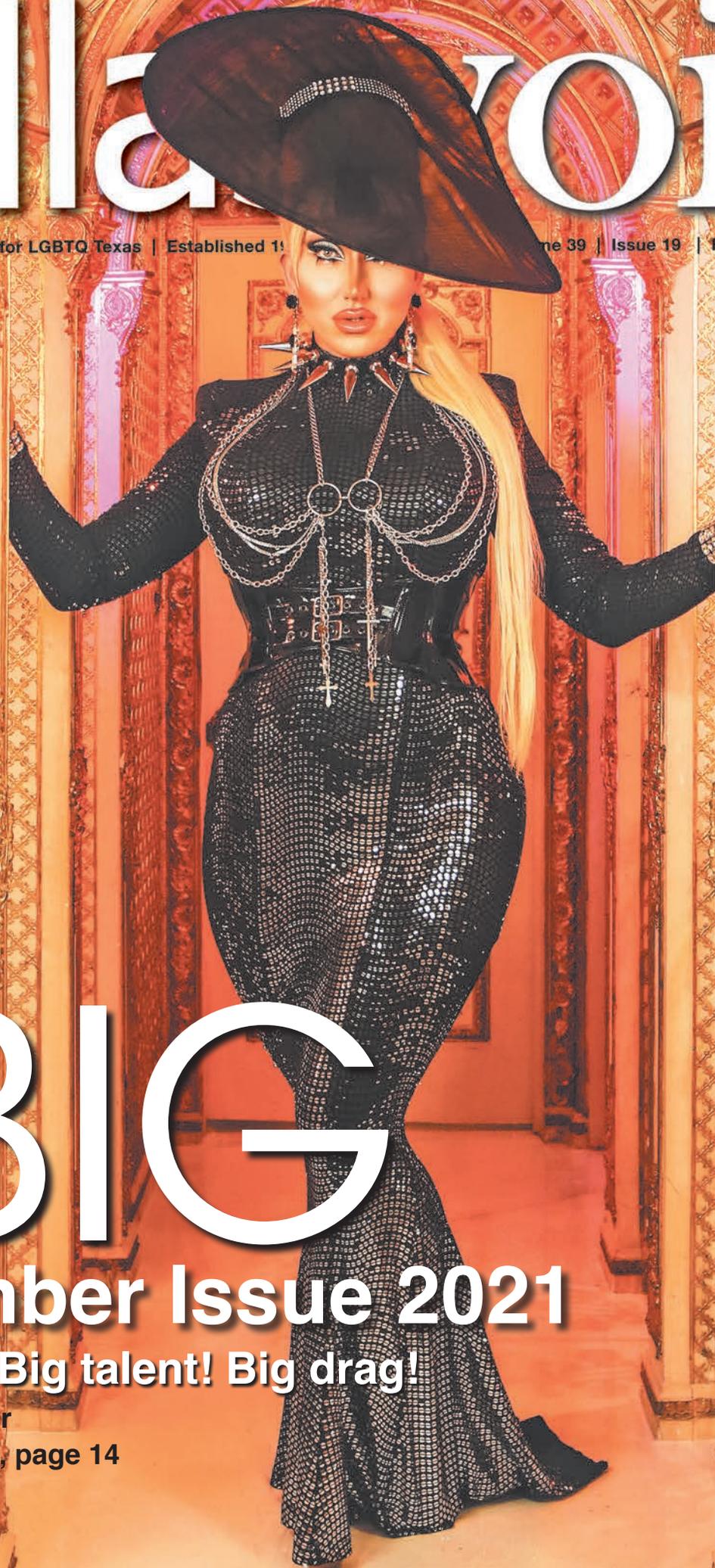


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Volume 39 | Issue 19 | FREE | Friday, September 10, 2021



The BIG September Issue 2021

Big fashion! Big talent! Big drag!

Photos by Mark Mayr

Story by Rich Lopez, page 14

A muscular man with dark hair and a mustache is shown from the waist up, flexing his right arm. He has several tattoos on his left arm, including a heart with 'OAH', a cherub, and a tiger. The background is bright yellow with decorative blue and purple wing-like graphics in the corners. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.

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Bleach, photographed by Mark Mayr

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Prism Health postpones in-person LifeWalk event



Officials with Prism Health North Texas announced Wednesday, Sept. 8, that they have “made the unfortunate decision” to postpone the in-person LifeWalk event, MarketPalooza and Bar Crawl, originally scheduled to take place Sunday, Oct. 3, on the Cedar Springs Strip.

Noting that people living with compromised immune systems, including many of the organization’s patients, are at higher risk of illness and complications from exposure to COVID-19, PHNTX Events Manager Terry Walker said, “As always, our priority is keeping our community safe.”

But, he added, “Even though we won’t get together for a big, in-person event, we can still make a big impact on the lives of North Texans living with HIV.”

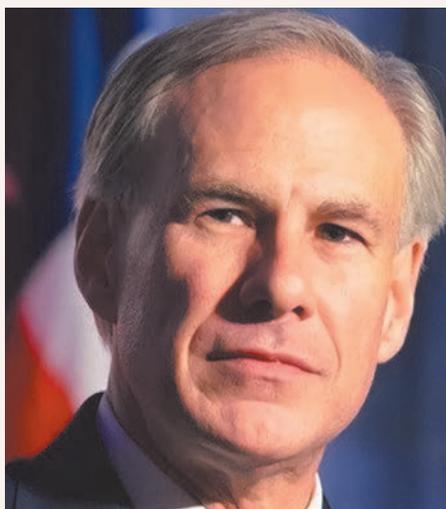
Organizers are now planning to celebrate LifeWalk in the spring of 2022, Walker said, noting that organizers are encouraging community members to still sign up for LifeWalk fundraising, to invite friends and family members to join their fundraising teams or to make a direct donation at LifeWalk.org.

LifeWalk is one of the largest and longest-running HIV awareness events in North Texas. It raises funds for PHNTX’s HIV medical services and programs, including HIV and STI testing, clinical research, and operating the organization’s clinics and pharmacies.

To register to fundraise, join a team, or donate directly, visit LifeWalk.org.

— Tammye Nash

Abbott calls 3rd special session, trans youth again targeted



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday, Sept. 7, called a third special session of the Texas Legislature to begin Sept. 20, this time for lawmakers to address redistricting, to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and, yes, to once again target transgender youth to try and keep them from getting proper health care or playing sports in school.

Abbott called the special session on the same day he defended the draconian anti-choice law passed in the second special session of the year, which has no exception for victims of rape and incest, by saying Texas women don’t need to worry about being raped because he is going to “eliminate all rapists” in the state.

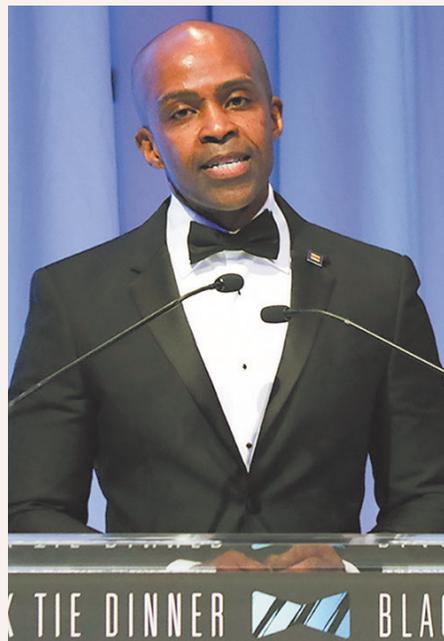
He also falsely claimed the law does make exceptions for victims of rape and incest.

The abortion law and a law restricting voting in the state that also passed in the second special session are both already being challenged in court. At least five separate lawsuits have been filed against the legislation affecting voting.

Abbott’s first two special sessions — the first one lasting 30 days, the second lasting 26 days — cost the state an estimated \$1 million each.

— Tammye Nash

HRC fires Alphonso David



Officials with The Human Rights Campaign announced late Monday evening, Sept. 6, that the LGBTQ rights organization has fired its president, Alphonso David, for cause. The move came following a joint meeting that same night of the boards of the Human Rights Campaign and its affiliated Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

According to a statement by board co-chairs Morgan Cox and Jodie Patterson, David was fired “effective immediately, for violations of his contract with the Human Rights Campaign.” They said that Sunday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 6, David “released a statement that included significant untruths about the investigation and his status with the organization. At HRC, we are fighting to bring full equality and liberation to LGBTQ people everywhere. That includes fighting on behalf of all victims of sexual harassment and assault.”

The organization had ordered an independent investigation after David had become entangled in the investigation into sexual misconduct allegations that forced New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo

to resign last month.

According to an article published shortly after 10 p.m. Monday, Central Time, in the Los Angeles Blade, the newspaper’s White House reporter “Chris Johnson had reported earlier Monday that a tweeted statement on Sunday from David declaring an independent review found no wrongdoing on his behalf in the scandal on sexual misconduct forcing New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to resign. The board co-chairs have responded by disputing that account.”

In the Sunday tweet, David insisted that an independent review had been completed and found no wrongdoing on his part, and that even though the board co-chairs had asked him to consider resigning, he would not because “I have the support of too many of our employees, board members and stakeholders to walk away quietly into the night.”

HRC’s independent investigation was conducted by Sidley Austin LLP, but, as the LA Blade notes, “Legal experts had doubted the validity of a review by Sidley Austin on the basis it was among the legal firms agreeing in 2019 to help with the Human Rights Campaign entering into litigation to advance LGBTQ rights, an agreement David spearheaded upon taking the helm of the organization.”

The Los Angeles paper also points out that “The findings from New York State Attorney General Letitia James on Cuomo names David nearly a dozen times,” including indications that “after his tenure as counselor to Cuomo, [David] kept the personnel file of an employee accusing the governor of sexual misconduct, then assisted in returning that file to Cuomo staffers seeking to leak it to the media in an attempt to discredit her.”

David has said the so-called file was a “memorandum on an internal employment matter” that he kept because he worked on it, and that he returned it when he left because he was legally required to do so.

The New York AG’s report also said David allegedly agreed to help find people who would sign a draft op-ed seeking to discredit a woman who accused Cuomo of sexual misconduct, although David wouldn’t sign the document himself. The op-ed was never published.

— Tammye Nash

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Vision Community Foundation honors Myers, Abounding Prosperity Inc.

The Vision Community Foundation, headquartered in Atlanta, on Friday, Sept. 3, honored long-time community activist Kirk Myers of Dallas for his ongoing efforts to end HIV/AIDS in the LGBTQ community and for his work as lead organizer for Dallas Southern Pride, the organization that puts on Dallas Black Pride each fall and the city's LGBTQ Juneteenth celebration each summer.

Abounding Prosperity Inc., which Myers founded, was also recognized for its work in the battle to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Myers and APInc were among those honored at Vision Community Foundation's annual Black Tie Gala, held at the historic Atlanta Biltmore Hotel. The event was hosted by actress Vivica A. Fox and actor and reality TV personality Miss Lawrence.

Others honored during the gala were *Pose* star Ryan Jamaal Swain, radio host Gary with da Tea, actor/comedian Sampson McCormick and celebrity hairstylist and reality TV star Derek J.

"I am truly humbled and overjoyed to receive this honor for the hard work we have done and continue to do," Myers said. "While my name is on this honor, it really belongs to the people on the ground who continuously support Abounding Prosperity Inc. Thank you."

APInc has spent nearly two decades providing testing, prevention and treatment services for HIV/AIDS and other STDs primarily for Black and Latino LGBTQ community members. As a proven leader in the field, APInc has been awarded millions of dollars in grants to fight the AIDS epidemic, including a recent \$1 million federal grant to help vaccinate Black and Latino people against COVID-19.

— Tammie Nash

Adoptable / FREDRICK



Meet **Fredrick**, 5 1/2-year-old mixed breed dog rescued from a hoarding situation in February 2020. He's made a lot of progress in his time at the SPCA of Texas. He was very nervous

when he first came to the shelter and just humans to just leave him alone. Now he can't stop grinning and barks when his human friends leave him. Fredrick bonds faster with women, so ideally there will be at least one woman in the home with him. He's a little clumsy and a lot socially awkward; he doesn't always know how to interact with humans, but he tries his best. Fredrick gets along well with calm, laid-back dogs and wouldn't mind a doggie sibling. But he does just fine on his own. Fredrick will need a fenced-in yard, as he can walk well on the leash but sometimes just needs a quiet space to do his business. Fredrick will need an adults-only home where he can feel safe and comfortable. He

is available for a trial adoption, so you can take him home for a few weeks to see if he's a good fit for your home before making things official. If you'd like to meet Fredrick, please request an appointment at SPCA.org/DogAdopt. Don't forget, all dogs and cats 6 months and older are just \$25 to adopt at the SPCA of Texas' Dallas and Ellis locations. Fredrick is waiting to meet you at SPCA of Texas Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center.

Regular adoption fees are \$150 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$75 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. The Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center is open for adoptions every day noon-6 p.m. Animals are available by walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments are also available for select animals. Please browse available animals at SPCA.org/FindAPet and visit SPCA.org/DogAdopt to inquire about a dog or SPCA.org/CatAdopt to inquire about a cat.

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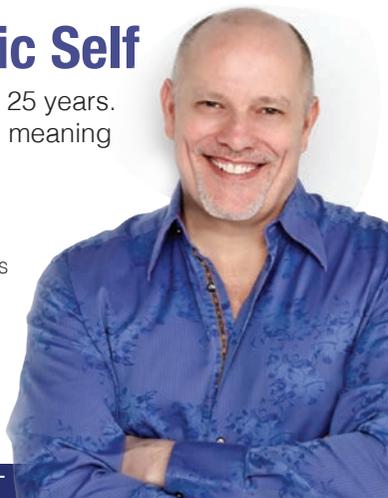
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Living in interesting times



“**M**ay you live in interesting times.” Google the phrase and you will likely find that it is said to be an “ancient Chinese curse.”

What? A curse? How could that be a curse? There are, after all, many of us who would despair at the idea of impending boredom; so how could “interesting times” be a curse?!

And yet, here we are — living in interesting times. And I know I, for one, wouldn’t mind a little boredom right about now. But we are in the midst of times so interesting, they are killing us.

There’s COVID-19 of course, and even after 18 or so months, the pandemic is keeping things “interesting.” Perhaps the most “interesting” thing about COVID right now is the battle over ivermectin. For some reason, relatively large swathes of people have decided that a drug discovered in the late 1970s in Japan (according to a paper in the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health) and first used to rid animals of parasites then later adapted to rid humans of parasites, will keep them from getting COVID-19 or, if they get the virus, cure them of it.

Despite every reputable source saying “No! Don’t do it!” Despite the absolute dearth of actual, scientifically sound evidence that it might possibly work. Some folks insist on taking a medication formulated for and meant for animals, especially horses and sheep. Yes, that’s right: Many of the same folks insisting on calling those of us who got our COVID vaccine and who wear masks



Tammye Nash
From Where I Stand

imals) of
It boggles the mind, yes?

All the warnings from all the doctors and scientists and researchers who have devoted their lives to studying and treating infectious diseases mean nothing to these folks. Because they have the internet, and they have “done their research,” and they have found one study somewhere that claims ivermectin is effective in preventing and/or treating COVID-19. PLUS, they found that guy with a degree in basket-weaving or whatever who did his own research and swears it works. So it **MUST** be true!

These same folks have created Facebook pages where they ask how much of the ivermectin for horses that they bought at the feed store they should give their husband/wife/child who has COVID and can’t breathe and is getting worse. They are also the same people telling each other about all the “rope worms” they’ve been pooping out since they started taking ivermectin. **SPOILER ALERT:** “Rope worms” is “a pseu-

to help
at least
slow the
spread of
the virus
“sheeple”
are actually
taking a medication
intended to
rid sheep
(and other
an-parasites.

doscientific term for long, thin pieces of damaged intestinal epithelium or other bowel content that have been misidentified as human parasitic worms,” according to three different scientific sources quoted by Wikipedia, including “Regarding: A Common Source Outbreak of Anisakidosis in the United States and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Family Collaterals” published in *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine*.

Yes, you read that right. These people are taking ivermectin and literally pooping out bits of their own intestinal tract. But hey, those of us listening to actual scientific experts are the crazy ones.

(**PRO TIP:** Don’t google “rope worm images.” Trust me; just don’t.)

If the battle between science and conspiracies in the COVID-19 arena weren’t enough, now Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has signed into law the most draconian anti-choice law in the country, adding MOUNTAINS of fuel to the already-raging fire that is the debate over abortion. The law bans abortion past six weeks (or when, they claim, the fetus’ heartbeat can be detected, something that actual doctors and scientists dispute), and then to top it off, offers a bounty to anyone who “turns in” a woman who has an abortion, the medical professionals who performed or assisted in the abortion and even the person who drove the woman to the appointment.

There will, of course, be legal challenges, and the federal government is said to be taking steps to counter the

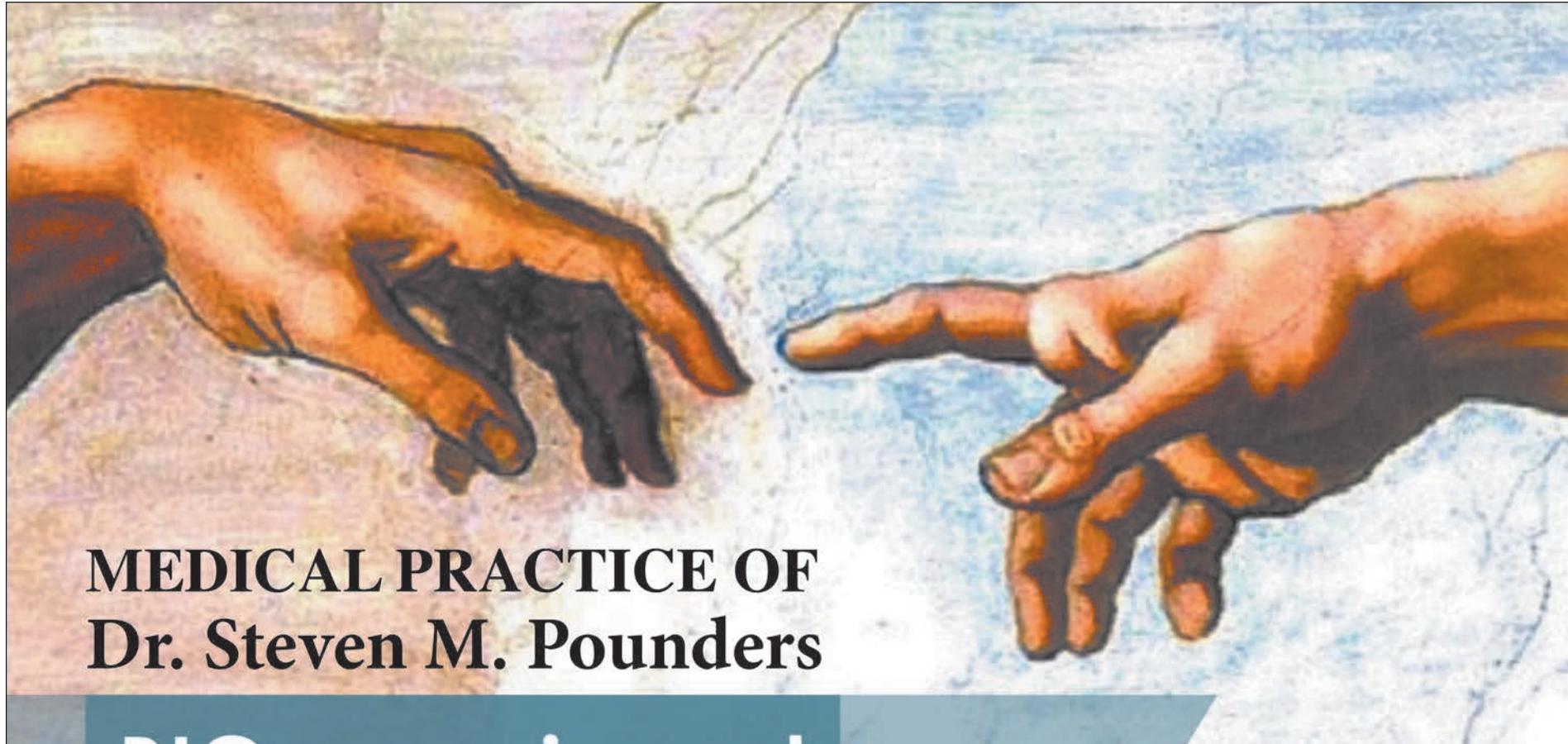
law. But none of that will quell the anger and the fear Abbott’s so-called “heartbeat” law has engendered not just here in Texas, but across the country. None of that will soothe or calm those on either side of the debate, and let me tell you, there is a lot of fury and vitriol out there. I made the mistake over the weekend of commenting on some post, saying that women should have control over their own bodies, and that a bunch of old white men in Austin are enacting this and similar laws simply to take control and power away from women.

One man responded by telling me, very adamantly, that abortion has absolutely nothing to do with a woman’s body (ummmmm.... What?), while a woman declared, just as adamantly, that I am a “Satanic demon.”

I considered asking what other kinds of demons there are — atheist demons? Godly demons? Demons who just aren’t sure what they believe? I didn’t though, because I already had a headache from living in such interesting times.

And if that’s not interesting enough for you, a friend posted a photo of all the white men and their eight or so token women (also white) grinning and making the “heart” sign with their fingers as Abbott signed the abortion bill. And Facebook “automatically tagged” Abbott in that photo as ME! I’d love to see the look on his face when somebody tells him. Wonder how interesting that would be. ■

Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice. The views expressed here are her own.



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Life inside the Dreamhaus

BIG FASHION

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARK MAYR

Model: Bleach

DFW photographer Mark “Frida Monet” Mayr and his muse, local drag performer Bleach (aka Glen Aubrey Roach) headed to The Dreamhaus in Everman recently for a photoshoot for the cover of and this two-page photo spread in Dallas Voice’s Big September Issue.

The two got their inspiration for the looks you see here from Vogue magazine, specifically Vogue issues featuring Lady Gaga.

Turn to pages 14 and 15 for articles about Mayr and Bleach. ■





High fashion? Or high camp?

BIG SHOT

Whichever you're looking for, Dallas photographer Mark Mayr has it covered

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

During the photo shoot for the cover of this week's issue of Dallas Voice, Mark Mayr handled the camera. His approach was efficient and fairly quiet. He moved his equipment with stealth. He set up his lighting quickly, and he was ready to go.

But while he may be under the radar, his eye searches for photos that are anything but.

