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the FOOD ISSUE

A food entrepreneur; new restaurants in the gayborhood, and feasting at the faire

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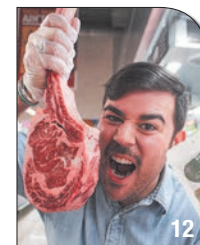
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Dan Patrick

Dan Patrick: 'Don't Say Gay' bill will be a legislative priority in 2023

Even though Florida's new "Don't Say Gay" law is already being challenged in court, and even though mental health experts have already said the Florida law and others like it could harm children's mental health, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick on Monday, April 4, declared that he intends to make passage of such a law one of his top priorities in the next session of the Texas Legislature, coming in 2023.

In case you haven't heard about it yet, the Florida bill recently signed into law by right-wing Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis prohibits classroom lessons on sexual orientation or gender identity for kids below the fourth grade or any instruction that is not "age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate" for older students. And, like Texas' new anti-abortion law, enforcing the Florida law is up to individuals: Parents can sue a school district for damages if they believe it has broken the law. If they win, parents will receive money and recoup attorney fees.

The Texas Legislature doesn't begin its next regular session until January, but Patrick said the issue will be addressed in Education Committee hearings before then. Of course, Patrick is up for re-election in November, and if he is defeated at the polls, he won't be setting any legislative priorities. Just sayin'.

— Tammye Nash

Black Tie Dinner announces beneficiaries, 'Power of Pride' theme

The Black Tie Dinner officially kicked off its 41st year Wednesday, April 6, with a party at On The Levee, where dinner officials unveiled

the theme for this year's dinner — Power of Pride — and announced a slate of 19 local beneficiaries. PNC Bank last year acquired the dinner's longtime presenting sponsor, BBVA, and has recommitted to its support for Black Tie, increasing its support level as the new presenting sponsor.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is once again the national beneficiary for Black Tie. This year's local beneficiaries are AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, Cathedral of Hope, Celebration Community Church, City Square, Coalition for Aging LGBT, Dallas Hope Charities, Equality Texas Foundation, Health Education Learning Project (HELP), Legacy Cares, Northaven United Methodist Church, Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association, Planned

Parenthood of Greater Texas, Resource Center, Synergy Wesley Foundation, Turtle Creek Chorale and Uptown Players.

In its first 40 years, Black Tie has distributed more than \$27 million to a wide variety of local organizations serving the LGBTQ community and the national HRC Foundation.

— Tammye Nash

Brooklyn gay bar damaged in arson

A recently-opened gay bar in New York "suffered substantial damage" the first weekend in April when an unknown suspect walked into the bar, poured gasolene on the floor and then lit a match, according to a report on Queerty.com. Two people were injured in the attack at Rash, which opened five months ago in the Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn.

According to the bar's Instagram account, the suspect was wearing a dark hoodie and carrying a backpack. After lighting the fire that "caused an explosion that set the bar in flames," the suspect "immediately ran from the scene." The Instagram post also notes that "Everyone inside made it out" but that two people were taken to a hospital and were "in stable condition."

The Instagram post asked that anyone with information about the attack "please share it with us directly" but urged potential informants to only "share information that is reputable and verified to be true. There is a lot going around. We'll make any details available as soon as we can safely do so."

The bar has established a GoFundMe page to pay for repairs and to help the staff who will be out of work while the space is being repaired. A police investigation into the attack is underway.

— Tammye Nash

Good eats for pets



WOOF! DR. JOSH TALKS TO THE ANIMALS

Base your decisions on your pets' diet on science, not trends

Saludos, gente bonita! Welcome to the Dallas Voice Food issue. In this column, I will present important ideas related to nutrition for our dogs and cats. My goal is to provide some guidelines and some pros and cons. Different veterinarians and pet nutritionists that have different perspectives, but in the end, pet parents have to make the decisions they feel would be best for their babies.

I do recommend that you not make decisions based on social media statements or what seems to be popular at the moment, as many of these trends may not have any scientific background or supportive data.

One of the most commonly discussed and controversial topics in pet nutrition is whether to feed your pets a raw diet, a home-cooked meal or, if you are feeding them traditional pet food, whether to use dry food or wet food. Raw diets may seem like great options, but they can contain harmful bacteria, and the nutrients are commonly not well balanced for dogs and cats. They can also contain bones which, if ingested, can lead to negative issues and even life-threatening complications.

These raw diets are typically high in protein as well, which is not ideal for some life stages or for pets with certain diseases like chronic kidney disease. Lastly, raw diets tend to be much more cost-prohibitive than other options.

That being said, if the food is handled well from the source all the way to your home, and if the nutrients are well balanced, it may be a good option for some dog and cat parents. I personally do not recommend raw diets, but some parents swear by them, and if they work for your babies, then they work for you!

Home-cooked meals can be a great option for some pet parents, but they also tend to have an imbalance of nutrients and are time-consuming. They can also lead to more



**Dr. Josh
Woof**

accumulation of tartar on some of our babies' teeth. While I am also not a fan of home-cooked meals, I do believe this to be a much better option than raw diets, as long as they are well-balanced and handled correctly.

I am certainly more of a fan of dog and cat dry food options, especially a few select brands. As long as they are high quality brands, both dry and wet forms are typically excellent sources of nutrition for our pets, in general terms.

Needless to say, it is important to make sure we are feeding the right diet for the right stage in life. Stay away from "all life stages" food products, as puppies require different nutrients than do adults and senior babies. I also do not recommend high-protein diets unless you may have a working dog (police dogs, for example).

Certain cats and dogs may have specific diseases that prompt your doctor to recommend a prescription diet. These diets are made specifically and carefully for unique health conditions that your cat or dog may be experiencing, including kidney disease, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, obesity and others.

Another relatively new controversial topic is grain-free diets. Many pet parents have chosen grain-free diets for different reasons, including the quality of the product and the chance to mimic more what the wild counterparts would eat before cats and dogs were



domesticated. While this may seem to make sense, cats and dogs have evolved genetically from their wild ancestors and actually benefit from grains. The grain just has to be from a high-quality source and in the correct amounts. I believe most of the issues with diets with grains were related to how some companies made dog food with low-quality grains and used excessive amounts as fillers. However, diets these days are quite different from those diets from the past.

