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Tarrant  
County

# PRIDE

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BeyondShade Starr & crew in the 2017 Tarrant County Pride parade.  
Photo by Tammye Nash.  
Design by Kevin Thomas.

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## Trump administration to deny visas to U.N. same-sex partners

The Trump administration will deny visas to unmarried same-sex partners of U.N. diplomats. Officials from other countries must prove they are married by the end of the year or their partners will be forced to leave the U.S. The decision will affect at least 10 current U.N. employees, according to Foreign Policy.

Married same-sex couples have the same rights as opposite-sex couples while serving in the U.S. But if they return to their home countries, some of those U.N. staff members could be subject to prosecution, because homosexuality is illegal in their homelands.

In a September memo to staff, the U.N.'s chief of human resources wrote, "The Department of State will not issue a G-4 visa for same-sex domestic partners. As of 1 October 2018, same-sex domestic partners ... seeking to join newly arrived U.N. officials must provide proof of marriage to be eligible for a G-4 visa or to seek a change in such status."

The Trump administration said it would make "limited exemptions" for diplomats from countries where same-sex marriage is illegal. That probably covers all of the partners who are not married.

The Trump administration claims the purpose is to equalize how same-sex and opposite-sex marriages are treated. No diplomatic visas are issued to opposite-sex partners. But same-sex partners from most countries have no option to marry in

their country of origin and in some countries their marriage would put their lives in danger.

— David Taffet

## Bathroom bill is off Abbott's agenda



In the Sept. 28 debate between Gov. Greg Abbott and Lupe Valdez, the governor said a bathroom bill is no longer on his agenda.

What the governor didn't say was whether he would sign a bathroom bill if one crossed his desk. A number of Republicans in the House and Senate have promised to introduce bathroom bills in the next Legislature.

In the last session of the Legislature, numerous bathroom bills were proposed, with the final bill written by Rep. Matt Rinaldi. Speaker of the House Joe Straus refused to bring the bill to the floor of the Senate for a vote during the general session. When Abbott called a special session, he placed a number of items on the agenda, including the

bathroom bill. The Senate quickly passed the bill that would have discriminated against trans people, but Straus again refused to put the bill up for a vote after leaders from major corporations around the state testified against it. Straus said he refused to be the reason for one person's death.

The conservative Texas Association of Business said over the next 10 years, Texas could have

lost \$5.6 billion if the bill passed. In the upcoming election, TAB has endorsed Julie Johnson who is challenging Rinaldi.

— David Taffet

## Barack Obama endorses Julie Johnson

Former President Barack Obama has endorsed openly-lesbian candidate Julie Johnson for Texas House of Representatives. She is running to replace Republican incumbent Matt "bathroom bill" Rinaldi in District 115.

In his list of endorsements for candidates around the country, Obama tweeted, "Today, I'm proud to endorse even more Democratic candidates who aren't just running against something, but for something — to expand opportunity for all of us and to restore dignity, honor, and compassion to public service. They deserve your vote."

Obama also endorsed state Rep. Eric Johnson of Dallas, who is not only running for re-election to his Texas House seat, but has thrown his hat in the ring to replace Joe Straus as speaker of the Texas House. Although Johnson is a Democrat in the Republican-controlled Legislature, the speaker is selected by all members of the state House of Representatives, not just by the party in power, as happens in the U.S. House.

Other Texas endorsements include Gina Ortiz Jones, another openly-lesbian candidate, who

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is running for the West Texas U.S. House seat in District 23 against incumbent Will Hurd. Polls show that race is very tight.

Obama also endorsed Ana-Maria Ramos who is challenging Linda Koop for her North Dallas Texas House seat. When Koop sat on the Dallas City Council, she was a reliable ally to the LGBT community. After entering the Texas House, she turned on the community as well as her gay brother and received a 0 percent rating from Equality Texas.

Obama threw his support behind Terry Meza running against Texas House incumbent Rodney Anderson, R-Irving, and Rhetta Bowers running against Jonathan Boos to replace Rep. Cindy Burkett, R-Garland.

— David Taffet

## Lambda Weekly named Top 20 podcast

Lambda Weekly — hosted by Patti Fink, Lerone Landis and Dallas Voice's own David Taffet each Sunday on 89.3 KNON FM right here in Dallas — has been named one of the top 20 LGBT podcasts by Feedspot.com.

Lambda Weekly has been broadcast live each Sunday on KNON since 1983 except for one year during that period when it ran on Wednesday morning drive time. It was one of the first radio shows in the country providing news, information and interviews of interest to the gay and lesbian community. Guests include political figures, authors, filmmakers and people of interest from throughout the LGBT community.

— Tammye Nash

## pet of the week /MISS GINGER



Meet **Miss Ginger**, a 3-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix weighing 65 pounds. She's an outgoing, friendly girl who loves making new friends, going for walks and learning tricks for treats. She walks well on her leash and knows how to sit on command. She gets along with children, rides well in the car and loves attention from people. She is particular about her dog friends, so she may do best as an only dog. If you're looking for an affectionate pup to cuddle with, she's the one for you! Miss Ginger has been spayed and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today! #164778

Miss **Ginger**, is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones

Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness 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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# 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.

## OCTOBER

### • Through Oct. 7: QCinema

LGBT film festival at Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art, 3200 Darnell St, Fort Worth. Schedule and tickets available at [Qcinema.org](http://Qcinema.org).

### • Through Oct. 18: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop

Did you come out recently or have you been out for awhile. No matter where you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family and friends facilitated by Rev. Robin Booth, Rev. Jane Graner and CoH member Will Fields on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, Conference Rooms A/B, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at [CathedralOfHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups/coh-care-ministry-groups/the-journey-workshop](http://CathedralOfHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups/coh-care-ministry-groups/the-journey-workshop). For more info email [will.fields@live.com](mailto:will.fields@live.com).

### • Through Oct. 21: State Fair of Texas

### • Oct. 5: DFW Pride Happy Hour

UT and OU LGBT alumni organizations host Pride happy hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Oct. 5: Candy and Jimmy's Couple Communication Workshop

Candy Marcum and Jimmy Owen present a workshop to teach the skills you need to help resolve conflict by speaking for yourself and listening to your partner from at 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, 10 a.m. on Oct. 6 and 5 p.m. on Oct. 12 at 4228 N. Central Expressway Suite 225. \$450 per couple.

### • Oct. 6: Tarrant County Pride Parade and Festival

The Tarrant County Pride Parade begins at 11 a.m. along Commerce Street from the Tarrant County Courthouse to the convention center. The Water Garden Festival runs from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Fort Worth Water Gardens, 1502 Commerce St. For more information, visit [TCGPWA.org](http://TCGPWA.org).

### • Oct. 6: TX Latino Pride

The largest Latinx Pride music festival in Texas from 1-8 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

### • Oct. 6: Blessing of the Animals

The Order of St. Francis and St. Clare is facilitating the annual Blessing of the Animals from 1-4 p.m. near the new Cedar Springs entrance of Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Oct. 7: North Texas Drag Bingo

North Texas Drag Bingo presents "Village People Drag Bingo" from 2-6 p.m., at Vnyl, 5800 Legacy Drive in Plano. Proceeds from this event benefit Team Metro's LifeWalk efforts. General admission is free. VIP tickets are \$10, available online at [NorthTexasDragBingo.com](http://NorthTexasDragBingo.com).

### • Oct. 7: LifeWalk

Registration at 11 a.m. and 5K walk at 1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

### • Oct. 7: Tarrant County Pride Picnic

The Pride Picnic, treasure hunt and pet fest runs noon-6 p.m. at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion. For more information, visit [TCGPWA.org](http://TCGPWA.org).

### • Oct. 9: Last day to register to vote

Visit [Vote.DoSomething.org](http://Vote.DoSomething.org) to make sure you are registered.

### • Oct. 9: 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](mailto:development@mysresourcecenter.org).

### • Oct. 9: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Oct. 10: Historical marker unveiled

Historical marker will be installed and unveiled at the Crossroads at 7 p.m. outside JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Oct. 10: No Place for Hate

The Anti-Defamation League hosts No Place for Hate youth summit for 7th and



Tuesday, Oct. 9, is the last day to register to vote in the November mid-term elections. See listings for link to make sure you are registered.

• **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 musician **Laura Cerulli**; **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; **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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

8th graders from across North Texas and Oklahoma to participate in an all-day workshop to give them tools to confront bullying from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 1st Ave.

### • Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

### • Oct. 11: New member showcase

Meet the GLBT Chamber's newest members from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Aloft Dallas Downtown, 1033 Young St.

### • Oct. 12: A Night Out with Trevor

Trevor Project celebrates its 20th

anniversary with cocktails and canapes from 8 p.m.-midnight at The Hall on Dragon, 1500 Dragon St. \$50-75.

### • Oct. 13: Federal Club fall luncheon

Candidates Colin Allred, Julie Johnson and Mark Phariss are the speakers at the Federal Club fall luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St. Self parking in Thanksgiving Tower garage. Federal Club members free. Guests \$35. Unaccompanied guests \$50 advance, \$55 at door.



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# Celebrating Pride in Tarrant County

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**T**he 37th annual Tarrant County Gay Pride Week kicked off Thursday, Oct. 4, with a Pride Meet-and-Greet honoring this year's grand marshal, honorary grand marshal and Raina Lea Award nominees. The fun continues with a full weekend of events scheduled in Fort Worth.

This year's grand marshal is the Rev. Ken Ehrke, and honorary grand marshal is the Fellowship of Love Outreach Church. Entertainer Jerika Tailor is the Raina Lee Award winner.

## The Rev. Ken Ehrke

Ehrke has been a pastor and activist in the LGBTQ community since 1982, and has pastored Metropolitan Community Church congregations in Maryland, Georgia and, in Texas, Corpus Christi and Fort Worth. He has volunteered with and served on the boards of Colorado AIDS Project in Denver, Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, D.C., Whitman-Walker Health Suburban Maryland (chairing that board), Food and Friends in Washington, D.C., and AIDS Interfaith Network and AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County.

Ehrke pastored Agape Metropolitan Community Church for eight years, and has been at Embrace United Church of Christ for the last four-and-a-half years. He was active in ministry to those with HIV/AIDS and their families in the 1980s and '90s, helping coordinate care and conducting memorial services. He has also been a transgender advocate since the early 1990s and has helped countless men and women through the journey of transition to begin their true lives.

Ehrke has been a marriage and relationship workshop contract educator since 2008 in Tarrant, Johnson and Wise counties and has worked diligently to open those workshops to LGBTQ relationships. He is a trainer of the CBMCS Diversity Workshops attended by all newly-hired employees

from the Tarrant County Mental Health Connection Agencies, a member of the Tarrant County Mental Health Connection Diversity Committee and chair of the LGBTQ subcommittee. He has prepared numerous educational workshops on gay and transgender issues for the Mental Health Connection and for individual agencies, and in 2018 his LGBTQ subcommittee conducted six workshops on LGBT issues and two LGBTQ Safe Zone trainings for more than 300 employees from 40 different Tarrant



County Mental Health Connection Agencies.

