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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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## In Memory; In Mourning

World AIDS Day coverage, page 11; A tribute to the victims of Club Q, page 10

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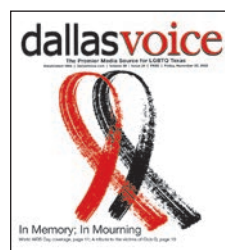


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Cover design by Kevin Thomas

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 Jonathan Vogel, DDS

TOGETHER WITH  
**P R I D E**



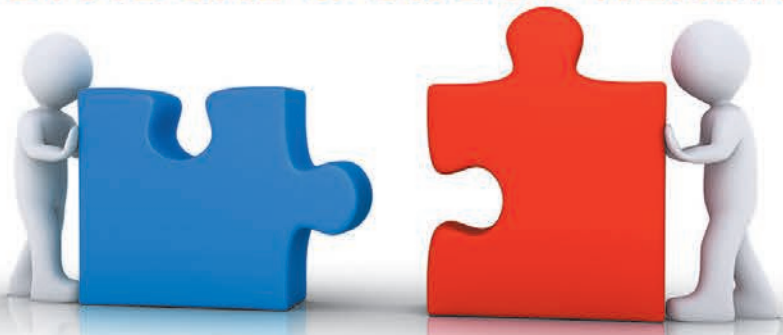
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# Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



Anderson Aldrich and his mother, Laura Voepel, in July this year

## Club Q: The shooting and its aftermath

Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, has been charged with five counts of murder and five counts of committing a bias-motivated crime causing bodily injury in connection with the Saturday night, Nov. 19, shooting at the Colorado Springs LGBTQ bar Club Q that left five people dead and at least 18 wounded (original reports that 18 were injured was later changed to 25 injured, then changed back again to 18 injured).

Police recovered a semi-automatic long rifle and a handgun at the scene and said both belonged to the gunman. The long rifle was used in the attack.

The charges against Aldrich were preliminary, and prosecutors had not filed formal charges in

court yet, according to the Associated Press. The hate crime charges would require proving that the gunman was motivated by bias, such as against the victims' actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Local and federal authorities during a Monday, Nov. 21, news briefing declined to answer questions about why hate crime charges are being considered, citing the ongoing investigation, AP reports.

The five people killed in the shooting are Daniel Aston, 28, who had worked at the club as a bartender and entertainer; Derrick Rump, 38, another club bartender who was known for his quick wit and adopting his friends as his family and who often performed there in drag; patron Kelly Loving, 40, who was described by her sister as "caring and sweet" and by a friend as her "trans mother" who took care of others; Ashley

Paugh, 35, a mother who helped find homes for foster children; and Raymond Green Vance, who had just gotten a new job at a Colorado Springs FedEx distribution center and was, his friends and family said, "a kind, selfless young adult with his entire life ahead of him."

Thirteen victims remained hospitalized Monday, Nov. 21, officials said, while five people had been treated and released. Among them was one person whose injury was not a gunshot wound and another victim who had no visible injuries, they said. Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers said there was "reason to hope" all of the hospitalized victims would recover.

him to the ground. Fierro then took a handgun from the shooter and used it to beat him into submission.

Another patron of the bar, identified as Thomas James, ran over to take the long rifle, which the gunman had dropped when Fierro tackled him, to make sure the gunman was not able to get it back. Another person — initially identified as a drag queen but later as a transgender woman who had performed in the drag show — also went to Fierro's aid, using her high-heeled shoes to kick and stomp the gunman, according to reports.

Aldrich was hospitalized with unspecified



Bouquets of flowers sit on a corner Monday, Nov. 21, near the site of the Nov. 19 mass shooting at Club Q. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Authorities have credited the actions of retired Army officer Richard Fierro, who was with his wife Jessica, daughter Kassy, Kassy's boyfriend Raymond Green Vance and other friends to watch the drag show. When the shooting started, Fierro ran toward the gunman, grabbing him by the back of his military-style flak jacket and pulling

injuries until Tuesday, Nov. 22, when he was released and booked into El Paso County Jail. On Wednesday morning, Nov. 23, multiple news outlets were reporting that Aldrich is nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns, according to his attorneys said. Many online commenters, however, have noted that Aldrich was known to frequently

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use anti-LGBTQ slurs and that claims now that he is nonbinary are just a ploy to escape hate crimes charges.

An article by CNN, updated Wednesday, Nov. 23, details Aldrich's troubled background, including the fact that his primary caregiver throughout his life has been his grandmother, with whom he lived in Colorado Springs, and that his mother, Laura Voepel, has long suffered with addiction and mental health issues and has had several run-ins with the law. Aldrich was arrested in June 2021 in Colorado Springs after his mother reported he had threatened her with several weapons and with a homemade bomb. No bomb or weapons were found at the time, and the charges were dropped.

CNN also reports that Aldrich was born in May 2000 under the name Nicholas F. Brink, to Voepel and her then-husband, Aaron Brink, a mixed martial arts fighter and porn actor who also has a criminal record. Aldrich spent at least part of his childhood in Texas, and he was living here when, at the age of 15, he had his name legally changed after being bullied and harassed on an online parody website.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, queer businesswoman Summer Westerbur, who divides her time between Colorado and Florida, announced she had established a GoFundMe page to raise money to build a new Pride Center in Colo-

rado Springs. The new center, she wrote, will "provide a dedicated safe space to provide life-affirming services to the LGBTQ community of Colorado Springs. ... Colorado Springs Pride Center closed in 2015. There is a need for LGBTQ-competent support and services. The victim's families [from the Club Q shooting] will have ongoing needs, and the community will need a space to process this trauma. ..."

GoFundMe has established a hub page listing verified fundraisers for victims of the Club Q shooting, including those who were injured and the families of those who were killed. As of Wednesday morning, Nov. 23, at Dallas Voice's early holiday press deadline, the nine verified fundraisers listed on the hub had brought in more than \$866,000.

The shooting at Club Q is the sixth mass killing in November, and it happened just six months after 21 elementary school students were murdered in a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

For many in the LGBTQ community, the Club Q brought back heart wrenching memories of the 2016 massacre at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that killed 49 people and injured at least that many more.

— From Staff and Wire Reports

BITES, Page 24

## ■ Adoptable / CLEOPATRA



Meet Cleopatra, the queen of cat condo! Actually, she is a somewhat timid little kitty who is hoping for the perfect home while she waits at the SPCA of Texas. Cleopatra is almost 4 years old and weighs a mere 7 pounds. She is covered in a regal black coat with big yellow eyes. She was seized from an animal cruelty case back in May, so her starting out point in life was a little shaky. Her ideal home will be calm and serene while she adjusts to the new

environment. Rambunctious kiddos can be very frightening for her, so a home with children over 12 who can be respectful of a cat's needs is best.

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. The Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center is open to the public seven days a week, noon-6 p.m. Appointments are required for foster animals and animal housed in the Russell E. Dealey Animal Rescue Center. Please browse available animals at [SPCA.org/FindAPet](http://SPCA.org/FindAPet) and visit [SPCA.org/DogAdopt](http://SPCA.org/DogAdopt) to inquire about a dog or [SPCA.org/CatAdopt](http://SPCA.org/CatAdopt) to inquire about a cat.

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# VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

## This is NOT a ‘tragedy’

Merchants of death-speech continue to egg on crimes against humanity such as the Club Q shooting

The murderous attack on the patrons of Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado over the weekend is far more ominous and deadly than mainstream media can acknowledge in their coverage.

Let’s be clear about this: The majority community speaks of this attack as a “tragedy” and attaches all sorts of modifiers to it — “sad,” “terrible,” “uncalled for.” But the reality of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes like this is far more horrible than any mere “tragedy.”

The truth is, this is an outrage against all Americans, a crime against humanity with the gravity of a war crime — a full blown expression of egged-on hatred that must be denounced!

It is NOT a “tragedy.” Tragedies exist in literature and on the stage. A tragedy leads to a “catharsis,” a purging of emotion that salves the conscience and lifts the burden of guilt and shame from an audience.

This is bloody-minded hatred and an outrage against justice targeting real, flesh-and-blood people.

Instead of causing the merchants of death-speech to reflect on the effects of their reckless language — calling drag performers “groomers,” and the LGBTQIA+ community “pedophiles,” — and then reining in their incitement to violence, the entrepreneurs of bigotry are doubling down on their nonsense, threatening escalating attacks on our communities and allies.

