

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas | Established 1984 | Dallas | Volume 34, Issue 5, May 27, 2022

Summer Swimsuits and Sun 2022



Plus: Martha Wash,
Thea Austin at MetroBall,
page 10



Slay this summer *for under \$15 a month.*

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1825 Market Center Blvd., Ste. 240, Dallas, Texas 75207 | 214-754-8710 | dallasvoice.com

PUBLISHER Leo Cusimano, leo@dallasvoice.com

MANAGING EDITOR Tammye Nash, nash@dallasvoice.com
SENIOR STAFF WRITER David Taffet, taffet@dallasvoice.com
STAFF WRITER Rich Lopez, rich@dallasvoice.com
PROOF READER Philip Burton
CONTRIBUTORS Chris Azzopardi, Gary Bellomy, Jenny Block, Joey Casiano, Jesus Chairez, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Mark Lowry, Jonathon McCellan, Cassie Nova, Josh Robbins, Howard Lewis Russell, James Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Gregg Shapiro, Casey Williams

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Chad Mantooth, mantooth@dallasvoice.com
MARKETPLACE MANAGER Stephen Mobley, mobley@dallasvoice.com
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE National Advertising Representative
Todd Evans, Rivendell Media Inc. 908-232-2021

ART DIRECTOR Kevin Thomas, thomas@dallasvoice.com
MULTIMEDIA Stephen Mobley, Social Media Director
Jimmy Bartlett, Website Management
Israel Luna, DVtv Video Producer, Host
Tom Roma, DVtv Producer | Joseph Herrera, DVtv Producer
Regina Lyn, DVtv Host | Larry The Fairy, DVtv Host

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Linda Depriter, distribution@dallasvoice.com

FOUNDERS Robert Moore | Don Ritz

AFFILIATIONS | MEMBERSHIPS

Associated Press - Associate Member
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Emmett Schelling makes Time 100 list

Transgender Education Network of Texas Executive Director Emmett Schelling made Time magazine's "Time 100 list: The 100 most influential people of 2022." The list includes Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President Joe Biden but also the likes of Vladimir Putin.

In the category of icons, Mary J. Blige tops the list. Oprah is on the list and so is Xi Jinping. Tim Cook of Apple heads the list of Titans, but Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are missing.

In the race for who can beat up trans kids and their families the best, the list includes Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis but not our own transphobic governor, Greg Abbott. But Texas is represented by Emmett.

In the accompanying piece by the ACLU's Chase Strangio, Strangio says Schelling "has spent day and night fighting back and building love and safety for his community."

When Abbott escalated attacks on the trans community, Schelling "mobilized the entire state to fight back," Strangio wrote, crediting Schelling with "leading a scary and grueling fight for trans survival."

— David Taffet

Gosar lies, calls Uvalde shooter a 'transsexual leftist illegal alien'

As the people of Uvalde struggled under the weight of their grief following the massacre Tuesday, May 24, of 19 elementary school students and two teachers at the hands of an 18-year-old mass shooter using an AR-15-style assault rifle and a handgun, ultra-right-wing Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar took to Twitter Wednesday, May 25, to falsely identify the killer as a "transsexual leftist illegal alien named Salvatore Ramos."

Gosar's claim is a flat-out lie and he knew that — or at least, should have known that — by the time he posted his vile tweet because the gunman had already been identified as Salvatore



Rolando Ramos, a cisgender male. PolitiFact notes that there is "no evidence to corroborate claims that Ramos was transgender or a 'leftist,' and officials have said he was a U.S. citizen, not an 'illegal alien.'"

But that didn't stop Gosar, and it hasn't stopped the other hate-filled right-wing bigots who continue to spread the lie across Twitter and Reddit, even going so far as to actually include images of transgender people who have absolutely nothing to do with the shooting and identifying those individuals as Ramos.

— Tammye Nash

Bullock wins Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion award

The NBA announced on Sunday, May 22, that Dallas Mavericks guard-forward Reggie Bullock has been named the 2022 Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion.



Bullock was selected from a group of five finalists for his dedication to pursuing social justice.

In January, Bullock talked to Dallas Voice about his sister, Mia Henderson, a transgender woman who was murdered in 2014, and why he has dedicated his life to honoring her by fighting for LGBTQ rights and acceptance, and especially for trans women.

"We are all one, and I believe love lies in everybody's heart," Bullock upon receiving the award this weekend. "It's incredibly important to me, as a cisgender athlete, to stand in support of the trans and LGBTQ+ community."

— Tammye Nash



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Herndon drops first single from upcoming album

"Till You Get There" is the first single from Fort Worth's Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning country artist Ty Herndon. The song from his forthcoming album JACOB shipped to country radio on Monday, May 23, and is now available for streaming and download here.

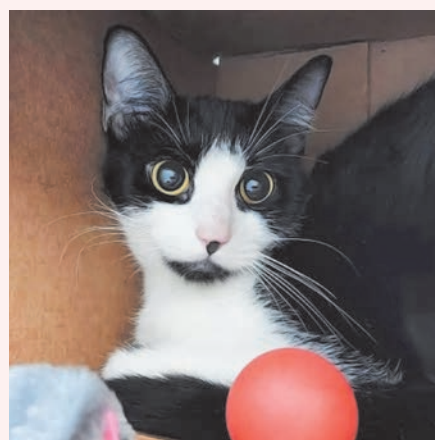
"This song is about the trials and tribulations we all face in life — both big and small — that

can seem so overwhelming and discouraging when they're happening. But I believe everything happens just the way God intends, and we don't always know what all those bumps along our journeys mean until we reach the end. I wanted to kick off this album with a fun, uplifting, and inspiring song that we can all relate to, and I think we nailed it," Herndon said in a press release.

The out singer co-wrote the track with Jamie Floyd, Erik Halbig and Jimmy Thow, who also serves as the track's producer.

— Rich Lopez

■ Adoptable / PENELOPE



Meet **Penelope**, a domestic shorthair mix who is only a year-and-a-half old. She is a smaller kitty, weighing in at only 5 pounds presently, though she still has room to grow a bit. Penelope has

a wonderful personality, but she is a bit shy at first. It may take a bit for her to warm up to a new human, but once she has, she is lovely. She has big luminous, eyes and beautiful black fur with a white underside and face (and a slight little black mustache right under her nose). Penelope would do best if she were welcomed into a calm, quiet home with patient and caring parents. Other cats should be OK, but Penelope should meet with any canine and human members of the family before an adoption takes place. There is no appointment necessary to meet Penelope, just come and visit between noon and 6 p.m.

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.

OBITUARY



Glenn Alan Wessler, 65, of Irving passed away April 30, 2022. He was born Aug. 8, 1956, in Fort Worth to the late Jack Cope-

land and Janey (Watkins) Wessler. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1974 and studied at Trinity University in San Antonio, with one year abroad in Vienna, Austria. He graduated with his bachelor of arts degree in 1978, majoring in journalism and history. Glenn worked for many years in the travel industry, ultimately working in the security aspect of travel assisting companies in keeping employees working abroad safe.

Glenn was a sweet and kind individual to all. He loved to travel and had visited every state except Oregon and Alaska and most of the countries in Europe. He was an avid reader, enjoying an eclectic variety of books

and authors, with Charlene Harris and Wilbur Smith being a couple of his favorites.

He also enjoyed history and geography and, of course, music. Glenn had a beautiful baritone voice and actively sang with the Turtle Creek Chorale and the Cathedral of Hope chancel choir, which is where he met his husband, Henry G. Cook. They were married Sept. 4, 2020.

Glenn will be missed by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Janey Wessler.

He is survived by husband Henry G. Cook of Irving; his stepson Thomas Cook, his wife Kristen and their son Theodore of Dallas; his stepson Mason Cook of Frisco; his step-daughter Audrey Cook and her partner Jake Ferguson of Van Alstyne; his sister Chris and her husband Mike Jarboe of Arlington; his brother John Wessler and his wife Denise of Weatherford; his former partners Michael Kimery and Harry Kloss; his niece and nephews Michelle Balmer, Sean Jarboe, Jared Wessler and Heath Wessler; his great-nieces and -nephews: Bailey and Alyssa Balmer, Mason Jarboe and Noah Wessler; his faithful canine companion Lafayette or "Lafe," and a host of other extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 28, 2022, at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.



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Bearing witness

How many more have to die before we care enough to do something?

On Tuesday, May 24, an 18-year-old kid in Uvalde, Texas, shot his grandmother then got into his truck and drove over to Robb Elementary School where he proceeded to murder 19 fourth-graders and two teachers. The killer, who had barricaded himself inside two adjoining classrooms, was then shot to death by local and federal officers in a specialized tactical team who forced their way inside the classrooms he had barricaded himself.

It was the second-deadliest school shooting since shooting at Sandy Hook in 2012.

