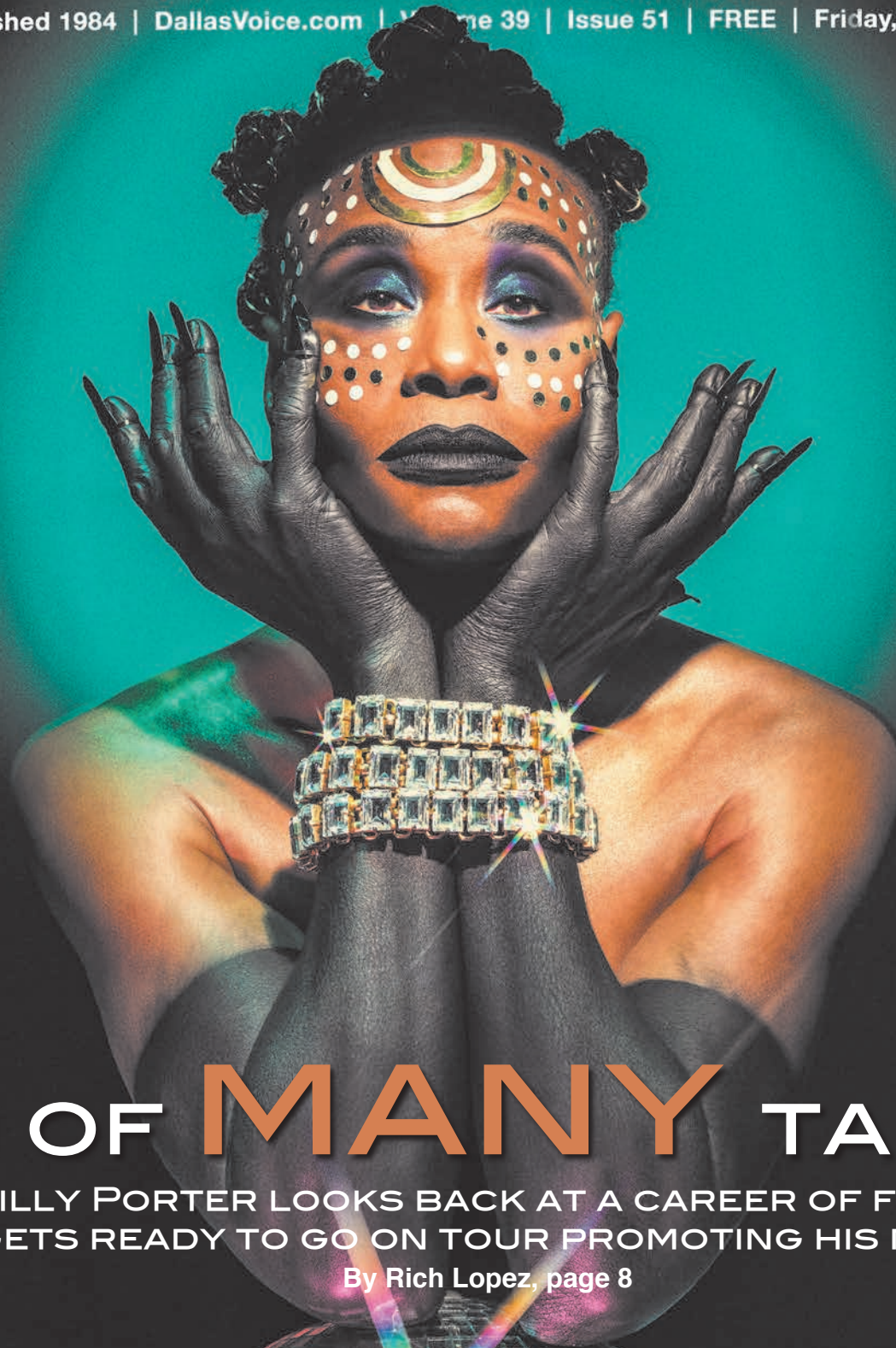




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MAN OF **MANY** TALENTS

BILLY PORTER LOOKS BACK AT A CAREER OF FIRSTS
AS HE GETS READY TO GO ON TOUR PROMOTING HIS NEW ALBUM

By Rich Lopez, page 8

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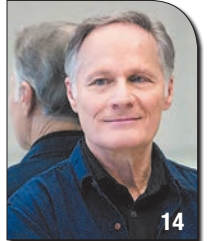
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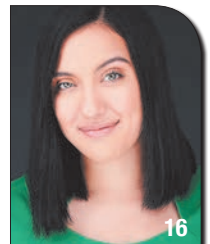
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ON THE COVER: Billy Porter. Design by Kevin Thomas.

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Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

Dallas Pride announces 2023 grand marshals



Dallas Pride named four grand marshals in four categories for the 40th Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. They are: Liz Dyer (LGBTQ Ally Heterosexual Non-Transgender, Male or Female), Ronnie Shue (LGBTQ Female Identifying), Timothy Sherwood aka Kylee O'Hara Fatale (LGBTQ Gender Non-Binary, Non-Conforming) and Ashton Hammer (LGBTQ Male Identifying).

Dyer is a writer, speaker, activist and founder of the Mama Bears organization. She has two sons and lives in Fort Worth.

Shue has been a volunteer at Resource Center Dallas since the center re-opened after the COVID shutdown. She is also an employee of the Round-Up Saloon.

Kylee O'Hara Fatale is a Dallas drag entertainer and producer and is the current Miss Gay Texas America.

Hammer is creator of Smile Big Texas, a grassroots nonprofit organization founded in Amarillo to provide the community with resources that are lacking in the area such as healthcare, civil rights, educational assistance, housing assistance, gender affirming care and autonomy for youth and young adults.

For more information on the grand marshals, visit DallasPride.org.

— David Taffet

Sheraton Dallas to offer Pride package this June

Sheraton Dallas Hotel in downtown Dallas is getting in the spirit for Pride this June with its new package deal: the Pride and Joy Package. Valid throughout the month of June, the stay includes a bottle of champagne and buffet breakfast for two at Open Palette.

The hotel notes that guests attending the

Dallas Pride Music Festival on June 3 and the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on June 4 at Fair Park can leave their car in the hotel's parking garage and take the DART train straight to Fair Park from the Pearl/Arts District Station in front of the hotel.

So whether you're traveling to Dallas or looking for a Pride-infused staycation, book the package online using the promotional code "4LG." Sheraton Dallas is located at 400 N. Olive St.

—Rich Lopez

West Texas A&M faculty declares 'no confidence' in Wendler

Faculty members at West Texas A&M this week declared their dissatisfaction with the university's president, Walter Wendler, with a vote of no confidence in the wake of Wendler's decision earlier this year to cancel a charity drag show that had been planned on campus, according to reports by The Texas Tribune.

The event would have benefited The Trevor Project, an organization and hotline dedicated to preventing suicide among LGBTQ youth.

Faculty senate leaders on Tuesday, April 25, announced the results of the weeklong no-confidence vote, with faculty members voting 179-82 to condemn Wendler's leadership.

Some faculty members said that deciding to cancel the drag show was just one example of Wendler's poor leadership. The resolution announcing the no confidence vote accused Wendler of abusing his position as president by "running the university based on his own religious ideology" and of having exhibited "a pattern of divisive, misogynistic, homophobic and non-inclusive rhetoric that stands in stark contrast with the Core Values of the university," according to the Tribune.

Faculty members also accused Wendler of presenting his personal opinions and religious beliefs as the school's official policy, even though those opinions and beliefs go against the school's mission, violate state and federal law, damage West Texas A&M's reputation and hinder fundraising efforts.

Wendler is already facing a lawsuit filed against him last month by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, the Spec-

trum WT student group and two of Spectrum's student leaders. The lawsuit alleges Wendler's action in canceling the drag show is a violation of the First Amendment and a violation of a Texas campus free speech law signed in 2019 by Gov. Greg Abbott.

— Tammye Nash

3 'drag defenders' arrested at FW drag show



Three people were arrested Sunday, April 23, outside Fort Brewery and Pizza during a drag show at the venue after a counter-protester allegedly sprayed mace on protesters with the anti-LGBTQ group Protect Texas Kids, according to a press release from Fort Worth Police Department.

According to police, Protect Texas Kids protesters showed up at Fort Brewery on Sunday to stage a protest across the street from the restaurant. A group of counter-protesters also showed up, dressed in black, wearing helmets and tactical vests. The counter-protesters — members of the Elm Fork John Brown Gun Club, many of whom were armed with handguns and

long guns, police said — lined up in front of the business.

While monitoring "both groups via a city camera," officers said they saw counter-protester Samuel Fowlkes, 20, "approach the Protect Texas Kids protesters and spray them with pepper spray." When officers attempted to handcuff him, police said, Fowlkes "began to evade officers and then swung his closed fists at officers who tried to stop him."

Another counter protester — Christopher Guillot, 33, — "interfered with officers' efforts by swinging an umbrella at officers." He was arrested after he hit one of the officers in the face with the umbrella.

