

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ T

Volume 39 | Issue 2 | FREE | Friday, May 20, 2022

## Her story = history

Karin Jean-Pierre is the first Black, first openly gay woman named as White House Press Secretary

By Darlene Superville, page 8

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



# MAY 2022 PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

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**\* WARNING: Do NOT vote for Sandra Crenshaw for TX House District 100**  
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# Bites from our blog

## InstanTEA: DallasVoice.com

### Stonewall Democrats of Dallas issues warning against Sandra Crenshaw in House District 100 runoff



Stonewall Democrats of Dallas this week issued a warning against former Dallas City Council member Sandra Crenshaw, who is in a runoff for the Democratic nomination in Texas House District 100 against gay candidate Venton Jones, based on things Crenshaw said in an address to the Dallas County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, May 17.

Officials with Stonewall Democrats criticized Crenshaw for what they felt were "fear-driven" anti-LGBTQ remarks and for attacks on Jones, who is running as an openly gay, openly-HIV-positive candidate.

"There is ZERO tolerance for Republican fear-mongering tactics in a Democratic Primary runoff election," SDD President Todd Hill said in a written statement. "We condemn in the strongest terms the anti-LGBTQ lies and misinformation that Ms. Crenshaw used to attack candidate Venton Jones in front of the Commissioner's Court, and we call on Democrats voting in House District 100 to support Jones."

Crenshaw finished first out of four candidates in the March 4 primary, with 34.2 percent of the vote. Jones came in second with 25.6 percent. Stonewall Democrats have endorsed Jones in the race.

— Tammye Nash

### Brownwood Pride under threat

Brock Cravy, organizer and director of a film festival planned for Brownwood, Texas, June 10-12 to celebrate Pride Month, this week told Dallas Voice he fears for his life and has filed a complaint with the Brownwood Police Department.

According to a copy of the complaint Cravy sent to Dallas Voice, on April 28 he went to the Brown County and City of Brownwood Law Enforcement Center to meet with Police Chief Ed Kading to discuss safety measures for the festival. While waiting, Cravy said, he sat on the Brown County Sheriff's Department's side

of the lobby, and while sitting there, he heard several BCSO employees making derogatory comments about the festival, the owners of the theater where it is to take place, and about him. He said he heard comments that he and the festival would not be tolerated or accepted and that one woman said "It is our job as Christians to correct them."

He said he heard a man say that he would not kill or hurt Cravy, but he would never tolerate or accept him. "I had never been more frightened in my life. A public servant, a member of law enforcement, made a statement about me that implied that 'killing me' and 'hurting me' was an option," Cravy wrote. "I can't imagine a single scenario where a member of law enforcement needed to remind his colleagues that he wasn't going to commit murder or assault."

He said that when he went in to speak with Kading, the chief and a social worker "calmed me down." He said that Kading then called the "highest-ranking officer under the sheriff" into his office, but that man said he couldn't speak for other people and wouldn't apologize for their actions.

Cravy said he has called Brown County Sheriff Vance Hill twice but has received no response.

— David Taffet

### Lesbian candidate wins Oregon gubernatorial primary



Tina Kotek won the Democratic primary in the Oregon gubernatorial race on Tuesday, May 17, and is now on track to become one of the first out lesbian governors in U.S. history, along with Maura Healey who is running for governor in Massachusetts.

Kotek is the first lesbian to win a statewide primary in Oregon. Kate Brown, Oregon's current governor, is bisexual. Colorado's governor, Jared Polis, is gay.

"This is a momentous night for Oregon and LGBTQ people across the country," said LGBT Victory Fund President and CEO Annise Parker. "Tina shattered this lavender ceiling because Oregonians are excited and enthusiastic about her vision for a more equitable, accepting future."

— David Taffet

## Obituary



**Richard Weidel**, 69, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 15, at his home in Dallas.

Richard was born on Nov. 2, 1952, in Big Spring, Texas. He graduated from Big

Spring High School and attended Tulane University. He was champion professional bodybuilder, and as a very knowledgeable sommelier, he had worked for Goody Goody as the house wine consultant since 2006.

A very loving, friendly and welcoming

soul, Richard was loved by many. He leaves behind a legacy we can all look up to. He was a proud member of the LGBTQ community, and he traveled many places, always making new friends. He was protective of his own and cared for the well-being of others, including furry four-legged friends.

Richard is now reunited with his mother, close friends and furry buddies. We can take comfort knowing that when our time comes, he will be waiting there, smiling and welcoming us to heaven. We will never forget you, Richard, and you will remain in our hearts. Even as we ache in your absence, we take comfort knowing that it's not good-bye because we will see you again.

Richard is survived by his best friend and loving husband, Jeffrey Cobb.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m. at 2700 Swiss Ave.

## Cawthorn loses in North Carolina GOP primary

Madison Cawthorne, the anti-LGBTQ 26-year-old who has represented North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives since winning election in November 2020, has fallen short in his bid to be re-elected, losing to North Carolina state Sen. Chuck Edwards in the Republican Primary Tuesday, May 17.

Cawthorn, who was backed by Donald Trump, has been plagued in recent weeks by several scandals, including leaked photos of him wearing what appears to be women's lingerie and holding a drink along with two sexually-charged videos involving a male aide, who also happens to be his cousin.

— Tammye Nash

## 1 million-plus expected for Mexico City Pride parade

The Mexico City GLBTQ+ Pride parade returns next month after two years of COVID, and organizers are expecting more than a million people to turn out for the celebration, according to Jesús Chaírez, a Dallas Voice freelancer and former Dallasite who now lives in Mexico City.



The parade will be held Saturday, June 25, and Chaírez said participants will begin gathering at 10 a.m. at the Angel of Independence statue, located on Paseo de la Reforma in La Zona Rosa. The parade steps off at noon and ends with speeches and entertainment at the Zócalo at the Mexico City Center.

— Tammye Nash

## ■ Adoptable / DAZE



Meet **Daze**, a domestic shorthair guinea pig, one of five guinea pigs currently housed by the SPCA of Texas at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. Guinea pigs were one of the first animals brought back to Europe from the New World in the 15th century, and they have been a favorite of pet lovers ever since. They are a playful and energetic little animals that can bring hours of enjoyment and entertainment, and are often cited as a great first pet for kids

because of their hardy nature and undeniable cuteness. Guinea pigs can live for several years and are a relatively easy animal to care for. The SPCA of Texas regularly receives guinea pigs, and they tend to go out the door pretty quickly. Daze and her siblings were received as a transfer from another shelter. In addition to dogs and cats, the SPCA also currently has rabbits and a hamster available at the Dallas location. Stop by any day between noon and 6 p.m. to meet Daze and her friends.

Adult dogs and cats are normally a \$75 adoption fee from the SPCA of Texas. Puppies and kittens under the age of six months are \$150. Adoption fees vary for small mammals, equestrian and livestock. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats four months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Visit SPCA.org for more information and to see pets available for adoption.

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## Instant replay

History will repeat itself if we don't act now

Ever feel like you are watching an instant replay? I don't mean an instant replay in a "sportsball" game; I mean a replay of history.

In April, I decided to commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) by reading a scholarly and exhaustive history of the Holocaust by Martin Gilbert. At the time I thought it would be a week or two of reading, but I was sorely mistaken. It is a very long work, extensively footnoted and painstakingly researched.

The length was not my issue.

The book is filled with eyewitness testimony and official documents details I never knew. My parents made sure I knew about the Holocaust as a child. As a boy, I even had an acquaintance, Mike Jacobs, who had survived the Nazi death camps. He was a boarder in Grandmother's house, and he related a little of his story to me.

Later I learned from television documentaries some of the horrors inflicted by the Nazis on the Jews of Europe. Nothing prepared me for the amazing lengths to which the Nazis went to disguise their actions. It clearly reveals that they knew what they were doing was wrong, yet they did it anyway.

