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The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

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Friday, April 10, 2020

She's a *survivor*

Local entertainer Chanel LaMasters
talks about her fight against COVID-19

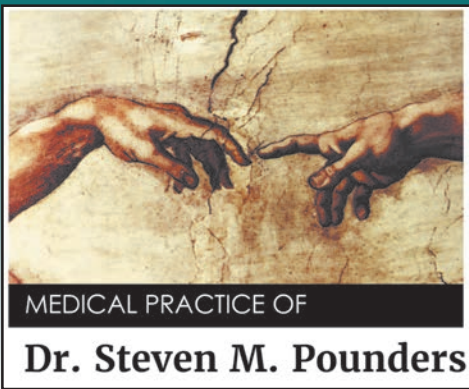
by Tammye Nash, Page 8

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Parks will close for Easter

No Easter in the park. No Pooch Parade. No Easter egg hunts. No barbecues.

To prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson announced Wednesday night, April 8, that all parks in the city will be closed through Easter weekend.

The parks will shut down at 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, and will reopen to the public at 7 a.m. Monday, April 13.

Dallas Park and Recreation Director John Jenkins agreed that a temporary closure this weekend would be the safest decision for first responders, city staff and the public.

Easter weekend is one of the busiest weekends for parks throughout the city. At Turtle Creek Park in Oak Lawn, the Pooch Parade, picnics and entertainment have been a tradition since the 1960s. The park is normally packed, and crowds there are only exceeded those LifeWalk participants in October.

But parks throughout the city are always crowded on Easter for family gatherings and Easter egg hunts.

Park rangers, park staff, Dallas police, city marshals, parking enforcement and code compliance will monitor the city's 397 parks during the weekend. Digital messaging boards will alert people the parks are closed.

Trails will remain open, but users must abide by physical distancing guidelines.

— David Taffet

Feds will fund Dallas test sites through May 20

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson announced April 8 that the federal government will continue to fund the coronavirus test sites at the American Airlines Arena and the Ellis Davis Field House in South Dallas through May 30.

Dallas County reported 63 new confirmed coronavirus infections, down from the previous day by more than a third, for a total of 1,324 cases in the county. One new death was reported: a man from Rowlett in his 60s with underlying health conditions who was the county's 20th death.

Statewide in Texas, 9,353 cases have been confirmed, and there have been a total of 177 deaths. To put that in perspective, New York

had 779 deaths just on Tuesday.

— David Taffet

Texas state parks closed

Texas state parks will be closed to the public effective at the close of business Tuesday, April 7, at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott. The closure is intended to "maintain the safest environment for visitors, volunteers and staff," according to a statement from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TPWD "will continue to stay current with the latest public health recommendations and will announce when a definite reopening date has been determined," officials said in a statement.

TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith said, "Given the myriad of challenges and heightened risks of operating the parks at this time, we believe this is the best course of action right now in order to meet the health and safety expectations the state has set out for the citizens of Texas. All state parks will remain temporarily closed until public health and safety conditions improve. During the closure, staff will continue to steward and care for the parks to ensure they can be immediately reopened to visitors at the appropriate time."

Network and cable news spent little time on anti-trans violence

In a new report released this week, Media Matters found that TV news spent less than 20 minutes reporting on violence against the transgender community of color in 2019. That's 20 minutes total for ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, CNN and MSNBC. For the three cable news networks, that included all coverage between 5 p.m. and midnight.

Out of 13 total segments aired, only four mentioned a slain person by name. Although the report doesn't specify, the name mentioned in the reports was likely that of Dallas resident Muhlaysia Booker, whose murder in May was the most widely covered trans murder, in part because video of her being beaten by several men as a crowd of onlookers laughed and jeered went viral the month before.

The report doesn't include local news

coverage, which was extensive in Dallas. And it doesn't include an Oct. 10 CNN town hall on the subject. At that event, presidential candidates discussed anti-trans violence for a total of 15 minutes.

— David Taffet

HELP Center holding 'best facemask' contest

We've got lots of folks out there making masks these days, either for themselves, for family and friends or, in some cases, anyone who needs one. And folks are getting pretty creative with what they are making.

Now, here's a chance to get a big return on your creativity.

The Help Center for LGBT Health and Wellness is holding a Facemask Contest with gift cards to Uber Eats, Favor or Grubhub for the winners:

"Grab your bedazzler, sequins, paint and more to create your own face mask! Post a photo of your creation and tag us on Facebook and/or Instagram at @helpcenterxtx to be entered to win ... a gift card to your favorite food delivery app."

The grand prize gets a \$100 gift card, and nine runners-up get \$25 gift cards. Winners will be announced April 30 and contacted via direct message then have their gift card emailed to them.

For more information about the Help Center, with offices at 1717 S. Main St. in Fort Worth and 200 E. Division St. in Arlington, visit Help-FW.org.

— Tammye Nash

Coalition launches Artist Relief to give grants to artists impacted by COVID-19

A coalition of national arts grantmakers has launched Artist Relief, a program to provide rapid, unrestricted \$5,000 relief grants to assist artists facing dire financial emergencies due to the impact of COVID-19 and to serve as an informational resource. The coalition is also co-launching the COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers, designed by research partner Americans for the Arts, to better identify and address the needs of artists moving forward.

The coalition includes Academy of American Poets, Artadia, Creative Capital, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, MAP Fund, National Young Arts Foundation and United States Artists.

Grant applications are open now at artistrelief.org.

The fund launched with \$10 million, consisting of \$5 million in seed funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation matched with \$5 million in initial contributions from an array of foundations across the United States. Organizers will continue to fundraise beyond the launch of the grant program to assist with the rapidly escalating needs.

Johnson announces CARES Act funds for 30th District health centers

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

announced Wednesday, April 8, that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded more than \$1.3 billion in emergency supplemental funding to thousands of community health centers to address the coronavirus pandemic.

Five health centers in Johnson's 30th Congressional District have received significant awards. They are:

- Parkland Health & Hospital System: \$817,415
- Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic: \$1,376,540
- Mission East Dallas: \$604,910
- Foremost Family Health Centers (Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Clinic): \$647,105
- Healing Hands Ministries: \$866,345

— Tammye Nash

Fort Worth extends shelter in place; Dallas commissioners limit Jenkins' powers



Mayor Betsy Price, top,
County Judge Clay Jenkins, bottom

The Fort Worth City Council has voted to extend the city's "stay home, work safe" emergency restrictions through April 30. Mayor Betsy Price said last week that she expected the council to vote Tuesday, April 7, during the regularly-scheduled council meeting to extend the order.

The Fort Worth vote came the same day that the Dallas County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to limit some of County Judge Clay Jenkins' power.

The changes approved by commissioners require a majority vote by the commissioners court to extend the county's "stay at home" order beyond its current end date of April 30. Jenkins is also now required to give commissioners at least three hours' notice before putting any more stringent requirements on local businesses.

— Tammye Nash



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SPCA of Texas' Pet Tip of the Week: Children and Pets



In a continued effort to reduce the potential spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the health and well-being of the animals in our care, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and our community, as well as in compliance with state and county orders, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoptions, and mobile wellness events will remain closed to the public through at least Thursday, April 30.

In the meantime, let us offer you this Pet Tip of the Week.

Living with children and dogs can be rewarding all around. Kids learn about being responsible for another creature and considering their feelings and thoughts, and the bond that kids and dogs form can be very strong. The whole family can benefit from living with pets.

But kids and dogs — or any animals — aren't automatically going to know how to get along; it's up to parents to make sure that the relationship goes well.

