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by David Taffet, Page 8



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Will Carleton of Union Coffee.
Photo by David Taffet.
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Tammy Nash.

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FW Human Relations Commissioner Steele rejects mayor's call to resign



Mike Steele, the member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission who was outed Tuesday morning, July 2, on Twitter for his racist, transphobic, anti-immigrant and highly partisan posts on Facebook, has issued

a statement rejecting Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price's call for him to resign, declaring himself the "proud father of an LGBT son" and vowing to defend his right to free speech.

"As a disabled combat veteran of the first Gulf War and a former Watauga councilman of ten years, my public service on the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission is more than a duty – it is a calling," Steele said in a statement issued Tuesday evening. "As a proud father of a LGBT son, I vehemently reject the defamatory comments posted about me on social and local media. ... Some may not agree with my message, but I followed policies and procedures set forth by the city. I do not intend to resign. I have fought foreign enemies, and I will fight domestic

social media mobs."

The city of Fort Worth had issued a statement earlier in the afternoon noting that Price had asked Steele to resign, and explaining that members of the commission are appointed by the mayor and council and serve in an "at-large" capacity. There are 11 positions on the HRC.

The statement noted that was appointed by the mayor and council to Position 1 in March 2015, and that he would be eligible for re-appointment in October 2019.

Human Relations commissioners can serve up to three two-year terms. This is Steele's second. If he refuses to resign, Price and the city council could remove him unilaterally, or the HRC as a whole could recommend that the council remove him.

The images on Steele's Facebook page were first discovered and posted on Twitter by Emily Farris, an associate professor of political science at TCU. Questionable posts include an image of Donald Trump and his wife Melania standing on either side of Queen Elizabeth, who, while apparently staring at Melania Trump's dress, says "Excellent, no penis... That last one was a train wreck."

(Conspiracy theorists and other right-wing groups regularly spread the lie former First Lady Michelle Obama was a man. The meme was shared from a page called "Donald Trump fans.")

Another post, from May 14, shows actor

Harrison Ford as fictional character Indiana Jones, and reads, "Why is that when archaeologists find human remains they always determine they are from a male and female and not one of the other 7000 genders?" And a post from May 12 says, "Bacon Fact: People who eat bacon are less likely to blow themselves up." The post features a cropped photo of Trump laughing with two other men.

— James Russell

Councilman David Blewett meets with LGBT community members

Newly-elected District 14 Dallas City Councilman David Blewett met with members of the LGBT community Tuesday morning, July 2, after former state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt arranged the meeting in her home and invited about a dozen members of the LGBT community to get to know the new councilman.

After each of the participants introduced themselves, Blewett gave a brief introduction. He said he was bullied as a kid, and although he became a football player, "I never forgot where I came from."

Several members of the group provided resources for Blewett. Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink offered a vocabulary list with do's and don'ts such as "use transgender and not transsexual" or "use gay, bisexual or LGBT as adjectives as in gay man or LGBT community."

Louise Young offered a brief history of the LGBT community in Dallas, and Brandon Vance, president of Stonewall Democrats, invited Blewett to attend and said he hoped he would seek the organization's endorsement in the next election.

Blewett said, "I'm new to this," and added that he hopes the community would be forgiving as he gets to know more people in his district and attend more events.

Young called the meeting "productive" and said she looked forward to working with him.

Josh Cogan, president and CEO of Outlast Youth, called the meeting a "Great opportunity for a few of us to talk with David Blewett ... about the LGBTQ community and related issues this morning."

— David Taffet

FCB no longer does Nivea because Nivea doesn't 'do gay'

FCB, one of the largest ad agencies in the world, is reportedly terminating its account with the skin care line Nivea when the current contract expires at the end of this year after a Nivea representative made a homophobic remark to an FCB employee.

According to Ad Age, FCB had pitched an ad campaign that included in image of two men's hands touching. In a telephone call between a Nivea rep and an FCB rep, the Nivea rep said the company was rejecting that image because "We don't do gay at Nivea."

— Tammye Nash

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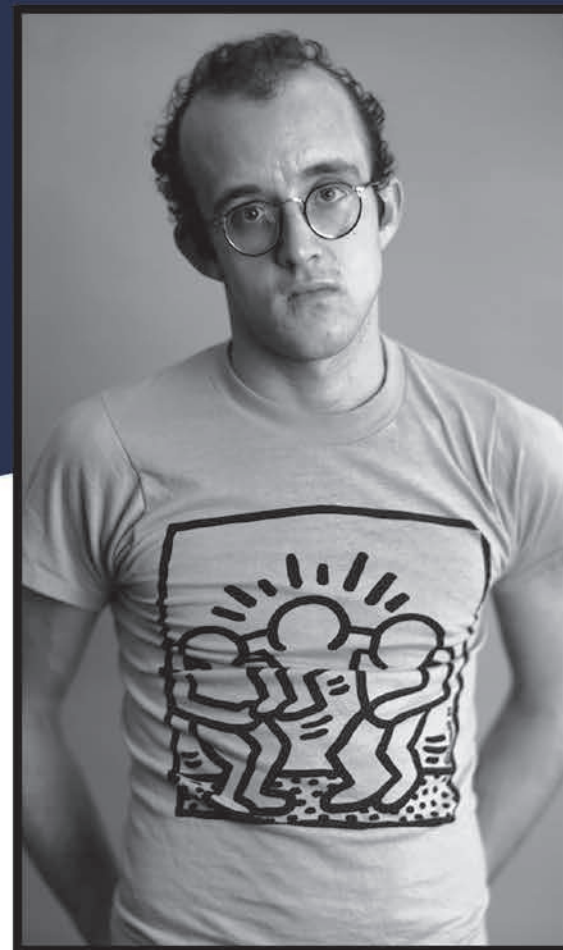


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THE GAY AGENDA



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.

JUNE

• July 6: UCLE Fundraiser

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "Red, White & Duckies," a fundraiser for Dallas Hope Charities, from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 8: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org

• July 9: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Empress of China, 2648 N. Beltline Road, Irving. For more information visit PrimeTimersWW.net.

• July 10: UCLSE Game Show

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire holds its club night with the Game Show from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 12: Be On Stage

Black Tie Dinner and Performing Arts Fort Worth bring back the one-of-a-kind party held on stage from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. \$30. BlackTie.org.

• July 12: Bill Blalock Book Signing

Author, speaker and coach Bill Blalock will be signing copies of his book, *Living Your Legacy Now!*, from 7-9 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Kitchen at Legacy West, 7700 Windrose Ave. in Plano. For information visit BillBlalock.com.

• July 14: Reducate: Variety Show Brunch

Dallas Red Foundation presents "Reducate: Variety Show Brunch" from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at The People's Last Stand in Mockingbird Station, 5319 E. Mockingbird Lane. Includes a buffet brunch with live entertainment, interactive game shows, drag performers and more. Tickets are \$35 each. For information visit DallasRedFoundation.org.

• July 15-19: Mr., Miss Gay Texas America

The Mr. and Miss Gay Texas America pageants are being held in The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Mr. Gay Texas America takes place July 15. Preliminaries for Miss Gay Texas America are July 16-17, with a revue show on July 18, with the presentation of the top 10 and the crowning of Miss Gay Texas America

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; **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 at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every

OBITUARY



Patrick Eugene Sullivan, 55, of Dallas, passed away on June 25, 2019, of complications from his battle with cancer.

Born in Tampa,

Fla., to Robert and Marlyn (Cutcliffe) Sullivan, he grew up in the orange groves surrounded by his siblings and many friends. Patrick graduated from the University of Florida in 1986 before beginning a lifelong career in the travel industry. In the early 1990s, he taught himself database coding and attained much success in the field.

Patrick was tender-hearted and sharp-tongued. He cared fiercely for his family, friends and all creatures great and small. He particularly loved Jameson, both the Irish whisky and his dog, who bore the same name but preferred Dewars.