Additionally, the unbridled cruelty of the SS and their collaborators was stunning. Their slaughtering children in the open through unspeakable means leads me to believe that either they had no moral compass or had themselves been brainwashed by propaganda to believe that Jews were not human and could be dispatched much like vermin.

Indeed, they were bombarded with films and broadcasts and printed propaganda that showed Jews as rats.

And that same kind of brainwashing is taking place today.

Right-wing radio, One American News and Fox News, are carefully craft-



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

ing their programming to characterize people of color as brutish and animalistic. LGBTQ Americans are always depicted as wanting "special

pletely dehumanizing anyone but white, cisgender Americans.

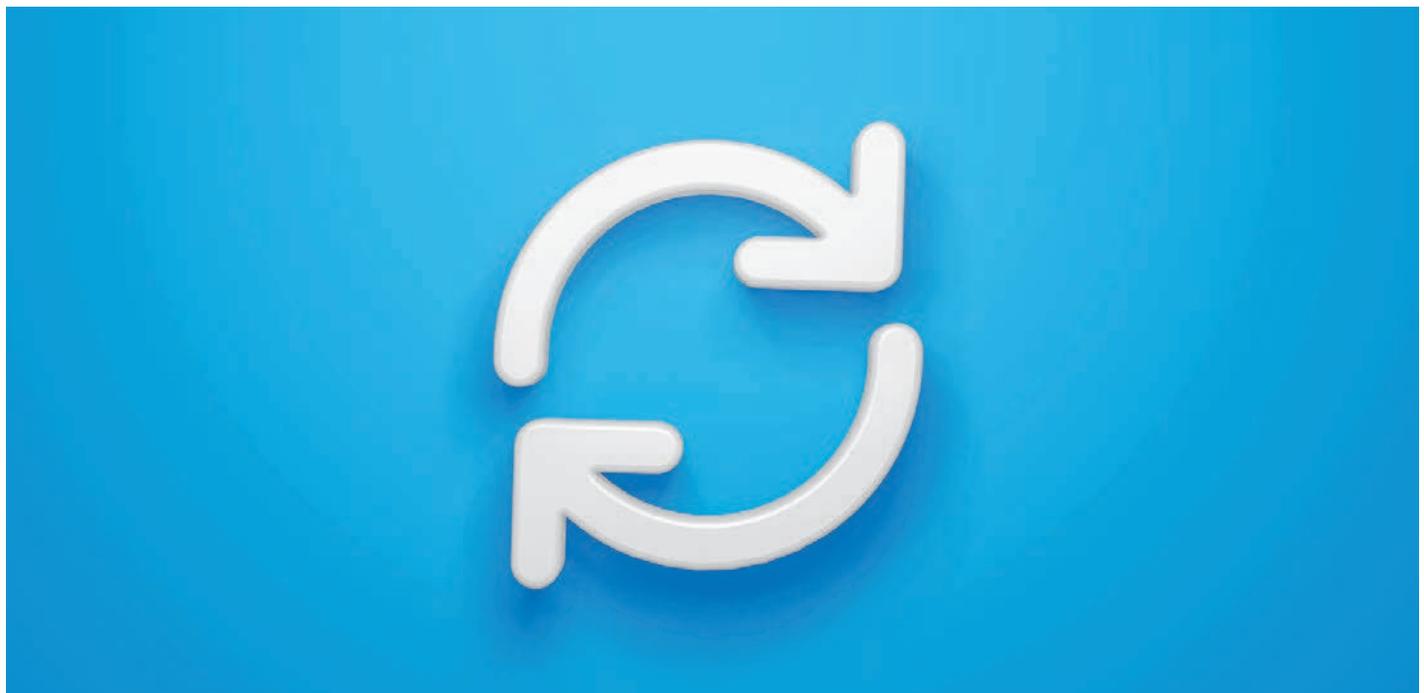
The rewind button has been pressed.

Meanwhile in the hinterlands, failed president Donald Trump continues serving up his incoherent word salad peppered with just enough white-supremacist dog whistles to keep the base energized. He is sowing ignorance and hatred, the very things which the Nazis refined into a dark art.

We must not believe the deceptions, and we must fight to survive. And if we do not start it now, we may not have the

stopping the Right. If we fail to stop them, we will face unthinkable events in our future. Remember: They already tried to storm the Capitol, and even though in the images from that day they look like a bunch of idiots in MAGA caps, they are insurrectionists. Change their outfits to brown shirts with red armbands and they would seem a lot scarier.

Appearances can be deceiving. That's why the Nazis disguised the rail terminals at the concentration camps as real passenger terminals, complete with fake shops and ticket kiosks. That's why the



rights," and trans persons are characterized as "sick."

To start that messaging early, schools in states like Florida and Texas are prevented from discussing LGBTQ history in order to raise a generation of people who will always look on those different from themselves as being an aberration. Prohibiting discussion of the long-term effects of slavery and "Critical Race Theory" reinforces white privilege and keeps young people ignorant of our country's "original sin."

It is a small step from there to com-

chance later.

Every American who believes in freedom and equality MUST get involved politically. That means you can't just vote occasionally; you must vote in every election, and you must vote for the candidates running against the Right in every election — even if they are not exactly the candidate you want.

VOTE in every local election from school board races to city council races, from county races to state races to federal races

Your VOTE is your strongest tool in

Nazis promised Jews good jobs in the East as they swept them from the ghettos of Europe and forced them into cattle cars.

Right now we as LGBTQ and BIPOC Americans need to realize we are seeing an instant replay. We must learn from history, even if it is difficult to comprehend. We have to if we want to see the horrors play out once again. ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and chairperson of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance board. Read his blog at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).*

# *the* CONDOM SHOP



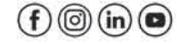
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# Making history in D.C.

## NEWS

Press secretary hopes her rise helps kids 'dream bigger'

DARLENE SUPERVILLE | Associated Press

**W**ASHINGTON — Karine Jean-Pierre, the new White House press secretary, hopes she can inspire young people to “dream big and dream bigger” now that she has broken a barrier by becoming the first Black and gay woman to be chief spokesperson for the president of the United States.

Jean-Pierre reflected Monday, May 16, on what it means to become one of the most visible members of President Joe Biden’s administration as she spoke about a letter that students at her former elementary school in New York wrote telling her how proud they are of her.

“Representation matters, and not just for girls, but also for boys,” Jean-Pierre told reporters during the first of what likely will be hundreds of daily press briefings she will hold. “And so what I hope is that young people get to dream big and dream bigger than they have before by seeing me stand here and answer all of your questions.”

If Jean-Pierre’s Haitian parents had had their way, their daughter would be wearing a white doctor’s coat and stethoscope instead of the special lapel pin that identifies her as a Biden staffer. Her father, a New York City cab driver, and her mother, a home health care aide who also owned a hair salon, wanted Jean-Pierre to become a doctor.

But she disappointed them by failing her medical school entrance exam.

She went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. She parlayed her interest in the environment into a job in the early 2000s as director of legislative and budget affairs for New York City Council Member James Gennaro, who was head of the Environmental Protection Com-



mittee.

It marked her introduction to politics.

Jean-Pierre wrote in her 2019 memoir, *Moving Forward*, that Gennaro took a “huge chance” by hiring her, even with her Ivy League degree. But he said in an interview that “she had a way about her that was poised and competent and friendly and effective without having any trace of qualities that could in any way, shape or form be off-putting.”

“She was a rare talent that I was very fortunate to have,” Gennaro said. “I’m just very happy and proud to be a little footnote in her journey.”

Jean-Pierre made the leap into national politics after working for another city

council member and later joining a labor union campaign aimed at Walmart. She first worked on Democrat John Edwards’ presidential campaign before joining Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential bid in Chicago.