Then Meghan Grant, 37, "attempted to charge past FWPd officers multiple times to gain access" to the two men being arrested. "A FWPd officer attempted to stop Grant by pushing her back toward the sidewalk," the FWPd press release said, "however, Grant did not comply and was taken into custody."

The EFJBG Twitter feed said Grant was a medic attempting to help Fowlkes and Guillot.

Fowlkes has been charged with assault causing bodily injury (four counts), evading arrest/detention; resisting arrest and 2nd degree felony assault on a police officer. Guillot has been charged with interference with public duties and 2nd degree felony assault on a peace officer. Grant has been charged with Interference with Public Duties and resisting arrest.

— Tammye Nash

Adoptable / GEORGIE



Fans of solid black cats can rejoice: **Georgie** is the cutest black cat ever and is available for adoption at the SPCA of Texas. Georgie is a domestic medium hair mix with the softest black fur imaginable and big yellow eyes. She's 2 years old and a petite 6 pounds. Like

lots of cats, Georgie can be a little on the shy side when you first meet her, but she has a lot of love in store for the people-parent who is patient enough to give her a little space as she acclimates to a new environment. She is at the Dallas Animal Care Center, so no appointment is necessary.

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 Insurance provided by MetLife, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. The Dallas 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. Browse available animals at SPCA.org/FindAPet and visit SPCA.org/DogAdopt to inquire about a dog or SPCA.org/CatAdopt to inquire about a cat.

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VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Hate State

Forget sunshine and Disney, Florida is turning into the anti-LGBTQ hate capital of the country

Things are heating up in Florida, and I'm not just talking about the weather. The state is gearing up for one hell of a Hot Fascist Summer.

On April 16, Florida's Voice tweeted: "Survey: Majority of 'queer parents' consider leaving Florida because of law barring sexual orientation/gender identity instruction in K-3." In response, Christina Pushaw, who works for Gov. Ron DeSantis's campaign, tweeted a waving-hand emoji.

LOL. So funny that Florida is becoming such an unwelcoming place for LGBTQ people that families are actively considering fleeing.

According to The New Republic's Prem Thakker, "The actual study Pushaw was smugly responding to found that nearly one-quarter of LGBTQ Florida parents feared harassment, with parents of school-age children in public schools expressing the greatest concern for their safety. Over half of the parents surveyed have considered moving out of Florida, while 17 percent have already taken steps to do so."

Florida's Voice, by the way, claims it's "dedicated to bringing honest political reporting to Florida." But it is basically a Gov. Ron DeSantis cheering section, which is probably why Pushaw felt comfortable so blithely dismissing the pain and suffering her boss is causing actual human beings.

Speaking of DeSantis, he just appointed a right-wing extremist to the state's Fifth District Court of Appeals. As we know, the judges sitting on the bench at all levels of the judiciary matter a whole hell of a lot when it comes to defending civil rights or throwing civil rights in the trash.

That appointee is Jordan Pratt, a member of the right-wing Federalist Society, according to Right Wing Watch. Pratt



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

worked at the Justice Department during the Trump administration to pack courts with extremist judges.

So that appointment seems, you know, less than ideal.

And then there's Florida Rep. Randy Fine, who seems fine with eradicating LGBTQ people if it means protecting children (it doesn't). As Alejandra Caraballo tweeted on April 12, "While defending his bill in Florida that would ban drag and Pride events, Rep. Fine said that 'if it means erasing a community, because [LGBTQ people] have to target children, then damn right we outta do it.'"

Caraballo calls that "one of the most bigoted statements I've ever heard."

Indeed. LGBTQ people do not target kids, and attempts like Fine's to paint us all as a danger to children contributes to violence against our community. And laws like his do absolutely nothing to protect children from actual real dangers they face — like, I don't know, guns.

And then there's Florida Rep. Webster Barnaby who called "transgender people 'demons' and 'mutants' during debate over a bill that would base access to bathrooms, locker rooms and other facilities in the state on one's reproductive abilities and assigned gender at birth," according to The Advocate.



"We have people that live among us today on planet earth that are happy to display themselves as if they were mutants from another planet," Rep. Barnaby said. "There is so much darkness in our world today, so much evil in our world today, and so many people who are afraid to address the evil, the dysphoria, the dysfunction. I'm not afraid to address the dysphoria or the dysfunction."

"The Lord rebuke you, Satan, and all of your demons and all of your imps who come and parade before us. That's right. I called you demons and imps who come and parade before us and pretend that you are part of this world," Barnaby said.

That's ... a lot.

I mean, I agree that there's a lot of darkness in our world. But it isn't coming from transgender people who are just trying to live their lives without Republicans trying to legislate them out of existence.

But don't worry, Barnaby apologized. "I referred to trans people as demons," he said according to The Advocate. "I would like to apologize to the trans community for referring to you as demons."

Granted, he's still going to vote like trans people are demons. But hey, thanks for the sorry!

Things are so dire in Florida that Equality Florida has issued a travel advisory warning LGBTQ people of "risks posed to the health, safety and freedom of those considering short or long term travel, or relocation to the state." Read the whole statement at EQFL.org

If you must get your Disney fix this summer, go to Disneyland. California is a progressive state, and it has better weather. You're welcome. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ politics for nearly two decades. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

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Renaissance man

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Billy Porter builds on his resurging career with new tour and album

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

On Saturday, April 29, Billy Porter kicks off six weeks of his first-ever tour in support of his newest album, *Black Mona Lisa*. He will visit 25 U.S. cities on this tour, stopping in Dallas on May 10 to perform at the Winspear.

This tour is the latest in the actor/singer's amazing renaissance over the past few years — from Broadway to red carpets and Emmys and now his newest pop album and first time tour.

Porter's recent firsts are many: He made his directorial debut in 2022 with the Amazon Prime movie *Anything's Possible*. In 2021 he became the first queer Black man to win the 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, getting the trophy for his role as Pray Tell in the groundbreaking series *Pose*. And also in 2021, he was the first genderless fairy godparent, starring as Fab G in Amazon's *Cinderella* with Camila Cabello.

Now he has released *Black Mona Lisa*, his first album of original music in over 25 years.

"It's really the first time that I've been able to fully express myself and who I am through my music, through my mainstream pop music space," Porter said of the new album in a press release. "It's like my magnum opus. It's everything to me. You'll really get a glimpse into who I am even deeper with this music."

His live show will feature his hits "Love Is on the Way" and "Love Yourself," a hint of Broadway and nods to *Pose* and certainly a healthy dose of his new pop music, including his recent



banger "Baby was a Dancer."

As he makes his way to Dallas and finalizes the live performance, Porter took the time to talk with Dallas Voice about creating this new album that reflects his true self and how it compares to his first album. Porter also gave us hints of what to expect from his live show.

Vist ATTPAC.org for tickets to the *Black Mona Lisa Tour: Vol. 1*.

Dallas Voice: This must be an exciting time for you in so many ways with the new music and tour. How does it feel for you? Billy Porter: I've waited a long time for this, so it's great. I have new mainstream music coming out on my own terms, finally — especially after decades when my first album came out.

That was in 1997. What are the differences you see since then? It was a very homophobic world — even worse than now. The recording part just didn't work out so well. I was just in the room writing

and trying to tell people what I wanted. No one would listen to me. Now, people listen.

What's great about your upcoming album is that you worked with Justin Tranter, the queer front man for Semi-Precious Weapons. So *Black Mona Lisa* should be quite the gay album. I like that! We wrote a bunch of songs together, and it was magical. He is the fiercest in terms of being an unbelievable songwriter.

These two dynamic gay artists collaborating on one album says so much. Two queer people out of the closet — I never had that before. He's out; I'm out. We're a team unmatched.

I also wrote with Angela Martin and Annie K., and we have this album that's an expression of who I am and exactly how I want to represent myself musically. So different from the first album.

Why was now the time for this album and tour? The universe reveals to me what it is. I don't go with any expectations anymore — or try not to. That's what gets

me tripped up.

I wanted to be the male Whitney when I was a kid, and this idea came back around to me. And so I was waiting for the right time, and something told me: It's time.

As of press time, you're still working on creating the live show. What can you say about it now though? It's this show of life, love, joy, hope, peace. It's a retrospective of my life and career. I'll have songs from the new album, some old R&B, some Broadway. People are gonna get some gospel, and they are gonna get to party.

We've truly seen a new fire in your career the last few years. You're everywhere. What led to that? At 30, I took a break. I did not like the trajectory of my career, and the work dried up. But seeing Jeffrey Wright in *Angels in America* in 1994 was a big moment — seeing someone who looked like me in a positive light. It wasn't until 2000 that I was ready. Ten years later I was in a revival of *Angels* in my return to theater.

That was followed by a Tony for *Kinky Boots*, then an Emmy for *Pose*. You've become a true fashion icon. Now you're directing and writing ... I also have my own production company, Incognegro. So I'm pitching shows and ideas. I am trying to run everything! I'm blessed to have a great team and that's how I get to do this — with a team that helps me along.

The album comes out later this year, but what can you tell us about it now? This mainstream pop music is truly grounded in my personal queerness. That is at the forefront.