Establishing some basic rules for yours kids when interacting with your pets will help keep everyone happy and safe. There are some obvious ones, such as not pulling on a dog's ears or tail. But the following two rules are critical: Make sure your kids know never to wake your dog up from a nap, and make sure your kids know not to try to interact with them while they are eating or chewing on a treat or toy. And with smaller dogs, your kids will need to be gentler than they would with a big dog that likes to play and wrestle.

Most importantly, be sure to supervise your kids and pets when they are playing together, especially if your children are under the age of 10. This will allow you to redirect inappropriate behavior from either your dog or your child and avoid accidents.

For more information on teaching your children about pets and for more pet tips, visit spca.org/pettips.



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Surviving the fight

Chanel LaMasters spent 8 days hospitalized with COVID-19, and still faces more time in isolation at home, and she has a message for her community: Take this illness seriously

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

By mid-March, Chanel LaMasters was already “sheltering in place” — staying home and following the Centers for Disease Control’s recommended guidelines. “I was deep-cleaning my home, changing air conditioner filters and disinfecting all areas,” the entertainer said in an email interview from her home this week.

But despite her efforts, she said, by the week of March 16, “I started to experience a dry cough that wouldn’t stop. From there, I had an intense fever of 103.4. I lost my sense of smell and taste and started having difficulty breathing.”

At that point, Chanel said, “I immediately contacted Dr. On Demand.” The tele-doc prescribed antibiotics to treat an upper respiratory infection and then recommended that she go to the emergency room.

By March 26, Chanel said, the symptoms had reached the point of being “highly uncomfortable.”

So, she said, “I went to Baylor and was admitted instantly for evaluation.” Healthcare workers there took several vials of blood and tested her for both the flu and COVID-19. Within a few hours of her being admitted, she said, “The doctor came into the room and mentioned the presence of double pneumonia and said I would have to remain in the hospital for a couple of days for treatment.”

It was two days later, on March 28, that doctors let Chanel know she had tested positive for COVID-19. She remained hospitalized for more than a

week, through April 2.

It was, she said, probably the most miserable eight days of her life.

“The pain and discomfort you experience from this virus is unthinkable,” Chanel said. “I was coughing blood, unable to eat, unable to control my digestive activity, vomiting and breathing.”

The hospital stay was, she continued, “terrifying. The doctors and nurses were very honest in [telling me] that there is no cure for COVID-19. The treatments they would be giving me were ‘ambitious’ and would have to be monitored daily for results.”

She was given antibiotics and fluids daily by IV, along with extra-strength Tylenol every four hours along with Robitussin for the cough.

“COVID-19 patients are kept in complete isolation,” Chanel said. “In my mind, I was constantly thinking that I was going to die alone.”

Finally, on April 2, “because my oxygen levels were reading great and my temperature had been consistent for a 24-hour period, I was released to return home,” Chanel said. But that doesn’t mean she is well. In fact, she was released from the hospital on the condition that she remain quarantined alone in her home, in complete isolation, for the next two weeks.

“I don’t feel cured or healed,” she said. “I just believe that I was the best of the worst. I still am having difficulty breathing and maintaining an appetite. I am still in complete isolation and unable to be around anyone.”

Still, she said, she is fortunate that the medicines doctors prescribed for me are “things that can be purchased over the counter. My testing in the hospital showed that I was healthy prior to infection, and that my body would be able to heal in extended time.”

The doctors and nurses at Baylor Hospital “did a great job of trying to provide a high level of service with limited information on the virus.” When she was released, she said, they told her she needed to closely monitor



her symptoms and go back to the hospital if she began to get worse again.

The worst part of this whole ordeal, Chanel said, “is the fear of the unknown. I struggle daily with wondering what the long-term effects of this virus will be. Knowledge about COVID-19 seems to be changing on a daily basis, [and] I can’t get answers that seem consistent.

“Because of this inconsistency,” she continued, “I feel the American people do not take this seriously. I can’t express the deep sadness and fear you feel, thinking you will die alone in a hospital room. I have decided to seek therapy to help deal with the emotional trauma” of the illness.

But, Chanel said, there has been a bright spot — the support she has gotten from the LGBTQ

community.

“I cannot express the overwhelming love and support that I received [from the community] through social media,” she declared. “I want to thank everyone, near and far, for the love and prayers. Through all of this, it showed me that I am loved and supported, and it just makes me cry daily.

“During times like this, the LGBTQ community really pulls together!”

And Chanel has a message for her community and for the rest of North Texas:

“I want everyone to know, *this is real!*” she said. “The idea that you will be alone and could possibly die alone is truly haunting. I do not want that for anyone.

“I am asking everyone to sacrifice things right now to ensure that we have a future.” ■



Photos by Michael Albee Designs

CDC GUIDELINES TO AVOID CORONAVIRUS INFECTION

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Everyone Should:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or may be sick.
- Stay home as much as possible, and put distance between yourself and other people — at least six feet. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Wear a cloth face cover when you have to go out in public, but do not use a face-mask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.

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What's the T on Pride?

Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow talks about the event being rescheduled

Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow last week announced that the Pride organizing committee has decided to postpone this year's festival and parade due to concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

With disaster declarations requiring residents to stay in place across North Texas through at least April 30 and no guarantee the orders will be lifted before the end of May, the celebration originally scheduled for June 6-7 has now been delayed until July 25-26. This week, Turnbow talked with Dallas Voice about that decision.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: What were the primary factors that convinced the committee to reschedule the celebration? Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow: The overwhelming factor for us is safety, first and foremost. For Dallas Pride, we monitored the news closely and worked with Fair Park and city officials to inform ourselves and make the best decision we could make. Though it was a big decision, we would rather push Pride back than risk anyone's health and safety.

Over my last 15 years with Dallas Pride, I have gotten to know many of the other executive directors and presidents of Pride organizations, large and small, from across the U.S. and in other countries. Many of us have been leaning on each other, setting up Zoom meetings, webinars and phone conversations to try and figure this out as a team of pride organizers.

During this pandemic, we all have had the exact same questions: Do we keep our dates? Should we postpone? Should we cancel? And what are the consequences of each decision?



The overwhelming consensus is simple: safety first.

There is no roadmap or rulebook for us as events to go by, since no one was prepared for this virus and level of disruption. We're all figuring it out together as Pride organizers, as a community, and as a nation.

How did the Pride committee settle on the dates of July 25-26? What factors came into play in making that decision? Many people don't know the amount of planning involved for an event of this size! There are so many moving parts at play that it is hard to just switch gears and pick a new date. We had discussions with the venues, our local float maker, event contractors, entertainers, sponsors and even other Pride events across the country. This date worked for everyone.

How does this change affect previously-set deadlines for grand marshal nominations/elections, vendors/entries in the festival or the parade, etc.? Are there new deadlines, and, if so, what are they? It will for sure change all of the current deadlines. Since we have made the decision to postpone, we are still working through what those new deadlines will be, as there are many conversations to be held about them.

As we do get all of those worked out, we'll get the word out through emails to current and potential parade/festival applicants, social media, our website and, of course, the Dallas Voice.

Has the shut down and the subsequent delay affected sponsors for the weekend? What about performers? Did you already have people under contract? If so, can they perform on the new dates? As of today, it has not affected already-signed sponsors. Current and even

potential sponsors have been extremely supportive. It's actually very frustrating, because before the pandemic took hold, we were having our best year for sponsorship inquiries and an exceptional year for parade and festival applicants.

We already had our headliner on contract, deposits paid and were about to an-

nounce it when all this really took hold.

