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2018

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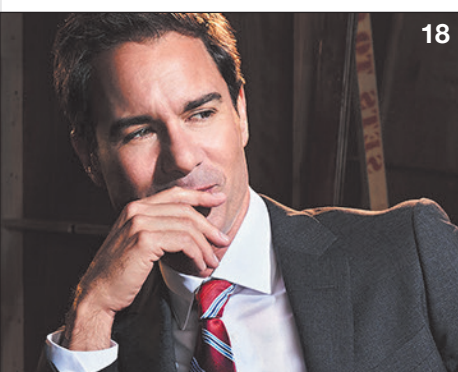
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Model: Jenna Skyy/Joe Hoselton.
Makeup by Joe Hoselton. Photo by
Tammye Nash. Design by Kevin
Thomas. More info on Page 5.

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Police identify gay man found dead Sunday

Dallas police have identified a man found dead inside a vehicle in far southeast Dallas on Sunday afternoon as 29-year-old Traylon Brown, "who also identifie[d] as Brittany White."

According to the Dallas Police Department's blog, DPD Beat, at 3:12 p.m. on Oct. 21, Dallas Fire and Rescue responding to reports of an unconscious person inside a vehicle at 7100 Gayglen Drive found Brown "deceased inside his vehicle from homicidal violence." Investigators have asked that anyone with information contact Detective Jacob White at 214-670-3690 or by email at jacob.white@dallascityhall.com, and refer to case No. 231046-2018.

Rocky Collins, a bartender at gay bars in Dallas and Fort Worth, told Dallas Voice he has known Brown since Brown was a teenager participating in a police department Explorers program with Collins younger sister. Collins said Brown did not identify as transgender but that he did like to dress in a wig and women's clothing and meet straight men online.

"From what I know, he was pretty straightforward with them that he was a guy. But there are a lot of these straight men who like to get with guys in wigs," Collins said. "I'm sure he told them he was a guy. But these straight men, they'll murder us then act like they didn't know they were with a man."

Collins said that Brown had been "like a member of my family," and that he had, for awhile,



Traylon Brown

attended the same Fort Worth church that Collins' grandmother attended. But, he added, Brown had started attending a different church and was very active there.

Collins also said he had seen Brown recently in the gayborhood in Dallas, and he thinks Brown may have moved here from Fort Worth.

— Tammye Nash

'Dancing Queen' spills some TAZO tea

It's easy to look at all the projects and accomplishments of someone famous and reduce it all to their Wikipedia page: Resides in

Mesquite, TX. Miss Gay USofA 2006. Miss Gay America 2010. Breakout star of RuPaul's Drag Race season five. Season two of RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. Dancing Queen.

That's because a list of accomplishments always sounds better than the decades-long, never-ending list of to-dos, hard work and hustling it took to get there.

And it's far easier to look at the highlight reel of someone like Alyssa Edwards and believe in the millennial dream of the overnight-insta-famous-influencer success story. But while it may seem like Alyssa was an overnight success to some of her newer fans — those who have joined team Alyssa since 2013 — Dallas, the city that loves her, and all her friends know differently.

When TAZO Tea approached him, Justin was a bit a leery about taking on another big project — until he heard their tagline: "Brew the unexpected." But what really sealed the deal was when he learned that TAZO wasn't interested in telling him what to do, i.e. slapping the "IT" drag queen's name on their big brand move and calling it a day. They wanted to dig deeper and get to know the things that Justin loved, the things that transformed his life.

The first thing that popped into Justin's mind was "summer camp." And just like that Camp TAZO, a three-day, all-things-Alyssa-Edwards extravaganza, was born — three days for people like us to see what unexpected and beautiful surprises percolate within ourselves, to break out of our routines, to try something new, and to

be our out loud and proud selves.

— Brandi Amara Skyy

First day early voting sets records for midterms

In Texas' five largest counties, first day early voting numbers set records for a midterm election. Some polling places reported hour-long waits, but mostly the lines moved quickly with only short waits to vote.

Harris County (Houston) had the most early voters — 63,188 compared to only 20,215 in the 2014 midterms. Dallas County had the largest percent increase compared to 2014 — up 325 percent — with 55,384 voters this year compared to 13,037 in the 2014 midterms.

Bexar County (San Antonio) increased from 13,436 voters to 34,021 this year.

Tarrant County (Fort Worth) increased from 13,466 to 40,422 this year.

Travis County (Austin) increased from 10,257 voters in 2014 to 32,696 this year.

A majority of Dallas Travis and Bexar county voters are registered Democrats. A majority of Tarrant County voters are registered Republican and Harris County, the state's most populous, is fairly evenly split. All five major urban counties have seen substantial population growth since the 2014 election explaining some of the increase in voter participation but most of it is due to excitement about this year's election on both sides.

These are only first day records. Early voting continues through Nov. 2.

— David Taffet

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What lies beneath...

This week's cover is the second in our ongoing series honoring the trans women and drag queens who, since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, have stood up and spoken out for our community when no one else could — or would.

The cover model for our Halloween 2018 issue is Joe Hoselton, aka Rose Room star Jenna Skyy, who also designed and applied his own horror makeup for the photo shoot.

Hoselton said it took him about two hours to apply the makeup, and that he took his inspiration in part from NikkieTutorials, the YouTube channel of Dutch makeup artist and beauty vlogger Nikkie de Jager, and in part from the imagery in the promos for *American Horror Story: Apocalypse*.

"I had been inspired by a lot of other makeups I had seen on NikkieTutorials, and I remembered seeing one she had done on how to do the demon with the pulled-up

skin. So I went back and watched that video, to learn how to do that effect," Hoselton explained.

The black hands/black fingers — that was inspired by the promotional campaign for the new season of *American Horror Story: Apocalypse*, he added.

In her version of the "pulled-up skin" makeup, de Jager painted on a red-and-black demon face "beneath" the pulled-up skin. But Hoselton decided to take a little bit of a different approach.

"I have seen all kinds of interpretations of what's underneath the skin with this kind of makeup," he said. "I have seen them with rainbows and glitter and sparkle and all that. And at first I thought I'd do something like that. But since it's Halloween, I decided to go with something scarier. I decided to go with the skull." Hoselton said that teaching himself special-effects makeup skills was his way of doing something different for Halloween each year, since drag makeup is part of his everyday life as a female impersonator and cast member at The Rose Room.

"You know, drag is my job. I do it every weekend. Then Halloween comes, and everyone is doing drag. After I had been doing drag for seven or eight years, I just started losing interest in Halloween. So I started taking Halloween off."



And then it occurred to him: If everyone else was going to do drag for Halloween, why didn't he do some *other* kind of makeup?

"I thought, instead of painting Jenna, which I do every other weekend of the year, I'd paint a concept, a character," Hoselton said.

So "about five or six years ago," he said, he started "playing around" with some different special effects makeups, and ended up going with a "zipper face" effect — a makeup that makes it look like a person's facial skin has come unzipped and is coming off, leaving raw meat beneath — for that first year. This year's "pulled-up skin" look, which Hoselton created specifically for the Dallas Voice cover, harkens back to that first look.

Joe Hoselton performs as Jenna Skyy each Friday and Saturday night as a Rose Room cast member, and makes special appearances at other events on a regular basis — including a previous gig as a Resource Center Drag Bingo cast member and, more recently, Drag Queen Story Hour, with Rose Room castmate Cassie Nova (James Love, our 2018 Pride issue cover queen) at the Oak Lawn Branch of the Dallas Public Library.

Jenna Skyy is an award-winning female impersonator who won the titles of Miss Dallas, Miss Texas and Miss Gay USofA all in one season, a feat no drag entertainer had previously accomplished. And Joe Hoselton is an actor who has appeared in Israel Luna's cult hits *Kicking Zombie Ass for Jesus* (2017), *Ticked-Off Trannies With Knives* (2010) and *Fade to Drag* (2007).

— Tammye Nash

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

OCTOBER

• Oct. 26-Nov. 2 Early voting

In Dallas County, early voting at 55 locations from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. except Sunday from 1-6 p.m.

• Oct. 26: After Dark: Under the Stars

Deserts, cocktails and a performance by Matt Alber benefits the Turtle Creek Chorale from 8-11 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane.

• Oct. 26-28: Lez Talk

A women's empowerment conference bringing together lesbian, transgender, bisexual, pansexual and demisexual women and allies at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. \$50-1,000.

• Oct. 27: Out for Equality

Equality Texas sponsors Out for Equality: An LGBTQ Day of Action. Vote at 10 a.m. to show our strength. Invite friends and

family to join you. Wear Equality Texas gear. Send selfies of your crew to info@equalitytexas.org.

• Oct. 27: Trunk or Treat

Cars in their Halloween costumes at 4 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• Oct. 27: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 11 a.m., at The Golf Club of Dallas, 2200 West Red Bird Lane, Dallas. \$55.00 Includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

• Oct. 27: Be the Match

Mikey Hernandez is looking for a bone marrow donor. His grandfather's company Maintenance Supply Headquarters is sponsoring tailgates across the country to help find a match. His family, sororities and fraternities will tailgate to raise awareness and hopefully find a match from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of Apogee Stadium, 1251 S. Bonnie Brae St, Denton. For more information or to join



The public is invited to attend a special Dallas Tavern Guild meeting on Thursday, Nov. 1, in the Rose Room, to discuss plans to move the Dallas Pride festival to Fair Park in June. See listings for details.

the registry, visit join.bethematch.org/teamhernandez.

• Oct. 27-28: Dallas Festival of the Arts

About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Kidd Springs Park, 1003 Cedar Hill Ave.

• Oct. 27: Ignite Hope

A gala benefiting Ranch Hand Rescue with dinner and silent and live auctions at 5:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, Denton Convention Center, 3100 Town Center Trail, Denton. Tickets \$150 available at RanchHandRescue.org.

OBITUARY



Jan Mock

Jan Mock, 58, formerly of Dallas, died Sept. 28, 2018, following a long battle with cancer. Born in 1960, Jan served on the board of directors of The DFW Black Tie Dinner for a number of years, including as co-chair throughout 1996-1997, a period of tremendous growth for the event. Her leadership and unwavering commitment to the Dallas community led to initiatives that became standard business practices for Black Tie Dinner, including more robust entertainment and contractual initiatives with venues. Prior to and after chairing, she worked with ticket sales, which for a time was the event's largest source of revenue.

Jan moved to San Francisco shortly after her tenure with BTD, and soon made partner at the law firm where she worked. An avid bicyclist, she sometimes rode her bike from her home across

the bay in Tiburon to work downtown. She often commented on the pleasure of riding across the Golden Gate on her morning jaunt and on how much she loved the City by the Bay.

In 2012, Jan was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She fought hard and beat it at the time, eventually receiving a clean bill of health. Shortly after she started to get her strength back, she met Carole Sykes, also an avid bicyclist. They married in a magical ceremony overlooking a moonlit San Francisco Bay in September 2013. Jan and Carole loved to get away to Hawaii every December, and they rode the mountains of Tuscany in Europe more than once. Jan loved the people the culture and the language of Italy, and her Italian got pretty good. She was, for a time, cancer-free.

After five very happy years of marriage, the cancer returned. This time it was very aggressive, and all treatments and experimental therapies failed to stop its progression. Jan transitioned from this life on Sept. 28, and is free of the pain, frustration and suffering that were increasingly affecting her quality of life these last nine months.

Jan's contributions to her friends, family, community and work are too many to mention, but they were all exemplary examples of this wonderful giving woman. She definitely left a significant mark on this earth, and she will be missed by all those she so deeply touched.



