

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Est. 1973

Issue 45 | FREE | Friday, March 15, 2019



## Coco and the Bears

Drag legend Coco Peru  
brings her act to Dallas for TBRU

by Rich Lopez, Page 14



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Coco Peru. Photo by Peter Palladino  
Design by Kevin Thomas

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Connor Thonen-Fleck, 16, along with his parents, speaks at a press conference announcing the lawsuit challenging North Carolina's state employee health plan in front of the Federal Courthouse in Durham, N.C.

## Lawsuit challenges NC state health plan's denial of coverage for trans employees

Lambda Legal and Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund on Monday, March 11, filed a federal lawsuit against North Carolina officials for discrimination in state employee health care. Lambda Legal and TLDEF are representing several current and former North Carolina state employees and their children who were denied coverage for medically-necessary health care under the North Carolina State Health Plan, which categorically excludes coverage for gender-confirming health care.

Julia McKeown, an assistant professor in North Carolina State University's College

of Education, said that in 2018, when she was "finally in a position to move forward with surgical care, an important part of my transition," she had to pay for treatment herself because the state employee insurance plan would not cover the surgery.

"I did not expect I would have to raid my retirement and savings accounts for treatment prescribed by my doctors, when other state employees would be covered

for the same procedures," McKeown said. "It is demeaning and fundamentally unfair."

Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Taylor Brown said all the plaintiffs were denied coverage "because they are transgender or they have children who are transgender."

— Tammye Nash

## Johnson, Veasey and Allred co-sponsor Equality Act

U.S. House Democrats on Wednesday, March 13, introduced the Equality Act, which would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination, and the three North Texas Democrats — Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Marc Veasey and Colin Allred — have signed on as co-sponsors.

"The Equality Act is the next step in our journey to a government that is truly just and fair towards all," Johnson said.

According to Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus Co-Chair David Cicilline, D-R.I., only 21 states have explicit laws barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations, and only 20 states have such protections for gender identity. Recent national surveys of LGBT people that show 42 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people and 78 percent of transgender people have experienced discrimination or harassment on the job because of who they are.

The name Equality Act was chosen to emphasize that the bill supports equal rights, not special rights as its detractors argue.

More than 160 corporations have endorsed the legislation.

— David Taffet

## Nominations for 2019 Pride parade grand marshals close March 22

Nominations for grand marshals for the 2019 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade remain open through March 22. You can nominate someone to be grand marshal by visiting DallasPride.org. Scroll down to about the midway point on the home page and click on the blue button that says "2019 Grand Marshals Nomination."

Also go to DallasPride.org for beneficiary applications through March 29. Visit the Festival page to get all the rules for the festival, and to register for the festival or the parade.

This year, the Dallas Pride celebration has been moved to June 1-2 in Fair Park, with the Miller Lite Music Festival on Saturday, June 1, and the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday, June 2. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the theme for this year's celebration is "STONEWALL Strong, DALLAS Proud."

— Tammye Nash

## Trump Administration implements trans military ban

The Trump administration began to implement its transgender military ban on Tuesday, March 12. The ban goes into effect in 30 days, three years after the current policy began. Transgender troops will be discharged if they need hormone treatment and are unwilling to serve with their gender assigned at birth.

All four service chiefs and 41 retired generals and admirals have denounced the claims the administration is using to justify the ban.

"This is the start of an incredibly dark chapter in our nation's history as the Trump-Pence administration moves to implement an unconscionable ban on our brave transgender service members and qualified recruits who want to serve," said American Military Partner Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack.

Trans troops will be dismissed even after being told it was safe for them to come out.

She called policy of dismissal "even more cruel than Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and said it would undermine military readiness.

— David Taffet



David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP  
Peter Triporo, NP • Jason Vercher, PA-C • Vanessa Bludau, NP  
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Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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# THE GAY AGENDA



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

## MARCH

### • March 15: Prime Timers

Happy Hour at 5:30 p.m. at Woody's, 4011 Cedar Springs Road.

### • March 15: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Private bar, complimentary bites from Wolfgang Puck and music in the board room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. The museum will be open until midnight and attendees are encouraged to stay.

### • March 15: Federal Club Happy Hour

Mingling upstairs from 6-8 p.m. at Merchant House. 4040 Maple Ave.

### • March 15-17: Blinded:

#### Turtles Rock Out

The Turtle Creek Chorale sings classic rock — Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Meatloaf, Queen — on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

### • March 16: Social Justice Burnout

Licensed professional counselors including Jimmy Owen speak about how seeing and experiencing social injustice affects our mental health from 2-5 p.m. at Addison Conference and Theatre Centre, Stone Cottage, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Tickets at eventbrite.

### • March 16: House of DIFFA: Futuro

A fashion experience that provides an exciting mix of philanthropy, theatrics and DIFFA's legendary runway production at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Tickets at [DIFFADallas.org](http://DIFFADallas.org).

### • March 16: Gaysby Gaybingo

Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at [rcdallas.org](http://rcdallas.org).

### • March 16: Prime Timers

Adventure road trip to Texas Food Truck Showdown in Waco. Carpool from Oak Cliff. RSVP to 214-218-0912.

### • March 18: Equality Day

Equality Texas holds its biennial advocacy day at the Texas Legislature. Meet at 10 a.m. at First UMC, 1201 Lavaca St., Austin.

### • March 18: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall

Third organizational meeting of Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall will be at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at [sdrockwall@att.com](mailto:sdrockwall@att.com).

### • March 19: Commissioners Court

Retired AIDS Services of Dallas CEO Don Maison is recognized for his outstanding community service at 9 a.m. at Dallas County Commissioner's Court, 411 Elm St.

### • March 19: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

### • March 20: Prime Timers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Cheddars, 12355 Greenville Ave.

### • March 20: TAG Dinner

Tyler Area Gays dine out at Happy's Fish, 2202 E. 5th St., Tyler.

### • March 20: Diversity Employment Day Career Fair

More than 25 major employers will be hiring at a career fair from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Holiday Inn Conference Center, 6055 LBJ Freeway.

### • March 20: The Most Dangerous Year screening

Screening of the film The Most Dangerous Year presented by GALA and Trans Kids and Families at 6:30 p.m. at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Pkwy., Carrollton.

### • March 21: GALA Happy Hour

Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA's third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry's, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano.



## Heritage Oak Cliff is hosting candidate forums:

**District 1 on March 19 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Tyler St. Methodist Church, 927 W. 10th St.

**District 4 on March 26 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Paul Dunbar Library, 2008 E. Kiest Blvd.

**District 8 on April 2 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 W. Wheatland Road.

**Mayoral forum on April 8 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Cliff Temple Baptist Church, 134 W. 10th St.

**DISD District 7 on April 11 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Tyler St. Methodist Church, 927 W. 10th St.

**DISD District 5 on April 16 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

at Moorland YMCA, 907 E. Ledbetter Drive.

### • March 21: 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 22: Spring Fling

Thrive throws Spring Fling for those 50+ at 7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

### • March 23: AIDS Walk South Dallas

Walkers gather at 8 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. \$25 individual walker. \$30 Walker with pet. Vendor space \$50.

