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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas | Volume 37 | Issue 3 | FREE | Friday, May 22, 2020

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An old-school movie option
makes a campy comeback
by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 10

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headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 6 Caring for mental health
- 7 UMC split postponed
- 8 New PrEP option

LIFE+STYLE

- 10 A night at the drive-in
- 11 Review: 2 biographies

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas

departments

- 4 InstaTea
- 6 News
- 9 Voices
- 10 Life+Style
- 13 Best Bets
- 14 Cassie Nova
- 16 Scene
- 18 MarketPlace

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Highlights from the Dallas Voice Website

Who's opening, who's not



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday, May 19, that Texas bars can begin reopening today (Friday, May 22). But not every bar owner is rushing to swing wide the doors. Some LGBTQ bars are still weighing their options, while some have already given a definite no. Still others are saying they will be open on Friday. And one bar won't be reopening at all.

As of Thursday morning, May 21, this is where the bars stand:

- Zippers, on Fitzhugh at Travis Street, is closing permanently, owner Lonzie Hershner announced via Facebook post on Wednesday, May 20. Hershner said the bar's landlord was unwilling to work with them on rent following the two-month closure forced by the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The Tin Room on Hudnall and Marty's Live on Maple will both re-open today.
- The Liquid Zoo Bar and Grill on Maple will reopen today.
- The One-Eyed Penguin in downtown Dallas will reopen today, according to a Facebook post.
- The East Bound and Down Ice House on Ross Avenue is reopening today.
- Kaliente on Maple Avenue is reopening today and has a show featuring Nicky Lauren scheduled tonight and a show featuring Catharaita and her Diamonds on Saturday, May 23.
- Austin Ralph, owner of The Urban Cowboy Saloon in Fort Worth, said that the bar will be open Friday and Saturday but with certain limitations. The bar is open tonight for a by-invitation-only event, and tomorrow only to those with reservations. Information on dates

and limited hours beyond Saturday will be posted on the bar's social media pages. For a reservation for Saturday, contact the bar via Facebook.

- Dallas Woody's Sports and Video Bar is not opening this weekend but will open on Tuesday, May 26.
- Changes bar in Fort Worth will not open this weekend but will open next Wednesday, May 27.
- Club Reflection in Fort Worth is not re-opening yet.
- The Hidden Door on Bowser Street, which has been completely remodeled during the shut-down, will not reopen until July 1.
- Alexandre's on Cedar Springs Road will not open this weekend.
- The Grapevine bar on Maple Avenue will not open this weekend.
- Bars operated by Caven Enterprises — Station 4/The Rose Room, JR.'s Bar and Grill, TMC: The Mining Company and Sue Ellen's — will remain closed for now and re-evaluate the situation later.
- The Round-Up Saloon will remain closed for now and re-evaluate the situation on June 1.
- Pekers Bar on Oak Lawn Avenue will not open yet.
- Dallas Eagle will remain closed for now and re-evaluate the situation on June 1.
- Los Rieles on Military Parkway is not opening this weekend.

Minimum Standard Health Protocols

The state has issued a three-page "checklist for bars or similar establishments" that details steps bars will have to take to minimize the possibility for the spread of COVID-19. That list includes:

Health protocols for serving your customers

Customers should not be permitted to loiter at the bar or in commonly trafficked areas, and should remain seated at tables inside the bar.

Only provide service to seated individuals.

Parties should maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other parties at all times, including while waiting to be seated [and while waiting to get in the bar].

Activities that enable close human contact,



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including but not limited to dancing, are discouraged.

Designate staff to ensure customers maintain a 6-foot distance between parties if customers are waiting to enter the bar or similar establishment.

A hand sanitizing station should be available upon entry to the establishment.

No tables of more than 6 people.

Ensure spacing of individuals within the establishment to keep a 6-foot distance between individuals in different groups.

* Tables or chairs must be installed to seat all customers to maintain social distancing and may not be moved.

* Consider positioning an unoccupied table or other object adjacent to each occupied table creating space to permanently maintain a 6-foot distance between groups.

* Take orders from customers seated at a table or by web/phone application.

Contactless payment is encouraged.

Where not available, contact should be minimized. Both parties should wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.

Health protocols for your facilities

Consider having an employee or contractor manage and control access to the bar or similar establishment, including opening doors to prevent attendees from touching door handles.

Physically block off the bar and remove or block bar stools so customers may neither sit nor stand at the bar itself.

Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables and chairs.

Regularly and frequently clean restrooms and document the cleanings.

Disinfect any items that customers contact.

Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.

Consider placing readily available signs at the bar or similar establishment to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

Clean and disinfect the area used by customers (e.g. tables, chairs, etc.) after each group of customers departs, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls and countertops.

Clean and sanitize the bar daily.

For bars or similar establishments with more than 10 employees and/or contractors present at one time, consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring that health protocols adopted by the establishment are being successfully implemented and followed.

TABC staff should monitor bars throughout the state of Texas to ensure compliance with these protocols. TABC has the authority to suspend any license that poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety. Failure to follow these protocols may result in a 30-day license suspension for the first infraction and a 60-day suspension for a second infraction.

