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headsline

**Texas News**
- 8: May May Graves’ Leg Room
- 9: Diversity event includes trans panel
- 10: LGBT chambers form coalition
- 12: UMC gathering to debate change

**Life+Style**
- 18: Music to watch for in 2019
- 20: THEATER: ‘Anastasia’ and ‘Older’
- 22: BOOKS: Memoir on being gay in India
- 22: $: Do’s, don’t of lending friends money

**On The Cover**
Pink Dollar cover designed by Kevin Thomas

departments

6: The Gay Agenda 27: Best Bets
8: News 31: Scoop
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Cedar Springs renovations should begin this year

Jared White, a transportation manager with the city of Dallas, told the Mayor’s LGBT Task Force on Wednesday, Feb. 20, that plans are almost complete and work to “remodel” Cedar Springs Road will begin this year.

Gateway markers will be placed on Cedar Springs at Douglas and Oak Lawn avenues. Rainbow crosswalks are planned for the street at the two gateways as well as at four crosswalks at Throckmorton and one each at Knight and Reagan streets.

A new traffic light will be installed at Knight and Greenville Avenue.

New sidewalks will be built with ADA curbs. At the Crossroads, there will be more room on the sidewalk for groups to set up tables, as was common during the decades when Crossroads Market occupied the space now anchored by Hunky’s. Lighting in the area will also be improved.

Task Force member John Anderson said murals are included in the beautification projects. One mural commemorating the AIDS crisis, painted by Arttitude volunteers and funded by The Red Foundation, was recently completed on the Nellson-Tabedo Clinic wall. Across from that wall will be a mural commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and the drag queens and transgender activists who rioted for LGBT rights. At 10 a.m. on March 16, designers of the wall will hold a listening session at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road, to hear what community members would like to see on the wall.

About $1.2 million from a 2012 bond election was designated for Cedar Springs improvements. Bond money has been used to improve and enhance other entertainment districts around the city, including Deep Ellum and Greenville Avenue.

White said groundbreaking should be sometime in the spring. Construction will continue through the year.

— David Taffet

Pastors from across Texas ask legislators for LGBT equality

Texas Freedom Network brought pastors from across the state to a rally for LGBT rights at the state capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The Rev. Erica Wilson, TFN’s outreach and faith coordinator, opened a press conference saying she’s been hearing that protecting the rights of LGBT people is somehow hostile to religion. “Protecting everyone from discrimination isn’t hostile to religion,” she said.

Rabbi Kelly Levy from Congregation Beth Israel in Austin said the Bible repeatedly teaches to protect the widow, the orphan and the stranger, because those are the most vulnerable people in society. That lesson extends to the most vulnerable in society today, she said, and it would include the LGBT community.

“Vote to protect the rights of your fellow human beings,” Levy said.

The Rev. Michael Diaz, associate pastor at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, said it is “shocking” that many members of his congregation do not enjoy the same legal protections in Texas that other Cathedral members have simply because they are LGBT. “The Bible I read doesn’t tell me to discriminate against my neighbor,” he said.

Diaz urged legislators to treat their LGBT neighbors as they would everyone else: “Update our existing laws so no one in Texas experiences discrimination.”

— David Taffet

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<th>VALUE OF SERVICES</th>
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THE GAY AGENDA

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

FEBRUARY

• Feb. 22: Go Red for Women luncheon
  ABC News Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Jennifer Ashton is the keynote speaker at the American Heart Association luncheon at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St.

• Feb. 22: Studs
  The Turtle Creek Chorale’s spring cabaret, Studs, pays tribute to the music that swept us off our feet.
  8 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. $55. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• Feb. 23: AROUSED: Burlesque
  AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Impulse Group Dallas present “AROUSED: Burlesque — Safer Is Sexier,” a burlesque-themed fundraising party focused on promoting safer sex and featuring DJ Dan Slater from Australia, complimentary cocktails by Tito’s Handmade Vodka and Austin Eastciders, hors d’oeuvres by The Spice and featuring DJ Steffi Burns from Australia, complimentary cocktails by Tito’s Handmade Vodka and Austin Eastciders, hors d’oeuvres by The Spice.
  6:30-8:30 p.m. at Traffic LA, 1606 Main St. $50. DIFFADallas.org.

• Feb. 28: Last Night in Black History
  Arttitude tells the stories of some of the lesser known heroes of the civil rights movement and some unsanitized versions of some of the better known stories. Last Night in Black History celebrates Black History Month with dance, music, storytelling, fashion and more from 5:30-9 p.m. at South Dallas Cultural Center Black Box Theater, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Arttitude.org.

MARCH

• March 2: International Women’s Day Celebration
  The first day of a two-day celebration of International Women’s Day takes place from noon-5 p.m. at Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive, and will include the presentation of the winning essay in the 2019 Words of Women competition, a Women’s Herstory Quiz, demonstrations of yoga, Tae Kwon Do, Tai Chi and more, speakers, educational exhibits, art, crafts, dancers, singers, musicians and more. The celebration continues March 8. See listings for details.

• March 2: Prime Timers
  Brunch at 11 a.m. at Norma’s, 1123 W. Davis St.

• March 2: Dash for the Beads
  Mardi Gras 1k, 5k and 10k races that raise money for Oak Cliff schools begins and ends in Kidd Springs Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. 1-mile walk at 9 a.m. 10k dash at 9:30 a.m. and 5k dash at 9:45 a.m. Festival from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

• March 2: Trans clothing swap
  A safe space for trans community members to find clothes that help them be their authentic selves. Bring old clothes and take some home from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

 PET OF THE WEEK / CHEESEBURGER SAM

Meet Cheeseburger Sam a 2-year-old, tan-and-white pit bull mix weighing 63 pounds. He’s a big, energetic guy who loves to play with other dogs. He’s super sweet, and loves to be around people. He can be a chicken when it comes to going new places, so he’s looking for an adopter who will be patient with him while he settles in to his new home. Once he gets the hang of things, he’s a rambunctious boy who enjoys playing rough with other pups, playing tug and fetch with toys and cuddling up with his favorite people. Since he can be pretty rowdy when he plays, he would do best in a home with teenagers/adolescents only. If you’re looking for a fun-loving playmate for your active pup, he’s the one you’re looking for. Cheeseburger Sam has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today.

Cheeseburger Sam is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to ActivePet, a rabies tag and a free leash.

Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit us today.

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Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit us today.
John Thomas Anderson of Dallas died Saturday, Feb. 16, after a lengthy struggle with kidney disease. He was 62.

Anderson was born Oct. 8, 1956, in Marshall, Texas, to Joyce Marie and John Thomas Anderson Sr., and was reared as a Baptist. He moved with his parents to Dallas where he attended Dallas public schools and graduated from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in 1975. He attended Texas College in Tyler, studying fashion design and interior design.

Early on, Anderson worked in supply & distribution, accessories, and waiting tables at various restaurants before moving into the nightclub scene. In recent years he distributed products by high-end designers. Anderson was a longtime designer, trendsetter, tastemaker and denizen of Dallas’s nightlife scene — a fixture in the city’s popular culture. “Big John,” as he was universally known, garnered respect and affection over the almost four decades he spent in the Metroplex’s social scene.

Anderson settled easily into Dallas’s burgeoning nightclub/fashion scene in the late 1970s and 1980s, becoming an oft-seen personality at trendy establishments in Lowest Greenville, Deep Ellum, North Dallas and the Brewery district. He went to work at the Starck Club, eventually becoming headwaiter there. He moved easily among friends and regular patrons of the Starck, as well as celebrities such as Stevie Nicks and Grace Jones.

Anderson was known for his fashion-forward style, creating many of the outfits he wore to clubs, gallery openings, concerts and numerous soirees. He worked at other nightspots that became part of Dallas lore and ruled the door at Skip McCarter’s late-night clubs, including Bomb Factory, Adam Hats and Industry.

Anderson was an imposing figure, tall and built like a football player, but his formidable physical presence stood in contrast to his soft-spoken, easygoing personality. His legion of friends typically described him as a gentle giant.

Anderson’s sister, Cassandra Anderson, described him as “extremely gifted and talented … unboxable,” while former Starck Club manager Greg McCone called him “a rock star of the highest order.” McCarter said Anderson was “larger than life” and that he “lit up any room that he entered.”