### • March 23: HRC Spring Lunch

Mary Marshall Clark speaks about HRC's partnership with Columbia University to document the history

• **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 **Lambda Legal Regional Director Avery Belyeu; 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 [\[sourcecenter.org\]\(http://sourcecenter.org\); \*\*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 \[pegasussquares@gmail.com\]\(mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com\); \*\*Dallas Frontrunners\*\* meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; \*\*Leadership Lambda Toastmasters\*\* practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor](mailto:Jalenzski@myre-</a></p>
</div>
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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.



of HRC and Rebecca Marques gives a legislative update from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, 1601 Elm St. Federal Club members free. Guests \$35. Unaccompanied guests \$50 advance/\$55 at the door.

#### • March 23: Prime Timers

Prime Timers DFW 29th chapter anniversary with bingo and door prizes at 4 p.m. social and 5 p.m. dinner at Dunston's, 5423 W. Lovers Lane.

#### • March 24: Prime Timers

Visit then games from 2:30-5 p.m. in Carrollton hosted by Harry and Tommy.

#### • March 26: Grief support group

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

#### • March 26: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney.

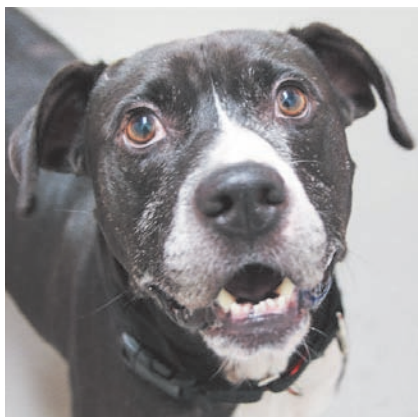
#### • March 26: Dallas Mavs Pride Night

Mavs v. Sacramento Kings. A portion of each ticket sold benefits Resource Center at 7:30 p.m. at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. groupmatics.events/event/MavsPride19.

#### • March 28: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Thai Star, 14833 Midway Road, Addison.

## pet of the week / socks



Meet **Socks**, a 4-½-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix weighing 54 pounds. He's an active, energetic boy who loves playing games of fetch, going for walks and getting lots of attention from people. He adores head scratches and is quite the

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# Advocating for equality

LGBT lobby day is set for Monday at the Texas Capitol

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

**E**quality Texas, the state-wide advocacy and lobbying organization for LGBT rights, is joining forces with ACLU Texas, the Texas Freedom Network, Transgender Education Network of Texas and the Human Rights Campaign to host “All In for Equality Advocacy Day” at the Texas Capitol in Austin on Monday, March 18.

And Equality Texas Interim Director Samantha Smoot said this week that between 250 and 300 LGBT advocates are expected to participate in the day-long lobbying event.

“We are still gathering sign-ups,” Smoot said on Thursday, March 14. “It’s a little bit of a moving target, because we always have people who come out for the rally without registering [beforehand].”

Smoot said that there was “a great turnout” last week for Transgender Advocacy Day at the Capitol, organized primarily by the Transgender Education Network of Texas “They had more people come out just for the rally on the Capitol steps than had registered for the event,” she said. “That will probably happen Monday, too.”

What the estimated attendance exceeds the goals organizers had set and is an impressive crowd for a lobby day event, Smoot said, “We are going to have a lot smaller crowd in 2019 than we did in 2017.”

That, she explained, is mainly because there is no one high-profile issue catching public attention this year like there was two years ago when Lt. Gov. Dan



Advocacy Day in 2017 drew a large crowd, pictured, because of the controversial bathroom bill. This year lawmakers are considering equally-dangerous legislation. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Patrick and his right-wing faction were pushing to pass an anti-transgender “bathroom bill.”

“In 2017, the assault on our community was very dramatic, very direct and very mean-spirited,” Smoot said. “Our community mobilized and came out [for lobby day]. And they did it several times.”

But this year, she said, there doesn’t seem to be the same urgency in the community, even though the threat is just as serious.

“This session, there are more than 15 anti-LGBTQ bills, and one is already in the Senate,” Smoot said. “The threat level is tremendously high. But the issues this time are more complex, therefore the alarm has not gotten out as much as it needs to.”

The measure “already moving in the Senate” has to do with allowing discrimination based on religious beliefs.

“Dan Patrick took Senate Bill 444, which says that anybody — including health care providers — that is required to be licensed by the state of Texas can

discriminate against our community by claiming sincerely-held religious beliefs and moved it up to SB 17, which means that this is a very high priority for the lieutenant governor,” Smoot said. “This is a terrible bill, and we need the community’s help to defeat it.”

“We need people to come out for Advocacy Day,” she continued, “but just as importantly, we need people to get on the phone with their legislators, telling them to stop any and all attacks on our community. If you can’t be here Monday to lobby, then call your representatives. If you can’t call, then write. We need people speaking up.”

Advocacy Day starts with registration at 9 a.m. Monday, with participants gathering first at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, located at 1201 Lavaca St., less than a block away from the grounds of the Capitol. There will be coffee and doughnuts, and participants can pick up their packets and T-shirts there. Participants are asked to attend one of two briefing sessions —

one at 10:15 a.m. and one at 11:15 a.m. There will be a boxed-meal lunch at noon, followed at 1 p.m. by a rally on the Capitol steps.

“Then folks will spend the afternoon talking with their legislators,” Smoot said.

While allies in the Legislature need to hear appreciation from the LGBT community, Smoot urged LGBT people and their allies to contact lawmakers who may

be seen as sitting on the fence and even those considered to be anti-LGBT, too.

“I would argue that you can make an even greater impact by visiting the office of a legislator who’s not with us yet,” she said. “What legislators want, first and foremost, is to get re-elected. So they pay a lot of attention to who visits their offices, who calls and who writes.”

“But something even more important to consider is that we change hearts and minds when we are face-to-face with people, telling our personal stories. On a lobby day, you might not actually see your elected representative. But even a five-minute visit with a staff member is an opportunity for you to say, ‘This is how this bill would impact me and how it would impact my family,’” she added. “Some of the people in these offices have not ever really considered the harm some of this legislation would cause. So it is vitally important that we go to the offices of those who don’t already stand with our community. That’s who we need to reach and to convince.” ■



# Revitalizing the Strip: What comes next

Rainbow crosswalks will be part of the project to update Cedar Springs Road, but money to pay for the crosswalks has to be raised

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When the city made a presentation to the Mayor's LGBT Task Force in February about plans

for street-scaping on Cedar Springs Road, that presentation included rainbow crosswalks in the gayborhood.

City planners were specific about where those rainbow crosswalks would be placed. For example, there were four rainbow crosswalks planned for the intersection of Cedar Springs Throckmorton Street. At other locations, there would just be a rainbow crosswalk across Cedar Springs Road.

Crosswalks are planned, but as it turns out, they will not be part of the redevelopment plans that will be paid for with city bond money, because that bond money can only be used to fund infrastructure with an expected life of at least

REVITALIZING, Page 12



Four rainbow crosswalks are planned at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street as part of the new revitalization of the gayborhood. But funds for those crosswalks can't come from city bond money. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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# Making Gray Pride 'Thrive'

New activities, new funding give Resource Center's senior program new vitality

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center kicks off its rebranded Thrive program with Spring Fling, a dance and get-together for those over 50, at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22 at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Admission is free.

