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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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# Howdy folks!

## State Fair of Texas opens this weekend

By Rich Lopez, page 8

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**PUBLISHER** Leo Cusimano, leo@dallasvoice.com

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

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Chad Mantooth, mantooth@dallasvoice.com
**CONTENT MARKETING SPECIALIST** Mathew Dominguez, mathew@dallasvoice.com
**NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE** Todd Evans, Rivendell Media Inc. | 908-232-2021

**ART DIRECTOR** Kevin Thomas, thomas@dallasvoice.com
**MULTIMEDIA** Jimmy Bartlett, Website Management
Israel Luna, DVtv Executive Producer
Tom Roma, DVtv Producer; Joseph Herrera, Producer

**DVtv Hosts** Regina Lyn, Larry The Fairy, Corry Williams

**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Linda Depriter, distribution@dallasvoice.com
**FOUNDERS** Robert Moore | Don Ritz

**AFFILIATIONS | MEMBERSHIPS**
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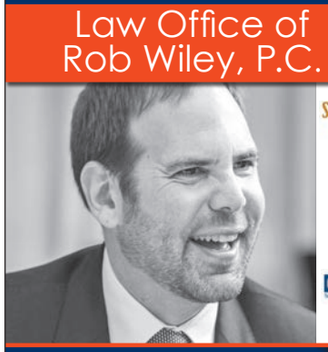

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Carole Anne Boyd, DDS, PC
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# Bites from our blog

**WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com**



Sherrell Cross

## Dallas Pride names Sherrell Cross as executive director

The Dallas Pride Board of Directors announced Wednesday, Sept. 27, that Sherrell Cross has been chosen as the organization's new executive director. Cross brings a strong background in LGBTQ advocacy and leadership as well as experience and passion to her new role, Dallas Pride officials said.

Board President Frank Holland said, "We are delighted to welcome Sherrell Cross as our organization's new executive director. Her deep commitment to our mission and her impressive track record make her the ideal leader to guide Dallas Pride into a bright and inclusive future."

As executive director, Cross will oversee all aspects of Dallas Pride's operations, including event planning, community outreach and fundraising.

Cross said she is "honored to lead Dallas Pride and build upon the incredible work of this organization.

"Pride is not just a celebration," she continued. "It's a vital platform for advancing LGBTQ rights and making our community's voices heard. I am excited to work alongside our dedicated team to create memorable and meaningful Pride experiences for all."

*— Tammye Nash*

## Shaheen demands city investigate Texas Latino Pride for obscenity

State Rep. Matt Shaheen, the Republican resenting State House District 66, this week emailed a letter to the Dallas City Council — copying Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia and Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot — demanding that city officials investigate the Texas Latino Pride Festival held Saturday, Sept. 16, at Reverchon Park.

"I believe children were harmed at this event in violation of the Texas Penal Code," Shaheen wrote. "Children were present and witnessed disgusting, obscene content that shows individuals committing offenses … ."

He continued, "In this case, it is clear that the event organizers knew exactly what children would see and that they meant to promote it to children fulfilling both elements of the crime. … There is zero social value that minors can possibly receive in watching grown men parade around in BSDM (sic) underwear."

Shaheen concluded, "As Dallas elected city officials, you must ensure that these crimes against children are prosecuted," Shaheen insisted, concluding his letter with, "Duty requires that you investigate this matter immediately. Please follow that duty for the sake of our children."

In response to the letter, Dallas City Council Member Chad West told Dallas Voice, "As a father of two, I know there are real dangers out there that keep us parents up at night. An arts and culture event in a city park by LGBT performers is not one of them.

"As a Dallas City Council member, I am proud that Dallas will continue our bipartisan consensus




## Obituary



**Dr. Brady L. Allen** died peacefully in his sleep after short illness on July 11, 2023. Dr. Allen was born in Port Arthur on Aug. 21, 1953 and attended Bishop Byrne High School, graduating as valedictorian in 1971. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated summa cum laude in 1975, then went on to obtain his M.D. degree from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, finishing fourth in his class in 1979. He completed his Internship and residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital in July of 1982.

Dr. Allen was a nationally recognized expert in the field of HIV medicine and received numerous volunteer awards from many AIDS service organizations, including a Lifetime Achievement Award given to him in 2007 by Dr. Jocelyn Elders.

Dr. Allen spent 36 years delivering compassionate and comprehensive care to the Dallas LGBTQ community. They honored him in 2002 as the grand marshal of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, Dallas' LGBTQ Pride parade. He sat on various boards, including AIDS-Arms Network and the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. He was a renowned lecturer and teacher in the field of HIV treatment and prevention and will always be remembered for his fierce commitment to the health and well-being of people living with HIV Disease.

Dr. Allen is survived by his husband, Michael Layton; his brothers, Shawn Allen and Mitch Gaspard; his nephew, Joshua Allen, and his niece, Rachel Allen.

Services to celebrate his memory will be held Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the local HIV service organization of your choice.

to support Chief Eddie Garcia's efforts to focus Dallas Police resources on violent crimes and getting criminals who hurt others off the street. I will not entertain the demands in Mr. Shaheen's letter. Dallas Police resources should not be wasted on ideological stunts aimed at harassing people because of their skin color and who they love.

"As a gay man, I would like the LGBT people — especially Latino LGBT folks — of Plano, Frisco, McKinney, Prosper and Celina to know you will always be welcome and loved in the city of Dallas. Your talents and full, authentic selves are welcome here anytime."

Read Shaheen's complete letter online at DallasVoice.com.

— *Tammye Nash*

### SB 12 ruled unconstitutional

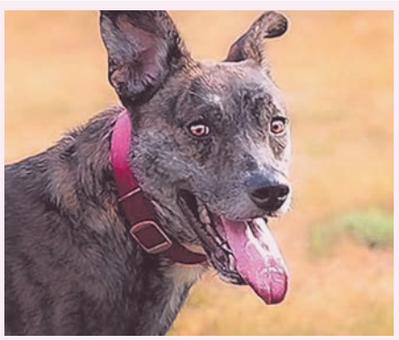
A federal judge in the Southern District of Texas on Tuesday, Sept. 26, ruled that the state's "drag ban law," Senate Bill 12, is unconstitutional and issued a permanent injunction blocking the legislation from taking effect.

The ruling stops the Texas Attorney General and other government officials from enforcing any provisions of the ban.

"Today's ruling blocks a law that threatens some of the most cherished First Amendment freedoms we all hold dear," said ACLU of Texas attorney Chloe Kempf. "SB 12 attempts to suppress drag artists and the LGBTQIA+ community … . As the court recognized, SB 12 is also vague, over-broad and chills entire genres of performances that are not obscene or inappropriate, from high school Shakespearean plays to the *Nutcracker* ballet to the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders."