"My aesthetic is a mixture of loud colors, but with a clean, solid destination point," Mayr said.

All of that was easy in the Dreamhaus, a special venue located in, of all places, Everman, Texas just south of Fort Worth. Inside are all the colors Mayr needed — from aquamarine walls to a deep red bathroom.

But it's his subject that helps bring his pictures together. And that subject is local drag queen Bleach.

Bleach is Mayr's muse, and they've created magic together many times as photographer and subject. This week, they brought that magic to the Dallas Voice cover shoot.

"We wanted to make a vignette of different characters that Bleach embodies," said Mayr.

"Thinking about the Dreamhaus, we looked at what was here and what story we could tell," Mayr said.

Inspired by the likes of photographer David LaChapelle, Mayr used the bright and bold colors of the art house studio to bring Bleach to life in a variety of complex female roles — from high fashion to high camp. For this cover, the two pulled inspiration from Vogue magazine, specifically those issues of

Vogue featuring Lady Gaga.

Mayr has been shooting since he was 15. But it was this past pandemic year that seemed to get him back on track with his photography.

"I definitely got a kickstart," he said. "There was a lull, but I wanted to make this thing happen.

"I know I can make this photography dream come true. So I got all my equipment together, and I've been freelancing."

With his aesthetic perpetuated by his muse Bleach, Mayr is hardly short on subjects in North Texas. Likely when you catch Mayr shooting, he will be shooting drag queens. He's been taking drag pics and Polaroids for almost a decade.

"I've always been fascinated, because with drag, you start from the ground up," Mayr explained. "That persona comes from a place they create and build. Plus, when they're in drag, people are at their happiest."

He would know. His own alter ego is drag queen Frida Monet. As Frida, Mayr performs primarily at Urban Cowboy in Fort Worth and with the comedy group Claws Out Comedy.

"She's just a trash queen," Mayr said of Frida. "Mainly what I do is mic work and wear leopard print dresses."

Whether because of his own drag or because he takes so many photos of other queens, there is a symbiosis going on within his work.

"I'm working on a character series that challenges a bit what drag is for me," Mayr said. "I have these messy, haphazard characters who are based on people I've seen growing up in suburban white Texas."

There is perhaps something to be said about the fact that the Dallas Voice cover shoot was in the type of suburban, white city he describes, yet inside a house where there is an entirely different world where Mayr can photograph a man wearing \$600 silicone boobs.

"Yeah, we did that," he said with added excitement. ■

Follow Mayr's work on Instagram at [@studio_trash_](#) and [@Fridamonet](#).

Photos by Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice



Blonde ambition

Bleach loves making love to the camera

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Part of Bleach's approach to the photo shoot for this week's cover of Dallas Story was to tell a story of who she is. Bleach (nee Aubry Roach) and photographer Mark Mayr were intent on having the shoot be more than just fabulous photographs. And while this wasn't necessarily Bleach's life story, it was indicative of her complex take on drag.

"I really wanted it to be as if Bleach lived in these shots, from the bedroom to me with the mask," she said.

Bleach and Mayr work off each other with such strong intuition, getting inspiration from high-end fashion magazines and creating a high-fashion photo spread — while adding their own special twist — was a snap.

Scrutinizing "a ton of art and photography books," they found their references, but Bleach's own ideas elevated them into some elegant drag camp.

"I like having some control creatively," the 28-year-old drag performer said. "We do this dance though. He gets creative where I get meticulous, but it's a nice balance."

The Bleach and Mayr have known each other for six years. They hit it off immediately when Bleach was booked on Mayr's show (which he presents as his drag alter ego Frida Monet) in 2015.

"We were doing little shoots in the bedroom, just creating some stuff," Bleach said. "But over the last two years, we've really elevated our ideas to make photos we were both proud of."

Roach's obsession with blonde bomb-

shells led him to create Bleach. Anna-Nicole, Pamela Sue and Dolly are his icons.

But the blond bit is merely a part of a deeper, much more complex Bleach.

"I feel like I have a broad range," she said. "I was never the girl who wanted to perform a Britney number, but I found joy in a way to do that. I do a lot of more bizarre numbers, but when I need to pay the rent, I throw in a Dolly or Britney number."

Bleach prides herself on being a chameleon and being able to read the room. This is, perhaps, a tool in every experienced drag queen's skill set, but for Bleach, it lends to her evolution.

"Every day is a constant evolution. I'm changing every single day. Anytime you have that much presentation going on, it gives off new vibrations, and people feel that," she said. "There's a part of me that comes to life but also takes on a new life."

If it wasn't for drag, Bleach — er, Roach — would be a completely different person far removed from the world of drag. Dressing up, he said, changed who he was inside.

"It's made me more uninhibited, which I apply to daily life. I've always been a head-down, not-say-anything kind of guy, and I think drag has allowed me to speak up for myself and assert my point of view."

That same spirit has also kept Bleach busy. This October marks the queen's "third or fourth" year doing drag professionally as a full-time job. These days, she's often performing in the Rose Room; she's part of Double Trouble with Raquel Blake every Tuesday at JR.'s, and she's a staple at drag brunch events throughout Dallas and Fort Worth. One recent Saturday, she said, she had three shows and was in drag from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m.

"I get so tired because I am a workhorse, and it can get intense," Bleach said. "But you know, I'm so lucky to be doing this. I love being in drag."

She also loves being a cover girl for Dallas Voice.

"Well, I love doing photos, and I was excited to not just focus on one image," she said. "I'm so excited and grateful for this opportunity. My friends like Cassie Nova and Raquel Blake — they've been on the cover, and now I get to join those ranks!"

Follow Bleach on social media at @bleach-pleasee



This must be a dream!

If you're looking at more than Bleach on the cover and in the "cover shoot" photos here on these inside pages, who can blame you? The setting for the shoot is a dream — a Dreamhaus, in fact.

And what else could you ask for in a Dreamhaus? The interiors are bold, colorful and fabulous and right here in North Texas. Everman, Texas to be exact.

That's just south of Fort Worth, nestled in a little nook southeast of Interstates 20 and 35W. Words to describe the Dallas Dreamhaus are hard to find. It's a photo studio; it's an illusion; it's a home. It's pure fantasy.

On the outside, it looks like any normal house on a small town street that's not far from a run-down strip mall and a lonely memorial park. The neighborhood is modest and quiet. The cars and trucks line the streets and driveways.

But when that door opens, it is like being shot at hyper-speed into a rococo dream — which makes the name make sense.

From that moment, your eyes are drawn to every inch of this insane house. It is three bedrooms, two baths and a kitchen, along with main rooms, all filled top to bottom with gold trim, cherub statues, moulding, chandeliers and ornate wallpapers in a multitude of colors.

Owner Rachel Page brought the place into her fold as the Dreamhaus alongside her other colorful spot, the Dallas Dollhaus. They both serve as backdrops for photo and video shoots while Dreamhaus can also serve as an event venue.

See the place for yourself on Instagram at @dallasdreamhaus. It has to be seen to be believed.

— Rich Lopez

From the bars to the boardrooms and beyond —

BIG PERSONALITY

Dee Pennington rose through the ranks at her job from teller to CEO, all the while making her mark as a volunteer and advocate in the LGBTQ community

Dee Pennington has come a long way from her first time at a gay bar, when she was shocked to discover that women could actually be gay, to today as she is gearing to step back into the world of work and the world of activism. And she has made an indelible impression on so many of the people she has met along the way.

So what better time than our BIG September Issue for Dallas Voice to catch up with this woman with a smile, a personality, drive, charisma and ... hair ... as big Texas!

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: Tell me about when you first began to realize you were a lesbian and about when and how you came out.

Dee Pennington: It's a long story that spanned 10 years. One night, I went to a gay bar with my husband and another couple and our gay guy friend to see Kandy Delight in a drag show. I went up to the bar, and this very attractive woman asked, "What can I get you to drink baby?" I was gobsmacked!

The next day, I asked my friend, "Why was that woman working at a gay bar?" He told me because she was gay. I exclaimed, "Women are gay?????" I couldn't believe it!

Fast-forward 10 years and two husbands later, my path crossed with this very same woman and voila, I fell madly in love and came out — sort of. I was about 33 before I could acknowledge to myself that I was a lesbian. It was very difficult for me, and I hurt people who loved me in the



process by my dishonesty.

You worked in the corporate world, where things were more conservative. Tell me about your job when you first came out, and about how your job changed through the years. I know you retired as president of a credit union. Did you work for the credit union all along? Tell me about your advancement at work.

I worked at the credit union from 1980 to 2018. I started as a teller; after 38 years, I retired the CEO.

I have a high school diploma, but that's it as far as my education went. I was given great opportunities by my predecessor, but I had to prove myself and do the work. I earned it, but I was also greatly supported by many people who had much trust and faith in me.

As you became more active — and as a result more well-known — in the LGBTQ community, how did you balance your corporate work life with your life and your work in the LGBTQ community? I balanced it like we all did in those days. Our country and our community were engulfed by the AIDS epidemic. That's how and why I started my activism.

It HAD to happen at the grassroots level since no one else was helping. It fell on individual volunteers — men and women — to come together and raise the money and the awareness, to fight for the education and the legislation.

We all did it working full-time jobs and then going to work at our volunteer FULL-time jobs. If the day ended in a Y, we were at a community meeting.

But there were, thank goodness, already many who had started the movement in its infancy, who were working so tirelessly. I got to meet and serve with

several of our community activists. Those are the ones to be admired and acknowledged.

Was there ever a time when you felt like the demands of your job clashed with involvement in the community and your activism? If so, how did you resolve that? It clashed in the sense it was so time consuming and stressful — and also challenging on relationships, as it took time away from home for sure.

I know that you were out at work, although not necessarily "flamboyantly out," for lack of a better way to say it. Do you feel like it was important to be out at work? Do you feel like you helped pave the way for LGBTQ folks — especially women — to be out in the corporate world? Actually, I was never out out at work. When I agreed to do this article, I knew this would be — and should be — a question. I have tremendous regret and shame that I was not brave enough to be who I was completely. There are many reasons for it — some genuine, some lame.

For brevity sake, the top three challenges I faced were, number one, that my father

was a Baptist preacher; number two, I had terrible fear I would lose my job (very legitimate fear for many years in our country), and number three, having to try harder since I was a woman in an extremely conservative, male-dominated environment. I didn't want to have to fight the lesbian label along with the woman label.

Even after things started progressing with our rights. I stayed mostly in the "don't ask, don't tell lane." And I did, in fact, have a couple of negative encounters with a couple of board directors — my bosses — that made me conclude the friction was very personal and was based on my sexual orientation.

And I guess there's also a reason number four: I was just chicken shit.

I sometime wonder if part of my motivation to be involved in our community was a way I could still help and assuage my guilt at being closeted in certain environments. Right or wrong, I hope the fruits of my involvement helped at least someone.

But to answer your question, YES, I think it's imperative to be open at work if possible and safe.

One thing weird I never did was hide my activism or my overall desire for equality. There was a time I was stupid enough to think I was living in two separate worlds, and ne'er the two would meet! Even early on, when there was a picture of me in the newspaper, on a stage, getting dollar bills stuffed in my bra for a fundraiser, it never dawned on me that I might get found out. As a matter of fact, when that pic made the front page of Dallas Voice and the paper landed on my desk — after circulating 10 stories in my building — thanks to a coworker, all I said, "Oh wow! I raised a lot of money that night for Home for the Holidays!" All without batting an eye. Then I explained what Home for the Holidays was and was given a donation!

So no, I was not OUT in the best and most honest way, but whatever I was doing, it WAS indeed in a very flamboyant way. Either indirectly or directly, I do I hope I did "pave the way for some folks," but I'll forever regret some of my choices, and I apologize if I ever hindered anyone or kept them in fear.

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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

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

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

DO NOT RECEIVE CABENUVA IF YOU

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 - rifampin
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*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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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:**
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 - muscle or joint aches
 - trouble breathing
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 - 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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Talk to me about Chick Happy Hour. How and when did that start? Hmm ... let's see. I'm not really sure what year CHH started, since it was just a little happy hour about which I had no foresight regarding its longevity. But I'm pretty sure it was at least 20 years ago.

It actually started because, when making plans with friends I would cancel and reschedule so frequently it was embarrassing. So I thought, let's just pick a standing time, so that we could all know when/where we'd be. It wasn't initially for networking or hook ups, but just for my gal pals to get together.

It started as a Sunday brunch for the first couple of times. Then I met Michael Scott at a party, and we were talking about my brunch and a way for it to include other women (she was single). We wanted it to be a completely diverse and inclusionary happy hour for lesbian singles and couples.

I chose the name, wrote a mission statement/"invite." Michael found the venue; we called our groups, and 60 women showed up!

Over the years Ibis Kaba, Sue Wyll and Car-

olina Clammer have chaired CHH with me. And the success of CHH is because of these women and the women who come out and support it.

What is the best part of Chick Happy Hour, to you? What makes it an important part of the community here in North Texas? One of the first things I was quite adamant about was that, because I was always asking the girls for money, CHH would be social ONLY — no fundraising, no ticket sales, no speeches. I wanted to give back to those who supported me by hosting them in a completely social way.

So while that's still a "rule" for the same reason, we do — happily and frequently — use our list of 1,500+ by posting and sharing other community organization causes and events.

The important part to me is that, while we've had as few as 60 people and as many as 600, we are still doing it. And we will continue to do it for anyone who still finds value in it.

And I love that, at least once a month in our busy, crazy world, we get to see an old friend or make a new one.

Tell me about other causes or move-

ments that are important to you. I know women's rights in general are very high on your list. What else? I actually retired from all my involvements years ago, especially when my parents became ill and needed several years of caretaking. And then, of course, after their deaths I had no interest either. It's been six or seven years since I have been involved in any activism or community participation other than CHH.

BUT! Yes, my care and passion are still and will always be LGBTQ rights, women's rights and, for goodness sakes, EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL HUMANS! I can tell you I'm justifiably scared as hell in these times. I'm not quite sure what to do, but I do know for sure it can't be nothing.

Since retiring from the credit union, what are you doing these days? Do you have any big projects or plans you are working on? As of late, after three years, I've been watching a lot of *Dr. Phil* during the day. Needless to say, that's just not a healthy choice or use of my time.

So, I'm excited to say that I start next week working 10 hours a week at the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce and

10 hours a week working for Texas Pride Impact Fund, and I'll be volunteering with the Human Rights Campaign with its Women's Fairway to Equality golf tournament next year.

When you think back, is there anything you would do differently? Not be such a wuss! Listen better. Dial it down (at least sometimes). Think before I speak. But mostly, I wish I would have done more.

As a successful businesswoman and someone who has been and continues to be active in the LGBTQ community and the women's movement, what advice do you have for women in general, lesbians or LGBTQ folks in general who are following in your footsteps? SHUT UP OR GET INVOLVED! BECOME A PART OF THE SOLUTION! GET OFF THE COUCH OFF SOCIAL MEDIA. GET ENGAGED IN SOMETHING THAT HELPS OTHERS!

And last, but not least, what do you want to talk about that I did not ask about? This issue just isn't long enough for that, but thanks for asking! Do you think anyone is still reading?



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Texas Dems fight back

BIG BALLS

Jenkins, Hinojosa, Parker defy governor; LGBTQ Caucus defies Republican majority

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This year, North Texas politicians put public health ahead of an executive order, and members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus faced arrest to stop a voter suppression bill from advancing in the Texas House.

County Judge Clay Jenkins put science above Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order when Jenkins ordered that masks be worn in buildings throughout Dallas County to protect against the surging Delta variant of the coronavirus. Several county judges in urban counties around the state followed Jenkins' lead.

Dallas ISD superintendent Michael Hinojosa ordered masks be worn in DISD schools to protect children under 12 who cannot yet receive the vaccine and those with underlying health conditions and suppressed immune systems for whom the vaccine may not work. School districts throughout the area and around the state followed Hinojosa's lead.

Judge Tonya Parker was the first to uphold the mask requirements. Several judges around the state followed Parker's lead and ruled in favor of local officials.

The Texas Supreme Court struck down Parker's ruling without specifically naming any local officials. So local officials stood by their orders. When the issue returned to Parker's courtroom, she again ruled in favor of local officials, and the Supreme Court hasn't rushed to reverse her.

Normally during emergencies, executive orders are issued locally by mayors or county judges. Local officials know best what's needed after flooding from a tropical storm in South Texas, a tornado in West Texas or an ice storm in North Texas. What the governor can do is help



areas of the state recover quicker by ordering National Guard troops to assist in clean up or by sending needed medical supplies or by diverting repair crews to an affected part of the state.

What the governor can't do is make things worse by ordering hospitals to close or by preventing EMS workers from doing their jobs.

When Jenkins issued his mask order, he was saying that people in Dallas County would be best served by wearing a mask in office buildings and other public indoor areas. He wasn't implying that what public health officials said was best in crowded cities was necessary or helpful in less populated areas. Hinojosa was also making a decision based on what was best for children in DISD's dilapidated schools, many with antiquated air conditioning systems and no air filtration systems. And Parker was ruling that a governor shouldn't be allowed to issue orders that make things worse.

But these decisions by all three local leaders defied elected statewide officials, who were playing politics and pandering to their base with anti-mask decisions and rulings and orders.

Another group of politicians with big balls this year are Texas' legislative lesbians. Ok, I know: One's bisexual. Another pansexual. Another a gay woman. And one big-ole-dyke-get-used-to-it. But the group of six were leaders in the Democratic walkout in the Legislature, especially state Rep. Jessica Gonzalez, who spoke for the group at the outset.

Quorum in the Texas House of Representatives is two-thirds or — 100 members out of 150 members. The governor has the power to arrest absent members and have them delivered to the Capitol to make quorum.

After the 2000 census, Democrats fled to Ardmore, Okla., to protest gerrymandered redistricting maps that Republicans were forcing through the Legislature. During this summer's two special sessions, the issue was voting rights. All six LGBTQ members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus flew to Washington, D.C., to urge members of Congress to act on voting rights legislation that would make provisions in bills then making their way through the Texas Legislature illegal.

Last week, the U.S. House of Repre-

DANGER, Page 22

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DANGER, From Page 20



Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, left (Associated Press)

representatives passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The U.S. Senate has yet to act on it.

But in the final days of the second special session of the legislature, quorum was regained and SB1, the voter suppression bill Democrats were trying to defeat, passed. Each house passed a different version, so the bill went to conference committee. No Democrats were included in that committee.

State Rep. Ann Johnson, a Houston representative and the newest member of the LGBT caucus, announced the news of the defeat and said in a press release, "Although we did what we could to eliminate the worst aspects of the bill,

it wasn't enough. The bottom line is that this bill will be bad for Texas, and its im-



Judge Tonya Parker

pact will be felt for many years to come."

State Rep. Celia Israel, caucus member from Austin, explained passage of the bill this way: "This special session was ultimately designed to pass legislation to placate the concerns of a fraction of the electorate that doesn't believe the election results of 2020."

She said that she and other caucus members, along with other Democrats, left Texas when there was no room for negotiation on the issue.

"I eagerly await action by the U.S. Senate" on the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, Lewis said. ■



State Rep. Celia Israel

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Not afraid to speak out

BIG MOUTH

Alexandre's owner Lee Daugherty always seems to be ticking someone off

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When we came up with the Big September category of Big Mouth, Lee Daugherty immediately came to mind. He laughed when we told him, because he's well aware of his reputation.

Daugherty, who grew up in Allen, admitted, "My mouth got me in trouble in school too. And it wasn't always good trouble."

Since moving from the 'burbs to Dallas more than 20 years ago, Daugherty's mouth has mostly gotten him into what he calls "good trouble." As a founder of Take Back Oak Lawn, as a member of the Mayor's LGBT Task Force and as the owner of Alexandre's for the past 17 years, he's always spoken his mind and taken the kind of action that he believes is best for the community.

Daugherty said the most divisive issue he has been involved with is the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue from what is now known as Turtle Creek Park. He began his campaign to remove the bronze statue about four years before it was finally moved from the park.

He said his first Facebook post on the subject drew about three likes. By the time Confederate statues were removed from public squares in New Orleans, his posts were getting hundreds of likes and dislikes — as well as death threats from neo-Nazi groups that protested the removals.

The most recent threat came just a few weeks ago, several years after the Lee statue was removed from what was then Lee Park, when it was shipped off to storage.



Lee Daugherty

Another of Daugherty's battles involved the renaming of that same park. The name temporarily reverted to its original moniker — Oak Lawn Park after the statue was removed and the city agreed that Lee Park was no longer appropriate. Some neighborhood organizers wanted the name changed to Turtle Creek Park. But Daugherty was on the side of not erasing the name "Oak Lawn" from the area as it rapidly gentrifies.

Here's where he compromised: The name Oak Lawn Park had a bitter history itself, because Black people were not allowed to enter the park when it first opened under that name. Daugherty agreed that starting fresh was a good choice. But, he notes, there are another 60 parks throughout Dallas with similar history whose names should be changed as well.

Daugherty described how he became a bar owner. His previous job was in telecom and, he said, as the telecom industry fell, he was spending more and more time in bars. "I spent so much time in bars, it was cheaper to own one," he said.

Daugherty acknowledged he isn't your typical bar owner, describing himself as a "classtrator." "I always listen to input," he said. "I listen to the people who are actually doing the work. The industry's tough. Don't make it tougher."

He said bars are the No. 1 industry losing employees these days. During the COVID pandemic, bars were allowed to re-open, and then they were closed again. He said he kept his bar closed 410 days but kept all of his employees on their insurance. And payroll was covered PPP funds, so everyone had their basic income. Then bar finally re-opened only after all the employees were vaccinated.

Daugherty said he met with his employees on Zoom regularly while the bar was closed, and, together, they decided what to do. Once the bar re-opened, he kept all of his staff.

Daugherty counts the creation of Take Back Oak Lawn as a major achievement. But some in Oak Lawn hold it against him.

Take Back Oak Lawn was formed in 2015 as a string of violent crimes was happening in the neighborhood. The group identified several problems and took action to solve those problems.

They got lights added on several streets and bushes trimmed to make those streets safer for people walking to their cars at night. John Anderson, another group founder, bought equipment to measure the light on streets, then turned the information over to the city to correct the problem.

The group also encouraged people to walk to their cars at night in groups. Daugherty said he was gratified one night when he was standing on his bar's patio and saw a group of five people walking together. They spotted someone walking alone and called out to him to walk with them to get to his car safely. Daugherty also hired a security guard to patrol his block and make sure his patrons safely got to their cars, and he encouraged other business owners to do the same.

