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Super Queen!

Plastique Tiara returns to North Texas with Drive 'N Drag
by Rich Lopez, Page 10



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Brandon Power

McKinney man killed by stray bullet

Brandon Power, 26, was killed last Friday, March 5, when a neighbor in his McKinney apartment complex fired a bullet that went through the wall and hit Power.

Power wore an Apple Watch with his parents — who live in Louisiana — noted as emergency contacts. So when he was struck and fell, the watch automatically texted his emergency contacts, telling them it had detected “a hard fall.” His parents then contacted the

McKinney Fire Department, who kicked down the apartment door and found him dead.

Dailey Thibeaux, Powers’ boyfriend, told WFAA Power’s death “has been the most painful thing that I’ve ever experienced in my life. The world has lost an absolute amazing person.”

Power worked as an industrial engineer at Raytheon.

Michael Parker Jr., 22, has been arrested and charged with manslaughter.

— Tammye Nash

More than 11,000 asylum seekers have been LGBTQ

Between 2012 and 2017, about 11,400 applications for asylum based on LGBT status were filed in the U.S.

Three out of four LGBT asylum seekers were male, and more than half were from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. A large number also came from Ghana and Mexico. People claiming asylum came from about 90 countries, including one each from unlikely countries such as Canada and Australia.

Of all reasonable fear interviews conducted between 2012 and 2017, 1.7 percent were LGBT-related. Almost all resulted in positive determinations for fear of torture and/or persecution.

The number of credible fear interviews based on LGBT status has generally risen throughout the years.

— David Taffet

work with people in the LGBTQ community. Among them are Human Rights Initiative, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and Promise House.

Among the agencies receiving funds in the first round of grants were Senior Source and The Family Place, both of which provide services to or work with other agencies in the LGBTQ community.

— David Taffet

CFPB clarifies rule banning anti-LGBTQ discrimination in credit practices

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Tuesday, March 9, issued a rule clarifying that the prohibition against sex discrimination under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The agency’s non-discrimination protections also apply to actual or perceived non-conformity to sex- and gender-based stereotypes.

— Tammye Nash

Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund awards \$540K in grants

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson announced the Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund will award \$540,000 in grants to 27 local nonprofits that are helping people recover from the February winter storms and power outages. This is the second round of grants from the fund.

Each of the 27 organizations will receive \$20,000. Resource Center is among the recipients.

Also receiving funds are other agencies that

UnitedHealthCare offers vaccine locator tool online

UnitedHealthcare has launched an online COVID-19 vaccine resource locator tool, available in English and Spanish, for free to both UnitedHealthCare members and the general public. All you have to do is type in your zip code at covid19vaccinecenterlocator.uhc.com/cvcl to find FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine resources near you and, in some places,



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Voted 2020 Readers Voice Awards BEST Medical Group Practice, BEST HIV Specialists and Dr. David Lee, BEST General Practitioner

schedule an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

— Tammye Nash

Biden signs executive orders protecting students, women from discrimination

President Joe Biden on Monday, March 8, signed an executive order aimed at protecting students from discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity. The order directs the Secretary of

Education and the U.S. Attorney General to review all existing regulations and policies to ensure that they comply with Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Biden also signed an order that will establish a Gender Policy Council to promote workplace diversity, fairness, and inclusion across the federal workforce and military and to combat gender-based violence.

— Tammye Nash

pet of the week / CHARCOAL



Meet **Charcoal**, a handsome 6-year-old catahoula leopard dog mix. He has a gorgeous gray merle coat, floppy ears and a smile that will warm your heart. Charcoal can be timid around new people, but deep down he is a goofy, wiggly boy who loves to play. He especially enjoys being around other dogs and is quick to engage his canine friends in fun and games. The SPCA of Texas thinks Charcoal will do best in a home with a yard for him to romp around in and that he would really shine with a family who has another dog for him to buddy up with. He will make a great companion for anyone who's wanting a silly pup to put a smile on their face. Charcoal is waiting to meet you at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. To request an appointment to meet Charcoal, 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/findapet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.

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From daily to monthly

Once-a-month injectable Cabenuva is the next big thing in HIV treatment

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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In recent years, through ongoing research, medications for people with HIV has advanced to the point where, although it remains incurable, those living with HIV can keep the virus suppressed to the point where it is undetectable in their system. And when it is undetectable, it cannot be transmitted.

Advances in medication have given people who once would have been living under a death sentence the ability to live basically “normal” lives by taking a single pill, once a day.

Seeking SOLAR trial participants

Prism Health North Texas is seeking participants for a clinical trial for SOLAR (Switch Onto Long Acting Regimen), a new HIV medication that will move patients from a single tablet daily to longer-lasting injections administered twice monthly.

Eligible study participants will be assigned at random to one of two options, either continuing their current HIV medications (about 33 percent of participants) or switching to the investigational medications (about 67 percent of participants).

Investigational medications and study-related tests will be provided at no cost, and study participants will receive compensation for their time, effort and travel expenses.

“UNAIDS has set the goal of ‘Ending the Epidemic 90-90-90,’” said Dr. Gary Sinclair, principal investigator for SOLAR. “If 90 percent of all people living with HIV knew their status, and if 90 percent of those who know their status were on treatment, and if 90 percent of those on treatment had complete viral suppression, the HIV epidemic would end.”

For more information visit phntx.org/research.



But with all of these treatment regimens, consistency is the key to success. Someone who, for some reason, breaks the regimen risks losing all the progress they have made.

Now, the latest advancement in HIV treatment aims to make maintaining the necessary consistency easier by replacing the once-daily pill with a once a month injection.

The FDA has already approved Cabenuva, an HIV medication administered once a month by injection. But research continues toward the goal of lengthening the time between injections from one month to two — and maybe even longer.

North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants in Dallas is just one of the locations which has been conducting trials for the once-a-month Cabenuva treatments. Bryan King, vice president of clinical research and business development at NTIDC, said, “Our research department has participated in all the Cabenuva trials over the past 10 years. We actually gave one of the first injections here in the U.S.”

Dr. Chris Bettacchi is NTIDC’s principle investigator for all of its Cabenuva studies, King said, adding that NTIDC is “currently working with multiple sponsors, looking at long-acting medications

that include Caspid Inhibitors, Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies — bnAbs — and other new concept medications that are administered by injection or IV infusion up to every six weeks.”

Some of these trials, King said, are double-blinded, but “in HIV trials we never have a placebo-only arm. All subjects

will always receive an active treatment, but they might be blinded to whether they are taking the new experimental medication or the comparator standard of care medication.”

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nience and personal preference,” not to mention diminished possibility of missing doses.

