

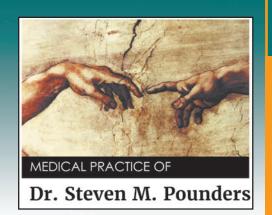
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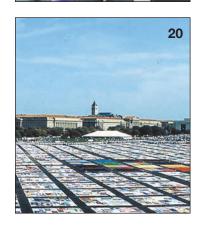
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REBECCA COVELL

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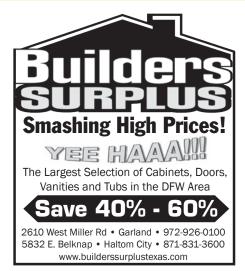
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Commission suggests making selective service gender-neutral

The 11-member congressionally-mandated commission to study the issue has recommended that the Selective Service system be made gender-neutral, requiring all persons aged 18-25 to register, and transgender rights activists are applauding the idea.

"We welcome the commission's recognition that a nationwide system based on blanket gender rules and stereotypes is irrational and outdated," said Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality. "The current system is confusing and creates needless hardships for many, including transgender and intersex people."

On Tuesday, March 24, the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service briefed the White House and members of Congress on its recommendations. The report was set to be released Wednesday, March 25.

The commission was charged with reviewing whether to maintain or end the Selective Service system (designed to be used in case of a military draft), and whether to make it gender-neutral. Politico first reported on the commission's recommendations on Tuesday.

"Congress should either eliminate the Selective Service System or follow the commission's recommendation that is be made completely gender neutral," Keisling said.

The gender-based Selective Service was declared unconstitutional by a federal district court a year ago. The case is on appeal, and leading women's groups have filed an amicus brief supporting the challenge.

- Tammye Nash

Collin County orders all business is essential

Collin County has issued a stay at home order, but county officials also ordered all business to stay open. Collin County Judge Chris Hill announced the order at a press conference this week with the mayors of McKinney, Frisco and Celina at his side.

Mayor Eric Johnson of Dallas, which has the

second largest population in Collin County, and Mayor Harry LaRosiliere of Plano, the largest city in Collin County, were noticeably absent. Their city-wide orders conflict with the Collin County order.

During the press conference Hill kept repeating, "All businesses and all jobs and all workers are essential." His order even says that people who aren't employed need to find work.

Rockwall and Hunt County have issued shelter-in-place orders. Denton County issued a shelter-in-place order that is closer to what Dallas and Tarrant counties have ordered. Celina and Frisco are in both Collin and Denton Counties.

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, trying to put a good spin on her order, entitled it, "Y'All Stay Home"

- David Taffet

Pioneering gay Texas playwright Terrence McNally dies of complications to coronavirus

Terrence McNally, the gay playwright who won Tony Awards for Love! Valour! Compas-

sion!, Master Class, Kiss of the Spider Woman and Ragtime, has died at age 81. The cause was reported as complications from coronavirus, making him the first high-profile casualty of the disease.

McNally grew up in Corpus Christi (after living briefly in Dallas), but was born in St. Petersburg, Fla.; he died in Sarasota.

His first big hit, 1975's comedy *The Ritz*, was set in a gay bathhouse. That was followed by the plays *Frankie and Johnny* and the *Claire de Lune*, *It's Only a Play*, *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Corpus Christi* and *Mothers and Sons*. He also wrote the book to many musicals, including *The Rink*, *The Fully Monty*, *The Visit*, *Catch Me If You Can* and *A Man of No Importance*. Many of these have been presented by Dallas theater companies, especially Uptown Players.

McNally also wrote the libretti to several operas for composer Jake Heggie including *Great Scott*, which received its world premiere from the Dallas Opera in 2015. He was supposed to write the libretto for the DO's *Moby-Dick*, but health concerns forced him to pull out.

He is survived by his husband Tom Kirdahy.

Arnold Wayne Jones



Trans activist murdered in Charlotte, N.C.



Trans businesswoman and activist Monika Diamond, 34, was shot to death March 18 inside the back of an ambulance in Charlotte, N.C., as paramedics were treating her for shortness of breath, according to news reports.

She is, according to Human Rights Campaign, the fourth trans or gender-non-conforming person murdered this year in the U.S.

In a statement about the murder, HRC said, "Diamond was active in the Charlotte LGBTQ and nightlife community and was the co-owner and founder of Ncphyne Promotion Company LLC, an event promotion company that is about to honor its 10th anniversary, according to its Facebook pageShe also was the co-CEO of the International Mother of the Year Pageantry System — a pageant that honors LGBTQ mothers."

According to local news station KIRO Channel 7, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police and paramedics were called to the scene of a disturbance in the parking lot of a Days Inn around 3:46 a.m. March 18. Diamond, who had complained of shortness of breath, was being treated in the back of an ambulance when 32-year-old Prentice Lamar Bess — who had been turned away by paramedics earlier when he had asked to get in the ambulance with Diamond — walked up and shot her to death.

Police arrested Bess almost immediately. Reports note that Diamond was initially dead-named and misgendered by police and, subsequently, in early news reports.

Tammye Nash





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A MESSAGE FROM THE SPCA OF TEXAS



The SPCA of Texas is closed to the public until at least April 5 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the animals in our care still need your help. Essential staff are at the shelters each day, working to provide the animals with the love and care they need. During this unprecedented time, the SPCA of Texas is doing everything in our power to attend to the needs of our pets, our staff and volunteers and the community. Visit SPCA.org/covid19 for more information.

If you or a family member has been affected by COVID-19 and need assistance with your pet, the SPCA of Texas' Pet Resource Center can help. The SPCA of Texas' Pet Resource Center can provide assistance (primarily food and urgent medical assistance through our outside veterinary partners) to families that have been affected by illness and/or business closures due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. Visit SPCA.org/prc for more information on how the SPCA of Texas may provide food, medical, housing, or other assistance for your pet.

If you are looking for ways to keep your pets entertained during guarantine, the SPCA of Texas has many tips, tricks and recipes for at-home enrichment to keep your pet occupied. Visit SPCA.org/petcaretips to find a library of information.

The SPCA of Texas continues to have hundreds of pets in our shelters who are under significant medical and/ or behavioral treatment and that continue to rely on our organization to rehabilitate them and care for them. Please consider making a gift to support the SPCA of Texas and their life-saving efforts to help North Texas pets and people in need. Visit SPCA.org/give to make a donation now.

Brutus, pictured, is one of the many dogs in the care of the SPCA of Texas that are currently in foster care and enjoying spending time with some kiddos while everyone is in quarantine.



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Helping LGBTQ businesses

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses

BY TAMMYE NASH I Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

s the rapid spread of SARS-CoV-2 — the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 — is forcing local governments across North Texas to issue disaster declarations requir-

ing residents to "shelter in place" and

"non-essential businesses" to shut their doors, small businesses are feeling the weight of a burden too heavy for many of them to endure for long.

And there are a lot of small businesses and small business owners in the LGBTQ community. But, according to North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Vedda, there are ways to help those businesses stay afloat.

"For those LGBTQ businesses that are still open — restaurants that are offering take-out and delivery, for example — keep frequenting them. Every delivery, every take-out order is helpful. Purchasing gift cards for future use is helpful as well," Vedda said. "Travel and hospitality are taking the biggest hit right now, so everything you can do helps."

31141

Another priority, Vedda added, is to stay abreast of what is happening in Congress as lawmakers try to hammer out emergency legislation to help stem the spread of the virus and keep the economy going.

"We are working hard to keep our members informed," Vedda said, noting that the Chamber's website has information on bills under consideration as well as links to resources and more informa-

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SBA offering disaster relief loans

Small businesses, nonprofits can get up to \$2M to help them pay bills, meet payroll

BY TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

governments are issuing disaster declarations shutting down whole cities, counties and states in an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, small businesses are struggling to stay alive. The U.S. Small Business administration is stepping into the gap, making available \$50 billion in "disaster economic injury loans" available to small businesses and nonprofit organizations, according to Ahmad Goree, a lead economic development specialist and public information officer for the SBA.

"As the name says, these are loans to help these small businesses and nonprofits recover from the economic injuries they are suffering because of this disaster [the COVID-19 pandemic]," Goree said. "These are loans business and nonprofits can use to help pay their rent, pay utilities, pay insurance and make payroll."

Goree said applicants can get loans of up to \$2 million, and they have up to 30 years to repay the loan. The interest rate for for-profit businesses is 3.75 percent, and for nonprofits, it's 2.75 percent.

The first payment can be deferred for a year, and Goree said Congress is considering legislation that would allow a portion of the loans used to cover payroll to be forgiven under certain circumstances.

"We are going to be looking at expense reports and financial statements to see what expenses [applicants] need help in covering," Goree said. "But certain documents are being waived. For instance, the IRS form 4506T is being waived at the time of application for for-profit businesses, although it's still in place for nonprofits. Tax returns are being waived at the time of application for for-profit businesses, although we may ask for them later. Those are still in place for

Combating loneliness during days of social distancing



DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

embers of Resource Center's Grief Support Group for people who have lost a same-

sex spouse aren't meeting because the community center is closed. But group members are looking out for each other and keeping in touch by email, finding ways to give each other the support they need while still following ever-tightening restrictions, shelter in place orders and the strictures of social distancing.

And that, said local counselor Jimmy Owen, is a great thing.

Isolation is about distance, Owen said, while loneliness is an emotional state. Isolation can cause loneliness, and that loneliness can spiral into anxiety and depression.

But there are, Owen said, a number of things you can do to avoid that spiral, To start, ask yourself several questions: What am I grateful for today? Who am I checking in on today?

If your office is closed and you're home from work, don't focus on the social isolation, Owen urged. Instead, use the time to do some things you have been wanting to do and haven't had time for. Remain productive.

"Paint a room," Owen said. "Plant some flowers. Binge a Netflix series. Clean a closet."

Exercise is important, he added. So go outside and get some fresh air. Social isolation doesn't mean staying inside. Go for a drive in the country.

Eating healthy is always important. So take the extra time on your hands to shop for healthy food and prepare a meal you don't ordinarily have the time to make.

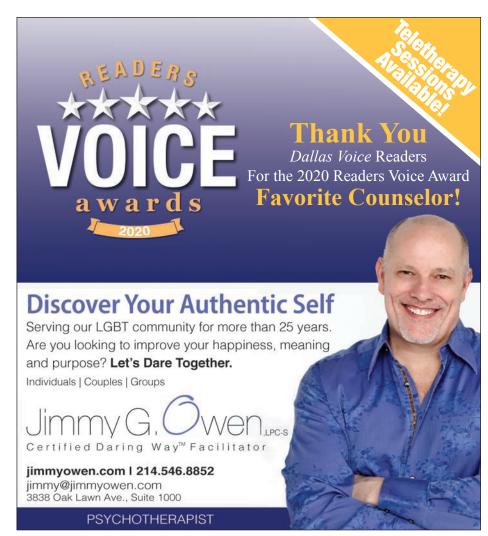
"Try to alter some of your normal," Owen suggested, noting his own new normal is that his practice suddenly converted entirely to telemedicine.

He also reached back to a time when he and his partner lived apart for more advice. Although there was a physical distance between them then, they'd play a game together online. They would read the same book and discuss it or watch a TV show while talking together on the phone.

Based on that personal experience, Owen suggested alleviating isolation now by holding a virtual book club meeting, or even a virtual happy hour.

And rather than concentrate on our own struggles dealing with isolation, "de-reflect," Owen said. By that, he means check on someone else. He's spending time focusing on his mother, who's going through chemotherapy. He urged people to check on an elderly relative or friend. Check on someone who's dealing with depression or has had to

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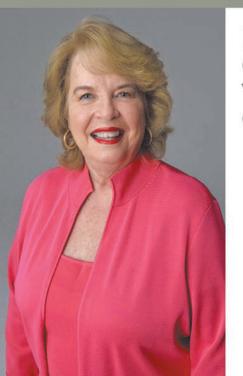




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For the **record**

Local couple's adoption story added to Congressional record

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Southlake couple have made their mark on history: The story of JD Trueblood and Franco Dooley's adoption ordeal was read into the Congressional record in February as part of the testimo-

The couple has been together 18 years and married for two. In 2013, two years before marriage equality became the law of the land, they decided they wanted to adopt. But that was easier said than done.

ny supporting Rep. John Lewis' biparti-

san Every Child Deserves a Family Act.

"Before marriage equality," Trueblood said, "we had a hell of a time getting adoptions to go through."

They worked with Lifelong Adoptions, an agency that specializes in gay adoptions that Trueblood described as more of a marketing firm focused on helping couples looking to adopt connect with birth parents.

"They marketed us across the country," he said, adding that they went through five failed connections — including one potential mother who wasn't pregnant and another who decided to keep her baby.

Finally, they connected with a mother in Utah who was six weeks away from giving birth. They spoke on the phone, Trueblood said, and "she picked us to adopt her baby girl," Trueblood said.

Then they connected with an adoption attorney in Utah. But that's when they hit another snag.

"Unfortunately, our adoption attorney, agency and social case worker informed us, 'This will never happen for you in Utah of all the states, Utah is the toughest for gay adoptions,'" Trueblood wrote in his letter to Congress.