Another important factor to keep in mind is that there may be a correlation between grain-free diets and heart disease with some of our pets. There is still ongoing research on this topic, but for now, we veterinarians are recommending to stay away from grain-free diets until official and conclusive data is offered.

Along those lines, by-products in our babies' food are not a bad thing. They just have to come from reliable and high-quality sources.

Curious fact: Allergies to chicken are actually not that common at all. In fact, food allergies are one of the most rare type of allergies in pets. They do exist, but, as veterinarians, we do not encounter them often. When a dog or cat may seem to have an issue with chicken, it typically is something different and can be as simple as just eating something outside of their normal diet.

A common question I get is related to

how much to feed our babies. The answer is simple: Each diet is different, but the packaging will say how much to feed, according to weight. I also recommend feeding at specific times, usually breakfast and dinner. I recommend leaving the bowl outside for not more than an hour or so and then picking it up to make sure we can monitor closely their appetite. When the bowls are left outside all day, we may not realize their appetite is reduced until some time after the problem may have started. Please keep in mind that this is a general recommendation, as each baby may have different requirements or situations that may merit a different feeding schedule.

Quite interesting stuff, right? I am sure some of this information may shock some of us, but it is important to be aware of it, as social media, unfortunately, can be a double-edged sword — spreading some useful information, surely, but also spreading false information, too.

I hope this has been a learning experience that will translate into healthier and happier pets and families. As always, I am here in Addison, if you may need me. Thank you for reading and big abrazos for everyone.

Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital, 14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110, Addison (next to Tom Thumb). Contact him by phone at 972-738-1111 or visit his website at IslaVet.com.

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VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

A safe space

Gen Z finds refuge in queer pop

On April 5, my wife and I took our niece to see Cavetown, an English singer-songwriter. We stood for hours among a sea of Gen Z and young millennial fans. Chatting with some of the other parents before the concert began, we were the old intruders, merely rides and chaperones for those too young to drive or too broke to have a car.

I was overwhelmed by the large amount of queer joy that washed over them. The concert crowd was a mix of multicolored hairstyles, fashion choices that reflected a simultaneous embrace and rejection of every fashion trend of the past 50 years, and more than anything, a refuge for them to celebrate themselves and each other.

It was unexpected, in the best way possible.

The concert attendees wore Pride flags as capes, reflecting their collective individualities: Aromantic. Genderfluid. Pansexual. Trans. The traditional rainbow gay Pride flag was nearly absent.

Others brought stuffed animals, which I assume is some inside cultural joke. Concert souvenirs, or “merch” as my niece corrected me, were reasonably priced. The vibe had an element of queer freedom that, between the pandemic and constant attacks from their government, was desperately needed.



Aubree Calvin
Contributing Columnist

Despite them having millions of streams and video views, there’s a good chance you’ve never heard of trans singer Cavetown or his two opening acts, Tessa Violet and Addison Grace (who is nonbinary). Until I bought the tickets, I hadn’t either.

The three artists represent the latest in a wave of YouTube-grown indie pop performers. They cultivate online fan bases with their tech, skills, ukuleles and music videos shot in their bedrooms. The songs talk of same sex crushes, gender identity, mental health struggles — but without the need for subtext or metaphorical lyrics we relied upon in previous decades.

They’re straightforward and vulnerable, much like their fans.

The musical genres of these artists offer imprecise definitions. It can be called



Queer, Sapphic, Indie, Lo-fi, Bedroom or DIY pop. Honestly, just take an adjective, verb or noun and follow it with “pop,” and you get the general idea.

Many of the artists are openly queer, and the ones that are straight (like Tessa Violet) are some of the fiercest allies you’ll find. They’re fiercely aware that their success is one part talent and one part being embraced by rabidly passionate LGBTQ youth trying to figure life out.

Sunday’s Grammy Awards offered more examples of LGBTQ artists gaining mainstream acceptance, which should always be celebrated. A country song about coming out won! Who could have foreseen that?

But what I saw in downtown Dallas on Tuesday night felt different. It was more raw, less produced. In the words of my niece, it was a total vibe.

I don’t know if Cavetown or any of these YouTube stars will ever win a Grammy. I don’t think the fans care. Someone they saw only online was live, in the same space with them. And that connection mattered more than the corporate industry praise of an awards show.

This new generation of queer kids aren’t seeking our approval or acceptance. They are each other’s source of refuge. They have the support of each other. That’s all they need. ■

Aubree Calvin is writer and cohost of the Podcast Southern Queeries.

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Resident complaints pouring in at apartments

IN THE GAYBORHOOD

New owner, management vows to correct problems at two Cedar Springs complexes

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Since Venterra sold 4123 and Park West on Cedar Springs Road to Sun Equity and Lincoln Property Company took over management, the complaints have been piling up — and so has the trash.

Lincoln Property issued an apology with an excuse. But within hours of Dallas Voice running a short piece about the problem online, five code enforcement officers showed up and began writing citations.

The pools at both properties were filled with algae and closed to residents. One resident sent an email that said, “We just received a notice that the pool is closed — see attached. Hours after claiming all was well and they fixed it.”

The attached note reads, “The pool area will remain closed as some repairs are made. We are working with the necessary vendors so that we can reopen the pool as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.”

The pool area was closed on Thursday, March 31, after code compliance officers cited it for unhealthy conditions. Lincoln Property said the problem began before they took over management.

“There were various maintenance issues throughout the communities that needed immediate attention, such as inoperable pool pumps. We hired the appropriate maintenance and had the pools back up and running within days of the transition,” Brandy Lawrence, senior regional property manager wrote in a letter to residents on Thursday.

Poop bags in the dog parks were another major concern, especially at Park West, which has always been marketed



as a great place for dog lovers and owners. Renters there are allowed to have up to three dogs with no breed or size restrictions.

One resident said he ended up going

to a pet supply store and getting bags for cleanup himself after six days of more than 100 dogs using the pet park. “We pay dog pet rent for this,” he noted.

