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ISSUE 3 | FREE | Friday, July 30, 2021



Being *Precious*

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

By Gregg Shapiro, page 8

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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.

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OBITUARY



the Association of Wedding Professionals and member of International Special Events Society and Meeting Professionals International. He was always available to his colleagues with advice, guidance and support.

Mark loved the theater, particularly musical productions. He was a long-time supporter and board member of the Garland Summer Musicals and served as chair of the GSM Guild. He was a graduate of Leadership Garland, Class XIX and recently was honored as the 2021 recipient of the Distinguished Leader Award.

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 Thea; 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 3IMC 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.

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.

Mark never forgot the need to give back to his industry. He was the past president of the local chapter of National Association of Catering Executives, board member of

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Bites from our blog

InstanTEA: DallasVoice.com

APInc receives HHS grant to get more people vaccinated against COVID



Abounding Prosperity Inc. CEO Kirk Myers

Officials at Abounding Prosperity Inc. 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

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

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Jones Hill nominated to DART board

Three Dallas city council members nominated former Councilwoman Voncile 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

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

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

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VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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 voting rights, calling out his party for trying to throw democratic elections in the trash.

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



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

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 Gra-



ham 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.

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Important Facts About CABENUVA

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

(kab' en ue vah)

ABOUT CABENUVA

CABENUVA is a complete prescription regimen used to treat HIV-1 infection in adults as a replacement for their current HIV-1 treatment when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

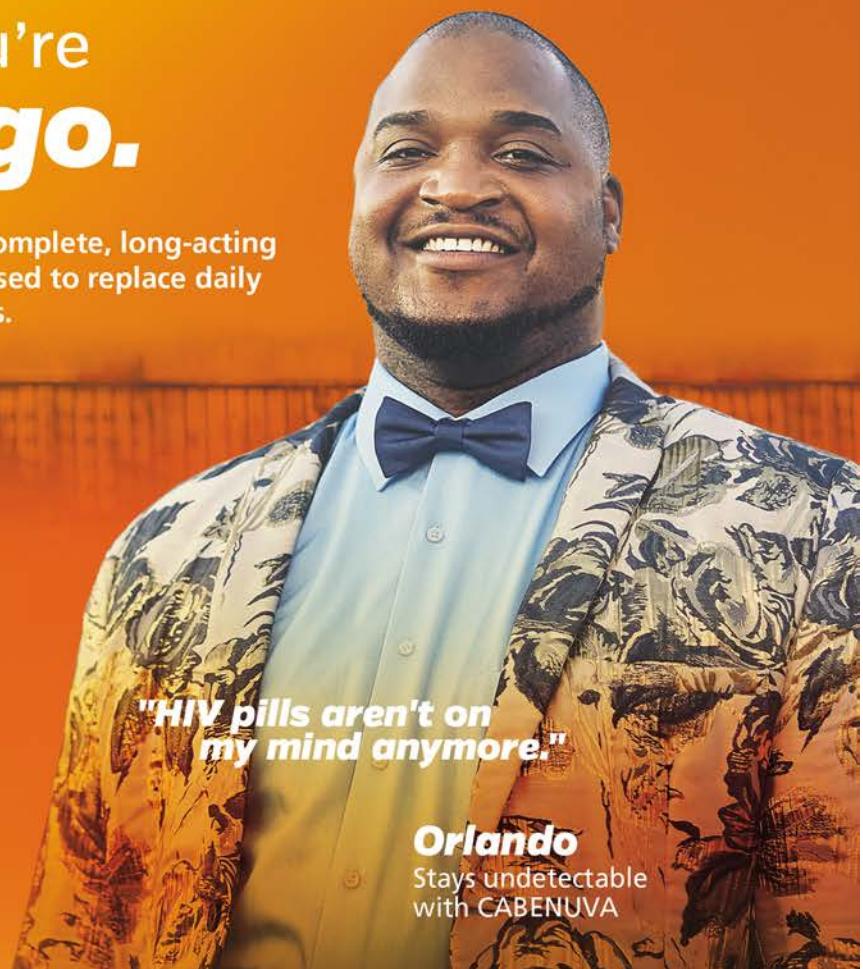
CABENUVA contains 2 different medicines:

- cabotegravir
- rilpivirine

It is not known if CABENUVA is safe and effective in children.

