Battling Voter Suppression

Gonzalez asks U.S. AG to monitor Texas House Committee on Elections

by David Taffet, Page 10
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.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. 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, and may give you HBV medicine.

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:

- dolutegravir
- 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 that may have been hidden in your body. 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.
CHAD
LIVING WITH HIV SINCE 2018
REAL BIKTARVY PATIENT

KEEP CREATING.

Because HIV doesn’t change who you are.

BIKTARVY® is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults. BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.
See Chad’s story at BIKTARVY.com.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit BIKTARVY.com.
Are you serious about your healthcare?
Experience makes the difference!

Award winning healthcare for the whole body!
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
LGBT owned and operated
More than 30 years-experience

Steven M. Pounders, MD
Chad Crager, FNP-C
D. Trew Deckard, PA-C, MHS
Chad Nyland, DO
Erin Simms, FNP-C
Cameron Wyatt, FNP-C
In This Issue
May 14, 2021
Volume 38 | Issue 2

NEWS
Legalizing voter intimidation I 10
Moe Vela branches out with Unicorn Hunters I 12
Lutherans elect first transgender bishop I 16

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
DRIVE: The 2021 Genesis G80 I 18
ON THE PAGE: D. Hale Rambo’s debut novel I 19

ON THE COVER
THE T.................................6
VOICES..............................8
PLAN YOUR WEEK...........23
CASSIE NOVA.....................24
SCENE..............................26
MARKETPLACE...................30

Cover design by Kevin Thomas
Photo by Eric Gay, Associated Press

WIG OUT
this summer with some fashionable new shades!

DAVID TAFFET, taffet@dallasvoice.com

© 2021 Voice Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprint rights are available only by written
consent of the publisher or managing editor. Dallas Voice is published every Friday. Additional copies may
be purchased for $1, payable in advance at Dallas Voice office. Dallas Voice may be distributed only by
authorized independent distributors. No person may, without prior written permission of Voice Publishing,
take more than one copy of each Dallas Voice weekly issue.

Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), $65. Six months
(26 consecutive issues), $85. One year (52 consecutive issues), $130. To subscribe call 214-754-8710 x114.
Paid advertising copy represents the claim(s) of the advertiser. Bring inappropriate claims to the attention
of the publisher. Dallas Voice reserves the right to enforce its own judgments regarding the suitability of
advertising copy, illustrations and/or photographs. Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted by email only.
To obtain a copy of our guidelines for contributors, send a request by email to editor@dallasvoice.com.

General & Cosmetic Dentistry
CAROLE ANN BOYD, DDS, PC
JONATHAN VOGEL, DDS

Call today 214.521.6261
4514 Cole Ave, Ste. 905
DrBoyd.net

CAROLE ANN BOYD, DDS, PC
JONATHAN VOGEL, DDS

Dr. Allen B. Safir

Doctor EyeCare
Award-winning Contact Lens Specialists
Optometric Glaucoma Specialists • Therapeutic Optometrist
4414 Lemmon Ave. at Herschel
Dallas, TX 75219 • 214.522-EYES
doctoreyecare.com
Council approves PegasusAblon project

The Dallas City Council voted Wednesday, May 12, to give a thumbs up to plans for building two high-rise residential buildings in the heart of the gayborhood. The plan, which would include green space and expanded parking, was introduced last November by PegasusAblon and Caven Enterprises.

While Mike Ablon will be purchasing the property on both sides of Throckmorton Street in the 3900 and 4000 blocks of Cedar Springs Road from Caven Enterprises, the developer will leave intact the existing buildings facing Cedar Springs — the buildings that currently house Sue Ellen’s, JR.’s Bar & Grill, S4, the Rose Room and TMC in the 3900 block, and that house Roy G’s and Skivvies in the 4000 block. Caven will then lease the existing buildings from Ablon and continue operating the bars housed there.

Plans call for the two new buildings and a pocket park to be built on the back of the lots in those block — one behind S4 and one behind Roy G’s. The one behind S4 will be built first.

— Tammye Nash

Sue Ellen’s re-opening June 4

Sue Ellen’s, the oldest lesbian bar in the U.S., will reopen on June 4. The bar has been closed throughout the pandemic.

Sue Ellen’s has been doing karaoke at the Rose Room on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. No word yet on whether that is moving back or when weekend bands will begin performing there again. As the day approaches, we’ll keep you up on what’s planned for the opening.

We’re just excited Sue Ellen’s is reopening.

— David Taffet

Hidden Door re-opening June 16

Hidden Door Dallas has announced via social media that the bar is set to re-open Wednesday, June 16, on the birthday of the late Tony Bobrow, who owned the club from the late 1980s until his death in February 2018. The Hidden Door is now owned by The Anthony Bobrow Trust which is overseen by Harvey Meissner and a second trustee. Beginning in 2019, the Bobrow Trust began making regular grants to LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizations.

Meissner is president and general manager of the Hidden Door, and after Texas bars were shut down by order of the governor and, in Dallas County, County Judge Clay Jenkins, Meissner has chosen to keep the bar closed until Jenkins and county health department officials said it was really safe to re-open. Meissner and the bar’s management have taken advantage of the down time over the last 12-plus months to remodel the bar’s interior and patio.

— Tammye Nash

Broadway at the Bass returns

Performing Arts Fort Worth, the nonprofit owner and operator of Bass Performance Hall, announced this week that Broadway shows are returning to the Bass stage. The 2021-22 Broadway at the Bass Season will feature six shows, many of which were scheduled to be here in 2020 when the season was canceled due to COVID-19.

Current 2020-21 Broadway at the Bass season ticket holders have until June 21 to renew and keep their seats. New season tickets will go on sale July 15. Sign up now for the wait list.

The 2021-22 season kicks off in October with Come From Away, Oct, 19-24. Then Cats
ADOPTABLE: KIRA

Meet Kira, a 7-and-a-half-year-old English mastiff mix who loves carrying her teddy bear around and taking up way too much space on the couch. She’s looking for a “fospice” home, which means that she’ll be your permanent foster pet while the SPCA of Texas provides her medical care for life. Kira is in the early stages of chronic renal insufficiency and will need to remain on a special diet for life. She’s still a happy, playful dog who deserves a mellow, laidback home where she can be comfortable and cared for. Kira would love a home with a fenced-in yard, a couple of very big water bowls to keep her hydrated, teens and adults who will help monitor her strict diet and humans who are very big fans of naps, cuddles and having no personal space whatsoever. Kira also hopes her new family will spoil her rotten with lots of stuffed toys. If you are willing to open your heart and your home to Kira, please email foster@spca.org.

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.

Carrollton proclaims Pride

The Carrollton City Council issued a proclamation at its meeting Tuesday, May 11, marking June 5 as Carrollton Pride Day. The proclamation recalls the raid at the Stonewall Inn that marked the beginning of the modern LGBTQ rights era and notes that the LGBTQ community “from youth to senior citizens, have the right to feel safe, not be discriminated against and not live with the threat of harassment and persecution.” It further states the “Carrollton City leadership and staff have committed to make the city an LGBTQ friendly, welcoming, and inclusive community for ALL.” Carrollton businessman and resident Bob McCranie said, “Over the last 18+ years, the city has gone from open homophobia to tolerance to acceptance of LGBTQ individuals and families. Our next journey is representation on city boards, commissions, and the City Council. The diversity of our city is our strength. The diversity of our city is our future.”

