Being Precious

Activist Precious Brady-Davis talks about her new memoir and finding her prince

By Gregg Shapiro, page 8
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OBITUARY

Mark Wilson passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of July 18 after an 18-month battle with post-COVID 19 lung disease.

Mark was born on Oct. 31, 1956, and always said that he loved having his birthday on Halloween. He got to go trick-or-treating to get lots of candy and then come home for his birthday party, cake and presents. A proud graduate of South Garland High School, he attended Texas Tech University and pledged Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1981 with a degree in journalism.

Because of his love of people and his genuine desire to help others, Mark found his professional happiness in a career in the hospitality industry. After working as the catering director for several different hotels in the Dallas area, he found his perfect job as the event director for The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center in downtown Garland. For more than 18 years, he welcomed literally hundreds of thousands of guests to The Atrium.

While the city of Garland may hold title to the building, there was never any doubt that The Atrium belonged to Mark. There is no end to the number of clients and guests who will always have unforgettable memories from their events at The Atrium thanks to his extraordinary efforts. His goal was to make every event perfect, and rarely did he fail to meet that goal.

His desire to help others not only included his industry and civic involvement, but he shared his passion to serve with his neighbors as well. Mark was a founding member and president of the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association. He also served for several years as the president of the Firewheel Farms Association.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Arvel Lee and Dorothy Morris Wilson. He is survived by his husband David Gibbons; his rescued fur-baby Gracie Allen; sister Jenay Puckett and her husband Phil; nephew Aaron Puckett and his wife Esther and their children Aria, David and Theo; and niece Ashley and her husband Brian Gonzales and their son Simon.

Mark’s family would like to recognize and praise the professional dedication and superior care Mark received from Dr. Anthony Boyer and his respiratory technician Tina Chandler, the nurses and staff of SIMC at Methodist Richardson Hospital and his personal caregiver, Angela McKenzie.

A celebration of Mark’s life is planned for Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, at 2 p.m. at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth Street in downtown Garland. Mark always enjoyed fun, festive and happy occasions with his friends and family. That constant smile on his face was the same smile he always kept within. Please join us with plenty of smiles and joy as we remember all the times we were able to celebrate, laugh and be happy with him.

Mark requested that memorial contributions be sent to the Garland Animal Services Donation Fund, 600 Tower Street, Garland, TX 75040 to care for abandoned, abused and unwanted animals.

Bites from our blog

APInc receives HHS grant to get more people vaccinated against COVID

Abounding Prosperity Inc. CEO Kirk Myers announced that the organization has just been awarded $1 million by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services to ramp up efforts to get more people in underserved communities vaccinated against COVID-19. The grant to APInc was among more than 100 awards from HHS to “trusted community-based” organizations.

APInc founder and CEO Kirk Myers said, “This grant will allow APInc to redouble our efforts to increase the COVID-19 vaccination rate among Dallas residents and beyond who are LGBT and Black, indigenous and people of color. Getting more BIPOC residents vaccinated is especially urgent now as the Delta variant ravages high-risk communities across our nation.”

COVID-19 was the top cause of death for all populations over the last year in Dallas County, where nearly 75 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations were among Black and Latino communities. As of May, before the Delta variant surge, more than 84 percent of Black people in the county had not been vaccinated. Statewide, the vaccination rate for all eligible citizens is below 45 percent.

— David Taffet

In 2021, Jim Crow's legacy continues to shape the world

The phrase “Jim Crow’s legacy” has become a staple in the lexicon of what it means to be an American in the 21st century. It’s a term that’s used to describe the enduring effects of segregation, discrimination, and systemic oppression that continue to impact Black communities today.

However, it’s important to recognize that Jim Crow’s legacy wasn’t solely confined to the United States. In fact, it stretches back centuries to the transatlantic slave trade and the colonizing forces that brought enslaved Africans to the Americas.

One of the key ways in which Jim Crow’s legacy manifests itself in Black communities today is through disparities in health care. Research has shown that Black Americans are more likely to die of COVID-19 than any other group in the country, and this is believed to be due, in part, to systemic racism in the health care system.

Still, there’s hope. In recent years, organizations like the National Medical Association have been working to address these disparities and ensure that Black communities have access to quality health care.

Another way in which Jim Crow’s legacy persists is through the ongoing struggle for reparations. The United States has yet to formally acknowledge the ongoing harm caused by slavery and segregation, and this failure to take responsibility only serves to perpetuate the cycle of inequality.

In conclusion, while Jim Crow’s legacy may be deeply entrenched in American history, it’s not too late to address the harm it has caused and to ensure that Black communities are not left to suffer in silence. It’s time for the United States to take responsibility for its past and work towards a future that is truly just and equitable for all.

— Tammye Nash and David Taffet

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One killed in shooting on Fitzhugh

Dallas police were called to the parking lot of Beverly’s restaurant, in the 3200 block of Fitzhugh around 2:25 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, according to a post on social media and reports by an observer at the scene, after two men got into an argument there, and one of the men shot the other one in the chest. An observer on the scene said police performed CPR on the injured man “on the concrete driveway in 100-degree heat until paramedics showed up. They took him away in an ambulance without a siren.”