The efforts of Take Back Oak Lawn have worked. Violent crime in the area has seen a double-digit decline in the years since it was founded. Daugherty said the group still works in the neighborhood. In fact, on Saturday, Sept. 11, volunteers will meet at Alexandre's at 10 a.m. to walk the streets of the neighborhood to clean up.

"Cleaning helps us find problem areas," Daugherty said. "But it also helps us build pride in our neighborhood."

There's nothing controversial about any of that. But Daugherty said, he ticked off business owners throughout the neighborhood who didn't want him talking about the crime rate when it was high.

Despite his reputation as the Big Mouth of Cedar Springs, business at Alexandre's has been good. So good, in fact, that Daugherty is expanding his bar into the space next door. Despite pandemic construction delays, including a bottleneck at the permit office on Jefferson Boulevard plaguing all construction projects, he hopes the larger space will be open by the end of the year.

And Alexandre's, which has been known for live music, is slowly adding performers and DJs to its schedule.

"Support LGBT musicians," Daugherty said, pointing out that they've been hurt by the shutdown as much as bar personnel. That's Daugherty's latest crusade, and he's sure someone will find a reason to argue with him about that one, too. ■

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Honoring LGBTQ-owned businesses

BIG BUSINESS



Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, second from left, presented a proclamation declaring September as LGBT Business Month in the city of Dallas to, from left, LGBT Chamber Foundation Chair Clint Thomson, LGBT Chamber Chair Gary Sanchez, Chamber President and CEO. (Photo courtesy of the city of Dallas, via the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce)

North Texas LGBT Chamber gets city, county to recognize September as LGBT Business Month

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Since the beginning of September, both the Dallas City Council and the Dallas County Commissioners have issued proclamations recognizing this as LGBT Business Month, at the request of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce. The proclamations, explained Chamber President and CEO Tony Vedda, are intended to both honor and urge support for the many LGBTQ-owned businesses that help the Dallas-Fort Worth Metrolplex grow and thrive.

"We wanted to bring a focus to how these LGBTQ-owned businesses support the economy here in North Texas," Vedda said.

Gary Sanchez, chamber board chair and director of public affairs at Visit-Dallas, said the chamber estimates that LGBTQ-owned businesses in Dallas "contribute more than \$30 billion to the local economy. ... It has been well documented that small businesses are the backbone of any community. They cre-

ate more than 1.5 million jobs annually, about 64 percent of new jobs created in the U.S., and they employ nearly 50 percent of all workers in the U.S. We think that is worthy of recognition."

Vedda said those figures are a conservative estimate extrapolated from a wide-ranging economic study conducted by the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce and based on surveys of LGBT-certified businesses (businesses certified by the National LGBT Chamber to be majority owned by LGBTQ individuals as part of the chamber's LGBT Supplier Diversity Initiative).

Vedda said North Texas LGBT Chamber officials had "looked at the city of Dallas and the county of Dallas, at the LGBTQ population here and our spending power, along with the number of what we assume to be LGBT-owned businesses and what their economic output is." In the end, he said, as noted in the proclamations, they determined that Dallas has the largest LGBTQ population of any city in Texas, and that that population has a combined buying power of more than \$4 billion.

And, he added, the chamber estimates that there are about 4,000 LGBTQ-owned businesses in Dallas with a combined gross output of more than \$1.5 billion.

Vedda said that the idea for recognizing LGBTQ Business Month started a couple of years in talks between him and Tammi Wallace, cofounder, pres-

ident and CEO of the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

"Tammi and I talked about how there is no recognition of our LGBTQ businesses, and we felt like we needed to do something about it. And this year, I just decided this was the time to ask the city and the county for these proclamations.

"It would be nice to do something statewide, but with everything going on, it's just not the time for that," Vedda continued. "And the Houston chamber is celebrating their 5th anniversary this year, so they decided to hold off for now. Next year, hopefully, we can include Houston and maybe even the chambers in Austin and San Antonio, too."

Over the last year and a half, as the COVID-19 pandemic has raged across the country, Vedda said that LGBTQ-owned businesses — just like every other business — have suffered. "The LGBT bars — the gay and lesbian bars everywhere — have all had a really hard time, and personally, I find that very sad. Because for so many people, the bars were their first entry into the community. For so long, the bars were our only safe havens.

"I don't know of any LGBT bars in Dallas or Fort Worth that have [permanently] closed because of the pandemic, but they have all suffered — as have our restaurants. Our restaurants have really had to traverse a minefield through this pandemic. They still are," he said. "Some businesses have not been affected as much, but others have been greatly impacted. Cleaning services, for example, came to a grinding halt when everything started shutting down and people left their offices to work from home."

Through it all, Vedda said, the North Texas LGBT Chamber has worked diligently to find ways to help its members survive and stay connected. The chamber has worked with the Small Business Administration to help chamber members access the SBA's programs, grants and loans, and the chamber has found ways to keep its own programs and groups accessible through virtual events and online efforts.

The SBA has a new program coming specifically for restaurants that the chamber hopes to be able to announce soon, he added. And in addition, the chamber has chosen not to drop members during the pandemic, even if those members were not able to continue to pay membership dues.

Vedda said that the chamber, like any

other small nonprofit or business, has been working hard to keep things going through the pandemic, and that work continues. "Like everybody else, we are listening to the physicians on TV and to our local experts — Dr. John Carlo at Prism Health North Texas is a wealth of information — but I think everyone is at least a little cautious at this point. We all want to think the worst is over and that we will get back to normal soon. But seeing how this Delta variant has grabbed hold — especially among the unvaccinated — people are still being very cautious."

That's why, he said, the chamber chose to cancel the awards luncheon that had been planned for mid-September.

The chamber's small groups had started back with in-person meetings in July, but the annual awards luncheon was a different matter, Vedda said. "We held an awards luncheon in January of 2020. That was our last big event before the pandemic hit," he said.

After people began getting vaccinated at the first of the year, and the severity of the pandemic seemed to be easing some, chamber officials decided to schedule the 2021 luncheon for September. But then came Delta.

"So we decided to nix the luncheon and plan a virtual event instead." Now the chamber is planning for a virtual event to take place live on Friday, Nov. 3, from 10-11 a.m. Video of the event will be rebroadcast later for those unable to watch the first time.

The delay, Vedda said, "gives us time to expand the awards and work on some really cool things for the virtual event."

In the meantime, Vedda encouraged everyone to do what they can to support the community by supporting LGBTQ-owned businesses whenever possible.

"We want people to remember that for just about any goods and services they need, there is most likely an LGBTQ-owned business that can serve that need," he said, suggesting that individuals check the chamber's website, the Dallas Voice website and the Dallas Business Journal's annual list of top LGBT-owned businesses in North Texas.

"The chamber's mission is to achieve equality for businesses, and the easiest way to do that is for people to support LGBTQ-owned businesses," Vedda continued. "Always look for and support those LGBTQ businesses and the businesses that contribute to and support our community."



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BIG DRAG STAR

A'keria C. Davenport talks 'Drag Race,' the 'Rudemption lip sync' and support for the trans community

A'keria C. Davenport has seen the highs and the lows of being a drag performer, and she said she has learned from it all — not just about how to be a better entertainer, but how to be a better person.

A Dallas native, A'keria is a member of the renowned Haus of Davenport drag family, and was already a well-known entertainer around North Texas when she was chosen to compete in Season 11 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, making it all the way to the final four. She returned this year to compete in the just-completed *Drag Race All Stars 6*, but was eliminated in week six. Then in Week 10, the "Rudemption Lip-Sync Smackdown," A'keria surprised everyone when she opted out of the epic lip-sync battle to win her way back on the show.

This week, as she prepares for her headlining gig at the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund's Night of Stars: Heroes fundraiser on Saturday night at S4, A'keria took the time to answer a few questions for Dallas Voice about *Drag Race*, the Davenport family, her advocacy for transgender people and more.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: As I write this, *Drag Race All Stars 6* is a few days away from the season finale. Two episodes ago, the audience and the four remaining contestants watched as the "game within the game" played out as a series of lip sync battles between eliminated contestants. But you chose not to participate. You said you could "take the things I've now learned about myself, that this competition has taught me, and apply that to my next journey in life." What are those things you learned



from your time on *Drag Race*, both in Season 11 and on *All Stars 6*? A'keria C. Davenport: Pull up a chair, 'cause this could take a minute, lol. For starters, I learned that cakey makeup and HD don't mix, lol. I honestly learned to appreciate the talents that I possess and contribute to the world. Often times, even as established entertainers, you see so many others get praised for things you may not be able to do, and it makes you question who you as an entertainer are. But EVERYTHING ISN'T FOR EVERYONE! So learn who you are and what you're great at, and allow the world to enjoy just that.

I know that you are from the DFW area, or at least, you were living here in DFW before you were on Season 11 of *Drag Race*. But I read online that after Season 11, you moved to Katy, down near Houston. Why did you decide to leave DFW? And what made you choose Katy? In the words of my *All Stars 6* sis Rajah O'Hara: "BIG D BABY," lol! Yes, I was raised in Dallas, but when I made the decision to move, it was solely just wanting some change of scenery. I'm very family oriented, so I wanted somewhere close enough that I could drive to them if needed — although I really don't like driving, lol.

I remember you talking about your family when you were on Season 11, and about raising your nephew. How has that experience — taking on the role of a parent — affected who you are as a person? How has that responsibility affected your career path? Honestly, it's bittersweet, because you have to make sure you don't get so consumed with your work that you forget him and those helping with raising him. But you also have to keep in mind that there will be special moments that you will miss as a sacrifice to make a better life.

You have also talked on *Drag Race* about living as a woman for a while before realizing that you identify as a man. You have said that because of that experience, you will always be an advocate for trans people. Talk a little about that advocacy and what it means to you. Well, I lived as a woman for about two-and-a-half to three years. Many only see the hardships that trans people face when [those hardships] make the headlines. But it's goes soo much deeper than that. Medication, advocacy, housing, benefits and especially protection are just a few

Night of Stars: Heroes

The Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund presents "A Night of Stars: Heroes," on Saturday, Sept. 11, in the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. VIP admission begins at 5 p.m., with general admission at 6 p.m. The show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Drag Race star A'keria C. Davenport headlines the show, which will also feature emcee Cassie Nova and entertainers Candi Carroll, Jenna Skyy, Devon DeVasquez, Linze Serrell, Jada Pinkett-Fox, Sienna Silver and Gloria Devine.

General admission tickets are \$25; a limited number of VIP tickets — which include a reception with appetizers and a meet-and-greet with performers — start at \$50.

Tickets are available online at GDMAF.org.



of the necessities that most trans people — especially trans people of color — don't receive. I

lived that life, and I've experienced those struggles, and I have lost people very close to me to anti-trans violence. So I would feel less than human to not work to protect my trans brothers and sisters.

The last couple of years have been especially hard here in Texas and across the country for the transgender community, especially for trans women of color. From your perspective as an advocate for the trans community, how do you think that our society overall is responding to that violence? What about our LGBTQ community? Are we responding the way we should? Honestly, I think [when a trans person is murdered] society allows ignorance to overshadow the fact that a human being's life was wrongfully taken from them, as if trans people aren't of any value. So they tend to say things like, "She was trying to trick him." Let's be very clear: MOST TRANS WOMEN ARE NOT OUT HERE SEEKING "straight" MEN TO TRICK, BUT MOST "straight" MEN ARE OUT HERE SEEKING TRANS WOMEN TO TRICK ON! Let that one sit in your spirit.

So, to sum it up, no. Most of society could care less about the struggles of trans people, and the sad part of that is that it includes most of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Haus of Davenport has always been known in the LGBTQ community, especially here in North Texas. But thanks to *Drag Race* and the growing popularity of drag as an art form, Haus of Davenport is famous well beyond the world of drag and the LGBTQ community now. What do you feel sets the Davenport family apart? Not to take anything from any other family, but we are more than a haus, WE ARE A FAMILY! What the mothers of the house — like Kelexis, Armani, etc. — teach goes beyond just

drag, because any girl can be good on stage, but who are you when the curtains close? That's what really matters. Oh, but don't get it twisted! The Haus of DAVENPORT loves to drag, and it shows! D.A.V.E.N.P.O.R. — and when you see us, we will be the T!

Do you think all the newfound fame is a good thing? Or are there some drawbacks to it all? I feel like there are drawbacks in everything you do. Miss Thing, the price of fame is high! But I take all of my "Ls" and make those girls LESSONS on how to be greater and on what not to do. So, to all the haters THANK YOU! Lol! But honestly, I've loved this rollercoaster into "fame," 'cause the stories I've heard about the lives I touched from simply being me and doing what I love are sooo rewarding.

Lastly, you said you are going to take what you have learned on *Drag Race* and "apply that to my next journey in life." Tell us about that next journey. Where do you go from here? I will continue to grow stronger as a person and an entertainer. I know now that no matter what I do, DENIAL IS NOT A DEFEAT. I will spread that message to others and teach people that it's OK to not be all the time. You are the narrator of your life, so don't do what would hurt you just to please others.

And one really last question: What have I not asked you about that you want people to know? Whew, chile! Someone needs to look up the meaning of "last," lmao. Nah, just kidding. Honestly, I feel like there isn't anything I could tell my fans that I haven't already shown them. You all have seen my ups and downs, my fight, my defeat, my talents, my drive, my ass almighty (lol), my charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talents. Hell, you've even me cry, lol! What more could you want to see, other than me wearing that *Drag Race* crown!lol! But I do have plenty of crowns that look mighty similar *bloop bloop*! But I will forever love you all.

Oh, and just 'cause I didn't return that one last time to the main stage to lip sync DOES NOT mean that you've seen the last of me — coming to a screen and main stage near you: The BAWDY is on the move!

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A community in hiding

BIG DANGER

LGBTQ Afghans live in fear of execution under Taliban rule as advocates elsewhere struggle to help them escape

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@me.com

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of LGBTQ Afghan citizens who dared to take modest steps toward living openly when their country was under the occupation by and influence of a more tolerant “western culture” are now literally hiding in closets, ditches and abandoned houses to avoid summary execution by Afghanistan’s new governing force, the Taliban.

That’s what Nemat Sadat, an Afghan-born gay activist and American citizen, said this week about the plight of LGBTQ people in his homeland. His concerns have been largely echoed in news reports from a wide range of independent media and organizations.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement Sept. 2, saying that, while the U.S. has withdrawn all U.S. personnel from Kabul, it would use “every diplomatic, economic, political and assistance tool at our disposal to uphold the basic rights of all Afghans.”

But the potential for LGBTQ Afghans getting U.S. help appears bleak because, in order to apply for asylum, an Afghan must first get out of Afghanistan.

On a special U.S. State Department web page entitled “Afghanistan Inquiries,” the State Department says, “Individuals who believe they are being persecuted or who fear persecution in their own country and have managed to flee to another country should follow procedures to seek asylum with local/national authorities. Such individuals can also seek assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN-



In this photo from 2016, Rameen, a young gay Afghan, poses with his back to the camera in Kabul, Afghanistan. To be homosexual in Afghanistan is to live in fear, and with the Taliban having retaken control of the country and the U.S. having withdrawn its forces in the last two months, the danger is even greater now. (AP Photos/Massoud Hossaini)

HCR). UNHCR’s immediate focus is to ensure that Afghans who are seeking safety can reach it, including across borders and into neighboring countries if needed, and that they can receive assistance to meet basic needs.”

The United Nations Security Council on Aug. 30 passed a brief resolution, urging the Taliban to “adhere to” its commitments to allow Afghans to “leave Afghanistan anytime ... with no

one preventing them from traveling ...”

But Twitter posts from various LGBTQ Afghans in the past several days indicate as many as 350 LGBTQ Afghans have sought evacuation from the country, for fear of being executed by the Taliban, yet “none have been airlifted out.”

Sadat has created a petition on Change.org to ask the U.S. government to “assist in the safe passage of LGBTQIA people who need to flee Afghanistan and seek

refuge by providing humanitarian visas that allow them to leave the country.” As of Tuesday morning, Sept. 7, it had at least 374 signatures.

In his petition, Sadat said LGBTQ Afghans are facing an “existential threat under the Taliban.” He said there are reports that some people are identifying LGBTQ people to the Taliban to win “social credit” and that the Taliban has conducted house searches for LGBTQ people.

Sadat says “nearly 800” LGBTQ Afghans have sought evacuation by the U.S. State Department but that, “to date, nothing has happened.”

While Sadat did not provide any documentation for his claims, independent reports from various news organizations and groups around the world seem to support his assessments. Agence France-Press reported Aug. 18 that a confidential United Nations document indicates that the Taliban has started conducting door-to-door searches to arrest people on their priority lists.

Reuters news service, which also saw the classified report, said it indicates that the “Taliban are intensifying the hunt-down of all individuals and collaborators with the former regime and, if unsuccessful, target and arrest the families and punish them according to their own interpretation of Sharia law.”

A UN press release Aug. 6 quoted Deborah Lyons, special representative of the secretary-general and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, as saying she is receiving reports of “from Taliban-controlled areas of summary executions, beatings and clampdown on media.”

In an article posted Aug. 21, just six days after the Taliban took control of the Afghan capital of Kabul, the Business Insider quoted two gay men in Afghanistan as saying they feared the Taliban would kill them if the Taliban found out they are gay. Each man was identified with a fictitious name to protect his identity.

The British gay magazine Attitude on Aug. 26 published an interview with a



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Rainbow Railroad executive director Kimahli Powell, right, speaks with Chris Glover of the CBC.

young gay man in Afghanistan who said the Taliban took his boyfriend from his home, “beat him and beheaded him.”

“The Taliban said this is what we do to LGBT+, to set an example,” the magazine quoted the gay man as saying. The man said he has been in hiding and sending emails to various embassies and LGBTQ groups, seeking help.

A lesbian told the magazine she had to change locations because the Taliban was searching homes nearby. The magazine quoted another gay Afghan in hiding as

saying, “The Taliban are going street by street in search of gay people to kill.”

Openlynews.com, a digital news site of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, reported on Sept. 3 that a gay student and a gay teacher in Kabul tried to get on one of the last evacuation flights out of the country, but both failed.

Before the Taliban retook control of the country last month, Afghan law, which prohibits adultery and pederasty, was already being interpreted as to cover homosexuality. The penalty was death

by stoning for people who identified as being gay or who engaged in homosexual acts.

“The difference now,” said Sadat, in an online forum Sept. 4, “is there is a lot of people who have exposed themselves. There are a lot of people, like gay males, who are living with their boyfriends — that’s very dangerous. Because right now, what the Taliban are doing, they are going house to house, searching, because they have a hit list of LGBT people that they want to target and kill. And

they have, already. And they are going to communities and telling them, ‘Hand over your homosexuals.’”

Sadat was speaking through an online forum entitled “A Life in Hiding: How Afghanistan’s LGBTQ Community is Living Under Threat.” The forum was organized on Facebook by the Indian newspaper Deccan Herald.

Although Sadat has been living in the United States since he was an infant, he said he returned to Afghanistan in 2012, while the country was being run by the

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U.S.-backed government of President Hamid Karzai. Although the Karzai government was hostile to LGBTQ people, said Sadat, some LGBTQ people felt more comfortable with acknowledging their sexual orientation while the country was “absorbing” much of the western culture of the U.S. and its allies.

“It’s only after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks [on the U.S.], that the U.S. military occupation and westernization provided impetus — that the same LGBT movement that grew all around the world, the Afghan generation wanted to be part of this movement.”

Sadat said that, when the Taliban was in control in 1996 through 2001, “they did publicly execute homosexuals — granted, it was in smaller numbers because ... people were less likely to come out of the closet.”

But in the last several years, he said, “They see LGBTQ people getting married, on Instagram and everywhere, why not here?”

A report released last December by the International Lesbian and Gay Association stated that consensual same-sex sexual acts “could potentially” be regarded as violating Sharia law, but ILGA had “no” reported instances of executions for such acts.

Things were still very difficult. In a 2016 report, the BBC interviewed several LGBT people in Afghanistan. All spoke anonymously, and all said they understood the penalty for homosexuality in Afghanistan was execution. The report quoted an Afghan cleric as saying there was a “broad consensus among scholars” that execution was the appropriate punishment for engaging in same-sex sexual acts.

Sadat traveled back to Afghanistan as an adult to teach international politics at

the American University in Kabul. He is believed to be the first Afghan-American to come out as gay and advocate for the human rights of LGBTQ people in Afghanistan.

Paul Jansen, senior advisor for global advocacy at Outright, said there are no official LGBTIQ organizations in Afghanistan, and any unofficial groups are underground now for their safety, as such contact is extremely difficult.

“We are in touch with a few activists as and when possible,” said Jansen. “Provision of any kind of practical support at this point is not really possible. We are embarking on a research project to document the challenges and needs of LGBTIQ communities now, because experience shows that without documentation LGBTIQ people get overlooked, and [we] will take it from there to see as and when and how we can support our partners on the ground.”

Jansen added that Outright, along with other human rights organizations, is calling on the U.S. government to offer asylum to LGBTQ people and others fleeing Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, the reality of the situation,” said the Outright spokesperson, “is that most people will not be able to flee.”

In June, President Biden named Jessica Stern as the U.S. special envoy for human rights of LGBTQ persons. Stern, who is finishing up as executive director of Outright Action International, does not start that new position until later this month.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas, an openly gay Democrat from New Hampshire, asked State Secretary Antony Blinken to expand those eligible for refugee status from Afghanistan “to explicitly include LGBTQ Afghans.”

Fighting for LGBTQ lives

Rainbow Railroad working to help LGBTQ Afghans flee country

Mark Segal | Philadelphia Gay News
mark@epgn.com

When the Taliban were in control of parts of Afghanistan, beginning in the late 1990s, they made clear that they strictly followed Sharia Law, which according to their interpretation means that those who have sexual relations with members of the same sex are condemned to death. They not only state it, they publicize it.

During their rule they went so far as to publish photos of those who were hanged. This creates a grave situation for those LGBTQ people still living in Afghanistan. If, as the Taliban states, they will allow people to leave, those allowed to leave won’t include LGBTQ people. LGBTQ Afghans will be jailed, tried and executed, or just killed before they can exit the country.

Rainbow Railroad is a Canada-based organization that helps LGBTQ people escape from the 70 countries in the world that criminalize our community. Here’s their statement on the situation in Afghanistan:

“Rainbow Railroad is concerned that the return to power of the Taliban will lead to instances of extreme violence directed at members of the LGBTQ+ community in Afghanistan. And although it remains to be seen how the Taliban will respond to international pressure to uphold human rights, early signs are not encouraging. Just last month, a Taliban judge threatened that gay men will be crushed to death by toppling walls onto them should the group regain control of Afghanistan.