Embrace UCC hosts a monthly Coalition for Aging LGBT senior social luncheon, and Ehrke supports the Coalition for Aging LGBT events. He has been a supporter of LGBT foster families, LGBT families and LGBTQ teens for years, and currently serves on the board of Mission Central Food Pantry and Village Library in Hurst, as secretary of the North Texas Association of UCC and on the NTA Committee on Ministry and Executive Committee.

Rev. Ehrke and his partner, life companion and finally husband, Steve Grenzow, have been together since 1987.

## Fellowship of Love

Fellowship of Love Outreach Church has ministered to the LGBTQ community for 31 years, and is known for lively music and worship. The Rev. Stacey Fox has been the



## Parade, Festival, Picnic

The Tarrant County Pride parade steps off at 11 a.m. down Commerce Street, starting at Weatherford Street and heading south through downtown to end at Lancaster Avenue. This year's parade theme is "Remember the Past, Create the Future."

The annual Pride festival, being held again this year at the Fort Worth Water Gardens, 1502 Commerce St., is from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is \$5, and organizer Tony Coronado said the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association is charging an admission fee "mainly for security reasons. We had never charged to attend any of our Pride events [until last year when the festival was moved to the Water Gardens], and we had a hard time making the decision to do so. But it really is the best way to ensure security at the festival."

This year's festival will feature entertainment by Ari Crush and Alex Marie Brinkley, female impersonators, dancing and a Super Hero Contest for children and adults in the amphitheater. The MerFriends will be at the festival from 1-3, taking photos with fans at the aerated pool and at the quiet pool. Other characters will also be available for photos.

Pride weekend continues on Sunday with the Pride Picnic and Treasure Hunt/Pet Fest, from noon-6 p.m. at the Pavilion in Trinity Park, just off 7th Street in Fort Worth. The event is free and will include vendors, dancing and live entertainment.

Coronado said that this year's parade will have about 50 entries, and that prizes will be awarded to the best entries in various categories.



# Turn up your pride!

Pride is about more than an event or a day. It's about self-care, self-love, compassion, celebration, social justice, community support, and equality.

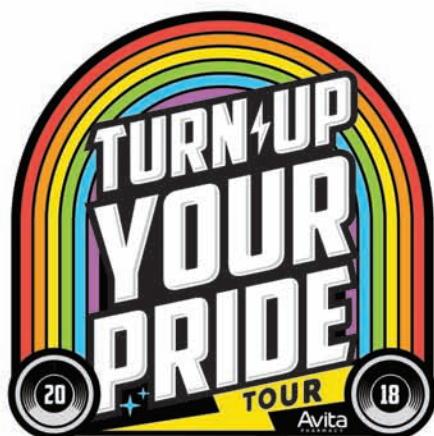
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# Prism Health teams with Harvard for study

People living with HIV are developing heart disease at twice the normal rate

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

People living with HIV are developing heart disease at twice the rate of the general population, and Prism Health and Harvard Medical School want to know why.

Prism Health is participating in a large study on the subject organized by Harvard Medical School. Tori Hobbs, chief marketing and development officer for Prism Health, said research to develop the best care for people with HIV is one place your money goes when you participate in LifeWalk.

The study is to find prevention strate-

## LifeWalk 2018

The 2018 LifeWalk: Walk to End AIDS is set for Sunday, Oct. 7, at Oak Lawn Park on Turtle Creek. Day-of registration and the festival open at 11 a.m., and the walk itself steps off at 1 p.m.

Registration is \$40, which can be paid online at LifeWalk.org, prior to the event, or at the park on the day of the walk. Those paying online in advance can either pay the full amount or pledge to raise at least \$40.

LifeWalk.org also gives participants the chance to create a LifeWalk team, join an existing team, or donate to an individual walker, a team or in general.

The festival includes food and beverage booths, health education booths, music, games and more, and the entire event is family- and pet-friendly.

The walk is a 5K — 3.2 miles — through the Turtle Creek/Uptown neighborhoods, beginning and ending at Oak Lawn Park.

Proceeds from LifeWalk benefit Prism Health North Texas and its partner agencies, AIDS Services of Dallas, Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Dallas Hope Charities, Turtle Creek Chorale, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dogs Matter, Women's Chorus of Dallas and Black Transmen.



gies for strokes and heart attacks is called REPRIEVE — Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV. Katie Fitch, a nurse practitioner at Massachusetts General Hospital, is the program manager.

Fitch said the elevated risk might be a combination of traditional risk factors — like diet, exercise, smoking, aging — and nontraditional factors — like immune sys-

tem activation. Some older HIV medications, she said, raise triglycerides and indirectly cause heart disease.

“We’re giving people a statin when they’re considered to be at low risk,” she said, adding that some HIV medications “might have an effect on diabetes and glucose, which is a heart disease factor.”

PRISM HEALTH Page 18



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# Texas' largest Latino Pride festival

**T**exas' largest Latino Pride celebration, the fifth annual Texas Latino Pride, is set for Oct. 6, in Reverchon Park and will feature seven hours of bachata, pop, salsa and cumbia.

According to organizer Juan Contreras, the line-up includes everything from local music favorites like Mi Diva Loca to drag performers like San Antonio's Toni Andrews and local newcomer Celestia Moon to cumbia group Los Gran Reyes.

The lineup also includes HighDefinition, Ruby Diamond, DJ Level, Normani Kween and DJ Mateo. And, "For cowboys we'll bring out a mechanical bull," Contreras said.

"Celestia Moon has been doing lots of the promotional stuff for us out on the Strip," Contreras said.

He described Moon as a very hard work-

er who was also very entertaining on stage. As a newcomer to drag performing, he said, this will be her biggest audience to date.

Chicago's Tatiana Hazel, whose family is from Durango, sings in both English and Spanish, citing Selena as her inspiration.

In addition to the music, there will be about 50 vendors in the park. Univision will have an interactive booth, as will Nielsen Media Research. The Neilsens determine television audience size. Contreras said the company contacted him because the Latinx community has been harder to survey, and the company saw this as an opportunity.

Contreras said this is the most ambitious Latino Pride they've staged and hope to exceed last year's attendance of 1,300.

The festival is sponsored by the offices of Dallas City Council members Adam Medrano and Omar Narvaez.

"My office is honored to sponsor this year's Texas Latino Pride, which shows off what a vibrant and beautiful LGBTQ Latinx community we have here in Dallas," Narvaez said. "We want people of all races, creeds, religions, ages and genders to know that Dallas is a welcoming city to all."

The organization has named the North Texas Dream Team — which Contreras described as a grassroots organization helping DACA recipients with re-

newal workshops — as beneficiary.

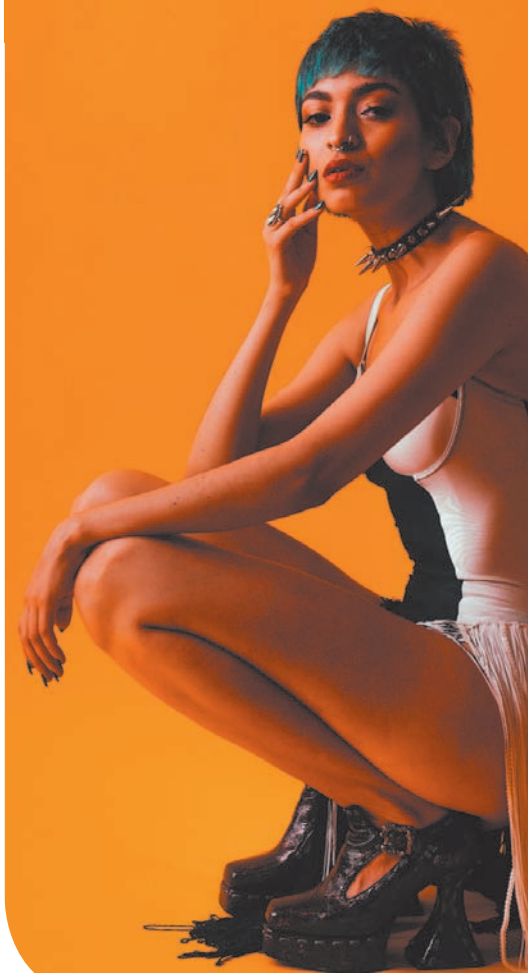
Admission is \$5. Special VIP admission is \$50 in advance and \$65 at the door and includes catered food, swag from sponsors and signature drinks.

Personal bags will be allowed in the park but outside food and alcohol are prohibited.

— David Taffet

## Texas Latino Pride

Saturday, Oct. 6 from 1-8 p.m.  
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\$5-65  
TexasLatinoPride.com



Tatiana Hazel



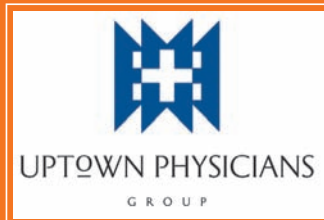
Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



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# The beginnings of Black Pride in Dallas

COURTESY OF THE DALLAS WAY

For generations, African-American LGBTQ individuals felt left out of Gay Pride events, and in many instances, they were not welcome. Racial tensions were high in Dallas, even within the last 30 years — between the majority and minority groups, as well as within those groups.

Just because someone identifies as LGBTQ, that does not automatically guarantee that that individual isn't racist. In fact, implicit bias exists within everyone, even those who have been discriminated against.

Progress has been made, but there is a long way to go, and even as minority LGBTQ groups have begun to be integrated into primarily white organizations and events, like the Pride festival and parade, many still feel the need for a group that is exclusively for the Black LGBTQ community.

What is *Black Pride*, or *Black Prides*? According to various authorities, Black Pride is the celebration of the African-American LGBTQ community, but more than that, it is a time of cultural celebrations that affirm and empower a community of invisible people in a climate of hostility (Jasmine Cannick, NPR, June 2005).

"Black Prides allow people of color the chance to celebrate our culture and orientation without explanation," says LaToya Hankins, of North Carolina's Shades of Pride. "We can feel free to attend an hour workshop, take in a drag gospel show, or hang out in the park basking in the company of our fellow black gay/queer/same-gender-loving folks, without having to shape our existence to fit someone else's comfort level."

Black Pride events "strengthen our collective power by providing a culturally-specific celebration for communities that live at the intersections of racism, homophobia, transphobia, and/or sexism," Hankins said.

"The annual Black Gay Pride Weekend is designed to promote an atmosphere of

positive interaction and celebrate the intersectionality of our lesbian, gay, bi, trans and Queer (LGBTQ) identity and our black identity as individuals who create a collective community." (Les Fabian Braithwaite, *Why Black Pride Matters*, April 28, 2016, The Advocate)

According to Earl Fowlkes Jr., president and CEO of the Center for Black Equity, there are more than 25 Black Prides in the United States, with the largest occurring in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Dallas has its own Black Pride, now known as Dallas Southern Pride, which welcomed more than 15,000 participants last year to its various events, and recently welcomed an even bigger crowd this year. Now known as Southern Black Pride, the organization just hosted the 21st annual Black Pride Weekend Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, the same weekend as the Grambling State Prairie View A&M football game at the Cotton Bowl. The celebration included four days of festivities, including celebrities, workshops, a beauty pageant and health services.

While historically Prides have been predominately gay male events, Dallas Southern Pride continues to build alliances and partnerships that are inclusive of both women and transgender organizations to ensure the needs of all communities are addressed with workshops on relationships, health, wellness and financial planning.