Social media has not done anything sufficient to throttle back the virus of online hate speech. Political careerists and cynical hate organizations see this moment as a chance to cash in on the ugly underbelly of American loathing. Millions of dollars are being made by nailing queer scapegoats to the cross of twisted religion and white supremacy.

Like Pontius Pilate, Gov. Abbott, Sen.



The Rev. Stephen Sprinkle  
Special Contributor

Cruz, and their cronies are just as culpable as Gov. DeSantis, Lauren Boebert, Marjorie Taylor Greene and two-time loser Donald Trump. They want

Springs, any more than there has been for the victims of the Orlando Pulse Night Club Massacre, or, nearer to home for us, the epidemic of deadly attacks on transwomen of color in Texas.

Many of us may be tired of calling out wave after wave of malefactors who target the Rainbow Community with their baseless charges and fear mongering. I get it. But we cannot afford the luxury of sitting this moment of outrage out. Where is OUR passion? Where is OUR resolve? If we do not demand justice for our community, and learn how to speak out truthfully about

Words are the way the monsters of hate are let loose, and words DO hurt us! Changing language changes minds and hearts.

Let newscasters hear from us that calling death and dismemberment on our dance floors “tragedies” just won’t cut it any more. Call out the link between hate speech and anti-LGBTQIA+ terrorism in every news cycle.

Lives have been brutally snuffed out. A whole community has been besieged by right-wing deadly intent. The people targeted by this monstrous act of violence deserve more than sympathy.



People gather around a memorial Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, for the victims of Saturday’s fatal shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colo. (Christian Murdock/The Gazette via AP)

to wash their hands clean of the blood their hate-filled rhetoric sheds, but their hands still bear the stain of guilt no matter how hard they scrub.

Reckless language sanctions more attacks. There is no catharsis for the dead on the dance floor and the wounded in intensive care beds in Colorado

the consequences of tepid “hopes and prayers” language from the American public, how can we expect others to join us to change it?

People’s lives depend on it. Perhaps even our own.

Clean up the language that lets lawmakers and civic leaders off the hook!

This is an outrage that demands redress. ■

*Stephen V. Sprinkle is emeritus professor of Practical Theology, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, and theologian-in-residence at The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, Dallas.*

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- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
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# In memory of those lost, in honor of those injured, with gratitude for the heroes, **WE STAND WITH CLUB Q**



Victims of the Club Q shooting are, from left, Ashley Paugh, Daniel Aston, Derrick Rump, Kelly Loving and Raymond Green Vance

On Saturday, Nov. 19, shortly before midnight, a gunman, armed with a semi-automatic long gun and a handgun, walked into the LGBTQ bar Club Q in Colorado Springs and opened fire. He killed five people and caused at least 25 others to be wounded.

The list of casualties would be much longer if not for the quick thinking and bravery of Army veteran Richard Fierro, who tackled the gunman, disarmed him and used the shooter's handgun to disable him. Patron Thomas James came to Fierro's assistance, getting the long gun out of the shooter's reach. And an as-yet unnamed transgender woman stepped in to kick and stomp the shooter, using her high heels as her weapon, to help Fierro subdue him.

Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, has been charged with five counts of murder and multiple charges of hate-motivated assault in the terrorist attack.

Dallas Voice stands with Club Q and with our LGBTQ community and allies around the world in condemning the violence that took the lives of those five victims at Club Q and left the others there that night with injuries, whether physical, mental or emotional. And we condemn the hate speech, especially from elected officials and other religious and civic leaders, that breeds the hatred, bigotry and violence that led to this attack as well as the ongoing pandemic of violence against our community, especially our transgender brothers and sisters.

Stand with us. End the Hate. Let's make sure Love Wins.



Tyler Johnston, right, comforts his friend Joshua Thurman at a makeshift memorial near Club Q, Sunday, Nov. 20. Thurman was inside the nightclub when a gunman walked in and opened fire the night before. (Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via AP)

# Are we winning the war on AIDS?

## WORLD AIDS DAY

New HIV infection rates are falling, and treatments are improving. But do we have the political will to end HIV/AIDS?

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**I**n 2019, according to the U.S. government's HIV website HIV.gov, there were an estimated 34,800 new HIV infections in the United States and its six dependent areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau and the U.S. Virgin Islands) plus The District of Columbia. That was down by about

8 percent from 2015's new infections numbers of about 37,800, with the decrease coming after a period of relative stability.

In 2020, 30,635 people were newly-diagnosed with HIV in the U.S. That is a 17 percent decrease from 2019. But, as the website notes, at least some of that decrease is likely attributable to the impact of COVID on HIV prevention, testing and care-related services, which means new infections that year were likely under-reported that year.

Even with those decreases in the rate of new infections, as of Oct. 27, 2022, there are about 1.2 million people in the U.S. who have HIV, and about 13 percent of them do not know they have the virus and are in need of testing, according to HIV.gov.

HIV continues to have a dispro-

portionately large impact on men who have sex with men (71 percent of new diagnoses in 2020), and even more so among men of color who who have sex with men (Black/African-American MSM accounted for 26 percent of all new diagnoses in 2020, and Hispanic/Latino MSM for 21 percent).



More than half of the new diagnoses in 2020 occurred in people ages 13-34 (57 percent), and of all the people newly diagnosed that year, more than half (51 percent) lived in the South.

Stronger educational and testing efforts certainly account for some of the decrease in new infections. But so do advances in treatment. And at least two clinics in Dallas are among those participating in trials and other research aimed at, first, controlling and, ultimately, ending the AIDS pandemic.

Dallas Voice this week talked with representatives of North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants and Prism Health North Texas regarding research in which they are involved and their thoughts on where to go from here.

Dr. Gary Sinclair is the physician who serves as principal investigator for multiple clinic trials at Prism Health. Bryan King, LVN and CCRC, is vice president of clinical research and business development with NTIDC.

**Dallas Voice: What, in your opinion, is the most effective treatment available right now for HIV/AIDS?**

**Dr. Gary Sinclair:** It really depends on the patient. There are many effective treatments, but there is no one size fits all.

**Bryan King:** Biktarvy and Dovato, both single tablet regimens (STR), continue to be the most convenient and effective regimens in use today. Cabenuva is the

## World AIDS Day events

**Nov. 30**

### Resource Center: Red Ribbon

Tree lighting and candlelight vigil to show support for those living with HIV and remembering those lost. Performance by The Women's Chorus of Dallas. Testing. Vigil led by the Rev. Neil Thomas from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

**Dec. 1**

### AP, Inc.: Mom, can we talk?

Abounding Prosperity and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents a conversation on sexual health for mothers and their daughters at 6:30 p.m. at Morton's Steakhouse, 2222 McKinney Ave., #200.

### AIDS Outreach Center: Red Ribbon Gala

In recognition of World AIDS Day, AIDS Outreach Center presents Red Ribbon Gala featuring dinner, dancing, live entertainment and a silent auction at The Ashton Depot, 1501 Jones St., Fort Worth at 7 p.m. AOC.org.

### AIDS Services of Dallas: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join AIDS Services of Dallas as it cuts the red ribbon at the most recent multi-family housing development and expansion of affordable

### Prism Health: World AIDS Day

A Christmas tree reserved for Prism Health will be ready to decorate from 5-8 p.m. at Exall Park, 1355 Adair St. RSVP by Nov. 28 to Terry Walker at terry.walker@prismntx.org.

### AIN: World AIDS Day commemoration

AIN and Out of the Closet commemorate those whose lives have been lost due to AIDS and celebrate the progress that's been made to end the epidemic from 5:40-9 p.m. at Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road.

**Dec. 2**

### Kind Clinic: HIV testing day

The Kind Clinic, located inside Walgreens on Cedar Springs Road at Oaklawn Ave., offers free HIV testing in honor of World AIDS Day from noon-9 p.m.

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Dr. Gary Sinclair



Bryan King, LVN, CRCC

# BTD founder has died

## OBITUARY

Dickie Weaver helped create Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Resource Center and more

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**B**lack Tie Dinner founder Dick Weaver, 84, died on Saturday, Nov. 19, after an extended illness.

Weaver, known affectionately to his friends as Dickie, also was among the creators of Razzle Dazzle Dallas and, although his name wasn't on the incorporation paper of Resource Center, attorney Mike Anglin, who filed those papers for the organiza-

tion in 1983, said Weaver served on its first board and became an early president of what was then known as the Foundation for Human Understanding.

FHU was created by members of the Dallas Gay Alliance board, where Weaver also served at the time. He and the original board came up with the awkward name for the new organization, also then known as the AIDS Resource Center because they believed people in Highland Park would donate to human understanding but not to AIDS.