(There is also a section on "Health protocols for your employees and contractors" that requires bars to monitor employees and contractors for signs of illness, among other things.)

— Tammye Nash

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Social isolation and mental health



AIDS Outreach Center staff discusses how the pandemic has affected more than just physical health

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Social isolation designed to save lives is causing mental health problems among many of those it's designed to help, especially those whose immune systems have been weakened by HIV.

In a Facebook Live chat, AIDS Outreach Center Lead Peer Advocate Wilburn Mitchell discussed with Behavioral Health Counselor Brenda Wingo how stay-at-home orders have been affecting mental health.

Those with HIV whose viral load count remains undetectable don't seem to be any more likely to contract the virus than the population in general. Those with weakened immune systems may be at greater risk, however.

In forcing a near-nationwide shut down over the last two-plus months, the COVID-19 crisis has left many people without income and drained financial resources. So, Wingo said, people are facing a medical threat with reduced resources and strained finances. On top of that, while we're concerned about our health, the LGBTQ community can't do

one very important thing we learned to do so well during the AIDS epidemic — check on each other. And losing a job causes stress that can usually be handled better with the support of friends and family.

So, what should we do to maintain good mental health?

While we can't visit each other in person, we can keep in touch by phone, and

we can see each other via applications like Facetime or Zoom, Wingo said. She also suggested keeping a schedule and developing a routine.

"Find structure," Wingo said. "Separate the weekend from the weekdays."

"Don't stay up late just because you can," Wingo urged, because that will throw your schedule way off.

"Walk," she continued. "Get outside 20 minutes a day."

Can't walk? Sit outside. Nowhere to

Weekdays should be more for chores. Get things done around the house. If you're working from home, keep to the schedule.

And it doesn't matter which days of the week are your weekend. If you're usually off a couple of days during the week, maintain that schedule. But on the weekend, whichever days that is, schedule something fun.

Wilburn Mitchell, left, and Brenda Wingo on Zoom.

sit outside? Do yoga or meditation. Both relieve stress.

When you're walking, Wingo said, look out into the distance. You're probably spending a lot of time in front of a screen, and focusing at least 12 feet away relaxes the retina.

And walking in nature is better than walking on a busy street, because, "Nature is calming," Wingo said.

Journaling is also healthy, Wingo explained. At a time when we can't interact with family, friends or even coworkers the way we normally would, writing out your feelings and recording what you're doing during this period of social isolation is a good way to release stress.

Mitchell said he's spending a lot of his time playing with his animals. Probably nothing is more calming than that.

Since the shut-down began, calls to domestic violence hotlines have gone up 300 percent. No study shows domestic violence itself is up, but anecdotal evidence from police says it is.

That is especially true for families with children, juggling homeschooling with working from home and financial burdens. Even the stress of doing simple chores like shopping are causing strain.

Wingo and Mitchell said the increased strain is normal. Be conscious of it and try some of their suggestions to help reduce stress and fatigue and improve mental health.

Coping with Stress *From the Centers for Disease Control*

Ways to cope with stress

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body.
- Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate.
- Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- Exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

Need help? Know someone who does?

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others:

- Call 911.
- Visit the Disaster Distress Helpline, call 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746.
- Visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline or call 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224.

Know the facts to help reduce stress

Understanding the risk to yourself and people you care about can make an outbreak less stressful. Learn and share the facts about COVID-19 and help stop the spread of rumors.

Take care of your mental health

Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row. People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Preparedness page.

Vote on Methodist split postponed a year

Travel restrictions prompted the UMC to delay its quadrennial meeting in 2021

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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A vote expected to result in a split the United Methodist Church has been postponed due to the coronavirus.

Methodists were scheduled to meet this month for the denomination's quadrennial meeting, but because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, that meeting has been delayed until late summer 2021. Church representatives who would have attended the quadrennial likely would have voted to divide the church over the long-running dispute over how the denomination treats same-sex marriages and LGBTQ members.

As a result of a vote last year by UMC congregations to adopt a "traditional" plan barring the ordination of LGBT clergy and forbidding same-sex marriage, a majority of Methodist churches in the U.S. began planning to leave the denomination and form a new, more progressive denomination. That included most of the Methodist churches in Dallas.

Some DFW Methodist churches, like Northaven Church, have stopped referring to themselves as "United Methodist" and have recognized, if not performed, marriages in the church.

While supporters of separating the church understand the reason for the postponement, they are upset with the delay of full official inclusion for LGBTQ Methodists into their denomination.

Rather than completely canceling the meeting, the denomination considered holding a Zoom meeting. But for some of the international delegates, internet connections weren't available or were spotty at best. And for such a democratic institution, excluding members wasn't an option, especially when considering

such an important vote.

The reasons it has taken so long for a formal split to take place are mostly logistical rather than religious; the denomination administers pensions and holds mortgages on many church buildings.

The Rev. Eric Folkerth, senior pastor at Kessler Park United Methodist Church in Oak Cliff, said about 10 people — including people on both sides of the issue — met with a mediator to work out the Protocol for Separation that creates the roadmap for peacefully splitting the church.