Dallas Southern Pride maintains its place in history as the only local Black Pride organization in this area that provides signature events aimed at the black LGBTQ community. (From the Dallas Southern Pride website)

So, how did Black Pride start in Dallas? According to Betty Neal, an activist for the entire LGBTQ community, Black Pride started with conversations about the need for a place, an organization, an event, that celebrated black LGBTQ Pride, apart from and unique to the Dallas Pride festivals.

Around 1996, The Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M football game in the Cotton Bowl provided the catalyst for the black gay community to gather under one roof. Flyers were sent to both colleges to be



Betty Neal

sure gay students had the opportunity to join in the festive event.

There was no organization or money, just the will to show pride within the community and to honor the black LGBTQ residents of Dallas. Entertainment became the common denominator for accomplishing this goal.

Strength of unity, family and a commonality were the seeds of an organization that began to take root. Bar owners Joe Elliott and Howard Okon provided the venues where the Black Pride events could be held, and the biggest names in black LGBTQ entertainment throughout the country were booked, drawing in large and diverse crowds.

As with any organization, the beginnings were painful and full of turmoil, infighting and debate, leading to a loss of direction and mission. But according to Neal, Roy Murray took the event in a new direction, with perseverance, determination and hard work. The point was to be inclusive yet apart from the Dallas LGBTQ Pride fes-

tivities.

"Black Pride is more important than ever because the collective voice of queer people of color has never been clearer or more urgent. After being silenced and ignored, these voices deserve to be heard, if only to recount how one pulls off the hat trick of being black, gay and proud in America — say it loud." (Why Black Pride Matters The Advocate March 28, 2016)

Meanwhile Betty Neal, who has spent 35 years working in nightclubs, is an original board member of the Alan Ross Freedom Parade as well as the original Dallas Southern Pride board. She continues working for the entire LGBTQ community and has been since she was born.

"I've never been in the closet; I'm designed this way," she declared.

She continues her activism and believes the highest compliment that can be paid to her is when someone says, "She's my friend." Betty has many friends and remains a cherished member of the Dallas LGBTQ community — all colors. ■



# The Matthew Shepard murder — 20 years later

**S**mall, effeminate, friendly and probably gullible, the attractive, blond 19-year-old teenager with the engaging smile never stood a chance when two maniacal thugs targeted him that night 20 years ago for robbery and worse in a crime that would rock a city, a state and the nation.

This month — October 2018 — marks the 20th anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard, a former University of Wyoming college student who became the face of anti-LGBTQ hate crime after the news of his grisly murder in 1998 spread internationally.

But while he never knew anything about the controversy surrounding him in his last few last days of life, he truly did not die in vain.

The city of Laramie and the University of Wyoming are preparing to commemorate the anniversary of the openly-gay student's death with a series of events, including a performance of "Considering Matthew Shepard" by Grammy-winning choral group Conspirare at Laramie High School Theater Oct. 6, the anniversary of the day Shepard was found, tied like a scarecrow to a fence and barely alive.

In announcing the plans, Laramie Mayor Andi Summerville said the international attention drawn to Laramie in the wake of Shepard's death "rocked this community ... absolutely to its fundamental core." The mayor was 17 at the time of Shepard's death, and she described the experience of living through that time and revisiting it today as "surreal."

During the trials of the two men accused of his murder, the world learned that the killers pretended to be gay in order to lure Shepard in and rob him. After meeting him in the college-town bar and enticing him to leave, the men pistol-whipped him, stole his cash and credit cards, tied him to a wooden pasture fence and left him dying in the bitter mountain cold. Shepard died of brain injuries, never having woken from the coma caused by the attack, on Oct. 12, 1998, after six days on life-support.

As Southern Poverty Law Center President Richard Cohen notes, Shepard's death shook the nation alert to the reality of anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. Cohen's organization is the pre-eminent chronicler of hate crimes and hate groups in the U.S.

"Just as the murder of Emmett Till



**David Webb**  
The Rare Reporter

[a 14-year-old black youth who was pistol-whipped, mutilated and tossed in a river in Mississippi in 1955] awakened America to the reality of racial violence, so the murder of Matthew Shepard awakened our country to the reality of violence against the LGBTQ community," Cohen said of the importance of Shepard's case.

Like Till, whose killers got an acquittal from an all-white jury despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary because Till had allegedly insulted a white woman, Shepard in death inspired a revolution in attitudes toward anti-LGBTQ discrimination and violence.

The outrage spawned by Till's death among blacks and sympathetic whites precipitated the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott four months after his funeral. Similarly, Shepard posthumously became an icon, and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. (a black man killed by three white supremacists in Jasper, Texas, in June 1998) Hate Crime Act was passed by Congress in 2009, 11 years after the two men's murders.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation, with the support of his parents, Judy and Dennis, keeps the story and the lesson to be learned from his death alive today. After his murder, the Tectonic Theater Project in New York City went to Laramie to learn about the impact of the crime on the city. The group created The Laramie Project, a play about the heinous anti-LGBTQ hate crime.

The foundation bearing the victim's name funds the presentation of the play across America, and the nonprofit group provides ongoing media resources and other information services to combat anti-LGBTQ hate crimes.

The group will host a gala in Denver on



Oct. 20 to raise funds for its work.

The reflections on Shepard's death come at an inauspicious time in American history. Despite heightened awareness about hate crimes and greater attention by law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system, the FBI documented an increase in hate crimes for 2016, the most recent year for the published results of its annual report that is released in late fall.

When the FBI releases the statistics for 2017, another increase in hate crimes is expected, according to organizations researching and analyzing the activity. The Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University San Bernadino is forecasting the new FBI report will reveal disturbing news about a resurgence of violence in targeted large cities, including Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

"We have collected new police data from 2017, ahead of the FBI totals, and performed the first analysis of that year's hate crimes, with a particular emphasis on the 10 largest U.S. cities," states the report of May 2018, overseen by Criminologist Brian Levin. "Our investigation found that hate crime totals for the 10 largest cities [also New York City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, Chicago, San Jose and Philadelphia] rose for four straight years to the highest level in a decade."

The center identified the most common hate crime categories in its analysis as anti-black, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ and anti-Latino, except in two cities. In New York City, Jews were the primary target, while

LGBTQ people were the most common victims in Los Angeles.

At the same time when hate crimes are increasing, the Southern Poverty Law Center is seeing an increase in the number of white supremacist groups becoming active in the nation. Leaders of the groups in Alabama and California agree that there appears to be a correlation between President Trump's bombastic, vicious rhetoric belittling minorities before and after his election and the growth of hate propaganda and violence.

A spike in hate crimes, especially targeting Muslims, was seen about the time of the 2016 election and thought to be inspired by Trump's campaign.

In Charlottesville, Va., white supremacists staged a rally Aug. 11-12, 2017, to protest the removal of Civil War monuments in the South, leading to violent clashes that resulted in three deaths and 33 injuries. One of the white nationalists drove his car into a crowd, killing a counter-protester, and two law enforcement officers in a helicopter monitoring the activity died in a crash.

Trump called both the white supremacists and the counter protesters who clashed "very fine people."

It is unlikely that anything or anyone can deter President Trump from his agenda that includes a daily routine of invective meant to satisfy his arch-conservative base, including those who spread the most vitriolic messages against LGBTQ people and other minorities. In the wake of Shepard's death protesters from the hate group Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas incredibly picketed his funeral with signs reading "Matt in Hell" and "God Hates Fags."

The commemoration of Shepard's horrific death will not soften the hearts of the hateful, but maybe it will kindle another movement to help drown out the voice of Trump and the hateful among his supporters. Ultimately, it will probably require Trump being voted out of office, barring a successful impeachment, to reverse the destructive social course the nation seems to be following now — all the more reason to commit to vote in every election so your voice will be heard.

*David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than four decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. In 2016, he received the Press Club of Dallas' Legends Award, bestowed in large part for his work with Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.*



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# LGBT historical marker to be placed at Crossroads

First LGBT plaque in Texas will stand outside JR.'s on Cedar Springs Road

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The first LGBT historical marker in Texas will be unveiled outside of JR.'s Bar & Grill on Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

The project was suggested by Robert Emery and funded by donors through The Dallas Way. In December 2016, at a fundraising brunch at the home of Richard Shampain and Jeff Henderson, 12 people agreed to fund the project.

Erin Moore was the first to contribute. She said the amount needed — \$1,800 — was small enough it could be raised that afternoon. Moore works for County Commissioner Theresa Daniel and had attended a meeting about placing "Undertold Stories Markers." She said a number were being approved around the county including one at the Juanita Craft house and one in Little Mexico.

"Certainly the LGBT community should be included," Moore said.

Emery said he and several other people from The Dallas Way, city of Dallas Historic Preservation Officer Mark Doty and Sam Childers from the Dallas County Historical Society met with Dwayne Jones of Preservation Texas in June 2016. Jones was interested the LGBT community applying for what he hoped would be the first of many LGBT Subject Markers in Texas.

They discussed a number of topics — including Resource Center, Cathedral of Hope, the Turtle Creek Chorale and Dallas Voice — but decided to focus on the Crossroads for the first marker.

The corner of Throckmorton Avenue and

Ed Oakley with Caven Enterprises agreed the marker should be placed on the side of JR.'s and arranged to get permission for that from the Caven Corporation that owns the building.

Childers wrote the required five page narrative for the application he called, "The Crossroads: The GLBT Community in Dallas." Markers generally commemorate a site or event that is more than 50 years old. So in the application, Childers explained some of the community's history:

was on South Ervay Street. Other downtown bars moved to Oak Lawn in 1980 to make way for one of the city's other gay institutions, the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Texas Historical Commission would take Childers' narrative to condense into a few paragraphs for the marker.

Emery submitted the application on Oct. 10, 2016, two years to the day before this week's unveiling, which Emery said he planned to coincide with LGBT History Month.



A mockup of how the marker will be placed. (Courtesy Robert Emery)

Cedar Springs Road was called "The Crossroads for several decades because of one of the early retailers to open on the Strip. The store, called Crossroads Market, was an eclectic mix of antiques, picture framing, jewelry, cards and magazines, each sold by different vendors. Among them were Bill Nelson and Terry Tebedo, who created the Resource Center Food Pantry when they put up a shelf in the store for people to leave cans of food or pick up cans of food. William Waybourn, another of the store's owners, moved to Washington, D.C., to found the LGBT Victory Fund.

"The city was home to one of the first gay bars in Texas (1947); the first gay organization in Texas, 'The Circle of Friends,' was established in Dallas in 1965; and the city's GLBT community held Texas's first gay Pride parade in 1972," he wrote. "The area surrounding the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street in Dallas has been considered the center of the GLBT community in Dallas since the early 1970s and is referred to 'the gay crossroads or 'The Crossroads' for short."

Circle of Friends is now known as Cathedral of Hope and that first bar, Club Reno,

In November 2016, the Dallas County Historical Commission unanimously approved the Crossroads marker application. In March 2017, The Dallas Way paid \$1,800 for the plaque. Dallas County contributed \$500 toward it, and Caven formally agreed to allow the plaque to be put on the building, but within the last week, a decision was made to place the marker on a pole in front of the building.

There are 16,000 Texas historical markers throughout the state, and markers have been placed in every one of Texas' 254 counties.