She followed Obama to the White House, working in his political affairs operation and later on his re-election campaign. She first met Biden while working for Obama.

Jean-Pierre moved around after leaving the Obama White House, including working for the ACLU and for the liberal advocacy group MoveOn as its chief public affairs officer during the presidency of Republican Donald Trump. She

also has been an NBC and MSNBC political analyst.

Jean-Pierre, 47, worked on Biden’s presidential campaign, then followed him to the White House as principal deputy press secretary. In that role, she led the briefing on several occasions, making history in May 2021 when she first subbed for press secretary Jen Psaki.

She also held regular off-camera “gaggles” with the much smaller group of reporters who travel aboard Air Force One with the president.

Biden promoted Jean-Pierre after Psaki, who had been press secretary since the start of the administration, an-

# National attention

## TRUE CRIME

The story of a gay teen convicted of killing his parents despite a lack of evidence will be told by ABC's '20/20'

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Voice has been following the case of Brandon Woodruff — who was convicted in 2009 of killing his parents four years earlier — for years now. Last year the case was picked up by the Innocence Project of Texas, and on Friday, May 20), the story will be told on *20/20* on ABC at 8 p.m. Central Time.

Scott Poggensee is the private investigator who made a film called *Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff*. The film details the lack of evidence in the case and suggests that Woodruff, who is gay, was convicted solely based on homophobia.

Poggensee has been championing Woodruff's case longer than Dallas Voice has been covering it. He's excited to see how ABC will present the story. "Any attention to the case is good exposure," he said.

And national exposure is more likely to shed light on how homophobia was at the center of Woodruff's conviction.

What's frustrating about the case is that there is no actual evidence tying Woodruff to the murders. The most damning fact, something that the prosecutor repeated over and over to the jury during the trial, was that, just hours after the murders took place, Woodruff was dancing at S4 on Cedar Springs Road.

And, the prosecutor claimed, Woodruff, who was 19 at the time, wasn't out to his parents.

"If he could lie about being gay, he could lie about killing his parents," the prosecutor repeated to the jury a number of times through the trial.

In truth, though Woodruff was actually out to his father, who accepted him,



Brandon Woodruff

although it's not clear if he was out to his mother yet.

Either way, the actual evidence just doesn't add up.

Woodruff has said he would be able to prove he was not at his parents' house at the time of the murder if phone records for the time of the murder had been entered into evidence. His parents were in the middle of moving, and, Woodruff claims, he was at their old house in Heath at the time of the murder.

But apparently no cell phone records exist for several hours during that day. The record stops before the time of the murder and doesn't start up again until later that night when Woodruff was at S4.

Another fact weighing against the idea of Woodruff having killed his parents is that both his mother and his father were shot and stabbed. That indicates more than one murderer.

For one person to overpower two people with a gun in one hand and a knife in the other is hard to imagine outside of Hollywood crime drama fiction. He'd have to be ambidextrous and skilled with both weapons, as well as extremely strong.

Detectives investigating the crime scene put together a very tight timeline — one that gets Woodruff in and out of his parent's house in less than 30 minutes so he could get from Royce City over to Dallas, where he picked up a friend before heading down to Oak Lawn.

But there's a problem with that timeline: The crime scene was bloody. Very bloody. And someone took the time to clean up the bathroom.

Since the bodies weren't found for a couple of days, someone could have returned to the home to clean it up the next day. But Woodruff was back at school in Abilene the day after the murder.

And coming out of a bloody crime scene, Woodruff would surely have transferred some of that blood into his truck. But investigators, who arrested Woodruff and impounded the truck the same week his parents were murdered, found not a speck of blood on it or inside it.

In addition, no weapon linking Woodruff to the murders has ever been found. At Woodruff's trial, prosecutors presented a knife, but there was no trace of blood on the weapon and no fingerprints. And the gun used was never found.

Woodruff appealed his conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, based on his Sixth Amendment rights because prosecutors had recorded a private jailhouse conversation between him and his attorney prior to his trial. The judge acknowledged that prosecutors violated Woodruff's constitutional rights before the trial began but declined to dismiss the capital murder charges.

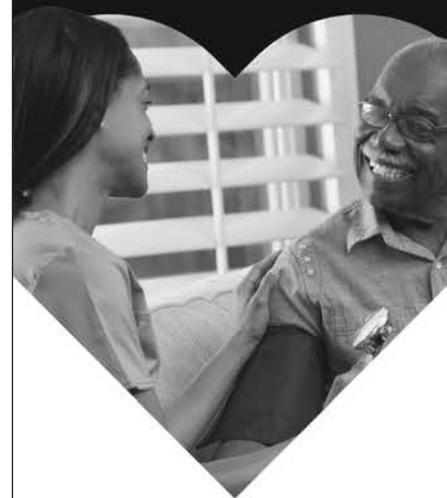
The Fifth Circuit ruled that he wasn't harmed by this, so he appealed to the Supreme Court. That court refused to hear the case.

An earlier appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Appellate District in Texarkana on the grounds of insufficient evidence and trial court errors was denied in 2010.

Poggensee said Woodruff has nothing to hide. He said his goal with his film and his hope for the *20/20* piece is that it will "ultimately help Brandon get out of prison." ■

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# Prom night

PRIDE

Photographer Deni Baker shares Grayson County Pride Prom images

**G**rayson Pride recently hosted its 2022 Pride Prom, a celebration for people of all ages, at Pecan Grove Park West in Sherman.

Photographer Deni Baker was there to capture the excitement and has shared photos from the event with Dallas Voice.

As you enjoy the photos, remem-

ber that Grayson County Pride 2022 is set for Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., also at Pecan Grove West Park, located at 3200 Canyon Creek Drive in Sherman. This annual event is a free, family-friendly festival organized by Grayson County Pride “to include, respect, celebrate and provide resources for our LGBTQ+ community.”

The Pride festival will include local vendors and small businesses, entertainment and bands at the main pavilion, food trucks, a water slide, a Grayson County Pride merch pop-up shop and more. Visit [Facebook.com/GraysonPride](https://www.facebook.com/GraysonPride) for more information.

— From Staff Reports

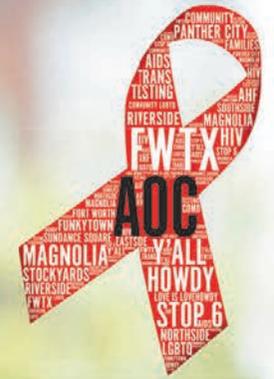


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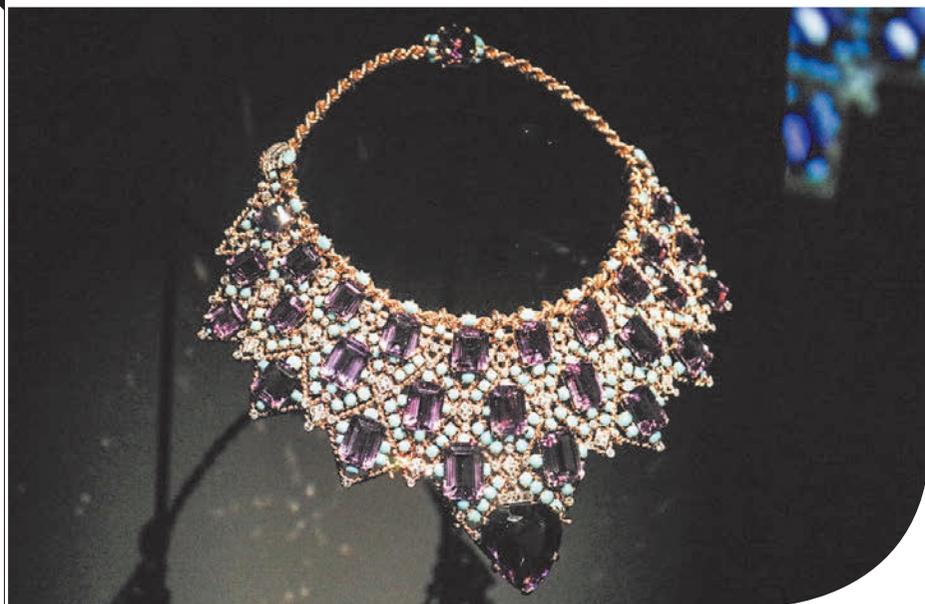
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# Dazzling

## ART ON EXHIBIT



An exhibit of the work of Cartier and its Islamic influences

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
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**C**artier and Islamic Art: *In Search of Modernity*, now on view at the Dallas Museum of Art, is unlike other blockbuster shows staged by the museum in many ways. And with such a different show, the questions are different.

