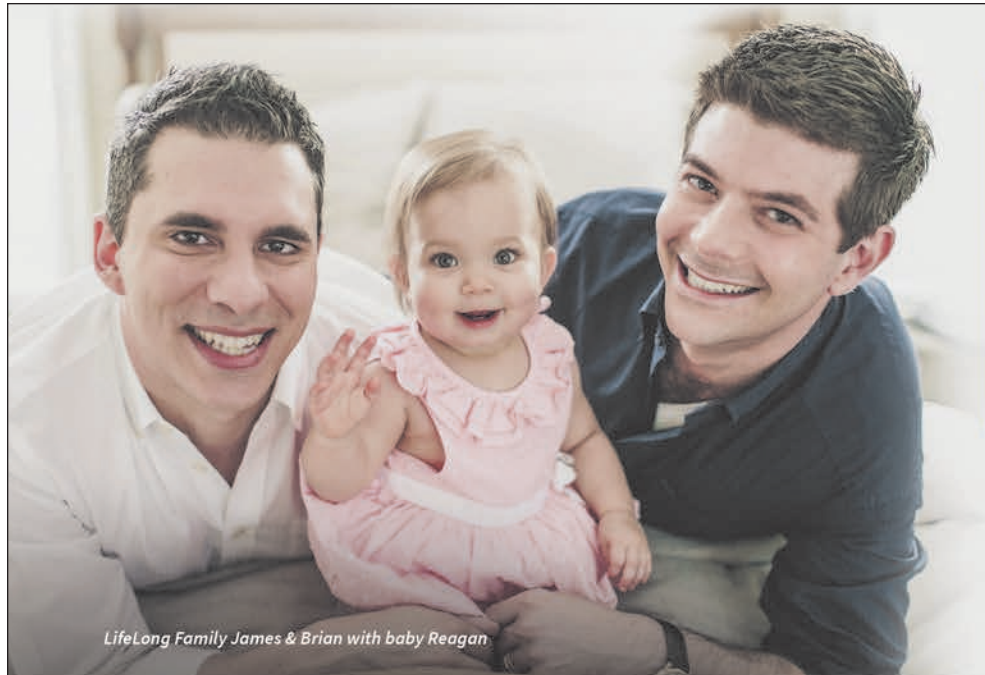


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Issue 13 | FREE | Friday, July 31, 2020





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Zander Pryor

DCT streaming trans youth play 'Andi Boi'

One of the last live theater productions we got to see here in North Texas in an actual theater was *Andi Boi*, a new original play from writer-director Bruce R. Coleman about a trans teen's journey in high school. The play features trans masculine actor Zander Pryor as trans teen Andi.

Now the Dallas Children's Theater, which premiered the play, is offering it for streaming. For \$20, you can rent the video transfer of this production.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

GLAAD and Gilead conduct HIV stigma survey

Only half of Americans are knowledgeable about HIV. And 6 in 10 Americans believe you have to be careful around someone with HIV or you'll catch it, while 90 percent believe HIV stigma still exists.

The study on stigma found "people are quick to judge those with HIV," and that "people make assumptions when someone is tested for HIV."

At a time when people living with HIV lead long and healthy lives and cannot transmit the virus when on proper medications, only 60 percent of respondents believed HIV can be treated and nearly 60 percent wrongfully believe it is "important to be careful around people living with HIV to avoid catching it."

The survey also found that only slightly more than half of American adults had seen stories about people living with HIV in the media.

Other findings include:

- 51 percent of non-LGBTQ Americans vs. 55 percent of LGBTQ Americans "feel knowledgeable about HIV."
- Only 60 percent of Americans agreed that "HIV is a medical condition that can be treated."
- 40 percent of non-LGBTQ Americans vs. 34 percent of LGBTQ Americans only "know a little about HIV." About 10 percent were "unaware" or "do not know much" about HIV (9 percent of non-LGBTQ, 11 percent of

LGBTQ).

- Nearly 6 in 10 Americans (59 percent non-LGBTQ, 57 percent LGBTQ) wrongfully agreed that "it is important to be careful around people living with HIV to avoid catching it."
- 90 percent of Americans believe "there is still stigma around HIV."
- 88 percent of Americans agree that "people are quick to judge those living with HIV."
- Despite the fact that a person living with HIV who takes HIV medicine as prescribed has effectively no risk of transmitting HIV, only 35 percent of Americans believe that those living with HIV "shouldn't have to tell others."
- Americans were least comfortable (54 percent total Americans, 56 percent Non-LGBTQ, 45 percent LGBTQ somewhat/strongly uncomfortable) with a doctor, dentist, or medical professional living with HIV.
- 49 percent of Americans (51 percent non-LGBTQ, 40 percent LGBTQ) were somewhat/strongly uncomfortable with a partner or spouse living with HIV.
- 45 percent of Americans (47 percent non-LGBTQ, 39 percent LGBTQ) were somewhat/strongly uncomfortable with a barber or hairstylist living with HIV.

— David Taffet

A few of our favorite things: Yelibelly Chocolates holding chocolate-and-whiskey pairings

So my favorite chocolatier — Yeli Marshall — and her crew are gonna be offering up two of my favorite things — Yelibelly Chocolates and whiskey — together over the next week, in two separate events.

On Thursday, Aug. 6, Yelibelly Chocolates teams up with Basil Hayden's Kentucky bourbon whiskey for a bourbon-and-chocolate pairing featuring three of their expressions. "This is our first public bourbon pairing, and we are excited to start off with a bang working with a company like Basil Hayden's," Yeli said.

Tickets start at \$15 and are available at [Eventbrite.com/e/115133174424](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/115133174424).



The Yelibelly Chocolates crew.

Then, the very next day, on Friday, Aug. 7, the Yelibelly team will be working with Jura Whisky and their single malt specialist to "explore scotch and chocolate pairing," Yeli said. "Jura is a really bold whisky, and we are excited to have three of their drams — Jura 10, Seven Wood and 18-Year — ready to deliver to you."

These tickets also start at \$15 and are available at [Eventbrite.com/e/115239000954](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/115239000954).

— Tammye Nash

Obituary



Charles Brenham Allen IV, 60, of Dallas, Texas, passed away at his home unexpectedly on July 18, 2020, after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Charles Brenham Allen III (Charles and Jo Anne) of Rosedale, Miss.

He graduated as valedictorian from Memphis University School in 1977 and from the University of Virginia with distinction from the School of Commerce in 1981. From there he went on to receive his MBA from Columbia University in 1985.

He worked at Paine Weber in New York for several years before moving to Dallas and working for Noel David Pullam Garden Design until the time of his death. Charlie attained the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth and was involved in charitable

work in both New York and Dallas, spending many years volunteering for Resource Center in Dallas.

He is also predeceased by his aunt and uncle, Dot and Bill Halliday of Memphis, where he was raised after the death of his father in 1964 and his mother in 1966. He leaves behind his partner, Fred Seufert, as well as his first cousins, who were his siblings growing up and who have shared his life all these years, Dorothy Halliday Butler of Summit, N.J., William P. Halliday III and Allen P. Halliday, both of Memphis.