DO NOT RECEIVE CABENUVA IF YOU

- have ever had an allergic reaction to cabotegravir or rilpivirine.
- are taking certain medicines:
 - carbamazepine
 - oxcarbazepine
 - phenobarbital
 - phenytoin
 - rifabutin
 - rifampin
 - rifapentine
 - dexamethasone (more than a single-dose treatment), and/or
 - St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)



Ask your doctor about CABENUVA

*Undetectable means the amount of HIV in the blood is below the level that can be measured by a lab test. Results may vary.

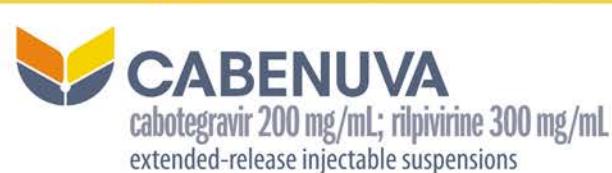
Orlando has been compensated by ViiV Healthcare.

BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have ever had a skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain cabotegravir or rilpivirine.
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had mental health problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if CABENUVA will harm your unborn baby. CABENUVA can remain in your body for up to 12 months or longer after the last injection.

Please see additional Important Facts About CABENUVA on the following page.





CABENUVA

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CABENUVA.com

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
 - blisters or sores in mouth
 - blisters
 - redness or swelling of the eyes
 - swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
- **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
 - feeling warm
 - feeling light-headed or feeling like you are going to pass out (faint)
 - blood pressure changes

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA (cont'd)

CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including: (cont'd)

- **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)
- nausea or vomiting
- loss of appetite
- pain or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
- itching

- **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.

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CBRADVT21006 June 2021
Produced in USA.

Being Precious

BEYOND THE PAGE

An interview with Precious Brady-Davis

GREGG SHAPIRO | Contributing Writer
GreggShapiro@aol.com

Memoirs 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 earlier 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 fanaticism in their childhoods.

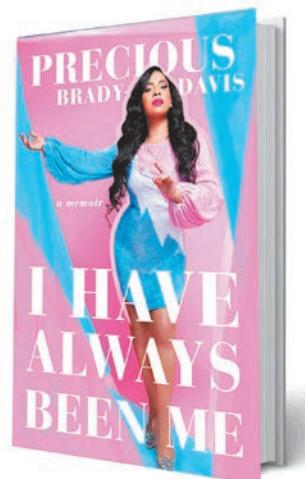
Nebraska native and Chicago resident Brady-Davis tells her story of fractured family dynamics, being bounced around in the foster care system, bullying and a strict religious upbringing. Having survived all that, Brady-Davis came out as a gay man, discovered drag, came out as trans and, best of all,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

Precious Brady-Davis currently serves as the regional communications manager 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 recently 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 important 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 previously 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 process, and if so, were there resources you looked to for guidance? I think that, in general, being vulnerable is an admirable 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 challenges 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, acceptance 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 nominated 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 grounded, 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 finally 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 eradicating racism and misogyny and economic justice.

Early in the book you wrote, "Names speak to identity. Names speak to origin." 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

RELIGION

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

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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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 Shelley 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



Bishop Alex Byrd, left, and Pastor Marvin Roberts at the pulpit of Living Faith Covenant Church. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

saved again by what you do.

There's a line in Deuteronomy that is problematic for Pentecostal faith: "A man acting as a woman can be grossly offensive," Byrd said. It's a line that's used to condemn all transgender people.

"Living Faith has never been the church I imagined. We were struggling with the T," Byrd said. "Old habits die hard."

Then in walked Carmarion Anderson. Anderson, a transgender woman destined to become a leader at Living Faith, challenged Byrd and all the church's members on their idea of inclusiveness.

Byrd said he and Anderson had very similar upbringings. But he struggled with the stereotypical male and female roles.