Museum Director Agustin Arteaga said he's long been an admirer of Cartier's jewelry as an art form. And art it certainly is, as gems have been carved and polished and arranged into forms that dazzle.

But it's also jewelry, and it was created to be worn. So I couldn't help but wonder how many armed guards it took to keep DMA Chief Marketing and Communications Officer (and former DVtv host Brad Pritchett) from trying everything on. Several people I spoke to from the museum smiled at the idea and agreed it was tempting.

Also, as I walked through the exhibit. I kept wondering about the value of each of the pieces: diamond studded

tiaras or Cartier's signature tutti frutti — necklaces or bracelets made of an assortment of colorful gems. Again, not a normal reaction to a piece in a museum exhibit. I certainly didn't walk through last year's Van Gogh show wondering what any of the canvasses cost or which was most expensive.

But this is a fabulous collection of jewelry. And jewelry is meant to be worn. And we can imagine the people who these finely crafted pieces of art were meant to adorn.

OK, so I didn't take the scholarly approach that the curators of this exhibit took. I simply enjoyed the rich collection of jewelry. But their scholarship wasn't lost on me.

*Cartier and Islamic Art* explores the Islamic influence on the work of Cartier in the late 19th and early 20th century. Although the show includes 400 objects, they are arranged in a maze of spotlight galleries that don't overwhelm with the sheer vast opulence of these pieces.

And the influence of Islamic design is explained in understandable displays both behind glass and blown up and projected on walls with clear explanations.

For example, what became a common design element in Art Deco is the stepped pyramid form. That derives from "angular stepped merlons" found on rooflines of medieval mosques.

And six-, eight- and 12-pointed stars,



In Paris, it was easy to imagine the setting in which the jewels would be worn. They fit right into their setting. But in Dallas, the pieces of jewelry pop and become art on their own terms. The centerpiece of each room is a spectacular surprise with no distractions from the architecture.

DMA curator Sarah Schleuning said if there's one thing to take away from the show, that would be "what it means to be inspired."

And that's what this show is about: being inspired. A design from architecture, from a ceramic tile or something seen in a book might become a piece realized in platinum, diamond and pearls. How details from a structure inspires jewelry; how jewelry may then inspire fashion; how one wonderful design in-

"a frequent motif on ceramic panels and wood inlay in the Islamic world," one panel explains, are a design motif used by Cartier designer Owen Jones in a 1907 pendant on display.

Before its only North American stop in Dallas, the exhibit was seen at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Elizabeth Diller, whose company designed the interactive animations that magnify and illustrate the pieces, described the two settings as completely different. The Paris museum is ornate, she said, while describing the Dallas museum as a black box.

spires something completely different — it's all here in this exhibit.

"For over a century, Cartier and its designers have recognized and celebrated the inherent beauty and symbolic values found in Islamic art and architecture, weaving similar elements into their own designs," said Arteaga.

May Cartier continue to design and inspire for years to come. ■

Cartier and Islamic Art: In Search of Modernity is on exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. and runs through Sept. 18. Free tickets to the exhibit are available at DMA.org.

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# Homecoming queen

## MUSIC

Allison Ponthier heads home for her first Dallas show

**RICH LOPEZ | STAFF WRITER**

rich@dallasvoice.com

**T**he last year has been quite the journey for Allison Ponthier. It was just last summer that the out singer and Dallas native released her debut EP *Faking My Own Death*. Since then she's gained the experience of rising star fame, live shows and collaborations.

Based in New York City now, Ponthier's on the verge of releasing her second EP, *Shaking Hands with Elvis*, and has already released two new songs: "Autopilot" and "Hardcore."

In the visuals for those songs, she continues her quirky style with retro ambience and animated puppets.

Despite her rising stardom, Ponthier hasn't forgotten her Dallas roots. In her often-weekly livestream on Instagram, while she interacts with fans she's also raising dollars for Dallas Hope Charities, the nonprofit that operates the Dallas Hope Center, the city's only LGBTQ-focused youth homeless and transitional living center.

Now she may finally get to meet the folks she's been helping out as her tour with Bleachers brings her to Dallas for her first show here on Wednesday, May 25, at the South Side Ballroom.

Before her show, Ponthier talked with Dallas Voice about her homecoming as well as her new music and talking with the legendary Elton John on his podcast.

**Dallas Voice: OK, we're gagging that you spoke with Elton John on his podcast *The Rocket Hour*. It's like one queer icon speaking with the new queer generation. Can we just talk about that for a moment first?** Allison Ponthier:

Honestly, I was so nervous, and he was so sweet to me. He really did his research and was familiar with me and my work with Dallas Hope Charities, and he tells

me we're in the same game. I mean, as a musician and an activist, it meant a lot. But he is so much cooler than me. To have someone you admire say nice things about you — nothing is more heartwarming.

**Congratulations on all your success.**

**It's an interesting time to talk to you again because last year, you were just releasing your first EP. With that and what came with it, here we are again.**

**How do you reflect on this last year?** I really appreciate that question. So much has changed in that year. It never stops being scary. It's kind of always terrifying. This past year, I had my first EP, my first television appearance, and now I'm on my second round of doing it again.

Surely the experience helps. I do have so much more confidence in myself than last year, so I know it will be all right. I know to stop and enjoy things a lot more.

**You're about to drop your next release with hints already. We've seen videos for two of your songs "Hardcore" and "Autopilot." Could you talk about what we'll be hearing from you soon?** The

new EP is more experimental. There are more styles with some faster rock songs and some more production liberties in my slower songs. I think my experiences teach me to take time in my music, and I'm enjoying learning about myself.

**Your music touches on a variety of personal levels. Do you feel like your writing from a particularly queer perspective that hits deep with listeners or is it just merely personal?** I think I'll always write "myself." I do have a songwriting style that makes me identifiable. A really good litmus test for me is who I am at the moment. The first record was about identity, and I think this one celebrates the things that aren't perfect. My music is very autobiographical.

I do think there is something inherently queer about all my music. It's crazy how much I have in common, though, with listeners. Really I'm just making music and hope it connects with people. I think my own struggle with identity is something we have in common, and we all bond through these songs.

**It is strange to think that Wednesday**

**will be your first show here in your hometown.** I think about playing Dallas all the time. The last time I played there it was like jazz cover gigs for 15 people. I haven't played [in Dallas] since coming out, but it's empowering to feel like I'm coming back home and doing this myself.

**And you're teaming with Dallas Hope Charities, a nonprofit that you've raised money for. What's your relationship with the organization?** Yeah, we're partnering with them on merchandise. They'll have a booth there. I hope I get to tour the center while I'm there.

I think I'm always looking out for ways to support people in Texas. They're more than just a shelter, and I like to see how we can partner to raise awareness. They've grown so much in the past few years.

And *Bleachers* [EDITOR'S NOTE: Jack Antonoff's stage moniker] has his own LGBTQ charity, The Ally Coalition. He's very pro-LGBTQ which is also great.