Later in the day, Dallas Police issued a statement saying, “Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that the victim had stolen the subject’s vehicle earlier in the afternoon. The victim and the subject then had a verbal argument when the victim rammed the subject’s other vehicle he was driving with the stolen vehicle. The subject then shot the victim. The victim was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.”

— Tammye Nash and David Taffet

Jones Hill nominated to DART board

“Three Dallas city council members nominated former Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill to the DART Board.

Jones Hill had a bad relationship with the LGBTQ community throughout her four terms in office, opposing anything the LGBT community did. She complained about HIV billboards in her district, although her district included areas that were hard-hit with HIV. She also voted against updating wording on city ordinances that was more inclusive of the trans community.

And she is the only council member to refuse to sign a letter welcoming people to Dallas for Pride weekend each year. She said she wouldn’t be supporting the LGBTQ community because of her beliefs then, and she wouldn’t in the future.

Council members Tennell Atkins, Casey Thomas and Carolyn King Arnold nominated Jones Hill.

— David Taffet

Jamie Lee Curtis introduces trans daughter

Jamie Lee Curtis has revealed that one of her children is transgender, saying that she and her husband, Christopher Guest, “have watched in wonder and pride as our son became our daughter Ruby,” according to AARP Magazine.

In a wide-ranging article in which she talks about everything from her childhood with her “strict” mother Janet Leigh and stepfather Robert Brandt to overcoming her addiction to opiates to how much she loves watching flash-mob proposal videos set to Bruno Mars’ “Marry You,” Curtis said she is “somebody who sheds every day… It’s all about old ideas that don’t work anymore.”

One of the old ideas she has shed, she said, is the idea that gender is fixed. Curtis said that she has her daughter’s permission to announce her transition, that Ruby and her fiancé are getting married next year and that Curtis herself will officiate at the wedding.

Curtis said that Ruby, 25, is a computer gaming editor, and her older daughter, Anne, is a dance instructor.

— Tammye Nash

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Abounding Prosperity Inc. CEO Kirk Myers

Jamie Lee Curtis

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— Tammye Nash

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07.30.21  dallasvoice  5
Putting fast food first

Lindsey Graham’s chosen hill to die on is made of chicken

Y’all, people are being very mean to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, on the internet. Again. I mean, what does this guy have to do to get some respect around here? On July 14, Graham publicly took a brave and bold stance rooted in widely-held values. And instead of being lauded as a hero, he’s being ridiculed.

No, he didn’t express support for a commission to investigate the Jan. 6 terrorist attack in D.C.
No, he didn’t come out and urge people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, denouncing the anti-vax conspiracy theories as morally abhorrent and dangerous.
No, he didn’t break from his party’s Trump-led base to declare that the 2020 election was fair and that Donald Trump lost.
No, he didn’t ask that his party stop vilifying transgender people, especially transgender youth.
No, he didn’t say that climate change is real.
No, he didn’t stand up for universal health care after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical gaps in our already inefficient health care system.
No, he didn’t advocate for a $15 minimum wage.
No, he didn’t say Black Lives Matter.
No, he didn’t take a stand for gun violence protections.
No, he didn’t advocate for universal health care after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical gaps in our already inefficient health care system.
No, he didn’t present a plan to make sure that the United States is never again caught in a pandemic with no plan and few resources.
No, he didn’t agree that we need to tax the richest people in the country in order to pay for programs that would dramatically increase the standard of living for millions of Americans.
No, he didn’t say that he would die for Chick-fil-A.

Oh, wait — Yes, he DID say that. That last one, he absolutely did.

But, in his defense, SOMEone has to die for Chick-fil-A. Because freedom?

Apparently, a Chick-fil-A is being considered as a new addition to Notre Dame Campus Dining, and that’s received pushback from the Notre Dame community. And that’s where Graham draws the line.

On July 16 Graham tweeted, “It’s disappointing to hear some ND students and faculty want to ban Chick-fil-A from doing business on campus because they disagree with the values held by the Chick-fil-A founders.”

Not that Graham really needs to be weighing in on this issue, as there are some mega pressing issues that need immediate attention in this country. But if he HAD to say something, then that should’ve been it. “That’s the Tweet,” as they say.

But he ended that Tweet with, “What a dangerous precedent to set.”

What a dangerous precedent to set?
What a DANGEROUS PRECEDENT to set?
WHAT A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT TO SET ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?!

The Trump administration, which Graham fervently supported, was nothing but dangerous precedent after dangerous precedent that moved this country further and further away from its ideals, and his supporters are STILL like, “We need more dangerous precedents” as we head toward the 2022 election.

And THIS is where Graham sees danger? In a group of people using their first amendment rights to protest a fast-food restaurant whose owners have a history of financially backing anti-LGBTQ groups?

FFS.

Graham adds, “I want everyone in South Carolina and across America to know I have Chick fil-A’s back. I hope we don’t have to, but I will go to war for the principles Chick fil-A stands for. Great food. Great service. Great values. God bless Chick fil-A!”

