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Candidates pick ballot positions



Chad West

Candidates for Dallas City Council, including those running for mayor, picked ballot positions on Monday, Feb. 25 at Dallas City Hall. Every race is contested.

Among the LGBT candidates is Chad West, running for Place 1. He chose position 4 in a four-way race. Erin Moore, running in a five-way race for District 9 in East Dallas, chose position 2. As candidates were called, most chose their own envelope or had a representative select for them. Moore is the only candidate whose spouse, Patti Fink, selected with her.

Adam Medrano, running for a fourth term in District 2, chose position 1. He has two opponents. Omar Narvaez, running for a second term in Place 6, chose position 2. In 2017, Narvaez defeated Monica Alonzo. Alonzo, is now challenging Narvaez.

To win, a candidate must receive 50 percent plus one vote to be declared the winner. If no one receives the majority of votes on Election Day, a run-off is held between the top two vote-getters. Because of the number of candidates, a run-off is expected in many of the races.

— David Taffet

New Equality Texas report lays out the state of LGBTQ Texans

A report released on Wednesday, Feb. 27 by Equality Texas reveals the barriers to LGBTQ equality in the state and calls for comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation to protect the estimated 930,000 Texans identifying as LGBTQ.

The report was unveiled at a press conference on the steps of the Texas Capitol. Speakers included state Rep. Mary González, D-El Paso, state Reps. Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez of Dallas, Visit Dallas President Phillip Jones, Houston transgender activist Monica Roberts and others.

According to an analysis by the Public Religion Research Institute, 64 percent of Texans support non-discrimination laws for LGBTQ people.

"That strong support is consistent across political party, religious affiliation, demograph-

ic group and region of the state," the report states. "Similarly, a solid majority of Texans oppose laws that permit religiously motivated discrimination."

But that public support has not translated into policy. Texas is still far behind its neighbors, including New Mexico.

Despite its large LGBTQ community, Texas is one of 28 states without statewide protections for LGBTQ people in employment, housing and public accommodations. Though many cities and government entities have nondiscrimination ordinances, the patchwork of protections leaves many Texans vulnerable to violence, economic disadvantage and homelessness.

— James Russell

Poll: Biden, Sanders and O'Rourke tie Trump in Texas

A new Quinnipiac Poll finds that former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke are each tied with Donald Trump in Texas. Trump is slightly ahead of other presidential candidates. In the upcoming senate race, O'Rourke is in a statistical dead heat against incumbent Sen. John Cornyn.

In a hypothetical race pitting the president against Biden, Sanders or O'Rourke, Trump has 47 percent of the vote in Texas including 41 percent of independents. Biden gets 46 percent of independents and O'Rourke and Sanders each polled 48 percent of independents.

Among Texas voters, 47 percent have a favorable opinion of Trump, while 49 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him.

In the senate race, O'Rourke and Cornyn are tied in the poll at 46-46 percent. Independent voters favor O'Rourke 47-40 percent.

— David Taffet

Senate committee approves more dangerous SB 15

The Senate State Affairs Committee today (Thursday, Feb. 28) approved on a 5-1 vote Senate Bill 15, a piece of legislation that LGBT lobbying organization Equality Texas warns "would gut nondiscrimination ordinances that protect more than 6 million Texans in most major Texas cities."

In a press release distributed this afternoon, Equality Texas Interim Director Samantha Smoot said that as originally filed, SB 15 included "explicit exemptions" for non-discrimination ordinances. But the committee substitute unveiled today completely strips that exemption language from the bill.

Six major Texas cities — Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano, Austin, El Paso and San Antonio — have municipal ordinances banning anti-LGBT discrimination, and several cities and counties have nondiscrimination policies for employees and contractors. Those six cities, Smoot said, account for about 20 percent of the state's population.

— Tammye Nash

Partners Clinic

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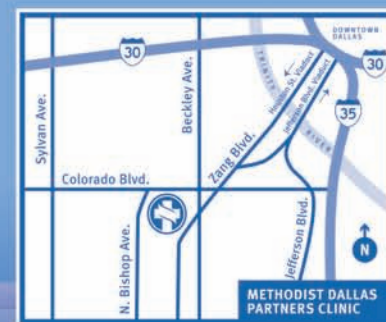
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Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$60 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs 6 months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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THE GAY AGENDA



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

MARCH

• March 1-3: Scoot Back to Big D

LGBT Square Dance fly-in sponsored by Pegasus Squares (see story this issue) at Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St.

• 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, taekwondo, Tai chi and more, speakers, educational exhibits, arts, 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.

• March 2: International Women's Day Festival of Ideas

Celebrate women around the world with essay of the year, women's herstory quiz, demonstrations of yoga, Tai chi do, tai chi, MosaicSong international buffet and more from

noon-5 p.m. at Bath House Cultural Center at White Rock Lake.

• March 2: Angela's Drag Brunch

Tucker's Gift presents April Rition, Cameron Jade D'Monaco and Domita Sanchez with spotlight guest Errmaa Gawws at 11:30 a.m. at Cafe Del Rop, 401 Central Expressway S., Allen. Tickets at DragBrunchAllen.eventbrite.com.

• March 2: Prime Timers

Brunch in Oak Cliff at 11 a.m. at Norma's, 1123 W. Davis St.

• March 3: Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade

The parade runs down Davis Street and through the Bish Arts District from 4-7 p.m.

• March 3: Family photos

Children and family photographer Austin Gartman holds a fundraiser for GALA. Contact to book a 30-minute time slot and get 2 5x7 prints of their family portrait and a digital copy from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Venue at Frisco Town Square, 8849 Carroll Circle, Frisco. \$99. Contact aggartman@gmail.com or 469-431-2443 for appointment.

• March 4: Planned Parenthood Awards Luncheon

Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Leana Wen is the keynote speaker at the organization's annual fundraising luncheon at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• March 4: Tyler Transgender Support

Tyler Transgender Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

• March 5: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• March 5: Prime Timers

Monthly lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane.

• March 5: Painting Away the Stigma

Celebrate completion of the Red Foundation HIV/AIDS Commemorative Mural with an interactive panel discussion focusing on HIV stigma from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 5: Prime Timers

First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane.

• March 6: Key West Cocktail Classic

The world's largest LGBT bartender competition with finals held in Key West at 8-11 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 6: Ashes on the Strip

Hosted by Cathedral of Hope for those who can't make it to church, the pastoral staff will be offering ashes for Ash Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. in front of Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road.

OBITUARY



Regina "Gai" Green, 70, of Kansas City, Kansas, passed away peacefully on Feb. 23, 2019, after a brief battle with cancer.

Gai was the PROUD mother of Dallas Voice Advertising Director Chad Mantooth of Dallas, and of Scott Mantooth and wife Darcy Mantooth of Kansas City, Kansas, and grandmother of Ruby, who she loved so much.

Gai attended many Pride celebrations, and she loved her sons with all her heart. A celebration of life will be held Sunday, March 3, at Sylvester Powell Community Center in Kansas City. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Gai's name to PFLAG at pflag.org.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is Resource Center's Jalenzski Brown; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church,

third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details;

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

Living the sustainable life

Fort Worth couple opens city's first zero-waste salon

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. That's more than just a catchy slogan for Fort Worth's Novak Hair Studios. It's a way of life — for the salon, and for its founders, Benjamin and Justin Hudgins.

Novak Hair Studios, located on West Lancaster Street, is the DFW Metroplex's only "fully sustainable" salon, and Fort Worth's first "zero-waste" salon, according to the couple. But they hope that the Fort Worth location is just the first of many Novak salons to come.

Living and working "green" is a family tradition for Benjamin Hudgins. His grandfather, Novak Bullard, was a beekeeper in Oklahoma and one of the first to begin talking about the dangers of pesticides, their devastating effect on the bee population and the vital link between bees and human life.

One of the first sights to greet visitors as they walk in and head to the receptionist's desk are displays on facing walls highlighting Bullard's work and explaining his story — and how his predictions about the dangers of pesticides are coming true.

It was his grandfather's work, Benjamin said, that first put him on the path toward a greener life — at work and at home. Novak Hair Studios — Novak is also Benjamin's middle name — is the result.

Benjamin is the youngest of six children, raised in Allen by a single mother, an "educated woman" who struggled to provide for her children. He said he inherited his mother's "strong work ethic" along with his grandfather's passion for conservation. "I worked all my life, since they would allow me to work," he said.

That work ethic came in handy when, at age 16, he left home and struck out on his own after coming out as gay. "My mother was a very devout Christian, and she really struggled with it all when I came out," Benjamin said. "So I moved out when I was 16, and I've been on my own ever since."

Benjamin and Justin first met and became friends as teenagers through AOL chat rooms. They had a lot in common. Justin said he, too, grew up in a religious family, and when he came out at age 13, his father kicked him out of the house. He said his parents then divorced, and he lived with his mother, who "has always been loving and supportive."

When his parents reconciled and remarried, Justin said, his father sent him to conversion therapy and tried to "pray the gay away." Finally, he said, his mother threatened to leave his father again if his father didn't accept him, and that was the first step in what he describes as his father's "180-degree turn-around. In fact, he partnered with us" when Justin and Benjamin decided to open Novak.

They lost touch for a while, but then one day, Benjamin said he decided to sign on to AOL again, "just to see if I could still remember my passwords." As luck would have it, Justin — who had moved from his hometown of Mansfield to Florida to help his parents open a construction business there — happened to be online at the same time.

They renewed their friendship, and that friendship evolved into more. Justin and his family returned to Mansfield, and he and Benjamin became a couple when Benjamin was 19 and Justin was 22, and have been a couple for 14 years now.

Justin has "always been drawn to customer service," and has spent his adult life working in construction with his family and in restaurant management, Benjamin said of his husband. Benjamin made a name for himself as an "international platform artist," which means he worked for a corporation as part of a team that designed the new trends in



Benjamin, left, and Justin Hudgins designed and built Fort Worth's first zero-waste hair salon, Novak Hair Studios. (Photo courtesy of Novak Hair Studios).

Novak Hair Studios is located at 250 W. Lancaster St. near downtown Fort Worth. Reach them by phone at 817-592-4247 or by email at info@novakhairstudio.com. Clients looking for a new hair stylist can call the salon, and receptionists there will help match them with a stylist. The salon also has an app, available in the Apple App Store and on Google Play, that clients can use to find a stylist and set appointments.

Novak Hair Studios also offers other salon services as well.

hair each year, and then traveled the country teaching those trends and the techniques necessary to create them to other hair stylists.

In that job, Benjamin said, he got the chance to do and see "some really cool stuff." But it also gave him a chance to see "a lot of the same problems, over and over," at salons all across the country, and the way that the "corporate culture was changing the salon experience" —

and not for the better.