*Allison Ponthier opens for Bleachers on Wednesday, May 25, at the South Side Ballroom. SouthSideBallroomDallas.com.*



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# Broadway queen

## CHARITY

Kristin Chenoweth headlines Woman to Woman luncheon

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

**J**ewish Family Services will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its Woman to Woman Luncheon with Tony and Emmy Award-winning actress and singer — and, of course, LGBTQ favorite — Kristin Chenoweth on Wednesday, May 25, at the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel, 15201 Dallas Parkway in Addison. Registration begins at 11 a.m. that day, and the luncheon starts at noon.

The biennial luncheon is a celebration of the power, influence and the impact of women. This year's event will feature Chenoweth in a chat with WFAA's Cynthia Izaguirre.

The luncheon's Founding Legacy co-chairs, Ethel Zale and Linda Garner, join 31 honorary chairs representing all past luncheon events in promoting the event, which helps JFS provide comprehensive mental health and social services to anyone in need.

Through its programs, JFS served 39,000 individuals in 2021.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kristin Chenoweth and cannot wait to celebrate all that has been made possible by our donors at this event the last two decades," Jewish Family Service CEO Cathy Barker said in a press release. "It has been four years since we have come together in a ballroom, and we are looking forward to seeing friends get together to make such a difference in our community."

The luncheon, which began 18 years ago as a garden party with 100 attendees, has over the years raised \$4.6 million, helping to triple the number of clients the agency has been able to serve.

Chenoweth joins an illustrious roster of past luncheon speakers including Joy Behar, Dr. Jill Biden, Goldie Hawn, Marlee Matlin, Bette Midler and Diane Von Furstenberg. Chenoweth will be sharing inspirational and empowering stories



from throughout her life and career.

Chenoweth is best known for her work on Broadway in *Wicked* and her Tony-winning performance as Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* along with television shows like *The West Wing*, *Ugly Betty*, *Pushing Daisies*, *Glee*

and *Schmigadoon!*

She is also an author with a recently published children's book, *What Will I Do with My Love Today?* And her Kristin Chenoweth Arts and Education Fund helps cultivate and celebrate young artistic expression by enriching children's

lives through the power of education, entertainment, and experience.

Born in Broken Bow, Okla., Chenoweth started singing gospel music in church at an early age. Despite her close ties to the Southern Baptist Church, Chenoweth has long been an outspoken supporter for LGBTQ equality. In 2013, at the 22nd annual GLAAD Media Awards, Chenoweth received the Vanguard Award, presented to those who have increased visibility and understanding of the LGBTQ community. In an emotionally-charged acceptance speech, she said, "I want to encourage many people of all faiths to come forward and stand with me, even if you don't believe in Jesus the way I do. He did teach love. Not just tolerance, but acceptance."

In a 2021 interview with *Los Angeles Magazine*, Chenoweth said she had dated a gay man once, realizing he was gay when "He recognized my Louboutins."

She joked at the time, "When you're dating a man and he knows the brand of your shoes, immediately break up with him and become best friends. You know, I love my gays. I just don't want to marry one. That's all."

Chenoweth got engaged to Josh Bryant, her boyfriend of three years, in October 2021. Bryant is the guitarist for the country band Backroad Anthem.

Seated and virtual options are available for Wednesday's luncheon. Co-chairs for this year's event are Rachel Biblo-Block, Beverly Goldman, Julie Gothard, Marcy Kahn, Julie Liberman, Staci Rubin and Laura Weinstein.

Jewish Family Services offers programs to the community such as individual age-appropriate counseling, family violence intervention, support for older adults, transportation services for disabled or homebound, a client-choice food pantry, and emergency financial assistance. Its mission is to provide effective, accessible, and comprehensive mental health and social services that promote lifelong self-sufficiency and well-being for the Greater Dallas community. ■

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [JFSWomanToWoman.org](http://JFSWomanToWoman.org).



nounced she was stepping down Friday, May 13.

Rahna Epting, executive director at MoveOn, said elevating Jean-Pierre was a “brilliant choice” by the White House, citing her personal story as a Black and openly LGBTQ woman, as well as her extensive past work on political campaigns and for advocacy groups.

“She can kind of see all the angles necessary, and I believe she’ll do an excellent job,” Epting said.

But Jean-Pierre’s appointment also has its detractors.

Brad Raffensperger, the Republican secretary of state of Georgia, said the promotion was unwarranted due to her advocacy of “stolen election conspiracy theories” following Democrat Stacey Abrams’ loss in the 2018 Georgia governor’s race. Democrats had accused Abrams’ opponent, Gov. Brian Kemp, of improperly purging voter rolls.

Raffensperger is among Republican state officials who refused to support Trump’s unfounded claims that he lost re-election in 2020 because of fraud.

Jean-Pierre takes over as the White House faces an uphill battle to help Democrats hold onto the House and Senate in November’s midterm elec-

tions, and as the administration struggles to address the public’s concerns over rising consumer prices and the state of the economy.

She also steps up as Biden faces a daunting array of foreign policy challenges, including Russia’s war against Ukraine and North Korea’s escalating nuclear testing program. Biden is set to visit South Korea and Japan later this week, followed by stops in Europe in June.

Jean-Pierre is a vegetarian, former high school cross country runner and former volunteer firefighter who shares a daughter with her partner, CNN journalist Suzanne Malveaux.

At Monday’s briefing, Jean-Pierre credited “barrier-breaking people” for making it possible for her to rise to one of the highest-profile jobs in American government. She counts the late David Dinkins, who was New York City’s first Black mayor, among her political mentors.

“I stand on their shoulders. If it were not for generations of barrier-breaking people before me, I would not be here,” Jean-Pierre said. “But I benefit from their sacrifices. I have learned from their excellence and I am forever grateful to them.” ■

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# Down & dirty with gay racer Dustin Sprouse

ON THE RACETRACK



And, yes, he answers all our questions about why he's a Trump supporter

**MIKE ROX** | Contributing Writer  
mikeyroxprs@gmail.com

**T**here's no beating around the bush with competitive race car driver Dustin Sprouse: He's out; he's proud, and he's an unrepentant Trump

supporter.

Before you crumple up this page or close the browser window — like most LGBTQ folks are apt to do whenever they read the T-word — Sprouse implores you to hear him out. And so do I. Which is precisely why I chose to interview the 35-year-old amateur athlete who, in 2021, won Rookie of the Year in dirt-track racing's Top Notch Late Model series.

Politics and sports seem to go hand-in-hand these days anyway. Auto racing is no different. Sprouse — thick like a grizzly on a 6-foot-2-inch frame — is at a crossroads, however. Being gay

has limited his sponsorship within the blue-collar racing community while his conservative leanings alienate a large portion of the LGBTQ community.

As a recent cover story of the speedster in Sport Illustrated points out, his life is complicated.

Sprouse is a Trump supporter, yes. But he's also a passionate, caring, dedicated friend and family-oriented race car driver who yearns to be accepted for his wheel-spinning skills without being judged on the basis of his sexual orientation — or his political alignment.

Even the open-minded need to be challenged now and again. Consider this a crash course.

**Dallas Voice: Racing is in your blood.**

**Your entire family has a need for speed, including your parents and your brother. Tell me a bit about your upbringing in West Virginia and your journey to becoming a professional dirt-track racer.**

Dustin Sprouse: My dad started racing in 1989, and that's where my own love of racing began. I never went on vacations because we were always at the races every weekend. My brother started racing in 1997, and I started in 1999. We all got out of it in



2010 due to [a lack of] financial support. I found my way back in it in 2021 in the Top Notch Late Model series where I would end up winning the 2021 Steel Block Late Model Rookie of the Year. That brings us to where we are today.