Another resident, who asked not to

be named out of fear of retaliation by the property managers, said the garage door has been broken and left open at Park West. He blames that for his bike

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Making Pride local

PRIDE



As Carrollton Pride has grown, its founders want to seed more local events throughout suburban areas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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If we can get more local cities to do Pride events, then it's harder for people to ignore that we're their neighbors."

That, said Bob McCranie, is why he and others are working to help build up Pride celebrations throughout the DFW Metroplex.

McCranie has been involved with Carrollton Pride since its founding in 2006 and serves as its co-chair. Last year's Carrollton Pride event attract-

ed about 600 people, McCranie said, noting that people would drive by, see what was going on and stop to participate.

Last year, Carrollton Pride organizers put together their event in just 47 days, he said, indicating every Pride event doesn't have to be a major undertaking.

"We are trying to seed Pride events across the DFW area," he said. Hold a picnic, he suggested. Spread the word using social media. Choose a park, a day and time, and you won't even need a permit, he said.

Fort Worth has been doing an annual Pride picnic for more than 30 years, and former Mayor Betsy Price regularly attended. And it draws as large a crowd as the Tarrant County parade and festival.

Hold a monthly dinner, McCranie suggested. Pick a local restaurant that would welcome the business. Make it family-friendly so no babysitters are

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BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Actor gets the ultimate stamp of approval for 'Torch Song' role

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
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Little did actor Philip Cole White know that Harvey Fierstein would see his taped audition for the role that first put Fierstein himself on the theatrical map. White, based in Los Angeles, sent in a video audition for the lead role in Uptown Players' season opener, *Torch Song*. He didn't know that final approval would have to come from higher up.

"Harvey requires that he gets final say on who plays Arnold," the lead role in the iconic play, Uptown Co-Producer Craig Lynch explained. "We knew [White] was a perfect fit, but we had to send Philip's audition tape to Harvey."

Pressure much? Not for White, because he didn't know about that tidbit until later in the audition process.

"I didn't know that at all until after I flew out for the in-person audition. After that reading, [Co-Producer Jeff Rane] told me that Harvey gets the final say," White said by phone.

Uptown Players had intended to do this show before all that lockdown business. When it came back around in this new season, the first actor chosen was no longer available to play the main role of Arnold Beckoff, a gay Jewish man in the late 1970s who does drag and sings and also craves the normalcy of happy ever after with a husband and children.

After Fierstein, who wrote *Torch Song* and starred in it on stage and screen, approved White for the role that won Fierstein a Tony — the wait provided some nerve-wracking days for White — Uptown Players was able to move forward.

And to think, Bedford-native White wasn't even considering theater. He was busy in Los Angeles, hustling to land some television work. Uptown's director, Cheryl Denson, who knew White, opted to reach out to the actor.

"She reached me on Facebook and asked me to submit a video audition.



Bedford native Philip Cole White said even though *Torch Song* is set in the 1970s, the play and its main character, Arnold, still have something to say today. White plays Arnold in Uptown Players production of the show, written by Harvey Fierstein, and Fierstein himself approved White for the role of Arnold. (Photo courtesy of Uptown Players)

The show wasn't on my radar at the time, but I've always wanted to work with her, so I jumped at this opportunity," he said.

The original *Torch Song Trilogy* clocks in at around four hours. But the 2018 revival is much more manageable. Fierstein himself made cuts to the show, and that is the version that will open Friday in Dallas.

"The edit is beautiful," White said. "I read the full trilogy for my audition, but when I read through the edited one, it was the same experience. He took all the stuff you needed, and I don't feel anything is missing.

"I can't even fathom what it was like for actors who learned the original," he added, "This might be the most difficult play I've ever done."

That being said, White declared he's having the best time with the role.

"Arnold fits like a glove. He's so familiar, and this all feels very personal," White said. "Harvey makes it very easy [so] I didn't have to do much digging.

Scenes with his mother or conversations with lovers — many of us have had those same conversations. I absolutely relate to Arnold."

Torch Song is somewhat of a time capsule — a glimpse into gay life in the '70s and '80s in New York City. The dialogue has since changed, but White feels that this story is still relatable and current.

In his research, White discovered that Fierstein got flak from the gay community for this play because it seemed to box the main character into this desire for a sort of heteronormative life. Yet, White pointed out, later it was the community fighting for the right to marry and create families.

Today, people live open and out lives, so White can understand if people see the story as somewhat dated. But he hopes audiences will take a deeper look: "I think as long as we live in this world where people see 'gay' as a sinful lifestyle, the play will speak loudly. However you identify, it's the same idea here about being accepted."

As he approaches opening night,

White reflected on having Arnold in his life and the lessons he's already learned from this character.

"Playing Arnold is reinforcing for me the lesson of the importance of self-respect. And that journey to self-respect can often be complicated and messy but it's a goal worth reaching for," he said in a post-interview email.

"With Arnold in particular, it's finding that balance of becoming self-sufficient enough to be independent, but vulnerable enough to let people in, all the while having the tools to set healthy boundaries with people who aren't respectful.

"I think self-respect and self-love are such important topics, especially in marginalized communities such as LGBTQIA+. We need all the self esteem we can achieve when facing a world with people that are so afraid, confused and hateful."

Torch Song opens Friday and runs through April 17 at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Uptown-Players.org.

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Ranch Style

FOOD ISSUE

Justin Anderson shows his spicy side on store shelves

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
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For a lot of folks, the pandemic brought out the best in them: working out, catching up on reading or learning a new skill. And there was certainly more cooking at home.

The latter was a wave Justin Anderson caught. But then it also sparked his entrepreneurial side as well.

Having already developed two products since his high school days, the now-35 year-old discovered he wanted to add some flavor to his steaks, and he had had enough of his own pantry's offerings.

"Cooking so much at home, I got sick of my all-purpose seasoning in my pantry," Anderson said by phone from his home in Fort Worth. "So I began experimenting with different blends and starting combining ingredients you don't usually find" together.