In addition to his parents and sister Cassandra, Anderson is survived by sisters, Barbara J. Anderson-Anders and Karen Y. Anderson; brothers Terence A. Anderson and Darriel W. Shelton; five nephews, a niece and numerous great-nephews and great-nieces.

A wake will be held from 7-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at Paradise Funeral Home Chapel, 3910 S. Lancaster, Dallas. Services will be at noon Saturday, Feb. 23, at Bethel Temple Pentecostal Church, 4014 S. Lancaster. Interment will follow at Laurel Land Cemetery.
Drag performer May May Graves has turned the Dallas Burlesque School into The Leg Room and now is adding classes and more

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no longer work at the Dallas School of Burlesque,” May May Graves declares in a recent YouTube video. “But there’s one thing I’ve taken from my six years of working here — that’s this place. I own it now. It’s mine. I f**king own it now.”

The Dallas School of Burlesque has been on Main Street in Deep Ellum for six years. After Graves — also known as Mason Bradshaw — became Head Queen, he changed the name to The Leg Room. He still plans to offer burlesque classes, but he will be adding a lot more options to the menu.

Graves promises he didn’t stage a coup. The Dirty Blonde, the founder and previous owner better known as Dirty, decided to step back from daily operation of the school, because she is starting a family. So Graves may-made his move.

Graves’s story started out in Longview, where he was part of a punk band for eight years, although, he admits, “We weren’t really good.”

He took some business classes at Kilgore College: “I thought I’d open a salon,” he said. “Turns out, I hate doing hair.”

Graves got a job as a retail manager with Hot Topic, which carries a line of makeup called War Paint Beauty. He credits that line with teaching him how to sell. “If I felt comfortable with a product, I’d be enthusiastic about it,” he explained.

At the same time, Graves said, he was doing drag almost full time, and — oh, yeah — he was also a Church of Christ preacher.

When he got to Dallas, Dirty put the preacher, salesman and punk rocker together with the business student, and she saw potential. Graves thought Dallas would just be a stop on his way to L.A., but when Dirty met him, she hired him on the spot, first as a receptionist and later as a teacher.

Since buying the burlesque school, Graves has continued offering the same classes as before, such as “chair dance,” “floor work” and “aerial or pole skills.” But he has also added some new options. He has, for example, started a beginning drag class and wants to expand in that area. He also wants to add more boy-lesque instruction and even offer yoga in his spacious studio.

Graves said it is interesting to him how burlesque and drag compare, contrast and intersect.

“Drag challenges gender and gender norms,” he said. “It can be political, and it can be terrifying. [For example], Cassie [Nova] forces your mind to open.”

On the other hand, he continued, “Burlesque challenges sex and sensuality. It’s the art of the tease.”

Graves said students for his drag classes tend to be older individuals that have
Making progress

Panelists at Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit discuss transitioning in the workplace, not letting gains slip away

NASHWA BAWAB | Contributing Writer
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For many transgender people, transitioning usually entails a major life change with tough decisions and adversity. The decision to transition is already daunting one, but imagine having to make that choice in view of your coworkers and bosses.

That was the idea behind a panel at the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit presented recently in Irving by the North Texas Commission. The panel, called “Transitioning in the Workplace,” featured transgender professionals discussing their stories of transitioning while on the job.

“I like to joke that I’m responsible for several new sections in our employee manual,” said Danielle Skidmore, a civil engineer who ran for Austin’s city council last year, eliciting laughter from the packed room. “One of them was, ‘Huh, we probably need a policy on transgender people.’”

When she transitioned, Skidmore was vice president of an engineering consulting firm that she helped build. While telling all 50 of her coworkers about this new chapter of her life was already formidable obstacle, she also had to send out hundreds of emails to clients and hope for the best.

Skidmore said she knew she was going to get pushback, but she didn’t realize how many more people would be welcoming of her outward change. “I got proved wrong over and over and over again,” she said.

Attorney Jayla Wilkerson said she was also surprised by the positive reception to her transition. “It was a huge undertaking — obviously, it is for everybody — but I was working under a Republican appointed by our state governor,” she said.

Wilkerson said she was already living most of her life presenting as a female, with work being one of the few places she presented as male. She was waiting to change that part of her life through a slow, careful and well-planned transition that would bring as little disruption to her work life as possible.

“I would end one job presenting as a male and start another job presenting as a female. Seems seamless, right?” she said. “Well, then the election happened, and I was very, very afraid I was going to lose my opportunity to change my legal documents. I took my HR lady to lunch, and I said, ‘Hi, I have an issue that I want to talk to you about.’”

For Wilkerson, transitioning meant changing her name. And that meant changing her Social Security documentation. And that meant changing work documents — a lot of nuts-and-bolts people might not realize come with the territory of transitioning.

But when that was done, Wilkerson decided to leave for vacation presenting as male and come back as herself.

“When I came back from vacation, there were a bunch of gifts in my office, flowers. They had already changed my name plate outside my office door,” she said. “It was beyond supportive, and they continued to be supportive and loving throughout my time there.”

While Wilkerson and Skidmore both had large hurdles to jump over as the first trans people in their respective workplaces, Sam Slate, an employee at Dell, was able to transition at a company with an already-established policy.

“The human resources manager came back with an 80-page document that was the transitioning-at-Dell handbook, and it was extremely helpful in a lot of ways,” Slate said.

He described how the workbook went through a lot of the systems, emails he needed to send and the legalities of maneuvering through the workplace — things he wouldn’t have thought about without it.

“I appreciated not having to be the first through that process from a policy perspective, and I also appreciated the fact that Dell’s nondiscrimination policy afforded me more protections than the city of Austin, the state of Texas or the United States of America.”

Slate said that while more changes in the workplace are still needed, there has definitely been progress.

Another panel that afternoon was called “LGBTQ — Is Progress Being Made for Intentional Inclusion?” Speakers included Equality Texas Vice Chair Steven Atkinson, former Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman, and Joel Burns, the first openly-gay person elected to political office in Tarrant County. They said change is happening, and it is being spearheaded by LGBTQ workers vying for inclusivity in their fields.

Both panels ended on a similar note: Inclusion of LGBTQ workers needs to be intentional or regress is bound to happen.

Wilkerson, Skidmore and Slate told the audience to be a friend to LGBT coworkers and establish normalcy as a way to achieve progress.

“For me, I wasn’t changing. My experience was I finally got to be my full expression of myself,” Slate said. “Everyone else had to transition around me; everyone else had to recognize and use new pronouns; everyone else had to reconfigure me into how I fit into their perspective of the world.

“If you feel yourself maybe being imposed upon because you’re being asked to perceive someone differently, know that that juxtaposition is superimposed, so the more you can just make things feel normal, the more I certainly welcome that,” he added.
Chambers of commerce from North Texas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio join forces to work on legislative priorities and find new ways to bring LGBT-friendly business to Texas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The four LGBT chambers of commerce in Texas have joined forces to form the Texas LGBT Chambers of Commerce. Their first joint event was to travel to the Texas Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 20, to advocate for LGBT-positive legislation and against discriminatory bills that would be bad for business. About 30 representatives from the different chambers and their member companies attended.

“We’re making history for LGBT and ally business owners who will have a voice in Austin for the first time,” Tammi Wallace, board chair of the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce, said of the coalition’s advocacy efforts.

The four chambers came together to form the new coalition in an effort to advocate more effectively for LGBT and ally businesses, said Tony Vedda, CEO of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Vedda added that the chambers have been very involved in legislative work, especially during the last session when the Legislature threatened to disrupt business in the state with bathroom bills. Their participation was primarily through the Keep Texas Open for Business coalition.

In discussion with the other chambers since the 2017 Legislative Session, Vedda said he suggested, “We should probably be doing something more than this.”

Last session, he said, most of the work happened in reaction to bad legislation. This session the chambers hope to help get some pro-equality bills passed.

To begin, Vedda said, he helped get the new Houston chamber going. According to Wallace, her organization had been dormant for about 15 years, and companies were asking where the Houston Chamber was since there were LGBT chambers in North Texas, Austin and San Antonio.

