



dallas voice

The Pre

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From 'scream queen' to healer

Dee Wallace talks about her career in film, the art of healing and her new book

By Tammye Nash, page 8

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Astound Broadband donates \$175,000 to Texas nonprofits



Internet/TV/phone service provider Astound Broadband powered by Grande, formerly known as Grande Communications, announced this week that the company has given a donation totaling almost \$175,000 to three different orga-

nizations across the state. Equality Texas, Texas Diversity Council and Texas Women's Foundation will each receive a donation of \$58,333.

A press release announcing the donations explained that, following a recent brand transition to Astound Broadband, the organization "has

been focusing on its diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, not only making internal changes to continue to pursue its commitment to improving diversity and fairness, but extending it to the communities it serves as well."

— Tammye Nash

Former opponent endorses Venton Jones for District 100



Venton Jones

Former District 100 candidate Marquis Hawkins endorsed Venton Jones in his race for the Texas House of Representatives.

"Venton Jones represents the future and what

we deserve in the next representative for House District 100," Hawkins said. "Venton brings energy, talent, and a remarkable awareness about the grassroots issues important to our neighbors."

Jones faces former Dallas City Council member Sandra Crenshaw in the May 24 run-off. The winner of the run-off faces Libertarian candidate Joseph Roberts.

— David Taffet

Celebrating International Family Equality Day with a picnic

To celebrate International Family Equality Day, Equality Texas, Trans Kids and Families of Texas, Family Equality and the North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance are getting together for a picnic.

Equality Texas Collin County Field Coordinator Gordy Carmona said in an email, "Just bring your family, blankets, and picnic chairs. We will provide the hamburgers (beef and plant based), all beef hot dogs, dessert and nonalcoholic beverages."

The picnic will also feature a face painter, bounce house and even more fun at the park.

The event starts at 3:30 p.m. on May 1 at Heights Park, 711 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson.

— David Taffet

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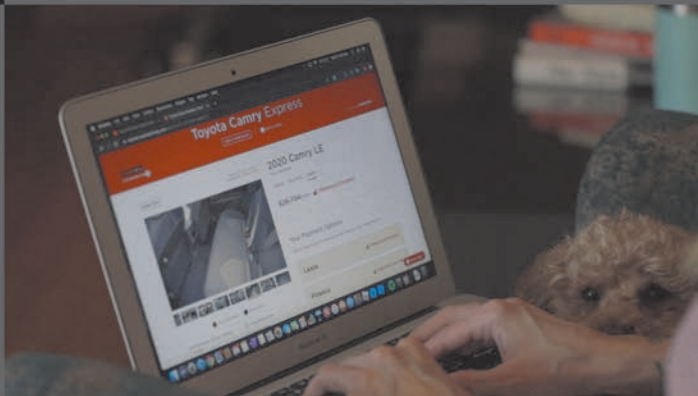


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Greg Kemp passed away March 22, 2022, at the age of 77. He was born Feb. 4, 1945 in Louisiana.

Greg was a long-time member of the Cathedral of Hope and was active in various

Circle groups and social organizations. In January 1997, through the Dallas Voice, he won a trip to New York to see the original Broadway production of *Rent* and celebrate New Year's Eve.

Greg was a devoted fan of the Turtle Creek Chorale and an avid photographer, and he enjoyed outings with his many friends. He worked in sales until his retirement.

Greg is survived by one daughter, Amy Dykes, of Louisiana.

Tommie Kinney, aka Janelle DuBois, passed away unexpectedly at his Oak Cliff home on April 6, 2022. He was a talented artist, writer, poet and open mic host, and was well-known during the 1990s for per-



Tommie Kinney

forming as Janelle DuBois in the Dallas drag community. Janelle wrote a column for the Dallas Voice called "Loose in Dallas" and published two chapbooks,

Big Girl Fun and *Goddesses and Monsters*. She was preceded in death by her drag daughter, Bella Donna DuBois. Bella died in a car accident in June 1999 at the age of 21.

Tommie was born on June 9, 1957, in East Lansing, Mich., to the late John Rankin Kinney, Ph.D., and Thelma Hobaugh Kinney. His father was professor emeritus in mathematics at Michigan State University. Tommie's paternal grandmother was Grace Rankin, an American suffragist and sister to Jeanette Pickering Rankin, the first woman elected to the United States Congress in 1940.

Tommie graduated from East Lansing High School in 1974. He attended Michigan State University and graduated with a B.S.

in biochemistry and an M.S. in chemical engineering. He also earned an M.L.S. in library science from the University of Michigan. After college, he was employed as a librarian at the University of Florida. In 1992, Tommie was hired as a librarian for the Superconducting Super Collider in Texas. Recently, he worked for the Dallas Public Library and was a certified teacher, writing instructor and tutor.

One accomplishment Tommie was always extremely proud of "writing the book" in

1995 on the nascent internet's influence on information services. He said, "It's called, logically enough, *Entertainment Technology and Tomorrow's Information Services*, and in it I more-or-less predicted the iPod and the whole RSS-based information deluge which followed."

Tommie's surviving chosen family includes girlfriend Carol Dingle, close friends Fran Carris, Jeff Downing and Karen Adams, and many others. Information on a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

■ Adoptable / APPLE



Meet **Apple**, a pot-bellied pig who is less than a year old and available for adoption. The important thing to remember with pot-bellied pigs is that while they are tiny and adorable when they are young, they do grow up and need human parents who are ready to love and care for them at all sizes. Pot-bellied pigs can grow to more than 200 pounds. They are extremely intelligent and can be house-trained. Pigs are inquisitive in nature, so care needs to be paid to pig-proofing any home environment where they will be staying. Apple is not being housed at the public shelter, so anyone interested in adopting Apple should call the SPCA of Texas at 214-742-7722 for more information, or apply online. If two pigs are more in order, Apple's sister Aloha is also available. The Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive, is open for adoptions every day from noon to 6 p.m. Animals are available by walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments are also available for select animals. 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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The not-so-big tent

Log Cabin Republicans join mainstream transphobic GOP once again on LGBTQ rights issue

It's a rare day that I found myself yelling at the radio, but today was that day. My usual morning companion on my drive to my office is our local Public Radio affiliate. I tuned in today just as a story hit the air about a "local LGBT group supporting Gov. Greg Abbott's call for gender affirming therapy to be considered child abuse.