“I WILL GO TO WAR FOR CHICK-FIL-A.”

It’s quite the stand to take. I mean, I’ve heard people say about Taco Bell, “I would die for a Chalupa right now,” or “I ate a Chalupa and it killed me.” But these people were not United States senators making public statements about junk food joints during a pandemic and an on-going effort to erode democracy.

I’ve never eaten Chick-fil-A in my life. I grew up in Michigan at a time when Chick-fil-A did not exist. And now they’re popping up, but I haven’t eaten meat in many years. So, I don’t know what the hype is about.

What I do know is that Graham is a great example of a Republican with no moral compass who has been putting party before country hard-core since Trump. He’s gutless. While he declared Trump “unfit for office” prior to the election, he now worships Trump as a deity.

You could call that a dangerous precedent to set. You could even call Graham the Original Chickenshit Senator.

D’Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ+ politics for nearly two decades. Follow her on Twitter @ MamaDWitkowski.
"I ate a Chalupa and it killed me." But these people were not United States senators making public statements about junk food joints during a pandemic and an ongoing effort to erode democracy. I’ve never eaten Chick-fil-A in my life. I grew up in Michigan at a time when Chick-fil-A did not exist. And now they’re popping up, but I haven’t eaten meat in many years. So, I don’t know what the hype is about.

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Important Facts About CABENUVA (cont’d)

BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA (cont’d)

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you: (cont’d)

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take CABENUVA.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if CABENUVA can pass to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with CABENUVA.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with CABENUVA. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with CABENUVA.

Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take CABENUVA with other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA

CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including:

- Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with CABENUVA. Stop receiving CABENUVA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:
  - fever
  - generally ill feeling
  - tiredness
  - muscle or joint aches
  - trouble breathing

- Post-injection reactions have happened within minutes in some people after receiving their rilpivirine injection. Most symptoms resolved within a few minutes after the injection. Symptoms may include:
  - trouble breathing
  - stomach cramps
  - sweating
  - numbness of your mouth
  - feeling anxious
  - blisters or sores in mouth
  - blisters
  - redness or swelling of the eyes
  - swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
  - feeling warm
  - feeling light-headed or feeling like you are going to pass out (faint)
  - blood pressure changes

- Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus or people who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during CABENUVA treatment. Liver problems have also happened in people without history of liver problems or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark or “tea-colored” urine
  - light-colored stools (bowel movements)
  - pain or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
  - loss of appetite
  - nausea or vomiting
  - itching
  - pain in the upper right part of your body

- Depression or mood changes. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

The most common side effects of CABENUVA include:

- pain, tenderness, hardened mass or lump, swelling, redness, itching, bruising, and warmth at the injection site
- fever
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or bone pain
- nausea
- sleep problems
- dizziness
- rash

These are not all the possible side effects of CABENUVA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to CABENUVA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

January 2021 CBN:1PIL

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M
emoirs are more popular than ever these
days, especially those written by LGBTQ
people. Lauren Hough’s Leaving Isn’t
The Hardest Thing got things rolling ear-
lier this year, and Precious Brady-Davis’
I Have Always Been Me (Little A/Topple
Books, 2021) continues the trend. These
books also share the common thread of
being about queer people who escaped
the devastating clutches of religious fan-
naticism in their childhoods.

Nebraska native and Chicago resident
Brady-Davis tells her story of fractured
family dynamics, being bounced around
in the foster care system, bullying and a
strict religious upbringing. Having sur-
vived all that, Brady-Davis came out as a
gay man, discovered drag, came out as
trans and, best of all, fell in love and got
married.

Precious Brady-Davis currently serves
as the regional communications manag-
er for the Central Region of the Beyond
Coal Campaign at Sierra Club. She is
married to Myles Brady-Davis, a trans
man who is director of communications
for Equality Illinois. The couple have a
daughter, born in December 2019.

Precious Brady-Davis took time re-
cently from her busy schedule to answer
a few questions.

Dallas Voice: Precious, why was now
the right time to write your memoir I Have
Always Been Me? Precious Brady-Davis:
I’m fully healed. This process centered my
truth, and it was about breaking cycles of
intergenerational trauma. I feel it’s impor-
ant for the world to see narratives of trans
folks thriving.

Were there other memoirists or memoirs
that you looked to for inspiration? Maya
Angelou’s I Know Why the Caged Bird
Sings, Hiding My Candy by The Lady
Chablis and Redefining Realness by Janet
Mock were all books that I read previ-
ously before writing mine. Each of those
women had audacity and courage, and
they created a world in their books that I
related to.

When we see ourselves in stories, we see
that we are less alone in this world. We
say, “I can be, too.”

Writing a memoir means that you are
opening your life to public scrutiny. Did
you have any trepidation about the pro-
cess, and if so, were there resources
you looked to for guidance? I think that,
in general, being vulnerable is an admira-
able trait. While at times writing felt deeply
traumatic, I also found it healing.