Known as a man of refinement and culture, Patrick loved the finer things in life and will be fondly remembered by his loved ones with each note of a Pavarotti masterpiece and every time an orchid blooms. He was fascinated with aviation and had an uncanny

ability to identify an aircraft's model by the sound of its engine alone. His humor was wry and unforgettable, his style impeccable and his heart purely gold.

He is survived by his parents, Bob and Marlyn of Lakeland, Fla.; sister Shannon and husband Gary Smith; brother Keith and wife Mary Helen; brother Larry and wife Paige; nieces Brittany, Kaley, Hunter and Samantha; and nephews Drew, Hart and Hayden. His legacy will live on forever in the hearts of his beloved daughter Anne-Marie Aaron and her husband Joseph, and his grandsons, Charles and Robert of Raleigh, N.C.

The many loving friends he made over two decades in Texas became family to him. The care they gave and dedication they showed to their dearest "Paddy" will never be forgotten. He will be fondly missed by his closest sidekicks Bridget Bonning, Bryan Brown, Scott Collins, Mark Evans, Michael Ford, Michael Jarvis, Robert Kirkpatrick, Dedra Pfarrdrescher, Todd Price, Greg Robertson, Kris Starr and countless others.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, July 12, at 11 a.m. at Resurrection Catholic Church, 333 Terrace Way, Lakeland, Fla. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity of your choice. Patrick was a generous benefactor of AIDS Services of Dallas, P.O. Box 4338, Dallas, Texas 75208.

On Sunday, July 7, his Dallas friends (family) will celebrate with a lunch at Patrick's favorite restaurant. There will be a continued celebration of life at Pekers Bar, 2615 Oak Lawn at 3 p.m.

2020 on July 19. For information visit MissGayAmerica.com.

• July 16: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

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

Lawn Ave. For more information visit StoneWallDemocratsofDallas.org.

• July 18: Log Cabin Republicans Dallas

Chad Prda, a Republican running for Dallas County sheriff in 2020, will be

• **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 filmmaker **Scott Poggensee**; **The Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at Grauwylar Park Branch Library, 12146 Gilford St. ; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game**

Saturday at 8:30 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; **Thrive 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.

the guest speaker at the July meeting of Log Cabin Republicans Dallas, from 6-8 p.m. at Matito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 144. For information visit LCRDallas.nationbuilder.com.

July 18: 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. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org

July 18: TAG Youth Support Group
Open to youth of all ages from 5-7 p.m. at Tyler Public Library Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

July 19: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour
DFW Federal Club hosts a happy hour beginning at 6 p.m. at the Westin Downtown, 1220 Elm St. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

July 19: Til Midnight at the Nasher
Music, movies and moonlight from 6 p.m.-midnight at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

July 19: A Night of Seeing Stars
The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Tucker's Gift. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

July 20: Three-Ring Gaybingo
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

AGENDA, Page 12

pet of the week / BISCUIT



Meet **Biscuit**, a 2-year-old, pit bull terrier mix who's outgoing and playful and always finds a way to be the life of the party. He enjoys going for runs, playing with toys and spending time outside. He also likes cuddling on the couch and giving lots of kisses. He does great in the car and never meets a stranger, so he's perfect for an

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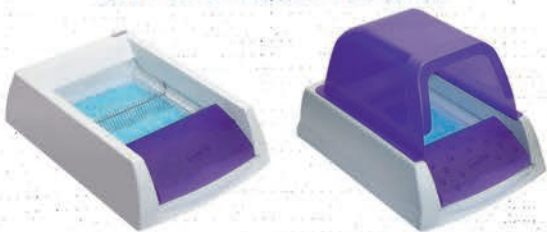
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A most generous cup

Barista Will Carleton at Union Coffee

Oak Lawn UMC has invited Union Coffee onto its campus to provide a community space and support good causes

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Cedar Springs Road now has an amenity it's been missing for years — a coffee shop. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church has opened Union

Coffee in an historic building next to the church, facing The Centrum.

Union Coffee has been around since 2012. And the Rev. Rachel Baughman has talked about converting the building to house the coffee shop as a mission of the church since she arrived at Oak Lawn UMC. And the church's board was interested even before her arrival.

Baughman's husband, Mike, is now Union Coffee's "community curator."

Since its founding, Union Coffee has been pouring its profits back into the community. Its first cause was to raise money to provide 7,000 meals and 60 volunteer hours for the North Texas Food Bank.

In 2013, Union Coffee raised more than \$5,000 in disaster relief money after Hurricane Sandy.

And since then, Union Coffee has raised funds for The Family Place, worked with incarcerated teens, hosted events with Mustang Heroes (Southern Methodist University's largest student-run organization), helped families facing eviction due to gentrification, helped children with special needs and more.

The old Union Coffee location on Dyer Street closed in December 2017. Despite an absence of a year-and-a-half, the coffeehouse's former customers have begun to return.



The location is on church grounds in a building that Josh Runnels, director of operations, said most people think was originally the church's parsonage. He said the two-story building was built in the 1920s, and the church acquired it sometime before World War II when it served as a bait and tackle shop, presumably for people venturing to the outskirts of the city to fish along Cedar Springs (which used to flow above ground) and in Turtle Creek.

The building has been used more recently as a community center for some of Oak Lawn UMC's ministries. To make room for Union Coffee, those ministries have moved into the main church building, although Runnels said some of those them are talking about moving back into the coffee shop to meet.

Getting permits for the renovation of the building presented a challenge, as much for Union Coffee as for the city. Records for the building couldn't be found because of the age of the building.

The exterior of the building has been kept intact with an outdoor deck added on one side. The interior is new. The structure wasn't altered, but the



finish-out is modern, and the décor is mid-century modern.

Dogs are welcome with their owners on the patio.

"We've given out lots of bowls of water," Mike Baughman said.

He pointed out the tree covered lawn that's now open to the public and accessed from the patio. He was proud of the space being one of the few properties in Oak Lawn that still had oaks and lawn.

The opening of Union Coffee next door to Oak Lawn UMC couldn't have come at a better time, since the church

has opened its doors as a sort of way station for people seeking asylum on their way to sponsors or family.

The church has opened what Runnels described as a resource center with clothing, toys, car seats and more for people traveling from the border to other parts of the country.

Rachel Baughman describes her church as a welcoming hub or respite center operating in conjunction with the city and Dallas Responds.

On the website DallasResponds.org, the church keeps a list of items needed as well as donation don'ts. Donations can be made Monday through Saturday, from noon until 6 p.m., at Oak Lawn UMC. Also listed are volunteer positions that are open.

Rev. Baughman said the church received a busload of "fully-vetted" asylum seekers "with legal status" that they welcomed, but "Then everything stopped."

No one else has been released.

So earlier this week, Baughman organized a prayer vigil attended by about

150 pastors at ICE headquarters on Stemmons Freeway near the Highway 183 split.

She said she's hoping more asylum seekers will be released from the border and that the church can help them as they travel to begin their new lives in the U.S.

Meanwhile, Runnels said Union Coffee is off to a great start. He said the coffee shop is once again becoming a place where someone can just come in for a cup of coffee or can connect with a ministry.

CUP, Page 12

Book banning bigotry

Irving ISD administrators blocked use of LGBT graphic novel

ANNA WAUGH | Special Contributor
annamwaugh@gmail.com

In the spring of 2018, my English I team at Irving High School decided to create a social justice graphic novel unit based on interests of our students. What followed was the sudden removal of all six novels from the unit because of one LGBT-themed text. This was followed by silence from leadership, an eventual cover-up by the district, and a new policy gatekeeping teacher-selected materials.

It is only recently, as my former co-worker, Carol Revelle, and I compiled some research on the story for a book about LGBT curriculums, that we fully recognized how bigoted the process had been.

After the Irving Schools Foundation provided a grant for their purchase, the graphic novels — *March*, *Speak*, *Monster*, *Love is Love*, *In Real Life* and *Hidden* — arrived and were being laminated to extend their use. The principal entered the room and told us to pack up the books because a complaint had reached the superintendent.

The unit was set to begin in two days. Our team lead, Revelle — who has a doctorate in curriculum and instruction and more than two decades of teaching experience — emailed a letter the next day, requesting an immediate return of the novels and that the district follow its policy for challenged materials.