I didn't even have to hear the rest of the story; I knew it was the Log Cabin Republicans, a group which claims to be LGBTQ but is little more than Republican men who have sex with men.

They are doing their best to derail any reforms that benefit any letters in LGBTQ — save the "G" of course.

Their statement is meant to bow and scrape to the Texas Republican Party, which consistently refuses to allow the group to participate with booths at official events. The Log Cabins are merely exploited by the larger party when it's convenient to show that the GOP is a big tent. But that only applies to getting their votes, not to any kind of actual affirmation or equality.

Gender-affirming therapy is a lifeline for many trans youth. It can make the difference between survival and suicide for some.

The LCR conveniently overlooks this in their official statement: "Log Cabin Republicans supports the rights of mature adults who are transgender to transition, should they choose to do so, as should be the right of any and all Americans to make deeply personal medical decisions that will affect their entire lives." But they willfully ignore the lives of trans youth who may not make it to maturity without gender-affirming treatments.

For some strange reason, this group has decided that trans rights are somehow totally separate and not relevant to equality for them. They backed restrictions



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation in early childhood education.

on how transgender students can participate in school sports and stated their support for the Florida "Don't Say Gay" law that prohibits

For them it seems that equality is a zero sum game; for transgender Americans to gain equal rights will somehow lessen the rights of white, cisgender men who have sex with men.

But equality is not a commodity to be rationed and parceled out. It is like the air we breathe: There's plenty for everyone, unless someone is actively trying to cut it off.

LGBTQ Texans are being slowly smothered by the Texas Legislature and the Republican Party. Sadly, transgender Texans are feeling the pinch the most right now.

The right, including the Log Cabin Republicans, is trying to categorize ad-

vocating for trans rights as being simply more "woke" philosophy. That kind of characterization is meant as a dog whistle for the racist base of the GOP. It's hard to take them seriously as real advocates for LGBTQ rights when they consistently pander to the folks who would deny us the very rights they seek.

If equality is really the air we breathe, it's time the Log Cabin Republicans stopped polluting it.

Now I can go back to yelling at the traffic and not my radio. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and chairperson of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance board. Read his blog at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.

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From 'scream queen' to healer

BEYOND THE BIG SCREEN

Dee Wallace is most famous for her acting, but it is her healing path that got her there

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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It's been a tough couple of years, especially for folks in the entertainment industry, as COVID-19 forced shut-downs and delays everywhere from movie sets to theaters. But not for Dee Wallace; she has been just as busy as ever, if not more so.

Wallace was in North Texas recently to film *Incubus: New Beginnings*, written and directed by local filmmaker Terry Aderholt. But it was a quick trip, and then she was on her way to the next set. And if you check out Wallace's entry on the IMDB website — which is a little bit outdated, since it lists *Incubus* as being in pre-production when it actually wrapped up filming this week in Granbury — it shows that Wallace has been involved with 13 movies that either were just completed, are in the post-production stage or are in the pre-production stage — just in 2022 alone.

That's not even counting the three movies and two TV series she was part of in 2021.

But there's more to her schedule than movies and TV series and podcasts. Wallace also published her seventh book last year. And she has a whole other career as a healer, teaching the art of self-creation.

Wallace grew up in Kansas City, Kan., earned her degree from the University of Kansas and started her grown-up life as a high school teacher. But then she moved to New York City where she studied with Uta Hagen before moving to Los Angeles where, she says on her website, she found her mentor, Charles Conrad.

Wallace has more than 200 film and TV credits to her name in a career spanning — so far — nearly 50 years.



INCUBUS: A New Beginning

Local filmmaker Terry Aderholt and his crew wrapped up filming for *Incubus: A New Beginning*, written and directed by Aderholt, this week in Granbury. The movie is a “horror film with comedy” about a group of former college friends who reunite at a lake house to vacation together, only to find themselves terrorized by an incubus demon who wants to steal their babies and drag them back to hell. It features a gay male lead character as well as a lesbian couple.

With Dee Wallace in a featured role as exorcist Zora Valentine, *Incubus* also stars Lorraine Eubank, April Hartman, Nancy Chartier, Kristin Keith, Swisyzinna, Jade Summers, Neve Felder, Lincoln Honaker, Bill Poindexter, Justin Armstrong, J. Andrew Mullins, Richard D. Curtin, Nicole Holt, Glenn Franklin, Troy Randal Smith and Robb Hudspeth and features Ana Lee Pleasured as Trey Brown, the lead gay male character.

This is Aderholt's feature film debut as producer/writer/director. Israel Luna mentored him and served as producer, DP and editor. The film's executive producers are Stu Alson and Nicole Holland of ITN Distribution.

Incubus will premiere in Dallas in October and will begin streaming on various online platforms some time at the end of this year. The film will be distributed by ITN Distribution worldwide and will be on Walmart shelves.

Throughout the 1970s, she appeared in a number of TV series and TV movies. And she was Mary Lewis, the woman with whom lead character George (Dudley Weber) almost has a fling with in the hit movie *10* that also starred Julie Andrews and Bo Derek.

But it was the early 1980s when her movie career really took off, and it was her role as TV anchor Karen White in *The Howling* that put her on the path to becoming one of Hollywood's premier “scream queens” and a horror movie icon.

It was also in the 1980s that Wallace cemented her place as the on-screen mom who would move heaven and earth to protect her children, even that funny-looking foster child who definitely wasn't from around here. She was Mary, the mom of Elliott and Gertie and temporary foster mom of that big-headed alien in the mega-hit *E.T.*

the *Extra-Terrestrial* in 1982. The next year, Wallace was Donna Trenton, the mom who fought off a raging rabid St. Bernard to save her son in *Cujo*.

Saying that *Cujo* is probably her favorite of all the films she has made, Wallace said, "I did both *E.T.* and *Cujo* before I had any kids of my own. But I had a mother who was, for all practical purposes, a single mom. My dad was a severe alcoholic, so I was raised by this incredibly strong woman who, against all the odds, raised three amazingly successful kids.

"I never consciously said 'I'm going to base this on my mom' when I was doing those roles, but I knew inside of me what it meant to do anything to protect my children. Even in *E.T.*, in the beginning of the movie, I felt I had to protect my children."