To sidestep Utah law that, at the time, prohibited two unmarried people living together from adopting, one of the men filed to adopt as a single father, and the other moved out of their home. But their

attorney stepped out of the case at that point, because she felt they were deceiving the court. And their caseworker went with the attorney.

So Trueblood and Dooley got in touch with Lambda Legal, who put them in touch with another local attorney who agreed to represent them. But that fell through, too.

"She initially agrees to represent us; however, admits she's never had a case like ours and doesn't think we'll be successful," the couple wrote in their testimony to Congress. "Two days later she calls and drops us, citing the legal environment for gay adoptions. Now we've been dropped by two attorneys."

Although all the necessary studies — financial, home, background check — had been done, they had been done as a couple. Everything had to be redone for Trueblood to adopt as a single man. But time was running out; the mom was due in just a few weeks.

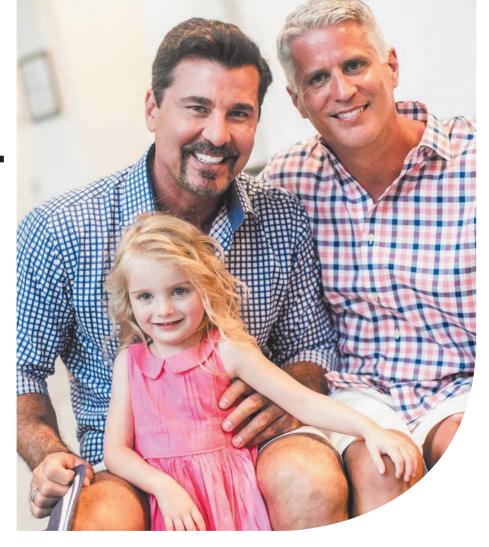
Before they were able to get any new paperwork filled out or find another attorney, they received a call from the baby's grandmother: Mom's water broke early, and she was going into labor.

So, the two men dropped everything and flew out to Salt Lake City — without new documents, a new case study or any of the other necessary paperwork. They located a third attorney, but she was out of town and wouldn't be back for five days. They needed to act quicker so Dooley, who's an attorney, acted as Trueblood's lawyer.

The men needed to remain in Salt Lake City for 10 days and file with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children that ensures the protection of children being placed across state lines for foster care or adoption. Utah required a 48-hour waiting period for the mother, but the hospital was ready to release mother and child within 24 hours. The hospital agreed to delay discharge of the baby for a day to give the men a chance to get everything in order.

"Utah literally approved our application immediately," Trueblood said, "the same day."

But now the delay was with Texas.



Trueblood said when he called Texas Child Protective Services, he decided to be honest with them. First, he explained Utah law that prevents them as a couple to adopt. That was why the application was for him as a single. He explained that all of the home studies and background checks were done for them as a couple, and they didn't have time in the few weeks they had for the paperwork to be updated.

What he quickly learned was that, although Texas lawmakers and laws were stacked against same-sex couples trying to adopt, people who worked for CPS were only interested in finding children good homes. So the woman he was talking to asked if he had a background check he could forward to her. A copy of it was on his phone, so he sent it.

And the home study? "We have everything," he told her, forwarding all the paperwork to her. She approved the application, and "We literally got on a plane that day," Trueblood said.

Once back in Texas, Trueblood's adoption of his daughter went through. But second parent adoptions weren't easy for couples before marriage equality; not every judge in Dallas County would allow a second, same-sex parent to adopt.

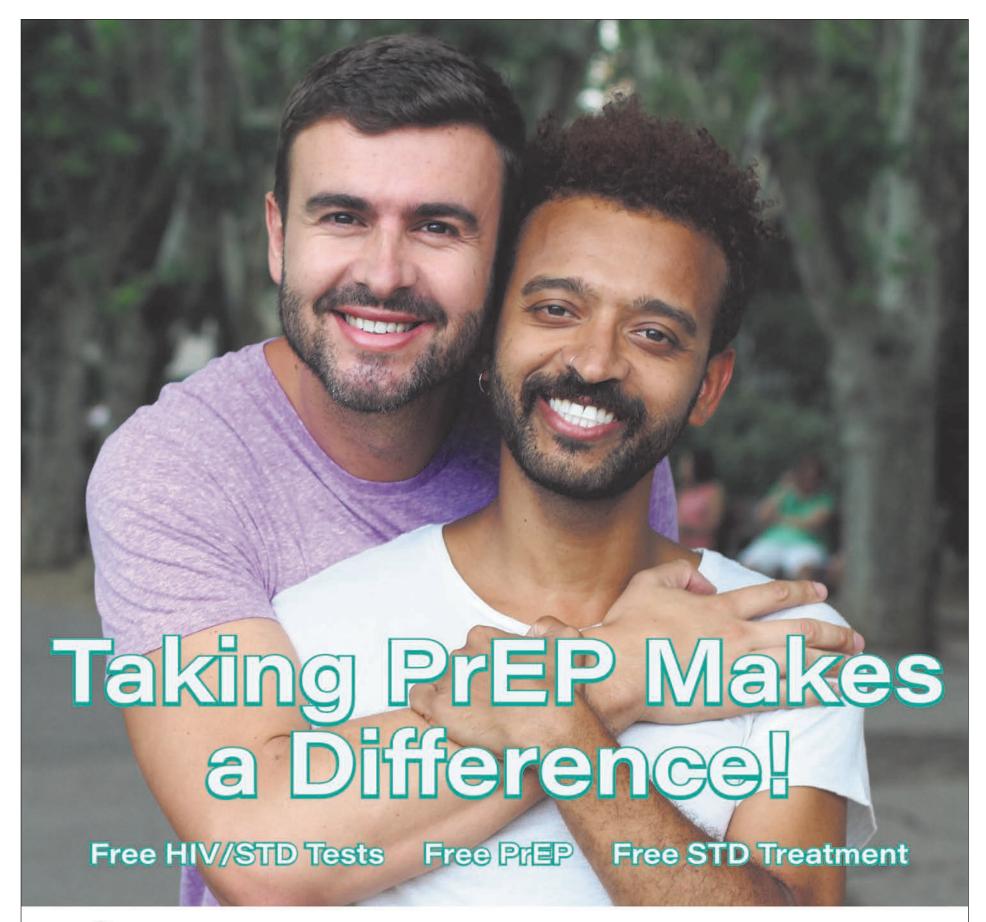
At the time, the one sure place to complete an adoption by a same-sex couple was San Antonio. That was because an attorney could "judge shop," or place the case in a specific courtroom. So the couple headed to San Antonio to make their new family legal.

Their daughter, Sydney, is now six years old. Since it was an open adoption, they visit Sydney's bio mom in Utah once a year.

For the record

Trueblood and Dooley's story was read into the Congressional record in February to make two points. First, state laws that exclude potential adoptive or foster parents because of their marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity is not in the best interests of a child, because it reduces access to permanent homes for these children, Trueblood wrote in his testimony.

Second, he wrote, he believes religious organizations should be involved in offering adoption services, but religious organizations aren't compelled to accept federal funds. When they do, their religious convictions shouldn't be used to exclude certain groups of people.





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■ S.A.V.E.-ing IIVes

In its 10th year, one group is continuing its mission helping LGBT students

JAMES RUSSELL I Contributing Writer james.journo@gmail.com

Herrera started the LGBTO Students. Administrators, Volunteers, Educators Support as an all-volunteer non-profit with one mission: to help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in Fort Worth, because, as a lesbian who works as a student specialist in the Fort Worth Independent School District, she was concerned about the

en years ago, Sharon



number of teenagers committing or attempting suicide.

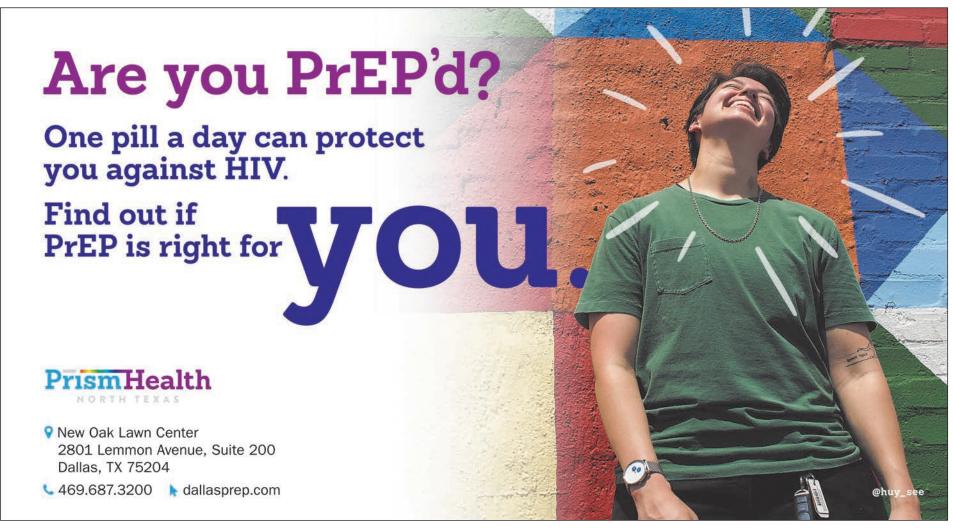
Initial gatherings of LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. were occasional and small, such as Thanksgiving dinners, proms and hang outs.

"Working for a school district, I know

we have LGBTQ youth, and they need a place," Herrera told the Voice in 2013. "I wanted something for them here, so they can have fun and get to know other kids in the school district and build their support, and so they know they're not alone."

Now in 2020, the group has won awards and expanded its leadership, board members and audience.

"We are celebrating our 10-year anniversary with new logos, the addition of an assistant director, Amanda Sims, new board members, ambassadors and a total



refresh of our website to showcase the updates and additions," Herrera said.

The group recently received the Charity Organization of the Year award from the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington for the second year in a row. That's because they have broadened their coalition of partners and expanded outreach to students and the community.

Herrera credited Felipe Gutierrez, an out Fort Worth gay man and prominent figure in the local LGBT community, for expanding LGBTA S.A.V.E.S' support base.

Herrera recently participated in an online community chat session facilitated by Gutierrez, which included Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell, psychotherapist Dr. Marilu Romero and Jake Ballinger, co-program director for The Umbrella, a resource for transgender individuals in the area.

New programming includes more leadership opportunities — and more meetings. "We have increased our monthly meetings from two to four, our assistant director and program leaders are building our programming and providing daily support through our 'Groupme' chat that we call our lifeline,"



Herrera said.

That lifeline has become an even more invaluable resource given the spread of the Coronavirus, which has seen school districts, including Fort Worth, move classes online and cease on campus operations for the foreseeable future.

With Tarrant County now ordering residents to shelter in place to slow the

spread of the virus, all non-essential services are closed and people are only to go out to exercise outside, get groceries, go to a health care provider or for few other activities.

But LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. has swiftly adapted to working online with students.

Said Herrera, "We are about to have virtual meetings with our youth [and]

making doorstep food deliveries to those in need and art and crafts supplies."

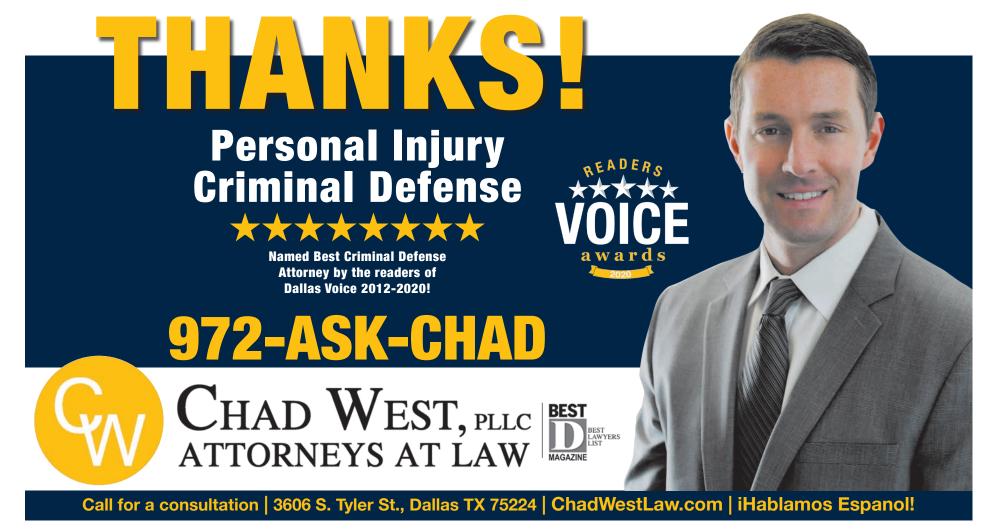
With the help of other free virtual meeting programs such as Zoom, they plan on hosting regular game nights. Tarleton State University Social Work interns are creating a resource packet that will also be available for use for students.

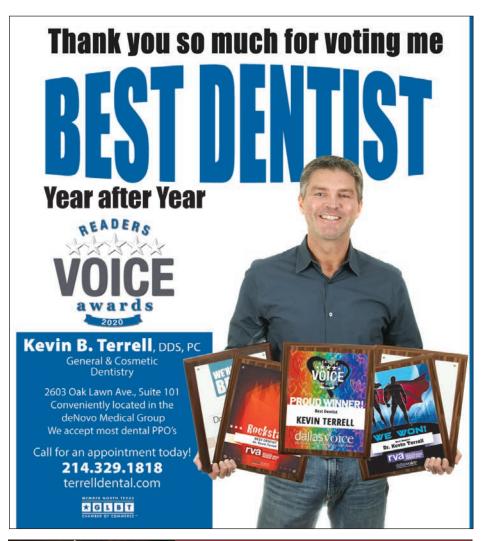
Parents and grandparents are reaching out for help too, and Herrera and her colleagues are ready to answer questions about resources other questions.

