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Caven, Ablon reveal plans
for mixed-use development

by David Taffet, Page 8

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Plans for development on Cedar Springs. Courtesy PegasusAblon and Caven Enterprises.
Cover design by Kevin Thomas

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Biden appoints trans vet to Defense Department transition team



Shawn Skelly

President-elect Joe Biden has appointed trans veteran Shawn Skelly to his Defense Department transition team, signaling exactly what he thinks of Trump policies toward transgender service members. Skelly worked in a number of defense and transportation roles in the Obama administration and was the first transgender veteran appointed by a president in 2013, according to the N.Y. Daily News.

In contrast, Trump banned trans service members from the military. While the ban is still being battled in court, Biden has indicated he would overturn the ban — which was previously overturned during the Obama administration. Skelly's appointment indicates overturning Trump's discriminatory policy is a priority.

Skelly is a Navy veteran and currently serves as vice president of Out in National Security, an

employee resource group for national security professionals.

According to her Out in National Security biography, she served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as a naval flight officer, retiring with the rank of commander. In the Obama administration, she first served as special assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics at the U.S. Department of Defense, and ultimately as the director of the Office of the Executive Secretariat at the U.S. Department of Transportation. In 2017, President Obama appointed Skelly to serve as a commissioner on the newly established National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

— David Taffet

VA North Texas begins COVID-19 vaccine trial

The VA North Texas Health Care System began a clinical trial for the single-dose investigational COVID-19 vaccine

developed by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. This is the fourth large-scale COVID-19 vaccine trial in the United States.

Veterans and non-veteran volunteers, including men and non-pregnant women over 18, can enroll in the study at VA North Texas Health Care System, with special focus on Frontline staff and essential workers and Black, Hispanic and Native American volunteers.

You cannot get COVID-19 from the investigational vaccine or the placebo used as part of the study because the investigational vaccine does not contain any live or killed virus. For more information about the Janssen clinical trials, including the investigational vaccine they're testing, visit www.ensemblestudy.com.

To sign up for the study, visit www.va.gov/coronavirus-research. Signing up for volunteer list does not guarantee enrollment into the trial. Volunteers will be contacted if they appear to meet a trial's eligibility criteria or seem like a good match for another COVID-19 study at their local VA.

— David Taffet

Happi TV launches new LGBTQ streaming app, website



Have you watched everything on Netflix and Amazon Prime over the last eight-and-a-half months? Are you getting tired of reruns? Do you want more queer content than just the new Lifetime channel Christmas movie featuring the gay couple?

Well, Happi TV may have the answer for you.

Happi TV is a brand-new streaming app and website that launched this week "serving the LGBTQ+ community ... with the purpose of filling the void this underrepresented group has in the current media marketplace."

According to a press release announcing the new streaming service, Happi TV "offers a wide variety of films and TV geared towards queer audiences, with special emphasis on

products made by their own members of the community." Happi TV will also focus on showcasing short-form content made by a curated selection of out and proud members of the community.

Happi TV launched this week in the U.S. and Canada, and has an international rollout planned in the near future. It will be available in all the major app platforms in North America, following an advertising video on demand model, offering free content to viewers who prefer to watch ads over a monthly subscription. It will also offer a linear channel option made available through digital streaming platforms in the territory.

— Tammy Nash

Lambda Legal challenges WV Medicaid exclusion for gender-confirming care

Lambda Legal is part of a team that filed a lawsuit Thursday, Nov. 12, challenging West Virginia's blanket exclusions of coverage for gender-confirming care in West Virginia's Medicaid and state employee health insurance plans.

The class-action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia on behalf of Christopher Fain, a

Medicaid participant; and Zachary Martell and Brian McNemar, a dependent and state employee, respectively. The suit was filed by Lambda Legal, Nichols Kaster, PLLP, and the Employment Law Center, PLLC.

Fain v. Crouch is a class action lawsuit challenging blanket exclusions of coverage for gender-confirming care in West Virginia's state health plans. The blanket exclusions of coverage for care are stated expressly in the health plans offered to Medicaid participants and to state employees. West Virginia's state health plans serve approximately 564,000 Medicaid participants and 15,000 state employees.

— David Taffet

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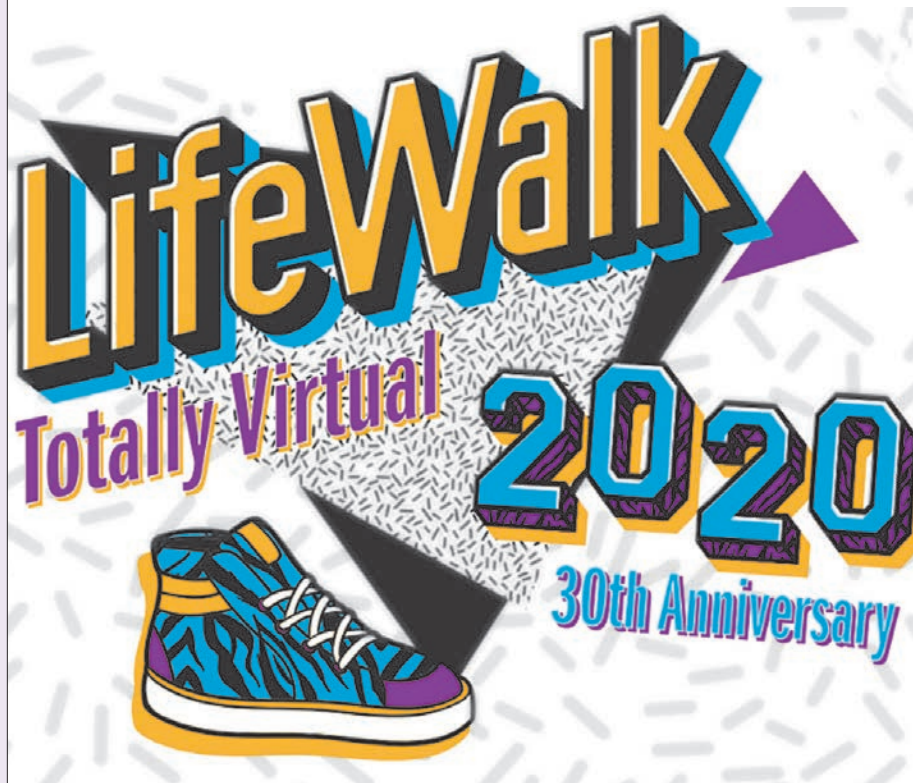
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and the always late Patti Fink.