Incubus

Wallace's resume is chock-full of big budget films like *E.T.*, but there are plenty of not-so-big-budget movies on there, too. That's because she doesn't base her decisions on budget. She agreed to appear in *Incubus*, she said, "Because I just really liked the script.

"I read the script, and it is just very unique. And I loved the part," she said of her role as Zura Valentine, the exorcist called in when a demon threatens a group of friends who have come together to support one of their number who is going through a divorce.

"And Terry [Aderholt, the writer and director] was just so very lovely and genuine, and I've loved working with him, and everyone on the set. It means a lot to me to work with nice people, and these have been nice people," Wallace said of her time on the *Incubus* set in Granbury. "Sometimes — not always, but sometimes — the bigger-budget films have so much going on that the personal element gets lost. I have been very, very, very fortunate on the director front."

Wallace continued, "I have had so many amazing directors. I can tell you that I will always have a deep place of love in my heart for Peter Jackson. My husband [actor Christopher Stone] died during the shooting of *The Frighteners* [in 1995]. They flew me back home and then waited until I could come back and finish shooting. [Jackson] took care of all the flights for me — four times in two

weeks. He is just genuinely a man who cares about everybody that works for him.

"I loved working for Blake Edwards [in *10*]. That was really the beginning for me. And Lewis Teague — I have just worked with a lot of great directors. I have been very lucky," she added.

The healing path

Throughout her career as an actor, Wallace has been also walking the path toward becoming a healer. It is, she said, a path that started when she was a child.

"I have been channeling since I was a little girl," she said. "Everybody can channel. It's not some big woo-woo thing. It's just a matter of tapping into all the stuff hanging out in the universe. Little children do it all the time.

"I had a lot of experiences as a child," she continued. "My dad visited me as a light after he passed. And then I got a message once from my grandmother that I was in danger. I got up at 3 a.m., and the gas was on in the oven."

Then she met Christopher Stone, the man she married in 1980 and remained married to until his sudden death in 1995. He was, she said, very involved in philosophy, and through him she discovered Conceptology, a spiritual philosophy that first began developing in the 1930s that is "all about consciously creating your life." She also found the Science of the Mind Church — "it is NOT Scientology!" she stressed — which she described as "another Christian faith that teaches that your thoughts create your reality."

She had just started her own acting studio in 1995, she said, when her husband passed away. That's when, she said, "I just dropped to my knees, then, and I said, 'God, what do I do? I don't want to be pissed off, and I don't want to be a victim all my life. What do I do?'"

"That's what just blew everything open," Wallace said. "As the Good Book says, 'ask and you will receive.' So I did."

Wallace said she started teaching at her studio and "started getting all these downloads about where people's blocks where. And I created these sheets that I still work with today." What she learned, she said, is that when you just get out of your own way, good things

HEALER, Page 21



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Prism Health NTX buys dental practice

HEALTH

3 offices will serve patients with lower incomes and those with HIV

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Officials with Prism Health North Texas announced this week that the agency is acquiring Community Dental Care of Texas to provide dental services to both people living with HIV and others. The practice will become known as Prism Health North Texas Dental Care.

The practice has been a recipient of Ryan White funding, and Prism CEO John Carlo



Dr. John Carlo



said the practice already serviced many of his existing patients.

Community Dental has been providing low-cost dental care in Dallas since 1968 and today has three offices — in Farmers Branch, on Park Lane near Greenville Avenue and on Gaston Avenue near Baylor Hospital.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more people are unable to afford dental care than any other type of healthcare. That's one of the reasons, Carlo said, that his agency wanted to add a dental practice to its community health operations. He called the partnership with Community dental a great opportunity.

Among people living with HIV, the number of people receiving regular dental care is even lower than the population in general. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, about 64 percent of people living with HIV

don't receive regular dental care.

But Prism Health's findings among its own patients are even worse: Only 16 percent of those using Ryan White funds for medical care had evidence of an annual dental visit.

So increasing the availability of dental care has been on Carlo's radar for some time, he said, but the pandemic was a factor in the acquisition.

"COVID was horrendous for dental care," Carlo said, adding that not only was the pandemic bad for people receiving proper dental care, it was also bad for dental practices.

That played into why the practice was for sale. For a period during the pandemic, dental offices were closed and there was little dentistry that could be done through tele-health or in person through a face mask.

So while Community Dental was looking for a new partner, "we were looking for a dental practice," Carlo said.

But Prism's dental offices won't just be for people with HIV. Carlo called it a hybrid program.

He said he hopes to retain Community's low-income patients while offering services to Prism's patients. "So many people have dental needs not being addressed," he said.

Addressing those needs for people living with HIV as well as others, he said, was a good direction for his agency, whose mission is community health and medical care.

Resource Center has been providing dental care for people living with HIV since the 1990s. Carlo said Resource Center has been incredibly helpful already and offered any assistance Prism would need to expand dental care to the community.

Carlo said there was such a great need for additional dental care in the community, he hoped the Prism's acquisition would make a difference.

"CDC has an incredible legacy of providing critical dental care for so many people here in Dallas," Carlo said. "We look forward to continuing this important work and build together an even bigger safety net of healthcare services." ■

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SBA administrator wants to see LGBTQ businesses **Succeed**

BUSINESS

Isabel Guzman said LGBTQ-owned businesses are among her agency's priorities

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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To celebrate National Small Business Week from May 1-7, Isabel Guzman, administrator of the Small Business Administration, wanted to make sure LGBTQ business owners know they are eligible for loans and programs helping underserved communities.

Guzman said she wanted to make sure LGBT-owned businesses were not left behind. Bringing economic empowerment to the LGBTQ community is one of her goals as the SBA's 27th ad-



Isabel Guzman

ministrator.

Guzman was sworn in more than a year ago and has been a lifelong proponent of small business, she said. In her position, she represents 32.5 million small businesses across the U.S. and is "committed to helping small business owners and entrepreneurs start, grow and be resilient."

Before she was appointed to serve in the Biden administration, Guzman was director of the California Office of the Small Business Advocate in Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration. During the Obama administration, she was deputy chief of staff and senior advisor for the SBA, where she oversaw policy and new program implementation.