But he was also working all the time, and his friendships began to suffer, as did his relationship with Justin. And he saw the same thing happening to other stylists working to stay at the top of their game and be successful. Benjamin believed he could create a system that would let him have a better work/life balance, and he wanted to be able to share that with other stylists, too.

That drive, coupled with his passion for sustainability in his work and his personal life, "gave me my 'why,'" he said. "I told Justin I wanted to build a completely sustainable salon. And he said, 'Let's do it.'"

Justin and Benjamin worked together to design the salon, creating a mixture of modern and industrial elements, with a bit of Mid-Century Modern thrown in for good measure. Justin was still work-

UMC upholds ban on LGBTQ inclusion

NICK TOTIN | Contributing Writer
nick@nicktotin.com

The United Methodist Church has voted to continue its prohibition on LGBTQ weddings and ministers during a special meeting of the general conference in St. Louis, Mo., this week. The delegation of more than 800 clergy and laity from multiple countries voted 438 to 384 to approve the Traditional Plan. The TP faced hours of delay as opponents of the plan made moves to stall the voting process or make the proposal unable to be voted on.

Another plan that aimed to be inclusive of the LGBTQ community was defeated on multiple accounts during general conference proceedings. The One Church Plan would have allowed churches to decide individually on cel-

brating same-sex marriages and the inclusion of openly-LGBTQ people in ministry. This plan was supported by a majority of bishops.

A DFW area UMC pastor said this week he believes the work for inclusion will continue in the Dallas area.

"Most of the Methodist leaders I know are in shock," said the Rev. Eric Folkerth, head pastor at The Woods UMC in Grand Prairie, formerly pastor of Northaven UMC in Dallas. "They believed there was a legitimate chance for a positive change at this general conference and instead the [Traditional Plan] was passed."

The Traditional Plan still faces an uphill battle to become church law, as many believe it is not in line with the church's constitution.

"It should be said that it is almost certainly to be struck down by the Judicial Council," Folkerth said. "But we cannot look past the fact that roughly 55 percent of delegates voted in favor of [it], and that is incredibly shocking and depress-



Protesters objecting to the adoption of the Traditional Plan protest outside the United Methodist Church's 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, Mo., on Feb. 26. (Sid Hastings/Associated Press)

ing to me."

The Rev. Timothy Bruster from Central Texas made a motion to request the Judicial Council review the constitutionality of the Traditional Plan. The delegates approved the motion by a vote of 405-395.

The Judicial Council is scheduled to

BAN, Page 11

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1938 Newport - \$367,000 - Elmwood



ing for his father's construction company at the time and was project manager for the salon build.

Now Justin works full time at the salon, handling the customer service/business side of things. Benjamin spends a couple of days a week "behind the chair" (working as a hair stylist). But he spends the majority of his time handling the creative side of the salon, helping the stylists who lease space there expand their own knowledge and skill sets and continuing to evolve the salon's culture.

Today, Novak Hair Studios — which marks its one-year anniversary on March 23 — offers 41 studio spaces for "luxury solo artists" to lease, and 10 open stations. The salon has a central receptionist desk where salon-employed customer service specialists answer phones, help schedule appointments and greet visitors. Individual stylist-lease spaces, each with its own glass door, line four long halls.

There is a centrally-located shampoo station, where salon employees are

available to wash clients' hair, a small cubbyhole with studio lighting for before-and-after photos of clients hair that stylists can use in promoting their work. And there is a loft lounge where clients undergoing some styling process can wait in comfort and relative privacy, giving the stylists a chance to take care of other clients in the meantime.

The space is open to the ceiling, where the ductwork and beams add a touch of industrial style, and special touches — like the "cloud" of Edison bulbs over the reception area and original acrylic pour artwork by Benjamin and Justin themselves on the walls — give Novak Hair Studios the high-end salon look and feel the couple aimed for in their efforts to provide clients with the "ultimate salon experience."

But it's the design behind the design that really sets Novak apart — things like the seven recycling stations located throughout the salon, including a centrally-located one where the chemicals are cleaned from the empty containers

to be recycled. All of the salon's paper products are made from recycled materials, and even the hair clippings — which in other salons are swept up and thrown in the trash — are reused, Benjamin said. "The hair is used to clean up oil spills in water," he explained.

The couple used special fixtures on every sink and faucet that allow the salon to use 65 percent less water than a "normal" salon. And they installed a special AC system that has 24 separate zones that can be individually controlled for significantly higher energy efficiency. The VRF air system — widely used in Europe where energy use standards are much more strict — also helps filter out the chemicals used in the salon, making the environment much more pleasant (without the usual "salon smell") and much safer for the stylists themselves.

Every aspect of the salon, the couple said, is built around the sustainability mantra of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," and they are working to expand their reach by developing their own brand

of eco-friendly products that will be as green as their salon. "Right now, we are working on packaging," Justin said. Normal packaging for hair care products can't be recycled because of the chemicals in the products they contain. "But imagine having an aluminum shampoo bottle that, when it's empty, you just bring to the salon and get refilled."

As the original Novak Hair Studios nears its one-year anniversary, Benjamin and Justin are already looking ahead toward their goal of expanding. "This salon is our baby," Justin said. "But we don't want just one baby. We want to have several babies."

Benjamin said he and his husband hope to open a Novak Hair Studios "in Dallas, in Southlake, around the state and beyond. There's no limit. We're looking to build a lifestyle brand, with sustainability as a company culture.

"We want to help create sustainable communities," he continued. "We as business owners have to stand up and make a difference."



David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP
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BAN

From Page 9

meet in April in Evanston, Ill. Should the council find the Traditional Plan to be unconstitutional, none of its changes will be implemented in the denomination's Book of Discipline.

Following the vote on the Traditional Plan, the delegates voted on legislation to allow churches to disaffiliate from the UMC and retain their property. That petition passed.

According to UMNNews, Council of Bishops President Kenneth H. Carter said that bishops will have a heavy task of outreach ahead. "We are going to do a lot of outreach to progressives to say, 'We see you,'" Carter said.

Bishop Michael McKee of the North Texas Conference released a statement following the conference: "To the LGBTQ persons in our churches and communities, I want to say that no legislation will change my conviction that you are beloved children of God and that you can count on the churches of North Texas to continue to be welcoming and safe spaces for you."

McKee did not explicitly say whether or not the conference or individual

churches in North Texas have made plans to separate from the denomination. He noted that it will take time for the full implication of the Traditional Plan to be seen and that "what it all will mean for the North Texas Conference is a story still to be written."

The current pastor of Northaven UMC in Preston Hollow vowed to continue to defy the Book of Discipline and hold same-sex wedding ceremonies in the church despite any consequences. In a statement to the church membership, which a member sent to Dallas Voice, the Rev. Marti Soper said: "Northaven will continue to abide by the Marriage Proposal adopted on June 26, 2016 in which our congregation voted overwhelmingly in favor of permitting all weddings at Northaven."

Andrew Robinson, a Northaven member, said he was hopeful the General Conference would support and pass the One Church Plan. Robinson identifies as a straight, cisgender man and an LGBTQ ally.

"I have two young boys," he said. "I would be doing a disservice to them if I raised them in the Methodist church and they grew up and my older son wanted to marry a woman, he could get married

in the church he grew up in, and if my younger son wanted to marry a man, I would have to look my younger son in the eye and say 'I'm sorry but I raised you in a church where your brother can get married, but you can't'" Robinson said.

Robinson added that he is uncertain what his personal decision will be about his church affiliation because of the vote to approve the Traditional Plan. "It's important to let queer people lead on this issue," he said. "In the end I may leave [the denomination] because of my kids, but I will honor the LGBTQ people in my church if they are in favor of just waiting it out."

However, for Robinson, if Northaven seeks to break with the Traditional Plan and face the consequences, he would consider staying.

"If we're going to go back to doing weddings and participate in the church equivalent of civil disobedience," Robinson said, he would support his church family and the LGBTQ community it supports.

The general conference will meet again in 2020 and has the opportunity to take up new legislative petitions on this issue.

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Not your grandma's square dance

Pegasus Squares hosting Scoot Back to Big D event this weekend

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Square dance, explained Pegasus Squares' former president Alan Josephson, is "not a set dance." It is, instead a set of calls, from the "caller," telling the dancers what to do next.

The caller calls steps from a list of known moves, and dancers follow his or her instructions to create an intricate pattern of moves and steps.

To participate in the lowest level of square dance, a dancer needs to know about 70 calls, Josephson said. The highest level has thousands of calls. To prepare new dancers, Pegasus Squares will launch 10 weeks of lessons later this spring.

This weekend, Pegasus Squares is hosting Scoot Back to Big D, a fly-in, as members call it, or weekend event that the group hosts every other year in rotation with the Lone Star Lambdas, Austin's LGBT square dance club.

Pegasus has been around since 2013, created after LGBT square dancing had been absent in Dallas for about 10 years. Josephson, who helped form the current group, was also a member of Big D Longhorns, which danced from 1995 until 2003.

The current group is a member of the International Association of Square Dance Clubs, which has about 60 member clubs around the country. In addition to Dallas and Austin, San Antonio has an active LGBT square dance group.

The main difference between LGBT and straight square dance is the position. A square is made up of four couples. In traditional square dance, the man begins on the left and the woman on the right. That formal configuration helps ensure no man would touch or dance with another man.

In LGBT square dancing, it doesn't really matter which part a dancer takes.

Some people have a preferred posi-



Pegasus Squares dance at Grace United Methodist Church. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

tion, Josephson explained, and dance either the "boy part" or the "girl part," as square dancers call it. Josephson said many LGBT square dancers are bi-dance — dancing either part. But, he said, it really doesn't make much difference in dance steps.

"Of 80 calls, four would be done differently as a boy's part or a girl's part," he noted.

Another difference between LGBT and traditional square dance is that in straight clubs, square dancing is a couples' activity. The gay clubs grew up as singles events.

And because gender doesn't matter, Josephson added, transgender dancers are especially welcome and have become a growing part of LGBT square dancing clubs.

Josephson said gay square dances sometimes have a dose of Rocky Horror in them. For instance, when the caller calls, "Spin the top," the dancers respond, "No tops here," as the person in the "girl" position spins the dancer in the "boy" position.

And there are stylings to some of the calls that have added flourishes that have become standard throughout the LGBT clubs.

Josephson said he's been square dancing for years because it's a great social activity, a wonderful way to make new



friends and good exercise.

Caller Darren Gallina came to Dallas a week before the fly-in with his husband to visit his in-laws. While he was in town, Gallina called the regular Pegasus square dance on Feb. 24 at Grace United Methodist Church in East Dallas.