No response ever came.

We purposefully chose books on topics our freshman students could relate to — bullying, sexual abuse, child labor, violence, the prison industrial complex and bigotry — because circulation data demonstrated that students were checking out three graphic novels to every five fiction books. We planned to have

students self-select two from the set.

Furthermore, we had overwhelming support. Our principal suggested seeking funding through the foundation, and she, along with our English department chair, two grade-level teachers and a district curriculum advisor, attended the grant presentation that Revelle and I made to receive the grant.

But the support there at the beginning quickly fell away once the books were challenged. Our emails and requests to meet were ignored. Meanwhile, a committee comprised mostly of librarians and the superintendent, who was not listed in attendance but called the meeting that met in his conference room, decided to ban the LGBT book.

Our librarian repeated a rumor that the committee took issue with the novel's "extreme homosexuality." I have thought long and hard about that description and can only say that it's a hateful depiction for a graphic novel that memorializes the victims of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting, and that proceeds from the sale benefit the survivors of the deadliest attack on the LGBT community in U.S. history.

The text is tasteful and respectful and, sadly, representative of this tragic event in our community's history.

By the end of the school year, the banning of *Love is Love* was official.

Officially, no professional reviews, paperback-only format and "mature content" sentenced it to banishment. Yet many books are used Irving ISD without professional reviews, especially graphic novels that often don't get reviewed at all.

Other books in this unit were also paperback, and they were all retained. As for "mature content," the back cover does suggest it be for "mature readers," yet high school falls under that category.

After Revelle and I secured new jobs over the summer, I reached out to Rafael McDonnell at Resource Center Dallas.



Showing support for the social justice unit on the night of the Irving Schools Foundation grant presentation in March 2018 were, from left, the Irving High principal, the school's English Department chair, English teacher Anna Waugh, English teacher Carol Revelle, an English Pre-AP teacher and an English I teacher. Revelle and Waugh packed the books up to send them back after word came that there had been a complaint about the LGBT-themed book. (Photo courtesy Anna Waugh)

He contacted state Rep. Rafael Anchia, whose staff only secured a meeting with the superintendent after a sit-in. At their September meeting, Superintendent Jose Parra claimed ignorance of the events, despite reported multiple-hour phone calls with our principal about the matter and the fact he hosted the review committee.

Less than a week later, he resigned at the board's request. No reason was publicly given.

Emails went back and forth between the district's legal counsel and McDonnell, but the district held firm to the ban, citing a new policy that requires six-weeks' notice for non-approved texts. This was not the policy in spring 2018, and it can only have been created to prevent future LGBT-inclusive texts.

Additionally, the district is concealing this ban by not listing any of the graphic novels as challenged or *Love is Love* as banned in its records. In fact, the information obtained from the district is incomplete, as these events, as well as at least two emails, are known to be missing from records requests.

There are many avenues to fight book bannings. We chose to tread lightly and try to work within the system.

After the ban, we contacted the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, but that organization needs someone associated with the school — a teacher, student, parent — to make the complaint to reverse the

ban. Because Revelle and I are now employed elsewhere, I reached out to the school's GSA advisor to see if she or the students could take on the fight with us. She spoke to another member of the team still employed who wouldn't even talk about it, giving her, she said, the impression she needed to "keep it quiet."

I was angry at that, yet I had waited until I had a new job before advocating for the text. We also contacted the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom. At this point, we want the graphic novels repurchased and united with the set, and we want the new gatekeeping policy removed to allow teachers the ability to choose texts, including LGBT texts, for their students.

I wish I could go back and fight harder from the beginning, but I can take away countless lessons from my first book-banning experience as a teacher and realize, as a masters of library science student, that those librarians failed students when they let their biases override their professional judgment.

At the end of the day, the LGBT students of Irving ISD deserve to see themselves represented in the curriculum and to have their stories told, not erased like the district has done with its recordkeeping. ■

Anna Waugh is a lesbian high school English teacher in DFW and is a masters of library science student at Texas Woman's University. She can be reached at annamwaugh@gmail.com.

'Being is resisting'

1M-plus attend México City's 41st annual Pride celebration

JESUS CHAIREZ | Contributing Writer

MÉXICO CITY — México City held its 41st anniversary LGBT Pride Parade — officially known as Marcha del Orgullo Lésbico, Gay, Bisexual, Transgénero, Travesti, Transexual e Intersexualon — on Saturday, June 29. The parade was the climax of a month-long accumulation of Pride art shows, concerts, talks and dance that began on May 28 at El Museo Universitario del Chopo (El Chopo), with the 32nd annual LGBT art show titled, “Viviendo de Noche,” (Living at Night).

The parade on Saturday began at the Angel of Independence, located in México City's gayborhood, and ended the city's main city center, known as the Zocalo. This year's parade theme was, “Orgullo 41: Ser es Resistir” (Pride 41: Being is Resisting).”

The crowd gathered along the parade route was estimated at about 1,000,000, but it had to be more this year. Past parade routes on the eight-lane Avenida Paseo de la Reforma have only been able to cover four lanes, with the crowd always beginning to filter lower past the quarter-mile mark.

But not this year.

This year, parade participants filled all eight lanes of Reforma, stretching all along the two-mile route to the Zocalo.

This year's Pride parades world-wide marked the 50th anniversary of Stonewall Riots, the uprising of LGBT activism that began June 28, 1969, at The Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village. But in México, being that this was México City's 41st annual Pride parade, there was an additional special meaning. For on Sunday, at 3 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 18, 1901, the police arrested 41 gay men that were all well dressed and in drag at a private party here in Méx-



Jesus Chairez
Contributing Columnist

ico City. It was a most scandalous moment for that time, and it became known as “El Baile de Los 41,” (The Dance of the 41).

The legend is that there were 42 gay men at the party, but one escaped. And that man was the son-in-law of the president and dictator of México at the time, Porfirio Diaz.

The 41 men at the party were arrested, and those that could not afford to pay bribes were detained and made to perform forced heavy labor in the military. The Dance of 41 was heavily mocked in the press at that time, and most people shied away from using the number 41 for years.

Pride Month in México City kicked off in late May with the 32nd annual LGBT art show, “Viviendo de noche.” The opening party featured many prominent LGBT Mexican activists dressed as those arrested in 1901 would have dressed.

More people from Dallas and Fort Worth are coming to Pride in México City, and this year I found several of them. The Dallas contingent include Alaska, the iconic Latinx non-binary performer, who takes her name from the Madrid new wave music group Alaska y Dinarama. Her first stop was to see La Virgen de Guadalupe as part of a long-promised pilgrimage to see the patron saint of México.

Originally from McAllen, Alaska was raised a Catholic and holds La Virgen de Guadalupe dear in her spiritual beliefs.

Alaska came to experience the México City parade first-hand after hearing



Above, from left, Arturo Rivas, Russell May, Orestes Ventura, Eduardo Villanueva, Francisco Manzanarez; At left, Russell May and Arturo Rivas; Below left, El Baile de los 41, artist Flexi d'Eon.



It was, Alaska said, a most liberating experience.

Arturo Rivas and Russell May from Fort Worth and their friends Orestes Ventura, Eduardo Villanueva and Francisco Manzanarez all came to México City together for the parade. Rivas and May, a couple, first came to México City in January 2019. They enjoyed the culture and atmosphere so much on that first visit that they had to come back — and this time, they brought friends with them.

They all loved the parade and said they plan on returning to the city in the future.

As mentioned the crowd at the parade was massive — larger than all past parades in México City. Usually, once the parade participants leave the Angel of Independence and make their way to the Zocalo for the entertainment, there is a small crowd left that takes up less than a quarter of the Zocalo public square.

Not this year!