Prior to that, Guzman was a small business owner herself.

To strengthen ties between the SBA and LGBTQ-owned businesses, the agency has created a number of strategic ties to local organizations, including one



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with the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce, which works together with the local North Texas LGBT Chamber.

The SBA recommends businesses get certified as LGBTQ-owned through a program offered by the North Texas LGBT Chamber or, for businesses elsewhere, through the national chamber.

Guzman defined businesses eligible for SBA assistance as companies with 500 or fewer employees.

Ahmad Goree is lead economic development specialist and public information officer for the Dallas SBA office. He said \$1.8 billion in loans went through his office for this geographic area, ranking it fourth out of 68 offices nationwide — ahead of New York, Houston and Chicago.

Goree said there are five resource partner programs that he encourages businesses interested in SBA assistance to access. Small Business Development Centers are connected to Dallas College and provide counseling for businesses looking for start-up assistance or expansion funds. SCORE has offices in Dallas and Fort Worth and provides mentors to help start or grow a business.

The Veteran's Business Outreach Cen-



Ahmad Goree

ter at UT Arlington and the Women's Business Center provide start-up and expansion counseling to women-owned or veteran-owned businesses.

A newer community navigator is associated with the American Rescue Plan to let businesses know about new programs

that have become available as a response to the pandemic. Navigators are particularly focused on business owners from communities that have trust issues as well as those who speak languages other than English.

"Go to one of these resources first,"

Goree advised. He said these consultant services are free, rather than the \$600 per hour someone would charge for these valuable services.

And, he advised, before applying for an SBA loan, have a business plan in place. That's something a community mentor can help write or improve.

Have up-to-date financials and tax information. Make a list of any collateral available to back a loan and work with a counselor to rectify any problems on personal and business credit reports.

When your business is ready to apply for a loan, go to the SBA website where there is a matching service to help find the best lenders to apply with.

Goree explained the match feature finds lenders that work with certain types of businesses.

"Some lenders don't work with restaurants, for example," he said. Other considerations are the size of the business and the size of the loan requested. Some lenders only work within a certain geographic area, which is a plus for Dallas businesses. Goree stressed that Dallas is hot right now.

And get LGBTQ-certification. The SBA is interested in LGBTQ-owned businesses succeed.



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Spreading hope through writing

BEYOND THE PAGE

Author Jonathon McClellan's 2 books are based on his own experiences with homelessness and schizophrenia

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

“Writing was my secret key to unlock the door

back into reality,” said local author Jonathon McClellan, explaining the beginning of his career as a writer. Now, not only has he found and unlocked that doorway, he has stepped on through to write two books, both of which were recently published.

The first of the two is called *Messages of Hope*, and it is a devotional book of prose and poetry, “written in my own style,” for adults, McClellan said. “This is a collection of honest conversations between me — at my lowest, weakest and most vulnerable — and God. It’s something I wrote not knowing that it would ever become an actual book.”

He said he wrote *Messages of Hope* when he was fighting with schizophrenia, loneliness and bereavement.

“I had made many attempts at taking my own life, and I was looking for a way to silence the background noise. Writing was that way for me, that place I could go to that was safe,” McClellan said. “Then I started sharing [my writings], and as I did, I realized that I needed to share them. I realized that the messages I was getting weren’t just for me. So I decided to take a leap of faith and just put it out there.”

McClellan said his second book — a children’s book called *The Ant’s Palace* — was also born of his desire to share what he has learned through his own tribulations. The book tells the story of King Hoseki (which is Japanese for “Jewel”), an immortal king who lives all alone in



Jonathon McClellan

a glorious palace made of diamonds, which catch the sunlight and reflect to bathe his palace in rainbows. But despite his opulent home and his immortality, King Hoseki never smiles.

One day, he decides to travel the world, to prove to himself that his kingdom is the greatest and his diamond palace is the most glorious. When he travels south, he finds a group of orphaned children, huddling together with no home, and yet they are smiling. Shocked and befuddled, he goes into a garden to think about these children. While there, he sees an ant, Queen Doro (Japanese for “earth” or “dirt”), crawling past his

foot, followed by her devoted army of ant subjects. Although he has little respect for this lowly ant, he asks why it is her subjects love her so. She answers that while she may only live in a palace made of dirt, she shares it with and is surrounded by those she loves.

That is when King Hoseki realizes that no one ever sees the beautiful rainbows in his diamond palace, and that it is better to live in the dirt surrounded by loved ones than to be alone in a diamond palace. So he goes back to the orphans and invites them all to come and live in his palace with him, pledging to be their kind and loving father from then on.

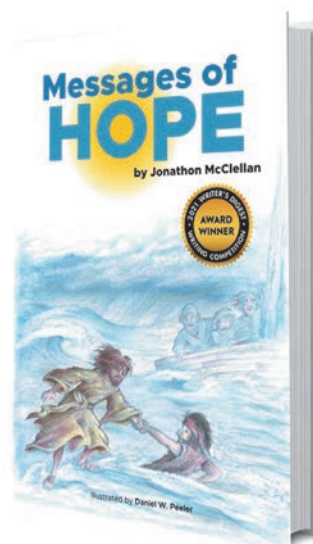
This story, too, grew out of his own experiences, McClellan said. “I was homeless for a while when I was a kid. But I remember my seventh birthday party, which we had at the Faith Mission in Elkhart, Ind., where we were staying. We were homeless, living in a shelter, but at my birthday party, we were all so happy, and everyone was smiling.

“It was because we had community,” he continued. “We had each other. And when you have that, you have true wealth. I’ve learned that the bonds we make with each other are our true riches. I’ve learned that emotional poverty is often far worse than financial poverty, and I wanted to write a story that disillusioned our misconceptions about what true wealth and true happiness really are.”

McClellan said he had a difficult childhood, his parents having split up before he turned 3. By the time he was 6, he and his mother and younger sister were homeless, and his mother was pregnant with her third child.

“After I turned 7, I found a place to stay, but things started falling apart there, too. I became a ward of the state, and I was in and out of foster care until I was 17. I even stayed with my dad a couple of times, but that didn’t work out either,” he said.

When he turned 17, McClellan said, “I took control of my own narrative. I stopped living in someone else’s story that was never meant to be my story.”