LifeWalk announces

2020 results

Like so many other things this year, Prism Health North Texas' annual LifeWalk was forced to make changes this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic: The 5k fundraiser had to go virtual, which is no easy task for an event based around the idea of people coming together to actually earn donations by WALK-

ING together.

But while it may not have been an easy task, and it certainly wasn't its usual self, LifeWalk 2020: Totally Virtual raised \$174,917, Prism Health officials announced this week.

Recognized as the top three individual fundraisers are Terrence Box, David Hearn and Max Rippetoe. This year's top three teams are Team Clover, Guys & Dolls and HMS Cares.

— Tammye Nash

pet of the week / JJ



Meet JJ, a male, 1-year-old shepherd mix weighing 22 pounds. He came to the SPCA of Texas through a cruelty case and was so frightened when he arrived, but, thankfully, he found an awesome foster mom who helped him learn how to be a dog. He still has

some progress to make, but he's now on the hunt for a forever home. Once he opens up, he's a ball of fun. He loves playing in water, and the water hose is his favorite thing ever. He also met a turtle in his foster home, and they were best friends. He is incredibly silly, so he's sure to put a smile on your face. Thankfully, he doesn't need anyone to entertain him; he can do that all on his own — either with toys or his four-legged friends. He would do best in a home with a securely-fenced yard, adults only and at least one other canine friend. JJ 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 spreading COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption events 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 and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.

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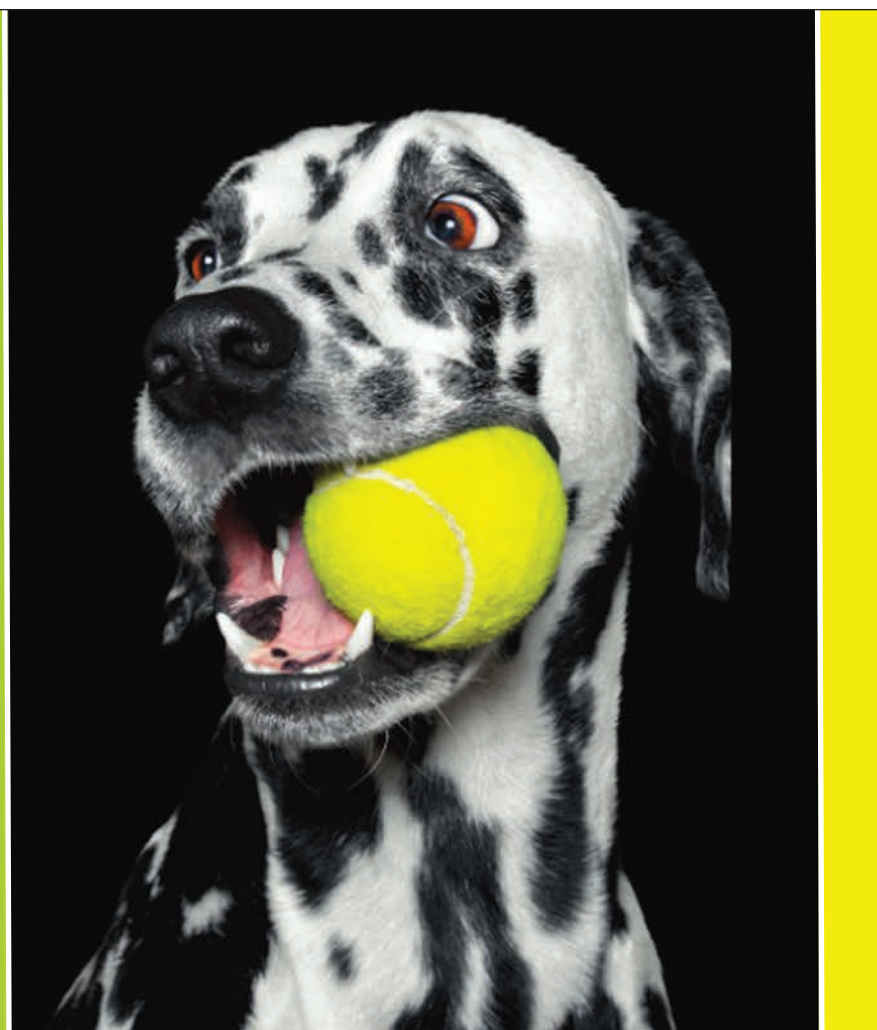
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- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
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Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarmv.com).



Taking the gayborhood to the next level

Caven, PegasusAblon announce development deal that preserves bars, adds residential space

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

To most developers, Oak Lawn has always been a challenge: How to develop despite the LGBTQ community? But not to Mike Ablon or his company PegasusAblon. The LGBTQ community is a part of the neighborhood's fabric that he wants to weave into his new development, he said.

For Caven Enterprises, the company that owns TMC-The Mining Company, Sue Ellen's, JR's Bar & Grill, The Rose Room and Station 4, Cedar Springs has been home for more than 40 of its 50 years. During that time, the company acquired the property in the 3900 block of Cedar Springs Road where its bars sit, as well as in the 4000 block of Cedar Springs.

Over the last decade, Caven has received some very generous offers for that property.

But in each case, "Developers only wanted the dirt," Caven board member Ed Oakley said.

In other words, the bars and restaurants from Reagan to Throckmorton Street and the historic 4001 Cedar Springs building would be leveled. And that is something no one at Caven was going to allow. They have too much stake in the community.

For example, decades ago when people outside the neighborhood criticized the bars for being within a block of an

elementary school, Caven staff and patrons partnered with the school. Bar employees and their customers collected school supplies and provided tutors for the school in what DISD once described as one of the strongest community partnerships it had.

But, Oakley said, for the last five years, the company has been trying to figure out what would take Caven property to the next level.