Resource Center's Community Programs Manager Cami Fields said the reaction to the rebranding has been positive. In fact, she said, the former name, Gray Pride, might have even been discouraging people from attending.

Fields said people told her they didn't attend the Gray Pride events because they weren't "gray," and they didn't "feel like a senior."

But when Fields mentioned the new name to group members, they've told her Thrive is what the program's really about.

One attendee said, "Being a bit of an introvert I've been inspired to come out of my shell by the good people of Gray Pride, the staff and participants alike. I look forward to Gray Pride becoming Thrive, as the name reflects what the organization has helped me to do and I hope that others will avail themselves of all they have to offer."

Recently, the Episcopal-affiliated Ministry With the Aging Inc. donated proceeds from the sale of a property in East Dallas to a number of organizations that work with seniors. Resource Center received \$50,000 from MWAI, and those funds will go toward expanding Thrive's programming.

"Last year we had about 600 visits

an outing to go bowling or to a movie. Food and drinks are usually included.

"Every activity is free," Fields said, explaining that she doesn't want cost to be a barrier to attendance since some seniors are living on a fixed income. So when Thrive goes bowling, Resource Center picks up the tab, she noted.

Fields said Gray Pride was framed too much as a social services program, which meant the program was missing those in the 50-to-65 age range.

stories really resonated with the youth group.

Some senior programs around the country are more robust, Fields acknowledged. The Los Angeles LGBT Center has programming four days a week, for example, and Fields said she'd love to see Thrive grow to that level.

Spring Fling takes place at Resource



Above, revelers at last year's Spring Fling, right top, Serena Smuckers and right bottom, Cami Fields.



from community members to our programming," Fields said, adding that she hopes to see that number double this year.

Several of those who participate have been people who came out later in life. Others are people who've begun to lose partners and friends as they age. Finding new ways to socialize is important to them.

A counseling intern working through Resource Center's partnership with Southern Methodist University's Simmons School of Education and Human Development facilitates a support group that meets from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. on Mondays. The meeting is followed by lunch and socializing until 3 p.m.

Thrive hosts a social activity on the third Thursday of each month. Usually it's something like a mixer or game night at Resource Center, but some months it's

"We want to bring people together," she said. "Come just for fun."

And since changing the name, Fields said, they've already seen new faces.

Thrive is partnering with other senior resources, like AARP and The Senior Source, to offer informational events and other services. Fields said they're still exploring the ways the organizations can work together to benefit their participants.

Fields, who also manages Resource Center's Youth First and Women With Pride programs, said one of the best presentations she's seen was when a group of Thrive regulars talked about the history of Dallas LGBT community to Youth First members. She said the personal

Center on Friday, March 22. Guests are encouraged to wear their brightest spring attire for a free celebration filled with music, dancing and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Beer, wine and specialty cocktails themed just for the arrival of the season will be served at an open bar. Photo opportunities and assorted raffle prizes add to the evening's fun.

Fields said new participants keep telling her they've been thinking of coming to an event for a long time.

"If you're thinking about going, just come," Fields said. "You'll have a good time and won't regret it."



# Chadd-Pritchett wedding

**B**rad Pritchett and David Chadd were married Saturday, Feb. 9, at Nylo Hotel in Las Colinas. They celebrated the day with family and friends, including their parents, pictured right with the newlyweds. Pritchett said: "I grew up 'straight,' then came out as bi, then eventually got the nerve to come out as gay. My brother is also gay. My husband took the same closet-outing path as I. His amazing sister recently came out as lesbian. Her partner, even more recently, took the courageous path and came out as transgender. [Our parents are the] most amazing set of parents anyone could ever ask for. Open, understanding, inclusive and fearless — that's our moms and dads. Not only did they show up at our wedding proud of us, but they took to the microphone and declared their love and support for us and our entire LGBTQ community." ■

Pictured are, from left, Wade Chadd, Maria Chadd, David Chadd-Pritchett, Brad Pritchett, Karen Freistedt and Jim Freistedt.



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## REVITALIZING , From Page 9

20 years. Crosswalks don't last that long; they have to be maintained and redone more frequently.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Vedda said a private group will be fundraising to install and maintain crosswalks. He didn't have an estimate of how much each crosswalk would cost, but said the city has specifications about what materials may be

used for them.

The cost of rainbow crosswalks in other cities has varied by tens of thousands of dollars.

In Atlanta, for instance, a box of rainbow crosswalks along Piedmont Avenue cost \$196,000. That includes maintenance, according to the Atlanta Constitution. And in San Antonio, the cost was \$32,000 for crosswalks along North Main

Street, according to News4SA, the NBC TV affiliate in San Antonio.

So whether Cedar Springs Road gets its rainbow crosswalks depends entirely on private fundraising, and how many of the crosswalks are installed depends on how much money is raised.

Other improvements for The Strip are still being finalized. Those improvements include gateway markers placed

on either end of The Strip — on Cedar Springs Road at Oak Lawn Avenue and at Douglas Avenue.

A new traffic light will be added at Knight Street between the Oak Lawn Library and ilume, where numerous accidents have occurred.

Landscaping along new sidewalks is being designed to slow traffic and add curb appeal. Some parking will be affected, but spaces have been added along side streets, including several parking spots on Throckmorton Avenue next to Hunky's, so that the number of spaces in the area will not change.

The sidewalks will be built ADA-compliant at corners, and an area of sidewalk near Hunky's will be built to allow groups to set up tables to distribute information, sign up voters and encourage other community activity.

Lighting in the area will also be improved.

Several steps are necessary before construction can begin. First, the plan must be completely finalized. Then a request for proposals must be posted for at least a month to allow contractors to bid on the project.

Once a bid is accepted, the Dallas City Council has to approve the project. As long as the councilman in whose district a project falls approves, passage is usually automatic.

This project runs along the border of Districts 2 and 14. Adam Medrano's District 2 is on the west side of the street, and Philip Kingston's District 14 is on the east. Both council members have been following the project's progress, and both it.

Money for the redevelopment was allocated by Kingston's and Medrano's predecessors, Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano, from a 2012 bond election.

Once the project is approved by the full council, the contractor has a set period of time to begin work. The best estimate of when work will begin is sometime in the fall.

Vedda said he hopes that once the project is approved and a contractor chosen, that contractor would wait until after Halloween to begin, since having broken-up sidewalks could present a safety hazard for those attending the annual Halloween Block Party, one of the largest events that takes place in the gayborhood each year. ■



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# ■ commUNITYvoices

## Highlighting trans men, for a change

I recently posted a version of the transgender Pride flag on my Facebook page that represents how trans people are represented in media: The pink stripes — representing trans women — dominated the flag, and the blue — representing trans men — was a small sliver, and the white stripe — representing intersex people were barely perceptible.

This flag illustrates that trans women dominate the media conversation. Even at events where both trans men and trans women are in attendance, the cameras inevitably search out the trans women.

This is damaging on several levels. For one, it serves to delegitimize the existence of trans men. It silences their stories, and it removes an essential part of our argument for equality.