Because the legislative session was rapidly approaching, writing a legislative agenda was the coalition’s first order of business. And business is its top priority.

“We know there are great organizations like Equality Texas working on social issues,” Vedda said, and where social issues and business issues intersect, the Texas LGBT Chambers will be lobbying alongside Equality Texas.

The LGBT Chambers are supporting legislation that is good for business and good for LGBT businesses and employees. Vedda said. For example under the “economic development” agenda, the chambers support “increasing funding to market Texas as a preferred tourism destination outside the state.”

But the coalition opposes “any legislation that would be discriminatory or otherwise damage Texas’ reputation as ‘business-friendly’ or negatively impact tourism.” That includes bathroom bills and so-called “religious freedom” bills that allow businesses to turn away LGBT people.

Under its healthcare agenda, the coalition supports Medicaid expansion to reduce the number of uninsured Texans and increase funding for HIV services. Its public safety platform calls for a plan to reduce the probability of deadly assaults in Texas schools and opposes arming teachers and administrators in schools.

Having a statewide chamber, Vedda
said, “makes a statement.” Wallace, speaking on behalf of the Houston chamber, added that the statewide coalition “opens us up beyond the four walls of the Houston area.”

Vedda noted the coalition represents more than 1,000 businesses that are members of the various chambers. Those companies employ hundreds of thousands of people.

Through the coalition, LGBT businesses and allies that are members of these chambers will “speak with one voice” on these issues. Last session, high-level officials from North Texas GLBT Chamber members American Airlines and Southwest Airlines, Greater Houston LGBT Chamber members United Airlines and Dow and Austin chamber member Dell all testified in opposition to bathroom bills.

Beyond the legislative session, Vedda said there are a number of ways the chambers may continue working together. One way they can collaborate, he added, is in coming up with ways to cross-promote each other.

Wallace said forming the coalition opens businesses across Texas up to becoming LGBT-certified. Also, reciprocal pricing of events for members of any of the chambers becomes easier to facilitate, she said, adding that she’d like to expand the North Texas chamber’s business equality summit to more businesses across the state.

And the coalition might spark the LGBT communities in other cities to open their own LGBT chambers, Vedda said, noting that he hopes the coalition will become a model for such organizations in other states, too. Although states like New York, Florida and California each have more than one LGBT chamber, Vedda said this is the first coalition of LGBT chambers statewide.

When a company is looking for a gay-friendly community to move into or open a new business in, Texas doesn’t normally rise to the top of the list, Vedda acknowledged. But, he said, the coalition of chambers can steer companies to the right city that will provide protections for all of its residents.
The United Methodist Church’s General Conference, the church’s global governing body, is meeting Feb. 23-26, in St. Louis, Mo., for a special session to take steps towards acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ people. The session will include decisions on whether to allow an openly-gay person to be ordained as a minister, whether to allow churches to hold and pastors to officiate at same-sex weddings, and how to reference homosexuality in the Book of Discipline, the church’s governing text.

Conference representatives will have multiple options on how to move forward as a church regarding the LGBTQ community. The options have been developed by the Commission on a Way Forward (COWF) as a result of the church reaching an impasse on the issue during the most recent meeting of the general conference in 2016.

Currently the Book of Discipline states, “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” Methodist ministers, therefore, are forbidden from officiating at weddings between same-sex couples, and if they do they are subject to disciplinary action, including being forced to surrender their ordination credentials. Churches cannot hold same-sex wedding ceremonies.

This decree in the Book of Discipline also means that openly-gay individuals cannot be ordained by the church.

The COWF will present options at the special conference for a new approach to all aspects of current church governance. Some UMC congregations are part of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which invites individual congregations to take a stand against the churches shutout of LGBTQ people. It was developed in 1984, the same year the General Conference voted to amend the Book of Discipline to state that “no self-avowed, practicing homosexual shall be ordained or appointed in the United Methodist Church.”

Dallas currently has 10 churches in the network that openly welcome LGBTQ people, and there are more than 25 such churches in the DFW metroplex.

The Rev. Rachel Baughman is head pastor of one of those churches, Oak Lawn UMC, located at in the heart of Dallas’ gayborhood, at the intersection of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road.

Baughman believes the only path to effective ministry is to be involved in the community and understand the context of the people that make up the area she serves. She has helped lead the effort for inclusion in Dallas in her role with a group called Faith Forward Dallas at Thanksgiving Square, an interfaith group that works for compassion and justice.

Baughman is also a key leader in the same efforts within the United Methodist Church in an organizing group called Uniting Methodists.

“It’s frustrating when we’re presented with the idea that a person with progressive beliefs cannot, at the same time, have respect for biblical authority,” Baughman said.

Four plans will be presented at the General Conference beginning Saturday. One plan seeks to further the restrictive language, disallowing UMC to have any ministering relationship with the LGBTQ community. This plan, known as the Traditional Plan, would, if adopted by the body, maintain the blanket prohibition on LGBTQ clergy and weddings. Bishops and clergy would be required to pledge their allegiance to the ban,
creating a mandatory reporting rule for witnessing clergy who break with the Discipline.

The Traditional Plan would give every individual church congregation the option to vote to leave the church and operate independently with no affiliation with UMC. The “gracious exit” process could then involve months of work to determine ownership of the church property and what the church might still owe to its former governing bodies.

In stark contrast, the Simple Plan would create a blanket inclusion and acceptance policy, making the entire UMC open and welcoming to the LGBTQ community. It would remove all restrictions on openly-gay people being ordained as clergy, and clergy would be allowed to perform same-sex weddings. Churches and clergy still retain their individual right to choose whether or not to be inclusive.

According to UMC News, the Council of Bishops is recommending the One Church Plan, which would allow conferences (regional groups of churches), churches and pastors the option to align with their personal beliefs on human sexuality while remaining a member of the global church organization.

Each individual church would be allowed to make its own decision on whether to allow same-sex weddings, and each conference would decide whether or not they would ordain openly-gay ministers, giving ministers the choice to join a conference that aligns with their personal views.

The church also has an option to alter the church constitution through several amendments, creating sweeping separations between three new governing church bodies.

The Connectional Conference Plan would cause the geographical jurisdictions to be redrawn to support three separate bodies: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. Each group would use a general Book of Discipline but be allowed to adopt a revised version of sections relating to homosexuality.

This process is also the most lengthy option to implement, with plans taking as long as six years to complete. Baughman believes this plan is not only unrealistic, but that it could cause problems during this month’s conference.

“The [Connectional Conference Plan] and the Simple Plan may draw votes away from the [One Church Plan], which is the most viable plan for how we can remain together as one church,” Baughman said.

A major sticking point in the decision is the global nature of the church and its presence in countries where homosexuality is illegal.

“The question is, ‘Can we continue to be a one church denomination [that] allows us to have ministry in Liberia and the Philippines and in Europe and in the United States?’” Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr., president of the Council of Bishops, said in a UMC News article.

Baughman faced criticism from progressives within the denomination for supporting the One Church Plan rather than the Simple Plan, from individuals that believe the One Church Plan does not go far enough.

“My support of the LGBTQ community was questioned,” Baughman acknowledged. But, she stressed, “the OCP allows us to stay in conversation with one another. If we close the door on the relationship, we close door on change.”

According to the Rev. Forbes Matonga, pastor-in-charge at Nyadire Mission Centre in Zimbabwe, most African countries favor the Traditional Plan.

“Any plan that proposes to authorize the practice of homosexuality either explicitly or discretely is unacceptable to us,” he said.

The conference will spend the first full day of the meeting choosing one plan to consider, followed by two days of debate before a vote is taken by the body. The decision may be revisited during the regular meeting of UMC General Conference in May 2020.

Nick Totin is a writer covering LGBTQ issues and lifestyle, and as a marketing consultant in Dallas. He has previously worked with a UMC annual conference in Pennsylvania before moving to Texas.
William A. Moore, clinical director for Advanced Skin Fitness, has been named as the "Coolsculpting Ambassador" for Texas and the surrounding states for Allergan Pharmaceuticals. Officials with Allergan said Moore was chosen to represent the Coolsculpting brand through the new "CoolHub" Ambassador Program, launched this year.