It's about self-acceptance and self-love. I want to use my art to heal trauma. I think I'm setting myself free with this album, and I hope others can be set free from whatever they need to be free of.

That's what I'm doing with this album.

Sounds like a bigger message than just some new pop music with this album. I will choose my queer authenticity, no matter the cost. I stand on the shoulders of Black queer men before me like James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin and Sylvester. I'm the first queer generation to have rights, and everyone needs to understand we are not going back. We are not going anywhere.

Pushing to the right

TARRANT COUNTY ELECTIONS

Right-wing groups backing candidates for school board, city council in Tarrant County

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
JournoJames@gmail.com

Seizing on the momentum of previous school board takeovers and the election of Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare, hard right conservatives in the county are now targeting incumbents in nonpartisan races across the county.

In the Fort Worth Independent School District, conservatives are backing Josh Yoder, Valeria Nevarez and Pat Carlson, who are challenging C.J. Evans, Quinton "Q" Phillips and Tobi Jackson.

Also running against Evans is Kevin Lynch, who is backed by former Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and not running explicitly on social issues. Phillips also faces a third challenger, Mar'tayshia James, who is not running on a conservative platform.

Evans, it should be noted, is arguably the school board's most conservative member.

Yoder has campaigned against diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, which are designed to help people of color and LGBTQ people succeed wherever they are. He has also spoken against a sex education curriculum.

Carlson is well-known in politically conservative circles. She was the former chair of the Tarrant County Republican Party and of the staunchly anti-LGBTQ Texas Eagle Forum. She also has a history of inflammatory language against the LGBTQ community and Muslims.

According to the Texas Freedom Network, a liberal advocacy group, in 2012 Carlson was behind "a whisper campaign that led State Board of Education member George Clayton, R-Richardson, to acknowledge recently that he is gay."

The school board challengers are backed by numerous conservative



Political consultant and parent Jay Pritchard said Tarrant County voters elect good people that understand urban schools to area school boards



TCU Professor Emily Harris suggested right-wing candidates target low turnout races to spread fear over diversity



New Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare is the standard-bearer for right-wing political groups in the county

groups, including Patriot Mobile's political action committee, which has ties to new county judge Tim O'Hare. The Grapevine based provider calls itself the country's "only Christian conservative wireless provider" and is well-known for pushing conservative Republican candidates and conservative political causes.

After multiple cycles, Patriot Mobile PAC and grassroots activists helped conservatives finally take control of several suburban school districts. As noted in a Quorum Report article however, those targets were already considered conservative strongholds, and not all those endorsed by the groups embraced the firebrand title.

Their hopes align with what O'Hare, their new standard-bearer, told a conservative group earlier this month. That's to take control in what are traditionally nonpartisan seats in low turnout elections.

These crusades have percolated for a while and are not just isolated to North Texas.

"School boards have become targeted by conservative and right-wing agendas in a nationwide movement," said Emily

Farris, an associate professor of political science at TCU. "Nonpartisan school board races are historically low turnout, so these efforts spread fear over diversity and pandemic restrictions to mobilize voters.

"The effort began in North Texas with Carroll Independent School District in Southlake, so it is not surprising that it's evolving to be even more to the right," she added.

These conservative campaigns concern public school parent Jay Pritchard, a political consultant.

"Religious and racial bigotry should never be tolerated, especially from our elected representatives on school boards," Pritchard said. "We are seeing it happen in Washington, D.C., and Austin, and we have to stop it at the school board level. My four kids have all thrived in both Dallas and Fort Worth ISD, and we need to continue to elect good people that understand urban school districts to serve on those boards."

Other races

In Fort Worth city council races,

councilmembers Elizabeth Beck faces former judicial candidate Pamela Boggess, Jason Lee Peña and Chris Reed. Jared Williams faces Italia de la Cruz and Tonya Carter.

The Fort Worth Excellence PAC, based in Colleyville and with ties to O'Hare, backs Boggess and de la Cruz. Like with the school board, activists would like to see Beck, Williams and Macy Hill, the frontrunner for the open District 7 seat who faces Jason Ellis and Caleb Backholm, forced into runoffs. Runoffs typically attract more diehard activists and increase the likelihood of an upset.

Another must-watch race pits Tarrant County College trustee Bill Greenhill against Laura Pritchett and Jack Reynolds. The challengers are running on a combination of Christian values and critical race theory, a graduate school framework, which is not taught in public schools.

Without naming Beck and Williams, O'Hare told a conservative group earlier in April that "One of them believes men can have periods," O'Hare said. "Need I say anything else?" ■

BTAC returns

BLACK TRANS FOCUS

After missing a couple of years, Black Trans Advocacy Coalition is again holding its annual conference in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, which is holding its 10th annual conference in Dallas this week, started as a local organization. Carter Brown said he put together a local organization for Black trans men simply because there wasn't a group like that in Dallas.

The goal, Brown said, was socializ-

ing and sharing available resources.

To learn best practices for such a group, Brown said he went looking for the other Black trans men's groups around the country. But he couldn't find any. Instead, Black trans men from around the country were reaching out to him.

So within a short time, what started as a local group became a national organization.

And almost just as suddenly, Black Trans Women became a sister organization under a new umbrella organization — Black Trans Advocacy Coalition. Brown's influence has grown along with the organization: He's testified before Congress about the Equality Act. And in 2020, The Root named him one of the 100 most influential African-Americans ages 25 to 45.

Black Tie Dinner recognized the work of BTAC last year, as well, when it named the organization a beneficiary. BTAC was the first Black organization to become a BTD beneficiary in the 40-year history of the annual fundraising dinner, and one of the first transgender groups named to receive funds.

Now BTAC helps Black trans people with a variety of life-saving services — emergency assistance for food, applying for public benefits and obtaining legal identity documents.

It helps Black trans people find inclusive health resources and provides or helps them find financial assistance to help cover healthcare costs.

BTAC Employment Services helps find employment opportunities with companies that don't discriminate, and it helps prepare trans people with ca-

reer readiness skills.

Housing is another area BTAC has tackled, finding safe and secure emergency shelter as well as permanent housing for its members.

The BTAC conference

This week, Black trans men and women have converged on Dallas for the 10th BTAC conference. The week includes more than 50 workshops, seminars, CE courses, general sessions, open-forum discussions and guest speakers.

The conference is free and open to the public.

Workshops are divided into a wide variety of categories, including spiritual wellness, physical wellness, emotional wellness, leadership development, em-



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Luis Valdes Castillo, FNP-C,
has joined Dr. Marc Tribble at MD Progressive Care, located in the heart of the Oak Lawn community. Luis has over 12 years of medical experience. His areas of clinical interest include primary care, Diabetes treatment, HIV Treatment & Prevention (PrEP), STD treatment, and LGBT care. He is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Academy of HIV Medicine. He accepts all major medical insurance plans and speaks English & Spanish.

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Carter Brown, pictured with his wife Espy Brown, founded the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition.

ployment and more. Topics are diverse and take a deep dive into how people who are transgender can live a better life physically and emotionally.

Among the available workshops are several focused on employment topics, include overcoming trans invisibility in the workplace, financial wellness for trans people and Young. Black. Trans Tech. In that last workshop, Sunnie Jones uses storytelling to capture how someone could enter and be successful in the tech field.

Physical wellness topics include a workshop with Sha’Rose Erion, owner of Rose Pelvic Physiotherapy, who discusses how gender affirming care can involve a series of invasive procedures that can cause neurological, musculoskeletal and psychological impairments. She’ll show how pelvic health physical therapy techniques for the gender diverse and transgender patients improve the effectiveness of gender affirming care.

G Williams from The Trevor Project will be on hand to discuss how educa-

tors can support trans youth of color and their mental health.

There is a broad variety of issues being addressed. And while the trans community, especially trans men and women of color, is under attack in Texas and most states across the country, BTAC’s conference is focused on making Black trans lives healthier, happier and more productive.

Although there will be a lot of serious topics addressed throughout the week, the conference is also a lot of fun. Among the evening events are the Black Trans International Pageant that took place on Thursday night to crown Mr. and Miss Black Trans International. The pageant is held early enough in the week that the newly-crowned winners can bask in the glory of their victories for a couple of days before the conference draws to a close on Sunday.

BTAC continues through April 30 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria, 4099 Valley View Lane. BTAC. BlackTrans.org.

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Legal Hospice names new ED

LOCAL NEWS

Michelle Moos takes the reins at longtime HIV agency and hopes to expand agency's reach

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Legal Hospice of Texas Executive Director Michelle Moos said she took the position as director of the agency partly because she saw it as an opportunity to reinvent how the organization is seen in the community. And while certain funding sources restrict where LHT can offer its services, "Nobody else is doing what we do," she said.

Legal Hospice has been helping people

with HIV with legal problems — such as obtaining social security disability, evictions and discrimination — since 1989. That mission has been expanded to helping not just those with HIV, but people with terminal illnesses, also. Those conditions include Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and some cancers.