“Many patients have expressed their enthusiasm for the convenience of an injectable medication. It is one less thing that they have to think about in their day,” he said. “Finally, many patients have reflected upon the fact that there still is somewhat of a stigma associated with HIV infection, which can lead to uncomfortable feeling when they have to go to their pharmacy to refill their medications. And on a personal note, some patients tell us that they do not want the daily reminder of having HIV which comes with the act of taking medication each day.

“In the end, an injectable medication does away with many of the real world obstacles to medication compliance.”

Lauren Dunt, HIV specialty pharmacist for NTIDC, said that while the cost per month for Cabenuva is “significantly greater than the cost of one month of traditional oral anti-retroviral therapy,” there are programs available to help a patient cover the cost. “In fact,” she said, “most patients should not have to pay anything out of pocket for the long-acting injectable.”

ViiV, the pharmaceutical company that makes Cabenuva, has a Bridge Program that covers 100 percent of the cost for up to a year while the patient’s own insurance conducts a formulary review.

“Once the patient’s insurance adopts Cabenuva to their formulary, ViiV’s co-pay card is front loaded with \$13,000 to help cover the out-of-pocket expense,” Dunt said.

There are also charitable grants based on the patient’s annual income.

Dunt continued, “Cabenuva will be reviewed by Texas ADAP later this spring. And, given its unique dosage form and potential for patients to achieve perfect adherence — thus potentially eliminating the development of resistance — I am confident that ADAP will choose to add Cabenuva to their formulary.”

King said NTIDC is looking for clinical trial participants who are either newly-diagnosed with HIV and have never taken HIV medications, or participants who are on a current stable regimen and undetectable for greater than 12 months.

King said that NTIDC expects to administer its first Cabenuva to a commercial patient through its own HIV specialty pharmacy within the next couple of weeks. ■

Good grief

Grief groups help people through difficult times

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Last weekend marked the fourth anniversary of the death of my husband, Brian. We had been together seven years and had been married just under nine months when he died.

Dallas librarian Ray Sablack had lost his husband a week earlier.

As Ray and I both returned to work, we each kept a chat window open on our computers to check in on each other regularly and generally comment on everything and everyone bothering us. And there was a lot of bothering going on.

As days became weeks and then months, we knew others must be going through what we were, and we looked for a grief group for people who had lost a same-sex spouse. We couldn't find one.

We could join a group for people who had lost a spouse, but we weren't in the mood to join a group and then have to come out. And we didn't want to put anyone in such a group into an uncomfortable position:

"When did you lose your wife?" we imagined a group member asking us.

"It was my husband," we'd correct.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean ...," they'd answer apologetically.

Although well meaning, they were dealing with their grief, too, and we didn't want to put anyone else into a funny position. And then there could be those who may have been non-accepting, and Ray didn't want to put those people in a position of listening to what would have come out of my mouth.

So we started our own group. At first we met in a small room at the Oak Lawn library, but as the group grew, we moved to Resource Center.



There were lots of tears while we told and retold our stories and lots of laughs as well. And lots of hugs. And the first normal socializing any of us had done since the deaths of our husbands or wives, as we usually went out together to get something to eat after our meetings.

Not being professional counselors, we kept the phone numbers for several gay and lesbian therapists handy for people who seemed beyond what we could offer. One person attended the group a couple of times. We knew he needed professional counseling. But rather than make that call, he committed suicide.

He was the exception, though. Members have helped each other through serious medical emergencies. We've gotten each other through tough days, and we've learned that there's not one particularly right way to grieve. Certain things can trigger one person but mean nothing to another.

Brian and I were married exactly eight months and 27 days. After his death, I passed his birthday without much thought — he was never big on birthdays. And two of my cousins spent the weekend with me on what should have been my first anniversary.

The day that was the toughest for me was Dec. 3; that was the day I became Brian's widow longer than I had been his husband.

After talking to dozens of people

who had recently become widows, I've learned that while any loss hurts, losing your spouse is unlike losing a parent, a child, a sibling or friend.

When you lose a spouse, your daily routine is broken. The rent that you used to split is now fully yours. So are the chores. For those that had been caring for their spouse through a long-term illness, the enormous amount of time suddenly available weighs heavy.

A group for others

We try to keep our group positive and help each other work through our grief. We know we've helped some people. Others haven't cared for our casual style. Some have attended once. Others have become regulars. We hope anyone who attends learns they're not alone.

Grief is a normal part of life. We grieve when we lose a relative or a friend. Talking with others who understand because they are going through the same thing is helpful.

While our group is specific, Community Healthcare of Texas Grief Care Services is now running a six-week LGBTQ grief support group for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

The Rev. Liz Klar, who's been running grief groups for five years, is facilitating the group for people in the LGBTQ community including allies. She said she's especially aware that some people will

be dealing with additional issues of family rejection. For instance, how do you grieve for a parent who rejected you because of your sexual orientation? Usually grief is something to share with family members, but what if you lost a friend or spouse that your family refused to acknowledge?

The group may include someone who lost an LGBTQ friend or relative. Klar said a straight person dealing with the loss of an LGBTQ friend or relative may not be accepted the same way in a general grief group, and this may be the first time that person has had to deal with rejection because the loved one they have lost was gay.

"We accept people wherever they are," Klar said, adding that her goal is to always provide compassionate care.

Her organization is reaching out to underserved populations and, in the near future, hopes to offer grief groups to young adults and Spanish speakers. Unlike in the group Ray and I run for people who've lost a same-sex spouse, Klar's sessions will be structured.

The CHT Grief Care Services group runs online from from 5:30-7:30 p.m. from March 11 through April 15. To register, call 800-958-5014 or email grief-care@chot.org.

For information on the group for someone who's experienced the death of a same-sex spouse, contact Ray at raymond.sablack@gmail.com.

A dangerous shortfall

Texas' ADAP program comes up short, leaving HIV patients in a lurch

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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An unexpected budget shortfall announced in December by the Texas Department of State Health Services has left some Texas HIV patients in a precarious position, faced with the possibility of getting their medications late — or not at all.

The Texas HIV Medication Program, operated through DSHS, is the official AIDS Drug Assistance for the state. It also operates the Texas HIV State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, which helps those who are HIV-positive who don't qualify for the full extra help with out-of-pocket costs associated with their health care.

Over the December holiday season, DSHS announced it was changing the eligibility requirements for THMP and ADAP, "effectively eliminating thousands of previously eligible Texans living with HIV from its program," according to a press release from Prism Health North Texas. "At this moment, the ADAP program is unable to support all participants currently enrolled in the program, leaving a deficit of \$52 million."