I also made it through the! process by at-
tending therapy. My partner, Myles, was
a great support throughout the writing
and through the editing of the book as
well.

The book is a kind of fairy tale, in the
truest sense of the phrase. It begins
with adversity in the form of your strict
religious upbringing and foster care
life. Then you overcome the challeng-
es by becoming your true self, which
means embracing your trans identity.

And in the final portion of the book,
you meet Myles, your prince. Does that
sound accurate to you, and have you
ever thought of your story in that way?
It’s one of the reasons I wrote this book!
I don’t believe there are enough fairy
tale stories about trans women of color.
Far too often, when folks reference our
stories, they reference our pain instead of
our purpose.

Who do you see as the target audience
for I Have Always Been Me? This book
is full of universal themes: love, accep-
tance and belonging.

The book is very cinematic. If there was
a movie version, who would you like to
see portraying you? [Laughs] Robin de
Jesus! Because Camp was one of the first
queer movies I ever saw. I felt it was the
perfect depiction of young me. I found
him very relatable! He was also nominat-
ed for a Tony for his portrayal of Jacob
in La Cage aux Folles, once again very
Precious-esque. I would love to see if
he’d be a good fit to play older Precious,
too. And, of course, he is in the LGBTQ
community!

Who would you like to see portraying
Myles? Daniel Kaluuya. Myles is ground-
ed, grounded, grounded — and pure
heart.

I found your personal history of seeking
membership and acceptance in places
not traditionally known for either, such
as the Pentecostal church and the
JROTC, fascinating. When you final-
ly found what you thought would be
your home in the drag community, that
didn’t turn out to be the case. Please
say something about your search for
camaraderie. I think it taught me a lot
about finding home within myself first and
the power of queering spaces that are
not traditionally accepting of queer folk.
I think that the LGBTQ community has
a long way to go in creating space for other
marginalized folks within our community.
We see a bigger commitment to eradicat-
ing racism and misogyny and economic
justice.

Early in the book you wrote, “Names
speak to identity. Names speak to ori-
gin.” While the story of how you came
up with the stage name Precious Jewel
is one for the ages, near the end of the
book you write about calling yourself
Nashon. How do you currently prefer
to be addressed? Who knew when I had
the opportunity to name myself, I’d be
reborn as Precious. I am she, Mrs. Precious
Brady-Davis, she/her/hers!
Living Faith celebrates 21 years

The LGBTQ-affirming Pentecostal church affirms the faith and the humanity of its members

By David Taffet, Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Living Faith Covenant Church is celebrating its 21st birthday in August. It is a church that seems like a contradiction — a fully-inclusive Pentecostal church that’s affirming and Afro-centric. And even Bishop Alex Byrd acknowledged, “It goes against the grain of what my denomination taught.”

Several years ago, the church purchased its current building at 3403 Shelly Blvd., off Westmoreland Street in Oak Cliff. But Living Faith, founded in 2000, began meeting in the color rooms at Resource Center on Reagan Street, sharing a space with several other religious groups, including the LGBTQ synagogue Congregation Beth El Binah, a couple of other churches and countless other community groups.

The church formed when Byrd moved from Austin back to Dallas where, he said, he needed to create community. He contacted the movers and shakers in the city’s Black gay community and got 12 people together to start creating an inclusive church. They first met on Aug. 6, 2000.

“At one time, the Pentecostal Church was monolithic,” the bishop explained. “It was defined by piety. Doing anything against scripture could send you to hell.”

But, he continued, those who followed the Pentecostal faith always questioned. The turn of the century was a time when people rebelled against that monolithic structure, and churches like Living Faith formed that embraced the worship and traditions of the Pentecostal faith but rejected the harsh judgment normally associated with the denomination.

Byrd called it “a radical change when I began to rethink the core of Pentecostalism — salvation by event.” He said you can be a sinner and be saved, but then there’s backsliding. But you can be saved again by what you do.

“Trust in God,” Roberts repeated.

When I said I wouldn’t include that comment because the purpose of this story isn’t to insult anyone else’s beliefs, Byrd said traditional Pentecostals would probably take pride in their rejection of anyone whose beliefs differed.

But Living Faith is accepted among other progressive Pentecostal churches. As bishop, Byrd has worked with about 20 from Georgia to California.

Trust in God

After more than a dozen years meeting at Resource Center, the church moved to Promise UCC in Oak Cliff for a short time then returned to the community center. A few months later, they acquired their current building.

How did a small church afford the property that includes two buildings and parking? “Trust in God,” Roberts said.

“Do they have the courage to join us?”

Byrd said they’re co-opting Pentecostalism, but he also called Living Faith, “the stepchild who never should get the inheritance.”

Byrd said Roberts, who joined Living Faith in 2016, is taking the church to new heights.

“I grew up Pentecostal,” Roberts said. “I thought they prayed too long, so I became a Baptist and then a Methodist.”

He said he merged those traditions to get an experience that speaks to different people. From the Methodist tradition, he said he drew consistency, order of service, education and structure. And the Baptist tradition “is all about the choir. Preacher could whoop and drive the crowd wild.”