**What were some of the considerations you made when deciding to come out publicly in your early 20s? How was it received?** I was really nervous about coming out in a redneck state, but when

I was 23 years old, I finally did it and, believe it or not, the rednecks stayed my friends and the friends I thought would be are no longer my friends. Just have to respect others as they are.

**Success in racing comes down to winning races, but it's also about sponsorships — race cars are expensive and you've got to keep yours running if you want to compete. What's the criteria for a sponsor choosing to**

**affiliate with you? What's in it for dirt-track racing sponsors?** I'm looking for corporate backing from a national company that prides itself in being an ally to the LGBTQ community, a corporate partner that will commit to supporting my efforts at being the first openly gay driver competing at the top level of dirt track racing. This shows consumers that they are committed to building inclusivity into their brand and support the efforts of people like me who are unapologetic about who they are.

I put a great product on the track to advertise their business. I have a kind heart; I'm a good sport, and I'm a great person to be a public representative for your business.

**Sponsorship has largely eluded you because you're gay. How does that change, and how long can you compete without that deep-pocketed corporate financing?** I'll continue racing at a local amateur level if I'm not successful at attracting meaningful corporate backing. However, if I'm fortunate enough to secure a strong sponsor interested in supporting my racing career, I know in my heart I can compete at a professional level in national dirt track racing.

**The Sports Illustrated cover story on**

**DIRTY**, Page 24

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## ON THE BIG SCREEN

GREGG SHAPIRO | Screen Savor

greggshapiro@aol.com

**F**irst, the good news: There are no multiverses in *Downton Abbey: A New Era* (Focus Features). Now, the bad news [SPOILER ALERT]: The indomitable Violet Grantham (Maggie Smith) spends the whole movie dying and eventually succumbs.

She does, however, have a classic deathbed scene and some of the greatest last words ever spoken onscreen (no spoiler here).

Conscious of how much fans of the *Downton Abbey* series — and the previous movie — are tasked with keeping track of, the filmmakers generously in-



Allen Leech, Harry Hadden-Paton, Tuppence Middleton, and Laura Carmichael in *Downton Abbey: A New Era*

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clude a thorough recap (also available online) of all the comings and goings before the movie begins. As any Downton devotee knows, there is much to recall.

As we've come to expect, the upstairs/downstairs drama (and occasional comedy) never stops. The "new era" of the title not only refers to the approach of the 1930s and the fast-changing modern world, but also to various changes occurring within the family, its exclusive society and its beloved home.

In other words, nothing really earth-shattering happens, although watching these characters' reactions throughout, might make you think so.

The biggest dramatic moments are divided between the homestead and the South of France. At Downton Abbey, a British film crew is paying a pretty pound sterling to make a movie. The money will come in handy as Downton's leaky roof is in desperate need of repair.

Led by director Jack Barber (Hugh Dancy) and featuring silent film stars Guy Dexter (Dominic West) and Myrna Dalgleish (Laura Haddock), Downton is

transformed into a movie set. The production is fraught with complications, but they manage to muddle through.

Part of the fun is watching the impact Barber, Dalgleish and Dexter have on the household, including an unexpected and heartwarming potential romance for dashing gay butler Barrow (Robert James-Collier).

As for the South of France, it turns out that Violet has inherited a palatial chateau following the passing of a love interest from her past. It's a part of her life she long kept private, but now those closet doors have been flung open, and the contents — including a stack of correspondence as well as a painted miniature portrait of Violet — have come tumbling out for all to see.

Unfortunately, unlike Barber, the director character in *Downton Abbey: A New Era*, Simon Curtis, the actual director of *Downton Abbey: A New Era*, doesn't know when to yell "cut." Sadly, the movie, and its countless (and often confusing) cast of characters, ends up overstaying its welcome. Rating: C+ ■



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# DIRTY

From Page 21

you published at the end of last year [discusses] one of your crewmembers, Eric Barber, who remorsefully attended the Jan. 6 insurrection, detailing how the confluence of social media and politics affected his mental health. In the same piece, you proudly proclaim to be a Trump supporter. First, why are you a Trump supporter? I like Trump for his "America first" policies. I support the coal industry, and I have friends who depend on oil and pipelines for employ-

ment. I felt like our economy was strong under Trump.

**Why — especially given Barber's very distracting experience with politics — would you publicly attest to being a Trump supporter as a gay semi-professional athlete? How do you see that admission helping your career? Is there a possibility that you're publicly a Trump supporter because you think it will ingratiate you to conservative race fans? I am who I am, and after living a closeted**



life I feel best when I'm completely honest about who I am and what I believe.

**It's a very interesting intersection. You're an example yourself of inside politics preventing you from receiving sponsorships yet you're vocally supporting the conservative ideology that instituted it. How do you respond to someone who says you might be getting what you deserve?** I'm not sure what people with a strong partisan perspective think I deserve. However, I believe that I deserve to be treated with inclusion and understanding, with fairness and support from both LGBTQ allies as well as friends and family. So my political views don't define me as much as racing does. To be truly inclusive means accepting me as a proud gay athlete despite my support for Trump.

**Politics aside, a profile in Sports Illustrated is a huge deal for any athlete, let alone a gay-identifying one. How did that story impact your career? What has changed since it was published?** I've received some local sponsor support, but it's been minimal as far as financial support goes. Encouragement from people all over America in the form of private messages and likes/shares in social media has been the most noticeable impact.

**If your sexual orientation, ultimately, is the limiting factor in your success as a racer, what will you do about it?** I'll continue as I have been since I started. I'll never give up or quit. My dreams and goals are important to me and I'll never let discrimination obstruct my pursuit of success on the track.

**Romantically, where are you? Is there a man behind the man behind the wheel?** I'm single still, but always have room in my life for that special someone.

**What are your aspirations beyond the track? If you succeed, what's the ultimate goal? If you don't, what's the contingency plan?** I will keep being me and racing as much as I can, but if that does fail I will live my life as a loving and caring family man because I put my family first.

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

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# GAY AGENDA



## SEEING RED

For those of us who have been around the Dallas LGBTQ community for a couple of years — ok, ok: more than 30 years — the phrase “red dress party” brings up memories of days long gone by when a bearded comedy queen (and Dallas Voice columnist) named Heda Quote, along with her equally bearded buddies Louella Lye and Butchella, staged their annual fundraiser for HIV/AIDS service organizations. These days the dresses are just as red, but the makeup may be a bit more sophisticated as **The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** present the **Red Dress Gala**, their premiere event designed to raise funds and awareness for local HIV/AIDS service organizations. This year’s event — coming back after a pandemic pause — is Saturday, May 21, from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. AnaLee Pleasured will emcee, and DJ Jamey Boozer spins the sounds for a night of music, dancing, charity and fun, all benefitting the Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund. Visit [DFWRedDress.org](http://DFWRedDress.org) for details.

## O-69



What could be more spiritually refreshing than an evening of Bingo with that vision of godly beauty, Sister Helen Holy herself! Well, grab your finest fascinator and head on over to Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave., for **Church Hat Bingo**, Saturday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. A suggested donation of \$20, benefitting the CMA Dallas Conference, gets you in for the best church hat contest, a 50/50 raffle, light bites, refreshments and, of course, Bingo. Visit [Facebook.com/CMADallasConference](https://Facebook.com/CMADallasConference) for more info.

## DRAGGING FOR A CAUSE



Life’s a drag. Now softball is a drag, too. And neither one of those things is a bad thing — at least not when the drag in question is the **Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association Drag**

**Pageant**. The pageant hits the stage at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Proceeds benefit the Dallas teams competing in the Gay Softball World Series, coming to Dallas Aug. 29-Sept. 3, and a local charity. Visit [DallasPSSA.org](http://DallasPSSA.org) for details.