— *From Staff Reports*

## Adoptable / PUMPERNICKEL

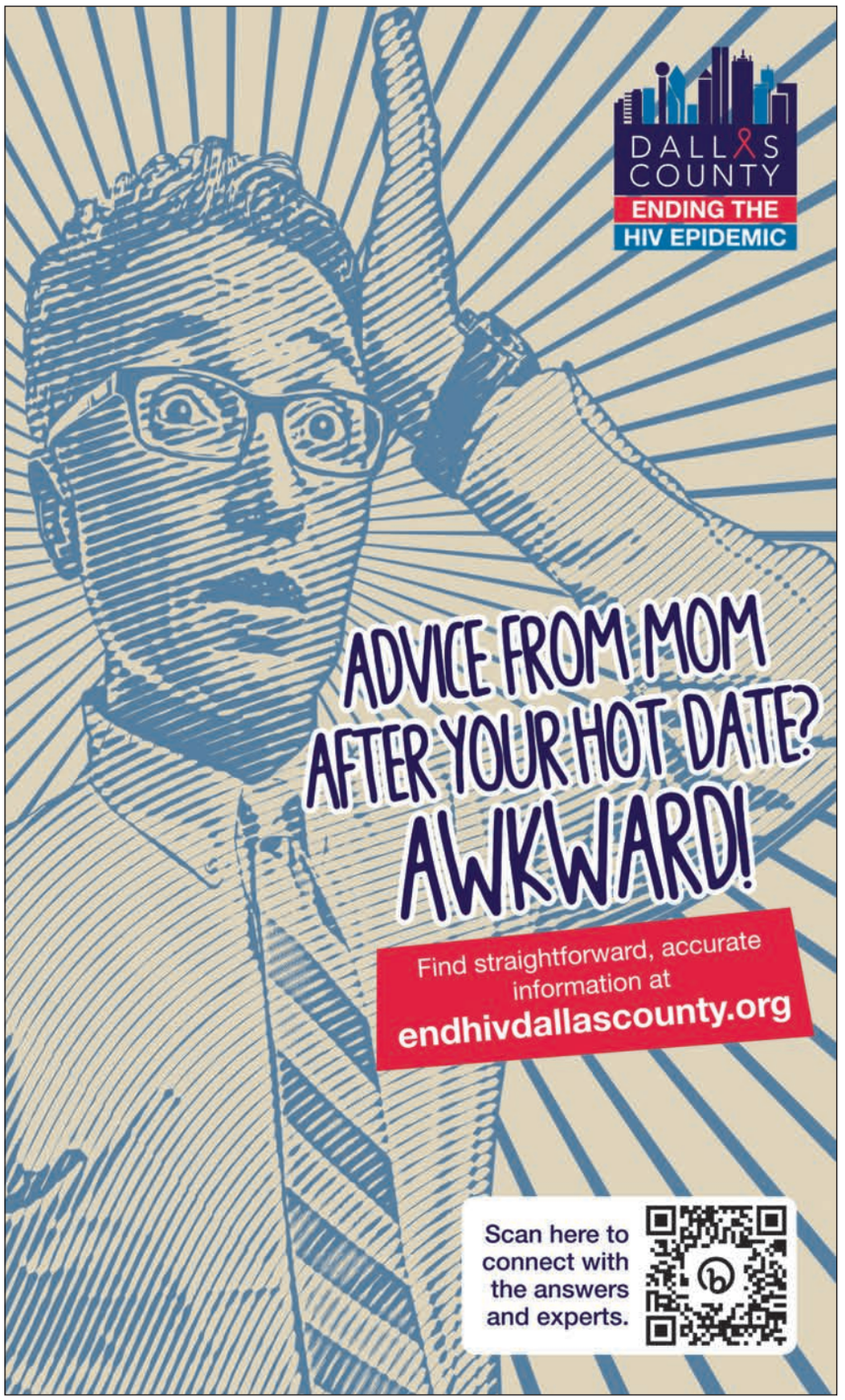


Meet **Pumpernickel**, a lively little 2-year-old female catahoula leopard dog mix. She has a brindle coat of swirled black, red and cream and is just the right size at 54 pounds. She has beautiful brown eyes and a lovely smile and the longest pointy-while-at-the-same-time-bendy ears you've ever seen. Pumpernickel likes to get out to the play yard along with other activities like playing ball and going on walks. She does well with other dogs in the shelter and seems to be a good fit for human kiddos, too. Just bring all family members to the shelter to meet her before you adopt.

Like all pets from the SPCA of Texas, Pumpernickel has been spayed and microchipped and is up to date on all necessary vaccinations. She is housed at the Russell E. Dealey Animal Rescue Center, so you'll need an appointment to meet her. Find her profile at SPCA.org/Dogs to make an appointment button. Browse our 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. The SPCA Dallas Animal Care Center is located at 2400 Lone Star Drive and the Ellis County Animal Care Center can be found at 2570 FM Road 878 in Waxahachie.







# Hypocrisy AND privilege

Lauren Boebert displayed behavior she condemns, and got away with it when others wouldn't have



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

My wife and I went to the movies recently and managed not to vape, take selfies, act disruptively or grope each other. These things are, as I understand, traditional acts of heterosexual mating and/or cries for help when one is going through a divorce.

I am one of those people for whom theater etiquette is very important. Whether it's the movies, the opera or a heavy metal show, I expect folks not to ruin it for me. And, usually, they don't (except for that One Tall Guy at metal shows: Why do you stand directly in front of the stage every single time? WHY?).

So I would have been very pissed had I attended the same Denver performance of *Beetlejuice* as U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert.

Vaping, taking flash selfies, singing and dancing to the point of being disruptive — and groping — are not acceptable audience behavior. If Boebert had done just one of those things, I'd give her a pass — rude but fleeting. But the fact that she engaged in all of them and then pulled a "Do you know who I am?" when she got kicked out of the theater is, honestly, a perfect encapsulation of the Republican Party as it stands today: You don't give a shit about anyone but yourself, and you throw a fit when called out for your bad behavior.

And yes, Boebert has apologized for most of it, blaming her actions on the fact that she's going through a divorce.

But the thing is, she should never have been engaging in this behavior to begin with. She's a grown-ass woman, not a 15-year-old. At bare minimum, she should have stopped vaping the moment the pregnant woman seated behind her asked her to.

According to Newsweek, "Boebert's date, Quinn Gallagher, is reportedly a Democrat and co-owner of a bar that has hosted drag shows — something Boebert has been an outspoken critic of."



Boebert's big takeaway from all of this? "I learned to check party affiliations before you go on a date," she told TMZ.

Did her date use Democratic mind control on Boebert and then expose her to the world? Um, no.

The footage of Boebert released to the press came from the venue's cameras. Perhaps what she's more embarrassed about is that she went out with a Democrat.

She called her *Beetlejuice* episode "part of my personal life, my private time. Something I rarely indulge in." As if she and her date were in the theater alone and not surrounded by people who had paid to have a nice night out, including parents who brought their kids.

Look, do I think a kid is going to be irrevocably scarred by seeing a guy and a gal grope each other at a musical? No, I think they'll mostly be OK. Kids see worse on TikTok every day.

But do I think public groping in front of kids is appropriate? Of course not.

But Boebert claims to be very concerned about what children see, at least when it comes to drag performers.

In 2022, she tweeted, "Sending a message to all the drag queens out there: stay away from the children in Colorado's Third District!"

And, of course, Boebert isn't just against drag performers, she's against transgender people, especially children, period.

As trans activist Erin Reed tweeted, "Lauren Boebert has talked a lot about LGBTQ people, 'appropriate behavior.' And now she gets caught fondling her partner in a packed theatre. Imagine for one moment a trans person was caught doing this. The news stories. The bills. The media circus."

Boebert would be the first one to tweet, "I told you so!"

Boebert may believe that she's the victim in this situation (after all, she's said that conservatives face more discrimination than transgender people), but honestly, her privilege is on full display here, as Reed pointed out. A white, cisgender, heterosexual, economically well-off woman is more likely to get called a "Karen" than to, say, get arrested for behavior that would not be tolerated from others.

"I would love to know how the musical ended," Boebert told TMZ. Personally, I hope it ends with her being voted out of office. ■

*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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# A Fair to remember

FALL IN NORTH TEXAS

The Texas State Fair opens with new foods, rides and a bit of parade flair

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

If you'd do anything for a corn dog, then today is your day. The State Fair of Texas has opened, with Big Tex welcoming visitors from all over for the next 24 days to enjoy fried foods, Midway games and all the exhibitions and performances that come with the fair's traditions, and it all continues through Oct. 24.

While we love the State Fair's stalwart features, the event still surprises each year with new offerings ranging from food to exhibitions, new rides and a live entertainment lineup.

While we used to have Gay Day at the Fair, that isn't really a thing anymore. But there will be one gay day for sure: Fair officials named local lifestyle guru Steve Kemble its Parade Grand Marshal for Oct. 5.

"I am so excited about this," Kemble told Dallas Voice by email. "I have acquired no less than seven glue guns and every sequin in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in preparation for my outfit.

"With all due respect to Big Tex, on this one evening I simply must out sparkle him," he added. "The biggest dilemma I am facing now is, should I wear a tiara or cowboy hat."

Kemble was notified by Jason Hays, senior vice president brand experience and Lisa Boubel, special events coordinator, that he had been chosen for grand marshal honors. And naturally, as a State Fair fan, Kemble was enthused.

"I have been going to the State Fair of Texas every year since I was a child, so this means the world to me. I once rode on a Mardi Gras parade float, and that was fabulous. But I am even more thrilled about this," he wrote. " I have been practicing my Rose Bowl Parade Queen wave for weeks!"





Steve Kemble, above, and Big Tex, right. (Photo Courtesy State Fair of Texas))

We all have our State Fair favorites from foods to rides to where to find the bathroom. Whether you're with the entire family, a gaggle of friends or taking in the Fair as a date, there is plenty to see and do. Here are some new highlights this year to check out.

## Eat this

The Big Tex Choice Award winners this year were Deep Fried Pho by Michele Le Biscoff; Delight by Stephen El Gidi, and Bourbon Banana Caramel Sopapillas by Cody and Lauren Hays. Expect those lines to be long, but grab one of each if you can.