It was the third mass shooting in the U.S. in 10 days: On May 14, an 18-year-old kid drove some 200 miles from his home to a grocery store in a primarily Black neighborhood in Buffalo, N.Y., where he murdered 10 Black people and injured three others. The following day, a 68-year-old man opened fire on the congregants at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in California, killing one and injuring five others.

Ten days. Three mass shootings. Thirty-two dead. Nine others injured.

Are we “great again” yet? Are we “free” yet?

Tuesday night, after reading about the shooting in Uvalde, I sat at my desk, fighting back the nausea and losing the battle against tears. I kept thinking about those helpless, terrified children, trapped in a classroom with a monster. I thought about what must have been going through their minds as they saw their classmates, their friends, dying around them, knowing they would be next.

I thought about the adults, the two teachers. Did they have time to even try to protect those children? I know that protecting their students would have been their immediate instinct. But how could they even begin to in the face of such brutality and evil?

What about the students and teachers



Tammye Nash
From Where I Stand

their lives.

I thought of all the teachers I know and love, in my family and among my friends. I wanted to call every one of them and beg them not to walk back into a classroom again. Not ever.

As I sat there, I logged onto Twitter to read updates, watching as the death toll rose higher and higher as the night wore on. I read how families were being asked to provide DNA samples so their dead children could be identified because some other the bodies were not recog-

nizable.

“Not recognizable.” The words made my stomach literally clench and twist, made me dizzy.

As I was reading updates and statements from elected officials, I found the account of a journalist, a young woman, who was reporting from the community center in Uvalde where families were sent to wait for word on their children.

The thread of her posts included photos of some of those families, people gathered outside the community center, bound together in unfathomable grief.

And then someone commented on her posts: “Did you get permission to post photos of those people?” And another, and another, demanded that she leave them alone, give them their privacy, stop intruding on their grief.

It made me angry. Maybe they actually were saying that out of sympathy for the families. But it seemed more likely to me that they were telling her to stop because they didn’t want to have to feel that grief themselves.

They will live with that horror the rest of

job to bear witness, to stand in the middle of the horror, to let it wash over them and then to turn and show that horror to the world. It is the journalists’ job to bear witness and to create and keep a record of what happened, because there are people out there — like Alex Jones, for example — who will try to claim it never really happened and that even if it did happen, it wasn’t really that bad.

It is the journalists’ job because the rest of us need to feel that horror, too. We need to feel that grief that burns your very soul; we have to hear the hideous details, and we have to think, “What if that were my child — my parent or my sibling or my friend — who died so horribly there in that classroom. We have to know because we have to care.

We have to care enough to make it stop.

And the fact that it happened, again, proves we don’t care enough yet.

How many more people have to die before we do?

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

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LGBTQ candidates Win in runoffs

ELECTIONS

12 out candidates will be running for the Texas House, 1 for Texas Senate and 2 for Texas seats in the U.S. House

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Venton Jones is poised to become the first gay male to serve in the Texas Legislature since Glenn Maxey, who served from 1991-2003, after winning his Democratic Primary race this week. Jones faced former Dallas City Council member Sandra Crenshaw, who had the most name recognition in the race.

Once Jones secured a place in the runoff, most endorsements flowed his way. He is expected to easily pick up the seat in this heavily Democratic district.

If he wins in November, Jones will be the first male member of the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus and the first openly HIV-positive Texas legislator. He's said he hopes his position will lessen the stigma that is still associated with living with HIV.

Jones won't be the first Black member of the LGBT Caucus, however. That distinction goes to Jolanda Jones from Houston.

Jolanda Jones is having a very good month. She won her runoff by a few hundred votes after winning a special election to replace Rep. Garnet Coleman a few weeks ago. Coleman, who retired earlier this year for health reasons, had served in the Texas House since the early 1990s and was an early and steadfast champion of LGBTQ rights.

But wait! There's more.

The LGBTQ Caucus may grow by another member depending on the outcome of a race that may not be decided until a recount is taken. At press time, 122 votes separated out candidate Christian Manuel Hayes from Joseph Paul Trahan. Hayes is in the lead in a district that includes Beaumont and parts



Jolanda Jones, top, and Venton Jones, above of Port Arthur. The district is currently represented by a Democrat who is not returning to the Legislature.

Of the other current members of the LGBTQ Caucus, one is not seeking re-election: Celia Israel is running for mayor of Austin instead. That election is in November.

The other caucus members — Jessica Gonzalez, Julie Johnson, Erin Zwiener, Mary Gonzalez and Ann Johnson — were either unopposed or won their primaries outright.

In addition, four other LGBTQ candidates for the Texas House won their primaries outright and will vie for seats in the November election. They are Madeleine Eden in District 17, Nelvin Adriatico in District 28, Justin Calhoun in District 73 and Shannon Elkins in District 98.

And Texas could have its first out state senator: Josh Tutt is running for state senate in District 18, which includes Victoria.

Civil rights attorney Jasmine Crockett won 60 percent of the vote in her bid to succeed Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson in Congress. She faced Jane Hope Hamilton who was an advisor to Rep. Martin Frost and had served as chief of staff for Rep. Marc Veasey.

James Rodgers defeated James Harris by just a few hundred votes for the Republican nomination for the District 30 seat. Crockett, who is backed by Johnson, is expected to win the seat handily in this heavily Democratic district.

Texas may also have its first LGBTQ member of Congress. Out candidate Claudia Zapata won her runoff with 63 percent of the vote over Ricardo Villareal for U.S. House District 21. The seat covers an area west of Austin and San Antonio and includes the state legislative district of Rep. Erin Zwiener, who is bi. The fed-

eral district is currently represented by Rep. Chip Roy.

Out candidate Mary Woods won her primary for the 17th Congressional District that includes Waco. She'll face Rep. Pete Sessions, who once claimed there were no gay people living in his district that included parts of Oak Lawn.

In statewide elections, Republicans chose corruption by a large margin. Ken Paxton, who has three securities fraud indictments pending against him and is being investigated by the FBI for malfeasance while in office, won his bid to run for a third term in a landslide.

His opponent, George P. Bush, current land commissioner and nephew and grandson of the Bush presidents, was late in getting his message on television. His charges of corruption didn't begin airing until early voting was over.

Paxton was running anti-Bush ads the week before early voting began charging Bush with being a liberal. The worst he could find was Bush wanted to make the plaza around the Alamo more historically accurate.

Dawn Buckingham won her race to run to replace Bush overseeing 13 million acres of state property as land commissioner.

Wayne Christian beat Sarah Stogner in the race for a seat on the railroad commission. Stogner came from behind in a crowded pack during the primary when she bared it all in a TikTok video that went viral and poured millions of dollars into her campaign.

On the Democratic side, Mike Collier will be the nominee for lieutenant governor. He beat state Rep. Michelle Beckley by about nine points.

Jay Kleberg is the nominee for land commissioner. Janet Dudding won her race to run for comptroller.

And Rochelle Garza will face Paxton in November in what promises to be a filthy fight for the position of attorney general. Garza won with an impressive 62 percent of the vote against Joe Jaworski who had higher family name recognition thanks to his grandfather who figured prominently in the Watergate investigation. ■

Demanding respect

DISCRIMINATION



Jermisha Frazier

Dallas woman wants compensation after confrontation with racist hotel employee

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Jermisha Frazier, who describes herself as a “5’10” Black, queer woman with a ‘fro,” is asking that Marriott Hotels pay her \$50,000 to cover the cost of culturally-competent therapy to deal with the aftermath of a racist encounter earlier this year with an employee at the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Dallas Park Central.

Frazier, who lives in Dallas and is the coordinator for the Women’s and LGBT Center at SMU University, said that she had reserved a room at the hotel for March 29 as a “bit of a staycation. I was just looking for a little relaxation, and because I stay at Marriott hotels frequently, I had the points to use for that.”

Frazier said that she arrived at the hotel, located at 9230 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, around 11:30 p.m. She said she walked up to the front doors carrying her luggage to find the door locked. There was a sign that said to ring the door bell, but when she couldn’t find the bell, she tried to get the attention of the front desk representative.

“He was standing there, doing whatever he could just to avoid making eye contact with me,” Frazier said. When he

RESPECT, Page 12

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Summer getaways

SUMMER 2022

One day and weekend things to do within driving distance in Texas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer, and it's time to start planning some weekend getaways — as well as things to do for a day.

Here are a few ideas that are mostly within driving distance of Dallas.

Go to the BEACH

Galveston is just 45 minutes south of Houston. From Dallas, head down I-45 and you'll be in the middle of downtown Galveston where the highway ends ... or, actually, where it begins.



Galveston, above, and The Yacht Club on Lake Ray Hubbard

The island features a number of beaches including one of the most popular — Stewart Beach. Volleyball nets are set up along the beach with the rides and roller coaster built over the water on a pier in the background.

Crystal Beach is seven miles long. Feel free to park directly on the sand. Nothing disturbs the Gulf view from here.

Galveston Island State Park covers acres of luscious landscape and features walking trails, bike trails, picnic tables, barbecue pits and sandy beach.