As busy as her work keeps her, Herrera also finds time to participate with other organizations as well. She was recently selected to join the KERA/KXT Community Advisory Board, which provides input to the two local public radio stations.

And on top of it all, somehow Herrera has managed to carve out time for a personal life as well. Her wife, Marcel, is a full-time student working toward a registered nurse degree after serving as a medical assistant for more than 25 years. She's also enjoying being a housewife for now, Herrera joked — their home is also spotless.

Visit LGBTQSAVES.org for more information.







New report shows decade of progress and regression for LGBT rights



Logan Casev

Texas ranked as equality negative

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer james.journo@gmail.com

report chronicling the past decade for the LGBT rights reveals mixed results at the federal and state levels.

"The past decade has included incredible legal, political and social

progress for LGBT people, such as the

right to marry, the end of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and increased support for LGBT equality," said Ineke Mushovic, executive director of Movement Advancement Project, the organization that issued the report. "But this report shows there are also many areas of the country where change has been slow: shockingly, more than half of states still lack basic employment nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people."

Mapping LGBT Equality: 2010 to 2020 examines nearly 40 laws and policies across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories and ranks them as High, Medium, Fair, Low or Negative Equality states. Fourteen states and D.C. earned the highest ranking.

The 40 laws are lumped into seven categories: relationship and parental recognition, health care access, religious exemptions, identity documents, non-discrimination and criminal justice laws.

LGBT people that live in states with low or negative equality have few statewide legal protections or even have harmful laws.

Texas is among the 12 states ranked negatively. California has the nation's highest level of equality with a tally of 34.75 out of a possible 38.5, while Alabama has the lowest tally, a negative-6.5 out of 38.5. Texas scored a negative 1 1/2 out of 38.5.

Yet the number of LGBT people living in "negative" equality states fell by more than half. In 2010, nearly half of LGBT people lived in negative equality states. In 2020, that number has decreased to 20 percent.

The number of LGBT people living in "medium" or "high" equality states increased dramatically, from 6 percent in 2010 to nearly half of all LGBT people in 2020.

Logan Casey, a policy researcher for MAP who authored the report, said, "The report's major finding is that, while there has certainly been tremendous progress for LGBT people in the past 10 years, that progress hasn't unfolded evenly across the country. In the past decade, we've seen nationwide progress in

nondiscrimination protections, conversion

'therapy' bans and other laws protecting LGBT youth, health care access, and more."

But as a state, Texas has barely budged.

"It was a negative equality state in 2010 and it remains one in 2020," Casey said.

During the past three state legislative sessions, for instance, LGBT

advocates have been on the defense. The 84th session saw a record number of anti-LGBT bills filed, and the 85th was con-

sumed by anti-transgender bathroom restrictions.

After Democrats flipped 12 seats in the House and two in the Senate in 2018, the state's Republican leadership largely stayed away from social issues during the 86th session ion 2019. While 20 bills discriminating against LGBT people were filed, only one — a watered down religious freedom bill — passed.

Winning by defeating bills is still a win. "In some states, these victories look like LGBT protections being enshrined into law, while in other states — like Texas — these victories more often look like preventing harmful and discriminatory bills from becoming law, or preventing the undermining of what protections might exist," Casey noted.

The wins were also similar to other legislative sessions around the country. According to the Equality Federation and Human Rights Campaign, in the 2019 legislative session, only seven out of at least 102 anti-LGBTQ bills that had been filed actually passed.

"MAP has done an excellent job with this report, giving us a tangible data snapshot of how policy has a profound effect on quality of life for LGBT populations," said Emmett Schelling, the executive director for the Transgender Education Network of Texas. "It's frustrating, to say the least, to see such a patchwork across our nation regarding foundation-

> al issues such as nobody should lose their employment housing simply for who they love or who they are. That should be a common sense issue for us to all agree on, but instead Texas has continued to languish among the bottom states when it comes to progress and common sense."

But, Casey said, popular opinion is on LGBT people's



side.

"Legislators are the ones who are lagging behind," he said.



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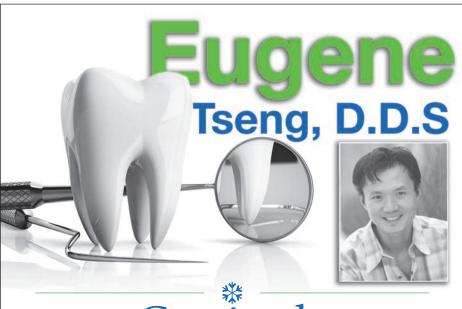
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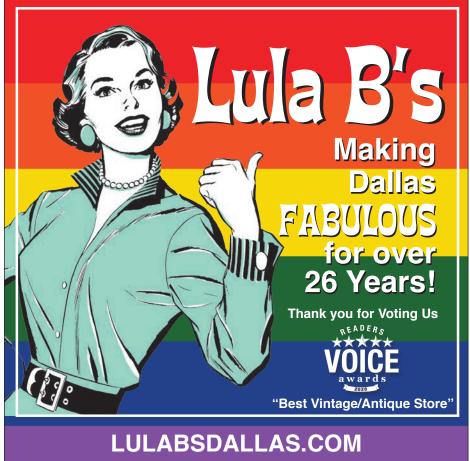
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Portraying GenderCool kids



Amber Briggle, left, and her son Max, center with sign, at a rally in 2017. (Eric Gay/Associated Press)

The Briggles are an average Denton family that happens to have a trans teen

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

ax Briggle

plays the ukulele and enjoys playing songs his sister Lulu writ-

earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do at

the age of nine. Now he participates in gymnastics and has competed in meets across the country. And he takes care of his rescue cats.

His mom Amber said what Max thinks is the least interesting thing about him is that he's transgender. She said when asked about what it's like being a transgender youth, Max has answered, "Ummm ... I like cats?"

Max doesn't really think about transitioning. He's about five years into that. And to give others an idea what his life's like, he joined the GenderCool Project. He's the first trans teen from the Dallas area to post a video on the GenderCool. org site.

In his one-minute video, his message,

he says, is "It's important for me to feel strong, and I want others to feel that too."

He says it doesn't matter what it is that you do, but he exhibits some of his gymnastics including a triple back flip.



GenderCool, to him, means practicing good sportsmanship. "I think people should try lots of different things until they find the thing that makes them happiest," he says in his video.

For the Briggles, who live in Denton, accepting Max for who he is was nothing special. Love, acceptance — those are just things families do.

The GenderCool Project was founded about two years ago by a family that had a similar experience when their 13-yearold daughter came out as transgender. As bathroom bills were introduced in the Texas Legislature two sessions ago, the Briggles decided to do more than just testify before legislators who weren't really listening. Instead, they invited the governor to dinner. What Amber wanted to do was simply show off her normal and happy family.

She said the Abbotts came to dinner and even brought a wonderful dessert. She described the evening as a lot of fun, and the two families connected.

Of course, bathroom bills were never about doing what made sense or taking care of kids. Bathroom bills were always political, pandering to the lowest emotion of fear.

When attacking the trans community by trying to prevent them from using a bathroom backfired, trans rights opponents came up with a new tactic: The fearmongering over bathrooms has given way to lies about hormone blockers. Bills surrounding the use of that medication have been filed in states around the country and are sure to be filed in Texas in the next session of the Legislature.

Hormone blockers simply prevent the onset of puberty. It has nothing to do with surgery. Surgery isn't performed before the age of 18, if a trans person even decides to have surgery at all. In fact, hormone blockers have nothing to do with anything non-reversible. When a trans kid stops taking hormone blockers, puberty will begin.

The Briggles don't talk about whether Max is on any medication or interested in any surgery. That's personal information and has nothing to do with who Max is. What the family is interested in is keeping safe options available to trans

But more important to the Briggles is for people to see them as an ordinary family that happens to have a trans kid, and to portray trans kids as regular children, teens and adolescents.

That's the goal of GenderCool as well. "The GenderCool Project is a youthled movement helping to replace misinformed opinions with positive, powerful experiences meeting remarkable kids who identify as transgender and gender expansive," the GenderCool website explains.

"Stories like Max's — and what they're doing at GenderCool — is lifesaving work and helps other young trans people (and the people who love them) be more courageous in coming out," said Cathy Renna, a publicist who works with GenderCool. "Especially as a transgender athlete, to see someone succeed on a team is powerful and 100 percent relevant to the conversations we're having across the country today."

See Max's GenderCool video at Vimeo. com/396057707.

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tion. "The bill under consideration now [as of Tuesday afternoon, March 24] does have some resources built in for small businesses."

Vedda also encouraged small business owners in the community to consider applying for a loan from the Small Business Administration. Those loans, he said, were created to provide assistance to small businesses impacted by natural disasters. "This [epidemic] is different from a hurricane, of course, but the situation is similar."

There are, of course, various bills under consideration in Congress that would provide at least some relief for businesses impacted by the epidemic. There are, Vedda said, advantages and disadvantages with each one.

One proposal that has been considered, for example, includes provisions for employees who have to be off because they are sick or because they have to care for a sick family member to get extended paid sick leave and extended family leave. The businesses paying the costs of extended leave would get a tax credit in return.

"The employees on leave will get the money they need, but the businesses have to rely on tax credits, and those tax credits are only paid once a quarter," Vedda said. "We are certainly not against paid sick leave and family leave, but if you are going to mandate that small businesses have to provide that, then there should be more funding options for the businesses themselves. Hopefully the current bill will bridge that gap."

The key, Vedda said, is that community members "do what you can, when you can. Purchase what you can and, when necessary take action. We will be posting [calls to action] and information on our Chamber website as they come up, and we are already putting methods in place to help our members reach out to Congress and make their voices heard.

"It is important that we remember this is a tough time for all of us," Vedda continued. "This whole working from home thing isn't easy for anybody and having to shut down our businesses is having a significant impact on our community. I really feel for the bars, which have had to shut down completely."

But, he said, calls from some state and federal leaders, including Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and President Donald Trump, to focus on the economy rather than public health and start lifting restrictions is tremendously short-sighted.

"This whole idea that older people should sacrifice themselves for the sake of the economy is ridiculous," Vedda said, referring to comments Patrick made on Monday night, March 23. "The most important thing we can all do right now is to stay home if you need to stay home. Shelter in place, practice social distancing. We have to do these things or this will just go on and on and be worse in the long run. In spite of what the president says, it is not going to just miraculously disappear."

Supporting small businesses and finding ways to help them keep people employed will "make the recovery that much better when it does come," Vedda said. "If we can keep people employed, then we will have people already in place and already trained when things get better. But if people are laid off or let go completely, it is going to be a mad scramble to find and train good employees when this is over. Keeping more people employed will be better for all of us in the long run."

Vedda also encouraged those who are financially able to do so to make donations to charitable organizations to help them keep running, suggesting that places like the North Texas Food Bank and Resource Center's food pantry.

"We are also going to have a lot of recovery issues when it comes to the arts," he added.

"If you have purchased tickets to an event or maybe have season tickets to something, consider not asking for them to refund your ticket price for events that have had to be cancelled. They need that money to keep working.

"The more selfless we can all be, the more we can all think about our neighbors and our community as a whole, the better we are all going to be, and the sooner we will all get through this."



HIV and COVID-19: The latest information from the CDC

The Centers for Disease Control has updated its information on COVID-19 and its effect on people with HIV.

Are people with HIV at higher risk than the general population? The CDC isn't sure.

With other viral respiratory infections, the risk of getting very sick is highest in people with a low CD4 cell count and those not on antiretroviral therapy. However, people with HIV may be at increased risk of illness due to age and other medical conditions.

People aged 65 years and older and those who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility are considered at highest risk. Highrisk medical conditions include chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, heart disease with complications, those undergoing cancer treatment, diabetes, renal failure, liver

disease or severe obesity.

What can someone with HIV do to remain healthy?

In addition to social distancing and hand washing, the CDC recommends eating right, getting at least eight hours of sleep every night and reducing stress as much as possible.

"Staying healthy helps your immune system fight off infection should it occur," the CDC writes.

As a precaution, the CDC recommends anyone on HIV medications have at least a 30-day supply on hand and, if possible, a 90-day supply. No shortages are expected, however, and most insurance plans will not cover a 90-day supply.

Get a flu shot and a pneumonia vaccine. Both of these preventable illnesses disproportionately affect people with HIV, according to the CDC.

David Taffet



LONELINESS. From Page 9

cope with a difficult situation, whether it's related to the coronavirus or not.

Find an online group to join, Owen advised, noting that many meditation groups are popping up on the innternet.

And perhaps most importantly, Owen suggested, use this time to become a better person: "Practice gratitude This is a time unlike anything we've ever experienced. Keep a journal. Share this experience for generations to come."