"I had to do a lot of stretching," Byrd said. "She had to teach me, and we had to teach her."

Of course, Byrd learned quickly that you just don't say no to Anderson. In fact, she was the only person he's ever allowed to preach without previewing her first.

Byrd's rethinking of his faith included a change to his concept of salvation. "Our salvation is by what Christ did," he said. "As long as you believe, you are saved. Even if you don't believe, Christ's work is done, so there is universal salvation."

Living Faith's pastor is Marvin Rob-

erts. His belief is a little different: "I believe Christ did what he did, but you need to confess with your mouth," he said. "You have to accept it."

Byrd pointed out: "We don't have to believe the same thing to be in community."

That acceptance of trans people is a huge change for a Pentecostal church, both Byrd and Roberts agreed.

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.

Whether you believe or not, things did work out in a miraculous way.

The property was listed at \$400,000. Living Faith paid less than half that, and, "It was financed by a company that said they'd never finance us," Byrd said.

But that still left a monthly mortgage payment. So, part of the plan to raise money was that a church that had been

meeting in the building would continue to meet there and pay the same rent they had been paying. And since they were there first, they'd continue to hold their services at the same time they always had, and Living Faith would adjust its worship time.

So they had an agreement — and then the tenant church decided to move the Sunday before Living Faith took possession of the property. And they took the chairs with them.

But again, things worked out.

Living Faith found someone selling portable church seating for \$3,000. The church got the seats for \$2,000 and got the cost donated.

"Trust in God," Roberts repeated.

Living Faith is the first Pentecostal church in Texas to accept transgender members, and it's the first Afro-centric affirming church.

"We're the longest-lasting Afro-centric Pentecostal church in Texas," Byrd said. "We attract straight people who are looking at us. 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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Resource Center promotes Sexy Health

HEALTH

A new mobile unit makes HIV testing and treatment more accessible

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

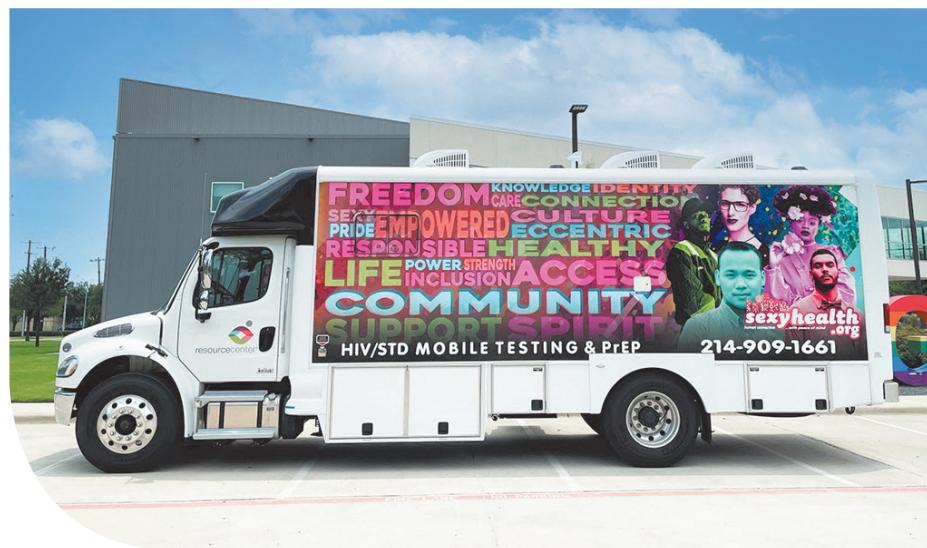
"We're taking everything we do at Nelson-Tebedo and taking it on the road," Resource Center empowerment Director Jalenzski Brown declared. Brown was talking about a new mobile unit delivered in May and Resource Center's plans to make its services more accessible.

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



The Sexy Health staff, top, and their brightly-colored truck. (Photos courtesy of Resource Center)

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 Cece Cox. "LGBTQ individuals, particularly those who are Black and LatinX, face discrim-

ination 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

DRIVE



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

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

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

glow. Sculpted bodysides stretch over 18-inch wheels.

