Cheers!
Dixie Longate brings her ‘Happy Hour’ to Bass Hall
by Tammye Nash, Page 8
IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:
- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:
- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other health problems.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:
- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- 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.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%). These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.

Get HIV support by downloading a free app at MyDailyCharge.com
Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you are taking BIKTARVY. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.

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Abbott lifts all COVID restrictions in Texas

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced that, effective March 10, he is lifting the public safety mandates put in place last year to help stem the spread of COVID-19. That means that people will no longer be required to wear masks in public spaces and that all businesses can re-open at full capacity.

“Doctors at North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants in Dallas, who have been involved in clinical trials for the Pfizer vaccine, said they believe Abbott has made the wrong decision in lifting the mandates so soon. “Less than 8 percent of Texans are vaccinated,” noted Dr. Mezgebe Berhe. “It is too early to remove the mask mandate. This is experimental at best.”

“This could very well increase the spread of COVID-19,” Dr. Clinton Haley said. “Face masks block respiratory droplets containing COVID-19 in not only symptomatic people, but also those who are asymptomatic. I encourage everyone to continue to wear masks.”

At least one Dallas bar won’t be taking advantage of Abbott’s decision to allow full capacity. “The Hidden Door will reopen only after employees will be safe and give us a list of precautions to take.” Hidden Door President and General Manager Harvey Meissner said. “We do not believe it wise to suddenly switch overnight from double-masks to no masks and claim the threat from coronavirus is over.”

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Stars player criticized for liking anti-trans post

Jamie Benn is a goalie for the Dallas Stars and has participated NHL’s Hockey is for Everyone initiative wrapping Pridetape on his hockey stick. So what’s he doing liking anti-trans posts? The like was to a video conservative pundit Candace Owens posted titled “Biological men shouldn’t be allowed to compete in women’s sports.” The term “biological men” is how those who are anti-transgender often refer to trans women.

What Chris Mosier wants to know is doesn’t Benn know his likes on Twitter are public. Mosier is a trans man and a pro athlete. He’s a Hall of Fame triathlete, All-American duathlete and national champion race walker. “Randomly seeing Jamie Benn’s like on a blatantly anti-trans post is a direct contradiction to the messaging of Pride Tape/NHL,” Mosier wrote on Twitter.

Rafael McDonnell of Resource Center said he was surprised by the controversy. Dallas Stars was the first professional sports team in Texas to add inclusive language to its employment guidelines back in 2008 and, in 2017, was the only pro sports franchise in Texas to speak out against the bathroom bill.

— David Taffet

Meet Dilly. She’s a 6½-year-old shepherd mix with a pretty face and a loving nature. This 50-pound lady loves people and enjoy a good scratch session from anyone who is willing to lend a hand. She is happy meeting new people, making new friends and spending time outdoors. In her previous home, she got along fine with children ages 6-10, and she did well with just about all people she met. She’s a friendly and laidback gal who doesn’t mind being a couch potato, but she sure will do tricks in exchange for treats. In fact, she knows how to sit, stay, lie down and even give kisses on command! Dilly would do best with other dogs similar in size, as she can get a little too excited around small dogs or cats. If you’re looking for an easygoing pup to spend time with, she’s the girl for you. Dilly is waiting to meet you at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. To request an appointment to meet Dilly, please visit spca.org/adopt.

Adoptions will be available by appointment. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Please browse our available animals at spca.org/adopt and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.

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Let’s talk about sex

Now that the Texas snowmage-don is over, I hope everyone is doing well. As usual, I want to welcome you to my little corner of veterinary advice and thoughts that I love to share. The topic for this column is sex.

Now that I’ve got your attention (lol), let me explain what I will be discussing in regards to sex: There are certain issues or diseases associated with genitalia and reproductive organs that dogs and cats can have. We will start with discussing some of the male issues.

Male dogs can present a not-so-pleasant picture when it comes to their penises: smegma! This is a green discharge that comes from the prepuce in their penises, and it is far more commonly seen with intact male dogs (dogs that have not been fixed or neutered). It rarely is associated with an actual infection but sometimes can be indicative of issues. If your dog has this discharge and licks his penis constantly, there may be a valid reason to have him examined by your veterinarian.

As the urethra travels from the bladder to the outside world, it is associated with this bone as it goes through the penis. If a bladder stone is small enough to go into the urethra, it can get lodged at the os penis and cause a urinary tract obstruction, which is considered an emergency. Male cats do not have an os penis, but they have relatively small urethras, and bladder stones or grit can get lodged in the urethra and cause an obstruction. These poor babies are usually seen attempting to urinate but being unable to, and they may even scream in pain.

Other serious conditions include testicular cancer, same as can also be seen in human men. In addition, if a dog or cat may have a testicle (or two) that did not descend into the scrotum, he would be more prone to developing testicular cancer. This can be avoided with neutering, with both testicles being removed.

Prostatic disease and cancer also happen but are more prevalent with intact dogs than with neutered dogs.

Now let’s talk about the girls. A very common thing I see with female dogs is that they often have a hooded or recessed vulva. This means they have excessive skin on top of their privates which covers the vulva and can lead to localized irritation or infection. These girls are also more prone to developing urinary tract infections especially if the area around the vulva is not kept clean. Your veterinarian can confirm if your baby girl has this issue or not, and, if so, he or she may recommend using baby wipes to maintain hygiene. If the issue is severe enough, a surgery may be necessary to remove the excess skin (almost like a face lift, but at the other end, lol).