Last year, after Tony Lokash left his position as the agency's executive director, longtime employee Pete Flores returned as interim ED. After 17 years with LHT, Flores had left to go to law school. He took on the interim executive director job after graduating but before taking his bar exam, eventually leaving at the end of last year to study full time for the bar.

"He was an integral part of me staying," said Moos, who was convinced by the board to take the reins from Flores.

After a few months on the job, Moos said she is looking to expand the agency's reach by looking for new funding, new volunteer attorneys and new ways to help. She said she's looking for an answer to the question, "What else can we be doing?"

Moos is results oriented. "We just don't let files sit," she said.

That's the way LHT has operated since it was founded.

There was an annual conference at SMU that examined ethical issues of concern to the practice of law, medicine and theology, and, in 1988, the conference focused on AIDS. Dallas Legal Hospice grew out of that conference, focusing on ways to help people with HIV with their legal documents.

Louis Weber, Carolyn Gilbert and Thomas Mayo, the founders of what has since become Legal Hospice of Texas,

approached William Waybourn at Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance about adding pro bono legal services to the resources available at the AIDS Resource Center on Cedar Springs Road. Members of the Dallas Young Lawyers Association began volunteering on some of the tougher cases. And by September 1989, Dallas Legal Hospice officially became a non-profit law firm mostly helping people living with AIDS with wills and powers of attorney.

Attorneys in private practice or on the faculty of SMU School of Law who volunteered with the organization at the time were risking their careers — not just because of the stigma attached to AIDS, but also because those affected by the disease were mostly gay men, which carried its own load of stigma.

But rather than give in to the stigma and leave these people with AIDS to sit



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Michelle Moos

on a waiting list for pro bono services, volunteer attorneys would set up tables at Resource Center a couple of nights a month to write wills and create other necessary legal for them.

There was urgency to their work, because they knew many of their clients weren't going to live much longer.

Moos said she is bringing some of that urgency back to the organization.

She doesn't have the traditional background for running an HIV or a legal nonprofit. Instead, she began her professional career in Dallas at the Meadows Foundation, starting in events and facilities and working her way up to become

"director of fun."

She then became operations manager for PRA, a leading global event planning operation. Later, she managed all corporate and incentive travel for United Healthcare.

After making several other corporate stops along the way and gaining 100 pounds, Moos decided to take better care of herself by, among other things, helping to found the volleyball team at UT Dallas.

"I began working here" at Legal Hospice and found a place that was caring and compassionate, she said: "We see a problem. We find a solution" — even if that solution is nothing more than waiting on line on eternal hold for a client.

At one time, when someone with HIV applied for disability, it was automatically approved. Now it's almost automatically denied on first application.

And yet, despite the success of HIV meds in many cases, some people with HIV can't work, at least not full time. A call from an attorney after their disability claim is denied may be more effective than re-applying on their own, but because hold times are so long, most people just give up.

"Our attorneys are on hold for hours,"

Moos said, but they generally get positive results.

Moos said 90 percent of the 400 cases Legal Hospice handled last year were HIV-related and came from within a 16-county region in North Texas. Moos said she wants to find volunteer attorneys in each of those counties — and beyond — to handle even more cases in an even wider area.

Because the rules for current funding restrict the areas Legal Hospice can serve, Moos said she is actively looking for additional grants that will allow her agency to help more people.

But, she postulated, what if someone from Waco is in Dallas for a medical procedure? If they need some legal assistance while they are here, should Legal Hospice have to turn them down just because they don't live in a specific county, or be forced to refer them to a local legal aid organization, leaving someone with a terminal illness on a one- or two-month wait list?

Moos doesn't think so.

After all, she said, there's a reason her agency changed its name from Dallas Legal Hospice to Legal Hospice of Texas: It's to help people throughout the state.



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'Legacy has legs'

DANCE — THEN & NOW

Bruce Wood Dance debuts a legacy piece by Lar Lubovitch for its gala

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
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On Saturday, April 29, Bruce Wood Dance hosts its 13th Anniversary Performance and Gala at the Moody Performance Hall. Normally a repertoire like this would feature a Bruce Wood piece. But this time the night's programming focuses completely on works choreographed by Lar Lubovitch.

Wood danced for Lubovitch in Lubovitch's own company before starting Bruce Wood Dance. And now Lubovitch is here to work with Bruce Wood Dance for its gala — a true full circle moment.

"Lubovitch had a profound influence on Wood's creative style," BWD Artistic Director Joy Bollinger said in a press release. "Together we will celebrate where our founder began and showcase how his legacy continues to go forward."

The gala will feature a cocktail reception, dinner and an auction as well as honoring arts patron Carol Crowe with the 2023 BRUCE Award. Proceeds benefit the company's programming and outreach efforts.

Wood developed his own artistry while dancing in the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company out of New York City in the 1980s. For the gala, BWD will perform "Elemental Brubeck," the world premiere of Lubovitch's "Conversing with Brahms" and the Dallas premiere of "Concerto Six Twenty-Two," a piece that Wood himself was part of.

The latter is a piece Lubovitch created and debuted in 1986 as a response to the AIDS epidemic, and it features what may be one of the first male duets in contemporary dance. In a conversation with Lubovitch about "Concerto Six Twenty-Two," he noted comparisons between the piece coming out during an epidemic and now premiering in Dallas during a pandemic, plus his professional relationship with Wood and, subsequently,



Lar Lubovitch (Photo by Rose Eichenbaum)

Wood's own company.

The back story

Lubovitch choreographed "Concerto" at the height of the AIDS epidemic. As he observed what was happening around him, he landed upon a particularly poignant theme to build upon.

"The piece was choreographed in observation of the fact that 'friendship' was a theme emerging very powerfully," Lubovitch said. "Friends were helping friends die with grace and dignity, and we all had friends who were ill or had passed. The demonstration of that depth of friendship was something that needed commenting on. So I choreographed this piece based on that idea and a duet for two men."

The company debuted the piece at the Lincoln Center fundraiser Dancing for Life. That night was also a big moment for the theater and dance communities — or perhaps, a big statement. That night marked the first that the industry acknowledged the severity of the AIDS

epidemic.

"This was a way to make the situation public but to also comment on something essential," Lobovitch said.

Not everyone was on board, he recalled, noting that some dance companies "didn't even want to sign up because they didn't want to be identified by it, even though they had gay men and people with AIDS in their companies."

AIDS speaks to Bruce Wood, the dancer and choreographer, and to Lubovitch.

"He had been a member of my company when he was diagnosed, but he was quite healthy when he was with us," Lubovitch said of Wood. "'Concerto' existed when he joined, but he did dance the solo role in another section of it, but not the duet."

The impact

The immediate impact of that night was big. The Lincoln Center event raised more than a million dollars, a big number for the '80s. But Lubovitch's piece would go on to have perpetual influence

as a statement piece.

"The duet has been called one of the most famous for men, and it opened the door for creating more duets for men and became an emblematic piece for many AIDS benefits," he said.

BWD Executive Director Gayle Halperin describes the piece as immensely moving.

"This work has been seen worldwide and features one of dance history's most famous male duets. The duet brings tears to your eyes as you know the love, compassion and comfort extended to each other," she said in an email.

Lubovitch's plan was to make a statement but not to necessarily be a radical. But, "In fact, it was radical, and it was viewed as such," he said. "We had gotten booed from time to time because it wasn't acceptable to see two men touch on stage even though it is not sexual in any way."

But not all reactions were negatives. The piece, Lubovitch said, was em-

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Big break

BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Tootsie is the start for queer actor's theatrical path

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

At just 20 years old, Arianna Schrage is embarking on the biggest break of her young theater career. The queer actor took a break from her college studies in Ohio to join the cast of *Tootsie*, which is currently running at the Winspear through Sunday, April 30, as part of Broadway Dallas' season. She will continue her ensemble and understudy roles in Fort Worth when the show moves to Bass Hall May 9-14.

But even though she is on her first national tour, her plan is to get right back into the groove with school.

"It's been such a thrilling gap year, to be immersed into this professional opportunity, but yeah, the plan is to go back to school after the tour," Schrage said by phone.

What *Tootsie* is doing for her now is making everything clear. Schrage says she definitely wants her degree, and she has so much more to learn. But this tour has cemented her career notions.

"There is a lot I'm still interested in, and I'm a nerd, so I want to finish school. If anything, this job has made me more hungry to do this," she said.

Her experience with *Tootsie* has been a learning experience as well as an adventure. She was born in College Station, but Schrage said she is glad to see Texas for real on this tour, since she and her family moved out of Texas soon after she was born. In addition to DFW,



Arianna Schrage

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Tootsie tells the story of Michael who, in his desperation at being an out-of-work actor, turns to drag — which turns out to be the biggest break of his career. The story departs from the original 1982 film that starred Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange and Terri Garr to set

the story in the modern day. Ironically, a man in drag as the main character is perhaps the most hetero thing about the show.

“It’s so interesting because there is no queer parallel — at all,” Schrage said. “There is a brief mention of drag, but it’s always ‘Michael dressing up as Dorothy,’ We never forget he’s portraying a character.”