“We are also concerned that this impending crisis will lead to a spike in requests for help. So far in 2021, we have received 50 requests for help originating in Afghanistan, and we anticipate an uptick in requests due to the deteriorating security situation that threatens the safety of LGBTQ+ people. Moreover, there are a limited number of human rights defenders in the country, and civil society engagement is minimal, meaning that support for LGBTQ+ people from within Afghanistan is limited. However, we are currently relying on our deep international network and contacts within the country in order to reach people facing persecution.”

Rainbow Railroad’s executive director, Kimahli Powell, recently told the CBC that the organization has fielded more than 200 requests for help, and there are already reports of LGBTQ people being killed under Taliban rule.

“Our fear with the Taliban is that members of the community will be targets,” Powell said. “We’re already seeing disturbing reports from people who’ve reached out to us that the Taliban is seeking out members of the LGBTQ+ community and already a report of someone allegedly being killed. So we’re really concerned ... which is why we need to do everything we can to help people who are at imminent risk escape.”

For more information about Rainbow Railroad and its efforts to help LGBTQ people in Afghanistan and other countries where their lives and freedom are at risk, visit RainbowRailroad.org.

The State Department announced Aug. 2 that it was creating a new designation “for certain Afghan nationals.” The new designation, known as Priority 2, includes Afghans who worked for the U.S. but for shorter amounts of time and Afghans who were employed by media or non-governmental organizations based in the United States. In an

Aug. 24 letter to Blinken, Pappas and 63 colleagues, including five of the eight other openly LGBTQ members of the U.S. House, said, “We have a moral obligation to uphold our values and utilize every tool at our disposal to protect the LGBTQ+ Afghan community.”

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Taylor M. Parker



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Born This Way Foundation launches its #BeKind21 campaign to make a better world

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

The folks at the Born This Way Foundation are taking that advice to the next level during the month of September with the #BeKind Campaign. Born This Way Foundation is asking people to pledge to #BeKind21 and “practice kindness toward yourself and others each day” throughout the month — and beyond. In doing so, they say, “You’ll help build kinder, more connected communities that foster mental wellness.”

Recently, Taylor M. Parker, program associate with Born This Way Foundation, and Varnishi B. and Alexander L., two of the foundation’s 2021 advisory board members who live in Texas, took time to answer a few questions about Born This Way Foundation and their work with the organization.

— Tammye Nash

Taylor M. Parker
Dallas Voice: Thank you for taking the time to answer some questions for Dallas Voice about Born This Way Foundation and your #BeKind21 campaign. Start out by telling me about the foundation itself. When was Born This Way Foundation started, and why? Taylor M. Parker: Born This Way Foundation was founded nearly 10 years ago by Lady Gaga and Cynthia Germanotta, her mother. Through their conversations about mental health, they realized that young people were in need of more kindness (from themselves and others) as well as resources for mental health care.

Talk a little bit about Born This Way Foundation’s mission overall and its various programs. Since the start of our organization, Born This Way Foundation has served to make kindness cool, validate the emotions of young people and eliminate the stigma around mental health. We do this in many ways, such as creating opportunities for young people to lend their voices and share their stories through ChannelKindness.org or creating an opportunity to develop a culture of kindness through 21 consecutive days of kind actions through #BeKind21.

Born This Way Foundation addresses

youth across the board. But does it have any special outreach to LGBTQ youth? And if so, what are the special issues and needs you see among LGBTQ youth? The work of Born This Way Foundation is done for all young people. With that being said, we do work with LGBTQIA+ youth-serving organizations throughout the year. In 2021, we were able to work with nine of these organizations around a Pride campaign that worked to amplify their programming, and we continue to create safe spaces for these young people.

Explain the #BeKind21 campaign. Is it new this year? How did it come about? What does it involve? #BeKind21 is back in 2021 with the same mission: to create kinder communities. This campaign was started four years ago — in 2018 — when our executive director, Maya Smith, sent her older child to kindergarten. Wanting to make sure he had the best chances of creating friendships and receiving kindness, she worked with his teachers to create #BeKind21, a 21-day program that encourages participants to do one kind act every day.

This year, we’re working on encouraging self-kindness as a priority for our participants. Recognizing that we all can use a bit more kindness these days, it’s

important to be kind to yourself as you’re sharing kindness with others.

Our foundation’s research shows young people believe experiencing and even witnessing more kindness would benefit their mental health and that when young people describe their environments as kind, they are more likely to be mentally healthy. That’s true for youth in high schools, colleges, and the workplace.

As of the kickoff in 2018, everyone who signs up for and participates in #BeKind21 will join a movement of over 200 partners, 7 million participants and 160 million pledged acts of kindness.

The foundation focuses on “high impact programming.” How is the #BeKind21 Campaign high impact? #BeKind21 is high impact because it offers direct action within communities and those who live there. Last year, more than 112 million acts of kindness were generated globally. That means that there were more than 112 million kind things done for no reason other than to create kinder communities. Our communities were the direct recipients and witnesses to the increasing kindness.

How do you judge the success of the #BeKind21 campaign? Is there a specific end goal to reach? Is there some threshold to reach or event that

will happen? Or is the idea to simply build steadily toward a better society?

I judge the success of #BeKind21 from our participant feedback. Of course, we'd love to see higher numbers than previous years and to beat our record, so to speak, but I find it more meaningful to hear from the participants directly about their experiences. We've had people share that #BeKind21 has served as an opportunity to create stronger relationships with their loved ones or to stop self-harming. These stories are what makes #BeKind21 successful in my eyes.

How can people participate in and support the #BeKind21 campaign? People can participate in #BeKind21 by taking the pledge at BornThisWay.Foundation/bekind21 and join us in performing one kind action each day through Sept. 21. You can share your experiences on social media using the hashtag #BeKind21. If you need inspiration or motivation during the 21 days, our team has also created fun guides and ideas to encourage participation.

How can people participate in and support Born This Way Foundation overall? Do you need monetary donations? Do you need volunteers? We're always proud to invite young people — and people young at heart — to learn about how they can share their stories of kindness, resilience and compassion to inspire the world and give much-needed hope to anyone that comes to us on our platform ChannelKindness.org and follows these guidelines to submit your story to our editors.

To join us for upcoming initiatives and stay posted on our upcoming engagements, you can go to BornThisWay.Foundation/to-get-involved, to sign up to receive our email newsletter.

What do you want to see people take away from the #BeKind21 campaign? More than anything else, I want to encourage people to see that kindness is all around us. #BeKind21 is a chance to be more intentional about the kindness you give and more observant of the kindness you may receive. We are always capable of sharing kindness and we should work hard to remember that.

Last but not least, what do you want to talk about that I have not asked about? As the first act for my #BeKind21 list, I'm encouraging my loved ones to take the Please Stay Pledge at PleaseStay.us. This is a pledge you can take to promise you'll STAY, even and especially when life gets hard. The pledge was developed with our friends at Find Your Anchor and also shares resources to support your mental

wellness, crisis mental health resources, expert-curated self-care tips, suggestions for anchors and a pledge asking you to promise to stay in the world.

I encourage you to take it as well, and I hope that you'll see that promising to STAY is the greatest act of love and kindness you can do for yourself and your loved ones.

Alexander L.

Dallas Voice: Are you living in Texas right now, and if so, where in Texas? Are you a student, or do you work full time? Tell me about you. Alexander L.:

I am currently living in Texas. I've lived in the suburbs before, but right now, I live in the city. There's a very stark difference between those places that's very difficult to put a finger on, but I think it lies in the people who make up those communities and the mutual energies they share. They're both very nice and beautiful places in their own rights, though. And yes, I am a student right now.

In your bio, you say you feel "like somewhat of an average person." How does an average person feel? And why do you enjoy that feeling? I feel like an average person because, when I look back on my life, I don't see that I've done anything extremely big. And I'm OK with that. I don't see it as a bad thing — I simply just haven't — for example — started a movement, won a highly-acclaimed award, founded an organization or been honored in any supremely famous way. I don't have prodigious titles to my name. I'm just myself, and what I've done is what I've done, and I like that.

I like the idea of leading a smaller life. We live in a culture so intoxicated and driven by the ideas of fame, grand success, ultra-wealth, and a lot of people don't want to have to live a life where they haven't met these achievements. But I don't see anything wrong with that kind of a life. I actually think it's a really beautiful life to live; it's somewhat ordinary but there is so much beauty to be found on the ordinary, small scale of a life.

At the end of the day, that's the life that I dream of and that I want to have experienced. These personal philosophies are the reason in which I see myself as average, one among the millions.

What kind of performing do you do? What kind of book are you writing? And is there one place that tops your list of places you want to visit? I do a lot of community musical theater with other people my age. It's a lot of fun to do musicals and perform and experience

KINDNESS, Page 60



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A fall tradition returns

BIG TEX

After having to cancel in 2020 due to COVID, the State Fair of Texas returns later this month

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The packed DART trains to get there. The disgusting food. The rides that make you want to throw up. The idiotic kitchen demonstrations — of all the things we missed during the pandemic in 2020, the State Fair was the most painful loss for me. Really. I love this Dallas tradition.

I used to go every year. But then I got tired of searching for parking and paying a fortune once I found a place to park. So I missed the fair several years.

Then the DART Green Line opened; I could park for free at a DART station and ride the light rail to the front gate of Fair Park for just the cost of a day pass. Now that I'm old, I can ride DART for half price.

And I won't miss the fair again. I promise.

Once there, I begin and end with the food — either sickeningly sweet or oil-drippingly-fried. Or both. Disgusting. But I have to have some. State Fair blue ribbon winner fried butter was the worst. And I've been to the State Fair lots of times and eaten all sorts of concoctions. And I know it was the worst because I tried it over and over. Just to make sure.

And a corny dog. Yes, I know you can get corny dogs during the year now, but they're not the same. Only a corny dog fried at Fair Park has that special flavor and appeal.

And the rides. I hate heights. But since the fair erected the world's tallest Ferris wheel, I've regularly taken people to get one of the best views of Dallas. And now there's the tall Top o' Texas Tower, twice as tall as the Texas Star. To make sure I get nauseous, it not only rises 500 feet in the air, it also spins. Wouldn't miss it.

Then there are old favorites along the Midway, like the Texas Skyway and



the 1914 Dentzel Carousel that's been at Fair Park since the 1950s. Also, the model trains in the greenhouse building along the



Midway. Don't know why I can stare at model trains so long; maybe because I was model-train-deprived as a child, or at least O-Gauge deprived. Sad, I know.

Then I have to stop by the animal barns and competition areas. My favorite animals are the miniature horses, followed by the baby sheep and goats. And the fancy chickens and roosters in a wide variety of breeds. Oh, and the llamas. I love the llamas. But be careful because if you piss them off, they'll spit at you. And there

is always some surprise breed of something that I find irresistible and want to take home.

For some reason, I always walk through the car show. I don't know why. It always pisses me off how expensive cars have gotten, and the car that I see that I really want is just a prototype for something that'll never actually go on the market. I don't see why I can't have that car that flies.

Then there are the performances. Grand Funk Railroad appears Oct. 3 at

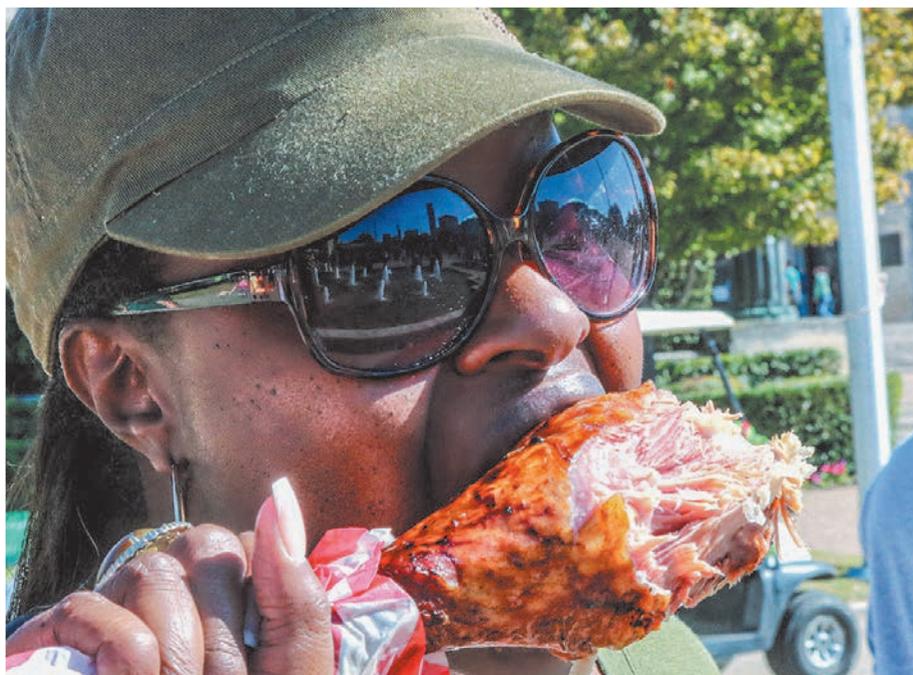
8:30 p.m. this year. Le Freak is on stage at 3 and 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 11. There is music planned for every taste. See the full schedule at BigTex.com.

Who won blue ribbons for what? I love walking through what used to be called The Women's Building to check out the arts and crafts. (I'm really terrible at remembering new names for things. Like, I still call Riversomething Boulevard "Industrial." The Women's Building is called something else now, but I digress.)

I especially love the blue-ribbon quilts. And butter sculpture. And blue-ribbon jars of pickles and jam. Makes me feel like I'm Opie, living in Mayberry. And then there are demonstrations of kitchen gadgets that are as useful as a vegematic and that I'd be as likely never to use. But they slice and dice! Then it's on to the next demonstration.

Of course, no trip to the State Fair is complete without a selfie with Big Tex. I really haven't cozied up to the new Big Tex yet. He's sort of an ugly version of the old Big Tex, who went up in flames in 2012. Old Big Tex was friendlier. New Big Tex seems a little mean — sort of angry that he's getting compared to old Big Tex, who started his life off as a big Santa Claus. And how can new Big Tex ever be better than Santa?

And it's not just me who's glad the State Fair is back. You know who else is glad? The city of Dallas. It brings a huge amount of revenue into the city, and we have lots of roads that need to be repaired. But that's not the reason to go to the State Fair. Go because it's just loads of fun. ■



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The Diversions debut

BIG WORDS



Kerry Shatzer's specially-created word search puzzles debut today in Dallas Voice

This week, Dallas Voice debuts a new, biweekly feature: the Diversions word search puzzle created especially for the Voice by Dallasite Kerry Shatzer.

Shatzer's book of word search puzzles, *Diversions: Word Searches Volume One*, is available on Amazon.com, where it has already garnered five stars. Dallas Voice will publish his puzzles created specifically for us every other Friday, starting today with a puzzle celebrating Del Shores' *A Very Sordid*

Wedding, the stage version of which Uptown Players presents the world premiered beginning Sept. 24 at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, with Shores and Emerson Collins — who produced and acted in the movie version, released in 2017 — in attendance. (Watch for an interview with Shores and Collins in the Sept. 17 issue of Dallas Voice.)

This week, as we launch his *Diversions* word search puzzles, Shatzer took a moment to tell us a little bit about himself, his puzzles and his book.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: Tell me about yourself. You live in Dallas, right? How long have you lived here? Kerry Shatzer: Right now, I live in the Mockingbird/Abrams area —

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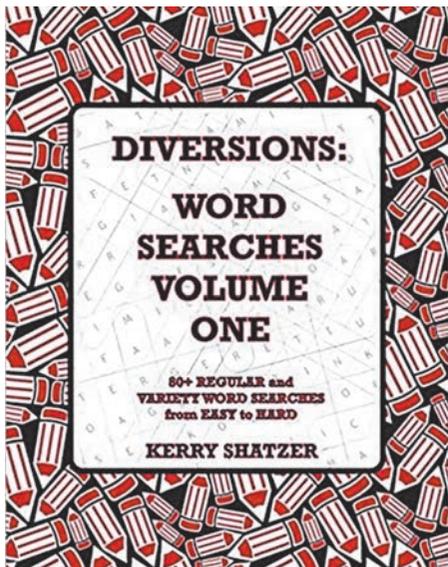
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not quite Lakewood or White Rock, but close to both. I grew up in Plano, went to Texas A&M, moved to St. Louis for 13 years, then finally moved back to Dallas in the early 2000s.

What kind of work do you do, other than the word searches? I work with Caven Enterprises, mostly as a DJ/VJ at JR.'s Bar & Grill, but I also help out occasionally at Sue Ellen's, S4 and the Rose Room, running sound and lights. I really enjoy helping out with Cassie Nova's "Freakshow" and "Double Trouble" with Bleach and Raquel Blake, Mondays and Tuesdays, respectively, at JR.'s. Then the Queer Off Season 4 started back up a few weeks ago at Sue's on Wednesdays.

How did you get started creating word search puzzles? How does one learn a skill like that? I've been making puzzles on and off my whole life, especially word searches and mazes, usually annoying family and friends asking them to solve them! In St. Louis, I made a gay-themed jumble, a quotation puzzle and a humor column for the LGBTQ newspapers there.

I've had a few puzzles published here and there, but it wasn't until the pandemic that I really had the time to make an entire book. I had made some mazes for another Amazon self-publisher's book, and I thought I could probably do this myself.

To make puzzles, you really have to enjoy solving them first. I'm not sure where the desire to make them comes from though.

How long does it take you to create a puzzle? And what sets a good word search puzzle apart from a mediocre or a bad puzzle? It takes about a day to research the theme to make a word list, then design the puzzle and format it. Typing each letter in the grid takes a while!

I wanted the word search for the Dallas

Voice to be different and eye-catching, so I have images and clip art for each theme that overlay parts of the grid, making an irregular shape.

I always try to go beyond what's basic or average. It seems to me most word searches are generic affairs, with not much effort put into them. In my puzzles, the unused letters spell out a quote or something, and I love variety word searches.

There are so many generic puzzle books that offer something like 500+ word searches, but every one is the same size, with usually too big of a grid for too few words and no quote afterwards. I guess that's "standard," but I find that boring and annoying.

Tell me about your word search books. I know you have published at least one, right? Yes, thanks! It's called *Diversions, Word Searches Volume One* (available at Amazon.com). To be more challenging, the puzzles start out easier but get progressively more difficult as you go. Almost every puzzle has a quote revealed after you solve them.

Plus, there are a lot of variety word searches included to keep things interesting. One that I call Fill-Er-Ups is something I came up with where every single letter in the grid is part of a hidden word, so there are no leftover letters at all!

Recently Kirkus Reviews published a very good review of my book, which I'm especially proud of because it's very rare that a puzzle book gets a review, let alone a good one! They said, "The overall result is a beguiling collection that truly takes the word-search genre to a new level," and it's "an engrossing and entertaining set of brainteasers to while away a rainy day."

I really wanted my book to stand apart from the hordes of generic word search books, and I think I succeeded at that. I'm slowly working on puzzles for a second word search book and a new puzzle I can't disclose yet.

And last but not least, what have I not asked you about that you want to mention? I have an identical twin brother who is straight, so don't freak out if you see someone who looks like me with long hair! He's great and has always been supportive of me. I have a sporadic progressive house music podcast as DJ Kerry Rogers (aka MIDI Queen) if you want to hear something different. Also please visit and "like" my *Diversions* Facebook page at Facebook.com/DiversionsPuzzles, where I post free printable word searches and mazes occasionally. Thanks!



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BIG TUNES



Photos by Justin Kleinfeld

Pentatonix's Mitch Grassi delivers 'Roses' on his first project by himself

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Even a few weeks after his latest release, Mitch Grassi is still feeling the surrealism of it all. A singer with Pentatonix, a five-person ensemble known for their a cappella work, Grassi recently struck out on his own as Messer, dropping the lush EP *Roses* in late August.

The idea for his own music is years old, Grassi said, but it took a pandemic for him to move forward with it.

Roses marks the second release for Grassi in 2021; Pentatonix released *The Lucky Ones* in February. But Messer gives Grassi a new slate.

"They are so incredibly different. Pentatonix is huge, with five different people, but we all have the same goal in mind," Grassi said by phone from the East Coast. "With Messer, this is uncharted territory for me, with total creative control. I always knew I wanted to make my own music, and I gave myself the chance to do so."

With just five songs, Grassi delivers a complete package of lush electronic music that's thoughtful, groovy and smart.

"I was ready to put it out, and it feels like an amazing set of songs," he said.

"It's the perfect introduction to my tastes but completely different from the group."

Grassi, who hails from Arlington, said it was the time leading up to the release that he was the most anxious. Creating the EP and being on the precipice was the scariest part for him. Now, though, he's in a vulnerable spot.

"Usually, it's a group effort. Here, I'm totally exposed on my own," he explained.

There was first talk of his own release way back in 2018, but Grassi hadn't grasped how to approach it. He credits his creative partner, Austin Macedo, with getting him on track. And then, there was also a pandemic starting.

"I really started writing music at the

start of [the pandemic]," Grassi said. "There were lots of changes happening, and I had things to say. This was the right time to get them.

"I think it was almost like a really extreme reaction to the pandemic starting."

Despite the tragedy of COVID-19, Grassi unearthed a silver lining for himself.

After finding fame with Pentatonix in 2011, followed by three Grammys and nine studio albums, the pandemic gave Grassi time to reflect on the art he wanted to make. Being alone with his thoughts and purging his emotions, he took the global trauma that everyone was experiencing and channeled it.

"My thoughts were definitely born out of loneliness and the need to escape,"



he said. "But on the flip side, there are songs about the appreciation of beauty and fragility and just the randomness of life. I wrote those so quickly. I guess they were a symbol of that time in my life."

These days, artists can't go without releasing a collaboration (they used to be called duets) or work on a side project. Messer falls in the latter, but Grassi would likely refer to it as something different. Messer is less a project and more of a concept, he suggested.

"The way I view it, it's not a person or a band or anything," he said. "I see it as the feelings and the music that's always been deep inside me released in an authentic way."

Another thing that's released is the

EP's visual concept. Grassi even describes Messer as visually authentic in his presentation — most notably the long dark locks in much of his promo material.

"It's funny. I think when I put that on, I transform. I relax into myself or something," he said. "Even fans have noticed."