Female dogs go into their heat cycle, or “period” every 6 months or so, while female cats can go into a heat cycle multiple times per year. Female dogs and cats can get a condition called pyometra where, within a month or two after a heat cycle, their uterus gets filled with bacteria and pus. This is more commonly seen with more mature female dogs and cats but can happen at almost any age. Symptoms include green discharge from the vulva, lethargy, vomiting and excessive water intake, among other things. This condition is considered life threatening, and it is corrected with a more complicated version of the spay surgery.

Like their male counterparts, female dogs and cats can suffer from different types of cancer that affect the reproductive organs, including ovarian, uterine and breast cancer. A traditional spay surgery involves removing the ovaries and the uterus, which means that the possibility of acquiring a type of cancer that affects these organs becomes nonexistent. Breast cancer can still be seen, but the younger a cat or dog is spayed (usually starting at 5-6 months of age), the less likely they are to develop breast cancer.

Needless to say, there are more conditions and issues that can be seen with the reproductive organs. But the ones I presented here are some of the more common ones. As always, I truly hope this column has given you tools to continue to take amazing care of your fur babies!! Abrazos, mi gente bella!

Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital at 14380 Marsh Ln, Ste. 110 in Addison (next to Tom Thumb). Call the hospital at 972-738-1111 or visit online at IslaVet.com.
Dixie Longate is the alter ego of actor/writer Kris Andersson, who created Dixie some 17 years ago after a friend dared him to sell Tupperware in drag. That led to Andersson creating Dixie’s Tupperware Party, a live stage show in which Dixie interacts with the audience, actually selling Tupperware, while she tells the story of her life. Dixie went on to become not just a star on the stage but, at least twice, she has been Tupperware’s number one sales rep in the U.S. and Canada.

To hear her tell the tale, Dixie was living in a trailer park in Alabama when she decided to leave her three children there to hit the road selling Tupperware. After the Tupperware party, Dixie offered up her wit and wisdom in a second show, Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull (And 16 Other Things I Learned While I Was Drinking).

It was a good life.

Then came the pandemic, and Dixie found herself stuck at home, trying to entertain herself AND the kids.

“I don’t wanna just be sitting here doing nothing!” Dixie said in a recent telephone interview. “I mean, you know, they give you your kids back and expect you to take care of them and, well, they came home one day last March and told me school was closed. And I didn’t believe them, but they said they had a note from the principal. I said, well slide it under the door. And sure enough, school was closed. So I had to find some way to keep them entertained.”

The pandemic lockdown was a time of great discovery for Dixie. “I found out I have kitchen,” she said. “I didn’t know this. I just thought that room was where we kept the liquor. Then I went in for vodka and looked around, and hey!”

Once she realized there was a kitchen with appliances like a stovetop and an oven, new avenues opened up. “The kids were always saying things like, ‘I want dinner’ or whatever. And I have learned to cook for them,” Dixie said.

There were other new adventures, too. For instance, “When we ran out of toilet paper, I just crocheted some! I found out that that acrylic yarn washes out so easy, so you can use it again and again,” she said.

The kids, of course, needed entertainment as well, so Dixie came up with ways to keep them occupied, like, for instance, “How many full-sized liquor bottles can you find under a queen-sized bed. That was good to get the kids involved — they’re so little they can squeeze right under there.” It was a game that served more than one purpose, too: It kept the kiddos occupied; the space under the bed got cleaned out AND sometimes they even found bottles that still had liquor in them.

It was, as Dixie said, “a win-win situation.”

Teaching the kids how to bartend for Mama seemed like a good way to accomplish the goal of keeping them busy and entertained, and it was also a good way to keep Mama entertained.

“I said, you know, I don’t wanna be bored out of my mind, either. I wanna do something,” Dixie explained. “And I was seeing all these meetings and happy hours online, and I thought, I can do that. I mean, if I’m gonna drink, I might as well drink in public.”

Dixie started out hosting happy hours via Facebook Live, sharing cocktail recipes and stories with her followers. But then it occurred to her that there was a way she could reach more folks and do more good with her happy hours.

“I decided to find a way to get a show out there to the theaters and the art centers who have supported me all along and use that to do something for them now,” Dixie explained. So she wrote a show called Dixie’s Happy Hour, all about the four basic food groups — gin, rum, vodka and tequila.

It’s a streaming show designed, basically, as a fundraiser for theaters hit hard by the pandemic that left them dark for nearly a year. “There are a lot of people creating content and sharing it online, and that is great. But still, the theaters and the arts centers are hurting,” Dixie said. “A lot of the theaters are having to lay people off, furlough people. It breaks my heart.

“That’s why I wanted to partner with the theaters and art centers for this show,” she continued. “They are the ones who will be getting the lion’s share of the ticket sales from this show. That’s the whole point, to bring money back to the theaters and at the same time entertain people. And my heart has been filled by how many arts centers and theaters around the company have jumped at the chance to do this with me.”