Reflecting on his own situation, Owen wrote in an email, "I just completed a 1,000-piece puzzle. Alone. Another week

of social distancing is behind me. Challenge complete. Usually, puzzles are limited to visits with my mom, but she is currently on lock down at her assisted living facility. Completing this puzzle was nostalgic. It helped pass time and, by talking on the phone with Mom as we worked on our separate puzzles in separate spaces, we created connection and a unique memory."

We will get through this, Owen reassured. "Reach out and create opportunities to connect — even if the connections are at least six feet away."



nonprofits, too, though."

Goree also noted that these are "not like traditional loan programs. This money is dispersed directly from the Treasury, so there are no fees associated with these loans."

These loans are available to businesses and nonprofits that qualify as "small" based on the SBA size standards, and that can vary based on the industry, Goree said. SBA typically defines as small business as one with fewer than 500 employees, "but it could be revenue based, depending on the industry you're in."

More information on size requirements is available at the SBA website, SBA.gov.

There are several ways to apply, Goree said, adding that SBA officials are "strongly encouraging" interested businesses to apply online, again at SBA. gov. Businesses can also print out the application form found online, fill it out and mail it to the Small Business Center at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas, 76155, or they can apply over the phone at 202-205-6734.

"We have been getting inquiries from many businesses that need assistance right now. I talk to businesses every day, throughout the day, that don't know how they are going to make it through this," Goree said. "This is a way we can help, and I feel very strongly that we will be able to help a large number of businesses get back on track.

"We hope every small business and nonprofit that needs help will reach out and apply for one of these loans," he added. "These are your tax dollars at work, so put them to good use."





3 C's of COVID-19

that you can do to help stop the spread of germs



Clean your hands



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Clean surfaces

If you need COVID-19 information or have questions you need answered, you can now call 211.

This service connects you with community services, and this now includes COVID-19 information.

Call 211 or visit www.211texas.org.



Care. Compassion. Community.

Arting through a pandemic

What the AIDS Memorial Quilt can teach us now

n 1985, a gay male by the name of Cleve Jones attended a candlelight memorial for Harvey Milk. It was there among his people that he dreamed up what would later become the largest piece of community art in all the world: The AIDS Memorial Quilt.

And while he conceived of the idea in 1985, it wasn't until two years later in 1987 that he acted on his impulse and created the first panel in honor of his friend Marvin Feldman.

What Cleve dreamed up amid the chaos, fear and lack of attention by political leaders during those early days of the AIDS epidemic became an act of resistance, a memorial and a movement for our people. It became a beacon of hope that said, "We, together as a community, can and will get through this."

This past Saturday, I took a walk around my neighborhood — our gay-borhood. I was met with sharp air, empty sidewalks, curbside pickups and sign after sign of declarations of mandatory closure.

Bars that would have been full of gaiety, laughter and drag queens were emptied. Restaurants that would normally be bustling with the brunch crowd were offering take out to few — or none.

The majority of what I passed on my walk were small businesses, meaning businesses that were envisioned, just like The AIDS Memorial Quilt, by one person, one person who had a dream, a vision of what could be: Frank Caven. Bill Nelson and Terry Tebedo. Ricky Stillwell and Steve Freeman.

These people created the places we all love, frequent and call home to fill a gap they saw, to fill a need — oftentimes, their own. Whether that need was to feel safe when going out for a cocktail,



Brandi Amara Skyy Queer Creatives

getting tested, or picking up a movie, their action gave birth to a community. Their action gave birth to OUR community.

As we sit here in our homes, sheltering in place, some of us already bored, some of us grateful for the space, some of us drinking and Netflixing ourselves numb. We are also, collectively, experiencing a need — a need to connect, to ex-

press, to do or to create something.

More often than not, our expression of "needing to do something" is socially driven. We go live on Facebook. We make TikTok videos of our whipped coffee. We snap photos of our life in quarantine and post them on Instagram.

We do all this because we are desperately trying to make sense of what's going on in our world. We do it all in hopes of understanding what is happening to us by expressing what's in us — the fear, the insecurity, the worry and the realization that the world as we know it is crumbling and our lives, upon return, will never be the same.

A few days before my walk, I was checking in with a fellow artist friend when he mentioned that he found it difficult to do anything creative — paint, read, write — during this time. I had felt that way, too. When all this went down



and I learned that my wife would be furloughed at least until April 29, it felt like the night we watched Trump get elected: heartbreaking, sad, angry, my mind full of thoughts of, "How are we going to survive this?" "How am I going to keep going?"

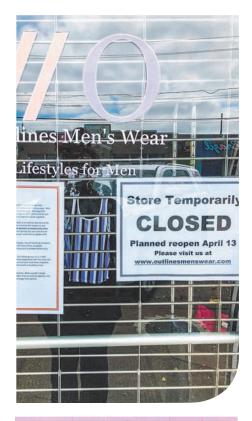
But as I returned home from my walk in our gayborhood, a thought bolted across my mind: The Names Project. The AIDS Memorial Quilt.

BAM!

THAT was it! "That's how I'm going to survive this," I thought to myself. "That's how WE are going to survive this — by creating, by arting through this."

It's what we've always done. And there on my walk were the businesses, the ideas made flesh, to prove it.

And just like Frank Caven or Cleve Jones, Gloria Anzaldúa and all of the





other queer and of color artists I've spotlighted in this series over the last few months, we all are brimming with ideas and feeling the pull to do or create something during this time.

Whatever we feel is valid. Whatever we want to create is valid. Whether that's a video, an online talent show, poems, a meme that cracks a smile on someone's face — IT ALL MATTERS!

It all counts. It all helps someone

somewhere in some way.

Because think about it this way: What if during one of the most critical junctures of the history of our community Cleve Jones decided NOT to act on his idea? What if he let himself drown in all the sadness, chaos, and inequality happening to his community? Our community, our world would be missing out on one of the most beautiful pieces of artivism (art + activism) and one of the most moving memorials in our world.

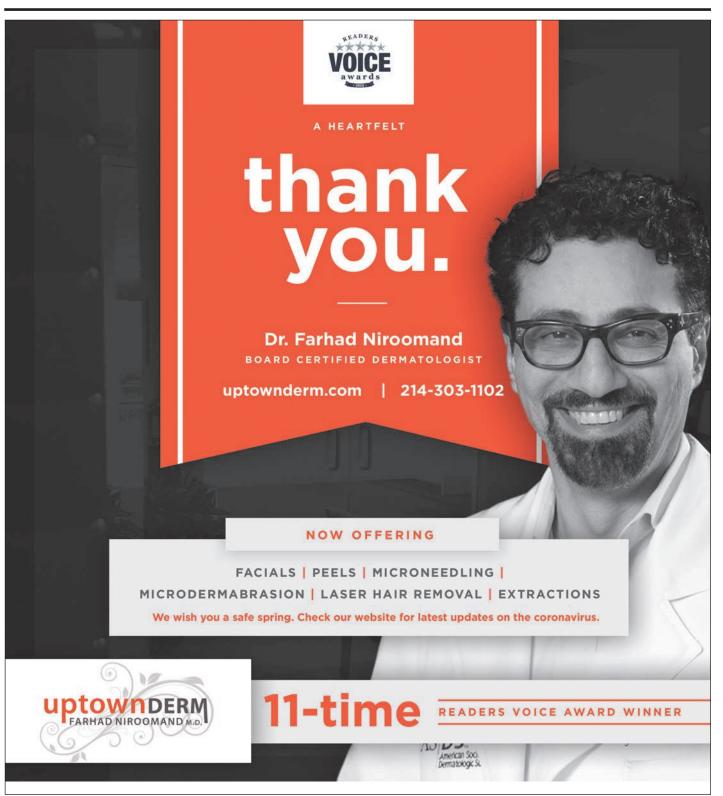
We are at a similar juncture and cross-roads today.

As the world continues to shut down around us, as people continue to be laid off, lose their jobs, and be furloughed indefinitely, my hope is that we ourselves remain open — open to possibility, open to using our feelings about all this as fodder for art, as sparks of hope, and visions for our future.

You never know what future action your art of today may inspire.

So whatever it is you do — write, paint, perform, sling drinks, act, design — continue to do it. Do it through this. Beyond this. And despite this.

To help us keep thriving, I'm teaching a virtual class, Arting Through This: How To Keep (Or Start) Creating, Living, And Sharing Your Gifts In Uncertain Times at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. Find out more about the class at brandiamaraskyy.com/arting-through-this-class/



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Trump's brash machismo isn't the same thing as true leadership, as the COVID-19 pandemic is proving

here's a reason #StayTheFuck-Home is trending — because that's what we should all be doing.

As much as possible, of course.

There are lots of people who can't stay home, maybe because they have to work or have medical appointments they can't miss. In other words, they have good reasons.

If you're under 30, social distancing is probably making you feel like you're losing your mind. If you're over 30 you might be secretly thankful that no one is expecting you to go out. If you're over 60 then you're likely worried about dying. No joke.

Even if you feel fine, and I do, going out in public unnecessarily is a super-selfish thing to do right now. The U.S. simply doesn't have the testing capacity to test everyone who might have COVID-19. There are likely thousands of people who are infected yet show no symptoms at all, and by going out, they have the potential to infect thousands more.

So even if you feel fine, you aren't fine. People with compromised immune systems, such as people with HIV/AIDS, need to be especially careful. If you love someone with a compromised immune system, and you aren't practicing social distancing, then you could kill them.

Full stop. Again, no joke.

There's a myth that the U.S. is the strongest, baddest, boldest country in all the land, the world's truck nuts, if you will. But this epidemic is quickly showing how weak we actually are, showing that our health care system is woefully inadequate to handle a crisis, showing



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

scale up to meet an overwhelming need.

It is showing us that unbridled machismo is not the same thing as leader-ship, that Donald Trump is not only an emperor with no clothes, at this point, he's lost his skin, too.

The federal government's response to COVID-19 has been abysmal, in large part because we don't have a real president. We have Trump. And this reality show is way too real for him. If only he could shout, "You're fired" at COVID-19.

And so, states are largely on their own, making up the rules as we go along. Some states are doing more than others. In Michigan where I live, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, has declared a state of emergency. All the schools are closed. All large events are cancelled.

Whitmer is showing true leadership and making hard choices. And if all goes to hell, I would be willing to bet that she takes responsibility.

That's a far cry from Donald "I don't take any responsibility at all" Trump. He's not just an embarrassment, he's a clear and present danger to the country.

It's no wonder that there are still people flocking to bars and nightclubs across the country as if nothing is happening. Seeing photos of lines around the block at clubs reminds me that, for too long, selfishness and greed have been celebrated traits in America.

There is no better demonstration of that than President Donald Trump and his Republican Party. On March 15, the same day health experts were practically begging people to stay home, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., told Fox News that people should "go to your local pub."

Why? Because he's worried that the COVID-19 pandemic will hurt the economy. And he's right. It will. But it will also kill people.

"One of the things you can do: If you're healthy, you and your family, it's a great time to go out and go to a local restaurant. Likely you can get in easy," Nunes said. "Let's not hurt the working people in this country that are relying on wages and tips to keep their small business going. So, don't just run to the grocery store and buy \$4,000 of food."

A lot to unpack here, but I would like to say that Nunes is essentially yelling "fire" in a crowded theater here. A crowded theater he would no doubt urge you to visit.

Nobody wants to hurt small business owners or workers who rely on wages and tips. But in fact, the Republican Party has spent decades waging war on those very people, so Nunes can STFU with his concern trolling.

Also, I'm not sure where Nunes shops, but \$4,000 worth of groceries? Maybe that's an exaggeration, but I am reminded of Lucille Bluth from Arrested Development when she says to her son, "It's one banana, Michael. What could it cost, \$10?" To which he responds, "You've never actually set foot in a supermarket, have you?"

Ignore morons like Nunes and Trump. Stay safe. Stay home. But most of all, be kind and patient with yourself and others. And wash your hands. This isn't going to be over any time soon.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.





All is revealed in our 30th Readers Voice Awards edition!

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Best Local Band, Group or Musician

Joseph Veazie JosephVeazie.com.

Joseph Veazie began touring nationally in 2018 (with Travie McCoy and Gym Class Heroes), but locals have been huge fans of him for years. When strumming on acoustic guitar or seated behind a keyboard, his beautiful vocals are always hypnotic, whether on his exhaustive list of cover songs or some originals. Whatever the performance, he exudes a hip vibe that's cooler than the other side of the pillow.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Dramatic Actor/Actress

Paul J. Williams

Performing credits in 2019 include Broadway Our Way (May 10-12) and Bright Colors and Bold Patterns (Oct. 18-28) (Uptown Players). PaulJWilliams.com.

Whether you know Paul J. Williams by his most famous character, Sister Helen Holy, by his standup or by one of the numerous plays he has elevated with his performances over 20-plus years, you know him. He's the quick wit, the shady queen, the droll satirist. He got to really flex his acting chops last year in his amazing one-man show Bright Colors and Bold Patterns, but his ongoing work as the judgy Baptist church lady makes him one of the most consistent actors in Dallas in any year.

- Arnold Wayne Jones



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Dallas Summer Musicals DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Best Dance Troupe/ Event **Bruce Wood Dance** BruceWoodDance.org.

Best Local Production of a Play or Musical **Noises Off (Theatre 3)**

Performed Nov. 29-Dec. 22, 2019, at Theatre 3.