New concessions this year include Italian fare from Eataly, Stay Cheesy sandwiches, Borracho Nacho Bar, Fryed and Pineapple Dole Soft Serve.

Of course, you can't forget the Fletcher's Corn Dogs.

## The new stuff

On the Fringe Stage, three new acts will expand on the fair's usual lineup. Acrobuffos will bring its Water Bombs to the stage for an epic water balloon fight. Street performer Sara Twister will mix her contortion and archery skills, and the Street Circus will entertain all audiences.

Not enough circus? Then hit up the Soap Bubble Circus in the Oak Farms Theater for some Guinness World Record-breaking bubble feats because, yes, those exist.

Feeling like Christmas yet? Texas Discovery Gardens, Jackson's Home and Garden, and Christmas Décor collaborate for the Home for the Holidays Christmas décor showcase with decorated Texas Christmas trees and decorations.

## Sports things

Cowboy hats and Wranglers hit differently at the actual rodeo. See these athletes do their thing every weekend at the State Fair of Texas Ranch Rodeo and the Mexican Rodeo Fiesta. SFOT will also host the finale of the United Professional Rodeo Association at the Fair Park Coliseum.

Other rodeo events include the UPRA Big Tex Rodeo Series Championship today and Saturday; the Mexican Rodeo Fiesta Oct. 1; the Texas vs. Oklahoma Rodeo Showdown Oct 6 and 7; Cowboys of Color Rodeo Oct 8 and more.

Two huge football rivalries return to the Cotton Bowl field this year.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, Grambling State University and Prairie View A&M University kick off at 6 p.m. for the State Fair Classic, with the intense Battle of the Bands at halftime.

In its 94th year, the AT&T Red River Showdown pits the University of Texas against the University of Oklahoma on Oct. 7.

## One night only

The fair has its fair show of concert performances throughout its run. Across three stages — the Chevrolet Main Stage, the Bud Light Stage and the Yuengling Flight Stage — you can find a number of different performances on any day of the fair. These shows caught our attention:

On the Chevrolet Main Stage, Ceelo Green performs Saturday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m.; La Zenda Nortena on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 8:30 p.m.; Bowling for Soup at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3; Experience Selena Oct. 8; Katie Toupin Oct. 10; Forever Motown Oct. 20, and Charlotte Sands Oct. 21.

On the Bud Light Stage check out Cleburne's Angel White today (Sept. 29); '90s cover band the Clinton Years on Oct. 7; The O's Oct. 13 and Rosie Flores Oct. 20.

The Yuengling Flight Stage in the Beer and Wine Garden has its own impressive lineup, in particular, queer singer Ceci Ceci on Sunday, Oct. 1,; Charming Gardners Oct. 5 and Vanita Leo Oct. 14.■

*Read more about this year's State Fair of Texas at BigTex.com.*

# Fighting the good fight

**DRAG WARS**

Drag brunch promoter Chaselyn Wade Vance works to keep her business alive as the fight over SB 12 continues

**MELISSA WHITLER** | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

At the beginning of September, Senate Bill 12, went into effect, supposedly to regulate sexually oriented performances which — thanks to its vague definition — includes drag shows. Couched as a way to protect kids, any venue that hosts a drag show is labeled as a "sexually oriented business" no matter if it's age-21-and-up event or a private, ticketed event.

A federal district judge in the Southern District of Texas enjoined enforcement of SB 12 before it was even set to go into effect on Sept. 1, and, as of Tuesday, Sept. 19, has declared the measure unconstitutional. But none of that stopped the measure from creating a crisis for Texas drag performers as venues, scared of being potential legal consequences, had already started cancelling scheduled drag performances.

Chaselyn Wade Vance is one of the performers who has been negatively affected by SB 12. As CEO of BestDragShows.com, she has been faced with venues cancelling bookings out of fear of what could happen.

Wade Vance began her drag career at 17 and now has more than 20 years of experience on the stage. She started performing at nightclubs then began doing drag brunches, realizing in the process that not only was the schedule better with drag brunches, she was making more money as well.

"Brunches have a different vibe, even a different clientele," Wade Vance said. "Rather than a bar where a drag show happens to be scheduled, people specifically go out of their way to attend a brunch."



Chaselyn Wade Vance, under her stage name of Star Michaels, left, with drag brunch host Serif

She started working with BestDragShows.com and, she said, found it to be especially enjoyable. The then-owners of the business weren't performers themselves, and they found other aspects of life beginning to overshadow their commitment to BestDragShows. So Wade Vance bought the business and took over as CEO.

Within the first month of owning the business, Wade Vance said she was able to pay off the debt she had inherited when she bought the company. By the fourth month, she said, she had made enough profit to cover what she paid for the company.

But it was no walk in the park, Wade Vance said; booking and hosting shows is a lot of work. Behind-the-scenes organizing is a daily job. She explained that she works with the restaurants hosting brunches, books the queens and brings performers in. Then she spends time promoting the events and selling tickets before stepping up on the day of the event to handle final preparations and make sure the venue has everything necessary for a successful drag brunch.

And drag brunches have proven to be incredibly profitable for the venues as well as the promoter and her performers, with many restaurants doubling their usual income.

"That's the benefit of us," Wade Vance said. "Restaurants provide the place and staff; we provide the show, and they don't pay anything."

BestDragShows.com takes care of advertising, and the performers are paid from ticket sales, handled through the company, she explained. All venues have to do is open their doors and say 'Give us a show,' and the company comes in, does its magic and leaves.

This process, though, has been incredibly disrupted by SB 12.

Wade Vance said BestDragShows.com had two regularly recurring shows in Plano — one at Ebb & Flow and one at Fizz — which have been very popular. The promoters said she had especially enjoyed these shows out in the suburbs because they drew a different crowd than what you'd see on Cedar Springs, and many in those audiences had never seen a drag show before.

"It is beautiful to see these two worlds collide," said Wade Vance, adding that the Plano brunches brought the art form to people who had never seen it, and ticket sales proved that it was popular and enjoyed.

But then those businesses came under extra scrutiny. Ebb & Flow had to indefinitely pause hosting brunches, leaving Serif without a place to host her show. And then the folks at Fizz also had to back out because they received a letter of warning, leaving the Texas T Brunch — hosted by Star Michaels and the only brunch with an all-trans cast — without a home. Now the only regular event still scheduled is the Friday Night Serenade at Alexandre's on The Strip. It is a non-ticketed event, which means the performers rely heavily on tips.

But not all is lost: Within 15 minutes of Wade Vance getting the phone call about Fizz canceling, she said, Alexandre's owner Lee Daugherty reached out to say they are going to take on Texas T Brunch, aiming to begin in October. And last week, Paradiso also reached out and wants to start hosting shows in December. This just leaves Serif's show without a new venue.

"We're bouncing back, but in the meantime the queens who do this for a living are missing out on the money they would be making," Wade Vance said.

As a trans woman, Wade Vance said she is incredibly proud to own the company and to be able to work to benefit her own community. She said she has been supported since the beginning; the day it was announced she bought the company she was contacted by Daugherty at Alexander's.

"We pride ourselves on doing something that's not being done, on showing solidarity with our community, and it's disheartening to have some bullies come along and ruin it for everyone," Wade Vance said of herself and the performers she works with.

As of this interview, the last event BestDragShows.com had scheduled is

**FIGHT**, Page 11

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# Cedar Springs development on hold

IN THE GAYBORHOOD



Development plans for the area behind the Caven bars on Cedar Springs, now a parking lot, call for a high-rise and a pocket park. Those plans are on hold.

## Higher interest rates keep Cedar Springs development from breaking ground

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Construction of new apartments on property along Cedar Springs Road formerly owned by Caven Enterprises is on hold, according to sources with Caven, and interest rates are to blame.

Mortgage interest rates currently hover around 7 percent. Less than two years ago the rate was between 3 and 3.5 percent. Fannie Mae, the federal home loan backer, expects rates to fall by about one half of one percent next year but to still remain above 6 percent.

Construction interest rates are different from mortgage rates, but follow a similar pattern.

When the sale of employee-owned Caven Enterprises was first announced in November 2020, the community was shocked and divided. Would this mean the end of the bars that had been there for decades or was this a means of preserving the historic properties?

As per the plan, the bars would be owned by an investor group of younger Caven employees. The older management, along with a number of long-time employees, would retire. And the bars would rent their space from developer Mike Ablon who purchased the properties.