The first city Pride event has already been planned. It will be held at Horizon UIU Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton, on June 5. A food truck and 18 booths have already been confirmed.

— David Taffet

returns to the Bass Hall stage Nov. 16-21 with an all-new production, to set the mood for the holiday season. The new year begins with Dear Evan Hansen, Jan. 4-9, followed by a special add-on of the smash hit Hamilton Jan. 18-Feb. 6. After a break of a few months, the season picks back up with Oklahoma!, June 21-26, followed Jesus Christ Superstar July 12-17. The season concludes with Mean Girls, July 26-21.

Broadway at the Bass this week also announced that Disney’s The Lion King is returning to Bass Hall for the 2022-23 season. Season ticket holders for the 2021-22 season who renew their seats for the 2022-23 season will have priority access to Lion King tickets. And Performing Arts Fort Worth is currently in conversations with other local arts organizations to plan reduced capacity, socially-distanced performances in Bass Hall over the summer in preparation for the new season starting in the fall. Watch for more details as they become available.

— Tammye Nash

Masterpiece Designed For Your Viewing & Driving Pleasure

Exclusive Lincoln Black Label - Our Ultimate Expression of Design & Personal Service

Experience the ultimate luxury buying experience at Planet Lincoln Dallas Love Field — the World’s Largest Lincoln Facility. A concierge will assist in finding your gorgeous New Lincoln.

Curated Collection of Interior Themes | Exclusive Premium Materials | Lincoln Black Label Experience Liasion
4 year / 50,000 mile Premium Maintenance Plan | Service Pick Up & Delivery

Effortless Buying Experience | Service | Pickup & Delivery | Parts
7767 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX 75209 972-992-7810 | LOVEPLANETLINCOLN.COM

2021 Lincoln Navigator Black Label

Dallas Love Field
Karens gone wild

What can we learn watching videos of these privileged meltdowns?

During my long “work-from-home” isolation forced by COVID-19, I have found myself wasting time on YouTube a lot. One of my most recent obsessions is the hundreds of “Karen Meltdown” videos posted there.

Compiling the videos of indignant women and, in a few cases, men going ballistic after being told they can’t do this thing or that thing has become a cottage industry. A vast majority of these videos are of “Karens” trying to enter stores without wearing masks. Predictably, they throw a tantrum and, in some cases, physically attack store workers and/or the merchandise in the store itself.

In one video, after being told she would not be served if she wasn’t wearing a mask, a woman began knocking store fixtures at the helpless employees.

She, like many of these people, was arrested and then tried to explain to the arresting officers why she should be let go, claiming of the workers she threatened and attacked that she “pays their salary” and “they work for me.”

In a few of the videos, the man or woman even pulls the “sovereign citizen” ploy, refusing to obey any laws at all. In the end, they are all hauled, kicking and screaming, off to the police station where they can assert their sovereign rights from inside a jail cell.

What I find compelling about these viral videos is the overwhelming anger expressed by these “Karens” and “Kens.” They throw uncontrolled tantrums, fueled by blind anger and often peppered with racist slurs.

Why are they so angry?

Most of these people are white, cisgender folks who are exploding over the minor inconvenience of having to wear a mask to protect their fellow citizens from a potentially deadly disease. So why the big kerfuffle?

I can only surmise that they have led lives of such privilege that they have never been told “No.” And the act of wearing a mask, which is a little thing to most of us, becomes amplified in their minds into something much greater. They are being forced to be a considerate person, and that is a step too far for an over-privileged white person.

I guess I find that amazingly petty, since as a queer man I have been forced to wear a metaphorical mask much of my adult life. I know many of my friends feel that way as well.

We wear the mask of heteronormativity daily, so as to not make the straight folk feel uncomfortable. It is a small sacrifice we have made for years in the interest of maintaining some kind of safety for ourselves and to avoid unwanted attention. I still am uncomfortable holding my partner’s hand in public unless we are in a LGBTQ-friendly neighborhood.

I can only imagine how people would react if I unleashed all my pent-up frustration in an uncontrolled tantrum. I guess I am too vain to let that happen. It would be far too unattractive, and, quite frankly, my mother raised me better than that.

I learned as a child that sometimes the world does not cater to your every whim. Things are often unfair, and whining about it and pounding your fists on the ground won’t change things.

I also learned that I could take all that frustration and use it to fuel something much more productive. Writing has been that outlet for me.

So, consider this my very own Karen meltdown:

The COVID19 pandemic sucks!

Wearing masks and social distancing sucks!

Not seeing my friends sucks!

Not going out to concerts, the theater and movies sucks!

Not being able to travel sucks!

Working from home all the time, sucks!

But you know what sucks more? Seeing people taking their frustrations out on others who are just doing their job, trying to get by and keep others safe. Seeing Karens and Kens blasting their rage at civil servants who are just trying to keep our cities safe and preserve the peace — that REALLY sucks.

If all those Karens and Kens took that wasted energy and used it to convince their friends to wear masks and get vaccinated, this whole mess would be over much faster. I want to see those viral videos start showing up — videos of Karens pleading with their friends and family to get vaccinated so we can all get back to some kind of normalcy sooner.

Might not be as good at becoming a viral video as seeing an adult behaving like a spoiled child, but it would damn sure be better for the world.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at Dungeon-Diary.blogspot.com.
The care you need. Right where you need it.

Methodist Health Center Oak Lawn is proud to announce the opening of our brand new facility in the neighborhood. And if you haven’t met him yet, we’re excited to announce that Oak Lawn has a new doctor and advocate in Blake Hatfield, MD. Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Hatfield also has special training in treating HIV. A graduate of Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, he completed his Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Hatfield is joined by Jennifer Mouldenhauer, PA. Serving patients in the Oak Lawn Area since 2006, Ms. Mouldenhauer is certified by the Texas Medical Board, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM). Your Oak Lawn primary care team is here for all your needs.

Methodist
HEALTH CENTER
OAK LAWN

3500 Maple Avenue, Ste. 108, Dallas, TX 75219
214-526-3566
MethodistHealthSystem.org/OakLawn

- HIV PREVENTIONS AND TREATMENT
- PrEP
- WELLNESS VISITS/PHYSICALS
- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- IMMUNIZATIONS
- HEART DISEASE
- HYPERTENSION
- DIABETES
- OBESITY
- ASTHMA
- CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE

Schedule an appointment with a primary care doctor today.

Methodist Family Health Centers and Medical Groups are owned and operated by MedHealth/Methodist Medical Group and are staffed by independently practicing physicians who are employees of MedHealth/Methodist Medical Group. The physicians and staff who provide services at these sites are not employees or agents of Methodist Health System or any of its affiliated hospitals.
S

tate Rep. Jessica Gonzalez has been working overtime this session fighting off not only anti-transgender bills, but, as vice chair of the Committee on Elections, fighting off voter suppression bills, too.