Through the pandemic, the church’s members helped it survive. They started back in person in November, staying socially distanced and checking temperatures of everyone before they entered.

“We survived,” Roberts said.

Roberts described some members of his church as “people who didn’t believe God loved them or that God couldn’t use a woman to preach.” He paused and said, “We touched their lives.”
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A new mobile unit makes HIV testing and treatment more accessible

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

“...we're taking every-thing we do at Nelson-Tebedo and taking it on the road,” Resource Center empowerment Director Jalenzski Brown declared. Brown was talking about a new mobile unit delivered in May and Resource Center’s plans to make its services more accessible.

Although the truck was delivered a couple of months ago, staffing it during the pandemic has been challenging. But Brown believes he’ll have the mobile unit staffed and ready to roll by September. That’s good news, especially since a number of Pride events take place from mid-September through the beginning of October.

Resource Center has 38 years of experience providing sexual health resources to the community. Among the services offered are HIV and STI testing, STD treatment, PrEP, condoms and lube and education. All will be available onboard the Sexy Health truck. For those who test positive, linkage to treatment will be offered including dental care at Resource Center’s dental clinic and medical care at its health clinic.

Brown said serving the LGBTQ community is Resource Center’s mission, but sexual health for the larger community is also among its goals. While a schedule will appear on the organization’s new SexyHealth.org website, appearances are not yet lined up.

Not only would Brown like to be a presence at large Pride events, he’d like to have some regular stops in neighborhoods with higher rates of HIV. He’s working to connect with a supermarket where the Sexy Health truck might park once every other week. He also wants to set up stops in rural areas that have no local sexual health care.

“SexyHealth is love on wheels,” said Resource Center CEO Ceece Cox. “LGBTQ individuals, particularly those who are Black and LatinX, face discrimination and stigma in seeking culturally competent health care. Also, many in Dallas do not have access to transportation. This state-of-the-art SexyHealth mobile van brings compassionate and skilled care into underserved communities, with the goal of improving health.”

Brown said by taking its services on the road, the Center is addressing accessibility and transportation issues, but also the problem of HIV stigma. Some people won’t come to a clinic setting, even if that clinic is on the same street as bars, restaurants and stores.

He noted that Resource Center dropped the word clinic from the name of its Cedar Springs Road testing site, which is now known simply as Nelson-Tebedo. And they’re working to give it a less clinical atmosphere.

Then there’s Sexy Health. The name alone makes you smile. But the truck’s paint job in bright blue, yellow, purple and green — will make those smiles even wider.

“The design of the truck is intentional,” Brown said. “The truck as a piece of art — I hope people will want to take a picture with it.”

Anyone who would like to book the truck to be part of an event should contact SexyHealth. The event doesn’t have to be large.

“We have a four-to-six client per hour capacity,” Brown said. “So it doesn’t have to be the largest event.”

As the number of new HIV cases continue to rise, it’s important that Resource Center help get people who are infected with the virus into treatment and, at the same time, contain other sexually transmitted diseases.

“Forty years into the HIV pandemic, Dallas is one of the hardest-hit metropolitan areas in the United States for new infections,” Cox said. “Testing is treatment. When someone knows their HIV status, they must seek medical care to live a long, healthy life. One of the Center’s core missions has always been to help prevent HIV infections and assist individuals living with HIV. SexyHealth continues that commitment.”

Brown said part of the work of Sexy Health is to keep those who test negative to continue to test negative and those who test positive to remain healthy.

For more information, visit SexyHealth.org. To schedule a stop in a neighborhood or at an event, contact Brown and the SexyHealth team at 214-909-1661 or sexyhealth@myresourcecenter.org.
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Below average, way above par

2021 Kia K5 offers all the luxury at way below luxury prices

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
AutoCasey@aol.com

The average price of a new car topped $40,000 during 2021. That’s a pile of pocket change, especially for a guy who still thinks of that as the price of a nice Mercedes or Corvette. While that shows my brain still lives in the 1990s, Kia is able to deliver a stylish and spirited sedan for 25 percent less than average — but way above par. It’s called the K5 EX.

It’s a sexy little devil, channeling swagger from the more exotic Stinger sport sedan. Check the wide, angry grille, chiseled lower facia, strings of LED headlights and orange zig-zag driving lamps that give the car a sinister appearance.

### 2021 Kia K5 EX

- **Five-passenger, FWD sedan**
- **Powertrain:** 1.6-liter T4, 8-speed auto
- **Output:** 180hp/195 lb.-ft. torque
- **Suspension f/r:** Ind/Ind
- **Wheels f/r:** 18-inch/18-inch alloy
- **Brakes f/r:** disc/disc
- **Must-have features:** Style, Driving
- **Fuel economy:** 27/37 mpg city/hwy
- **Assembly:** West Point, Ga.
- **Base/As-tested price:** $23,690/32,355
Below average, way above par grille, chiseled lower facia, strings of LED headlights and orange zig-zag driving lamps that give the car a sinister glow. Sculpted bodysides stretch over 18-inch wheels.