The general mood, Folkerth said, was disappointment.

"Overall, given the unique situation, most are understanding," he said. "A few months down the road, when it's calmer, there will be more frustration."

For reconciling congregations, things will remain the same. They'll continue to withhold funds from the United Methodist Church, continue to hire or employ LGBTQ staff when they choose and proceed with performing same-sex weddings that are scheduled.

But will charges be filed against those clergy as has happened in the past?

"The general sense is it wouldn't be helpful for anyone to be bringing charges right now," Folkerth said. "Someone filing wouldn't be seen favorably."

Folkerth said he doesn't have any weddings on his schedule, but he would be happy to perform those ceremonies if he did.

He's done them before, but to keep the peace during this interim period, it's not something he'd want in the news. It's something he'd keep within his church.

In the agreement worked out, he said, conservatives would leave to form their own denomination, would take their buildings with them and would receive \$25 million from the United Methodist Church to reorganize. There's a provision for other groups to exit as well but with less generous terms.

When the "traditional" plan was adopted last year, a majority of Methodist churches in the U.S. voted against it. However, enough congregations in other

countries voted in favor of the "traditional" plan, which would exclude LGBTQ people from ordination or the right to marry within the church, for that plan to pass.

The Rev. Eric Folkerth



Following the agreed-upon separation protocol, there would be little impact on Dallas churches. Most would remain with the denomination that will recognize LGBTQ clergy and perform same-sex weddings.

But, Folkerth said, a few Dallas churches may leave with the conservatives. "My assumption is five or less," he added.

That leaves Dallas in the minority of cities outside the east and west coasts. Folkerth said he expects a few very large churches in Houston and elsewhere in Texas and most major cities in the middle of the country to exit with the conservatives.

And just because a church remains with the denomination doesn't mean they'll automatically perform same-sex weddings or hire LGBTQ clergy: Each church would choose how to approach the issue. What they couldn't do is file charges against clergy in other churches

for those reasons, as has happened within the current United Methodist Church denomination.

Already, 15 to 20 Methodist clergy in the North Texas Conference have performed same-sex weddings, including "clergy you wouldn't expect," Folkerth said.

Folkerth doesn't believe the separation will make much difference in his church, where he already has gay staff members. For Northaven, things will pretty much remain the same as well. Although there is the matter of their sign.

To protest the vote for the "traditional" plan, Northaven covered "United Methodist" and has been referring to itself simply as Northaven Church. Members have gotten used to the socially-distanced "Northaven" and "Church" separated by the more than six feet of Pride flag, and few want the Pride flag to come down.

HIV advocates hail new long-lasting PrEP option

Trials of Cabotegravir so successful, GSK ends trials early

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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HIV Advocates this week applauded news of a new drug for use in pre-exposure prophylaxis regimens that has proven so successful in trials that the trials were ended early.

ViiV Healthcare — majority owned by GlaxoSmithKline with Pfizer Inc. and Shionogi Limited as shareholders — had been testing a new, long-lasting injectable PrEP drug called Cabotegravir. This week the company announced that, in tests, Cabotegravir — which is injected once every two months — was shown to be 69 percent more effective than Truvada, the once-a-day pill from Gilead. By



Dr. John Carlo

suspending the study early, the drugmaker is now able to offer Cabotegravir to all study participants.

“What is truly noteworthy with this new PrEP is its long-lasting effect,”

said Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center. “One of the major problems with Truvada has always been the need for daily medical adherence. With this new injection lasting two months, we don’t have to worry about taking a pill every day. We all lead busy lives, and even the most careful of us slip up sometimes. This takes away that worry.”

Dr. John Carlo, CEO of Prism Health North Texas, agreed.

“We were excited to see the announcement that the clinical trial looking at long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) ended earlier than expected because results demonstrated that it is highly effective in preventing HIV,” Carlo said.

“Once CAB LA is approved by the FDA, it will be another important prevention method, particularly for people who have difficulty keeping up with an oral daily pill,” he continued. “Also,

we hope the companion trial currently underway looking at CAB LA effectiveness for the prevention of HIV in women also produces similar results. Finally, we hope that the long-acting HIV treatment can soon be available once cleared by the FDA.”

McDonnell noted that this longer-lasting PrEP option could have significant impact for those experiencing housing insecurity and similar situations and for those who don’t have long-term relationships with a primary care physician or a specific clinic. And he suggested “a bit of competition” in the PrEP arena could be beneficial to patients.

“Truvada will be going generic in the fall,” McDonnell said. “That, along with the approval last year of Descovy [also from Gilead] and now Cabotegravir will give people more options.”

Dr. Michael Wohlfeiler, U.S. chief of medicine for AIDS Healthcare Foundation, also praised Cabotegravir’s two-month dosage, saying that it “offers an exciting way forward to far simpler and more effective HIV prevention.”

MPact Global Action for Gay Men’s Health and Rights and Global Black Gay Men Connect this week issued a state-

ment “enthusiastically welcome” the results of the Cabotegravir study.