Stay in one of more than 300 hotels priced from budget to luxury, or rent a home at Beach Town Development just a short walk from the beach.

South Padre Island is another beach destination, though farther from Dallas. Access South Padre from the north side of the island near Corpus Christi and 100 miles south of there from Harlingen.

There is also Port Aransas on Mustang Island on the Texas coast. It's known for its beaches and fish-filled waterways as well as Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Cen-

GETAWAYS, Page 33



Dancing for a cause

METROBALL



Martha Wash

Disco legends Martha Wash, Thea Austin coming to Dallas For MetroBall

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

It's been a long two years without it, but MetroBall is back! The dance party that raises funds for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund is celebrating its 15th anniversary Friday, June 3, at S4 by kicking off Dallas

Pride Weekend with a giant disco bang (see the website at GDMAF.org for details).

This year's event features a trio of musical legends: '80s queen Tiffany headlines the show, joined by two icons of disco and LGBTQ allyship, Martha Wash and Thea Austin, along with local favorite, Chris Chism.

This week, we talk to Wash and Austin about their years not just as disco divas but as allies and supporters of the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities. Watch for our interview with Tiffany plus a lesson in MetroBall history

DANCING, Page 13

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finally opened the doors to let her in, she said, the man “had a bit of an attitude,” telling her she should have made a reservation in advance. She said she had done just that, but deciding she was not willing to deal with the man’s disrespect, she said, she told him to cancel her reservation and she would go elsewhere. He continued to argue with her, telling her she never had a reservation and refusing to give her the contact information for the hotel’s owner or management.

During that argument, Frazier said, “I can’t remember his exact words, but he made a negative comment about my natural hair. I said, ‘Well, that was a racist comment,’ and he just got irate. He came out from behind the counter and came at me.”

Frazier said that even though the employee was a smaller man and she is a larger woman, at that point she became concerned for her own safety. She said the man said he was going to call security, and she asked him to do that. Given interactions between police and Blacks

and other minorities in recent years, Frazier said she was not comfortable calling police.

Frazier said that as she and the employee were waiting for the security officer to arrive, she took out her phone and began to video the man’s behavior. “When security got there, I told him that [the front desk receptionist] had made a racist comment about my hair.”

At that point, she said, “He started coming right at me, yelling about how he wasn’t a racist, etc. You can see it on the video, the way he was coming out me. I asked him, ‘Did you or did you not make a comment about my hair?’ And he said, ‘Yep, I sure did, and it’s nappy.’”

Frazier said the security officer told the other man to give her the owner’s contact information, and when he finally did so, she walked out of the hotel with the security officer, “a male of color” who was “very apologetic about the way I had been treated, and he told me that the [front desk employee] would often treat him the same way.”

She said she believes the man’s perception of her sexual orientation also played a role in the way he treated her.

Frazier said she has spoken with the general manager of the Fairfield Inn & Suites, who told her that the employee had been fired. But that, she said, is “the bare minimum” response she wants to see. She said she has spoken with Marriott’s corporate office at least seven times — “They have on file that I have spoken with someone seven times” — and that she has also spoken with a representative of the risk management company that investigates claims for Marriott. That man was “not very empathetic and said he does not deal with stuff like this because there was no physical damage, no property damage.”

She said she has been offered Marriott points and that the risk management representative offered her “a couple hundred dollars.” But that is not sufficient to make up for the stress and trauma she endured, and for the hours she has had to take out of her work days since to try

and resolve the problem.

“I should never have had to experience such a traumatic moment. I have had to constantly relive this moment since then. They need to understand that this is not something that is ok, and that my feelings about what happened are valid,” Frazier said. “In this current climate when Black people, Black lives are discarded and disregarded and disrespected, I refuse to sit back and tolerate that. ... I demand to be compensated. I intend to get them to understand and believe that this was a real, valid experience, and that it is ongoing. It is still not over; it is lingering over me like a cloud.

“They gave me some points and closed my case,” she continued. “I never asked them for points; that won’t rectify this situation. They are ignoring me. I am a layperson, so they don’t care what I have to say. ... But I want Marriott to know this isn’t something I will just let go.” ■

Dallas Voice has contacted Marriott for a response but as of press time has received no response.

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DANCING From Page 11

from GDMAF founder David Hearn in our June 3 issue.

MARTHA WASH

Dallas Voice: Congratulations not only on your First Ladies of Disco tour but coming to Dallas for MetroBall. Martha Wash: Yes! Thank you. The First Ladies Of Disco Retro Music Box tour is going great. We launched the tour in Las Vegas just a few weeks ago to a full house, and now we are headed to The Wall Street Theatre in Norwalk Conn., June 30.

As for performing at this year's MetroBall, I couldn't be more pleased. There seems to be a great line-up. It's going to be a great night!

You and your songs clearly keep resonating with audiences. Did you ever have an idea of that when recording them?

Well, although you always hope that your audience will connect with your music, you can't always predict. You ask your fans to follow you on the journey you're on when you put out music. The more people that hear your music and engage,

the bigger the audience!

You are an LGBTQ icon. An LGBTQ advocate (thank you). And you've worked to bring awareness to HIV/AIDS issues. You're coming to Dallas for a big gay party basically. You've acknowledged all this before but where does it all stem from in your background? All through school, I knew of people who were gay (students and some of my teachers), so it didn't bother me. I liked or didn't like you because of who you were as a person, not your sexuality. I've never cared about that!

With the HIV/AIDS issues, it goes back to the '80s. There were so many people that we lost and nothing seemed to be done from the government except to say it was a "gay disease." The local communities took it upon themselves to care for and create hospices and clinics for the people that were dying. AMFAR came later. Nowadays thankfully, with the medications that are out and available, people are able to live a longer life and even thrive while living with HIV/AIDS.

How do you feel when you see audiences today still singing and dancing along to your songs that have become timeless



Thea Austin

club classics? I'm glad because we're both still here to do it, LOL. Think about it! Actually it's great because I've lived long enough that there are new generations that are finding out about my music and enjoying it. And to your point "It's Raining Men" will be turning 40 years old this Sept. 8, and to celebrate this milestone, I'm going to be kicking off a mini-tour for the whole month of September in celebration of the song's 40th anniversary where I hope to meet and party with old and new fans.

THEA AUSTIN

Dallas Voice: Firstly, you have been a big supporter of HIV/AIDS education and awareness. This is also MetroBall's mission. What drew you to the issue and can you talk about it still being relevant today? Thea Austin: Thank you, GDMAF, MetroBall, and MetroBall supporters for being who you are and for your outreach and care. It is an honor and a privilege to be invited to your event. I

DANCING, Page 27



The Fair Housing Ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in regards to:
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- For complaints regarding **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**;
- HOUSING**, including the rental and sale of housing and all other business practices related to a person's housing activities;
- EMPLOYMENT**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;
- PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION**, service in restaurants, theaters, retail store, and non-governmental public services (relative to sexual orientation only).

If you suspect discrimination in these areas and wish to file a complaint call:

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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.

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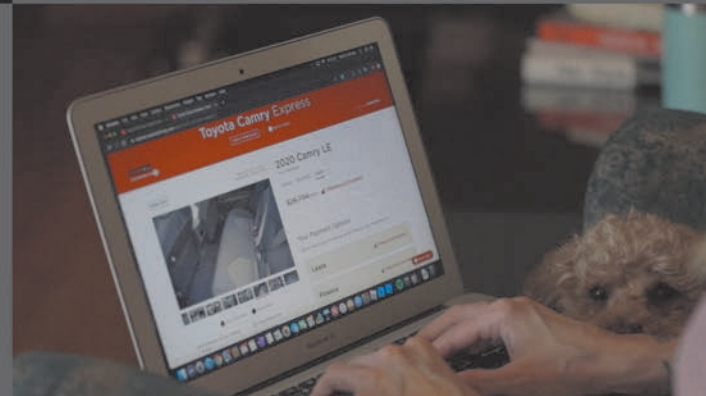


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Summer

Swimsuits and Sun

2022



SWIMSUITS & SUN

Suit up

It's time to begin lining up those looks for all those pool parties invitations. Can't decide on the best way to look cute and sexy this season? We got you covered — well almost.

Browse through these selections of suits by popular designers, many available at local shops, to inspire your summer style.