# A Night Out for Trevor: DALLAS

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## Fifth Circuit court denies Woodruff's appeal

A federal appeal court has blocked Brandon Dale Woodruff's latest effort to overturn his conviction for the double-murder of his parents in Royse City in East Texas in 2005.

Woodruff, a gay man who has spent 13 years behind bars and is profiled in the book *Railroaded* and the documentary *Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff*, has always maintained his innocence. He and his supporters claim homophobia prevented him from receiving a fair trial.

Prosecutors said that Woodruff, who had not publicly come out yet when he was arrested, likely lied about murdering his parents because he hid his sexual orientation from most people and led a secret life that included going to gay discos and appearing in a couple of gay porn films produced by a Florida filmmaker. They also pointed to his failing grades at Abilene Christian University, where he was a 19-year-old freshman, and to his high credit card debt as possible motivations for the murders.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled Sept. 20 that Woodruff, who is serving a life sentence with no parole in the Hughes Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections, would not be eligible to appeal a devastating ruling before his trial. He previously was also denied a writ by the U.S. Northern District Court of Texas.

A Hunt County judge acknowledged prior to the sensational 2009 murder trial that prosecutors violated Woodruff's constitutional rights by secretly tape recording the defendant's conversations with his lawyers. The district attorney's office turned the prosecution over to the Texas Attorney General, but the judge declined to dismiss the capital murder indictment.

This most recent denial is yet another in a string of setbacks for Woodruff, whose appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Appellate District of Texas in Texarkana, on the grounds of insufficient evidence and trial court errors, was denied in 2010. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin later refused to hear an appeal of that lower court decision.

In a telephone interview from prison, Woodruff said that the news of the federal court's denial of his appeal saddened, shocked and angered him. Woodruff believes the rejections of his appeals had more to do with a "concern he might have



David Webb  
The Rare Reporter

done it" rather than whether he received a fair trial.

Woodruff said that despite his initial disappointment, he feels renewed determination to prove his innocence and to seek justice for

his parents whom he loved and with whom he enjoyed a good relationship.

"I would rather come home on actual innocence rather than a phone call violation," Woodruff said. "I know in my heart I didn't do it, and I want everyone else to know it."

Woodruff said his lawyer advised him he could mount an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court at a cost of about \$5,000, but there is only a 1 percent chance the high court would even look at his case. It would be hard for his few supportive family members and friends who have already spent so much on his case to raise the money, he noted.

"It was a big blow and setback, but I refuse to be conquered," Woodruff said. "I'm not going to stop fighting and give up."

The website FreeBrandon.org is attempting to raise public support and money to help Woodruff continue his fight for freedom. Woodruff said he is hopeful enough people will become convinced of his innocence to influence the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to reopen his case and examine it in greater detail.

Filmmaker Scott Poggensee, who is producing the documentary that recently had a screening-in-process at the Texas Theater in Dallas and who launched FreeBrandon.org, said the bad news "adds another layer to an already tragic and complicated story." He hopes that as the documentary is finished and brought into wide release that it will inspire more people to get behind Woodruff.

"I'm surprised at how well Brandon handles it and keeps his head up no matter what," Poggensee said. "It truly inspires me to work harder and to do more for the film to get his story out. As someone who has gotten to know Brandon well over the last few years, I am heart-broken for him. It seems every time he turns around there's devastating news."

APPEAL Page 18



# Black Tie announces line-up

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

**B**lack Tie Dinner officials announced on Sept. 20 that senatorial candidate and Congressman Beto O'Rourke will be the opening speaker for this year's dinner, coming up Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. And local activist Kay Wilkinson was announced earlier this year as the 2018 Kuchling Humanitarian Award winner.

This week, on Thursday, Oct. 4, dinner officials announced the rest of this year's dinner line-up.

Actor Erich Bergen will receive the Media Award, and actress Jessi Cruickshank will receive the Ally for Equality Award. And comedian Dana Goldberg returns this year luxury auctioneer.

BTD Co-chair David Robinson said the BTD board is excited to have both Bergen and Cruickshank attending the dinner and accepting awards. He praised Bergen's contributions "through stage, song and film to raise positive awareness of LGBTQ issues."

Both Bergen and Cruickshank, he said "personify what it means to live your life visible as your authentic self."

BTD officials said they are also excited to have O'Rourke, the young Democrat from El Paso who is challenging anti-LGBT Republican incumbent Ted Cruz for one of Texas' two seats in the U.S. Senate. Some of the latest polls show O'Rourke with a slim lead over Cruz.

BTD Co-Chair Nate Robbins noted, "During his time in Congress, Beto O'Rourke has consistently been an advocate for the LGBTQ community. His message of equality and his willingness to bring visibility to all of the issues facing our community makes him an ideal person to open this year's Dinner."

### Erich Bergen

Bergen currently stars as Blake Moran on the CBS television drama, *Madam Secretary*, now in its fifth season. His character recently came out as bisexual, making him

one of the few bisexual male characters on TV.

Bergen made his Broadway debut this summer, starring opposite Katharine McPhee in the hit musical *Waitress*. He also starred in the Clint Eastwood film *Jersey Boys*, reprising his performance as Bob Gaudio from the Tony Award-winning stage production of the *Jersey Boys* musical. He has appeared in *Gossip Girl*, Roundabout Theatre Company's national tour of *Anything Goes* and the 2018 film, *Humor Me*.

Bergen performs as a singer in concert venues all over the world, and his albums are available wherever music is sold.

### Jessi Cruickshank

Cruickshank is the Canadian Screen Award-winning host of the daytime talk show *The Goods* and the prime-time game show Canada's *Smartest Person* on CBC. She broke into comedy as the only girl in an all-male improv comedy troupe alongside Seth Rogen and soon became a household name as the face of MTV Canada, hosting the daily show MTV LIVE and smash hit *The Hills After Show*, the first series in Canadian television history to be live-simulcast to the U.S.

Cruickshank re-located to Los Angeles to host *Live from E!*, *Oh Sit!*, *Fashion Fail* and *Jerseylicious*, and recently wrapped up her sixth season as the L.A. host of *eTalk*. Her digital shorts have more than 13 million views, and her most recent video, Kids on Pride, became a viral sensation, generating discussion and sparking controversy.

She is now a guest-anchor on E!'s *Daily Pop* and recently became a mom to identical twin boys.

### Dana Goldberg

Goldberg is returning this year to add her own brand of topical humor to the evening and to once again conduct the live luxury auction from the BTD stage.

She has been seen on TBS, ABC and *Last Comic Standing*, as well as at the San Francisco International Comedy Competition, The Comedy Festival produced by TBS



Clockwise from top left, Erich Bergen, Dana Goldberg, Jessi Cruickshank, Kay Wilkinson

and HBO, and the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her quick wit and playful stage presence have earned her loyal fans across the country and abroad and is one of the most sought-after entertainers on the circuit. She was voted one of the "Top Five Funniest Lesbians in America" by Curve magazine and one of the top three LGBT comedians in the nation by Advocate.com.

Goldberg has performed at and emceed dozens of high-profile events and has helped raise more than \$20 million for nonprofits around the country.

### Kay Wilkinson

Wilkinson is a long-time volunteer who says her upbringing as a Presbyterian preacher's kid instilled a life-long commitment to giving back to her community. She has a passion for helping at-risk children, working with literacy programs and inner city schools and ensuring that every child has the tools to excel. She strongly believes that early childhood education makes the difference.

Wilkinson has been active in myriad LGBTQ organizations and is an advocate of equality for all. She has volunteered with and served on the boards of many community organizations, including AIDS Services of Dallas, the Dallas Way, the Turtle Creek Chorale, the Women's Chorus of Dallas, the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas, the Human Rights Campaign and the Dallas-Fort Worth Federal Club. She has been an advocate for women since the early 1970s, fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment, Title IX, and a Woman's Right to Choose. She has also been a strong political activist, working with numerous campaigns and on a number of "Get Out the Vote" initiatives.

In her professional life, Wilkinson is the regional vice president for Caliber Home Loans, leading mortgage teams in Texas and Oklahoma. She has more than 30 years working in residential lending, and has been active in many professional associations, receiving the coveted Affiliate of the Year Award by MetroTex Realtor Association. ■





Other HIV medications cause lypodystrophy, an abnormal accumulation of weight, usually in the belly, as well as a loss of subcutaneous fat, which Fitch called “good fat.” Both can cause production of plaque that clogs arteries causing heart disease.

In people who are HIV-negative, statin medications reduce cholesterol and prevent heart disease. Previous smaller studies indicate the drug also works in people with HIV.

But statins are usually prescribed after

there’s an indication of high cholesterol. In this study, Fitch said, the medication is given as a preventive.

The study is looking for 7,500 participants total at 116 sites around the world. About 7,000 are already participating.

Potential participants must be between 40 and 75 years old and stable on their anti-retroviral regimen for at least six months. They must have no history of heart disease and not be currently taking a statin. The study, which began in 2015, will continue

through 2022.

Fitch called REPRIEVE a “straightforward study. Come in for a screening. If [you] qualify, [you’ll] be randomized to go on a placebo or a statin.”

Women with HIV are encouraged to participate, because researchers are also studying the difference between male and female effectiveness.

Lauren Rogers, Prism Health’s clinical research manager, said she’s signed up a number of people and is looking for more. But, she admitted, “Asking people to take one more medication can be a hard sell.”

Participants must come in once every

four months and take an extra set of labs once a year.

“We know that current anti-HIV medications work really well and therefore our patients are living longer,” Rogers said. “As our patient population ages, it is exciting to see research studies specifically for HIV and co-morbidities such as cardiovascular disease.”

She said Prism has for years advocated for studies like this, to learn how HIV and anti-HIV medications impact the body and the progression of diseases and conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. Now, Rogers said, “REPRIEVE is opening the door for future study into these conditions in people living with HIV.”

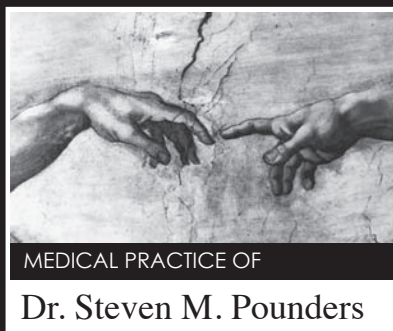
Rogers said you do not need to currently be a patient at Prism Health to participate. She has referred several Amelia Court patients back to UT Southwestern, which is also participating in the study. But someone who is currently with a private physician or at another clinic can continue seeing their own doctor and participate in the study. ■

To discuss participating in this or other studies through Prism Health, call 972-807-7370 and ask for the research coordinator.



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A former employee of the Hunt County Sheriff’s Department who recently wrote a review of Poggensee’s documentary for the Greenville Herald Banner said he considered Woodruff at the time of his detention in jail to be a terrified, bewildered young man who seemed to have no idea why he was suspected of his parents’ murders. He noted the handsome Woodruff “aged prematurely” awaiting trial between 2005 and 2009 while jailed in lieu of \$1 million bail.

Woodruff said he used to pray that whoever actually killed his parents would be stricken by conscience and come forward with the truth, but he now knows only continued investigation will lead to their exposure.