While Weaver served on the board, the organization lost its original offices on Cedar Springs Road to an arson fire, and he helped purchase its first permanent home on Reagan at Brown streets. He continued to serve on the Resource Center board through the depths of the AIDS crisis in the 1990s, opening the

Nelson Tebedo Clinic and helping begin the expansion of the non-profit into a community center and equal rights organization.

But before there was AIDS or a Resource Center, Weaver and a small group of community activists, including John Thomas, Bill Nelson, Terry Tebedo and Don Maison, decided to hold a big, gay party in June 1979.

They rented the Hall of State in Fair Park and printed posters that they put



Dickie Weaver, right, with friends Bill Nelson, Terry Tebedo and Mike Anglin skiing in Breckinridge in 1980. (Photo courtesy of Mike Anglin)

in store windows and in the bars downtown and in a new LGBTQ enclave along Cedar Springs Road advertising the party. Each of the organizers put up their own money for the event, not expecting to break even.

But the event, dubbed Razzle Dazzle Dallas, was successful.

BTD, Page 26

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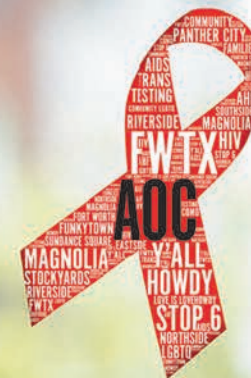
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# Are you smarter than a second grader?

## ON EXHIBIT

A show at The Perot Museum explains Pixar's animation process with interactive exhibits

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

"I wish I could be an animator," second-grade student Arturo said to me at the press preview of the Perot Museum's new exhibit, *The Science Behind Pixar*. "You can," I told him, and his eyes widened, and we continued to play. Mostly, he showed me how some of the exhibits worked.

The museum opened the Pixar exhibit last week with one of the oddest — and most fun — press previews ever. Along with cameras from area TV stations and

wandering reporters with note pads were the second graders from nearby Uplift Luna Preparatory School. Having second graders there demonstrated how this exhibit works on two levels.

On the one hand, there are more than 50 interactive exhibits. For some of them, it took second graders to show the adults how things worked.

On the other hand, I learned, "Computer animators pose characters at key frames and use mathematical curves to adjust the transitions between them," and "Rendering is the process of determining the color of each pixel in an image."

OK, so the kids had the right idea. Even museum CEO Linda Silver admitted she spent more than half an hour playing on just one of the museum's new toys — I mean, interactive exhibits.

Pixar produced its first film, *Toy Story*,

in 1995. And that film was revolutionary. Since then, the studio has released 26 animated features, with 15 of them ranking among the 50 highest-grossing animated films ever released and four among the 50 highest-grossing films total ever released.

So computer generated animation is billion-dollar, high-tech big business.

The exhibit breaks down computer animation into its individual pieces — modeling, rigging, surfaces, sets and cameras, animation, simulation, lighting and rendering — to explain how Pixar's movies are made and the science, tech-



nology, engineering and math needed to generate this type of film.

One lower-tech exhibit demonstrates how still pictures are turned into action. This one could be done by one person, but the process is better facilitated with two. The first person moves a lamp into

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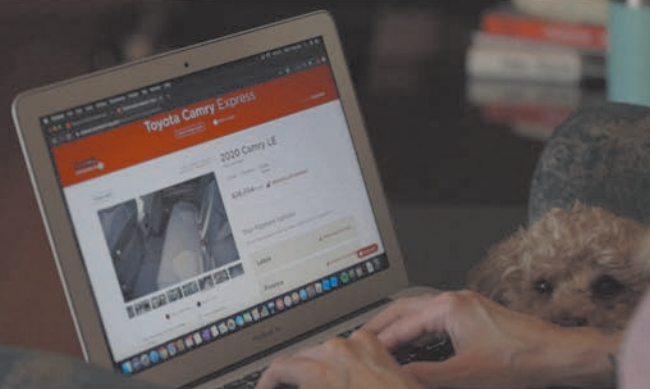
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different positions. The second snaps pics of the lamp moving. Then the individual pictures are played and you have

a movie. Other demonstrations allow you to manipulate facial expressions — Who

knew eyebrows could do so many things and express so many different emotions? — while exhibits on lighting let you turn

a scene from day to night and reveal the different shadows throughout the day. Still others change pixels a few at a time to alter the color of a balloon or the hue of a character.

But computers don't create the characters or scripts. A good dose of artistic imagination goes into every successful Pixar film. Clay models of the characters are created before they're scanned into a computer. And great writers came up with the stories that computer animation translates onto film — or digital computer things that still confuse me.

But this show at the Perot is both fun and fascinating. You don't have to bring along a seven-year-old to enjoy it, but having one with you sure helps.

I hope my second-grade friend Arturo gets to visit the museum again during the exhibit's almost year-long stay, because, yes, he really can become an animator — or pixel adjuster, or modeler, or lighting manipulator or mathematician or engineer who makes the magic happen. ■

*The Science Behind Pixar is on exhibit through Labor Day 2023 at The Perot Museum, 2201 N. Field St. through Labor Day. Tickets at PerotMuseum.org. \$25 general admission. \$12 adults/\$10 children for the Pixar exhibit.*

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# The Thunder rolls

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Alaska Thunderfuck 5000. (Photo courtesy of Magnus Hastings 2022)

Alaska Thunderfuck's first  
extensive tour brings  
sci-fi drag to Dallas

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
[rich@dallasvoice.com](mailto:rich@dallasvoice.com)

**H**istory is being made as drag performer/singer Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 is on her first-ever North American tour this season. Her new live show is a music extravaganza in support of her 2022 release *Red 4 Filth*. The *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars* winner brings her show to Dallas on Sunday at Trees in Deep Ellum.

After a series of single drops throughout the year, Alaska (nee Justin Andrew Honard) released her fourth album this September. "We sort of slowly released a lot of music, you know, like an Adderall," she said by phone. "So it may seem the album has been out for a while."

In *Red 4 Filth*, Alaska, 37, seems to be pushing a legit pop album rather than any reliance on her fame or name. Drag performers haven't had the best luck with music releases, but Alaska has found the lane she fits in and works upward.

"I guess it comes from wherever art comes from — the lord or the universe or the ether," she said about songwrit-



ing. “I keep a file of all the things that strike me and try to create something cool.”

That leads into her lyrics which often have a tinge of her signature clever camp. Her diary of her life is her inspiration for music. But now she has a whole new aspect to consider.

This new tour is her most exhaustive yet, taking her throughout the country. How does an All-Stars champion turn her concerts into something more than a

Tickets to her show, she said, have averaged “like \$30.”

For her, that’s the whole idea of drag — the ability to bring people together without being a burden. “Real-life people in a room with real-life music. That part of drag really inspires me,” she said. “That’s what I wanted to do with this tour, and we’re proud of that.”

As Justin, Alaska grew up in rural Pennsylvania. He searched for a space to feel free and celebrated, and that’s



(Photo courtesy of Albert Sanchez)

drag brunch performance?

“A tour like this gives me the opportunity to dig in a little more,” Alaska said. “With a drag performance, we live in that moment, and then it’s over. We have created a show that tells a story, and then we do it a bunch of times. And it gets better as it goes. I start to find new beats and moments, and the show gets tighter, and I love all that.”

Alaska did have a specific intention with this tour. She understood that we are in a sucky economy where everything costs more. She said she wanted to do her little part to combat that while also getting people to the show.

“I think it’s important to mention that I wanted to first play smaller venues so we could have reasonably priced tickets,” she said. “A lot of people are fuckin’ going through it right now with inflation and gas, and no one’s making enough.”

what drag provided for him. But it’s also a reminder that there are queer people everywhere in places like where he grew up. And those queer people need nourishment.

But drag also meant something else: “Drag is the complete opposite of these major problems that stem from patriarchy,” Alaska said. “Drag is definitely and actively against all of that shit. That’s so essential in fighting back. Drag is — I am — aggressively anti-patriarchy and a celebration of feminine power. We can be a force for change.”