Along with three other committee members, including Rep. Michelle Beckley, D-Carrollton, Gonzalez has written to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, asking him to have the civil rights division of the Department of Justice “monitor the proceedings of the House Elections Committee and the Texas House for the remainder of the session” after committee Chair Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park, on April 29 forced a vote on one such bill, Senate Bill 7, without advanced notice and without allowing time for public input.

In addition to what Gonzalez called a return to Jim Crow laws when she appeared on ABC’s national news this week, she questioned the way the bill was rammed through committee without comments from the public and without discussion of language used in the bill. Democrats on the committee received the language in the bill about 10 minutes before Cain called for a vote on it.

SB 7 had already passed the upper house of the Legislature. Gonzalez and other Democrats on the elections committee objected in writing to four provisions of the bill that became House Bill 6.

SB 7 would allow partisan poll watchers to have unfettered access to voters in the polling place. They’d be allowed to roam freely around polling places to intimidate voters.

It’s unclear what would happen if a voter complained about the poll watcher interfering with the right to cast a secret ballot. The election judge in the polling place could intervene. But many voters, presumably elderly, minority, disabled, LGBTQ and other groups targeted by this partisan legislation, could be intimidated and simply leave.

A second provision would prohibit “county governments from establishing methods and locations for voting that have proven to boost participation in working-class communities and communities of color,” according to the letter.

A highly successful example in Dallas County was making the American Airlines Center a mega-voting location. The arena is located in an area with a high concentration of Democratic voters and is located within Oak Lawn’s heavily LGBTQ 75219 zip code. Another mega center was opened at Potters House with a concentration of Black voters.

In the Senate version of the bill, a formula would be used to distribute voting machines and polling places based on previous election turnout. That would oversaturate white neighborhoods with polling locations and penalize poorer areas that historically have had lower turnout.

Third, curbside voting would become more difficult. New and onerous requirements for people who drive elderly or disabled voters to the polls would be created, including having to provide proof of ailment or disability. The driver could be penalized for failure to produce paperwork indicating the passenger’s disability and need to have a poll worker bring a voting machine to the car.

During the pandemic, curbside voting vastly expanded, and those who preferred not to enter a voting location were given the opportunity to vote from their cars. The process was slow, but there were no reports of voter fraud as a result.

Finally, elections officials would be prevented from sending mail ballot applications to voters eligible to vote by...
mail. The penalty would be state jail time.

Gonzalez charges that these changes to the House version of the bill were presented just minutes before the chair called for a vote on the legislation. “Unfortunately, this disregard for decorum and formal rules is all too common in the House Elections Committee,” Gonzalez wrote in her letter to the attorney general.

On ABC News, Gonzalez characterized the bill as “unnecessary legislation that is bad for Texas,” and said there was nothing in the bill that makes it easier or safer to vote.

She hasn’t received a response from the Justice Department yet but is working her Washington connections — Gonzalez worked in the Obama White House — to get some federal oversight. Because these voter restrictions are happening in other states as well, she believes the Justice Department has an interest in this legislation.

Beckley, who also signed the letter to the U.S. attorney general, said she was frustrated this session with the amount of time she spent defending trans kids and preventing voter suppression. As a result, she said, there was no time left for fixing the power grid, doing anything about the pandemic or talking about the number of kids lost to the education system since the shutdown.

And don’t get her started on Texas ranking number one in uninsured people during a health crisis, which keeps the state’s health insurance rates skyrocketing.

But those issues, she said, have been ignored. Instead, she’s had to deal with HB 6/SB 7, which are all about punishing Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, who tried to make it as easy as possible for voters in Houston and elsewhere in her county to vote. Each step of the way, Beckley said, Hidalgo checked with the Texas Secretary of State to make sure anything she did to expand access to voting was legal.

Hidalgo allowed 24-hour voting to make it easier for shift-workers to get to the polls — doctors, police, firefighters and, especially in the case of Houston, chemical and petroleum workers. As did Dallas County, she made drive-through voting more available during the pandemic.

Beckley said nothing in the bill makes it easier to register to vote: “No online registration,” she said. “All registration is done in pen and ink. And when they can’t read it, it gets thrown out.”

And yet, she said, after 22,000 hours of investigation into voter fraud in the last election, there hasn’t been a conviction in Texas. “Instead, they’re going with the Trump Big Lie,” Beckley said. “We’ll see where the dust settles.”

State Rep. Rafael Anchia
Moe Vela’s very, very, very public life

After years in a business and public service, Vela is branching out with ‘Unicorn Hunters’

Moe Vela could die happy today, knowing all he’s done with his life. But judging by a recent interview, the longtime political operative, entrepreneur and one-time actor is not slowing down. His family instilled that go-getter attitude in the gay fourth generation Texan.

The Velas are a pioneering South Texas family, first setting down roots in the state in 1863. The Vela family includes a former federal district judge and a former Cameron County judge. Moe Vela’s cousin is retiring Congressman Filemon Vela Jr.

Vela family members were encouraged to operate and to carry themselves humbly and not arrogantly, Moe Vela said. “We’re not special. You gotta get your butt to work,” he explained. “We were never forced to be a lawyer or a teacher, but we were encouraged to be active. Our generation picked up the mantle, and we’re encouraging the next generation to do the same.”

Moe has also had a storied career in public service himself. His mentor was the late Gov. Ann Richards, whom he called “Ms. Ann.”

When Richards was running for governor, Moe recalled, she was in a packed Democratic primary and faced tough competition. At the state union convention, her team was on the floor, working the crowd. Vela, who was just getting his start in politics, was tasked with guarding the campaign headquarters.

“I was sitting alone thinking, ‘Wow, I’m guarding the headquarters,’” he said. Then the door opens. It’s Richards. She sat next to him.

“Moe Jr.,” she said, “how are you doing?”

“Shouldn’t you be at the convention?” he asked, wondering why she wasn’t seeking the union endorsement. Richards smiled: “I kept my opponents from getting the endorsement.”

What she was saying, he explained, was that “Sometimes you don’t need the endorsement but just to block opponents from getting it.”

It was one of many lessons Moe learned during his stint in public service, which included working for former State Rep. Rene Oliveira and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson when she was a state senator. He also served as director of administration for then-Vice President Joe Biden as well as senior advisor on Hispanic Affairs for Vice President Al Gore.

That makes Moe the first openly gay person and the first Hispanic-American to serve twice in the White House in a senior role.

While he was tempted to make another go around at the White House when Biden was elected president, Moe chose to decline. “I already did my public service,” he said. “The next generation of gays and Latinos need to go.”

Some have, including Emmy Ruiz, a lesbian and a Texas native who is now the White House director of political strategy and outreach. Biden has also nominated former two-time Congressional candidate Gina Ortiz Jones, also a lesbian and also a Texan, to be under secretary of the Air Force.

“They’re great examples of why I didn’t go in,” Moe said of the two Texas women.

Now Moe is working on a project that was on his bucket list: He’s the producer of and a panelist on Unicorn Hunters, which premiered May 10. The show is like Shark Tank, where budding entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to funders. But in this show, the audience is involved, too.