Luckily, they are still available for the new dates. Once we get the initial switching of gears done for postponement, we'll get back to doing the fun stuff like announcing entertainment. I'm really excited for our headliner this year.

I have seen people complaining that the end of July will be too hot for the festival/parade. Talk about why that is or is not a concern for the festival (Won't much of it be inside?) and for the parade (Is there a way to arrange for misters or something similar to help people cool off?) With a large portion of the festival being indoors at Fair Park with A/C, that's a huge plus. We have hundreds of thousands of square feet of indoor, air-conditioned event programming. As for the outside portions for the festival and parade, we are working on cooling ideas. We already had some ideas planned before the postponement; they'll just be needed even more now, and we are working on them. There are also a lot of shaded areas at Fair Park, which helps.

What are some of the "lessons" the committee has learned from the change to Fair Park last year? What, if any, changes can people expect this year? Any time you move an event, you have hurdles to overcome in regard to logistics. From a feedback standpoint, we were overwhelmed [last year] with the amount of positive Facebook messages, emails, phone calls we received — even compliments at the event itself — and it was quite overwhelming.

We even had positive feedback from people who had never been to the parade before but had seen it for the first time on CW 33 and were already making plans to attend

in 2020.

We had more new sponsor inquiries this year than we have ever had, and the record opening day of parade and festival applications was mind-blowing.

We are excited about the momentum that the move to Fair Park has generated, and we plan to put on another great event this year. I think one of the things we have learned is that Fair Park allows us so many possibilities in regard to the festival that I really don't think any two years are going to be the same, so I would recommend expecting things to evolve each year!

What changes can people expect to see just because of the rescheduling?

Nothing necessarily due to the reschedule itself. We are continuing to be creative and think of how we utilize this opportunity to share our message and celebrate with our friends and allies. I do think people will notice an increased focus on safety for this event and all events happening in the Dallas area.

You guys had a very short amount of time for planning, etc., last year because of the change from September to June. This time, you have had a year, and now a year plus, basically, two months. What has that extra time allowed you to do?

Certainly, the change in date has taken some of that time from us. I've spent many sleepless nights staring at Word documents and Excel spreadsheets! But with an event this size, it's really not just about how many months you have before the next one; it's really more about the strength and dedication of the committee that is bringing it to life. We have a great team at Dallas Pride, so I'm confident that we will continue to bring new, engaging ideas to the table and to our event. We have a lot of fun planned for Dallas Pride in July.

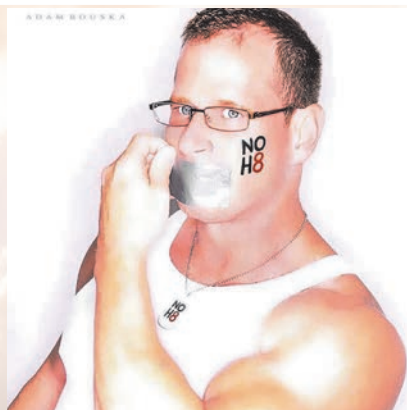
Other than changing the dates, how has the COVID-19 crisis affected Pride?

Are any of the committee members/organizers/volunteers sick that you know of? Are you going to have to put into place extra precautions in terms of preventing spread of coronavirus or other diseases? Thankfully, as far as I know in relation to Dallas Pride, everyone has been safe and healthy. We will be going above and beyond to keep everyone involved safe and healthy. We have already talked to our janitorial company about what extra steps we can take to accomplish this.

What else do people need to know about Pride and the rescheduling? We are in this together, and none of us have all the answers. We're all taking it one day at a time just like everyone else. My hope, and the hope of every Pride event organizer across the globe, is that the LGBTQ+

The T, Next Page

OBITUARIES



Rob Mahurin, 57, passed away on March 13, leaving this world a kinder and more beautiful place by his presence. Rob died at his home of a possible heart attack.

Rob was born July 6, 1962, at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles and grew up in Dallas. He graduated from North Garland High School in 1980 where he was a six-time Texas state championship gymnast and national champion on high bar. He also graduated from The University of Oklahoma where he was a member of the OU Big 8 and national champion gymnastics team and an Olympic-level gymnast. His coach described Rob's strengths as "artistry and exceptional execution – blending art and sport in a very special way."

The same can be said for his life.

Rob was an interior architectural designer, and throughout his career in interior architectural design, his work was featured in regional and national publications and won numerous awards. He contributed to the early success of DIFFA by designing extraordinary jackets and custom artwork for their auctions.

Rob transcended various artistic mediums ranging from technical renderings to illustration, sculpture, silkscreen, fashion and jewelry. His greatest gift was in teaching others to reach their potential, always seeking to elevate.

Rob enjoyed training and competing in marathons across the country, loved travel, especially to Vancouver and Montreal, and he had a deep appreciation for classic cinema and vocal talent. His smile engaged all those he encountered, and his genuine kindness could be felt immediately. Rob is survived by his mother, Sue Mahurin of Lewisville; his brother, John Mahurin of Gar-

land, and his sister, Sue Mahurin of Katy; his partner, Chris Martinez, and his close friends Kevin Curran and Anthony Ramos.

Williams Funeral Home in Garland is handling cremation services. A celebration of Rob's life will be held at the Cathedral of Hope when circumstances permit, and the family requests that memorial contributions in Rob's name be made to Cathedral of Hope.

"Sometimes there's God, so quickly."



Gary Swisher, 62, died Monday, April 6, of organ failure due to sepsis.

Born March 26, 1958, Gary was a native of Farmington, N.M. He graduated from Farmington High School and later from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. He had lived in the Dallas area for the last 37 years.

Gary started volunteering with Oak Lawn Counseling Center — later known as Oak Lawn Community Services after its focus turned to providing HIV/AIDS-related services — soon after the organization was founded in 1984. He later became volunteer coordinator for the agency and was instrumental in creating The Buddy Project, the Daire Center and OLCS' prescription services program.

Gary eventually became CEO of OLCS and was very proud of the work he did with the agency through the years. He was also active with the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and was dedicated to making the world better for people with HIV/AIDS and for the LGBTQ community.

Gary is survived by his partner of 30 years, Patrick Tester; brothers David Swisher of Cave Creek, Az. And Donald Swisher of Farmington, N.M.; sister-in-law Jennifer Swisher of Cave Creek, Az.; nephews Derek Swisher of Phoenix, Ryan Swisher of Cave Creek, Az., and Donnie Swisher of Farmington, N.M.; and niece Victoria Lou of Farmington, N.M.




The T, From Previous Page


community understands that we are doing the best we can with the current info available to us.

The safety of everyone involved is our top priority. It's also understanding that Pride events are crucial to the LGBTQ+ community. It's not just about being visible; it's also about coming together as a community with our allies and giving everyone a safe and welcoming place to celebrate who we are.

Pride events give those who don't have the luxury of living in a big city like Dallas, Austin or Houston the chance to come and have fun with others like them. It gives families a chance to bring their LGBTQ+ child or teen out to the festivities to show them they aren't alone. We will do our best to have a fun and safe Pride event in July, just as we have for the last 36 years.



Eugene Tseng, D.D.S




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Social distancing is this epidemic's safer sex

What we learned from the AIDS epidemic is what most people need to hear, but too many won't listen

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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When asked, doctors, politicians and pundits on TV routinely insist this COVID-19 pandemic is like nothing we've seen in our lifetime.

Really? Are you sure about that, Doc?

Because I keep having flashbacks to the early 1980s and the onset of the AIDS epidemic. Tens of thousands died in that epidemic, many of them before government leaders were even willing to say the word "AIDS."