Still, exploring queer stories is part

of Schrage’s ultimate goal as she moves along her theatrical career path. It is, perhaps, even part of her reason for going back to college.

As she came into her own queerness, she said, she began exploring LGBTQ works. “I do want to continue my exploration through shows, even more than now. I think I can do that through my college experience and then in the professional arena,” she said.

With shows like *The Prom* and *Jagged Little Pill* as part of today’s theater vocabulary, Schrage said she yearns for that representation both onstage and as a member of the audience. But as queer-identifying person, she said she looks forward to the up-and-coming playwrights who extend characters beyond the usual gay and lesbian labels of already-existing works.

“The queer spectrum is so large and open, so I think those playwrights just finding their way are who’s going to change and, hopefully, include an openness to all queer identities,” she said.

On the flip side, Schrage loves that *Tootsie* is less about deeper messages or statements and more of an LOL experience.

“My favorite thing about *Tootsie* is that it makes me belly laugh every time, still to this day,” she said. “The comedy is fresh and sophisticated, and when people are immersed in this story, they’ll be immersed in hilarity — escaping from any cares or worries of the day.” ■

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The reach of the mifepristone ruling

NEWS ANALYSIS



Sen. Tammy Baldwin (Photo by Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call via AP Images)

'Extremist' Texas judge's ruling could have impact far beyond reproductive health

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

The escalating clash over the availability of a certain FDA-approved medication to terminate an early-stage pregnancy has significant implications for many LGBTQ people.

Over the years, various entities have tried to block the use of hormones for gender transition and medications for HIV prevention. Now, the court battles raging over the abortion drug RU-486 (also known as mifepristone) could determine whether any federal judge has the power to pull any controversial

medication off the market.

So there was guarded appreciation on Friday, April 21, when the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would grant a stay against a lower court decision in Texas that sought to pull RU-486 off the market. (Two justices — Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito — dissented from the stay.)

"While today's ruling to keep this safe, effective drug available for the time being is a sense of relief," said U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the LGBTQ Democrat from Wisconsin, "our fight to preserve a woman's right to control when and if to have a family continues."

The Supreme Court's procedural action came in a consolidation of two appeals, *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine* and *Danco Pharmaceuticals v. Alliance*. Both appeals asked the Supreme Court to stay an order issued by a U.S. district court judge in Texas until the merits of the case could be appealed.

Alliance v. FDA began when an an-



Lambda Legal Chief Legal Officer Jenny Pizer

ti-abortion coalition asked U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk (appointed by then-President Trump) in Amarillo to strike down the FDA's long-standing approval of RU-486. The judge did so on April 7.

That same day, another federal judge, U.S. District Judge Thomas Rice, (appointed by then-President Obama) in Spokane, Wash., issued a ruling to ensure that RU-486 would remain available in 18 states which joined a lawsuit by the company that distributes RU-486 (Danco).

The Texas decision moved quickly to the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals which issued a stay against only part of the district court's ruling taking effect until the appeals court could rule on the merits of the decision. The FDA quickly appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and, on April 21, the Supreme Court stayed the district court's entire order.

Why should LGBTQ people care? Because, said Lambda Legal Chief Legal Officer Jenny Pizer, chief legal officer for Lambda Legal, the implications of the ruling reach into many areas. In fact, Pizer said, LGBTQ people should be "profoundly alarmed" by the Texas judge's "utterly lawless ruling" and "only slightly less" alarmed by the Fifth Circuit's willingness to let part of the judge's ruling take effect.

"First, many LBTQ people need ready access to emergency contraception for a

range of medical reasons, including the decision not to continue a pregnancy for one's own reasons," explained Pizer. "... The trial court's approach just as easily (or perhaps more easily) could be aimed at HIV-related medications and puberty blockers and hormone treatments, as well as medications for many other health conditions that are specially relevant for our communities."

Lambda Legal and other LGBTQ groups have long warned that any damage done to the right to choose an abortion could have deep implications for the right to have intimate relations, including marriage, for LGBTQ people. Abortion, said Pizer, "is an LGBTQ+ issue for personal medical reasons, liberty and autonomy doctrinal reasons, and [for] broad, movement partnership reasons."

Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights were among the more than 200 civil rights, health and justice organizations which submitted a brief to urge the Supreme Court to block the Texas judge's ban from going into effect. Twelve out of 13 of Congress' openly LGBTQ members signed onto a similar brief from 253 members of Congress.

The Congressional brief against allowing the Texas judge's ruling to take effect said the ruling and the Fifth Circuit's upholding of part of it had "perilous consequences reach far beyond mifepristone."

"Providers and patients rely on the availability of thousands of FDA-approved drugs to treat or manage a range of medical conditions, including asthma, HIV, infertility, heart disease, diabetes and more," said the brief. "Moreover, the prospect of courts second-guessing FDA's rigorous drug safety and effectiveness determinations will disrupt industry expectations and could chill pharmaceutical research and development."

The District of Columbia and 23 states also submitted a brief to the Supreme Court, asking it to stop the Texas judge's ruling from going into effect. Those states, including California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan and Oregon, said that taking RU-486 off the market would increase the need for surgical abortions, thus increasing the stress on many clinical facilities and causing delays that affect all patients.

"Delays resulting from increased de-

REACH, Next Page

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REACH, From Previous Page



mand for [surgical] abortion procedures will obstruct access to other forms of care at those facilities, inevitably resulting in higher rates of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, barriers to early detection and treatment for breast, ovarian and testicular cancers, and worsened health outcomes for patients' overall sexual and reproductive health and beyond.

"Those harms," the states' brief continued, "will disproportionately impact groups already underserved by the health care system, including women of color, low-income women, people with disabilities and LGBTQ individuals."

The Texas case will now go back to the federal appeals court to rule on the merits of the litigation and then, almost certainly, will be appealed again to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"If the [Fifth Circuit] appeals courts were to accept the trial court's brazen disregard of the decades of evidence that mifepristone is safe, that pregnancy and childbirth are riskier and that many, many other medications are far riskier," said Pizer, "we all will be living in a much more dangerous society."

Meanwhile, just three days after the Texas judge issued his decision, Massachusetts' newly-inaugurated lesbian governor, Maura Healey, directed her state to stockpile RU-486 to ensure that women who need the drug can get it.

"Here in Massachusetts, we are not going to let one extremist judge in Texas turn back the clock on this proven medication and restrict access to care in our state," said Healey.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom made a similar announcement that same day

(April 10). And Oregon's new lesbian governor, Tina Kotek, announced April 20 that her state would stockpile RU-486, saying the Texas judge's de-



Judge Thomas Rice

cision "set an alarming precedent of putting politics above established science, medical evidence, and a patient's health, life, and well-being—with potential implications beyond this one medication."

Kotek said the Alliance's lawsuit is "part of a larger campaign to ban abortion in every state, including those with legal protections for abortion access." ■

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LEGACY , From Page 14

braced not only as a message to the gay community but as a message to everyone. It was a humanitarian piece more so than a gay one.

“It’s an expression of friendship,” the choreographer said. “The idea that men would touch or lift was symbolic to audiences. That was unique.”

The piece has not been out of circulation since it debuted, he added.

The changing language of AIDS

HIV/AIDS is still very much a part of today’s conversation among the LGBTQ community (and beyond), so how does “Concerto” play now?

For Lubovitch, it can be taken at face value and not as a thorough representation of the epidemic as it was back then. But, he reminds, it can still speak to the times, “through the lens of loyalty and integrity and to treat each other with grace in a world that is becoming increasingly more hostile.”

Today we’re once again in the midst

of a pandemic. And Lubovitch said he finds a parallel message within his piece to address that ol’ coronavirus: “It’s like being at war, so two men have this bond to protect each other and value each other’s lives. This human ability to save each other is being expressed in this duet, and it can be applied to this war against COVID the same as the war against AIDS.”

This full circle moment

Lubovitch was Bruce Wood’s mentor before Wood returned home to Texas to found BWD. In the beginning of BWD, Lubovitch recalls creating a small piece for one of the company’s first performances, a piece that probably “no longer exists anywhere.” To bring this piece to BWD for a debut is not a bad thing at all, he said.

“To have my dance at this high quality company and the significance of it is a thrill,” he said.

And teaching the piece (among others) to the company has been special. They



Concerto Six Twenty-Two (Photo by Phyllis McCabe)

even watched video of the dance to learn where Wood is performing in it. The legacies of both Wood and Lubovitch are perpetuated in a somewhat fortuitous cosmic fashion.

“Legacy has legs. I think everyone here has that sense of connection. Gayle

and Joy invited me knowingly to work with the company, and the dancers are well informed,” Lubovitch said. “That they still care about my work and invest in it is very meaningful.”

For more information and gala tickets, visit BruceWoodDance.org.