Charlie was highly intelligent and engaging and a loving partner, cousin and uncle, with the most infectious laugh you've ever heard. His Memphis and New Jersey nephews and nieces were especially fond of their "Uncle Charlie," who faithfully sent them all hilarious birthday cards and lottery tickets and checked in with them regularly. His entire family will miss him dearly.

There will be a service of remembrance at a future time. Donations can be made in his honor to the charity of the donor's choice.

Pet of the week • Lo



Meet Lo, a 4-year-old retriever/Labrador mix. She has a short vanilla-and-light-tan coat and the sweetest eyes and the cutest perky ears. She's

a medium-sized dog weighing 42 pounds. Lo came to the SPCA of Texas through a cruelty case in April 2019 and was very shy and timid. She has since blossomed into a sweet lady, but she will need a home that is adults-only and very calm. Her new home will also need to have securely fenced backyard or be in an apartment with its own fenced area where she can relax on the grass. She will do well with other dogs in the home as long as they are calm like she is and can show her the ropes. A trial adoption would be good to determine if Lo and her adopters are a good fit. If you're looking for a quiet lady you can spoil and show lots of love, then Lo is the one for you. She is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas.

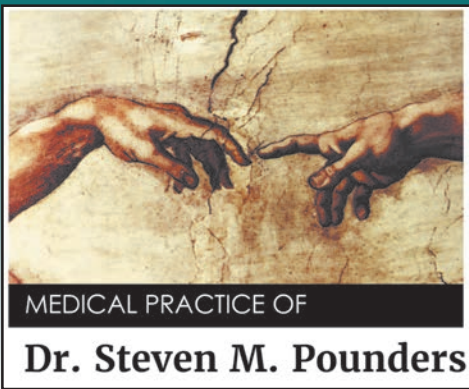
In an effort to reduce the potential for spread of COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at [SPCA.org/findapet](https://www.spcatexas.org/findapet), and visit [SPCA.org/dogadopt](https://www.spcatexas.org/dogadopt) to inquire about a dog or [SPCA.org/catadopt](https://www.spcatexas.org/catadopt) to inquire about a cat.

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A house full of love

Dandy and Ashley Cutrer find fostering a rewarding way of life

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dandy and Ashley Cutrer married legally earlier this year after five years as a couple. Together they've fostered seven children — so far.

When they first contacted Dallas Voice last year, the two were caring for four children. Those four children were returned to their mother, and the Cutrers have two different kids with them — a five-month-old and a two-year-old.

They also have a 13-year-old daughter they adopted, who has been with Ashley since she was a year old. Ashley and Dandy share custody of their daughter with Ashley's ex.

"I always wanted to adopt," Ashley said.

Dandy and Ashley got involved in fostering when they were buying a house and learned their lender was a foster parent. She recommended Upbring, an agency based in Austin with local offices across Texas, including one in Fort Worth.

When the Cutrers began the process in Midland, the caseworker doing the home study kept delaying, eventually telling them she "couldn't come to our house because we're a same-sex couple," Ashley said. That delayed the process for several months, until finally a caseworker from San Angelo came to do the house inspection.

Still, the couple said, it could have

been worse; the original caseworker could have just come and declared that they failed the home inspection, thus disqualifying them from becoming foster parents at all. The only ones who really lost out, they said, were the children who didn't get to stay in a loving home during that delay.

But once they qualified and were licensed, Ashley and Dandy became the first same-sex couple to foster in Midland.

Then the couple moved to Justin, just north of Fort Worth, and they had to re-qualify before fostering again.

As they've fostered, they've learned quite a bit about the behaviors of children in the system. For one thing, "Certain things they say may have a different meaning behind it," Dandy explained. They may get scared when they see a police officer. After a visit with their parents who were abusive, the children may act out in unexpected ways.

As much as they love the kids they foster and would love to keep all of them, the Cutrers said their goal, along with the goal of the state's foster care system, is to return the children to their parents. Still, giving up the kids they've cared for is difficult.

They described getting the family of four as giving birth overnight. "I had 30 minutes to prepare," Dandy said.

Typically, someone from Child Protective Services or from Upbring will call to say that they have a child or several children that need a place to stay. The potential foster parents can refuse or accept the children. If they accept, the children usually are brought over within the hour.

At this point, the children all have one thing in common: They are scared.

During the time that the four siblings stayed with Dandy and Ashley, they bonded like a family, the couple said.



Ashley and Dandy Cutrer with their daughter at their wedding.

Then, 15 months later, the children were returned to their parents.

Both women said, giving up the children was like experiencing a death in the family. They said it might have been easier if they were able to stay in touch with the children, but, for a variety of reasons, they haven't.

The two children they currently foster arrived on the first night of the COVID-19 shutdown. They arrived late in the day with nothing but what they were wearing, and all the stores were already closed.

So the Cutrers put a call out to the neighborhood for diapers and bottles and formula and baby clothes. And, they said, the neighborhood responded. Now they keep the house stocked with diapers and clothing in a variety of sizes.

When they first completed their training, the women let Upbring know they would love to care for LGBTQ kids. As an agency, Upbring's goal is making the best matches they can for the sake of the kids. The first foster child they had was transitioning, but, the Cutrers said, they haven't had any LGBTQ kids since then.

When they moved to Justin, Ashley and Dandy did some homework, just in case they got an LGBTQ placement.

The couple met with Justin High School administrators to introduce themselves as foster parents who may have kids placed who would go to that school. They specifically asked if there would be any problems for an LGBTQ foster child and were assured their kids would be welcomed.

Ashley encouraged anyone who's thought about fostering to look into it by taking an orientation class "to see if it's right for you." While raising children can be difficult, she said, it's been great for their relationship: "All those traumas bring you and your partner together."

Dandy agreed. "We're opposites," she said. "I wear my emotions on my sleeve. You just have to have a heart for children."

According to Upbring, singles or couples married at least two years can foster. You must be at least 21 years old and emotionally and physically healthy.

You can be employed or retired, but must have a regular source of income. You may not depend on foster care payments for expenses or be on government assistance. You must either have no criminal history or have proof of re-

habilitation. You must have no history of abusing a child or another adult.

Dandy and Ashley said their approval process took about seven months. That included the verification of their application and a background check. Then they attended an orientation meeting and classes that include CPR, behavioral intervention training and psychotropic medications and medication administration training. Finally they had to pass the home study and safety inspection.

They said they had to buy a few things for the house to pass inspection — a fire extinguisher, covers for their electrical outlets, a lock for their medicine cabinet. But they said those things are good ideas for any household with young children to have.

Their house, they said, looks just like any other house — except for one wall covered in all the required paperwork including a phone number for their foster kids to call in case they needed to report any incident to CPS.

Both agreed that giving children a safe and loving home is the biggest reward to fostering. ■





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Step by step

Becoming a foster parent starts with information and the right agency

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

There's a whole lot more to being a foster parent than just wanting to be a foster parent. That's especially true for same-sex couples and LGBTQ singles who want to foster children, since there are some agencies that refuse to work with LGBTQ people.

So the first step, according to Jennifer Maddox, is to find just the right agency. Maddox is director of foster and adoption for Jonathan's Place, a Dallas-based foster and adoption agency that works with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to place children in foster homes.