Micheal Ighodaro, board member of Global Black Gay Men Connect, stressed the importance of the new PrEP option for black gay men.

“Half of all black gay men are projected to acquire HIV in their lifetime,” Ighodaro said. “Longstanding HIV-related disparities shouldered by black gay men and other gay men of color are the result of persistent racism, homophobia and sexual stigma that continue to largely go unaddressed.”

The clinical trial for Cabotegravir enrolled 4,570 cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. Two-thirds of the participants were under the age of 30, and 12 percent were transgender women. Of study participants in the U.S., 50 percent were black or African-American.

The study compared Cabotegravir injections administered every two months to the current standard of care, daily oral emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 200 mg and 300 mg tablets (Truvada).

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The gays, abortion and the wrath of God

A Tennessee preacher explains how the Holy Spirit told him why COVID-19 is devastating the world

Well, it was only a matter of time before it was revealed that LGBTQ people are responsible for the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. It turns out that God is mad about gay marriage, which means that we can file COVID-19 under “Things LGBTQ People Have the Power to Unleash,” right alongside hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, recessions, climate change, terrorist attacks, divorce, autism, dementia and naming your pronouns.

And it goes without saying that the anti-gay right is most upset about that last one.

According to Perry Stone, a Tennessee pastor, he heard from God himself that “this is a moment of reckoning.”

“I know what I heard, I did not make that up,” he told his congregation. “I audibly heard the phrase, a male voice speaking, and I believe it was the Holy Spirit.”

Oh, a male voice, huh? That’s sexist. Then again, men are more prone to violence, so I guess it makes sense that he would imagine a male Holy Spirit striking down everyone in your local nursing home and making all of the toilet paper and hand sanitizer disappear just to punish you for being LGBTQ.

“Why is there a reckoning?” Stone asked. “Because we have by law forced God out of our country and basically told him, ‘In public places, you’re not welcome.’ You’re not welcomed in our schools, so our schools are now shut down. No prayer in public school, no Bible reading in public school. Now, are you with me? They’re telling kids to stay home for who knows how long, so our schools are shut down.”

So, God is mad about separation between church and state. Got it.



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

is he saying that God blew coronavirus in all of our faces because he’s mad about the lack of school prayer?

Has God never heard of Christian schools? Because those are a thing. You can send your kid to a school where they have to pray.

It isn’t gays alone that have brought on a worldwide epidemic. It happened through the power of gays and women who have abortions combined.

“We have said to God, ‘The infants that you put in our wombs, we don’t respect them; we don’t want them; we will get them out of our bellies through abortion,’” Stone continues.

(Who is going to tell him that the only way a baby ends up in your belly is if you eat it?)

“If you watch the women who are pro-choice, the majority of them have a spirit about them where there is no love,” he said before launching into an obnoxious imitation of what he imagines a feminist

sounds like: “It’s our body. We will do what we wanna do. You’re not gonna tell us what to do with our body.’ I got news for you ladies: It ain’t your body; there’s another body living inside your body.”

So, women who support abortion rights are loveless shrews who an-

ger God because they don’t want to be human incubators? Got it.

“The Bible talks about going after ‘strange flesh,’” Stone said, launching into the tale of Sodom and Gomorrah. You know, the one where Lot invites a couple of angels into his house, and then his neighbors are like, “Give us those angels to rape!” and Lot is like, “No. Take my virgin daughters instead,” and then he tries to run away with his wife, but she turns back to scope the destruction and gets turned into a pillar of salt. And that’s why processed food has mad amounts of sodium.

“So why is there a reckoning?” Stone continued. “There is a reckoning because the courts of the land passed a law to take an infant’s life, that it was OK, and for marriage as we have known it to be changed into something we have never known. Both of their laws, biblically in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, are what God calls an abomination. And the Bible teaches us that God is long-suffering; he is not willing that any perish; he wants everyone to come to repentance. But there will be a time when the Lord says, ‘Enough is enough.’”

And when the Lord is at his wits’ end, he kills a bunch of people randomly and hopes that people will figure out what it is he really wants. That must be where Donald Trump learned it from.

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 more than a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



'A gay pleasant evening for all'

Beautiful Texas skies provide a backdrop for the start of a drive-in movie... though even rain clouds only add to the adventure of outdoor viewing. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

Go out, turn up, drive in...
Texas-style

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

There's a reason why Dallas, only the third largest city in Texas, has far-and-away the largest gay population. That's because gays love what Big D has to offer: the shopping, the socializing, the culture.

All of which, of course, have been seriously curtailed during the Age of COVID. Neiman Marcus has filed for bankruptcy; DIFFA Dallas' runway collection was replaced by an online fundraiser; Pride has gone "virtual;" theaters and museums have all been shuttered.

But Dallas, while *sui generis* as an oasis of *carpe diem* excesses, is still firmly part of *Texas*, and all that image conjures. And Texans — gay and straight — embrace that identity of open spaces and quirky culture. So during a time when socializing opportunities are rare, and coming up with fresh ideas to oc-

cupy our time even rarer, who wouldn't want to partake in an authentic Texas adventure?

And that would be the road trip... one with a healthy dose of kitsch.