Oakley said he has known Ablon since representing him on the Dallas City Council. He was familiar with Ablon's approach to development in the Design District: Rather than plowing under older buildings, Ablon maintained showrooms and art galleries while adding retail, restaurants and residential units to turn the area from a warehouse district into a thriving neighborhood.

Ablon said he approached Oakley and Caven CEO Gregg Kilhoffer and asked, "Can I look at y'all's property?" When he explained that he didn't want the property without the bars, they decided to investigate the possibilities, and Ablon hired an architect to look at what could be done with these properties.

Oakley said the design Ablon came up with "will take this community into the next 40 years."

Caven's buildings currently along Cedar Springs won't be touched. Instead, two buildings — one behind S4 and one in the 200-car parking lot behind Roy G's — and a pocket park will be built behind the existing properties.

The construction will be done in two phases, with the building behind S4 coming first.

That building will possibly be 20 stories high, and will be mixed-use residential with preliminary plans calling for some restaurant or retail space on the lower floors. Between the new high-rise



and S4, a pocket park will be built that Ablon said he hopes will become a meeting place for the community.

Pointing out that when you're in New York, and you agree to meet someone at Grand Central Station, you meet under the clock, Ablon said in his vision, if you're in Dallas, and you're going to meet in Oak Lawn, you'll meet at the waterfall.

That would be the 70-foot waterfall that will be one of the design features of the new building and a centerpiece of the pocket park. The park will be covered and some cooling will be added so it can be used year-round.

Once constructed, the residential building would also add some badly needed parking for the community, the developer said.

Just as Cedar Springs Road became a street filled with pedestrians in the late 1970s as the LGBTQ community made it the heart of the gayborhood, Ablon said he envisioned Throckmorton Street becoming an extension of that when this development is finished.

Ablon described his vision for development in Dallas: "A city is neighborhoods with a cultural heart," he said. "Anything we do needs to fortify it."

And while Ablon isn't gay, he said his daughter is lesbian, so he feels a connection to the LGBTQ community and the neighborhood the community calls home.

Maintaining the streetscape

"How do we keep our streetscape?" Ablon asked, then answered his own question by explaining that the high rise buildings will be constructed behind the current buildings along Cedar Springs Road, not on top of them or instead of them, he explained.

The project has to go to city zoning and still needs approval from the Oak Lawn Committee that reviews all construction projects in Oak Lawn. But Kilhoffer said he hopes plans will be finalized next year along with zoning approval.

Zoning is a three-to-six month process, and Ablon said they'd be filing the project this week in hopes that everything will be approved by this spring. If construction begins within a year and a quarter after that, they explained, ground will be broken in 2022 and the first phase would be complete in 2024.

The LGBTQ vote



Hundreds of people gather in San Francisco's Castro district on Saturday, Nov. 7, to celebrate the victory of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. (Noah Berger/Associated Press)

Exit polls, precinct info seem contradictory

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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Even though Democrat Joe Biden has already secured more than enough electoral college votes and has been declared the president-elect, Donald Trump has refused to concede the election. He continues with a steady stream of tweets declaring he won the election by a big margin and that in swing states that went for Biden — like Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and, so far, Arizona and Georgia — by narrow margins, there was rampant voter fraud that allowed Biden to prevail.

Despite his claims and his promise of legal challenges and recounts everywhere, though, neither the Trump campaign nor his followers have managed to present any actual evidence to back up their claims of fraud.

Meanwhile, new data available from precincts with heavily LGBTQ populations contradict exit poll suggestions about the LGBTQ vote. The precinct data

examined as of deadline suggest LGBTQ voters set new records in their support for the Democratic presidential candidate and new lows in their support for the Republican candidate.

Heavily LGBTQ precincts in the Castro neighborhood of San Francisco and in the popular LGBTQ vacation town of Provincetown in Massachusetts showed 91 percent or more of voters supported the Democratic ticket of Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris. Support for Trump in those locations ran between 2 and 8 percent.

In the heavily LGBTQ town of Wilton Manor, Fla., support for Biden ran between 79 and 82 percent; Trump support there fell between 17 and 19 percent.

In five heavily LGBTQ neighborhoods in Philadelphia — the state where Biden came from behind to win the state and secure its 20 electoral college votes, which put him over the 270 necessary to win — Biden won between 84 and 92 percent of the vote.

But exit poll data from the National Election Pool, used by the New York Times and the major television networks, seemed to tell a different story. That data indicated that, among about 1,100 voters who self-identified as LGBT, only 61 percent supported Biden, while 28 percent supported Trump.

LGBTQ VOTE, Page 12



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The battle for the Senate

2 runoffs in Georgia could determine who controls the upper house of Congress

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

Georgia has very quickly become ground zero in the battle to protect LGBTQ equality and to, once again, stave off attempts to undermine American democ-

racy.

"Jan. 5 is now a critically, critically, critically important date," said Fred Smith, a Georgia activist and member of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' LGBTQ Advisory Board.

He was speaking with other Georgia LGBTQ leaders to Project Q Atlanta, an LGBTQ news website, just days after the Nov. 3 presidential election and key Senate races around the country.

As the dust settles around most of the U.S. Senate races, the partisan make-up of the next session stands at 50-48, in favor of the Republicans after races in North Carolina and Alaska were called for the Republican incumbents on Wednesday.

The Democrats, however, still have a chance to take control if two Democratic challengers in Georgia can win their runoff elections. Georgia state election officials have announced a hand recount of all ballots, but the recount is unlikely to change the current status — with Biden winning the presidential race there and earning Georgia's 16 electoral college votes.

If both Democratic challengers win in the Senate runoffs, the count will stand at 50-50.

(When there is a 50-50 split in the Senate, the tie is broken by the vice presi-

dent, who next year will be Democrat Kamala Harris.)

"Biden's hands will absolutely be tied across the board on every issue, including LGBTQ issues," Smith said, if Republicans win both of the seats from Georgia.

Lucas Acosta, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, said his group "will be making some announcements

Raphael Warnock

in the coming days on Georgia, but I can say we will be heavily involved."