But we learned a lot from those decades of fighting HIV and AIDS, and those lessons apply to the current situation — if we will just listen to them.

For instance, social distancing is COVID-19's safer sex. Just as safer sex reduced transmission of HIV, social distancing is reducing transmission of novel coronavirus.

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said she was talking recently with one of her agency's younger employees about the AIDS crisis and how it affected her. At the end of the conversation, the younger Resource Center worker told her, "I wondered why you're so calm" in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cox compared the two epidemics: "There is the shock of a mysterious virus that is circulating," she said. "And we're going to lose people."

But she remembers clearly back to the

days of the height of the AIDS epidemic and how the LGBT community came together to care for each other. She remembers fighting for funding and legislation, and she remembers the fear and hatred directed toward our community.

But Cox also recalls the compassion that built housing for people living with HIV; she remembers the food pantry that still feeds people that started as a shelf in Crossroads Market — and more.

And she remembers that together, we came through the crisis. "Some days I find it comforting," she said. "Sometimes I feel grief."

Thinking back on those earlier days of the AIDS pandemic, Cox had some advice on dealing with today's crisis, starting with urging people to follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines.

During the AIDS epidemic, safer sex controlled spread of the virus in our community. Social distancing is working in the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's inconvenient to all of us, but this is a serious health threat," Cox acknowledged. But, she added, "Social distancing is what we must do. We have to make this sacrifice."

Cox said she worries about people in countries that don't have the health care and the modern conveniences we have. "We're going to see images from countries that don't have the wealth this country has," she said. "To complain about having to stay in our houses is a luxury most places in the world don't have."

Don Maison is the retired CEO of AIDS Services Dallas. He said the difference between the AIDS crisis and coronavirus pandemic is that the current epidemic is affecting so many more people.

During the AIDS crisis, most people "didn't have to care," he said. But now, everybody does. That's the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic:



Don Maison above, Cece Cox, inset

An epidemic spreads over a certain population or a particular area; a pandemic threatens an entire continent or the entire world.

The U.S. didn't care about the coronavirus when it was confined to one city in China, just as most people didn't think they had to care when AIDS was running rampant only in the gay community.

Maison said another thing that's similar about the two epidemics is the lack of leadership at the top. "Leadership matters, nationally and locally," he said.

With the AIDS pandemic, nationally people like Dr. Mathilde Krim and Elizabeth Taylor stepped up to raise money and lobby Congress during the AIDS epidemic, Maison noted. Locally, he added, when Ewing, ASD's first residence, opened in Oak Cliff, the city "welcomed" the facility by slapping it with 13 citations.

Local political support came only from County Commissioner John Wiley Price, who stood up to the four Republicans that made up the rest of the commissioners court. On many occasions, Price pointed his finger in their faces and called them bigots when they'd vote to deny funding for AIDS. On a second vote, he'd usually get his way.

Price became the one elected official singlehandedly responsible for making sure Parkland Hospital was providing care to people with HIV.

Statewide, now-U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, who was at the time serving as a senator in the Texas Legislature, wrote the first bills helping people with HIV. Now, in addressing the coronavi-

rus, she has stepped up to address the medical rather than economic side of the epidemic in the same way she did for AIDS decades earlier.

The U.S. president is insisting that one particular drug is the cure for COVID-19. But Johnson, as chairwoman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, has called for funding actual scientific research. She included financial support for federal research agencies in the recently-passed CARES Act that also provides business loans, unemployment insurance and other economic stimuli.

"This bill addresses the crisis in another significant way that has not received much attention," Johnson said. "It includes support for research activities that will be critical to finding effective treatments for COVID-19."

Cox said she can see both good and bad coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Lack of national leadership is literally killing us," she said. "But an amazing opportunity can come out of this."

She said we want to hear compassion from the president; she wants to hear him reassure the country. But it's not reassuring when we see health professionals rolling their eyes while the president speaks.

On the other hand, Cox said she is optimistic. "People are reaching out in ways they never did before," she said. "People are actually having conversations [with each other] on the phone."

As the AIDS crisis did to bring the LGBT community together, we can emerge from the coronavirus pandemic as a nicer and safer world. ■

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■ commUNITYvoices

A virtual Seder is commanded

Churches that insist on in-person services are putting their congregations and their communities at risk

This week is Pesach — known in English as Passover — most Jewish people's favorite holiday. We celebrate with the Seder. But what does Jewish law tell us about conducting a Seder in a world of physical distancing?

We look to the commandments around Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in Judaism, for the answer. On that day, we fast from sunset to sunset — no food, nothing to drink.

But the commandment to fast on this holiest of days is superseded by the commandment to not endanger your life. If you're on a prescription that must be taken with food, you eat. If you have a pill you must take with water, you drink. If you're recovering from, say kidney stones, and need to drink plenty of fluid, YOU DO IT.

In other words you never do anything to endanger your life or well being.

So on Passover, if we must physically distance to remain safe, that's what we are commanded to do.

We celebrate Passover with a big dinner at which we tell the story of the Exodus. We're commanded to eat matzo (unleavened bread) to remember how God threw boxes of Manischewitz at the Israelites as they wandered through the desert. We remember how God convinced Pharaoh to let His people go by letting loose with 10 plagues — you know: locusts, tornadoes, coronavirus, death of people with pre-existing conditions, etc.

This really isn't a year we should skip Passover observances.

So I usually get my matzo from Central Market, even though their parent company is HEB, which seems to be some sort of slur. But as God's revenge for that HEB slur, the Central Market I go to at Preston Royal was destroyed by the tornado last October.

So I tried Whole Foods. They had matzo, but if they didn't, I was going to get



David Taffet
Senior Staff Writer

creative. After all, isn't our creativity how we're all getting through this pandemic?

Matzo is made of flour and water. No yeast. No eggs. No additional ingredients. I was going to roll it out flat on a cookie sheet and bake. How long? I don't know. Awhile?

But then there was the whole issue of getting together for the Seder.

Doctors in my synagogue, Congregation Beth El Binah, were already sounding the warning bells about this virus almost two months ago. We cancelled our Purim party. And we began conducting Shabbat services via Zoom.

Zoom's been fun. Everyone chats. Our terrible singing — most of our service is sung or chanted — just became worse online. Normal for us is singing out of key, in various keys and even more than one melody at once. Add to that the two-second Zoom delay we get depending upon each person's band-width or speed. It's not quite enough delay for us to be singing in rounds, but enough to make our bad singing worse.

But what is important is that we are together online while we are also safe at home.

And this fulfills the greatest mitzvah (commandment) in Judaism — to protect our lives.

Congregation Beth El Binah normally meets at Northaven United Methodist Church, so I know we're not alone in the religious world in choosing to put life above a building. All the other Methodist churches in the Dallas diocese are closed as well. (Shout out to our friends at Northaven. We love you. We miss you. Stay safe).

While not being able to meet in person hurts, sickness and death hurt more. And churches that are opening and inviting in

crowds are endangering their own well being, the wellbeing of their congregations and the wellbeing of everyone with whom someone in their congregation comes in contact.

Short-term gratification is overtaking long-term health and safety.

But far be it from Gov. Greg Abbott to lead in this area. In fact, he cited the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prevent local stay at home orders from applying to houses of worship — not even a plea for them to stay safe.

Because testing is still restricted to those showing symptoms, we don't know how many people are carrying the virus. Latest evidence shows asymptomatic people spread it. A packed church not practicing physical distancing is a perfect place to pass around the coronavirus.

While I get that we don't want to interfere in how anyone practices their religion, I don't want to see more people die.