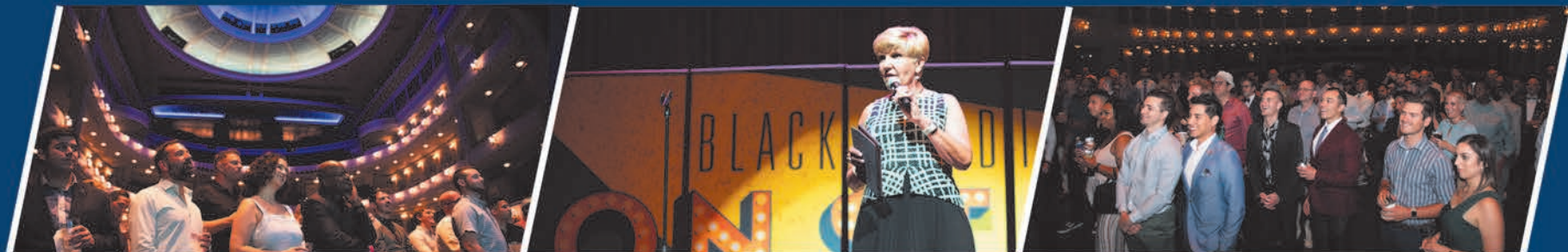
Every square inch of the massive Zocalo Square was packed with revelers there to celebrate Stonewall's 50th anniversary and to remember the those brave 41 men from 118 years ago.

Jesus Chairez, formerly of Dallas, now lives in México City. He was the producer and host of North Texas' first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, *Sin Fronteras*, on KNON 89.3 FM from July 1993 to July 2005. Chairez is author of the book *Queer Brown Voices: A collection of Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism*. He can be reached at facebook.com/JesusChairez

about it for years. As a trans woman, Alaska said she was not afraid to go to México, although she had heard that the country is very macho and homophobic. But, she said, she “loved [the parade and] people here are so open-minded, most nice, and cordial.”

be ON STAGE

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AGENDA From Page 6

• July 20: Christmas in July

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 6-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits the SSC Fund. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 21: UCLSE TurnAbout

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents its UCLSE TurnAbout Show from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle,

5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Dallas Hope Charities. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 22: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall

Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall meets 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.

• July 23: 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. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org.



CUP From Page 8



Barista Will Carleton pours a cup

Kuneo is a worship community that meets at Union Coffee Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. that Runnels described as conversational and experimental for "church refugees."

Sunday night Studio, at 7 p.m. each week, targets young professionals and people in theater and the arts. The meeting includes artistic performance but has "recognizable elements of a church service."

For someone there during an organized event who doesn't want to participate, there's the outdoor patio and other spaces in Union Coffee where they can sit and not be disturbed.

Runnels described Union Coffee as a place where there's always someone there to listen.

"There's no agenda," he said, "but we always want to know people's stories."

Runnels said Union Coffee is always open and affirming, and that although the United Methodist Church is still struggling with its position on same-sex marriage and LGBT clergy, "there's no wrestling at Union Coffee."



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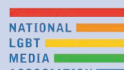
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Paying the trans tax with our rights

As we celebrate our nation's independence this weekend, I wanted to share some thoughts. I remember my parents relating a story about me as a toddler. They told me that back in the day when TV stations would sign off for the night and play the "Star-Spangled Banner," I would get very quiet, and often a tear would run silently down my cheek.

As the years passed, that song continued to have that same effect on me. I would tear up at baseball games and especially when one of our athletes would win a gold medal at the Olympic Games. The anthem usually causes me to get misty-eyed.

I love this country. I always have. My dad served in the Air Force during World War II. I grew up with a deep appreciation for what we had in America — the freedom to do or become whatever we wanted.

I really bought into that because I was white, male, Christian, straight (or so they thought) and cis-gender, (again, so it appeared). We were middle- to upper-middle-class, and I have a decent education. Of course life was going to be easy for me.

But then I came out as transgender. I'm not sure at what point after that it happened, but there was eventually a tax levied against me for being different — a "Trans Tax," so to speak, through which I had to surrender a whole host of civil rights.

Why? Aren't these rights "endowed by my creator?"

As we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, let's remember the words enshrined therein: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

I find it curious that all of these wonderful rights, and so many more as listed in the U.S. Constitution, applied to me in full when I was born, when I turned 21 and still into my 40s. But when I transitioned, even though I had committed no crimes other than two speeding tickets in 45 years of driving, these precious rights endowed by my creator were stripped away from me because I refused to live my life in pain.

I came out as transgender seven years



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

This is not the America I grew up believing in. In my America, we would encourage people to live their best life. We would build each other up, not tear them down.

The America I'm seeing now is kind of a jerk.

This America is allowing horrible things to happen on our border, and it is putting people in camps under inhumane conditions.

This America is rapidly moving from a republic to an oligarchy, as the rich just keep getting richer, and corporations are now "people."

Racism is alive and well.

I could go on and on. The America I grew up loving is acting like a parent rejecting their child. LGBTQ Americans are being punished simply for being who we are — no other reason.

I recently saw a survey that showed "growing support for transgender rights." So yeah, on the surface, great news. The tide is turning. Though we are in a dark period with a narcissistic lunatic on the throne in Washington, our

ago, and when I did, I apparently surrendered a whole host of rights and privileges. My crime? Living an authentic life.

fellow Americans are increasingly seeing us as people deserving of equal rights.

Um ... thank you?

The part that I don't get is that when transgender people are born, we have ALL of the rights of EVERY American. The fact that we have fewer when we come out or transition means that in the United States of America there is a PENALTY of a loss of civil rights if you come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Chew on that for a while.

I enjoyed the full protection of the United States Constitution when I was struggling in an existence I never felt comfortable with. But when I took it upon myself to live an authentic and happy life, I had to surrender my civil rights to do so. Really?

A trans woman in America:

- Has no protection from housing discrimination.
- Has no protection from employment discrimination.
- Is not allowed to join the military.
- May be refused medical treatment.
- May soon even be excluded from homeless shelters.

And don't even get me started on the issue of public restrooms!

So, as we celebrate our independence by blowing things up all weekend, I hope we realize that even after 243 years, we still have a long way to go. To so many of us, America has shown potential, but it's not "great" yet — not by a long shot. ■

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.

In pursuit of 'Perfection'

LIFE+STYLE

profile

Allison Williams on normalizing onscreen queerness, allyship and her Sapphic Netflix thriller

For Netflix's horrifically relevant *The Perfection*, Allison Williams has been encountering the same challenge she did after playing the Crazy White Girl in writer-director Jordan Peele's *Get Out*: talking about it.

Little should be revealed about the twisty, Sapphic thriller, its cryptic trailer a feverish, blood-splattered, suggestively queer montage: In the desert, something squirms inside the arm of a cello virtuoso, Lizzie (Logan Browning), as Charlotte (Williams), a troubled musical prodigy who now stands in Lizzie's star-student shadow, offers her a giant cleaver. "You know what you have to do," she says with a smirk, chillingly nonchalant about Lizzie's alarming condition.

Careful not to over-divulge, the 31-year-old actress recently talked about *The Perfection*. She also discussed the queerness you might've missed in *Get Out*, how playing the eponymous flying boy in NBC's *Peter Pan Live* was a "happily queer experience," and why she was concerned when she didn't hear from more gay men after her rim-job scene in *Girls*.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: So can we at least agree *The Perfection* is a lesbian power movie, and lesbians will save the world? Allison Williams: Sure, your words to God's ears!

But for real: I'm not sure if I came out of that film with a real sense of Charlotte's sexual identity. Did you? When we were working on it and prepping it, we never ever talked about labeling it one thing or the other. She existed in this sort of vacuum but knew she had this connection with Lizzie from their shared history and from their shared experience and trauma, obviously, but did not know that when they were face to face there was gonna be this undeniable and instant connection between the two of them, and that Lizzie would pull her in and they'd be drawn to each other in a way that I genuinely don't



think Charlotte was expecting. Especially in Charlotte's case, she would not have had the opportunity in her life to do much exploration in this world, so I think just because of Lizzie's confidence and comfort, she was able to just go with it. And I'm proud of her, which is a weird thing to say about a character, but I'm proud of her for just following her instincts and following her heart.

Is this your first onscreen lesbian or queer experience? Well, if you don't count the completely botched threesome attempt on *Girls* where Marnie and Jessa make out.