HRC has been heavily involved in Georgia since last year, when it partnered with Stacey

of the two Georgia run-off elections will control not only the types of judges Biden will be able to appoint but "whether he'll get to appoint judges at all ... [as well as] the type of people he'll be able to appoint to his cabinet and pro-equality legislation."

Jeff Graham, president of the Equality Georgia board, told Project Q Atlanta that the LGBTQ community needs to do "hard work for the next nine weeks."

These two run-off races are happening because none of the four major party candidates for U.S. Senate in Georgia managed to get at least 50 percent of the vote during the Nov. 3 election. The top two vote-getters in both races now square off on Jan. 5.

One race pits incumbent Republican David Perdue against Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff. The other pits incumbent Republican Kelly Loeffler against Democratic challenger Raphael Warnock.

Warnock garnered 340,000 more votes than Loeffler on Election Day 3, but a second Republican in the race took away 979,000 votes from Loeffler. Warnock can hope to pick up the 459,000 votes siphoned away by two other Democrats on Nov. 3 race, but it's clear the race is going to be tough.

Democrat Ossoff received 88,000 fewer votes than his Republican opponent Perdue, but there was one other candidate on the ballot: a Libertarian who won 115,000 votes.

Fivethirtyeight.com, the data analysis website founded and run by openly gay statistical guru Nate Silver, said "Things aren't looking so rosy for Democrats now." It calls a Democratic sweep of both Georgia seats "unlikely."

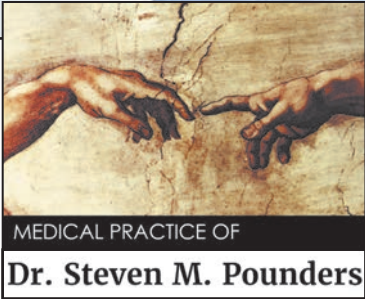
Abrams' Fair Fight organization to combat voter suppression in Georgia. HRC promised a six-figure contribution to Fair Fight, saying that while voter suppression efforts are primarily aimed at people of color, "it has also harmed LGBTQ Americans."

Smith, who is also a law professor at Emory University, said the outcome





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But these two sets of data were collected in very different ways, and both could be showing a fair picture of the LGBTQ vote.

The exit poll data has the benefit of collecting information from a wide sample of LGBTQ people, not just those who live in heavily LGBTQ neighborhoods. It may suffer from the reluctance of LGBTQ voters to share personal information with a stranger who approaches them outside a voting place in their neighborhood, which may not be heavily LGBTQ or even LGBTQ-friendly.

The precinct data is able to capture the trend in heavily LGBTQ neighborhoods from around the country but includes the votes of residents in those areas who are not gay — often the majority of voters, even in a heavily LGBTQ neighbor-

hood.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign which endorsed the Biden/Harris team and worked for their victory, praised the outcome Saturday morning, Nov. 7, saying, “The future of our democracy and the quest for equality is bright.”

He continued, “Trump, Pence and anti-equality forces left us with unlawful and regressive policies that have stripped away protections marginalized communities have had for years.”

While acknowledging there will be much hard work ahead, David said Biden and Harris are “not just willing to be our allies, but they are true advocates for equality.”

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GEORGIA, From Page 10

Georgia’s electoral votes have still not been called for either the Democrat or the Republican in the presidential

race. Even though Georgia has voted for the Republican presidential candidate since 1992, Biden led Trump by more than 12,000 votes as of Tuesday morning, Nov. 9.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr sent out a memo Monday, Nov. 8, directing all U.S. attorneys to investigate any “substantial allegations” of voter fraud anywhere in the country before states certify their election results.

Georgia’s Republican Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan told various news outlets today that his office has been monitoring for “any systemic examples of fraud or voter disenfranchisement” in the state and “have not had any credible examples.”

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Jon Ossoff

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

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GAYBORHOOD, From Page 8

The second building will be built thereafter.

To make the arrangement work, Caven Enterprises has entered into an agreement with PegasusAblon in which the development company will acquire three-and-a-half acres of property, including the bars, through a stock sale. Once that sale is completed, Caven will then re-acquire everything inside its spaces and enter into a “very long-term lease” with PegasusAblon.

Because Caven Enterprises is an employee-owned company, each of the employee-owners will receive a portion of the proceeds of the sale that will be held in private IRA retirement accounts.

Kilhoffer said the current COVID-19 pandemic had nothing to do with the sale. In fact, negotiations for the transaction have been going on for more than a year-and-a-half.

But how did the pandemic and the closing of the bars affect the price employees will be paid? Kilhoffer said it remained the same.

Once the transaction takes place,

Ablon will own the real estate and Caven will own the businesses, Kilhoffer said. From there, both men described their relationship as a partnership. Ablon needs the bars to remain successful for his development plans to succeed, and Caven needs the development to succeed for its bars to thrive.

“We set this up for years of a great partnership,” Kilhoffer said.

A long-term lease ensures that some version of Caven bars — re-invented or newly-created — will remain on Cedar Springs for what Kilhoffer foresees as the next 40 years.

While often high-rise properties are built by developers and then sold, as happened a few blocks down Cedar Springs Road with the former iLume projects. But Ablon said he doesn’t work like that. Unlike many large developers who duplicate successful projects around the country, all of his development is in Dallas, with the exception of one retail project in Fort Worth’s Cultural District.

Also, Ablon has a history of retaining



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the properties he's built. A residential project in the Design District that his investors forced him to sell is an exception, he said.

In this case, money for the multimillion dollar project is coming from individual European investors who are looking for a stable, longterm investment.

That makes this development project unique among the big gayborhoods in the U.S. Once this project is completed, this will be the only gayborhood in the U.S. preserved with foreign investments and a developer who is counting on the LGBTQ community to thrive in order to succeed. ■

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■ commUNITYvoices

No comfort here

I won't be gloating at Trump supporters' misery, but I won't be trying to console them either

Remember after the 2016 presidential election when Trump supporters reached out to Clinton supporters in an effort to understand and sympathize with our pain and fear? How they tried to better understand us so that we could remind each other that we are all Americans and we need to work together for the good of the nation?

Yeah, me neither.