“It was a longtime dream to do this show,” he said. And the LGBTQ community was at the front of his mind when he conceived of it. “We’re part of the disenfranchised. We’ve been left out,” he said, while access to capital has been reserved for white men over 50.

To him, “That’s just bullshit. This is 2021.”

“As LGBTQ people we’re not going to have true equality until we address economic parity,” Moe continued. “We won’t have economic equality until we all have access to wealth. Having been lobbied and a lobbyist, the folks who have access to money have access to people. That leaves millions out.”

Moe said the idea for Unicorn Hunters came about after he left Biden’s office. He was practicing law and unfulfilled; he wanted more. He asked himself, “How do I leverage and parlay my global network to help others and make a living?”

He also wanted to come out of the closet — as an entrepreneur, that is.

The show isn’t his first dance with the entertainment industry. At 22 years old, as a freshly-minted University of Texas at Austin graduate, Moe had his sights on Broadway. “All I had were four bags and one page of sheet music,” he recalled.

He acknowledged the cliché. “I don’t know too many gay men who don’t come out of their mamma’s womb without wanting a career in show business,” he said laughing.

“I’ve had an amazing life. I’ve swam under the moonlight naked. I could die happy,” he said. But he’s glad he hasn’t yet. “Here we are months later and I’m fulfilling another goal,” he said of Unicorn Hunters.

Growing up, Moe said he couldn’t live his true self as a creative, entrepreneurial gay man. “But 60 years later, my dreams have come true,” he said.
Deals are in Bloom!

Get them FAST & FREE with Same Day Delivery or FREE 1 hour Curbside Pickup

$5 off any ONLINE order of $30 or more
Use Code 89409 at checkout
Valid 5/31/21 online only!
Excludes Acana, Fromm and Orijen products.

24 DFW locations to serve you.
petsuppliesplus.com

PET SUPPLIES PLUS
minus the hassle

BEST General Practitioner
7 Years in a Row!

BEST Medical Group Practice

BEST HIV Specialists

Providing comprehensive medical care to the North Texas LGBT community for over 30 years

Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine’s Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.

Peter Tripoto, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America’s Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network

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

UPTOWN PHYSICIANS GROUP
New location at
2801 Lemmon Ave, #400
Dallas, TX 75204
214.303.1033
uptownphysiciansgroup.com

AVAILABLE SERVICES
✓ Comprehensive HIV care
✓ STI testing & treatment
✓ PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV)
✓ Comprehensive LGBT medical care
✓ Infectious diseases diagnosis & treatment
✓ General internal medicine care

*HIV Specialists certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine
And then, Beckley said, the voter suppression law will go to court. For now, the bill continues to be amended and will go to a conference committee.

Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, pointed out wording in the bill used the term “purity of the ballot box.” When Anchia asked Cain if he knew that term came from the Jim Crow past, Cain said he didn’t know that, claiming that he took the wording from the Texas Constitution.

That wording was eventually removed from the bill. And wording about the poll watchers has also changed since Anchia shined a light on the Jim Crow connections in the bill.

But the wording of a final bill will be determined by the conference committee that will create one bill from the House and Senate versions.

Conference committee is a mostly secretive process in the Texas Legislature. Gonzalez doesn’t know if she’ll even be part of that process, even though she’s vice chair of the committee that would have to pass the bill back to the floor of the Legislature for a final vote.
Don't miss a single issue of what matters most to the LGBT community. Get Dallas Voice delivered to your home.

Staying in place is smart for our health and survival. Staying connected is also important. As an essential business, it is vital for us to get the latest information impacting the LGBT community published every Friday! Subscribe today and receive:

- Award-winning coverage
- In-depth, comprehensive coverage of news and Life+Style information
- OUT North Texas, the official LGBT visitors guide
- Vital news delivered fast with first class mail

3-months = $62  •  6-months = $81
12-months = $145
Call today: 214-754-8710 ext. 114
Visit: dallasvoice.com

Support Local Journalism
Subscribe today!

GIVE THE FINGER TO HIV

FREE RAPID HIV & SYPHILIS TESTING
All it takes is a simple FREE finger prick test to know your results in minutes.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SEXUAL HEALTH.
Free PrEP, TelePrEP, PEP, HIV & Syphilis Testing, Condoms & Lube

HELP Center
for LGBT Health and Wellness

Facebook | HELPCenterTX.org
FORT WORTH 817-332-7722
ARLINGTON 817-200-6500
Lutherans elect Megan Rohrer as first transgender bishop

PAUL O’DONNELL | Religion News Services

The Rev. Megan Rohrer was elected bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s Sierra Pacific synod on Saturday, May 8, becoming the first transgender person to serve as bishop in the denomination or in any of the U.S.’ major Christian faiths.

Rohrer, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco and community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department, was the first transgender person to be ordained in the ELCA in 2006 and the first to serve as a pastor when called to Grace Lutheran in 2014.

Well known for advocating for LGBTQ rights in street activism, preaching and writing, Rohrer, 41, who uses the pronouns they and them, is also recognized for their work with the homeless. They have also attained minor celebrity status stemming from appearances on the television series Queer Eye and in profiles in Time magazine and Cosmopolitan, where they recounted their struggles as a young LGBTQ Christian and as a person coming to terms physically and spiritually with their gender.

“It’s an honor to be called to serve the Sierra Pacific Synod,” Rohrer said to Religion News Service in a written statement. “During this time when some imagine trans people at their worst, Lutherans have once again declared that transgender people are beautiful children of God. Thank you to everyone who has been praying for me and my family as I accept this call.”

Raised in South Dakota, Rohrer has recounted being expelled from the youth group at the church they attended in Sioux Falls when they came out as a lesbian and told a California public radio station that in college at the Lutheran Augustana University, “The people who were in my religion classes with me would sing hymns when I walked by, try to get rid of my gay demons. And I would just sing harmony. I didn’t know what to do.”

A campus pastor at Augustana, however, encouraged Rohrer to consider ministry, and in 2002 they moved to San Francisco to attend Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and later transferred to the LGBTQ-friendly Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Ordained in 2006 under an “extraordinary candidacy process” designed to sidestep the national ELCA’s policy on LGBTQ ministers at the time, Rohrer’s ordination was officially accepted in 2010.

While gay bishops have served in mainline Protestant denominations since Bishop Gene Robinson was named a bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire in 2003, transgender priests and ministers are only slowly finding acceptance. In 2007, Drew Phoenix was permitted to remain as pastor of a Baltimore United Methodist parish after coming out as transgender; the UMC appointed its first transgender deacon in 2017. The Episcopal Church approved transgender priests in 2012.

The Sierra Pacific Synod encompasses 180 congregations in northern California and northern Nevada, with more than 36,000 individual members and about 13,000 worshippers attending on Sundays. Bishops are elected to six-year terms in the ELCA.

This content is written and produced by Religion News Service and distributed by The Associated Press. RNS and AP partner on some religion news content. RNS is solely responsible for this story. Emily McFarlan Miller contributed to this report.
OPEN
7 Days a Week!
PROUDLY
serving the LGBT community since 1976!

4434 Harry Hines Blvd.
214-521-0992
originalmarketdiner.com

The BEST patio in Dallas!
Stop in and see us!