As someone who lived through the AIDS epidemic, I have something to say, and I beg you all to please listen, especially the straight, right-wing, religious people who were so horrible to us during those two decades of devastation. To those pastors who back then preached "all the right people are getting it," let me just say there are no "right people" to fall sick and die. Not of AIDS. Not of coronavirus.

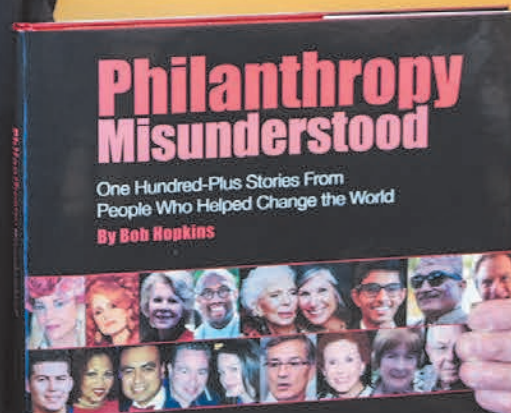
To those who hoped for my death during the AIDS devastation, I pray for your life and safety.

Because of AIDS research, we learned so much more about the immune system than we previously knew. Before HIV, we had no drugs to treat viruses. Now there are hundreds. One of them, or a variation of one, of them may work on the coronavirus. And we may know soon.

Vaccines are also being tested. We may have one approved within 18 months. Until then, hold tight, physically distance and remain socially connected. Be safe. ■

David Taffet is the senior staff writer for Dallas Voice and a member of Congregation Beth El Binah. Cooking is not his strong point, so we are all glad he did not have to try and make his own matzo.

When giving, the first thing you have to pay is 'attention'



Bob Hopkins believes the universe will tell you how to do good in the world, which has made him Dallas' evangelist for philanthropy

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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When Bob Hopkins first moved to Dallas in 1984, he was certain his education and training in fundraising would quickly land him a position. But that initial job hunt was surprisingly slow-going.

"Nobody in Dallas would hire me!" he says. "Fundraising is about relationship-building, and that means knowing people, and I didn't know anyone."

What a difference a few decades can make. After landing that first job (someone with the Shelton School took a

chance on the newcomer), he moved on to fundraising for the Neurofibromatosis Foundation and other positions. For a dozen years, he published the newspaper (later magazine) *Philanthropy* in Texas, in which he focused on major contributors to charitable causes and organizations. Today, Hopkins is the acknowledged maven of philanthropy.

"Organizations fail all the time because they don't know how to fundraise," he says. "You can know people but not have the skills to fundraise." And while teaching those skills is a huge part of what has driven his career over the years, he is quick to point out that "donating money" and "philanthropy" are not synonymous... though there is a ton of overlap.

"When Rockefeller and Carnegie started building libraries and colleges and such, people needed to call them something other than donors," to represent their magnanimity, Hopkins

points out. "Philanthropist" became the settled-upon term, even though the definition of philanthropy doesn't necessarily involve money — it's merely the love of humanity and the promotion of the welfare of others. Its essence concerns the acknowledgment of community and our desire to help out our fellow man in any way we can — a message that seems especially poignant during the current crisis.

And that's why he titled his book *Philanthropy Misunderstood*.

"Everyone in this book I have worked with at some point," he says. And from their examples, he tells more than 100 tales of people both rich and of modest means who have made a difference embracing the principles of altruism and philanthropy.

The process went fairly quickly. The idea for the book came about two years ago, when a friend gave him the confidence to believe he could write it. But

the actual writing only took from May to November of last year. He elicited stories from the likes of model-event planner Jan Strimple, jeweler Joe Pacetti, Paul Quinn College president Michael Sorrell and Gayle Halperin with Bruce Wood Dance. But he also includes stories by folks like Andrew Ayala, a recent Eastfield Community College alum, who became inspired by Hopkins to become active in his church group; and Diego Franco, another of Hopkins' students who went on a trip to Mexico and discovered how helping children in a small town pick up trash could be so transformative for many lives, including his own.

Philanthropy is both easier and harder than you might imagine. The trick is to jump right in. By way of example, Hopkins discusses how a few months ago he was at H&R Block having his

Music in the time of quarantine



Photos courtesy Lauren Dukoff

Melissa Etheridge has chosen to focus on the 'beautiful change' the COVID-19 pandemic will bring

Throughout her three-decade career, Melissa Etheridge has beat cancer and weathered the devastating emotional toll of the AIDS crisis. Having overcome her own battles, the music legend consequently became a beacon of strength, resilience and survival and has turned her tribulations into musical catharsis.

Given her collective courage in

facing life's most unexpected challenges, I tweeted the icon about doing an interview about how she's handling the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic and its resulting fallout after a national shutdown that closed schools, workplaces, restaurants and forced promoters and artists to cancel tours. Etheridge was about to play a long stretch of shows, but that was canceled, too. Etheridge brought her cool head and optimistic outlook as we discussed the unsettling state of our dramatically changed world.

— Chris Azzopardi

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Dallas Voice: How are you? And I mean that. Melissa Etheridge: We are all well. We're in the new day, the new world, like all of us, and trying to figure this all out, but we're all good.

This is our new not-normal normal, isn't it? And it's like, how do we shift to this new life that we will be living for probably quite some time. Well, one, the music industry's been hit so hard. I try not to worry, but it's like ... I worry. My whole crew and band — I'm not making any money, and it's like, whoa. All of a sudden it really hits you, and it's like, come on, is this two weeks? One month? Two months? How long am I not gonna make any money? I can certainly get by for a while, but my crew and stuff ... I try not to worry. But it's going to be a big, fat hardship.

You were about to go out on tour when some shows began being canceled because of the pandemic. Yeah, yeah. Well, it was gonna go till May and then I was gonna have a little bit off in May and June, and then I was gonna go over to Europe at the end of June and come back to America.

And you thought, for a time, that you'd brave it. Yeah. I was like, "No, no — I'm not scared of nothing!" But then, all of a sudden, it was like, "Oh, no, never mind. I get what we're doing now." It became that the thing that we can do to keep this from spreading is to keep away from each other.

I took a run today, and I don't usually run, but I had your song "I Run for Life" on and it was getting me through, so I just looped it. I just played it four times in a row and ran through my neighborhood. It was a great feeling. I'm realizing that we have to look to small joys right now. For me, that was a small joy. Where are you finding your small joys right now? I'll tell you what I'm doing and I just finished: I've been going live on Facebook every day at 3 o'clock PST. It just helps me so much. I do two or three songs and just say hey to people. We kind of meet together at the same time and thousands

of people all over the world are joining me and it really means a lot.

It helps you? How so?

Oh gosh, yes. 'Cause that's what I do. I sing for people. And when a body sings, it heals. It brings just as much joy to me as it does to other people.

So in addition the financial impact of canceling your tour, it sounds like there's also a personal loss for you. Oh, yeah. I had taken a big break the

last time. I was on the road in November and I was like, "I'm gonna take the holidays off and really not get that going until March." That's a big, long break for me, and I like to get up in front of people and I like the adoration of thousands of people, you know [laughs]. It makes me feel good! I'm a road person. I love getting on the road with my crew and my band and playing music. I just love it. I do that. That's what I do. I love it.

What's so hard to come to terms with is that in times of crises, live music has helped heal. But we don't have that now, and might not for a while. Oh, it's just awful.

But you're doing what you can to connect with fans on social media. How about connections in your personal life? Is your family with you? Yes. My two older kids — one is in New York City and she got out and went to a friend's in Washington and she's staying there. I have another in Denver and he's OK. I wish they were all here. My two little ones are here with my wife, so we're camping out here. And we take walks and do stuff — and we're six feet from our neighbors, but we're all much more friendly because it's that connection that we miss.