There’s a hint of Porsche in the fastback roofline, subtle spoiler and wide, thin tail lamps. Formality in the rear window line plays against a flamboyant swath of chrome to convey fun and comfort. The interior’s wood, leather and aluminum are faux, but you’d never know it — even if you caress your fingers over them. The style works beautifully with the large touchscreen that flanks the instrument cluster and connects devices to the Bose audio system through Bluetooth, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge wirelessly in the console.

GT versions of the K5 are available with 290 horsepower 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engines, but our car came with the base 1.6-liter turbo-four that conjures 180 horsepower and 195 lb.-ft. of torque — all delivered to the front wheels through an eight-speed automatic transmission. Even in base form, the engine is smooth and peppy, perfectly matched to the smooth shifting transmission. Without optional AWD, fuel economy rates a near-hybrid 27/37-MPG city/highway.

Some may think the suspension is too firm, but I do not. Engineers dialed in the right balance between crisp handling and the ability to absorb rough city streets or railroad tracks. Nothing squeaks, creaks or rattles as the car elicits only a damped “thump-thump” as it crosses expansion joints. It’s about perfect on the highway where it can soak up long miles without fatigue.

Though its price would indicate otherwise, nothing about the K5 EX is below par. A base K5 starts at just $23,690 and shares our car’s powertrain. But lay on the luxury, and you’ll see our car’s $32,355 sticker. Every inch and every motion feels like it should cost thousands more.

Competitors include the Subaru Legacy, Honda Accord, Toyota Camry, Nissan Altima, and Chevy Malibu.

Storm Forward! Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.
BOOKS

Eating a father

Book chronicles a trans man’s journey from ‘natural mother’ to father of the child

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez


It’s really very common. Giving birth is so common, actually, that it happens nearly 11 thousand times a day in the U.S. — which means that it’s really not much of a big deal, unless it’s your baby.

In that case, it’s a one-of-a-kind miracle, and, in the new book The Natural Mother of the Child by Krys Malcolm Belc, it’s an answer — and a whole lot more questions.

They had wanted their children to be close in age. That was the plan — Irish Twins, they called them — but when Krys Belc went to the birth clinic, visibly pregnant with Samson and toting five-month-old Sean, the child of his partner, Anna, women in the clinic’s waiting room stared.

Or were they, like Belc’s neighbors, staring because Belc looked like a pregnant man?

Yes, Belc inherited his father’s looks. He feared that he might’ve inherited his father’s temper, too; sometimes, Sean was too much, and being neither mother nor father, Belc was often unable to comfort the boy.

Belc didn’t particularly enjoy being pregnant; in fact, it brought old memories and new notions to the surface. Absolutely, he grew up loved and maybe a little protected, but he wished what his brothers had. He was sure his mother once harbored hopes of sharing a pregnancy with him, but not anymore. And then it happened: Seeing the newborn son he made made Belc realize that he needed to become the person he always knew he was.

A few months after Samson was weaned, Belc began taking testosterone. How does one say goodbye to breasts that fed a beloved son? Belc didn’t want his, but finding the right decision was unsettling.

How does a grown son reconcile himself to the idea that his father won’t hug him anymore? Sadly, Belc’s father was generally awkward around him since his transition.

How can nonbinary parents not get frustrated at the loops of paperwork to protect their parenthood? “Natural mother,” indeed.

And how can anyone ever fully thank those who helped make them parents?

If ever there was a book that turned itself in circles to get to the right ending, The Natural Mother of the Child is it — and that’s not unpleasant.

Nothing and everything in this book is black and white. It’s calm and turbulent, surefooted and not. Author Krys Malcolm Belc takes readers on a journey to fatherhood that started when he was a girl, envying his brothers without knowing exactly why, giving readers a distant, poignant sense of something wanting.

That feeling trails throughout Belc’s story, as we wait for what we know is coming, and it’s worth it: After his account of pregnancy and the self-consciousness of being mother-not-mother, his decision to transition solidifies like a ship through fog.

Look at The Natural Mother of the Child first as a parenting book, because that’s exactly what it is: The story of learning enough about one’s self to be a good parent. As for the trans part of this memoir, that’s icing on a cake that’s uncommonly good.
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The Gay Agenda is now color-coded:
Red for community events; blue for arts and entertainment; purple for sports; green for nightlife and orange for civic events and holidays.

**JULY**

- **July 30: LGBT Rights in Texas**
  AARP holds a Zoom meeting to discuss LGBT relationships and probate. What you need to know to protect your rights. Common law marriage, ceremonial marriage and how to obtain benefits based on relationships that began before marriage equality. From 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. txaarp@aarp.org.

- **July 30-Aug. 1: Rooftop Cinema**

- **Through July 31: Visible: Asian and AAPI Artists in America**
  A group exhibit featuring new works by 17 artists. Ro2 Art Downtown, 110 N. Akard St.

**AUGUST**

- **Aug. 1: Rainbow Roundup**
  Splash back into school with Rainbow Roundup, Trans Kids and Families of Texas and HRC DFW celebrate the start of a new school year with snacks, drinks and Kona Ice from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1, at Oak Hill Splash Park, 1225 Royal Palm Lane in Carrollton. See listings for details.