Hence the Galaxy Drive In in Ennis, Texas.

With its requirement of wide-open spaces, clear skies and embrace of the outrageous entertainments, the drive-in is an avatar for the Texas personality. (Joe Bob Briggs, anyone?) The first licensed outdoor movie screen was in Comanche County in 1921.

Like cinemas B.C. — Before COVID — the Galaxy is a sprawling multiplex, only it's all outdoors: Seven screens of various dimensions and lot sizes, allowing intimate movies or bigger, splashier ones. But let's face it: With Hollywood shuttered like many industries, and with audio coming through your car's audio system (you tune into each show on your radio), it's not the best place for the IMAX and THX special effects extravaganzas which aren't being distributed much right now anyway. But that has always been part of the fun of a

drive-in movie.

Xavier Johnson joined in a recent gay outing to the Galaxy and saw the recent B-movie horror *Fantasy Island*. He offered this review: "It was fun. I mean, it was a D-list adaptation for sure, but entertaining." In other words, perfect drive-in fare.

Joseph Love organized his own group outing after remembering a trip to the Galaxy about a year ago. "I really wanted to see [my friends] so this is what I could think of [as a way to] get everyone out of the house for a little bit — just leave the four walls and breathe!" he says.

About 10 people made the trip with him, spaced out in about four cars. They arrived early so they could park next to each other and "somewhat say hello. Then everyone said goodbye there [after the film], and we left. Honestly, it was a really good time."

Unlike Love, Shane Allen had never been to a drive-in theater before; his husband Zachariah had, though it has been years ago, so caravanning south of Downtown to social-distance share a common enterprise was a fresh experi-

ence for both.

"I fully enjoyed the experience and would do it again," says Allen, who watched the acclaimed feminist horror film *The Invisible Man*. "This is something that can't happen in Dallas proper — there's not enough land and too much light pollution. And what better time to drive 40 minutes away to see a movie than when gas is cheap and there's not much else to do that's socially responsible once the sun goes down?" (That being said, Allen has become a convert beyond the limitations due to theater closures: "I'd totally do this once COVID is a memory and gas is high again.")

They aren't the only ones who liked it. The theater was bustling on a recent Friday night blessed by gorgeous weather at the campus about 35 miles down I-45 (exit 258). That's not always the case, of course; another weekend, rainstorms swept through from the start of the film, but the premiere many viewers were gathered for — a locally-produced artsy sci-fi pic called *The Vast of Night*, set in



Like father, like son

Richie Jackson

Biographies of the famous and not take very different paths

Gay Like Me: A Father Writes to His Son by Richie Jackson (Harper 2020)
\$24.99; 163 pp.

From the time he was a small boy, Richie Jackson knew two things: 1. He “felt lucky to be gay,” and 2. He wanted to be a father someday.

“Everything good that has happened to me is because I am gay,” he writes — and that includes the birth of his son, born to a surrogate when Jackson was in his thirties. In the meantime, the sentiment has surely doubled since Jackson’s son *also* came out as gay.

His greatest wish for his son was that he knows the joy of being gay because it’s “a gift.” Jackson is “thrilled for the flight ahead of you” and “wary of the

fight ahead of you,” because wonderful things could happen but vigilance is required, and the knowledge that pain sometimes comes from people you didn’t think would hurt you.

Still, Jackson is excited for his child — who is college-aged now and who grew up at a time when AIDS is no longer a death sentence, hiding isn’t mandatory and so many large battles have already been fought by people at Stonewall, in the military, in marriage equality and in everyday life. These things give Jackson hope as he launches his eldest son in the world as a gay man, but he has advice....

Know who you are, he counsels, and “never diminish your essence.” Know the heroes who went before you. Never let your sexuality shame you, and never use it to shame others. Know your partner’s HIV status in advance. Don’t fall into the same drugs-and-alcohol trap that’s ensnared so many other gay men. And “vote as if your life depends on it, because it does.”

Is there a modern teenager in the world who takes his father’s advice? Perhaps not, but if he’s a gay young man, he might still be glad to have *Gay Like Me*. Written with enthusiasm and gratitude, Jackson displays a lot of loving steel hidden in the things he wants his son to know. His advice is fierce, but tempered with the kind of acquired fear that traumatically becomes a part of one’s DNA. In the sweetest of dad-tones, he’s honest, using a please-don’t-do-as-I-did warning, heavy on the

■ FATHER Page 12

Gay Like Me

A Father Writes
to His Son

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NOTICE OF DART PUBLIC HEARING

Dallas Streetcar Fare Change

A public hearing has been scheduled to receive comments on a proposed Fare Change for the Dallas Streetcar.

The City of Dallas (owner of the streetcar) and DART opened Dallas Streetcar service in 2015, with DART overseeing operation and maintenance of the free service. The objective of the fare change is to increase funding for continued operation and maintenance of the vehicles and improvement of the rider experience.

The proposed new fare would be \$1 per ride. Passengers would pay using a pre-purchased DART pass, DART's GoPass app, or a GoPass Tap Card. There would be no cash fare option onboard.