Gallina, who lives in California, has been calling for 40 years and has made his living calling for the last three years. He noted one major difference between traditional and LGBT square dancing: "Ours is more high energy," Gallina said. "Gay clubs tend to be younger."

Gallina will be calling at Scoot Back to Big D.

The other two callers at the Dallas weekend are Bronc Wise and Dale Hodge. Wise is from the Rio Grande Valley but used to call for a gay club in Denver. Hodge calls for an LGBT club in Baltimore. Both are straight.

LGBT square dancing, Gallina said, ain't your grandma's square dance: "The music is contemporary," he said. "And

not just country. [It's] current music [by] current performers."

And, he added, the tempo is a little quicker than traditional square dance.

Full price registration Scott Back to Big D includes barbecue dinner on Saturday night from Big Al's and a souvenir T-shirt. A single session rate and an all-day Saturday rate are also available. Sessions are about three hours.

And just how good are the Pegasus Squares? Local member David Moffat is the reigning Honky Tonk Queen, crowned at the 2018 national convention. ■

Scoot Back to Big D, March 1-3 at Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. \$130 for weekend, \$20 for three-hour session, \$50 for all day Saturday. For information, see Scoot-BackToBigD.com.

Pegasus Squares dances at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays every month at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For upcoming classes and regular club activities, visit PegasusSquares.com.

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Lessons in dying:

A gay son at his straight father's passing

On Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, at around 1:20 p.m., Lynell Spiller, the man responsible for co-creating me, made his transition into infinity. His passing wasn't unexpected, because near the end he had simply given up; he had a massive stroke the day after Thanksgiving 2018, and he wanted to go.

Unlike others who share the news with others of a parent's passing on social media, often with glowing remembrances and profound sorrow, I chose to remain silent until I had time to process what his death meant to me, and what my response would be.

I did inform a small number of people, but for the most part I kept the information private until now.

Despite being given his first name as my middle name at birth, we were not close. In fact, when he died, I had not seen him physically in three decades, and I had not spoken to him in more than 15 years. I had no real emotional attachment to or fond memories of him. So when my family was faced with his imminent death, I had some decisions to make — decisions I have thought about occasionally over the years.

Primarily, I had to decide whether I would even make the trip to Connecticut where he lived to see him for the last time or to attend his funeral, as I knew would be expected to do. As harsh as it may sound — and despite him being a responsible parent and providing for my needs from birth until the time I left home for college at age 17 — from an emotional standpoint he felt more like a sperm donor to me than anything else, if I am to be honest. So when I received a call from my brother a week before Lynell's transition, letting me know Lynell may be on his way out of here, I literally had to make what seemed like a split-second decision about whether I would attempt to see him. Finances weren't an issue; my husband



Buster Spiller
Contributing Columnist

works for a major airline carrier, and I can fly free anywhere in the domestic U.S. and overseas. The real issue was whether I had the will to confront the past, our personal history, and make the trip despite what my heart was telling me.

he wished I had never been born. That created distance in our relationship that lasted throughout the rest of his life.

But three hours after my brother called, I was on a plane headed to Connecticut, not certain what would unfold during the trip and how I would process it from a visceral standpoint. There were just a multitude of different tangibles and intangibles to consider.

I didn't know what I might be facing, and that's a position I hate being in. I want to be in control of all situations, a result of being a childhood victim of molestation and sexual assault.

conciliator over the breakdown in mine and my father's relationship, hoping she could help bring us together at his end.

I didn't share that need. In my head, my presence was more about gratitude that he had given me life, even if my life has been hell, and showing respect for that.

Nothing more, nothing less.

When we arrived at the rehabilitation facility, Torrie initiated the re-



From the moment he realized his son was not like other boys, my father had a problem with my sexual orientation. I vividly remember walking in on him talking to someone on our wall phone (he didn't know I was in the bathroom behind him) and hearing him tell the person on the other end of the line that

My husband arranged for my youngest Spiller cousin — Torrie, who lives in Kentucky — to join me on the trip. She was more than happy to do so because my father was her favorite uncle. But there was more to it: She wanted a chance to say her final goodbye, but she also wanted to be there to serve as

union by asking him if he knew who she was. He did and joyfully asked her about her daughter, Gabby, his great-niece that he adored. Torrie then told him someone else was there with her, someone that had traveled really far to be with him, someone who was a male. He was puzzled. He asked if it was my

brother, and when she said no, he asked if it were each of my brother's two sons. Torrie laughed and told him no. They lived nearby and so would not have had to travel far to be there. Confused, he again named my brother and his two sons, and again she told him no.

This visitor, Torrie told him, had come up from Dallas, Texas. At that point, I interjected: "Lynell, you have TWO sons, and I am your oldest son. It's

battle of wills — the old lion versus the not-so-much-younger lion.

Once when his nurses were trying to change him out of his jeans into more comfortable sweat pants, he was yelling and cursing up a storm about how they were hurting him. I stepped in and very firmly told him to calm down and let them to do their job. He wouldn't relent, so I grew very impatient and said in a loud



Buster."

He replied, "Who?"

I calmly answered, "It's Buster." Using the side of his body not affected by the stroke, he leaned forward and looked at me with the little vision remaining in his left eye (he lost sight in his right eye in a car accident when I was growing up). He stared at me, and he kept staring, saying nothing.

Then he leaned back in his hospital bed and said, "I don't know you." My cousin gasped a little, but I busted out laughing. Why? Because I didn't know if he were being mean or trying to be sarcastic, or if it were a combination of both. Either way, it was funny as hell to me.

I moved closer to the hospital bed and with a resolve that he could not deny, even as he was approaching death, I said, "You may not want to acknowledge me, but I will ALWAYS be your oldest son."

What would transpire during that visit and two others before he passed was a

voice, "Lynell, STOP IT! Give me your legs and let me make them more comfortable so we can get these damn pants on! He allowed me to straighten his legs out and calmed down noticeably. "Lynell, doesn't that feel better now?" I asked, and he nodded.

I noticed his stroke-affected side looked really uncomfortable and motioned for Torrie to pass me two pillows. I told him I was going to prop him up in the bed with the pillows. When I was finished, I asked him, "Doesn't that feel better?" Again, he nodded. The next visit, he was still giving the nursing staff hell, particularly when they were trying to change his diaper. Despite how emaciated he was from the waist down, it was then I realized that we had the same body type, right down to shared age spots.\

Hmmmm.

As he cursed and yelled, I lost my patience again and told him forcefully,

"Lynell, stop acting a damn fool and let them help you!" He balled up his good fist and retorted, "I will bop them and anyone else, including you!" I looked at him, steely-eyed, and said, "Old Man, you ain't bopping no damn body! Hell, you can't even get up from the bed." He glanced at me and said, "Well, if I could, I would bop you all."

In that moment, I realized I inherited a part of his temper and bravado.

Hmmmm.

What I said next surprised him — I even surprised myself — but I couldn't contain it any longer: "Lynell, I don't give a damn how bad you think you are, how much you cuss, or who you think you can bop. I cuss MUCH better than you ever could, and I have always been STRONGER than you. So again, let these people help you, and stop causing all this damn trouble!" He grew silent then, and with Torrie on one side of the bed keeping him calm, the nurses and I were able to change his shitty diaper successfully. Then I washed my hands because some had gotten some of his waste on them. The parent had become the child, and the child had become the parent.

I can't fully put into words how humbling that was for me. I also realized in that moment that he and I were more alike than different, and that had I been born heterosexual, we probably would have had a great father-son relationship.

During our last visit the following morning, before I left for the airport to return home to my own life, I looked at him with that same degree of gratitude for his role in bringing me here that I had felt before, but also more compassion — more than I had realized I possessed — for what he was going through.

He was a great father to my siblings, a loving sibling to his own brothers and sisters, and a favorite uncle to many of my cousins. But he was not the best father to me or the best husband to my mother (they filed for divorce a month after I arrived in Texas for college). But he was an EXCELLENT provider, as was my mother. And as I reflect more intimately on his life and the lessons he passed down to me — not related to the sexual orientation issue — I have to acknowledge that as a black man in that time period, he did the very best with what he had.

This boy from Port Gibson, Miss. — who became the man of the family when his father left my grandmother,

who served in the Korean War and spoke fluent Korean, who left military service and worked in an auto factory in Flint, Mich., eventually becoming a national UAW union officer and credit union board member — gave me what he could, which was a lot. Despite the lack of any emotional connection to him, I watched him in his side businesses — carpentry and plumbing — and now I am a DIY aficionado that almost lives at Home Depot. He taught me the importance of tipping people in service-related careers, telling me if you can't afford to tip, you don't get the service. He taught me how to hold down a household when unexpected events occur and still come out on top. He and Mother both stressed education, and they have three college-educated children.

He tried to impart to me the importance of saving your money, but that is still a work in progress (LOL)! The only thing he didn't give me was the love I craved from my father. But as fate or the Universe would have it, my husband's late father, Melvin W. Craft (and his late mother Lucille) accepted me immediately as a third son, and I got the parenting I needed as an adult.

I also received parenting from some of my friends' parents (Hendersons, Thompsons, Abrahams, Holyfields, Colemans), so I have no regrets. For members of the LGBTQ community who have experienced what I just went through or will experience it in the future, I want to leave you with this: Regardless of your family dynamics, family situations that center around your sexual orientation, or challenging steps on your individual journey, know that you are supposed to be HERE. You are not a mistake, no matter what anyone says. Live your life and live it OUT LOUD. Your life is yours, and this is not a dress rehearsal! Do not waste time trying to love and please people that may not be able to return those affections. It doesn't mean you love them any less because they are your kin, but don't lose your life behind it.

I lost a lot of years doing just that and, at points, languishing over the failed relationship between my father and me. And in the end, that wasn't fair to me.

I matter. And so do you. ■

Buster Spiller is a happily married, long-time activist and award-winning playwright from Dallas.

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Learning to live, learning to lose

Death has no clear reason. It either interrupts a much-cherished life that the newly-deceased was enjoying, or it ends a protracted period of physical suffering or mental anguish. In either case, death is permanent.

The old adage that death comes in threes resonates with me. I have witnessed the death people I consider friends. And I have participated in the decline and eventual demises of my parents, all of their generation and generations before.

But for me, the final category is the most difficult to process: the death of our intimate partners or spouses and our children. I put these in the same category, because although the nature and the intensity of those relationships differ, the loss is quite the same. Both take from you the very meaning of your own reality. Who you are and who they were wound together intricately, and when you are left behind, you have to find new life because the life you shared with them evaporated the exact moment they took their final breath.

I am well versed in the nuances of death. AIDS gave me that knowledge. So many people of all ages and orientations learned the harsh lessons that the ravages of AIDS-related death handed out in those dark days. People around the world were fast-forwarded to an encounter with the ultimate ending.