In his development plans, Ablon was leaving the bars untouched, instead incorporating them into his development plans. The bars secured a long-term lease to assure their continuation.

Over the past decade, Caven had received a number of offers for TMC, S4 and the Rose Room, JR.'s and Sue Ellen's as well as the building that houses Skivvies and Roy G's.

But, "Developers only wanted the dirt," Caven board member Ed Oakley said at the time. In other words, the bars would have been razed by those other developers, and new construction would have fronted Cedar Springs

**HOLD**, Page 22

## Touring the Gayborhood History




Oak Lawn legends Robert Emery and Kathy Jack played tour guide recently when students from University of North Texas Professor Wesley Phelps' "Texas LGBTQ History" class came to the Gayborhood for a tour of the neighborhood's historic landmarks and businesses. That included the Texas historical marker that stands near the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street. Phelps said the class got behind-the-scenes tours of Station 4, TMC and Sue Ellen's, as well as a walking tour that included JR.'s, the location where the Union Jack clothing store used to be and Hunky's, now located where The Crossroads Market once was. He said the tour was part of a research project on the history of Oak Lawn that will result in a six-episode podcast series documenting that history. The tour left students enthralled and buzzing with ideas for their podcast. (Courtesy photo)



**FIGHT**, From Page 9

the Friday Night Serenade on Sept. 29 at Alexandre's. It is a variety show featuring a rotating cast of performers. While admission to the event is free, reserved tables are available, and the proceeds go to paying the band, allowing them to continue doing the show.

In addition to supporting the shows and queens still being able to perform, Wade Vance calls for people to be aware of how the government is regulating the LGBTQ community.

"So many people don't know what SB 12 is or how it is affecting us, or just how bigoted and unenforceable it is," she said, adding that she is very thankful for the continued support, especially from other venues, stressing, "I don't consider us to be in competition with anyone, because there's enough room for everyone to have a show in Dallas."

As the legal challenges to SB 12 continue to move through the courts, and venues continue working with properties to figure out how they can start hosting shows again, Wade Vance calls for anyone willing to stand up against SB 12 and who is interested in hosting a show to contact BestDragShows.com. In addition to brunches and late-night performances, she said, they also do private events, weddings, birthday parties, and corporate and charity events.

Chaselyn Wade Vance is not backing down, but, she said in the face of SB 12 and other attacks, the drag community needs support now more than ever. ■

*For more information on bookings and scheduled events, go to BestDragShows.com.*






# Aces up their sleeves

**MUSIC BEYOND THE STAGE**



Fresh off the release of their 3rd studio album, The Aces talk about making queer music

**MELISSA WHITLER** | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Ahead of their show in Dallas on Sept. 30, three members of the band The Aces, Mckenna Petty, Cristal Ramirez and Katie Henderson, spoke with Dallas Voice about their latest album, how the band has grown, writing queer music.

**Dallas Voice: So, you guys released your third studio album, *I've Loved You for So Long*, in June and have been on tour since August. How has all that been?** The Aces: The response has been really great! It's so amazing to get to perform this music in front of everyone. When you're writing, your experiences can feel really niche, like they're only relatable to you. We were wondering, are people going to get it over in the UK? But we got such a response, it was really reassuring.

We've also been doing meet-and-greets on the tour, which has allowed us to hear way more from our fans. People have been sharing intimate personal stories, like about figuring out who they are, and it's beautiful to experience. Our fans have just been even more personal and responsive during this tour.

**I know that this album came out of your time in quarantine, were you all together or virtually in contact during the pandemic?** A little bit of both. At end of 2020 and into 2021 we were mostly remote, not seeing each other in person. By the end of 2021 we were able to meet and started going into the studio a lot. Of course, we were doing daily testing to make sure everyone was safe.

**How do you feel like your music has changed over the last seven years?** A lot of the topics we deal with in this new album can really only be spoken about with age and maturity. When we started, our music was more gender neutral as we weren't in a secure enough place to go all the way with queer music. Growing up Mormon meant we needed to spend a lot of time reflecting on where we came

from and who we wanted to be going forward. Through music, through traveling we were able expand our worldview and make choices on who we want to be.

But the queer community was actively part of fandom since the beginning. Trans and nonbinary kids told us how much they loved our music because it was gender neutral.

**How does it feel to have grown up together as a band?** It's really been a journey. We're first-generation entertainers, so we've had to figure out everything ourselves. Thankfully all our parents were protective, and we didn't sign anything too young. This has allowed us to build our career on our own terms.

Once we were old enough, we wanted to be thoughtful about it, as we didn't want to hand over the band to someone that didn't care about us, about the music. Of course, entertainment is a hard and uncertain job, but we're so proud of what we've built. We've been able to cultivate a passionate cult following of the band. For us, there was no other option to playing music, this band is a thing that just was always going to be.

**What was it like to make a choice to do something so different at such a young age?** It definitely took some courage. In the Mormon church, it's not encouraged for women to have a career. Even just being aspiring musicians went against the culture we grew up with. Thankfully, we had really supportive families. They were excited about us developing our talents even if they didn't really understand what we were doing. They were excited to see that their kids had a passion and were pursuing our dreams.




Of course, our collective coming out was hard for our parents. They had to go through their own journey, but now are supportive of that as well. We're so thankful for how encouraging parents have been throughout this whole thing. In some ways there never was really a choice; we just exist as this entity together, and are so lucky to have found our purpose on the planet.

**What is it like to now be writing explicitly queer music?** It's something that happened pretty naturally as we continued to write music. We've always written for people who feel different as kids, and to be honest and candid, queerness has to be included. We just started to lean more into it. But were also intentional about how we did it, since Katie wasn't out yet, and we want to be reflective of everyone in the band. But it also didn't feel like it was an option to stay in the closet.

To be an artist means to be vulnerable and honest, to write about your life. Visibility felt really important, and that's why it's worth it to be publicly out. The band has been a major part of discovering our identities; it's what has allowed us to travel the world and see. The band created a safe space for us to be openly gay, and we want that for our fans as well.

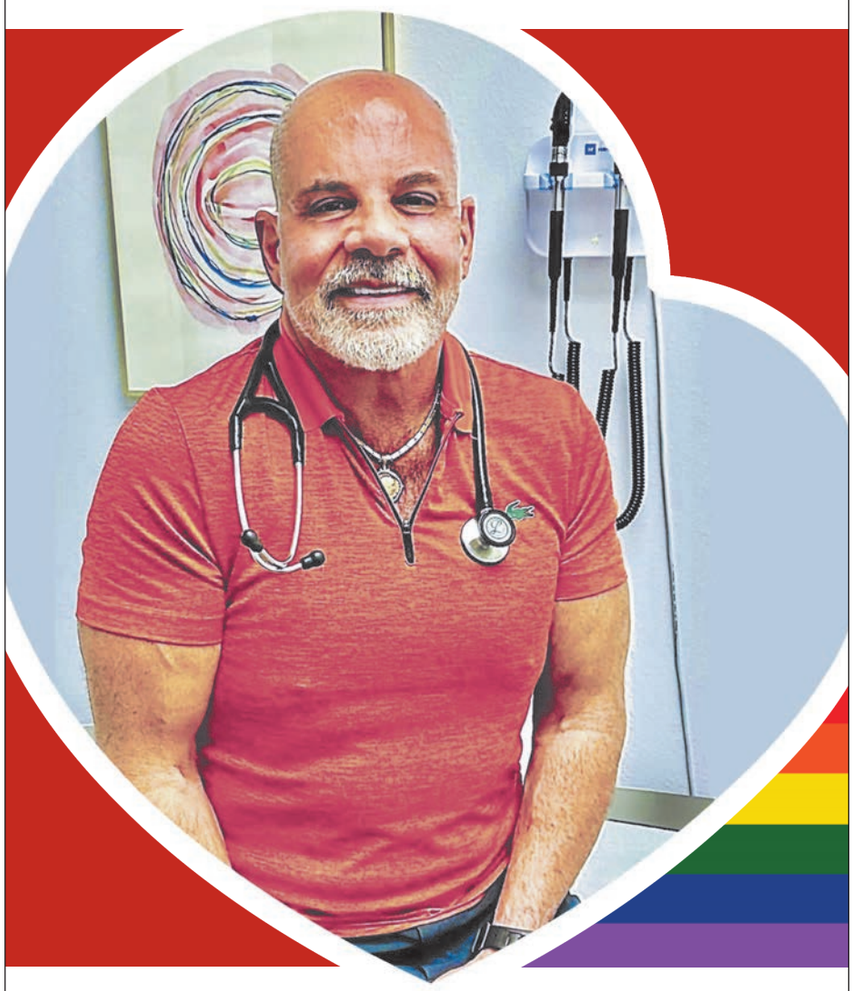
**How does it feel when you go back home or do shows in Utah?** We all have a bittersweet relationship with our hometown. We appreciate the good things about it but also recognize how hard it was to grow up there. It was repressive, and we were expected to live life in a specific way. Thankfully, we were able to take a different path. Depending on where we are in Utah, we sometimes get recognized, and it's encouraging to know other people who were like us.