Right! How could I forget? I was so focused on your scene with Andrew Rannells, when you have sex with a gay man. [Laughs] Also a fantastic experience! It's so funny: I just rewatched that season, and that scene made me so happy all over again. But yes, if you don't count that moment with Marnie and Jessa, then yes it was.

How did shooting a sex scene with Logan in *The Perfection* compare to the one you shot with Andrew for *Girls*? Oh, you're asking me to compare apples and oranges! I will say that one common denominator was just the comfort and safety of both of them. I'm very, very happy to report that in my somewhat surprisingly vast experience [laughs] in this arena I've always felt safe and comfortable, and this scene was absolutely no exception, if not

more so because it was just four people in the room. It was our cinematographer, who was operating the camera, and Richard [Shepard], our director, who was hiding in the corner watching a monitor, so it was totally comfortable.

We felt like it was furthering the plot; we did not feel it was exploitative in any way. It was a communication of feeling, and everything about it was exactly what you wanted it to be in that situation. And Logan is amazing, and we had gotten to know each other so well before that — and our working relationship was so easy and harmonious — that it just added to the level of comfort.

If you have to shoot a sex scene, that all sounds like what one would hope for. You feel so vulnerable anyway for every single reason. Not to mention the fact that it's all immortalized on film!

While we're on the subject of sex: the rimming scene in season four of *Girls* created quite a stir in the queer community. Did any of your gay friends help you prepare for that scene? No! No, they did not. It's so funny: I think that was my first day on set that season, and I think that was the day after my birthday. There were a lot of things that were weird about that scene, chief among them the fact that I didn't know what Ebon [Moss-Bachrach, who played Desi] was gonna do in terms of his head movements, so the first time we did it I cracked, and I laughed so hard

because I just did not see that coming! We hadn't talked about it! I didn't know that was the choice he was gonna make! So it took me a little while to do it with a straight face. But no, if anything, I would've thought I would hear from *more* of them. But the fact that I didn't either means it was an embarrassment, and they didn't want to talk to me, or that I did it well, and actually they didn't feel like they needed to give me any pointers.

I feel like you're not following #GayTwitter enough, because then you'd know you did us proud. No, I definitely am not. There is no such thing as enough. That was some of my favorite dialogue in all of *Girls* and a perfect way to start the season and catch up on where Marnie is. Desi says to her, "I love that," and Marnie says, "I love you too." Which is just so perfect.

I'm hoping you heard from more of the community after *Peter Pan*. Were you feeling the gay love after your live performance? Yeah, I was! I was! And also, you know, the Lost Boys were helpful in making me feel that as well. It was a very happily queer experience across the board, and I felt the approval and the love from the beginning, in person and afterwards. So it was a true honor for a brief moment in time to experience that sunshine.

How much did you learn about gender-bending and drag from watching Andrew as Hedwig in Broadway's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*?

wig and the Angry Inch? Oh my god. So much. *Hedwig* is one of my favorite musicals of all time. The music makes me so emotional, and to know John Cameron Mitchell [who played Hedwig in the film version, which he also wrote and directed], because I met him on *Girls*, is such an exciting truth in my life. And then to see Andrew in that role — and I saw Neil [Patrick Harris] play it as well — was just unbelievably moving and powerful, and I just thought it was such a celebration. It was one of the happiest theater audience atmospheres I can remember, because every single person in there was there because this is an arena they're comfortable exploring. Walking into something where you all have that in common just frees everything from judgment and opens it up to the emotional truth of that musical, which is, by far, to me, the most powerful part of it. It was such an emotional experience for me and everyone around me. My tears were audible.

In *Get Out* there's a fleeting reveal that Rose has recruited at least one woman to bring home to her family when we're shown a photo of her arm wrapped around another woman, played by Betty Gabriel. What was your read on Rose's sexuality? It was that Rose, at her core, was stuck developmentally at the age where she started doing this with her family and truly saw herself as — and it's a terrible word to use in this context but not altogether inaccurate — a sniper-type vigilante who would do whatever it took to get the job done. That included, of course, morphing into whoever she needed to be, which explains the different ways she looked and felt, her different energies in all those photos, whoever she thought she needed to become to entice the person in question. So if — and I mean, as disgusting as it sounds — in her mind there was demand for a woman then she would be someone who would be in love with a woman. But I think it went no deeper than that for her, which is so chilling to me!

And it's just a photo — we don't get much. But the LGBTQ community looks for representation wherever we can find it. Yeah, one of the things that I love about [*The Perfection*] is from the beginning we weren't gonna dwell on it. I love that it didn't have to be about that; it was about the fact that they had a connection and then: "Can we keep going? Because there's a whole lot of the rest of the movie we need to get to." Like, "I know that these two people are really into each other, and can we move on with it?" I love that that was the way the movie treated it, because it doesn't need to be dealt with with such a heavy touch all the time. And that's one of the many things that drew me to *The Perfection* in the first

place, that there's all kinds of themes like that, that what the movie represents is in the eye of the beholder.

Let's shift to your role as an LGBTQ ally: In 2017, you wore an ampersand pin as a sign that you stand with all communities subject to discrimination. When did LGBTQ issues become important to you? Having not been on the other side of that hate and vitriol and discrimination and marginalization, I learned about it and the minute I learned about it, the minute I drew those connections — this is when I was pretty little — between learning about it and also the people I knew in my life who were part of that community, and it just felt like such a no-brainer. I felt confused by it because, of course, it doesn't make any sense. So to have to learn about something so illogical and to then also make the very, very obvious move of adding "joining the fight," and enlisting yourself as an ally seemed like a very obvious move and one that I am proud to continue to this day and will forever more.

You say you have ties that go back to when you were young. You grew up in a small town in Connecticut. What was your introduction to the LGBTQ community? My actual introduction to the community, my mom was telling me, was in Washington D.C., when I was in first grade. We were walking down the street, and for the first time — definitely not the first time I had seen a queer couple, but the first time I saw two women holding hands — and I asked my mom, "Are they two mommies?" and she said, "Maybe, but they love each other," and I said, "OK!" And that was it. That was my actual introduction to it.

Over time my parents would tell me about the men we knew who were in love with a man and I connected the dots and started to build this web of very special people I knew who happened to be in love with people of the same sexual orientation and gender and just thought, "OK." I owe my parents for that, because they didn't make it a big news flash, like scandalous or a scintillating detail. It was just something that, if I asked, they told me about, but it was not a defining characteristic to the people who didn't want it to be a defining characteristic.

That's how you hope every kid is raised. Yeah, I feel really, really fortunate because it meant that I was ready from the beginning to just show my support in any way that would be helpful so that I could be a better ally for my friends who feel vulnerable and marginalized.

Based on your work in *Get Out* and now *The Perfection*, it seems you're interested in work that is a social, political or cultural critique, or at least

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Some exclusions apply. Please drink responsibly.



■ PERFECTION From Previous Page

comments on something important. Is that true? One hundred percent. I think one of the great privileges of doing what I do is that I get to be part of art that will make people talk about these themes in a way that they're not used to talking about them, which I think can elevate or at least change the playing field of the conversation. We get stuck in these grooves in the way we talk about stuff, like race and assault and trauma. Being lucky enough

to be in projects like these, I get to be a part of throwing a grenade in that former conversation and forcing it into a new realm, which is such an exciting opportunity for me. And hopefully it's entertaining people in the process. I'm really excited to see what kind of conversations happen as a result of *The Perfection*, and my hope is that people watch it with friends so they can talk about it afterwards. I can't wait to hear what they say.



DRIVE-BY TASTING: SIXTY VINES

Sixty Vines, the Uptown eatery that also has locations in Plano and Houston, is famed for its wine program, and justly so. But the spacious, lovely restaurant inside the Crescent otherwise can be difficult to pigeonhole. Asian dishes? Definitely. Pizza and pasta? There's an entire category on the menu for it. Farm-to-table style healthy eating? We detected that, too. That catch-all bugaboo "New American cuisine?" Of course. (It's Dallas.) So the question is, when someone asks you "Where do you want to go for lunch? I want something close and not too heavy," is Sixty Vines your first choice?