I remember you told me about three years ago when Trump got elected, "I will not fear." With this, are you scared? Do you fear? And if not, how did you get to that place of fearlessness? It started 15 years ago with cancer, how I understood fear and how I understood what our everyday is made of, what our world and reality is made of and all its choices and that choice always comes down to two basic emotions: love or fear. All the other emotions can be categorized in there.

I have many choices of how to respond or react to this virus, to everything that's going on with it. I could be very fearful. I could be fearful for my health, fearful for our system. I could choose fear. Or I could look at it and go, "OK." And sometimes it's hard to do this, to say, "I'm going to look at this and I'm going to see what is the loving outcome that can happen here." And I choose to do that every day.

Like I've said, I look at my neighbors and all

of a sudden I'm looking them in the eyes, all of a sudden people are wanting that social connection. Take that away from us and all of a sudden we're like, "Wait a minute. I want that." I think this is going to change our whole system. It's going to change our education system, it's going to change our health system, it's going to change because there's going to be such a humongous economic crash that we're going to have to change the way our system is set up.

We will be forced to make major shifts in these various paradigms once we get through this. Yeah. Big corporations are not gonna have anybody to buy their products soon if they don't look and say, "Something's gotta change." And we're going to change leadership. I truly believe that. I truly believe there will be a huge leadership change and it's gonna be people with new ideas and new ways of doing this. So this sort of quantum leap that we all felt could come since 2012, there's big change coming, and we all wanted it. It's sort of like this big bow that's been pulled back really far and finally there's gonna be so much desire for that change now because of understanding how interconnected we are. We're gonna see that change, and 10 years from now we're gonna look back and go, "Wow, it was really, really hard but I'm glad it happened be-cause these changes were made." So that's how I don't fear. I constantly think, What's the good? Look for the helpers. Find the Italians singing on the balcony. There's beautiful things that show what our humanity is. That's what we can do now. That's how you don't fear.

I think you're right: This will bring us into unity. And it starts with leadership change, and that's going to come in a few months. I think it's going to be huge. People are going to go, "That sucked, and we're not going to go through that again."

What did you learn about pandemic panic from living through the worst of the AIDS pandemic? That there are really good, smart people in the world who were made for this, who were made to make change and to put pressure on government and institutions to change. Really smart people that were born for this. And they're rising to the occasion right now.

How did the first live stream go? It was so, so sweet. It felt so good, and it was so great to see people from all over the world. And that's the thing: The whole world is going through this. The whole world! And music really goes beyond language and goes straight to the heart, and I love that. I feel being a musician is being a healer.

A song that helped get you through your battle with cancer and is helping me is Patty Griffin's "When It Don't Come Easy," from her album Impossible Dream. Where does a song like that take you? Some-

times I don't know what it is about a song that can do that, but a song can just hit a part of your emotional center and it can be in the voice, it can be in the music, it can be when she just sings, "If you get lost, I'll come out and find you; if you forget my love, I'll try to remind you, stay by you when it don't come easy." Just knowing that one human being sang that to another human being, and then just knowing that it exists in our emotional world can fill that part of you up. So, I'm so grateful for all the other musicians who have inspired me and do that because that's our job, and it's our time to do our job now.

You're feeling the call? It's funny: I'm feeling the call to perform. I'm a little overwhelmed by the writing right now because I'm right in the middle of it. You sit down and you go, "It's too big to look at, it's right in front of your face." There needs to be a little distance. Maybe in a few days, maybe when I see what this really is.

Then you might start jotting down some song lyrics? Oh, yeah. I was already in my writing mode. I was already starting to write for my next album. This is going to be a very interesting album.

What are you listening to right now in your place with your family to help get you through this? Reggae always makes me happy. Bob Marley. Some old-school stuff. But my wife and I watched West Side Story and then we watched Barbra Streisand in On a Clear Day You Can See Forever. Barbra Streisand just makes you feel good. So we're kind of finding comfort in that.

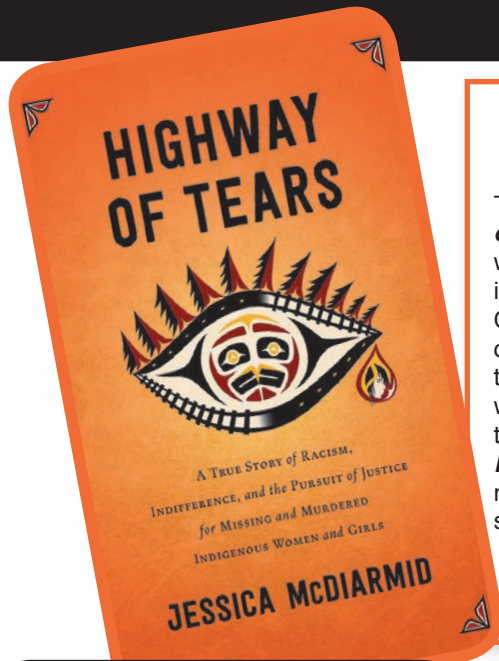
And toilet paper — you good? It's funny: Just a few months ago we were saying, "Why don't we make hemp toilet paper? Wouldn't that be great?" And I wrote to my friend and went, "Why didn't we listen to ourselves? Why didn't we start making hemp toilet paper?"

What were your quarantine essentials? Did you make a run over the weekend? I actually just went this morning because we have a really great pantry. Because I have two kids, I kind of keep things stocked, so we were fine. But the thing that we always like to do is go to the market a lot because we like really fresh produce and fresh food, and that's the hard part. But I can't find brown rice anywhere! So I'm hoping we can replenish and everybody will be OK. And I have to make sure we have salad every day because this is not the time to not be healthy, so fresh produce is the thing.

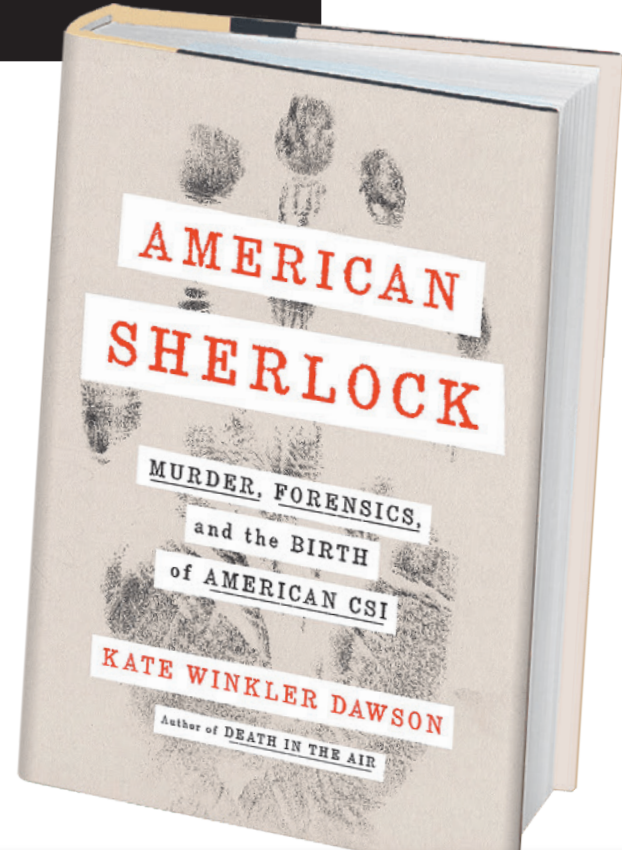
Is there a song you sing while you're washing your hands? Some people are doing "Bring Me Some Water." If you sing the first verse and the first line of the chorus. Bring me some water, I gotta wash my hands. Bring me the water!