Based on input gathered at the hearing, the DART Board of Directors will act on these changes in late Spring 2020 with implementation occurring in Summer 2020.

In order to ensure the safety and well-being of our customers and employees, DART will continue to conduct virtual meetings for all Public Meetings and Hearings.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Virtual hearing available at

dart.org/about/board/boardvideo.asp

Please submit your comments and questions via email at the following address:

dartpublichearingcomments@dart.org.

For additional information please contact DART Community Engagement at 214-749-2543, or visit DART.org





The entrance to the Galaxy in Ennis, above; Below left, Zachariah and Shane Allen on their first movie date in months; Below right, the show begins with campy bumper reels.



■ DRIVE-IN From Page 10

the Southwest in the 1950s — seemed to add to the verisimilitude of the retro experience. (Read a review on Page 17.)

Management discourages exiting your vehicle, which isn't a problem during a downpour, but occupants do tailgate before the movies with socially-distant socializing. The concession stand has been temporarily closed for months, so for the time being you can bring your own food and drinks in with you (though last week they experimented with selling drinks and popcorn). Given that opportunity, why not make the opportunity into an essential Texas experience: On the way down, you can stop off a few exits early to pick up a Blizzard and patty melt on Texas toast at DQ, or be even more Texasy at the



Tailgating before a screening.

Sonic for a No. 1 and tots just a few exits past that (two drive-ins, one trip!). You can even overshoot the exit about five miles and stop into that most authentic of Lone Star experiences: The Buc-ee's nearest Downtown Dallas.

Double features, a staple of the drive-in, are also on hold for now, but arrive early (showtimes are around 8:30 p.m., i.e., after sundown) and listen to the oldies playing on the radio stations before the audio kicks in; and enjoy the pre-show bumper reel — throwbacks to bygone eras with a campy sense of irony. How campy? When the narrator tells you movie night is "a gay pleasant evening for all," you'll know you're where you should be. ■

■ FATHER From Page 11

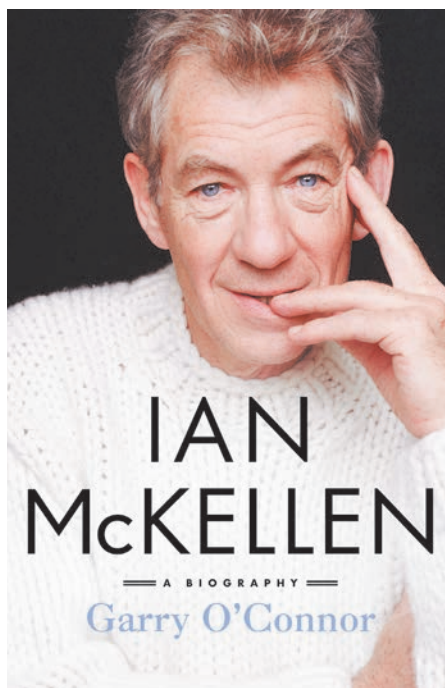
"please." He doesn't just write words to his son, but he penned them *about* his son, and they're caressing, but difficult, words that aren't only for the sake of, or aimed at, one specific, specifically-young man.

Ian McKellen: A Biography by Garry O'Connor (St. Martin's Press 2019) \$29.99; 356 pp.

On May 25, 1939, mere months before the outbreak of World War II in Europe, Ian Murray McKellen made his debut into the world. The only son of parents who lived large, passionate lives, young McKellen grew up securely happy despite the war. Alas, that ended when his beloved mother died of cancer when Ian was just 12. As years passed, he always regretted that she never knew about him what he knew about himself: he received his first gay kiss at age 9 and understood even then that he preferred

boys to girls.

Though his original plan was to graduate school and work as a journal-



ist, McKellen was denied the chance and instead opted to attend Cambridge. There, others noticed that he had a great aptitude for Shakespearean acting; it was nurtured and a "most extraordinary explosion of talent happened." His time at Cambridge helped him sharpen his craft; it was also there that McKellen lost his virginity to another man.

Biographer Garry O'Connor says that McKellen is "a slow-progress stickler" and never minded using modest roles as stepping-stones; every role he played led to bigger parts on better-known stages in larger venues. In 1964, he landed a small part in a BBC-TV production as his first foray into television, and he continued to eye a career in film — a career that "still eluded [him] until the late 1990s." At that time, he was able to transition from stage to screen, fast racking up a Tony, a Golden Globe, a SAG award and two Oscar nominations. And then a "quick perusal of the Marvel comics... caught his fancy."

For readers who are wild about Shakespeare, *Ian McKellen: A Biography* will be a delight. Those who are not to be, however, may find this book quite tedious. O'Connor, who's known McKellen for decades, explains in his first chapter how this book came about, in words that are carefully off-the-cuff. That chumminess feels as if you're real-time eavesdropping on a semi-scripted conversation between two friends.

Get past the account of McKellen's early life, though, and much of the rest of this book is uber-deep into theater. Serious followers of British stage performances will find that irresistible; those who know McKellen from his later work might find this all mildly interesting, but far too extra until toward the end.