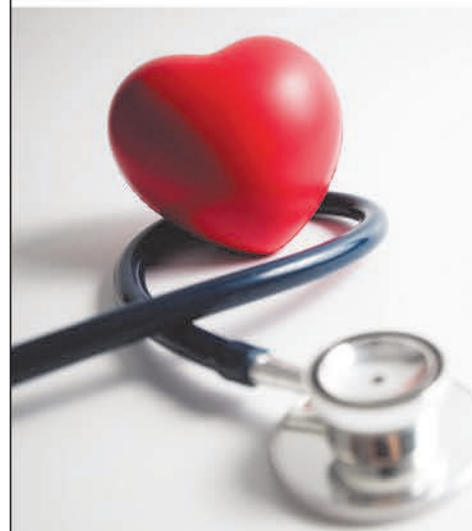
At the same time, Alaska can provide an escape from all the bullshit through her tour which she says will be like going to the movies. “It takes place in space but tells the story of Alaska, and the music is like the soundtrack,” she said. “I mean it’s basically like a sci-fi movie.” ■

For tickets, visit [TreesDallas.com](http://TreesDallas.com).



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# Dallas is Bern-ing

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Queer legend Sandra Bernhard is back on the road

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
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**A**ctor/comedian/singer/advocate and icon Sandra Bernhard is having a moment. This year, she was in Netflix's *Stand Out: An LGBTQ+ Celebration* comedy special as well as the latest season of *American Horror Story: NYC*. She wrapped her role as Nurse Judy Kubrak on *Pose* last year. She will also be on the cover of the Marfa Journal — a British arts and style magazine ironically not based in or about Marfa, Texas, but inspired by the West Texas artsy town ("It's a cool publication," she said).

Now she's on the road with her new

show, *Bern It Down*, a night of stories, music and laughs.

The 67 year-old artist is unstoppable at the moment. But she does pause for reflection.

At the time of this interview, the Club Q shooting had just happened two days before, and alleged terrorist/murderer Anderson Lee Aldrich was in custody and facing murder and hate crime charges. Before discussing her show and her life these days, Bernhard wanted to talk about the incident.

**Dallas Voice: You've always been such an advocate for the community and so outspoken. Hearing about the tragedy in Colorado Springs, do you want to talk about it?** Sandra Bernhard: Yes. I do. I wanna say that we gotta stop pretending that there aren't crazy people walking around. There is an absolute connection



to these MAGAs and these people stoking the hatred for the community, women, people of color — the list goes on and on.

I just don't understand why we can't come together and face it and activate and do something about it. The Democrats and Biden are fighting as much as they can to stop this insane rampage of hatred, but what's gonna happen?

These unhinged people are being fed a bunch of lies, and I can't understand. I don't know what has happened to our culture. This is not the right way. We aren't supposed to be this way.

**In the Netflix special, at that time, you chose to speak about the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* and now here you are speaking about this.** I've been engaged in political and cultural warfare since I was a teen. I graduated high school the year they passed *Roe v. Wade*. Now we have to go back into those trenches.

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I just can't with how this country operates.

The threats to straight white men are apparently too much for them to take, and we have these women who don't know anything about government in office. I'm not even going to name names, because I don't want them to get press.

The GOP is just blown up and is this absolute mess and a pit of degradation. If you are a Republican, you are on the side of everything that's wrong, and that's all I got to say about that.

**Shifting gears, is *Bern It Down* a whole new show or how do you describe it?**

It's relatively new because I haven't performed much because of COVID. So I talk about what's going on in my life and the world at the moment. There are pieces about things that happened during the pandemic, but the show is not about the pandemic. It's very anecdotal.

I love flying into a place, and, in like 15 minutes, I can observe what is going on in the community and bring that to the show. I enjoy coming to Texas even though it's a crazy time to come. I was devastated Beto didn't get elected.

I think a lot of people were really trying to get him in there. I know. There are so many good people, and Texas is groovy — a lot to offer. But I think it's a good time to come. I'm glad I'm coming now

to show some support and love.

**You are part of the Ryan Murphy squad now with prominent roles in *Pose* and *American Horror Story*. You've always been around, but these last few years, it seems to be a moment for you.** It's been great. The last few years have just been so positive. Ryan Murphy employs so many great people and talents, and he's so supportive and cool. It's great to be part of that ensemble. *Pose* was revelatory, and in *American Horror Story*, we're revisiting some stuff in *Pose* because they both are set in my era when I was first coming into my own.

**As actors, we all wanna be seen in these high profile shows, so I'm thankful for these opportunities. And I'm proud of myself for this work, and I get to sharpen my acting chops.**

**What's next for you or on the horizon after the tour?** I'm creating a scripted show with Judy Gold, another LGBTQ artist, and we're getting some traction on it. We're not rushing, and it's evolving, but it would star both of us. We're getting excited and hope someone buys it.

*Bernhard will perform with her full band at 7:30 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.) on Dec. 2 at the Granada Theater. For tickets, visit GranadaTheater.com.*

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# A Bullet Bar for Gun Barrel City, get it?

NEWS FROM NORTH TEXAS



Longtime Cedar Creek Lake gay bar turns straight, sends drag queens packing

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer  
davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com

**G**UN BARREL CITY — For three decades, a gay nightclub featuring drag shows operated on Cedar Creek Lake, but that tradition ended this fall when the straight owner transformed the last remaining LGBTQ venue into a sports bar with the moniker Bullet.

Michael Zmolik, who bought the bar Garlow's from gay Cedar Creek Lake resident Michael Slingerland about two years ago, announced in September that the 13-year-old bar would be transformed into a sports club to include daytime hours.

Then the turquoise building with rainbow accents was painted black and renamed the Bullet Bar for a grand opening on Oct. 30.

Garlow's Facebook page promoting Saturday night drag shows was replaced by one for the Bullet Bar, showcasing attractive female bartenders described as "hot." The page also announced ladies' night on Thursdays and a daily happy hour from 2-7 p.m., in contrast to Garlow's evening-only operation. Live music performances such as a "Texas Country Showcase"

became the touted entertainment.

The billboard in front of the bar that also once promoted the drag shows took on a more risqué tone as well: "Not enough letters, cum drink with us at happy hour." That later changed to "We meant whiskey, y'all are perverts" after the bar apparently received complaints.

The transformation from gay to straight may have pleased the straight patrons of the bar who had represented a sizable portion of Garlow's customer base since it first opened, but it outraged the drag show performers. The bar's management suggested the performers continue with the drag shows for four more weeks to "say goodbye," but the cast instead voted to walk away immediately.

The drag show's director, Carmella Riata DuBuque, claims the plan to turn the bar straight had been in the works ever since Zmolik bought the business. "Though they tried to mask becoming a sports bar as meeting an unfilled niche out here, it is clear that they no longer cared to have any sort of affiliation with the LGBTQ community," DuBuque said.

DuBuque said that when Slingerland turned the operation over to Zmolik, a debate began as to whether it should continue to be identified as a gay bar, ostensibly because the new management wanted it to be known as a bar for everyone.

"More times than I care to recall, I explained that the moniker of gay bar (or LGBTQIA+ bar) identifies as a place for everyone," DuBuque said. "That clas-

sification allowed for LGBTQ people to know that they had a safe place to go and be themselves.

"Now, there is no such place. To have a gay bar in an area like this, one must have a passion for creating a safe place for our community."

Bullet Bar general manager Steven Marsh denied that the management of the bar wanted to rid themselves of the LGBTQ community. He joined the bar's staff a few months after Zmolik purchased the bar from Slingerland.

"I met a kind man, a framer/homebuilder by trade, a smart businessman and a straight man, very happily running the neighborhood gay bar. Michael bartended every night — quite a few on his own — and took excellent care of our guests," Marsh said.

Marsh added that Zmolik bought a business with which "he is free to do with whatever he wishes."

He seems to confirm DuBuque's suspicions that a plan for change had long been in the works: "As the few of us came onboard to run it with (Zmolik), we all talked of what our futures were here," he said. "Our conclusions were that we had stalled out with the look and feel of the building, and it needed new life, new equipment, a new vibe. And we wanted it to be more successful than it was.

"We were in no way failing or closing. We were running a bar that we didn't create, and we wanted to run one that we did create."

Marsh noted that Saturday nights are the "prime real estate" in the bar business. "My first call in my new role as GM was to take that time back from the drag show," he said. "It was and always has been great. I loved it, had a blast, and I killed it. The opportunity to start over fresh was the only way to make all our plans to come to fruition."

Some of the LGBTQ patrons did take offense to the decision to rebrand the bar, Marsh acknowledges. He alleges that DuBuque waged a campaign to stir up resentment about the transformation of the bar. He called the event a "small ripple" that subsided. Only a few of the LGBTQ patrons refused to return to the bar, he said.

"Our hearts are with our entire community and especially always with the LGBTQ+ friends. We changed our bar. We did not and will not allow any discriminatory practices or speech in this building. We never will. This was not an exclusionary act," he said.