In addition, Moore’s practice is being classified as a “CoolHub,” making it “a nucleus for other potential CoolSculpting clinics and physicians, which will make it a highly-recognized clinic for other professionals in the aesthetic industry,” according to a statement from the company. As a CoolSculpting ambassador, Moore will host potential CoolSculpting professionals at Advanced Skin Fitness, discussing possible opportunities for them to incorporate CoolSculpting into their own practices. This allows aesthetic professionals “to see first hand how a successful practice is organized and maintained for seamless CoolSculpting treatments with extraordinary results and efficacy,” the statement said.

Moore, who has graduated from both CoolSculpting University and the CoolSculpting Masters Class, is the only CoolSculpting professional, out of some 3,500 clinics in the country that offer the procedure, selected so far as a CoolSculpting ambassador. He said he is honored to have been chosen and appreciates the opportunity the appointment gives him to extend his reach to other clinics and help improve their services.

In his new role as a Coolsculpting Ambassador, Moore plans to schedule speaking engagements where he will address other physicians and technicians that offer Coolsculpting. These events will provide him with the opportunity to share his wisdom and educate other Coolsculpting Professionals on what makes his practice unique and what advancements they can expect from Coolsculpting in the future. He’ll also attend dinners with other Coolsculpting Professionals and make connections to forge new relationships and partnerships with professionals who want to elevate their practices.

For more information about Moore and Advanced Skin Fitness, visit the business at 2928 Oak Lawn Avenue or call 214-521-5277.
Ask Candy

Fear of dating, fear of starting a family

Dear Candy,

I’ve never really dated because I was born with so many physical defects. But with pressure from my family and longtime friends, should I take them up on just getting out there and meeting other people? I’ve been made fun of my whole life for the way I look, and the thought of sharing myself with someone else is even more terrifying.

— Scared and Scarred

Dear Scared and Scarred,

I agree with you on your premise that dating takes courage. When you put yourself in the arena of dating, you also put yourself in the arena of possible rejection. There is really no safe place when it comes to a decision around dating or not dating.

If you decide to date, there’s the risk of being hurt. If you decide to not date, there’s the risk of being lonely. But do take to heart that there are people in your life — family and friends — who love you and want the best for you. That tells me you have the skill set to make and keep friends. Interestingly enough, these same skills are used to date, connect and form relationships on a romantic level.

You have the skills. Do you have the courage? I believe the decision to date or not to date is up to you. You have a history of living a courageous life. You have managed to make long-term friendships and survive the meanness of peers. The important thing is for you to continue to make yourself happy and live a life of meaning.

When your family and friends see your happiness and fulfillment, they will embrace whatever decision you make.

Good Luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

About five years ago, I had a miscarriage, and haven’t been able to fully bounce back from the pain ever since.

My current boyfriend and I are marrying one another this summer, and I’m beyond elated to spend the rest of my life with this amazing person. As much as he wants children of our own, my fears on the outcomes of having another child are too strong for me to give in to the ideal life I once had for myself. Please help, Ms. Candy, because I just want to have the happiest life and marriage possible.

— Idealist No More

Dear INM,

The loss of a child through miscarriage can be traumatizing. One of the less-recognized forms of post-traumatic stress disorder results from the trauma of having a miscarriage. While a period of grieving and sadness is expected after losing an unborn child, it’s important to recognize when normal grieving ends and clinical PTSD begins. Grieving for more than five years and feeling the pain as if it was yesterday are two symptoms of PTSD.

You have more healing to do. Healing does not mean forgetting. Seek the help of a therapist who specializes in PTSD. You have been hurting too long.

— Congratulations on your upcoming marriage, Candy

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Good Luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

About five years ago, I had a mis-
wanted to try drag for years but didn’t know where to start.

On the burlesque side, “Lots of women who come in [for classes] were never allowed to feel sexy or sexual,” he said. So he starts by telling them to take off their clothes, put on some music and look in the mirror.

Graves said American burlesque dates from the 1930s and grew out of cabaret shows. The original striptease routines developed into a variety of more sensual acts. By the 1970s, burlesque had been replaced by tawdry strip clubs with little of the glamor left.

But, Graves said, “Burlesque has come back.”

By the 2000s, performers like Dita Von Teese, who was for a while married to rocker Marilyn Manson, helped revive the art, proving that burlesque could be big and modern.

Burlesque scenes had developed in New York, London and New Orleans when Dirty decided to bring the art to Dallas, Graves said.

With Graves in charge of the school, it’s still evolving. Residential development around Deep Ellum means foot traffic along the street has grown. To take advantage of that, he is adding a “drag pop-up shop” to the front of the studio — sort of a drag consignment store, he explained, to bring people in and add a service no one else is offering.

He’s also booking the school for birthday and bachelorette parties, which he can tailor in any number of ways. To those who’ve never done burlesque, he might include a chair class — using a prop to add to sensual dance — or a floor class for two-hours of bump and grind instruction.

The Leg Room isn’t a performance venue, although Graves said he is thinking of adding a stage. Instead, he teams up with The Nines, a lounge across the street from his studio, to stage a weekly show called Qweird, with a mix of performers that include students as well as regulars from The Rose Room.

It’s a win-win for everyone: Newcomers get to perform in front of an audience, and the pros get to try out new and more outrageous routines.

Graves still performs, too. But he said he finds himself reeling it in just a bit. For example, whether it’s at The Nines or The Rose Room, he no longer does his fire performances, which involved swallowing a flaming sword or breathing fire. Insurance laws and fire marshal prevent it, he explained.

How did he learn these dangerous skills? “The stupid way,” he said. “On YouTube.”

But with The Leg Room around, newcomers don’t need videos to expand their burlesque and drag horizons.
Don’t buy it!

Trump’s call for international LGBT equality is just another stunt

I was beyond surprised this week when I saw an article about the Trump administration moving to decriminalize homosexuality world-wide. Has Trump suddenly become a champion of LGBTQ rights?

Don’t buy it for a minute.

Trump’s record on LGBTQ rights in the United States is abysmal. His ban on transgender individuals serving in the military is just the most recent example. He is no friend of LGBTQ people no matter how hard he hags that rainbow flag.

What Trump really wants is leverage against Iran, not freedom for LGBTQ people. He is just looking for another bargaining chip to help drive a deal to bolster sanctions, and he thinks Europe will be hoodwinked by his “human rights” stand.

Trump’s announcement was most likely triggered by news that Iran had put yet another gay man to death. It is not the first time that has happened, and it most likely won’t be the last. But it was convenient to use as an example of how “barbaric” Iran is.

This, of course, ignores the numerous U.S. allies that have similar laws, including Saudi Arabia to whom Trump is trying to funnel nuclear technology.

No, Trump is not suddenly a champion of LGBTQ rights. Far from it.

As the Human Rights Campaign has documented, one of the first things Trump did was to remove all mention of LGBTQ people from the White House website. His minions removed the State Department’s apology for the “Lavender Scare” of the 1950s. His secretary of Education revoked the protections for transgender students in U.S. schools that the Obama administration had recently enacted. He appointed Ben Carson, a man who openly claims that being gay is a “choice,” as HUD secretary.

There is ample evidence of the Trump administration’s methodical rollback of protections in our country for LGBTQ rights, including his praise for various “religious freedom” bills which are designed to allow discrimination against LGBT citizens under the veil of “religious beliefs.”

If you want to see the full litany of Trumps attacks on LGBT people in our country, GLAAD has more than 92 of them detailed on its website (GLAAD.org/blog/glaad-slams-president-trump-attacking-lgbtq-americans-and-calls-administration-step-and-lead).

All of this brings me to the question I ask myself every morning as I read the news: How much more will it take? How much more dishonesty, corruption, how many investigations and indictments will it take?

How much more lies will it take?

How much more? My question is rhetorical, because our Congress has shown a fathomless tolerance for Trump. His lies and corruption slide easily down their gullets, and Congress seems still to have an appetite for more before they will make the move almost every sane American is waiting for — impeachment.

The time for investigations is upon us, and as a nation we cannot afford to wait any longer. The time has come to ferret out every corrupt politician and cabinet member that made Trump’s rise to power possible. The time has come for a serious accounting of how a foreign power influenced our elections and our government.