‘Non-political’ = Privilege in action

Not wanting to get political on issues of equality means you’re OK with inequality

When I came out, nearly seven years ago, I didn’t intend on being an activist. I had no meaningful experience in the area, but what I did have was 30 years of ex-



remaining relatives are in pretty good health. My husband, Will, is indestructible and will find company with the cockroaches after the eventual nuclear holocaust.

I have almost felt insulated.

Then last week I heard that a woman from my high school graduating class had died. Her passing was sad but not so unexpected. She died before her time, but the progression has begun. Her death felt familiar to me.

I moved to Dallas from San Francisco at the onset of the AIDS epidemic, and my partner at that time became sick very soon after we moved here. When he died, I found myself isolated. I had been entirely involved in caring for him and had no friends other than my co-workers.

I both amused and tortured myself by picking up a copy of the San Francisco gay newspaper each week, reading the obituaries of those who had died that

I’ve enjoyed an extended break from the realities of death in recent years. My last surviving uncle passed about five years ago. My friends and

week. There was always a person I knew, usually an acquaintance rather than a close friend. It was a morbid habit, yes. But it chronicled the devastation for me.

And now, that role of the night watchman is beginning again. This time though, it brings mostly pleasant memories of those long-ago times. But it also reminds me that the sunset has begun.

There are lessons I learned from the past that will serve as important guidelines for how I process death as I age. I think that all of those friends, acquaintances and soulmates that were taken from me so young have left me stronger. I’m not so afraid. I am not enraged. I do not feel like I have to carry such a burden.

I have forgiven myself. I have moved on.

I did not do a great job of processing death back then. I knew a lot of good people in those days who became ill and met death early. Some of them I sat with as their deaths approached. I visited a few but sometimes just abruptly stopped visiting. I stopped calling, too.

And I became numb. I cared when they died, but I did not register the loss. I shut down the way very old people do when they lose their entire generation.

These days, I’m involved with an organization called Educare that was created to address that exact situation. It’s called Compassion Fatigue, and it is the way we cope.

LEARNING, Next Page



perience in both writing and performing on radio. I knew how to communicate; I knew how to tell a story.

If there was a turning point in my life where events pushed me towards advocacy, it was attending my first Trans-

gender Day of Remembrance in 2013.

When my “egg cracked,” transgender issues were largely slipping under the radar. The big fight then centered on marriage equality. In those early days, I knew the world was a much more dangerous place for transgender people; I just had no idea how dangerous.

But that first TDOR drove that point home, and it was responsible in many ways for me standing up to make sure trans voices are heard.

So, with that said, if you are my friend on Facebook or if you follow me on Twit-

There are methods to relieve the effects of Compassion Fatigue; methods I could have used in the past and that I will use in the present as I move into this next chapter.

Each time, I plan to be present. I plan to let each loss wash over me. I plan to be devastated. I plan to recover. That is the price for our humanity. I want to experience each tender moment. ■

ter, you know I post a lot of material that is political in nature. I often bring up political issues in conversations. Sometimes the response I get is that someone doesn't want politics to "get in the way," or they don't want to "make people uncomfortable with political opinions."

I wish folks would understand how much privilege is involved in those statements.

If you think that a space or a relationship can be non-political, it illustrates both your privilege and your benefit from the status quo. It highlights the privilege you have of being able to move through life without being constantly reminded of the uncomfortable reality that your existence is political.

Look, I get it! I spent a good chunk of my life sitting lazily at the top of the privilege ladder, enjoying my tryptophan buzz.

Think about it: Can you walk down the street holding hands with your spouse without risking harassment or assault? Can you be fired from your job or be denied housing because of who you are married to? Can a doctor legally refuse you medical care? Can you vote in any election without a second thought because your identification accurately reflects who you are? Can you use a public restroom with your only concern being how disgusting the facilities might be and not whether you will be assaulted?

If you answered yes, then congratulations. You probably don't see the need for changes in basic human rights because the Constitution singled you out as one of the chosen ones. You don't need politics in your life.

But what you need to understand is this is not a zero-sum game! Giving me employment protection does not jeopardize your employment. Keeping me safe in the bathroom does not make you unsafe. Allowing me to see a doctor without discrimination does not affect your doctor/patient relationship.

I just can't wrap my head around someone arguing against someone else's equality in America! What has happened here?

The simple truth is, putting politics aside and living a non-political life isn't

an option for me.

Keep in mind, this has nothing to do with the debate over whether a particular position is right or wrong; this is directed at those among us who decide to disengage completely from discourse.

As an over-60-years-old transgender woman, my very existence is shaped by political decisions. Being white and reasonably well-off, I'm aware of my privilege, but still I have to fight for others who aren't as fortunate as I am. My life is now intertwined with the political, whether I like it or not.

Telling any person from any marginalized group that you want to be "non-political" is hurtful. It's like you are either denying that our struggle matters or you are denying that our struggle even exists. It tells me that you like things just the way they are, and, in your view, we should just accept it.

I heard the term "majority rules" a lot as a kid. The inherent unfairness of that statement speaks to this privilege. So, if the majority of people are in favor of oppressing a minority for their gain, that's OK with you?

It most certainly isn't OK with me.

That's why being an American isn't easy.

Keeping things as they are isn't being non-political. It is very political. Down on the border, children are being separated from their parents. In Mississippi, they just proposed a law that will allow teachers to harass transgender students in school. The gay and trans panic defense is still used successfully in murder cases. The Department of Education refuses to even process a discrimination complaint from a transgender student.

Are you OK with that? If so, that's a very political stance to take. Tacit approval is still approval.

If you are someone who thinks LGBTQ discrimination ended with *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling, then this message is for you. And if it makes you uncomfortable, good. ■

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



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Area real estate agents weigh in on how to generate curb appeal



When it comes to real estate, professional insight and advice are priceless in maximizing your home's visibility ... and asking price. So to save you the trouble of asking everything, we posed the following question to four area Realtors:

How do you describe the importance of curb appeal, and what are ways to increase it?

Here's what they said.

Curb appeal is the first impression a potential buyer has when they meet the agent at the property to view it, so it is extremely important. Additionally, many people are looking at homes on the internet well before they enlist the services of an agent, and in many cases, they are driving to the home to look at the exterior to get a feel of the neighborhood.

As an agent, there are cases when I have driven up to a home with a client, and they tell me they do not even need to go inside the house, because they don't like the look of the exterior.

So how do sellers prepare their home so that this doesn't happen? First, the home's paint and condition should be evaluated and any issues resolved. Wood rot and caulking or brick mortar issues should be repaired. If the paint is old and faded, then it may need a new coat of exterior paint. Exterior covered porches or patio areas should be cleaned of dust, wasp nests, spider webs, etc.

Landscaping plays a big role in curb appeal. Trees and shrubs should be trimmed and manicured. Flowerbeds should be weeded and mulch replenished where needed.

Pops of color with flowers adds an inviting feature to any landscape. Even if you don't plant any flowers, buy a couple of inexpensive pots and put some colorful flowers in them.

— *Tony Nuncio,*
Dallas City Center Realtors

I like to think of the home-buying

■ QUESTION Page 21

Mohammed Nour Jaber

The Question



Finish line

Tips to prepping your home for sale



dallasvoice **homes** **I**f you plan to sell your home soon... well, plan is an important word in that process. You can't just slap a for-sale sign down and expect buyers to line up. Here are some tips, culled with the assistance of GayRealEstate.com, for making sure your home is ready to get noticed, both inside and out.

Step 1: Spruce up the outside for curb appeal. Since spring is upon us, make sure to trim bushes, rake the leaves and make sure that the landscaping is not cluttered or covering walkways. Wipe down the mailbox and make sure your front porch light works to make your entryway more inviting. Maybe even add a garden gnome. (We asked several area Realtors for their specifics on curb appeal; see story Page 18.)

Step 2: Shine glass surfaces. Take the time to wash all of your windows, polish all of your mirrors and dust off any reflective surface. If something as simple as mirrors and dusting is not kept up with, what about the bigger parts of the house?

Step 3: Dust! One category of items in the home that often gets overlooked are those that we never move. Vacuum your stationary drapes — or better yet, take them to the dry cleaners. Spritz them (and your furniture) with Febreze to get them fresh smelling. Vacuum off any of your furniture that will be there during the open house or walk-through as well,

for the same reason. The fresher the area smells and looks, the happier potential buyers will be.

Step 4: Sharpen the look of any room you can. Taking \$20 or \$30 to update a room's look is well worth it when it comes to making your home look and feel more inviting. Add a fresh coat of neutral colored paint, and make sure the flooring of the room is as clean and nice-looking as you can make it. Get the carpets steam-cleaned if that hasn't been done recently, or have your wood floors polished. Those simple changes can give your room a welcoming feel that invites potential buyers in.

Step 5: Make simple repairs that stand out. You may have gotten used to not opening a window in that back room because there is a hole in the screen, but a potential buyer doesn't know that. It takes a few minutes and very little money to replace a screen. Check all windows for these types of problems, and fix any you find.

The same goes with other areas of your home. If you are so used to the imperfections of your home that you don't notice them, ask a close friend or family member to look at your home objectively and point out any issues it may have. Make a list of the things they point out, and fix the things you have the ability to fix. This way, it shows that you gave your home a lot of TLC while living there, which boosts buyer confidence in your home. ■

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The Dallas Morning News

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Picture Perfect



Go pro or DIY photography for your house on the market?

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

pair of eyes — preferably an agent.
Drones

dallasvoice **homes** **T**hese days, everyone is a photographer... or perhaps "faux-tographer." Whether it's a high-end camera bundle purchased for a bargain on Black Friday or the iPhone X's incredibly powerful lens, the majority of folks are likely ready to point and shoot. But what does that mean for your house when putting it on the market?

"Photos are the most important part of your marketing to drive a buyer to the home," Realtor Mohammed Nour Jaber says.

Now, figure out what your options are.

DIY

Girl, you're great at selfies in the club or #FlexFriday after your gym pump has kicked in, but can your smartphone capture your house in its full glory?

Baseline: Yes, but there are things to consider. What looks like a good shot ready for Zillow could be missing out to the trained eye. Lighting, space, reflections (this isn't your Grindr profile) and tidiness need to show off your space at maximum appeal.

No matter which latest version of your phone you have, accessories can make your shots more desirable. A wide-angle lens for your phone will give a more realistic and precise view. Don't trust your hands for a proper still photo. With your lens, consider a tripod or mount to set the camera for a proper shot.