And so there's the break-down: Theater fan, yes. You'll love *Ian McKellen: A Biography*. If you're a fan of McKellen's later movie career only, this book is OK... if you can stick with it.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

This week we discuss the joyous burst of kitschy Texana from attending a drive-in theater. So what about the

movies that are playing there ... or that you can enjoy elsewhere? Well, here's a primer on some you can see.



The Vast of Night. One of the few recent films to actually premiere during the pandemic, happily at drive-ins, this period piece of thoughtful science fiction (it's reminiscent of *Primer*) is a breath of creativity ... which, when it's dangerous to breathe, is more than gratifying. The plot is familiar — *Close Encounters*-esque: In the 1950s in a small town in New Mexico, a local DJ and switchboard operator detect white noise on the lines and uncover, they think, a sound from outer space, but the real joys derive from the naturalistic performances, the spot-on dialogue, and languorous long takes and from the setting, which is entirely conducive to drive-in viewing. But it would also be welcome on TV (viewing it will be on Amazon Prime at the end of the month).

The Invisible Man. We haven't seen many A-list movies so far in 2020, but there has been at least one — this one. Elisabeth Moss plays the wife of a wealthy man who escapes his controlling clutches (think *Sleeping with the Enemy*). Only after he commits suicide, she begins to believe he might still be stalking her, unseen. Gee, a woman who accuses a powerful white man of assaulting her isn't believed? Sounds familiar.



The Hunt. While it's not a *good* movie by any stretch, it is a perfect one for a drive-in. Exploitive but semi-serious, it skewers both FauxNews Trumpeters brainwashed by false conspiracies and white-privileged libs falling over themselves not to gender their nouns or commit other atrocities, in a *Most Dangerous Hunger Games*-esque man-hunting-man trope.



DIFF Summer Drive-In Series. In addition to the Galaxy theater, the Dallas International Film Festival is launching its own drive-in experience. For the next three weeks, DIFF and Samsung are sponsoring their own line-up of classic films from the heart of Steven Spielberg — *The Goonies* (May 27), *Jaws* (June 24) and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (July 31) — at the Four Corners Brewery at 1311 S. Ervay St. Gates open at 7 p.m.; suggested donation is \$20/car.

Cassie Nova

Cassie and the critters
in Midlothian

Hello beautiful people. Since all of the quarantining stuff started, I have been spending a lot of time in my backyard. I love my backyard; it really is a sanctuary for us. I grew up very much a city boy, but since I moved out here to Midlothian 15 or 16 years ago, I have had a lot of contact with wild animals.

And I love animals. I have five dogs and a giant, 125-pound tortoise, plus the menagerie of critters that visit me in my backyard. We have regular visits from a couple of possums, an armadillo, a fuck-ton of squirrels, every bird you can think of — cardinals, bluejays, doves, woodpeckers, hawks and two vultures or buzzards ... whatever they are called. The vultures (or buzzards or whatever-you-call-them) stop by my front yard, and I feed them hot dogs. They don't come by often, maybe two or three times a year. They are hideously beautiful, like an uncut penis.

Once when we were having a pool party — I think it was July 4th — a young bluejay decided to land on my husband's head and squawk at us. It was super weird. Then he started landing really close to the people that were eating, demanding they feed him. He was loud and kind of being a dick about it, so we finally hand fed him some hot dog and bun. Before any of you animal goodie-goodies start to bitch that we shouldn't feed the animals, you were not there. How can you say no to a loud-ass bird bitching to be fed? After he got a few bites he left us in peace. My friend Fantasha then exclaimed, "What kind of Disney bullshit you runnin' over here? You got birds landing on you, wanting to be fed and talkin' to you!" I told her I was a Disney princess. Well ... a queen, at least!

We later found out that our neighbor, Chris, and his girlfriend found that bluejay as a baby and rescued him. They named him B.J. You know exactly where my mind went, but it was just short for "Blue Jay." They fed him until he was old enough to go out on his



own, which explains why he was so tolerant of people. We still see him from time to time, but he keeps his distance from us now ... as it should be.

That same day, we had hundreds of little butterflies everywhere. Some years we have more than others. I remember one year we had thousands of them — little butterflies about two inches across. They looked like dulled-down monarchs — brown and yellow with a tiny hint of red. Every year, I make rounds to fish out any butterflies that land in the pool. I put them on the top of the fence poles to let them dry out, and once they do, they fly away.

Down the street from us lives a guy with a little farm, and for a while he had goats. This was about eight years ago. One day, I was sitting, watching TV in the living room, and I hear footsteps on the porch — like, a lot of footsteps. I look out through the curtain, and there is an entire herd of goats in my front

yard and on my porch! There were 15 to 20 of them, most of them full grown but a few babies. So cute! I knew where they came from, so I started to walk down towards the guy's farm-house, and the goats all followed me. I felt like the goat whisperer.

His gate was open, so I walked them into the yard, and they all followed along like it was nothing. I wish I could have gotten a picture of me walking down our street with a herd of goats following me. For the record, I think I was dressed in a long T-shirt, short shorts — possibly boxer briefs — and no shoes. That had to look like some gay-ass country shit. I guess the goats learned their lesson, because it never happened again.