Best Local Stage Director

B.J. Cleveland Directing credits in 2019 include

Broadway Our Way (Uptown Players).

Best Local Arts Organization

Turtle Creek Chorale 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., ste. 360. 214-526-3214.

TurtleCreekChorale.com.



Best Boarding/Kenneling Best Pet Grooming Best Pet Services

The Pooch Patio

3811 Fairmont St. 214-525-1550. ThePoochPatio.com.

For nearly 15 years, the Pooch Patio has provided top-notch boarding, grooming and training services for local canines, along with designating a space where both pets and people can chill under the sun. Pups and mutts of all breeds and sizes are welcome at the facility's daily doggie daycare and SPAW center, where the site's professional "furologists" can style your pooch. And along with trying to learn each dog's quirks and mannerisms, the staff monitors their four-legged guests 24/7, streaming live video feed for owners to check in on Rusty or Fifi or Butch whenever they want. No wonder readers love them.

— John McClanahan



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IslaVet.com.

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Hollywood Feed.com.

Best Animal Adoption Organization

SPCA of Texas

2400 Lone Star Drive. 214-742-SPCA (7722).

SPCA.org.

Best Dog Park

White Rock Dog Park

800 E. Mockingbird Lane. 214-670-4100.

WhiteRockDogPark.org.



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Best Public Space

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

8525 Garland Road. Open daily at 9 p.m. **DallasArbotetum.org.**

It's hard to imagine a time when the west coast of White Rock Lake wasn't dominated by the 66 acres of lush public space called the Dallas Arboretum, but it didn't open officially until 1984 - the same year Dallas Voice was founded. And the two institutions have grown up together, with the arboretum being much more than just gardens of flowers and plants. There are also historic buildings to explore (primarily the impressive mansion called the DeGolyer House), a culinary kitchen and numerous gazebos and courtyards that are transformed by the designers and horticulturalists into dynamic displays of color and vegetation. Whenever someone tells you Dallas lacks natural beauty, send them here — they will quickly shut up. - Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Local Museum

Dallas Museum of Art

1717 Harwood St. Open daily (except Mondays) at 10 a.m. (noon Sundays). **DMA.org**.

Local LGBT Community Role Model

Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas

Senior pastor, Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

Best Local LGBT Sports Organization DIVA

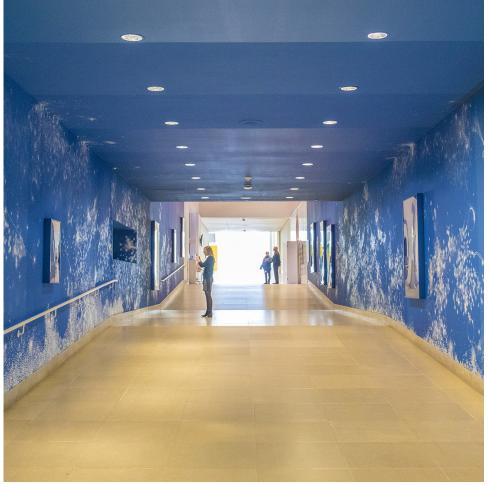
DIVADallas.org.

Best Local Straight Ally

Dale Hansen

Sports Editor, WFAA-TV, Channel 8.





Dallas Museum of Art

Best Architecture or Landmark

Dallas Downtown Arts District

Best Performance Venue

Winspear Opera House 2403 Flora St.

ATTPAC.org.

Best Party for a Cause

Black Tie Dinner

39th Annual Dinner, Oct 3, 2020.

BlackTie.org.

Best Local LGBT Nonprofit

Resource Center

5750 Cedar Springs Road. 214-521-5124.

MyResourceCenter.org.

Best Art Gallery

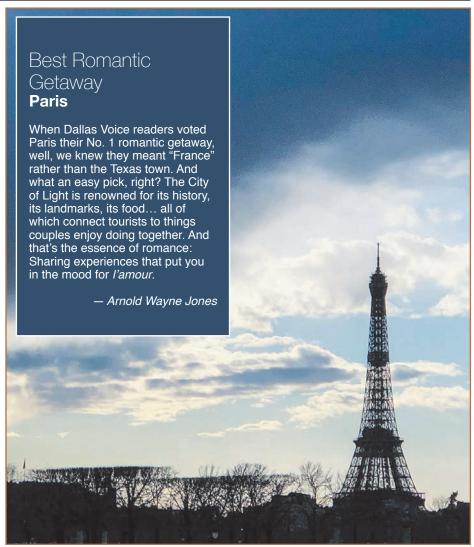
Craighead Green Gallery

1011 Dragon St.

CraigheadGreen.com.

Best Local Artist **Stuart Hausman**





Best Ride Share Lyft

Best LGBT Destination Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Best Weekend Getaway **New Orleans**

Best Local Hotel

The Adolphus

1321 Commerce St. 214-742-8200.

Adolphus.com.

Best Local Travel/Cruise Agency

The Pauer Group 972-214-2000.

ThePauerGroup.com.

Best LGBT Cruise Experience

Vacaya

MyVacaya.com.

Best Airline

Southwest Airlines Southwest.com.

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Expedia.com.

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3102 Oak Lawn Ave. and other locations. **Mattitos.com**.

Let's face it: Gays may not have invented brunch, but we Let's face it: Gays may not have invented brunch, but we perfected it. The effortless imbibing of gallons of mimosas. The sharp, barbed conversation that recaps the social scene better than an episode of *Watch What Happens Live*. The seamless justification of a "cheat day" when faced with more carbs than grains of sand on a beach. So it makes perfect sense that the Oak Lawn-based Mattito's, with its all-inclusive brunch buffet including two adult beverages (margs, bloodys, beers, mimosas), would handily be named favorite brunch spot. Not only is it conveniently located on The Strip, its exhaustive and delicious line-up of dishes — The Strip, its exhaustive and delicious line-up of dishes — as varied as chimichangas, an omelet station, grilled fish and a chocolate fountain — provides nearly as endless ways to enjoy your food as to chat with your friends. Oh, and since it's served Sundays and Saturdays, you can double up on the dishes... and the dishiness.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Best New Restaurant

The Henry

The Union, 2301 N. Akard St., ste. 250. TheHenryRestaurant.com.

Best Diner

Norma's Café

1123 W. Davis St.

NormasCafe.com.

Best Asian/Sushi

Oishii

2525 Wycliffe Ave.

DallasOishii.com.

Best Dining Experience

Beto & Son (at Trinity Groves) 3011 Gulden Lane.

BetoAndSon.com.

Best Taqueria

Taqueria La Ventana

3847 Cedar Springs Road and other locations.

TaqueriaLaVentana.com.

Best Cocktail Menu

The Standard Pour

2900 McKinney Ave. and other locations. TSPDallas.com.

Best Burger Best Lunch Spot

Hunky's Old-Fashioned **Hamburgers**

3930 Cedar Springs Road and 321 N. Bishop Ave.

Hunkys.com.

Best Local Chef **Stephan Pyles**

In January, Stephan Pyles - the don of Southwestern cuisine — announced his retirement from the restaurant business after 45 years as king of the kitchen. So what a wonderful send-off that readers still voted him their favorite local chef. And why not? From The Bronx to Routh Street Cafe to Baby Routh to Star Canyon to AquaKnox to Stampede 66 to Flora Street Cafe, Pyles probably fed Dallasites a thousand times over, started dozens of impressive careers and celebrated more birthdays, Valentine Days and anniversaries than Methusalah. The food scene won't be the same in the future... then again, it hasn't been the same since he changed it.

- Arnold Wayne Jones



Best Patio

Woody's Sports & Video Bar 4011 Cedar Springs Road.

DallasWoodys.com.

Best Barbecue

Pecan Lodge

2702 Main St.

PecanLodge.com.

Best Steak

Bob's Steak & Chop House

4300 Lemmon Ave.

Bobs-SteakAndChop.com.

Best Italian/Pizza

Campisi's Restaurant

5610 E. Mockingbird Lane. Campisis.us.

Best Tex-Mex [TIE]

El Fenix

1601 McKinney Ave. and other locations.

Ojeda's Mexican Food

4617 Maple Ave.

OjedasRestaurant.com.

Best Vegetarian Spot

Cosmic Café

2912 Oak Lawn Ave.

CosmicCafeDallas.com.

Best Vodka

Tito's



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Best Garden Supply/ Nursery

North Haven Gardens 7700 Northaven Road. 214-363-5316.

NHG.com.

What a difference a few months can make. During this week last October, North Haven Gardens was anything but thriving. The tornados that swept through North Texas left the beloved nursery a warzone with devastated buildings... and equally devastated customers. But by Christmas, NHG was already selling poinsettias, and has come back to full operation with outdoor set-ups (always the mainstay of a garden center) and temporary buildings for the rest. It's no wonder readers voted it, again, their favorite nursery its can-do spirit translates into great customer service.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Gay Apparel

Skivvies

4001 Cedar Springs Road. 214-559-4955.

SkivviesDallas.net.

Best Adult Novelties

Alternatives of New Fine Arts

1720 W. Mockingbird Lane. 214-630-7071.

Best Thrift Store **Out of the Closet**

3920 Cedar Springs Road. 214-599-2173.

OutOfTheCloset.org.

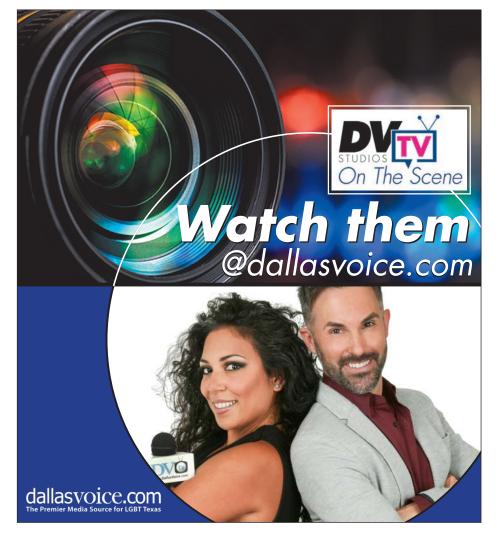
Best Grocery Store

Kroger

4142 Cedar Springs Road and other locations. 214-599-9859.

Kroger.com.





Best Florist

McShan Florist

10311 Garland Road. 214-324-2481.

McShanFlorist.com.

Best Liquor and Wine Selection

Goody Goody Liquor

3316 Oak Lawn Ave. and other locations. GoodyGoody.com.

Best Vintage/Antiques/ Consignment

Lulu B's

1010 N Riverfront Blvd. 214-769-1929.

LulaBsDallas.com.

Best Collectibles/Comics

Zeus Comics and Collectibles

1334 Inwood Road. 214-219-8697.

ZeusComics.com.

Best Domestic Auto Dealership

Sewell Dealerships Various locations along Lemmon Avenue. Sewell.com.

Best Import Auto Dealership

Park Place Dealerships

6113 Lemmon Ave. and other locations. ParkPlace.com

Best Eyewear/Optical (TIE) **Fashion Optical**

3430 Oak Lawn Ave.

214-526-6006. FashionOpticalDallas.com.

Uptown Vision

2504 Cedar Springs Road. 214-953-3937.

UptownVisionDallas.com.

Best Furniture

Twelve Twenty
1220 N. Riverfront Blvd.
TwelveTwentyDallas.com.

For enthusiasts of classy Design District, offers an array of stylish home furnishings, antiques and Those looking to spruce up browse this shop's variety pieces which include sculptures, pottery, light fixtures and rugs, and several unique items made from glass, porcelain, ceramics and brass. No matter what the aesthetic is, shoppers can easily find something appealing here.

— John McClanahan



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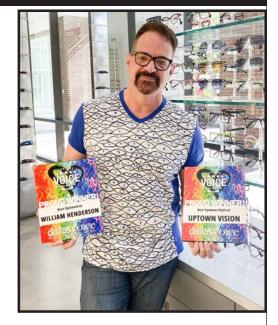
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Dr. Bill Henderson, optometrist

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Best Real Estate Agent

John C. Weber 214-679-2427. Compass.com.

When you're buying a home, your agent is more than just a functionary who knows the process. He or she can also serve as a father-confessor, a consultant, a financial advisor, a best friend, a shrewd negotiator, a helping hand... and someone who knows the process. Readers elevated John Weber to the top of that list for his experience and expertise in handling real estate transactions big and small. Buying a house is often the biggest step we take as adults; it's nice to have someone on your side to guide you through.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Place to Pamper Yourself

King Spa & Waterpark

2154 Royal Lane. 214-420-9070.

KingSpa.com.

Best Mani-Pedi

Nailed Nail Bar

3517 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-536-7133.

Find them on Facebook.

Best Hair Salon

Salon Aura

3910 Cedar Springs Road. 214-443-0454.

SalonAuraDallas.com

Best Massage Therapist

Robert Elorduy

3112 Swiss Ave. 903-422-6044.

VigorMassagePT.com.

Best Accountant/Tax Preparation

Cindy Hawkins

Padgett Business Services, 1409 N. Lamar St. 214-272-3823.

PadgettDallas.com.

Best Criminal Defense Attorney

Chad West, Esq.

900 W. Davis St. 214-509-7555.

ChadWestLaw.com.

Best Civil/Family Attorney Lorie Burch, Esq.