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NADIA WINSTON
MPH, MAN, FNP-BC

Creame of the crop

DRAG

BenDeLaCreame proves her versatile talents in live show

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

RuPaul's *Drag Race* and *RPDR All-Stars* alum BenDeLaCreame kicked off her biggest tour to date, and the "terminally delightful" queen's *Ready to Be Committed* tour comes to Dallas on May 6. For this tour, she proves to be a triple threat serving not only as the star, but also as writer and director.

The show has been on her horizon for a while, but the pandemic resulted in the postponement of the original version in 2020, but the 2022 tour has increased in size.

"After two long years of postponements I'm over-freaking-joyed to be bringing my new solo show back on the road. And I gotta tell you all: This one's a doozy," DeLa said in a press release announcing the tour. *Ready to Be Committed* is the story of one queen who searches for love and finds a whole lot she never bargained for — bitchy brides, pervy Grindr guys, corpse-eating cats, song, dance and more puppets than you ever thought



Photo courtesy Eric Paguio, above, and Liz Nicol, below



you'd see at a wedding. I can't wait to share DeLa's special day with all of you."

That's not to say, DeLa wasn't busy in the meantime.

Her holiday tour, *The Return of the Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show, LIVE!* with co-star Jinkx Monsoon, marked the queen's highest grossing tour under BenDeLaCreame Presents. She also became the first drag queen to produce a feature film (under pandemic restrictions) with *The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Special* in 2020, which garnered her production company an exclusive licensing deal with the streaming service Hulu.

But now, DeLa's on the road again, hoofing up the humor. Prior to her Dallas performance, BenDeLaCreame (nee Benjamin Putnam) talked about bouncing back after the pandemic postponement,



Photo courtesy Liz Nicol

finding love and marriage and dealing with herself as the star and director.

Dallas Voice: Congratulations on the return of the show. Did it at all change from its original iteration to what we're about to see? DeLa: It did change. I've been working on it quite a bit and really upping the ante on all the physical production of it. I've devoted a lot of time to even more of a bang with the visuals.

Did the script have to change in all this time? I pulled the script back out assuming that everything would feel so different now. But what I wrote still felt really true to what's going on in the world — still. As an artist, to see that the script can still feel that easy was surprising. But I was also proud I did the work right.

You're a very thoughtful person, as proven on your time on the RuPaul's Drag Race shows. So minus the humor and kitsch, how do you describe this show? Thank you! It's about love and relationships and alone-ness. These universal things that we as human beings experience. All that stuff remains relevant throughout plagues and world wars.

Did the pandemic affect the show in terms of subject? For the show, DeLa wants to get married, and the stakes are higher. We've all been isolated — either by ourselves or with someone — but I

think we're all afraid of dying alone. So she's kind of fueled by this.

But it's still funny, right? Of course!

Relationships and single life can be a delicate issue among the gays. Yeah, and the idea of commitment is a scary thing. You have to ask yourself, what is your life going to look like when you incorporate another person into it.

How can someone as lovely and delightful as DeLa have such troubles in love?

Right? The thing that's fun is that she's such a ding-dong and just barrels ahead in life, going along with these stories we've been told. It's a way for me, as Ben, to express myself. We're told to find that right person and get married. I think Cinderella haunted gay men as much as little girls. A lot of us want to be princesses saved by that knight.

For you, as Ben, the love life isn't so bad.

I've been with my partner for seven-and-a-half years, and it's by far the longest relationship I've had. And we work together, and it is a very vulnerable thing.

One lasat thing, as the director, how was your star? She was an absolute monster. I had to lock her in her trailer several times.

Ready to Be Committed, May 6, 8 p.m., at the Texas Theater, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. BenDeLaCreme.com.

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Purple reign

PARTY SCENE

Purple Party comes back with its 'next chapter'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

With a hefty lineup of DJs and events over the course of four days, it's official that the Purple Party has returned. After its COVID hiatus, the Purple Foundation has brought back its signature event that's also a fundraiser for area nonprofits. But getting to opening night on Thursday, April 28, was a bumpy road.

The party had big plans for 2020 — until they didn't.

"That was supposed to be our 20th anniversary," PF president Blake Baker



er said by phone. "COVID just flipped everything inside out and in 2021, we didn't even try."

But it was also a time that the PF was undergoing some changes — or perhaps a reflective time that resulted in chang-

es. Baker had led the organization from 2005 to 2017 but left to focus on his career in interior design and lived part-time in New York. At the time, Sara Fangmeyer was the president of the organization, but she began to have ideas of her own.

"She was at a point where she had done Purple for so long and was ready to see a different future," Baker said. "By that time, I was back in Dallas full-time, and I was at the point I wanted to be involved again."

And just like that, Baker was back at the helm as of last September — which meant he had to hit the ground running to plan this Purple Party. Fangmeyer returned as VP, along with "two other [returning] members and several totally new amazing members."

Baker was familiar with creating the event as he'd done it so many times before, but post-COVID, things weren't like they used to be.

"I've had, since then, to start putting all the pieces together and plan the Pur-



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ple Party. I had a familiarity, but it was different too. First, things are way more expensive than they used to be because of the pandemic and the supply chain and other factors," he said. "Plus it's been hard finding people to work and volunteer."

But the challenges didn't hold the foundation back. They were determined to ignite their purple reign once again. So Baker and his team gave the Purple Party some fresh touches. After all, this year the Foundation is presenting the event as Purple 2K22: The Next Chapter – both an exciting and poignant theme.

"It's the biggest Purple by far, and it will show what we're trying to do to keep it growing," he said.

This year will not only feature a schedule of DJ-forward parties at various venues but some new features such as an outdoor daytime festival and a drag brunch.

"I think over the 20 years, Purple Party has truly become a phenomenon, and we want to raise that bar as we move into the future," Blake said.

Not only that, the Purple Foundation also works to make an impact on the local community. Proceeds from the event

go toward area nonprofits. Its beneficiaries include Resource Center as its primary along with the agencies AIDS Services of Dallas and Legacy Cares.

By making Resource Center its primary, that was the foundation's way of reaching out to all of the local LGBTQIA+ community.

"They offer so many programs to different parts of our community like youth and trans programs, so that's a big effort on our part to have a bigger reach into the community," Baker said.