The shortfall came as a surprise to many because there had been no hint earlier that there was a problem, according to Dr. John Carlo, CEO at Prism Health.



Dr. John Carlo

"I don't think we really know what happened," Carlo said. "We had heard there were unexpectedly higher numbers of people [enrolling in the program] due to economic losses, people who lost their jobs and their insurance because of COVID-19."

Still, he said, "some of these losses didn't make sense to me," Carlo said, because of the complicated processes involved that involve pharmacies, service organizations and the state, each with their own role to play.

"The system has been stable, and over the last five years they have been running with a sort of budgetary surplus. ... They have been very comfortable in terms of their ability to dispense the medications. Then all of a sudden it just stopped," Carlo continued. "They said some of it was because of the costs related to single tablet a day regimens. But those are not new. We've been following those regimens for years.

"To those on the outside, it won't make sense because it is all so complicated. But there is no reason for that \$52 million shortfall."

An "easy" result, Carlo said, would be a patient expecting to receive their medication as usual and then suddenly being told they are no longer eligible for the program. If that happens, he said, "the clock is ticking" as the service organization has to go back through its records and send in paperwork all over again, trying to get the patient re-qualified for ADAP or for some other assistance program before they run out of their medications.

"It could result in a significant delay in them getting their prescriptions refilled. The problem there is that ADAP won't dispense more than a month's supply at a time, and staying on schedule is an absolute necessity. You cannot miss doses. Even if you can get them re-qualified, it means that they have to make a second trip to the pharmacy, and that can be a real hardship for some people.

"It's really risky to make people have to jump through a bunch of hoops," Carlo said. "We don't want to have more roadblocks around this. We have to make it accessible as possible."

That is if the patient can get re-qualified for ADAP or another assistance program. Worst-case scenario: The patient can't qualify for assistance at all.

Lauren Dunnet with North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants said that a large part of the problem is that the COVID-19 pandemic "has taxed an already fragile healthcare system here in the United States." NTIDC, though, is determined that "no patient should have to miss doses of their anti-retroviral ther-

apy due to job loss or loss of insurance, and we will exhaust all avenues, such as pharmaceutical patient assistance programs or even bridging the patient with samples, to ensure this does not happen."

Dunnet added, "On the front end, we work with patients through our adherence programs to help build a safety net of medication to plan for the unexpected."

Carlo said that a "late-breaking report" on Wednesday, March 10, indicated that funds from the federal COVID relief bill approved earlier that day by Congress could be directed to allow DSHS to "bail out" ADAP.

There is also talk about revamping the process by which ADAP operates in Texas. Instead of buying drugs directly, the system would support the patient in going on a marketplace plan and subsidizing an insurance policy for the patient that would cover other aspects of their health care, not just their HIV medications.

While that would have its advantages, it would have drawbacks, too. "It would be beneficial in that the patient would have insurance coverage. But at the same time, "I worry that people won't stay insured, and if they lose their insurance, they have nothing."

While a bailout of ADAP and changing the system could help in the long term, in the short term patients remain at risk, and it doesn't answer "the question of how this shortfall happened in the first place," Carlo said. "I am concerned that the right decisions were not made at some point, or that there was some bad planning. We are still in the dark about what really happened."



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■ commUNITYvoices

The trans threat (again)

Do you remember back in 2015 and then again 2017 how our children were in peril? How they, especially the girls, needed to be “protected” from predators? And how, apparently, the best way to do that was to ban transgender women from public restrooms?

Never mind that this wasn't actually a problem then, any more than it is now. This was so “important” that it merited a special session of the Texas Legislature. Thank goodness more than 3,000 Texas businesses rallied to sanity's defense and discouraged passage of this damaging — yet potentially hilarious — piece of legislation from passing.

It's been four years since the last mention of this, and what's happened? Nothing. Trans people still use the bathroom without assaulting anyone, and kids are still in peril — mostly from their parents. There was an Amber Alert sent out on Wednesday, March 3, about a 10-year-old girl in Carrollton who was thought to have been taken by her father. Her mother was found dead earlier that morning.

So yes, kids are still in peril, just not from trans people. But the legislature has moved on.

(In case anyone cares, the little girl was found safe, and her dad was taken into custody.)

But now, right-wing nuts have something else that urgently needs “protecting” at the expense of trans women: “women's sports.”

What?

None of these idiots gave two shits about women's sports until now. OK, I agree there are some things that are urgently needed to protect female athletes; I mean, surely they are talking about U.S.A. women's gymnastics coach John Geddert, who took his own life after being charged with felony sexual assault and human trafficking of young female athletes — right?

No, not a peep from the right wing about the power coaches have over these girls.

Perhaps they are concerned with protecting women from injuries? There has

long been a concern about concussions, ACL injuries and exercise safety during pregnancy. But nope. No concern there.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

How about continued sex discrimination and social injustice. No, not that either.

What about pay equity? Ask the U.S.A. Women's Soccer team — you know, the U.S.A. soccer team that wins World Cup titles? The one where women are often paid half or less of what their male counterparts earn, even when the men don't win championships? No?

Well what, then, is this big threat to women's athletics?

Trans women.

Yep. The same demonized, marginalized group of people who have done nothing to deserve the vitriol aimed at them are evidently causing such a problem in women's sports that it must be dealt with. Again.

According to a notoriously unreliable source — former President Trump — records are being smashed by trans athletes. Only no, they aren't.

Check the medal stands at the Olympics. How many trans women? Actually, zero. Ever.

In 2003 the International Olympic Committee arrived at the Stockholm Consensus which laid down the guidelines for participation in Olympic sports. And here's the tote board for trans Olympians:

- Athens in 2004: Total medals (any color) — Zero.
- Torino, Italy 2006: We didn't fare much better at ski jumping than we did at pentathlon — Zero
- Beijing in 2008: Zero
- Vancouver 2010: Zero (Seeing a trend here?)
- London 2012: Zero
- Sochi 2014: Zero

In 2015, the IOC updated the guidelines to permit trans men to compete in the male category, without restriction.

For trans women, they must be identifying as female, and this declaration may not change, for sporting purposes, for four years. A trans woman's testosterone level must be below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months (mine is at 3 nmol/L for reference) and must remain so throughout the period of desired eligibility.

So, how'd we do after those changes?

- Rio: 2016: Zero
- Pyeong Chang 2018: Zero

We've seen eight Olympic Games where trans athletes were eligible to compete, and trans athletes have won zero medals. Ever.

Deep down inside, I think there isn't as much worry about us competing as there is us about us “winning.”

But you knew that this bullshit has nothing to do with actually “protecting women's sports,” right?