The time has come to send Trump, Pence and his entire cabinet packing. If it doesn’t happen before 2020, then it must happen during the election, and we as a country must throw out the compromised government of Trump in order to save our country and our democracy. Only then will the world believe us when we champion LGBTQ rights. Only then will the world look on the United States as the beacon of freedom and democracy we once were.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at Dungeon-Diary.blogspot.com
There’s something for every color of the rainbow included in this year’s music-release roster. The list is long, but here’s a taste: debuts from newly-out *Pitch Perfect* movie star — and Dear Evan Hansen Broadway star — Ben Platt and hair-toss kween Lizzo, songwriter showcases from Patty Griffin and Lana Del Rey, a gay icon (Madonna), emerging gay icons (Ariana Grande, Carly Rae Jepsen) and more. Look for this diverse pack in the coming months.

**Ariana Grande, Thank U, Next (out now).** Ariana Grande moves on fast — from donut controversy, from exes, from the Grammys, from albums. *Sweetener* descended upon us just half a year ago, in August 2018, but Grande had more to say, dammit, and so she’s gone and said it with an army of 12 bad-bitch-and-beyond songs conceived for this new project led by the power-asserting “thank u, next” and the “My Favorite Things”-sampled “7 rings,” a piercing, winking satire of millennial entitlement. A confessional chronicling a trying year in the spotlight, it’s her best, boldest album yet.

**Dido, Still on My Mind (March 8).** Dido seems to not mind being forgotten, only to be remembered every four to six years, when she floats back to earth like the mystic fairy she is, reminding us that her dainty voice may be that of an actual pixie. Her first album since 2013’s *Girl Who Got Away*, *Still on My Mind* was recorded with her brother, Rollo, at home, on a couch. It’s that chill living room sound both you and your mom can agree on; the real thrill, though, is hearing the English performer infuse electro and hip-hop life into her delicate sofa songs. A remix album can’t be far off.

**Patty Griffin, Patty Griffin (March 8).** A first-ever self-titled album after nearly 25 years in the music business has to mean something. For Griffin, one of the best character songwriters this world has to offer (just ask gay power-songwriter Justin Tranter, who idolizes PG), it means deep, pensive dives into her own life. Battling cancer, as Griffin did, will tend to beget self-reflection, and so her 10th studio album, *Patty Griffin*, traces her steps, from memories with her late mom to growing up in Maine, when she thought “maybe who I am wasn’t right.” “Luminous Places” — a could-be swan song — is otherworldly, casting a mystic dreaminess amid a delicate dance of strings, guitar and pillowy piano; it’s as if the song was composed in the clouds, then fell from the sky and floated to us on a single moon-lit snowflake.

**Ben Platt, Sing to Me Instead (March 29).** You know Ben Platt as a *Pitch Perfect* a capella nerd (he played Benji Applebaum, the outcast crazy for magic) and as the eponymous lead in *Dear Evan Hansen*, which won him a Tony. But the magic of his first solo album, where he’ll peel back the layers of the gay man under the wizard’s cape, is purely Ben Platt being Ben Platt. Already, he’s captured the greatest love of all — the saving grace of self-love — on “Bad Habit,” a tender, aching piano number with gorgeous vocal riffs on...
Mae (Jenny Ledel) isn’t having the best week. Or month. Or, kinda, life. She broke up with her boyfriend, who was also her boss, so she quit her job and moved back to her hometown to look after her dad (Barry Nash), who is battling cancer, and she’s got her own mysterious rash that won’t go away. And she keeps dreaming about a cowboy (Max Hartman) who does unspeakably non-PC sex acts with her.

The words “you got older” are never spoken in *You Got Older*, a regional premiere from Kitchen Dog Theater; they don’t need to be. The essence of Mae’s life is that she’s in her 30s and feeling as directionless as she did in high school. Having all her siblings around doesn’t help much.

Clare Barron’s funny, sad, dark comedy has a lot of interesting ideas and characters in its 105 uninterrupted minutes, and while I enjoyed the time spent with them, about 90 minutes would probably have accomplished the same thing. The play starts in the wrong place; the grabbiest early scene, in which Mae enjoys an awkward flirtation with an old schoolmate (Ryan Woods) to whom she’s attracted, would have been the ideal jumping-off point and would kickstart our sympathy for her. (It’s a flaw in many modern plays that the authors insist on burying the lead, as if making the audience work is an indicator of artistic integrity.)

Structural problems aside, *You Got Older* paints an achingly real portrait of a family in crisis with humor and pathos. The entire cast delivers excellent performances, though Ledel is the emotional glue that binds the show, and Nash is heartbreakingly real.

Mae isn’t the only woman who has it bad. Grand Duchess Anastasia — the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II and Alexandra — never saw her 19th birthday, having been murdered by the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution.

Or was she?

Rumors that Anastasia was spared from the firing squad began circulating almost immediately, and fueled a mystery that led to dramatic speculation for decades after.

But the musical *Anastasia* — based on the 1997 animated film, as well as the Ingrid Bergman potboiler of 1956 — isn’t too concerned with actual facts, but with the romanticism of “is she or isn’t she?”

The problem is that, of course, we basically have to believe that the amnesiac street urchin Anya (Lily Coogan)
is the tragic royal. She has forgotten most of her past, but is haunted by memories of court, of having rifles aimed at her family, of the smell of her grandmother’s perfume. We’re easily convinced, and eventually two schemers — Dmitry (Stephen Brower) and Vlad (Edward Staudemayer) — who hoped to pass Anya off as the duchess begin to believe it, too … all the better for convincing the exiled Dowager Empress that her sole remaining family member is alive.

All of which adds a sense of pastiche to this generally charming and undeniably gorgeous production. It’s little bits of My Fair Lady, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Victor/Victoria mixed together to make a rakish tale of good-natured frauds who may not be frauds at all.

For almost all of Act 1, the story focuses on the threesome plus the policeman Gleb (Jason Michael Evans), a kind of J.V. Javert who wants to either prove Anya is an imposter, or reveal her to be a true Romanov who must die for the sake of the revolution. It’s a weak role, more plot-driven than necessary, and his dour, self-reflective solos bring the lightness of the show to several crashing halts. The focus changes in Act 2, with the introduction of mostly new characters, including Countess Lily (Tari Kelly), who provides sexy comic relief, and the dowager (Joy Franz). The musical takes a tonal shift as well, complete with not-fully-thought-out inconveniences and emotional confrontations.

But along the way, we are treated to Coogan’s impossibly lovely voice. Her songs (“In My Dreams,” “Journey to the Past” and more) dance on the air; she has the ideal sound for a Disney princess.

The palette and pacing are clearly influenced by the fluidity of an animated movie musical. This is seamlessly achieved via Alexander Dodge’s scenic design, which appears to be 85 percent screen projections with such authentic three-dimensional effect that you’d swear the Cossacks are storming in. Linda Cho’s Tony-nominated costumes, on the other hand, are entirely real and as dreamy as a girl’s imagination. One of the most inventive scenes — a train ride across the Russian countryside — dazzles with its combination of moving images and moving people.

The score is less consistently successful. (Lyricist Lynn Ahrens resorts to rhyming “Romanov” with Stroganoff,” an unworthy pun that’s tantamount to a white flag.) But more often than not, the songs perk along, driven by the energy of Coogan, Brower, Staudenmayer and Kelly. Terrence McNally’s script mostly sticks to the straight and narrow, but he can’t resist pointing out that, as much as we may romanticize the possible survival of the innocent teenaged royal, the Romanovs were overthrown by popular revolt just as the Founding Fathers kicked out George III and Louis and Marie Antoinette lost their heads — they were one-percenters who took more than they gave. That’s a degree of Russian collusion I can get behind.
East of burden

Memoir of being gay in India resonates


When Siddharth Dube was 10 years old, he saw a dancer who was lovely, curvy and sultry, and who pulled off her skirt with a flourish at the end, revealing herself as a man. The memory, the surprise, stuck with him — in part, perhaps, because he had known for two years then that he “was a girly-boy.”

Nobody much cared about that while he was young and growing up in relative affluence near Calcutta. He was a carefree child, unashamed of his undefined gender, but that disappeared: as a preteen, he was enrolled in a private academy and was bullied for being a sissy, despite a school culture that allowed boys to demand sex from other boys.