**How does it feel traveling and playing shows in the South, where anti-LGBTQ sentiment is so strong?** It is hard. You often feel like you're sticking out and know that the state generally doesn't accept you. But playing the show is always so amazing, means so much to the fans. We're often told that our band is the reason someone was able to figure out they were queer.

These shows can feel harder and scarier, but are so meaningful, and some of the most important shows we play. If we feel this way just traveling through, how do the people that live there feel? That's what keeps us going.

*To learn more about The Aces' music and tour go to TheAcesOfficial.com.*


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**Front row, left to right:** Chris Wallace, Fi Macpherson, Kim Macpherson, Robert Emery, Jane Rogers, Vicki Cooper, Vic Holmes

**Back row, left to right:** Annie Heffley, Briana Monsalve, Angel Irvin, Sandy Anderson, Jaime Duggan, Reymundo Torres







# New releases

## MUSIC REVIEWS


The Postal Service

### The Postal Service releases live album ahead of concert in Dallas

**GREGG SHAPIRO** | Q Music
GreggShapiro@aol.com

Can we all just agree that Ben Gibbard is a modern-day musical genius? Since the late 1990s, Gibbard's band, Death Cab For Cutie, has been amassing a devoted following, releasing 10 studio albums, including 2003's acclaimed *Transatlanticism*.

With too much talent and energy for one band, Gibbard also launched a few side projects, including **The Postal Service**. *Give Up*, The Postal Service's debut — and lone studio — album celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Coinciding with the occasion, the live album *Everything Will Change* (Sub Pop), recorded during The Postal Service's 2013 reunion concert, is now available in all physical formats.

Featuring original band members Gibbard, Jimmy Tamborello (of Dntel), Jenny Lewis (while we're at it, can we all agree that Lewis is also a musical genius?), as well as Laura Burhenn. *Everything Will Change* is the kind of live album that proves studio-crafted electronic music — including irresistible dance numbers such as "Such Great Heights," "We Will Become Silhouettes," "Nothing Better," "Clark Gable," "Be Still My Heart," "A Tattered Line of String," "Brand New Colony," as well as covers of songs by Beat Happening ("Our Secret") and Dntel ("The Dream of Evan and Chan" — can transfer seamlessly to live performance.

Need another reason to listen to The Postal Service? Gibbard has been a vocal supporter of the LGBTQ community, due in large part to his sister who is a lesbian.

***The Postal Service performs Sunday, Oct. 1, at Texas Trust CU Theatre in Grand Prairie. Tickets available at Tickets-Center.com.***

**Damon Albarn** of Blur is another modern-day musical visionary (right?) with talent to burn. In addition to Blur, Albarn has led a few side projects, most notably the "virtual band" Gorillaz, which has more than half a dozen albums to its credit. Blur's *The Ballad of Darren* (Parlophone/Warner), its first new studio album in eight years, is dazzling and well worth the wait.

No, there aren't any queer-friendly club bangers like 1994's classic "Girls & Boys," but that's not necessarily a bad thing. You can still cut a rug to "Barbaric," "The Narcissist" and even "The Rabbi." What's really notable about the album is the introspection ("The Ballad," "St. Charles Square," "Goodbye Albert") and the beauty ("Russian Strings," "The Everglades," "Far Away Island"), resulting in the sound of a band embracing its maturation.

Talk about a sonic evolution. Like Blur, British shoegaze heroes **Slowdive** sound like they are settling into the next phase of their lives with dignity and grace. Some of the songs, including the instrumental "Shanty," "The Slab," and "Skin In the Game," still have the grinding guitar edge we've come to expect. Along with that, we also hear an ethereal kind of beauty that plays out on the songs "Andalucia Plays," "The Slab" and "Chained to a Cloud."

In other words, Slowdive splashes down with something for almost everyone.

The 20-track compilation *Part Time Job* (Yep Roc) by **Full Time Men** is the CD and digital (as well as limited edition vinyl) debut of the supergroup's LPs and EP, mostly from the 1980s. Led by the Fleshtones' Keith Streng and featuring his Fleshtones band mates, the distinguishing part is the guest performers. Among them, you'll find R.E.M.'s Peter Buck, Blondie's Clem Burke, The Young Fresh Fellows' Scott McCaughey and Hoodoo Gurus' Dave Faulkner, as well as two now deceased performers — Stiv Bators (of the Dead Boys) and Pat Dinizio (of The Smithereens).

In addition to the previously released material, *Part Time Job* features four previously unreleased tunes, including "TOT (Toilet of Time)." ■

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# It's Reigning men *(and women!)*

**BEYOND THE PAGE**

How being an adult film performer allowed Tasha Reign to own her bisexuality



**CAROLINE SAVOIE** | Contributing Writer
CaroSavoisWriting@gmail.com

Tasha Reign subverts expectations. From the idea that women only enter the sex work industry out of desperation to the assumption that adult film stars can't be change-makers, Reign's journey through the industry proves otherwise.

Reign, a 34-year-old bisexual woman with nearly 15 years in the industry, has invested her adult life in being a sex worker. In her new book *From Princess to Porn Star*, she details her experience from adolescence through adulthood, giving the public a peek into something that's even more personal than porn.

"To be seen in this way, I feel really vulnerable and validated at the same time," she said. "People have reached out to say they have similar experiences, and that ability to relate with people on this level has made me so grateful. My story is a very common experience of women in general, and it should be talked about."

While her bisexuality lay dormant for years, Reign said her career in porn allowed her to explore and express that side of herself authentically.

Reign said she was always curious about sex, even in elementary and middle school, as she learned what pleasure felt like in her own body. But even as a child growing up in Laguna Beach, shame-based messages around sex and lesbianism permeated her growing brain.

"I got in devastating trouble with a girl named Annie because her parents caught us humping pillows," she wrote. "I had learned how to from a girl next door. They were furious, mostly because we were both girls: lesbians, they thought. They screamed and shouted at us about how wrong what we were doing was."

Since that incident, Reign said she was on edge thinking of herself as a lesbian, thinking about "how awful that would make me." She said she didn't personally know any gay women while growing up, save for her two neighbors across the street, whom her mother called "dykes."

"I really didn't have a healthy outlook on what being gay would look like for me. I just knew it was something I couldn't be, and that it was wrong. Like

many other bisexual girls, I didn't have anyone that represented me in media to identify with."

The first time Reign filmed with another woman was for Penthouse, a Los Angeles-based adult magazine in 2010. She said it was her first experience filming with another person, as she'd only created solo content before that point.

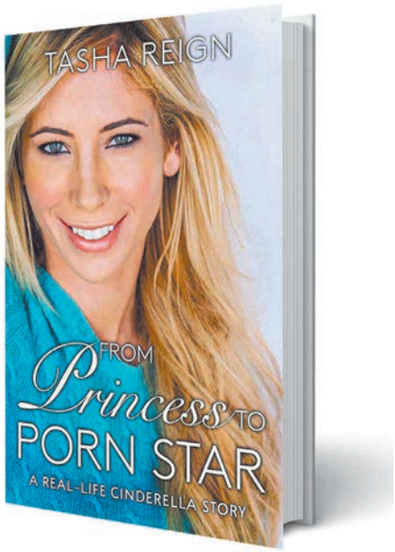
"I couldn't have been happier — or more nervous," she wrote. "I was always bisexual, so for me this idea was not only an aspiration but a turn-on."

As a college student, Reign continued to shoot scenes with women, and she found herself attracted to them: "Shooting lesbian content was less intense than boy-girl scenes," she said. "For the most part, sex with women was softer, more intimate. I found myself just wrapped in the beauty and the prettiness of it all."

Reign said that while she wasn't ready to identify with bisexuality until her late 20s, she never felt the need to "come out" to her family.