Robert "Scott" Smith

Robert "Scott" Smith, 58, died peacefully at home on Oct. 11, 2018. He was born Jan. 18, 1960, in Charlotte, N.C., and moved to Honeoye Falls, N.Y., when he was nine. He graduated from HFL High School in 1979 and a decade later moved to Dallas, where

he spent the rest of his life.

Scott was a wise and thoughtful person. A dear friend remembers meeting him as he worked on his daily crossword puzzle, accumulating knowledge as he went. He had an incredible memory for history, politics, music, pop culture and fun family facts. This, along with a sharp sense of intelligent wit and humor, helped make Scott a great conversationalist.

The love and joy that nieces and nephews brought Scott was very special. He was always interested and proud of what they were doing in

their lives. In return Scott blessed Cody, Taylor, Skyler and Savanna with lifelong wisdom and memories.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents, June (Lord) and Robert Smith. He is survived by his siblings, Tim (Deb), Greg (Kim) and Peggy; four nieces and nephews, and a very special friend, Jerry Hill.



Jennifer Faubion

Jennifer Faubion

Jennifer Faubion, 48, of Colorado and formerly of Dallas, died July 23, 2018, following a brief battle with cancer. She is survived by her wife, Kristy Osborn of Pagosa Springs, Colo., her mother, Debra James of Ajic, Mexico;

her father and step-mother, Gary Lon and Gracie

• **Oct. 31: Silver Pride Halloween Party**
LGBT seniors and allies play games, watch a Halloween movie and enjoy refreshments. Prize for best costume from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwyler Park Library, 2146 Gilford St.

NOVEMBER

• **Nov. 1: Dallas Tavern Guild meeting**
Members of the Dallas Tavern Guild has invited the public to attend the tavern guild's November meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, for a discussion on plans to move the annual Dallas Pride celebration to Fair Park on the first weekend in June, beginning in 2019. Community members are urged to attend and let your voice be

heard, whether in support of or opposition to the move.

• **Nov. 1: GALA Community Ally Event**
GALA Ally Committee presents ABCs of LGBT to discuss how to be a better ally from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Grace Avenue UMC, 3521 W. Main St., Frisco.

• **Nov. 1-4: Strength Conference**
The fourth annual Strength Conference for men living with HIV, a program of AIDS Walk South Dallas. Embassy suites Dallas Market Center, 2727 N. Stemmons Freeway. Facebook.com/NationalStrengthConference.

AGENDA Page 12

pet of the week /BUSTER



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Get your Scare on!

Halloween in the gayborhood

Everybody likes to dress up for Halloween. But nobody loves Halloween more than the LGBT community where, as some like to joke, Oct. 31 is more than just an excuse for a party, it's a high holy day.

Nowhere will you find costumes more glamorous, more creative, more humorous or more topical than the Halloween Block Party on Cedar Springs Road. And according to a press release this week from Lyft, all of Dallas knows that.

Lyft has compiled a list of the Top 15 Halloween Weekend Destinations in Dallas — and five of them are LGBT nightclubs. In fact, the top two and four of the top six are LGBT bars. The are Station 4 (S4/The Rose Room) at No. 1, Round-Up Saloon at No. 2, JR.'s at No. 3 and Sue Ellen's at No. 6. The Dallas Eagle came in at No. 13.

(Whataburger, by the way, was No. 14.)

The Block Party

Each year, Caven Enterprises — the company that owns S4, JR.'s, Sue Ellen's and TMC: The Mining Company — sponsors the Halloween Block Party each year, and this year is no exception. This year the street closes at 6 p.m., and the party starts at 7 p.m. The event will feature a catwalk down the middle of the road in the 3900 block of Cedar Springs, with an emcee on hand to critique the costumes of those who walk.

The parking lot behind S4 will be roped off for more party space, as well the parking lot in front of Alexandre's in the 4000 block of Cedar Springs. There will be live DJs in both parking lots, and food and beverages available at seven different booths spread around the street and parking lots. There will also be a food truck in the back parking lot.

The Rose Room cast will put on a special Halloween show in the back parking lot at 9 p.m. on Saturday, along with their regular 11 p.m. show in the Rose Room.

All of the bars will be open to those 21 and older, but the street party and both parking lots will be free and open to all ages.

All the Halloween party news

While the Block Party is one of the biggest Halloween parties in North Texas, it isn't the only one. LGBT bars in Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington have special events planned through Halloween night on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

- **1851 Club** in Arlington will have Halloween-themed drag shows both Friday and Saturday night this weekend, starting each night at 10:30 p.m. and featuring special performances. Saturday night will include a costume contest with cash prizes after the show, along with various drink specials all night long. The club is open to those 21 and up with no cover.

- **515 Bar in Fort Worth**, will host a Halloween Costume Party on Friday night, from 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

- **All four Caven Bars** — JR.'s, S4, Sue Ellen's and TMC: The Mining Company — will hold costume contests at 11 p.m. on Halloween night, and the finalists from each bar then go to S4 to compete for more than \$1,000 in cash and prizes.

- **Cedar Springs Tap House**, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, holds Halloween Scaryoke from 8-10 p.m. on Wednesday, Halloween night.

- **Club Changes** in Fort Worth celebrates Halloween on Friday night, Oct. 26, with the Divine Miss Divas: Horror Story show at 10 p.m., followed by a costume contest, with a \$100 cash prize, at 11:50 p.m.

- **Dallas Eagle** hosts the Dead Celebrities Halloween Costume Party on Saturday from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. On Halloween night, the Eagle hosts an American Horror Story: Apocalypse watch party at 9 p.m.

- **Déjà vu** in Dallas hosts the The Masked Truth Costume Party and Contest: Halloween The Return of Horror Fest, hosted by Miss Wanda at 11:30 p.m. Sunday. The winner receives a \$500 cash prize.

- **Grapevine Bar** holds its annual costume contest on Halloween night, with gift cards for the



first, second and third place winners.

- **Havana** hosts its Havanaween party on Wednesday, featuring a costume contest with a \$500 prize for the winner.

- **Henry's Tavern** in Plano holds a Halloween Costume Contest Saturday night, from 10 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

- **Hidden Door** holds its annual Halloween party Saturday night, with a costume contest starting at 11 p.m. There will a \$150 cash prize each for Best Costume, Most Outrageous Costume and Best Couple or Group.

- **Liquid Zoo Bar & Grill** holds its Halloween Costume Party Saturday night, from 10 p.m.-2 a.m., with a cash prize for the winner.

- **Pekers** holds its Halloween Karaoke and a costume contest, with a \$100 prize on Saturday night, from 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

- **The Round-Up Saloon** celebrates the Block Party on Saturday night, then holds its annual costume contest at midnight on Wednesday,

Halloween night, with cash prizes for the best individual costume and the best group costume.

- **Station 4** holds its preliminary costume contest at 11 p.m. on Halloween night, then hosts the costume contest finale featuring winners from all four Caven bars. Cassie Nova, Jenna Skyy, Asia O'Hara, Krystal Summers, Sasha and Kelexis Davenport present a special Halloween show Wednesday night in the Rose Room.

- **Sue Ellen's** will feature a performance Saturday night by the Gawd Almightyes, then on Halloween night, DJ Sno White spins from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The bar also holds a costume contest at 11 p.m.

- **Woody's** holds its 10th Annual Halloween Backlot Party from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday night, hosted by Jada Pinkett Fox. On Halloween night, the bar hosts Gloria's Divine Halloween Karaoke at 10 p.m.

— Tammye Nash

Lez Talk conference is this weekend

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

It's been more than 13 years since the last statewide conference for lesbians was held in Texas. A small group of North Texas women are ending that drought with Lez Talk: A Women's Empowerment Conference, being held this weekend at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

And the fact that tickets to the three-day event sold out well in advance suggests that the women of Texas are ready for just such an event.

Organizer Stacey Stevenson said Lez Talk grew out of conversations that she had her wife, Cheralyn Stevenson, had with another couple "about a lack of conferences like this for lesbians. We have children and our friends have a child, and we used each other as resources, asking each other questions and for advice."

In doing so, she continued, "we realized that there was nothing out there, no event like this for us to attend where we could meet and talk to other people like us. At least, there

was nothing in our area. So we decided, if we can't find it, we should create it.

"I believe we need to provide opportunities like this for lesbians, for women who love women," Stacey Stevenson said, so she and her wife and the other couple set about doing just that.

The first order of business, she said, was to determine a venue. They approached Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center, and worked with her to book the center, at 5750 Cedar Springs Road, as their venue. That was about a year ago, Stacey Stevenson said. Since then, she and the other organizers have been working to create a plan for the conference content.

"We used ourselves and the challenges we've dealt with in our own lives to come up with a plan. We looked up all the information we could find on what areas are most critical to lesbian women, and we determined the subject matter from there," she said.

They started with three specific areas to address: Love, Learn and Link. And under each heading, Stacey Stevenson said, they developed a number of "modules" for discussion, all on Saturday.

For example, under the heading of Love,

there will be a panel discussion on self love — "lesbians learning to love themselves and lesbians being comfortable loving themselves," she explained, led by life coach Sonya Parker Goode, the Rev. Erin Wyma and family therapist Dr. Elyse Deleski.

There will also be a panel for couples, "from those who have been together for three years, to those who have been together 39 years." Therapist Melanie Maine will moderate.

In the second segment, under the heading of Learn, panels include a discussion on legal documents every lesbian needs to have in place, led by attorney Rebecca Covell, and a panel with health and wellness professional Traci Stonum-Parker on unique health issues facing the lesbian community.

The last three panels of the day, under the Link heading, include one on family moderated by family therapist Candy Marcum, one on leading an authentic life in the workplace with Carol Meyer, Ellen Farrell, Kimberly Davis and the Dallas Police Department's LGBT liaison, Officer Amber Roman. The last panel of the day will be a social and political forum led by Justice of the Peace Sara Martinez and Texas state Rep. Victoria Neave.

The weekend also include a Welcome Reception from 4:30-7 p.m. on Friday and the Lez Walk event on the Katy Trail, sponsored by BodyXtreme Fitness from 8-10 a.m. Sunday.

Stacey Stevenson said organizers expect about 200 women total to attend, including panelists, vendors and other participants, and that their intent is for "any woman who loves a woman feel comfortable and feel included." To help make the conference a safe space for all women, she said, there is a strict policy in place restricting all photography and videography to a designated area at the conference, and no press will be allowed.

"There may be people attending who are not out, and we do not want to violate anyone's privacy," she said.

Although the conference is sold out, Stevenson said there is a waiting list, and if any spaces become available, additional tickets will be released. But anyone who isn't able to attend this year should start making plans for next year, she said, because "we absolutely want to make this an annual event. We've already started talking about what 2019 will look like."

For more information visit LezTalkDallas.com.



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Memorial triangles moved to new Resource Center

History of a quilt panel that's hung at Nelson Tebedo for more than 25 years remains a mystery

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center moved eight memorial triangles and a quilt panel to its new building on Cedar Springs near Inwood Road as a "link to our history," Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said.

The center sold the triangles in the mid-1990s to underwrite the cost of planting trees around what is now the Simmons Foundation Health Campus on Reagan and Brown.

Resource Center purchased that building in 1990 after its office on Cedar Springs Road was destroyed in an arson fire in February 1989. The building cost \$235,000, and the board of what was then named the Foundation for Human Understanding was worried about paying the mortgage on the property. But board Secretary Joe Desmond kept reassuring the rest of the board the mortgage would be taken care of.

As the AIDS crisis grew, so did Resource Center's staff. Government funding was scarce and every time the board panicked about paying the mortgage as weekly expenses grew, Desmond would calmly reassure them that the mortgage would be taken care of.