In an effort to sort out why, I reached out to my friend Finn Jones, the executive director of Transcendence International, for his thoughts on the matter. Here's what he had to say:

**Leslie McMurray: Finn, how aware are trans guys of the disparity in the representation of trans women versus trans men?** Finn Jones: I obviously cannot speak for all trans men, but the ones that I have had this conversation with are very aware of the disparities. Particularly when it comes to the media and health care.

**LM: Your stories and experiences being silenced means the stories of trans existence is being only partially told.** FJ: Absolutely. Ask people outside of the trans community what they think of when they hear the word transgender, they will almost always speak about Caitlyn Jenner or Laverne Cox. Some will tell you that they did not realize transmen existed.

**LM: Help us understand what it's like to live life as a trans guy with advantages and challenges.** FJ: This country is very male-centric and values men above women, unfortunately. So being perceived as the man I am, and white to boot, is a huge advantage. I am able to have conversations with cisgender folks who would have never given me the time of day as a woman and a lesbian.

But one of the largest disadvantages



Leslie McMurray  
Accidental Activist

es is in the medical community. Medical science in terms of gender care for trans folks is mainly centered around trans women. While I applaud this and know that it is desperately needed, the trans male community is struggling to find solutions for their medical dilemmas, specifically related to gynecology care.

I am a disabled veteran, so I am able to access the VA medical system, but when I tried to make an appointment for a checkup of my female anatomy, it was as if I was trying to infiltrate some secret society. They were not sure how to deal with it. They did not want me in the women's clinic as they were concerned it would "trigger" other women for me to be there and make them feel uncomfortable. So where am I supposed to go?

My comfort and mental wellbeing never even came into question with them. I finally gave up and attempted to pay for these services out of my own pocket rather than going through the humiliation of dealing with such an antiquated system.

**LM: The media will cover what the media covers, but how can trans women help in shining some light on this issue?** FJ: Trans women can point out the fact that transgender men have just as important a role in this movement as women do. But that also speaks to the misogyny in this country.

It is big news when a celebrity decides to transition from male to female because as we hear quite often, "Why would a man want to be a woman in the USA?" On the other hand when asked about trans men in women's bathrooms, said, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said, "Trans men can take care of themselves." Both sides of the trans community bring important and impactful narratives and lived experiences, and it is important that we as a

community continue to bring those stories to light.

**LM: I've noticed that trans guys assimilate seemingly so easily that living stealth is safer and is often the choice made. But this limits opportunities to help change people's minds, because to them you are just another guy.** FJ: I think that fear plays a big role in the reason trans men go stealth. The fear of cisgender men not perceiving us as "real men" in certain situations can put us in danger of real physical harm. And of course, there are other fears that we all face, mainly losing your job or family. We do have an advantage in that HRT medications work differently for us than they do with trans women.

**LM: There also seems to be little coherence to the trans community. We are divided by sex, by race and so on. Even with a unified voice, we are a very small minority. But fractured, it's a voice that has mixed messages, and not all of them are being heard. What's the solution?** FJ: I see many different personalities and life experiences pouring into this community very quickly. We all come from different social structures, political spectrums, life experiences, and we bring those things with us. It can be almost like two cats fighting to decide who is alpha.

We see male privilege, feminism, racism, bigotry and xenophobia. And yet somehow, we have to put that aside and work towards the greater good for the community. Standardizing certain things would be a great start — such as health care.

In high school, one of my band directors said something that has stayed with me all these years, and it is something we use for our support group meetings. Picture a box at the door. As you go in that door put all of your biases and prejudices that have no relevance to the issue at hand in that box. That is the way we need to come together to sincerely help our community. Put opinions and judgment in that box. It is up to you if you choose to pull them out and take them with you when you leave.

*Those interested in Transcendence International, visit [transcendint.org](http://transcendint.org) or email [info@transcendint.org](mailto:info@transcendint.org).*



# TBRU 2019: Coco Grande

Drag pioneer Coco Peru  
looks ahead to the end

**T**hanks to RuPaul, we have been drowning wonderfully in drag queens. Some stick with us (Trixie Mattel, Bob the Drag Queen) and more than a few don't (Venus D-Lite, anyone?).

But RuPaul is just one among the pantheon of queens who have pioneered the fringe art into the mainstream. Before all the death drops and lip smacks came Lady Bunny, Hedda Lettuce, and Miss Coco Peru, all of whom stand atop an altar of tiaras, wigs and stilettos.

As new generations of queens forge their paths, Coco Peru has been looking forward to the end of hers in her new show *The Taming of the Tension*, which she brings to Dallas on Saturday as part of the line up for the 2019 Texas Bear Round-Up: The Best Little Bear-House in Texas.

With almost 30 years under her (or Clinton Leupp's) belt, Peru's show talks about her inevitable retirement. Before she heads to Dallas, she elaborated on what retirement means, the new mainstream of drag and her readiness to take on a lot of bears at once.

— Rich Lopez

## COCO PERU

"The Taming of the Tension"  
with Miss Coco Peru.  
Doors at 7:30 p.m. March 16  
in the Landmark Ballroom at the  
Dallas Hyatt Regency Hotel,  
300 Reunion Blvd. \$25.  
tbru.ticketspice.com.

**Dallas Voice:** An early welcome back to Dallas! It's been a while.

Coco Peru: Yeah. I think it's been like seven or eight years. I'm looking forward to it.

**You're playing to the bears this time around. Do you see all your audiences as the same, or when it's something like this, is it different?** I have to say, bears are my favorite audience ... and to have a whole audience of them? They tend to be the best. I think they are all so gentle and just want a good time.

**You're bringing a new show to town, *The Taming of the Tension*. Your signature has always been these autobiographical shows. What do you talk**

**about this time?** I've been looking at retirement in about three to four years. That's the plan as far as doing what I do now. So that's part of the show. It'll be like a big group therapy.

**With antidepressants?** Well, with song.

**That's big news. What's bringing this on now?** I'm at a wonderful place in life where I feel like I'm coming to the end of my act, my closing number. It's a peaceful place to be. I don't have anything to prove anymore. I would come back for a special event or fundraiser if I really believed in it. I'm growing older and taking stock.

■ COCO GRANDE Page 20

## Stay moving with Moran



**T**ony Moran is a two-time Grammy-nominated remixer, producer, singer-songwriter. He is also one of the most well-known DJs in the house music genre, regularly playing to massive crowds at events throughout the world.

And he is North Texas resident.

Fans of his — and just those who wanna have a good time — can see him at FurBall on Saturday. So if you're still up for more dancing with bearish men during TBRU, head over to Marty's Live. With Moran, the beat goes on ...

Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave.  
Saturday. 10 pm.-2 a.m.



# TBRU 2019: Deca-Dance

BearDance celebrates 10 years of partying with purpose



**RICH LOPEZ** | Contributing Writer  
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

**P**repare for the beef and fur to be flying as BearDance: Hard Candy takes over Station 4 on Friday night. This also marks the 10th anniversary of the centerpiece dance event for Texas Bear Round-up. What started as a birthday dance party among friends has turned into a landmark celebration of all things hirsute while also making change with donations to area nonprofits.