So he started playing with purple shallots, green peppercorn and smoky Korean red pepper (among other items). The result was more than just a seasoning he could use at home; it then became Bel Air Ranch, which hit store shelves late last year.

Anderson launched the product in December 2021 at Central Market where he already had an in with the grocery store. His relationship with the store wasn't a new thing.

"I had been working on this soft granola — making it my own, coming up with my own version. I turned it into a product and commercialized it," he said. "I launched it at Central Market right before I graduated high school."

While a student at Lee High School (the name has since changed), the entrepreneur started his first company: Anderson Trail premium soft granola. He graduated in 2005, then moved to Fort Worth to attend TCU, where he



was recruited into the entrepreneurial program and studied both business and liberal arts.

After graduation, Anders knew he had to reinvent his original product — only this time, he was going to go big.

"I found Bill Schneider, a new business partner, who brought in the capital. I wanted to make the product more snackable and less 'granola for breakfast.' So we developed WOATS, which we launched at ExpoWest in 2013."

Anderson showed the new product to Central Market first, and that company

finalized the deal to carry the product at the expo in Anaheim, Calif.

WOATS was a big hit for Anderson, growing into more than 85 stores and outlets, including Target, Walmart and Home Shopping Network.

But production stopped in August 2021 — or rather,

was put on hold. After all, he was essentially a small business, and there was a pandemic happening.

"At some point soon, I want to bring that back as a direct-to-customer product," he said.

But Anderson's focus now is much more spicy.

Although Bel Air Ranch's origins are in Anderson's kitchen, he had a long-time friend in mind as he was experimenting. Way back in his middle school days, he and his best friend Spencer and Spencer's mother, Nancy, were really

close. But he saw something special in Nancy's tastes.

"She was kind of like this Martha Stewart type. When I went over to their house, it was like they lived in a magazine. She helped me with my first granola product," he said.

Bel Air Ranch, Anderson said, ties back to Nancy.

"She has this seasoning she swears by from this boutique seasoning house. It's this nice, expensive blend, and I wanted to pay homage to that," he explained. "I was tinkering with it and compared it to her blend and even with the same ingredients and could notice the quality of my

ingredients, which I sourced at Central Market."

He said a side-by-side comparison left a chicken bouillon flavor in his mouth after he tasted Nancy's blend.

After positive feedback, he figured he had a new product on his hand.

"I wanted to change things up for people cooking at home. You can rub it on any protein, put it on a baked potato or make a ranch dip out of it. It's universal in its application and elevates any flavor."

Not only can it be found at Central Market in Fort Worth and the Northwest Highway location, shoppers can also buy it at Roy Pope Grocery and Neighbors House Grocery, both in Fort Worth, as well as online. Anderson added that Central Market plans to expand Bel Air Ranch to be available in all its stores in the near future.

"I learned a lot with the other products, and so my goal was to optimize this one product and see what all we can do with it."

So far, it sounds like Anderson's doing just that.

Shop his products at EatBelAir.com.



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Restaurant roundup

Restaurants bring new options to the gayborhood

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

In the last few months, a number of restaurants have opened their doors in or around the gayborhood. More options for lunch dinner and drinks are never a bad thing. So what's new in the Oak Lawn restaurant landscape? Glad you asked.

The food scene has seen a small explosion in the area with a spectrum of restaurants and even a French bakery for those necessary carb overloads. Make a date with these new nearby spots.

In the 'hood

Enoteca Italia

3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 116
EnotecaItaliaDallas.com.

Located in the Centrum building, this Italian cuisine restaurant is a mix of up-scale and homey, and it is Chef Alban Besiri's first solo outing. The interior reads both trendy and welcoming, combining both modern and classic elements. Touted as contemporary and affordable, the restaurant currently features dinner service and weekend brunch. The restaurant recently announced lunch service on Fridays.

The menu offers both traditional and elevated Italian favorites, such as its pecorino veal meatball starters and its mascarpone polenta and ragu for the table. Find comfort in its pasta dishes of spaghetti bolognese and lobster fettuccine, but explore deeper flavors in Besiri's orecchiette salsiccia — a plate of rigatoni and pork salsiccia with roasted sweet red onions and oven-roasted red bell peppers to enhance the overall taste. The restaurant also serves main entrees, seafood and a small selection of pizzas. Great for date night or a family dinner.

Mondo Pizza and Co.

4436 Lemmon Ave.
PizzaMondo.us.

This new spot may change up your

pizza nights. This fast-casual joint mixes "sassy, globally-inspired flavor and ingredient combinations" for some next-level slices. Sure, it has its Lemmon Ave. Loaded Pepperoni pizza for traditionalists. But more adventurous types may find its menu curious and interesting, with its burrata and pickled pear pizza or its West Bank pizza made with za'atar spice, fresh mozzarella, arugula, artichokes, grape tomatoes, cucumber, kalamata olives, feta cheese, lemon and olive oil vinaigrette.

You can always build your own and grab a side of cheesy bread as well.

Village Baking Co. Boulangerie

3218 Oak Lawn Ave.
VillageBakingCo.com.

If we ever needed an excuse to sound faux fancy, this is it. Just saying "boulangerie" out loud makes you feel continental, but you only have to head over to Oak Lawn, across from Snooze and Parigi, for this taste of European-inspired baked goods. The fourth location of Village Baking Co. serves up freshly-made croissants, breads and rolls on the daily. What makes the difference here is the yeast-leavened dough with added ingredients that add just a little bit more to the texture and flavor. Grab a morning snack with coffee, a sandwich for lunch or even a patisserie selection for your sweet tooth.

Down the street

Carbone's

1617 Hi Line Drive
MajorFood.com.

The buzz has been going on a while for this new Design District dining spot. The NYC-based hospitality group Major Food Group opened this fifth location at



The Mexican

the end of March. Its reputation stems from its first location in Greenwich Village as well as its menu of flavorful red-sauced dishes. The website doesn't yet include Dallas information, but based on its New York location, the menu is understated in design but with elegant dishes to be served. Lunch, dinner, wine and cocktails are all featured menus on the site.