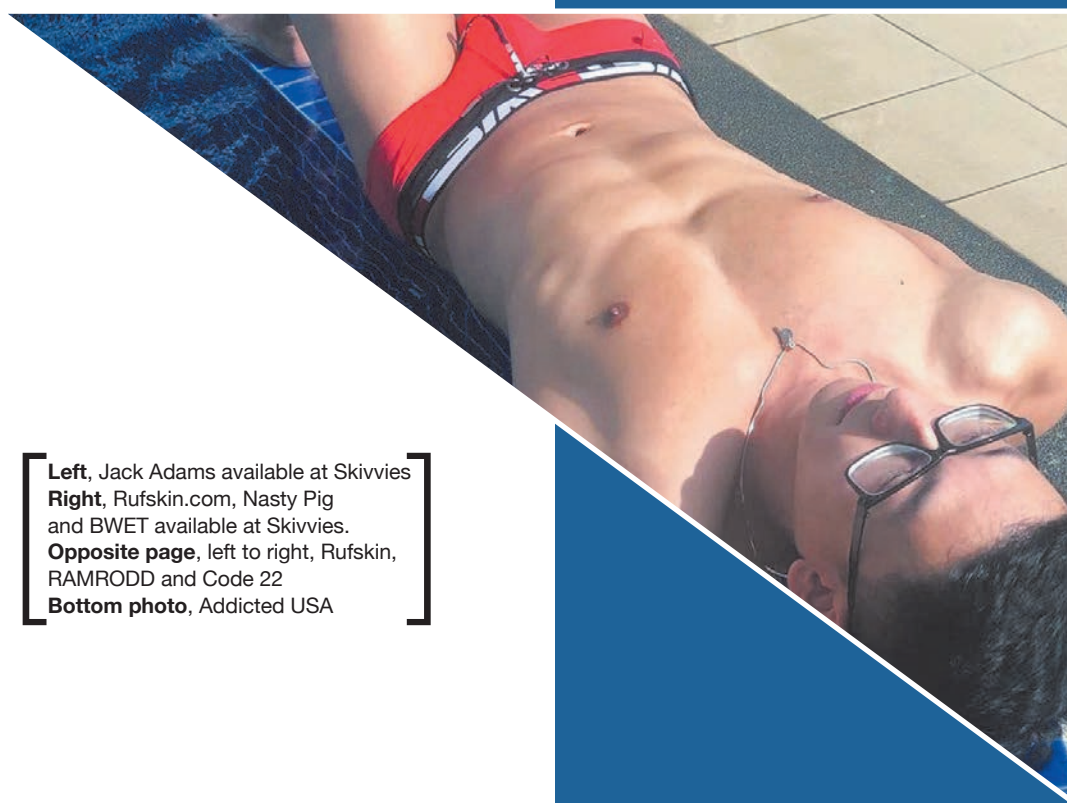


Right and below, AddictedUSA.com
Middle and far right, 2eros
Below far right, St33le available at Skivvies



Below, Andrew Christian
Middle, T&L at Outlines Menswear
Far right, Rufskin.com





Left, Jack Adams available at Skivvies
Right, Rufskin.com, Nasty Pig
and BWET available at Skivvies.
Opposite page, left to right, Rufskin,
RAMRODD and Code 22
Bottom photo, Addicted USA



Local lewks

A special thanks to Rob Acosta (@robacosta1_), Jason Morris (@jasonevermorr), Joey Robinson (@dallasjoey), A.J. Sepulveda (@dallasmuscleaj1) and Paul Spencer (@kingpaul-david) for their time to model a variety of swimwear. Additional thanks to Ramiro Rodriguez and Lenox Maplewood for the use of the pool and clubroom. (Photos by Rich Lopez and Chad Mantooth/Dallas Voice)

Clockwise from left, Joey in Addicted USA; Rob and Jason in RAMRODD available at RAMRODD.net; AJ and Paul in RAMRODD.

Opposite page, Rob in T&L from Outlines Menswear; Jason in RAMRODD Daddy tee; Paul in RAMRODD.



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Photos by Tammye Nash and Midora Smith
of Sapphire Chic Modeling Group
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Models: Cree Kell, Cecelia Rose,
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Going big

SWIMSUITS AND SUN



Dallas swimsuit designer Ramiro Rodriguez is a hit with his RAMRODD line

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Dallas designer Ramiro Rodriguez made a big splash at this year's Texas Bear Roundup, appropriately enough, with his swimsuit line RAMRODD. With his custom designs and a focus on larger sizes, Rodriguez sold out his entire inventory that weekend. He and his designs were a perfect fit for the bears, and it all started a couple of years ago when his then-partner couldn't find an affordable swimsuit in the right size.

"My partner at the time and I were going on vacation, and he could not find any cute swimwear. We shopped around locally and the sizes only went up to extra large," and he needed something larger, Rodriguez said by phone from his home studio.

When they finally did find a pair in his size, Rodriguez said, it set them back almost \$100.

And Rodriguez realized he had discovered an opportunity.

He was working in women's wear at the time, but after talking with his then-partner about the larger gay male and the limited options they had, Rodriguez came up with a plan.

"They struggle to find cute stuff that's affordable," he said of larger men. His plan was to ease that struggle. Two years later, he sold out TBRU.

Rodriguez's line offers swimsuits up to 3XL in what he describes as cute and fun prints. He wants his clients to feel just as cute in their swimsuits as the smaller guys, and he wants them to be comfortable, too.

"My first year, I did ok, and there was some pick up at the beginning of the year. But RAMRODD really took off at TBRU," Rodriguez said, noting that he had already been hustling RAMRODD primarily through pop-up shops and at Bear Happy Hour at the Round-Up Saloon.

Now, his line and his brand are growing. But he's also a one-man show. He is the one cutting patterns and buying fabrics and the one handling social media and advertising — the travails of being a small business owner.

"I don't have time these days it seems," he said. "I wake up and work until one or two in the morning. I'm

doing the website. I do a lot of custom orders as well."

One of RAMRODD's more unique features — particularly with it just being Rodriguez — is that he creates one-of-a-kind suits for his clients. Locals can visit him directly for consultation and measurements. Distant clients contact Rodriguez to begin figuring out how to execute what the client wants.

Some want rhinestones; others want spikes. Maybe a client prefers a particular design on the fabric. Whatever it is, Rodriguez will create what his clients request. And he posts his creations often on TikTok.

"A lot of my work is those orders, and it takes a bit of time. But I have a commitment to clients," he said.

Fashion was a big influence for Rodriguez from a young age. His grandmother was a seamstress in Mexico where he is from. He moved here 20 years ago, and in that time, he has taught himself how to sew, has received his bachelor's de-

gree in fashion from the Art Institute of Dallas and has been building and has started his own business.

He credits a long-time Oak Lawn tradition with his start in fashion: "The Halloween block party started all that for me. I created my own costumes every year and began creating costumes for other people," he said.

Although he's a one-man show for now, he's increased his line to include socks, tees and tanks. It may put more on his plate, but Rodriguez is playing the long game.

"It's a hard field to compete in, but I think I have some advantage by designing for the larger sizes," he said. "I'd love for my brand to become well-known and be that designer for the community. I feel like I'm just steering this all in the right direction."

Visit Rodriguez's designs on RAMRODD.net. See some of his creations in our Swimsuits & Sun section on pages 15-22 in this issue.



DANCING From Page 13

have been and I am a supporter of HIV/AIDS education and awareness because I care. I'm also aware that knowledge is power and essential for our existence. So, I've educated myself and made myself available over the years to be supportive.

The tragedies of this major global health issue have claimed the lives of my friends and the lives of over 30 million people around the world. Like many, I have endured the grief of the deaths of dear loved ones because of this virus. It has been a heartbreaking journey for my friends, and I know from experience how vital it was for my loved ones to have caring, understanding and supportive people to stand beside them in their time of need.

It is necessary for us to stand in the gap for all those that need support and love during their most challenging times. I'm so grateful for the advances in modern medicine that helps sustain the lives of some that are infected with HIV/AIDS, but I'm also aware that there is still no cure which means we still have to advocate on behalf of those that need our help.

Secondly, you are a club music legend which is always big among gay audiences. Why do you think disco is so timeless, but then also, how do you describe its evolution to today? Thank you for referencing me as a club music legend, as it is an honor to be the writer and singer of songs that uplift the human spirit and keep people dancing around the world. It's a beautiful thing to be a part