Woodruff said he has a “lot of time to think in prison,” and he spends much of it considering what he would do upon release. He said that if he ever gets to go home he wants to work with horses and other animals as he did growing up, to resume his college education and to help others who do not belong in prison gain freedom.

“I do not want to be a party boy anymore,” Woodruff said. “I want to make something out of life. This is not my home. This is not my place. This is just a temporary place until the truth comes out. It’s not a matter of if I come home, but when I come home.” ■



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## Fair and impartial?

In this age of such deep partisan divisions, suspicion and hate, a fair trial may not even be possible

Recently, I received that familiar letter in the mail from Dallas County informing me that I was cordially invited to jury duty. I am probably different from most people; my first reaction wasn't "Aww crap, how can I get out of this?" I find the process if not fun at least interesting and, often, educational.

So I notified work that I would be out on this particular Monday, and I headed for the Frank Crowley Courts Building with a positive attitude, an open mind and a good book — just in case.

I was directed to the Central Jury Room, which is a huge waiting area. Periodically, messages and instructions were announced by Jury Services. Then a judge came down and swore us in as a group, and after a while, we were assigned to our courtrooms by group.

I won't give the court number I was assigned to, but about 70 of us were asked to report. At 11 a.m., the judge sent us to lunch without us ever seeing the inside of the courtroom, and since the food court was being renovated lunch option consisted of food trucks.

At noon, we returned upstairs where we were given questionnaires and assigned juror numbers. When we were called into the courtroom, we were seated by juror number, and that's when the prosecutor and the defense attorney began questioning us. It's a process called "voir dire," where each side can question prospective jurors to weed out those who may be biased for or against the accused, for one reason or another.

It was during this process that I realized again, most vividly, just how divided we are as a country.

Ordinarily, whether a person has a prior conviction can't be mentioned in the guilt/innocence phase of a trial. But this case was an exception. The defendant was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, so we knew right off the bat the prosecution would show the accused was con-

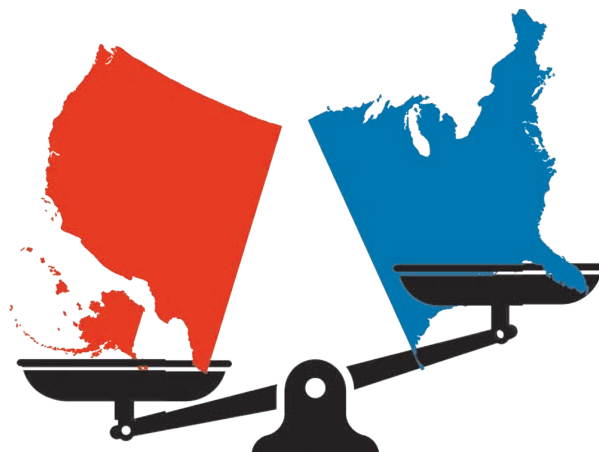


victed of a prior felony, though we had no clue as to what kind of crime he had been convicted of.

People are often mistaken when they say you are entitled to a trial before a jury of your peers. You aren't. You have the right to a jury trial before an impartial jury.

Yeah, good luck finding that. It's a nice thought though.

The bias exhibited by this panel was widespread and segmented. Some raised doubts they could judge the defendant fairly if the defendant didn't testify — even when they were reminded of the Fifth Amendment's guarantee that a defendant has the right not to testify and not have that



refusal used against them.

Here, in essence is what happened:

Court: "Here's the law, the Constitution our country was founded on. Can you respect it in this case?"

Jurors: "Nope."

Court: "According to the rule of law, the prosecution may provide as few as a single witness, and if that witness is convincing beyond a reasonable doubt, the state is entitled to a conviction. Can you apply that law?"

Jurors: "Nope, we need more."

Someone suggested that police can't be trusted because they have shot unarmed African-American people. While true, that doesn't really have any bearing on this case.

The accused was using a Spanish language interpreter. The panel was asked whether anyone had thoughts on that. Many did: "If they are in this country, they should speak English."

No one ever mentioned how long the accused had been in this country, and the defendant's immigration status was not discussed. Yet the bias was clear.

The question was raised as to whether a person with a previous felony conviction could get a fair trial. Several members of the panel said, essentially, "No, if they have a felony they probably did it." I heard more than one prospective panelist musing as to what the felony might have been.

This defendant never stood a chance of getting a fair trial; biases — in both directions — were so numerous, they ended up "busting the panel." That is, everyone was sent home. They will have to start over from the beginning if they decide to proceed with trial.

It was discouraging to me to hear so many people — who I'm sure would very much want to be tried by an impartial jury if they were ever in the defendant's place — refuse to hear only the facts in the case, apply the law as written and set aside prejudice or preconceived notions, difficult though that may be, and render a verdict that is fair and just.

That is at the very foundation of polite society.

I wonder if that system is irretrievably broken. I sure hope not.

Look, people who violate the law, who hurt or kill others, who steal or harm children or animals — if they are convicted of those crimes — ought to suffer the consequences, no doubt about it. But we can't let our society become a well-dressed lynch mob.

Every single defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence, and the burden of proof lies solely on the state. That's the law.

We are entitled to our day in court. Let's all work to ensure that day, when it comes, is before a jury who is fair, engaged and impartial. We are entitled to nothing less.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at [lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com](http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com). ■



# Bad boy Barbie

Drag Racer Kameron Michaels mixes fitness with fabulousness



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With flawless hair and makeup and an hourglass silhouette, Kameron Michaels is undeniably a striking drag queen. Yet when the wig, paint and padding are removed, so is the effeminacy. Out of drag, Michaels — a deep-voiced guy who enjoys working out at the gym, playing video games and collecting body art — is more a hot, wayward brother than a sassy, cheerleader sister.

As a Season 10 contestant on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Michaels' underwear-model physique immediately captured the attention of his castmates and viewers alike. But it was an uncanny ability to impersonate Cher — and three consecutive lip sync battle wins near the end — that established Michaels as a contender for the show's top prize.

That's something Dallas audiences can witness in person on Oct. 14, when Michaels joins champion Aquaria and fellow finalists Eureka and Dallas' Asia O'Hara (and others) in presenting the *RuPaul's Drag Race: Werq the World Tour* at the Majestic Theater.

Before that, we spoke with Michaels about the things she learned as a *Drag Race* contestant, her anti-bullying advocacy, her love for her sisters and, of course, drag. ■

— Scott Huffman

**Dallas Voice: What is the biggest misconception people have about drag queens?** Kameron Michaels: Everybody thinks we are catty and we fight all the time and don't get along. I mean, Aquaria and I sat in an arcade last night and played a *Jurassic Park* video game for like 30 minutes. I think that's the misconception: that we fight or we don't like each other. We do. It's like a sisterhood.

**I don't necessarily think of drag queens as having gym memberships. Have you always been a fitness enthusiast?** No, that came into my life about five or six years ago. I started going to the gym with my ex-boyfriend. It was something we started doing together, then we broke up. I kept going by myself and it kind of took over my life a little bit. I wasn't doing drag at the time. It had my full attention, and it just kind of changed my life.

**Was being fit an advantage in *Drag Race*?** I think it definitely helped my brand a little bit. I remember when I sent in my audition tape, I didn't talk about it a lot in the video. But I kind of branded myself [saying], "This is why you want me on the show because it's a type of character you've never had before."

**I usually think of drag queens as being gregarious, but you have said you are an introvert.** I've come out of my shell a lot since the show. I think we all go to *RuPaul's Drag Race* to learn something about ourselves. Your phones are taken away. You are in a room by yourself when you are not filming. You have a lot of time to self-reflect. I did learn a lot about myself. I'm not as reserved as I was, but I'm still one of the most reserved queens ever to be on the show.

**Tell me about your first time in drag. How and why did you get started? Did someone mentor you?** I was go-go dancing at a local bar in Nashville and, of course, working around drag queens. I was kind of obsessed with them. I was like, "I want to do that,



too!" They put me in drag. It's all downhill from there. Once you are onstage, you're hooked. It's like a drug and you want to keep doing it. I did have someone help me in the beginning. I learned makeup on my own, but she helped me by making me costumes. But most of my drag I was self-taught.

**How do you describe your particular style of drag?** I always say that my drag is a mix of old school and new drag. I grew up around old school drag — fringe costumes and dance. Dancing is a big thing for me. I know a lot of queens don't dance anymore. That was a huge part of drag to me ... fringe costumes and dance, dance, dance. I am definitely influenced by that, [but I also] take part in crazy makeup sometimes and newer songs. I don't do a whole lot of old school stuff besides my costumes.

**What motivated you to apply for *Drag Race*?** I sent in an audition tape a couple of years ago. I don't know if they got it because I sent it in at midnight on the deadline. The most recent one was because I went through a bad breakup. I wasn't doing drag at the time. I was like, "You know what? I want to give drag one more try." And I auditioned.

**Tell me what you learned about yourself from your *Drag Race* experience.** I definitely learned that I am a lot more introverted than I thought. I never would have pegged myself as introverted. I never would have said that about myself. But being around other people who aren't my friends who have to get to know me, you start learning things about how other people perceive you. I was perceived a whole different way than I thought I was coming off. I certainly learned a lot about my own personality in that environment.

**How have things changed for you, both personally and professionally, since *Drag Race*?** Well, my life is completely different. I was a hairstylist. I had a normal 9-to-5 schedule. I went to the gym every day. I went to yoga. I went to the grocery store. I haven't done that in about five months. It's just a completely different lifestyle than what I was used to. It's taken some adjusting. I don't get to go to the gym at all anymore because I'm on the road. I don't get to see my friends that much. But then again I've made new friends because of touring. Things have shifted and adjusted, but all for the good, I think.

**Was there a turning point for you during *Drag Race* when you thought, "Wow! I might just win this!"** I would say the episode that I sent [Miz] Cracker home. I never thought I would make it past the first couple episodes. I was convinced I was going home the entire season. And then once I sent Cracker home, which was my third lip sync in a row, I was like, "Oh my god!" I remember pacing back and forth backstage after that realizing that I was top four. That moment was pretty scary.

**Did you ever imagine becoming internationally known?** No, it's crazy. We were walking around a mall in Manchester or Brighton [in England]... me and Aquaria and two of the dancers. The kids were running up to us in

the mall asking to take pictures. In Australia, on the other side of the world, the same thing happened. People just run up to us wherever we are. It's insane. It's so crazy.

**How often are you recognized when you are out of drag?** The tattoos definitely help people recognize me. It happens at airports. It happens at malls. We were in Cheektowaga [New York recently]. We went to the mall across the street and there were some kids in the food court who recognized Aquaria and me. We were shopping for makeup at Sephora and a kid stopped us. It's just insane [to visit] places we've never been to and people know who we are. It happens a lot.

**Tell me about your tattoos. Do they have special significance?** My left arm is my favorite because it's nostalgic to me. Right now it's just *Jurassic Park* and the movie *Aliens*. It's all my favorite movies and video games from my childhood on my left arm. The chest tattoo is a scarab. I got that when I started working out and going to the gym because the scarab represents kind of a rebirth. That was me finding out who I was meant to be and really doing things for myself ... taking time for myself. That's why I got that one.