The premise of Dixie’s Happy Hour is simple: Dixie teaches audience members a variety of cocktail recipes, and, she said, “Each drink leads to stories about my life and my background.” But it’s also about getting audience members to relax, have fun and remember the good things about themselves and their lives.

“The whole message of this show is about finding the happy hours that are right in front of you,” Dixie said. “We are all going through all this craziness of the pandemic, but I want to remind people that there are still great things right in front of you that you’ve been missing.”

“One of the things I do is get people to make a list of what’s great about them,” she continued. “One of the things that has been so interesting about this is realizing how much people under-value and under-estimate how amazing they are, how adaptable they are. Last year in March, people’s whole lives changed. And people got so caught up in how much things changed and how hard that was, they missed how quickly that we, as a society, were able to adapt. People have been missing that; I want to remind them.

“I want to remind people that we are going to get through this, and we are going to get through this together. Yes, there is a problem. But where’s the solution? Let’s find it. We can find it alone, but it would be more fun to find it together.”

As much fun as she is having with Happy Hour, Dixie said, “I know that sooner or later, I will be touring around again, coming back with my other shows. This is just something to fill that hole in the middle. And I do love to fill a good hole in the middle.”

She continued, “I just wanna hug people! The people I meet are the thing I have always loved the most about being on the road. I just wish everyone could spend an afternoon in my shoes. It is the
A crowded field

23 candidates file Congressional District 6 special election

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer

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wenty-three candidates have filed to run for Congressional District 6, a purplish district that includes southeast Tarrant County, as well as Ellis and Navarro counties. The seat opened up after former Congressman Ron Wright of Arlington passed away suddenly on Feb. 7 from COVID-19. Wright, known as much for his bow tie as he was his hardcore conservative views, including opposition to LGBTQ rights, had also been battling cancer. He has just begun his second term when he died.

Of the 23 candidates, 11 are Republicans, 10 are Democrats, one is Libertarian, and one is Independent.

Some familiar names are running for the seat, including Wright’s widow, Susan, and two of his 2018 opponents: state Rep. Jake Ellzey, a Waxahachie Republican who lost to Wright in a runoff 3 years ago, and Jana Lynne Sanchez, his Democratic opponent.

Also running on the Republican side are two officials in former President Donald Trump’s administration. Sery Kim of Arlington, the former assistant administrator in the Office of Women’s Business Ownership at the Small Business Administration, and Brian Harrison, the former chief of staff for former Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar, II. Harrison may have been a bureaucrat, but on his application with the Texas Secretary of State, he listed himself as a husband, father and “swamp drain-er.”

Rounding out the GOP field are businessman and English lecturer Michael Ballentine; international tax attorney John Anthony Castro, who lost his 2020 primary bid to Sen. John Cornyn; Mike Egan, a vice president at JP Morgan Chase & Company; Arlington police officer Travis Rodermund; attorney, former professional wrestler and 2020 Nevada Congressional candidate Dan Rodimer; Jenny Garcia Sharon, who ran in and lost the 2020 election to Congressman Lloyd Doggett, an Austin Democrat; and Mike Wood, a Trump critic and Marine Corps Reserve major.

Numerous Republican elected officials in Tarrant County are backing Susan Wright, who previously served as district director for retired state Rep. Bill Zedler of Mansfield and his successor, state Rep. David Cook, also of Mansfield.

Joining Sanchez on the Democratic side are Grand Prairie attorney Tammy Allison; Lydia Bean of Arlington, a professor who lost her House District 93 race to Rep. Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth; Daryl J. Eddings Sr., a Midlothian business owner; Matt Hinterlong, a Dallas developer; Shawn Lassiter, the chief of equity and innovation at Leadership ISD, who previously filed to run for Fort Worth City Council; Patrick Moses, a pastor and retired police officer from Mansfield; Manual Richard Salazar III, an Arlington realtor; Brian K. Stephenson and Suprun are not clear in their literature on where they stand on the 2020 election to Congressman Lloyd Doggett, an Austin Democrat; and Brian K. Stephenson, a systems engineer in Houston; and Chris Suprun, a paramedic and former Republican and Trump critic who was one of the two faithless Electoral College electors in Texas in 2016 who refused to cast his vote for Trump.

Banker Adrian Mizher is running as an Independent, and Phil Gray, a Tyler property manager, is running as a Libertarian.

Congressional candidates are not required to live in the district they are running in.

Nearly all the Republican candidates’ websites and campaign literature emphasize their conservative bonafides, which includes some vague references to religious liberty or explicit opposition to LGBTQ rights. Candidates whose views on LGBTQ rights are unclear include Ballentine, Castro, Sharon, Sery, Rodermund and Rodimer. However, Rodimer was backed by numerous conservative groups and by Trump in his 2020 campaign.

Only a handful on both sides have campaign experience, and only one is an elected official.

Ellzey does not include support or opposition to LGBTQ rights in his platform. But he is an co-author of House Bill 1399, which would prohibit doctors from providing transition care to transgender youth.

Sanchez and Bean have previously expressed support for LGBTQ rights. The remaining candidates’ platforms do not include LGBTQ rights, but indicate support for numerous other progressive issues. Allison, Hinterlong, Salazar, Stephenson and Suprun are not clear in their literature on where they stand on LGBTQ issues.