I do remember seeing a lot of "Suck it up, buttercup" memes and coffee mugs that read, "Liberal Tears" and shirts with, "Trump 2020: Make Liberals Cry Again" and "Grab 'Em By the Pussy Again."

I remember seeing banners and American flags with "Trump 2020: Fuck Your Feelings." I remember that the "lock her up" chants never went away and, in fact, expanded to include Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

I remember Trump boasting that he not only won the electoral college but that he also won the popular vote because the millions more votes Clinton got were all illegally cast. I remember Trump calling the press the enemy of the people. I remember him referring to his Democratic challengers as crooked, sleepy, nasty, crazy, brain-dead, weak, little, boring, shifty, dopey, sick, stone-cold phonies, clowns, monsters, lightweights, puppets, corrupt, phonies, flunkies, horrible, jokes, stupid, dumb, sneaky, lying and low-IQ individuals.

I remember when Donald Trump called for Hillary Clinton to be imprisoned, which is not hard to remember since he is still demanding that not only Clinton but Obama, too, should be locked up.

So forgive me that I'm not running out to find a Trump supporter to hug



I have aunts who are big Trump fans. One of them posted a plea on Facebook on Nov. 4 for people to get down to Detroit to scrutinize the ballot counting going on there, the implication being, of course, that Black people were attempting to rig the election by voting and having those votes counted.

Truly scandalous, yes?

I don't need racist people in my life. I don't need folks who find it insulting to hear my wife referred to as "wife" and for our relationship to be called a "marriage."

I don't need people who applaud stealing the children of immigrants and asylum seekers as they cross the border. Who believe that vaccines are some kind of sinister plot. Who think that COVID-19 isn't a big deal, and who don't think wearing masks to save lives is worth it.

I don't need toxic people in my life.

And no doubt, Trump supporters are scared. Clearly. They are not ready to concede this election. They are shocked that one of the most unpopular presidents in history not only didn't win but that he didn't win by a landslide.

I'd be scared, too, if I believed that Black Lives Matter is a terrorist organization rather than a declaration of a fact too long ignored in this country. I'd be scared, too, if the Democratic party was actually just a huge Satan worshipping ring of pedophiles. (That is a genuinely

now that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have decisively won the 2020 presidential election. It's not that I don't know any.

horrifying concept made all the more horrifying by the fact that there are people who really believe it.)

So while I am so relieved that Biden beat Trump, there is a lot more damage Trump could, and will, do between now and Jan. 20. People rejoicing that our long national nightmare is over are, sadly, incorrect.

So stop asking women, people of color, LGBTQ people, gender non-confirming people, immigrants, people with disabilities and every other group that has been marginalized and harmed by this administration to comfort their oppressors. You can't meet someone half way when they've already gone around the bend and believe that you aren't fully human.

What these folks need isn't a little love and understanding; what they need is a reality check, maybe some therapy to explore why they are so hateful and prone to follow con men.

I'm not going to enable them by pretending that my belief that public education should be fully funded is equally valid as their believe that public schools are dens of sin that teach children to be homosexuals, or that my desire to see COVID-19 under control so that we save lives is on one side of the coin and that Gov. Whitmer's mandate that everyone in Michigan wear a mask makes her Hitler is the other side.

You won't see me drinking out of a mug that says, "I love the taste of conservative tears in the morning." But you also won't find me trying to placate supporters of the most corrupt and hateful administration in my lifetime now that they've lost.

You will find me, however, continuing to fight so that they continue to lose. ■

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

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Gay icon, gay daughter

Conga queen Gloria Estefan on her daughter's coming out, openly discussing it for *Red Table Talk* and why being accepting is not enough

She admits it took several painful years, but gay icon and Latin pop trailblazer Gloria Estefan is now in a “really good place” with her 25-year-old daughter Emily, who is openly queer. After working on their relationship in therapy, the two are continuing those conversations during the Facebook Watch series *Red Table Talk: The Estefans*, which also features Gloria’s niece, Lili Estefan.

The show comes on the heels of Gloria’s latest album, *BRAZIL305*, which was released in June. The legendary singer-songwriter’s first album in seven years features re-recorded, Brazilian-inspired versions of her hits, including “Conga” (redone as “Samba”), “Cuts Both Ways” and “Rhythm Is Gonna Get You.”

Gloria collaborated with Emily, who graduated from Boston’s Berklee College of Music and released her debut album in 2017, on several songs for the series, including its apt theme, “Let’s Talk About It.”

It’s true that *Red Table Talk: The Estefans* gets right to the heart of the matter, with the second episode focusing on Emily’s sexuality. The episode is an emotional bloodletting. Emily confronts the icon about her reaction when Emily came out to her: “I was like, ‘Hey, I’m in love with this girl,’” Emily says to her mother about her relationship with partner Gemeny Hernandez. “The first thing you said was, ‘If you tell your grandma and she dies, her blood is on your hands.’”

During the episode, Gloria tells Emily she’s remembering the conversation “in a different way.”

“Did communications suffer for a bit there? Yeah, they did,” Gloria admits during our recent Zoom interview, where she appeared from her home library in Miami. “Then we had to give each other time and space, and still came back to the table, and back to the table, and back to the table.”

“So I think it’s kind of fitting that we are literally at the table and sharing it with everyone.”

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: I have to say, with this second episode of *Red Table Talk*, there’s a lot to unpack here. You’re probably still unpacking it yourself. Gloria Estefan: Well, you only saw 30 minutes of a two-and-a-half-hour conversation. I really would’ve been happy just continuing the conversation. Emily and I have spent a lot of time going to therapy together during these years just trying to learn how to talk to each other, and dealing with the loss of my mom, her grandmother; that was brutal. I studied psychology and up till now hadn’t needed therapy, but the hole I was in was really big when I lost my mom, so it was all the same time.

Dissecting the fact that you’ve been a gay icon for decades, this is surprising news to anybody who has revered you as such. But surprising why? Well, from Emily’s perspective and what was said from you to her regarding abuela. Oh, well, like I said, in the show she’s remembering things from her pain and perspective; I did not tell her that. And that was definitely not said. I wanted people to listen to her music just as music, because I know how this world works, and when I said that to her, what she heard was, “Hide, cover up.” And that’s why I had told her, “If you want to get on the [gay Pride] float, I’m there with you.”