Desmond died in 1993 soon after his partner Ken Flanagan. Desmond left a life insurance policy to the center that paid off the mortgage with enough money left over to help make a payroll.

The building and property are now worth several million dollars. One of the triangles moved to the new building honors Desmond and Flanagan.

Bill Hunt was an activist whose last job was with client services at the Resource Center Food Pantry. The sicker he became, the more his coworkers and pantry clients encouraged him to work shorter days to take care of his own health. But Hunt

vowed he would die at his desk at the pantry. He didn't, but he remained a vocal activist until his last days. The triangle honoring him is now at the new Resource Center building.

So are triangles for Black Tie Dinner founder Raymond Kuchling and Resource Center and Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance founders Bill Nelson, Terry Tebedo and George McDaniel.

Don Baker was the plaintiff in a case that resulted in overturning the sodomy law in the early 1980s. The Dallas Pride parade has been held each year in September, since the mid-1980s, to mark the anniversary of the celebration in Oak Lawn Park marking that decision.

Edwin Whitney, with his partner and longtime Resource Center volunteer and board member Randolph Terrell, hosted fundraising parties on Halloween in the 1980s to raise money for needed client services. While most operating expenses in the 1980s were raised through fundraisers and performers at the bars, Bruce Allen Long volunteered his time to Resource Center researching and writing the first grants for the center. Whitney's and Long's triangles now are cemented into the walk next to the center's new building.

The mysterious quilt panel

The center also moved a large quilt panel honoring Nelson and Tebedo that has been hanging at the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic for more than 25 years. McDonnell said there's a mystery about the quilt: Who made it?

The memorial quilt panel is larger than those included in the national NAMES Project collection. Those panels measure three feet by six feet — the size of a grave. This panel measures four feet by eight feet.

The exact date of the panel's creation is also uncertain. McDonnell said the quilt had to have been made after Nelson's death in 1990 (Tebedo died in 1988). Kelly Kawnak began working at the Center in 1992, and he said the panel was already hanging when he started there.

But who made the quilt? Jean Nelson, Bill's mother, probably had a hand in it. Possibly some of his students at W.T. White High School helped, McDonnell suggested. Nelson kept in touch with a number of his

students after he was forced to leave teaching because he was gay.

The quilt celebrates Nelson and Tebedo's lives of activism through pieces of T-shirts and a jacket.

The bottom row of patches commemorates Razzle Dazzle Dallas, the annual party that they helped found, with logos of the event from T-shirts from 1979 to 1988.

Their names are cut out of T-shirts that remember Nelson's city council campaign, their neighborhood association, Crossroads Market, the 1979 March on Washington, Dallas Gay Alliance and the Tropicana Party fundraisers and more.

Nelson's wrestling coach jacket from White is also included in the memorial.

McDonnell said a researcher at University of North Texas, where the LGBT archives are kept, is researching the quilt's history

and asked that if anyone knows more about the history of the quilt to call Resource Center with the information.



Clockwise from upper left: A triangle on the Nelson Tebedo quilt lists famous gay and lesbian people, five of the triangles the are now part of the walk outside Resource Center on Cedar Springs Road and The quilt made from Nelson and Tebedo's T-shirts now hangs in Resource Center's main building. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Vance focusing on economic development in council race

Stonewall Dems VP, DPD community engagement manager are LGBT candidates for District 4 seat

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
mathews.yb@gmail.com

Two openly-LGBT candidates will be among about a dozen candidates competing for a seat on Dallas City Council in a special election on Nov. 6.

Joli Robinson and Brandon Vance are two of the 13 candidates running for the District 4 seat in the wake of former Councilmember Dwaine Caraway's guilty plea last August on federal charges of accepting more than \$450,000 in bribes.

Robinson, who was unavailable for comment, works at the Dallas Police Department as manager over community engagement, and she has been endorsed by The Dallas Morning News.

Vance serves as vice president of Dallas Stonewall Democrats and the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats Dallas chapter. He is also a college advisor for KIPP Dallas-Fort Worth, a public charter school. He first ran for public office in 2016, against U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas. He lost to her in the Democratic primaries.

Vance said city council was not on his radar until Caraway resigned. "When [Caraway] resigned, it was kind of those flashing lights like, 'Here you go, this is the light bulb moment,'" he said. "I feel like I'm being called to do this."

Vance said it is his background in politics that sets him apart from the other 12 candidates in the race. "I literally got my degree in government," he said. "I have been known as being a consensus builder."

Vance received his bachelor's degree in government from Texas Woman's University. While there, he became the first black man elected president of the TWU senate in the school's history, according to his campaign website. He is originally from New Orleans, and he said District 4 reminds him of his hometown because of how friendly and open people are. He moved to the area



Brandon Vance

11 years ago and bought a house in the district after finishing school.

Vance described the demographics of District 4 as older and more diverse, with large black and Hispanic populations. For him, the biggest issues facing the district are lack of economic development and quality jobs. For example, if people want to go to movie theaters or quality restaurants, he said, they have to go to other parts of the city.

"The people in District 4 have money," he said. "They like to have a good time; they like to enjoy themselves, and those opportunities aren't present in District 4."

Vance cited the upcoming second deck park, set to be complete in 2022, as a possibility for business opportunities for District 4. "I don't want to see all of the business opportunities going to the west side of I-35, and we just have the entrance to the zoo," he said.

Vance said he is also concerned about affordable housing and taking care of the district's seniors. "District 4 and District 7 have the highest number of seniors who have not taken their 65-and-older exemption," he said.

As for his vision for the future, win or lose, Vance said he wants to keep helping to improve the community. If he loses, he said he wants to be on the homeless commission. If he wins, he is unsure if he wants to aim for higher office.

"I'm just zoned in right now on doing anything I can to show the community that I think I'm the best person for this position," he said. "I have the knowledge; I have the education, and I feel confident that I have the experience. And now it's just convincing the community to take a chance on me."

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AGENDA From Page 7

• Nov. 3: B4Black

Black Tie Dinner pre-party. Preview and begin bidding on silent auction items at 8-10 p.m. at Sheraton Dallas, 400 N. Olive St.

• Nov. 3: Black Tie Dinner

Annual fundraiser for Human Rights Campaign and 20 local nonprofits at 6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Dallas, 400 N Olive St.

• Nov. 3: It's My Park Day

Help clean up litter, weed or mulch a local Dallas park from 9 a.m.-noon. After you register online, someone from our staff will call you to coordinate getting you the supplies you need for the cleanup. DallasParks.org/FormCenter/Registration-Forms-9/Its-My-Park-Day-Fall-2018-126

• Nov. 3: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9 a.m., at Ridgeview Ranch, 2701 Ridgeview Drive, Plano. \$60.00 Includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

• Nov. 6: Election Day

• Nov. 9-11 Family Weekend in Dallas

Family Equality Council presents family weekend with barbecue, conversation, dance parties and mermaids. Events take place at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 10: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 8 a.m. Shotgun, at Cowboys Golf Club, 1600 Fairway Drive, Grapevine. \$152.42.00 Includes golf, cart, range balls, prizes and all food and beverage (excluding alcohol) in clubhouse and on the course. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

• Nov. 10-11: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Craft Festival 2018

About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

• Nov. 13: I'll Have a Blue Christmas

Ed-U-Care presents I'll Hve a Blue Christmas: How to Navigate the Holiday Season for LGBT Older Adults from 6-8:30 p.m. at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. \$8. RSVP for dinner and event at EduCareDallas.com.

• Nov. 13: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 11 a.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• Nov. 13: 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.



OBITUARY, From Page 6

Faubion of South Padre, her sister and brother-in-law, Jessica and Todd LeBlanc of Arlington; her brother and brother-in-law, Brian Faubion and Chuck Johnson of Plano, and many loving friends, including Terrie Anderson of Dallas.

Jennifer lived life on her own terms. She was kind and generous as well as strong and silly. Her friends and family adored her. She had an adventurous, can-do spirit and excelled at many professions, including bartending, graphic art production and the insurance industry.

Jennifer became a licensed massage therapist in 2014. With her healing touch and a new profession under her belt, she decided she wanted to be closer to nature. So on Aug. 28, 2015, she packed up her wife and her life and left the comforts of her family and friends in Texas to set out on a new adventure, settling in Pagosa Springs, Colo. She loved the San Juan Mountains, taking her 4x4 on outings, hiking and snowshoeing. She loved capturing images on her wildlife camera of bears, deer, foxes, raccoons and even the neighbors' dogs. She always wanted to share her

findings and her excitement was contagious.

She loved music and had a strong attachment to disco with its mirrored balls and tiny lights. She believed in paying it forward. She helped so many and was a strong defender of those who could not defend themselves. She was a loyal friend with a huge heart for fur babies and birds and excelled at finding eagles and osprey. She loved to sit on her porch with binoculars or a telescope and hunt for her feathered friends.

She enthusiastically enjoyed the fruits of her labor in her new-found cannabis cultivation. Her attention to detail was amazing, and she was always cool under pressure. She dreamed of a life full of love and laughter.

Jennifer spent the end of her life with grace and humor. All the nurses and caretakers at the hospital admired and loved her humor and her life. Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you said, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Jennifer made us feel that we were special and that we had value. She will be greatly missed.

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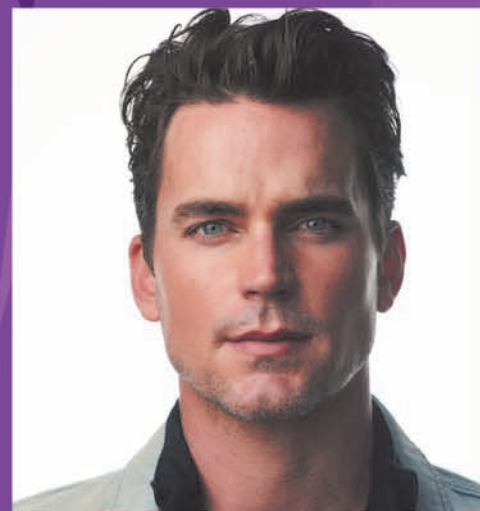
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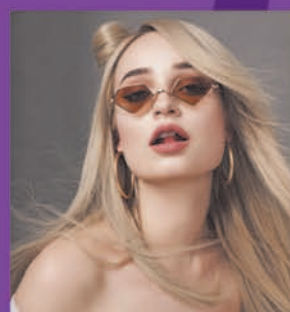
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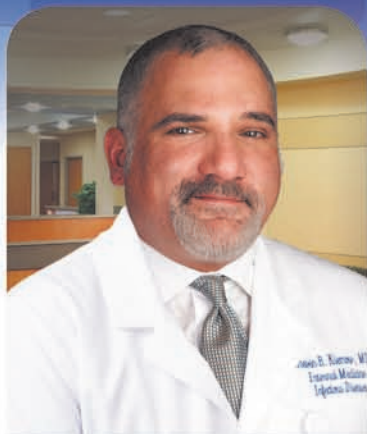
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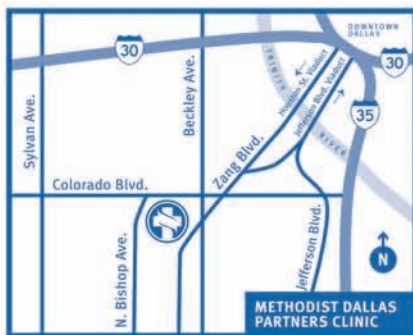
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The roots of Day of Remembrance in North Texas

BY PAMELA CURRY

Courtesy of The Dallas Way

Transgender Day of Remembrance, as many of you know, is observed annually on Nov. 20. It is an international, community-oriented ceremony honoring those lost to acts of anti-trans violence. I want to share the story of how I helped to bring TDOR to Dallas.