The Mexican

1401 Turtle Creek Blvd.
TheMexican.com.

Googling this restaurant can be a challenge. Tip: Search "The Mexican Dallas" and that will get you there (or, you know, see the website above). This Design District spot was opened in early March by Roberto Gonzalez Alcala and Chef Rodrigo Lomeli. The menu is inspired by Alcala's passion for true Mexican fare and offers a fascinating menu of grilled dishes, seafood, tacos, enchiladas and more — but with more complex, heritage flavors not seen in the more familiar Tex-Mex cuisine. The restaurant also features an eclectic tequila wall and tasting table, a cigar lounge and multi-level, picturesque outdoor patios.

Wits Steakhouse

1628 Oak Lawn Ave. Ste. 110
WitsSteakhouse.com.

Dallas isn't short on steakhouses, but

this Design District spot brings some new flavor profiles to the table. Wits opened in December and has since then been introducing South African-inspired dishes to its patrons. Located in the former Oak restaurant space, Wits is open for dinner only, serving South African beef jerky or biltong, Oyster Rockefeller and Wagyu meatballs for starters, with entrees such as New Zealand Lamb Rack, the chicken dish South African braai, lobster dumplings and even a sushi menu.

Coming soon

Casa Rosa

5622 Lemmon Ave.
CasaRosaTexMex.com.

This takeover of the old El Fenix building has been big news. This former Park Cities Tex-Mex favorite is slated to open this month. The space is under renovation, with plans to bring its original murals to the space as well as a pink-colored ambience in homage to the owners's old family homes. Revived by its original owner, Gilbert Cuellar, the restaurant morphed into Cantina Laredo and then ultimately closed in 2013 where Trader Joe's is now is at Inwood Village. Folks can now discover — or rediscover — its classic menu of enchiladas, fajitas, rice and beans plus some potential new items. ■



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NADIA WINSTON
MPH, MAN, FNP-BC

Faire Food

Scarborough Ren Fest features nosh fit for kings and queens

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

The time is now to don that 16th century gay apparel. The Scarborough Renaissance Festival opens Saturday, April 9, for its 41st season. Get Tudor-ed on British history with knight-ing ceremonies, combat jousting, theatrical performances and more.

Perhaps most importantly, go on an empty stomach.

Here is a casual guide to this year's food and drink portion for food fans of all types of flavors:

Festival fans know of its signature foods — the giant smoked turkey legs, crab cakes, Scottish eggs. But the event also boasts the largest food-on-a-stick selection around, from meats to mac and cheese to key lime pie.

Beyond that, foodies can find quite a diverse experience of tastes throughout Scarborough, and this year, the fest features a new selection of foods, including wonton lotus bowls, Polish sausage sandwiches, loaded totchos and the Royal Brownie Sundae.



Enjoy a wine tasting event, above, or have a full meal at the Rose & Crown Inn when you visit Scarborough Renaissance Festival. (Photos courtesy of Scarborough Renaissance Festival)



Other new offerings include quesadillas, fruit hand pies, ribbon fries, fried jalapeno slices and Philly cheesesteaks, and the Original Lemon Chill is returning.

New foods aren't all the palate can experience at Scarborough. This year, the festival features new beer and wine selections and will also introduce the Texas Mead Works with its balanced floral bouquet and a light honey finish.

Scarborough Renaissance Festival is open each weekend, Saturday and Sunday, through May 29, and on Memorial Day Monday, May 30. Each weekend will have a different theme and a variety of special events, with some food-centric days on the calendar.

The all-new Viking and Ale weekend happens April 23-24, featuring the Royal Ale Festival with tastings of eight new



Steve Smith from touring production of *Ain't Too Proud*, part of the 22-23 Germania Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas, photo by Sue Smith.

Dallas Summer Musicals is now



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uptownplayers.org



RESIDENTS, From Page 8



and other property being stolen from his storage unit. He believes a non-resident got into the property and took his belongings rather than the thief being one of his neighbors.

Several people contacted Dallas Voice about deliveries. One resident said he never had problems with packages being left at his door. Now, the property uses a locker system. To access the locker, either someone from the office needs to be there, or a resident can gain entry with a code from an app. But the app isn't working, and someone's only in the office during business hours. The resident said he's normally at work during the hours someone's available.

Another resident said the office isn't notifying residents that they have deliveries. It's one thing if you know you're expecting something, but one resident was surprised with a dozen roses. By the time she learned, days later, they were waiting in the office, the roses were dead.

The resident payment portal is another contentious issue for residents. The old portal was closed, and the new one was not available until late in the month. One resident claims that it is illegal or, at least that it violates the lease agreement, to change the payment process without proper notice and tenant agreement. In order to change how payments are made, the person said, residents must agree in writing, either with a new lease or an addendum that is signed by all

parties.

One tenant told Dallas Voice he wants to form a tenant's union. He suggested tenants find an attorney to hold rent payments in escrow until all the problems were corrected.

He also questioned whether the management company, Lincoln Property Company, is in breach of its contract with Sun Equity, the company that actually purchased the properties from former owner Venterra.

Another resident complained that her lease was up, but the new manager couldn't find her old lease to renew it.

A former employee said they offered to work with the incoming staff to let them know where things were, what vendors they used and special things they'd need to know to run the property smoothly. She said Lincoln turned down the offer.

Meanwhile, code compliance officers spent time at both 4123 and Park West at the end of last week. Dallas Voice filed an open records request for copies of any violations. We'll post those online if the city responds.

We also asked Lincoln Properties Senior Regional Property Manager Brandy Lawrence when residents could expect various repairs and remedies would be complete. We will post a response from the company on our website as soon as we have it. Lawrence had said she was committed to correcting problems. ■



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PRIDE, From Page 9

needed. Again, promote it on social media. Get to know others in your town and enjoy an evening out.

Recently, Carrollton Pride held an event they dubbed Rainbows Over Carrollton: "Buy yourself a rainbow kite and meet us on the Blue Trail, anywhere between Rosemeade & Peter's Colony, and let's fly some rainbows over Carrollton," the group wrote on its website and posted to social media. "Come out, show your true colors, and paint with all the colors of the wind! Kites are available on Amazon. Diamond and Delta kites fly the best. Join us and let's have fun."

