and I am still thinking about it. It definitely stays with you.

The Chalk Man by J.C. Tudor. It was not my favorite. The story starts in 1986 when this kid Eddie and his friends use chalk men on the sidewalks to send coded messages to each other. Then one day the chalk men lead the boys to a dead body of a murdered girl. Jump to 2016 and another murder and the return of the chalk men. I found the book a little meh, with an ending that annoyed me.

Kill Creek by Scott Thomas. I am only about half way through this book but so far it is a basic haunted house story that infects the people that have stayed the night inside. I'm excited to see how it plays out but don't have high hopes.

The audio book of ***Pet Sematary*** by Stephen King is greatness. *It* is narrated by Michael C. Hall from *Dexter* and *Six Feet Under*. We all know the horrific story but Hall's narration brought some newness and a perfect tone to the book. Check it out if audio is your thing.

IT by Stephen King is one of my all-time

favorite books. The audio version of the book, not so much. The story, of course is great but the narration by Steven Weber from the TV show *Wings* and a bunch of other shows is just awful. I like him as an actor okay but he needs to quit doing audio books. When he does the voices for women or girls he sounds laughable and pulls you right out of the story. When he does his scary voice or even worse, his loud screaming voice, I swear it is like nails on a chalkboard. Please Steven, STAAAP IT!

Don't judge me for listening to audio books. From my door to S4, it is a 30 minute commute. So for at least an hour a day I am driving. Audiobooks keep me from hulking out in traffic and keep my road rage down to a mild annoyance.

My bathroom book, I hope I don't have to explain that, is usually a gothic novel or compendium of comic books. I don't do comic books because I need more story than a single comic can provide, but a compendium or omnibus is perfect for me. It is a large collection of comic books stories, usually an entire year's worth, sometimes three years.

Right now I am into ***Hack/Slash***, the story of a young girl, Cassandra Hack, whose sole purpose in life is to kill slashers and serial killers. She and her sidekick Vlad, a huge ugly monster of a man, travel America and sometimes other dimensions to fight and kill bad guys. It kind of reminds me of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* but on steroids. Her storyline has even come across everybody's favorite smart ass killer doll *Chucky* and *The Re-Animator*. My weird-o fabulous friend May May Graves got me hooked *Hack/Slash*. It's stupid fun.

Of course I can't wait for the next *Walking Dead* collection of comics. Book 15 comes out in October. I love to see how the comic is different than the show. I am a die-hard *Walking Dead* fan. I've seen every episode and read every book at least twice. I know a lot of people lost interest in the show after the brutal death of Glen but to me, still the best show ever on television. That and *Game of Thrones*. Damn, I am a geek.

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



The friendly staff at the Cedar Springs Tap House

Making the SCENE the week of Aug. 3-9

- **Alexandre's:** **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie Broadway** on Tuesday. **Carymel** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Imperial Court Show** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Mr. and Miss Cowntown** from 4-7 on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court** from 6-10 on Friday. **Purple Party** at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Hidden Door:** **Miss Leo XXXI Pageant** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Open Mic Comedy Night** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Nicole O'hara Munro** hosts **Sexcapade** on Friday.
- **Pekers:** **Karaoke Cash** sign up by 10:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Dive and Angels** present **World Series Karaoke** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. Compete for best solo and group performances. \$100 prize for each category.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Divas of Disco** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **LeQube Live** at 9:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **TMC:** **The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays** at TMC.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Hot Hits and Comedy Clips** on Friday.
- **Zippers:** **Erotica** at 10 p.m. on Thursday.