It wasn't mine. But it was my dining companion's, and we were out to explore.

He's a fitness-conscious proto-pescaterian (no red meat, for sure, and everything else on

an individual basis); I'm a fearless carnivore with a troubled conscience about eating better. Both of us wanted something fun and quiet that served both our food desires. And Sixty Vines turned out to be it.

We were happy to sit by the window and not feel rushed or rushed around. We decided summery and lite would be the way to go. But we also wanted to indulge a little.

My companion suggested the crispy zucchini (\$7), which turned out to be a good if not inspired choice. In a world of heavy starches, the idea of deep-fried vegetables seemed like a great compromise. Topped with a few shishito peppers (none of them was a ninja, springing sudden heat on you without warning), we happily devoured it guiltlessly all before moving on to the entrees. And by entrees, I mean salads.

The salads at Sixty Vines, even at lunchtime, are as satisfying as they are beautiful. Nothing could feel more seasonally appropriate than the beet and goat cheese salad (\$12) my friend got. As brightly colored as a drag queen at a Pride parade, its mix of fruits, herbs, chevre and lineup of purple, candy-striped and golden beets with a drizzle of white balsamic certainly complied with the mandate to eat healthy. Even more inviting, however, was the poké salad (\$15), a mélange of sushi-grade ahi and salmon diced with Moscato ponzu, and doled over a dome of sticky rice, then crowned by half an avocado. I'm still not sure I understand what Sixty Vines' personality is, but during July in Texas, it's a refreshing way to spend an afternoon together.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Jazzman Dave Koz reflects on 15 years of being out

Dave Koz was once terrified to come out. But as he walked through New York City during June Pride last month, the Grammy-nominated saxophonist was amazed to see the number of supportive images dominating the cityscape.

Happily out since 2004, we chatted with Koz before he returns to Dallas next week with his jazz band for his Summer Horns Tour, which explores horn heavy arrangements of popular music composed by artists they grew up listening to.

— John Carder McClanahan

Dallas Voice: Since you came out 15 years ago, what has life been like for you? Dave Koz: We're just coming from the huge gay Pride event in New York, and I was blown away by just walking all over New York City, right? [Pride] used to be kind of off to the side for a select few — a niche kind of a thing for the LGBTQ community. It just seems like now it's just become so mainstream, and that's a really incredible shot in the arm. It's been 15 years since I [came out] publicly. It was a very, very different time back then, but it's moved forward so fast. Even though 15 years is a long time, it feels like it's become lightning speed — the advances in all the visibility of this community and its acceptance. I know that there's a lot more work to do. But this last month, especially this World Pride being in New York and seeing all the images, it's a chance to just reflect on how far we have come in the years after Stonewall.

York City, if you could, what would you tell your closeted self? Well, it would be the same thing I [said] to a friend who I've met who was not yet out. There's a time and a season for everything. I suppose if I could go back in time and tell myself this is the way it's going to be in 2019, I probably wouldn't have believed it. But I do think that coming out is completely up to that individual. What works for one doesn't necessarily work for another person. And so, if I'm counseling someone who's younger, and not yet out, I never say, "You should come out." I always say, "More than likely, when it is time for you to do so, you will be surprised by the reaction that you get." You think that it's going to be one way, and it's another way.

Like for me, I was petrified of coming out in 2004. I thought that, you know, this was going to be the end of my career, and I was fine with it. If that was it, I was OK with making that deal, because I just couldn't deal with being two people anymore. I had to do it. But the great irony is that all my worst fears never materialized. Nothing changed except for me. And because I changed, I was vibrating as a full human being showing up with all aspects, you know, playing with a full deck of cards for the first time in my life. And because I was a kind of a happy man all of a sudden, full-fledged individual with all my parts showing proudly, everything just improved. So, it's really a state of mind. Coming out is a state of mind, being able to say, "This is who I am." And whatever happens, happens. But in and of myself, this is what I need to do to live my life.

What kind of vibes are you and the band bringing to Dallas? Dave Koz: This year is a special year. It's called the Summer Horns Tour, which is a celebration of the

■ KOZ Page 19

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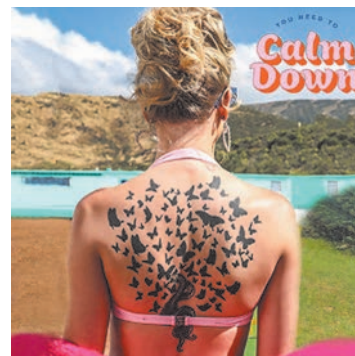
L+S music

Spin cycle

8 new songs for
your summer
playlist

Taylor Swift is a gay icon on the job! Céline Dion is flying! Katy Perry is not sexualizing buffets! And then there's MIKA, your 'Ice Cream' man, and country queen

Tanya Tucker's stately comeback single, produced by Grammy-winning lesbian extraordinaire Brandi Carlile. Don't let the season pass you by without giving these new summer songs a spin.



"You Need to Calm Down," Taylor Swift. Homophobes, look what you made Taylor Swift do: the pop superstar's second single from her upcoming *Lover* album is her gayest yet. She celebrates guys in gowns (and calls out those who don't). She rightfully wonders why protesters with anti-gay signs at Pride parades waste their time. And as confirmed in the lyric video, there's a shout-out to GLAAD, with the line, *Why are you mad when you could be GLAAD?* It gets even gayer when the mega singer-songwriter calls out homophobic haters who gay-hate because, after all, *shade never made anybody less gay*. Swift's most political song (it's at least partly about Trump, and she doesn't even need to say his name) comes shortly after the singer-songwriter recently released a statement in support of Tennessee's Equality Act.

"Never Really Over," Katy Perry. Baby, she's a firework again. That's more than could be said about Katy

katy perry



Never Really Over

Perry two or even six years ago, when the motivational-anthem maker leaned heavily into self-caricature and tried, in an exceptionally on-brand move, to make buffets sexy. That "Never Really Over" has more in common with "Firework" or "Roar" is the biggest compliment I've given Perry in years. The single wipes the slate clean — yes, even the text she couldn't bring herself to send, to unintentionally hilarious effect, on the fatuous "Save As Draft" is finally leaving me — as its percussive snaps and sound-drop effects propel the track into a funky synth-club bop worthy of Robyn-level ranking in the dance-salve canon.

"Rollercoaster," Jonas Brothers.

Crying because of a JoBros song: I assure you, this is not where I saw myself at 36, either. But here I am, and here we are, the Disney boys all grown up, reminiscing on youth and presumably their up-and-down relationship with each other on "Rollercoaster." And me, all misty-eyed, flooded with my own boy-to-man memories. Nostalgia will do that, as the JoBros toggle between bouncy Mumford & Sons choruses and mellow verses to achieve an exuberant anthem that will tug at your vulnerable daddy tears.

"Want You in My Room," Carly

Rae Jepsen. You can take it from me, or you can take it from Taylor Swift, who knows a cute bop when she hears one, which is why she included this slice of '80s heaven on her official Apple Music playlist. But if you're not already listening to "Want You in My Room" from CRJ's gem of a pop album, *Dedicated*, well, it's never too late to start living.

Summer Horns albums that we've made over the last five years or so. And these are albums that really lift up the bands that we grew up listening to like Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, James Brown and Tower of Power. Even though the other Summer Horns members and me have been solo artists for many years, when you start playing music as part of an ensemble, that always stays with you. We started our careers playing in concert bands, jazz bands or stage bands, and when you're a part of a section, there's a real power involved. So that's the fun of it for all of us playing in a section again. It's really intoxicating — the best legal drug there is on the planet.

The greatest joy within your reach at this very moment is hearing Jepsen boisterously shout-sing about having sex for two minutes and 46 seconds. And if you ask me, that's at least 10 hours too short.

"With My Whole Heart," Sufjan Stevens. For June Pride Month, not-explicitly-out but suggestively queer musician Sufjan Stevens released two songs, with portions of the proceeds benefiting two organizations supporting LGBTQ and homeless children in America. The song's welcome light-heartedness is a shift from the dark skies hovering over his last album, the grief-stricken *Carrie & Lowell*. "With My Whole Heart" is sonically ambitious and upbeat, a respite that casts a shimmer with electro fragments that dissolve into a million brilliant tiny pieces.