Among the most notably absent names on the list of candidates is Katrina Pierson, a former spokeswoman for the 2016 and 2020 Trump campaigns who teased she would be running. On Tuesday, March 2, however, she announced she would not run for the seat.

While Democrats have been bullish about the seat, with the Tarrant County portion serving as its pool for Democratic votes, the heavily Republican Ellis and Navarro continue to give Republicans the advantage. Sanchez won the Tarrant portion of the district in 2018, as did Democratic nominee Stephen Daniel in 2020 — despite the area being Wright’s home base. But Wright continually won the district overall with a 52-53 percent advantage.

Because it is a special election, all candidates are running on the same ballot. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent, there will be a runoff. The election is May 1. Early voting begins on April 19 and ends on April 27.
Dallas Wings creates foundation to continue work in the community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After a week of successfully raising money to help North Texans affected by the storms and power outages, the Dallas Wings has announced the launch of the Dallas Wings Community Foundation. Of course, launching its nonprofit has been in the works for a while, and team members have been working on projects and fundraising since they moved to the DFW area in 2016.

The foundation will focus “five pillars:” women and girls, social justice, youth sports, health and wellness and education. “Social justice” includes issues around sexual orientation, but that’s nothing new for the team. When 50 people were killed and another 50 wounded at Pulse, the gay club in Orlando, the entire Dallas Wings team stood in support of the LGBTQ community wearing Orlando Strong t-shirts at their next home game. And each year, the Wings have hosted a Pride night that included strong messages of equality flashed on their scoreboard and Dallas Wings Pridewear for sale.

And one year the team even had the ridiculous idea to have this Dallas Voice writer bang a drum from the floor of College Park Center in Arlington to lead a cheer before the game.

So including social justice among its pillars was just a natural fit for the new foundation.

DWCF Executive Director LeDondra Wilson said she wished she had more specifics to share, but the foundation had been up and running exactly one day at the time we spoke. What she said she definitely is looking for is input from the LGBTQ community on how her new organization and the Dallas Wings team can contribute to the community.

The response to the recent deadly winter storm that resulted in days-long power outages and unsafe water across the state was a good example of the Dallas Wings jumping in. When the city of Dallas opened an emergency shelter at the convention center, team members knew there would be a need for food, clothing...
and other essentials. So they set a goal of raising $12,000 to help pay for those things.

Meanwhile, WNBA teams around the country called to ask if there was anything they could do to help. Within a few days, Dallas Wings had raised $120,000 and were partnering with another nonprofit that was already working in the convention center, with the Wings providing funds to buy and distribute necessities to those sheltering there.

The Dallas Wings were already a member of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and this year the team became a corporate partner. They are, noted LGBT Chamber CEO Tony Vedda, “our first professional sports team partner. We share many values with the Wings Foundation.”

Last year, the Wings shared a virtual happy hour with Chamber members. Vedda said he hopes to team up with the foundation again in the future and is looking into new initiatives.

Celebrity Serve is an annual fundraiser for The Coalition for Aging LGBT. Last year the event went virtual, but in past years the dinner was served by the Dallas Wings’ managers and players on their home court in Arlington.

Wilson suggested future projects may include working with LGBTQ organizations to shelter the homeless in the LGBTQ community, especially homeless youth.

Building on projects the team has already been involved in, Wilson said the team has worked with Nike to supply equipment to a school in South Oak Cliff and mentor students to keep girls engaged in sports. She said studies show a large percent of girls drop out of sports in middle school. Wilson said the foundation can be helpful in encouraging youth sports by helping provide access for those who can’t afford registration fees, equipment, uniforms or transportation.

As vaccine awareness campaigns ramp up, Wilson said team members can participate by demystifying and dispelling mistrust about the vaccines and spreading information on how to get registered to receive it.

“We’re here for our community and to be a part of our community,” Wilson said. She suggested watching the website for volunteer opportunities.

The Dallas Wings isn’t inventing something new. Six other teams already have similar foundations, while several others partner with foundations that are owned by their city’s NBA franchise. All of those organizations have worked on similar issues.

Last summer, Wilson said, the emphasis was on racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement. The WNBA’s Atlanta Dream received national attention for supporting Raphael Warnock over their team owner, Sen. Kelly Loeffler, in the Georgia senate race specifically because of racial justice issues. Warnock credits the team with helping put him over the top in that tight race, and Loeffler recently sold her stake in the team.

“We are thrilled to serve our neighbors in need as well as promote positive change through innovative programs and initiatives across North Texas,” DWC Foundation President Bill Cameron said. “Our team is dedicated to addressing challenging issues while also promoting equity and empowerment among marginalized groups. We also look forward to supporting our emerging leaders through youth-focused programming.”

Wilson would like to hear from community members on ways her new foundation can engage, and she can be contacted through the Dallas Wings website.

And to kick off its first fundraiser, anyone who donates to the Dallas Wings Community Foundation through March 8 will be entered into a drawing for a signed team ball. Donate at Wings.WNBA.com/community and hit the “donate today” button.