Speaking of, how have Penatatonix fans taken to the new music? "They are very sweet, and I've had lots of positive comments. To those people enjoying it, I extend my gratitude. The positive comments, them being happy for me, that's enough for me."

Roses by Messer can be heard on all major streaming music apps. ■

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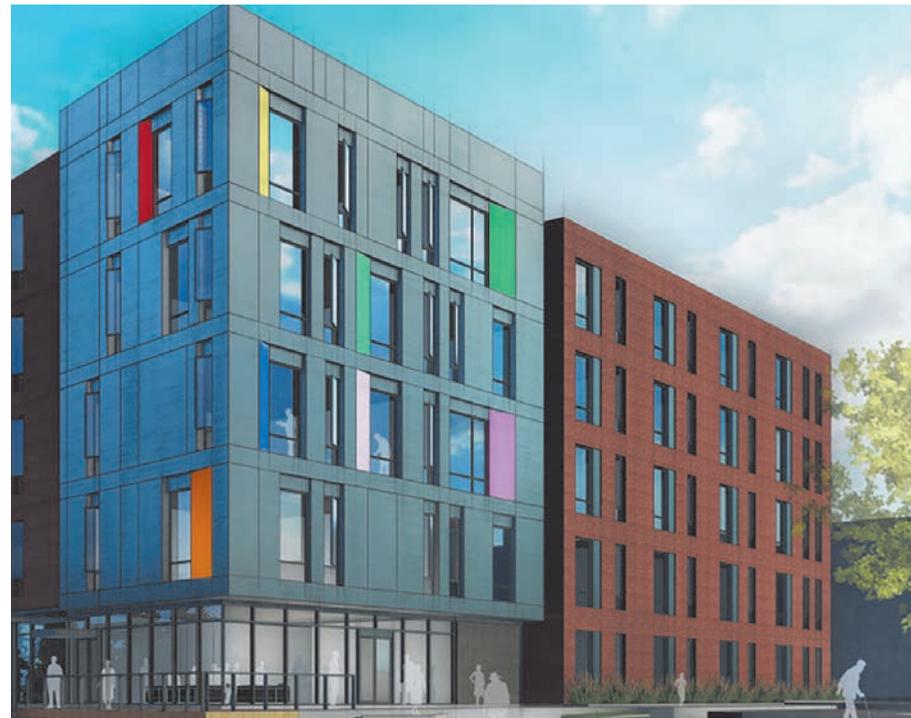
Resource Center plans senior housing; AIDS Services Dallas pushes forward with independent living option

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center continues to raise funds until it can break ground on its planned 84-unit senior housing project. Money has come in through several funding streams, and anyone interested in donating will find a detailed brochure on the agency's website.

According to Dallas City Council's Comprehensive Housing Policy, Dallas faces a shortage of about 20,000 affordable residential units. While housing is being built in the area to accommodate the rapidly increasing North Texas population, luxury housing is being built twice as fast as moderate and low-income housing.

The Coalition for Aging LGBT conducted a survey that found the most urgent need among older LGBTQ people in North Texas is transitional/senior living facilities that will provide respectful, appropriate care. Although city of Dallas residents are protected under the city charter, Texas offers no statewide protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression in areas such as employment, housing and public accommodations.



Late last year, Resource Center acquired a two-acre site on Denton Drive, just past Inwood, for the planned facility. The property is conveniently located near Inwood Station and a block from Resource Center's main building on Cedar Springs Road and near Cathedral of Hope. The land for the project has been cleared, but ground hasn't yet been broken.

As for Resource Center's \$4 million capital campaign to fund the property, Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said that even during the pandemic, with people hunkered down, fundraising is coming along well.

Get more information at MyResourceCenter.org.

Independent living

AIDS Services of Dallas continues to fundraise before beginning work on its latest property that will have 18 units.

After breaking ground on its renovation of a newly acquired property on Lancaster Avenue in Oak Cliff, the pandemic halted construction. Then, last summer, one building was completely destroyed and a second building severely damaged by fire.

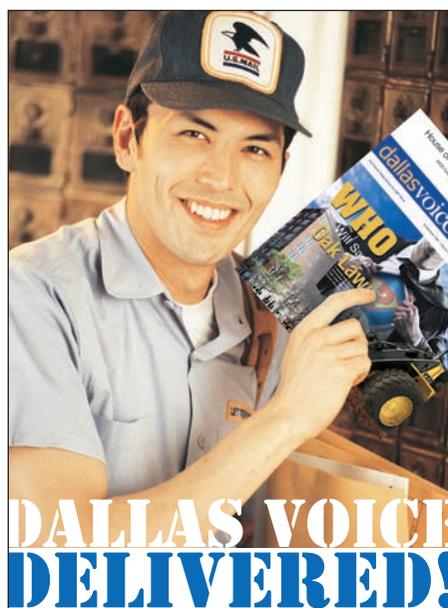
Since then, ASD has been settled with its insurance company but continues to raise money to cover rising construction costs that have plagued all projects since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to ASD Development Director Chris Turman, "We're in the final negotiation stage for our general contractor."

He said it was just a matter of time before work gets going on the project. The biggest hurdle has been overcome. The process of getting permits from the city is over. That was the biggest delay because of a pandemic backlog made worse by the huge number of construction permits that had to be reviewed as a result of the freeze.



New ASD property



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Pop-up design deals

BIG PHILANTHROPY



High-end home decor for sale at Thrift Studio benefits Dwell with Dignity

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
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Bargain hunters rejoice: Thrift Studio is now open through Sept. 25 with all the deals. The pop-up shop features donated high-end furniture, housewares and more, all sold at a discount — and it's done for a good reason. All sales will benefit the Dallas-based nonprofit Dwell with Dignity and its mission of helping families with children in the face of poverty and homelessness.

"Since the pandemic, home has so much more meaning now. For many, the home became a shared school or office, and for those fortunate enough, home has been a safe haven," said Ashley Sharp, executive director at Dwell with Dignity. "But for the one in four children living in poverty in Dallas, they may not always have a

place to call home. We hope to change that and empower families to break the generational cycle of homeless through transformational design."

For a shopping experience with something extra, Thrift Studio will feature vignettes curated by designers, showrooms and retailers all showcasing the decor. Among the designers in the show are several local LGBTQ+ designers, including Baron Farha, owner of AF Home Interiors, and Bryan and Mike Yates of Yates Desygn.

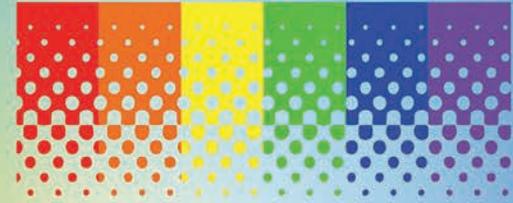
"We were thrilled to be asked to participate and immediately said yes! We feel so aligned with the mission of Dwell with Dignity, and it's a wonderful opportunity to use our design talents to make a difference in the lives of others," the Yateses said in an email.

The shop also features more than 50 pieces of original art, all donated by local artists. Serving as the 2021 Thrift Studio art chair is Eddie Maestri of Maestri Studio|Gallery.

Deals can be found in the fundraiser's Thrifty Thursday series that fea-

POP-UP, Next Page

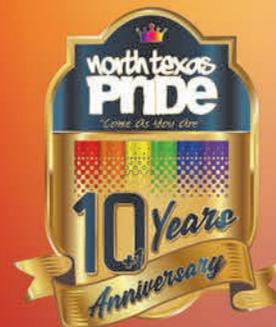
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POP-UP , From Previous Page



tures extended shopping, special happy hours and exclusive discounts. The store will host Happy Hour with Dallasites 101 on Thursday. On Sept. 23, the store celebrates North Texas Giving Day and encourages shoppers to come in or make a donation.

Since 2011 when the concept began, Thrift Studio has become a signature fundraiser for the Dwell With Dignity as well as for the interior design community. Sales and donations from the pop-up store amount to one-third of Dwell with Dignity's operation revenue, which allows them to move forward with their mission.

Farha described the experience of participating in the fundraiser as a way to share his enthusiasm with the underline of a good cause: "For me, it allowed me to share my passion and love for design with others. Watching people buy items that you have put together is a great feeling knowing the

cause behind it is so incredible and how it will support others," he mentioned.

"It really is a win-win for everyone involved. Along with having the floor with outstanding colleagues, it gave us all a chance to come together for one common purpose and have fun knowing that a family will thrive in the spaces designed for them."

Both the Yateses and Farha had tips for anyone going to the Thrift Studio for the first time.

The Yateses advised to look ahead: "Our biggest tip for next year would be to purchase tickets in advance to ensure you get first dibs on the best pieces."

For more immediate advice, Farha had this to offer: "BE THE FIRST IN LINE! There are always great things available throughout the event, but all the really good items go first." ■

For the location and hours of the pop-up, visit ThriftStudio.com.



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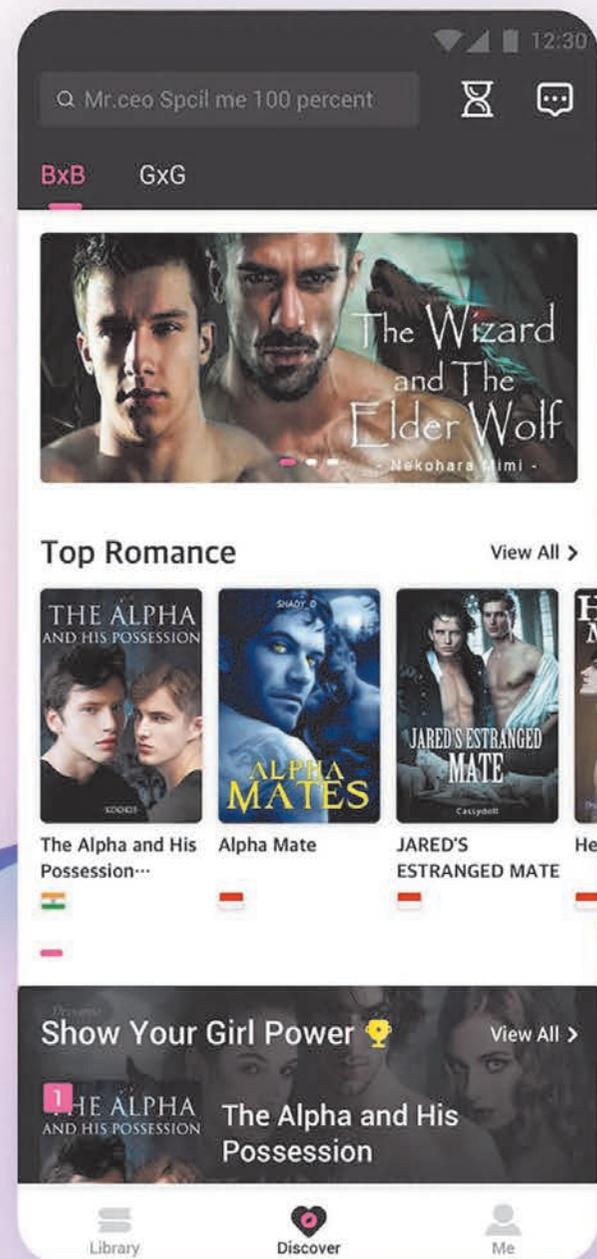
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LGBTQ romantic fiction?

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There's an app for that, thanks to Slash

There's a new app for readers and writers, and it's solely devoted to LGBTQ stories. It's called Slash, and it's a sub-platform of Stary, which bills itself as "an entertainment company of storytelling that offers aspiring writers a comfortable space to maximize their full potential by providing tools to publish and monetize their finished stories."

Stary puts its reach at more than 100 million readers in over 130 regions and countries, with more than 300,000 books written and published on it. Stary reports that, in 2020, it paid more than \$30 million to writers, with more than 100 authors exceeding \$10,000 a month. Tier-1 writers, they say, can make approximately \$120,000 a month — and more than 10,000 authors earn a steady income at Stary every month.

Stary offers memberships in a variety of sub-platforms in hopes of serving a large range of readers and writers, and those using the app can monetize their work once they publish more than 3,000 words on the platform.

"Once they reach this goal, they work with Stary to come up with a contract that encompasses payment and commission rates," the app says.

Here's more from Stary about what users can expect from the new app.

— Jenny Block

Dallas Voice: Where did you get the idea for Slash?

Slash: There are many LGBT novel lovers on our team. Some of them are also excellent creators. As readers and creators, we have realized that there is no online platform devoted to LGBT content until now. Then the idea of Slash popped into our minds naturally. As one of the first reading platforms to provide readers with excellent LGBT content worldwide, we hope to create an exclusive reading corner for LGBT+ novel lovers.

Why did you feel it was something that people would want/need?

In the past few decades, a great number of LGBT works and works that contain LGBT elements have sprung up. This kind of work

has aroused a great deal of discussion and attracted a huge group of readers. This phenomenon made us realize that there are a lot of people who love this genre.

Even though nearly every online reading platform features LGBT content, it is usually tagged with a general tag. In fact, LGBT novels can be categorized into diverse, subtypes like urban and fantasy. So, our team hopes to expand the categories of LGBT stories and provide a better reading and creating experience for readers with our effort.

How did you land on the name Slash?

Fans of fan fiction are very familiar with this word. The name "Slash" comes from "slash fiction," a genre of fan fiction that focuses on the romantic relationships between same-sex fictional characters. It has been a favorite among fans for decades. And many LGBT fiction lovers were fans of fan fiction and were first engaged in LGBT content with slash fiction. So they would have a sense of closeness to slash. It is one of the reasons why we went for the name Slash.

As Professor Henry Jenkins has said before, slash gave us a chance to imagine what a new kind of same-sex relationship might look like by taking away the social barriers. It also lets us learn about and respect different types of emotional signs. As an online reading platform, we hope Slash breaks not only the glass between Spock and Kirk but also breaks the rules that traditional male culture seeks to impose on those kinds of relationships and feelings.

Why is writing so vital to our community — both doing it and reading it?

Writing is one of the most important ways for human beings to express themselves. When different alphabets and words combine together, thousands of possibilities will burst out. Therefore, writing is essential to our community because it demonstrates that our imagination knows no boundaries.

The act of reading enables us to understand our inner world and discover who we are. When we read, we can find things deep within our hearts and minds that have been ignored, positive or negative. Reading helps us accept ourselves for who we are.

What is your hope for the future of Slash?

We hope to introduce LGBT content to more and more people, and more readers can be into this content through Slash.

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Summer's fine and all, but in terms of fashion, autumn's our time to shine

MIKEY ROX | Contributing Writer
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Need a pair of sneakers the squad will stan? Joggers that'll bump that booty from a five to a dime? Get snatched and vibe all autumn long in these top-to-bottom pieces that'll leave heads turned and haters burnt.

Rue 21 Doodle Print Jean Jacket

Successful influencers let their looks do the talking, like with Rue 21's Black Doodle Print Graffiti jean jacket, emblazoned with power phrases that include "Hu\$tler," "Self-Made," and "All I Do Is Win" — because damn right ya do. \$29, Rue21.com



Kengos Men's Lace-Ups

With just five hand-assembled components, Kengos' plant-based men's lace-ups are designed for easy-breezy autumn walks in the woods and light-on-



your-feet staycation strolls that contribute zero waste to the environment since the vegan shoes are recyclable once you've had your way with 'em. \$98, Kengos.com

Public Rec Weekend Joggers

Slap some style on Public Rec's French terry weekend joggers with a broken-in tee and patched denim jacket for a look poised for Saturday drag brunches with the boys. \$88, PublicRec.com

Serengeti Sunglasses

You're gonna need a pair of slick shades to scope the goods during grey sweatpants season, and the Serengeti Sport Collection is up to the challenge with its three-in-one organic lenses that combine spectral control, polarization and photochromic tech that together adapt, manage and control the light around you. \$160-\$260, Serengeti-Eyewear.com

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ed second-date accessory, whether it's wrapped around your wrist or resting on his nightstand. \$129, ZeitholzWatches.com

Jack Adams Underwear



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most bang for your bucks, among other things. \$196, JackAdamsUSA.com

Sprayground Travel Bundle

Replace your tattered, torn and well-worn luggage with Sprayground's tasty seven-piece Henny Air to the Throne travel bundle, replete with a wallet, dopp kit, tote, duffel, carry-on, cross-body bag and backpack with bite. \$625, Sprayground.com

Stormy Kromer Mackinaw Coat

Channel Bradley Thor's stump-chopping TikTok energy in Stormy Kromer's backwoods-y 100 percent virgin wool Mackinaw coat, featuring a five-button front and six pockets for stowing all your chilly-trick fucc boi essentials. \$300, StormyKromer.com

Dushyant Tunics



Indian designer Dushyant Asthana — you may recognize his work from the second season of Making the Cut with Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn — introduces Bombay-inspired tunics with West Coast vibes, like the Kameez in garment-dyed

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STYLE From Page 56

cameo pink, that can be dressed up or down depending on the sitch. \$120, Dushyant.la

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Paul Stuart Men's Cuff

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YGN T-shirt Turban



Ditch the do-rag for You Go Natural's new men's collection, which offers three styles of soft, supple T-shirt turbans that provide a close fit to keep waves, braids, and freshly twisted locs in tip-top (or DL bottom) shape. \$35, YouGoNatural.com

Vincero Altitude Watch



Vincero's 100 percent carbon neutral (and limited-edition) Altitude watch — with its Cordura band, blue lume face, 10 ATM water resistance, and black matte finish — is understated fashion meets sporty function that still manages to stand out. \$215, VinceroCollective.com

Unbound Merino

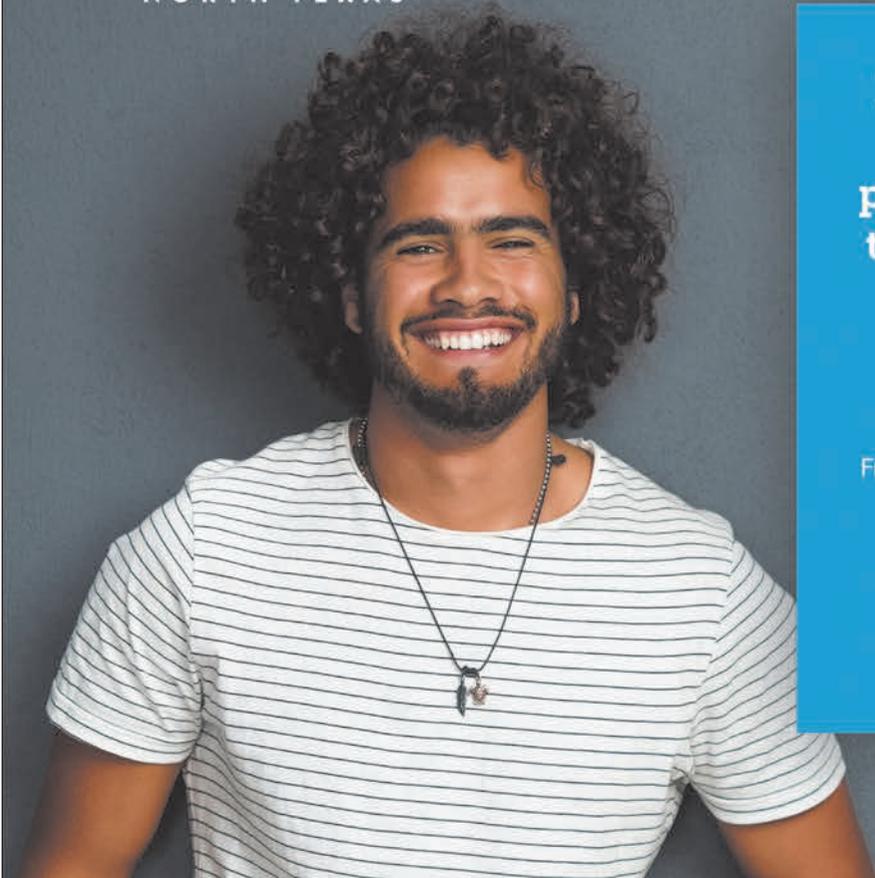
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Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox-travels.



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KINDNESS, From Page 39

the rehearsal-to-performance process with other people in your cast who you enjoy. Unironically, you could also call me sitting at my piano in the living room, singing in my head voice and playing chords to my favorite songs a sort of performance, too. I always enjoy doing that, and it feels vulnerable to just be with myself and play an instrument and sing songs that touch me.

I'm writing a book that one of my friends from theater would describe as of the genre "slice-of-life." It's basically creative nonfiction but has the tone of a fictional narrative book, and it's all about me examining a certain time in my life, and those moments — my life and my emotions and my interactions with people I liked and people I didn't, on a vacation that I had lots of fun on.

I don't really have anywhere particular in mind that I would want to visit, but I do absolutely know that I'd love to revisit New Hampshire. It's a really, really beautiful state. I just went there this summer, and we stayed by the beach. It wasn't a tropical beach, and I appreciated that about it. The sky was often a little cloudy and, when you went up into the mountains, you got to be washed over by trees and trees, just these forests that would stretch and go on forever. It was beautiful, and I'd love to revisit it sometime.

How — and why — did you get involved with the Born This Way Foundation and the #BeKind Campaign? What drew you to it? I got involved with Born This Way Foundation through social media. I saw a listing for Advisory Board members on Twitter, and I thought, why not give it a shot? I'm a fan of Lady Gaga, so I did know a little bit about BTWF beforehand, but once I got to reading more about it, and completing my application, I got really passionate about it in the way that I could see the team members were, too. I reviewed some parts of myself that were hard to review — those that have previously struggled with mental wellness and loving myself — and it just made me so inspired seeing the passion behind this project, and the desire to help people on their journeys to loving themselves. I wanted to be able to apply my experiences from the times in which I've hurt to give to people who are feeling the same way.

One of the most important things that needs to happen in order to help those suffering in silence feel less alone — and something that I see in BTWF as well — is the desire to open up conversations about

mental health. Not many speak openly about their mental wellness, making it seem to a lot of people who have struggled or are struggling, that these topics are restricted. And that feeling leaves these people to have to turn to places like the internet to seek out anonymous help, or, even worse, not to seek out help at all.

It's hard to have to suffer in silence and in fear. We need to actively be working towards a culture where that stigma is eliminated, so that people don't have to suffer in silence anymore, where they can feel able to openly share their experiences, free of judgment. Born This Way Foundation actively strives toward that culture, and they do so through programs, initiatives, resource-making, and campaigns that promote kindness to yourself and others and ways to make mental health less taboo.