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



Living it up at The Round-Up Saloon



Jake strikes a pose on The Strip



Jameson shows off his shades at The Grapevine



The gang's all here at The Hidden Door



Fun on tap at Cedar Springs Tap House



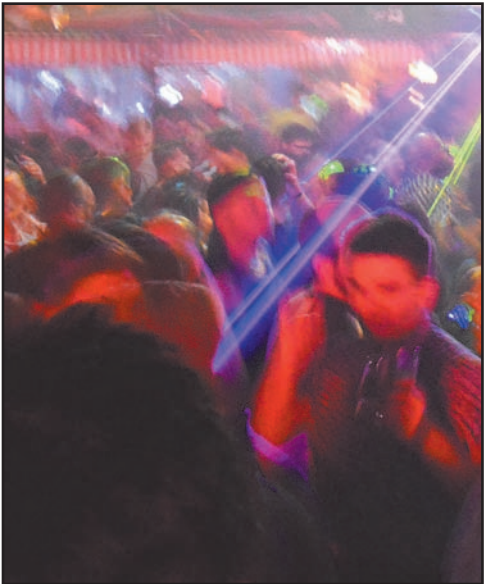
Dancing the night away at Sue Ellen's



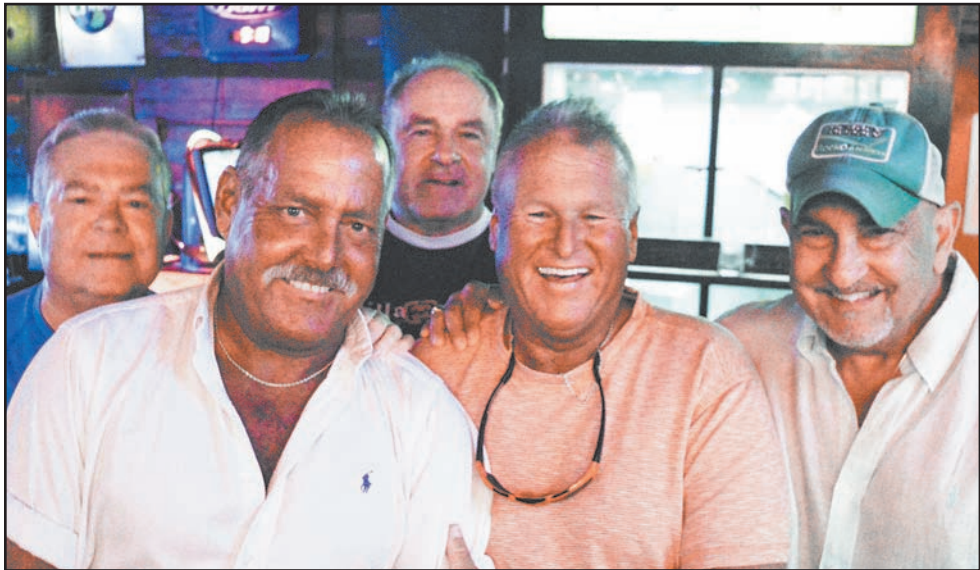
Selena Stone and a friend at S4



Patio time at Sue Ellen's



A packed house at the Round-Up Saloon



Guys having fun at The Hidden Door



Chaselyn Wade and her art at her first exhibit



Jameson at The Grapevine

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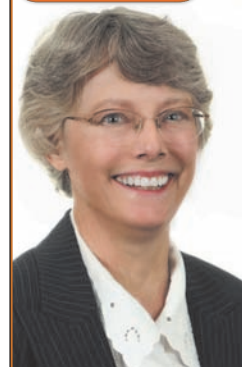
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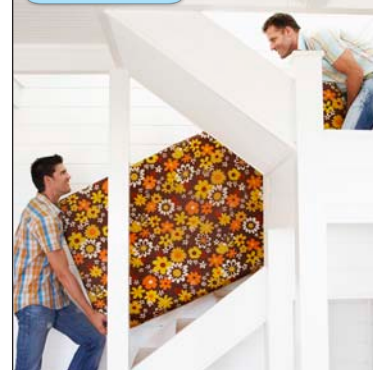


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Boy Erased

Solution on Page 27

Across

- 1 Illegal block in Esera
- Tuaola's sport
- 5 Place for Young men?
- 9 Painter Frida
- 14 *The Amazing* ____
- 15 Not elite
- 16 Weenie
- 17 Bird, to Brutus
- 18 Look for hotties in a
gay bar
- 19 Juicy fruits
- 20 She plays the mom of a
gay teen in "Boy Erased"
- 23 Immigrant ed. choice
- 24 Suffix for Krypton
- 25 Rufus Wainwright
and Lance Bass
- 29 South Beach souvenir
- 31 Dollar bill holder for
male strippers
- 33 Hustler's stick
- 34 Rhine feeder
- 36 Latin I verb
- 37 Bang opening?
- 38 Type of therapy in
"Boy Erased"
- 42 Joey and others
- 43 Big ____ (Lea DeLaria
OITNB role)
- 44 Hansberry's
A Raisin in the ____
- 45 Improve wine or cheese
- 46 Butt in the mouth
- 48 They might bite
your shorts

- 52 Shakespearean tragedy
- 54 Ecology org.
- 56 Louis XIV, for one
- 57 He plays the dad of a
gay teen in "Boy Erased"
- 60 Papas' partners
- 63 Heroine in a Tennessee
Williams play
- 64 Hogwarts Mail
deliverers
- 65 Ointment for a gash
- 66 French goose egg
- 67 Come together
- 68 David Sedaris essay
collection
- 69 *Kiss Me* ____
- 70 Alan of *The West Wing*

Down

- 1 Frasier and Niles
- 2 Like Liberace's mansion
- 3 Cold spike
- 4 Cancun coin
- 5 King's defeat of Riggs,
e.g.
- 6 Box office buy
- 7 Anti-oxidant berry
- 8 Rita Mae Brown's
Songs to a ____ *Woman*
- 9 Grammy winner for
"Constant Craving"
- 10 Blowing away
- 11 Line of dresses
- 12 *Go Set a Watchman*
writer Harper

- 13 Delivery people, briefly
- 21 Almost the color purple
- 22 Majors counterpart for
Glenn Burke
- 26 Cave ricochet
- 27 Screw to the extreme
- 28 "Oh yeah? ____ who?"
- 30 One-night-stand partners
- 32 Utter chaos
- 35 Men with steel rods
- 37 Brown bagger
- 38 "Do What U Want" Lady
- 39 Mapa of *Switched at Birth*
- 40 Where to find a
pair of bears
- 41 Sometime poisonous
plant
- 42 Cooking spray
- 46 Like really cheap
condoms?
- 47 Gladiator's headgear
- 49 Tool you can stick in
your dirty places
- 50 Paid tribute to a
Ginsberg poem
- 51 Nap with Lorca?
- 53 One of the Village People
- 55 Air Force One, for one
- 58 *East of Eden* director
Kazan
- 59 Caesar's city
- 60 ISP option
- 61 Org. that will get you a
map to Provincetown
- 62 New York blvd.



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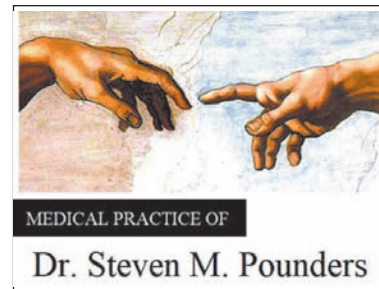
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