Were you concerned knowing that if

what Emily thought you said was made public, it could impact your relationship with the LGBTQ community? Look, it’s always a concern when you put out your thoughts on anything or on something personal because there’s no way that anyone is ever going to see every conversation that Emily and I had, because that’s the only way that you can really judge.

To us, it was a non-issue that Emily was gay. It was a non-issue. And the rest was me trying to protect both women that are the most important women in my life. That’s the reason we’re having these conversations, because we know that people in their homes and families are going to put it in their own world and do with it what they will. But we decided that we were going to be honest. And you can’t fake real.

What do you hope parents of LGBTQ kids hear and apply to their own relationships with their kids? I’m hoping that conversations get started. We know the importance of being supportive. I was incredibly supportive of Emily. But it’s a complex thing because our kids are going through so many things, they don’t know sometimes who they are or what they may be feeling.

I was the grand marshal of the gay Pride parade! So I’m thinking, like, “Absolutely she would tell me [she’s gay] if she were; why wouldn’t she?” I just hope they realize there’s only love here. Only acceptance. But honestly that word “acceptance” to me is rough because I don’t have to “accept” that Emily is gay.

What do you think it says about society

that you, a longtime gay icon who did a video for the It Gets Better campaign, wasn’t the safe place her daughter needed her to be, or that her daughter didn’t perceive her to be? It killed me, because I was a safe place for her. I just think that she was really in a lot of pain. But listen, she felt that just because she’s a celebrity’s kid, too. Because it’s only recently that I found out that she was bullied in school, like most people I guess are, which is terrible because I was never bullied in school. And just because you’re a celebrity’s kid ... they bully you just because of that. They want to knock you down a few pegs.

Cher struggled with Chaz being transgender, and she’s been very open about that struggle. Like that relationship, your struggles with Emily really do shatter the illusion of what it’s like to be the child of a celebrity. They put that on themselves also, just as a musician — forget as a gay person. Emily didn’t even sing until she was 18, even though she is the most amazing singer. But she wouldn’t touch it with a 10-foot pole because she thought, “Oh god, people are going to expect [me] to sound like [her], to look like her.” There were a lot of expectations that she really had a rough time just being herself, and all I would tell her was, “Mama, just be yourself.”

As parents, you hope to think you know your kids. But sometimes, like when I did the It Gets Better campaign, so many kids that committed suicide, the first reaction was, “The last person we thought would do that was them,” because of the way they

presented to the world, where inside they had all these things going on. That's why, to us, it's important to start these conversations because we don't really know unless we talk about it, unless we ask, and unless we're willing to take the risk of putting who we are out there.

You know, I hope that the LGBTQ community understands it for the way that it's intended. And I didn't have to "accept" Emily because Emily is my daughter. I love her.

What was it like to feel all this love from the LGBTQ community but not from your daughter when you were experiencing so much tension with her, and



a lot of it was regarding her sexuality? Well, for me, it was just hard to understand. And that was the main reason that we went into therapy, because I kept saying, "But I don't understand what the issue is." We opened our arms to Gem and to Gem's family. But every human being is a world unto themselves, and even through therapy, when I would try to communicate my feelings, I think she had prepared herself for battle.

It was hard for both of us to correctly find a way around the emotion. That was the hard thing. And on top of that, we're Cuban. So that's even harder. Because oh my god, for Cubans to get around an emotion is very tough.

You've been surrounded by the LGBTQ community for decades, but have you learned anything new about the queer experience through Emily? I learned

what I already knew: that regardless of how things change and how it may be legal to get married, it's still difficult for our kids because there's pressure, there's bullying and now the web and social media. People spew hatred so easily behind an anonymous name. So even though society has become more open and more accepting about everything, now there's a whole other angle where people can get to you and spew their hatred right at you.

What the music that you've worked on with Emily sounds like, and what that kind of collaborative process is like working with her? That was so incredibly special. To me, any time I can sing

anything with Emily, it's incredible. Funny enough, when we were in the studio listening to the takes, sometimes we ourselves couldn't tell who was singing what line because when we sing together [the] textures of our voices are very similar, even though she's got — I wish on a good day I could do 10 percent of what she can do musically. But it was wonderful, and we chose songs that went with the subject matter of the episodes.

I have a piano in my house and the song that she wrote for *On Your Feet!* (the jukebox musical based on Gloria's life), her and I wrote it together. But listen to how it came about: She wrote that song when she was a freshman in high school. She said, "Mom, I have a homework assignment that I have to do, and I have to write a pop song, and I wrote this, and I want you to tell me what you think." So,

she plays me the song, and I said, "You wrote a hit song, that's a hit song."

Cut to senior year in high school: I'm elbow-deep in the letters from my fans after the accident (Gloria was injured in a 1990 bus crash) in the warehouse trying to put [them] together for Alex Dinela, who wrote the book, and he calls me and he said, "I've got the scene that's gonna be the original song." He tells me what the scene is, and all I could hear in my head was a song Emily played me twice three years before.

So I texted her, and I go, "Mama, when you come home today, we're gonna write this song." She came home, and within 15, 20 minutes we wrote this song ("If I Never Got to Tell You").

This interview was lightly edited and condensed for clarity



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Perez, lighter

Gossip blogger's memoirs chronicles his transition from bullied 'fat kid' to party boy to parent

***TMI: My Life in Scandal* by Perez Hilton with Leif Eriksson and Martin Svensson. (Chicago Review Press, 2020) \$26.99, 229 pages.**

You're allowed to change your mind. You grow, get a few experiences under your belt, and things might look a bit different. You can have a change of heart then and pivot your life in a different direction. You can take do-overs and take-backs, but carefully.

And, as in the new book *TMI* by Perez Hilton (with Leif Eriksson and Martin Svensson), you can ask for forgiveness, too.



If you knew Mario Armando Lavandiera Jr. when he was a child, you'd be surprised at the man he is today. He says he had a good childhood, but he was a "different" kid then and was often bullied: Among other indignities, his classmates called him "the Fat Kid" because he loved to eat.