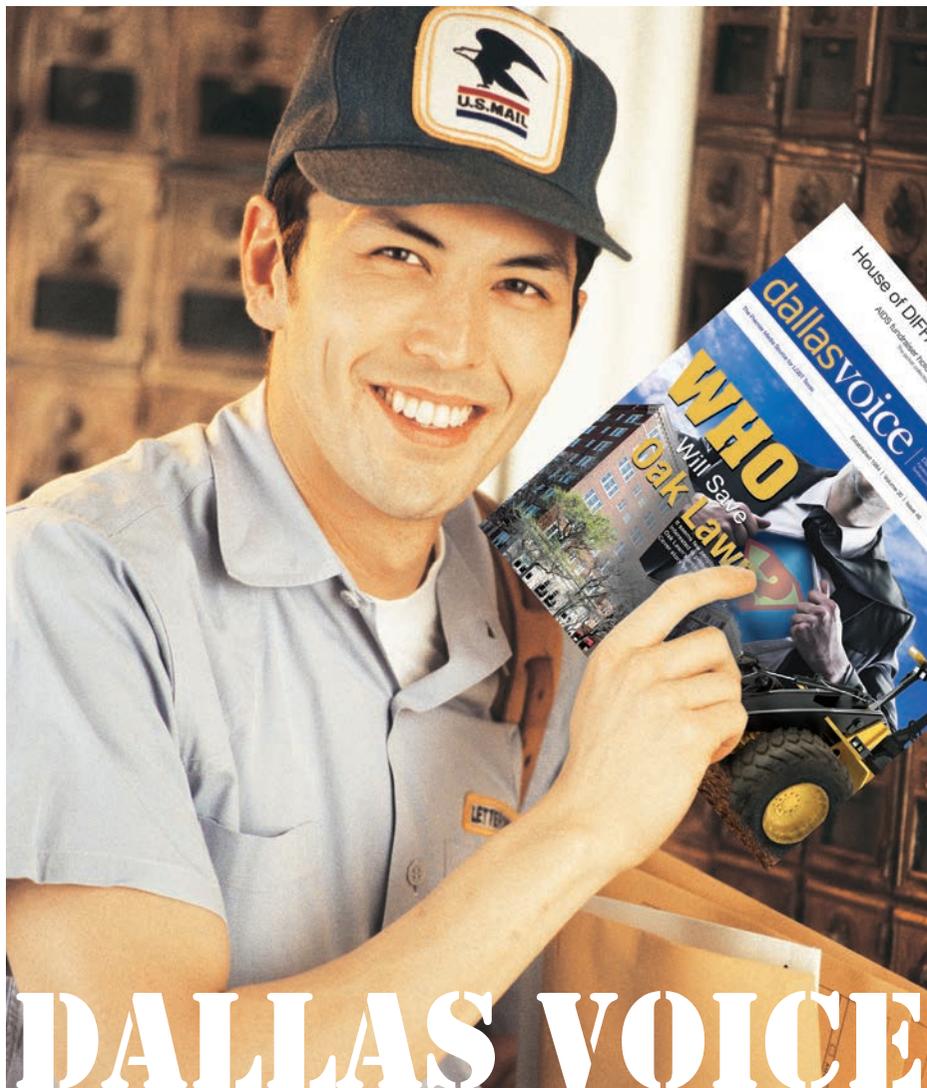
The #BeKind21 campaign is one of these initiatives started by BTWF, and it's based upon the scientific study that it takes three weeks — 21 days — to form a habit. Being actively kind to yourself and those around you for 21 days is not something people will usually do actively and consciously, which is why it's so important that people begin to form that habit of daily active kindness. Kindness comes in many forms, and, whatever form it may be, it's important that it be a part of people's lives, whether they are struggling or not, so that they have a reason to keep wanting to fight, and give themselves and others the love that we all deserve to receive.

What do you feel like you bring to BTWF and the #BeKind Campaign? And what do you think you will get out of it?

What I feel like I can bring to BTWF and the #BeKind21 campaign is simply my perspective as someone who has experienced suffering from mental wellness issues. I know deep in my heart what I would have wanted to hear and receive and be part of when I was hurting, so I hope that those desires I once had and that I still remember can project themselves into resources where other people struggling can experience healing.

Varshini B.

Dallas Voice: Hi Varshini. Your bio says you grew up in six different countries, but you are also listed as an ambassador from Texas. How much of your growing up years did you spend in



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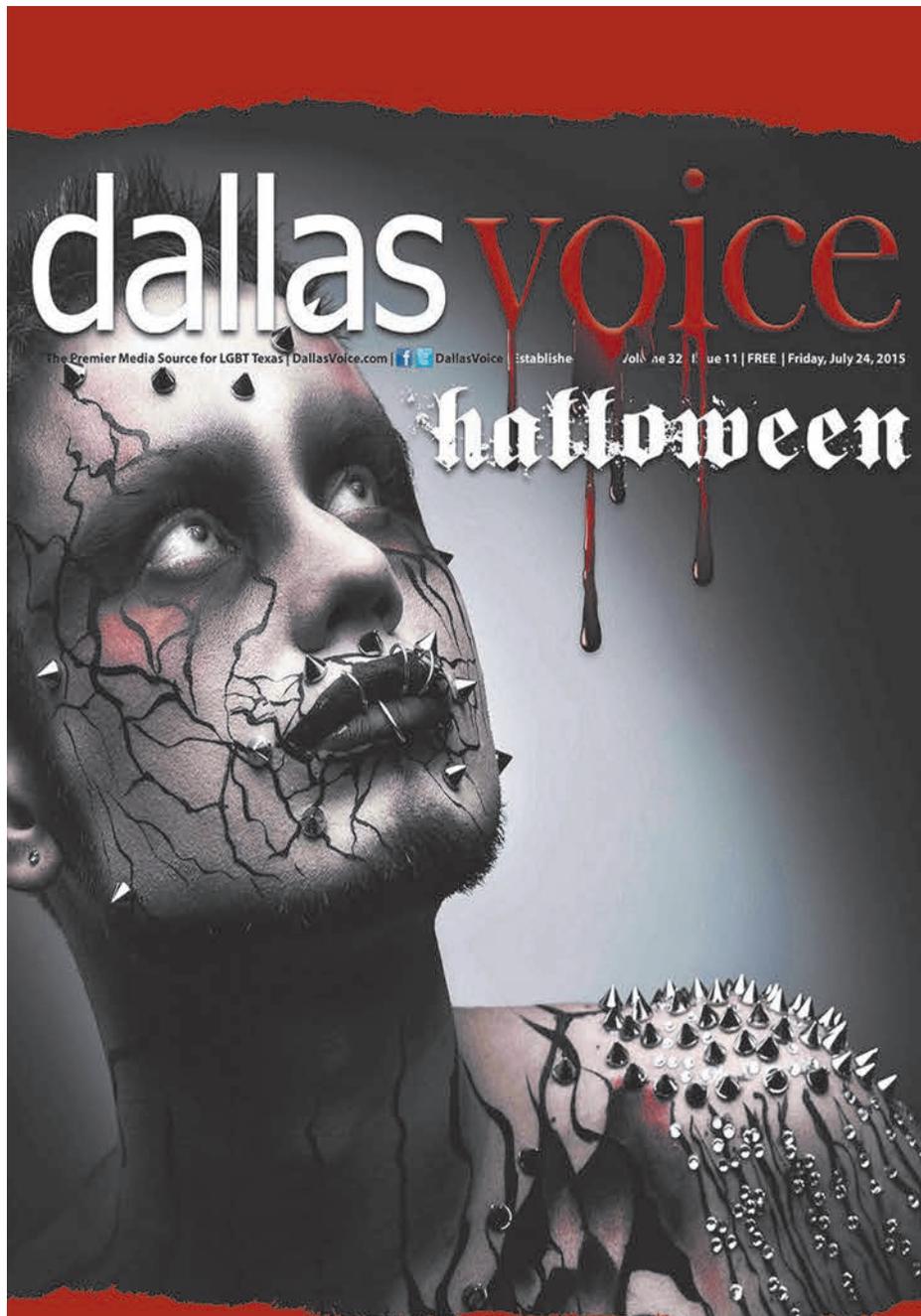
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KINDNESS, From Page 60

Texas? Or perhaps you moved here later on? Do you live in Texas now, and if so, where in Texas? Yes! I grew up across a few countries in the Middle East, Italy and India. In 2016, I moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, to pursue my undergraduate career, and in March 2020 I moved to Beaumont, Texas to be with my family during the pandemic. I'm currently living in Beaumont and have spent the last year and a half of quarantine in Texas.

Your bio also says you are a “design thinking associate.” What is that? Design Thinking, alternatively called human-centered design, is a way of working and building a culture that is collaborative and egalitarian. Importantly, human-centered design encourages new ideas by reframing failure as an opportunity — even a necessary step — in the process of developing a business or cultural solution. Methodologically, design thinking is a non-linear process that involves five main stages: Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test.

Design Thinking is everywhere — researchers are employing design thinking practices when they curate their research questions (Define stage) and conduct interviews (Empathize stage); chefs are employing design thinking when they are recipe testing (Prototype and Testing stages), and students are design thinking their way through their papers!

Most of us, inadvertently, are design thinking our careers by identifying what fields/disciplines we like or think we'll be good at, prototyping a role in the industry/field we picked, testing the new role, then reconfiguring our career decisions based on our experiences in those roles and our values. As you can already tell, it's a deeply human process.

You have expressed a deep commitment to building “a multivocal, decolonial future through networks of care.”

What does that look like? Decolonization is a loud recognition of the ongoing and lasting legacies of colonization in the U.S. and across the world. Decolonization recognizes that colonization continues to exist and gets reinforced through dominant ways of thinking, being and knowing. For me, decolonization is a questioning of what we have accepted as “normal” or the status quo and reimagining a world where differences are seen as assets, not deficits or obstacles.

I believe building networks of care through kindness, empathy and deep understanding will help us collaborate across differences. This is critical to building a decolonial future.

What prompted you to become involved with the Born This Way Foundation and the #BeKind Campaign? How are the foundation and the #BeKind Campaign going to help you build the future you envision? I have always had a deep appreciation for Born This Way

Foundation and their commitment to placing youth voices at the forefront of their work. I have been seeking to be a part of a supportive community of people who are also passionate about kindness, mental health awareness and advocacy, so when a friend shared the opportunity to be an advisory board member, I felt a deep resonance and connection with the opportunity. I am very grateful to Born This Way Foundation for providing the opportunity and space to amplify and empower the voices of my fellow South Asian community members, especially folks who are doing divergent, political and socially responsible work.

Also, I have experienced and watched the transformative capacity of kindness. Kindness is what makes us human, and I am very committed to advocating for kindness, which doesn't only mean big and grand gestures. Kindness also looks like mentoring someone, supporting your friend, practicing community care, engaging in activism and making decisions that align with your values. The #BeKind21 campaign is an impactful way to emphasize the role and capacity of kindness in the world, and I am so grateful that I get to be a part of this vision.

Where do you hope to go from here, and how is Born This Way Foundation helping you get there? Soon, I will begin my graduate program at The New School in New York, where I'll be learning and working at the intersection of anthropology, equity and social impact. Born This Way Foundation is helping me connect with inspiring people, and their stories are directly impacting and informing my understanding of what it means to be human and to build a network of uncompromising care and support. These learnings are strongly contributing to my ongoing research work on violence, care, and decolonization. My experience at Born This Way Foundation will make me a more understanding, kinder, thoughtful and empathetic human.

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Friends With Benefits presents the fourth annual We Denton Drag It variety show, featuring *RuPaul's Drag Race* star Thorgy Thor along with a variety of local talent and a musical performance by Dezi 5, on Saturday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. at Harvest House, 331 E. Hickory St. in Denton. Tickets range from \$15-\$30, available online at EventBrite.com. Tickets are limited. Proceeds benefit the Coalition for Aging LGBT.

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.

• **Every Monday: THRIVE**
Resource Center's THRIVE Monday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets via Zoom at this time. It starts at 11:45 a.m. and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Biweekly: Hope Cottage Foster Parent Information Meeting**
Hope Cottage holds information meetings for those interested in becoming foster parents. The meetings are held alternately on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information email Clyde Hemminger at chemminger@hopecottage.org.

SEPTEMBER
• **Sept. 10-12: Deep Ellum Arts Festival**
This year extending more than half a mile from Malcolm X Boulevard to Exposition Avenue, over three days. Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-11

p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Visit DeepEllumArtsFestival.com for information.

• **Sept 10-16: Rooftop Cinema**
Series of outdoor films at Dallas Heritage Village, 1515 S. Harwood St. Sept. 10: *10 Things I Hate About You, Pulp Fiction*. Sept. 11: *Monsters, Inc., La La Land*. Sept. 12: *The Goonies*. Sept. 15: *The Notebook*. Sept. 16: *Queen & Slim*. Tickets at RooftopCinemaClub.com/heritagevillage.

• **Sept. 10: TAG Men's Social Group**
The Tyler Area Gays Men's Social Group meets at Garlow's bar, 308 E. Main St. in Gun Barrel City. For information about the group email Tim Hoffman at info@TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Sept. 11: Queer Reads**
Queer Reads is an online book club that meets the second Saturday of every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Register at dallaslibrary.librarymarket.com/events/queer-reads-book-club-0.

• **Sept. 11: Vaccine event**
Coalition for Aging LGBT, Visiting Nurses Association, Immaculate Conception Church and Perrone

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GAY AGENDA



GET VAXXED HERE
Coalition for Aging
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Conception Church and
Perrone Pharmacy host

a free vaccine clinic from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2255 N. Bonnie Braw St., Denton. Register for your free, socially distanced appointment at PerronePharmacy.simplybook.me/v2/#book/service/48.

LISTEN TO THIS
Two Divas & A Piano:
Tribute to Elton John & Cher



Las Vegas team, Heidi Thompson and Gene Sironen perform this tribute to Elton John and Cher at Grapevine's Historic Palace Theatre, 300 S. Main St., Saturday, Sept. 11, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Seating is reserved; tickets are \$34 for the matinee and \$36 for the evening performance, available online at Tickets.GrapevineTicketline.com.



WATCH THIS
The Turtle Creek
Conservancy and Lincoln
Property Company and
presenting sponsors Dallas
Film Society, Park Place

Dealerships, Simmons Bank and Rhythm, present *A Movie in Turtle Creek Park* on Sunday, Sept. 12, in the park at 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. The evening features a screening of *The Princess Bride*. Seating opens at 6 p.m. and the movie begins at 7:15 p.m. Halal Mother Trucks, Waffle O'Licious and Snowie Naturals food trucks will be on site. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs. Admission is free.



LISTEN TO HER
Alicia Keys performs in
concert on Wednesday, Sept.
15, at 8 p.m. at The Pavilion
at Toyota Music Factory,
300 W. Las Colinas Blvd. in

Irving. Tickets range from \$53-\$936, and are available online at DallasTicketFinder.com. Visit Facebook.com/Events/118149439637160/ for more information.



**CHEER ON YOUR
FAVORITE HERE**
The Round-Up Saloon,
3912 Cedar Springs Road,
presents the Mr. and Miss
Round-Up Pageant Thursday,

Sept. 16, beginning at 9 p.m. Categories include a floral-themed presentation, formal wear, Q&A and talent. Potential competitors can email events@roundupsaloon.com for an information packet or stop by the bar and ask for one. For information visit Facebook.com/Events/814898549385855.

Pharmacy host a free vaccine clinic from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2255 N. Bonnie Braw St., Denton. Register for your free, socially distanced appointment at PerronePharmacy.simplybook.me/v2/#book/service/48.

• **Sept. 11: Neighborhood Cleanup**
Looking for a way to help #TakeBackOakLawn? Then meet up with some of the members of Hilton's PRIDE Team Member Resource Group and help us pick up trash and clean up the neighborhood. Clean up the Strip on Cedar Springs and the surrounding neighborhood streets. Bring gloves (if you have them), and friends (you do have those). Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road at 10 a.m.

• **Sept. 11: On Mindful Pond**
A morning of mental health resources, laughter and hope presented by Something for Kelly Foundation and The Morgan Foundation. Prestonwood Pond, 14850 Montfort Drive. 9 a.m.-noon.

• **Sept. 11: Night of Stars: Heroes**
5 p.m. at The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Featuring A'keria C. Davenport with emcee Cassie Nova plus Candi Carroll, Jenna Skyy, Devon DeVasquez, Linze Serrell, Jada Pinkett-Fox, Sienna Silver and Gloria Devine. Tickets available online at GDMAF.org.

• **Sept. 11: Thorgy Thor**
Friends With Benefits presents Thorgy Thor to raise money for Coalition for Aging LGBT from 7 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Harvest House, 331 E. Hickory St., Denton. Tickets \$15-30. Advance tickets at Eventbrite.com.

• **Sept. 11: LGBTQ+ Ladies Social Group**
The Ladies Social Group, a part of Tyler Area Gays, meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bruno's, 15770 FM 2493 in Tyler. For information email Tara and Jennifer Gower at info@TylerAreaGays.com or go online to Facebook.com/Groups/192575552168468.

• **Sept. 12: Movie in Turtle Creek Park**
The Turtle Creek Conservancy presents *The Princess Bride* from 6-9:30 p.m. in Turtle Creek Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Food trucks. Bring a blanket. Free.

• **Sept. 14-July 10, 2022: Slip Zone: A New Look at Postwar Abstraction in the Americas and East Asia**
Featuring works from the Museum's collection, Slip Zone charts the significant innovations in painting, sculpture, and performance that shaped artistic production in the Americas and

East Asia in the mid-20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. DMA.org.

• **Sept. 14-July 10, 2022: Bosco Sodi: La fuerza del destino**
Installed in the Museum's Sculpture Garden, this exhibition features approximately 30 sculptures by Mexico City-born, New York City-based artist Bosco Sodi. The artist's large-scale spherical and rectangular sculptures are created from clay sourced at his studio in Oaxaca. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. DMA.org.

• **Sept. 15: TAG Dinner Group**
For information visit the TAG Facebook page or email Jay Hilburn at info@TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Sept. 15: Alicia Keys in concert**
Alicia Keys performs at The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory, 300 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. DallasTicketfinder.com.

• **Sept. 16: A Listening Ear**
A Listening Ear, a support group for the LGBTQ community in the Tyler area, meets from 6-7 p.m. via Zoom. For information call 903-617-8556.

• **Sept. 16: Miss and Mister Round-Up 2021**
Come join Round-Up Royalty and compete for your chance to win the title of either Mr. or Miss Round-Up. Categories include a floral-themed presentation, formal wear, Q&A and a talent presentation. 9 p.m. More info at events@roundupsaloon.com or get an info packet at the bar.

• **Sept. 17: DFW Federal Club**
Join the HRC DFW Federal Club at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum for its first 2021 monthly mixer. Proof of vaccination required. 300 Houston St. Tickets at hrc.im/dfwmixer.

• **Sept. 17-18: TITAS**
TITAS/Dance Unbound presents MOMIX and its fantastical *Alice* at the Winspear Opera House. ATPAC.org.

• **Sept 17-23: Rooftop Cinema**
Series of outdoor films at Dallas Heritage Village, 1515 S. Harwood St. Sept. 17: *Up, The Wood*. Sept. 18: *The Greatest Showman, Love Jones*. Sept. 19: *Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone*. Sept. 22: *In the Heights*. Sept. 23: *The Princess Bride*. Tickets at RooftopCinemaClub.com/heritagevillage.

• **Sept. 18: The Legacy Continues**
Join Legacy Counseling Center for some big announcements about its future. Complimentary red/white wine and champagne by Kindred Spirits, vodka by Greenbar Distillery, hors d'oeuvres by Kona Grill and desserts by Sugar Town Bakery for this 2021-22 kickoff event from 7-9 p.m. at City Yoga, 4311 Belmont Ave. \$25.

• **Sept. 18: LGBTQIA+ Health Fair**
Dallas Parks and Recreation presents an LGBTQ Health Fair including trans youth field day, raffles, job opportunities, stress management tips, housing information, domestic violence help, free health screening and information from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.

• **Sept. 19: Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas**
Jennifer Stoddard Hadju, the new chair of the Dallas County Republican Party, will be guest speaker at the September monthly meeting of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Mattito's restaurant, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 144. Happy hour starts at 6 p.m., with the presentation at 7 p.m. A fajita meal will be served during the presentation at a cost of \$23 per person. For information visit LCRDallas.org.

• **Through Sept. 19: Off-Site Nasher**
The Nasher Sculpture Center announces its second offsite Nasher Public project: Lauren Cross's *A Moment of Silence/Let Freedom Ring* presented in partnership with For Oak Cliff, an organization and community center that works to liberate the South Dallas neighborhood of Oak Cliff from systemic oppression. For Oak Cliff, 907 E. Ledbetter Drive.

• **Sept. 24: Wynonna Judd and Cactus Moser**
Wynonna Judd and Cactus Moser perform live at The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. Tickets at Prekindle.com.

• **Sept. 24-26: Dallas Southern Pride**
Dallas Southern Pride present Black Pride Weekend.

• **Sept. 24-26: LGBT Outdoorfest**
Rainbow Ranch, 1662 LCR 800, Groesbeck. \$189. LGBTOutdoors.com.

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. See more listings online at DallasVoice.com.

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Pouches, tucks and tape

Hello all. Today is a beautiful day, or so it seems from the window. I refuse to go outside because of my extreme hate of the heat and the almost instantaneous case of Swampass I get if I venture too far out into the light.

Swampass is very similar to Longball but farther back. Longball is an affliction men suffer from when they reach maturity where, when heated, their testicles hang lower and lower. The older you get the longer they get. I'm not sure if the ball-sack is stretching because of gravity slowly pulling said sack earthward, or if it is your body's way of trying to cool the boys.

Elongated, over-heated testes can lead to many problems, like accidentally sitting on them when you get in the car, slamming forward too hard when you come to a quick stop or — the absolute worst — getting them wrapped in your swimsuit string. Dive at your own risk.

Luckily, I have a solution — well, I have something that has helped me. (Forgive me if I am oversharing, but I feel like it's my duty as a part-time man to keep you guys informed when such a discovery has been made.) You gotta buy the underwear with the pouch. It is a literal pouch that keeps your balls separated from the rest of your junk.

Hanes has a version, but rather than a pouch, they have a panel on both sides of your C&Bs. The panels pull your stuff forward, but they don't really keep them there and offer no real support. I ordered a few pair with the pouch from a website that has a lot of kitschy prints on their underwear, and I was pleasantly surprised by the quality. But the pouch was the game-changer: You drop your cojones in, and it holds them perfectly. It feels like you are being cupped by God.