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MAY 6, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER



COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

1 Mariana Griggs
2 Albert Mata
3 Chad West

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

1 Sukhbir Kaur
2 Jesse Moreno

COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

1 John Sims
2 Joe Tave
3 Zarin Gracey
4 August Doyle
5 Denise Benavides

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

1 Carolyn King Arnold
2 Jamie Smith

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

1 Terry Carrillo
2 Jaime Resendez
3 Yolanda "Faye"
Williams

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

1 Tony Carrillo
2 Omar Narvaez
3 Sidney Robles Martinez
4 Monica R. Alonzo

COUNCIL DISTRICT 7

1 Tracy Dotie Hill
2 Adam Bazaldua
3 Marvin E. Crenshaw
4 Okema Thomas

COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

1 Subrina Lynn Brenham
2 Davante "Shawt" Peters
3 Tennell Atkins

COUNCIL DISTRICT 9

1 Kendra Denise Madison
2 Paula C. Blackmon

COUNCIL DISTRICT 10

1 Kathy Stewart
2 Brian Hasenbauer
3 Sirrano Keith Baldeo
4 Chris Carter

COUNCIL DISTRICT 11

1 Jaynie Schultz
2 Candace Evans

COUNCIL DISTRICT 12

1 Cara Mendelsohn

COUNCIL DISTRICT 13

1 Gay Donnell Willis
2 Priscilla Shacklett

COUNCIL DISTRICT 14

1 Joseph F. Miller
2 Amanda Schulz
3 Paul E. Ridley

COUNCIL DISTRICT 15 /MAYOR

1 Eric Johnson
Write-in

VC#	Location Edificio	Voting Area Lugar De Votación	Address Dirección	City Ciudad	Zip Codigo Postal
E0001	MLK Jr Recreation Center	Gym	2901 Pennsylvania Ave	DALLAS	75215
E0003	Crosby Recreation Center	Broadway Room	1610 E Crosby Rd	CARROLLTON	75006
E0004	Elections Training / Warehouse	Vote Center	1460 Round Table Dr	DALLAS	75247
E0008	First Baptist Richardson		1001 N Central Expy	RICHARDSON	75080
E0009	Cedar Hill Collegiate High School		1515 W Beltline Rd	CEDAR HILL	75104
E0036	Addison Conference Center	Lobby	15650 Addison Rd	ADDISON	75001
E1022	Oak Lawn Branch Library	Auditorium	4100 Cedar Springs Rd	DALLAS	75219
E1029	Richland Campus-Dallas College	G100 Guadalupe Hallway	12800 Abrams Rd	DALLAS	75243
E1052	Lochwood Branch Library	Black Box	11221 Lochwood Blvd	DALLAS	75218
E1074	Samuell Grand Recreation Center	Computer Lab 111	6200 E Grand Ave	DALLAS	75223
E1088	Skyline Branch Library	Auditorium	6006 Everglade Rd	DALLAS	75227
E1096	Pleasant Grove Ctr-Dallas College	PG 108/109	802 S Buckner Blvd	DALLAS	75217
E1116	Harry Stone Recreation Center	Multi-Purpose Room 104	2403 Millmar Dr	DALLAS	75228
E1301	Florence Recreation Center	Event Center	2501 Whitson Way	MESQUITE	75150
E1303	Eastfield Campus-Dallas College	G Building, Lobby	3737 Motley Dr	MESQUITE	75150
E1708	Garland Center-Dallas College	Conference Room A&B	675 W Walnut St	GARLAND	75040
E1723	South Garland Branch Library	Program Room	4845 Broadway Blvd	GARLAND	75043
E2005	Marsh Lane Baptist Church	Fellowship Hall	10716 Marsh Ln	DALLAS	75229
E2027	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Parlor Room	7611 Park Ln	DALLAS	75225
E2052	Fretz Park Library	Black Box Theater	6990 Belt Line Rd	DALLAS	75254
E2060	Audelia Road Branch Library	Auditorium	10045 Audelia Rd	DALLAS	75238
E2220	University Park UMC	Caldwell Room 120	4024 Caruth Blvd	DALLAS	75225
E2305	Farmers Branch Manske Library	Meeting Room	13613 Webb Chapel Rd	FARMERS BRANCH	75234
E2307	Brookhaven Campus-Dallas College	H125	3939 Valley View Ln	FARMERS BRANCH	75244
E2407	Josey Ranch Lake Library	Meeting Room 150	1700 Keller Springs Rd	CARROLLTON	75006
E2604	Valley Ranch Library	Meeting Room	401 Cimarron Trl	IRVING	75063
E2805	Coppell Town Center	Atrium	255 E Parkway Blvd	COPPELL	75019
E2924	Rowlett City Hall - Annex	Conference Room	4004 Main St	ROWLETT	75088
E2941	Sachse City Hall	Courtroom	3815-B Sachse Rd	SACHSE	75048
E3007	El Centro Campus-Dallas College	C BLDG-STUDENT CTR MAIN AREA	801 Main St	DALLAS	75202
E3008	George L Allen Sr Court Building	Main Lobby	600 Commerce St	DALLAS	75202
E3043	Paul L Dunbar Library	Auditorium	2008 E Kiest Blvd	DALLAS	75216
E3064	Friendship West Baptist Church	Banquet Hall Foyer	2020 W Wheatland Rd	DALLAS	75232
E3073	Highland Hills Library	Auditorium	6200 Bonnie View Rd	DALLAS	75241
E3090	Jonsson Central Library		1515 Young St	DALLAS	75201
E3106	A E Sims Cedar Hill Rec Center	Lobby	310 E Parkerville Rd	CEDAR HILL	75104
E3202	Duncanville Library	MTG RM 1-3	201 James Collins Blvd	DUNCANVILLE	75116
E3309	Lakeside Activity Center	Large Room	101 Holley Park Dr	MESQUITE	75149
E3400	Balch Springs Civic Center	Meeting Room	12400 Elam Rd	BALCH SPRINGS	75180
E3500	Sunnyvale Town Hall	Council Chambers	127 N Collins Rd	SUNNYVALE	75182
E3605	Disciple Central Comm Church	Youth Room 104	901 N Polk St	DESOTO	75115
E3809	Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	Meeting Room	1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy	LANCASTER	75134
E3921	Seagoville City Hall	Foyer	702 N Hwy 175	SEAGOVILLE	75159
E3940	Wilmer Community Center		101 Davidson Plz	WILMER	75172
E4029	West Dallas Center-Dallas College	Main Lobby	3330 N Hampton Rd	DALLAS	75212
E4050	Mountain Creek Library	Auditorium	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	DALLAS	75249
E4064	Martin Weiss Recreation Center	Auditorium	1111 Martindell Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4071	Oak Cliff Government Center	Main Lobby	702 E Jefferson Blvd	DALLAS	75203
E4086	Grauwlyer Park Recreation Center	Room A	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	DALLAS	75235
E4113	Mountain View Campus-Dallas College	E Bldg, East Foyer	4849 W Illinois Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4502	Betty Warmack Library	Empower Room	760 Bardin Rd	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
E4516	Crosswinds High School	ROOM 104	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	GRAND PRAIRIE	75050
E4607	Irving City Hall	Main Lobby	825 W Irving Blvd	IRVING	75060
E4633	North Lake Campus-Dallas College	L137 A/B	5001 N Macarthur Blvd	IRVING	75038
E4642	Irving Arts Center	Suite 200	3333 N Macarthur Blvd	IRVING	75062

DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES / TIMES /LOCATIONS

April (abril) 24-28

Monday-Friday (*lunes a viernes*)

8a.m. to 5p.m.

April (abril) 29

Saturday (*sábado*)

8a.m. to 5p.m.

April (abril) 30

Sunday (*domingo*)

12p.m. to 6p.m.

May (mayo) 1-2

Monday – Tuesday (*lunes y martes*)

7a.m. to 7p.m.

**Those City of Dallas residents who are in Denton County, please access the following website for Denton County Early Voting locations, dates, and times:

<https://www.votedenton.gov>

***Those City of Dallas residents who are in Collin County, please access the following website for Collin County Early Voting locations, dates, and times:

www.collincountytx.gov/elections

or call Parris Long, Elections Manager (City of Dallas) at (214) 670-3742



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 **HELP Center**
for LGBT Health and Wellness

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Sybastian Smith, organizing director at the National Center for Transgender Equality, will be the Black Transmen Inc. keynote speaker at the National Black Trans Advocacy Conference and Awards Gala taking place this week in Dallas at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel. Black Trans Mx keynote speaker is Renae Taylor, a Black, disabled non-binary trans organizer from Memphis, and the Black Transwoman Inc. keynote speaker is Jade Lenore LeDuff, senior manager of institutional giving at the Transgender Law Center. Find more information on speakers and workshops along with the complete conference schedule at BTAC.BlackTrans.org.

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

■ **Every Wednesday: THRIVE**

Resource Center's THRIVE Wednesday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Resource Center Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road 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.

APRIL

■ **Through April 30: National Black Trans Advocacy Conference**

Tenth anniversary of the Black Trans Advocacy Conference at the Doubletree Dallas Galleria, 4099 Valley View Lane. Info at BTAC.org.