According to the official TDOR website, TDOR.info, the first TDOR was held in 1999, organized by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the life of Rita Hester, who had been murdered one year earlier. Hester's murder remains unsolved.

The website, maintained by Smith, explains: "The Transgender Day of Remembrance serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that current media doesn't perform. Day of Remembrance publicly mourns and honors the lives of our brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten. Through the vigil, we express love and respect for our people in the face of national indifference and hatred. Day of Remembrance reminds non-transgender people that we are their

TDOR 2018 in Dallas

- The TranScending Hope Conference, to educate clergy and lay leaders about the trans experience, will be held Nov. 16-17, at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Special guest will be Austen Hartke, the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. For information, contact the Rev. Erin Wyma at 214-351-1901.

- Transgender Pride of Dallas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Nov. 20 this year, from 7-9 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers. Day of Remembrance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who've died by anti-transgender violence."



The women's Chorus of Dallas has performed at several Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremonies. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

We know that, globally, trans women of color are disproportionately victims of violence. Right here in Dallas, Carla Patricia Flores-Pavón, a young trans Latina woman, was killed in her own home on May 9, 2018. This year is actually expected to be one of the deadliest years on record for trans people in the U.S., with at least 22 homicides of trans people already reported, according to sources.

These murders are often extremely brutal: victims are strangled, shot, stabbed, shot and stabbed (often multiple times), dismembered and even burned, sometimes while still alive and bleeding out. The violence feels like an attempt to erase their existence: If they can't be identified, they didn't exist.

These murders previously went largely unreported. Only due to increased awareness and our own community's demands for remembrance, dignity and justice do these deaths receive more attention today.

Sadly these murders still largely go unsolved.

But it isn't just physical violence that threatens the trans community: Bathroom bills, denying gender marker changes to identifying documents, dead-naming and more. Some trans women have recently re-

ported having their U.S. passports revoked or renewals denied.

These are but a few of the things that embolden those who would prey on us. Because of the current culture of hate and without the specific protections from homicidal violence or even the limited protections from oppression or discrimination, the violence will undoubtedly continue to escalate. For this reason alone it's more important today than ever that every open and affirming congregation, every ally find a way to support or organize or at least seek out and attend a TDOR Memorial service. Speak out when you witness oppression, harassment, discrimination or violence or celebration of someone who had/had a history of disparaging the transgender community.

Before I continue I must confess that when I was asked to write this, I almost said, "No, find someone else." Writing anything that isn't telling a machine what to do is not my best talent. But I was asked because I was the organizer of the first TDOR memorial in North Texas, back in 2002. While trans people are still being murdered, we have a responsibility to tell their stories and remember their history. How, then, could I say no?



Laying roses in a basket for each victim of transgender violence. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

The first TDOR in North Texas

It was late fall 2001 when I first became aware of TDOR, when a friend's "Aunty T" (Tamara Ching of San Francisco) and then "Moonflower" (Vanessa Foster of Houston) remarked, "It's a shame that that big beautiful church in Dallas [Cathedral of Hope] isn't having a TDOR Memorial event."

Having only recently returned to Dallas and only very recently become a member of Cathedral of Hope, I didn't know anyone, so didn't feel qualified to coordinate anything. But I made it my goal to see that in 2002, Dallas would have a TDOR Memorial, four years after the first memorial in San Francisco.

I reached out to Linda Freeman from Cathedral of Hope, asking how I might make this happen. She referred me to the Rev. Mona West. Not really knowing Rev. West, I asked Linda to accompany me.

We reached out to every progressive, open congregation in Dallas that we could identify, asking them to join the memorial. We also reached out to every transgender group we could find and asked them to participate. All we asked for was a speaker from each organization or church to list them as a co-sponsor with Cathedral of Hope absorbing all costs.

We even sent invitations to the performers from the clubs on Cedar Springs.

Then, on Nov. 24, 2002, Dallas held its

first Trans Day of Remembrance Candlelight Memorial service. We read the names of those who had been killed that year, and we lit a candle for each one of them as a symbolic gesture declaring hate could not extinguish the light they'd brought to the world.

Never allow hate to extinguish the light. ■

Pamela Curry is a currently a children's/youth Sunday school teacher at Northaven United Methodist Church.

At a TdoR ceremony at Cathedral of Hope, participants lit candles to remember transgender victims of violence. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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Anti-trans efforts are messing with the bull

It was Monday, Oct. 22. I just finished voting on the first day of early voting. I waited in line in Coppell for quite some time, and when I walked out to the car with my new wife, Katie, the line was even longer than when we walked in.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

I've been waiting six years to tell Ted Cruz, "You're fired." I even cried a little on the ride home. It's been a tough week.

The day before — Sunday, Oct. 21 — the New York Times had published an article reporting that the Trump administration plans to change federal civil rights law to include a definition of a person's sex as "a person's status as male or female, based on immutable biological traits identifiable by or before birth."

Essentially, if this ridiculous notion goes into effect, the government of the United States of America would effectively stop recognizing the very possibility of a person being transgender.

Me and my vagina would be rendered invisible.

The Family Research Council, Mike Pence, The Heritage Foundation and others like them have been wanting to erase us for years, and it looks like this is their best chance.

When I read that article, I became physically ill. I'm not going down without a fight, but I'm exhausted from having to fight all the time. For everything.

So I have something to say to those who hate us and are working so hard to erase us: Transgender people exist. Get over it.

It's one small part of who we are. The fact that we are under this kind of scrutiny and

are being targeted this way is mystifying to me. For one, there aren't that many of us, so why worry about us so much?

We don't cause a ruckus. We really don't. We are a pretty well-behaved lot over all. Many of us are terrified at even being ourselves in public. We are *FAR* more likely to be the victim of a crime than we are to perpetrate one.

So why the fuss?

Well, for one, we are an easy target. We can't even unite the LGBTQ community behind us, let alone the rest of America. So attacking us doesn't seem to carry any political risk at all.

The evangelical Christians hate us more than they do Obamacare — and they *REALLY* hate that. I mean, ya just can't have low-income people have access to medical care! That's just crazy!

Seriously though, what happens once this latest revocation of civil rights becomes the next step in this totalitarian regime? Goose-stepping taught in basic training?

Trump wants a simpler time, when there were only two genders — male or female — and those were immutable. Fixed. Doc takes a peek between your legs, slaps your butt and you are what he says you are.

Doctors aren't always right. I'm evidence of that. So are more a million other people.

And you can't legislate us out of existence. You can't ignore us out of existence. *We exist*, and we aren't going anywhere ... well, except maybe Canada, if the internet posts I see are any indication.

My biggest fear is that this latest bit of evangelical ass-kissing is going to cost lives. I've seen a really large uptick on social media of the letters "KMS" from trans people. It's an option that I sure hope they don't use, because KMS = Kill MySelf.

We can't allow our precious trans brothers and sisters to lose hope.

Another ridiculous byproduct of this scientifically-debunked idea of a strict and immutable gender binary is using genetic

testing to settle gender disputes. So fasten your seatbelts, butch lesbians. The government might not believe you, so you may be hauled in for genetic testing, just to make sure! And just to be safe, I'd test any guy under 5-foot-6.

Also, men with tiny hands — that's a dead giveaway. Hear that Mr. President? We want to see the test results! But look on the bright side: You might be able to play from the ladies' tees on your next round of golf!

The problem with the whole idea of genetic testing is that there aren't two genetic buckets. There are variations. Always have been. Besides, humans, being self aware, can't be sorted like monkfish into separate barrels.

Gender doesn't live between the legs; it lives between the ears.

But convincing the heretics at the Family Research Council that differences in gender identity in humans are natural and confirmed by science is like teaching a pig to sing. It wastes your time, and annoys the pig. Hell, they want you to believe the earth is 6,000 years old and climate Change is something Al Gore invented right after the internet.

So ignore us at your peril. We aren't going away. We will challenge you in court; we will remain visible, and we will never give up. We *WILL* prove you wrong.

This is who we are. You don't have any idea how tough transgender people are, how brave or determined we are. Look at what we go through to live authentic lives, how hard we fought.

You want to take that away from us then pretend we don't exist? As we say in Texas, you mess with the bull, you'll get the horns.

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

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Eric McCormack's comedic (r)evolution

The sitcom star addresses the value of 'Will & Grace' now and why the show could have backfired

Eric McCormack auditioned for the role of a gay title lawyer on *Will & Grace* without realizing the effect he'd have on closeted teenagers. "I was worried about network executives and what the gay community would think," he says, "but when I was thinking of the gay community, I wasn't thinking of 16-year-olds."

In 1998, when the sitcom touched down on NBC in a TV universe that was distinctly less gay, the show presented itself as farcical comedy. But by the time it ran its course, ending (or so we thought) in 2006, *Will & Grace* was, through sheer existence, a cultural landmark leading the way for LGBTQ inclusivity in entertainment and in the broader world.

And those '90s teenagers? "What has been revealed is that it was [them] sort of peeking over [their] parents' shoulder going, 'OK, I like this show, this show's for me,' and, 'Hey, if my mom likes this show then I can do this,'" McCormack says.

Eleven years went by without Will, his roommate Grace (Debra Messing), his gay pal Jack (Sean Hayes) and Jack's rollicking, boozed bestie, Karen (Megan Mullally). Marriage equality happened. More queer characters — trans, of color, non-conforming — happened. And in 2017, with Trump jabs and jokes scoffing at discriminatory cake bakers, *Will & Grace* returned to NBC with a new agenda for the queer-comedy revolution it once led.

Recently, McCormack received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and became the recipient of the Point Foundation's Impact Award in recognition of his significant

impact on the LGBTQ community. Here, the actor reflects on playing Will during a more conservative time in America, the episode NBC cut from reruns and the significance of gay actors portraying his love interests.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: When you first began playing Will, how much more attention did you get from gay men? Eric McCormack: Well, I'm from the theater, so I was pretty much already gettin' my share!

But this is national primetime television, known to the world. I think that was the most interesting journey, because in the theater, all through my 20s, when I first started doing television guest spots in Toronto and Vancouver, I did a bunch of gay roles. I was a bartender at the gay bar, and I was the guy in the office who the girl thought was coming onto her — but I say, "Honey, I'm gay." These roles accumulated for me, and nobody else knew I was doing them. When Will finally landed for me, I didn't have to go out and do a lot of research. My best friends were gay men. I grew up in the theater. So, it was a natural extension.

But when it suddenly, as you say became "national," there was — yeah, you have to be careful with that [attention], though, because what happens automatically is NBC phones and says, "Hey, People magazine wants to do a thing on you," and of course People magazine always features you and your wife in the kitchen making pasta, right? Or something dopey like that. [Laughs] So within two months it's clear [I'm] married, but you don't want it to look like you begged People magazine to show the world that you're straight. It could've backfired, and that's the thing I'm always grateful for: the LGBT community could've just said, "Eh, another one, no." But they didn't.

Representation has evolved and shifted in the last 20 years, and now there's more criticism of straight actors taking on LGBTQ roles. Can you reflect on that



era versus now as far as straight actors portraying LGBTQ characters? I think the pendulum swings, and I really do think it's project to project. I think what we're doing with the trans community — first of all, that wasn't even an expression for most Amer-

icans five years ago, so it's important how we handle that because a lot of Americans will go, "Well, trans is like what? He puts on a dress?" A lot of people just don't know. So, it's important that, if there is a role that is specifically trans, we cast a trans actor so

that we start to educate.