I now have six pair, one for every day of the week. I love the weird and wonderful prints and patterns. I have a red pair with a rooster over my ... you know. I have a pair with balloon animals in compromising positions and a very patriotic stars-and-stripes pair. (Two things I want to mention here: Yes, I know there are seven days in a week, but I might wear a pair for two days in a row depending on my funk level. Judge me all you want but I know you do it, too. Sec-



ond, why the fuck are they called a pair of underwear if it is just a single object? It's stupid.)

They have women's underwear, too. (Or should I call them panties? Panties is a weird word; I will stick to calling them underwear.) Sorry ladies, but I don't have more info on the comfort of women's underwear. When I wear them, it is mostly to conceal a few things. It's not what they were made for, but a good pair of panties — nope, underwear — will get the job done — if you get what I am saying. Keep in mind I am a drag queen. Tuckers, I'm talking about tuckers.

This is totally off subject, but when I first started drag, I thought you had to tape your dick back with duct tape. I didn't have any drag queen friends at the time, so everything was trial and error, and boy howdy was that an error! My dumb ass decided to tape it down one night. I thought I was slick by putting a piece of toilet paper over the part of the tape that actually touched my peen, but I wasn't smart enough to shave all of the hair in the surrounding area off. Full disclosure, I didn't shave at all down there; didn't even trim it.

The tape went from my belly button to the top of the crack of my ass. Like I said — stupid. I stood there in front of the mirror swearing I was Buffalo Bill from *Silence of the Lambs* and immediately regretted every choice I have ever made in

my entire life that led me to that moment.

I would say that I had a full beat mug on my face, but in those early days I only had one shade of make-up: Blush. It was on my eyes, my cheekbones and down my chest for cleavage. I didn't wear lashes then because I thought I didn't need them, because my own lashes were so long. I wore the pink and green Maybelline mascara that my mom wore. I was so blissfully ignorant.

Truthfully, Buffalo Bill wore more make-up than I did, and at least he knew how to tuck.

Then I tried to walk — Nope! Every hair down there was being pulled in every direction. I decided I should just rip it off. The first pull was in the back, and it barely moved an inch, not to mention the pain. A few tugs later and I thought, "There has to be a better way to do this." So, I got in the shower and turned on the hot water and slowly worked most of the tape off from my front and scrotal area.

I got it halfway down my ass crack in the back when I ran out of hot water. The water turned cold quickly and almost solidified the sticky on the tape, cementing the tape to the hair.

I only had my taint and some of my lower ass left that was still taped. I wanted so badly to call someone to come over to help yank the rest of the tape off, but I loved my friends too much to subject them to the quandary I had gotten myself into. And that is a sight they would never get out of their minds. So, I manned the fuck up and gave one more super hard tug — which turned into six more tugs before it came off, along with some skin and most of my pride.

But I was free.

Yes, I may have shed a few tears when it was all over, but lesson learned. Soon after I learned that a tight, female stripper's thong basically does the same thing and holds things in place. I never taped again.

Yes, my entire article this week is about ball hammock underwear and tucking disasters. But these past few weeks have been really difficult for many of us, so I wanted to keep this light and stupid. Hopefully it made you laugh, smile, cringe or roll your eyes. Either way, I hope it was a mini mental vacay.

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

this word search solution

Diversions Word Search - A Very Sordid Wedding



"Marriage. Family. Equality. Texas." (Movie Tagline)

this week's solution

B	A	B	A	I	S	A	A	C	L	O	B	O	
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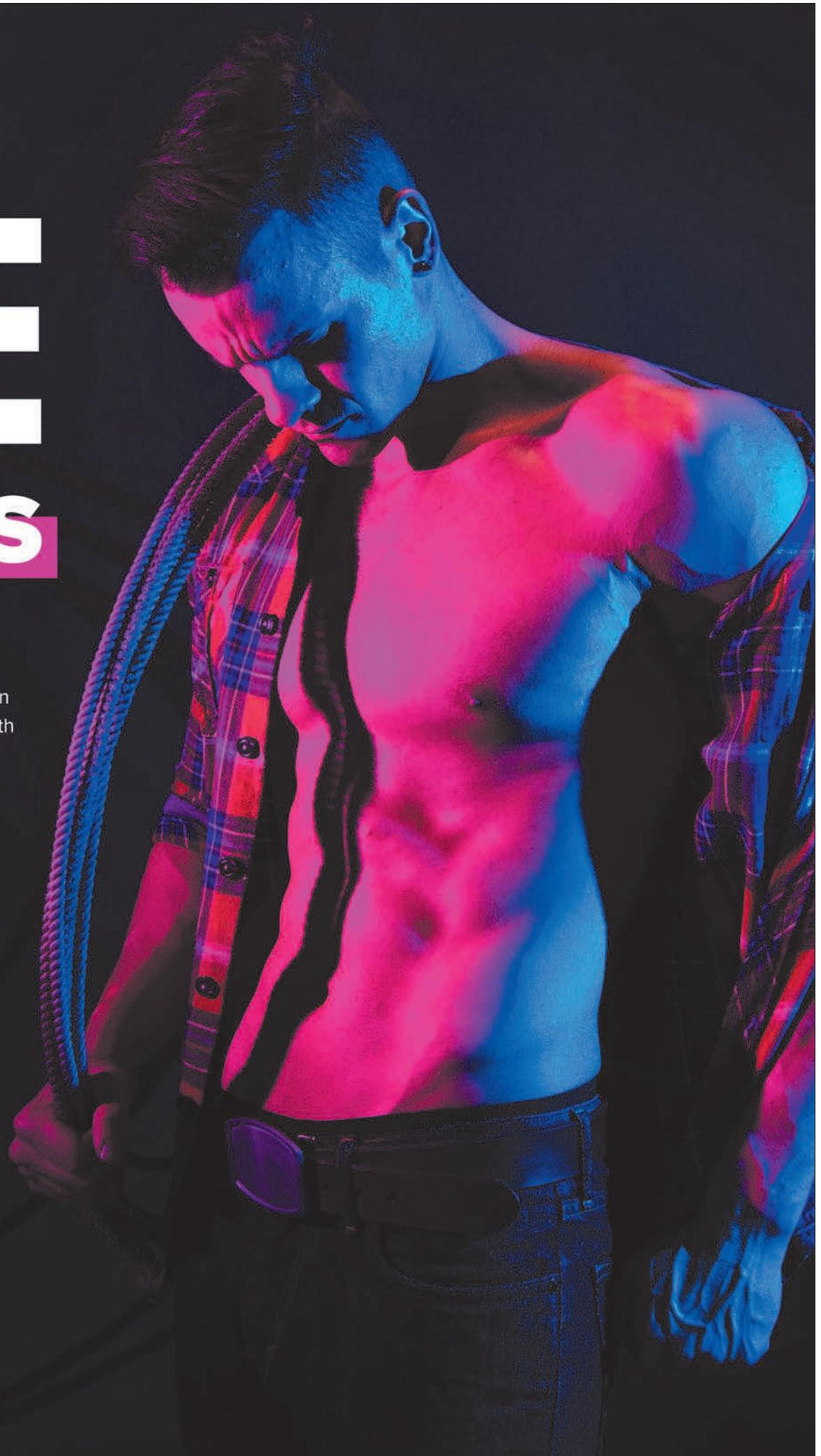
SIZE MATTERS

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- ✓ LGBTQ+ Care
- 💰 Financial Assistance Support
- 📦 Free Delivery of PrEP & HIV Meds
- ♥ Care Team Outreach

 **Avita**

Visit us online at [avitapharmacy.com](https://www.avitapharmacy.com) to learn more and transfer to Avita.



AIDS SERVICES

ABOUNDING PROSPERITY
214-421-4800 | AboundingProsperity.org

AHF DALLAS WELLNESS CENTER
7777 Forest | 972-383-1060 | HIVcare.org

AIN | ACCESS & INFORMATION NETWORK
AINDallas.org | 214-943-4444

AMELIA COURT CLINIC
214-590-5647 | ParklandHospital.com/HIV

AOC | AIDS OUTREACH CENTER
817-335-1994 | AOC.org | Ft. Worth

ASD | AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS
214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org

BRYAN'S HOUSE
214-559-3946 | BryansHouse.org

CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
817-693-1000 | cancommunityhealth.org

C.U.R.E.
info@curetx.org | curetx.org

GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND
972-743-6323 | GDMAF.org

HEALTH SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS
972-424-1480 | Plano | HealthNTx.org

HEALTH CENTER FOR LGBT HEALTH
817-332-7722 | helpfw.org | Fort Worth

LEGACY CARES
214-520-6308 | LegacyCares.org

LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS
214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org

NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER
214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

N. CENTRAL TX HIV PLANNING COUNCIL
817-321-4743 | NCTHPC.com | Ft. Worth

PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS
214-521-5191 | PrismHealthNTX.org

RESOURCE CENTER
214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY
214-528-0144 | MyResourceCenter.org

TUCKER'S GIFT
214-985-7297 | TuckersGift.org

UT SOUTHWESTERN AIDS PREVENTION
469-291-2800 | Dallas

WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY
214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

EDUCATION

LGBT CHAMBER FOUNDATION
214-821-4528 | lgbtchamberfoundation.org

LGBT EMPLOYEE ASSOC. OF DALLAS
info@dallasLGBT.org | dallaslgbt.org

LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON
817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

NORTH TX LGBTQ EMPLOYEE RESOURCE
ntcoalitioninfo@gmail.com

SMU WOMEN & LGBT CENTER
214-768-4796 | 214-768-4792 | 3140 Dyer St.

STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION PLANO
646-324-8250 | dallasdieindayeverytown.org

UNT ALLY PROGRAM
940-565-2589 | multicultural@unt.edu

MUSIC

OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND
469-616-0138 | oaklawnband.org

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE
214-526-3214 x 101 | TurtleCreekChorale.com

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS
214-520-7828 | twcoffice@tecd.org | TWCD.org

POLITICAL

DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB
214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS
202-420-7873 | LCRDDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS
214-506-3367 | StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON
972-890-3834

TARRANT CO. STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

PRIDE

DALLAS PRIDE COMMITTEE
214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE
214-421-4800 | DallasSouthernPride.com

DENTON PRIDE FOUNDATION
936-443-3617 | DentonPride.com

FRISCO PRIDE
469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

GRAY PRIDE
214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

NORTH TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION
NorthTexasPride.com

REAL LIVE CONNECTION - TEEN PRIDE
469-666-7325 | TeenPrideUSA.org | rlc365.org

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE
214-421-4800 | DallasSouthernPride.com

SILVER PRIDE PROJECT
972-793-8352 | info@silverpride.com

TARRANT COUNTY PRIDE WEEK ASSOC.
817-921-3318 | TCGPWA.org

TEXAS LATINO PRIDE | DALLAS
P.O. Box 192111 | TexasLatinoPride.org

TRANSGENDER PRIDE OF DALLAS
facebook.com/transgenderprideofdallas

TYLER AREA GAYS
903-526-9692 | TylerAreaGays.com

PROFESSIONAL

ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS
214-526-2085

DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION
214-540-4460 | DLGBTBA.org

FEDERAL GLOBE
dofedglobe.com

LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS
214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS
214-215-3745

LGBT LAW SECTION OF TX STATE BAR
800-204-2222 ext. 1420 | LGBTLawTx.com

N. TEXAS LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
214-821-4528 | LGBTChamber.com

OUT & EQUAL DFW
415-694-6500 | Outandequal.org

SERVICES

BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.
469-224-0436 | BlackTie.org

COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW
214-528-8190 | CFA.lgbt

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
214-528-0144 | info@dglgla.com | DGLA.com

DALLAS RED FOUNDATION
214-764-1180 | DallasRedFoundation.org

DALLAS TAVERN GUILD
214-571-1073 | DallasTavernGuild.org

DIFFA
214-748-8580 | DIFFADallas.org

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS
volunteers@glfld.org | glfd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF N. TEXAS
214-855-0520 | hrionline.org

SERVICES

LAMBDA LEGAL SOUTHWEST REGION
214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

OUT OF THE CLOSET
214-559-2173 | OutOfTheCloset.org

PROMISE HOUSE
214-941-8578 | PromiseHouse.org

PURPLE FOUNDATION
PurpleFoundation.org

TAKE BACK OAK LAWN
facebook.com/takebackoaklawn

TEDDY BEAR PARTY
TeddyBearParty.org

TEXAS PRIDE IMPACT FUNDS
214-421-4800 | TxPIF.org

THE DALLAS WAY
214-942-1414 | TheDallasWay.org

SOCIAL

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB
214-357-3759 | ClassicChassis.com

CHICK HAPPY HOUR
facebook.com/ChickHappyhour

COUPLES METRO DALLAS
CouplesMetroDallas.com

DALLAS BEARS | TBRU
P.O. Box DallasBears.org

DAMN | DALLAS AREA MALE NUDISTS
oaklwnnguy@hotmail.com

DFW FUSE
214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

DISCIPLINE CORPS
disciplinecorps.com

EAST TEXAS PFLAG
903-330-8901 | Tyler

GENDERBRAVE
214-540-4415 | MyResourceCenter.org

GOH | GRUPO ORGULLO HISPANO
214-540-4448 | MyResourceCenter.org

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH
careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org

LEATHER KNIGHTS
214-395-8460 | facebook.com/LeatherKnights

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT
campout@lvpwa.com | LVL/PWA.com

MEN OF ALL COLORS
214-521-4765 | pulliam_preston@yahoo.com

NATIONAL LEATHER ALLIANCE - DALLAS
info@nladallas.org | NLADallas.org

PEGASUS SQUARES
214-924-0263 | Pegasus-Squares.com

POZ DALLAS
212-242-2163 | poz.com/tag/dallas

PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH
214-218-0912 | primetimersDFW@gmail.com

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB
972-975-8622 | RainbowGardenClub.com

RAINBOW ROUNDUP
855-MY-RRFAM | info@rrup.org | rrup.org

SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB
214-289-1179

ONE TRUE BOOK CLUB
onettruebookclub@gmail.com

THRIVE | FOLKS 50+
214-540-4418 | MyResourceCenter.org

UBE | UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT
214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE
DallasCourt.org

VALOR LATINO
214-540-4430 | acarabajal@rcdallas.org

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION
Twitter.com/WODDDallas

WOMEN WITH PRIDE
214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

SPIRITUALITY

AGAPE MCC
817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com | Fort Worth

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

CHURCH OF ONE LOVE
972-245-6520 | ChurchOfOneLove.org

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH
817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com

CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE CHURCH
903-802-0670 | COTLChurch.org | Mabank

CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH
BethElBinah.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us

DIGNITY DALLAS
800-877-7871 | DignityUSA.org

EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
214-824-8185 | EDCC.org

EPISCOPAL - ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
214-352-0410 | TheDoubter.org

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH CHURCH
817-921-5683 | FOLChurch.org | Fort Worth

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS
214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org

THE GATHERING PLACE
214-643-3250 | TheGatheringDallas.org

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org

GREENLAND HILLS METHODIST CHURCH
214-826-2020 | GreenlandHills.org

HARVEST MCC
940-484-6159 | HarvestMCC.org | Denton

HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
972-492-4940 | HorizonUU.org | Carrollton

INTERFAITH MINDFUL MINISTRIES
972-432-7871 | InterMindful.com

KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST
214-942-0098 | kpumc.org

LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS
214-691-4300

LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
972-546-0543 | LivingFaithDFW.org

MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
214-352-4841 | MidwayHills.org

NORTHAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214-363-2479 | Northaven.org

OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org

PATHWAYS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
817-803-5941 | PathwaysUU.org | Hurst

PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
214-623-8400

ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST
972-279-3112 | ststephenumctx.org

TRINITY MCC
817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org | Grand Prairie

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
214-337-2429 | OakCliffUU.org

UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY
214-826-5683 | DallasUnity.org

UNITY OF DALLAS
972-233-7106 | UnityDallas.org

WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH
214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

SPORTS

DALLAS DIABLOS
P.O. Box 190862 | captain@dallasdiablos.com

DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL
214-578-6206 | DIVADallas.org

DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION
golf@dsdallas.org | DSGADallas.org

LGBT OUTDOORS
214-404-7805 | LGBTOutdoors.com

SPORTS

LOST SOULS RUGBY FOOTBALL
LostSoulsRFC.org

NAKED YOGA DALLAS
469-709-8114 | meetup.com/naked-yoga-ish

NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL
817-823-1839

OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION
214-358-1382 | OakLawnBowling.com

OAK LAWN SKI AND SCUBA CLUB
214-521-5342 ext. 1769

OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION
701-335-6582 | OLTADallas.org

PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOC.
972-879-7900 | DallasPSSA.org

RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE
817-540-0303 | rainbow_rollers_league@yahoo.com

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
214-346-2107 | TGRA.org

SUPPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA
469-554-0834 | DallasAI-Anon.org

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
800-242-8721 | heart.org

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LONE STAR
866-405-2447 | bbbstx.org

BLACK TRANSMEN INC.
855-BLK-TMEN | BlackTransMen.org

CEDAR SPRINGS MERCHANT ASSOC.
thestriconcedarsprings.com

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS
214-766-8939 | 817-834-2119 | CoDependents.org

DALLAS HOPE CHARITIES
214-301-9407 | DallasHopeCharities.org

DFW TRANS KIDS & FAMILIES
972-850-8405 | dfwtkf.com

FAMILY PRIDE COALITION
817-881-3949

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF N. TX
GALANorthTexas.org

GAY LESBIAN ANGER MANG. GROUP
469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

IMPULSE GROUP DALLAS
424-672-5567 | impulsegrp.org/dallas

LAMBDA GROUP NICOTINE ANONYMOUS
214-629-7806 | NICADFW.org

LEZ TALK DALLAS
815-905-2985 | LezTalkDallas.com

LGBTQ SAVES | TEEN SUPPORT GROUP
LGBTQsaves.org | Fort Worth

LGBTQ+ SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE
899-273-8255 | 877-565-8860 | 888-234-SAGE

OUTLAST YOUTH
214-814-0348 | OutLastYouth.org

PFLAG-DALLAS | FORT WORTH
972-77-PFLAG | 817-428-2329

TRANSGENDER EDUCATION NETWORK
419-330-9124 | TransTexas.org

SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS
Men's Group | 972-458-7762 or 214-673-8092

SHARED HOUSING CENTER
214-821-8510 | SharedHousing.org

STONEWALL NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
5910 Cedar Springs Road | Dallas

TRANS PRIDE INITIATIVE
214-449-1439 | TPride.org

TREVOR PROJECT
866-488-7386 | TheTrevorProject.org

YOUTH FIRST
214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTANTS – CERTIFIED PUBLIC

■ Aishman, Rick, PC | Ryanne Ahlman
4228 N. Central Expwy, #225 | 214-520-7363
■ Allen, Ron, CPA | ronallengcpa.com
2909 Cole Ave., Ste. 119 | 214-954-0042

ADULT

■ After Hours Video
2528 West Walnut | Garland | 972-276-0893
■ Alternatives
1720 W. Mockingbird Lane | 214-630-7071
■ Club Dallas | theclubs.com
2616 Swiss Ave. | 214-821-1990

AESTHETICS

■ Total Med Solutions | 214.247.1766
totalmedsolutions.com
5445 La Sierra, Ste. 305 | Dallas

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

■ Jade Air | Air Conditioning & Heating
jadeairdallas.com | 214-522-2805
■ Rescue Air | Heating and Cooling
rescueair.com | 972-351-8307

ANTIQUES | CONSIGNMENT

■ Antique Gallery of Mesquite
antiquegallerymesquite.com
3330 N. Galloway, Ste. 225 | 214-646-4583
■ Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace
1208 N. Riverfront Blvd. | mydulce.com
214-219-5656

ATTORNEYS

■ Burch, Lorie, L. | burch-law.com
7920 Belt Line Road, Ste. 700 | 972-385-0558
■ Chiles & Warren Law Group | artslegal.com
214-363-5117
■ Covell, Rebecca S. | covellpc.com
12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 340 | 214-443-0300
■ Guelich, Holly B. | holly-guelich.com
12740 Hillcrest Road, Ste. 138 | 214-522-3669
■ Hall, Stephanie | ladylawsah.com
steph@ladylawsah.com | 214.693.2959
■ Olinger, Lynn S. | LSOlaw.com
3710 Rawlins St., Ste. 1420 | 214-396-9090
■ Pettit, Jack Attorney at Law | jackpettit.com
2201 Main St., Ste. 776 | 214-521-4567
■ Seidel, Adam L. | adamseidel.com
8150 N. Central Expwy, #1255 | 214-528-3344
■ Van Wey, Presby & Williams | vwpwlaw.com
12720 Hillcrest Road, Ste. 600 | 214-329-1350

ATTORNEYS

■ West, Chad, PLLC | chadwestlaw.com
3606 S. Tyler St. | 214-509-7555
■ Wiley, Rob | robwiley.com
2613 Thomas Ave. | 214-528-6500
■ Womack, Jenny | WomackAdoptions.com
5495 Beltline Road, Ste. 365 | 214-935-3310

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

■ Ewing Subaru | ewingsubaruofplano.com
1555 Dallas Parkway | 972-801-9900
■ Planet Lincoln Love Field
planetlincolndallaslovefield.com
7767 Lemmon Ave. | 972-354-5213
■ Toyota of Irving | toyotaofirving.com
1999 W. Airport Freeway | 972-258-1200

BOOKKEEPING

■ BridgeRight Group | David Pattillo
BridgeRightGroup.com | 214-821-4144
■ Padgett Business Services
padgettDallas.com | 214-272-3823

CATERING

■ Wendy Krispin | wendykrispincaterer.com
214-748-5559

CHIROPRACTIC DOCTORS – DC

■ Sebo, Troy, Doctor of Chiropractic
469-986-7718

CLOTHING RETAIL

■ Outlines Men's Wear | Men's Clothing Store
3906 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-1955

COMIC BOOKS & COLLECTIBLES

■ Zeus Comics | zeuscomics.com
1334 Inwood Road | 214-219-8597

CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATIONS

■ Space for Life Construction • Renovations
spaceforlifetexas.com | 972-769-2526

COACHING

■ Coaching Beyond | Dale Holdman, BSN, MA
coachingbeyond.com | 214-557-0690

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES

■ Celeratec | celeratec.com
3824 Cedar Springs Road, #410 | 888-423-5372

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS

■ Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau
arlington.org/lgbtq | 800-342-4305
■ VisitDallas | visitdallas.com
325 North St. Paul St., Ste. 700 | 800-232-5527