Your DSLR is your best bet if doing it DIY. Presets can take the shots you need, without much hassle, but before posting anything, run them by another

These cameras have almost revolutionized how houses can be viewed. From the sky to a smooth tour of the interior, drones give a tour from the comfort of your desktop or tablet. However they may not always be the best choice ... or necessary even.

While drones can showcase a big house and lawn magnificently, it's a bit much for smaller spaces like condos or apartments. Also, if your house is obstructed by trees or dwarfed by larger buildings, that money shot won't make change.

A professional is perhaps the ideal option for this unless you can drive that camera like a Rolls Royce. Anything less will show.

Professional

Unless you are a photographer, it is hardly a secret that a professional is the best option. While it can be done by you or your friend with a great camera, a pro will know all the tricks to showing off your house in the best possible way.

But the easiest part about this is that you can hire an agent who will handle this for you. So not only is it one less thing to deal with, also taken care of by someone who wants your home sold as well. The better the photos, the quicker the home will sell.

"They have the know-how and the equipment to showcase the rooms better than a normal camera or iPhone would do," Jaber says. "A professional can ensure that the photos will evoke something in the buyer while capturing the best the home can be."

■ **PERFECT** Page 24

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and -selling process as a courtship. The curb appeal of the home is essentially the outfit you would wear on a first date. You really want to communicate who you are as a person to your potential mate.

You want to do the same thing when you list your home for sale. A typical buyer decides whether or not they want to buy a home in the first five to ten seconds. I've had buyers decide they didn't even want to get out of the car as soon as we pulled up the driveway. So it is important to comb through every detail.

Painting the front door a bright and cheery color, planting colorful flowers in the front and adding splashes of color with well placed potted plants is a very cost-effective way to catch a buyer's eye. It's equally important that the home presents itself as clean and well kept. Wash the windows, brush the cobwebs out from eaves and make sure the yard is manicured. You only get one shot at a first impression.

— **Taylor Walcik**,
The Blair Group Real Estate Uptown

There are a lot of ways to improve

your home's curb appeal. Make sure the landscape is manicured and clean. Touch up the paint on the door. Consider a welcome mat. Also make sure the home itself is clean, like the windows. Clean windows are like ice and look much better from the outside. And make sure that it is well-lit.

Try to get away from doing anything that is too extreme with colors. Anytime you list a home, the more neutral the better so that you can create that emotion for a buyer of whether they like it or not.

Some mistakes people make when they think they are improving curb appeal is spending too much on landscaping or painting the door a different color. That money should go to maybe finishing the trim or cleaning.

— **Mohammed Nour Jaber**,
The Summit Group at Compass

Many homebuyers will make a snap decision when driving up, about the neighborhood, the home and the quality of maintenance of the home merely by viewing from their car. The easiest and cheapest way to improve it is clean it!



Taylor Walcik

Remove clutter or debris, make sure lawn and landscaping are tidy and neat, and when possible, plant some seasonal color to give a more welcoming appearance. More expensive but valuable projects can include repairing or replacing

missing or damaged windows, screens, fencing, sidewalks or driveways. A fresh coat paint (inside or out) is always well worth the cost.

— **Danny Alan Scott**,
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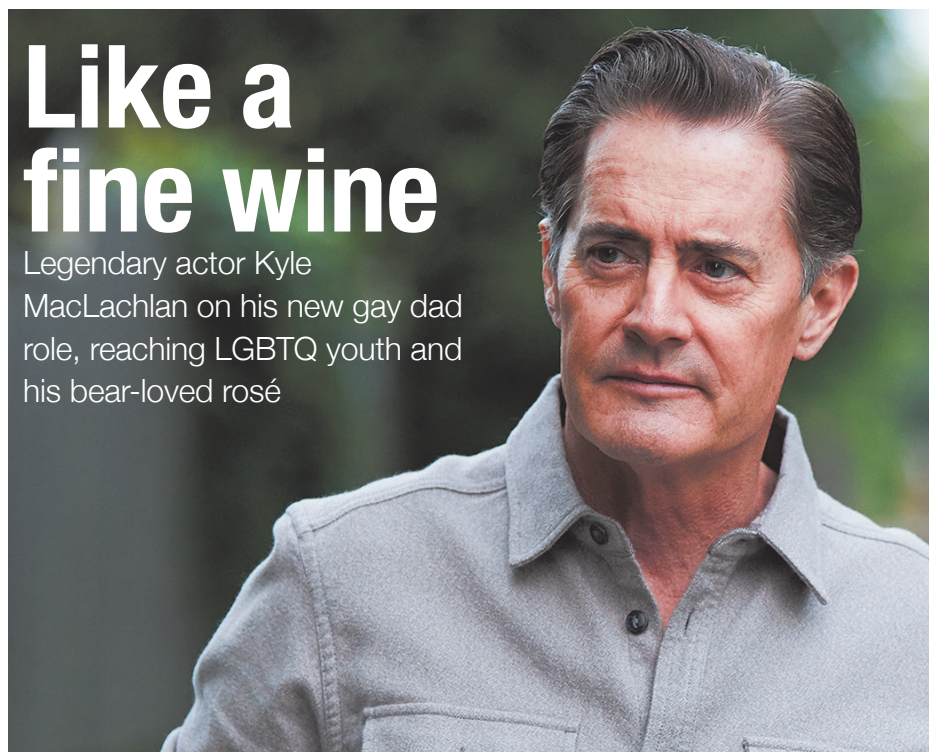
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Like a fine wine

Legendary actor Kyle MacLachlan on his new gay dad role, reaching LGBTQ youth and his bear-loved rosé



In *Giant Little Ones* — which opens in Dallas on March 15 — actor Kyle MacLachlan plays a gay divorced dad named Ray Winter parenting a distant teenage son, Franky (Josh Wiggins), who's grappling with his own sexual identity. Throughout his storied career, the 60-year-old actor's range knows no bounds, inhabiting diversified worlds and traversing genre, from comedy to drama, from soapy to supernatural. He's played an alien (*The Hidden*), an unlikely revolutionary (*Dune*), Fred Flintstone's boss, Riley's dad (*Inside Out*), a coffee-obsessed FBI agent (*Twin Peaks*) and a small-town kid into kink (*Blue Velvet*).

But his queer appeal runs especially deep. In his three decades in TV, film and theater, MacLachlan has also played a city official based on first big-city openly gay Mayor Sam Adams (*Portlandia*), the guy who fucks Nomi Malone in a swimming pool (*Showgirls*), Bree Van de Kamp's husband (*Desperate Housewives*), a sexually dysfunctional mama's boy (*Sex and the City*) and — because why the hell not — Cary Grant's ghost (*Touch of Pink*). Now starring in writer-director Keith Behrman's *Giant Little Ones* as Helpful Gay Dad is a warm hug of a role he deeply feels is important. One that, as a parent himself, even hits close to home.

Here, the actor talks about raising his son, Callum, much like Ray Winter does, gay fans who slip into his DMs and bears who love his rosé.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You've played dads before.

But what about Ray spoke to you differently? Kyle MacLachlan: He had a journey in this as well, which I liked. It was really about the connection with his son, and at that age it's very difficult and made even more challenging by the fact that the parents are separated. Under the circumstances, Franky just doesn't know what to think or what to say, and I like that [Ray] really hung in there. I think in the original draft he was maybe a little more demanding, and so we kind of softened that a little bit. There are still those issues, but it was really important to me to feel like Ray was there, and he wasn't gonna go anywhere and to remain as non-judgmental as possible.

His presence is always felt, but he's able to give his kid space at the same time. I appreciated that he tells his son to focus on who you're drawn to and not what to call it, essentially letting him know that sexuality is a spectrum. How did that resonate with you? That was a really nice piece of writing on Keith's part, I thought — again, trying not to judge. Especially at that age, I remember for myself just kind of trying to find where you fit in, what you're good at, what you're not good at, who's your group. There's lots and lots of questions and insecurities that are masked by a false sense of identity or control or "I don't want to hear what you say, I've got it figured out myself." The idea of just being present, it's the way I approach the relationship with my son, the not judging. I'm not going at it trying to make him into something he doesn't want to be.

You were the stepfather of a gay son, Andrew Van de Kamp, on *Desperate*

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Housewives. Who does the better job parenting a queer kid: Orson Hodge or Ray Winter? [Laughs] Orson, bless his heart. You know, he had good intentions, and there was an understanding there at attempting to connect. I don't think Orson was ever comfortable in that role. I think Ray is more conscious and he's a champion, in some ways, for anyone who's being judged. In this particular case, it's "hang on a second." He's sort of about turning the page: "Let's look at this and what's really happening here." I liked that. And he does it with an inner strength and a firmness, but it's not without a wry sense of humor, and that I liked about him, too.

When were your eyes first opened to having an LGBTQ following? I think it was probably with *Blue Velvet*. Thematically, it expected so much of the audience and it told a story that was so unusual and so true. That sort of started it, but I think with the advent of social media, suddenly it's really obvious and present. And it's great.

How has it become obvious through social media? Just through comments, and it's fun to read and great to feel the support. And then because so much of it is built around David Lynch, there's a real shorthand just in terms of terminology and phrases, and because of David's visuals and his images and his dialogue, of course.

I have a friend who says *Blue Velvet* was responsible for his sexual awakening. Is that what gay fans tell you on Twitter? [Laughs] Maybe not quite so personal! But you know, that's film. Film is all about experiencing something and having your eyes opened, and I think that film in particular was about that; the exploration of it and the themes of it were so interesting, and they hadn't really been dealt with that much.

What kind of attention did *Showgirls* get you from the LGBTQ community? I don't think it found its camp niche until a little bit later. It had to go through the "Oh my god, this is perhaps one of the worst films ever made" reaction ... and then people sort of said, "I think it was, in a way, a guilty pleasure." Then that began to grow, and there's a true hardcore following of it and that's really fun. I've never said, "Oh yeah, in fact, actually, that was the intention," or, "Oh yeah, it's a great film" — it's not a great film. But it succeeds at a level that I think is still entertaining and fun. And why not? That's our business.

I was at a gay bar once and they were showing *Showgirls* on all the TVs. When you shot that film, did you expect for it to live on as camp like it has? I think we all entered into the film — certainly I did — looking at the creative side of it. So you had really talented people — [director] Paul Verhoeven, obviously — and I think his intention was to do something that

was sort of hard and cutting-edge and exposed and I think it kind of got away from him a little bit and became something else that was unexpected. But at the same time, we've all embraced it and said, "This is where it went," and I gotta say, the film was probably gonna have a much longer life because of how it ended up than if it hadn't. If it was a film that we intended to make, it would've been great and fine and OK, but now, it will live on forever.

Particularly at gay bars. At least there! And midnight showings!