Maddox explained that Jonathan's Place was the first agency in Texas to earn the seal of approval from Human Rights Campaigns All Children All Families Project, a program of the national LGBTQ advocacy organization that "promotes LGBTQ inclusive policies and affirming practices among child welfare agencies and formally recognizes those agencies that are leading the field with innovative approaches to inclusion," according to the HRC website.

Maddox explained that those wishing to be foster parents in Texas can go directly through Texas Child Protective Services, which does work with LGBTQ potential foster parents. But they can also get licensed through private agencies that work with CPS.

"DFPS contracts with agencies throughout the state, and those agencies train and recruit and license foster families," Maddox said.

For those who go through a private agency, prospective LGBTQ foster parents first need to make sure they choose an agency that will work with them. To do that, Maddox said, "you might be



Jennifer Maddox

able to explore an agency's website to find out, or you can call and ask." Or, she said, you can attend a joint information meeting.

"You can find a joint information meeting in your area on the DFPS website," Maddox said, noting that the state is divided into 11 regions, and North Texas and Jonathan's Place are in Region 3.

"Joint information meetings are not required" for potential foster parents, she said, but it is a great place to get an overall preview of the process. That's also where potential foster parents can get a list of agencies in their area and what families those agencies are willing to work with.

It's about more than just if a particular agency will work with LGBTQ foster parents, Maddox said. "The question," she said, "is not only will they license your family, but also, are they supportive of your family. Make sure you have an agency that isn't just trying to increase their numbers but are actually going to support your family, be there for you when you need them."

Once you have chosen an agency, Maddox said, then you attend that agen-

cy's orientation session to "get a better idea what that agency's training and licensing process is like and find out what their specific requirements are. You can actually attend as many orientations at as many different agencies as you want. You are not committed to anything by attending, and there's no cost. That way, you know you have found the right one."

She explained that while CPS sets the minimum standards every foster family has to meet, different agencies can set requirements of their own beyond those minimums.

Once you have chosen an agency, that agency's representatives will explain the state's requirements, and you can start the process of becoming licensed.

That pre-verification process will "look different for each agency," Maddox said. But in general, you have to complete training, submit the required documentation and then go through the home study. There is, she said, a minimum of 30 hours of in person training, followed by about 10 to 15 hours of online training. After the training, potential foster parents must pass a complete background check, that includes having them run your fingerprints, undergo-

STEP, Page 10

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STEP , From Page 8

ing a TB test, providing references, documenting their education, providing a financial history and a budget.

"There is no specific income requirement," she noted, "but you have to be able to show that you can meet the needs of your home."

Documentation also includes a floor plan of your home, because the state does have square footage requirements and submitting the floor plan lets the agency know how many children your home can accommodate.

Once you have completed all the training and submitted all the documentation, Maddox said, then you schedule the home study. "Expect about a three to five hour interview, depending on how many people are in the home," she said. We have to interview each individual in the home. If there are two parents, we interview them together and then individually. Then there is a whole family interview."

Minimum standards for the home study interview include "talking about

your childhood and your parents and your understanding of the needs of the children who have experienced abuse and neglect. We ask about your motivation for being foster parents, about your willingness to maintain birth family connections. There is a financial section where we document your employment and your income and your bills. We ask for a 10-year residential history, and we look at the community you live in, in terms of resources, what's near you.

"It is a very detailed document," Maddox continued, "so it takes some time to complete. But we want it to be very thorough, because this home study is what CPS will see if you are submitted for placement. We want it to paint a very clear picture of your family for them, of who you are and how you would care for the children."

When the home study is written, the agency submits it to CPS, and if approved, you are then a licensed foster parent. The licensing procedure takes about two to six months — "depending

on your own speed in completing the training and providing the documentation" — and "then you wait for a placement," Maddox said.

And in Region 3, it probably won't be a long wait, she said, noting that "there is a huge need here for foster parents."

Most agencies allow the foster parents they work with to set certain parameters regarding children they are willing to take, in terms of age range, gender preferences, race preferences, which behaviors the parent feels they can handle. And each agency can set their own regulations, within minimum standards.

Any time there is a child or children needing placement, all agencies in that region have access to those potential placements. No agency, not even CPS, gets priority on making the placement. "We are just looking for the best match," Maddox said.

Once a child has been placed in a foster home, the foster family has a case manager assigned to them to help make sure they maintain their license but staying

up to date on training and maintaining compliance with minimum standards. And for those families who move from fostering to adopting, the state will continue to provide you with benefits.

Those services for foster parents are important, Maddox said, because fostering can be a difficult situation. For instance, CPS's ultimate goal is to return children to their biological families, and when that happens, "We recognize it can be difficult emotionally," she said.

"There will be sadness," she continued. "You are going to connect to that child, and the child will heal through their relationship with you. We understand the difficulty of them leaving. But we ask you to take on that sadness as an adult, so children can be safe and heal from their trauma.

"Support from your agency is really important during those times," Maddox said. "We recognize that you are going to feel that loss, and that you need to take a moment to grieve that loss before you bring another child into the home." ■

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Making a family

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some parts of this interview had to be cut for space. Visit DallasVoice.com to read the interview in its entirety.

Javier and Amon Seabaugh's road to parenthood was rocky at first, but has had a happy ending

Javier and Amon Seabaugh met on a cruise to The Bahamas in May 2013. The two men met each other in an elevator within the first 15 minutes of starting the cruise and spent the next four days together. Seven years later, they are still together and have recently welcomed their newborn son, Sebastian, to the family, thanks to LifeLong Adoptions. This week, they are sharing their story with Dallas Voice readers.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: Give us some background on your family. How long had you, Javier and Amon, been together when you decided to adopt? And what made you decide to have children? Javier and Amon Seabaugh: We met on a cruise to the Bahamas in May 2013. Javier came from Venezuela for vacation, and Amon took the exact same cruise, the exact same weekend. We met within 15 minutes of starting the cruise. I guess you can say we were destined to be together. Javier had always wanted to go on a cruise, and he had saved the money for a long time,



Javier, Amon and Sebastian Seabaugh

and his birthday seemed like the perfect occasion to take the trip. Amon had had a very bad week at work and planned the same cruise with his best friend. We can still remember when we saw each other for the first time in the elevator.

It was Amon who had the courage to talk to Javier for the first time, and after that initial conversation, we spent the entire four-day cruise together. We had dinners together, went to live shows together and even snorkeled together in the Bahamas.

After the cruise was over, it was time for Javier to go back to Venezuela, but we were not ready to say goodbye. So Amon asked Javier to stay in the USA. We knew we would figure out a way to stay together. So Javier stayed. He called his family and his job in Venezuela and let them know he wasn't coming back. Don't ask why; something told us we were meant to be together.

We got married Oct. 4, 2013, and our goal had always been to grow our family. We had so much love to give that a little one would make us a thousand times happier. We knew adoption was an expensive pro-

cess, but not so expensive that it would be impossible for us. But we also wanted to have time to travel and enjoy each other before bringing a baby into the world.