DuBuque said the performers feel like they were unappreciated, then discarded when they were no longer of use to the bar's three straight owners, whom she identified as Zmolik, Zachariah Taylor and Scott Sellers.

An atmosphere of "homophobia and misogyny" pervaded the operation, and the performers were treated unfairly, DuBuque contends.

"We were the reason that people were willing to pay a \$10 cover on Saturday nights. The entertainers only received half of the money from the cover. The bar willingly paid a straight man and his band \$300 weekly to come in on Sunday nights when the bar was virtually empty, and no cover was being charged."

A gay bar had operated in the rural area in one form or another for 36 years, according to Slingerland, who worked as a bartender at another Cedar Creek Lake gay bar called Friends before opening Garlow's in 2010.

Friends, which operated for 15 years, closed in 2011 during a devastating drought that lowered the lake level drastically and ruined many businesses. The Friends location also was turned into a straight bar.

Slingerland, 73, listed Garlow's for sale in 2014, saying that he planned to hold out for a buyer who would maintain it as a gay bar. But he took it off the market a few months later when it had not sold.

The sale of the bar to Zmolik came about because "he offered me more than it was worth," he said. He maintains that LGBTQ residents and visitors are welcome in all of Cedar Creek Lake's bars and have been for a long time.

Still, even though he is retired and through with the bar business after recouping his investment in Garlow's, Slingerland is wistful about the loss of a gay bar in the area after so many years of there being one.

"It's not what I would have done with the bar," he said. "I'm sad, but I'm not shocked. Everything ends and everything changes."

DuBuque said she and the other performers were left without a venue, but they are trying to find another. They have even offered to perform at private parties to keep their acts alive. "I fought long and hard to keep us out here, and I'm not done fighting." ■

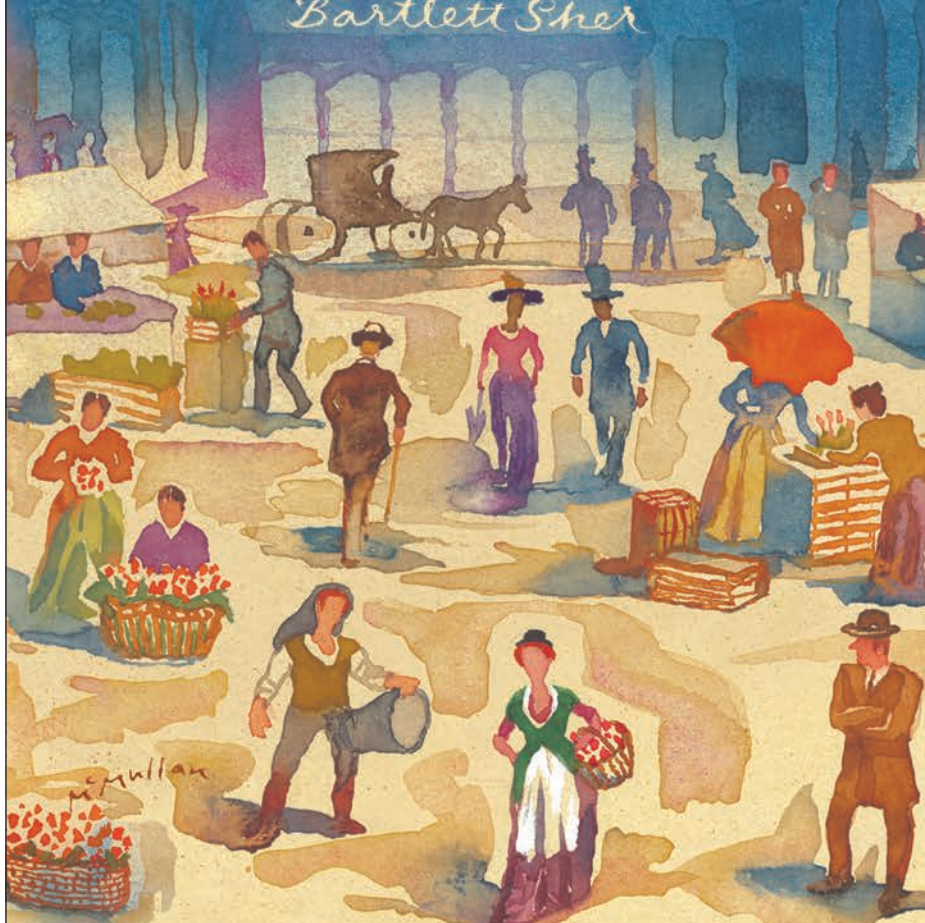
*Editor's note: Dallas Voice has continued to be distributed at Bullet Bar through the sale of the bar and the change in name and audience.*

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Purple Foundation donation

### Purple Foundation announces largest donation ever

Purple Foundation Inc. on Nov. 19 announced its largest donation in a single year — a total of \$200,000 to its three beneficiaries: Resource Center, AIDS Services of Dallas and Legacy Cares.

Purple Foundation President Blake Baker noted that this total is a \$50,000 increase over the foundation's previous largest donation made in 2019.

Baker said Resource Center is the organization's primary beneficiary, a change suggested by Baker and made in 2021 when the organization returned with an updated mission to support more of the LGBTQ community.

For more information visit the organization's website.

— Tammye Nash

### World Cup players threatened with sanctions over 'One Love' armbands

DOHA, Qatar — FIFA's threat of on-field punishment for players pushed World Cup teams to back down Monday, Nov. 20, and abandon a plan for their captains to wear armbands that were seen as a rebuke to host nation Qatar's human rights record.

Just hours before the first players with the armbands in support of the "One Love" campaign were to take the field, soccer's governing body warned they would immediately be shown yellow cards — two of which lead to a player's expulsion from that game and also the next.

That changed the calculus for the seven European teams, which may have expected merely to be fined. The displays are a violation of FIFA rules.

No player had the "One Love" armbands Monday, although England's Harry Kane wore the FIFA-approved "No Discrimination" armband that was offered as a compromise in the match with Iran.

— Graham Dunbar, Associated Press

### Lambda Legal's Pizer receives ABA's Stonewall Award

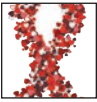


The American Bar Association Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity this week recognized Lambda Legal Chief Legal Officer Jennifer C. Pizer with its Stonewall Award for "considerably advancing the legal professions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and successfully championing LGBT legal causes."

Pizer was one of three lawyers recognized and will be honored alongside Judge Pamela K. Chen and transgender activist Ellie Krug, at the 11th annual Stonewall Awards ceremony on Feb. 4, 2023, at the ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans.

— Tammye Nash





## AIDS, From Page 11

newest and first long acting Injectable treatment, and it has shown to be as effective as the STR and very convenient, with an every-two-month dosing schedule. Unfortunately because it is a new drug we have had problems with reimbursement and access to sites that can provide the injections on a regular basis.

### What treatments are in the works now, and when can we expect them to be available?

**Sinclair:** I am an investigator on the clinical trials that are bringing those new treatments to market. I am afraid I am not allowed to comment as the investigations are ongoing. Ask me in a few months.

**King:** Gilead's Lenacapavir is the next long-acting injectable treatment due to be FDA-approved. It's FDA approval will be for adults with multi-drug resistant HIV infection for whom it is otherwise not possible to construct a suppressive anti-viral regimen. It is the first in its class of capsid inhibitors which will help patients whose virus are no longer responding to their current regimens. Merck is working on an investigational nucleotide reverse transcriptase translocation inhibitor (NRTTI) called Islatravir that is another potential long-acting medication that is currently in phase 3 clinical trials.

We continue to work with other pharmaceuticals in early phase trials looking at broadly neutralizing antibody (bnAb) which is at the forefront of the most exciting HIV research going on today. It has the potential for even longer time between dosing, which helps with compliance keeping the patients undetectable and untransmittable. All of this helps in the fight to eradicating HIV/AIDS.

### Is it the actual medications themselves that are making the difference, or is it the method of delivering the medications where we are seeing the most change and increase in effectiveness?

**King:** Most all of the current medications we use are very effective, but I think the delivering methods is what has made the difference over the years. Taking a single tablet regimen once a day or receiving two injections every two months is a very effective to help keep patients compliant with taking their medications.

**Sinclair:** Again, it depends on the patient. We have pills, and we have injectables. It is about fitting the right tool to the right situation.

### How big of a difference are the new injectables making in the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS treatments?

**Sinclair:** A lot! We have patients who have never been able to adhere to a single tablet regimen who are doing well on every-two-month injections. It has been very gratifying.