7920 Belt Line Road. 972-385-0558. Burch-Law.com.

Best Insurance Agent

Angel Irvin

Farmers Insurance. 14651 Dallas Parkway, ste. 110. 972-367-6200.

Best Real Estate Agency

Texas Pride Realty Group

TexasPrideRealty.com.

Best Photographer/ Videographer

Terry McCranie TerryMcCranie.com.

Best Moving Company

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Best Bartender

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TMC: The Mining Company 3903 Cedar Springs Road.

214-521-4205.

TMCDallas.com.

NIGHTLIFE



Best Straight Bar for LGBTs

The Grapevine Bar

3902 Maple Ave. 214-522-8466.

GrapevineBar.com.

Sure, we say The Grapevine is a "straight" bar, but who's to say that's for certain? Is the crowd mixed? Definitely. But let's not call it gay-friendly, just everyonefriendly. Located on the edge of the gayborhood, it's an unassuming structure, but inside is a warren of fun decor, sunny patios, billiards and basketball hoops. With its wide-ranging happy hour (with signature frozen drinks like the Tangarita, made with — yup — Tang) and kick-back vibe, it's the definition of a neighborhood hang. Or gayborhood hang. Whatevs. Don't try to label it, just chill with the eclectic crowd. The Grapevine is the least "Dallas" thing in Dallas.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Theme Night

Trashy Tuesdays | TMC

3903 Cedar Springs Road. 214-521-4205.

TMCDallas.com.

Best Place for Lesbians

Sue Ellen's

3014 Throckmorton St. 214-559-0707.

SueEllensDallas.com.

Best Latinx Club

Havana

4006 Cedar Springs Road. 214-886-6804.

Best Karaoke Host

Wayne Smith, Cher-E-Okee

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DJ Eliz

Best Exotic Dancer **Jacob Fuselier**

Dances at Tin Room.

Best Local Drag Performer **Cassie Nova**

The Rose Room at S4.

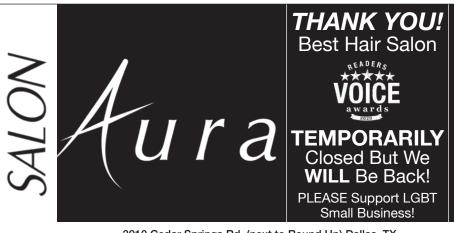
Best Beer Bust **The Hidden Door**

5025 Bowser Ave. Beer bust on Sundays. HiddenDoor-Dallas.com.

Hottest Hookup App **GRINDR**







3910 Cedar Springs Rd. (next to Round Up) Dallas, TX 214.443.0454 | SalonAuraDallas.com



HEALTH

Best Optometrist William Henderson, O.D.

Best Cosmetic Practitioner Steven Pounders, M.D. 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., ste. 600.

214-520-8833.

2504 Cedar Springs Road.

UptownVisionDallas.com.

DrPounders.com.

Uptown Vision.

214-953-3937.

Best Chiropractor

Michael Shippy, D.C. 4000 W. Park Blvd., Plano. 972-769-9500.

ShippyChiropractor.com.

Best Personal Trainer

WiL Turner 321-331-8791.

Fusion40FitnessAT.com.

Best Urgent/Emergency Care Facility

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Best Group Medical Practice

Uptown Physicians Group

4144 North Central Expressway, ste. 750. 214-303-1033.

UptownPhysiciansGroup.com.

Best Gym

LA Fitness

4540 W. Mockingbird Lane and other locations.

LAFitness.com.

Best General Practitioner Best HIV Specialist

David Lee, M.D.

Uptown Physicians Group. 4144 North Central Expressway, ste. 750. 214-303-1033.

UptownPhysiciansGroup.com.

Best Dentist (TIE) Kevin Terrell, D.D.S.

2603 Oak Lawn Ave., ste. 101. 214-329-1818.

TerrellDental.com.

Eugene Tseng, D.D.S.

3300 Douglas Ave. 214-855-0789.



Best Dermatologist

Farhad Niroomand, M.D.

4144 N. Central Expressway, ste. 855. 214-202-1102

UptownDerm.com.

With the popularity of *Dr. Pimple Popper*, folks should know Dallas has its own dermal expert who eradicates acne, fights infections, performs cosmetic procedures and so much more. For 25 years, Dr. Niroomand has gotten under (and over) our skin, helping countless patients look great. As one of the top dermatologists in North Texas, he has utilized his cosmetic expertise to help patients look radiant and self-confidant after all, nothing is sexier than being comfortable in your own skin.

— John McClanahan

Best Counselor/Therapist

Jimmy G. Owen, L.P.C.

3838 Oak Lawn Ave., ste. 1000. 214-546-8852.

JimmyOwen.com.

Candy Marcum

4228 N. Central Expressway, ste. 225. 214-521-1278.

CandyMarcum.com.

Best Pharmacy

CVS Pharmacy

3133 Lemmon Ave. and multiple other

Best Yoga Studio

Sunstone Yoga

2907 Routh St. and other locations. SunstoneFit.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is a strange time for all of us, to be sure. So strange, it may feel peculiar to be writing about our favorite restaurants, bars, public places and entertainment — even wrong.

But I disagree. The Readers Voice Awards started as, and have remained, a celebration of our community — what we have loved about North Texas in the previous 12 months, from the people to the businesses to the culture. And while some of that is on hold at the moment, that does nothing to diminish the joy and excitement they have brought to our lives — what has, indeed, made Dallas worth writing about for me for more than 25 years. This pandemic will pass; what won't change is what got us here. We honor all of those who have made life worth carrying on. So consider this a reminder of what matters. And congratulations to everyone.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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It's nice to be chosen!

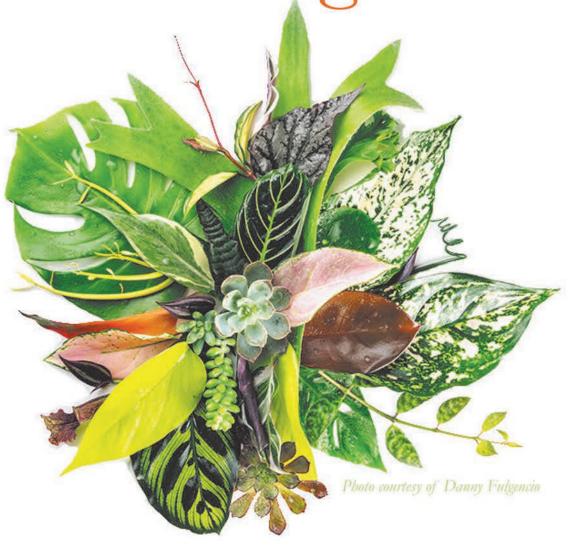
Thank you to the Dallas Voice readers for selecting the SPCA of Texas as the best place to adopt a pet.



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unker down. That's what you'll be doing for the immediate future: trying to stay well or get well or just waiting. You've had enough TV, and the pantry's as

clean as it'll ever get, so maybe it's time to find something to read. Why not try one of these great books? (We'll make more reading suggestions online and in future print editions.)

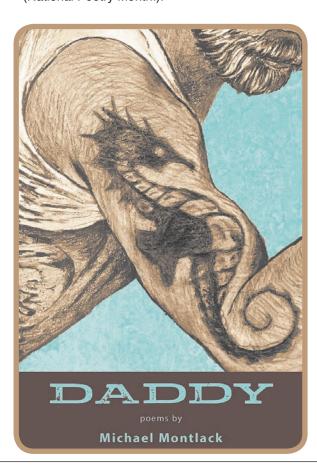
LIFE+STYLE

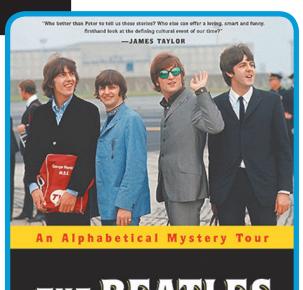
best bets: books



If you're up for something unique and queer, you can't go wrong with *Uncomfortable Labels* by Laura Kate Dale. What makes it different is that Dale is a gay trans woman who is also autistic and this book is about her self-discovery and her life. Here's a book for parents and for transgender readers: *What We Will Become* by Mimi Lemay, a story of little girl who knew she was a boy, and his mother, an ultra-Orthodox Jew who loved her child enough to give up her old life.

Maybe when this is all over, a bit of poetry is what you'll need, and *Daddy* by Michael Montlack will be what to look for at the end of this virus' run. Some of the poems are musings, some are heartfelt, others read a bit like individual paragraphs, all are compelling. You'll find *Daddy* available in later April (National Poetry Month!).





THE BEATLES FROM A TO ZED

PETER ASHER

Music fans will love settling in with *The Beatles from A to Zed* by Peter

Asher. It's an easy-breezy book on the Fab Four, but indirectly – which means you'll get some little-discussed, little-known tales that fans will need to know. Here's another book that's perfect for the music fan: She Can Really Lay It Down by Rachel Frankel, a book about music's female rebels and rockers.



Cassie Nova

Fall queens and the super clench



Hello my darlings. I hope this day finds you all in a great mood. Probably not, all things considered. But you won't hear me talking about anything negative or apocalyptic here. Instead, I thought I would tell you a few little tales of drag in years gone by. In other words, I just want to sit back and remember a simpler time - when the biggest decision I had to make was, "What am I gonna wear in the show tonight?"

Picture it: Rose Room, 1998 — the old, little-bitty Rose Room — and on stage is a blonde and beautiful, tall drag queen singing a country song in a stunning pink and orange gown with a really long train. The crowd was loving it; the beauty was getting tipped profusely: Dolla bills over here, dolla bills over there. She saunters down the center isle to collect more of the coin and accolades, elegantly thanking each person that tips her with a slight squeeze of the hand as she takes the bills from her adoring fans.

More bills to the left; more bills to the center. Oh my goodness! More bills to the right of her! She is in the back of the room near the spotlight and by now has made a complete circle as she takes tips and lip-syncs her heart out. What's this? More bills to the right again, and more bills to the center.

The fans crowded into tiny, packed room are living for her. Suddenly, as she completes her turn to walk away, she realizes that her train has completely entangled her feet, and — "TIMBER!" Down she goes!

Everything goes into slow motion as she topples over straight to the ground. Money and fake nails fly as the room collectively

inhales. Luckily, she was not hurt. Maybe her pride was a little wounded, but as the entire room waits with bated breath, she looks up laughing. A sigh settles over the entire room then eventually turns to giggles. No one wanted to laugh until we knew she was okay, but once we saw her laugh it made it okay for us to laugh, too.

She unraveled her feet and was helped up to finish her song. She handled the whole thing like a complete professional, laughing it off and going right back to making her money - a true dizzy pro. I probably would have faked an injury or just died of embarrassment.

Good times.

Our next tale from the drag side is about me. I do not share this story lightly, and I do not like the subject matter at all. But these are desperate times, so please learn from this tale.

The day started as most days do: I slept late, got up and had lunch. It was a Sunday, and I had to emcee an early event in the Rose Room. The benefit I hosted went great; we raised a lot of money, and the people in charge of the show kept bringing me shots.

This was back in my Southern Comfort and lime days. It's weird how you can taste certain memories.

That show ended, and I had about two full hours before our regular Sunday night show. I was buzzed pretty hard, and I figured I had better eat something. So I ordered pork and green beans from a Chinese restaurant that is no longer in business. It tasted fine, but I did notice a little bit of an unpleasant

aftertaste when I was done scarfing the food past my unhinged jaw and into my gullet.

Our regular show went on just fine; I was still feeling fabulous. Then during the second show, as I was onstage performing "Goodbye Earl" by the Dixie Chicks, my stomach started to sing along. I ignored it and finished my song.

After my song I went to the bar. My stomach had stopped speaking, so I thought, how about one more shot. I quickly learned that was a mistake. My gut immediately started to recite the Gettysburg Address. It was gurgling so loud that one of the other girls even asked me if I was okay. "I'm fine," I told her. "Just a little bubble gut - no big deal.

I think to myself, "Just power through. You only have one more performance, and you can get out of drag and go home."

If you know anything about my drag, you know I am wearing a full corset, four pairs of tights and pads. So using the bathroom quickly is not something I can do. And, of course, it seemed that night every girl in the show was doing double songs or a long-ass mix.

Time was creeping by so slowly.

I just kept telling myself, "Just power through. You can do it; just one more song" - all while my tummy is rumbling like underground fracking.

Finally, I throw on a cute little stretch dress and get called to the stage. I strut out with all the confidence in the world, but then, I am about 12 seconds into "Walk Away" by Kelly Clarkson when my body tells me to RUN — not walk — to the bathroom. I do a

quick thank you and goodnight bow for the crowd then take off doing the "I'm-about-topoop-myself" walk.

As I'm tearing off my hair and dress, my guts decide I should already be in the bathroom. I do the super clench (We all know the super clench, and thank God for Beegles — it's like Kegels, but for your butt) and head for the bathroom. I am standing as straight and as tall as I can to keep everything in place as I tear away my corset and start to pull down my pads.

Then I look up to see I have not closed the door all the way, and I was not in a position I wanted someone to walk in on. I lean forward to shut and lock the bathroom door, and rip off my tights and pads just in time barely. If my aim had been even a half inch off ... I don't want to think of the mess there would have been.