At that time, and for most of Dube’s youth, he writes, there was nothing available in India “to help a young man… deal with his... homosexuality.” He felt hatred from his peers and neighbors and from his own father, who strongly urged Dube to leave India to attend college in America. In the U.S., though, Dube found that “hatred for homosexuality was many magnitudes greater than in India.”

And yet, seeing gay life in a more permissive country was liberating. Dube patronized a gay bar for the first time, finally found the love he sought, and discovered his passion for careers in journalism and activism on the subject of AIDS, the people affected by the disease and the world’s attitude toward it. That began a journey that ultimately took him back to his home country, where he settled in with “one of the greatest loves of my adult life” although, because gay sex was illegal in India, doing so was … dangerous.

Take that as a warning: that little bombshell arrives all too early inside An Indefinite Sentence. By the time it does, you’ll be lulled into a veil of serenity. That is due completely to the prose with which Dube tells his story: it’s soft and formal but with elegant slang and a very surprising willingness to use profanity in a matter-of-fact way that still feels like a slap. Dube shares his life and his travels by mixing shades of his faith along with tales of men he loved platonically and otherwise, female sex workers who bore the most blame on the spread of disease, and the politics of and attitudes toward AIDS around the world. This, too, is told with outraged mindfulness that feels like a burning torch wrapped up in tranquility.

Readers searching for something different this week can end their search with this book. It’s stirring and calming, funny and sad; start An Indefinite Sentence, and you’ll have no difficulty enjoying it.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer
A high school friend came out to me recently, and I began thinking about how much I’ve changed — and the world has changed — since I came out 20 years ago. I could never have imagined marrying the man I’ve been with for 17 years, adopting a beautiful blue-eyed, blonde-haired girl or seeing the advancement of LGBT acceptance. We’re not yet at that glittering heavenly ball, but the party is revving up.

With my friend in mind, I thought about what I would want him to know as he steps into his new life. And here is what I came up with.

Your parents and friends may not approve… but that changes nothing about who you are. Hopefully everything will go well, but to quote Queen Latifah in Hairspray, “Brace yourself for a whole lot of ugly coming from a never-ending parade of stupid!” Embrace your truth and know that truth will set you free.

You’re about to have deep, disturbing doubts about religion. Let’s be clear: God made you as you are and is proud of you. Any pulpit clown who says otherwise is full of shit. Many ass-backwards religious denominations need serious reality therapy. Quoting the Bible changes nothing about you. Fortunately, there are many houses of worship that love you as you are.

Judy, Liza, Dolly and Audra are goddesses. I actually learned from Audra McDonald that Judy Garland’s funeral and the Stonewall riots took...
When a friend or family member comes knocking for cash, pause before opening your wallet, because rarely does this situation go off without a hitch. That’s not to say you can’t lend a helping hand — you can — but your goodwill doesn’t have to put a dent in your own financial sitch. Steer the conversation away from handouts with these alternatives to providing support without it costing you a dime.

1. **Offer personal advice.** Your friend isn’t the first person to fall upon hard times financially; we’ve all been there. Discuss your personal hurdles, as well as how you overcame those issues. When somebody knows they’re not alone in their struggles, it often gives them the necessary confidence to get back on the right track. Offer your assistance, but not easy money. If you do, you might be opening a Pandora’s box of coming back for more.

2. **Help them set up a budget.** Do you have a budget that works for you? If you’ve been successful in this area of your finances, there’s nothing wrong with offering this “service.” As easy as budgeting may be for you, others find it extremely challenging. Sit down with your friend, show them what a solid budget entails, and illustrate how they can use this to their advantage moving forward. Talk to them about how they can cut the fat from their expenses, show them how to use apps to get cash back, and teach them a few of your tricks on saving on everyday items, like gas and groceries. Laziness is no excuse to spend more than necessary, but it’s the root problem of many people’s financial crises.

3. **Let them know that you’re available in other ways.** Everybody faces rough financial patches from time to time. When they see you as someone who truly cares, you’ll save them the embarrassment of having to ask for money. Help them in any way you can. This way, they know they can count on you when the need arises.
place blocks from each other in the same week. Since *Cabaret*, Liza has been a gay’s best friend. When Dolly Parton was asked why the gays love her so much, she responded, “I look like a drag queen.” A very beautiful drag queen.

**Learn your queer history.** Stonewall and the movement it solidified led to the rights we enjoy today. Much is owed to pioneers like Craig Rodwell, Yvonne Flowers and Sylvia Rivera. Go read *Stonewall* by Martin Duberman for the full indoctrination. My first boyfriend took me to see *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*, and it was a life-altering experience. Harvey Milk should have his statue on the Washington Mall.

**A little makeup is fine.** Whether you’re 25 and covering a late night or are 45 and struggling to stave off the Reaper, grab concealer and bronzer and have at it. You’ll look fabulous. Might as well get used to hitting the gym, too — those pounds aren’t going to lose themselves. But not all gays shave their legs or are Muscle Marys. We come in all sizes, shapes and masculinity. Be whatever you want.

**Go see a drag show.** If you never saw The Lady Chablis perform in person — and you can’t now because she’s gone — go watch *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* to see her at her finest. That bitch was fierce! Fierce! But there are plenty of other fierce bitches performing at gay clubs across America (and on *RuPaul’s Drag Race*). Bow to them.

**Safe sex still matters.** There are amazing drugs to keep HIV from becoming AIDS, but it’s better not to get it in the first place. PrEP is a layer of protection, but so are condoms. And it’s not all about sex. Love matters. Sex of all types is important for a vibrant relationship, but so are cuddling and kissing. Love your significant other fully and completely.

**Have the family you desire.** When I came out, getting married was out of the question. Now, it’s a question to pop at Walt Disney World or through fabulous YouTube videos. You can be happy without adopting a kid or creating one with a surrogate, but if having children is your dream, you can.

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**NEW YOU From Page 23**

Banking on friendships

5 ways to help a friend financially without giving them money

1. **Be there for them.** When you have somebody to lean on, it’s much easier to make your way through these periods and come out a better person in the long run. Don’t turn your back if your friend needs an ear. Instead, let them know you’re available — to talk, listen and offer advice. You may be surprised at how much assistance you can lend by being their sounding board.

2. **Take care of business.** There’s a fine line between helping a friend and going beyond your duty. If the person is open to you reviewing their financial situation, including income and expenses, sit down at a convenient time to see what is going on. Many people need another set of eyes for them to truly realize where they’re running into trouble. If you are not comfortable with this, there’s nothing wrong with telling your friend that you’d rather not see their personal information. It may be easiest to simply give your friend money and hope it helps them financially. While it may get the person out of a jam for the time being, they are likely to face the same problems again in the future.

3. **Review their income and expenses.** There’s a fine line between helping a friend and going beyond your duty. If the person is open to you reviewing their financial situation, including income and expenses, sit down at a convenient time to see what is going on. Many people need another set of eyes for them to truly realize where they’re running into trouble. If you are not comfortable with this, there’s nothing wrong with telling your friend that you’d rather not see their personal information. It may be easiest to simply give your friend money and hope it helps them financially. While it may get the person out of a jam for the time being, they are likely to face the same problems again in the future.

4. **Show them how to make new money.** There’s no shortage of fast ways to make cash if you work the gig economy to your advantage. Resources like Instacart, Airbnb, Lyft, Uber, Roadie, DoorDash and Rover.com provide opportunities to anyone with a home or car to make extra income with little effort. Any one of these resources can help bring in hundreds of dollars per week when you’re dedicated, and that may be the ticket to getting your friend or family back on track without digging into your own pockets. They’ll be better for it, too. Teach a man to fish and all…

— Mikey Rox

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**BUSINESS From Previous Page**

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gorgeous vocal riffs. Surely Platt has a few more tricks up his sleeve.

Lana Del Rey, Norman Fucking Rockwell (March 29). Lana Del Rey’s persona is the subject of much debate and confusion: how much is truly authentic, and how much is the record label’s doing to produce a pop icon for These Sad, Dark Times. Del Rey seems to have leaned into the conversation, and she’s responded accordingly — and very, very personally — with her forthcoming album’s maximalist-ti-
tled first single, called “hope is a dangerous thing for a woman to have – but I have it.” Produced and co-written with Taylor Swift and Lorde producer Jack Antonoff, the song is a songwriter’s song, hauntingly simple, intimate. Her authenticity is her defiance.