We both had always wanted to be parents. We always dreamed of raising a person to be a great human and teaching them love and devotion to our loved ones. So in November 2018, we started working on adopting, which ended up giving us the biggest love of our lives, Sebastian Amon Seabaugh.

Why did you choose adoption over, say, surrogacy for becoming parents? That was something we discussed several times. There were definitely pros and cons for each option, so it really came down to what we really felt more connected with. Adoption felt right for us because there are so many children in the world that need a loving home. So why not offer our home to them?

One thing we both agree on is that family is not just the people that are blood-related. Love is the true link or connection. Amon and I are a family, and what makes us a family is our love for each other. So a child through adoption would be our family in exactly the same way. It would be our child because we would love them

unconditionally.

There's no right or wrong answer when it comes to surrogacy vs. adoption, and we try to tell that to everyone who asks us. Never make a decision based on cost or money; decide what you think is right for you and your family. For us, adoption was, is and always will be the right choice.

Once you made the decision to adopt, how did you go about preparing for that process? And how did you choose your adoption agency? What set LifeLong Adoptions above other agencies? Our journey started in November 2018, and, to be honest with you, we did not do enough research when deciding on an adoption agency. We honestly just went with the one that had the highest rating. To our disappointment, we ended up losing a year and more than \$14,000.

After a year of being supposedly marketed by this adoption agency [to birth mothers], in October 2019 we learned that they were not actually doing all they could to match us to a birth mom. It became very obvious to us that they were predominantly marketing their heterosexual couples.

When we confronted them about it, they did not admit to the obvious and failed to even commit to us on a path to follow for the future. All we wanted was for them to market us the same as they were marketing their heterosexual couples, but they never admitted they were not doing that already.

Don't get us wrong; we know the waiting period is long and nerve-racking, but we just wanted to know that we were being treated fairly.

That's when we did proper research, and to be honest with you, and we were almost always referred back to LifeLong Adoptions. And from day one, our experience with LifeLong was nothing but amazing. They made us feel so comfortable, like part of the family and like they actually

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Being the best

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OB/GYN Dr. Zachary Ripp, whose new clinic in Lakewood has a growing list of trans men patients, says for him, 'professional' means being the best possible doctor for his patients

For Zachary Ripp, who grew up in Greenville, Texas as the son of a doctor and was fascinated by science and "how things work," growing up to be a doctor in Dallas was almost predestined. And now, with his recently opened Women First Lakewood clinic, he is looking forward to taking the next step in his career.

Dr. Ripp took time out of his busy schedule this week to answer a few questions about his life and his practice for Dallas Voice.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: First of all, tell me about your background. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to college and medical school? If you are not from Dallas, what made you decide to go into practice here?

Dr. Zachary Ripp: I grew up one of six children in Greenville, Texas. I went to school at UT-Austin, and then moved to Chicago for medical school at Loyola. Four Chicago winters were



Dr. Zachary Ripp

enough to convince me to move back home for residency at UT Southwestern/ Parkland. Not only do my parents and most of my siblings live here, I'm also a big fan of Dallas. Four years ago, I fulfilled my childhood dream of buying a house in the "M Streets," and I couldn't be happier.

What made you want to be a doctor?

What influenced you to go into obstetrics/gynecology, as opposed to general practice or some other specialty? My dad was a doctor, so I heard about medicine every night at the dinner table. In college, I thought about advertising or business, but I always came back to science/pre-med because I enjoyed learning how things worked and because of the difficulty of the classes.

In college I was heavily involved with sexual health volunteering and access to birth control, so OBGYN seemed like a natural fit. When I got to medical school, I realized that with OBGYN you get to do medicine

and surgery, and you also get to be a part of one of the most important days of people's lives. Despite the hours being terrible, sometimes delivering babies is super rewarding, and there is such a variety to my days in my clinic that I never get bored.

How long have you been in practice overall, and when did you open your office? Are there other doctors in practice at Women First Lakewood? What other services does your office offer?

I graduated residency six years ago and have been practicing in DFW since then. I have always wanted my own clinic, so I was able to work with my hospital, City Hospital at White Rock, to set up a clinic.

I am currently the only doctor at Women First Lakewood, but we are getting very busy very quickly, so we're already looking for another physician or nurse practitioner to help.

We are a general OBGYN clinic, so I get to see a variety of patients every day. We take care of pregnancies, abnormal

bleeding, pelvic pain and well woman exams as well as trans men exams. I have a special interest in minimally invasive surgery, including hysterectomies. I also have a growing number of transgender male clients, and I'm working with them on surgical/medical options to ensure their well-being.

What sets you and your practice apart from other OB/GYNs? When it comes to women in the LGBTQ community who are looking for an obstetrician or gynecologist, what do you feel you offer that a doctor outside the community doesn't? I think there are a lot of really great doctors in the community, so it's a tough question to answer. I think our clinic's greatest strength is our inclusivity. In medical school we were constantly taught about being professional. I think the word "professional" has really evolved for me into meaning "being the best doctor for your patient." I hug my patients; I have them cry on my shoulder. I want them to feel like they can tell me anything and know I won't judge them.

My job is to make their life better and I take that very seriously. I actually got a tattoo on my arm that says "Trust Women," because I know they are smart enough to make their own reproductive and life choices; I'm just here to facilitate.

What if any issues are there that you feel women in the LGBTQ community need to know about/be aware of when it comes to their own health and to choosing a gynecologist? Are there some illnesses or conditions that are more prevalent in LGBTQ women? I am actually an associate professor at UTSW, and I lecture on LGBTQ health issues and give medical students lectures about health issues, so this question is very complex for me.

Due to several factors lesbian/bisexual women face, including obesity and delayed child bearing, they are at increased risk of

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FAMILY, From Page 12

believed in us.

One of the things we asked of the previous agency was to educate us more about the process and to keep us informed. But they said that was not the way adoption was done and not the way they worked. But LifeLong Adoptions did this from day one. We had monthly calls about the process and were educated about each step. They explained everything from how they marketed us all the way to how to form a relationship with the birth mom the first time we spoke with her.

Only two months after we started working with them, in January this year, they matched us with not just one birth mom but two. We don't have words to express how much we appreciate them. Thanks to them, we made our biggest dream come true.

Describe the adoption process. The one thing we had the biggest misconception about was the love that a birth mom had for a child. We thought they felt rejection, but we actually learned and experienced first hand that the love of a birth mom is a selfless love, a love so big that they want that baby to have the life they cannot provide to them. It is something that is

impossible to explain with words but is so beautiful to experience.

The home study process takes a couple months, so it's good to have your adoption agency chosen and already be working with them on your profile while your home study is underway. We knew how important the profile was for us, because is the first thing that a birth mom would get to see about us. But we had no idea what it meant for the birth parents.

After talking to our birth mom and dad, they said that what they loved about our profile was that we actually did a video, so they weren't only looking at pictures. They loved that we focused on ourselves, so they could get to know us and know that we were real and not trying to fake it.

Once your home study is approved, then your profile gets published — and the hard waiting game begins. Believe me, it is hard. You start to question yourself, and you wonder why you have not been chosen already. But let me tell you, that after a year of waiting — if we count the time we were with the previous agency — and money we lost, we know that it meant to happen, because we were matched with a perfect baby and an amazing birth family.