4123 Cedar Springs Road
MariosDallas.com

Come see “The Best Neighborhood Restaurant in Dallas” at our new location in The Design District!

BELLINIS
Italian Bar & Cafe
921 N. Riverfront Blvd. Dallas, TX
Riverfront and Payne St.

PATIO NOW OPEN!

214-526-0100
campuzanomexicanfood.com

CAMPUZANO
It's all good baby!

TAQUERIA LA VENTANA

3847 CEDAR SPRINGS • DALLAS, TX 75219 • 972-432-5845
taquerialaventana.com

Mama’s home cooking at home!
2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Diner

100+ Years of Combined Japanese Culinary Experience
zensushidallas.com

IT'S CLUCKING GOOD!
In the heart of the gayborhood at Cedar Springs & Reagan St.
streetsfinechicken.com

PATIO SEASON COMING SOON
MONICA’S
MEX-TEX FOOD MARGARITAS
TWO GREAT PATIOS Y MAS....
1326 BOTHAM JEAN BLVD.
(Formerly Lamar St.)
214.926.7700
WWW.MONICAS.COM

OPEN LATE. EVERYTHING GREAT
ROY G'S

CRAFTY COCKTAILS.
DUAL PATIOS
HAND CUT FRIES & LONG GOODBYES.

ITALIAN
2021 Reader's Voice Awards: Best Italian & Best Pizza

20% Off with ad
Cremona Kitchen
www.cremonabistro.com
2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115

Thank you for voting us
BEST BRUNCH!

4123 cedar springs road dallas, tx 75219
cedarspringstaphouse.com

20% Off
Cremona Kitchen
2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Italian & Best Pizza

2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115

OPEN!
7 Days a Week!

Thank you for voting us
BEST BRUNCH!

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Diner

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

20% Off with ad
Cremona Kitchen
www.cremonabistro.com
2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115

20% Off
Cremona Kitchen
2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Italian & Best Pizza

2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115

Thank you for voting us
BEST BRUNCH!

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Diner

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

20% Off with ad
Cremona Kitchen
www.cremonabistro.com
2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115

Thank you for voting us
BEST BRUNCH!

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

2021 Reader’s Voice Awards: Best Diner

MamasDaughtersDiner.com

20% Off with ad
Cremona Kitchen
www.cremonabistro.com
2704 Worthington • 214-871-1115
The 2021 Genesis G80 wears its Britishness like a Bentley

CASEY WILLIAMS  |  Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

If I showed you this car and told you we had the all-new, just released mid-size Bentley, you might believe me … for a few seconds. The Genesis G80 is clearly not a Bentley, but there is a certain Britishness to its design and refinement. It radiates an aura of expensive. That initial impression continues when you move inside and enjoy a drive. That’s what we did with the 2021 Genesis G80 Prestige.

Bentley would probably prescribe a larger grille, but the giant assemblage of mesh on the G80 tells lesser cars to move away when you’re stretching down the left lane or fist-bumping the valet. Quad LED headlamps in thin apertures paint on its face, but sides are dressed with 20-inch alloys, dual strakes of fender accents, strong shoulder lines and fastback roof that ends in a concave rear valance. Thin tail lamps leave an elegant impression. It all looks beautiful parked next to the curb.

As Genesis’ middle limo, the G80 is chicly aristocratic where one’s butt parks. Prestige editions confer delights like thick Nappa leather seats, real sculpted planes of matte wood across the dash and console, sueded headliner and panoramic sunroof.

Tri-zone automatic climate control and 21-speaker Lexicon audio add comforts, as do heated and ventilated front seats, heated rear seats and a heated steering wheel. Toss your phone on the wireless charging pad and gaze hood-long to the head-up display. Given power door closures and a power trunklid, you’ll barely flex a muscle.

But you may want to when you see the knurled aluminum knobs for gear selector and infotainment. Two rollers control volume and tuning. It works beautifully too, proving infotainment controls can be art pieces and function intuitively.

Comprehensive crash avoidance systems include forward collision alert with auto brake, lane keep assist, rear cross path detection, and blind spot warning. Adaptive cruise, rear seat monitor, and around-view cameras add convenience.

Hyundai’s safe exit assist system employs the blind spot sensors for alerting passengers to traffic as they step out.

Step back in. As in a Bentley, the powertrain is smooth and powerful, just with fewer cylinders. Our car’s 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6 whooshes away with 375 horsepower and 391 lb.-ft. of torque. It gets to the road through an 8-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel-drive to enhance traction in all conditions. Stomp the carpet to see 0-60 mph in a scant 5.7 seconds. Press gently to see 18/26-MPG city/highway.

On the road, the car’s feel is between a Jaguar and Lexus and sometimes a Mercedes. It’s serene and smooth like a Lexus with the slight chassis float and sharp steering of a Jaguar. It’s all enhanced by an electronically controlled suspension and ability to configure the drive modes for Comfort, Smart, Eco, Sport and Custom — very cool, and the gauge design has unique graphics and colors for each mode. As in the G90, steering seems to drift a bit, but the car is otherwise a dream to drive.

Is the Genesis G80 a Bentley? Of course not, even with Prestige trim. But you wouldn’t exactly be roughing it if stepping in from a Flying Spur. Best of all, it’s considerably more affordable: The G80’s base price starts under $48,000, coming to $68,150 comfortably optioned. Competitors include the Lexus ES, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, BMW 5-Series, Cadillac CT5 and Jaguar XF.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.
D. Hale Rambo’s debut novel puts diversity front and center.

Hale Rambo describes herself as a “nerdy, book-loving Black woman” who grew up loving to read, but never seeing someone like her as the main character in any of the books she read. Now as an adult, she is combining her love of books, her love of story-telling and her love of the world of Dungeons and Dragons to create stories that bring the diversity of the world — both real and imagined — into leading roles.

The author and Dungeon Master sat down recently to answer a few questions about how the characters of her first book, *Tools of a Thief*, came to life and why, as a straight woman, she chose to make her main protagonists lesbian.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: How long have you been involved in the world of Dungeons and Dragons? D. Rambo Hale: I’ve been a player for about eight years and a Dungeon Master for about five — so, not as long as some but longer than others.

From what I gather, being Dungeon Master...
Master basically means setting up a storyline and then guiding the other characters through that story. So it’s very similar to being an author. Do you think that is an accurate statement? And if so, which came first for you — dungeon master or author? I’ve always been an author, or to put it another way, I’ve always told stories. I was involved in theater until my sophomore year in college, and I wanted to be a playwright. I turned towards more digital work when I left college, though, and dropped those dreams. It wasn’t until I got into DnD and then other RPGs [role-playing games] that I felt like I reconnected with all the things I used to love about writing, theater and generally making things up.

Being a DM, with homebrew world, is kind of like being an author in the fact that you have a general story, and you know how you want to guide the characters. But, like a Dungeon Master, none of your players or characters listen to you, and they often spend too much time mucking about with a locked door.