Here's another installment of our suggestions for the best reading options during lockdown (and it

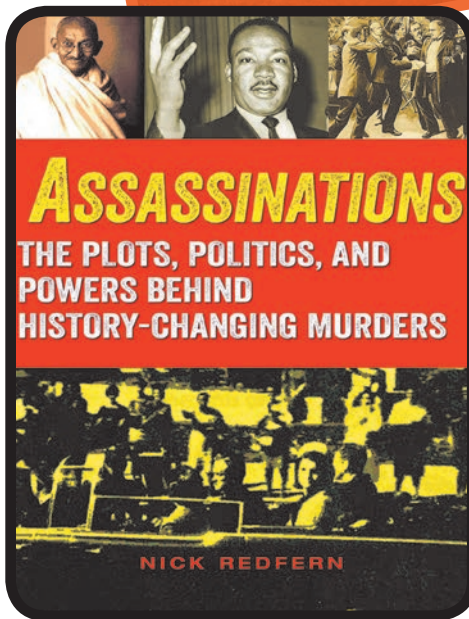
helps that you can have them safely delivered straight to your home!). For this edition, we focus on true crime options.



True crime fans will want to have *Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid in their laps while being quarantined. It's a deep look into a tragedy: Along a highway in British Columbia, officials have discovered dozens of murdered indigenous women and girls through the decades. How this happened, what is being done about it, it'll keep you on the edge of your seat. Also look for *The Lost Brothers* by Jack El-Hai, a missing-boys mystery that's nearly seven decades old but still a very active case.



If you've always wondered what it might be like to be in a high government crime-fighting position, then you'll want to read *The Unexpected Spy* by Tracy Walder with Jessica Anya Blau. It's the story of Walder's years with the FBI, the CIA, and the life of one woman inside the world of taking down terrorists. And if you've always wondered how crime-fighters do their work, then look for *American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of American CSI* by Kate Winkler Dawson. It's a book about the man who helped set the stage for the way forensics is done, even today – and that includes the things he got all wrong.



Here's another one to whet your true crime whistle: *c.* The title says it all... except "you'll like it." Another book you'll like: *The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia* by Emma Copley Eisenberg, the story of a crime that impacted an entire geographical area.

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taxes worked on when the preparer asked him about his occupation; when he explained it to her, she became excited.

"She said, 'This weekend is my first time to volunteer for an activity: Taking care of children after school for parents who work.' She was doing it totally free of charge," he says, but was enthusiastic about it. Which is really the secret to philanthropy: "When you find something, you develop a passion for it. And if you don't know what your passion

is... well, pay attention to the world around you, and the opportunities will come to you. Hold out your arms and say, 'God, here I am — come and get me!' It's addictive."

"Addictive" is an interesting choice of words, since Hopkins himself traces his involvement in philanthropy back to 1980 when he entered Alcoholics Anonymous. He believed strongly in the program and wanted to help out others suffering from dependency. That led him down a path devoting his skill-set to doing good in the world. (Another upside? Hopkins met his partner of 40

years at one of those AA meetings.)

Of course, once you begin to give — of your time, of your ideas, of your passion — your enthusiasm becomes contagious. That leads others to share in your enthusiasm and, hopefully, give as well (hence the fundraising component). "People who don't give often question the purpose of [philanthropy]," Hopkins says. It's a sort of variation on the "teach a man to fish" axiom.

Amazingly, Hopkins notes that even still, individuals are the driving force in giving.

"The least giving as a percentage is

done by corporations, then foundations — most comes from people," he says. "No. 1 is church; no. 2 is education; third is health; fourth is social services — including things like parks. No. 5 is the arts, followed only by ecology," which nobody even gave to until recently, he says.

And remember: You may need to pick your lane and stick with it, especially if you want to make a difference long-term (and stay committed to your goal). Hopkins notes that many of North Texas' most notable philanthropists — those with names like McDermott, Meadows, Nasher, Hamon, Perot — are often associated with specific causes: the arts, health research, education, civic projects. Even they have their priorities.

The bad news is that Texans, despite their braggadocio for doing everything bigger, tend to lag behind the national average in the amount of charitable giving as a portion of income (under five percent). The good news is that the trends have always gone up.

"No matter what the climate of the economy, every year since they started keeping track, giving has grown. We've never had a fallback because of a disaster or economic downturn — that's more than 50 years," Hopkins says. And while the current shelter-in-place restrictions may curb activity for a while, the best way to keep the trend going is to start with yourself. ■

■ **MUSIC** From Page 18

What are you most grateful for right now?

My wife. Social media. I'm glad I got Netflix. And I'm really grateful for the neighborhood I live in. If I gotta be here every day, I'm grateful for my yard and my house.

What words of wisdom would you like me to send out to the LGBTQ community?

I would say a couple of things. Just because we're isolating, don't emotionally isolate. It's easy for some of us in the LGBTQ community to do that. Find a way to connect with people. Find the people you can check in with every day and do that. Telephones, social media, whatever the way. And take care of yourself first. Stressful times really lower our immune system, so it's super important to drink a lot of water to stay hydrated and to exercise. Taking a run, taking a walk. Really, really important. And also know that change happens — change always happens. And we're in the midst of it. These are historical times. Come from love. And be smart and stay healthy but understand that this too shall pass. It always does, and it will. And there's great change coming because of it. Good change. Beautiful change. For all of us.



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Cassie Nova

WiFi conspiracies and moments of normal

Hey all you cool cats and kittens. I didn't want to talk about the quarantine or the coronavirus, but what the hell else am I supposed to talk about? I'm in my feelings today and kind of a little depressed. I am one of those people that always needs something to look forward to, even if it just an upcoming movie or plans to go someplace great for dinner. So, right now the only thing to look forward to is this being over.

When this first started, I hate to say, I was kind of excited to do nothing. Worried? Yes, but still a little bit like, cool! I can be the hermit I have always joked about being.

Well that shit did not last long at all. I never need more than a week off before I need to be back in drag and doing a show. God, I miss it. Yes, I know I can do a live-from-my-living-room online show, but it is not the same. Still, be sure to tune in soon, when I do actually get in drag and go live, if only to keep up on my skills. My dogs just don't get my jokes.

I know how lucky I am to not be quarantined by myself. I would go completely crazy. My husband is still working; he's essential. He works for the post office and delivers mail. Every time I hear that word — "essential" — it kind of feels like a slap in the face, because of how quickly I was not essential. In the apocalypse, no one needed a drag queen.

To all of you that are home alone, I am thinking of you. I think of you often. Stay strong; you can and will get through this. Thank God for technology and apps like Houseparty! Being able to talk to my crew daily helps me out a great deal and keeps me from getting too far down that loneliness hole. Plus, us doing shots together just feels good. To recap: Doing shots by yourself — alcoholic! Doing shots online with your friends — A PARTY!

A few days ago, the worst thing that *could* happen when you are stuck at home *did* happen to us: Our internet and WI-FI went out. I know; I can always clean or read a book, but we lost signal right when I was wallowing in my feelings and only wanted to lay around and watch mindless, stupid TV. After I was on the phone listening to AT&T's stupid music for almost two hours, they finally decided to send someone out the next day. Long story short: We need a new router.