About 40 people turned out to watch 25 rainbow kite fliers turn a Carrollton recreation trail a little gay for an afternoon.

McCranie said it was fun and easy to put together and did exactly what a Pride event is intended to do — make the LGBTQ community visible. And, he said, it was a perfect suburban event.

McCranie stressed that suburban Pride events aren't in competition with Dallas Pride. Carrollton Pride will be held

this year from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on June 4 at the Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church grounds. That's the same day as the Dallas Pride festival in Fair Park, but McCranie noted that anyone who wants to attend both can visit Carrollton early and Fair Park later. And there's no conflict with going to the parade in Dallas the next day.

If anything, McCranie said, having the two events the same day will increase attendance at both.

While McCranie preaches to fellow suburbanites to start small, Carrollton Pride has certainly grown. Food trucks and 60 booths are the main attractions so far this year. While the Dallas Pride festival features many organized groups, Carrollton will be filled with arts & crafts vendors as well as some local bakers.

Several local churches, arts organizations, other area Prides, local businesses and Democratic organizations from Collin and Denton counties will participate. And just as both mayoral candidates showed up at Rainbows Over Carrollton, local politicians may just show up at



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Carrollton Pride put its 2021 event, right, together in just 47 days. The organization recently organized "Rainbows Over Carrollton," above, encouraging people to gather at a city park to fly rainbow kites. (Photos courtesy Bob McCranie)

Pride, too, courting votes for any runoffs being held that day or heading into the fall election.

Carrollton isn't the only suburban city celebrating Pride. Plano is planning an even larger event that's been growing

every year. This year it will be held Sept. 17.

Princeton held its first event last year, and McCranie said it received quite a response. There was one drag queen who made an appearance that locals felt



was too risqué for Collin County. But, of course, you would have seen more skin at local swimming pool.

Despite the city writing new ordinances limiting what residents may do in a city park, Princeton will try Pride again on June 26.

Grayson County Pride is set for June 11, and Erath County plans Pride in Stephenville on June 25. Frisco Pride will be held in the fall and is slated for Oct. 8.

Denton, Flower Mound and Arlington events are in the planning stages with no dates announced yet. Arlington has participated in Pride before with the Arlington Police Department, 1851 Club, the city's only LGBTQ club, and other groups marching in the Tarrant County Parade in Fort Worth.

McCranie stressed again that Pride isn't a competition: "We're trying to build relationships — with the police, with the city, with our neighbors," he said. And holding local Pride is a way to showcase each suburb's diversity.

"If we can get more local cities to do Pride events, then it's harder for people to ignore we're their neighbors," McCranie said.



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FAIRE, From Page 18



beer and ale varieties paired with sacks and even live entertainment. This is also the time to test out your gym workout routine with the weekend's Stein Holding Competition. The event is \$15 in addition to admission.

Debuting this season is Chocolate Sensations on Celebrating Chivalry Weekend, May 7-8. The festival invites couples to renew their vows and commitments and partake in chivalry lessons. But for chocoholics, Chocolate Sensations will offer a journey of discovery with an array of chocolate tastings paired with beer or wine. Tickets are \$20 in addition to admission.

Each weekend will host different beer and wine tastings and themes.

Wine fans can enjoy daily tastings at the Cat and Fiddle Vinery at 1 and 3 p.m. each day and beer tastings each day at noon and 3 p.m. in the Village Green. The one-hour tastings are conducted by a certified specialists and includes a fruit and cheese plate and souvenir glass. Both are \$35 per person for 21 and older. Advance reservations recommended due to limited seating.

The wine and beer themes this year include the following:

- April 9-10: Wines of Spain / Beers of Texas
- April 16-17: Wines of Italy / Beers of Belgium
- April 23-24: Wines of the New World / Blind Date
- April 30-May 1: Wines of Germany / Beers of Germany
- May 7-8: From Grape to Glass / Barley, Hops, and Yeast Oh My!



- May 14-15: Wines Down Under / Beers of the New World
- May 21-22: Wines of France / Beers of the Celtic Isles
- May 28-30: Flynn's Favorites / Seamus Suggests

And if you just want to grab some bites and drinks without all the to-do, just hit up any of the five food courts throughout the site, Scarborough's full-service restaurant, the bakery or the pasta shoppe. There is also one full bar and a dozen pubs and taverns on site.

In short, Scarborough Renaissance Festival has your taste buds covered. ■ Scarborough Renaissance Festival runs Saturday, April 9-Memorial Day at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. SRFestival.com.



Everybody likes a chance to get dressed up and be fancy sometimes. But then again, sometimes, you just wanna dress down, chill out and enjoy great food and great company, all for a great cause. And AIDS Services of Dallas' annual No Tie Dinner gives you all that — and more. The event returning this year after two years of COVID with a focus on friends and supporters of ASD gathering at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave., for an evening of drinks, fabulous desserts from some of Dallas' finest caterers, dancing and a live auction. Visit NoTieDinner.org for more details.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

- Red for community events
- Blue for arts and entertainment
- Purple for sports
- Green for nightlife
- Orange for civic events and holidays

■ 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.

■ Weekly: Frontrunners

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

APRIL

■ **April 8: Equality Texas in Collin County**
Gordy Carmona and Equality Texas host the organization's first turn out the vote event of the season in Collin County at 7 p.m. at Scruff Duffies, 5865 Kincaid Road. More info at gordy.carmona@equalitytexas.org.

■ April 8-9: HER Conference 2022

Real Estate investing: No capital – No credit – No problem. 2401 S. Ervay St., #306 or online. \$250-500. her-conference-2022-real-estate-investing-dallas.eventbrite.com.

■ April 8 and 9: TITAS/UNFILTERED presents *Compagnie Marie Chouinard*

The company will perform *Garden of Earthly Delights* at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TITAS.org.

■ April 8-17: Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song*

Uptown Players opens its new season with this new two-act revival of Fierstein's original 1983 *Torch Song* Trilogy. At the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

■ April 9: No Tie Dinner

AIDS Services Dallas' biggest fundraiser of the year is back. Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. NoTieDinner.org.