We not only gained a son, we gained an entire family.

The last step is the hardest one, even harder than waiting to be chosen. Most states allow the birth mom to change her mind up to 48 hours after birth, and those are the longest 48 hours of your life. We were lucky enough to be so connected with our birth mom and dad. They told us that they were 100 percent committed to adoption, but that it was going to be really hard for them, because they loved [the baby] so much.

We knew that they loved him, and seeing that love materialize was something beautiful. We actually spent several of those 48 hours together with them at the hospital, talking about different things, laughing and caring for the baby. But, of course, it was in the back of their minds, and — I assure you — it was on the back of our minds, too, that the 48 hours were ticking away.

Once the 48 hours had passed, the lawyer arrived, and we all signed the necessary paperwork to make this official. That mix of emotions is indescribable. On one side, we were full of joy because we were finally having a baby. But on the other side, seeing how hard it was on the birth family made us feel heartbroken.

We are fortunate enough that the birth family wants an open adoption. That way our son can know where he comes from and just have more love. They get to visit him,

and we are in constant contact with them, keeping them updated about little man.

The next step is finalization of adoption. Six months after the birth of the baby — which for us will be November — and after a social worker visits our home every month and reports back to court on the well-being of our son, they will legally name him our son, and we will get a birth certificate with our names and the name we gave him on it.

Do you plan to adopt again in the future?

Yes, we definitely want more children, at least one more, but we definitely want to wait a little bit. Sebastian is going to be an amazing big brother. We have to admit it; we are suckers for his smile, and waking up in the mornings to that beautiful smile is priceless.

What advice do you have for other LGBTQ

couples or singles who are looking to adopt? Take the time to choose an adoption agency that fits you and your family. We will always be advocates for LifeLong Adoptions; they were exceptional. Start your research with them; they will become part of your family. Always be open and honest with yourself and each other. Make sure you both know what you really want before growing your family. It is a huge commitment, but it is beautiful and something you will never regret.

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BEST , From Page 13

ovarian, uterine and breast cancer. There are barriers with access to health care, concern about disclosing sexual preference, sexual orientation and sexual identity.

There are other health issues, such as polycystic ovarian syndrome and metabolic syndrome, that have higher prevalence in the lesbian community and can lead to issues such as hypertension and diabetes.

I think it's important to find a doctor that makes you feel comfortable. As a health care professional it's our calling to help you, so if you encounter a provider who doesn't have your interests as a priority, know there is a lot of other providers who will/do.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still so prevalent here in North Texas, what measures are you taking at your office to keep yourself, your staff and your patients safe? Do you have any recommendations on steps people in general can take to avoid the coronavirus? Covid has been a huge topic and area of concern in the health community. Of course, at Women First Lakewood we are requiring masks for all visits, and we check temperatures of all patients and their partners. Patients also have the option to wait in their cars until time of their visit to help with congestion in the waiting room.

My hospital, City Hospital at White Rock, has made it a priority to try to keep our labor, delivery unit and surgery unit COVID free, so we have increased screening and separate floors for COVID patients to recover in.

I encourage my patients (as well as remind myself) that staying home, avoiding crowds, and being strict about the mask rule is the best thing we can do.

Tell me about your involvement in the LGBTQ community? What organizations/events are you involved with? Does it help saying I am super-duper gay? I have been involved in the community for over 10 years.



Dr. Zachary Ripp and his better half

As far as organizations go, I'm currently serving my third year on the executive board of DIFFA. Normally I plan our Winter Wreath event, but because of COVID, things are going to be virtual this year. I'm excited because we have a great corporate sponsor — Barcana — who has generously donated more than \$150,000 worth of holiday decorations that we'll auction off, as well as some one-of-a-kind wreaths.

I'm also in the Federal Club with HRC and try to attend Black Tie Dinner every year. I'm looking forward to their telethon on Oct. 18.

What about your family? Do you have a husband/partner you want to mention? Children or other family? I have a really cute golden doodle named Icarus; does that count? My family lives in the area, and I'm lucky enough to have a great "chosen family" here as well. I'm dating a pretty great human being who likes my dog more than me, so I can tell he has great taste.

What have I not asked you about that you want the community to know about you? My favorite color is blue; I know all the best vegetarian burgers in town, and, most importantly, the last day to register to vote for the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 5 in Texas.



Rainbow Roundup *Meet · Play · Share*



Our Mission

Rainbow Roundup is a nonprofit organization committed to providing LGBTQ+ families and allies a safe place to connect through education, social activities, and resources.

Monthly Events

Join us for one of our monthly family-friendly events. We organize outings in the DFW area - from waterparks to movies to camping trips and more.

Online Community

Rainbow Roundup has a public and closed Facebook group where members can share suggestions or seek advice on a variety of unique challenges faced by our community.

Join us!

Have a question? Want to become a Sponsor? Rainbow Roundup 1-855-MYRRFAM 7920 Beltline Road, Suite 700, Dallas TX 75254. On Facebook find us under Rainbow Roundup! Find us online at www.rup.org 501(C)3 non-profit.



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Big Brothers Big Sisters:

Showing up for the LGBTQ youth of North Texas



At the end of the day, LGBTQ youth need adults to do the same thing that you expect your plumber, contractor or repair-person to do: They need adults to show up.

Growing up can be hard for any child, but LGBTQ youth face greater risks. They're twice as likely to have been physically assaulted, kicked or shoved. They're more likely to experiment with alcohol and drugs. They represent 40 percent of the homeless youth population.

The Trevor Project's 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health states that 68 percent of their respondents reported symptoms of generalized anxiety in the past two weeks; 48 percent had engaged in self harm. And 40 percent had considered suicide in the past year.

Of those respondents who identified as transgender or non-binary, the percentages in each area were even higher.

COVID-19 has made "social distancing" necessary, but while young LGBTQ people continue to adjust to the pandemic, some are dealing with increased anxiety and stress. For them, there may be additional challenges and risks from limited access to other LGBTQ youth and community support, lack of in-school counseling and, for some, the difficult circumstances of quarantining with unsupportive family members.

Adults "showing up" can make a difference.

The Family Acceptance Project notes that the presence of a supportive family member can make LGBTQ youth up to 92 percent more likely to believe that they can grow up to be a happy adults. The Reach Institute's 40 Development Assets reinforces this, reporting that young people who have three or more caring adults (besides their parents or guardians) who



Michael Teter
Contributing Columnist

or fit in. And in 2019, Trevor Project research affirmed that LGBTQ youth who have ONE accepting adult in their life are 40 percent less likely attempt suicide.

Unfortunately, 39 percent of LGBTQ youth say they don't have an adult in their life who supports them in any significant way.

I have a message for those LGBTQ youth reading this: Adults in our community are ready to stand with you.

I am proud to work for an organization — Big Brothers Big Sisters — that pairs young people with mentors, carefully screened and trained adults who are passionate about defending the potential of all youth of all genders, all orientations, all races, all religions, all incomes. We match youth with adults who see their potential and want to stand with them.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a place where adults show up.