The Dallas Wings new season begins in mid-May. Wilson said no decision on allowing spectators has been made for this year yet.
Saving history, protecting the future

Caven/PegasusAblon development will help the gayborhood thrive

Frank Caven opened his first gay bar in 1970, forever changing the Dallas landscape — and the Texas LGBTQ+ community — at a time when homosexuality was widely considered an abomination and the gay community even communing was illegal in Dallas. Frank Caven was a pioneer for equality and inclusion, and many businesses would eventually follow his lead including Round-Up Saloon, which opened in 1980, and in 1984 Hunky’s Hamburger.

After many years — and many hard fought battles for equality and acceptance — the community solidified around the area on Cedar Springs Road where those bars were located. Frank’s bars acted as an anchor for the community and helped create a place for commerce to develop and thrive. The sense of community that continues to be felt in what is commonly referred to as the gayborhood is the guiding light that shows new generations not only our rich and tumultuous history and the shoulders that we stand on, but also our future and how great life can be as a LGBTQ+ person in today’s society.

I’m confident that there are a number of people who do not fully understand or recognize that this neighborhood is not just a home or a stomping ground but the very heart and soul of the Dallas LGBTQ+ community. It has for five decades served as both a safe space for our community to live, work and play and also as a haven for young folks who had nowhere else to go to feel accepted and appreciated.

I think back to the first drag show that I experienced in the Rose Room so many years ago. I remember watching the incredible Celeste Martinez dazzle the audience while on that historic stage. I can reflect now on how far I have personally grown simply because I had a safe space to thrive and prosper. I want that same community to be here for generations to come.

Unfortunately, 2020 has taken a heavy toll on not just our community but also on the many businesses that line Cedar Springs, businesses that support thousands of workers and their loved ones. Government mandates closing all bars have caused incredible financial constraints, becoming overwhelming to people in both their personal and professional lives. If it were not for the hard work and quick wit of a few managers, our community would still be locked down today.

Through it all, Caven Enterprises, the company that now owns and operates the bars that originated with Frank Caven, did what few other employers were willing to do: They continued to pay their employees and their employees’ benefits long after the lockdown started. They also created a weekly food bank to ensure that their workers could eat. No one could have expected that this economic shutdown would last this long or that the recovery would still be nowhere in sight.

In an effort to preserve our history and after thoughtful consideration, Caven Enterprises is partnering with Pegasus-Ablon to develop the parking lots behind TMC, S4, JR’s and Sue Ellens into a mixed-use property, complete with a pocket park, a ride-sharing pick-up and drop-off location, a coffee shop and restaurant retail locations, additional parking and much needed residential space in our booming neighborhood.

As things stand now, these parking lots have little-to-no revenue stream, and, in the current real estate market, they create a vacuum in annual costs of maintenance and taxes.

The Ablon/Caven project provides a solution to that ever-growing problem and will create ample — and safer — parking so that patrons of the bars, restaurants, shops and storefronts along Cedar Springs can benefit from convenient, safe and nearby parking.

I have reviewed the plans and attended the meetings. I have done the research. I understand real estate and land use. And I believe this project is a win-win for our community, our neighborhood and the future of Cedar Springs, our gayborhood.

This infusion of capital into our community will be the saving grace of the gayborhood as we know it, and this project will help preserve it for future generations. If this project does not pass zoning, planning and permitting, the only remaining alternative is to sell to another developer that will plow over our neighborhood and end a 51-year legacy. That would be both tragic and devastating.

To preserve our history and ensure the gayborhood survives for future generations, change is necessary. And this is the change we need. What can you do to help save Oak Lawn? Reach out to your elected and appointed officials; let them know that you support this measure and that you want to save Your Community.

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Two versions of one woman

‘The United States vs. Billie Holiday’ offers more in-depth look at the singer’s life than the ‘72 biopic did — or could

ANTHONY EATON  I  Contributing Writer
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“There’s no damn business like show business; you have to smile to keep from throwing up.”

— Billie Holiday

Billie Holiday lived a complicated life full of great extremes. And she lived it on her terms. And Andra Day, who plays Holiday in the new movie The United States vs. Billie Holiday, shows us those extremes in a way we have not seen before.

This new film takes a more comprehensive look at the at the height of Holiday’s life than did the 1972 biopic, Lady Sings The Blues. This new film focuses on the last decades of Holiday’s life with a depth and richness that was lacking in the earlier movie, which starred Diana Ross in her big screen debut. The contrast between the two films is as striking as the complexity that was Billie Holiday’s life.

There are, of course, some similarities between the two films. Both are the first major roles for the women — Ross and Day — who star in them. Both focus on Holiday’s drug addiction, and both feature some of Holiday’s music.

But that is where the similarities end.

One of the most obvious differences centers around the character of Louis McKay. The 1972 film paints McKay as the love of Holiday’s life and someone who tried desperately to save her. But in reality, McKay was abusive and controlling, and he set Holiday up for her enemies.

The new movie focuses on the relentless pursuit of Holiday by agents with the U.S. Treasury Department’s Federal Bureau of Narcotics because of the threat the government believed she posed because of her song, “Strange Fruit.”

The song, written by Abel Meeropol and recorded by Billie Holiday in 1939, was a protest of the lynchings of Black men that were common across the South at the time. The “strange fruit” it refers to are the bodies of young black men who had been lynched and left hanging from trees: “Southern trees bear a strange fruit; Blood on the leaves and blood at the root; Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze; Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.”