The flipside to me is that whenever someone says you were straight playing gay, I say, “Well, yeah, Neil Patrick Harris played the biggest womanizer and he’s quite openly gay, so I feel like it’s OK.” So I think if there’s a balance, and if it happens in the right ways, if we make sure that people of color and women are represented, that we’re doing the right thing by all the communities that have needed it, then it’s great. But if we swing too far the other way, we’re starting to get to a point where I think we’re missing the forest for the trees.

Did you ever experience any pushback being a straight actor playing a gay character on TV? There was a little. I remember Larry Kramer, who of course was such an activist in the gay community, said something and I thought, Does Larry Kramer even know what *Will & Grace* is? That was just amazing to me. So, I thought if anyone is gonna pushback, I guess it’d be him. But in terms of pushback from America, it didn’t really happen. There were no pickets, there were no letters to NBC. I think they were very wise and eased us into the weeks on Monday and then we eased onto Tuesday, and then the next thing you know it was Thursday and we were winning an Emmy and it was OK. America actually dealt with it very well.

Do you have any real-life examples of how Will and Jack spoke to the part of America that didn’t understand or weren’t accepting of LGBTQ people? The thing I always loved from the beginning: We were making a very right-down-the-middle, must-see-TV kind of show that just happened to have two gay characters. But they were not matching gay characters, and to have those two as best friends who support each other but also occasionally criticize each other, I thought that was possibly the most educational piece for Americans who didn’t have a lot of gay friends.

To see how Jack would criticize Will for not being out there, for not being loud and proud, for not dating enough, and Will would — there was an episode [in Season 1, called “Will Works Out”] that was quite amazing where we were in the same gym and Jack was flouncing about. Will kind of mutters the F word under his breath — calls him a fag — and it’s something that when [Jack] says it to Grace, he’s like, “Will, what’s the matter with you?” And Will is like, “He’s embarrassing! He embarrasses me!” Will eventually apologizes because it’s his own inability to be himself, but we tackle that. NBC stopped showing it in reruns for a while because it really was a big word to say, particularly from a character that we wanted you to love.

When the revival was announced, there were people who weren’t sure what to expect from a *Will & Grace* in 2017 because the community had made so much progress since the show’s first iteration. Were you guys hearing the noise, and if so, how were you responding to it behind the

scenes? Most of the noise that we got came after everybody saw the piece we did for Hillary [Clinton], the 10 minutes on YouTube, which just proved it was possible for us to do this again. People generally were excited about that. That’s what I heard, mostly. Then, as we got closer, there were pundits saying, “How valuable can it be in 2017?” And my response is always: It only needs to be this valuable because it’s a sitcom. We’re not a parade that is marching in city hall and shouting. We’re a sitcom, and we shout in our own way.

Except you were a groundbreaking sitcom, so there’s a lot of social and political weight attached to the show. Yeah, so: Will we live up to that in that way? It’s like your queer uncle that was marching back in ’78: Maybe he doesn’t have the loud voice, maybe he can’t march as fast now, but he is still just as important. And, in fact, those older gay voices — I loved that episode where Will educates [a character played by] Ben Platt [last season]. It’s like, “You young gays can’t take any of this for granted. This was fought for and people were beat up and died to get here so that your father and your mother could throw you a wedding with your boyfriend.” This is the result of a revolution, and so were Will and Grace and Jack and Karen.

So, I think we kind of showed up, but we didn’t want to make it a victory lap, either. We wanted to make sure there was still currency, and I think the way in for that, particularly with Jack and Will, was: What’s life like when you’re almost 50 and you’re not the hottest guy on the block but you’re still living that life, you’re still in New York and you’ve loved and lost, as they both have? And what do you want out of life? That’s a cool, new storyline — and, again, nobody was telling exactly that story.

The show’s first revival season in 2017 tackled politics and other hot-button issues.

What topic from this current season do you most appreciate the show working in?

I think, obviously, the umbrella topic they’re using in the ads is the idea of marriage. Jack is going to get married, and so that’s great. We had episodes [before the revival] where I had the closest thing you could get to marriage back then with Taye Diggs, and then again with Bobby Cannavale.

I mean, to me, that’s one of my proudest moments on the show, that I actually had a commitment ceremony in Will’s apartment with Taye Diggs, a white man and a black man, a big, long kiss. Hall & Oates performed [laughs]. And it was virtually not even spoken of. This is probably season six or seven, but it barely even made the press because people were so like, “Whatever. Who’s Will making out with this week?” But people don’t remember that always. They always wanna talk about, “Well, Will is a bit sterile.” It’s like, No, no; if you watch the show throughout, I had Patrick Dempsey, I had Bobby Canna-

■ MCCORMACK Page 24

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First things first, for all of those concerned about the way that Freddie Mercury's homosexuality is depicted in the Bryan Singer's Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*, you can relax. From the minute you first see Mercury, brilliantly played by Rami Malek (complete with prosthetic teeth), there is no doubt that the king of Queen was, in fact, a queen. His relationship with fiancée Mary Austin (Lucy Boynton) gets a fair amount of screen time, but so do his same-sex attractions, from being cruised by a trucker outside of a men's room to his relationships with manager Paul (Allen Leech) and later his lover Jim (Aaron McCusker).

Now that that's settled, it's safe to say that, as biopics go, *Bohemian Rhapsody* does a respectable job of telling both Mercury's story and giving the audience insight into the history of the band itself. The backstory of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Will Rock You" are worth the price of admission alone. We spoke with Malek, as well as "band mates" Joseph Mazzello and Gwilym Lee (who play John Deacon and Brian May) about becoming Queen.

— Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: I'd like to begin by getting the obvious questions out of the way first. Would you each please name your favorite Queen song and favorite Queen album? Joseph Mazzello: "Somebody To Love" is my all-time favorite, and this is a boring answer but *A Night at the Opera* is such a masterpiece that, all told, I'd have to say it's my favorite album.

Gwilym Lee: Yeah, probably the same. But I really like *Queen* one, the first album, just because you hear them working out who they really are. You hear them as a really young, slightly naïve band that sounds a lot like other bands of that time because they're still trying to find their unique sound. There's a lot of Led Zeppelin influence. But there's something quite pure about it as a rock band.

Rami Malek: As an album cover, maybe to flip this a little bit, I like *News of the World*.

The robot! RM: Yes, the robot, which they're currently touring with. We watched so much archival footage and to hear them talk about "We Will Rock You" and "We Are The Champions" [both from *News of the World*] as something they always thought about as a pair, and a true audience participation song that features so heavily in the film; I've got to pay homage to that.

Yes, there's that great scene in the studio where we see the genesis of the song. Prior to making *Bohemian Rhapsody*, where did Queen rank on each of your lists of favorite bands? GL: It's pretty high up there. Their songs are so universal. You hear them everywhere growing up. Sometimes you have to remind yourself that they wrote the songs that they did. I think people

are going to watch this film and be shocked to learn, oh, they wrote that one, as well. What's been lovely about doing this project is going back to the origins of their songs. Seeing how they evolved and the imagination that it took to come up with such unique songs.

JM: I made a little student film when I was in high school and I put "Another One Bites the Dust" at the end of it over the credits. It was like "final cut one" or something. Then Queen just started popping up for me. I directed a film and everyday before going to the set, to pump myself up I'd listen to "Somebody to Love." Then it was in college where I feel like I found a new level of appreciation for them

and I became a *Greatest Hits* fan. Every new song I heard by them was my new favorite song. Doing this movie changed everything. There were songs I didn't think about too much or seemed like one of their mediocre songs. When you learn how to play it, the intent behind it, why they wrote it, how all four of them wrote hits — when you get all of that knowledge it takes on a whole new meaning to you. I literally walked in the room singing.

Yes, I heard you singing "Somebody To Love." RM: That doesn't get old. [All laugh] No, no. We love it. We got this question on set a lot. We'd be playing a song, take after take, by the end of the day...I was a production assistant on a music video once where

I was like, "If I ever hear that song again, I'm going to do bad things." But that never happens with Queen. Collectively we've all said this without talking about it. We've been listening to Queen non-stop in a way that some might think is odd or some might think is totally understandable.

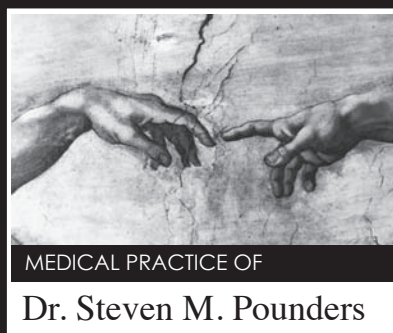
That speaks to the power of the music. RM: It does. Hearing Bowie with Queen and Freddie doing those kinds of operatic warm-ups that he ended up incorporating into the music was revolutionary to me. Then you get involved in the story behind the making of "Under Pressure" and how things come about with them. How inspired and sponta-

■ QUEEN Page 25



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3 strikes, no hits

A disappointing trio of films aiming for award consideration:
'Beautiful Boy,' 'Price of Everything,' 'Wildlife'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Around 2001, Nic Sheff (Timothée Chalamet) — a smart, seemingly well-adjusted 18-year-old on his way to college — started disappearing from the home he shared with his dad David (Steve Carell), a magazine writer, and his stepmom Karen (Maura Tierney).

He had always done some recreational drugs (hey, dad did too in his day!) but his addiction to crystal meth went further. Waayyy further. He stole, lied, escaped from rehab, relapsed. He was a junkie. And dad has no idea what to do.

David, being a writer, turned his anguish and confusion over Nic into a series of articles, and later a book called *Beau-*

Timothee Chalamet and Steve Carell, above, are better in 'Beautiful Boy' than the movie itself.



Carey Mulligan and Jake Gyllenhaal play a troubled couple in 'Wildlife.'

tiful Boy; Nic himself eventually cleaned up his act and wrote his own memoir, *Tweak*, both of which form the basis of the movie *Beautiful Boy*, and if it sounds like a disease-of-the-week style drama, well, you got that right. Are there powerful moments? To be sure. With meth such a scourge, especially in the gay community, this profile of the complicated system of hurt, blame, wasted money, near-death and recrimination will no doubt hit very close to home for many people. But the suburbanites coping with the "other" of drug addiction feels hackneyed and director Felix van Groeningen (*Broken Circle Breakdown*) seems to plod through it predictably. (There's even a scroll at the end — "drug overdose is the leading cause of death yadda-yadda" — that makes the film seem like one long public service announcement.)

What does set it apart are the performances. Chalamet's wired, desperate mania fully captures the charm and sadness of an addict. Carell's best scene comes when he watches his two younger children in a school pageant, and realizes he cannot know what is in store for them any more than he could have predicted what would happen to his beautiful boy.

"A cynic," wrote Oscar Wilde, with his distinctive wit, in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, "is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." And in the modern art world, could any truer words have been spoken?

In the documentary *The Price of Everything* — arriving on HBO on Nov. 12, but also in theaters this week for an award-qualifying run — the tension be-

■ STRIKES Page 26

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vale. I had lots of hot guys *and* married a couple of them.

And if anyone has forgotten, you get with Matt Bomer this season to remind people.

Well, first of all, he's the greatest guy. So freakin' funny *and* gay, so it's not like the old days where we get another straight guy to come in and we both act gay together. Now there's a bit more authenticity to it, and he was so great that I think we'll see more of Matt.

Is the dynamic different for you when your love interest is played by a gay actor?

When I think of last season, it's three romantic moments I had and all three were with men who are actually gay and they were all Broadway guys, which was just great: Andrew Rannells and Ben Platt and Cheyenne Jackson. And yeah, for me I just loved that. It's a step forward, and there will always be someone from the community saying, "Well, why aren't they in bed?" And I'll go, yeah, I know, but we still have the Ku Klux Klan. Let's remember that this is a public network; it's 9 o'clock, and we want young kids that haven't been able to come out to their parents to watch the show and have that parent love the show. The show was never about overtly pushing buttons. We were competing with *Sex and the City* where they could do anything they wanted because they were HBO. We had to do it more surreptitiously, more subtly.