"Ice Cream," MIKA. Queer glam-pop artist MIKA leaned on his newest single "Ice Cream," the first from his upcoming October full-length, to weather some personal storms and some actual weather (no a/c in Italy, where the song came to him) while writing this delectable treat, a sumptuous '90s throwback to signature Prince and George Michael. It's a gay parade

of sounds, the beach on a blistering day. And who can argue with what it stands for: *Dare to be the more proud version of yourself*, MIKA says. *Dare to be a sensual man, dare to express out loud the desires you always keep inside your head. That's why and how I wrote it.*

"The Wheels of Laredo," Tanya Tucker. If anyone was going to get country legend Tanya Tucker back in the saddle, it was going to be Tucker fangirl and openly-lesbian Grammy winner Brandi Carlile. Lucky us: co-producing Tucker's first album of new material in

17 years, *While I'm Livin'*, out Aug. 23, Carlile, along with twin bandmates Tim and Phil Hanseroth, aid in the record's wistful, understated comeback single. They wrote it. They produced it. And in the background of Tucker's poignant drawl, with their signature harmonies, that's them you hear on it.

"Flying On My Own," Céline Dion. Céline Dion, our favorite goofy, rubber-faced gay icon, knows just how to pick up the pieces of her broken heart after losing her husband, René Angélil, in 2016: by channeling her grief and

solitude into a rousing, life-affirming dance anthem seemingly created solely for the purpose of helping gay hearts go on and on and on. The mother of three recently debuted the empowering club jam during her final show in Vegas, capping a 16-year residency. Her wingspan wide, her voice expectedly sky-bound, her "feet on the runway," the song turns the page on Céline's life and career. But flying on her own? Not with that refreshingly optimistic beat in a room full of gesticulating homosexuals.

— Chris Azzopardi

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Monday 07.08

Jane Fonda to reflect on legendary career

Academy Award-winning actress Jane Fonda will be in town to open up about her influential, and sometimes controversial, career. Known for her political activism and critically-acclaimed performances in classics like *Klute*, *On Golden Pond* and *9 to 5*, Fonda will discuss her six decades in Hollywood, up to and including her current Netflix series *Grace and Frankie* and even her sexploitation gig portraying Barbarella, the seductive space-traveler who made Fonda a '60s sex icon. She might even bring up her enormously popular aerobic exercise video series, which millions of fitness-crazed people watched in their living rooms during the '80s.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 07.12 – Saturday 08.03

Queer plays dominate at Festival of Independent Theatres

Very Good Dance Theatre will premiere *The 1st Annual Gay Show*, its first full-length production, which features verbatim theater that presents

ideas of LGBTQ visibility, diversity and inclusion while underlining the struggles queer and trans people of color face in America, as some revel in a glamorous artform. *The 1st Annual Gay Show* will be an opening feature at the 2019 Festival of Independent Theatres, but three other shows in the fest also touch on LGBTQ issues, including *Dirty Dirty Night Squirrel*, *The Sky's the Limit* and *Jo & Louisa*.

DEETS: Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.



a modern take on southern pageantry. The show explores

If raunchiness is your schtick, then Off-Broadway production *Old Jews Telling Jokes* might tickle some ribs. This show features five comedians who pay homage to the legacy of classic Jewish jokes told through both modern and vintage outlooks. With witty Yiddishisms and wisecracks delivered like comedic legends such as Mel Brooks and Woody Allen, *Old Jews Telling Jokes* is an ode to the stand-up comedy cooked up in the resort clubs of New York's Catskills region. And although the performance is risqué, geared for adults, these kosher comedians are ready to make folks laugh with funny songs and perfectly timed zingers, all while preserving silly, but cherished, oral traditions.

DEETS: Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. EisemannCenter.com.

Thursday 07.11 – Sunday 07.28

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Penny Candy. A world premiere commission from Dallas playwright Jonathan Norton, about life in Pleasant Grove. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St., DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Sex Ed. A new production for the Elevator Project Series. Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through July 14. ATPAC.org.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Sondheim's masterpiece. Directed by Joel Ferrell. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through July 13. CircleTheatre.com.

The View UpStairs. Regional premiere of a musical about an arson in New Orleans that killed many gay people. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

FINE ART

Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 1. DMA.org.

Jonas Wood. Mid-career exhibition of the modern American painter. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through July 14. DMA.org.

SATURDAY 07.06

COMMUNITY

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

COMEDY

Eddie B: The I'm Already Professional Developed Tour. The Houston native performs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

MONDAY 07.08

CABARET

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

APPEARANCE

Jane Fonda. The two-time Oscar winner discusses her life and career. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

TUESDAY 07.09

FILM

Funny Girl. Barbra Streisand won her first Oscar for her debut film performance playing Vaudeville star Fanny Brice. 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.



Martha Stewart shares insights about her life and career in a live conversation at the Winspear on Thursday.

THURSDAY 07.11

CABARET

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

COMEDY

Old Jews Telling Jokes. A show celebrating the humor of the Borscht Belt. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. July 11–28. EisemannCenter.com.

APPEARANCE

A Conversation with Martha Stewart. The style and decorating guru discusses her life and career. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

FRIDAY 07.12

THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The annual festival of short plays, including this year substantial LGBTQ interest productions. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. July 12–Aug. 3. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.

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Cassie Nova

Not all queens are pageant queens

Recently, someone asked me, “Why don’t you do pageants?” The long and short of it is, I’m not that competitive, and I kinda don’t love doing them. (There was only one pageant I actually really tried to win, but more on that later.)

In drag culture, drag pageants have always been big, especially here in Texas. I remember going to my first pageant at a club called The Wave. I saw Kelexis Davenport bucking and high-kicking to “Let Me Dance For You,” and Patti LaPlae Safe wearing a fringe outfit that had at least three rip-aways, going from a full pantsuit to a little swimsuit. I don’t remember who won, but I remember Coco was emceeing, and I was a Coco groupie. To this day Coco was, in my eyes, the best drag entertainer that ever lived.

When I started really doing drag, I quickly realized that all of the girls that got booked regularly had titles. So I figured if you wanna work, you gotta get you a crown. Pageants were a way for other people that booked shows at the many bars around to see you and possibly give you a gig. It worked, after my first pageant, Miss North Central Texas (I got first-runner-up), I started to get booked at Magnolia Station in Fort Worth.

I competed at Miss Texas that year, and although I didn’t make the top 10, I did really well for my first time — I was 13th out of 40-something girls. My gown was meh; my up-do wig had bangs and Donna Day told me my modeling looked like I was doing a bad Cher impersonation. I loved my talent though: I did “Original Sin” by Taylor Dayne with a giant hell tree made of chicken wire and covered with foam insulation. Then it was painted black, and I even covered a giant apple in sequins and had it at the top of the tree. I really loved the song, so I felt it.

The pageant was expensive, exhausting and kind of fun. Plus, I got even more bookings from it.

The first pageant I ever won was Miss Highland Park America. It was held at a club called Colors on Wycliff (the location is now a Pet Supplies Plus — damn gentrification). I performed Maureen’s “Over the Moon” monologue from *Rent* and wore a gown given to me by the beautiful Maya Douglas. It was a great night up until I found out that while I was being crowned Miss Gay Highland Park America, some bitch was stealing the gown that Maya has just given me from backstage. The shade of it all!

Luckily, the next day I got a phone call from the wonderful Betty Neil, a true rock star of our community. She said, “Baby, I know who has your gown, and I will get it back for you.” By 8 the next evening, Betty got me my damn dress back. I love that woman.

We all knew who was behind the stealing of that dress, but looking back, karma has her ways.

That year I went back to Miss Texas and did really well. I came in fourth-runner-up, and when the third-runner-up was pissed that the

winner’s name got called out, and she threw down her flowers and stormed off, I snatched up her flowers and moved over one space. I was getting closer.