That last part hasn't changed. What has changed is that Lavandiera is now

thinner, famous and known by a nicer name: Perez Hilton.

And no, if you're wondering, Paris Hilton "never bothered" to sue him over the lookalike name, "though she definitely could have."

This transformation didn't happen overnight.

By the time he moved to New York to attend college, Hilton knew for sure that he was gay; while there, he gained friends, a pile of debt and a mitt full of credit cards. Down but not out, he started a series of jobs and launched a series of websites that both spanned time in New York and L.A., and that got him into trouble in one way or another.

Then a photogra-friend leaked a few celeb pictures his way; Perez posted them on his website, and he was famous, literally overnight.

And that was good — for awhile. Hilton partied near-constantly, busted into celebrity events, became "wifey" with Gaga, clubbed with Jessica Simpson and hung with Paris Hilton. And then he made a video for a national cause that caused him to see the hurt he'd left ... Could it be that the infamous author and gossip blogger Perez Hilton has

softened?

Yes, mostly. There's a whole lot less venom inside *TMI* than you might expect from Hilton, but fans won't be entirely bereft. There's still a little spark of gossip here, names dropped and stories propped up and left on the roadside for embarrassment or for examination. Those are accompanied in this memoir by a glint-in-his-eye tone and the sneakiest of snark hidden here and there, but that's often tendered by tenderness.

The surprise — or the shock, depending on your level of fandom — is that Hilton apologizes to several people he feels he hurt, and he expresses a degree of regret for having lost good, close friends because he reported gossip about them despite the friendship. It's contrition that feels like it came from a battered schoolyard bully, only genuine.

Hilton is a father now, and he writes with unabashed love for his kids from a refreshing, seemingly-happier place in his life. *TMI* still includes plenty of Hiltonized Too Much Information, some snickers and a hint of tattle-tale. But if you've never been much of a fan, here's a chance to change your mind.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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11.14

Operation Kindness holding virtual fundraiser

Operation Kindness hosts its 28th Annual Canines, Cats and Cabernet fundraiser Saturday, Nov. 14, this year in a virtual format that gives supporters a chance to support the no-kill shelter while “partying in place.” The event features live and silent auctions and runs from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Visit OperationKindness.org for more information or to register for tickets.



11.16

Dallas Symphony Chamber Players perform

Dallas Symphony Chamber Players presents the Gill World Premiere — Quartet for Oboe and Strings, Golijov Last Round for string nonet and Tchaikovsky Souvenir de Florence Monday in a concert presented at the Meyerson Symphony Center and streamed live. In-person tickets are limited.

Dallas Symphony Chamber Players in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., and online. For tickets and information, visit DallasChamberMusic.org or call 214-864-1993.



11.14

Drive-In Burlesque

The Dallas Burlesque Festival returns for its 12th year but is switching to a drive-in show that will allow fans to safely socially distance while either enjoying the show on two HD LED video screens from the comfort of their vehicles using an FM radio signal or sitting outside in allotted space next to their vehicles, listening to the professional stage-based sound system. Visit FairPark.org or the Facebook event page, [Facebook.com/events/693552681249801/](https://www.facebook.com/events/693552681249801/), for more information and COVID protocols.

Dallas Burlesque Festival: Drive-In Edition takes place from 6-11 p.m. at Fair Park, 3921 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tickets start at \$39.95 and are on sale now at FairParkTix.com.

Cassie Nova

Elections, Halloween and returning to the stage

Hello world. By the time you are reading this, I am hoping that there is a new president-elect (UPDATE: There is), and things are starting to calm down. I haven't wanted to get my hopes up because we have been burned before. I will say that my mother ... VOTED FOR BIDEN!

Y'all, that is such a big deal to me. She broke my heart four years ago because she voted Republican and couldn't see past the word "Republican." When she told me she voted for Biden, I cried. I'm tearing up now thinking about it.

I hope as you are reading this, your hearts and minds are lighter than they were four years ago — I know mine are.

I also hope you all had a good Halloween, even though fucking COVID kept it from being a great Halloween. Halloween was on a Saturday, with a full moon, during time change — a whole extra hour to be out and party. It was going to be such a great night out. But nooooo! Freakin' pandemic! So annoying.

I'm bitching because I am slightly annoyed, but truth is, I totally understand. Jesus be a vaccine.

I know as you read this, Halloween has already passed. But as I write this, Halloween is tomorrow, so I got ghouls on the brain.

I actually just remembered something: I did half drag when I was 11 years old. I completely forgot about that until this week when I was looking online for some costume ideas and came across a girl who did the half guy/half girl costume. I thought, "Oh fuck! I did that years ago."

It was very last minute, and I needed a costume for something; I think it was a church event I was going to with my best friend's family. His mom gave me a skirt that I tucked into half of my jeans, then she pinned a blouse to half of my shirt. A half-stippled beard and some eyeliner and lipstick later, and I was James/Jamie.

The costume sucked but when you are poor AF, you takes whatcha gets.

What I really remember about that night was that we had fun, even though I kept having to retuck my skirt into my jeans and my beard and eyeliner make-up were not waterproof and washed off while I was bobbing for apples. (Yes, we bobbed for apples. I see that now as early practice for all the "bobbing" I would be doing later in life.)

Oh my God, y'all! I got to be onstage again, and it was awesome. The Saturday before Halloween, the Rose Room girls and a few others did a show at the Annette Straus Square outdoor theater at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. It was really cool; between the huge stage and the fancy dressing rooms we all felt like rockstars.



As soon as we walked out on stage, I felt like I was recharging my life battery. I have missed performing for a live audience so much that it made me emotional. I got choked up and teared up at least 10 times that night.

I teared up hearing the applause. I teared up hearing them laugh. I teared up watching the other girls get to perform — and they all slayed it. I teared up because someone brought their 10-year-old kid, and all I could think of is what a well-rounded and accepting person that kid is going to grow up to be.

I teared up just doing a shot with my girls. We hadn't done that or even seen each other in so long, and I truly missed those hos.