Anyway, I am not a conspiracy theorist, but tell me what you think about this:

So, back in January, we had internet issues. We eventually found out that the construction being done across the street accidentally cut our line, and they fixed it — but not before they gave us a new router. Our old one was, like, four years old, so we replaced it with a shiny new one. We went in and gave our WI-FI network a cute name



that would obviously be ours (CASA NOVA), and we made our Wi-Fi password "FUCK-TRUMP2020." I thought it would be hilarious when my Trump-supporting family needed our WI-FI password that they would have to type that into their phone if they wanted to use it.

But ever since we put that as our password, we have had so much trouble with our internet. Like, it would just lose connectivity and restart the DVR or freeze up all together. That fucking green light on our router would turn red and wreck my world for a few hours, then it would right itself. I swear, there is some Trump supporter that somehow knew our password and has been fucking with us. (I know it is probably not true, but here lately, I feel like my phone is starting to read my mind. This is starting to feel like a *Black Mirror* episode.

As far as the coronavirus is concerned, I have thought I had it at least six times in the past month. I know it is nothing to joke about; there are four people I actually know who have gotten it, and one of them has died. So I am not making light of the situation. But Texas allergies have had me thinking, "This is it, the big one. I'm not gonna make it." (BTW, I may be a little bit of a hypochondriac.)

But seriously, I have had every single symptom of having the coronavirus except a fever. It's hard not to worry or overreact. Plus, I am known for being slightly dramatic.

Okay, so let's look at some of the positives

to come out of being stuck at home.

1. I have been on the same tank of gas for a month.
2. My dogs love how much I am home, I hope. I know one of them, Benji, can't wait for me to leave; he's kind of an asshole though.
3. I'm finally getting around to organizing and cleaning stuff that I've needed to organize and clean forever.
4. Day drinking and early bedtimes.

I'm sure there are others, but I can't think of any right now.

Now, here is a short list of things I miss.

1. I miss my friends and co-workers, my Rose Room and JR.'s sisters, my Caven family and our customers, my Belize bunch (I miss them the most).
2. I miss our sister time before the show as we get ready backstage.
3. I miss my Freakshow and fun on any random Monday night.
4. I miss going to the movies and date night.
5. I miss being in a crowded club. (I'm surprised by that one.)
6. I miss being onstage, mic in hand, making fun of random heteros!

I know this won't last forever, and we are doing the right thing by self-quarantining. But I hope, in the future when we get them back, I hope I appreciate the moments of normalcy.

If you are stuck at home and lonely, reach out and talk to someone. Now would be a great time to adopt a cat or a dog. Stay

strong and we will get through this. Sometimes just getting up, taking a shower and getting dressed can change your whole outlook on the day.

Now, I think I am going to take my own advice and go take a shower! Remember to always love more, bitch less, wash your hands and keep your ass at home. XOXO, Cassie Nova

this week's solution

C	H	E	W		H	O	G	S		S	P	L	I	T
F	A	R	R		E	U	R	O		L	A	U	R	A
O	P	I	E		A	T	A	N		A	L	L	A	N
	I	N	S	P	R	I	N	G	A	Y	O	U	N	G
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H	A	Y	A	K		E	B	R	O		R	I	O	T
S	I	E	V	E		W	O	O	D		O	D	O	R
O	N	S	E	T		S	Y	N	E		D	E	N	Y

browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](https://tinyurl.com/dvevents).

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](https://tinyurl.com/dvevents).



JT, Derek, Clint and Jeff with Mister Jack and Miss Mary

Sheltering in place



Casey Max Torey



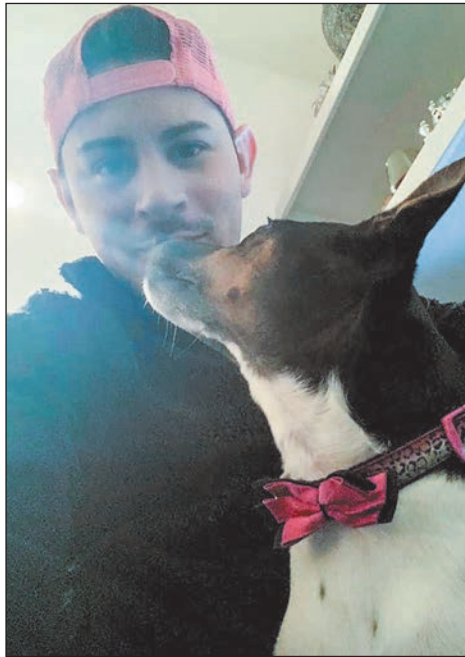
Ethan and David Avanzino



Men in masks



Joey Avila and Chanel



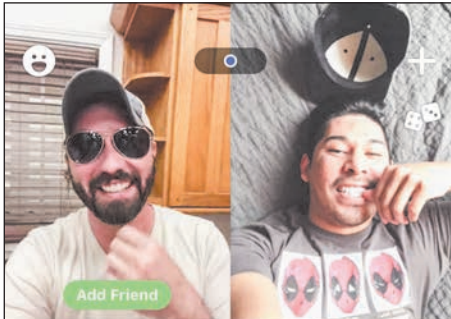
Josh and his fur baby



Going out to get a prescription



Jorge gets crafty



Justin Davis and Friends



Marquis pre-quarantine

q-puzzle

The Boys In The Band

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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53	54	55				56						57	58	
59						60					61			62
63						64					65			
66						67					68			

Solution on Page 19

Across

- 1 Masticate
5 Leathermen ride them
9 Banana treat
14 Jamie who cross dressed on M*A*S*H
15 Current Amsterdam currency
16 Linney of *Tales of the City*
17 Early Ron Howard role
18 ___ all-time high
19 Spear of Minnesota
20 Start of a quote by Mart Crowley (1935-2020)
23 Out on a limb
24 Club where you can dance with a sailor
25 *The Rose* star Bette
28 Month in Madrid
30 ___ & the Gang
34 Erotic diarist Nin
35 More of the quote
37 More of the quote
39 Org. in many spy movies
40 Always, to Emily Dickinson
41 Math subject
42 Avoided going straight
44 Inventor's monogram
45 Velvet finish
46 Poet ___ Wu

- 47 Jeremy of *M. Butterfly*
49 Press package from HRC
50 Kofi Annan's home
53 End of the quote
59 Kahlo portrayer
60
61 Historic Stonewall event
63 One with a holey bottom
64 Depp's cross-dressing role
65 Locker room emanation
66 Where to start out
67 Since, to James M. Barrie
68 Say, "We're just friends..." perhaps

Down

- 1 Handler of big bucks, in brief
2 Drag queen ___ Phace
3 Julia Roberts' Brockovich
4 Sweaty guys embracing in a ring
5 Eavesdropper, e.g.
6 Bellybutton type
7 2015 Tomlin movie
8 Carol, for example
9 Puts in stitches, like Wanda Sykes
10 Boxer of the comics
11 Knockout
12 Coward's confession?
13 Tart taste
21 Pink Triangle ___
22 "G'day!" sayer
25 Dull surface
26 Harden
27 "Queen of the Hop" singer Bobby
29 Env. fattener
31 The ___ beat (passive partner?)
32 Rehoboth Beach setting
33 Pluck 'em!
35 *Tales of the City* character
36 On the decline
38 Good to eat
43 Club dancer
46 Box office buy
48 Boston leather bar
49 He stole the tarts of the Queen of Hearts
51 Iroquoian tongue
52 Cell component
53 Facetious "I see"
54 Gladly, old-style
55 Seaman's pair
56 ___ guys (Robin Hood's men?)
57 Baldwin staffer
58 Time for cowboys to shoot off
62 "I'll ___ anything once"

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