■ **April 28: The Boulet Brothers' 'Dragula: Titans'**

Join the Boulet Brothers and the cast of The Boulet Brothers' Dragula Titans live on stage for their very specific and spooky fabulous drag. 7 p.m. at House of Blues. DragulaLive.com.

■ **April 28-30: Pink Martini**

Gay bandleader Thomas Lauderdale helms his jazzy collective in a performance with Music Director

Laureate Miguel Harth-Bedoya that closes out the season at Bass Hall. FWSymphony.org.

■ **April 29: Scholars' Gala**

The LGBT Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships to LGBT and ally students at 7:30 p.m. at Crozier Hall, 2218 Bryan St. LGBTChamber.com.

■ **April 29: 13th Anniversary Performance and Gala**

Bruce Wood Dance celebrates its 13th anniversary with a performance and gala at 7 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at TicketDFW.com. Info at BruceWoodDance.org.

■ **Through April 30: The Butterfly's Evil Spell'**

Gay poet Federico Garcia Lorca's story about unrequited love plays out in a whimsical setting of insects at Theatre Three. Theatre3Dallas.com.

■ **April 30: Miss Gay Dallas State and State at Large**

Official prelim to the Miss Gay Texas and State at Large Pageant 2023, Miss Gay Dallas State and State at Large pageant with a theme of pastels for spring...groundbreaking. Doors at 5 p.m. Show at 6 p.m. at The Rose Room. \$5 cover.

■ **Through April 30: 'Into the Woods'**

Community fave Joel Ferrell directs this fairy tale mashup musical by Steven Sondheim for the Dallas Theater Center. Performances held at the Wyly Theatre. DallasTheaterCenter.com.



■ **Through April 30: 'Tootsie'**

Broadway at the Center presents the musical *Tootsie*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

MAY

■ **May 2: 'Rise Up'**

In conjunction with Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement, a panel discusses securing trans rights at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, 300 N. Houston St. \$19 admission for nonmembers includes the special exhibit. Free. Tickets at <https://dhhrm.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0S6e00000ddORUEA2>.

■ **May 2: Classic Chassis**

Classic Chassis Car Club meets 6-8 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

■ **May 4: Black Tie's Dessert B4 Dinner**

Black Tie Dinner's new premier event, Dessert B4 Dinner, will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Black Tie officials will introduce student activist Trevor Wilkinson as this year's Black Tie Dinner Trailblazer Award recipient. Tickets are \$50, available at BlackTie.org.

■ **May 4: Brewing Up Business**

Kick start your morning and your business. Develop new business relationships with the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce at 8:30 a.m. at Crickles & Co., 4001 Cedar Springs Road, Suite E. Free to members who register a day in advance. \$10 at the door. \$20 non-members.

■ **May 4-8: Purple Party**

Purple Odyssey runs four days with 11 parties and 20 international DJs. Last year's event donated \$200,000 to Dallas LGBTQ organizations. Saturday's Main Event takes place at Fair Park Coliseum with Eddie Martinez, Liza Rodriguez and Jamey Boozer. PurpleFoundation.org.

■ **May 7: Rise**

Purple Party presents Rise, the final day of an all-new three-day party series at Dallas Marriott Suites Medical/Market Center, 2493 N. Stemmons Freeway. Reservations at marriott.com/dalmt.

■ **May 9-14: 'Tootsie'**

Broadway at the Bass presents the musical *Tootsie*. Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

■ **May 10: 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.

■ **May 10: Silver Pride Project**

Coffee and conversation 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwlyer Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St.

■ **May 11-13: 'Fiddler on the Roof'**

Broadway at the Center presents the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

■ **May 13: House of DIFFA**

DIFFA's large annual House of DIFFA fashion show and luxury silent auction. Hilton Anatole Hotel.

■ **May 14: Mother's Day**

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

Bruce Wood Dance celebrates its 13th anniversary with a gala event Saturday, April 29, with a performance featuring acclaimed dances of Lar Lubavitch. (Photo by Sharen Bradford)



Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Lots of love — and a little hate — at drag brunch

Hola er'body. I hope you are all having the most fabulous day ever. I woke up today feeling good and ready to kick the day's ass (but that could be the coffee talking).

A few weeks ago I performed at a drag brunch. I don't do many brunches — even though I always end up having fun — because it just makes for an extremely long day for me. Plus, daytime drag is the devil. At least in the clubs or at night I can find a dark corner to hide in when I'm feeling ugly. But daytime drag? There is nowhere to hide. That damn sun shows off *everything*, warts and all. Fuck dat sun.

Getting in drag that early, especially after doing drag the night before, can really fuck up your face. I shaved on Friday and Saturday evening, then woke up at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning and shaved again. It makes your face feel like that box grater scene in *Evil Dead Rises*. (Great movie, by the way.)

While at this particular drag brunch, I got a taste of what the world is like sometimes outside of our safe little community bubble. And I did not care for it one bit.

The restaurant where we were performing is located inside of a hotel, and they were gracious enough to give us a room in the hotel to use as a dressing room. It was perfect. It was spacious enough that all four performers had plenty of room for their drag and a small entourage.

The only downside to having a room on the third or fourth floor was that we had to take an elevator and walk through the hotel to get to the venue. That's not usually a big deal, but this time the hotel was packed.

Apparently, the hotel was hosting about 400 or so young cheerleaders and another couple of hundred tweens who were in town for the Taylor Swift concert. And the cheerleaders were out in full force, practicing routines out in the courtyard, running around at full speed — you know, being cheerleaders.

Then a few big ol' wig wearers walk through the lobby. Baby, when I tell you



the whole room went silent! All you could hear was the tippy-tap of my heels and, of course, my deepest voice asking people "What's up?" as I walked by.

And these adorable little cheerleaders, most of them being about 11 or 12, got so excited to see us. Some were waving; some asked if they could take a picture with us. If they asked for a pic, I would always say, "Only if it's okay with your mom," and the moms were usually standing close by. I posed for about 20 photos, and the whole time the girls were saying things like, "OMG! We love Drag Race!" and "OMG! I love your makeup!" and "OMG! Do you know Allyssa Edwards?"

I honestly felt like a huge movie star or somethin'.

Then I went inside the restaurant, which was partitioned off so the general public couldn't see inside, and I do my first of two sets. The crowd was amazing — big tables of gays, bigger tables of straight women and lots of couples. They all tipped really well and were so engaging. There is no better feeling than entertaining a receptive audience. They really made me feel special.

Then I ran back to the room to change into my next costume.

As I stepped off the elevator after changing, I could tell immediately that something was different. The lobby was quiet except for one angry man voice. I

turned the corner and saw this grown man, maybe 45 and about 6 feet tall, yelling at this small woman. He was up in her face, demanding to know, "Who booked this bullshit knowing there would be children here?" I want to talk to a manager! I have a small penis and am insecure about my sexuality!

Okay, so he didn't say actually that last one, but we were all thinking it.

That lady might have been tiny, but she stood her ground and talked to him like he was a toddler: "I am the manager. We are sorry this has upset you. Could you lower your voice?"

He eventually threw his hands in the air and walked away saying he would NEVER come back to this hotel. He was big mad.

It turned out that Big Mad wasn't even a parent of any of the kids there. He was there for a business conference and just needed something to be mad about. The sad thing about it was the fact that every other single person I came in contact with that day was spreading nothin' but love, but that asshole affected everyone in that lobby with his dickishness.

I apologized to the manager lady, saying, "I'm so sorry you had to deal with that." But she just shrugged it off and said, "It's all part of the job." I told her that unfortunately it is now part of our job, too.

The amount of anti-drag crap going around is getting ridiculous. I hate that they call us groomers. I do not care if your kid's hair is awful; I am not trying to groom your child. Let 'em look ugly; I don't care.

So I went on back into the venue for my second set and walked back into our cozy bubble of love. I took a pic with a couple's tiny baby — so adorable. One woman showed me a pic on her phone of me with her son at one of the drag queen story time events I did at the li-

brary about five years ago. She hugged me and thanked me and said that her son still asks about me.

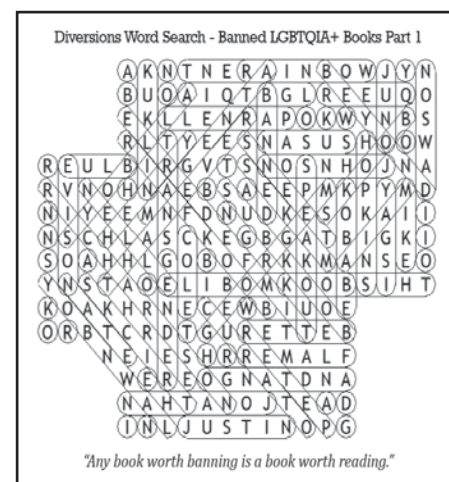
Well, that made me emotional.

Going from one extreme to another was very eye-opening — from those kids smiling and waving, to a micropeened jerk yelling about how disgusting drag queens are then back to a room full of love and light. My emotions were all over the place.

Hate really is a learned behavior, but, thank God, love still flourishes.