As an outsider/onlooker, it seems to me that the DnD community in general is much more accepting, but perhaps that is because the players I know are either LGBTQ or allies already. Because I have also heard stories of some very misogynistic and homophobic/transphobic players, too. Do you, as a non-LGBTQ person, find the DnD community to be more open and accepting of LGBTQ people than society in general? I do find the community open, but I and my friends have a few occurrences of misogynistic and homophobic run-ins while gaming, unfortunately. Most of the friends I play with are women, LGBTQ or allies as well. We’ve met a lot of accepting and diverse people within the DnD community at game stores and in DnD-specific groups. But conventions that have open play always have at least one person gatekeeping the game [telling others they are playing the game wrong], and I’ve seen friends who have been disheartened by that. I’ve seen Dungeon Masters who have done this [gatekeeping] by not acknowledging a player’s intentions with their character’s sexuality or how they roleplay social encounters. Or [sometimes] other players at the table belittle choices made by my friends and me in a way that suggests that if we actually “understood” the game, we wouldn’t make those choices. It’s disheartening to come into a space like DnD, where almost everything you do is made up, and be blocked from enjoying a game the way you want because it doesn’t conform to someone else’s standard.

So it’s by no means a perfect community, but the more people who join and learn to play, the better it’ll become, I hope.

How do you take a character from the DnD and turn them into the protagonist in your books? What opportunities do you have to expand and improve those characters in books that you don’t have in the game? A lot of writers (or DMs) may laugh, but I use alignment, ideals, bonds, and flaws, specifically 5E — 5E is the proper way to say that the products I’ve made are DnD-compatible without actually saying the words “DnD” or including any suggestion that it is licensed work from Wizards of the Coast, the DnD owners. It’s based on their open gaming license that is used when making DnD-related content and products as a snapshot of a character that I then build on.
really? What does she want more than anything and how far is she from getting it?

Because the characters aren’t reacting to PCs [player characters, or characters in the game who are played by a real person, as opposed to a non-PC, which is a character made up by and controlled by the DnD and roles of the dice], who are lovably unpredictable, I can explore their needs deeper. I can showcase more of their quirks, relationships and what they want. Essentially they get to steal the spotlight now in a book.

You can only expand a character so much in a game before you’re making the game all about your story, and [the game should be] everyone’s story — yours, Player 1, Player 2, even Player 3 who can only show up every other session because of real life.

Your protagonist, Zizy, is a lesbian. Why did you choose a lesbian protagonist, and what research did you do to make that character authentic? Zizy is a blend of some of my closest friends who are lesbian, bi and queer. Her relationship with Laysa mirrors relationships I’ve seen first-hand with friends and family. I talked to them about the characters. I asked them to alpha read [reading really rough drafts] and beta read and give me feedback. If there was anything I wrote that felt wrong or didn’t seem plausible, I wanted them to let me know.

When I wrote the characters, it seemed like a natural choice that they would be lesbians. It is a choice — one that I hope allows people to connect and imagine themselves. It’s important to me that people can connect with main characters on that level.

Tools of a Thief comes out May 25. Give me a brief description of the book, and tell me why you think it will appeal to LGBTQ readers, and why it will appeal to DnD folks in general. Tools of a Thief is about a gnome trying to change her life failing, and getting back up again with the help of those she’s met along the way. It’s a character-centric story about finding joy and how sometimes you have to change yourself if you want to keep it. It is Book 1 in the series. Zizy, Laysa and their relationship will appeal to LGBTQ readers as a fun fresh run as they learn to trust, get to know and brave danger for each other. The world is diverse, the deities are non-binary, and the series overall will have a variety of relationships and people that mirror the real world.

DnD people will love it for the adventures within the overall adventure. The characters explore new places, encounter creatures unknown to them and get into chaotic scrapes — much like many DnD parties when trying to reach their goal.

Tell me about your other work, too. What’s coming up next? “Into the Woods” is a short story I published alongside a [5th Edition] one-shot adventure with the same title on DriveThruRPG and my website. I have a handful of [5th Edition] one-shot modules I’ve published there, including one, based on Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice called “The Death of Netherfield Park.” “A Series of Decisions on Kairas” is the name of the series that Tools of a Thief

starts. I thought I was being clever with that name. Tools of a Thief is my debut novel. A fast follow-up will be Components of a Caster, which will continue the story from Laysa’s point of view. She’s been searching for her own sort of power for a while now, and she may have finally found a way in. I’m looking forward to exploring what it means to feel valuable and needed.

Components of a Caster will be released in December 2021.

What else do you want to tell me about that I have not asked about? Creating characters who look like me or share my worldview is important, because I grew up reading and watching characters who looked and acted nothing like me — a nerdy, book-loving black woman. They had grand adventures, while people like me and my friends were stereotypical side characters. It took a few dozen years to even contemplate that I could change that by creating my own content. So, there is literally a post-it on my monitor as a reminder that I can include all different types of people and should. And that’s what really matters.
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

Nadia Winston
MPH, MSN, FNP-BC
Matters sponsored by Mental Health

Crawfish for a Cause: Mental Health

• May 16: Crawfish for a Cause 6 p.m. CrisWorley.com.

Open house on May 15 from noon-4 p.m. at the Fine Arts, 1845 E. Levee St., Suite 110. An exhibit called Comfort at Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 E. Levee St., Suite 110. The exhibit features the works of Gay artist Rusty Scruby has a solo show titled “Comfort.”

• May 15-June 19: Rusty Scruby, Gay artist Rusty Scruby has a solo show titled “Comfort.”

Gay artist Rusty Scruby has a solo show titled “Comfort.”

• May 14: Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff Documentary about a Texas man wrongfully convicted of murdering his parents simply because he is gay at 6 p.m. at Texan Theater, 2712 Lee St., Greenville. Tickets are $7.50; get information and purchase tickets at TexanTheaterGreenville.com. Woodruff has always insisted he is innocent. Many people believe the jury convicted because he is gay, and supporters have been rallying to his cause, including Scott Poggensee, who wrote and directed the documentary “Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff,” screening Friday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at the Texan Theater, 2712 Lee St., in Greenville. Tickets are $7.50; get information and purchase tickets at TexanTheaterGreenville.com.

Gay man Brandon Woodruff was convicted in March 2009 in Hunt County of murdering his parents in October 2005. Woodruff has always insisted he is innocent. Many people believe the jury convicted because he is gay, and supporters have been rallying to his cause, including Scott Poggensee, who wrote and directed the documentary “Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff,” screening Friday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at the Texan Theater, 2712 Lee St., in Greenville. Tickets are $7.50; get information and purchase tickets at TexanTheaterGreenville.com.

• Through May 17: Worth. TheModern.org.

Texas Gypsies screening Friday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at The Texan Theater, 2712 Lee St., Greenville. Tickets are $7.50; get information and purchase tickets at TexanTheaterGreenville.com.

• Through May 19: Texas Gypsies Sammons Center for the Arts presents a virtual concert featuring Steve Curry on guitar and vocals, Tony Baker, Brian Sandridge, Joe Perez, Andrew Griffith and Travis Udall. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are presented as 48-hour rentals on Vimeo. $10. Members free. SammonsArtCenter.org.

• May 19: Unity A virtual party benefiting the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance DFW Chapter and Dallas Hope Charities with Marsha Dimes streamed live at 7 p.m. on YouTube and at MarshaDimes.com/unity.