Madonna (TBA). Will Madonna reel it in? Drain the pool of hotshot producers she’s been known to enlist for recent projects? Ditch trends? Blaze trails? Much remains to be seen (and heard), but because women are ardently reclaiming their rightful power — and because Madonna is Madonna — she’s bound to come down hard on the patriarchy on her upcoming 14th studio album. Suitably, she had a session with an all-female Portuguese orchestra for the release, which she told Women’s Wear Daily was being made “in between rose mist spray and serums.” So just maybe this one’ll be sweet and fresh and like a Sephora after all.

Carly Rae Jepsen (TBA). In October 2018, Carly Rae Jepsen announced her pop career’s next chapter by Instagramming a snap of a (her?) cat nipping at a Twizzler she held in one hand, a droopy slice of pizza dangling from her other. Full pizza at her feet, the pic — hilarious, empowering — captured the buoyant breakup anthem that would follow, “Party of One,” a bop that makes a strong argument for singlehood and self-pleasure. E*MO*TION was fire — the best pop album of 2015. Maybe not a Hot-N-Ready, but whatever Jepsen delivers, piece by piece, we’ll eat it right up.

Ryan Adams, Big Colors (April 19, plus two more albums TBA). It seems Ryan Adams may be playing against his brooding type on Big Colors, one of three albums he’s releasing this year because Adams, you should know, is wildly prolific and mercifully insane. On the sweet title track, Mandy Moore’s ex-husband takes delight in life’s natural radiance, buzzing about “flowers for brains, permanent sunshine” with an uncharacteristically joyful disposition that’s refreshing and infectious.

Lizzo, CUZ I LOVE YOU (April 19). On “Juice,” rapper-singer-flutist and “America’s Next Bop Star” Lizzo does not, will not, even let that mirror, mirror on the wall chime in on the fairest one of all. Because, honey, she is. And you are. And we all are. There for you and all the blighted characters in Blockers and A Bad Moms Christmas and I Feel Pretty, the Detroit-born, Minneapo-
lis-raised performer’s breakthrough single, “Good as Hell,” similarly empowered you to write your own damn fairy tale and parade that princess crown around and let it shine. All signs for this one, Lizzo’s much-anticipated major-label debut, point to more hair-toss, “you go geeeeerl” swagger.

— Chris Azzopardi
Thursday 02.28

DIFFA preview party returns to Traffic LA

DIFFA/Dallas’ spring gala, Futuro, is still three weeks away, but you don’t have to wait that long to get a look at what’s in store. On Thursday, DIFFA hosts its annual preview party, where attendees can get a sneak peak and close-up look at some of the creations that will be walking the runway (from the likes of Dolce & Gabbana, Ted Baker, Theory and Zac Posen), while enjoying the music of DJ Steffi Burns and sipping on Ketel One cocktails, champagne and snacks. Proceeds, of course, benefit DIFFA’s goals to combat HIV.

DEETS: Traffic LA at The Joule Hotel, 1601 Main St. 6:30–8:30 p.m. $50. DIFFAdallas.org.

Friday 02.22 — Sunday 03.17

WTT opens cross-cultural comedy ‘Guadalupe in the Guest Room’

Some people build walls, some build bridges. That’s the message of Guadalupe in the Guest Room, a heartfelt comedy opening this weekend at WaterTower Theatre. Spanish-speaking Guadalupe cannot communicate easily with her gringo son-in-law Steve, until the two bond over telenovelas in this story about searching for common ground. The cast includes Leticia Magana, Andrews W. Cope, Gabrielle Reyes and David Lugo; Christina Vela directs.


Friday 03.01

TITAS takes A.I.M at modern dance

Choreographer Kyle Abraham was reared in traditions of hip-hop and classical music, and has gained notoriety fusing the two for his company Abraham.In.Motion. His interdisciplinary company comes to the Moody Performance Hall for two nights, courtesy of TITAS.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.
**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**

**Anastasia.** The story of the woman who may be the missing Romanoff, originally an animated musical, takes to the stage. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through March 3. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Are You Now, Or Have You Ever Been...** Carlyle Brown wrote this drama, about when queer poet Langston Hughes was compelled to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Presented by Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through March 10. StageWest.org.

**An Iliad.** Undermain celebrates 35 years with a revival of its 2012 production of the myth, adapted by Lisa Peterson and Denis O’Hare. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through March 3. Undermain.org.

**Incognito.** A play about the quest for understanding the human mind. Written by Nick Payne; directed by Alex Organ; starring Drew Wall. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Final weekend. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

**Lonely Planet.** Steve Dietz’s play is a meditation on the AIDS epidemic, produced with a twist. Final weekend. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. AmphibianStage.com.

**The Manufactured Myth of Eveline Flynn.** World premiere original musical by Ian Ferguson and Michael Federico about a woman whose birth signaled a change in the world. Final weekend. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Theatre3Dallas.com.

**You Got Older.** The second show of Kitchen Dog Theater’s 2018–19 season, is a bawdy dark comedy by Clare Barron making its regional premiere. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through March 10. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**CIRCUS**

**Cirque du Soleil: Amaluna.** The latest from the French Canadian troupe of acrobatics, music and clowning, this time with a substantially female cast. Lone Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. Through March 3. From $45. CirqueDuSoleil.com/Amaluna.

**CONCERTS**

**Dallas Symphony Orchestra: The Little Mermaid.** The DSO performs the music of Alan Menken live. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Friday–Sunday. MyDSO.org.

**FINE ART**


**Ida O’Keeffe: Escaping Georgia’s Shadow.** The work of the “forgotten” sister of Georgia O’Keeffe, a promising artist in her own right, gets an exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Sunday. DMA.org.

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**FRIDAY 02.22**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**SATURDAY 02.23**

**CONCERTS**

**Erykah Badu.** The funky R&B star performs her own birthday concert at The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. Doors at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY 02.24**

**BROADCAST**

**The 91st Academy Awards.** Red carpet and awards — without a host — continue all day until the evening show on ABC.

**MONDAY 02.25**

**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 02.26**

**FILM**

**Sabrina.** Billy Wilder directed this fluffy romantic comedy about two brothers (Humphrey Bogart and William Holden) and the fetching woman (Audrey Hepburn) in their lives. 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.

**THURSDAY 02.28**

**CABARET**

**Glitterbomb Denton.** Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.
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Inside Hollywood
Laverne Cox gets weird with Jordan Peele

We realize it’s only February, but suddenly we’re dreaming of a Christmas where the comedy with the current working title Happiest Season will bring visions of sugarplummy Sapphic romance to multiplexes across this lesbian-starved land. TriStar picked up the rights to the holiday-themed project from the writing team of Clea DuVall (who will also direct) and Mary Holland. Kristen Stewart has signed on to star and Mackenzie Davis (Tully) is in negotiations to co-star. The story involves a young woman planning to propose to her girlfriend at her family’s annual holiday party, only to discover that her partner has not yet come out to her conservative family. We detect a bit of Birdcage-ian farce in this premise, and we’re fine with that. One problem: now we’ve got “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of The Year” in our head.

Sia’s making Music
This one will have you swinging from the chandelier: acclaimed recording artist Sia is going to take off her wig to direct a movie, currently titled Music. We admit it’s a somewhat generic sounding name for a film, but that’s where the basic stuff ends. Popular children’s book author Dallas Clayton (Lily the Unicorn) is writing the screenplay based on a story developed by Sia, and it centers on a sober drug dealer and their relationship with a younger sister who has autism. The cast, so far, includes Kate Hudson as the older sister, Hamilton star Leslie Odom Jr., Tig Notaro and veteran Sia video star Maddie Ziegler as Hudson’s young sibling. Sia is also working on music for Music, because it’s a musical, after all.