For 2004's rom-com, what was special about portraying the ghost of Cary Grant who gives advice to a gay Muslim man? It was really fun. First of all, just the research alone was great. Getting to watch all the films, reading up about him, who he was as a person and the business side of things in Hollywood and how he really, really created this persona, which I think he tried to get away from but it was what he was known for. So I loved the research of it.

And the director, Ian [Iqbal Rashid], whose story this actually was, was so lovely and I see him occasionally when I'm in London. He's just a terrific person and a very, very talented director, and I was flattered. He had actually seen me on the stage doing a new play with Woody Harrelson and I don't quite know how he got there from that performance [laughs], but he thought I'd be perfect. So that's a pretty big mantle to try to take on, and so we sort of softened that a little bit and said he's more the spirit of Cary Grant — he's not exactly Cary Grant. But I enjoyed stepping in those shoes and trying out that language and that kind of attitude and that whole thing. And it's got a beautiful message, and just the ending when he has to let go, it's very touching, I think.

In 2018, you were honored with a Dorian acting award by GALECA, the Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics, for *Twin Peaks: The Return*, and in 2009, *Desperate Housewives* received outstanding comedy series award from GLAAD. Is there something special or distinct about having your work acknowledged by LGBTQ audiences and organizations? Yeah, those stories — if they can speak to a community and there's a resonance there — that's the goal of this. They should be universal, but I think that if there's a relationship that can be created then we're doing a good job; something that's worthwhile that creates an emotional response and a connection, that's really what you want. I mean, that's what I want.

Your role as the mayor of Portland in *Portlandia*: Do you think that character would make a good mayor of *Twin Peaks* or *Wisteria Lane*? [Laughs] He wasn't a really good mayor, but he was

■ FINE WINE Next Page

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■ **FINE WINE** From Previous Page

incredibly enthusiastic! I think that was the fun of it: He always got things a little bit wrong but they kind of ultimately ended up OK, with the help of Fred [Armisen] and Carrie [Brownstein], certainly. But, oh god, at least it would be a lot of fun to have him as a mayor of any community, I think.

Why haven't we seen you in more openly gay roles? It's a good question! You know, the work just kind of comes, and it's one of those things where once it sort of filters through a little bit of whatever it does in Hollywood it finds its way into my inbox and you take a look at it.

Have there been gay roles you've turned down? It's always about the quality of the material, so if it there was, it just wasn't worth telling.

But then you read something like *Giant Little Ones*... ... And you know that it is a beautiful story. I had the reaction that everyone had: This is a story that needed to be told, and for any kids out there who are having this kind of "I don't know, I don't know" and they don't have anywhere to turn, it's like, well, we're not the answer, but we're at least an experience to say, "You're not alone."

And a reminder to your own son that his dad is OK with whomever he becomes



or wants to be. In fact, he attends a school in New York and it's all about that. It's all about the acceptance of everyone, and it's a wonderful thing to watch because that wasn't my experience growing up. Public schools, small town, very conservative. Not unlike the situation of Franky, there was a lot of "however tough you are" and "whatever sports you play," those are your identifiers. It's nice that he's having a completely different experience.

In your spare time, you are a winemaker. Are gay men some of your most loyal rosé buyers? [Laughs] I should hope so, for god's sake! Rosé is one of those crazy things: It just keeps expanding

and people love it and now it's not just for summer anymore, it's not just for the Hamptons anymore. It can be year-round and, yeah, it's been really fun. And yeah, very supportive.

In a queer context "bear" means a hairy, chubby gay man, so it can't hurt that "Pursued by Bear" is the name of your brand. You know, I was really going after the Shakespeare play, obviously, but yeah, not unaware and I thought, that's kind of funny. There've been occasions where I've met a few guys — bears, you know — and they've said, "Oh yeah, I've got this in my cellar." And it cracks me up! I'm like, "Fantastic, I'm glad you like it." It's good wine and it should be enjoyed!

■ **PERFECT** From Page 20

He adds that the photographer would also shoot in a way that takes out distractions so that buyers can see themselves in the house. So maybe take down the Pride flag and personal photos for a more commonplace look. Gasp! Right? But it's only for the shoot.

Instagram

This could be the bonding experience you and your agent need. After learning if your agent will handle hiring a photographer, find out if he or she has an IG account to post the photos. Then you do the same. Or if you DIY-ing, hit up your own account — or maybe start a separate one — to highlight your house for sale. Hashtag it for days and you'll have a free marketing tool that's outside of Zillow or Trulia or other usual outlets. Plus, you can whip that out anytime in case it comes up in conversation or you hear someone's looking. And, you can see who's following and liking for you and/or your agent to reach out and determine interest. The drawback: it's going to break up that stream of selfies if you keep it on your regular account. It'll be OK, though. ■

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Twisted, sister

In 'Greta,' a single white female exacts exquisite misery; in 'The Heiresses,' relationships get complicated with age and poverty



An act of kindness between a naïve girl (Chloe Grace Moretz) and a lonely older woman (Isabelle Huppert) leads to a twisted and dangerous obsession in 'Greta.'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Frances (Chloe Grace Moretz) has recently lost her mother and feels estranged from her father (he has "moved on" too quickly, she feels). So when Frances discovers a stylish handbag on a subway train, she jumps on the chance to treat its return like an adventure. She tracks down the owner, a French sexagenarian named Greta (Isabelle Huppert), who lives widowed in her spacious but empty Brooklyn townhome. Greta invites Frances in for coffee, they chat, and they seem to feed a mutual need for each other: One serving as surrogate mother, the other as chummy companion. "Everybody needs a friend," Greta says at one point.

But things get creepy quickly. Greta seems clingy; her motives opaque. When Frances attempts to cut off their friendship, she finds breaking up really is hard to do.

In the pantheon of crazy stalker films — from *Unlawful Entry* to *Cape*

Fear to Sleeping with the Enemy and on — *Greta* deserves a place alongside its three closest sisters: *Misery*, *Single White Female* and *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, each of which put villainous yet pathetic women at the crux of their fulcrums, applying pressure and tension relentlessly until something snaps ... either the characters or the audience. From a purely visceral level, it's the audience that succumbs first here.

It probably should not have worked out that way. The director and co-writer, Neil Jordan, has a good hand at turning the screws with weird twists (his most famous, of course, is *The Crying Game*), but his output is erratic and eclectic, from supernatural (*The Company of Wolves*, *Interview with the Vampire*) to horror/thriller (*The Brave One*, *Byzantium*) to quirky gender-bending comedies (*Breakfast on Pluto*). It's difficult to parse sometimes which way he's headed here; there are moments of (seemingly unintended) humor, tropes of stalker films that border on the phys-

■ **TWISTED** Next Page

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ically impossible *a la* Michael Myers, then psychosexual drama and — at one key moment more than halfway in — unapologetic gore. In fact, if you think too much about *Greta*, the plot holes begin to look like potholes — deep, dangerous, impossible to ignore.

So best not to do that if you want to maintain your sanity. Forget the choppy transitions, the almost too-efficient scene cutting that denies the characters (or the viewer) any knowledge momentum. The presence of Huppert, Moretz

and Jordan lend *Greta* a pedigree, but its selling point is the cheap fun of freak-out scares, and the tease that “this could happen to me.”

Which could, possibly, give *Greta* some staying power. In the same way *SWF* triggered discussion of roommate hell and *Cradle* made every young mother question their choice of nanny, *Greta* makes the act of being kind to a lonely older lady seem as risky as having unprotected sex in Haiti. I can imagine think pieces on the loneliness

of the urban woman of a certain age, of forging friendship with people outside your social circle, with trying to put yourself in the context of a broader community and the dangers that entails. So don’t expect me to be nice to old ladies for a while. I mean, it just makes sense to be safe.

Now playing at Landmark’s Magnolia.

The relationships at the center of *The Heiresses* are less frightening but no more functional. Chela (Ana Brun)

and Chaquita (Margarita Irun) are also women in their 60s, though unlike *Greta*, they are not alone — they have each other, and have for 30 years. Though from wealthy families in Asuncion, Paraguay, they have fallen on hard times financially, and have resorted to selling off belongings — furniture, art, silver — in order to get by. But Chaquita has gone a step further, defrauding her bank and is sentenced to a jail term. Chela struggles to get by without her partner or an income, when an opportunity falls into her lap: Driving older ladies in the neighborhood around (even though Chela doesn’t have a license and hasn’t been behind the wheel in decades). Soon her impromptu Uber introduces her to a new client, the much younger Angy (Ana Ivanova), whose presence introduces a wrinkle into this staid life.

If you can’t tell from that description whether *The Heiresses* is a comedy, or a drama, or a romance, or a thriller... well, join the club. Writer-director Marcelo Martinessi certainly has a fresh and specific take on getting older — from a female (and lesbian, at that) perspective, focusing on love old and new, with the stressors of money and pride and imprisonment and newfound independence converging. You can respect that point of view and creativity without buying its execution. The film is exceedingly slow and loping for stretches, and not for any discernible reasons.

If *Greta* jump-cuts too much to cleave to the clichés and traditions of a genre picture, *The Heiresses* doesn’t seem to know what it wants to be, or how best to tell its story. Neither Brun nor Ivanova are experienced actresses, and while they have an ease and naturalism on camera, neither knows how to command a scene, or pull out subtext from the unspoken.

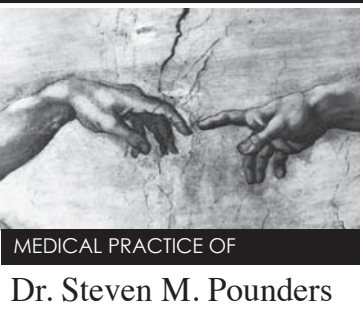
The film does, however, have a strong sense for place and culture. You can tell a lot from the ways in which Chela’s elderly neighbors gossip and how Chela and Chiquita worry about others’ opinion about the social structures, as well as the ways in which even the cash-strapped Chela treats her servant that appearances mean a lot here. In that ways, it fits perfectly in Dallas.

Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.



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Thursday
03.07

Women's Chorus of Dallas celebrated Women's History Month with concert

The Women's Chorus of Dallas isn't merely comprised of women, it celebrates them. And for the fifth year, TWCD commemorates Women's History Month with a special concert, this time featuring all-women composers, including three world premiere arrangements and a piece co-commissioned with Flower Mound High School.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. TWCD.org.

Friday 03.01 —
Sunday 03.09

Puccini's 'Manon Lescaut' kicks off 2019 for the Dallas Opera

Since its publication as a novel nearly three centuries ago, *Manon Lescaut* has been one of the raciest stories of a party girl who lives life excessively ... and not too wisely. It has been adapted into a ballet as well as three operas. And while Massenet's opera is the most famous, it is Puccini's — one of the master's earliest works — that the Dallas Opera will treat audiences to this week. Kristin Lewis, pictured, stars as the doomed woman in a production updated to the 20th century.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.