"After you start doing porn, nothing really surprises people anymore," she laughed. "I never felt like I needed to explain my sexuality."

Before she was a Playboy Playmate, women's activist, author and mother,




Reign started her career in sex work as a professional stripper in 2008, dancing at a club called the Silver Reign. "When coming up with my stage name, I asked my mom what names she liked," Reign wrote. "I brought up 'Tasha,' and we both thought it seemed fitting."

She said when it came to her last name, the term "Reign" was both nostalgic and powerful, and thus a star was born. With 1.1 million followers on Instagram, Reign is one of the most well-known adult film stars of the modern era, with a very dedicated fanbase.

Reign said she'd always had a strong desire to entertain. She was athletic and a businesswoman, and aspired to be as sexually free as the adult film stars she watched in high school.

"The same way men idolize football players, I idolized Tera Patrick, Stormy Daniels, Carmen Electra, Jenna Jameson, Pamela Anderson and so many other powerful and beautiful women," she wrote. "What appealed to me most was the glamour, beauty and femininity that Jenna seemed to exude on film."

She said she was always looking for a way to get in at Playboy, and she scoured Craigslist looking for her avenue to the mansion. When she answered a modeling ad for the magazine at 19, she soon realized modeling was not the gig. Thus, she became an escort while enrolled as a gender studies major at UCLA.

"During the week, I'd hear my fellow women's studies majors attacking Hugh Hefner as a symbol of the patriarchy," the book reads. "On the weekends, I was part of the crowd of bikini-clad women vying for Hef's attention. I was a women's studies major gone wild."

She said she enrolled in a course called Sociology of Sex Work, and she learned about the industry in class while simultaneously escorting, stripping and attending Playboy Mansion parties.

"I felt like I was a deep-diving journalist who was living and experiencing the topic that she was writing about," she wrote.

During her time at UCLA, Reign was featured in Playboy's 2010 "Girls of the Pac-10" issue and was chosen as the magazine's "Cyber Girl of the Week." She was a centerfold model in the April 2011 issue of Penthouse, and the next month she was the Penthouse Pet of the Month.

In her book, Reign recounts a plethora of fond memories of experiences she's had on set, from getting to film with some of her idols to settling into her sexuality. She doesn't shy away from the other side of that time, though, as she recalls memories of sexual assaults and manipulative agents.

"Writing about those events brought my trauma back to the surface," she said. "I don't want anyone to see me as a victim, but these stories need to be told."

Reign was assaulted on several occa-

**REIGNING**, Page 20

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## REIGNING , From Page 18

sions, and once the #MeToo movement gained traction online, she felt empowered to speak up on behalf of herself and other women in the industry. She recounted one assault that happened on set in 2017, and as a result of her lawsuit against Wicked Pictures, the production company mandated sexual harassment training. She said Wicked Pictures is now "the gold standard in adult entertainment."

"No one should have their human rights taken away because of their chosen career path," she wrote. "Therefore, I decided to run for chairperson of the Adult Performer Advocacy Committee."

Reign won the seat, and her main goal was for all pornography workers to receive training, from actors and assistants to producers and directors. She said she advocated for adequate resources and regulations around physical and mental health, consent and harassment.

Reign said she would also like to see the industry raise the minimum age of adult film performers from 18 to 21 years old.

"It's a lifetime decision, getting into porn, and that decision isn't one to make lightly" she said. "I would honestly say people should wait until they're 25 before committing to sex work. If you still want to do it then, make sure to do your research — a lot of it — and have fun."

Reign said the industry has become a safer space through the advocacy of performers being more open about their experiences.

With her bachelor's degree in gender studies from UCLA and a master's degree in journalism from USC, Reign has conducted countless lectures across college campuses regarding sexual health, women's rights, LGBTQ issues, the porn industry and understanding consent. She's also been a columnist for OC Weekly, Huffington Post and Mel Magazine.

In 2020, Reign launched an initiative to counter Congress's invalidation of people working in the adult entertainment industry who were deprived of small business loans during the COVID-19 outbreak.

As of her book release, Reign has starred in more than 500 adult films for marquee producers, and she currently runs an OnlyFans account, a platform she says has increased the safety of performers across the world.




Reign became a mother in 2022, and she said the overwhelming hustle of motherhood made her consider leaving the industry. Despite her toying with the idea of ending her film career in her book, Reign said her alone time has been increasing as her child gets older, and she's not leaving the industry any time soon.

Reign lives on a mountainside in Topanga Canyon, Calif. with her son, five chickens, three dogs, two potbellied pigs and a bearded dragon. She's in the process of opening a "hyper feminine boutique" called Fairytale Cottage Topanga that sells women's and kids clothing, home decor and antique jewelry. Reign also spends each day on a tennis court with country club women who have become her friends.

"I was really surprised when my tennis club actually bought my book and read it," she said. "I wasn't sure how it would go over, but now I feel incredibly accepted by all of these conservative women in their seventies. My stories have power to bring women together, and that's really all I wanted."

Reign said her book, *From Princess to Porn Star*, began as her graduate school thesis. Now, it is available on Audible (with Reign's narration), on Amazon, and at Barnes & Noble. ■

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**HOLD**, From Page 10

Road.

Under Ablon's 2020 proposal, the bars would remain as a centerpiece of the project as a condition of the sale. Ablon agreed to that condition, because, he said at the time, the property had more value with the bars than without.

Caven officials said they felt comfortable working with Ablon because of his approach to development in the Design District. While other developers have been tearing down showrooms and replacing them with offices, hotels and high-rise and big block apartments built around giant parking garages, Ablon had approach has been different.

Rather than plowing under older buildings, Ablon maintained showrooms and art galleries and added restaurants, residential units and other retail to help turn the Design District into a neighborhood.

For the Cedar Springs Strip, Ablon proposed a building behind S4 that would be as high as 20 stories and would be separated from the bars by a covered pocket park. At the time, he said he hoped that would become a meeting place for the community. Several new retail and restaurant spaces were incorporated into the design to add ambiance.

In May 2021, the Dallas City Council approved a plan to build two high-rise buildings, the pocket park and multi-level parking garages on what are now parking lots behind the bars in the 3900 and 4000 blocks of Cedar Springs Road.

Supporters at the time said what was called the PegasusAblon development would preserve the gayborhood's history and protect it from other developers who would come in and make wholesale changes, simply demolishing the existing structures with no thought for the area's history, its residents or the LGBTQ community — even those who don't live there — that still calls Oak Lawn home.

Opponent said the high-rise buildings would change the character of the neighborhood, and that the future of the entire surrounding neighborhood would be in jeopardy.

However, even without Ablon breaking ground on the property, demolition of older, smaller properties and construction of new mid-rise buildings has continued at a breathtaking pace between Cedar Springs Road and Maple Avenue.

For now, though, the PegasusAblon project remains on hold. And until Ablon secures financing, no ground will be broken.

Wayne Falcone, the owner of the Daisy Polk Inn, at 2917 Reagan St., recently had a problem with the city over the construction suspension. He contacted Councilman Paul Ridley's office about missing street lights on Dickason between Reagan and Throckmorton, the back side of the PegasusAblon property. Ridley referred the matter to the city transportation department, and temporary lighting was placed.

What is on the city's radar for lighting are the approved plans that includes pedestrian lighting in the "acorn historical style." But, "Oncor just put two very ugly utility poles on 4011 Dickason, totally detracting from the custom wrought iron fence I had installed in 2003," Falcone wrote in an email.

He continued, "Two poles and another unattractive one in the alley. They removed two huge trees but never returned to grind or remove the stumps as promised. I think this is an urgent matter, and someone is going to get hurt. Temporary lighting can be installed on my side of the street with the two new poles placed there six months ago!"

But the city's answer was not encouraging: "Since this is a private development, we will work with our construction team on contacting the contractor and getting a timeline," the council liaison and policy advisor for District 14 wrote. "Hopefully, this will nudge them to prioritize restoring lighting on Dickason." ■







# PLAN YOUR WEEK - The Gay Agenda... Our LGBTQ community calendar!






**Fairway to Equality, the annual golf tournament benefiting the Human Rights Campaign Fund, tees off at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Indian Creek Golf Club in Carrollton. Visit HRC.org for information.**

- Red for community events
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### 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.

## SEPTEMBER

### Sept. 29-Oct. 22: State Fair of Texas
The 2023 State Fair of Texas, in Fair Park, runs through Oct. 22. Visit BigTex.com for information.