"We are proud to be contributing [to] not only a social need in the bear community but also raising substantial funds to support our local LGBT chari-

ties," says Mark Trimble. "For 10 years we've managed to sustain and grow this party and the funds we raise in collaboration with the Dallas Bears, who run and organize the TBRU weekend."

Trimble is one of the co-founders of BearDance along with his husband, Ami Sadeh, and friends Darren Graff, Jeff Phillips and Charlie McDonald. That founding board evolved into today's board of

nine, which still includes Trimble and Sadeh.

The event's growth was swift, clearly filling a need. The first BearDance was held at the former Palladium, now Gilley's, in South Side. BearDance swelled by its second year, with nearly 1,000

#### BEAR DANCE: HARD CANDY

8 p.m. March 15 at Station 4,  
3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$25 online,  
\$35 door. [Beardance.org](http://Beardance.org).

■ DECA-DANCE Page 19

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# Fashion forward

Mazda's 2019 CX-5 is neatly tailored and amply powered

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

**F**ashion is more than clothing. It's about presence, a sense of refinement and elegance of design and materials that can be appreciated by the wearer and those he or she encounters. And there's no reason a crossover must be two ugly, high-riding boxes welded together. Taking the best of its Japanese heritage and American desire for ever-more-stylish and luxurious crossovers, the 2019 Mazda CX-5 is quite fashionable.

Mazda proves stunningly beautiful automobiles need not be just for the rich. Crisply creased sheetmetal




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highlights the hood, fenders and rear fascia. Up front, narrow inset LED headlamps accent the large mesh grille with chrome that runs from beneath the headlamps and under the grille. Our Signature model was dressed out in 19-inch wheels and detailed chrome window trim. A wide stance imbues a sense of performance that's unlike most Japanese and American crossovers.

Plop down inside with logos covered, and you'll think you're in an Audi. Plush stitched dash and door coverings, matching woodgrain and bright trim add texture. Look closely, and you'll notice the leather seats and armrests are a dark brown. Bose audio, power moonroof, heated sport steering wheel, ambient LED lighting and dual-zone automatic climate control amplify the mood. Travel with four comfortable passengers with gear tossed through the power-opening hatch.

Those seats are heated and ventilated up front, heated in the rear. Infotainment is by console joywheel and screen, which controls the audio and navigation systems. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto make connections easier. A configurable head-up display

shows speed, navigation and safety tech, which includes adaptive radar cruise, forward auto brake, blind spot warning, lane keep assist and rear cross path detection. A 360-degree monitor is included.

Base models come with a 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine routing 187 horsepower and 186 lb.-ft. of torque through a 6-speed automatic transmission, but we skipped that biz. Instead, our top-line Signature edition came stoked with a turbocharged 4-cylinder conjuring 250 horsepower and 310 lb.-ft. of torque (93 Octane). All-wheel-drive with torque vectoring keeps the crossover moving in bad weather and

helps it sharpen corners during warmer weather backroad blitzes. Fuel economy is rated 22/27-MPG city/highway.

That's plenty of power for a compact crossover, but a refined driving experience is beyond expectations. It's simply best of class. As in an Audi, the suspension is firm but also compliant over rough pavement. It absorbs road shock without ever feeling sloppy. Steering is direct and nicely weighted. Power is not overwhelming, but a Sport mode lets you adjust shift points

#### CX-5 SIGNATURE '19

**Mazda.** 2.5 liter T4. 250hp.  
22/27-MPG city/hwy. Base/As-  
tested price: \$24,350/39,155.



to get the most out of power you do have. It's a vehicle you could enjoy on a challenging two-lane backroad or riding comfortably during a morning urban commute.

It is no small achievement being named to Car and Driver magazine's 10 BEST Truck and SUVs List, but the CX-5 joins the larger CX-9 on that roster... deservedly so. I was a fan of the first-generation CX-5, but this is a significant

step forward. It's crisply tailored and amply powered with a luxurious interior and supple suspension. Ignore the Mazda badge and you'd not only put it against the Audi Q5 and Alfa Romeo Stelvio but also traditional rivals like the Honda CR-V, GMC Terrain, Toyota RAV4, Nissan Rogue and Ford Escape. A base price of 24,350, or \$39,155 as tested, seems appropriate. ■

*Follow Casey on YouTube @AutoCasey.*

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L+S | screen

## Love, Franky

The teen queer drama gets a proper treatment in 'Giant Little Ones'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

I never drank the *Love, Simon* Kool-Aid and am still a bit puzzled why so many people were willing to give it a pass. It must be seen as a victory of marketing over execution — thirsty audiences who believed they were getting the first major-studio gay teen rom-com.

But just as the Netflix original *Alex Strangelove* was a far superior streaming version of what *Simon* was trying to be, the new release *Giant Little Ones* is basically the Canadian improvement on the theme. And while it's hardly groundbreaking or even exciting, it hits its marks with enjoyable ease.

Franky (Josh Wiggins) is still a virgin on his 17th birthday, while his best friend Ballas (Darren Mann) seems to get laid more often than carpeting in a condo. Franky endures occasional "Hey, faggot" catcalls from school bullies, but Ballas happily comes to his defense.

After a night of partying, they end up in Franky's room, and something happens under the covers that causes Ballas to dart out of the room. Ballas tells

everyone that Franky came on to him; Franky denies it, despite the encouragement of his dad (Kyle MacLachlan), who divorced his mom (Maria Bello) and came out as gay.

Why is Franky loathe just to own his sexuality? Or is there something more we don't know about?

Coming out is always a complicated individual process, even in a post-marriage-equality universe, and the success of a movie like this isn't just how authentically and sensitively it treats that process but how it touches on universal truths while avoiding tired clichés. *Giant Little Ones* puts an interesting twist on the concept. Maybe Franky isn't as in denial as we think — what seems to be the journey of one character turns expectations around.

That alone elevates the film from the sickly forced "charm" of movies like *Love, Simon* — a genuine story of teenaged angst, not a dopey variation of it. But it's also well-acted, especially by Wiggins and (late in the story) MacLachlan and excellently plotted by writer-director Keith Berhman. Love hurts... whether it's romance or friendships. ■

Now playing at the Angelika.



attendees.

With those numbers, the gang felt they could bring it on home to Oak Lawn.

"We felt we had the numbers on our side to convince Caven Enterprises to collaborate with us on using their club, Station 4. They've been extremely supportive partners, not only to us but the whole community, and the move to The Strip helped integrate our event into the greater neighborhood that our own community hangs out in and our visitors for TBRU want to explore.

"That move was our biggest milestone," Trimble says.

Since then, the dance has grown to include special guests and marquee DJs as headliners. This year, the event will be led by DJs Alex Ramos and Barry Harris, with special guest Miss Vanjie of *RuPaul's Drag Race* fame. DJ Matt Effect will run the music in the upstairs bar.

Throughout the last decade, BearDance has brought in actor Daniel Franzese (*Mean Girls*, *Looking*), bear rapper Big Dipper, Varla Jean, Perez Hilton, Alaska and Cazwell, along with notable DJs Bob Mould (formerly of Husker Du) and HiFi Sean (former lead singer of the Soup Dragons).