It actually has everything to do with once again violating the rights of trans people or, worse, legislating us out of existence.

The Minnesota Legislature is considering a bill that would make it a crime for a trans female to even try out for a girls team. There haven't been problems in Minnesota that I'm aware of, but there is a Christian law firm called the ADF — Alliance Defending Freedom — which is also known as a hate group by the SPLC. ADF is drafting these ridiculous bills and emailing them to right-wing legislators in hope they will get passed, or even just discussed, because even that discussion can be damaging to the trans community. And those bills have absolutely zero to do with defending anyone's freedom.

More than 20 different states have had taken this boiler plate sent to them, and they have run with it. The party of “small government” is worried about what is in the pants of every female athlete? That's just creepy.

The final word goes to Layshia Clarendon (with the WNBA New York Liberty), who recently had top surgery: “These people want to keep women in their place, and then use us as swords to cut people who pose no threat to the advancement of our sport. It's up to us — cis women — to see that they don't.” ■

Leslie McMurray is transgender education and advocacy associate at Resource Center in Dallas. She is also a regular columnist for Dallas Voice. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

Super Queen

stage

Plastique Tiara ready to first Dallas show since 'Drag Race'

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

This weekend, Plastique Tiara is part of a super team that intends to turn this already-shitty year into a fabulous one. The drag queen is part of the roster of "Drive 'N Drag Saves 2021" — along with RuPaul's Drag Race alum Asia O'Hara of Dallas, Naomi Smalls, season seven winner Violet Chachki and headliner Bianca Del Rio, the season six champion — that comes to save the day on March 12 and 13.

Drive 'N Drag Saves 2021
7 and 9:30 p.m., March 12 and 13
Irving Mall, 3880 Irving Mall
\$75 general admission
vossevents.com/drive-n-drag

Not bad for 23-year-old Dallas native Duc Tran Nguyen,

who credits the Rose Room as an early step in her blossoming drag career.

"I had my start at Station 4, and it is still the best stage I performed at, club-wise," Nguyen said by phone from California. "That's where I got my start. They were always kind and amazing. Cassie [Nova, Rose Room show director] was the first queen to book me.

"I have very heartfelt warm feelings when I think about the place."

Nguyen's roots run deep in Dallas as well as with Drag Race.

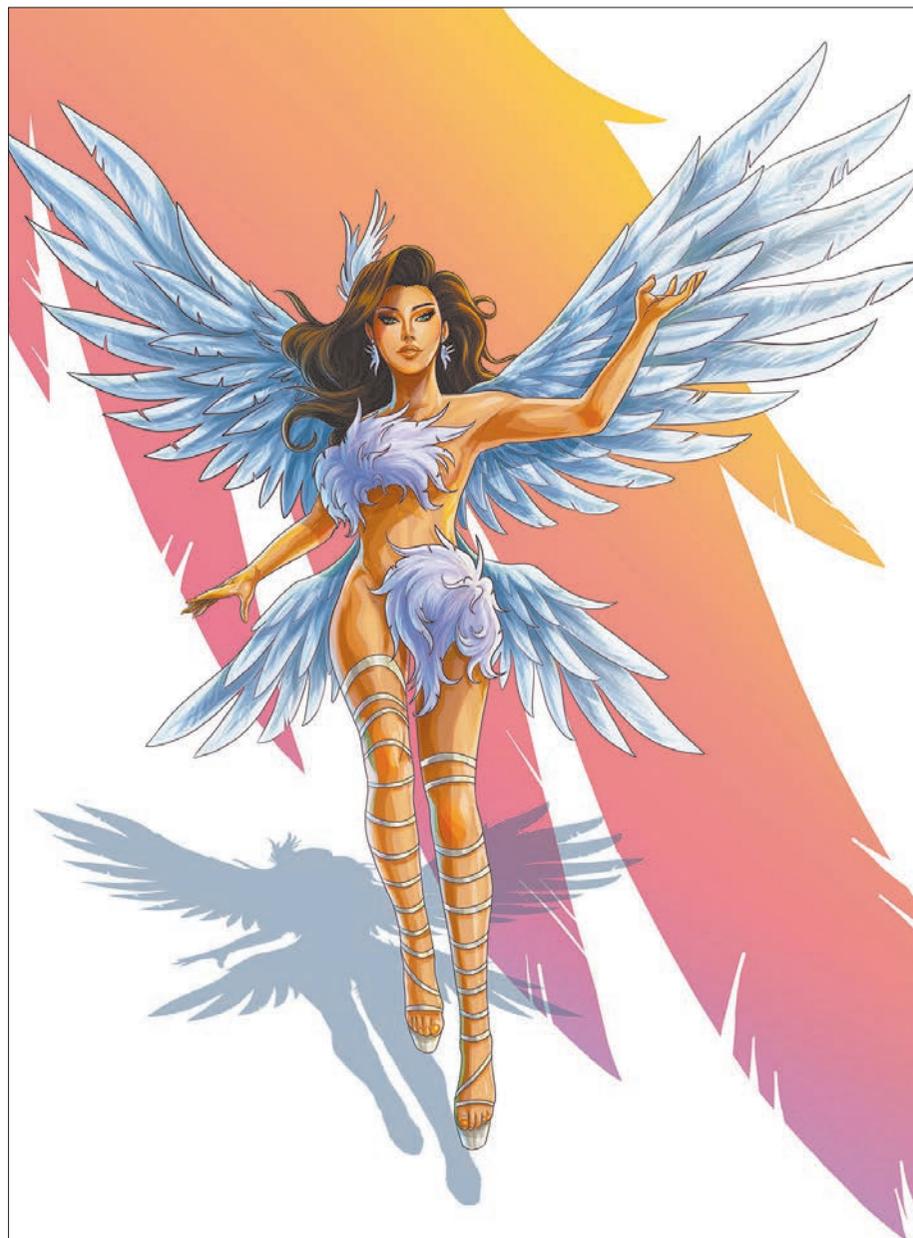
Plastique's drag mother is Dallas drag star Alyssa Edwards (from Season Five of Drag Race and the second Drag Race All Stars), and she shares the Haus of Edwards with Shangela, Laganja Estranja, Gia Gunn and Vivienne Pinay, all who have competed on the show.

After a disastrous 2020, with 2021 not far behind, thanks to a certain pandemic, Nguyen hasn't been on stage all that much. Voss Events last did their Drive 'N Drag series in October but canceled the holiday tour.

The promoters are giving it a shot again with live shows this spring — albeit not your usual type of drag shows. Drive 'N Drag keeps the audience at their vehicles while the queens' lip syncs and death drops slay the stage.