The blatant racism of the government’s efforts against Holiday and the government’s fear of how people would react to her song were masked under the guise of trying to “save” her from the perils of her addiction. To achieve their real goal of silencing her voice and keeping her from singing the song, the feds lured others into setting Holiday up, getting them to plant narcotics. And those lured into setting the trap included McKay, her last husband.

The 1972 film doesn’t explain how Holiday came to be arrested, even though the movie begins with that scene.

Although it isn’t included in this movie, it is interesting to note that Talullah Bankhead, played by Natasha Lyon, wrote a letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, a friend of her family, pleading for Holiday’s release after she was arrested.

Like many female performers before her, such as Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey, Billie Holiday was openly bisexual, and she was rumored to have had a notable affair with Bankhead, amongst others. And although the film touches to a small degree on Holiday’s relationships with women, it contrasts them with her relationships with men. Because Bankhead was white, this film shows us how Holiday was subjugated not just as a woman, but as a Black woman. There is an obvious, if not subtle, hierarchy based on both gender and race demonstrated in this new film that was absent from the 1972 movie.

The 1972 film was unquestionably a huge success in its time. But it does not hold up in comparison to The U.S. vs. Billie Holiday when it comes to authenticity and showing Billie as a multi-faceted woman. Ross’ performance was good, most notably in her singing voice and keeping her from singing the early parts of the movie. But that portrayal of Holiday ends up being something of a caricature based on the way history has painted Holiday as a victim. The earlier film portrayed Holiday through the very narrow lens and neglected many aspects of her life, including her love of women as well as men.

In truth, showing Holiday’s bisexuality would have been inconceivable in 1972, and you have to wonder whether, if that aspect had been included, Ross would have even touched the subject, given the time and her newly-minted solo career.

As has been reported in various articles and interviews, Holiday and Bankhead (whom she called “Banky”) had an intense, stormy relationship that lasted a few years. “Bankhead seemed obsessed by her,” John Szwed wrote a biography of Holiday, The Musician, and the Myth. Szwed argued that the autobiography Lady Sings the Blues (1956) is a generally accurate account of her life, but that William Dufty, who cowrote the book with Holiday, was pressured to water down or suppress material via threats of legal action.

The sexuality of Billie Holiday and other famous individuals is widely known. Still, it is only recently that we have begun to see an acceptance of bisexuality and positive representation of it in projects and performances, like Andra Day’s portrayal in this film. But considering that Lee Daniels, director of The U.S. vs. Billie Holiday, is openly gay, it would be surprising if Holiday’s sexuality hadn’t made it into the film. Daniels is well known for including LGBTQ characters and actors in other projects.

Lee Daniels brings a visual and emotional lushness to this new film that was missing from 1972’s Lady Sings the Blues. Daniels and Day not only show us who Billie Holiday actually was, they also show us what she was. In addition to their incredible talents, this new film is able to openly and honestly depict a more complete picture of Billie Holiday, including aspects of her life that either would not or could not have been shown in 1972. That fact alone gives The U.S. vs. Billie Holiday an advantage.

The United States vs. Billie Holiday is now available on Hulu,
I watched Nomadland last November. And I have been trying to figure out how to write a review of the movie ever since — not because I am at all ambivalent about the movie, but because it seems wrong to get too wordy in telling you about a movie that is exactly the opposite of wordy.

I could just say this is an outstanding movie, and you should watch it. But that would be a cop out. I could go into detail about the story, the actors, the direction, the cinematography. But that, I believe, would be doing a disservice to a movie that is so eloquently quiet.

The movie is based on Jessica Bruder’s 2017 book Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century, her memoir of the time she spent with the (mostly older) men and women who have adopted a transient lifestyle, living in their vans or RVs, following seasonal jobs from place to place or, for some, just going wherever the spirit takes them.

The movie is on the basis of Jessica Bruder’s 2017 book Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century, her memoir of the time she spent with the (mostly older) men and women who have adopted a transient lifestyle, living in their vans or RVs, following seasonal jobs from place to place or, for some, just going wherever the spirit takes them.

Frances McDormand and Peter Spears optioned the book for film, and Chloé Zhao wrote the screenplay and directed the film.

Nomadland is the story of Fern, a woman who loses, first, her husband to disease and then her home to a company’s economic collapse. When the gypsum plant in the town where Fern lives closes down, the town it gave birth to closes down as well. While other residents move to other towns, Fern just moves. And doesn’t stop moving.

At first, it’s easy to feel sorry for Fern: She’s lost the love of her life; she’s lost her home, and she has no one she’s close to. She is, it seems, just lost, adrift in loneliness, with nowhere to go and no one who cares. Fern herself seems to feel the same way.

But as the movie goes along, at its own slow, deliberate pace, Fern (and the viewer with her) come to realize that being alone isn’t the same as being lonely, that you don’t have to have a house to have a home and that loving someone doesn’t necessarily mean spending your life with them.

In fact, at the beginning of the film, Fern tells a young girl, a former student, not to worry about her because, “I’m not homeless; I’m just houseless. It’s not the same thing.” The rest of the movie basically explains what that means and why it’s not a bad thing.