Today, BearDance draws a crowd of more than 2,000. The celebrities, the crowds, the draw all make BearDance an institution for the furrily-inclined, but Trimble reminds us of its other achievements.

"We've found that the special guest is a value that can broaden our party's appeal to include the greater gay community while still celebrating the bear community," Trimble says. "More butts through the door helps us raise more money for our wonderful local LGBT charities."

The board has been able to increase its sponsorships to more than 33 percent of its budget, which allows for more donations — and it's always looking for more.

But more importantly, "We've raised nearly \$370,000 for local LGBT charities, and we expect to exceed \$400,000 in total after this year," Trimble notes.

Among the organizations they have donated to are Resource Center, Youth First, Prism Health (Formerly AIDS Arms), AIN (formerly AIDS Interfaith Network), the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and the Sharon St. Cyr Foundation.

With all that, they still hope to grow in new ways. Take their newest addition

to BearDance, for example.

"Naturally, a challenge we've had is to try to outdo [ourselves] or bring something more or different each year, and I think we've achieved that," Trimble says. "Also, [we want to] bring more people together! One idea was to add the Opposites Attract party."

The mixer is a "party within a party" that happens at the beginning of BearDance that connects chasers and bear hunters with bears who reciprocate their interest.

"Bear world has a lot of bear-for-bear attraction, which can make 'leaners' feel left out. We hope this helps those guys find their niche in the bear community more easily," Trimble says. "We've expanded to add a few smaller events at other bars in the area each year, but our big deal is combining our efforts with the Dallas Bears and their event TBRU."

As for the future, the guys would like to start taking the party on the road, whether to Houston or to London. Philanthropic efforts are a consideration as well — at least for Trimble.

"One idea that I've had percolating in my head I'll call the "Wayward Cub Initiative" for lack of anyone hearing of this but my husband Ami," he says. "This might be a place for gay youth who've been kicked out of their homes and need help starting a life in Dallas. Maybe housing and teaching job skills and helping to acquire employment for these youth could be the end goal. That's just one idea, and I would dearly love to hear from the community of any needs that aren't being met by our other great charities that support the LGBT community."

But right now, these guys have a party to plan. Even with all the bigger picture notions and the event's success, it's also still what it started out to be — a party for bears by bears that offers something a little more.

"I'm still enthralled to see bears take over the biggest gay nightclub of the city; — it is a sight to behold!" Trimble says. "I love seeing everybody dancing shirtless and so many people losing their inhibitions about what society says should be attractive and sexy. There's nothing like being immersed in it. There is a joy and sense of belonging that can't be measured.

"We have an incredible sense of pride that we are doing good while having a good time. That we've done it for 10 years is, hopefully, just the beginning." ■

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I've created a nice life for myself and been very fortunate. Everything else is just icing.

**You certainly have a legacy in drag. How is it to see it so mainstream now? Shangela at the Oscars. RuPaul's Drag Race winning Emmys....** I'm not surprised, and yet, I am. When I go to Drag Con, my mouth just hangs open.

**I mean...** Not like that. I look around and see families there. These kids in drag and parents supporting it. I think on some level this is what I worked for.

**Did you want it to go mainstream? Sometimes gay culture progresses to the**

**norm like marriage, and then there's backlash. Did you feel that way at all with drag?** I don't know if I thought about that. I definitely wanted to reach as many people as I could, so maybe on some level I did. At the same time, I do things in my shows that would never be on television. And I'm more interested in my shows and material than to try to fit it into a box.

**You and RuPaul and others put in the legwork as you were coming up. Now, some can get on television and be America's next top drag queen.** Of course, I came up in a time where I was inspired by the queens before me, and I

was blending activism with entertainment. Plus, there was no internet. I do think there is something to be said for coming up at that time and creating and working on the craft.

But these young drag queens, they are still working and creating and headlining shows. Is the edge lost with that fast track? I don't know. Honestly, I'm just glad to still be around and included with these queens. Honey, there is a lot of benefit for me that way.

**You're style is so signature — particularly your wig, which seldom changes. You've mentioned in other interviews**



**you appreciate that silhouette. Where does that come from?** I grew up looking at album covers, and I just loved Barbra Streisand and how she'd work that nose of hers. On some sublevel, there was power in that for me. I just gravitated toward that recognizable silhouette. You know, I've tried to change my wig, and it's upset people at the show.

**Interesting, because with that, at what point is Coco Peru your own, and what point is she the fans'?** I do feel that on some level I owe my audience what they want, but it certainly wouldn't stop me from moving forward. I mean, I did create a silhouette people respond to, and that was important to me. So I compromise.

**What do you still want to do?** I still wanna learn Spanish. My husband's from Spain, you know.

**Well, yes, but in your career.** I'm open to anything. I learned to say "yes" a lot. That's what got me into the movie *Trick*, and from there everything really happened. That changed the whole course of my life. Life has these moments where you say "yes," and wonderful things happen.

**So can I have backstage passes?** No.

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## Saturday 03.16

**House of DIFFA: Futuro looks to a future with zero HIV infections**

Surely, the theme Futuro for this year's DIFFA Collection sounds futuristic, but the name also represents a future of zero deaths and infections from HIV/AIDS. The goal is always the same, but this year's gala promises to be as extravagant as always, with Carson Kressley serving as celebrity auctioneer and of course great fashion to dazzle the senses.

**DEETS:** Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. 6 p.m. [DIFFADallas.org](http://DIFFADallas.org).

## LIFE+STYLE

### best bets



## Thursday 03.21

**Young Texas musician Conan Gray headlines at HOB**

Texas native Conan Gray is 19, is from a small town, and has already lived quite a life, from being kicked out of his parents house to now headlining his own tour (something with *Panic! At the Disco*, but not in Dallas). His new EP, *Sunset Season*, comes with a live performance from the self-described girly-boy this week at House of Blues.

**DEETS:** House of Blues Dallas, 2200 N. Lamar St. 7 p.m. From \$42. [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).




## Friday 03.22 — Sunday 04.07


**Death! Danger! Disco! 'Disaster!'**

Remember bell-bottoms, platform shoes and disco? Now remember all of those things under water, or on fire, or shaking with the ground? Then you remember the disaster movies of the 1970s. Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick sure do, as they proved in the hilarious Broadway musical *Disaster!* A musical spoof of *The Towering Inferno*, *Earthquake*, *The Poseidon Adventure* and more, this comedy makes its regional debut courtesy Uptown Players, with B.J. Cleveland directing.

**DEETS:** Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).



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calendar highlights



Comedian Jen Kirkman performs this weekend at Hyenas Comedy Nightclub at Mockingbird Station. See listings for details.

## ARTSWEEK THEATER

***Fool for Love.*** The new Classic Theatre Project returns with its second show, Sam Shepard's dark, surreal romance. Margo Jones Theater at Fair Park. Through March 31. TheClassicTheatreProject.com.

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

***The Wolves.*** A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, this play deals with the cutthroat world of girl's



high school soccer. Studio Theatre at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through April 14. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

OPERA

**La Boheme.** Perhaps Puccini's most beloved opera, and among the most performed, about Bohemians living in Paris during *le fin de siècle*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 15–31. DallasOpera.org.