• Through May 19: Texas Gypsies Sammons Center for the Arts presents a virtual concert featuring Steve Curry on guitar and vocals, Tony Baker, Brian Sandridge, Joe Perez, Andrew Griffith and Travis Udall. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are presented as 48-hour rentals on Vimeo. $10. Members free. SammonsArtCenter.org.

• May 16: Crawfish for a Cause Crawfish for a Cause: Mental Health Matters sponsored by Mental Health America of Greater Dallas is an online event with music and info on how important mental well-being is including information for the LGBTQ community. Free, but a $25 Donation includes a t-shirt. Tickets at Eventbrite.

• Through May 16: Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again Thirty-year retrospective of artist Shirin Neshat’s work runs through May 16 at The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. TheModern.org.

• Through May 17: Cufflink Art group show Group show in a variety of mediums includes meticulous graphite drawings by Marshall Harris, subliminal compositions through oil on canvas by Linda Shobe, personal storytelling via collage by Dwight Owsley, intimate close-up portraits from the perspective of Nathan Madrid, dark yet mischievous concrete sculptures by Ross Bonfanti, and digitally abstract maps manipulated by Scott Anderson.


• May 19: Unity A virtual party benefiting the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance DFW Chapter and Dallas Hope Charities with Marsha Dimes streamed live at 7 p.m. on YouTube and at MarshaDimes.com/unity.

• Through May 19: Texas Gypsies Sammons Center for the Arts presents a virtual concert featuring Steve Curry on guitar and vocals, Tony Baker, Brian Sandridge, Joe Perez, Andrew Griffith and Travis Udall. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are presented as 48-hour rentals on Vimeo. $10. Members free. SammonsArtCenter.org.

• May 21: Federal Club Transforming from ally to advocate. A discussion of how an in-group can advance the interests of an oppressed or marginalized out-group. To be a part of the discussion of how allies can become strategic players, visit DFWFederalClub.org.

PARTY FOR GOOD: Marsha Dimes hosts a virtual party benefitting the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance DFW Chapter and Dallas Hope Charities on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at MarshaDimes.com/unity.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

The Plan Your Week calendar is color-coded: Red for community events; blue for arts and entertainment; purple for civic events and holidays.

• May 14: Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff Documentary about a Texas man wrongfully convicted of murdering his parents simply because he is gay at 6 p.m. at Texan Theater, 2712 Lee St., Greenville. $7.50.

• May 15-June 19: Rusty Scruby Gay artist Rusty Scruby has a solo exhibit called Comfort at Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 E. Levee St., Suite 110. Open house on May 15 from noon-4 p.m. CrisWorley.com.

• May 16: Crawfish for a Cause Crawfish for a Cause: Mental Health Matters sponsored by Mental Health America of Greater Dallas is an online event with music and info on how important mental well-being is including information for the LGBTQ community. Free, but a $25 Donation includes a t-shirt. Tickets at Eventbrite.

• Through May 16: Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again Thirty-year retrospective of artist Shirin Neshat’s work runs through May 16 at The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. TheModern.org.

• Through May 17: Cufflink Art group show Group show in a variety of mediums includes meticulous graphite drawings by Marshall Harris, subliminal compositions through oil on canvas by Linda Shobe, personal storytelling via collage by Dwight Owsley, intimate close-up portraits from the perspective of Nathan Madrid, dark yet mischievous concrete sculptures by Ross Bonfanti, and digitally abstract maps manipulated by Scott Anderson. Cufflink Art, Dickson-Jenkins Lofts and Plaza, 120 St. Louis Ave., Suite 149, Fort Worth. CufflinkArt.com.

• May 19: Unity A virtual party benefiting the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance DFW Chapter and Dallas Hope Charities with Marsha Dimes streamed live at 7 p.m. on YouTube and at MarshaDimes.com/unity.

• Through May 19: Texas Gypsies Sammons Center for the Arts presents a virtual concert featuring Steve Curry on guitar and vocals, Tony Baker, Brian Sandridge, Joe Perez, Andrew Griffith and Travis Udall. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are presented as 48-hour rentals on Vimeo. $10. Members free. SammonsArtCenter.org.
The haunting of a drag queen

Hey everybody, I hope you are doing wonderfully. I am going to go ahead and tell ya, this is going to be a weird one. I am going to sound nuts, but I have this weird feeling that my house is slightly haunted and that I am seeing apparitions or ghosts or something a lot lately.

I know…. Loony tunes.

It is nothing major. I hear noises in the walls, which I am sure are squirrels or something, so no big deal. I doubt the devil is knocking on my walls trying to freak me out. If he is, well … C’mon Devil! Do better, you punk.

Seriously though, the thing that freaks me out the most is something that has happened three times since we have lived in this house. We have lived here for a little more than 15 years but, on three separate occasions my dogs have started to bark, ferociously, at some random spot in the air. It is so weird.

The first time it happened was years ago while my husband was a tow truck driver. He would have to jump up and leave at all hours of the day and night. On this particular night, he got a call at about 3 a.m., jumped out of bed and took off. I woke up with him and was wide awake, so I decided to get up and go in the living room to watch some TV until he got home, or at least until I felt sleepy again.

So, I am in my recliner with two dogs on my lap and two dogs on the floor, when Dax, our Pomeranian, starts to growl. It was a low growl that I had never heard before. Then Baby, our Chow, started to growl as well. She had been lying on the floor near the kitchen and stood up with all of her hair sticking up, ears back and teeth showing. They were both staring at a point in the air between us, somewhere in the middle of the living room.

Then our other two dogs, Lucy and Evee, joined in. All four of them made a circle around whatever it was that they saw there in the middle of the living room.

For three solid minutes they barked and growled, and I could not get them to calm down. I couldn’t see or hear anything. I thought it was possibly something in the attic, except they weren’t looking at the ceiling, they were looking at something about waist high. I was freaking out. Then it stopped; they all just lost interest at the same time, turned around and lay down.

I got up, turned on all of the lights and walked around the entire house, trying to figure out what the fuck they were barking at. I found nothing. I called Jamie and told him to hurry up and get his ass home.

It happened again about five years later, in another place in the house with different dogs. Well, Lucy was still with us then, but it started with our smallest dog, Toby, getting out from under the covers to growl and then bark at the space between the bedroom door and the bathroom. It was sometime before 9 a.m., and I was asleep. Toby started, then Sunny and Lucy joined in. The exact same thing — crazy barking for two to three solid minutes, and I couldn’t get them to calm down. Then boom — it’s over, and they all go right back to bed.

Bitch, not me! I was up and pacing, looking around for whatever got them so riled up.

It happened again last week in the living room, while I was watching Top Chef. All five of my current critters started barking at something in the kitchen. This time I didn’t freak out; I went into sleuth mode. I was going to find out what normal, non-evil thing was making them act this way. They were all staring at the space over the trash can. I immediately ran upstairs and looked in the attic area over the kitchen and found nothing. I could still hear them barking. They were focused! They usually follow me wherever I go, but they didn’t follow me upstairs. And that is very weird. By the time I got back downstairs, they had stopped barking and had come looking for me.