So how does Plastique relate to her audiences in this (for now) new normal?

"With the exception of being in a club, I always perform for the lights. Like it's



a theater," Nguyen said. "My show now is something I do for people to see. I'll look at the cars and the people, but ideally, I'll look at the lights. But I try not to squint because that's not the prettiest thing."

Originally from Vietnam, Nguyen went to high school in Southlake and has lived in Richardson and Deep Ellum. He relocated to Los Angeles in October. This upcoming show will be his first trip back home to perform since kicking off his career with Drag Race Season 11, where he came in eighth.

Nguyen declared that those who knew him in those early Dallas days will see an altogether different performer.

"I am a completely different Plastique," he said. "Gosh, I haven't per-

formed in Dallas in about two or three years. I'm very excited and very grateful for Dallas fans to see how I have grown

and what I've been able to incorporate from all over the world into my performances."

He adds that drag has changed his life — especially since he was on the award-winning reality show. "I'm very proud of myself," he proclaimed.

Additionally, he's just happy to be onstage again, which meant time spent preparing for this months-long tour that began in February and runs through April.

"So I'm basically not eating to get ready [laughs]," he said. "But seriously, I had to get new choreography and new outfits for me and the dancers. I put in all the theatrics I could think of."

For Nguyen, and perhaps the other queens, this tour has some additional meaning: New year, new president, new vaccinations have maybe allowed for some hope, and the queens want to add to that.

"It feels like the stakes of this tour are higher than normal. We all have not performed in so long. Drag is still here, especially for the fans," Nguyen said.

Being at home had some pluses for Nguyen. He admitted that it was nice to have a break after barely being at his home for a whole year. It was good — until it wasn't.

Ultimately, he said, he got the pandemic blues.

"I found myself stuck at home doing nothing. The excitement, the audiences were gone. So that just fueled my fire to do and be better for this show."

And Nguyen knows he has to step it up for this particular Dallas audience: "Dallas drag is so good, and it's the city I'm from!"



Shoulder pad power



Fashions from 'Dynasty:' Red velvet ball gown worn by Joan Collins; Dress and cape trimmed in fox worn by Diahann Carroll, and dress and cape with fur hat worn by Joan Collins. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

'Dynasty' set trends, but so did the Galleria

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

More than a decade before we had Karen Walker and Jack on *Will & Grace*, we had Joan Collins as Alexis Carrington and Al Corley as one of TV's first out gay characters, Steven Carrington, on *Dynasty*.

But *Dynasty* isn't remembered as much for its pioneering place in LGBTQ history as it is for setting the trend in fashion for the 1980s. No one would tangle with Linda Evans, Diahann Carroll or Collins. They were bold and brash and wore gowns festooned with major shoulder pads that accentuated their toughness.

In Dallas in the 1980s, people were moving north. Construction began to push the Tollway past LBJ, and the city's new center of fashion — the Galleria mall — opened.

Among the fashions you'd find were those showcased each week on *Dynasty*. Elizabeth Taylor stopped by once

to hawk her new fragrance, *Passion*, and a British hair salon called *Toni & Guy* opened its first U.S. location in the Galleria.

Now the Galleria has opened an exhibit featuring actual gowns worn on *Dynasty*, hairstyles created by *Toni & Guy* and a variety of hand bags, jewelry and other accessories from the 1980s.

Among the designers represented in the exhibit are Bob Mackie (who created gowns for Carol Burnett and Cher), Valentino, Gianni Versace and Oscar de la Renta. Add in Yves St. Laurent, Halston, Emanuel Ungaro and Geoffrey Beene for a true display of Dallas elegance in the '80s.

Other tastemakers on display are fashions from *Charlie's Angels* and a sweatshirt from Michael Jackson's 1984 "Victory Tour."

The exhibit features more than 50 dresses from the period and is located on the first floor in a former storefront toward the south end of the mall. Entry is free. The exhibit is open noon-6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday) and will remain on display through April 3. ■

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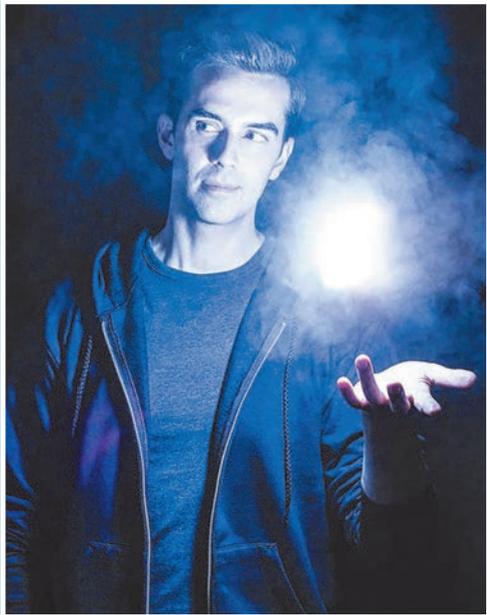
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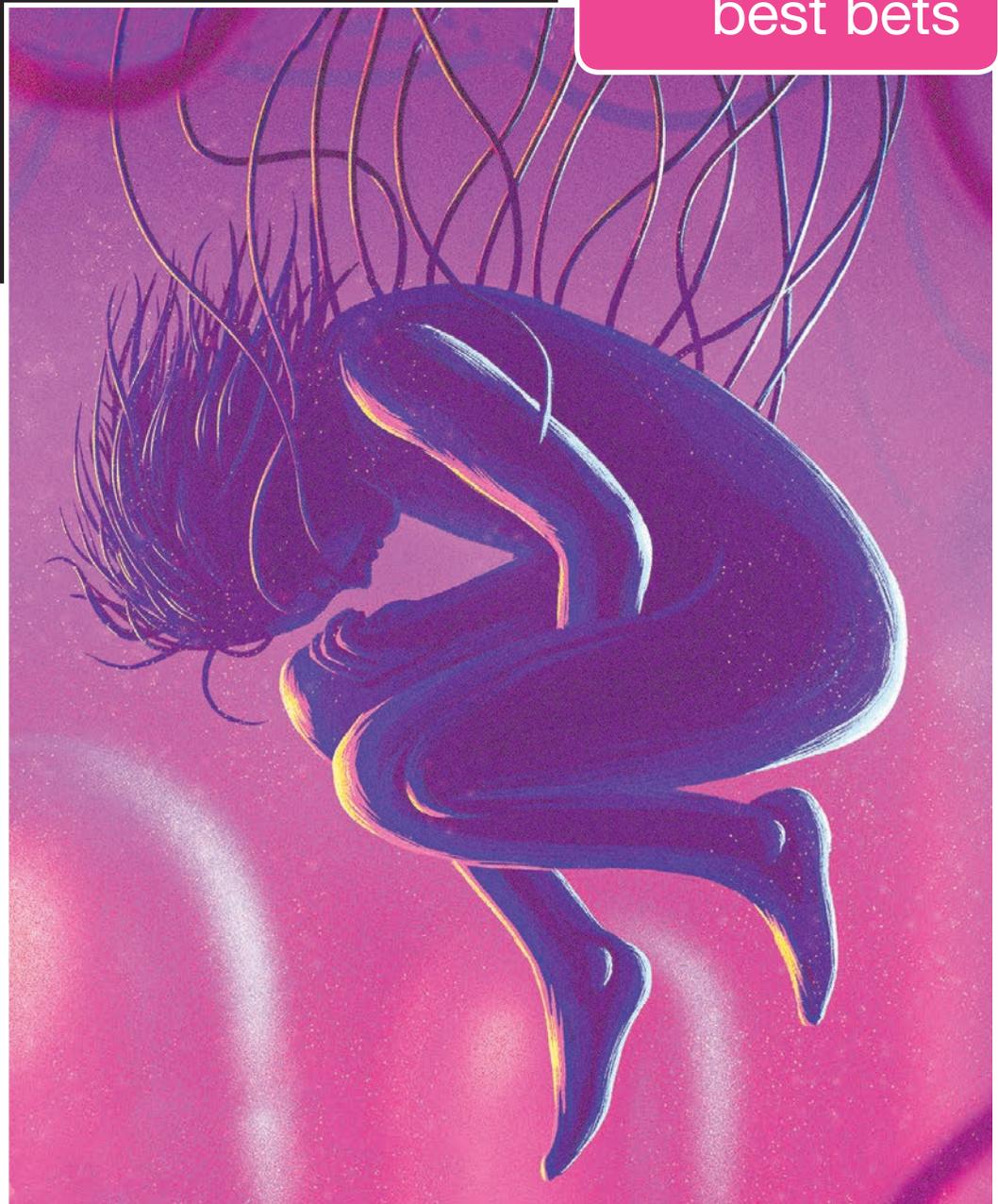
FRI-SAT 03.12-13