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- **Aug. 3: Name and gender change workshop**
  Lambda Legal discusses what the process looks like in Texas to secure state and federal identity documents. Lawyers can receive CLE credit. Meeting via Zoom. LambdaLegal.org.

- **Aug. 3-Sept. 5: Wicked**
  Dallas Summer Musicals is back with a return of the musical Wicked, a look at what happened in Oz from a different angle. The Music Hall at Fair Park. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

- **Aug. 6-8: Dinosaur Invasion**

- **Aug. 7: Miss Leo Pageant**
  The annual Miss Leo Pageant is back at 7 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave.

- **Aug. 7: Me & Jezebel**
  On May 28, 1985, star-struck Elizabeth Fuller’s dream came true when the legendary Bette Davis came to dinner at her Connecticut home. Four weeks later, as the hotel strike in New York dragged on, she was still there. This is an intimate, funny, and true story of a Hollywood legend coming face-to-face with her most ardent fan. Directed by B.J. Cleveland. $19-29. MainStage Irving, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. MainStageIrving.com.

- **Aug. 12: PFLAG Dallas**
  Virtual support meeting for parents, family and friends of LGBTQ people meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Register for link at PFLAGDallas.org.

- **Aug. 12-14: The Great 30**
  Bombshell Dance Project presented as part of the Elevator Project at Sammons Park, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

- **Aug 13: Name and gender change workshop**
  Lambda Legal discusses what the process looks like in Texas to secure state and federal identity documents. Lawyers can receive CLE credit. Meeting via Zoom. LambdaLegal.org.

**GAY AGENDA**

**WATCH THIS**

In April of 2019, a video showing a Dallas trans woman being viciously beaten while a crowd of bystanders watched, laughing and jeering, went viral, making headlines around North Texas and beyond. That woman was Muhlaysia Booker, and she quickly became the poster child for efforts to combat anti-trans violence. A month later, Muhlaysia Booker was murdered, her body found lying in an East Dallas street, and the world’s attention became laser-focused on not just Muhlaysia, but the rising violence against trans people worldwide. On Aug. 3, Episode 7 of Season 2 of the MTv series True Life Crime — featuring an in-depth look at Muhlaysia’s life and death, with interviews with her family and friends along with Dallas Voice staff — premieres at 9 p.m. Central. Watch online through your cable provider at MTv.com/Shows/True-Life-Crime/ u7rjr6/Season-2.

**LEARN THIS**

The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum continues its Summer Survivor Speaker Series with a presentation by Max Glauben on Tuesday, Aug. 3, from 1-2 p.m. at the museum, 300 N. Houston St. Born in Warsaw in 1928, Glauben was confined to the Warsaw Ghetto with the rest of his family when the Nazis invaded Poland. In 1943, they were deported to Majdanek. Glauben survived several different Nazi camps before being liberated from a death march by the U.S. Army. He eventually settled in Dallas where he still lives today.

**WALK HERE**

The First Thursday Cedar Springs Wine Walk takes place from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, on The Strip. Purchase a Cedar Springs Merchants Association wine glass at the tent in front of The Round-Up Saloon and get it filled up for free all evening long at participating merchants. You’ll also get a ticket in the raffle for a gift basket filled with goodies from CSMA members; the drawing will be held at the end of the evening inside The Round-Up.

**TIME TRAVEL HERE**

Jurassic World: The Exhibition continues through Sept. 5 at Grandscape in The Colony. This exhibit allows audiences of all ages to immerse themselves in interactive scenes inspired by the movie, Jurassic World, and watch the dinosaurs come to life before their eyes. You get to discover the science of Jurassic World, meet the baby dinos, get up close and personal with velociraptors and come face to face with life-sized dinos. Tickets start at $34.50, available online at ShowClix.com/Event/Jurassic-World-Exhibition-Dallas.

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 Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue. Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com
Shangela, Madonna and some Real Housewives

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Shangela helps drag ‘Lone Star Bull’ into the action hero zone

Who gets to be an action hero? That’s the question Lone Star Bull, currently in production, plans to explore when it eventually hits theaters near (one hopes) you.

The debut feature from filmmaker David Stoddart, written by brothers Edward and Rory McHenry (creators of the World War II puppet comedy Jackboots on Whitehall), tells the story of a former military man turned nightclub bouncer, a medical student who does drag at the bar and the mission of vengeance they undertake when the club owner is shot during a homophobic attack.

The film stars four queer actors: Brothers and Sisters alum and Hallmark Christmas movie mainstay Luke Macfarlane, Molly Bernard (Younger, Transparent), Mad Men co-star Bryan Batt and drag superstar D.J. “Shangle” Pierce.

In a genre that has historically had little desire to engage with queer characters or themes, what we’re hoping for here is a little bloodlust and vigilante justice from some pissed off homos with very particular sets of skills. We’ve earned it.