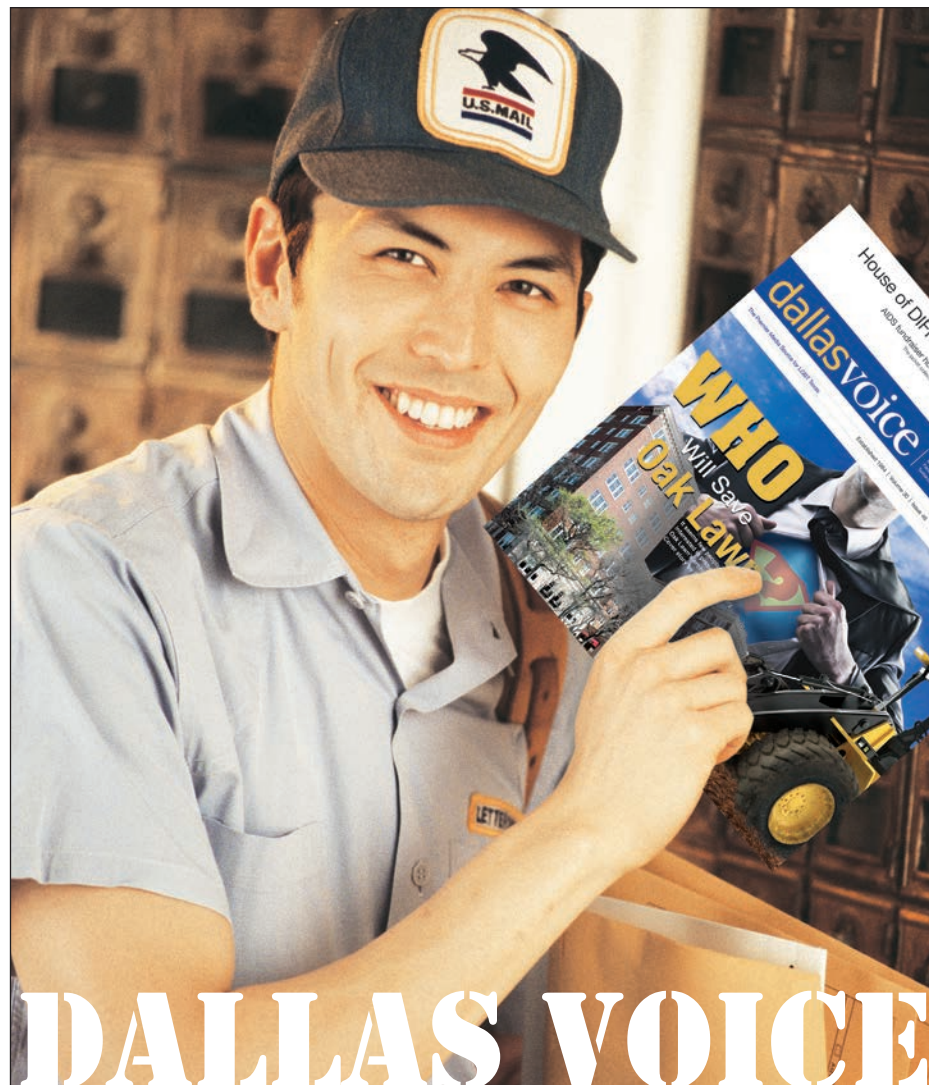
of sound that has healed me and healed other people. I'm so grateful for the producers, singers and songwriters of disco music as it is surely the powerful sound catalyst that paved the way for the newer sounds of dance music.

In answer to your question, I believe disco music is timeless simply because it sounds and feels so good. Period! There's an energetic pulse and soul-felt sound in disco music that is undeniably beneficial. Disco music was and still is the sound remedy for billions of people.

I think disco music has evolved over the years as sound technology has evolved and genres of music have been fused together. Back in the day, disco music was organically produced by so many talented, educated and experienced musicians, and now dance music is often produced by a talented one-man band using a dope-ass software program. Evolution.

How has your live performance evolved, and what can we anticipate to see here in Dallas? My live performances have evolved in that I'm more experienced, and experience is always the best teacher. You all can anticipate more love, more fun, more positive energy and more soul power from my performance at this year's MetroBall XV! I'll sing the hits and share something new, as I've been in the studio evolving and creating new music and mastering my skills as a music producer. Yay! New music is on the way!

Sending good vibes to all. One love.



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Steele time

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

Rocco Steele will lube up the Big D for Pride

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Folks and fans can get up close and personal with Rocco Steele here soon when the famed adult film star makes a live appearance during Pride for a meet-and-greet at Tapelenders on Friday, June 3, at 8 p.m. But he's also here for a bit of business.

As the face and founder of RIDE Body-Worx, Steele is introducing a new RIDE ROCCO product to the masses. This is a good year for Steele. Not only does he have a new product, his YouTube series

Just Oral has been renewed for a second season. The show is an open discussion about sex but also topics that affect the LGBTQ community.

Steele took a moment to talk about his new product and new season as well as heading here for his first Dallas Pride.

Dallas Voice: Let's start with why you'll be in Dallas. Can you talk about the new product and what makes it stand out?

Rocco Steele: We currently have a water-based lube and a pure silicone lube, but I've been hearing from my fans that they really wanted to see a hybrid formula from me. Well, they have spoken, and I'm giving them what they want. I'm excited to announce that my new hybrid lube is called RIDE ROCCO Seed. We have named this formula Seed for one obvious reason: It looks and feels like cum, which is a real crowd pleaser.

STEELE, Page 31



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It stands out from our competitors because, like all other RIDE BodyWorx products, RIDE ROCCO uses high quality ingredients that make an effective, well-made product. I always say that I need a lube to keep up and stay the course, and Seed does this. It feels wet, but not sticky. It's infused with 12 percent luxury silicone, so it's ultra-slick, and it lasts as long as I do, which is a pretty long time. I know my fans are going to love it.

What do we think we know about lubes that we should know more about for smart shopping? Ingredients matter. In general, a lube needs to do the obvious, which is make intercourse comfortable and pleasurable for both people and for self-pleasure. A lube also needs to be formulated to be long-lasting, which comes down to the formulation of the product. Nobody wants to stop and keep reapplying. Talk about a buzzkill.

When choosing a lube, you need to trust that the product isn't going to dry out fast and leave you hanging. If you're able to focus on the matter at hand and not be distracted by poor quality lubricant you're going to have a much better experience.

You'll be appearing at TapeLenders soon promoting the product. What's it like to engage with your fans? My fans mean the world to me. I know it sounds cliché, but I am nothing without my fans. They buy my videos, creator content, underwear and, of course, RIDE ROCCO. I

seize any opportunity I can to get out in public, meet them and show them how much I appreciate them for their support of my career.

You're sex-positive YouTube series Just Oral was renewed for a second season. What can we see in the new season that's different from the first? We're very excited to be greenlit for our third season which starts this coming fall. We've really hit our stride with producing this series and have selected topics that we believe have a tremendous appeal to a broad range of viewers. Obviously, our show revolves around gay sex, so we plan to continue bringing our viewers titillating guest and topics surrounding queer culture and — you guessed it — sex! Also, I want to mention that we have a special gay Pride episode airing in June that we shot on location in Puerto Vallarta. It's basically a big gay episode about bears and bear culture.

Open sex talk is a tricky thing. Some people are easy with it, some people are not. What would you like to see or inspire among people through the show? You're absolutely correct. For so many reasons, talking about sex is so taboo to many people in society. Our goal with Just Oral is to normalize how we, as queer people, talk about sex. There are so many topics to choose from. The rainbow community has a plethora of subcultures that have their own sexual identity, and my mission is to give these subcultures a platform to shine. In doing so, we can educate our community about everything wonderful and sexy these subcultures have to offer. And, hopefully, it inspires our viewers to practice acceptance of people different than themselves and encourages them to try new sexual experiences.

Dallas Pride kicks off this June. Since you'll be here, have you made your Pride plans? Oh, yes! This is not my first time in Dallas but it is my first Dallas Pride, so I plan to use my time here wisely. On Friday, June, I will be at Tapelenders for the official launch of my RIDE ROCCO Seed. On Saturday afternoon, I plan on making an appearance in the RIDE BodyWorx booth at the vendor market at Fair Park. I hope everyone at the festival stops by and says hi. Lastly, on Sunday, I'll be with Jade Jolie at Cedar Springs Tap House for our big Dick & Drag brunch. It's going to be a jam-packed weekend of appearances, giveaways, and hot Texas boys, and I cannot wait!

Visit @ridebodyworx on Facebook for more information about RIDE products and event information.

Carrollton Pride Celebration



June 4th
11am – 3pm
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We invite the citizens of all communities to meet, join the celebration, and get to know each other better... with a little glitter, good music, and food.

<https://tinyurl.com/CarrolltonPride2022>



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Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

ter. It's about a six-and-a-half-hour drive from Dallas, south on I-35 to Austin, then southwest on U.S. 183. There are also several airlines that go to Port Aransas, and you can take a train, to get there

Take a photo SAFARI

Take a car and camera safari through Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

Drive through acres of game preserve in a center that specializes in protecting endangered species. The herd of Grevy's zebras, for example, is the largest herd of that endangered mammal in the world.

Gazelle, bongo, deer, kudu, oryx and more walk right up to your car. Cheetah and other cats are behind a fence, but you can interact with giraffes who live in a large enclosure.

A ride through Fossil Rim takes a few hours, but overnight camping stays can be arranged.

From Dallas, take Highway 67 southwest. Fossil Rim is located three miles from Glen Rose, about an hour past Fort Worth. From 67, follow the signs.

If you're staying overnight, before leaving Glen Rose, stop at Dinosaur Valley State Park where preserved dinosaur tracks can be seen along some of the trails and dinosaur fossils have been found.

Go BOATING

North Texas offers a number of opportunities for boating without long travel times. Lake Ray Hubbard lies entirely within Dallas, but you'll have to drive through Mesquite or Garland and Rowlett to get there.

A number of boat launches are clus-

tered close to I-30 on both sides of the lake — in Garland and Rowlett on the west side and in Rockwall and Heath on the east side of the lake.