Inclusivity has certainly entered the Foundation's conversation in recent years. Baker reminds us that the Purple Party is for everyone in the community and even out of it.

"I think that inclusivity is represented in how we present ourselves. We have a diverse DJ line up, we have trans gogo dancers. We want this to be a safe and fun experience for everyone whether they are dancing or socializing or both," Baker said. ■

Purple Party opens Thursday with Roar Kickoff Party featuring Deanne and Jamey Boozer at Sue Ellen's. For tickets and full schedule, visit PurpleFoundation.org/events.



HEALER, From Page 9

will happen.

"When I started to channel then, I went, 'Oh my god! I've been doing this my whole life!' Charles Conrad taught this amazing technique where you come into a role with no ideas. You get your energy incredibly high, and then you throw your energy onto the person you are working with.

Seeing things the way they should be, the way you want them to be is the key, Wallace said. "You cannot accept anyone else's limitations on you. You can't accept their limiting beliefs, their fears. You are in charge of creating yourself. You have to choose the thoughts and the beliefs you want to live."

Each of Wallace's seven books focuses on this idea of using your thoughts and beliefs to create the life you want to live and the person you want to be. Her most recent book, *Born: Giving Birth to a New You*, came to her when the world was shutting down in the pandemic.

When all the studios closed down in 2020, Wallace said her first thought was

how could she continue to create with that outlet closed to her. And then she changed her way of thinking from "How can I create?" to "What can I create today?"

"One week I created a short horror film for all our fans, *Stay Home*. And then one day, my channels said, 'Write the book.' Not write A book; write THE book. So I wrote the book, with the formula [on how to create the life you want] so other people can do it too," Wallace said.

"If you don't live it, your life doesn't change. You have to make a choice, then commit to that choice. That's when the Universe goes, 'OK, now they are ready. Now we can begin,'" she said. "God cannot and will not intercede on your behalf without your clear choice in asking. So for everybody who is just waiting for messages, they will be waiting a long time. Because the universe is waiting on you to decide." ■

For more information on Dee Wallace, her career in film and TV and her work as a healer, visit IamDeeWallace.com.



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HOPE, From Page 14

He moved first to Hollywood where he graduated high school and began to work on creating a career in music. Then he decided to move to New York to pursue a career on the stage. "I'm always looking for where I should be," he said. "I live by my heart."

In New York, he said, "things started to click for me." He went to work for Children International "to pay the bills," and that opened the door to "lots of grassroots work" with other organizations like Greenpeace, Planned Parenthood, Save the Children and Park 51, the Islamic organization trying to build a community center near the 9-11 Ground Zero location.

"They were just trying to give back to their community," McClellan said of the controversial project. "I was always confused at how prayer could be so offensive to anyone."

But by the time he turned 23, McClellan had begun to develop schizophrenia. "I went into a tailspin," he said. "I ended up homeless again, and I hitchhiked across the country."

"It was a hard time, but I saw a lot of beauty then, too. I meditated a lot; I wrote in my journal. I was trying to make sense of a senseless world."

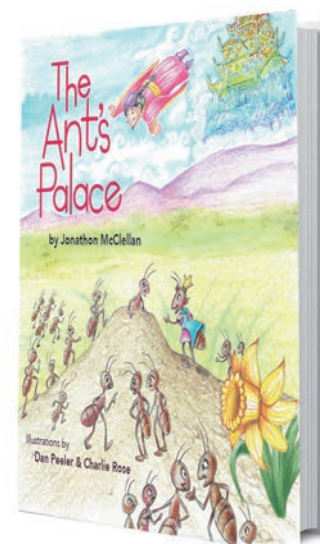
He said that is when he discovered writing as his key back to reality. He found the right therapist and the right psychiatrist, and they got him on the medication he needed to control and manage his condition.

"That changed my life for the better," McClellan said "I still had a lot of trauma to recover from, a lot of psychological abuse to overcome. And sometimes I tried giving up. I was so convinced there was no hope. Believe me, I understand hopelessness intimately, in all its aspects."

"I tried to take my own life. But I couldn't do it. Something always stopped me."

McClellan said he made his way to Dallas because his mother and other family members live in this area. "I have always tried to maintain a relationship with my parents," he said. "They did the best they could. And while I could use my platform now to talk about all my grudges, I don't want to do that. The world does not need another voice of discontent."

McClellan also found Cathedral of Hope when he came to Dallas, a community that, he said, is full of LGBTQ peo-



ple who love God and also love themselves. "I was so used to living in a kind of religious Stockholm syndrome, [with LGBTQ people] who serve a God they also believe is always looking to shame them and who send them to hell."

But at Cathedral of Hope, he found a new kind of LGBTQ religious community: "Cathedral of Hope is so accepting and so affirming," he said. "This is a church that shows you that God loves you as you are."

These days, McClellan said, he works full time as a writer. He writes devotionals for Believe Out Loud, a Cathedral of Hope program, and he writes other pieces for the church, as well. He also enters a lot writing contests, and last year, his story, "My First Bicycle," about his 7th birthday at the homeless shelter, won Writers Digest's 90th annual competition. "I was just shocked by it all," he declared.

McClellan and his partner Paul just celebrated their two-year anniversary and are looking for a new place to live, something with more space. "He is one of the people I dedicated Messages of Hope to," he added.

McClellan said he wants to use his success to give back to his community, which is why a portion of the proceeds from both his books will be donated to programs through Cathedral of Hope to help the homeless. And he also wants to continue to spread his message: Even in the darkest of hours, hope remains. ■

Messages of Hope and The Ant's Palace are available wherever books are sold. They are available online at both Amazon and Barnes & Noble and by request at libraries and bookstores.

The Hidden Door patio is already set up for hosting fabulous cookouts, and Team Metro will put that patio to good use on Sunday, May 1, when team members host the Team Metro Spring Cookout there to raise money for LifeWalk. They will be there from 2-5 p.m. with hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings, so drop by and have a bite to eat while you help out a great cause. Hidden Door is located at 5025 Bowser Ave. Check out the listings below for more information and the link to the Facebook event page.



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.

APRIL

■ April 29: Pride Visibility Day

SMU's first campus-wide Pride festival. Featuring lawn games and activities, Dallas Hall lawn will also host various queer-affirming businesses. The evening also features some speeches and an award ceremony from 6:30-9 p.m.