I've seen some steamy stuff on primetime, though. I remember *Desperate Housewives* had a lot of bedroom scenes with that gardener. True, but there is a difference. We are actually a four-camera sitcom, so the way that we have to get under people's skin, the way that we have to be shocking is different; we have to do it with a lot of care. We're not callous about it. The jokes we choose, either politically or sexually, we play them throughout the week, we figure it out before we get in front of that audience, because we want to be around and we want to continue to be a voice and an example.

Sometimes all it takes is one bad decision, one bad joke, one situation that turns people off and all of a sudden we're not in the top 20 or 30. Everything is calculated so that we can stay around and continue to be us, and it's certainly changed in 20 years, but it's still a country where people won't get their cakes baked by a freakin' baker, so it's changed, but not as much as we'd like to hope.

Sean alluded to possibly seeing Jack and Will together, romantically, in the future. Do you see that as a possibility?

In a gay way, that's the Sam and Diane of it all. Early on, because that's how conservative network television was, people were thinking, "Well, maybe Will and Grace will get together, maybe she'll fix him!" And as time went

by, they started to realize that's not what this show is. This is not the gay-conversion comedy. But Will and Jack — it's my favorite stuff to play. When he and I are together, we have so much fun. But we have to be careful how much we tease that out, because you do that and then that's a different show.

You played gay at a time when some straight male actors were told not to for the sake of their career. As a straight man auditioning for a gay role, did you or your team have any concerns? I don't remember that being a thing. I got two scenes into reading it and I just thought, "This is one of those shows. This is a Thursday night show. I bet they get Jim Burrows to direct it." It just read like that, and that overpowered any fears. Plus, by that time, I'm 35, I'd been in the business a while, I'd been watching *Seinfeld* and *Friends* for years — that's what I wanted.

And I think probably the opposite happened, because I had played a number of gay roles — I'd done drag roles — so this not only didn't scare me but it made me think, "This is the one whose head will rise above the crowd because it's not just *Suddenly Susan* or *Caroline in the City*; this is its own thing. There's no other show like this at the moment." And that's what proved to happen.

But can you still walk in heels? [Laughs] You caught me on a good day — I'm breakin' in a new pair of pumps.



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neous they were together is something I find so fascinating.

JM: After I was done shooting, I was like “What songs didn’t we cover? What songs didn’t I get to know?” That was the rabbit hole I went down. You’re loving so much of it that you want to learn more and more and be able to take it in as a fan of the music rather than having the responsibility of performing it.

You hope that that’s what a movie like this will do, to get people to go and do the research. GL: So many people that we’ve spoken to who have seen the film say that the first thing they do is go back home and watch the Live Aid footage which I think is great. Everyone needs to see it. It’s such an iconic and historic moment. We watched it hundreds and hundreds of times in preparation for the film. I still watch it to this day.

There’s a scene where Freddie plays piano upside down and backwards which made me wonder if each of you plays a musical instrument. JM: Only upside down.

RM: I looked at piano and it’s been a mystery to me my whole life. That’s the one thing people forget about Freddie. The guy was a virtuoso. Taking piano lessons, it took quite a while for me to learn how to play “Bohemian Rhapsody” or “We Are the Champions.” But at one point I saw in the script, oh he’s playing upside down as well. I felt like, “If you’re going to make my story from his point of view, I’m going to throw everything at you.”

GL: I played a little bit of acoustic guitar, but nothing to the level of Brian May’s genius. We all put in a lot of work. We got grafted pretty hard trying to play our instruments.

Joseph and Gwilym, what were the challenges of playing living people, as in the case of John Deacon and Brian May, respectively? JM: It literally never leaves your mind every time you play a real person. As an actor, you want to go into any job giving it your absolute all and everything. It just feels like there’s this extra motivation when you have this intense responsibility to the actual person you’re playing. To their family and, in this job, to the Queen fan-base, which is massive. We hear from them all the time, they’re so invested in this. Every day you walk on set, it doesn’t matter if you’re tired or what’s going on in your personal life, you always keep that in the forefront of your mind and it focuses you in in a way you can’t even imagine.

GL: You have to stay on guard. You have to stay on your game. It can be overwhelming, but it forces you to put in the hours.

RM: I looked forward to knowing when Brian May was going to come [to the set]. It just elevated me.

It didn’t make you nervous? RM: It could have. But he stepped on the scene and he was warm. He was taking pictures of it. There’s such humility and class in the man. He made us feel like it was a privilege to have us telling his story.

JM: He was taking videos on his cellphone of us doing Live Aid. It was like, “That’s not how

this works [laughs]. We’re trying to impress you.” It was a cool moment for us.

What do you think Freddie Mercury would think of *Bohemian Rhapsody*? RM: It’s hard enough emulating him in any way or trying to fill those shoes. It took me quite a while to come close in this film. To begin to ponder what this man was thinking. Ultimately, I think what the film does really well, it doesn’t spend too much time going into the darker places, the illicit places. We do that just so we can show just how grand and big his life was.

Full. RM: Rich and complex and full. I think celebrating the magnificence of the man

was all we hoped to achieve. I just hope there’s a moment where he’s like, “Well that was colorful and enjoyable. I hope you all had a real good time.”

GL: It’s nice to be reminded of him. He was a celebrator of life; an incredible individual. It’s nice to remind the world of him. We need people like Freddie Mercury.



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10.26.18 ■ dallasvoice 25

tween creativity and marketability is put up for auction, and the winning bidder is... well, I'm not sure.

By happenstance, the thesis of the film (that vagaries in the opinions of arbitrary tastemakers, from gallerists to collections to auction houses to critics, can impute capricious volatility that seems unmoored to ability) pits two artists on opposing sides of the fence with eerily similar names. Larry Poons was an abstract expressionist pioneer along with Stella, Rauschenberg and their ilk, but whose

work has fallen into disfavor in recent decades; Jeff Koons, on the other hand, is a virtual corporate creator in and of himself, whose "balloon" sculptures of mirrored metal have commoditized art as only Warhol could have dreamt. Who gets to decide which of them gets to sell for record prices, and who should languish in museum basements?

The director, Nathaniel Kahn (whose own father is architect Louis Kahn, designer of Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum), never answers that question, which is



Sculptor Jeff Koons is the focus of the contemporary art documentary 'The Price of Everything.'

unanswerable anyway, but sets up how we are at cross-purposes — selling art to allow artists to make a living in a creative way, but also diminishing its meaning and power by low- and middle-brow tastes and over-exposure.

The art world, with its snotty cocktail parties and opaque discourses on the meaning of art, is a prime target for these critiques, but hardly uniquely so: The recording industry, film industry, restaurant industry and even journalism are all subject to opprobrium, as almost any insular enterprise can be. And while thoughtful and well-produced, *The Price of Everything* doesn't draw any real conclusions, or promote an insight to set it apart. At least, that's what one critic thinks. Is that enough?

There's a scene about 25 minutes into the mopey, enervating *Wildlife* when a department store photographer explains to a young man the reason most people come to get their pictures taken. It echoed similar scenes I recall from Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies* and Paul Thomas Anderson's *The Master*, and it was only about the ninth such echo in this movie. Which is exactly its problem. Everything feels like a retread of other, better works: A Willy Loman-esque father (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his smilingly supportive wife (Carey Mulligan); a lonesome teen tentatively reaching out to a girl in his new school; a tense confrontation with a boss (or a potential employer) from an over-eager subordinate. Paul Dano, who is known mostly as an actor, co-wrote and directed *Wildlife*, based on Richard Ford's book, and it feels like an ambitious first-time effort. But unlike, say, Greta Gerwig's debut with *Lady Bird* this time last year, *Wildlife* is dour and without forward momentum. Well-intentioned, yes, but this story of a family on the brink of collapse in 1960s Montana just sits there, like an Edward Hopper painting, waiting for us to engage with it. That never happened for me. ■

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Friday 10.26 — Saturday 10.27

**Pianist Joyce Yang accompanies
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet live**

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet has often combined its lovely celebration of movement with the presence of an onstage pianist, but nothing quite so thrilling as what the company has in store for Dallas audiences. For both performances, acclaimed pianist Joyce Yang will join the troupe to accompany a poetic *dance-en-pointe*, a newly-commissioned piece and another fan favorite.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



**Friday 11.02 —
Saturday 11.04**

**Chefs for Farmers moves
to Heritage Village**

Chefs for Farmers brings chefs, food and beverage artisans and purveyors together for culinary exploration every year in multiple events (two have taken place just since Dallas Pride), but the biggie comes soon: The three-day festival coming with November. Fearing's Fall Harvest kicks everything off at the chef's restaurant in the Ritz on Nov. 2, followed two larger events: the Street Food Festival at Victory Park on Nov. 3, and the Main Event, newly at Dallas Heritage Village, on Nov. 4.

DEETS: Visit ChefsForFarmers.com for full lineup, times, locations and prices.



**Friday 10.26 —
Saturday 10.27
Friday 11.02**

**The one-two punch of Cleveland
and Lutz**

If there are two local performers we can't get enough of, they are BJ Cleveland and Janelle Lutz. You might think they couldn't be more different, but in fact, in addition to being multi-talented singers, they also both do killer versions of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli. (Cleveland is even writing and directing Lutz as Judy in an upcoming holiday show for Uptown Players.) But this weekend you can see both at Casa Manana with their show *An Evening with Liza and Judy* (Cleveland as Liza, Lutz as Garland). And you can even catch Lutz on her own at a fundraiser for Second Thought Theatre on Nov. 2 at Sammons.

DEETS: Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Oct. 26–27. CasaManana.org. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. Nov. 2. 2TT.co.



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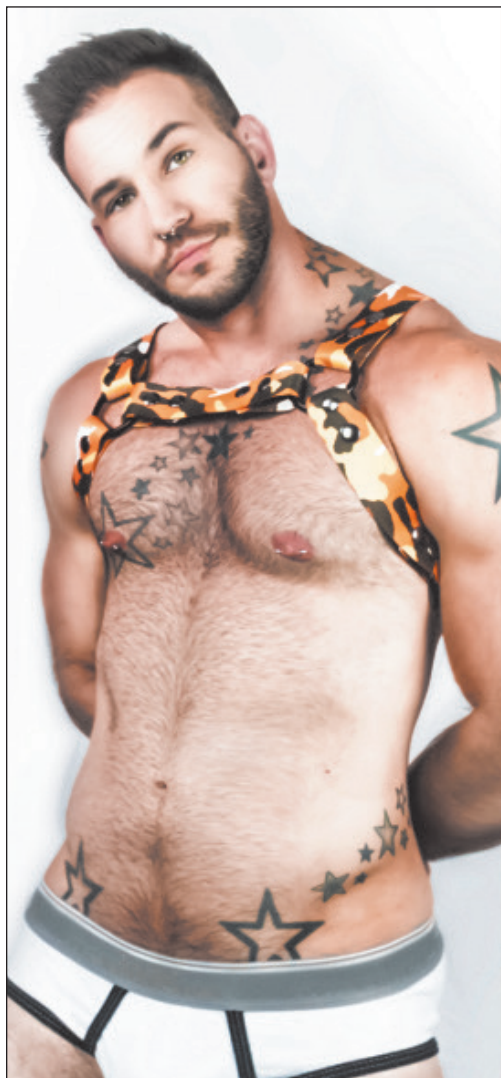
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Blood Brothers. A musical by Willy Russell about twins separated at birth who become friends. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. Bath House Cultural Center, 5321 E. Lawther Drive. Through Nov. 11. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

Elwood. A world premiere musical comedy by Matthew Posey, presented by Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. Oct. 27–Nov. 17. OchreHouseTheater.org.