Looking for a larger lake? Cedar Creek Lake is one of the largest in Texas. Drive down Highway 175 and turn right on Hwy 274 to get to Seven Points or Gun Barrel City.

Lake Texoma, near Denison, straddles the Texas-Oklahoma border. Take U.S. 75 north from Dallas or for a more scenic route take Hwy 289 Preston Road till it dead ends in the town of Preston located on a peninsula that juts out into the lake. Several public marinas lie along or just off Preston Road.

If you are up for a slightly longer drive, head southeast to Toledo Bend Reservoir, which straddles the Texas-Louisiana border and is the largest lake in the South, or Lake Sam Rayburn, which is the largest man-made lake completely within the boundaries of Texas. There's plenty of room for boating there, and both lakes are known for fishing. The two are about a four-to-five-hour drive down Highway 69.

If you head east on I-30 for about an hour to Sulphur Springs then turn south on Highway 154, you'll find Lake Fork. It's not so much known for boating as it is for fishing: The biggest largemouth bass — 18.18 pounds of it — on record in Texas was caught in Lake Fork.

Go SWIMMING

Cedar Hill State Park has a designated "swim beach." Located along Joe Pool Lake, the park is at 6600 W. FM Road 1382 in Dallas just off Belt Line Road.

GETAWAYS, Next Page

Pride Block Party
Dallas Arts District

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GETAWAYS From Previous Page

The beach has picnic tables, grills and restrooms.

The park also features 350 campsites with restrooms and showers. Explore trails on foot or bike. And Joe Pool Lake is great for fishing for largemouth black bass, crappie and catfish. You don't need a fishing license to fish from the shore or one of the park's fishing jetties.

Try TUBING

Tubing down the Comal and Guadalupe rivers is what New Braunfels is known for. New Braunfels is about a four-hour drive from Dallas, less than an hour past Austin along I-35.

The Comal River is the shortest river in Texas at 2.5 miles long. Tubing

garden and the Crowe Collection of Asian Art.

Three other museums of note in Dallas are the Perot Museum of Nature and Science located on Field Street downtown, The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum in the West End on Houston Street and the wonderful African American Museum of Art in Fair Park.

Fort Worth is home to three superb art museums.

The Amon Carter Museum traces American art from colonial times to the present. The museum's collection of photography is the second largest in the U.S. after MOMA in New York.

The Modern is worth a visit just for the architecture, but the museum always has a special exhibit that compliments its ex-



Kimbell Museum, above, and tubing on the Comal River, below.

the length takes two to three hours and that includes tubing the chutes that go around the river's dams.

The Guadalupe River can take up to six hours for a leisurely float. No waterslides around dams in this river, but some rapids keep it exciting.

Visit a MUSEUM

Want to get out of the heat without going out of town? Spend an afternoon at a museum.

The Dallas Museum of Art features an encyclopedic collection of art from ancient Egypt to modern European and American painting. A special exhibit of Cartier jewelry is on view through the summer.

Along Flora Street in the Arts District are two other wonderful art museums — the Nasher with both an indoor sculpture collection and an outdoor sculpture



cellent permanent collection. Currently an exhibit of women artists is on view.

And the internationally renowned Kimbell Art Museum has an excellent collection of art from medieval through Impressionism. And its special exhibits are world class. ■

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GAY AGENDA



You've got one weekend left this year to "travel back in time" with the cast, crew, performers — such as the amazing Moor of Dundee (aka Leza Mesiah), pictured here — and vendors of Scarborough Renaissance Festival, so make the best of it. The festival, located at 2511 FM 66, just off I-35 in Waxahachie, is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 28-30, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Head on out this weekend for one more show, one more show and one more turkey leg until next year.

HERE COMES PRIDE!



Pride Month 2022 starts in less than a week, and it is jam-packed full of rainbow-colored fun. Here are a few of the highlights of the first

weekend of Pride:



DANCE THE HOUSE DOWN

MetroBall — the throwback dance party benefitting The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund — returns after a two-year pandemic-forced absence with a line-up of talent sure to get you on the dance floor at S4 on Friday night, June 3. Eighties superstar Tiffany is the headliner, with Thea Austin and LGBTQ icon Martha Wash also on the bill. Local fave Chris Chism is the opener. Check calendar listings for details.

SATURDAY FESTIVITIES



The Dallas Pride Miller Lite Music Festival is back, starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at Fair Park. The Family Pride Zone and Teen

Pride both are part of the festival, along with vendors and entertainment galore, including headliner Shangela and a mile-long line-up of local entertainers. You don't want to miss it! The Women's Chorus of Dallas presents its DIVAS fundraiser Saturday night at 7 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts. Head northwest to for Carrollton Pride from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at Horizon UU church, and west on Saturday night for Jade Jolie performing at Urban Cowboy Saloon in Fort Worth. Go east Saturday for Longview Pride at Heritage Plaza in downtown Longview, and even further east for ShrevePride at Shreveport's A.C. Steere Park. Check the calendar listings for details on admission and more.

PRIDE ON PARADE



The Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade is back!

The parade, with more than 100 entries, steps off at 2 p.m. inside Fair Park at the Coliseum, then circling the Cotton Bowl, and passing in front of the Hall of State before winding up back in front of the Coliseum. And for those looking for something a little more sedate for the wee ones, PriDenton, in collaboration with Spiderweb Salon and Outreach Denton, is hosting Pride Storytime Sunday at 3 p.m. at Denton UU Fellowship. Check listings for details

PLAN YOUR WEEK

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

MAY

■ Through May 30: Scarborough Renaissance Faire

The annual Renaissance Festival concludes this weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. \$28. SRFestival.com.

■ May 30: Memorial Day

■ May 31: PrimeTimers

Last Tuesday lunch at 11 a.m. at Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road.

■ May 31-June 12: Oklahoma

Dallas Summer Musicals presents Oklahoma at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

JUNE

■ June 2: ALZ Pride: Voices of the LGBTQ Community

The Alzheimer's Association presents the webinar ALZ Pride: Voices of the LGBTQ Community, featuring a discussion around

Alzheimer's and dementia in the LGBTQ community, featuring Clint Kershaw, who is living with mild cognitive impairment, and his partner, Jeff; Reynaldo Mireles with SAGE and Dan Stewart with HRC. Webinar begins at 5 p.m. Register now at bit.ly/ALZPride.

■ June 2: Pride Night of Poetry

Artitude presents an evening of poetry hosted by spoken word artist Lady BSmooove with music by DJ Unladylike. Participating Artists are Ofelia Faz Garza, Poetix Guru, Thomasin X, Princess, C.R.U.S.H. and a drag performance by Mayra D. Lorenzo. Special guest and Dallas Poet Laureate Joaquin Zihuatanejo will be present with special performance by Chibbi. From 7:30-9 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Tickets at Eventbrite.

■ June 2: PFLAG Fort Worth

Fort Worth Chapter of PFLAG meets the first Thursday each month by Zoom and/or in person at 6:45 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. PFLAGFortWorth.org.

■ June 3: Music in the Square

The free concert summer series is a family-friendly event with local musicians performing each Friday in June. 7 p.m. through June 24 at Frisco Square's Simpson Plaza, 8843 Coleman Blvd. FriscoSquare.com.

■ June 3: MetroBall

The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund kicks off Dallas 2022 Pride Weekend with the 15th annual MetroBall, featuring headliner Tiffany, along with Martha Wash, Thea Austin and Chris Chism. Fundraiser for GDMAF at S4. \$40. 7 p.m.

■ June 4: Dallas Pride's Miller Lite Music Festival

The Dallas Pride Miller Lite Music Festival takes place in the Centennial Building, the Automobile Building and the Esplanade at Fair Park. The festival begins at 11 a.m. Events in the Centennial Building and the vendors will be open until 7 p.m.; Family Pride Zone and Teen Pride, both in the Automobile Building, are open until 6 p.m., the festival events and concerts take place in the Esplanade until 9 p.m. Admission is free for children 12 and under, admission for teens ages 13-19 is \$5 and admission for those 20 and older is \$10. Visit DallasPride.org for details and to purchase tickets.

■ June 4: Carrollton Pride

Carrollton Pride Celebration is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 Hebron Parkway, Carrollton. Visit [Facebook.com/events/926718201339975](https://www.facebook.com/events/926718201339975) for more information.

■ June 4: Jade Jolie

Jade Jolie from RuPaul's Drag Race and Boulet Brothers Dragula at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ June 4-12: Newsies

Presented at Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. TicketMaster.com.

■ June 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas presents DIVAS

Divas is a fundraiser for TWCD. Doors open at 7 p.m. for dessert, drinks and silent auction. Music at 8 p.m. Auction closes at 10:30 p.m. at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

■ June 4 and 11: Longview Pride

Live Out Loud Longview will continue its Family Style Event in the park on June 4. Pride East Texas Longview's Pride Festival on June 11, at Heritage Plaza in downtown Longview at the heart of Longview's Arts and Cultural District.