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 03.15

COMEDY

**Jen Kirkman.** The comedian performs two shows over two nights. Hyenas Comedy Nightclub at Mockingbird Station. Friday–Saturday. JenKirkman.com/tour.

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 03.16

COMMUNITY

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

FUNDRAISER

**House of DIFFA: Futuro.** Annual fashion fundraiser. Omni Dallas Hotel, 55 S. Lamar St. 6 p.m. DIFFADallas.org

MONDAY 03.18

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 03.19

FILM

**The Postman Always Rings Twice.** An early film noir about lust and consequences, this famed potboiler doesn't hold up as well as others like *Double Indemnity* and *Maltese Falcon*. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.21

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.

BROADCAST

**Project Runway.** The design competition returns, with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY 03.22

THEATER

**Disaster!** Seth Rudetsky co-wrote this musical spoof of 1970s-era disaster movies. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. March 22–April 14. UptownPlayers.org.

this week's solution

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# Cassie Nova

Kelly Clarkson sings the stories of Cassie's life

Hello my lovelies. A few weeks ago, we went to the Kelly Clarkson concert here in Dallas, and it was amazeballs. If you have been to one of my shows since 2002, more than likely you saw me perform a Kelly Clarkson song. I've done so much of her music in my shows that I feel like I owe her royalties. She has made me a lot of money over the years. She is my go-to artist that I know is always a crowd pleaser.

As drag queens, we all have artists whose songs we love to perform. I love doing Kelly's music because I feel like her voice looks like it could possibly be coming out of me. I love Ellie Goulding, but something about her voice doesn't seem like it would match me. Tori Amos, too. I can't imagine her voice coming out of a big ol' lady like me, but Kelly has a strong voice that lends itself well to a fabulous drag queen.

I have been a nearly-obsessed Kelly fan since 2002, when she won *American Idol*. I had a show the night of the finale, so I timed it to where I would get to the club before they announced the winner. I even called to make sure that the TV in the manager's office worked and would be set to Fox so I could find out if it was Justin or Kelly. I had voted like a motherfucker the night before, so I was invested. Small-town cute Texas girl with a fabulous voice — I was all the way in.

The last 15 minutes of the episode, the manager's office got packed as we all crowded around a little old-school television to find out the results. Oh Mylanta, when Ryan Seacrest announced her as the winner, we all cheered like we had just won! We boo-hoo'ed as she sang "A Moment Like This." And when her voice broke with emotion while she was singing, so did I — I was a blubbering mess. I was amazed at how much I adored this girl.

I worked at a music store back then, and by the end of the week, we couldn't keep the single of "A Moment Like This" in stock. They sent us boxes and boxes of the single, and they would be gone in hours. (For those of you young folks, back in the day we would have to go to a store to buy a CD. No streaming — you actually had to leave the house to buy music. I miss music stores.)

Fast-forward to 2003: March 29 was my first date with my now-husband. Then that August, Kelly released the single "Miss Independent." I swear that song was about me and what I was feeling at the time. Every time I heard that song I would get emotional. I know — I'm such a puss. But seriously, even today that song hits me in my feels. I went from being Miss...ter Independent and not needing anyone to being head over heels in love.

After that, it seemed like every song she did was made for me. "Behind these Hazel Eyes" ... Bitch, I got hazel eyes. "Because of You" ... I am a child of divorced parents with daddy issues. Hell, even her heartbroken break up songs I could relate to. I was fucked over



by a lot of guys before I found my Mr. Right. "Never Again," "Sober," "Stronger," "My Life Would Suck Without You," "Already Gone" — so many songs that I connected with. From upbeat and dancey to slow with lots of drag drama, I found my muse.

Then came "Piece by Piece." Dammit Kelly! If you don't know the song, you should. It's about how her dad abandoned her and her family, and how it took her husband to rebuild her faith in what a man and father should be. It gutted me. My daddy issues are different than hers, but they are still there. Every time I have seen her perform that song, it is like a flood of emotion. She gets in her feelings and needs a moment, and so does every person watching. It is such a powerful thing to experience.

A few years ago, a friend of mine named Tyson — who is probably Kelly Clarkson's biggest fan — told me he won a VIP experience with her before her concert and asked if there was anything he could tell her from me. I gave him an autographed, framed picture of myself to give to her and asked him to tell her thank you for giving me so many songs to perform in my shows. He actually gave it to her! I am not so ignorant to think that she still has that stupid picture of me, but I like to imagine that she has a huge room of memorabilia from her tours and fan meet-and-greets, and somewhere in that room is a framed picture of Cassie Nova, and she finds comfort in knowing that there are drag queens all over the world that are killing it to her songs.

Kelly is getting her own talk show soon. I think I should make it a priority in my life to get on her talk show, even if it is just in the audience for a taping. In her concert the other night, she wore this beautiful, red-shoulder-sleevey-drapey ensemble that went almost to the ground. Would it be weird if I had it made and wore it to her show? Naaah! That's not weird at all for daytime television!

If I could get on Ellen and Kelly's talk shows, I would die happy. I am just gonna put that out into the universe and see what happens; you never know.

I must go now; I have a show tonight. I wonder which Kelly song I will do tonight? Come out and find out! Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova



# LIFE+STYLE

## scene



Cozy hangs out with Vero Voz at Alexandre's



Sending a message on The Strip



Manning the door at Havana's

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 15-21:**

- **1851 Club:** Candi Carroll, Addison Foster and Ronnie Mikyles on Friday. Kendal Kasper, Sapphire Davenport and Nia Courtland on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** St. Patricks Day Party starts at noon on Sunday.
- **Alexandre's:** Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Geeks Who Drink and Taco Tuesday starts at 7 p.m. RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Divine Miss Diva's Legs for Days Show at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court's Red Ribbon Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Michial Awards Buffet at 7 p.m. and Awards at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** DJ John Pacheco presents Bossy Bottoms Party at 10 p.m. on Friday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Deja Vu:** SpringFest on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show Time is 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Henry's Tavern:** Celebrate Pride with GALA on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** St. Patrick's Day Celebration all day on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** DreamGirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Kitchen is Open Monday through Sunday.
- **Marty's Live:** Joe Fiore presents Furball XXX on Saturday.
- **Pekers:** St. Patrick's Day Celebration all day on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. Bear Country Dance from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. TBRU BBQ Luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday. RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **S4:** Bear Dance: Hard Candy from 8 p.m.-4 a.m. on Friday. Tickets at BearDance.org. Special guest Miss Vanjie.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. DJ Sno White on Saturday. Empire Cats from 5-7 p.m. and The Mescaline Americans on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Roxy Brooks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Sasha Andrews hosts Latin Dance Contest at 11:30 p.m. mon Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Imperial Court In-Town Show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** St. Patrick's Day Celebration all day on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth



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Gloria Devine and the Team Metro crew raising money for LifeWalk at The Hidden Door



All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon



Big smiles and tall hair on The Strip



The Queen of Everything holds court at The Round-Up



Dropping mics and money at Sue Ellen's



All about dat azz on The Strip



Preparing to storm the castle on The Strip



Is that a Tapelenders banana in your pocket or ... ?