McDormand stars as Fern, and I really can’t imagine any other actor who could have played the part. She is amazing, embracing Fern’s silence and solitude completely. Her face alone tells you more than pages full of dialog could have.

The only other face you are likely to recognize is that of David Strathairn who co-stars as David, another nomad who becomes romantically interested in Fern.

But the characters that will stay with you long after the movie ends — besides McDormand as Fern — are the real nomads who, basically, play themselves in the movie. Linda May, Swankie, Bob Wells, Derek and Peter become Fern’s scattered family, teaching her to find herself by getting lost, to find the stillness by moving.

Nomadland is the kind of movie that will stay with you long after it is over, one that will wake up your restless spirit while at the same time offering a sense of being home.

Nomadland, which already has won a number of awards, including two Golden Globes this week, opens in theaters and on Hulu Friday, March 5.
Different Tales’ adventure game ‘Heart of the Forest’ lets you control the story

JOSHUA KELLEY  | Gaming Writer
JoshuaMKelly1852@gmail.com

Werewolf: the Apocalypse — Heart of the Forest is a visual novel in video game form that resembles those old “choose your own path” adventure books. Developed by the company Different Tales and released in October 2020, Heart of the Forest is a quick and easily replayable adventure that can provide many hours of entertainment as you delve deeper into the mystery of Białowieża National Forest in Poland.

The player takes the reins as the troubled Maia Boroditch as she travels to Poland to learn more about her family’s history, as well as to answer the call of a mysterious recurring dream that she has been experiencing since childhood. While in Białowieża, the player as Maia will have to overcome various trials, both emotional and physical, all while dealing with the story’s central antagonist — illegal logging operations.

Mechanically, what sets Heart of the Forest apart is the layer of complexity within the storytelling that tracks your decisions and affects both Maia’s relationship with other individuals in Białowieża and the important statistics that shape what kind of person your Maia might be.

Every decision you make has a real effect on the story and on Maia. Is she a brave and inspirational person who rallies others to her aid despite the danger she might find herself in? Or is she a more spiritual person who sees and understands that there is more than what can be seen going on around her. The answer comes down to how you play and what you think would be the best decision in various circumstances she faces.

While I have talked first about the mechanical strengths of the game, it’s real strength comes from the immersive sound design and the rather spectacular soundtrack that work together to immerse the player in Maia’s world. The atmosphere of Heart of the Forest lends to every event a weight that they might not have had otherwise.

If I were forced to offer some small gripe, it would be about the length of the game. Most playthroughs clock in at around four hours, putting it on the shorter side. Still, the game is intended to be played multiple times adding additional hours of worth to the title.

Overall Werewolf: the Apocalypse — Heart of the Forest is a fantastic addition to the greater world of the Heart of Darkness universe in which it is set, offering a world full of ghosts, ghouls, vampires and — as one might have guessed — werewolves. It sits at the reasonable price of $14.99 on all platforms where games are sold, so it won’t drain your wallet. And if the setting catches your fancy, I recommend looking out for the recently released Werewolf: the Apocalypse — Earthblood, which just came out in February.
SUN 03.07

Devoted: Art and Spirituality in Mexico and New Mexico opens this weekend in the Dallas Museum of Art’s Tower Gallery and runs through Jan. 2, 2022. The exhibit features devotional works drawn from the DMA’s Latin American collection, exploring interrelated artistic traditions in the two regions. The exhibition spotlights the complexity and artistic qualities of these objects, which embody the active spiritual relationship between their creators, patrons, and communities. March 7-Jan. 2, 2022 in the Tower Gallery, Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 North Harwood St. Free.

THRU APRIL

Despite the severe cold a few weeks ago, The Dallas Arboretum is in bloom with Dallas Blooms, the largest annual floral festival in the Southwest. The festival showcases an explosion of color from more than 500,000 spring-blooming blossoms and hundreds of other incredible florals. Each week, the theme “America the Beautiful” focuses on one of the six regions in the United States with food, music, flowers and special events. Daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 11 at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Tickets at DallasArboretum.org

TUE 03.09

Performing Arts Fort Worth presents Dixie Longate’s Happy Hour as part of its Broadway Specials series. Best known for her multiple appearances in Dixie’s Tupperware Party at Bass Hall, Dixie’s back with an all new streaming show. This time, she’s gone digital to bring you some new stories while mixing up some cocktails. Streams live on March 9-28 on Tuesday-Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $35 at BassHall.com

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When my wife and I rent an Air B&B, even just for a night, she always goes to the grocery store for supplies. And those supplies always include cheese and crackers and wine. Many times when we rent a place it’s for a party or event that’s in Houston, and we don’t want to drive the hour and 15 minutes back home that night. In other words, we arrive, drop our bags, change our clothes and head out. So I always ask, “Why bother with all that stuff?” “Just in case,” she says.

My wife does not like to be hungry or uncomfortable, and she is always prepared to the best of her ability to make sure she won’t be. She knows I generally carry a protein bar and a wrap in my handbag. And I am used to being a little hungry and a little cold. (That’s an entirely different story.) Still, she doesn’t want me to be hungry or uncomfortable either.

She is my all-time favorite Boy Scout.