The Moors. The lives of two Victorian era sisters are disrupted by strange arrivals in this dark comedy. Directed by Garret Storms. Thearre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Nov. 18. Theatre3Dallas.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. *Final weekend.* Trinity River Arts Center, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. KitchenDogTheater.org.

OPERA

Carmen. The classic by Bizet, about a fiery woman and the man who cannot resist her. Presented by the Dallas Opera. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Nov. 4. DallasOpera.org.

DANCE

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Pianist Joyce Yang accompanies the company with live music. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. ATPAC.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.

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 10.26

COMMUNITY

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

CONCERTS

After Dark Under the Stars. Turtle Creek Chorale presents an outdoor concert with desserts and a live performance by singer Matt Alber. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. 8–11 p.m. \$75–\$125. TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark.

SATURDAY 10.27

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 10.29

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 10.30

FILM

The Bride of Frankenstein. Last week's film, *Gods and Monsters*, was about the final days of pioneering film director James Whale, who was openly gay in early Hollywood; this horror classic is one of Whale's best-loved films. 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 10.31

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.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie rated the Halloween frights

Boo, y'all! It is that time a year again. Some call it gay Christmas but to most of the world it is Halloween. I love this time of year — cooler weather, menzez dressing up all slutty and of course candy. What's not to love? I also love the flood of horror movies out at the theater and on TV.

I was so looking forward to the new *Halloween* movie with Jamie Lee Curtis reprising her role as Laurie Strode, Michael Myers' nemesis, hell-bent on destroying the killer once and for all. I didn't hate it but it really fell short of being a "killer" movie. The best part of the movie was the foul-mouthed little boy that seemed like the only smart person in the film.

The theme from *Halloween* has been my ringtone for five years, so you know I am a fan, but if it wasn't for some of the horrific kills and great gore I would probably change my (ring) tone. The whole girls kick ass part of the film fell short. I wanted more of a Sarah Conner from *Terminator 2* badass chick moment but got more of a Sarah Conner from *Terminator 1*.

The Haunting of Hill House on Netflix has everything you want in Halloween chills and more. It is a retelling of Shirley Jackson's 1959 classic book but has been updated brilliantly, tackling the subject of mental illness and addiction while still delivering great scares and a spooky feel. I haven't even finished all 10 episodes yet, but I am blown away by the writing and acting. The first episode started a little slow but as you watch it builds, and each episode seems to get better and better.

Mike Flanagan, the writer and director, also did the Netflix adaptation of Stephen King's *Gerald's Game* using many of the same actors in *Hill House*. I am now obsessed with him and will watch anything that has his name attached to it. Seriously, give *Hill House* a watch. It will feed that human need for being safely scared and if you see something you think might scare me, let me know. We dark souls need to stick together.

If you like haunted houses, I strongly suggest Dark Hour in Plano. We went recently and I can honestly say it is one of the best haunted house attractions ever. The level of detail is incredible. The scares range from elaborate and horrifying to over the top gore to sometimes corny. We were almost eaten by a bed with teeth. The use

of lasers make this haunt a definite 10. It is a full 360 degree experience. I loved it!

Now let's help some of the spirits in this realm.

Dear Cassie, One of my best friends just recently tested positive for HIV. He is very freaked out and upset so I am trying to be there for him and be the best friend I can possibly be, but let me tell you a little of his history. My bestie is a self-proclaimed slut. His Grindr profile basically said for random guys to come over and "dump their load" into him. I knew he was into barebacking but I figured he was on PReP or something. I actually thought he was already HIV-positive and that's why he didn't care if they used a condom.

I know many people who are HIV-positive live happy, healthy lives but he is depressed and feels like his life is over. Part of me just wants to hug him and tell him everything will be okay but another part of me want to yell at him and say what did you think was going to happen? I am torn, what should I do? Thanks for your help, signed, Ralph.

Dear Ralph, A true best friend can do both of those things. Be there for him, volunteer to go to see the doctor with him, help educate him, introduce him to your friends that are HIV-positive and willing to talk to him about what to expect now that he is positive. But also read the fuck out of him for thinking that being a cumdump with no protection of any kind would lead to anything other than a STD. What the hell was he thinking?

You should have Cher-in-Moonstruck-slapped him and said "Snap out of it! Use a condom! Get on PReP! Do something!" Or did your sex talks not happen till he tested positive? Look, the truth is, being positive is not the death sentence it once was. Some of the strongest people I know are HIV-positive. Some of them found that being positive made them stronger and made them more aware of their health so they live better more active lives.

Make sure your friend goes to a doctor and stays on his medications. If he can't afford his medications or doesn't have insurance, Texas has many great resources he can use to help. There is an entire network of people whose sole job is to help people that have recently tested positive. There is so much help out there for your friend or anyone that tests positive and



is freaking out.

You can't go back in time to prevent him from being exposed to HIV but you can encourage him now to live a better life and not to expose anyone else he sleeps with to HIV. We live in a culture that, if you watch porn, tends to glorify barebacking and unprotected sex. The results of that are more people testing positive for HIV and other STDs like chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are on the rise. And let's be honest, there is nothing sexy about a pus-drippy dick or ass warts.

As a best friend, you need to keep it real but you also need to help him out. Don't tippy-toe around the subject. Be his shoulder to cry on and the kick in the ass he needs. Stay strong for him in his time of crisis, let him know that it will get better as long as he sticks to the plan laid out for him by a doctor. Hopefully this helps

you, your friend and anyone who reads this that might be doing the same kinds of unsafe practices.

Remember folks, if you insist on being a cumdump, please get on PReP and get yourself tested for everything, and do it often. Or even better, get on PReP and *still* use condoms — why take a chance on a lifetime of medications and possible health problems? Live a smart life.

Sorry if I come off a little preachy, but I grew up in a world where if you didn't practice safe sex, you died. I lost so many friends that it is hard for me to wrap my head around young folks not caring about their sexual health until they have to. Safe sex can still be hot sex. Take care of you!

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

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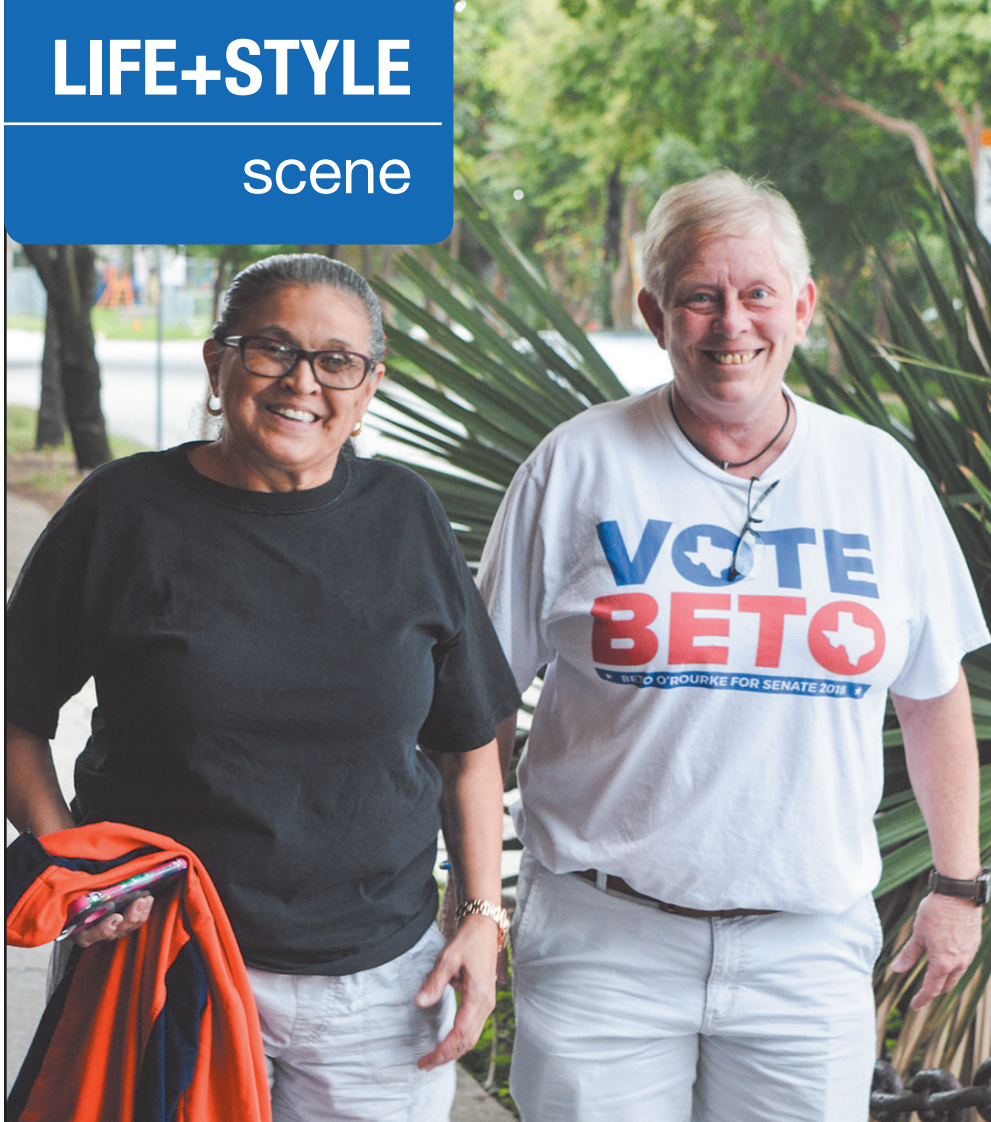


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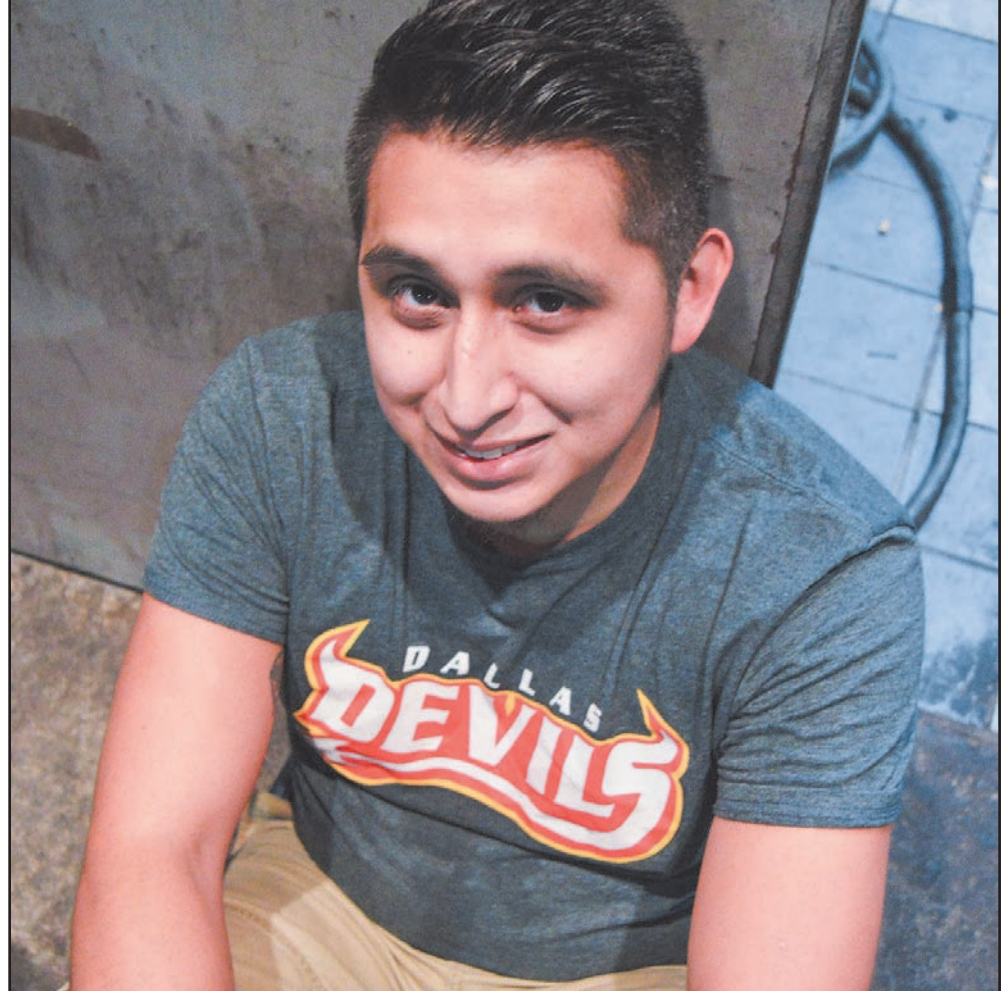
Strolling down The Strip, voting for change