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.

submit

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

SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Queen Kathryn Parr of England, Ireland and France parades with her court at Scarborough Renaissance Festival. (Photos by Gail Dittenber)

Gaybingo



DIFFA Dallas Patron Preview Party

(photos by Danny Campbell)



David White and Richard Rivas



Gabiella Monte and James Peter Henry



House of DIFFA Co-Chairs Haley Clark and Richard Rivas with models



Kyle Sauter, Jay Brajczewski and Travis



Ken Weber and Michael Buss



LeAnne Locken, Steven Rahhal, Kary Brittingham and Tina Amin



Mark Mayland and Justin Jezek



Rick Castillo, Ken Weber, Jennifer Miller, David White, Richard Rivas and Haley Clark



Michael McAlone, Maricarmen Szeszko, Rick Castillo and Jack Hobbs



Steve Kemble



Vito Cammisano and Devin Savage

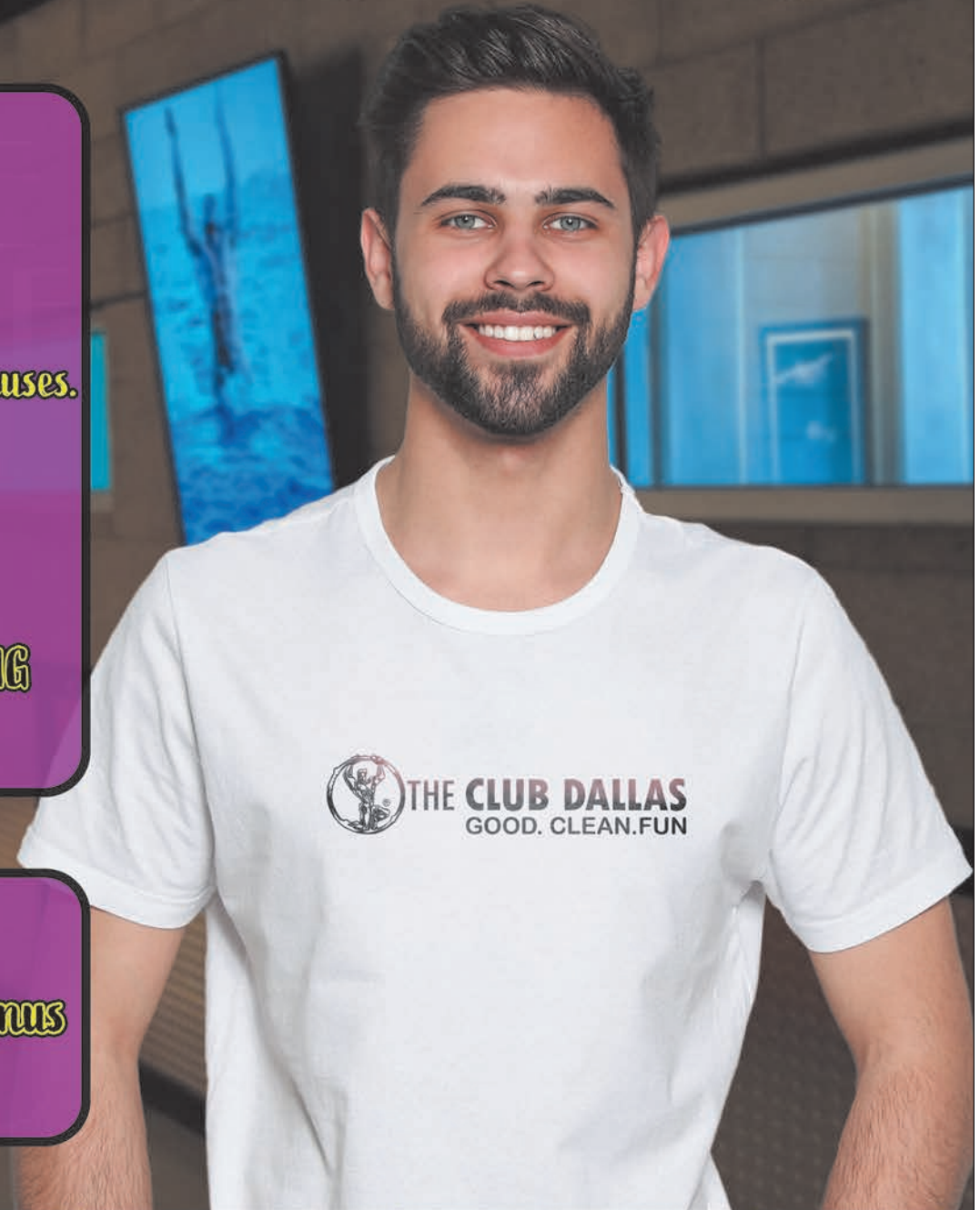
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SMU Pride Visibility Day

(photos courtesy Susie Hess)



Outloud Sports

(photos by Boady Reid)



WORD SEARCH



Diversions Word Search - Banned LGBTQIA+ Books Part 1

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 a famous related quote by Isaac Asimov!

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



Banned/LGBTQIA+/Books
 Maia/Kobabe
 Gender/Queer
 Peter/Parnell, /Justin
 Richardson, /Henry/Cole
 And Tango/Makes/Three

Jonathan/Evison
 Lawn Boy
 Juno/Dawson
 This Book/Is Gay
 Ellen/Hopkins
 Tricks

Susan/Kuklin
 Beyond/Magenta:
 Transgender/Teens
 Speak Out
 Mike/Curato
 Flamer

George M/Johnson
 All Boys/Aren't/Blue
 Tim Federle
 Better/Nate/Than Ever
 Rainbow/Book Bus (.dot.org)
 Bookmobile/Book Fair

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

Solution on Page 28

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PUZZLE

Kiss Me, Kate McKinnon

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20						21					22				
23						24					25		26	27	28
33	34	35													
38															
42															
45															
49															
60	61	62													
65															
68															

Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 Long O, on Lesbos
- 6 Porter's fuel?
- 10 What fluffers give
- 14 Has sex alone
- 15 Invitation to a top?
- 16 Dull discomfort
- 17 Proclaims, to King James
- 18 Future queen of *Star Wars*
- 19 Blow, as a game
- 20 With 33-Across, McKinnon movie in the works
- 23 Language ending
- 24 Word on a lavatory door
- 25 Sings part of *The Lonely Goatherd*
- 29 Wiggle the nose like Samantha
- 32 French Revolution figure
- 33 See 20-Across
- 36 With 46-Across, 2018 movie of McKinnon
- 38 Instrument that drones
- 40 Drama in the land of Samurai
- 41 Simpson case judge
- 42 Pussycat, perhaps
- 43 The S of RSVP
- 44 Circumcision sound
- 45 Barrie's precipitation
- 46 See 36-Across
- 49 Jane of a 1944 Moorehead flick

Down

- 51 *Love Story* composer
- 52 Some eat it semi-firm
- 56 2016 movie of McKinnon
- 60 Frida's father
- 63 Hollinghurst's *The Folding* ____
- 64 Ball balancers
- 65 Maria's "Do" equivalent
- 66 Enchanted Disney girl
- 67 "Come here often?" is one
- 68 Pup ____ (excited responses)
- 69 "We're here! We're queer!" e.g.
- 70 They may be split

Down

- 1 Davis of *King*
- 2 Lovemaking responses
- 3 Top
- 4 Postpunk movement
- 5 Straight AIDS victim Arthur
- 6 Toni of *United States of Tara*
- 7 Embarrassingly short
- 8 Infamous Idi
- 9 Like a condom gone bad
- 10 Like some kindergarten programs
- 11 *The Name of the Rose* writer
- 12 Oohs' partners

- 13 One of Freddie Mercury's pair
- 21 ASCAP alternative
- 22 Sex appeal
- 26 Stu of early TV
- 27 Christine of *Gross Anatomy*
- 28 Do this after you drop the soap
- 29 "Equal justice under law," to homophobes
- 30 Really queer, to straights
- 31 Skater Sonja
- 33 Cut down to size
- 34 Fran Drescher show, with *The*
- 35 Actress Samantha
- 37 Auction oral outburst
- 39 Saint in Brazil
- 43 Lubricant, at times
- 44 Rosie's *Sleepless in* ____
- 47 Lincoln portrayer Raymond
- 48 Soldier cops
- 50 Everglades wader
- 53 Escort from the door
- 54 Acceptance of LGBT life style, hopefully
- 55 Targets of tops
- 57 Word on either lesbian's towel
- 58 Bouncer for Amelie Mauresmo
- 59 Russian river to the Caspian
- 60 Gentle touch
- 61 Beverage suffix
- 62 Bear lair

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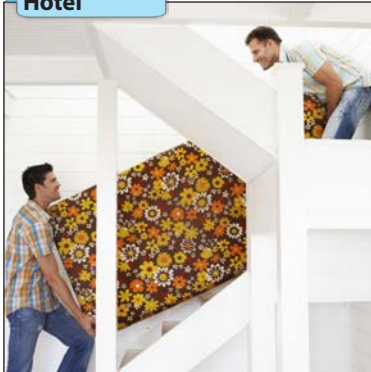
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