■ June 4: ShrevePride

ShrevePride hosts Field Gay, a day of outdoor intramural sports competitions designed to foster community and teamwork, with check in at 9 a.m. and games beginning at 10 a.m. at Shreveport's A.C. Steere Park. ShrevePride.com.

■ June 5: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

The 39th Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade steps off at 2 p.m. inside Fair Park. The parade will begin at the Coliseum, circle the Cotton

Bowl and pass in front of the Hall of State before returning to the Coliseum. Admission is free. Parking in the State Fair parking lots is \$10. The DART Rail Green Line goes to Fair Park.

■ June 5: Dicks & Drag

Ride BodyWorx and Cybersocket present Country Diva Pride Brunch from noon-2 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, No. 101. Raquel Blake and Daphne Rio host, with special guests Rocco Steele and Jade Jolie.

■ June 5: Pride Storytime

PriDenton presents Pride Storytime in collaboration with Spiderweb Salon and Outreach Denton at 3 p.m. at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St., Denton.

■ June 7, 14: The Golden Girls

Six episodes of The Golden Girls, including two with Blanche's gay brother, will screen at 7 p.m. at local AMC and Cinemark theaters.

■ June 7: PrimeTimers

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

■ June 7: 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.

■ June 8: Same-sex spouse grief group

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

■ June 10: Silky N. Ganache

Silky N. Ganache from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 11 and All Stars 6 at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ June 10 and 11: SPRING by Bruce Wood Dance

BWD's newest program will feature the world premiere of *When The Sky Fell Purple* by Chicago-based choreographer Stephanie Martinez, the mainstage premiere of Joy Bollinger's *Slip Zone Suite* and Bruce Wood's *The Rite of Spring*. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. BruceWoodDance.org.

■ June 11: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBTA golf organization, plays Luna Vista, 11223 Luna Rd., Dallas. First tee time 9:30 a.m. Poolside cookout to follow. \$63 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or communications@dsgadallas.org.

■ June 11: North Texas Pride

Pride celebrated in Collin County.

■ June 11: Longview Pride

Pride East Texas Longview's (theme, Longview Pride Reboot 2022) Pride Festival from 2-8 p.m. at Heritage Plaza in downtown Longview at the heart of Longview's Arts and Cultural District.

■ June 11: Grayson County Pride

Come shop several local vendors and small businesses, enjoy entertainment and bands at the main pavilion, food trucks, water slide, Grayson County Pride merch pop-up shop, and more from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pecan Grove Park West, 3200 Canyon Creek Drive, Sherman.

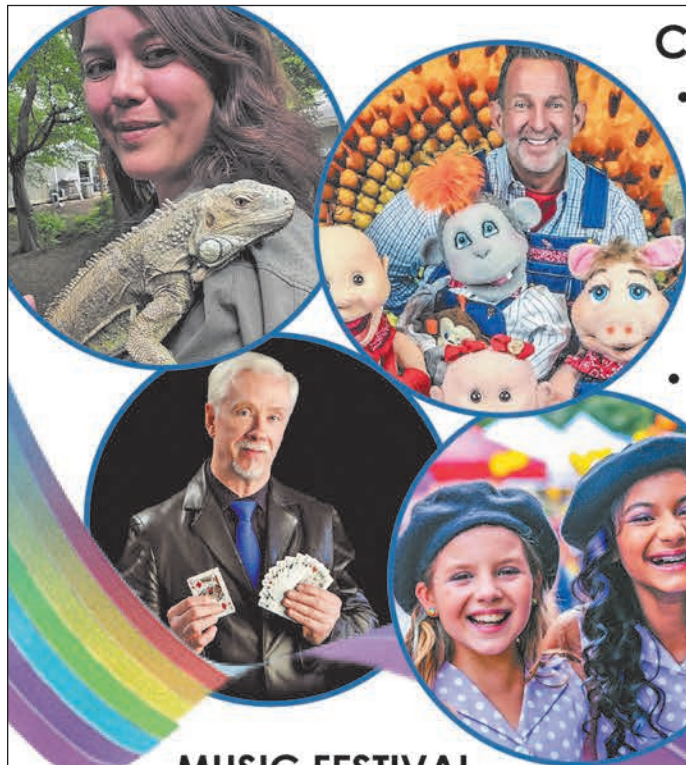
■ June 11: Pride Night Lights Rave

Pride Night Lights Rave at 10 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ June 11: Bastrop Pride

Bastrop Pride holds its first Pride in the Park, a family-friendly event at Fisherman's Park, 1200 Willow St., Bastrop, 3-7 p.m. Visit the Facebook event page for more information,

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



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ASK A DRAG QUEEN

My shady mom and a closeted gay boy

Hello my babies. I hope this day finds you well. In this week's episode of brain vomit, I will entertain you with some of the stuff that has happened to me over the past few weeks. It's nothing major, just random shit that I found funny.

The first involves THE BRENDA LOVE, my mother. I have called my momma "Brenda Love" for years. I don't think she likes it much; neither does my husband. He is always on me to call her Mom. Me being the annoying man-child that I am, once I know something bothers you slightly, it is hard for me to let it go. So, I called Brenda Love a few days before Mother's Day to let her know that I couldn't come out to see her on that Sunday but wanted to take her to lunch on the Saturday before. She didn't answer so I sent it in a text.

Later that day — by the way it was Cinco de Mayo — we went to Mia's on Lemmon for my friend Justin's birthday celebration. Between the mango margaritas and the carne asada I was in heaven. We were there really early to beat the rush, and we timed it perfectly. We got in, ate and drank then got out with time to spare because we were headed to see *Mean Girls The Musical*. We had time to stop at JR's for another quick round of drinks before we headed to Fair Park.

In the car on the way to Fair Park, my mom calls. I put it on speaker so everyone in the car can hear our conversation. I say, "Well hello Brenda Love."

(Sidenote: Y'all know I am country as fuck. Y'all have heard me emcee, and I have a bit of a southern twang to my voice. Well, I get that 100 percent from my momma. Her voice is so country that even I make fun of it, and I obviously have no business making fun of anyone else's twang. I have done my impersonation of my momma for my friends many times over the years, and it is dead on. The sad thing is, I don't even change my voice that much; it is almost my regular voice. I sound just like her.)

Anywho, our conversation continues, and we decide she is going to meet me in Waxahachie that Saturday, and I will take her some place nice for Mother's

Day. At one point she asks if I have been drinking, and I was like, "Me? No way!" And of course, everyone in the car starts laughing. She very smugly states that she knew it, she could hear it in my voice.

After a few more minutes of us gossiping about family members, I tell her bye and that I love her. She tells me bye and that she loves me bunches.

A few seconds later, I turn to my friend Ross who is in the back seat and say, "I told you she was country as fuck." He laughs and says, "Baby, you were not lying." We laugh and then I tell him, "Now you see how good of an impression I do of Brenda Love."

Then I go right into my mom's voice saying, "Oh well, whatareya gonna do?" My husband chimes in with, "I don't have anything bad to say about his mom; she loves me." I then say, "She loves you more than she loves me."

We all giggle ... Then we hear this ominous voice coming through my speakers: "I am still here!"

Bitch, we fell the fuck out! We all started laughing with our cracked faces. She had done let us have it. I was like, "Oh shit, did I say anything too bad?" Then she said, "I figured I better say sumthin' before y'all said sumthin' too bad."

I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. It was out of embarrassment and shame, but that shit was still funny.

That Saturday when I took her to lunch, she just laughed at me. She knew she had gotten me good, and, as a son, if you don't do an impression of your mother, do you even love her? I love my forgiving, shady mother.

I learned a great lesson that day: Make sure you hang up the phone before you start stalking shit about your ma.

Just a few minutes later, as we were walking to our seats for *Mean Girls*, another memorable thing happened. There were six of us gays sitting together that evening. Two couples — myself and Jamie, Justin and Zeek — and another couple of queens. One is a drag queen and the other is almost always the most well-dressed guy in the room. So, when you see us all together, there is no doubt that we are of the rainbow persuasion.

As we make it down the aisle to our seats Jamie is holding my hand. The young people sitting behind us immedi-



ately start eyeing each other to see if the others are seeing this parade of fabulosity. There was a girl — maybe 16 — next to a boy — maybe 14 — and a couple of other young-uns. They were wide-eyed and snickering as we sat in our seats.

As soon as I sat down, I whipped my head around to them and asked, "So, who in your group is the Regina George?" We were seeing *Mean Girls* after all. The 14-year-old boy quickly said, with hate and malice, "I don't know who that is?"

First off, bullshit. Secondly, I could tell from that one little sentence that that little boy was a big ol' sissy.

Wait, did that sound rude? That young man was destined for the gayborhood. He was gaaaaaaayay.

I politely told him, "Oh okay. I know which character you are!" Then I gave a little neck wiggle and an eye roll and whipped my head back around, so as not to acknowledge them anymore. I hope he doesn't grow up to be one of those self-hating homos.