### Sept. 29: 'Nina Flowers: Jungle Odyssey'
S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, hosts DJ Nina Flowers for Jungle Odyssey, starting at 9 p.m. Tickets are $22 at TicketFairy.com. 18 and up allowed; must be 21 or older to drink.

### Sept. 29: 'double eXXposure'
Instant Film Society and WTFemme present this night of drag, burlesque, live music including Lorelei K across two stages. A double exposure instant film photo contest is also part of the festivities. 7 p.m. at Rubber Gloves in Denton. FB: @InstantFilmSociety.

### Sept. 30: Fairway to Equality
Golf tournament benefits Human Rights Campaign at 11 a.m. at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton. HRC.org.

### Sept. 30: North Texas Pride Festival
ArtCentre of Plano, 902 E. 16th St., Plano from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Sept. 30: FIITT Camp
WiL Turner hosts FIITT Camp, a health and wellness group fitness workshop, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Register at LivingWellWithWil.com.

### Sept. 30: 'Forbidden' Dance Party
SCUM Dallas hosts the Forbidden gear and fetish dance party at 11311 Harry Hines Blvd. (Building 2, Ste. 203), featuring DJ Vicky Kuba. Doors open at 10 p.m. Tickets range from $22-$50, available at Universe.com/ScumDallas.

### Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Lifewalk Weekend
LifeWalk Weekend will include the LifeWalk Clover Open complete with a putt-putt course crawl along the Cedar Springs Strip with putt-putt holes at many neighborhood bars and restaurants on Saturday. The 18th annual Miss LifeWalk will be crowned on Sunday at The Rose Room.

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 1: Miss LifeWalk
Miss LifeWalk will be crowned at 6 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $10. VIP tickets $50. Benefits Prism Health North Texas. LifeWalk.org.

### Oct. 1: Fly Queens Drag Brunch
Mesa Mezcal, 400 W. Las Colinas Blvd., presents Fly Queens Drag Brunch, hosted by Liquor Mini. Seating starts at noon; show from 1-3 p.m. $10 cover charge plus brunch menu and happy hour specials.

### Oct. 3: Classic Chassis
Classic Chassis Car Club meets 6-8 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

### Oct. 4: Perspectives on LGBTQIA+ History
Resilience. Persistence. Love. A fireside chat with Robert Emery, Dr. Maxime Foerster and Rafael McDonnell. Moderated by Ray Jordan at 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### Oct. 5: 'Witches' by Tim Murray
Comedian Tim Murray brings his debut comedy tour, *Witches!*, to Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St. Tickets are $20, available at PreKindle.com. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 5: 'Queer Factor'
Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St., presents Queer Factor at 9 p.m. Tickets are $20, available at PreKindle.com.

### Oct. 5: Book Club
Dallas Hope Charities' Collective Hope Coalition hosts the Book Club each Thursday through Nov. 16, from noon-1 p.m. on Google Meets. Book is *Coming Out to the Streets: LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness* by Brandon Andrew Robinson. Register at forms.gle/wepcoBz3PfBxmxGu8.

### Oct. 6: Spin Dance Party
Purple Foundation presents DJ Marti Frieson and DJ Tyler Moore from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

### Oct. 6: Pup Night at TMC
TMC, 3903 Cedar Springs Road, hosts Pup Night from 3 p.m. to midnight. Includes competitions and prizes. Admission is free. See the Facebook event page for more information.

### Oct. 6: After Bark Hours at S4
DFW PAHS, the Society Serving Pups and Handlers, hosts After Bark Hours at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, the first Friday of each month from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.

### Oct. 7: Night of Stars Extravaganza
GDMAF presents Kylie Sonique Love, Wayne Smith as Cher and an all-star cast from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

### Oct. 7: Arlington Leather United Bar Night
Arlington Leather United hosts Bar Night from 7-11 p.m. at 1851 Club, 931 W. Division St. in Arlington. Visit the Facebook event page for more information.

### Oct. 7: FIITT Camp
WiL Turner hosts FIITT Camp, a health and wellness group fitness workshop, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Register at LivingWellWithWil.com.

### Oct. 8: Wigs & Waffles Drag Brunch
Kelexis Davenport hosts Wigs & Waffles Drag Brunch at 1 p.m. at Halo's Bar & Grill, 3500 Alta Mere Drive. Tickets range from $20-$100, available at EventBrite.com.

### Oct. 9: Indigenous People's Day

### Oct. 13-14: Southern Surrogacy Options Conference
Men Having Babies holds a conference in Florida to help gay men become fathers. Pride Center at Equality Park, Wilton Manors, Florida. Register at MenHavingBabies.org/surrogacy-seminars/south.

*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*




Betty SiSonnet, the reigning Miss LifeWalk, steps down and crowns the new Miss LifeWalk 2023 on Sunday, Oct. 1, in The Rose Room. See listings for details.

# Romeo San Vicente

**DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD**

## ‘Scott Pilgrim Takes Off’ takes to Netflix

The 2010 queer-inclusive comedy *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World*, about a young man who has to fight his new girlfriend’s exes as though it were a giant video game, was so wildly energetic that mainstream audiences didn’t quite know how to deal with it. It took a while for the film to find its ever-growing cult audience, but find that audience it did, and now Netflix has taken the story and adapted it into an anime series, *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off*, with the original cast — Michael Cera, Aubrey Plaza and Kieran Culkin (as Scott’s hilarious gay roommate) — returning to provide their characters’ voices.

The film was originally based on graphic novels, so this is something of a full circle move. You’ll get to binge the whole thing over Thanksgiving when the series drops on Nov. 17.

## Josie Totah hunts for a title in ‘The Buccaneers’

Because we’re all still missing the goofy fantasy of *Downton Abbey*, we know you’re watching *The Gilded Age*. It’s simultaneously trashy and luxurious and queer and boring — no better combination.

But what if there was another not-exactly-*Bridgerton* series about more or less the same thing — young American debutantes sailing to England to find young men with titles and grand houses and empty bank accounts? Of course, you’ll watch that one, too.

Well, it’s called *The Buccaneers*, it’s based on the unfinished novel by Edith Wharton, and it stars *Mad Men* queen Christina Hendricks and a slew of young up-and-comers like Kristine Froseth (*Looking for Alaska)*, Josh Dylan (*Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*), Kate Winslet’s daughter Mia Threapleton (TV’s *Dangerous Liaisons*) and, best of all, the hilariously talented trans actress Josie Totah *(Saved by The Bell*) as one of the gold-digging girls on the make for status and mansions. Watch all the single ladies get what they want Nov. 8 on Apple TV+.




Emma Corrin

## ‘Rap Sh!t’ doubles down

*Rap Sh!t*, the hilarious hip-hop comedy series from *Insecure* creator/star Issa Rae, is returning for another round. Season one focused on Miami rappers The City Girls (real-life rapper KaMillion and non-binary actor Aida Osman) and the personal and professional trials of newfound viral music fame they experience in the wake of their first single’s success.

Their story continues as season two arrives, featuring the return of *Daily Show* alum Jaboukie Young-White in a recurring role. (For those joining his career already in progress, White is the queer comic actor and musician that made Disney history by voicing the first openly gay protagonist in one of their animated features, 2022’s *Strange World*.).

You’ve got a little time to catch up on season one, before the *Sh!t* hits Max on Nov. 9.

## A queer sleuth for ‘The End of the World’

Emma Corrin, the queer non-binary actor who starred as Princess Diana in *The Crown*, is heading to FX/Hulu to solve *A Murder at the End of the World*. The team behind cult series *The OA*, Brit Marling and Zal Batmanglij, created this limited mystery series, and Corrin stars as a young amateur detective (a profession currently trending hard in the media thanks to the success of *Only Murders in the Building* and *Poker Face*) who has to catch a killer on the loose at a remote retreat before the murderer strikes again.

Rounding out the cast are some familiar faces/suspects: Clive Owen, *Twin Peaks* alum Joan Chen, *Triangle of Sadness* co-star Harris Dickinson, young gay playwright Ryan J. Haddad and queer Tony Award nominee Raul Esparza.

The episodes arrive on Hulu during sweater weather — Nov. 14, specifically — which technically makes it a cozy mystery.