Warhol superstar Candy Darling gets resurrected
She died of lymphoma at age 29, but Candy Darling packed a lot of living into her few decades. She was a transgender icon and muse to Andy Warhol, appearing in his films Flesh and Women in Revolt, and even popped up in Klute with Jane Fonda, and in the legendarily odd queer indie Some of My Best Friends Are...And if you’ve heard Lou Reed’s song “Take a Walk on The Wild Side,” an entire verse is about Candy’s sexual exploits. Now, 45 years after her death, she’ll be remembered in biopic form thanks to Transparent writer Stephanie Kornick and producer Zackary Drucker. The film — still in early days with no director or star attached — is primed for a talented young trans actress to show up and run with the material, much like what’s happening on FX with the groundbreaking series Pose. We can’t wait to see Candy walk on the wild side again.

Halston documentary is finally here
When a person in history continues to fascinated the public years after that person’s death, it’s almost inevitable that various biopics will try to get up and running. And for legendary fashion designer Halston there’s already been one documentary and now a TV series in development. Stepping in to plant its own flag, though, is Halston, the latest doc from filmmaker Frederic Tcheng (Dior and I, Diana Vreelands: The Eye Has to Travel). Its somewhat unusual formal approach involves a scripted framework featuring fashion blogger-turned-actress Tavi Gevinson (Enough Said) and a tapestry of archival footage of iconic personalities in the designer’s orbit. That means people like Liza Minnelli, Marisa Berenson (Barry Lyndon), director Joel Schumacher and model Pat Cleveland will be swirling about in scenes from Studio 54 and other only-in-the-1970s glamour enclaves. When it’s released later this spring, dress yourself up, spritz on some of that Z-14 cologne they still sell at the drugstore and glide into the theater like you own the place.

Sarah Paulson gets Ratched
Ryan Murphy, the man who currently owns most of television, has another show coming. It’s called Ratched, and you’ll need to reach back to at least the 1970s to get the title’s reference, because that was when the film adaptation of Ken Kesey’s novel One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest won Academy Awards for best picture, director, actor, screenplay and best actress for Louise Fletcher, who played the monstrous Nurse Ratched. For this upcoming project — already given a deal for two seasons and 18 episodes — newcomer Evan Romansky has created an origin story, one that will star Murphy regular Sarah Paulson as a younger version of the nurse who grew to be a demon of the mental health care system. And there’s an all-star cast rounding out the event: Judy Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Corey Stoll, Amanda Plummer, Sharon Stone and Finn Wittrock, among others. You’ll be hearing plenty about it as the airdate approaches. It’s Netflix, after all; they know where to find you.

Laverne Cox and Sara Gilbert move to Weird City
Jordan Peele is, how they say, on a roll. From Get Out to producing BlackKkKlansman to the upcoming Us to the planned Twilight Zone reboot, if he touches it, people want to see it. And now he’s working on a new series for YouTube Premium called Weird City, alongside Key and Peele writer Charlie Sanders. The premise is comedic sci-fi, and it’ll be an anthology series, which means lots of one-off guest stars. Cast so far are people like Sara Gilbert, Ed O’Neill, Rosario Dawson, Michael Cera, LeVar Burton and Laverne Cox, all in as-yet-unknown combinations and storylines. Six episodes are coming later this year to YouTube Premium, so you’ve got some time to learn how to throw it from your phone to your TV.

Jamie Lee Curtis RSVPs to your queer wedding
Unless she’s been to your wedding, you might not know the name Sara Cunningham. She’s the mother of a gay son who wrote a memoir titled How We Sleep At Night. And what makes her story unique is the wedding thing. Last summer, Cunningham posted on Facebook that she would be a stand-in mom at any LGBT wedding where any of the betrotheds was rejected by biological parents. Now Jamie Lee Curtis has purchased the film rights to Cunningham’s book, presumably as a vehicle for herself. We’re imagining a heartwarming dramedy where the Halloween heroine buys upwards of 27 dresses to wear at a variety of queer nuptials, dashing across town in a zany get-me-to-the-church-on-time speeding car chase to attend her third ceremony in one afternoon. These are free ideas we’re giving you, Hollywood.

— Romeo San Vicente
Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 22–28:

• **515 Bar**: Karaoke Party at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Tap Trivia** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
• **Alexandre’s**: **Mi Diva Loca** on Friday. **Anton Shaw Band** on Saturday.
  Wayne Smith on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday.
  Chris Chism on Thursday.
• **Cedar Springs Tap House**: Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
• **Club Reflection**: Latin Night at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
• **Dallas Eagle**: **Dallas Diablos Cook-Out** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
  **United Court Wheel of Drag** from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Henry’s Tavern**: Celebrate Pride on Wednesday.
• **JR.’s Bar & Grill**: Cassie’s Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
  **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
• **Pekers**: Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents Disco Night with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Sue Ellen’s**: Vivienne Vermuth presents The Denton Dames on Saturday.
  **Cherry Bomb** and **Tyla** on Sunday. **Lone Star Entertainment** presents **Karaoke** on Monday. **Tuesday Tease** at 9:30 on Tuesday.
• **The Rose Room**: Kennedy Davenport on Friday and Saturday.
  **Dee Ranged** on Sunday.
• **TMC**: The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays at TMC.
• **Urban Cowboy**: Imperial Court Candidate Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar**: Dallas Woody’s Wreckin Crew Extra Innings from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. A special **Tuesday Showtunes** with Anastasia After-Show Party after the show at Dallas Summer Musicals 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
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Hot at Sundance

Across
1 Type of balls that you play with
5 Switch positions
9 Hands of a manhandler
14 Skater’s feat
15 Gay Bob, for example
16 Old square
17 Judith Light feature
20 James of Only When I Laugh
21 AK, once
22 Frozen dessert
23 Enjoy a breast or two
25 Jolly Roger fliers
28 Old-time actor Erwin
29 Phantom of the Opera name
32 Unc, to Pop
33 Sophie B. Hawkins’ “The Cream Will ___”
34 ___ awkward position
35 Grace
36 Toni Collette feature film at Sundance
37 Morales of Jericho
38 Site of valuable stones
39 NASA chimp
40 Gomer’s Sgt. Carter, for one
41 Hairy one in the den
42 Coins w. Abe images
43 Short end of the stick
44 Go nuts
45 Summer for Colette
46 Movie about a gay hotel, with The
47 Where did ___ wrong?
48 Bring down
49 Part of ILGA (abbr.)
50 Meat that gets stuck
51 Serengeti sight
52 Michelangelo’s David, e.g.
53 No longer on the air
54 Ennis to his wife, in Brokeback Mountain
55 What homophobe Pence is president of?
56 Frozen water
57 Like Ennis to his wife, in Brokeback Mountain
58 Star quality
59 Like a nervous Nellie

Down
1 Snatch
2 Apple’s Tim Cook, for one
3 Adjusts, like Mapplethorpe
4 Congregation
5 It may be Sapphic
6 Auto racer A. J.
7 Ice chunk near a polar bear
8 Sucking sound
9 Chess queen, ironically
10 “Where did ___ wrong?”
11 Namely
12 Amount of time for premature ejaculation
13 Satisfies fully
14 Teyye, to Harvey
15 Charlie’s Angels role
16 Outdated atlas abbr.
17 Iroquoian tongue
18 Like a nervous Nellie
19 Like a nervous Nellie
20 Like a nervous Nellie
21 AK, once
22 Frozen dessert
23 Enjoy a breast or two
25 Jolly Roger fliers
28 Old-time actor Erwin
29 Phantom of the Opera name
32 Unc, to Pop
33 Sophie B. Hawkins’ “The Cream Will ___”
34 ___ awkward position
35 Grace
36 Toni Collette feature film at Sundance
37 Morales of Jericho
38 Site of valuable stones
39 NASA chimp
40 Gomer’s Sgt. Carter, for one
41 Hairy one in the den
42 Coins w. Abe images
43 Short end of the stick
44 Go nuts
45 Summer for Colette
46 Movie about a gay hotel, with The
47 Where did ___ wrong?
48 Bring down
49 Part of ILGA (abbr.)
50 Meat that gets stuck
51 Serengeti sight
52 Michelangelo’s David, e.g.
53 No longer on the air
54 Ennis to his wife, in Brokeback Mountain
55 What homophobe Pence is president of?
56 Frozen water
57 Like Ennis to his wife, in Brokeback Mountain
58 Star quality
59 Like a nervous Nellie

Solution on Page 28

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