■ April 9: *Colour Me Queer* Play Festival auditions/callbacks

In-person auditions for the inaugural *Colour Me Queer* Play Festival is taking place at the Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road in the auditorium from 1-3 p.m. Visit <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2xad44hystfwka3/AAACJrkqU0-8Okp9sULM9Ydaa?dl=0> to submit a headshot/resume/virtual audition. Call 972-913-6511 or email: blaqueac@gmail.com for more information.

■ Through April 9: *Rage*

The Elevator Project presents *Rage*, by Jenelle Gray, at the Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St.

■ April 9-10: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Crafts Festival

Reverchon Park is transformed into an art

gallery showcasing 125 local and regional painters, photographers, sculptors, jewelers and more on Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

■ April 9-May 30: Scarborough Renaissance Festival

The annual Renaissance Festival opens Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. \$28. SRFestival.com.

■ Through April 10: *in a word*

A darkly comic play about motherhood and how the words used to describe tragedy can take on a life of their own. By Echo Theater at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. EchoTheatre.org.

■ April 12: *Conversations with Women's Voices of DFW*

KERA's Think host Krys Boyd speaks at 7 p.m. at the Isis Theatre, 2401 N. Main St., Fort Worth. Tickets at OuthouseTickets.com.

■ April 13: Same-sex spouse grief group

Grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex spouse or partner meets on Zoom on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. In person group returns in two weeks. For notifications, contact Richard DeKnock at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

■ April 10: Palm Sunday



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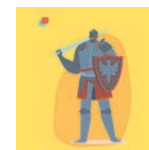
Equality Texas, the Austin-based LGBTQ advocacy organization, has recently hired Gordy Carmona as its new field coordinator for the Plano/Collin County area, and Gordy is already hard at work. He is hosting the organization's first turn out the vote event of the season at 7 p.m. Friday, April 8, at Scruff Duffies, 5865 Kincaid Road. The LGBTQ community has made great strides toward equality in the last couple of decades, but anti-LGBTQ forces have made it clear they are not giving up their efforts to shove us back in our closets. We have to win at the ballot box if we want to keep our progress safe, so go help Gordy get out the vote.



THE ARTY SEASON

Spring has sprung — or is, at least, springing as we speak — and that means that it is arts and crafts festival season in North Texas. This weekend

— Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10 — the **Turtle Creek Spring Arts and Crafts Festival** transforms Reverchon Park into a fabulous art gallery, showcasing 125 local and regional painters, photographers, sculptors, jewelers and other artisans. The festival is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.



YE OLDE FAIRE

It was just a couple of weeks ago that we all "sprang forward" with Daylight Savings Time. But beginning this weekend, you get to step

back in time with **Scarborough Renaissance Faire**. The fair, located at 2511 FM 66 in Waxahachie (just south of Dallas and Fort Worth) offers the renaissance experience in a recreated 16th century village, complete with royalty and wenches, knights and knaves, artisans and performers. Scarborough Renaissance Festival is open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Memorial Day Monday, through May 30. Check SRFestival.com for more info.

■ April 14: JFS LGBTQ Therapeutic Group

Jewish Family Services is beginning an LGBTQ therapeutic group that will meet for 12 weeks on Thursdays from 7-8:15 p.m. virtually. This group is specifically for folks in their 20s. The group will be a safe place to explore feelings, connect with others in a supportive environment and create a sense of belonging. You don't have to be Jewish to join. For more information, contact Melissa Kraft at mkraft@jfsdallas.org.

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

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Sometimes you just need to bitch

Good day to you all. After focusing on such a heavy subject in my last article, I have decided to keep this one lighthearted and stupid. You know — keeping it in my wheelhouse. First, I will admit to the hypocrisy of what I am about to write. Get ready Debbie, because even though I end each column asking you to bitch less, I am about to complain about some things that have been bothering me.

(I feel like I just mentally pulled my pants up, like in cartoons when Daffy Duck is about to let someone have it. Granted he's not wearing pants, but you get what I'm saying. Full disclosure: I am not wearing pants either.)

My husband and many of my friends are addicted to TikTok. I am not, but between the hubby and the others, I get sent about six TicToks a day. I honestly don't mind because they know me, and they know my humor, so I feel like I get TicToks greatest hits. And I don't have to sit through hours of mind-numbing videos of people who think they are entertaining.

I love the clips of dogs or any animal doing something cute or funny. I love a good prank or scare video. My favorites are the ones where someone does a voice over of animals, usually cats about to fight; cats saying, "I will beat your muthafuckin' ass if you come in here wit yo shit" is freaking hilarious.

I love dirty jokes and nearly-naked hot guys doing manly stuff, like chopping wood or sucking dick. Wait — that might be a different app ... Anywho

The TikTok trend I cannot fucking stand is the videos of people's reactions to the clips they are sharing. I don't need to watch you watch a video. I don't care about your reaction. Just share the video. If you feel the need to make me watch you laugh at something or smile fondly when something nice happens to someone, I HATE YOU!

The worst are you fuckers that just nod and point to the other screen. I get it: You agree with whatever is being said. But I don't need to see you. You look like a douche. Quit it!

(Let me take a deep breath; my blood pressure is going up.)



Okay, this next one really bothers me. And if you watched our Freakshow online while we were shut down and not working because of the pandemic, you already know about how I feel about Mr. Jim's Pizza. I want to preface this by saying I don't hate their food; it is just very underwhelming to me. That is just my opinion. But no one — and I mean NO ONE — is going to start calling pizza "sticky fingers."

Every time I see that stupid commercial where he says, "We call it sticky fingers, but you will call it delicious," I want to fucking scream: Dammit Jim! No one calls pizza "sticky fingers!" That is a horrible name!

Call it "greasy fingers" or anything else. "Sticky fingers" make me think you didn't wash your hands after you jerked it, and now you are touching our pizzas. You nasty, Jim!

And, so help me God, if any of my friends ever call pizza "sticky fingers," I will Will Smith your ass!

(Hold please; I need to calm down.)