On a serious note, three songs into *Mean Girls: The Musical*, I am boo-hooing. I got super emotional. The third song is called "Where Do You Belong," sung by the character Damian, an out gay boy in high school. The song is funny and relevant.

What made me emotional is that this song was written for a young, possibly effeminate boy to sing.

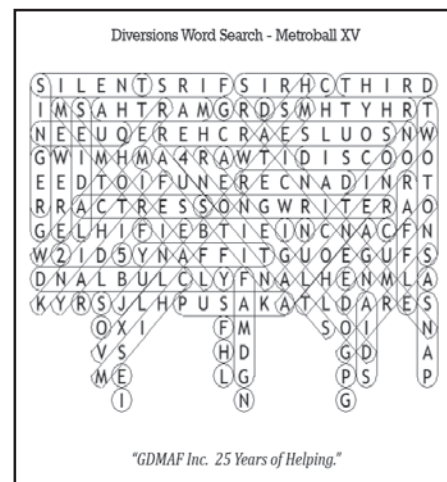
When I was in high school and think-

ing of pursuing acting and theater, one of the things that kept me from doing theater was that I would never get great parts. I was always a little girly with a little too much swish in my steps. If I could have seen that musical with that song in my teens, I could only imagine what may have been different for me.

I cried for my generation missing out, and I also cried with pride for the opportunities that are out there today for our gay community. I am getting so soft in my old age.

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

word search solution



this week's solution



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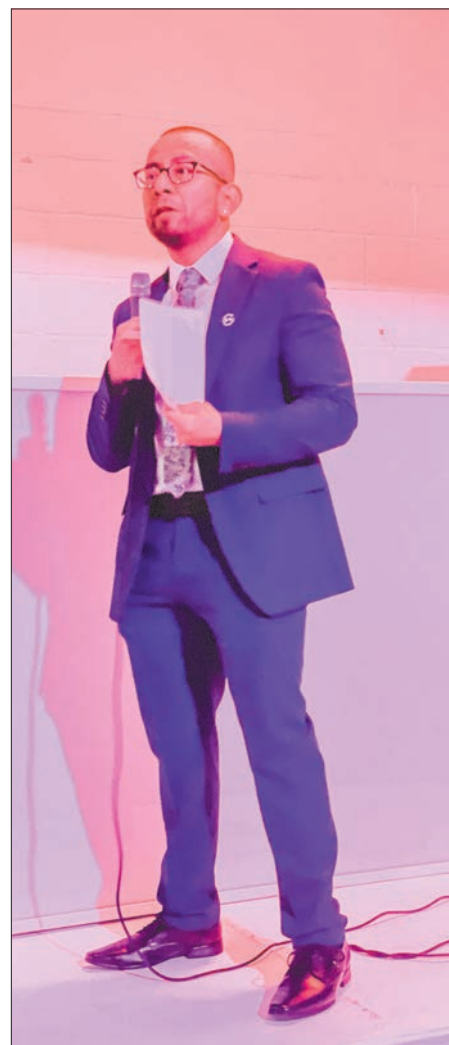
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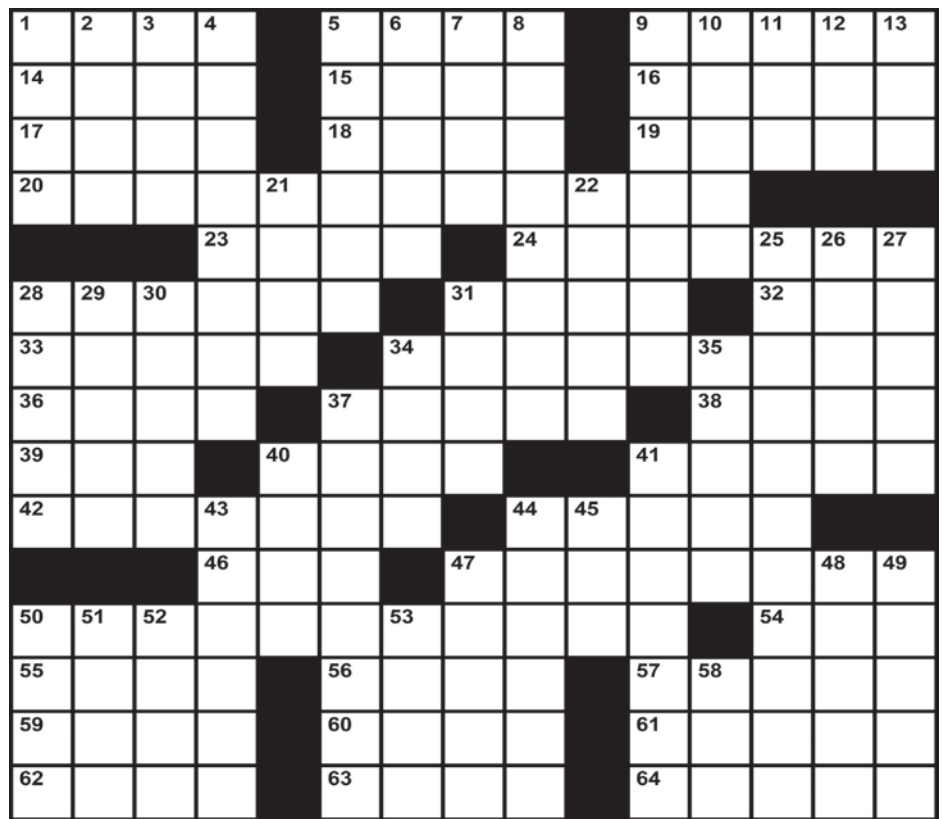
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Solution on Page 38

WORD SEARCH

Diversions Word Search - Metroball XV

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



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 I M S A H T R A M G R D S M H T Y H R T
 N E E U Q E R E H C R A E S L U O S N W
 G W I M H M A 4 R A W T I D I S C O O
 E E D T O I F U N E R E C N A D I N R T
 R R A C T R E S S O N G W R I T E R A O
 G E L H I F I E B T I E I N C N A C F N
 W 2 I D 5 Y N A F F I T G U O E G U F S
 D N A L B U L C L Y F N A L H E N M L A
 K Y R S J L H P U S A K A T L D A R E S
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- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Metroball XV | Martha/Wash | Tiffany | Thea/Austin | (Emcee) Chris/Chism |
| Friday/June/Third | Weather/Girls | Singer | Snap | Silent/Auction |
| (at) Station 4 | Two Tons/O' Fun | Songwriter | "Rhythm (Is A) | Raffle |
| (Benefiting) GDMAF | First/Ladies/(of) Disco | Actress | "Dancer" | (WNBA Dallas Wings) |
| Greg/Dollgener | "(It's) Raining Men" | "I Think/We're | Soutsearcher | (Pride Game) |
| Memorial/AIDS/Fund | (The) Queen/(of) Clubland | Alone Now" | Pusaka | (June 25th) |

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

Solution on Page 38

Across

- Tracey of *Growing Pains*
- Frequent Trump portrayer Baldwin
- Former *American Idol* judge Abdul
- Morales of *Resurrection Blvd.*
- Japanese attack word
- Boneheads or tails
- Peace Nobelist Wiesel
- Larry Kramer and classmates
- Wonder Woman* star Carter
- Start of a Tallulah Bankhead quote
- Diana or Betsy
- B. or D. to Wong
- Lesbians ___!*
- Rainbow shapes
- Long in the field of acting
- Dorothy, to Em
- More of the quote
- Not so exciting
- De-Lovely* star Kevin
- Sappho's H's
- D.C. summer clock setting
- What we eat
- Dull surface
- More of the quote
- Take a breather

46 In addition

- Cut
- End of the quote
- Threesome for Marcella Hazan
- Poet Kitty
- Humorist Bombeck
- Dress with a flared bottom
- Respondents to 911
- Elite Navy diver
- You'll ___ Walk Alone*
- Sexy clothing material
- The ___ the limit!*
- They go down south for the winter

Down

- Went right in the field
- City where Dick Button won gold
- Reclined, for Nathan?
- Marlene of *Blonde Venus*
- Private's position
- Dangles
- Lutheran gay minister Christensen
- Like some stomachs
- One who gives hand jobs?
- To date, but not to go out with
- Mil. sub-division?

- Ran first
- Nutty fruitcake center?
- Big bag
- When actors should come
- Like a partner who causes gayngst
- Get a bead on
- Return to homophobia, e.g.
- Where some may lie
- Comedienne Radner
- Come a bottom
- Somewhat
- Break ___!*
- Cut out
- It's from the heart
- Break bread
- Stallion on the range, maybe
- Like Liberace's mansion
- Organ appendages
- ___ live and breathe!*
- Wallace running mate
- Sea eagles
- Brand for cutting leaves of grass
- Ellen and Anne, once
- "Woe ___!" (*Hamlet*)
- Testicles
- Star journey for George Takei
- Writer Harper

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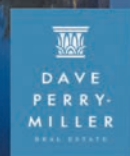
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