**What is the biggest personal sacrifice you have made for your drag career?** The gym. I have not been to the gym in months. I get to choose either sleep or gym. For me to be able to do this job and do it properly, I need rest. I'm choosing sleep over the gym right now. Right now we are on a tour bus, so there is no gym. I have not adjusted to keeping the same lifestyle that I had while I'm on the road. I'm letting it ride right now while I'm busy. Hopefully when it dies down a little bit in the spring, I can find that again. I can always go back and find the gym. This is more important right now.

**Do you feel *Drag Race* has given you a platform to make the world a better place?**

**What issues are important to you?** Absolutely. Something that I talk about at all the Pride events and online sometimes is bullying. The biggest thing with me is gay youth. [Bullying] was something that I went through as a child. It was a terrible and treacherous life to make it through high school as a gay youth. That's something important to me. There is a gay youth center in Nashville I plan to do stuff with when I am eventually home. My mom volunteers there. I've volunteered there a few times with her. Hopefully when I'm home, maybe in the winter or spring, we can do some stuff with them.

**Where do you see the future of drag?** I don't know. I think there are just so many different types of drag. It's constantly evolving and changing. It's like fashion, going backwards and picking up pieces from past entertainers. Then somebody will do something kind of fresh and kind of new. It's always evolving. I wouldn't have a clue. I don't know what to tell you. It's such a pool of old ideas and new ideas. They just get thrown together. I don't know. It's always going to be good, though. It's always going to be entertaining. And that's what matters.

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# Magic ride

How the story of Aladdin transformed into a queer metaphor for Beirut-born dancer Chadi El-Khoury

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

As a young boy growing up in Beirut, Lebanon, Chadi El-Khoury remembers how going out to the movies was a really big deal. He still vividly recalls when a family friend took him and his two brothers out to the cinema to see their first-ever movie: Disney's hip, animated classic *Aladdin*.

"I was maybe 7; it blew me away," he says. No uncomfortable feelings of condescension? No anger directed at cultural appropriation? Hardly.

"I have really fond memories of *Aladdin* — and our relationship to the storyline [as Middle Eastern kids] was the same as any kid growing in America."

A few decades have passed since that first exposure, and El-Khoury is now in a position where he's revisiting his understanding of this popular legend... and learning a lot about himself and the world we live in along the way.

It wasn't really his doing, either. El-Khoury is a principal dancer with the dance troupe Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, founded by his partner of five years, Joshua L. Peugh. It was Peugh who first got the idea to adapt the tale into a modern movement piece with a queer twist.

"Josh and I have an understanding:

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When I am out of town, he can treat himself to buying as many books as we have bookshelves for,” El-Khoury laughs. (Peugh cheats a little — he just buys more shelves.) “He was in a bookstore and saw a copy of *1001 Arabian Nights*, and I think it was the first line that caught his attention, something like, ‘There once was a boy named Aladdin who lived in China.’”

What? China?! Everyone knows Aladdin is from Arabia — it’s in the name! Well, not so fast. The story of Aladdin was a late addition to the tales of Scheherazade, and as Peugh researched its pedigree more and more, came to learn the Aladdin we think we know is not the one of lore. It fit into his vision for the company’s style.

“Josh has been working on reimagining traditional narratives which are disconnected from their origins,” El-Khoury explains. ‘[DCCD] has done fairy tales that are a lot more violent than [the popular versions]. So he wanted to excavate the literature’s origins and what is it trying to tell us.’”

One of the things it was telling them was, this rags-to-riches story has universal appeal.

“All the dancers read the story — a version published [more than a century ago], where a Maronite monk [a Middle Eastern arm of Catholicism] tells the story to a Frenchman, who writes it down. But it has been adapted in all these different countries — China, Africa, places in the Middle East and all over Europe ... but that adaptations [are always changed] to fit the culture. We started asking ourselves, ‘What is so important about Aladdin that all these cultures are trying to claim this narrative and feel the need to adapt it? What is so familiar about it?’”

The result is a world-premiere work by DCCD, as part of AT&T Performing Arts Center’s Elevator Project, called *Aladdin*. And if the original is not the story you know, this one will seem even stranger.

Part of that is Peugh’s commitment to telling his art through the prism of a gay man living in contemporary society.

“We have 10 dancers plus Josh, and everyone but one person [in the company] is somewhere on the LGBTQ spectrum, and the one ally is probably the most queer of everyone — she even volunteers at the Resource Center,” El-Khoury says. So they are all at ease with the queer content.

But it’s more personal for El-Khoury (who serves as the company’s executive director) and Peugh (its founder and artistic director) because of their personal and creative relationship.

“I’m very comfortable being gay, so I don’t have any of those barriers, but I have

a lot of straight people in my life, and I always underestimate their level of comfort with me [being comfortably out],” he says. “What resonated with me was [Aladdin] paints this world where these different cultures come together and it’s very cosmopolitan. I think, How do you fit in when you don’t really fit in? How do we apply this to the world we live in, which is a divisive environment? Even though we are all very different, we can all come together and exist in the same place.”

That’s not always easy. The political

climate has made finding commonalities, even with loved ones, harder than ever.

“The work is about Josh and me — our relationship with our families and the struggles we have with our families as gay men, as gay men in a relationship, finding so much acceptance outside of the familial structure. Both of our families love and accept us and we are very close, but it’s earned acceptance versus an unconditional acceptance. We’ve worked really hard to earn that, but for me, it’s still not enough; it created a lot of friction [when you know

family members love you, but still support Trump]. So it’s very personal to me — my life is full of some many people where you don’t even have to try they just give that to you. So those kinds of dynamics are very much in the work and how we feel about being gay men in today’s political climate.”

On the other hand, most of El-Khoury’s family (most of whom don’t care for dance and have never seen him perform) have committed to attending the performance... It’s all about incremental steps. ■

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# 2 stars, reborn

Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga each stretch themselves in new ways in 'A Star Is Born'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

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The writing credits for the new remake (the third) of *A Star Is Born* cite not only the current writers, but acknowledge the 1976, 1954 and the 1937 versions — a telling genealogy for a story that feels universal, even cliché, but constantly invigorated by reinvention. The first two versions were about actresses in Hollywood; the latter two, about singers in the music industry. But the tale — of a starry-eyed ingénue whose Svengali encourages her, just as his demons cause his light to fade — could apply to almost any profession. You could even say *All About Eve* is the catty, cynical obverse.

It has been more than 40 years since the last remake (the longest dry spell), in which Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson boozed it up on the way to immortality. La Streisand, of course, is a particular kind of singer, whose bombastic style is less in favor on the airwaves than it once was, so the script was in desperate need of updating. The lengths to which Bradley Cooper — who co-wrote, directs, produces and co-stars in this version — is ready to announce this show for the new millennium occurs almost at the start: His proto-protégé, Ally (played by Lady Gaga

in her major-role screen debut), is discovered singing, in of all places, a gay bar. Cooper's character, a rock legend named Jackson Maine, seems completely at ease among the drag queens (among them Drag Racers Shangela and Willam Belli) and fruit flies, a man attuned to modern society and not cowering from it, secure in his own masculinity. (Imagine Kristofferson doing that in 1976.) And from that moment on, this *Star Is Born* establishes its credibility with a contemporary audience: This is not your dad's rags-to-riches tale, on your granddad's, or your great-granddad's. Hollywood's Golden Age, meet the 21st century.

A tweak here or there wouldn't necessarily justify a wholesale reboot of this familiar tale without added value; even if you consider Lady Gaga's presence as stunt casting, that would only take it so far. No, what makes *A Star Is Born* the first serious awards-contender of the fall season — as well as a likely box office bonanza — is the authenticity and depth of character these folks have undergone since the days of Janet Gaynor and Fredric March. Jackson (previously Norman) is still an alcoholic, but his decline is not left to the mere fact

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Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, opposite, give new life to 'A Star Is Born;' above, Tom Hardy sinks his teeth into the Marvel-ous role of 'Venom.'

of his addiction, but to the reason for it: A degenerative hearing disease that will leave him deaf sooner rather than later. He isn't jealous of Ally's success so much as she is his legacy project, his final gift to the world of music.

But Jackson is a purist: It's not enough to make good music, or popular music, but to be true. When Jackson senses that Ally is being led astray by her label, turned into a commodity more than an artist, he undercuts her, disparages her, and drifts into a world of self-pity. What profiteth a woman to inherit the world, yet lose her soul?

Cooper really hits the sweet spot with his work; it wouldn't surprise me if he joined Orson Welles and Warren Beatty as the only men ever to get four Oscar nominations for the same film. When he first speaks, you swear you're listening to Sam Elliott; only later does Sam Elliott himself turn up, playing Cooper's brother, and you realize how intentional the performance is, and how exact. And the directing has the raw energy yet confidence of a more seasoned filmmaker, as well as fearlessness and lack of ego. Cooper-the-director shows Cooper-the-actor warts and all (and even takes second billing). It's an amazing personal achievement.

Acting-wise, Cooper is well-matched by Elliott (who should finally get *his* first Oscar nod), whose weather-beaten disposition embodies the weariness of being Jackson's brother, and, of course, Gaga herself. Nobody needs to be told she can sing the shit out of "Happy Birthday to You," so her powerhouse vocal prowess comes as no shock. But the chemistry between the stars is palpable. She also turns herself over to Cooper's aesthetic, playing a plain Jane (no meat dress here!) with an unaffected effortlessness that proves she's got acting chops as well as charisma. When

Jackson tears into Ally about her reliance on flash over substance, you can imagine those words landing with particular heft on someone as commoditized as Gaga herself. That's when *A Star Is Born* hits home, not as a remake, but as a cautionary tale for all time.

### Eddie, monster

Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) is having a hard time. A successful investigative telejournalist, he loses his job, his career and his girl (Michelle Williams) when he dares to do something bigger than a puff piece on the sinister industrialist Carlton Drake (Riz Ahmed) — "Fake news!" the Elon Musky science-entrepreneur claims, though all of Eddie's allegations are true. Then Eddie has the misfortune to become a further victim to one of Drake's schemes: He is attacked by an amorphous alien creature called a symbiote, a sort of Super Silly Putty who imbues Eddie with superpowers that seem to mimic other, more famous mutants: Wolverine (super-healing!), Spider-Man (super sticky!), Hulk (super strength!), as well as the cravings of a vampire and the fluidity of the T-1000. When they are joined, they go by the name *Venom*.

And it's all super dumb.

Though a Marvel Comics character, this Sony film is not part of the current Marvel Cinematic Universe but a stand-alone attempt to create a new franchise, though I can't see that happening. The film is both bloodless and bloodthirsty, with no logic or strong sense of *Venom* or the limits of his abilities. Hardy gives it the ol' college try, but this is right up there — down there — with *The Incredible Hulk* as one of the Marvel movies that is anything but marvelous. ■

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# Garbage in, legs out

Alt rock frontwoman Shirley Manson, on an historic anniversary tour, is outspoken as ever

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

In the 1970s and early '80s, it wasn't unusual for rock bands to adopt aggressively unmarketable names, and/or fronted by punky female singers with voices designed for arenas and moshpit, not cabarets and concert halls: Patti Smith, Debbie Harry, Joan Jett, Chrissie Hynde, Elizabeth Fraser. It was alternative rock at its most alternative.