*Romeo San Vicente never figures out who the killer is.*

## this week’s solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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# SCENE• Unleashed LGBTQ

**PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES**

















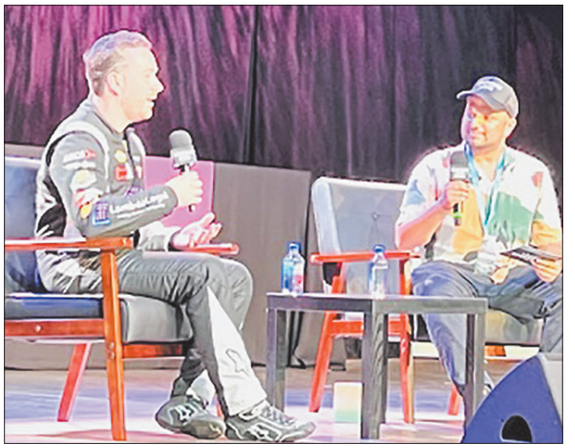













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SIENNA SILVER
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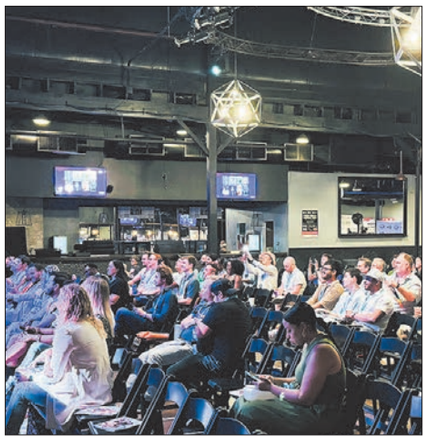
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# SCENE• AIN Bloomin Ball 2023















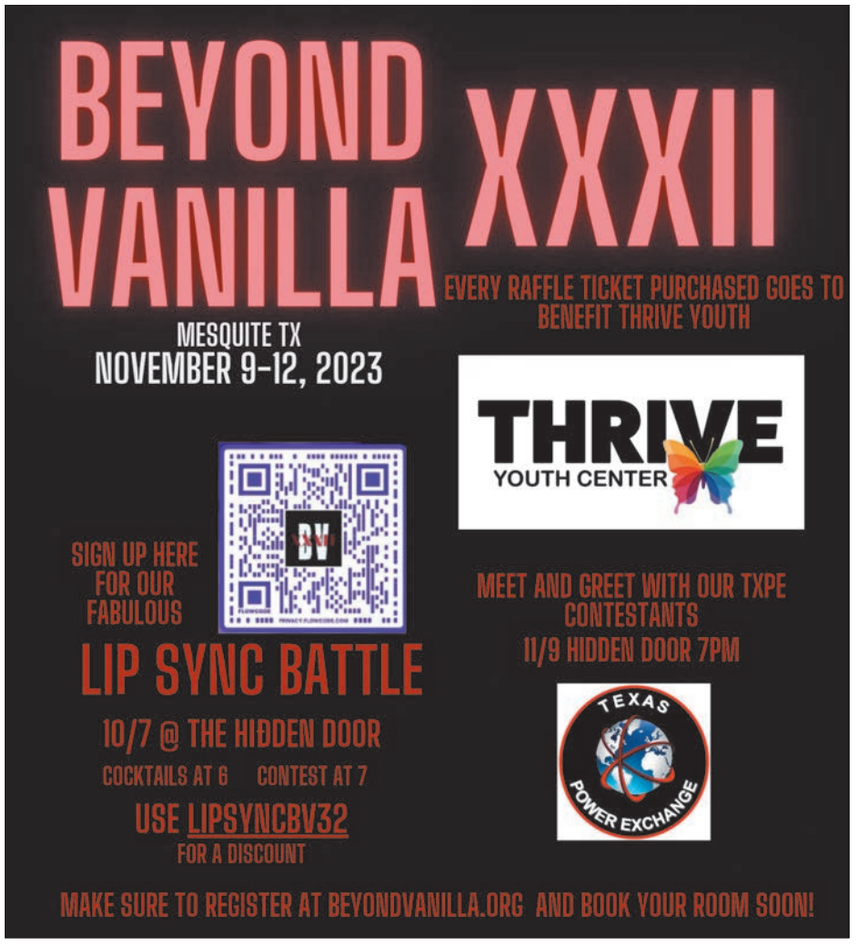




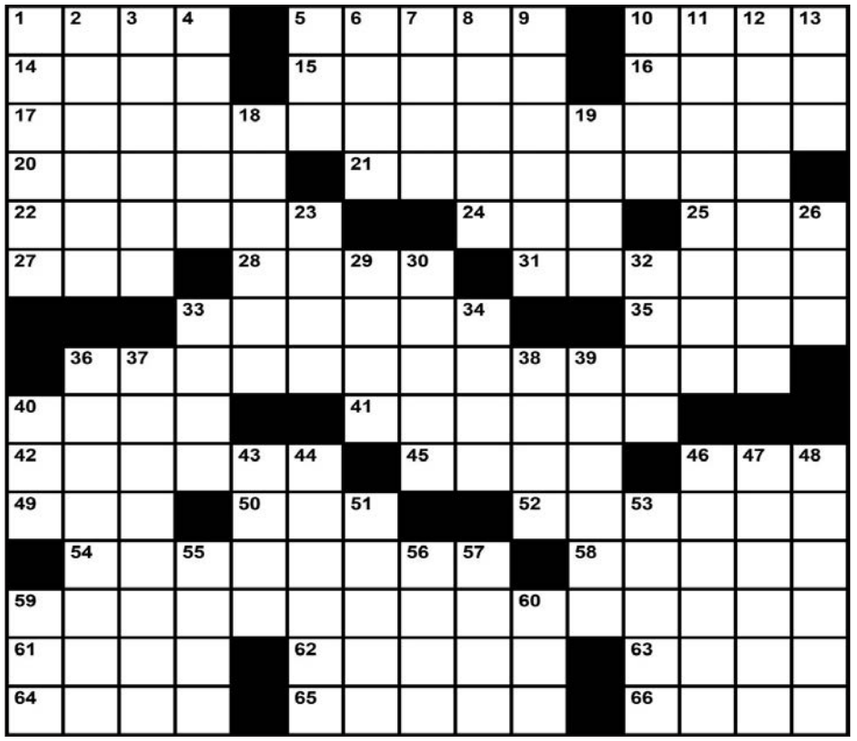







# PUZZLE | Ty the Knot



*Solution on Page 24*

**Across**

1 Violates an old military rule
5 Jean of *Designing Women*
10 Queens stadium name
14 Sub sinker
15 Lindsay of *Liz & Dick*
16 Slinky shape
17 Start of a quote from Ty Herndon, who just married Alex
20 Greek triangle
21 Some canines
22 Oscar Wilde tragedy
24 NYPD rank
25 *Sex and the City* channel
27 Scores in D. Kopay's sport
28 Where to look, in *Misty*
31 Playground piece for a couple
33 Shrek's girlfriend
35 Woody valley
36 End of the quote
40 Vast area in Asia
41 Cause anguish to
42 Be a pain in the ass to
45 Opening day, briefly
46 Broadway scenery chewer
49 Request for Vanna
50 Caesar's way
52 Canonized gay guy?
54 Florist, often
58 *Ol' Man* of Broadway
59 Number one hit of Ty Herndon, 1996
61 Stick in the fridge?
62 Popular hero of Lorca's land
63 Series ender
64 Oral attention getter
65 Actor Robert and family
66 Amount of AZT, e.g.

**Down**

1 In the thick of
2 *Nothing Compares 2 U* singer O'Connor
3 Funeral bell sounds
4 Take care of
5 Patty Hearst's former org.
6 Marilyn Monroe facial feature
7 Cruising greeting
8 Did Rex Reed's job
9 Some legal tender
10 BenGay target
11 *Bali Hai* setting
12 Testicle that hasn't descended?
13 Above-ground trains
18 Cost, in slang
19 Human Rights Campaign fundraiser, e.g.
23 To be in Rimbaud's arms
26 Pussycat's partner
29 Tuna-and-cheese sandwich
30 Flynn role opposite Davis
32 Cut
33 What tail
34 Broadway opening for a lot?
36 Acrylic add-ons for some drag queens
37 What a Peeping Tom does
38 Stats from *A League of Their Own*
39 Milk neighborhood
40 4.0, for example
43 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
44 Quasimodo at work
46 "Can't get out of it"
47 Writer Reinaldo
48 South Carolina beach name
51 Able to bend over
53 Went without saying?
55 Pussy ___ of punk rock
56 Suffix with prefer
57 Police incursion at Stonewall
59 Be a branch manager?
60 OR workers

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