The entire night was magical for me, I still feel a little bit high from it. But that high does not last long, I need to do it again as soon as possible. Cure COVID, dammit, and bring back my Rose Room!

So the husband and I had a date night recently. We went to the movies. Yes, one of the few theaters actually still open (for now). It is horrifying seeing so many movie theaters closing down, but with most new releases getting pushed back over and over again, what choice do they have?

We went and saw the original *Nightmare on Elm Street*. I saw it in the theater when I was a kid with my dad and sister, and I have always loved it. It was cool to see it on the big screen again.

After the movie, my husband tells me that he has never watched the super homoerotic sequel, *Freddy's Revenge*. So as soon as we got home that night, we found it on YouTube and watched it. Of course, just as I remembered, it was awful. But sometimes awful is just so much fun to watch.

There is a scene where the lead guy, who is kinda possessed by Freddy Krueger, gets caught at a bar by his bully of a coach. The coach, who by the way is dressed like a leather daddy, takes the teenager to school in the middle of the night to run laps. Then tells him to hit the showers. How many porno movies have started that same way?

Then Freddy's spirit or ghost or whatever starts hurling balls of all sizes — tennis balls to medicine balls — at the coach's face. Then jump ropes tie him up in the shower; his clothes are ripped away by an invisible presence, and towels snap on his naked ass making his cheeks turn red. SM at its finest — until he is killed by Freddy's invisible glove cutting up his back in a bloody mess.

All this while the lead guy screams like a little bitch. It was hilarious. So bad but so good.

A few days later, while still on a Freddy kick, I insisted we watch part 3, *Dream Warriors*. That is how a sequel should be; I loved that movie. It featured a young Lawrence Fishburne and Patricia Arquette and some really fun kick-ass characters. There really is

nothing like the movies that you watched as a teen.

Okay I think I am through babbling on and on about nothing. Who am I, anyway? Seinfeld? Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

this week's solution

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

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Fall 2020 Varsity Gay Kickball: Dallas champions Don't Come On My Base



Juan and company watching from PV as Biden speaks.



Jaime at the Round-Up Saloon.



Cooper and his family



Matthew, Tony and Albert at Cedar Springs Tap House



Marissa Kage at Round-Up Saloon



The wonderful Layla LaRue



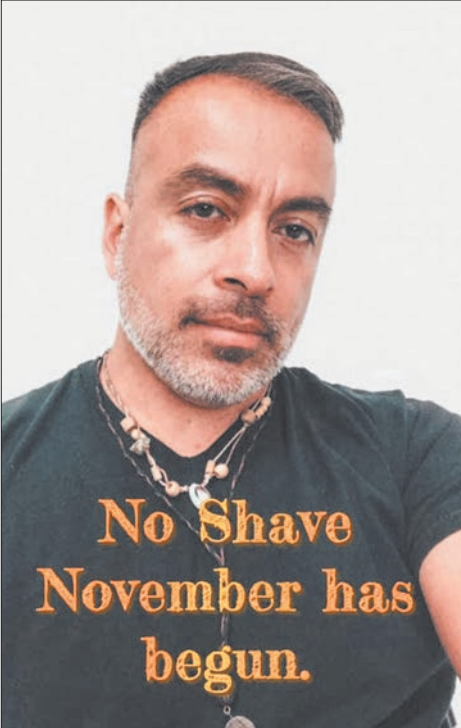
Cody, Eddie, Cody and Steven



Left to right, Daniel O'Loughlin, Ashley O'Loughlin, Dan O'Loughlin and Sadie O'Loughlin at the Petbar ribbon cutting.



Susan shows her true colors.



Israel's ready for No Shave November.

The smart set

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
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57						58					59		
60						61					62		
63						64					65		

Solution on Page 22

- Across**

1 "Beat it!"

5 Supply at Piranha Nightclub

9 Sticking in your proboscis

13 Mary topper

14 Airline to Ben Gurion

15 Memorial of coming out of Egypt

16 ___ instant

17 David Hyde Pierce alma mater

18 Leather, essentially

19 *Mrs Dalloway* author

22 Experts

23 As a surprising fact

26 Present mo.?

28 Legal ending

29 Have fun with the OutRiders

30 Do-over for Billie Jean

31 Slippery swimmers

33 What Edith Piaf regretted

34 Gielgud's john

35 The starred people in this puzzle were part of this Cambridge set

40 Moral use of the rectum?

41 Hogwarts deliverers of mail

42 Indiana Jones' chest

43 Dancer Kelly

44 Tennessee's tin roof pussy
- 46 Paul Newman role in *Exodus*

47 E.M. ___, author of *A Room with a View*

51 *Hundreds of his lost erotic paintings were recently found

56 Suffix with duct

57 SNL alumna

58 Elton John biopic of 2019

60 Sawyer's creator

61 "Rock" suffix

62 Catwoman portrayer Eartha

63 Throng of people

64 Depp's cross-dressing role

65 Lines from Lesbos
- Down**

1 Stick it in a tough guy

2 "___ Get a Witness" (Marvin Gaye)

3 It may arouse you in bed

4 Polynesian kingdom

5 Economist John Maynard ___

6 Stritch of Broadway

7 The Oscars, and others

8 Killed, to King James

9 Noel who played Lois Lane

10 Queer person?

11 Cole Porter's "___ America First"
- 12 Periods that last 525,600 min.

15 Saying "Beat it!"

20 Direct ending

21 Like Etheridge, usually

24 Capital for Margaret Cho's ancestors

25 Comes to an end

26 Messing of the *Will & Grace* reboot

27 Specialist in fishing

29 k.d. lang record label

32 Karen Walker, perhaps

33 Ill-bred

36 Hell of a headache

37 Picasso portrain subject

38 Hair ball

39 Goes to seed

44 Hit on the head

45 Michelangelo's David, and such

46 Bitterly pungent

47 De ___

48 Still in the closet, perhaps

49 Tickle pink

50 Leases out

51 Performs for Shakespeare

52 Spy plane or rock band

53 Songwriter Holly

54 Shot up

55 Prefix with gravure, in "Easter Parade"

59 WBA decision

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