Our mentors and mentees spend one-to-one time together about once a week, at least twice each month, for at least a year. Many of these friendships remain connected for life. Some hang out together around the community, going out to eat or to the mall, playing catch in the park, etc. Others see each other during lunchtime at school. And others connect each week on line, texting, FaceTime, calling one another, etc., through our new E-Mentoring program opportunity.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic all of our mentors and mentees find ways to stay connected virtually. That engagement is as important now than

support them feel happier and more hopeful, do better in school and are less likely to rely on drinking, smoking or drugs to feel good

ever, when we have to be physically distant to remain safe.

Getting involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters involves a few important steps — an application (go to bbbstx.org/lgbtq), an interview and some patience as our staff work hard to find the right match for each person.

Our goal is to create one-to-one friendships that are safe, strong and long-lasting. So we consider all sorts of factors when bringing people together. Maybe that's your LGBTQ identity, but it may also be your love of sports, reading or food. Or maybe it will be based on your education and career goals. Regardless, we want to find the right mentor for you.

For those adults reading this article, here's something to consider: Mentors can change a youth's life trajectory by being consistently present, listening and offering affirmation and exposing youth to new experiences and opportunities.

There may be LGBTQ youth who need your help in finding their way into a mentoring relationship. If you are an adult who knows an LGBTQ youth who could use an extra grown-up in their corner, please send them our way. And if you are someone who wants to join the many other LGBTQ and ally adults who are "showing up" for youth, consider becoming a mentor yourself. Simply go to our website and start the enrollment process.

Don't think COVID-19 will stand in your way, as we are now able to take your application, complete your interview AND introduce you to your new mentee ALL online. You have what it takes to be a mentor IF you are willing and able to show up. Join us! ■

Michael O'Teter is the chief program officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, the nation's largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate. He has been with BBBS for 19 years, and he's served as a volunteer mentor, as well. His current mentee, Leo, will be a junior in high school at the Collegiate Academy in Hurst. Mike and his husband, Clinton, live in Dallas.

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A moveable feast



The veal at Bellini's tastes of Old World elegance but arrives in a modernist presentation. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones)

3 stalwarts of Uptown dining — Bellini's, Mario's and Mia's — find new homes ... and new life

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

There's no denying how the pandemic has seriously — and, for the most part, detrimentally — affected the social life of Dallas and the world, especially when it comes time to eat and drink. But there have been silver linings to these rainclouds, as many Uptown-area institutions continue to grow, move and, in one case, resurrect, just when we need them most. It's enough to whet your appetite for what's to come.

Bellini's Italian Cafe and Bar

The most significant development has to be the welcome but unexpected return of Bellini's. For 18 years, this stalwart of Uptown attracted a loyal customer base enchanted by deft execution of Italian classics. Then, almost exactly two years ago, its owner, Lorenzo di Lorenzo, was kicked out by

the landlord. (The strip mall it occupied was torn down; Total Wine and More was erected in its place.) Di Lorenzo admits there were hard feelings. "It was our home — [closing it] was as if we lost our memories," he says.

But good things come to those who wait. After the lockdown, the wonderful Design District restaurant Foxyco was forced to shutter for good, and the space became available. Di Lorenzo quickly swooped in; barely two months later, Bellini's was back.

"It was quick," di Lorenzo says... but in many ways, it was as if they'd not left, merely napped. He wondered whether the older patrons would come back; they have. The new space is unlike the prior home, but the menu has remained largely intact... though di Lorenzo promises he is considering changes soon.

Not too many, we hope. Bellini's has always been old-school, with the staples Americans have long associated with Italian cuisine: caprese and calamari, garlic bread and antipasti platters plus pastas, pizzas and tiramisu. The food has an Old World elegance that belies its reasonable prices (most entrees are under \$20); the

eponymous veal Bellini (sauteed in a spinach cream sauce) is accompanied by risotti, served in fried cones that add a sense of majesty to the beautiful plate. The tiramisu is constructed of actual lady fingers (not merely sponge cake), dusted with espresso and garnished with kiwi slices; I dare you to find better locally. Even some non-traditional items get the Bellini's touch: The gratinee loses some of its French underpinning with the replacement of Italian mozzarella where gruyere or Emmentaler usually burbles on top.

Service is likewise top-notch. My wine glass was never empty, and you probably won't be seated eight seconds before being gifted fresh-baked bread with a spectacular dipping sauce. (I ask di Lorenzo its contents and he listed off a few; when I say, "Is that all?" he mischievously replies, "Well I can't give you all my secrets!" Even under a mask, you can tell he's smiling.) On weekends, soprano Michelle Lorra serenades diners with her exquisite voice. She's performed for di Lorenzo exclusively for years. "It's like family here," she says. I know what she means.

921 N. Riverfront Blvd. 214-528-2844.

Mario's Mexican and Salvadorian Restaurant

In the musical chairs of modern dining, restaurants seek out prime real estate as much as talent in the kitchen and skill in the front of house. And the old ilume building on Cedar Springs has been primo since it opened, with the anchor restaurant swapping out concepts and tenants several times, before closing last year with no successor. That ceased to be the case last month when Mario's — housed since its founding more than a decade ago around the same time that ilume opened (when it was officially called Mario Sabino's) along Lemmon Avenue — hiked across the gayborhood to its new digs.

Inside, the space looks much different



Tex-Mex staples share space alongside Salvadorian delights at the new Mario's. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones)



A trinity of sauces accentuate the reliable enchiladas at Mia's. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones)

from its predecessor, Cedar Grove (with its expressionistic arboreal decor); it's now as colorful as a pinata, filled with a multitude of pastels on the walls and an open, airy atrium which offers a much different vibe from the old space.

But if the atmosphere is different, the food has remained constant. The menu has always been the size of a Russian novel, broken down not only into apps and postres, drinks and dinners, but also cuisines: Mexican, Tex-Mex and the distinctive Salvadorian bites that, for me, provide the best reason to come back: Pupusas (huge and savory), tamals (super moist wrapped in the signature banana leaf, not corn husks), fried plantains. Add any of those to the extensive list of dishes, and you can't go wrong.

4123 Cedar Springs Road. *MariosDallas.com*.

Mia's Tex-Mex Restaurant

The most modest migration goes to Mia's, moving a mere half-block to occupy the building vacated by Buzz Brews. But in some ways, it's relocation is the biggest. Mia's has been an icon on the Dallas food scene for as long as Bellini's and Mario's combined, opening back in 1981 and staying put in the converted house for most of that time. Its creaky charm amid those series of rooms has given way to a wide-open layout in a more traditional restaurant space.

At the moment, though, the vibrant



spirit of the interior is all but off-limits, as service is relegated for the time being to the long patio that fronts Lemmon Avenue. The style even there, however, with its stucco in yellow and orange and blue, feels familiar.

And that familiarity is matched by the food, which we have grown to love. The trademark menu item that pops to mind the second you think of Mia's is certainly "Butch's brisket tacos," two large flour tortillas (you can get corn, but don't) piled with tender smoked brisket and doused in gravy. This is the kind of dish you send family to get when they ask for something that says "Dallas food" to you. But that's hardly the only thing on the menu. The enchiladas (cheese, beef and chicken with a trinity of sauces), and we really enjoyed Mama's lemon chicken on a recent visit. Be forewarned: Mia's has no printed menus, just a scannable QR code to access the bill of fare, so bring a smartphone and good reading glasses to explore the food.