Over the next years, I was getting booked quite a bit, so I only kind of half-assed doing pageants. Still, I won Miss Metroplex and Miss Oak Lawn — not big pageants, but I still got the crowns upstairs in my drag room so they definitely meant something to me.

The most fun I ever had at Miss Texas was when I did Elvira for talent. She has a song called “Monster Rap” that copied “Vogue” by Madonna, but instead of *Greta Garbo and Monroe / Dietrich and DiMaggio* it was *Boris Karloff, Vincent Price / Bela Lugosi and Poltergeist*. It was corny, but I fucking loved it. The biggest and best part was when, like in her classic movie *Elvira Mistress of the Dark*, I did a dance break where I put a mask over my face and spun around this huge gargoyle prop I had, and when I came out on the other side it was actually a professional dancer/cheerleader for the Dallas Mavericks wearing the same costume as me... except that she was almost a foot and a half shorter. She danced, back flipped and killed it, then spun back around the gargoyle prop, and I pop out the other side, breathing hard like I had really turned it.

I didn’t break the top five that year, but that was the year that I thought if I really put forth my 100 percent effort, I can be Miss Texas. I was wrong.

My final attempt at being Miss Texas America was in 2008. I finally had the stability, financially and mentally, that I knew I needed to really put everything into that pageant and finally win it. I saved up and had a gown made that I loved. I rehearsed and put together a talent that I was proud of and still am to this day. I had a great new suit for male interview... I was ready.

I can honestly say I did my absolute best, and I saw what the other girls did onstage, and I knew in my heart that that year I was the best. I still do... but I didn’t win. I was first-runner-up. My heart was broken. Looking back, I am embarrassed by how I handled the situation. I smiled as they crowned the winner, but as soon as I walked offstage I chucked the flowers in the trash and stomped back to my station to quickly pack and get the fuck

out of there.

I didn’t know losing something you really wanted could hurt that bad, and so I retaliated my hurt heart with petty, bitchy drag queen messiness that, although it makes for a great after-story, also shows that I was a very poor loser.

As my back-up dancers, husband and backstage helpers all very quickly and quietly helped me pack to go, the girl that won walked by in her crown, holding her scepter and flowers and said, “Cassie, I thought you were really great in this pageant!” I snapped back with, “Really, because I thought you

were just mediocre!”

I didn’t need to say that. It was such a dick move, but in the fabled scrolls of drag pageant drama it was what happened. Not my finest moment, but I own it. I should apologize to her for that comment some day and maybe I will... maybe.

In the end, all things happen for a reason, I’ve remained fully booked, and my career is exactly where it should be. So I am thankful. I’m an asshole, but I’m a thankful asshole. Which is also the title of my porno!

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





Dallas jeweler Joe Pacetti accepts his Ad POP Award from the National LGBT Media Association. The Ad POP Awards “reward the best representations of LGBT advertising in online and print campaigns, as placed in regional LGBT newspapers in its member cities. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Making the **SCENE** the week of **July 5–11**:

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts show at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Karaoke at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Alexandre’s:** Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Fish and Chips featured at 11 a.m. on Friday
- **Club Reflection:** Veronica Reyes hosts Death Drop Fridays. Tucker presents Karaoke at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Discipline Corps Club Night begins at 10 p.m. on Friday. United Court Grand Duckie Show from 6–10 p.m. on Saturday. RAM Party from 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5–9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show starts at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill:** Double Trouble at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Friday is Steak Night.
- **Marty’s Live:** DJ C-Wade from 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on Friday.
- **Pekers:** Karaoke with cash prizes on Saturday beginning at 10:45 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! at 10 p.m. on Monday. The Round-Up Hoe Down Dance Competition at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Saloon Star live singing competition at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen’s:** Tuesday Tease with drag, queerlesque, circus arts, sideshow and burlesque at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The Queerdom, a TQO Dynasty Showcase, at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Trashy Tuesday with tons of sexy entertainers. Sasha Andrews hosts Fuego at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** The Three: Battle of the Best at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar:** Jada Pinkett Fox Variety Show at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

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



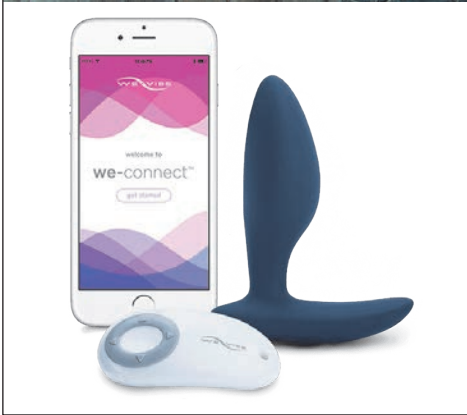
Health Education Learning Project hosted a private reception featuring the “Keith Haring: Against All Odds” exhibit at the Arlington Museum of Art last week. The exhibit runs through Sept. 15, and this is the last time the exhibit will travel because the Rubell Family Foundation is building a museum in Miami for it.

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How many presidents were Queer?

Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Anne Hathaway's "enchanted" role
- 5 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 9 Look around at a gay bar
- 13 Disneyland street
- 14 Chaplin widow
- 15 Langston Hughes or James Merrill
- 16 Start of Pete Buttigieg's answer to "Which presidents were gay?"
- 19 Fireplace remains
- 20 Brody of *The Pianist*
- 21 T, to Socrates
- 22 It tops many roads
- 24 Neighbor of Leb.
- 26 More of the answer
- 32 Stick it in milk
- 33 Comic strip dog
- 34 Wilde country
- 36 Country dance spot
- 37 More of the answer
- 38 *The African Queen* author
- 39 "___ De-Lovely"
- 40 Shapely backside, e.g.?
- 42 Shakespearean prince
- 43 It's human
- 45 *Designing Women* actress Annie
- 47 Pearl Harbor attack, e.g.
- 52 End of the answer
- 56 Part of Hawaii
- 57 Take off your clothes
- 58 The way you come
- 60 BB's, e.g.
- 61 Steamed up
- 62 ___ *Upon a Mattress*
- 63 Peters out
- 64 Cameron and Mitchell, to Lily
- 65 Sally Ride's org.

Down

- 1 Thompson of *Angels in America*
- 2 Potato chip brand
- 3 Dorothy Parker specialty
- 4 Alicia of *Falcon Crest*
- 5 Sondheim's Sweeney
- 6 *The Lion King* sound
- 7 Icon letters
- 8 Margaret Mead ___ *Me Gay*
- 9 Unlock, in verse
- 10 Angry words before "to hell"
- 11 She played Glinda in *The Wiz*
- 12 Caesar's last question
- 17 It's a long story
- 18 Like a top
- 23 Long, long time
- 25 Old Queens location
- 26 Muse for Millay
- 27 Blows away
- 28 Lines from Lesbos
- 29 Rub the wrong way
- 30 Salmon that has spawned
- 31 Trick alternative
- 32 End note
- 35 Some have electric organs
- 40 Rainbow shape
- 41 Sauna bath sites
- 44 10-to-1, and others
- 46 Setting for TV's *Portlandia*
- 48 Not for some who like it hot
- 49 Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra*, e.g.
- 50 Out
- 51 Joins with a torch
- 52 Shakespeare's foot
- 53 Unfeeling
- 54 *Peter Pan* pooch
- 55 Personal quirks
- 56 Rita's second name
- 59 Prefix with room

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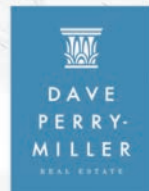
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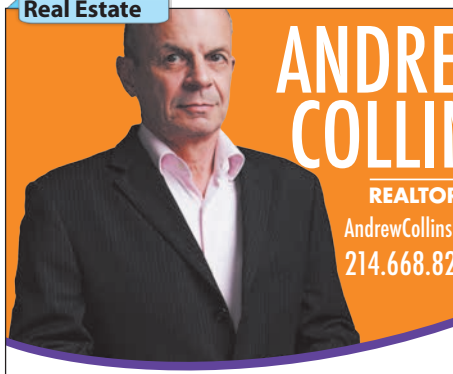


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