**King:** I want to make it clear that all the drugs we are using are very effective and showed non-inferior to its standard of care comparator in clinical trials. The new FDA-approved injectable is made of the injectable version of already approved medications currently being taken in pill form. The convenience of not having to take a pill every day increases the patients compliance and decreases the risk of developing resistance.

### We have been talking for several years now about eradicating HIV/AIDS, setting deadlines for no more AIDS, etc. Do you feel those goals are realistic? Are we going to see HIV/AIDS eradicated within the next decade? The five decades?

**Sinclair:** It is theoretically possible with the tools we have available. The question is one of political will. Do we have the will to diagnose 95 percent of the cases, engage 95 percent in care and make them successfully get 95 percent undetectable?

**King:** I certainly hope so! The goal is to get everyone access to care and medications because we know that U=U (undetectable equals untransmissible) works. The question is, how do we achieve this goal when we are still struggling to provide access to care to all patients? We have to all continue to work hard on providing access to good effective treatments for positive individuals and Prep for high-risk groups.

### As we mark yet another World AIDS Day, what, in your opinion, is the most important thing for people to know/remember?

**King:** I think, for those of us that have been in this game for 30-plus years, we know that we have come a long way, and we should be thankful that HIV has become a much easier disease to control and manage if the people have access to care. We have to continue the fight for good available healthcare for all.

I think World AIDS Day is a day for remembrance of all the beautiful people we have lost but it is also about all the beautiful people that we are now saving.

**Sinclair:** Get treated. Get in care. No one has to die from HIV-related illness any more.

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Just by chance, Eartha Kitt was appearing in the Dallas Summer Musicals show *Timbuktu!* at Fair Park Music Hall at the same time. Several of the show's chorus boys heard about Razzle Dazzle Dallas and brought her to the party where they entertained.

That enshrined the event as Dallas' premiere Pride Month event for more than two decades, and Weaver became Razzle's first president.

In 1983, Weaver met with someone from the Human Rights Campaign Fund who had come to Dallas to pitch the idea of a dinner to raise money for the relatively new national equal rights organization. Weaver, along with Ray Kuchling, William Waybourn, Anglin and Thomas, rented the ballroom at the Fairmont Hotel and sold tickets to a sit-down dinner and dance for \$150.

While the other four were activists,

Anglin said, they were relying on Weaver's connections to fill the room. What those attendees at the first dinner did was considered risky.

At a time when Dallas police were still raiding the bars and arresting men at Village Station for dancing with each other, the idea of men dressing in tuxes and holding hands and women dressing in evening gowns and dancing with each other was bold.

But the dinner sold out thanks to Weaver's efforts to fill the room, according to Anglin, and the first Black Tie Dinner raised more than \$6,000 in profit to send to HRCF.

Weaver remained on the Black Tie Dinner board until the organization created its advisory board, and then he served on the advisory board for the rest of his life.

"He was like the glue that held everything together," Anglin said.

In 2017, Black Tie Dinner created the Dickie Weaver Volunteer of the Year Award in his honor.

"Dickie was an intergenerational caretaker and nurturer decades before that concept entered our collective LGBT consciousness," said The Dallas Way President Robert Emery.

Weaver was part of the group that created The Dallas Way and arranged for the original organizers to meet in his condominium building's meeting room. He did a video for its Outrageous Oral project documenting the origin and history of Black Tie Dinner.

In the video, Weaver explains that the Stonewall Rebellion in New York in 1969 wasn't the signature event that inspired his activism, nor did he believe it motivated most people in the LGBTQ community. Instead, he said, Anita Bryant galvanized the community when she caused the country's first gay rights ordinance to be repealed.

Anglin said, "Dickie always gave credit to others," and Weaver always worked hard without ever asking for credit. But along the way, Weaver was recognized with a Kuchling Award from Black Tie Dinner, an Extra Mile Award from Legacy Foundation, Volunteer of the Year from Resource Center and the Alan Ross Freedom Award.

Weaver was born in Longview in 1938 and was president of his class at Longview High School. He received two degrees from Southern Methodist University and remained an active member of SMU's Mustang Club and was always passionate about SMU football.

His career was in insurance for 50 years where he worked as a broker for Burns & Wilcox.

Weaver found his spiritual home at Northaven Church and is a past chair of its board of trustees. His memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Dec. 3 at Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road. ■

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## PLAN YOUR WEEK



Members of the Lost Souls Rugby Football Club are known as champions on the field and off. And one of the reasons for that is their dedication to community service, including their annual holiday toy drive, benefitting the children at Adelfa Callejo Elementary School. This year the players will be accepting donations from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Those who want to help make the holidays merrier for the children can bring unwrapped gifts to the Round-Up at that time.

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

### ■ Every Monday: THRIVE

Resource Center's THRIVE Monday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets virtually and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

### NOVEMBER

#### ■ Nov. 25-Dec. 24: *A Christmas Carol*

Music, magical spirits, and holiday cheer are ever present in Dallas Theater Center's traditional production of the classic Charles Dickens story. Wyly Theatre, DallasTheaterCenter.org.

#### ■ Nov. 29: PrimeTimers

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

#### ■ Nov. 29-Dec. 4: *My Fair Lady*

The Lincoln Center production of the Lerner and Loewe musical comes to Bass Hall, 5225 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

#### ■ Nov. 29: Dallas Zoo Lights Adult-Only Night

Adults-only evening at Dallas Zoo Lights, presented by Reliant at 6 p.m. For adults ages 21 and up only; ID required for admission. Discount tickets available for \$25 online at My.DallasZoo.com.

#### ■ Nov. 29: Light Up Turtle Creek Park

Turtle Creek Conservancy hosts Light Up Turtle Creek Park, presented by Park Place Dealerships, from 3-6 p.m. at the park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Includes free photos with Santa, a mistletoe market, an art bazaar, food trucks and more.

#### ■ Through Nov. 30: Autumn Equinox

A late-night adult circus scene and immersive theater experience filled with feats of danger and debauchery opens at 9 p.m. Previews begin on Sept. 20. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

#### ■ Nov. 30: Red Ribbon

Tree lighting and candlelight vigil to show support for those living with HIV and remembering those lost. Performance by The Women's Chorus of Dallas. Testing. Vigil led by the Rev. Neil Thomas from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### DECEMBER

#### ■ Dec. 1: World AIDS Day

#### ■ Dec. 1: Red Ribbon Gala

In recognition of World AIDS Day, AIDS Outreach Center presents Red Ribbon Gala featuring dinner, dancing, live entertainment and a silent auction at The Ashton Depot, 1501 Jones St., Fort Worth at 7 p.m. AOC.org.

#### ■ Dec. 1: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join AIDS Services of Dallas as it cuts the red ribbon at the most recent multi-family housing development and expansion of affordable housing units in Dallas. Light hors d'oeuvres

and refreshments will be served. From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 511 N. Lancaster Ave.

#### ■ Dec. 1: PFLAG Fort Worth

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

#### ■ Dec. 1: Prism Health World AIDS Day

A Christmas tree reserved for Prism Health will be ready to decorate from 5-8 p.m. at Exall Park, 1355 Adair St. RSVP by Nov 28 to Terry Walker at terry.walker@prismntx.org.

#### ■ Dec. 1: World AIDS Day Celebration on Cedar Springs

AIN is hosting a World AIDS Day event at Out of The Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road, at 5:40 p.m. Participants will gather outside the shop before walking to the Legacy of Love monument for a moment of silence and then returning to Out of The Closet for the Cedar Springs Wine Walk. AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Impulse Dallas are also participating. See the Facebook event page for details.

#### ■ Dec. 1: Shangela's Fully Lit Tour

Drag superstar and North Texas native Shangela brings her *Fully Lit Tour* to The Majestic, 1925 Elm St., at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$37 and are available online at TicketMaster.com.

#### ■ Dec. 2: Sandra Bernhard

Comedian/performer/actress and co-star of *American Horror Story* season 11, Sandra Bernhard, performs at The Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. SandraBernhard.com.

#### ■ Dec. 2: Kind Clinic HIV testing day

The Kind Clinic located inside Walgreens on Cedar Springs Road at Oaklawn Ave. offers free HIV testing in honor of World AIDS Day from noon-9 p.m.

#### ■ Dec. 2-18: *Head Over Heels*

Uptown Players' new season begins with this unpredictable Elizabethan romp about a royal family that must prevent an oracle's prophecy of doom all set to the songs by The Go-Go's. At the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

#### ■ Dec. 3: Lost Souls Holiday Toy Drive

Lost Souls Rugby Football Club's season of service holiday toy drive benefits the children of Adelfa Callejo Elementary School. Bring unwrapped gifts to the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road from 1-4 p.m.