COUNSELORS - LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

■ Baker, Renee & Porter, Feleshia
lgbtcounseling.us | 13500 Midway, Ste. 404
214-607-5620 | 214-454-8144
■ Caswell, Eddie, MEd, LPC
6500 Greenville Ave., Ste. 185 | 214-559-7077
■ Lovell, Cynthia, M.Ed. | CynthiaLovellpc.com
3838 Oak Lawn Ave., 10th Floor | 214-497-6268
■ Marcum, Candy | CandyMarcum.com
4228 N. Central Expwy, #225 | 214-521-1278
■ Meador, Christopher PhD, LCSW | 214-674-8806
momentumpychologicalservices@gmail.com
■ Owen, Jimmy, LPC-S | jimmyowen.com
3838 Oak Lawn, Ste. 1000 | 214-546-8852

CRUISES & TRAVEL PLANNERS

■ The Pauer Group, LLC - Randy Pauer
thepaugroup.com | 972-241-2000

DENTISTS

■ Boyd, Carole Ann, DDS, PC | drboyd.net
4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 905 | 214-521-6261
■ Terrell, Kevin, DDS, PC | terrelldental.com
2603 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 100 | 214-329-1818

DISC JOCKEYS

■ DJ Deluxe Productions | djdeluxe.com
214-823-1424

ELECTROLYSIS | HAIR REMOVAL

■ Dallas Electrolysis Clinic
electrolysisformen.com | 214-766-8939
■ Hair & Now Electrolysis | LGBT Owned
hairnowelectrolysis.com | 214-865-8345
■ Hair Today Gone Tomorrow Electrolysis
htgtelelectrolysis.com
4245 N. Central Expwy, #450 | 682-593-1442
■ We Only Wax | weonlywax.com
5610 Lemmon Ave. | 214.833.5958

ENTERTAINMENT

■ Turtle Creek Chorale
TurtleCreekChorale.com | 214-526-3214
■ The Women's Chorus of Dallas | twcd.org
214-520-7828

EYEWEAR

■ Fashion Optical | fashionopticaldallas.com
3430 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-526-6006
■ Uptown Vision | uptownvisiondallas.com
3710 Rawlins St., Ste 100 | 214-953-3937

FERTILITY

■ Conceive Fertility conceivefertilitycenter.com
6750 N. MacArthur, Ste. 100 | 214-224-0778
■ Fertility Specialists of Texas
fertilitytexas.com | 214-618-2044
■ The Fertility Consultants
thefertilityconsultants.com | 713-827-0301

FINANCIAL PLANNING & CONSULTANTS

■ Anderson, Sandy, CPA/PFS, CGMA, ADPA®, CFP® | andersonandassociatesfinancial.com
214-500-6385

■ Sammons, Stephanie, CFP®
sammonswealth.com | 972-440-1194

■ Sherman, Judy S., CFBS
2273 E. Continental, Ste. 120-A | 817-366-1119

FLORISTS

■ All Blooming Florist | allbloomingflorist.com
2615 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 103 | 214-238-3283

HAIR SALON | BARBER SHOP

■ Salon Aura | salonaauradallas.com
3910 Cedar Springs Road | 214-443-0454

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

■ AIDS Outreach Center | aoc.org
400 N. Beach St., Ste. 100 | 817-335-1994
■ CAN | cancommunityhealth.org
616 Matlock Centre Circle | 817-693-1000
■ HELP Center for LGBT Health & Wellness
helpfw.org | 1919 8th Ave. | 817-332-7722
■ Prism Health North Texas | phntx.org
351 West Jefferson, Ste. 300 | 214-521-5191
■ Resource Center | myresourcecenter.org
LGBTQ services & info. 214-521-5124

HOSPICE

■ Visiting Nurse Association of Texas
vnatexas.org | 800-CALL-VNA

HOTELS

■ Hotel St. Germain | hotelstgermain.com
2516 Maple Ave. | 214-871-2516

INSURANCE

■ Alex Long Agency | Allstate Insurance
Allstateagencies.com/AlexLong
4425 Plano Parkway, Ste. 1001 | 972-570-7000
■ Balsley Insurance Group | CindyBalsley.com
Cindy Balsley, Agent | 972-478-4304
■ Beseda, Scott | State Farm|ScottBeseda.com
4411 Lemmon Ave., Ste. 203 | 214-219-6610
■ Irvin, M. Angel | Farmers Insurance
14651 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 110 | 972-367-6200
■ Medicare4USA | Individual & Group Health
Medicare4USA.com | 214-989-7900
■ Steven Graves Insurance Abco Home Plus
abcchomeins.com | 972-423-0005

MATCHMAKERS

■ Fern Connections | fernconnections.com
469-785-6136

MEDIA

■ Affinity Magazine | affinityincmagazine.com
844-882-8864
■ Dallas Voice | The Premiere Media Source
for LGBTQ Texas | dallasvoice.com
1825 Market Center Blvd, #240 | 214-754-8710
■ DFW Gay Live!
Online source for LGBTQ Events | DFWGay.com
■ He Said Dallas | Must see, do, eat & more
for gay Dallas | hesaiddallas.com
■ National LGBT Media Association
nationalgaymediaassociation.com
■ OUT North Texas | The premier LGBT Visitors
Guide for North Texas | outntx.com
1825 Market Center Blvd., #240 | 214-754-8710

MORTGAGE & REFINANCE

■ Caliber Home Loans | Christian Johnson,
Branch Manager | homeloansbychristian.com
3100 Monticello Ave., Ste. 150 | 214-763-8767
■ PrimeLending - A PlainsCapital Co.
Ron Watterson | ronwatterson.com
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 150 | 214-926-9583
■ Supreme Lending | Ramirez, Armando
mandoramirez.supremelending.com
214-263-5507

MOVERS

■ Fantastic Moves | FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric, Ste. 175 | 214-349-6683 (MOVE)

MUSEUMS

■ Amon Carter Museum of American Art
cartermuseum.org | 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth | 817-738-1933
■ Nasher Sculpture Center
nashersculpturecenter.org
2001 Flora St. | 214-242-5100

NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS

■ North Haven Gardens | NHG.com
7700 Northaven Road | 214-363-5316

PET ADOPTION & ANIMAL SHELTERS

■ SPCA of Texas | spca.org
2400 Lone Star Drive | 214-742-7722

PHARMACIES

■ Avita Pharmacy | avitapharmacy.com
750 Fort Worth Ave., Ste. H-100
214-943-5187 | 877-943-5187

PHOTOGRAPHERS

■ Terry McCranie Photography
terrymccranie.com | 972-877-9546

PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

■ LeDoux, Mark, M.D. P.A.
Interventional Spine & Pain | spinedallas.com
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 380 | 214-888-3883
■ North Texas Infectious Diseases Consultants
ntidc.org | 3409 Worth, #710 | 214-823-2533
■ Medical Practice of Dr. Steven M. Ponders
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 110 | 214-520-8833
■ Prism Health North Texas | phntx.org
351 West Jefferson, Ste. 300 | 214-521-5191
■ Uptown Physicians Group
uptownphysiciansgroup.com
2801 Lemmon Ave., Ste. 400 | 214-303-1033

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

■ JWA Public Relations | jwaylon.com
1412 Main St., Ste. 300 | 214-613-0073

REAL ESTATE

■ Atkinson, Steve | Dave Perry-Miller
DavePerryMiller.com | 214-334-7404
■ DeuPree, Joe, ABR | Scottwood Realty
deupree@sbcglobal.net | 214-683-7224
■ Durstine Jr., George H. | Scottwood Realty
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SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Barbie looking lovely in white!



Take it off, Raquell!



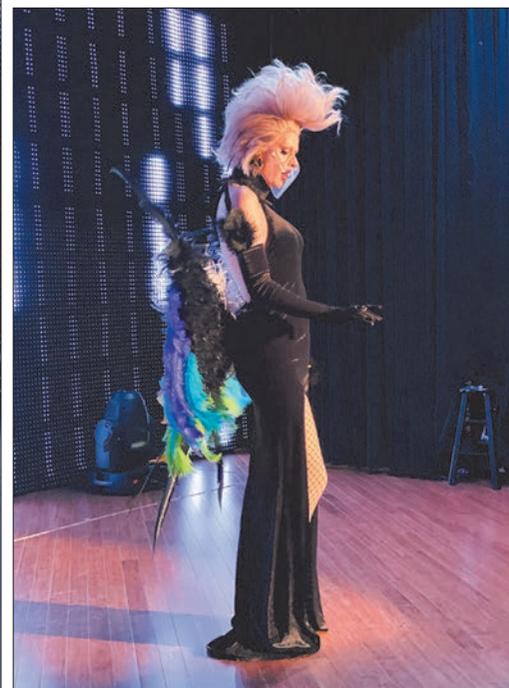
Chanel looking glamorous



Drag me to The Rose Room



Gabby backstage ready to perform



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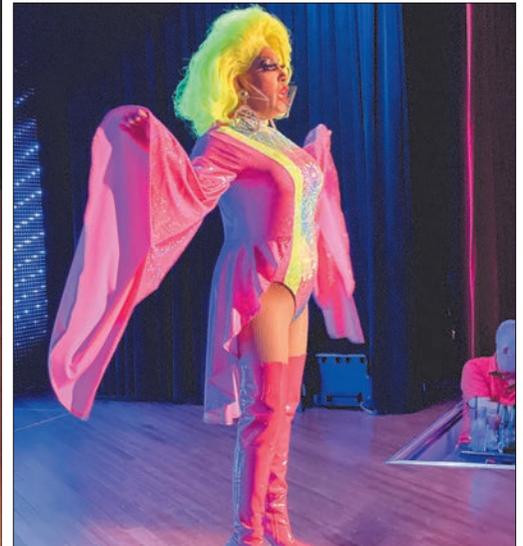
Lady in red



Sang it, gurl!



Gloria belts it!



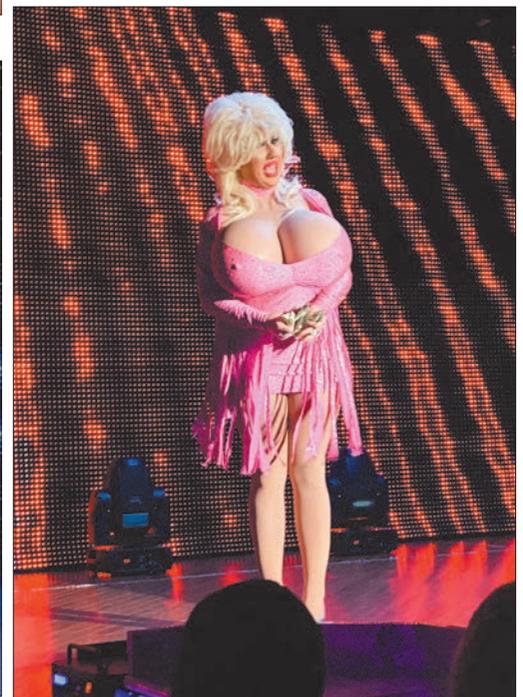
Liquor Mini is pretty in pink



Feeling the music



Servin' face!



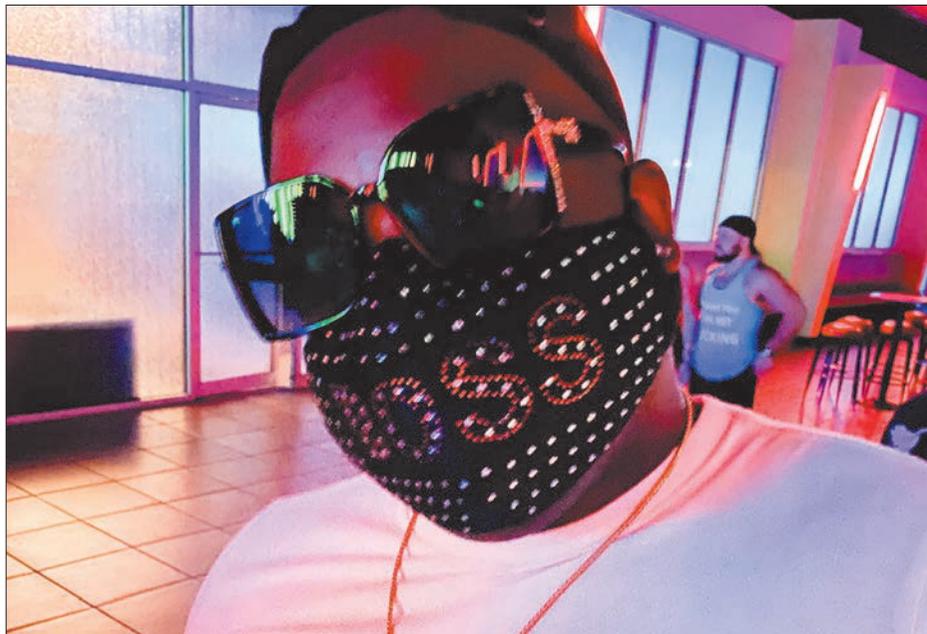
Pardon me, Bleach!



Larry sits all alone in the VIP



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Kameron Ross



Lesbian happy hour



Bleach and May May in The Rose Room



Krystal Summers



Jade Summers servin' body-ody-ody



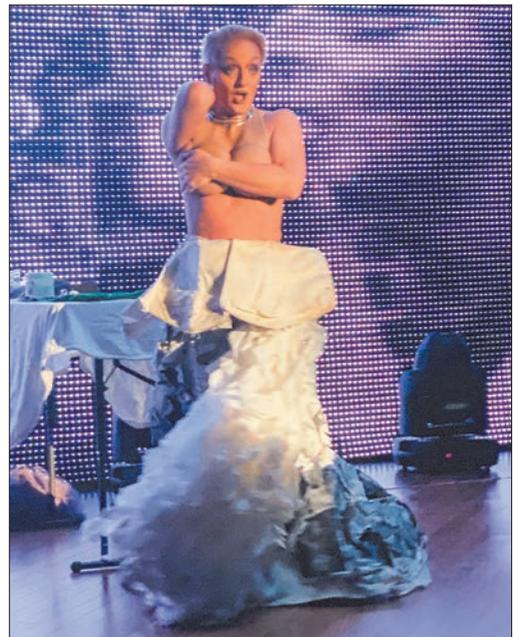
Blue Valentine and Raquel in The Rose Room



Kylee rocks that Marcel wave!



Jenna slays the runway...



in and out of her dress



Cassie and Krystal



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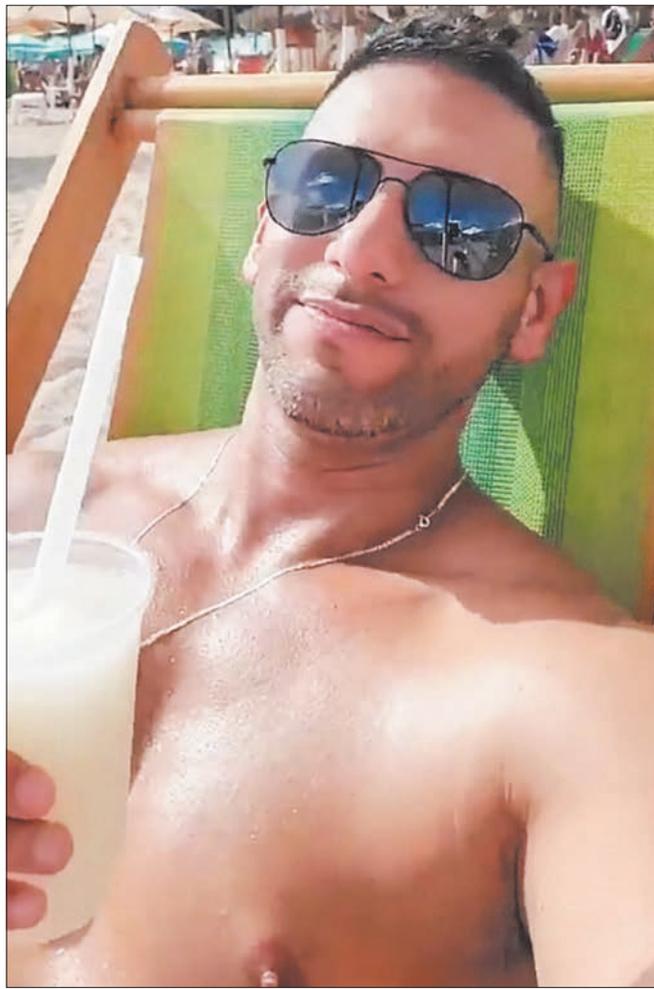
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Frida Monet wines it up at S4



Eric soaks up the sun in PV



Daphne is pretty in pink lighting

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WORD SEARCH

Diversions Word Search - A Very Sordid Wedding (9/24-10/3/21 in Dallas)

Find the words in the list below hiding across, backwards, up, down and diagonally in the grid. Words separated by a slash "/" are found individually in the puzzle. Words in parentheses "(") are not in the puzzle. The unused letters starting at top left and going down by row will spell out a surprise!



A Very/Sordid/Wedding

(By) Del Shores

Uptown/Players

Kalita/Humphreys/Theatre

(Set in) Southern/Baptist

Winters/Texas

(2017) Movie/Sequel

Bonnie/Bedelia

Caroline/Rhea

Leslie/Jordan

Whoopi/Goldberg

Cassie/Nova

(Characters)

Latrell

LaVonda

Aunt/Sissy

Noleta

Brother/Boy

Wardell

Odell

Hortense

Billy Joe

(The) Hitchhiker/

Murderer

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DiversionsPuzzles> for more free puzzles and book info!

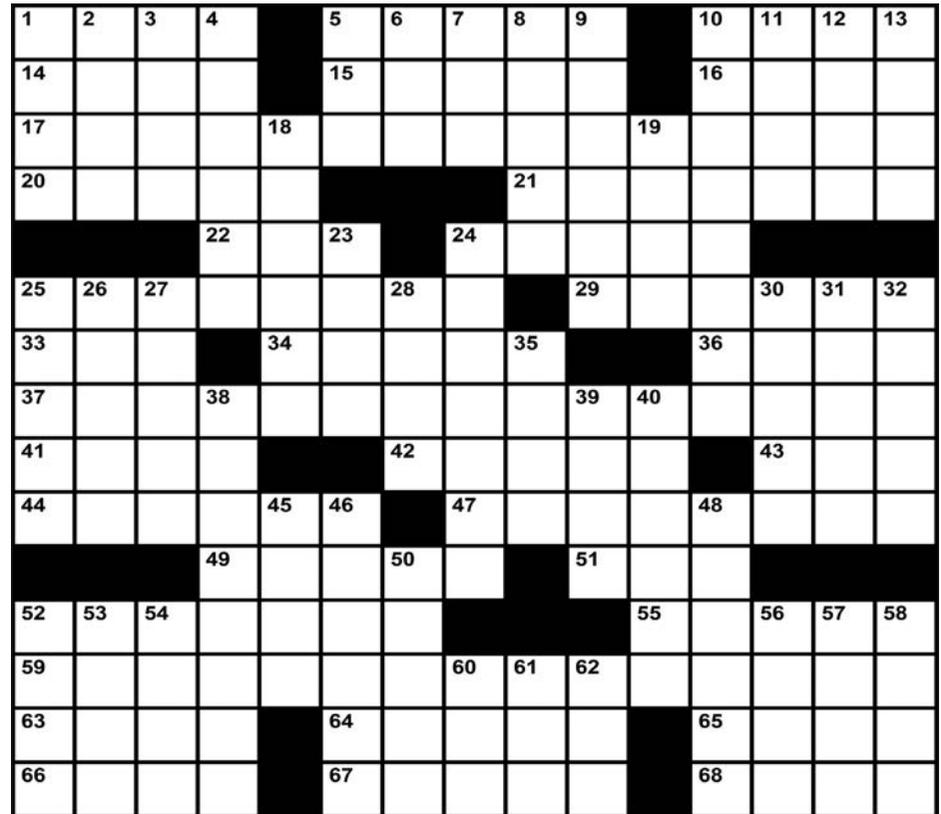
Solution on Page 66



Check out these bartending hotties in The Rose Room

PUZZLE

Coming Out,
to Rachel



Solution on Page 66

Across

- 1 When doubled, an Amy Grant hit
- 5 Hayes of *South Park*
- 10 WNBA star Rebecca
- 14 Tel ____
- 15 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 16 Per person
- 17 Start of the best thing about coming out of the closet, per Rachel Maddow
- 20 Sty dwellers
- 21 Female impersonator's garb
- 22 Eagles org.
- 24 Old def. pact
- 25 Current strength
- 29 It sounds on the hour
- 33 Actress named Arthur
- 34 Painting and sculpture, to Michelangelo
- 36 DeGeneres voice role
- 37 More of the best thing
- 41 Takei's *Star Trek* role
- 42 Riyadh resident
- 43 Summer along the Seine
- 44 Wraps for female impersonators
- 47 Male members of a flock
- 49 One of Caesar's stones

Down

- 1 Exclusion of gays, and such
- 2 Admit openly
- 3 Netanyahu, of the land of the cut
- 4 Miss ____ (pal of Pee-Wee)
- 5 Sexual ending
- 6 Pt. of SSN
- 7 Constellation over Rio
- 8 Network of *Wedding Wars*
- 9 French president Jacques
- 10 Gay rodeo activity
- 11 Piece of Stephen Sondheim
- 12 Trunk without a bellybutton
- 13 Withdraws, with "out"
- 18 Bear the expense of
- 19 Neighbor of Belg.
- 23 It shouldn't come before the horse
- 24 Places on ocean bottoms
- 25 Immeasurably vast hole
- 26 Tony winner *Take ____*
- 27 Actor Winfield, to Brazilians
- 28 Bee ____ (disco pioneers)
- 30 Film director Russ
- 31 Act badly
- 32 City in Colette's land
- 35 Arc on a Samuel Barber score
- 38 Kind of board
- 39 Put the finger on
- 40 Boob
- 45 *Hair's ____* to Be Hard
- 46 Bear trails
- 48 Prick one's curiosity about
- 50 Alaskan language
- 52 They can be terrible
- 53 Words of woe, to the Bard
- 54 Lucci in *All My Children*
- 56 Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
- 57 Tennis champ Nastase
- 58 Source of red balls
- 60 Playwright Orton
- 61 Versatile vehicle
- 62 Abbr. of old in Tatu's land

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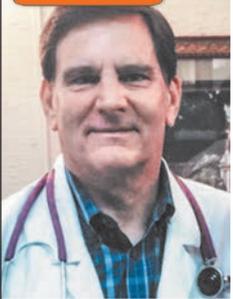


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