Now for all of you people that say "110 percent" or anything other than 100 percent: Quit it!

Yes, this is another one of my biggest pet peeves. When you say you are doing something 100 percent, it means the ab-

solute most you can do. By adding any other amount to this — 110, 200, 10 million percent, whatever it is — you ruin it.

When using 100 percent, you are showing us you gave it your all. Any other number makes me think you could have done more. You say 110 percent, I say why not 111 percent? Why not 165 percent? You have ruined the equation, and our contract that you have done everything you can is null and void.

Anything greater than 100 percent is impossible in my world. I don't make my weird rules, but I live by them.

Okay, so, technically that is all I wanted to bitch about. But I still have some space to fill up so let me get really petty for this last annoyance.

Why do some of y'all wanna put your money in your mouth to tip an entertainer? That is so nasty, and now we have to act like we are not grossed out by your spit being on what is now our money. I usually say, "Gross!" while I make a big production out of wiping your dollar on my clothes, because I am still gonna get that money.

The nerve of me — complaining about getting tipped! But hey, I can be thankful and annoyed; I am a complex being.

Once again, I'm being hypocritical. I'm making fun of y'all for putting dolla bills

in your mouth, but I ain't got no business. My mouth has been some places and has done some things. No, I am not proud of most of them but here we are. Thank Buddha for mouthwash.

Let me end this on a note of thankfulness: My last article was a heavy one for me, but I want to say thank you to those that reached out to me. Thank you for encouraging me to write and helping me believe in my own talents. Self-doubt is a demon I fight daily, so thank you for helping me fight the demon.

Remember to always love more, bitch when you gotta and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

word search solution



this week's solution



browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



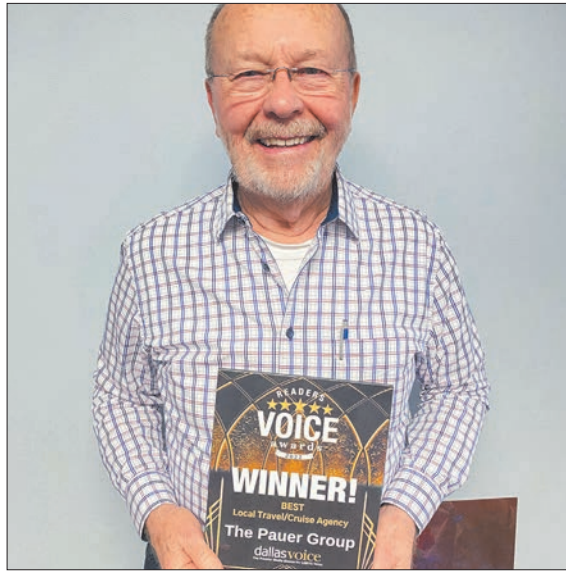
The 16th century is waiting for you! The 2022 Scarborough Renaissance Festival season opens this weekend, with entertainment including The Wings of Isis on the Idlewyld Stage in Pecan Grove. The festival, located in Waxahachie, is open each Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., through May 29 and on Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day).



Backstage at The Rose Room with Alyssa Edwards



Turn around bright eyes



Randy Pauer, The Pauer Group: RVA winner for Best Cruise Agent



Woof!



Wayne likes to Cher



Todrick Hall and Robb



Miz Cracker at TBRU

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Employment

Conference Services Advisor

DEPARTMENT: Facilities/Hospitality
REPORTS TO: Brett Deckard, Senior Director of Facilities & Operations

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You can learn more about Temple Emanu-El at
<https://www.tedallas.org>

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1. Set-up and break-down meeting rooms, according to Event Orders
2. Maintain the appearance of the meeting spaces
3. Assemble and arrange conference equipment
4. Must be able to push, pull and lift a variety of conference tables and other equipment weighing from 5-70 pounds, place risers into place that could weigh up to 150 pounds
5. Display good time management and follow rigid schedules or fresheners and room turns assigned by the Events Manager.
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7. You must be able to work weekends, evenings and holidays.

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Solution on Page 26

Across

- 1 Circumcise clumsily, e.g.
 5 Family group
 9 Opposite of heads
 14 Earthenware jar
 15 First-rate
 16 Shrek and others
 17 *Brothers & Sisters* producer Ken
 18 Tara portrayer Collette
 19 Woody secretion
 20 First out lesbian to join the cast
 23 *Xanadu* band, for short
 24 Home, to Dave Pallone
 25 Lure into wrongdoing
 29 Along the back
 31 Hrs. in P-town
 32 Charlottesville sch.
 33 Hand, when measuring a stallion
 34 First queer host
 38 Kahlo's cash
 40 Peter Rabbit's sisters
 41 Phallic swimmers
 42 Duck hunter's boots
 44 Deviate
 45 First queer musical guest
 48 Sodom suffix
 49 *Queen of Soul* Franklin
 50 Lack of get-up-and-go
 54 ___ tai (rum cocktail)

Down

- 55 First out queer host
 58 Breakfast staple
 60 Dana of *MacGyver*
 61 Errol Flynn's *The Sun ___ Rises*
 62 Nightlife district of London
 63 Danes of *Romeo + Juliet*
 64 Body passageway
 65 Part of MIT (abbr.)
 66 Rubbers on rims
 67 What a computer may spit out

- 13 Taxpayer's ID
 21 CEO's degree
 22 Chicken hawk pads
 26 Twelve-inch stick
 27 St. Teresa's town
 28 Family flower?
 30 "Oh, shut up!"
 31 Bette Davis feature of song
 35 Head output
 36 Sad ending for love
 37 Rita, in a Beatles song
 39 Younger daughter of Michelle
 43 Tongue that's a little different
 44 Banana stalk
 45 English king who was a queen
 46 Home of Bloody Mary's mom
 47 Sounds from a stallion
 48 Accustoms
 50 Words of empathy
 51 ___-Whirl (amusement park ride)
 52 Atlas blow-up
 53 Place where a Greek would speak
 56 Weight loss product
 57 Home st. of Maupin
 59 Karen Walker, perhaps



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the Time.

Love Every
Time.



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