■ April 29: Changing Perspectives Block Party

Arts District cultural festival with performances by the Brooklyn Jumbies, Afro-Caribbean Stilts Dancers in collaboration with Dallas' Bandan Koro African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Dezi 5, Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Kupira Marimba Ensemble, with additional Dallas artists featured throughout the evening. A highlight of the evening is a special art installation Woooooosh!! On Flora Street from Routh to Leonard streets from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

■ April 29-May 1: Moving Forward

Legacy Cares 2022 Grace Project annual conference for women living with HIV at the Westin Park Central Hotel. Register at LegacyGraceProject.org.

■ April 29: DIFFA Preview Party

House of DIFFA Extravaganza preview party lakeside soiree from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Winfrey Point, White Rock Lake, 950 E. Lawther Drive. Tickets at DIFFADallas.org. Get a sneak peek of the designer jackets available for auction at the House of DIFFA Extravaganza on May 7.

■ April 30: Coalition for Aging LGBT summit

The fifth annual summit featuring leaders, community partners and advocates for the LGBT senior community will present a wide variety of information from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. More info at CFA.lgbt.

■ April 30: LGBT Chamber Foundation

LGBT Chamber Foundation presents its Scholars' Gala featuring a silent auction, music by DJ DeLuxe, catering by Wendy Krispin and beverages by Goody Goody benefiting the LGBT Chamber Foundation Scholarship Fund from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Alexander Mansion, 4607 Ross Ave. LGBTQChamber.net/Gala22.

■ April 30: Bruce Wood Dance audition

Bruce Wood Dance seeks professional dancers for its 2022-23 season. Send resume, headshot and dance reel if available to audition@brucewooddance.org by April 24.

Audition from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bruce Wood Dance Gallery, 101 Howell St.

■ Through April 30: Immersive Frida Kahlo

Go inside the 20th century queer Mexican artist's works measured at more than 500,000 feet of cubic art. From the same producers as the recent Van Gogh exhibition. Lighthouse Artspace Dallas, 507 S. Harwood St. Immersive-Frida.com/Dallas.

■ April 30-May 1: Artscape Fine Art and Craft Show

Artscape at the Dallas Arboretum, a juried fine art and fine craft show and sale, returns for its 15th year, featuring more than 110 juried artists from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Timed tickets are required and can be purchased online or by calling 214-515-6615 during the week. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Pronouns prohibited.

MAY

■ May 1: Cookout for LifeWalk

Team Metro hosts its Spring Cookout to raise money for LifeWalk from 2-5 p.m. on the patio at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. They'll have hot dogs and burgers with all the fixings. Check out the Facebook event page at Facebook.com/Events/2250773325075086/ for more info.

■ Through May 1: Stede Bonnet: A F*cking Pirate Musical

Theatre Three returns to its home stage in the Quadrangle with this swashbuckling world premiere. T3, 2688 Laclede St., Suite 120. Theatre3Dallas.com.

GAY AGENDA



ALL ABOUT AGING WELL

Getting older isn't for the weak. But the Coalition for Aging LGBT is working on making sure LGBTQ folks have all the information and

resources we need to age well. The coalition holds its fifth annual summit on Saturday, April 30, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. There will be community leaders representing a number of different organizations there to speak on services, resources and more. Check out CFA.LGBT for details.



FULL DIFFA JACKET

House of DIFFA

Extravaganza has been delayed for two years by the pandemic, so you know that when the models — and the jackets — hit the runway May 7 at the Omni Dallas, it will be legendary. But you don't have to wait to see at least some of the fashion that will be lighting up the runway: House of DIFFA Preview Party is happening Friday night, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Winfrey Point on White Rock Lake, 950 E. Lawther Drive. Tickets start at \$50. Get yours at DIFFADallas.org.

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EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Abu Bakr, the first Muslim caliph, once said, "Without knowledge, action is useless, and knowledge without action

is futile." Which means that helping educate the leaders of tomorrow is imperative. You can help by donating to the **LGBT Chamber Foundation Scholarship Fund**, and you can donate AND have a good time by attending the LGBT Chamber Foundation's Scholars' Gala on Saturday, April 30, from 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. at Alexander Mansion, 4607 Ross Ave. There will be music by DJ DeLuxe, food from Wendy Krispin catering and beverages by Goody Goody. Find more information at LGBTQChamber.net/Gala22.

■ May 3: Classic Chassis Car Club meeting

Enjoy the car out in the parking lots and then enjoy the food from 6-8 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. ClassicChassis.com.

■ May 3: PrimeTimers

First Tuesday lunch and games at 11:30 a.m. at Flaming Buffet, 11722 Marsh Lane.

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

Romeo San Vicente

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Kristen Stewart committing 'Crimes' for Cronenberg

You won't have to wait much longer to see more Kristen Stewart on the big screen; she's already wrapped the latest David Cronenberg project, *Crimes of the Future*. The 79-year-old Canadian auteur Cronenberg hasn't directed a movie since 2014's *Map to the Stars* and hasn't directed one like his legendarily disturbing sci-fi films — see *Scanners*, *The Brood* or the wildly divisive *Crash* — in even longer.

Crimes of the Future, shot in Greece in 2021 and wrapped and primed for film festival bows this year for a possible year-end theatrical release, should restore that balance. Set in a future where human beings can quickly evolve new organs, it's the story of an artist who turns organ removal into theater.

In addition to Stewart, Viggo Mortensen stars as Saul Tenser, the artist, alongside Scott Speedman and French actress Lea Seydoux (*No Time to Die*). Cronenberg has already gone on record as calling the film potentially shocking, so brace yourself, arthouse fans.

Queer teen romance *Crush* hitting Hulu

It's spring, which means people are feeling the evolutionary drive to get a little romance going. And Hulu is about to drop the teen rom-com *Crush* later this month, starring queer actresses Rowan Blanchard (*Girl Meets World*) and Auli'i Cravalho (*Moana*), in case you're too lazy to get off the couch and find a little love yourself.

Blanchard plays high school art student Paige, who has a crush on track star Gabriella (Isabella Ferreira). Paige joins the track team to woo her intended love interest but winds up falling for Gabriella's sister AJ (Cravalho) along the way.