8 p.m. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

*Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue. Look for extended listings online at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com)*

Put on your cutest t-shirt and shorts set, lace up your Keds and head on over to the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge parking lot (at Gulden Lane and Singleton Avenue) on Saturday, May 21, for Strides for Equality, the annual 5K walk supporting the Human Rights Campaign. The walk starts at 9 a.m., and after you have finished, you can trot right across the street to Trinity Groves for brunch on the patio. The \$35 registration fee includes an annual HRC membership. For more information email [membership@HRCDFW.org](mailto:membership@HRCDFW.org).

## 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](mailto:chemminger@hopecottage.org).

## MAY

### ■ Through 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](http://SRFestival.com).

### ■ May 20: May Federal Club Mixer

This month’s mixer is at W-Dallas Victory, 2440 Victory Park Lane on the 16th floor pool deck. RSVP via Eventbrite.

### ■ May 20: An Evening with Neil Gaiman

Gaiman is a bestselling author with notable works including *American Gods*, *Neverwhere*, the comics *Sandman* and *The Eternals*. *American Gods* was named one of the 125 most important books of the last 125 years by the New York Public Library. The author

appears as part of the hearhere Speaker Series. 8 p.m. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

### ■ May 20: LeAnn Rimes

This hometown country singer heads to Fort Worth for one night only. 8:30 p.m. Will Rogers Auditorium. [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

### ■ May 21: Blue Moon Dances

Women only dances the third Saturday of the month from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMakers of Texas, 6125 SW 820, Suite 140, Fort Worth. BYOB. \$10.

### ■ May 21: Strides for Equality

Annual 5K walk supporting HRC. Meet at the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge parking lot at Gulden Lane and Singleton Avenue at 9 a.m. \$35 registration includes an annual membership. After the walk, head to Trinity Groves for a brunch on the patio. Info at [membership@hrcdfw.org](mailto:membership@hrcdfw.org).

### ■ May 21-Sept. 5: Becoming Jane: The Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall

World-renowned conservationist and ethologist Dr. Jane Goodall — who has studied chimpanzees in the wild for more than 60 years — is celebrated in this special exhibition, produced in partnership with the National Geographic Society and the Jane Goodall Institute at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. [PerotMuseum.org](http://PerotMuseum.org). \$25 admission. \$8 for the Goodall show.

### ■ May 22: 2022 PSSA Drag Pageant

Individuals of all gender identities from PSSA teams will perform in a multi-round drag show to raise funds for Gay Softball World Series teams and a local charity. 6 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon. [DallasPSSA.org](http://DallasPSSA.org).

### ■ May 22: PFLAG’s Parent Day Celebration

PFLAG Parent Day is an annual event to honor and celebrate all people who lead with love for LGBTQ+ youth from parents to step-parents, guardians to grandparents, teachers to nurses, families by birth, choice, foster, and adoption. This star-studded virtual event will serve as a touchpoint to engage and inspire advocates and allies who believe all kids should be free to be themselves at 1 p.m. Central Time at [PFLAG.org/ParentDay](http://PFLAG.org/ParentDay)

### ■ May 22: Smokey Robinson

Legendary singer-songwriter, record producer, executive and co-founder of Motown Records performs at 7 p.m. at Winspear Opera House. 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

### ■ May 24: Tears for Fears

“Everybody Wants to Rule the World” hitmakers bring the Tipping Point World Tour to North Texas. Garbage opens. 7:30 p.m. The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory, 300 Las Colinas Blvd. W., Irving. [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

### ■ May 25: Sigur Rós

The band, led by gay frontman Jonsi, will perform new music as well as its catalog of signature songs over the band’s 25 year tenure.

# Ask Howard

## HOW TO DO THE WRONG THING RIGHT

### The BB revival

Things are beginning to break down ... Uhm, well, kidz, summer's here! Close enough, in any case — if not by the calendar, then certainly by the thermometer. The dawn of June's nowhere in sight and already we're diddling three-digit highs? Has torpidity turned squatter?

Hey, it's summertime, y'all. The livin's supposed to be easy! Whatever happened to just kickin' back, relaxing and watching some decent porn, you ask? Well, lean back, kick your shoes off, whip your cock out, and I'm gonna tell you whatever happened to them good old days.

First up, though, we gotta wade through all the litigiousness disclaimers. After all, who are we to suppose nobody would even think to stoop so low as to actually sue an X-rated film house for causing you mental trauma upon watching, unforwarned, what you'd paid them good money to get to see in the first place?

**WARNING!**  
MANY OF THE SEXUAL PRACTICES IN THIS PRODUCTION ARE VIEWED AS UNSAFE AND CAN SPREAD SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES — INCLUDING HIV, THE VIRUS THAT IS BELIEVED TO CAUSE AIDS.

**Dear Howard:** I've a confession here: I'm playing a game with my three gay bro BFFs. But I'm the only straight one. I've gotta win this thing, too. It's a pride thing. Ho', I really need your help.

Here's the nut buster: None of my 3 roomies had the stuff it takes to land dick. Not even nasty dick. Street shit — stuff, I mean — not even street stuff would swipe 'em sunny-side of an app. 'Course, then Cora (aka 'Rona) came ridin' in, and none of 'em laid claim to any steady bae, or maintained any sort of friends with benefits tree. Lickety-split, the bars and baths all closed down. Then didn't take even a week 'fore they all got sick of havin' to play grab-ass with just each other.

Point I'm making is, gradually, I just watched the life start fading out. The pandemic gets to now claim me on its victims' list of another bored survivor converted, unwillingly, embarrassedly,

with too much free time on his hands into a raging "hobbyist." The perky, "Oh?" responses I get upon such admission couldn't sound more disinterested if rehearsed.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THIS PRODUCTION TO BE VIEWED BY MINORS!**

Porn. Gay porn. Vintage, Pre-Condom Classics. Somehow, I've dragged all my friends — even the straight ones — into it now, too. Suddenly, we're in competition. All of them think I've stumbled into the front end of an untapped, potential goldmine — that stuff from the '60s and '70s, those obsolete studios like Nova, Catalina, Colt, Red Falcon, and on, and on. Like, somewhere out there is the world's first post-Vintage Era bareback dick flick — the assignment I've been given to track down. I don't even know where to start. Any navigational tips you care to bless upon me, Howard, to at least get started off in the right direction?

— Attacker Mac

**Dear Big Mac 2Pac:** Gangsta, you sure you don't rap for a living? "Cause this old lily-white, milquetoast honkey-jack homo here does not even have one tiny inkling clue what question you're asking me. Gotta love those gay, late-90s porn intros, though, right ... Dawg? Their masterfully-worded credits, exploiting every morality loophole imaginable and even some not, absolving all legality issues any jizz-biz studios' might face in a daring hostile takeover — re-introducing bareback videos in an era of still untreatable AIDS — just the godless chutzpah!

All those "Pre-Condom Classics" productions you mentioned permanently fizzled out, overnight and forever, on Oct. 3, 1985 — exactly one day after Rock Hudson's death, thus, ushering in the most boring era in porn movie history, the "Wrapped For Life" years, in which the porn industry, as any sort of profitability investment.

Who'd ever have guessed that porn's



second coming was just around the corner? Its salvation resuscitated from the furthest-extreme, fetish-edge outposts imaginable, flicks that were suddenly poised to upend the entire jizz biz industry altogether.

**YOU MUST "AGREE" TO PROCEED. THE FOREGOING VERBIAGE HAS INFORMED ME OF THE NATURE OF THIS PRODUCTION. THUS, BY CLICKING "I AGREE" BELOW, I FREELY AND INFORMATIVELY WAIVE ANY RIGHTS I MAY HAVE TO BE PROTECTED FROM "OBSCENE" MATERIAL ... I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM OVER THE AGE OF CONSENT IN MY COMMUNITY, THAT GRAPHIC DEPICTIONS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIVITIES ARE LEGAL IN MY COMMUNITY AND ARE NOT DISTASTEFUL, REPUGNANT OR "OBSCENE" TO MY SENSITIVITIES, AND THAT I DESIRE TO WATCH THESE ACTIVITIES ON THIS DVD IN THE PRIVACY OF MY HOME.**

I AGREE.