Gay magician Michael Carbonaro takes to Zoom to present his family-friendly interactive magic show, **Live From Space** – not from OUTER space, but from a secret space (which might be his garage). Settle in and buckle up for an evening of bizarre fun that lets you go from watching the show to being IN the show. 7 p.m. on Friday and 8 p.m. on Saturday; Tickets are \$25, available through Eventbrite.com via MichaelCarbonaro.com.



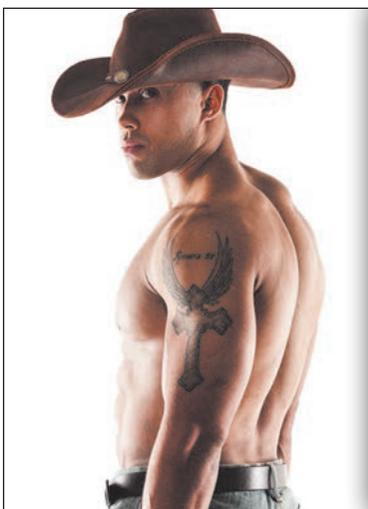
FRI-SAT 03.12-13

Here they come to save the day! Bianca Del Rio and the super queens of *RuPaul's Drag Race* are bringing their mission to save the world from 2020 (and the first few months of 2021) to North Texas with **Drive 'N Drag**, a live show with Jumbotron LED screens, a concert-quality light show, gourmet food trucks and more, and featuring Asia O'Hara, Plastique Tiara, Aquaria, Kameron Michaels, Naomi Smalls, Violet Chachki and, of course, Bianca Del Rio. (Read our interview with Plastique Tiara in this week's Dallas Voice, and pick up your copy at the show.) 7 p.m. both nights at *Irving Mall*, 3880 Irving Mall. For information and tickets visit [Facebook.com/events/680878252551848](https://www.facebook.com/events/680878252551848).



FRI 03.12

Teatro Dallas begins its three-part outdoor performance series, **DESmodernidad**, with **CONTROL**, a short film depicting the Black Lives Matter protest in Dallas during the summer of 2020. The screening will be followed by a percussive electronica performance by HDAD, and Elaine's Jamaican Kitchen will provide refreshments. 8 p.m. at *Ash Studios*, 3203 Ash Lane; tickets and information at TeatroDallas.org.



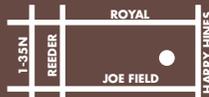
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Cassie Nova

Vaccinations and foreign films

Hi all. How tha' hell have ya been? Did you get your shot? Your Fauchi ouchie? Are you vaccinated yet?

That seems to be all anyone can talk about lately. I know I was obsessively checking my email, waiting for my turn to come up. Luckily, I got my first one the other day, and I exhaled a years' worth of pent-up "OH GOD! If I get it Ima die!" anxiety. Thank you to CVS for making the vaccination happen for me.

Back in early January, I signed up myself and my husband the same day in every county I could think of. Tarrant County contacted him weeks ago to get his shot, and I just waited patiently. So, when I saw that CVS was taking appointments, I jumped on it and got in.

I swear it felt like I had won the lottery.

I've only had the first shot, but I have had no side effects at all; my arm wasn't even sore. I hope the same goes for the second shot — which CVS scheduled along with the first dose. I had to wait in line for a little over an hour, but the time went by quickly since I was able to shop and surf the interwebs. (What did we do before smart phones? Talk to each other? Gross! No thank you!)

And before any of you keyboard police ask how I got the shot because I am clearly not 65 or older, I say to you: Mind your own business! At this point, even if I weren't eligible for the shot, I'd probably lie just to get the shot. My pre-existing condition is Greg Abbott opening everything and dropping the mask mandate. There is your pre-existing condition. We need a vaccination against stupidity.

Y'all, I have recently been on a Korean movie kick. We as Americans are so stubborn and think that if the movie is not in English, then we have no time for it. Bullshit. There are some amazing movies made in other countries; some are dubbed over in English, but most are subtitled. I don't mind subtitles. As a matter of fact, I keep subtitles on most movies I watch — partially from a lifetime of working in loud ass clubs and partially for my own comprehension.

I absolutely loved all of the *Lord of the Rings/Hobbit* movies, but I understood so many subtleties of the films with the subtitles on. Those fucking names of characters and places can be a little much if you haven't read the books — not to mention all of the times some actor has whispered a line for dramatic effect, or the music and sound were so loud that I missed what they were saying.