The noises coming out of that bathroom had to have sounded like that scene from Bridesmaids. I must have done the courtesy flush about 10 times.

Luckily, my Rose Room sisters ignored the whole situation, bless 'em. That was until I had to ask Asia to hand me my boy clothes. She asked if I was okay and I said, "I am now, whew!"

I am banking on every one of you having your own super clench story. I know I am not the only one that has happened to. Not such

I hope these stupid stories lightened up your day or made you smile. I smiled writing it. Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova





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LIFE+STYLE scene Novelties

Best Adult Novelties - Alternatives



Best Public Space - Dallas Arboretum

Scene Photographers: Leo Cusimano, Chad Mantooth and Nicholas Gonzalez

2020 RVA Winners



Best Party for a Cause - Black Tie Dinner



Best Dance Troupe - Bruce Wood Dance





Best Civil Family Attorney - Lorie Burch



Best Cosmetic Practitioner -Dr. Steven Pounders



Best Brunch - Mattito's



Best Diner - Norma's Cafe



Best Exotic Dancer - Jacob Fuselier



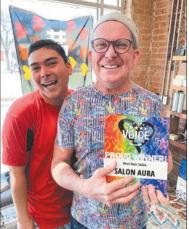
Best Eyewear Optical - Fashion Optical



Best Garden Supply Nursery -North Haven Gardens



Best Gay Apparel - Skivvies



Best Hair Salon - Salon Aura



Best Latinx Club - Havana



Best Liquor and Wine Selection -Goody Goody Liquor



Best Local LGBT Community Role Model - Rev. Neil Thomas



Best Mani-Pedi - Nailed Nail Bar



Best Moving Company - Fantastic Moves



Best Optometrist and Best Eyewear Optical - Dr. Bill Henderson



Best Personal Trainer - Wil Turner



Best Pet Supply - Hollywood Feed



Best Taqueria - Taqueria La Ventana Best Tex Mex - Ojeda's





Best Theatrical Presenter -AT&T Performing Arts Center



Best Gym - LA Fitness



Best Group Medical Practice - Uptown Physicians Group



Best Art Gallery - Craighead Green Gallery



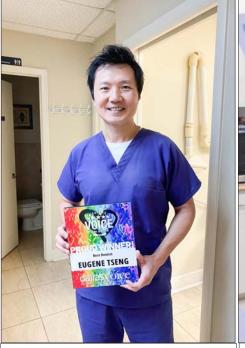
Best Animal Adoption - SPCA



Best Hotel - Adolphus



Best Vegetarian Spot - Cosmic Cafe



Best Dentist - Eugene Tseng



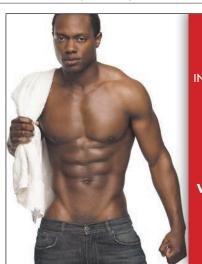
Best Dentist - Kevin Terrell





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AIDS SERVICES

ABOUNDING PROSPERITY

214-421-4800 | AboundingProsperity.org

AHF DALLAS WELLNESS CENTER

7777 Forest Lane, Ste. B122 | 972-383-1060

AIDS/HIV HOTLINE

214-559-2437

AIN | ACCESS & INFORMATION NETWORK

AINDallas.org | 214-941-7696

AOC | AIDS OUTREACH CENTER

817-335-1994 | AOC.org | Ft. Worth

ASD | AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS

214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org

AMELIA COURT

214-590-5647 | ParklandHospital.com/HIV

BRYAN'S HOUSE

214-559-3946 | BryansHouse.org

GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND 972-743-6323 | GDMAF.org

HEALTH EDUCATION LEARNING PROJECT

817-332-7722 | helpfw.org | Fort Worth

HEALTH SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS

972-424-1480 | Plano | HealthNTx.org 940-381-2313 | Denton | 940-381-1501 x 5000

LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER

214-520-6308 | LegacyCares.org

LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS

214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org

NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER

214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

N. CENTRAL TX HIV PLANNING COUNCIL

817-321-4743 | NoTexasAIDS.org | Ft. Worth

PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS

214-521-5191 | PrismHealthNTX.org

RESOURCE CENTER

214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY

214-521-3398 | MyResourceCenter.org

TUCKER'S GIFT

214-985-7297 | TuckersGift.org

UT SOUTHWESTERN AIDS PREVENTION

469-291-2800 | Dallas

WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY

214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

EDUCATION

HEALTH EDUCATION LEARNING PROJECT

817-332-7722 | helpfw.org | Ft. Worth

LGBT CHAMBER FOUNDATION

214-821-4528 | Igbtchambrfoundation.org

LGBT EMPLOYEE ASSOC. OF DALLAS

info@dallasl.GBT.org | dallaslgbt.org

LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON

817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

NORTH TX LGBTQ EMPLOYEE RESOURCE

ntcoalitioninfo@gmail.com

OUT@COLLIN CCCC

214-991-7851 | Out.Collin.edu

SMU WOMEN & LGBT CENTER

214-768-4796 | 3140 Dyer St.

SPECTRUM

214-768-4792

STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION PLANO

646-324-8250 | dallasdieindayeverytown.org **UNT ALLY PROGRAM**

940-565-2589 | multicultural@unt.edu

MUSIC

NEW TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

214-526-3214 | NTSO.org

OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND

469-616-0138 | oaklawnband.org

THE DALLAS WINDS

214-565-9463 | dallaswinds.org

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

214-526-3214 x 101 | TurtleCreekChorale.com

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS

214-520-7828 | twcoffice@tecd.org | TWCD.org

POLITICAL

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY LPDallas.org

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS

202-420-7873 | LogCabin.org/Chapter/Texas

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS

214-506-3367|StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON

972-890-3834 TARRANT CO. STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

PROFESSIONAL **ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS**

214-526-2085 **DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION**

214-540-4460 | DGLBA.org

FEDERAL GLOBE

972-308-7233 | dofedglobe.com

LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS

214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS

214-394-2124 | 214-215-3745

LGBT LAW SECTION OF TX STATE BAR

800-204-2222 ext. 1420 | LGBTLawTx.com

N. TEXAS LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

214-821-4528 | LGBTChamber.org

OUT & EQUAL DFW

415-694-6500 | Outandequal.org/dallas

SERVICES

BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

469-224-0436 | BlackTie.org

COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW

214-577-7976 | CFA.labt

DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB

214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

214-528-0144 | info@dgla.com | DGLA.com

DALLAS PRIDE

214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE

214-421-4800 | DallasSouthernPride.com

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS

214-421-8177 | volunteers@glfd.org | glfd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF N. TEXAS 214-855-0520 | hrionline.org

NATIONAL TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION

NorthTexasPride com

RESOURCE CENTER LGBTQ COMM. CTR.

214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

LAMBDA LEGAL SOUTHWEST REGION

214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

SOS - SURVIVORS OFFERING SUPPORT

3014 Oak Lawn | YouCaring.com

TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK

president@tcgpwa.org | TCGPWA.org

TEXAS LATINO PRIDE | DALLAS texaslatinopride.com

TEXAS PRIDE IMPACT FUNDS

TxPIF.org THE DALLAS WAY

TheDallasWay.org

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CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

214-357-3759 | ClassicChassis.com

COUPLES METRO DALLAS CouplesMetroDallas.com

DALLAS BEARS

DallasBears.org

DAMN | DALLAS AREA MALE NUDISTS

oaklwnguy@hotmail.com

DFW FUSE

214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

DISCIPLINE CORPS

disciplinecorps.com

EAST TEXAS PFLAG 903-330-8901 | Tyler

FIREDANCERS mikeykeith@cs.com | firedancers.org

FRISCO PRIDE

469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

GENDERBRAVE

214-540-4415 | MyResourceCenter.org GOH | GROUPO ORGULLO HISPANO

214-540-4448 | MyResourceCenter.org

GRAY PRIDE 214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org

LEATHER KNIGHTS

214-395-8460 | LeatherKnights.org

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT campout@lvlpwa.com | LVLPWA.com

MEN OF ALL COLORS

214-521-4765 | pulliam_preston@yahoo.com **NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOC. - DALLAS**

info@nla-dallas.org | NLA-Dallas.org

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON 214-662-4706 | Once-In-A-Blue-Moon.org

PEGASUS SQUARES 214-924-0263 | Pegasus-Squares.com

POZ DALLAS

pozdallas@gmail.com | poz.com/tag/dallas PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

972-504-8866 | information@primetimers-dfw.org

PROJECT TAG | TYLER 903-526-9692 | TylerAreaGays.com

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

972-975-8622 | RainbowGardenClub.com

RAINROW ROLLNDLIP

info@rrup.org | rrup.org

REAL LIVE CONNECTION | TEEN PRIDE 214-862-2277 | rlc365.org | TeenPrideUSA.org

SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW Singles.meetup.com/2049

SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB

214-289-1179 | Spectrum-MRC.com STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DFW

Groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasftworth **UBE | UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT**

214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE

DallasCourt org

VALOR LATINO 214-540-4430 | acarbajal@rcdallas.org

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION Twitter.com/WODDallas

WOMEN WITH PRIDE 214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

SPIRITUALITY

AGAPE MCC

817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com | Fort Worth

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT

972-245-6520 | COLight.org | Farmers Branch

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com **CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE CHURCH**

903-802-0670 | COTI Church.org | Mabank **CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH**

RethFIRinah org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us **DALLAS MEDITATION CENTER**

972-432-7871 | DallasMeditationCenter.com

DIGNITY DALLAS 972-729-9572

EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

214-824-8185 | EDCC.org

EPISCOPAL - ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 214-352-0140 | The Doubter.org

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH CHURCH

817-921-5683 | FOLOchurch.org | Fort Worth FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS

214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org THE GATHERING PLACE

214-643-3250 | TheGatheringDallas.org **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org

GREENLAND HILLS METHODIST CHURCH 214-826-2020 | GreenlandHills.org

HARVEST MCC 940-484-6159 | HarvestMCC.org | Denton

HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH 972-492-4940 | HorizonUU.org | Carrollton INTERFAITH MINDFUL MINISTRIES

972-432-7871 | InterMindful.com KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST

214-942-0098 | kpumc.org

LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS 214-691-4300 LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

972-546-0543 | LivingFaithDFW.org

LUTHERANS CONCERNED 214-855-4998 | ReconcilingWorks.org

MCC OF GREATER DALLAS 972-243-0761

MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH 214-352-4841 | MidwayHills.org

NORTHAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

214-363-2479 | Northaven.org **OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org PATHWAYS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

817-803-5941 | PathwaysUU.org | Hurst PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

214-623-8400 | PromiseUCC.org ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH

214-351-1401 | StFrancisDallas.org ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST

972-279-3112 | ststephenumctx.org

TRINITY MCC 817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org | Grand Prairie

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH 214-337-2429 | OakCliffUU.org

UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY 214-826-5683 | DallasUnity.org

972-233-7106 | UnityDallas.org

UNITY OF DALLAS

WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH 214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

SPORTS

DALLAS DIABLOS

P.O. Box 190862, Dallas, 75219

DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL

214-578-6206 | DIVADallas.org

DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION

golf@dsgadallas.org | DSGADallas.org

LOST SOULS RUGBY FOOTBALL

LostSoulsRFC.org

NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL 817-823-1839 | ntxwsa.net

OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION 214-358-1382 | Oakl awnBowling.com

OAK LAWN SKI AND SCUBA CLUB

214-521-5342 ext. 1769

OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

701-335-6582 | OLTADallas.org PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOC.

972-879-7900 | DallasPSSA.org RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE

817-540-0303 | rainbow_rollers_league@yahoo.com **TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION**

SUPPORT

214-346-2107 | TGRA.ora

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA

214-264-0222 | DallasAl-Anon.org **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION** 800-242-8721 | heart.org

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LONE STAR 866-405-2447 | bbbstx.org

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY N. TX 214-345-8230

BLACK TRANSMEN INC.