#### ■ Dec. 3: *Magnificat*

Credo Community Choir of Dallas is joined by choirs from the University of Texas at Dallas for *Magnificat*, a large-scale work for massed choir, orchestra, and soloists by Dallas-based composer, Taylor Scott Davis at the Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. at 7:30 p.m.

#### ■ Dec. 5: Cassie's Freakmas Show

Cassie's Freakmas Show benefits the children of Sam Houston Elementary School. Cash gifts and unwrapped toys will go to make sure every child at the school receives a present for the holiday. Checks can be made to Sam Houston

Secret Santa Project. 9 p.m. at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

#### ■ Dec. 5: Stonewall Holiday Gathering

With the midterm elections behind us, it's time to party. The event will feature a keynote speaker to be announced, a lifetime achievement award and the announcement of a new scholarship program, The Stonewall Future Leaders Fund. From 6-10 p.m. at XOXO Dining Room, 3121 Ross Ave. Early bird tickets purchased by Nov. 18 are \$75. Gen admission \$100. StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org.

#### ■ Dec. 6: Classic Chassis Car Club meeting

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

#### ■ Dec. 6: Let's Do Dinner

Coalition for Aging LGBT's Let's Do Dinner takes place the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at El Fenix, 6391 Camp Bowie Blvd. Ridglea #6, Fort Worth.

#### ■ Dec. 6: PrimeTimers

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

#### ■ Dec. 6-25: *Six*

The musical *Six* about the six wives of Henry the Eighth at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Tickets at ATPAC.org.

#### ■ Dec. 11: Christmas stocking auction

The 23rd annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefiting Legacy Cares at 7 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. To donate baskets or stockings, contact auction@roundupsaloon.com.

#### ■ Dec. 14: 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 Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. For notifications, contact Richard DeKnock at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

#### ■ Dec. 15: Let's Do Lunch

Coalition for Aging LGBT's Let's Do Lunch takes place the third Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at Lupe's Tex Mex Grill, 2200 Airport Freeway #505, Bedford.

#### ■ Dec. 16: Mustache Envy

Mustache Envy drag and queerlesque performs upstairs every third Friday at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. at 9:30 p.m. MustacheEnvy.com.

#### ■ Dec. 17: The Teddy Bear Party

Equality Texas, Family Equality and Cook Children's Medical Center are beneficiaries of this year's Teddy Bear Party. Tickets are \$100 and a teddy bear. Echo Lounge, 1323 N. Stemmons Freeway.

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

# Cassie Nova

## ASK A DRAG QUEEN

It's the little things ...

Hey y'all. Hope you had a fabulous Thanksgiving, and I hope you had fun if you ventured out for a Black Friday sale. I know some people love that shit, but the thought of an overcrowded store with grown folks acting like shop-hungry cannibals freaks me out.

No thank you!

Today I thought I would tell you about a few things recently that have made me smile. Sounds weird, right? But there are so many things in the world right now that make us roll our eyes or feel depressed, so I thought we could use a little reminder of some of the good stuff in this world.

Have you seen the Texas Bushman prank videos on YouTube and Facebook? They make me so happy. It's a guy dressed as a shrub that jumps up and scares people as they walk by. His victims scream, jump and cuss — but always high five him or give him a fist bump in the end. It is such a simple concept, but it is so fun to watch. I hope to one day get got by him.

The other day I was at the Walmart in Midlothian getting some groceries, and I stopped by the Subway there to grab us some lunch. There were only two people in line in front of me: a young mother with her young kid and a guy in work overalls.

Mr. Overalls was very nice; he said I could go ahead of him because he wasn't sure what he was getting yet. The young ma was paying for her sandwich but was talking a mile a minute. She was telling the girl that worked at Subway how she didn't like bell peppers in the past, but after she had her baby she couldn't get enough. Oooh, but don't get her started on onions! She used to like them, but now the smell makes her sick, and her kid is the same way. He likes vegetables but will not go near an onion to save his life.

She just kept going on and on. Mr. Overalls leans over to me and whispers, "Some people just love to talk, don't they?" I nodded in agreement and smiled. The young mother heard him, and, without missing a beat, said, "Sorry y'all! I'm at home all day with no one



to talk to except my son, so when I get around people I just can't shut up. It's just me and my son most of the time, and, God, I miss talking to adults! I love him so much, but he only knows a few words, so he's not great for conversation" ... and she kept going. She barely took a breath between sentences.

Mr. Overalls puts his hands up to get her to stop talking for one second so he could say something. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a card and hands it to her. He tells her anytime she wants to talk, day or night, she can call him: "I know what it is like to be lonely, so please call me anytime." The girl looked at him like she was going to cry and said thank you as she took the card.

It was the sweetest most kind thing I have ever witnessed.

After she left, he looked at me and said, "That girl needs some friends. If she calls, I will invite her to dinner with me and my wife." I told him that I bet she would like that. He nodded and said, "I bet I won't get a single word in," and he laughed.

The whole interaction just made my heart smile.

Then a few minutes later in the parking lot, I put my groceries in the car and

turned to take my cart to the shopping cart spot, and a nice old man asked if he could take it for me. That has never happened. I am always the one that offers to take someone's cart back for them. It was a small act of kindness, but it added to my good mood for the rest of the day.

The other things this week that have made me smile all seem to have four legs. Every day my damn dogs do something that make me grin or full-on laugh. My little old man, Bentley, is a Maltese and is 16 years old. Some days he gets confused and shows his age, and it breaks my heart. But other days you would think he is a puppy — running and bouncing all over the place.

Bentley is a lapdog and will not be told otherwise. It doesn't matter whose lap it is, if you are sitting, he will make his way to your lap and get comfortable so quickly that you feel guilty for moving even the slightest bit.

Also, when he wants cuddles, he will not be denied. He will cuddle you in your neck area or stretch out across you until you put your hands on him and love on him, the entire time making these little old man noises of joy that let you know

he is loving everything you are doing. He makes me smile a lot.

All four of our dogs have their own quirks and personalities. They are weird, goofy little creatures that bring so much joy to our lives.

Between politics and the awful things happening to our community, it is getting harder and harder to find reasons to smile these days. So when you do find something like that, really let yourself enjoy the moment. Some days you just have to choose joy. Today will be a good day.

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

## word search solution



## this week's solution



browse

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

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

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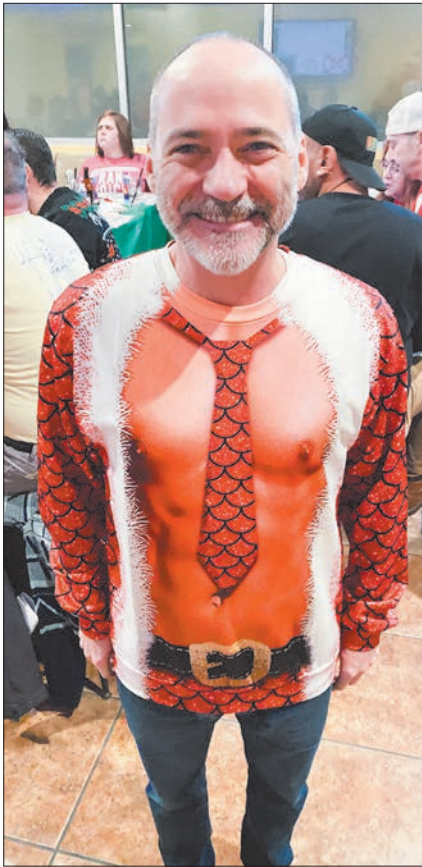


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PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES





# WORD SEARCH



## Diversions Word Search - Queer Duck

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | T | J | M | I | J | X | R | A | C | S | O | B | R | Y | L |
| S | I | A | H | R | O | E | M | A | C | N | E | I | L | L | E |
| C | U | K | O | B | T | E | N | H | M | E | C | P | W | L | N |
| O | T | M | I | M | A | C | R | O | M | E | D | I | A | C | B |
| N | R | C | P | G | I | W | G | A | S | P | T | R | S | R | U |
| R | E | I | S | S | R | R | T | S | A | W | D | E | R | A | L |
| F | S | L | O | G | O | E | I | M | O | S | D | C | H | M | L |
| L | S | T | L | T | D | N | B | H | O | O | F | T | R | A | O |
| E | E | W | A | E | G | G | S | N | S | T | E | O | U | L | C |
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| H | R | N | R | C | R | S | P | V | D | E | A | E | B | K | Q |
| C | E | T | Y | R | U | E | E | E | F | R | R |   |   |   |   |
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| M | O | V | I | E | U | L | Y |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |



**Queer/Duck (2000-02)**  
Animated/Series  
Icebox/Showtime  
Macromedia/Flash  
Twenty/Episodes  
(On after Queer) As Folk

**Creator/Writer**  
Mike/Reiss  
(The) Simpsons  
(& The) Critic  
**Director/Designer**  
Xeth/Feinberg

**(Queer Duck:)** Jim J/Bullock  
**Openly/Gator: /Kevin/Michael**  
Richardson  
**Bi-Polar/Bear: /Billy/West**  
**Oscar/Wildcat: /Maurice/LaMarche**  
**(QD's) Mother: /Estelle/Harris**

**(Nemesis:)** Dr. Laura  
Schlessinger:  
Tress/MacNeille  
**(2006 Queer Duck:)**  
**(The) Movie (DVD)**  
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Solution on Page 28

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A Gathering of leaders at A Gathering



Serving up beary good shots at JRs



Jacket on or off?