Saul shows some skin at The Round-Up



Three's company on The Strip



Cheering for The Stars at Dallas Woody's



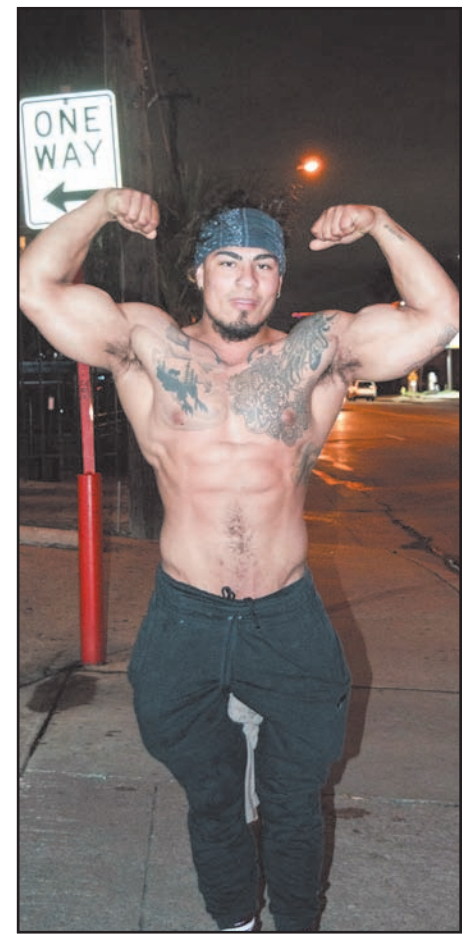
A karaoke king at The Round-Up Saloon



Cocktail time at The Round-Up Saloon



Headed to Havana's for some dancing



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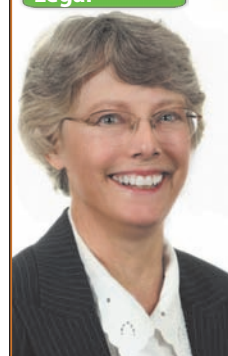


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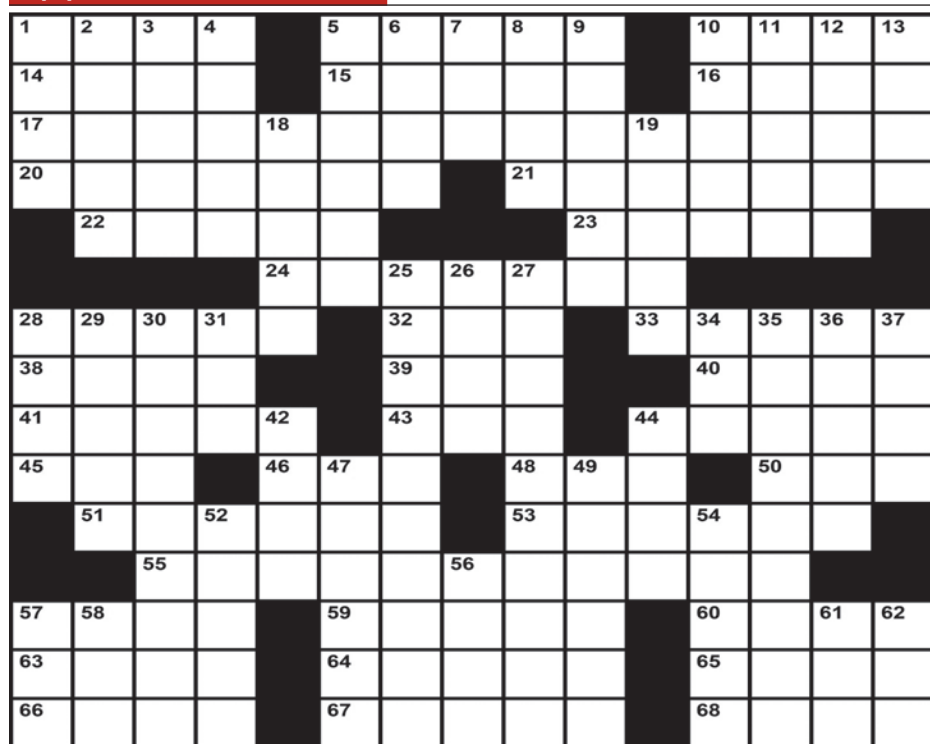
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## q-puzzle



## Cat and Mouse

Solution on Page 23

### Across

- 1 Fashion designer Oldham
- 5 Erotic artist Tom, et al.
- 10 Where Galileo dropped his balls
- 14 Silver attachment
- 15 Shining example
- 16 What muscle Marys pump
- 17 Title character portrayer in 41-Across
- 20 In the manner of a nervous Nellie
- 21 Movie category of old Hollywood, with "the"
- 22 Composer Erik
- 23 Treats meat
- 24 "Mouse" in the cat and mouse game of 41-Across
- 28 Rosie's "The Flintstones" role
- 32 Halloween cry
- 33 Spousal nickname
- 38 Part of San Francisco's BART
- 39 "Casablanca" keyboardist
- 40 Bygone G.M. cars
- 41 Neil Jordan film with a cat and mouse game
- 43 Colette's tea
- 44 With 55-Across, actress who played "the mouse"

- 45 Prince William, to Diana
- 46 Prefix with angle
- 48 Attorney's org.
- 50 Bruin Bobby
- 51 Bacall of Hollywood
- 53 Continues to get "Out"
- 55 See 44-Across
- 57 Jackie's designer
- 59 When prompted
- 60 What fluffers give
- 63 "... \_\_\_ queer, get used to it!"
- 64 Defeatist's words
- 65 2012 Ben Affleck movie
- 66 "Not that I loved Caesar \_\_\_..."
- 67 What a library does
- 68 Climax time in a Gary Cooper film

### Down

- 1 Boob, to a Brit
- 2 Where to find a date
- 3 Area of Tennessee Williams
- 4 It lessens the bottom line
- 5 Packing material
- 6 In a casual way
- 7 Born, to Bonheur
- 8 "Ixnay" and "No way"
- 9 Water channel
- 10 One who blows it
- 11 Cara of "Fame"
- 12 Puts into piles
- 13 Queen's "subjects"
- 18 Enlighten
- 19 Like a Liberace doll
- 25 Least enjoyable way to avoid STDs
- 26 He took on a pair of bears
- 27 Change one's opinion
- 28 What you touch getting to third base?
- 29 Flamboyant Flynn
- 30 Romeo and Juliet, for two
- 31 Decoration for skin
- 34 "I'm not eating that!"
- 35 Frigid
- 36 Ill-bred individuals
- 37 North Sea feeder
- 42 Drag queen's blade
- 44 Martin Crane's support
- 47 Cringe in horror
- 49 Ranger headgear
- 52 First indications of orientation
- 54 Green with a mostly unfabulous social life
- 56 Big name in footwear
- 57 Pussycat's partner
- 58 "Go Set a Watchman" writer Harper
- 61 In days past
- 62 "The Opposite of Sex" director Roos

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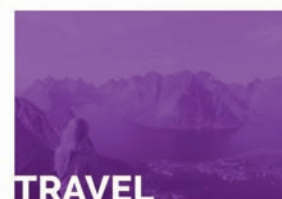
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