Friday 03.08

Del Shores spills the tea in his world premiere one-man show


Everyone knows that if you stir the shit, you're gonna spill the tea... which is no doubt what Del Shores had in mind when he came up with the title for his latest one-man show, *Del Shores: The Sh*t Stirrer*. The *Sordid Lives* creator brings back his dishy, profane, hilarious anecdotes to the Rose Room for this world premiere. "I have been having a love affair with Dallas for years," the native Texan says of his home-away-from-home, so it figures he'd debut the performance here. And, he promises, "this one probably has something to offend everyone."

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. DelShores.com/dates.






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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. *Final weekend.* Fair ark Music Hall, 909 First Ave. 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. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

Guadalupe in the Guest Room. A man bonds with his Spanish-speaking mother-in-law over telenovelas in this comedy. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

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

DANCE

Kyle Abraham: Abraham.In.Motion. TITAS presents the work of this troupe that combines classic and hip-hop. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.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. *Final weekend.* Lone Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. From \$45. CirqueDuSoleil.com/Amaluna.

FINE ART

Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist. One of the most acclaimed of the Impressionists in her lifetime, Morisot fell into obscurity in the 20th century but has been rediscovered for her talent in this comprehensive exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through May 5. DMA.org.

Fortuny: Friends and Followers. Examination of the influence of the 19th century Spanish painter. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

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.

FRIDAY 03.01

COMMUNITY

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

MONDAY 03.04

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 03.05

FILM

My Man Godfrey. An early screwball comedy about a domestic servant who deeply affects the lives of the wealthy socialites he serves. 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 03.06

THEATER

The Wolves. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, this play deals with the cutthroat world of girl's high school soccer. Stucko at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 6-April 14. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

THURSDAY 03.07

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

CONCERTS

The Women's Chorus of Dallas. Concert featuring the music of only female composers. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. TWCD.org.

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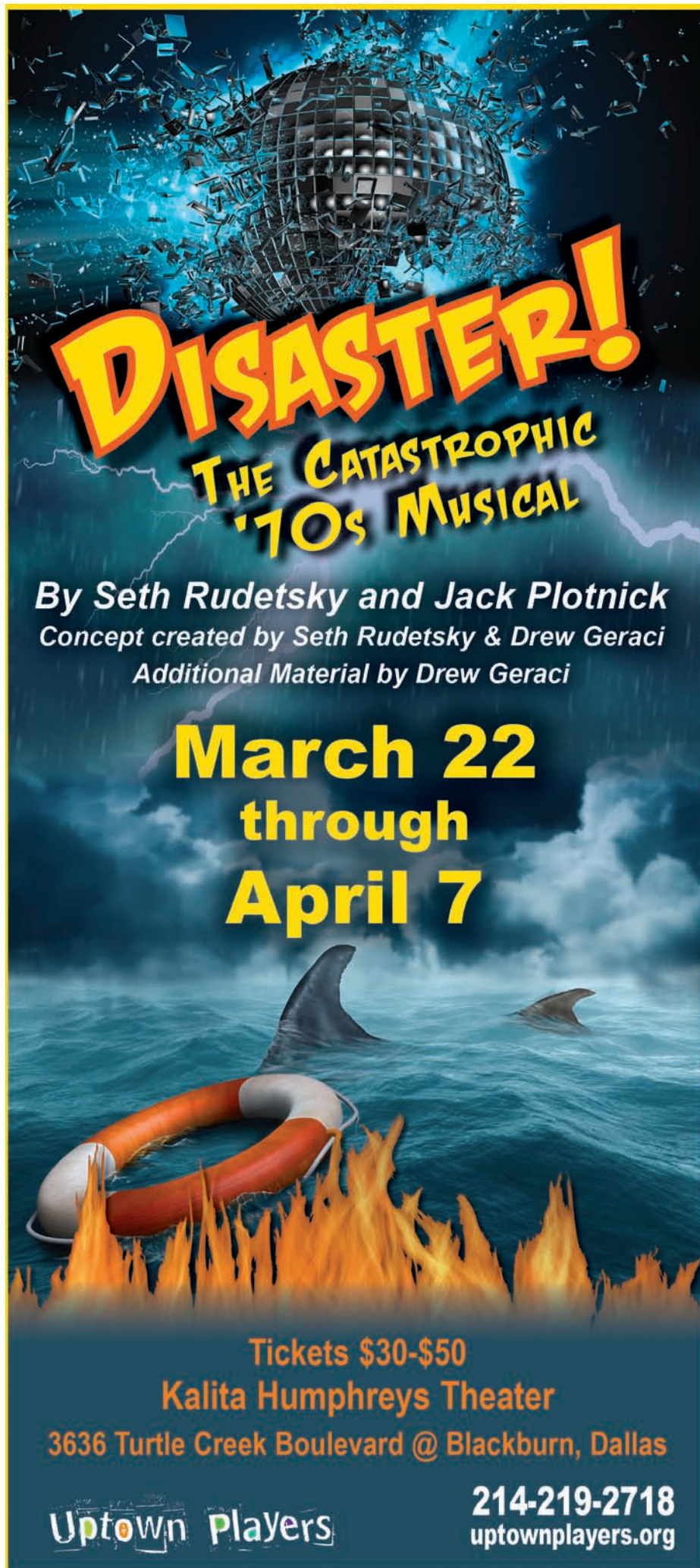
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As I sit down to write this, I am days away from my 47th birthday. Fuuuuuccccckk! So far getting older is great! Every day, a new hair someplace I didn't need one, and less hair where I do. If my wrinkles are caused by laugh lines, then I must find everything fucking hilarious. I hurt my back the other day from standing — not standing up fast, just standing. Every day a new small pain or ache pops up for no reason. No big deal; I have a great relationship with Lady Advil.

On the flip side, I am happy. Happy to be getting older. Happy with where I am in my career. Happy in my relationship with my husband and with my friends. I am happy with my life in general. Of course, there are always things I will strive for, but I think it is important to recognize when you are happy and enjoy it. Life is crazy, and we don't know what changes tomorrow will bring, so as of this very moment, I am happy. Happy birthday to me.

Did I just jinx myself by admitting to being happy? Probably. The Eeyore in me thinks I have just lit a fuse and put a timer on my happiness, but the Tigger in me says fuck it — be a happy idiot for as long as you can. And now, I will happily help out some of you.

Dear Cassie, I have a question for you. We are a military service family and have lived all over, so my daughter Cheyenne has a BFF from high school in Germany — a guy that graduated a few years before she did, then joined the Air Force and is still stationed overseas. Throughout that time, he has expressed love and interest in Cheyenne — in her senior year when we returned to Texas, he would send her these massive bouquets of flowers and other gifts, and whenever she was studying, he would order her a study pizza from overseas and have it delivered to our house. He also remembered she does not like cheese on her pizza. Because of time constraints, distance and beginning her own career, he has been in other relationships but has always maintained their friendship.

Recently, he and his girlfriend visited the States. He and my daughter had a brief conversation while he was here, then the

following week, he deleted/blocked her on Facebook. When Cheyenne asked me about it, I asked her if they had a fight; she said no. I asked her how the conversation went; she states it was normal — they laughed, were silly, and there was a little flirting. I asked if it was done in front of his girlfriend. She said she does not know, she doubts it. I told Cheyenne that it sounds like he still has feelings for her, and girlfriend found out about her and is threatened by her and demanded that he delete/block her.

Cheyenne finally “talked” to him via another source and just point blank asked him “Dude! WTF! Did you really delete/block me on FB,” to which he replied yeah. She asked why, and he states that whenever they talk, no matter how long it’s been, he ends up catching feelings and doesn’t think it’s fair to this relationship he’s in now. She asked if he was willing to throw away all these years of friendship in the process; she says he never gave a solid answer. So my question to you is: Do you throw away an amazing, long-time friendship while you are dating someone? Or what? Signed, SCF

Dear SCF, Gurl, trust me. That girlfriend found out about Cheyenne, and she is not having it. I guarantee you that his new girlfriend is being a petty, petty princess. It is awful that he is so willing to end what sounds like a great friendship for his new piece, but if you look at it from the new girlfriend's point of view, she is threatened by their history and by the obvious connection they share. If I found out my boyfriend was still hung up on his ex, even if they were just friends — BTW, that boy is in love with Cheyenne — I would want him to unfriend/block/delete her, too.

If you look at it from his point of view, he obviously has very strong feelings for your daughter. That boy is in love with her, and it seems that for whatever reason, distance or whatever, he stayed in the friend zone. At some point he has to move on. It sucks that a friendship has to end for him to be able to move on, but that looks like what is happening. And I'm not sure if you know this, but men can be stupid.



It sounds like he needs to give his new relationship a chance but is secretly hoping that if it doesn't work out he can crawl back to his best friend/ love of his life. If and when that happens, what will Cheyenne do? Ignore and block him back? Or will we get the rom-com ending everyone is wanting? Please keep us posted, and tell your daughter good luck. Love, Cassie

Dear Cassie, What is the weirdest thing you have ever done while in drag? Thanks, Inona Mouse


Dearest Inona, Once, a very long time ago, I went to a friend's house party in drag. It was far north of Dallas in some small town, and we stopped at the grocery store so I could shop for tampons. I didn't need them — hell, it wasn't even my time of the month! — but we thought it would be funny. I have pictures of me in that Piggly Wiggly

somewhere doing price comparisons on tampons. The poor old lady at the check-out line seemed very confused. Good times.

Once I was hired to do a mystery dinner theater very last minute (their usual drag queen got sick, so I filled in). At the end of the dinner I stood up and said, "Don't you recognize me, Stepfather? It is I... your son James!" as I ripped off my wig to the sounds of gasps and laughs. The only person not laughing was this old guy that had been hitting on me and kept putting his hand on my knee. He had no clue I was a dude. He might have been a little blind and senile, but he ended up being a good sport about it. A little freaked out but a good sport.