I don’t know what the hell they are seeing or feeling that gets them going crazy. Maybe they see spirits in my house; maybe they hear a freaking mouse in the walls. It freaks me out every time.

If we have come looking for me.

I have also seen something in the back yard. It’s always at night and always when I’ve been thinking of spooky shit, so I am sure I am just manifesting stuff in my mind, but I’ve seen something a few times. Okay, like five times.

The first time I was positive someone was walking through my yard. I saw what looked like a person, casually walking. I saw it from the window, but when I opened the back door, there was nothing there. I even let the dogs outside to see if they saw or sensed anything, but they just peed and came back inside. That was about 10 years ago.

Since then, I have seen floating orbs and other figures moving around back there. I’ve only actually gotten scared twice: Both times was because I could see a face on the thing and honestly thought there was someone in my yard.

I know what you are all thinking: “Queen, you read too much Stephen King!” Yes, that is true. I love spooky fiction, and I immerse myself in spooky shit. That is why I don’t take my own sightings too seriously; I have an overactive imagination.

I know that, but what if … ?

Last night, at the show in the Rose Room, I was standing on stage, and I swear I saw a figure standing right behind someone. I’m sure it was just the lighting in the room or something in my eye, but I saw a face. It was startling enough to me that I ran, and grabbed one of the other girls in the show to see if she could see it, and she couldn’t.

I know I sound cuckoo.

To be totally honest, I don’t think I even believe in ghosts. I don’t believe in much, really. But I also am not so bold as to think I know everything. What happens when you die? Who knows, but I want to believe our energy lives on in some form or another.

Spooky shit happens. And if it is all in my mind, then what the fuck are my dogs barking at? Tolldja this was gonna be a weird one. Let me know what you think is going on at Casa Nova.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

Photo by Frida Monet
Hey, It’s a Good Time to Check Your Status!

Free HIV/Syphilis Tests & Low-Cost STD Tests

817-479-1200

CheckYourStatus.org
Celebrating Tino Jalomo’s birthday
Juanita and Janet
Tim and Herb
Travel...back in time:
Scarborough Renaissance Festival 2021
Celebrating Tino Jalomo’s birthday

Juanita and Janet

Tim and Herb

Tino, Philip and Dr. Rudes

Spelle and Rene

Publishing Friday, June 4th
Celebrate PRIDE, now more than ever!

Reach more than 200,000 in print and online with our PRIDE issues. Join us for the Biggest Issue of the year!

We are also in production of our National PRIDE Issue for June 25th. Contact us to save your space in both of these LARGE issues: 214-754-8710 ext. 131 or at advertising@dallasvoice.com

Space deadline is Friday, May 28th

Dallas Pride 2021
May May Graves backstage at JR’s
Fantastic Francey Beall of Fantastic Moves
Fantasha and James
Jerrett serving up peace in The Rose Room
Brad, David, Jennifer, Matt and Tim at The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Grab a coffee, take the survey, make a difference.
Take the 15th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey*
tinyurl.com/45z9yjxu

LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities and businesses better understand and serve our community.
Download survey results free of charge at cmi.info.

CMIComunity Marketing & Insights
Proudly LGBTQ-Owned and -Operated
A pioneer in LGBTQ research since 1992.

*Your information is confidential, used for research purposes only. You will not be contacted for marketing purposes.
Comparing Tongues

Solution on Page xx

Across
1 Sound like a spinning top
5 Taye, the
Black Clark Gable
10 Obscene four-letter word
14 Frequent online claim
15 Gay
16 Field of study
17 Starting from
18 Cutter of leaves of grass
19 Pink lady liquors
20 London’s nation, with “the”
21 Start of a quip about the tongue of 20-Across
24 ___ out (abate)
26 Operates like a chickenhawk
27 Canvas site
28 Make heady
30 State of Frida’s homeland
31 Wall St. group
32 Vidal’s The ___ of Comfort
36 More of the quip
40 Library device
41 Soprano Gluck
44 David, on Six Feet Under
48 Trojan hero
50 “And there you are!”
51 It comes in a roll
53 Turtleneck alternative
54 End of the quip
57 Source of the quip
59 Cold war defense assn.
60 Bear that’s not a bear
62 Caesar’s invitation to a threesome?
63 James VI, e.g.
64 Kind of circle
65 Greek queen of heaven
66 “My bad”
67 Where to find Lincoln’s head
68 Judy Garland, for example

Down
1 The Double Man author
2 How a butch might speak
3 Parting words
4 WNBA callers
5 Balk
6 Sheehan’s words after hole
7 Sportscaster Curt
8 Sharon of Queer as Folk
9 The Talk cohost Gilbert
10 Larry of Dallas
11 Melodic, to Bernstein
12 More tight-assed
13 Cheech Marin movie locale
22 Unlock, in verse
23 Tea of Fun with Dick and Jane
25 ___ On Down the Road
29 St. of the Cathedral of Hope
30 Tijuana tanner
32 Play for a sucker
33 Feminizing tail
34 Ready for anything
35 Land of Damascus (abbr.)
37 Ike’s opponent
38 Toto’s home state (abbr.)
39 Brought up
42 Copland, for example
43 Neither male nor female
44 Just the same
45 Grace land?
46 Site of three rings
47 Puts out
48 Queen bee’s locale
49 Phallic fish
52 Hotel author Ginsberg
55 Ditch school for the day
56 Fine-tune
58 Old fruit drink
61 Sothern of old TV

How BIG is your Social Media Footprint?
Let us help you achieve RESULTS with Social Media Management!

Stephen Mobley - Social Media Manager
214.754.8710 - dallasvoice.com/social-media-management-services
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

MarketPlace

Services

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

Services

Generac
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 Generac Value
Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020 Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval
*Tiers & Conditions Apply. Offer not available through rental, wholesale, dealer or other programs

Services

NOW A MASSAGE BOUTIQUE
WE‘RE HIRING NOW!
Do you believe the power of touch can transform & inspire? If you do, you embody what our team is made of.
Join our talented team of Massage Therapists at the NOW Massage Lower Greenville and watch your career grow!
Apply NOW by emailing your resume and Cover letter to LowerGreenvilleGM@thenowmassage.com

Services

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.

Employment

WE‘RE HIRING NOW!
Do you believe the power of touch can transform & inspire? If you do, you embody what our team is made of.
Join our talented team of Massage Therapists at the NOW Massage Lower Greenville and watch your career grow!
Apply NOW by emailing your resume and Cover letter to LowerGreenvilleGM@thenowmassage.com

Employment

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

Services

IwantMovers.com
Local | Long Distance | Office | Packing
469.759.9022

Services

Dr Terry Watson
General Medicine
Immunology Disease
STD Treatment
General Dermatology
Affordable Pricing
8204 Embrook Drive Ste. 206 (Mockingbird & Harry Hines)
214-221-8181 • drwatson@sbcglobal.net

Services

Stevie Hall
Attorney at Law
Family Law
Collaboration, Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Property Division, Child Support
Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durably Appointments, Guardianship, Litigation
8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Services

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

Services

Guardian Health

Services

General Medicine
Immuane Disease
STD Treatment
General Dermatology
Affordable Pricing

Services

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

Services