There's a hint of Porsche in the fast-back 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.



The details could have come from a dream car, but luxuries like heated/ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, dual-zone automatic climate control and dual panel sunroof are very real.

The suite of safety tech hails from advanced luxury cars. Forward collision avoidance with pedestrian detection, rear cross path detection, blind spot warning and active lane keep assist protect from all angles. Add to that a driver attention alert and rear occupant detection, and the car keeps everybody's attention.

Adaptive cruise control with stop/go functionality and lane-centering steering provide blissful cruising. Side exit assist uses blind spot sensors to prevent passengers from stepping into traffic. Kia clearly cares about safety.

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. And 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](https://www.youtube.com/autocasey).



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Becoming a father

BOOKS

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

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez

The Natural Mother of the Child: A Memoir of Nonbinary Parenthood by Krys Malcolm Belc; c.2021, Counterpoint Press; \$26; 304 pages.

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.

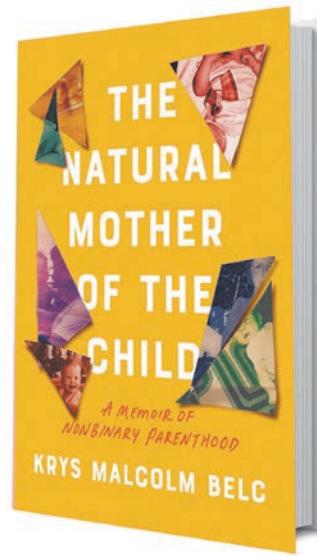
Or were they, like Belc's neighbors, staring because Belc looked like a pregnant man?

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 wanted 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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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/u7rj6/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.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

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

Summer series of outdoor films at Dallas Heritage Village, 1515 S. Harwood St. July 30: *The Sandlot*, Friday, July 31: *Christmas in July* — *Elf, Die Hard*. Aug. 1: *Casablanca*. Tickets at RooftopCinemaClub.com/heritagevillage.

• 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. Snacks, drinks and Kona ice from 1-3 p.m. at Oak Hill Splash Park, 1225 Royal Palm Lane, Carrollton. In conjunction with the

get-together, the group's school supply drive is virtual and benefits Jonathan's Place. Visit their wishlist at a.co/asPdB5k.

• 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

A family friendly one of a kind walk-thru interactive adventure that features more than 50 animatronic dinosaurs. Arlington Expo Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington. DinosaurInvasion.com.

• Aug. 7: Miss Leo Pageant

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

• Through 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.

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

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

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 su-

perstar D.J. "Shangela" 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 openly 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.

Madonna's 'Madame X' documentary gets into the groove



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.

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 knock-down-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.

this week's solution

A	C	M	E	M	E	D	A	R	E	S
F	L	A	X	A	L	I	C	E	S	A
T	O	G	A	R	A	S	T	A	W	I
S	A	M	A	N	T	H	A	F	R	A
F	E	Z	L	E	E				U	N
A	T	I	L	T		P	R	O	S	N
R	E	N	E	A	G	A	I	N	S	T
D	E	A	D	P	E	O	P	L	E	A
P	R	E	S	L	E	Y	T	E	X	T
T	E	D	A	S	T	O		C	U	L
A	R	R	O	W		S	H	E	Y	O
T	R	Y	I	N	G	T	O	K	I	L
T	A	I	L	R	E	P	E	L	O	P
O	N	C	E	A	R	I	E	L	C	O
O	D	E	R	D	I	E	T	S	K	N

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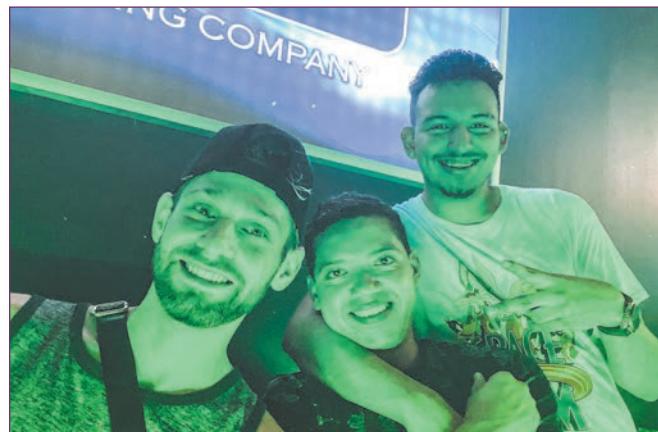
Alternatives