Harry Styles is ‘My Policeman’

Legendary gay novelist E.M. Forster penned classics like Maurice, Howards’ End and A Room with a View, but he had as complicated a personal life as any queer person in the middle of the 20th century. His longstanding relationship with police officer Bob Buckingham, as well as with Buckingham’s wife, May, became the inspiration for Bethan Roberts’ novel, My Policeman.

Currently in post-production, the film version of that novel is the kind of open-y queer production that the book’s fictional protagonists could only dream of. Starring Harry Styles and Linus Roache as younger and older versions of Tom, the titular cop, the film also features queer, non-binary actor Emma Corrin (Princess Diana on The Crown) and Gina McKee as younger and older versions of wife Marion, with David Dawson (The Last Kingdom) and gay screen vet Rupert Everett as the man who becomes involved with the ostensibly heterosexual married pair.

Adapted by Philadelphia screenwriter Ron Nyswaner and directed by gay filmmaker Michael Grandage (Genius), we’re looking for this to do for bisexual poly relationships what mainstream queer filmmaking almost never does: get it respectfully right.

Did you miss Madonna’s Madame X tour? The album? Well, now’s your chance to get acquainted with it when Paramount+ drops her tour documentary, also called Madame X.

Shot during the Lisbon dates of her 2019 concert tour, the spectacle of it all incorporates a lot of high-concept sets, costumes, musicians and dancers (48 of those, to be exact).

Directed by Portuguese photographer Ricardo Gomes in collaboration with SKNX, the team that created Amazon Prime’s documentary Madonna — World of Madame X, the concert film will showcase the ambitious concept album’s influences rooted in international pop. Ms. Ciccone has stated that she hopes the film will “remind us of the sacred bond of our shared humanity,” which is an appropriately grandiose goal, and nothing less than what we’d expect from a woman who’s never aimed for the small gesture.

Madonna’s ‘Madame X’ documentary gets into the groove

The movie arrives Oct. 8 on Paramount+ and we’ll be there, lounging on our couch watching the hardest-working pop star in the world refuse to stop making noise. Long live the queen.

Romeo San Vicente is waiting for you to justify his love.

‘Real Housewives of the North Pole’ promises holiday mayhem

NBC streaming service Peacock is throwing its hat into the Christmas movie ring with a brand-extending concept: Take sister network Bravo’s real-est housewives and allow them to ruin Christmas for anyone who gets in their way.

That seems to be the promise of Real Housewives of the North Pole, starring Real Housewives of Beverly Hills glamourpuss Kyle Richards and Breaking Bad alum Betsy Brandt.

They’ll play two women who’ve won the holiday house decorating contest for a decade in the town of North Pole, Vermont, only to find themselves in a knockdown-drag-out, friendship-ending fight that splits the town into feuding factions.

Shooting soon, we want this fight before Christmas on our screens by December if only to spill a little corrosive acid on the cozy genre that seems to dominate TV for the last hundred days of the year.
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Across
1 Top
5 Olympic award for Jenner
10 Deity on Xena"
14 Linen fiber
15 Gertrude’s partner
16 Kind of sex
17 Frat party robe
18 Jamaican cultist
19 Bridal party
20 Fear Street character who says, “We’re together for one night and...”
23 Aladdin topper
24 Liberace’s nickname
25 Come together
26 Not erect
28 Carl Nassib and others
31 Beauty of Roseanne
32 Actor Auberjonois
33 Hostile to
36 Start of Deena Johnson’s reply to 20-Across
38 Trust
40 Jailhouse Rock singer
41 Student’s book
42 Corinthian consonant
43 Connoisseur Allen
46 Concerning
47 Part of an apology
48 Shaft in a straight smile
50 Cyndi Lauper’s "___ Bop"
52 Thou, now
53 End of reply
58 Some eagle feathers
59 Beat off
60 Piece of Benjamin Britten
62 Years ago
63 Plath poetry collection
64 Fruit center
65 Frankfurt’s river
66 Tries to lose
67 Shagged, Biblically

Down
1 Toward the rear, to sailors
2 Not out yet
3 Curve, for example
4 Doctors make you strip for it
5 Seine feeder
6 Tickle pink
7 Star Canyon serving
8 Official records
9 Statue’s modesty protector
10 Lake Nasser dam
11 Hansberry’s fruit in the sun
12 Like John Hurt’s Caligula
13 Blow a fuse
21 Cockpit abbr.
22 Word after Ballet
23 Way out
27 Kind of year
28 Filmmaker Pier ___ Pasolini
29 Ready for plucking
30 Nothing more than
33 Sci-fi planet population
34 Tale of adventure
35 Russian singing duo
37 Like Alison Bechdel’s panels
38 Trust
39 Tee Corinne frame
42 Corinthian consonant
43 Skin pic
44 Senate page’s chore
45 Frozen carbon dioxide
47 Cinderella film frame
49 Crude container
50 What you shoot in the air
51 “Head for the ___!”
54 Larry Kramer, to Yale
55 Polo of The Fosters
56 Photographer Catherine
57 Wrestling hold
61 Do a tailor’s task

Solution on Page 22
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