Taking the honor of being the first-ever porn flick to use the term "bareback" (abbreviated as BB nowadays on hookup profiles) goes to an early Dick Wadd production, first making its emblazoned debut for the ages late last century:

**BAREBACK, DW MEDIA, LLC, 1998**  
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS ADAM (FINLAND). LIFE WAS GOOD IN THE SLING OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS. DAY IN AND DAY OUT, ADAM ROCKED IN HIS SLING. AFTER 23 YEARS, ADAM FELT A VOID ... A DEEP AND WIDE VOID THAT ONLY A BIG, SLICK, RAW COCK COULD FILL.

It starred Adam Finland, rapturously rocking cock after cock in his sling hadn't so much as a jizz-junkie/bug-chaser

clue. It would become porn's ignition switch game-changer. The days of relying upon star magnitude alone to open a horny man's wallet were over. Overnight, the money shot now meant every shot — and not a condom in sight.

In closure here, let us give a big, celebratory, Silver Jubilee Anniversary shout-out to, 25 years ago this very month, the release of what in its day claimed title to simultaneously being both the world's most expensive and most profitable film ever to be made. That said, everybody, now close your eyes and drift back to a scene visualizing your standard, Edwardian-era textbook fop, clothed and coiffed in his gilded gay best — one gloved hand clutching at the most expensive diamond ever unearthed, the other white-knuckled on a precariously tilted deck railing. A simmering indignancy hovers 'bout the icy tableau, totally incongruous to First Class passage aboard the world's most luxurious folly ever, where Cad Cal, his era sinking into extinction verily beneath him, gurgles his pitch-perfect, comic-relief epiphany of the obvious: "Things are beginning to break down."

—Howard Lewis Russell

*Anything in particular you'd like Howard to rail, epiphanic, an impassioned spin upon? Then, all you gotta do is ask him, at AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.*

## this week's solution

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**browse**  
For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

**submit**  
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# SCENE • *Fire Island* movie premiere

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES





Ye olde gays at Scarborough Renaissance Festival



Lookin' fierce at Round Up Saloon



Karis at Garlows in Gun Barrel City



Caliente!

# SCENE • DIFFA: House of Extravaganza

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES

Photos courtesy of WiL Turner and Joseph Brewster and Thomas Garza with DIFFA



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# SCENE • Orville Peck's Dallas Concert

## Photos by Vince Arrabazzo

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Marissa mugs for the camera



Mikey giving free rides on his scooter at TMC



Raquel Blake makes a rare appearance



Sisters...seperated at birth



Who is ready for some karaoke?



Who is that masked man at TMC?



# SCENE • Cathedral of Hope dedication of the 'Markley-Buescher Family Organ'

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES

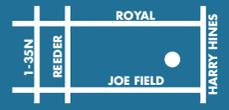




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**Beyond the Binary**

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Solution on Page 26

**Across**

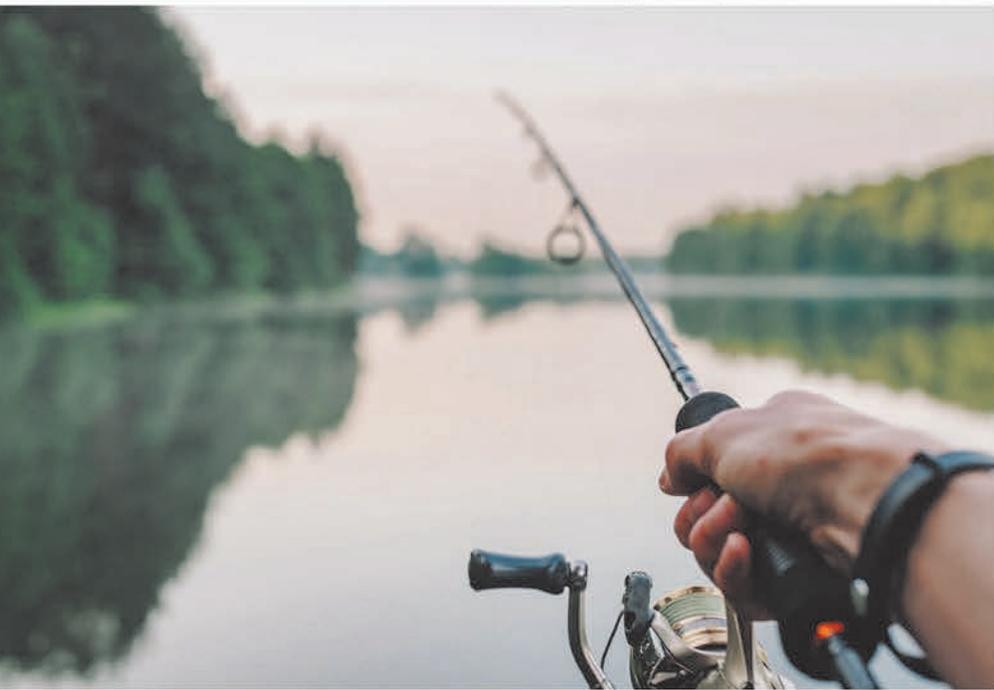
- 1 Elliot who used to be Ellen
- 5 Rio, for one
- 11 Way out
- 14 What you can take from me
- 15 Burdens of proof
- 16 Arena cry, to Lorca
- 17 Start of a quote about "beyond the binary"
- 19 Glenn Burke stat
- 20 Brunch dishes
- 21 Prick up one's ears
- 23 Give a chit
- 24 Insults the name of
- 26 More of the quote
- 30 Colette's love
- 31 Scandalous Roger
- 32 Eagle's org.
- 35 South Korea's Syngman
- 36 Rupert Everett's "\_\_\_Porter"
- 37 The clap you get ringing someone's chimes
- 38 Sixty-nine and more (abbr.)
- 39 More of the quote
- 40 End of the quote
- 42 Standing out
- 44 Laugh coined by Lewis Carroll
- 45 Frida Kahlo's woman

**Down**

- 46 Nobles of Auden's land
- 47 Nonbinary actress and source of the quote
- 52 Alice's Restaurant patron
- 55 Owen of *Closer*
- 56 Western wine valley
- 57 Dike problem
- 58 Influential member of a tribe
- 59 Frequent Trump portrayer Baldwin
- 60 It comes before date
- 61 Open positions?
- 62 S&M unit
- 22 U. of San Francisco, e.g.
- 24 Less likely to come out
- 25 Soda shop treat
- 26 Noble partner
- 27 Words after honey
- 28 Penetrates
- 29 Card of the future
- 33 Comedian from Siberry's homeland
- 34 Toward shelter
- 36 Acts of reparation
- 37 A kind of ad
- 39 Greek queen of heaven
- 40 Ramirez, Rainey, and Ride?
- 41 Celeste of *All About Eve*
- 43 Bad state of mind for Cho?
- 44 Became a Brahma mama
- 46 Say "nothin'," say
- 48 Woods of *Legally Blonde*
- 49 Simba's love, on Broadway
- 50 Sci-fi planet population
- 51 *Cowboys Are Frequently Secretly Fond of \_\_\_ Other*
- 52 Home st. of Harper Lee
- 53 Stimp's partner
- 54 Caesar's lang.

**Love Without  
Limits.**

**Love Without  
Boundaries.**



**Ewing  
Means Love.**



**SUBARU.**

**EWING**  
SUBARU OF PLANO