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Who's your daddy wagon?

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Family-friendly Highlander doesn't forsake style to accommodate kids

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Before my husband and I adopted our daughter six years ago, our automotive fantasies ran towards Minis, Corvettes, Mustangs and Miatas — anything fun to drive and sexy to the eyes. But since Miss Amelia arrived with her ever-present collection of accoutrements (stroller, stuffed animals, blankets, extra shoes and every stitch of kid clothing ever stitched), our dreams have focused more towards large crossovers, including the redesigned 2020 Toyota Highlander. It's proof a couple of queens needn't give up style when baby comes along.

It's not easy to make what is a very large box stylish, but Toyota's designers performed admirably by giving the Highlander a wide stance, beefy hoodlines, deftly chiseled bodysides and wedgy taillamps cut into its thic rump. Rear fenders could be mistaken for those of classic Mercedes, which feel upscale drawn onto a three-row cross-

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over. Our Platinum trim is further distinguished

by a black grille with chrome trim, chrome-plated lower rear fascia, projector headlamps and unique 20-in. wheels.

A longer body allows Amelia all the space she needs while her Papa and Daddy ride in luxury limo accommodations. Embossed and perforated leather seats look more Maybach than Toyota, especially when heated/ventilated up front and heated in the middle row. A heated steering wheel, panoramic sunroof, three-zone climate control and 1,200 watts of JBL audio bring carnal delights.

Life in the front row is dominated by a flashy 12.3-in. touchscreen that comes standard on Platinum editions. It intuitively controls the audio and navigation systems, employing actual tuning/volume knobs, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and Alexa In-Car compatibility. Devices further connect with onboard Wi-Fi and wireless charging. From behind the wheel, I especially appreciated the wide heads-up display, rain-sensing wipers and camera image rearview mirror.

Behind the chrome winged Toyota badge is a 3.5-liter V6 delivering 295 horsepower and 263 lb.-ft. of torque, all routed to the optional all-wheel-drive system through an 8-speed automatic transmission. That's the right amount of power for a vehicle this size — enough to stomp onto freeways and pass on two-lane highways while balancing fuel economy, which rates 20/27-MPG city/highway. Properly equipped, the Highlander can tow up to 5,000 lbs. of RV, boat or classic car.

If there's a downside to large boxes on car chassis it's that they sometimes feel hollow and bouncy. There's some of that with the Highlander, but engineers tuned the suspension to provide a controlled and comfortable ride. Dynamic torque vectoring AWD over-rotates wheels to help sharpen corners and give the big wagon a nimble feel. There's also a drive mode selector that configures torque transfer between front/rear wheels and side-to-side. It's all quite sophisticated.

Given the Highlander's key mission of transporting families, safety was a priority. Toyota's Safety Sense 2.0 comes

standard on all 2020 Highlanders and includes pre-collision alert with pedestrian detection, crash mitigation auto braking, full-range adaptive cruise control, lane departure alert with steering assist and lane tracing assist. You can also add a blind spot monitor, rear cross traffic alert, rear auto braking and parking sensors. The Multi-Terrain Select control system configures the powertrain for Mud & Sand or Rock & Dirt.

Having a kid definitely changes the vehicles you drive. Sure, we still have an old Corvette that my daughter loves riding in with the top out, but that's not a practical way to visit the grandparents. For that, we'd be far better off with the still stylish, but substantially more practical, Toyota Highlander. Base models start at \$34,600, but rose to \$49,225 for our Platinum edition with all-wheel-drive. Key competitors include the Subaru Ascent, Honda Pilot, Kia Telluride, Buick Enclave and Ford Explorer.

Follow Casey Williams on YouTube @AutoCasey.

The summer movie season may have skipped us, but music is something you can enjoy alone or in a group. And

several queer-interest recording artists have released albums just in time for your poolside chill time.



Diana Ross, *Supertonic: Mixes*. From the opening track ("I'm Coming Out"), the Lady Diana asserts her appeal. But this collection of nine previously-recorded tracks, produced by Ross herself, highlights the power of her voice over generations.

The Chicks, *Gaslighter*. We've loved the Dixie Chicks since their days playing at Sue Ellen's. Now newly rebranded without the Southern identifier, these storied country queens with the liberal bent have reunited for their first new album in 14 years. It was worth the wait.



Neon Trees, *I Can Feel You Forgetting Me*. The very existence of this fourth studio album from the Utah-based pop-rockers came as a welcome surprise, in light of frontman Tyler Glenn's coming out and intervening solo work. But the band is back together and just as good as before, if not better.



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Cassie Nova

Pontoon boats, bathroom remodels and Y'ALL

Y'all it's hot! On top of a pandemic, it's hot. I know I am stating the obvious, it being Texas and all. But it's hard for me to be motivated to do things already, then you throw in this swamp ass-inducing heat, and I just lay around looking like Jabba in his lair.

That is actually a good analogy: Jabba on his desert planet of Tatooine and me in Texas. At this point we probably look pretty similar, too.

Another declaration I am going to make that you all already know is that 2020 has been a difficult year. The year 2020 can suck my dick. Pandemic, quarantine, unemployment ... and that was just the month of March! So this little bitchfest I am about to have here is more for me than for you. And I want you all to know before I start that I know how lucky I am and that I know how petty I sound about some of the things I am going to be bitching about. Still, here goes.

One of the only enjoyable things we were doing during all of this mess was going out to the lake on our newish pontoon boat. We have had it for 13 months. It is now out of commission because I fucking wrecked it. It was just after sunset, and I hit a tree stump under the water. I never saw anything to make me think I was anywhere near underwater trees, but Murphy's Law states that if there is a way, I will fuck it up.

While driving around the lake trying to practice being a better boat captain, there was a thump — not even a big one. We actually didn't realize how bad it was until we pulled the boat out of the water. Apparently the stump punctured one of the pontoons, putting a hole the size of a silver dollar in the pontoon and a long dent down the length of the pontoon.

We were lucky we left when we did, because all I could think of was the Titanic. They had an iceberg; we had a fucking underwater tree. At least they saw the iceberg.

Long story short, we won't get the boat back until the end of summer — if we are lucky. Thank God for insurance, because they are going to have to replace the entire pontoon on the right side.

I know what you are thinking: Poor Cassie won't have a boat for a few months. To you I say ... nothing. It's not really a big deal in the broader scheme of things, but hey, I needed something to write about.

Then 2020 strikes again. A week after the boating incident, my husband — who can't sit still for more than a minute. Seriously, he always hasta be doing something. I'm like, "Sit down. Relax for a bit. Let's just chill." And he's like, "No! I have too much to do!" and gets up to find a project or chore to do. It's exhausting — anyway, my husband decides he is going to rip up our floor in the bathroom.



Now, I love our house, but I hate our bathroom. We live in a house that was built in 1900 and remodeled in the late 1980s. We have redone almost every room in the house, but that bathroom is straight outta the '70s. Wood boards make up every wall in the bathroom, so it looks like the sauna at the bathhouse. The floor looks like red brick but is vinyl and peeling in a few areas that we hid with rugs. It is long and narrow. It is just a weird layout.