ADULT ESSENTIALS

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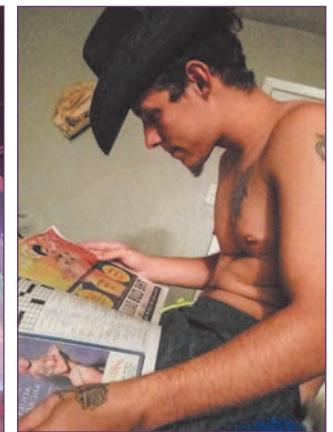
TMC buds



I'll take a shot of that!



Kyle points the way at TMC



CJ checks out Dallas Voice



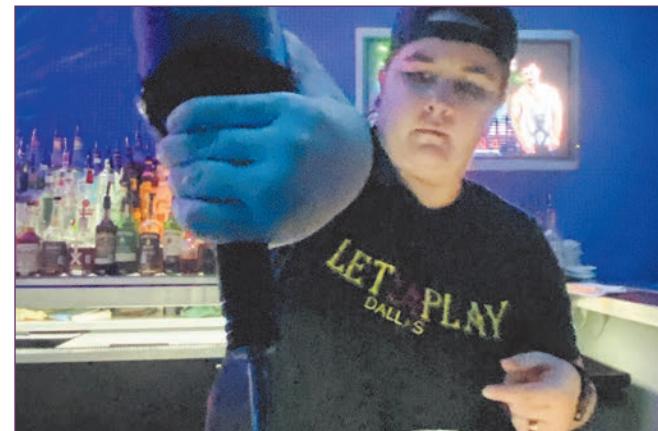
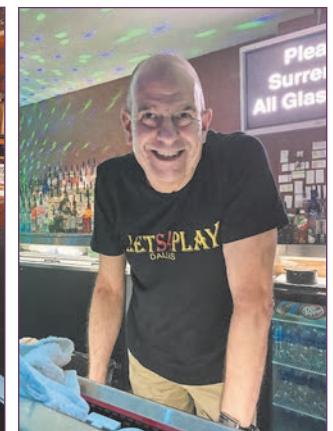
Nailed it!



Marissa at Roy G's



Dallas Devils raising money at JR's LetS4Play



Kathleen servin up drinks at S4



Myra and Adecia



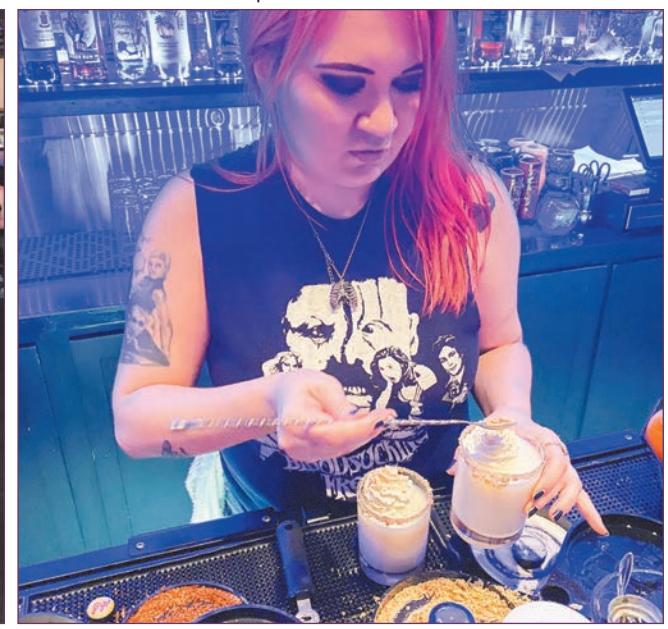
Dulce Strutts at Round-Up Saloon



Shots anyone?