Wesley with The Bouleé Brothers





Anyone for a shot at Round Up Saloon?



Richard and Joey dressed to the nines



Neil grabs a selfie with Martha Stewart at Nieman Marcus downtown



Serving up drinks and lewks at Roy G's

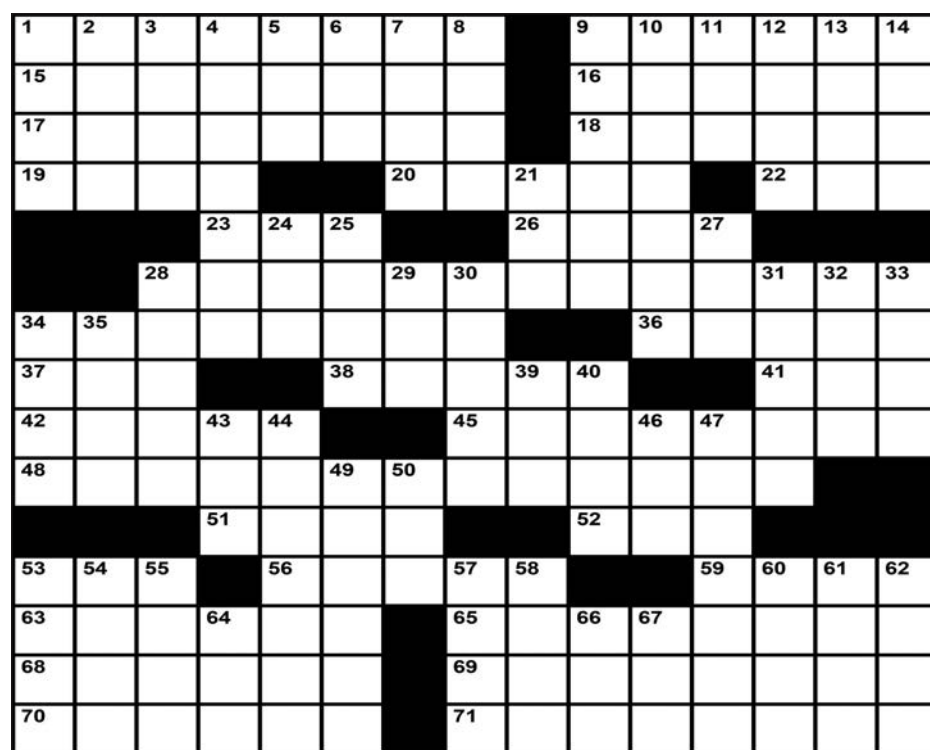


Rocky & Cassie at JR's



Nice weiner!

# PUZZLE | The Outing



Solution on Page 28

## Across

- 1 Opening used to pleasure a car?
- 9 Noted queer poet
- 15 Dan White, to Harvey Milk
- 16 It may cream your face when you bite it
- 17 Sitcom with an episode entitled *The Outing*
- 18 Taoism founder
- 19 Imitated Melissa Etheridge
- 20 City in the Ruhr valley
- 22 Double curve in a pipe
- 23 Home o' the brave
- 26 Official records
- 28 Start of an iconic line about being gay from 17-Across
- 34 Breast implant shape
- 36 *Love Affair* costar Dunne
- 37 Dr. Kerry Weaver has them inserted
- 38 Light in the sneakers?
- 41 Old man
- 42 Yankovic song about oral sex?
- 45 Most like Adam Lambert
- 48 More of the line
- 51 Metric prefix
- 52 PBS, e.g.
- 53 Post-lovemaking sighs
- 56 Part of a fashion name
- 59 Man or Lesbos

- 63 Top choice for a date
- 65 End of the line
- 68 Line of Todd Oldham clothing?
- 69 Fruit tree orchard, e.g.
- 70 Become excited, perhaps
- 71 Cardiac contractions

## Down

- 1 News agency of Nureyev's nation
- 2 Where to find Moby Dick
- 3 "Beauty \_\_\_ the eye..."
- 4 Lack of energy
- 5 Pressure meas.
- 6 Verb suffix for Rupert Everett
- 7 Load of money for Gomer?
- 8 "All's Well That \_\_\_ Well"
- 9 Top-quality
- 10 Corinthian column plants
- 11 Arafat's org.
- 12 "A bit of \_\_\_?" "I drink it all day"
- 13 Serpent's sound
- 14 Shaft output
- 21 Posed for Berenice Abbott
- 24 Unlikely result of a BJ
- 25 Blade brand
- 27 Part of an airline name, in Wilde's land
- 28 Like some porn
- 29 Take too much of
- 30 Mimicking a Roddy McDowall role?
- 31 Fasten anew
- 32 Mireille, whose name rhymes with "penis"
- 33 Back-to-school mo.
- 34 Start of a Tony Orlando title
- 35 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
- 39 Matt Cole's milieu
- 40 Verb of Verlaine
- 43 "\_\_\_ be my pleasure!"
- 44 Film loosely based on Janis Joplin
- 46 Small fry
- 47 Possible method for co-moms
- 49 Block deliverers of old
- 50 *Delta of Venus* author
- 53 Free verse "rhyme scheme"
- 54 Sixty minutes, for Marga Gomez
- 55 Banana stalk
- 57 Christmas poem opener
- 58 Open to the breeze
- 60 *A Boy Named Sue* writer Silverstein
- 61 A little behind
- 62 Schedule guesses, briefly
- 64 Gregory Hines forte
- 66 USA alternative
- 67 How some like it

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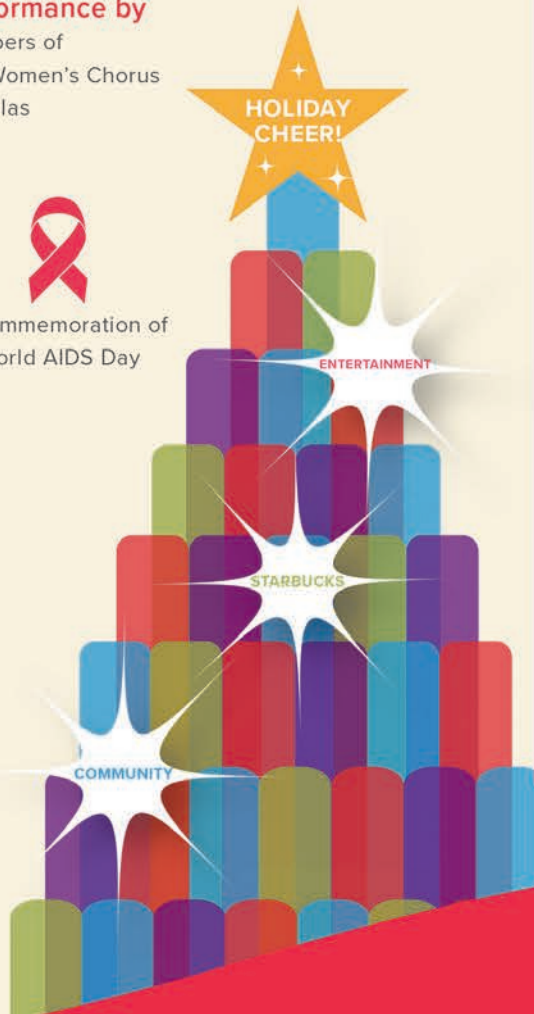
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