Remember the *Never-ending Story*? The scene where Bastian has to give the Childlike Empress a name at the end of the story? I was an adult before I knew what name he gave her. He shouted it, and I didn't understand what the hell he said, and as a kid I felt too stupid to ask anyone what he said. By the way, it was Moon-Child. I only

know that now thanks to subtitles.

Okay so back to my Korean movie wormhole. We watched what is possibly one of the best action movies ever made, *Train to Busan*. It is awesome. Yes, it is a zombie movie, but it has some of the best acting from a child that I have ever seen. The movie is a rollercoaster. Plus, y'all know fast zombies are my biggest fear next to sharks and doing taxes. But that ending ... that ending! I came awfully close to full on bawling. It is just so good.

Train to Busan led us to watch the sequel, *Peninsula*. It was okay but nowhere near as good as its predecessor. *Peninsula* led me to *The Host*. It's about a creature that comes from a chemical-tainted river and attacks people. It is funny, suspenseful, weird and heartfelt — great special effects, great acting and a lot of fun to watch.

The Host led me to *Parasite*. Yes, I am late to the party on this one. It won best picture last year. It is so well-made and just a really good movie. Next on the list is one my friend Brandon told me about, *The Taxi Driver*. I'm so excited. It feels like I have suddenly found an entire new bunch of movies to watch!

With this lull in American movies being released because of COVID, I feel I don't have to limit my movie watching to subpar crap movies.

If you have any other suggestions on really

great foreign films, send me your list. I take my movie watching very seriously. I do not look at my phone during movies. If I ever find myself looking at my phone, then the movie must really suck. It is a huge pet peeve of mine, and it annoys me knowing that people out there are only half-ass watching great television shows or movies.

I know; I'm stupid.

You know, one of the hardest lessons I have ever had to learn was that not everyone is going to like what you like. You know how — when you find something that you fall in love with, a musical, movie, song or book — and you want your friends to fall in love with it, too? But then you end up being the only one obsessed with it, and you kinda get sad that you are on this love island by yourself. Then one day someone randomly mentions something you love, and you have an instant connection with them. I love that.

I absolutely hate — I mean HATE — when someone poo-poo's on something you love. I fucking hate when someone will act like you are trash for liking Whataburger over In and Out. Or when they say, "Oh my God, you still watch *The Walking Dead*?" Like it is the saddest news they have ever heard. I don't care if you like *My Little Pony*, *Pokemon*, comic books, *Dungeon & Dragons* or whatever. You do you! Like what you like unashamed. Quit shaming people for liking what they like; it is

none of your fucking business.

Oooh sorry; I went a little dark there. Anywho ... Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova

this week's solution

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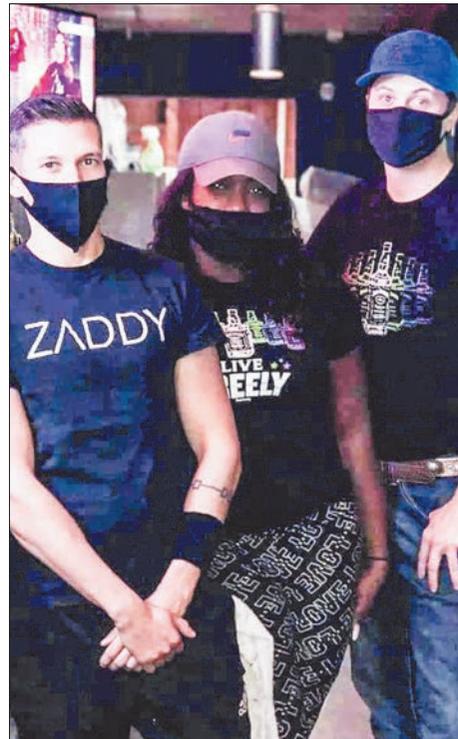
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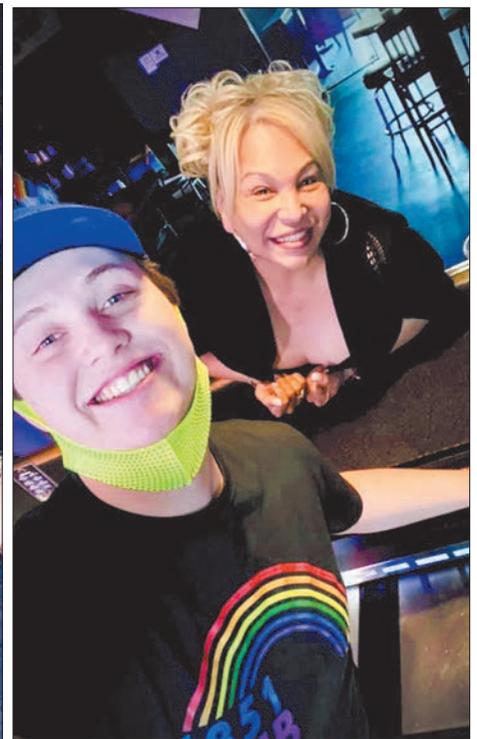
scene