Cassie and Chris at JR's



Erin makes some delicious key lime drinks at Roy G's



Best friends at TMC

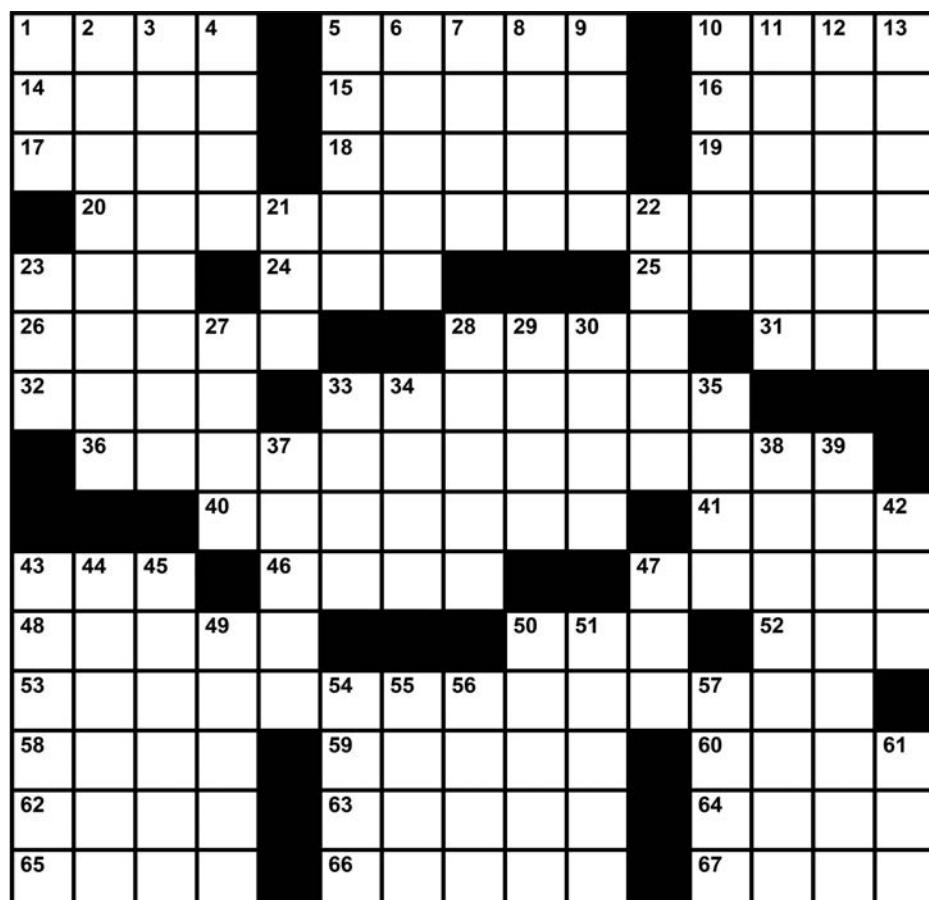


Patio life at Roy G's



Daddy and his boy at Round-Up Saloon

PUZZLE | Fear Street



Solution on Page 22

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 Beatty of *Roseanne*
- 32 Actor Auberjonois
- 33 Hostile to
- 36 Start of Deena Johnson's reply to
- 20-Across
- 40 *Jailhouse Rock* singer
- 41 Student's book
- 43 Connoisseur Allen
- 46 Concerning
- 47 Part of an apology
- 48 Shaft in a straight simile
- 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
- 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

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

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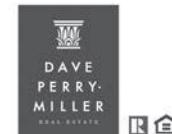
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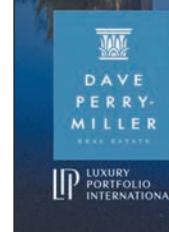
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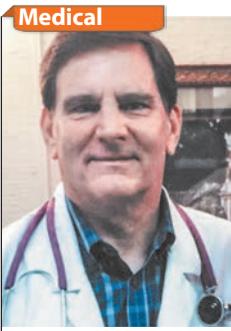
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