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Oct. 7-13**

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Oct. 26–Nov. 1:**

- **515 Bar:** Halloween costume party at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Alexandre's:** **Chris Chism and the Band** on Friday. **Halloween Block Party** with **DJ Eliz** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** sings Broadway on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Poker Night** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Geeks Who Drink** trivia night at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. **Frida's variety show** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Divine Miss Divas** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Wall of Food Show** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Dead Celebrities Halloween Costume Party** from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Deja Vu:** **The Return of Horror Fest: The Masked Truth Halloween Costume Contest and Party** with \$500 prize on Sunday.
- **Havana:** **Havanaween** \$500 best costume contest on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Halloween Block Party** on Saturday. **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Pekers:** **Karaoke and \$100 Costume Contest** at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Lost Souls Rugby** meet-and-greet at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Sunday Funday Dance Party** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Tuesday Night Dance Competition** at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **S4:** **Halloween Block Party** on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Halloween Block Party** on Saturday. **Gawd Almightyes** on Saturday. **The Mescaline Americans** at 3:30 p.m. followed by the **Anton Shaw Band** on Sunday. **The Queer Off** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **DJ Sno White** on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Kennedy Davenport** on Saturday and Sunday. **Special Halloween Show** on Wednesday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Halloween Block Party** on Saturday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** **Fantastic Queens Drag Brunch** at noon on Sunday. Tickets \$17.55 at eventbrite.com.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **10th annual Halloween Backlot Party** with **Jada Pinkett Fox** from 7 p.m.-2 a.m.

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



Chilling on The Strip



Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy read to the kids at Spooky Drag Queen Story Time at the Oak Lawn Library



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Erin from Start checks out her NGMA Ad Pop Awards



Guys' night out on The Strip



Ginda's Hug-A-Thon on The Strip



Onyx on the mic at The Round-Up



Haley and Jesus at Sue Ellen's



Friends' night out on The Strip



Zombie Walk on The Strip



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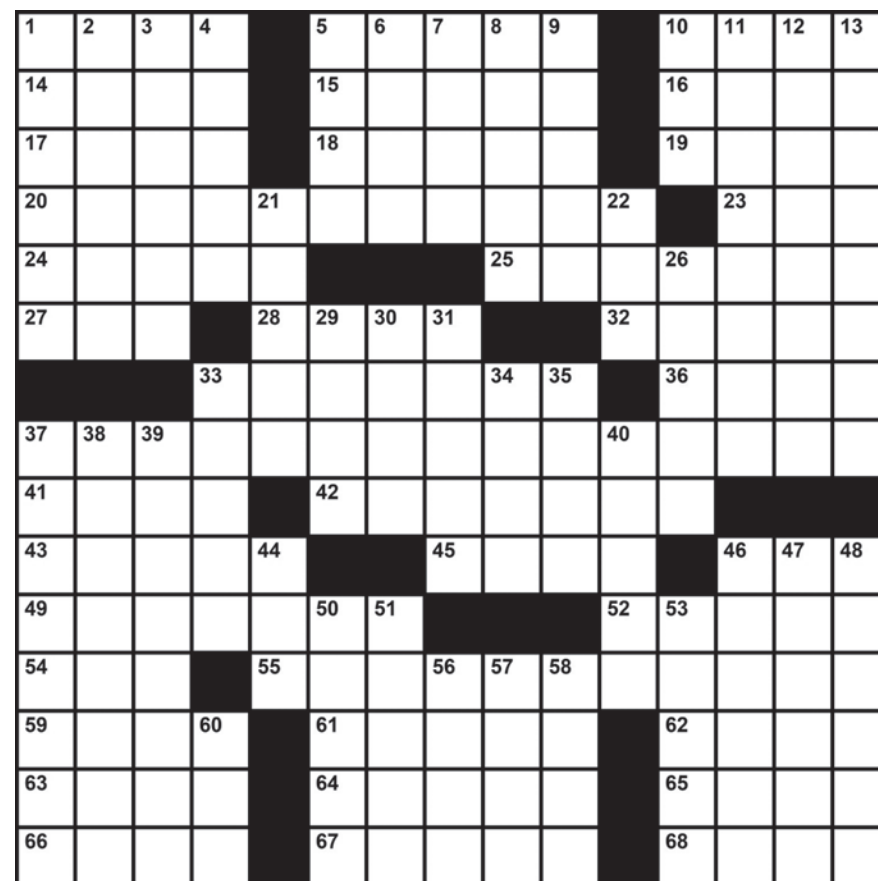
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q-puzzle



Forever

Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 Ball lover Arnaz
- 5 Socrates' market
- 10 Type of Mary pass
- 14 Sondheim's ___ the Woods
- 15 Pinkish yellow
- 16 *Tales of the City's* Madrigal
- 17 Vocal improv
- 18 *My Fair Lady* composer
- 19 Word for "injure" that sounds like an aunt's name
- 20 She plays June in the Amazon series *Forever*
- 23 Sodom suffix
- 24 They come in buggies
- 25 Confines
- 27 Hosp. staffer
- 28 Ted Casablanca bit
- 32 Tried to tackle tight ends, e.g.
- 33 All fouled up
- 36 Toy on a string
- 37 She plays Kase, who runs off with June in *Forever*
- 41 ___-Day vitamins
- 42 Queer-looking swimmers
- 43 Possible format for Robert Giard

- 45 News agency of Nureyev's nation
- 46 Roof animal of Tennessee
- 49 Battlefield formation
- 52 Climb up on the soapbox
- 54 Initial sound, in *The Sound of Music*
- 55 He plays June's husband Oscar in *Forever*
- 59 Icon inscription
- 61 *Funny Girl's* Fanny
- 62 MD's P.D.Q.
- 63 Fruity drinks
- 64 Ex of one we hope will soon be an ex-president
- 65 Further
- 66 It means nothing to Frida
- 67 MTM center
- 68 Rank Billie Jean, e.g.

Down

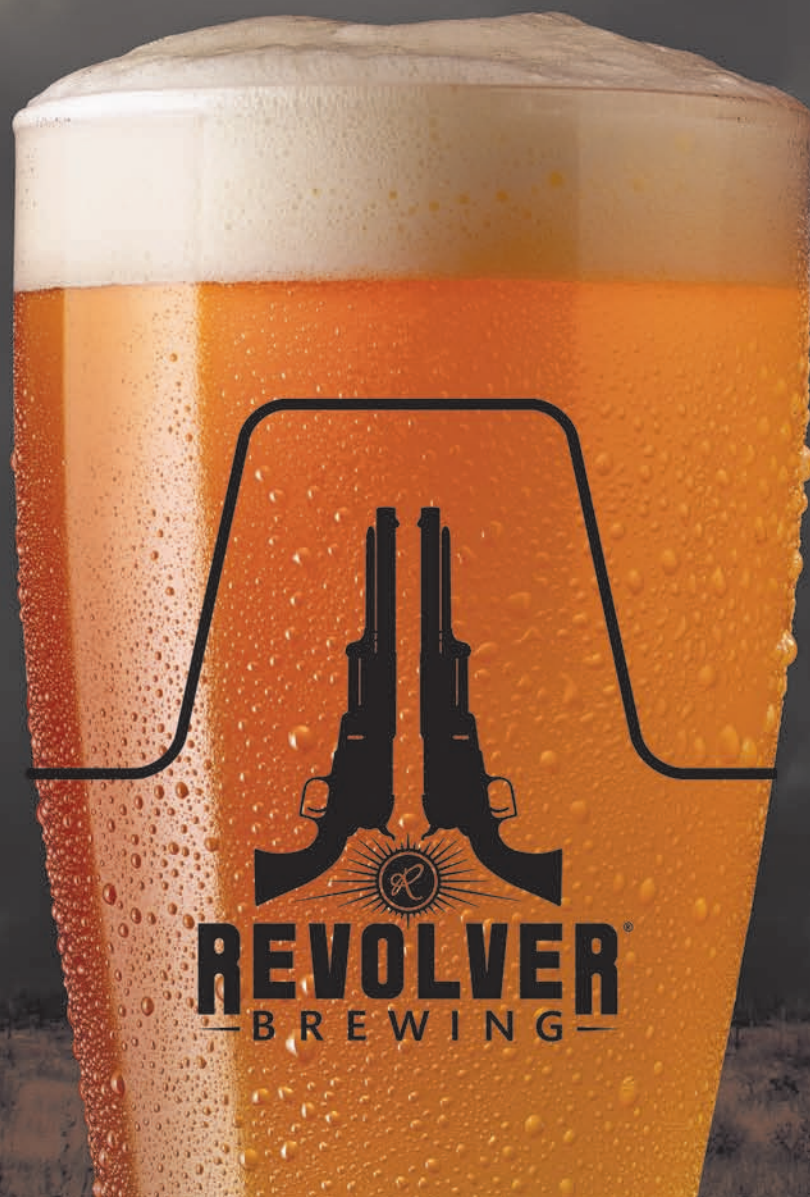
- 1 Bottom-of-the-barrel
- 2 Set up a base
- 3 The Bee Gees' "___ Alive"
- 4 The I's of Sappho
- 5 Rights-protecting org.
- 6 Van Sant's ___ *Will Hunting*
- 7 Milk go-with
- 8 R&B singer Lou
- 9 Alpha, to the circumcized
- 10 Broadway scenery

- chewer
- 11 Lover of June Mansfield
- 12 New member
- 13 Dirge source
- 21 German white wine
- 22 Heston's *Ben* ___
- 26 Sulu portrayer George
- 29 Canvas covering
- 30 Disney's ___ and the *Detectives*
- 31 "Down Under" band ___ Work
- 33 Cole Porter's "___ Men"
- 34 Finnish gay rights org.
- 35 "The ___ the limit!"
- 37 Eddie Izzard, e.g.
- 38 Boa that's dangerous to wear?
- 39 Restrained with a rope
- 40 Race site in Britten's land
- 44 Fairy tale creature
- 46 Dancer Irene
- 47 Private's position
- 48 Like the big top
- 50 Circle of Uranus
- 51 Having cojones
- 53 Responds to yeast
- 56 Prepare for phone sex
- 57 Trouble spots for teens
- 58 Word before admiral, in the navy
- 60 Rose-rose connector, for Stein

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