Super Queen!

Plastique Tiara returns to North Texas with Drive ’N Drag
by Rich Lopez, Page 10
TIME FOR YOUR CHECK UP?

Get Tested Free for HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea! Test Here and Get Treated Here, Too.

Plus PReP is Free!

Call 817-479-1200

CheckYourStatus.org
Travel First Class
Luxurious Accommodations for any Spring Adventure
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.

---

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.

---

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.

---

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

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

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.

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 have 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 principal 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.”

Dr. Bettacchi explained Cabenuva is intended to “replace the current oral anti-retroviral regimen of a person living with HIV who is ‘virologically suppressed,’ which means they have an HIV ‘viral load’ that is undetectable by routine blood testing. Also, the patient should have no history of HIV treatment failures due to resistance and no resistance to either component of the medication.”

He said that Cabenuva is a combination of Cabotegravir, an integrase inhibitor, and Rilpivirine, a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, both of which have been well-studied and have been shown to be highly effective. Each component, on its own, has proven to be “very safe and effective,” the doctor said.

To create the injectible medication, these two components are formulated into “nanoparticles,” which essentially dissolve slowly and steadily over time to release the medication. “This is what allows dosing on a monthly basis,” Bettacchi explained.

The advantages of a monthly injection over a daily pill, Bettacchi said, include “increased adherence, increased convenience 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 is still 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.

“One of the patient’s insurance adopts Cabenuva to their formulary, ViiV’s copay 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
taffet@dallasvoice.com

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
nash@dallasvoice.com

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.

“‘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 therapy 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.”

---

**Employment Discrimination Lawyer**

Law Office of Rob Wiley, P.C.

Super Lawyers 2015

214-528-6500 • robwiley.com

3500 Oak Lawn Ave. Suite 700

MD Progressive Care.com

MDProgressiveCare.com

214-521-0100

Book your appointment online

3500 Oak Lawn Ave. Suite 700

Marc A. Tribble, MD

Voted to D Magazine’s “Best Doctors” list since 2007! 13 Years!
The trans threat (again)

Do you remember back in 2015 and then again in 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 during pregnancy. But nope. No concern there.

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.
- Vancouver 2010: Zero (Seeing a trend here?)

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

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 performed 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 plusses 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!”
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.
Let us change your total health for the better.

Walk-ins Welcome
Authorized Ryan White Provider
Comprehensive Primary Care
Free HIV, STD and Hepatitis C Testing
HIV, STD and Hepatitis C Treatment
Lab Draws
Linkage To Care Services
Medical Peer Navigators
nPeP Services
PrEP Services
Patient Care Coordination
Telehealth Services
Transportation Services

616 MATLOCK CENTRE CIR.
ARLINGTON, TX 76015
(817) 693-1000

CANCOMMUNITYHEALTH.ORG  Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  LinkedIn

Nadia Winston
MPH, MSN, FNP-BC
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.

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.
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 impatiently. 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 subtitles 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 worm-hole. 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-poos 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 hating people for liking what they like; it is none of your fucking business.

Ooooh sorry; I went a little dark there. Anywho … Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova.
do you WANT to be PART of an AMAZING TEAM creating better sexual heath in your COMMUNITY?

The HELP Center is looking for exceptional individuals to join our HIV prevention team. Visit our website to see the full job description and to submit your application.

OPEN POSITIONS
DIRECTOR OF HIV PREVENTION
HELP is recruiting a team-oriented leader to support a dynamic prevention team and set the standard for how prevention can and should be conducted in Texas. If you are a current prevention manager or have a ton of experience in HIV prevention, we want to talk with you. Salary up to $90K a year with full benefits.

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.
The staff at 1851

Matt, Sapphire and Riley at 1851

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

Volunteer John Stendebach at the Resource Center Health Campus
In case of a water landing, Bleach can be used as a flotation device.

Pride Night at City Tavern

Sapphire and the Boys at 1851

Queen Charlotte

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
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
MarketPlace
Your calling card for LGBT Texas business
For information on advertising, call us at:
214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at:
dallasvoice.com/marketplace

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

dallasvoice.com

Local Business Listings

Services

The Painter
Specializing In Interior Painting
25 Years Experience
Free Estimates
Extremely Meticulous
TONY R.
972-754-1536
TonyRThePainter@netscape.com

Legal

COVELLPC
ESTATE PLANNING • PROBATE • BUSINESS LAW
• Wills • Probate of Wills
• Powers of Attorney
• Trusts & Asset Protection
• Advanced Directives
• Business Law

12222 Merit Drive, Suite 340
Dallas, Texas 75251
(214) 443-0300
rebecca@covellpc.com

Rebecca S. Covell
The attorney who puts you at ease.

Stephanie Hall
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Cohabitation Agreements,
Adoption, Child Custody,
Divorce, Property Division,
Child Support

Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durable Powers of Attorney,
Guardianship, Litigation

8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

American Standard
150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Services

Enjoying a new shower is easier than you think
CALL TODAY

Ben Meyer Fitness
I show gay men how to build an incredible physique and take their sexy back without living in the gym

Call 972-269-1269
Let me show you how....
for your complimentary coaching call.

Guardian Health

General Medicine
Immune Disease
Trans Health
STD Treatment
General Dermatology

Affordable Pricing

Dr Terry Watson
8204 Elmbrook Drive Ste. 206 (Mockingbird & Harry Hines)
214-221-8181 • drwatson@sbcglobal.net

Medical

Leafo Filter
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-877-694-0858

15% OFF
10% OFF
5% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
TO THE FIRST 25 CALLERS

Promo Number: 285

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY
888-686-1233

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty" A Smith Value
Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020
Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply. Offer not available through retail, wholesale, or dealer partners.

Services

Dallas Police Department
DALLAS PD IS HIRING!
Our Excellence Begins With You
DALLASPOLICE.NET

STARTING PAY $61,967!

Employment
In office appointments available
Telehealth appointments online
LGBT owned and operated
More than 30 years-experience

Services include:
Primary Care
HIV Specialists
Gender Affirmation
Cosmetic Procedures
Ask about PrEP

Give us a call TODAY
to schedule your appointment!

Concierge Medicine offered by
Steven M. Pounders, MD

Erin Simms, FNP-C
Steven M. Pounders, MD
Chad Nyland, DO
D. Trew Deckard, PA-C, MHS
Cameron Wyatt, FNP-C
Chad Crager, FNP-C

214.520.8833 / 3500 Oak Lawn, Ste. 600 / DrPounders.com