We recently took a Texas RV trip, stopping in San Antonio, Austin, Fredericksburg and Galveston. The last stop and the five extra days we stayed there were not part of our original plan. But because of my wife’s packing and preparation, we barely needed to buy anything additional to make those additional days and nights work.

Except for cheese and crackers. Apparently, one always needs cheese and crackers.

Side note: I hate cheese, and I don’t like to spoil my dinner. So that desire alludes me.

I’ll admit, it makes me crazy sometimes — the extra shopping. The extra packing. The extra unpacking. The waste when things go bad. The fact that she likes to check a bag when we fly to make sure she has everything she wants in reserve. Just in case.

I myself am a lifelong carry-on girl — even for three weeks in Europe with a black tie gala or a week on the Queen Mary II with a formal night every night. I would rather have the security of having my things by my side than having all the things.

But just like with most things in a relationship, you don’t appreciate your partner’s quirks until they come in handy — or, God forbid, they and their quirks are gone.

On Monday, Feb. 15, like so many other Texans, we lost power. But within minutes, we were up and running again. Because my wife had purchased a generator in preparation for the last hurricane.

We ended up not needing it then, and it sat in the garage unopened. But that snowy Monday morning last month, she opened it up, set it up and started it up. She also built a massive fire in our fireplace with all of the wood and starter logs she had stockpiled.

She was in her element, and I was so grateful and so tickled and so proud. Not even Snowmageddon was going to stop my wife.

She filled the bathtub with water from the lake. She boiled water from the taps and filled the empty jugs she already had at hand. She lined up the cases of water we had in the garage so it would be at the ready when we inevitably lost water and, also inevitably, were put under a boil notice. We had water for flushing and brushing and drinking and sponge bathing throughout the entire ordeal.

I am eternally grateful for everything she does for me. I am especially grateful to not have to be emergency prep girl. Generators and plumbing are far outside of my wheelhouse. But more than anything, I am grateful to have a partner who views my discomfort as an emergency and who will go to great lengths to avoid said discomfort — because that is the least of it.

The truth is, the wifi was nice, and the flushing toilets were nice. But what was remarkable was not just how safe I felt but how safe I truly was — and am. And that is the hallmark of a brilliant relationship, that true feeling of safety.

My wife knows that I will always take care of her to the best of my ability in all of the ways I can and know how. And I know she will do the same. In the end, it’s the only thing that really matters.

Passion is awesome. Romance is amazing. Being spoiled is lovely.

But relationships that are built to last are built on caring and trust, and those are the things that create a sense of safety. To feel safe is to feel loved.

It’s simple. It can be easy to forget. And it can be really easy to poo-poo when it’s something like buying cheese and crackers or packing sweaters when you’re heading for a warm climate. But those things just might be the difference between comfort and discomfort or even safety and danger.

Be grateful for the quirks. They’re what make your person who they are. And you never know when they just might be the very things that make your day … or even save your life.
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Layshia on Top Surgery

Solution on Page 18

**Across**
1  What’s in the stallion’s mouth
5  Chiwetel Ejiofor’s Kinky __
10 IMl winner’s accessory
14 M. Butterfly star John
15 Dana of MacGyver
16 Heterogeneous mixture
17 With 37-Across, Layshia Clarendon’s comment on her top surgery
20 Hairspray name
21 Shakespeare’s Puck, e.g.
22 Your Movie Sucks author
23 To one’s liking
24 Type of leaves of grass
29 Changes Rent for the big screen, e.g.
33 Fuses again
35 Hard shaft material
36 Constellation over Rio
37 See 17-Across
39 Expected to come soon
40 Biopic about Harvey
412 Like a top
42 You guys of old
43 Fruit cover
44 Lurer of phallic fish
46 Strong Joe
47 Like a condom gone bad

**Down**
1 Soprano Gluck
2 Gay Priest author Malcolm
3 The 411
4 Apartment balcony
5 Spelling contest
6 Any song by J ohnny Mathis
7 Carol’s opening
8 Florida gay film festival city
9 Bombay title
10 Meat substitute
11 Personal lubricant ingredient
12 Homophobic word, e.g.
13 Poet Crane
18 Swallow up
19 Hardly ever
24 Wipe over
25 Corvo’s title
26 Set up
27 Bone-chilling
28 Spitting alternative
30 Professional with a foot fetish?
31 Torso of Mapplethorpe pics
32 Like a nocturnal emission?
34 Appear to be
35 Fingered
38 Bird from down under
41 Nairobi residents
43 Money coming in
45 Carnaval resort
47 High arcing shot
49 Disgraced former president
50 Itinerant laborer
51 Chemist’s condiment
52 Ending with switch
53 You may go down on one
54 Iago, notably
55 Singer Fure
56 Long-ago time, to Shakespeare
59 Half of a Hollywood name

**Clue_Phone:**
- Kandy Aisle at the Fly Queens Drag Brunch
- Ole, Marissa Kagel
- Getting nailed at Nailed
- Tanner keeps warm with Fireball
- Slinging Drinks at 1851
- Who was that masked man? Walter at Woody’s
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PREVENTION TEAM MEMBERS
If people say you are the best HIV prevention worker they know, we want you. Do you have ideas on how HIV prevention can be better in Texas? We want you on our team. Join us and set the standard for how we protect our community. Pay starting at $20/hr. with full benefits.

HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness

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