But from the mid 1980s through much of the 1990s, when grunge took root, the women seemed to all but disappear and the men simply *took over*: Chris Cornell, Kurt Cobain, Shannon Hoon, Scott Weiland, Layne Staley, Trent Reznor, Eddie Vedder, Perry Farrell, Billy Corgan. (More than half of those men have died of drug overdoses and/or suicide.) The only female-led bands of the era that embraced that retro aesthetic with commercial success? Courtney Love of Hole and Shirley Manson of Garbage. And only one of those was really, really talented.

On "I'm Only Happy When It Rains," "Stupid Girl," even the James Bond theme "The World Is Not Enough," Manson's contralto skirted rock and dreamwave, grunge and pop. Which is also true on Garbage's second studio



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album, *Version 2.0*, which came out 20 years ago. Manson's singing on "Special," "I Think I'm Paranoid" and "Push It" has become iconic, and made her both a rock goddess and a feminist (and queer) icon.

Prior to Garbage's anniversary concert celebrating *Version 2.0* at the House of Blue this week, we chatted with Manson about her embrace of the gay community, her lack of interest in love songs and how different music is in a world of social media. ■

**Dallas Voice: A few years ago, you did a 20 Years of Queer Tour. You even released a song named "Queer," which has become an LGBT anthem. What has always led you to support gay issues and causes and identities?** Shirley Manson: I'm not entirely sure, other than I think that, when I grew up, I was nonconforming in a funny way. When you're young, you instinctively find "your people," and a lot of my friends were gay. We were all going to clubs and hanging out [and were supportive of me], so they have always had my loved and support in return. I feel a great kinship [for gay culture]. I've always considered the LGBT community to be progressive for obvious reasons. It's just my stomping ground.

**You were a vocal ally before it was as commonplace as it is now. Did you get any negative feedback from fans or promoters?** Occasionally, but to be honest, I was always so forthright in my beliefs that we only attracted like-minded people. I spoke openly of our love and support for the LGBTQ community ... I mean, we had a song ["Queer"] that was a flag-bearer! Mercifully, it was a time when social media didn't exist, so access to commonplace criticism didn't exist. Now [musicians] are subjected to an onslaught of negative feedback in any spectrum. Back then, you were shielded from it aside from occasional comments on the street.

**Do you think Garbage would have been the same if you came along 20 years later? Do you think it's harder for younger musicians to be who they need to be in the face of trolling and such?** It's an interesting question, because I am a very strong individual who was taught by her parents to stand up against arguments, but I also don't take it personally when someone pushes back. But I think young artists get intimidated when they get pushback and they can sometimes crumble. Social media is still so new it has taken human beings a while to get accustomed to the immediacy of their comments. I think that's beginning to change though — people understand trolling and bots are part of the job, even just in the last five years. People are evolving, and if [the troll continues], fuck 'em all!

**Has your voice — or your attitude, or your interpretations — changed since you first recorded the songs on this album?** If they hadn't, that would be really tragic, wouldn't it? I'm a more skilled singer than I have ever been and I sing those songs with a lot more

ease — they used to be more challenging. When we released our second record we were adults — looking back, I can't imagine people who were younger [than we were] when they initially emerged. In some ways, our philosophies were cemented. My relation to the songs were personal and true [then], and I am singing songs that are authentic to ourselves [now as well]. We weren't singing about kissing boys behind the shed. At 52, I can still relate to songs I wrote when I was 30.

**Garbage has always been difficult to characterize — post-punk, electronica, grunge, dream pop and just rock. Do you think**

**in such characterizations or try to avoid it?** I think it's a bit of both. Part of that was by design, in that we never wanted to get shoved in a genre cage where the doors would be locked forever. We needed all doors and windows open, so we could escape into whatever [genre] we wanted. But we have not been stuck with a particular [music] scene. It used to bother me that we never fit in any movement, or with any festival bill ... but now I think we're free. We can appear at an alt rock festival or a heavy metal festival — we fit everywhere or anywhere. I'm not gonna be restricted by anyone and told what I can and cannot sing or how I can present myself. I've

wanted to be a musician because it afforded me freedom and I'll be damned if I'll get my wings clipped by critics or fans now. I feel like life is too short. I'm done crossing my legs and making myself small. I'm gonna support the things I want to support and spread my legs and take up space.

**Yeah, imagine if it were 20 years later and you were singing, "Girl, you know I love you girl..."** Oh bless! It would be really, really gross. But I was never that girl anyway, I was never oriented to [romantic] love. I don't know if there's a love song in the hundreds of songs in our catalogue! Maybe our next record should address that. I've just never found love affairs particularly interesting ... Don't tell my husband!

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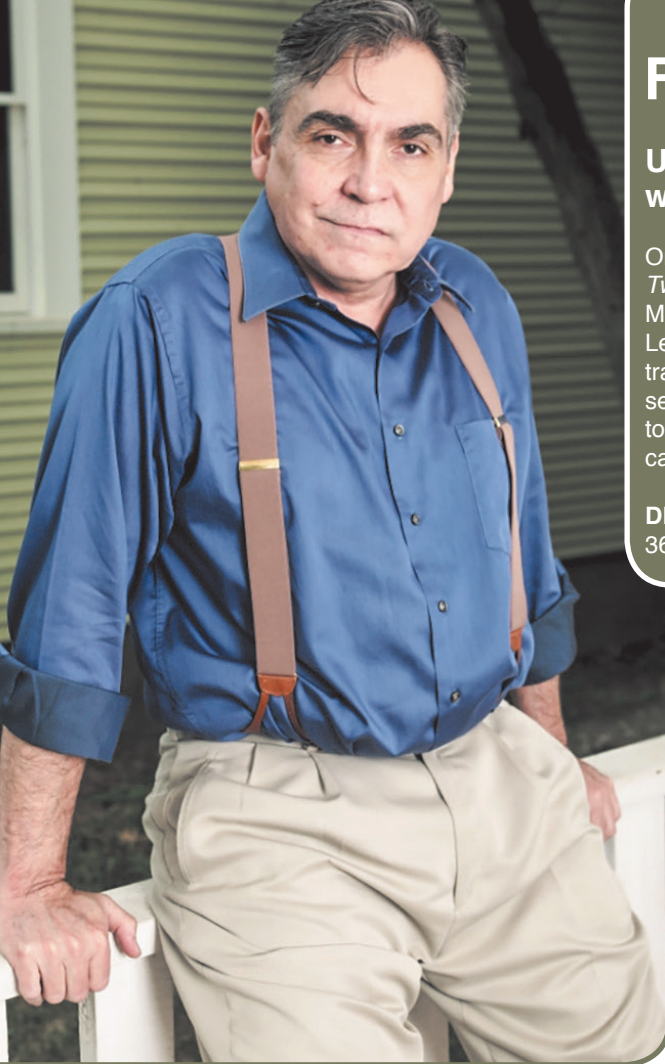
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## Friday 10.12 — Sunday 10.21

### Uptown Players continues Gay History Month with 2 more plays

On the heels of Uptown Players' bonus show of *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*, come two more plays to help commemorate Gay History Month, playing in repertory for two weekends. The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey is a one-man show featuring Terry Martin about a detective transformed by the disappearance of a small both. Straight deals with a seemingly hetero banker whose one-night stand with another man leads to self-discovery. Both shows are performed at Bryant Hall on the Kalita campus.

**DEETS:** Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).

## LIFE+STYLE

### best bets

## Friday 10.05 — Wednesday 10.31

### Spooks aplenty at haunted adventures in North Texas

Halloween is always a gay holiday anyway, what with all of the cross-dressing and partial nudity, but for thrills and chills, you have your pick. Screams Park in Waxahachie returns with an all-new lineup of frights for 2018. Meanwhile in Plano, queer-owned Dark Hour Haunted House continues its spooktacular horrors.

**DEETS:** Screams Park, 2511 FM 66m, Waxahachie (through Oct. 27 only). [ScreamsPark.com](http://ScreamsPark.com). Dark Hour Haunted House, 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. [DarkHourHauntedHouse.com](http://DarkHourHauntedHouse.com).



## Friday 10.12 — Sunday 10.20

### Dallas Opera opens its season with Wagner's haunting 'Flying Dutchman'

The legend of the Flying Dutchman is one of the most haunting in maritime lore — the captain of a ghostly ship, doomed to sail the seas for eternity ... unless he can find a woman to love him for a brief period ashore every seven years. Wagner's epic fantastical romantic drama *The Flying Dutchman* opens the Dallas Opera's 2018–19 season under the baton of music director Emmanuel Villaume and starring acclaimed Wagnerian bass Greer Grimsley as the Dutchman, and Jay Hunter Morris, who had his own seafaring exploits as Ahab in *Moby-Dick*, as Erik.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 12, 14, 17 and 20. [DallasOpera.org](http://DallasOpera.org).

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## calendar highlights



Undermain Theatre presents a world premiere play, 'How It Is We Live,' from acclaimed local playwright Len Jenkin, which closes this weekend.

### ARTSWEEK THEATER

***How Is It We Live, or Shakey Jake + Alice.*** A world premiere play by Len Jenkin. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

***Once.*** The Tony Award-winning musical, based on the indie Irish film about a tentative romance between a busker and a shy girl. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

***On the Verge.*** Victorian women travel through time as explorers. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 21. WingspanTheatre.com.

***Radiant Vermin.*** Philip Ridley (*The Pitchfork Disney, Vincent River, The Fastest Clock in the Universe*) wrote this 2015 play, presented by Kitchen Dog Theater and kicking off its 2018–19 season. Trinity River Arts Center, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Oct. 28. KitcheDogTheater.org.

***Steel Magnolias.*** The classic tearjerker and gay fave, about six women in a beauty parlor in Louisiana. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. through Oct. 21. DallasTheaterCenter.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.

**The Nature of Arp.** Exploration of the work of the influential 20th century artist. Nasher Sculpture

Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

**Dali: Poetics of the Small, 1929–1936.** Before he was an acclaimed surrealist of monumental work, Salvador Dali was a craftsman of small, classic (and modernist) paintings. Meadows Museum of Art on the SMU campus, 5900 Bishop Blvd.

### 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.

**Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello.** Archeological exhibition that details life for possessed peoples who worked the plantation of the third president of the United States. African American Museum at Fair Park. Through Dec. 31.

### STATE FAIR

**State Fair of Texas.** Annual celebration of livestock, fried foods and other aspects of Texas culture. Through Oct. 21. BigTex.com.

### FESTIVAL

**Cottonwood Art Festival.** Annual fest featuring dozens of artists in all media. Cottonwood Park, 1321 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson. Saturday–Sunday. CottonwoodArtFestival.com.

### HALLOWEEN

**Screams.** Annual Halloween-themed park on the Scarborough Faire grounds, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Through Oct. 27. ScreamsPark.com.

**Dark Hour Haunted House.** Primetime for the best scary-creepy mansion tour in North Texas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Weekends and Halloween through Oct. 31. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.





## FRIDAY 10.05

### COMMUNITY

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

### FUNDRAISER

**Burgers & Burgundy.** The 10th annual fundraiser for DIFFA from chef John Tesar — a dining event of chefs creating burger-based treats. The Eye at the Joule, 1601 Elm St. 7–10 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.