So the hubby decides it is time to redo the floors and starts pulling up the vinyl. Under

the vinyl, on half of the floor, is particle board that has just crumbled to sawdust at this point. He decides he has to pull up all of the particle board and lay down new wood before we can install a new floor. The particle board, of course, goes from one end, down one side to the bathroom door.

He is diligently working his ass off, pulling up this horrible wooden floor, when he comes to a moist spot. Yes, I said moist. MOIST! I know a lot of you hate that word: moist!

Any who, he ends up having to remove a

section of the wall because of the moisture. There he finds we have a broken pipe and half of the waste being drained from the kitchen has been spilling out and under the house, completely saturating the bathroom floor under the bathroom sink. Lord knows how long it has been leaking; we think at least a year.

So his medium-sized task to put in a new floor has turned into a complete bathroom remodel plus an expensive visit from a plumber.

I want to give a shout out to my husband. He does so much around here, and even with this remodel he wants to do as much of it as he can by himself.

We decided we wanted one of the bathroom sinks on the other side of the room so he had to get underneath the house to move the plumbing fixtures. It is creepy under our house; I hate it. There are signs all over that snakes have been under there, and there are spiders freakin' everywhere! I helped out as much as I could, but y'all know I am a puss.

And I broke two of my nails while I was trying to help. One of them ripped the flesh and bled forever. That shit hurts so much. And it was my middle finger on my right hand. You don't realize how much you use that finger until it hurts every time you do anything. From putting my hand into my pocket to wiping my ass — anytime I put pressure on my finger it hurt.

So y'all send some thoughts and prayers to my husband. He only has me for an assistant, and I suck. Almost as much as 2020 does!

BTW, I want you all to notice how I use "Y'all." In my opinion, the apostrophe should be after the Y. Why would you break up the word all. Even my computer is trying to correct me but I stand firm: It is Y'ALL, not YA'LL. It is Y plus ALL, not YA plus LL. I have spoken!

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

this week's solution

F	R	I	A	R		B	A	S	S		M	A	S	T
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The Hart Family - Meaghan and Ally with twins
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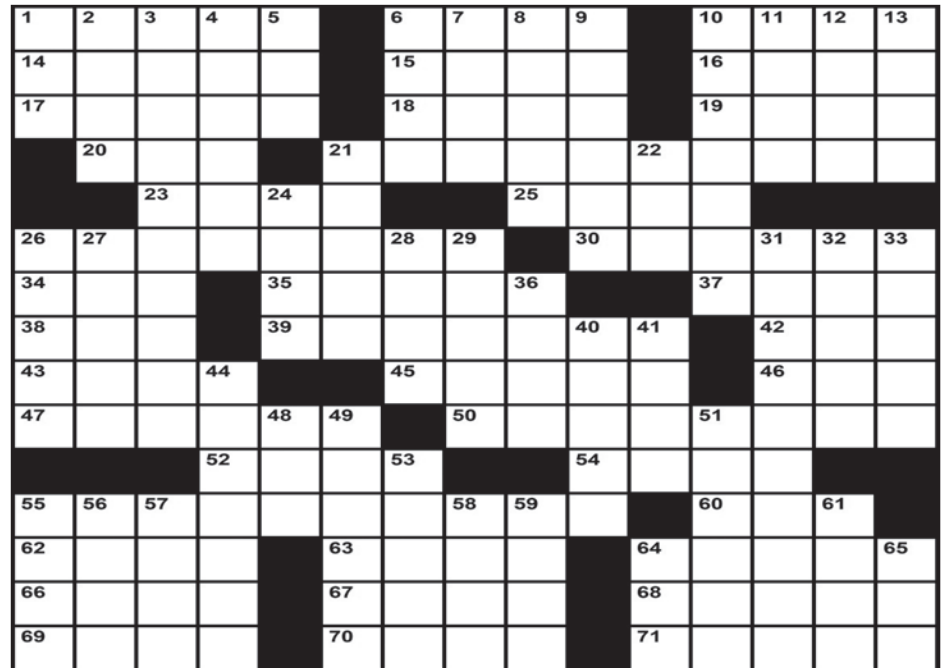
Mitzi and family



We Are All Human. Amanda, Sherrell and their
daughter Makayla

q-puzzle

A new crime fighter in town



Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 He doesn't sleep with women
- 6 Opera villain, typically
- 10 Pole of your first mate?
- 14 Bass formerly of NSYNC
- 15 Like a top
- 16 Curtain-raising time
- 17 Not at all cool
- 18 Palindromic male name
- 19 Boat bottom
- 20 With 21-Across, TV series of Javicia Leslie
- 21 See 20-Across
- 23 Layer beneath two plastic brides
- 25 Goes out with
- 26 Unsophisticated
- 30 Tee Corinne pics, e.g.
- 34 MPG monitor
- 35 Use for a bed
- 37 Maupin story of the city
- 38 Mel of Giants fame
- 39 With 55-Across, 2019 film of Javicia Leslie
- 42 Stole upon the stage
- 43 Not even once, to Whitman
- 45 Ready for bed
- 46 Duvall played her in *Popeye*
- 47 Cleverly skillful
- 50 Shipboard personnel

52 Samurai's continent

54 Frolicking run

55 See 39-Across

60 Prefix with "woman" in an upcoming role for Javicia Leslie

62 *Modern Family* adoptee

63 Express love manually, perhaps

64 Claire Morgan, to Patricia Highsmith

66 Vaulted church area

67 Objectifies, sexually

68 Gay men's lifestyle magazine

69 Noise of the lambs

70 Petrol station choice

71 Bean of *Normal, Ohio*

Down

1 Kind of shot

2 Initiated phone sex

3 Like couples who bathe together?

4 Like sour fruits

5 Muscle Mary's weight training unit

6 Crude dude

7 "No" voter

8 Gay.com, and others

9 Balls

10 Reaches the top

11 Passed with flying colors

12 Pansy supporter

13 Scrabble Q,

for example

21 Easily damaged

22 NYPD rank

24 Anne Hathaway's "enchanted" role

26 Former hotelier Helmsley

27 Quit, with "out"

28 Makes costumes, e.g.

29 *The L Word*, and others

31 Symptom of being a breeder?

32 Andrew ___ Webber

33 Elite Navy divers

36 Nureyev's refusal

40 Mortimer, with a wooden head

41 Words used in setting the tempo

44 Some of Melissa Etheridge's crew

48 Sussex suffix

49 Poor trick rag

51 One who comes slowly

53 Cockeyed

55 Use your mouth unfaithfully

56 Cohost Kelly

57 Rick's old flame

58 Is unlike Dorian Gray

59 ___ many words

61 Source of poi

64 Sixth word of Abe's address

65 T. Baldwin's title

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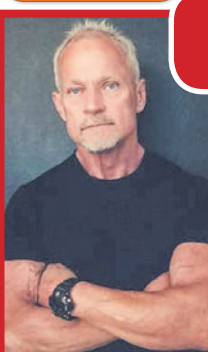
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