CEDAR SPRINGS MERCHANT ASSOC. thestriponcedarsprings.com

214-766-8939 | 817-834-2119 | CoDependents.org

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS

1-855-BLK-TMEN | BlackTransMen.org

DRUGREHAB.COM

817-881-3949

drugrehab.com/guides/lgbtq | 855-668-8329 **FAMILY PRIDE COALITION**

FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY 781-932-6300 | foodaddicts.org **GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF N. TX**

GALANorthTexas.org **GAY LESBIAN ANGER MANG. GROUP**

469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com IMPULSE GROUP DALLAS

214-629-7806 | NICADFW.org

424-672-5567 | impulsegrp.org/dallas **LAMBDA GROUP NICOTINE ANONYMOUS**

LEZ TALK DALLAS 815-905-2985 | LezTalkDallas.com LGBTQ+ SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE

899-273-8255 | 877-565-8860 | 888-234-SAGE **PFLAG-DALLAS**

972-77-PFLAG | info@pflagdallas.org PFLAG-FORT WORTH 817-428-2329

SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS Men's Group | 972-458-7762 or 214-673-8092

214-821-8510 | SharedHousing.org STONEWALL NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

SHARED HOUSING CENTER

5910 Cedar Springs Road | Dallas **TEXAS ANTI BULLYING COALITION** 866-295-5542 | txabc.org | stand4kind.com

TREVOR PROJECT 866-488-7386 | TheTrevorProject.org

YOUTH FIRST

214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

dallasvoice.com ■ 03.27.20



ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC

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Allen, Ron, CPA | ronallencpa.com 2909 Cole Ave., Ste. 119 | 214-954-0042

Greer, Tom A., CPA | Tax Professional tomgreercpa.com | 214-998-0916

J Chester & Associates, CPA | jchestercpa.com 8140 Walnut Hill, Ste. 430 | 214-330-4682

ADULT NOVELTIES

Alternatives

1720 W Mockingbird | 214-630-7071

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

Jade Air | jadeairdallas.com 214-522-2805 | 214-923-7904

Rescue Air Heating and Cooling rescueair.com | 972-351-8307

ATTORNEYS

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Covell, Rebecca S. | covellpc.com 12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 340 | 214-443-0300

DebnamRust, PC debnamrust.com | 214-775-0628

Hall, Stephanie | ladylawsah.com 4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 600 | 214-522-3343

Johnson, Julie, PLLC | juliejohnsonlaw.com

12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 1202 | 214-290-8001 Olinger Law Immigration | LSOLaw.com

3710 Rawlins, Ste. 1420 | 214-396-9090

Seidel, Adam L., P.C. | adamseidel.com 8150 N. Central, Ste. 1255 | 214-528-3344

West, Chad, PLLC | chadwestlaw.com 3606 S. Tyler St. | 214-509-7555

Wiley, Rob, PC | robwiley.com 2613 Thomas Ave. | 214-528-6500

Womack, Jenny L. PC | WomackAdoptions.com 5495 Beltline Road, Ste. 365 | 214-935-3310

Zimmermann, Mark | texlex.com 3300 Oak Lawn, Ste. 403 | 214-521-2800

BATH HOUSE | GYMS | SAUNAS

Club Dallas | theclubs.com 2616 Swiss Ave. | 214-821-1990

CAMPGROUNDS

Rainbow Ranch Campground rainbowranch.net 1662 LCR 800 | Groesbeck| 888-875-7596

CATERING

Wendy Krispin Caterer wendykrispincaterer. com | 214-748-5559

CHIROPRACTIC DOCTORS - DC

Tutt, Steven J. | drtuttdc.com 4245 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-1900

Auerbach, Lynne | uptownchiropractic.com 2909 Cole Ave., Ste. 205 | 214-979-9013

COMIC BOOKS

Zeus Comics | zeuscomics.com 1334 Inwood Road | 214-219-8597

CONSTRUCTION - RENOVATIONS

Renowned Renovation renowned renovation. com | 972-232-7122

Space for Life | Construction/Renovations spaceforlifetexas.com | 972-769-2526

COACHING | CORPORATE TRAINING

Coaching Beyond | Dale Holdman, BSN coachingbeyond.com | 214-557-0690

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES

Celeratec | celeratec.com 13140 Coit Road, Ste. 324| 888-423-5372

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS

Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau arlington.org/lgbtq | 800-342-4305

VisitDallas | visitdallas.com 325 N. St. Paul, Ste. 700 | 800-232-5527

COSMETIC PROCEDURES

Niroomand, Farhad, MD, PA | uptownderm.com 4144 N. Central, Ste. 855 | 214-303-1102

Resurgence Wellness | resurgence wellness.com 2701 Matlock, Ste. 105 | 833-696-2329

Norcostco Texas Costume | norcostco.com 1231 Wycliff, Ste. 300 | 214-630-4048

COUNSELORS - LPC

Candy Marcum | CandyMarcum.com 4228 N. Central, Ste. 225 214-521-1278

Caswell, Eddie, MEd, LPC 6500 Greenville, Ste. 185 | 214-559-7077

Feleshia Porter & Renee Baker | 214-607-5620 13500 Midway, Ste. 404 | 214-454-8144

Lovell, Cynthia, LPC CynthiaLovelllpc.com 3838 Oak Lawn, 10th Floor | 214-497-6268

Martin, Randy, LPC randymartinlpc@gmail.com 3626 N. Hall St., Ste. 530 | 214-392-8247

Owen, Jimmy, LPC-S | jimmyowen.com 3838 Oak Lawn, # 1000 | 214-546-8852

DATING SERVICES

H4M The Gay & Lesbian Matchmaker h4m.com | 855-443-7463

DENTISTS

Boyd, Carole Ann, DDS, PC | drboyd.net 4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 905 | 214-521-6261

Terrell, Kevin, DDS, PC | terrelldental.com 2603 Oak Lawn, Ste. 100 | 214-329-1818

DISC JOCKEYS

DJ DELUXE PRODUCTIONS | djdeluxe.com Professional mobile DJ | 214-823-1424

EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorder Solutions Eating Disorder Solutions.com | 972-905-9605

EGG DONOR PROGRAMS

The Donor Solution thedonorsolution.com | 713-827-0301

ELECTROLYSIS

Dallas Electrolysis Clinic electrolysisformen.com | 214-766-8939

Hair Today Gone Tomorrow htgtelectrolysis.com 4245 N. Central, Ste. 450 | 682-593-1442

FERTILITY SPECIALISTS

Conceive Fertility Center conceivefertilitycenter.com | 214-224-0778

Fertility Specialists of Texas fertilitytexas.com | 214-618-2044

FINANCIAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Anderson & Associates Financial, LLC Sandy Anderson, ADPA®, CFP® | 214-500-6385

Cornerstone Wealth Strategies Judy S. Sherman, CFBS | 817-366-1119

Edward Jones - Ashley Bloom edwardjones.com/ashley-bloom 817-605-8474

Stephanie Sammons, CFP® sammonswealth.com | 972-440-1194

HAIR SALON

Salon Aura | salonauradallas.com 3910 Cedar Springs Road | 214-443-0454

Trell Parker | Master Barber Grooming Lounge 1499 Regal Row, Ste. 21 | 682-812-4154

HOSPICE CARE

Visiting Nurse Association of Texas vnatexas.org | (800) CALL-VNA

INSURANCE

Beseda, Scott - State Farm Insurance ScottBeseda.com | 214-219-6610

Irvin, M. Angel - Farmers Insurance 972-367-6200

Medicare4USA -Individual & Group Health Medicare4USA.com | 214-989-7900

Southerland, Ken Thinh Nguyen-State Farm | 469-326-3335

Steven Graves Insurance Agency abcohomeins.com | 972-423-0005

LIMOUSINE SERVICE

Legends Limousine legendslimodallas.com | 972-505-2775

MAID SERVICES

Valet Maids | valetmaids.com | 214-817-2408

Dallas Voice | OUT North Texas Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas dallasvoice.com | 214-754-8710

MORTGAGE - REFINANCE

Caliber Home Loans - Christian Johnson, homeloansbychristian.com | 214-763-8767

PrimeLending - Ron Watterson ronwatterson.com | 214-926-9583

Supreme Lending - Armando Ramirez supremelending.com | 214-263-5507

Reverse Mortgage Funding - Patrick Kerwin rmfshow.com | 214-415-3773

Fantastic Moves | FantasticMoves.com 10610 Metric, Ste. 175 | 214-349-6683

MUSEUMS

Amon Carter Museum of American Art cartermuseum.org | 817-738-1933

NURSERIES

North Haven Gardens | NHG.com 7700 Northaven Road | 214-363-5316

OPTICAL GOODS

Fashion Optical | fashionoptical dallas.com 3430 Oak Lawn | 214-526-6006

PET ADOPTION

SPCA of Texas | spca.org 2400 Lone Star Drive | 214-742-7722

PHARMACIES

Avita Pharmacy | avitapharmacy.com 219 Sunset Ave., Ste. 118-A | 214-943-5187

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Terry McCranie Photography terrymccranie.com | 972-877-9546

PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

Barrier, Amy, FNP | Prism Health N. Texas 219 Sunset, Ste. 116A | 214-526-3566

Ghurani, Rasha, MD | Prism Health N. TX 2801 Lemmon, Ste. 200 | 469-687-3200

Gillman, Jason, MD | Prism Health N. TX 219 Sunset, Ste. 116A | 214-526-3566

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Hays, William, MD, ATC | UPG 4144 N. Central, Ste. 750 | 214-303-1033

Klein, Jennifer, FNP | Prism Health N. TX 219 Sunset, Ste. 116A | 214-526-3566

Lee, David, MD | Uptown Physicians Group 4144 N. Central, Ste. 750 | 214-303-1033 McLaud, Mary, FNP | Prism Health N. TX

4922 Spring Ave. | 214-421-7848 Pounders, Steven M., MD 3500 Oak Lawn, Ste. 600 | 214-520-8833

Rivera, Rachel, MD | Prism Health N. TX 4922 Spring Ave. | 214-421-7848

Rosenthal, Emilija, FNP | Prism Health 219 Sunset, Ste. 116A | 214-526-3566

Sinclair, Gary, MD | Prism Health N. TX 219 Sunset, Ste. 116A | 214-526-3566

Tribble, Marc, MD Uptown Physicians 4144 N. Central, Ste. 750 | 214-303-1033

PRINTING SERVICES

PrintBurner |, printburner.com 208 N. Market St. | 214-702-5135

The UPS Store on Lemmon Ave. | Store #5254 4848 Lemmon, Ste. 100 | 214-780-0877

REAL ESTATE

Atkinson, Steve, ABR | DavePerryMiller.com steveatkinson@dpmre.com | 214-334-7404

DeuPree, Joe, ABR | Scottwood Realty, L.L.C. deupreej@sbcglobal.net | 214-683-7224

Durstine Jr., George H. | Scottwood Realty, LLC georgedrealtor@gmail.com | 214-559-6090

Hobson, Phil, H Group | Berkshire Hathaway weknowtx.com/philhobson | 214-659-3624

LaPierre, Paul, GRI | Century 21 Judge Fite paul@4saleindallas.com | 214-564-7741

Moore, Travis-Lee | Keller Williams Urban tlfromtx.com | 817-751-4221

REAL ESTATE CONTINUED

Murphy, Adam | Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate adammurphyhomes.com | 972-795-0125

Narey, Jay, ABR, ALHSm | Keller Williams jaynarey.com | 972-468-5462

Puckett, Robb | Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate robbpuckett.com | 214-403-0098

Scarborough Realty Group | 469-337-0076 scarboroughrealtygroup.com | 903-263-8443,

Scott, Danny Alan | Scottwood Realty, L.L.C. DannyAlanScott@gmail.com | 972-588-8304

Sherman, Diane | David Griffin Realtors 469-767-1823

Sheshene, Tom | Coldwell Banker Lakewood tom.sheshene@cbdfw.com | 214-604-9230

Stoll, Tim - Keller Williams Urban Dallas thinkdallas.com | 214-868-2959

Texas Pride Realty, LLC texaspriderealty.com | 972-246-8853

Updike - Pugh | Dave Perry-Miller updikepugh.com | 214-377-2223

RESTAURANTS

Cremona Bistro Ristorante | cremonabistro.com 2704 Worthington | 214-871-1115

Mama's Daughter's Diner mamasdaughtersdiner.com | 214-742-8646

Nerdvana coffee + shop | nerdvanafrisco.com 5757 Main St., #112, Frisco | 214-618-9732

FastSigns | Oak Lawn, Downtown, Mockingbird, Carrollton | fastsigns.com/12 | 214-526-7446

SURROGACY

3 Sisters Surrogacy 3sisterssurrogacy.com | 877-976-9483

TITLE COMPANIES

Alamo Title - Jeff Fielder, Escrow Officer alamodfw.com | 214-224-0987

Republic Title of Texas, Inc. | republictitle.com 3131 Turtle Creek, Ste. 101 | 214-528-8916

TRANSPORTATION

DART | dart.org | 214-979-1111

TRAVEL AGENCIES & BUREAUS

Cruise Planners - Robert Hickman rchdreamtravel.com | 469-428-6787

The Pauer Group, LLC - Randy Pauer thepauergroup.com | 972-241-2000

VETERINARY SERVICES

Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital | islavet.com 14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110 | 972-738-1111

VODKA COMPANIES Equality Vodka | equalityvodka.com

VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

Sundrops Vitamins & Nutrition | sundrops.com 4306 N. Central Expressway | 214-521-0550

WEDDING SERVICES

LGBTWeddings.com | 844-899-LOVE x 501

So Fabulous Wedding Cakes sofabulouscakes.com | 972-820-7230

Sunrise Point at Cedar Creek Lake

sunrisepointcedarcreeklake.com 903-904-7500 7 for Parties by Wendy Krispin Caterer

7forparties.com | 214-748-5559

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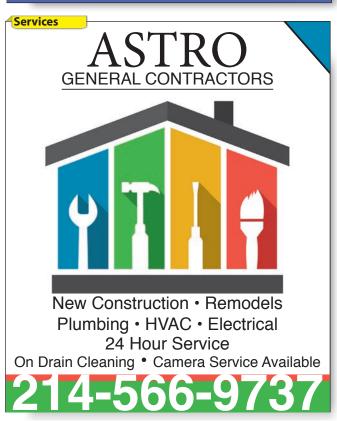


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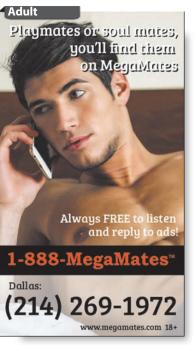
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