## SATURDAY 10.06

### 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 10.08

### CABARET

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

## TUESDAY 10.09

### FILM

**Jason and the Argonauts.** Special effects pioneer Ray Harryhausen created the amazing battles in this stop-motion fantasy film. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY 10.10

### COMMUNITY

**The Queer Off!!** Weekly variety show with 14 contestants, 12 weeks and one eventual winner. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton Road. 10 p.m.

## THURSDAY 10.11

### 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.

### CONCERTS

**Garbage.** The band celebrates the 20th anniversary of the release of the iconic rock album Version 2.0. Read our interview with frontwoman Shirley Manson on Page 26. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St.

### DANCE

**Aladdin.** Dark Circles Contemporary Dance presents this performance (part of the AT&T Performing Arts Center's Elevator Project) with a queer twist to the Arab legend. Read our story on Page 22. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Oct. 11–14. ATPAC.org

## FRIDAY 10.12

### THEATER

**Gay History Month Play Festival.** Uptown Players presents two more plays in commemoration of Gay History Month: *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* and *Straight*. Both are in Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Oct. 12–21. UptownPlayers.org.

### OPERA

**The Flying Dutchman.** Emmanuel Villaume conducts Wagner's mysterious romantic fantasy, with Greer Grimsley as the cursed captain. Opens the Dallas Opera season. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 12–20. DallasOpera.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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# Girl on girls

Jenny Block says equality is not about payback

There appears to be some confusion and it deserves — it *demands* — some straightening out.

Simply put: Just because you got less in the past doesn't mean you get more now. The goal is equality, but there's no room for backfill. If we were to do that, other people would have to get less. If you were shushed as a child and never allowed to talk, you may feel as if you deserve more talking space now. But it doesn't work that way. If you were abused as a child, yelled at, harmed, there's no making up for that by hurting others now. You can't expect "extra" from people ... extra attention, more jobs. Whatever.

It might seem unfair. It is unfair that you were treated poorly. But it doesn't give you an all-access card to the future. If things worked that way, women would have it all and men would be licking their boots. If things worked that way, Jews would have it all and Germans would be their lifetime butlers. If that were true, African-Americans would be the slave owners and their former masters would be picking their cotton. But equality means equality for all.

Life isn't about retribution ... or it shouldn't be, because it *can't* be. Nothing can pay women back for the rape and abuse and inability to control their own lives and bodies visited upon them for centuries. Nothing magic wand can bring back 6 million murdered in the Holocaust. Nothing can undo the literal and figurative wounds and scars of kidnapping and enslaving an entire race of people.

The same is true in relationships. It sucks if your last partner always tried to one up you or interrupted you or yelled at you or made you feel small. But it's not "standing up for yourself" if you do that to your next partner. The next person in your life is not there to make up for the wrongs of the last. They are a whole new person with a whole new slate and if you want a relationship with that person, you can't cast upon them the sins of their predecessors.

There's a second arm to this, which is that you don't get more for doing more. Every mom knows that. She does all the things and is lucky to get a thank you. Hopefully she does those things because she wants to, she chooses to, she loves her family. If she's doing it for accolades, she's fighting an uphill battle.

If you did all the things for your last partner, that in no way means this new partner is supposed to do all the things for you. It's not a matter of it being your turn. If you do all the things for your new partner because you want the positive reaction that your former partner didn't give you, that's a non-starter. A new relationship is not a do-over or a make-up or anything of the like. It's a whole new game with all new rules and a brand new player. There's no chance of an equal partnership if the new partner's role is to make up for your last partner's behavior. That's not equality.

Equality isn't a pie. But if you need it to be, then the metaphor goes like this: There is enough for everyone to have a piece. One piece. Their share. That means that if you take more than your share, someone has to do without. Even if you didn't get any pie in the past or your piece was tiny or your piece was stale or your piece was strawberry and your allergic, you still only get your share now. And your



share is equal to everyone else's regardless of the past. In relationships and in life, there are no slices of retribution pie.

The thing is, life isn't fair. It isn't. Kim gets to be a Kardashian and you don't. Meghan gets to be a real life princess and you don't. Lottery winners get to throw their money into the wind and you don't. That's just the way it goes.

You don't get more now because you got less in the past because if you do, someone else suffers. And their suffering now might feel good in that moment but it doesn't actually fix anything. It just sets the cycle in motion, an endless cycle of retribution and inequality. I'm not talking about punishing criminals. They belong in jail. I'm talking about expecting payback from society at large or a specific partner who is not the doer of the wrong against you.

Here's how we end the cycle. We do what

the Jews who escaped and survived the Holocaust did: They made lives for themselves and ensured a better life for their children. There was no retribution. There was no government assistance. There was no one paying them back for the crimes committed against them (other than the justice of prosecuting the Nazis). There was coming to a country where they didn't speak the language and knew no one and they had nothing. So the first person helped the next and so on and so on. No one said, "You owe me" or "I can't."

Here's the thing: Ultimately you're not going to get more than your fair share. The world isn't going to pay you back. Some days I wish it would. But, as the saying goes, if wishes were fishes, we'd all be swimming in the sea.

And so it goes with relationships. You don't get paid back for the damages done by part-

ners past. And you don't get to punish the next partner for that past partner's sins. I mean you can, but the new one won't stay long if you do. (Well, she shouldn't anyway.)

The vast majority of us have been hurt. Too many of us have been assaulted and abused or wronged or controlled or mistreated ... by the world at large and by our very own partners. That's the past. Now, all we have is, well, now. So right here, right now, let's commit to equality for all the people for all the partners for all relationships, intimate or otherwise.

Let's commit to not expecting those in our present to make up for the past. Let's commit to ending the cycle. Let's commit to fairly slicing the pie.

*Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.*





Models on staff at Skivvies



Cedar Springs Tattoo: IN loving memory of Chris



The crew hanging at Alexandre's

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- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Cedar Springs Hangover Brunch** from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Changes:** **Pride Night 2018** at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Imperial Court Show** at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court** plays **Match Game** from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** **Game Day Watch Party** on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Monday Night Showcase** with **Chanel Champagne**.
- **Pekers:** **Karaoke** every Friday and Saturday night.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Jockstrap Sports Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday. **Mancandy** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Primadonna** on Saturday. **The Southpaw Preachers** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Droo's Peace Crush** on Sunday. **Tuesday Tease** at 9:30 p.m. **The Queer Off** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **TX-OU Blowout** at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Rising Star** with **Kelexis** and **Jenna** on Thursday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Trashy Tuesdays** at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** **Adam Joseph** in **The Shit Show** with **Frida Monet** and **Chanel LaMasters** at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Laugh Out Loud Fridays** with hot hits and comedy clips.
- **Zippers:** **Rudeboy Dallas** at 9 p.m. on Monday.

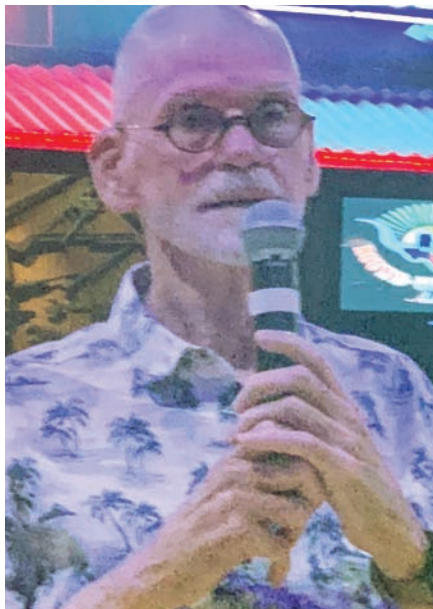
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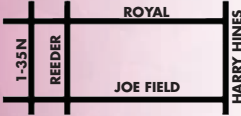
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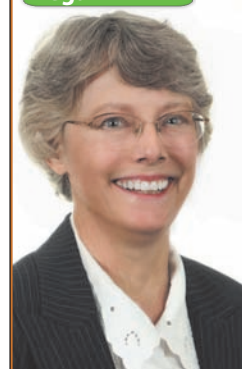
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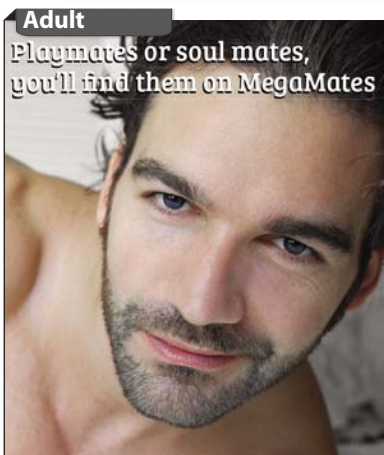
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## q-puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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59					60					61			

## Ms. Borden

Solution on Page 33

### Across

- 1 Loads
- 5 Like a fairy tale brother?
- 9 Revealing a small opening
- 13 Iago, notably
- 14 Pink shade
- 15 Dis and dat, in Queens
- 16 Really a fan of
- 17 Web surfer
- 18 Happy sounds in bed
- 19 She plays Ms. Borden in the 2018 movie *Lizzie*
- 22 *Modern Family* adoptee
- 23 It goes with a cock
- 24 Push forward
- 27 Many have come out of them
- 31 \_\_\_ a soul
- 32 Be active in B&D
- 34 Film noir classic
- 35 She plays Ms. Borden's lover in *Lizzie*
- 38 It spreads its limbs
- 39 Fit to be tied
- 40 Spirited stallion
- 41 Repeat
- 43 Like a mosquito bite
- 44 Folksinger Williams
- 45 Go almost to orgasm and stop

47 Comment on Ms.

Borden's bad reputation?

- 52 "Like a Virgin," for one
- 53 It may be junk
- 54 Score in *Bend It Like Beckham*
- 56 "Rule, Britannia" composer Thomas
- 57 Nick was his master
- 58 Passe preposition
- 59 Margaret who studie people
- 60 Part of GPS (abbr.)
- 61 Untouchable head

### Down

- 1 Disney prince
- 2 *Mod Squad* character
- 3 Scout's promise to be "morally straight"
- 4 They go clang, clang, clang
- 5 Oliver wanted more of it
- 6 Portia de \_\_\_
- 7 "That makes sense"
- 8 Griffin of game shows
- 9 "Love conquers all," and more
- 10 Crossdressing saint, to the French
- 11 Pale gray

12 Lawyers' thing

- 20 Tin Man's request
- 21 Optimistic words
- 24 Covered with 51-Down
- 25 A woman named Thomas
- 26 Temperamental diva, e.g.
- 27 *Camelot's* "\_\_\_ Moi"
- 28 Musical prop in *Hamlet*
- 29 Temple text
- 30 Just watched
- 32 She plays Lena's wife on *The Fosters*
- 33 Aerosmith's "Love \_\_\_ Elevator"
- 36 Diana's accessory
- 37 Shower rod?
- 42 Sized up
- 43 Parting words, old style
- 45 Cuts Leaves of Grass?
- 46 Self-contradictory bra size?
- 47 Time of *Camelot*
- 48 Big e-tailing season, for short
- 49 Cole Porter's "You'd Be So \_\_\_ to Love"
- 50 Skye of *Say Anything*
- 51 Skin designs, briefly
- 52 Pianist at Rick's Caf  Americain
- 55 The "L" of L.A.





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