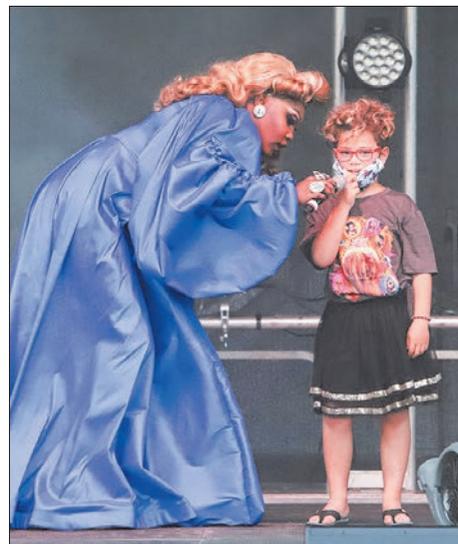
The staff at 1851



Matt, Sapphire and Riley at 1851



Riley and Ivana at 1851



Asia O'Hara chats with a fan during Drive 'N Drag show



Volunteer John Stendebach at the Resource Center Health Campus

Queen Charlotte



In case of a water landing, Bleach can be used as a flotation device



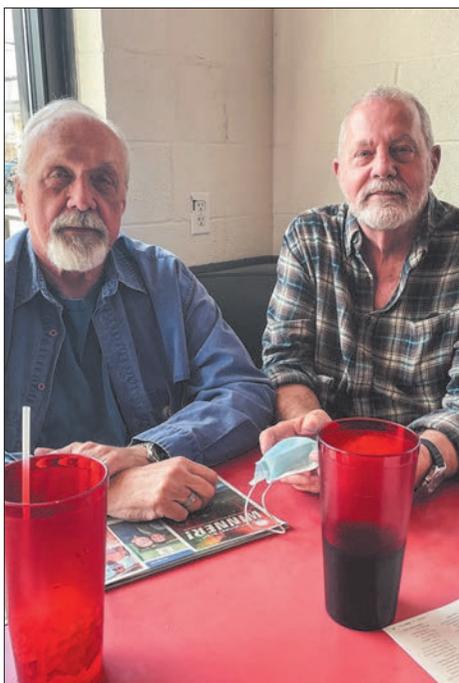
Pride Night at City Tavern



Sapphire and Dalton at 1851



Layla & Kelexis at Area 111



Steve and Steve at Hunky's



Sapphire and the Boys at 1851

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Solution on Page 14

Across

- 1 Take off one's clothes for ones
- 6 Cathedral of Hope area
- 10 "Look ___, I'm Sandra Dee"
- 14 Tape over a video
- 15 You may feel it at a gay bar
- 16 *Cat on ___ Tin Roof*
- 17 Start of a quote by 29-Down
- 20 Mrs., to Rosa Bonheur
- 21 Puts tongue between cheeks
- 22 Be firm
- 23 Limp wrist injury, maybe
- 25 Village People hit
- 27 Cure for all
- 29 Like a bleak fairy tale brother?
- 33 Ancient Irish language
- 36 More of the quote
- 38 Swerve, at sea
- 39 Baseball great Mel
- 40 Ailey of dance
- 41 More of the quote
- 45 Burning with desire
- 46 *My Lucky Star* author Joe
- 47 Morse's long one
- 49 Greek ship
- 50 Carpenter's connector

- 51 ___ instant (like premature ejaculation)
- 53 Ukr. or Lith., once
- 54 End of the quote
- 58 Ridge on Melissa's neck
- 59 Sex drive, e.g.
- 60 *Frasier's* brother
- 64 Fuel in Jamie O'Neill's country
- 65 Canadian comedian Mort
- 66 Madonna title role
- 67 What chicken hawks might do on their prey
- 68 *Lord of the Rings* singer
- 69 Dr. for the children's hour?

Down

- 1 Comes across as
- 2 Disney canine
- 3 Soapbox derby entrant
- 4 Suffix with bear
- 5 Everytown, USA
- 6 Kramer, to Yale
- 7 Milquetoast, e.g.
- 8 180 from NNE
- 9 Not prejudiced about orientation
- 10 Relieved sighs
- 11 Bangkok tongue
- 12 "NYT Magazine" editor Adam
- 13 Colorado, to Cocteau
- 18 Erotic artist Tom, et al.

- 19 *Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof*
- 24 Ancestor of homo erectus
- 26 Get soft
- 28 Israeli author Oz
- 29 Rosheuvel, who portrays Queen Charlotte on Netflix's *Bridgerton*
- 30 *Can We Talk?* author Joan
- 31 They top cakes
- 32 Wise counselor
- 33 Painter Jan van ___
- 34 One way to have one's meat
- 35 Tasty partner, inelegantly?
- 37 Alt. spelling
- 42 Bening of *American Beauty*
- 43 Having no play
- 44 Excite
- 45 Moby Dick chaser
- 47 Vessel on a vessel
- 48 *Who's the Boss?* woman
- 52 Teams in *A League of Their Own*
- 54 Bay Area patrollers (abbr.)
- 55 Bite it
- 56 Mideast land
- 57 *Hand it over!*
- 61 Lucy of *Charlie's Angels*
- 62 Cause of Venus envy?
- 63 Airline to Oslo

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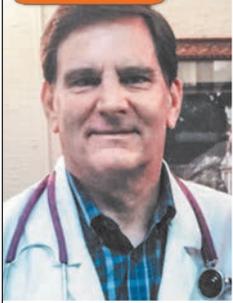
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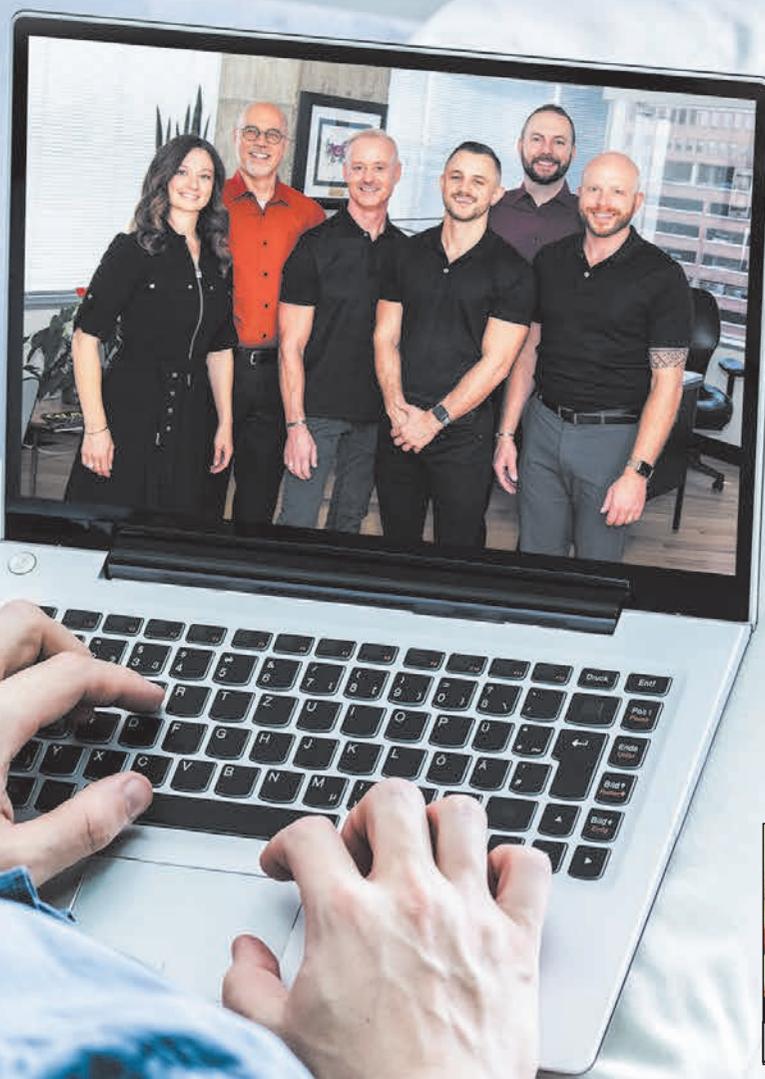


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