From a queer creative team including director Sammi Cohen and writers Casey Rackham and Kirsten King, the story hits the teen rom-com story notes you expect while being unapologetically about girls finding their way to lesbian love — and there still aren't enough of those to go around.

Added bonus: Megan Mullally giving



Kristen Stewart

much-needed Megan Mullally energy.

No more translating those vintage John Hughes movies into fan-fictiony queer narratives; the real deal is streaming on April 29.

Jerrod Carmichael goes Victorian in *Poor Things*

He just went publicly gay in the new HBO standup special *Rothaniel*, and now Jerrod Carmichael will be seen in the latest film from Yorgos Lanthimos. The filmmaker, best known for *The Favourite* and *The Lobster*, is the most well-known director from what is sometimes called the "Greek Weird Wave." And the new film, *Poor Things*, adapted from Alasdair Gray's 1992 novel of the same name, looks like it will hew to that same unsettling vibe.

It's the story of a drowned Victorian-era woman named Belle (Emma Stone), whose scientist father (Willem Dafoe) decides to revive her with a brain transplant. Carmichael will play Harry Astley, one of Belle's suitors, alongside a supporting cast that includes Mark Ruffalo, Margaret Qualley, Christopher Abbott, Kathryn Hunter and Ramy Youssef.

While we're waiting for Carmichael's own directorial debut, *On the Count of Three*, to find its way from its Sundance 2021 origins into theaters, we'll be digging into this Frankenstein-ian tale sometime later in 2022.

Marvel series *Ironheart* set to introduce transgender character

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has

another superhero tie-in narrative coming to the Disney+ streaming network, and it's called *Ironheart*. It's based on a Marvel Comics character who debuted in 2016, a teenage genius inventor named Riri who creates an advanced power suit that leaves Iron Man's in the dust. Tony Stark learns of it and seeks her out to collaborate and set her on the path to superhero status.

Dominique Thorne (*Judas and the Black Messiah*) is set to star as Riri, but little else has been known about the project, and details have been kept under wraps until now. Marvel announced that the series will also include a transgender character, unnamed so far, and that the show is looking to cast, according to the POC Culture site, a "Black, Latina, or Afro-Latina transgender woman who is around 18-22 years old ..." and that the "character will be smart, confident and with a mystical bent and unique sense of humor."

We're thrilled by this development, because now that the MCU has fully infiltrated all of our waking and sleeping lives, and while it has lagged behind those real lives in terms of queer representation, we're happy to see steps in the right direction for queer actors. And if you fit the bill, call your agent and get that audition.

Romeo San Vicente has sprung into spring.

this week's solution

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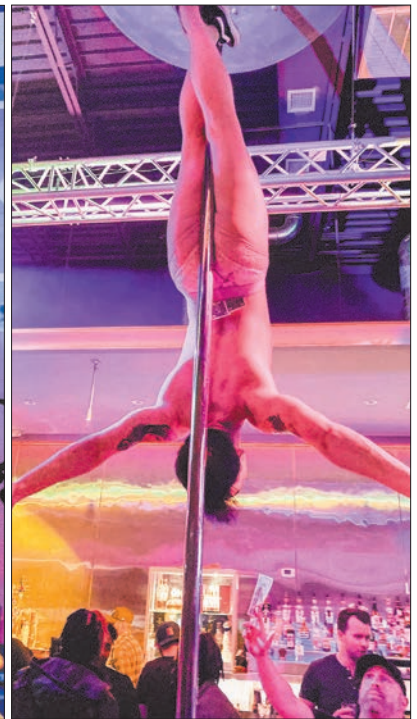
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Employment

Conference Services Advisor

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

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Solution on Page 25

Across

- 1 Rainbow rings, and such
 5 Not appropriate
 10 Moby Dick chaser
 14 Series ender
 15 Short Peter on the screen
 16 Abercrombie & Fitch event
 17 She played a certain royal in *The Crown*
 19 Refuse in a foundry
 20 First name in drama
 21 She played a certain royal in 2013, with
 51-Across
 22 Spoils, with "on"
 23 *Talk Dirty to Me* band
 24 Has the big O
 27 Online provoker
 29 Food thickening agent
 30 Where Priscilla is queen
 32 Crime-fighting org.
 35 She played a certain royal in 2021, with
 37-Across
 37 See 35-Across
 39 Sushi selection
 40 Peter, Paul and Mary
 42 Pink and lavender
 43 He's hard ... to find
 44 Movie fish
 45 Everyone can go down on them
 48 Hair color, e.g.
 51 See 21-Across
 52 Women or men

of parts

- 56 Ejaculation of concern
 57 Royal played by three actresses in this puzzle
 58 Who deserves malice, to Lincoln
 59 Companion of the Lone Ranger
 60 "___ no idea!"
 61 Will of *The Waltons*
 62 Existential woe
 63 Little biker in a gay pride march

Down

- 1 Shakespeare's were iambic
 2 "Look ___, I'm Sandra Dee"
 3 Rhett Butler's final word
 4 Accuses of being a pedophile, often
 5 Al Yankovic's "___ on Jeopardy"
 6 Lief's tongue
 7 Police actions at Stonewall
 8 Pray, to Renee Vivien
 9 Number of gay men under a centurian?
 10 Lash out at
 11 Circles overhead
 12 You must remember this
 13 Cole Porter's ___ the *Beguine*
 18 Men on top, perhaps
 21 Streisand's *Prince of Tides* costar
 23 Stops for pirates
 24 Suffix with beef or fruit
 25 Fairy tale bad guy
 26 Chains around a knight
 28 Knock off
 30 Gives out some queens, maybe
 31 Town in O-o-o-o-oklahoma
 32 Creature in a Debussy title
 33 Practiced heterosexuality
 34 "___ small world"
 36 Peter the Great, and more
 38 Testy response when interrupted
 41 Zip
 43 Suffer erectile dysfunction
 44 Use a trick towel
 45 Tried to hit a pitch
 46 Lake site of many a gay ski week
 47 Make up
 49 Lets out
 50 *Downton Abbey* neckwear
 52 Disney sci-fi flick
 53 Pale gray
 54 Neighbor of Minn.
 55 *West ___ Story*
 57 Family school org.

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