Then, about five or six years ago, I am driving home from the show and pull onto our street at about 3:30 to 4 a.m. I drank earlier that evening — like, more than I should have — so it took me a while to sober up enough to drive. But once I turned onto my street, I thought, "Oh shit! I am still drunk!" There was about 30 boars walking towards my car — every size monster pig you can think of, from little-bitty tiny babies up to gigantic prehistoric-looking mutherfuckers. I seriously had to wipe my eyes to make sure I was actually seeing what I was seeing.

We have a wooded area next to our house, and I had heard there were coyotes and wild boars living out in the woods. But seeing an entire flippin' herd coming towards me was a trip. I stopped the car in the middle of the street, and the pigs just ignored me and kept walking, turning on the next street and heading back into the woods.

When I got to the house it was apparent that a herd of asshole boars had been there

— holes dug up all over our yard, hooved footprints everywhere. They kinda fucked shit up. That was the one and only time I have ever seen wild boars near our house. If it wasn't for the messed-up yard and holes everywhere, I would have thought it was my imagination or a drunken hallucination.

We have also had our fair share of snakes and tarantulas out here. They freak me out a little bit when I see them, but I usually just shoo them out and away from our yard. For some reason, Midlothian has lots of tarantulas, and some of them get pretty big. I don't bother them; they are just trying to live their lives, and they eat other problem bugs. Same with the snakes — I'm not a fan, but they are not my enemy. The dogs leave them alone, and they leave us alone. We coexist.

Sorry to ramble on about critters in the country, but that is what is on my mind this week. I hope we get to be around people again soon, because I miss y'all and need something interesting to write about. And since I am not Doctor Doolittle, my conversations with animals feels very one-sided.

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

this week's solution

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Hollywood

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65						66					67			

Solution on Page 14

Across

- 1 Disney canine
- 6 Word after "Hail Mary"
- 10 A little behind
- 14 Bright, to editors
- 15 For most students
- 16 With mouth wide open
- 17 Bear
- 18 Penetrate slowly
- 19 Burning software
- 20 Murphy, whose three favorite icons from *Hollywood* are in this puzzle
- 21 *Pillow Talk* star
- 23 Bad day for Caesar
- 25 Plug extension
- 26 Orbital high point
- 29 Old people may take them out for a blow job
- 34 Lullaby composer
- 35 Anatomical passage
- 36 Milk, in a way
- 37 With 38-Across, GWTW Best Supporting Actress winner
- 38 See 37-Across
- 40 Poem of Sappho
- 41 Ebenezer's exclamation
- 42 With respect to
- 43 Mound accessory
- 47 Dorothy's home
- 49 Prep for a marathon,

with "up"

- 50 Fork feature
- 51 The first Chinese American Hollywood movie star
- 55 Startled cry
- 58 One with a foamy head
- 59 Voyeur's confession
- 60 Writer Dykewomon
- 62 Male escort
- 63 Conn of *Grease*
- 64 *The Wizard of Oz* producer Mervyn
- 65 They're performing, in *Fame*
- 66 Leave in the text
- 67 Rimbaud's room

Down

- 1 Peter the Great, for one
- 2 Prefix for fruit for Rita Mae Brown
- 3 China setting
- 4 ___ in the Garden of Good and Evil
- 5 Drench Trump in a Russian video
- 6 Colombian coins
- 7 Mapa of *Switched at Birth*
- 8 Chiang Kai-___
- 9 Really sucked
- 10 Martin of *Ed Wood*
- 11 Processes wine or cheese
- 12 That's bull, to Frida
- 13 Ghostbusters role

- 21 Witherspoon of *Legally Blonde 2*
- 22 Part of UHF
- 24 She danced with Whoopi in *Ghost*
- 26 Can't bear
- 27 Madrid museum
- 28 One of the "Maneater" singers
- 29 Joltin' Joe
- 30 Cut glass
- 31 Archaeological sites
- 32 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 33 Tennis star that goes either way?
- 39 Kopay's team
- 41 Tend tots
- 44 Wearer of wax wings
- 45 Locale for Brando's *Apocalypse Now*
- 46 Brady Bunch hair style, at times
- 47 Family
- 48 Kushner's ___ in *America*
- 50 Namely
- 51 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 52 Not even once, to Dickinson
- 53 Straight, to mixologists
- 54 Get one's feet wet
- 55 Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye ___"
- 56 Organic compound
- 57 Danny of *The Court Jester*
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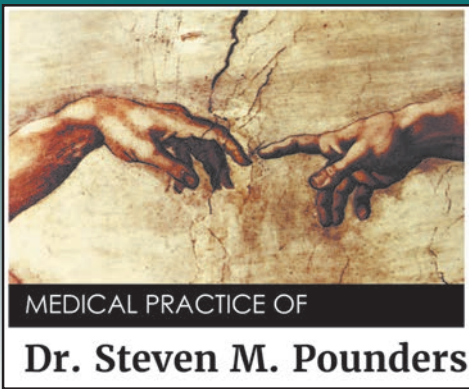
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