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

Contact her at AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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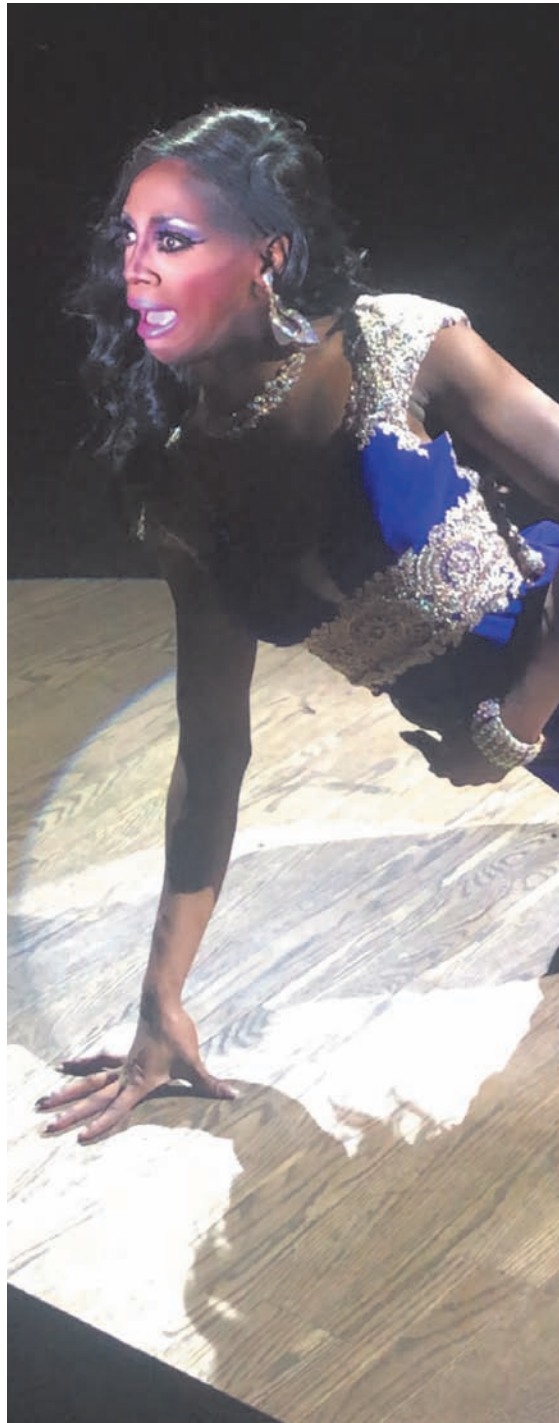
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- **Marty's Live:** Trashed Out Tuesdays with **Jenni P** and guests at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** The Showdown at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. **RuPaul's Drag Race** watch party at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. **Lip Sync Battle** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
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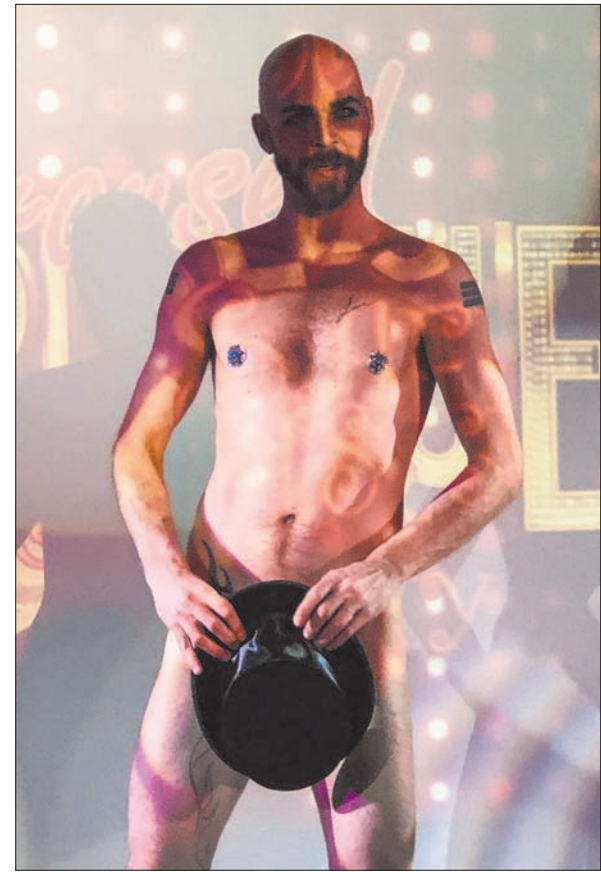
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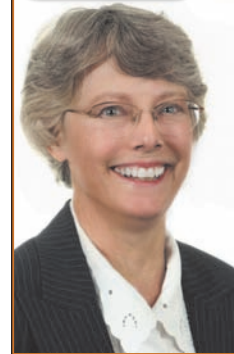


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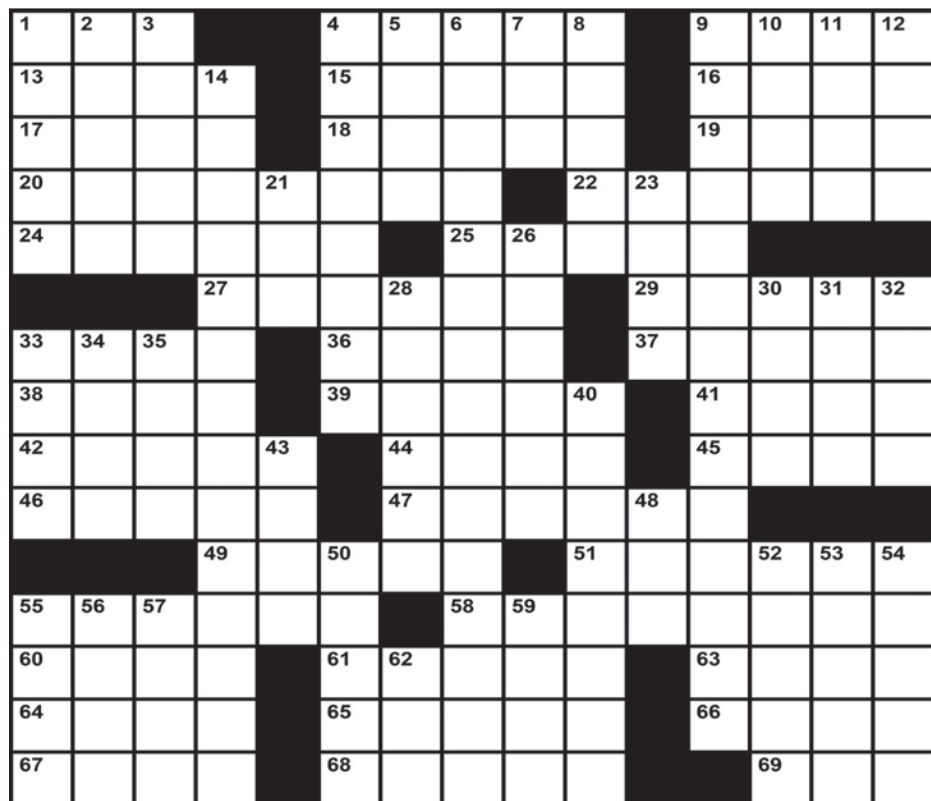
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Gay things that straight athletes do

Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 "Alone ___ Drive-in Movie" (*Grease*)
 4 Canning tomatoes
 9 Visit Barney's, e.g.
 13 Ballet supporters?
 15 Pass, as a law
 16 Site of desirable stones
 17 Prot. denomination
 18 ___ music (do Britten's job)
 19 Book after Joel
 20 One who doubts there's a Divine Miss M?
 22 Julia's pal in *My Best Friend's Wedding*
 24 Shoulder warmers
 25 Rubs the right way
 27 Doesn't dine at the Rubicon, e.g.
 29 Say "Bottoms up!"
 33 Begin to wake up
 36 Holds title to
 37 When actors should come
 38 Navel fetish accessory?
 39 Knights' attendants
 41 Pronoun for King James
 42 Shaft in a straight simile
 44 "Honky ___ Woman"

45 Pianist Dame Myra

- 46 Consider carefully
 47 Matter
 49 George Cukor's *Dinner at ___*
 51 Out in the open
 55 Street in San Francisco
 58 LGBT History Month, in the UK
 60 Nevada neighbor
 61 Drag queen Mann
 63 Some Feds
 64 Brought forth fruit
 65 Kind of dish
 66 Keep an eye on
 67 Hit boxers
 68 Stand next to Eakins
 69 "Vox populi, vox ___"

Down

- 1 Son of Uranus
 2 Hard to swallow, perhaps
 3 Allstate rival
 4 Where drivers get off
 5 "That's ___ haven't heard"
 6 Before the game they put on...
 7 ___ UP
 8 Seattle's WNBA team
 9 During the game they exchange...

10 Chauffeur's order

- 11 Lysol target
 12 Pain in the derriere
 14 After the game they...
 21 P. Hearst's kidnappers
 23 Engaged in
 26 Still waiting to go out
 28 Cloth sample
 30 BenGay target
 31 Takes to court
 32 Patty Sheehan's supporters
 33 Side dish with fish
 34 Rubber on a rim
 35 Letters over Mary's son
 40 Abscond after posting a surety
 43 Spin like a top
 48 Contemptible one
 50 Pop one's cork
 52 Unable to walk like a man
 53 Cara of *Fame*
 54 "She Bop" singer Lauper
 55 Young bears
 56 Lying on
 57 Gilbert of *The Talk*
 59 Verb of Verlaine
 62 R. Mapplethorpe supporter

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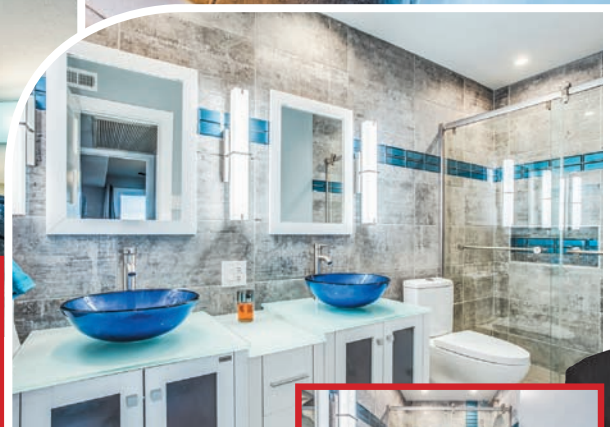
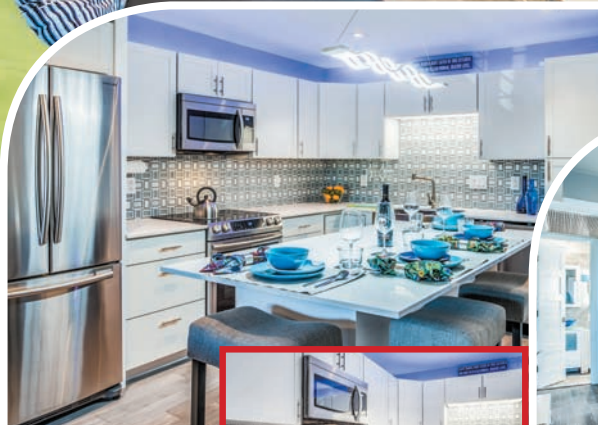
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