

dallasvoice

The Premier Magazine for the LGBTQ Texas

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CUTTING edge

Playwright Kelsey Milbourn brings lost history to life for ATPAC's Elevator Project

By Rich Lopez, page 8

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Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



Dallas Bears and BearDance donated \$165,000 to local beneficiaries.

Dallas Bears/TBRU, BearDance donate \$165K

Each year, Dallas Bears and BearDance join together during the Texas Bear Round-Up weekend to raise money for organizations serving the North Texas LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities.

Texas Bear Round-Up 28: The Roaring Twenties and BearDance: Jungle Roar, both held the third weekend in March this year, raised \$165,000, and at their recent awards dinner, Dallas Bears and BearDance presented checks to the four organizations chosen as this year's beneficiaries:

- Cathedral of Hope Food Benevolence Program, \$80,000.
- Coalition for Aging LGBT, \$40,000.
- Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, \$40,000.
- AIDS Services of Dallas, \$5,000.

— Tammye Nash

"AIDS Outreach Center is truly excited and honored to receive this meaningful housing award at a time when addressing homelessness and housing stability for displaced people living with HIV is so important yet so challenging," said AOC Executive Director Kelly Allen Gray. "This award supports our vision that HIV stops with us."

The award to AOC was one of 11 awards totaling \$26 million in Housing Interventions to End the HIV Epidemic program funding. Grantees receive a one-time award to fund housing assistance and supportive services for eligible individuals and families, coordination and planning activities, grants management and administration.

AOC is the largest non-profit AIDS service organization serving Tarrant, Erath, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Hood, Somerville and Wise counties in the fight against HIV. For more information visit AOC.org.

— Tammye Nash

Oak Lawn Place accepting resident applications

Oak Lawn Place, Resource Center's 84-unit affordable residential community for individuals ages 55 and older that is LGBTQIA+ affirming, is set to open this month, and applications for residents are being accepted now.

To communicate with someone about leasing an apartment at Oak Lawn Place, contact Donald Burden by email at oaklawnplace@voatx.org. To see photos and get more information visit MyResourceCenter.org/Senior-Housing.

— Tammye Nash

'Love to the Max' tells story of Denton family

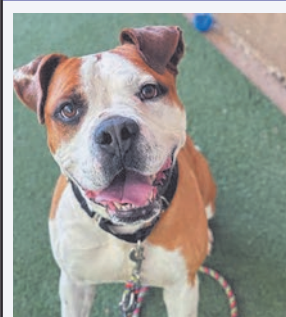
The New Yorker produced a short video called *Love to the Max* about a trans teen from Denton and his loving family.

In 2022, Amber and Adam Briggles got a phone call that Child Protective Services received a complaint and the couple was being investigated for child abuse. Their crime? They loved and supported their trans son Max. The family's reaction was everything from terror that they were going to lose their children and having to get police protection because of repeated threats to testifying before the Legislature and filing a lawsuit.

In addition to the Briggles, the short film includes appearances by Equality Texas' Gordy Carmona and Jayla Wilkerson and other members of the Dallas transgender community. Watch the video at YouTube.com.

— Tammye Nash

■ Adoptable / TANKER



Meet **Tanker**, an exuberant 3-year-old boxer mix weighing 69 pounds with a curious nature and a heart full of happiness. His boundless energy and playful demeanor make him the ideal playmate for outdoor activities. He's highly

treat-motivated, which makes training sessions a breeze. Tanker is great on a leash; however, he needs to meet kids younger than 10 and other dogs to ensure a harmonious home environment. His energetic nature is best suited for families who can match his lively pace and provide him with plenty of physical activity.

Like all pets from the SPCA of Texas, Tanker has been neutered and microchipped and is up to date on his vaccinations. He is in the Dallas Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive, so come by any day between noon and 6 p.m. to meet him. Animals are also available for adoption at the Ellis County Animal Care Center 2570 FM 878 in Waxahachie. All adult dog and cat adoptions are free through July 31.

Addressing proper pet etiquette

DR. JOSH TALKS ANIMALS

Hello, Dallas Voice friends! Welcome back to my monthly Woof column, July edition. This month, I want to address a topic that, while not directly medical, is still crucial for our pets and our interactions with the people around us: "Pet Etiquette."

There are situations involving our pets in public that may need solutions that rely on common sense, but this can sometimes be tricky. My goal is to provide some feedback that will hopefully help us navigate through these everyday scenarios.

Let's start right away!

When walking our dogs, we should be mindful of our surroundings and other pets. If you know your kiddo is not a big fan of other dogs, it's courteous to cross the street or move away when seeing another person with their dog walking towards you to avoid potential conflicts. Not all dogs are friendly with other dogs, and some might not tolerate dogs bigger or smaller than them.

It's also essential not to pet unfamiliar dogs without the owner's permission. Always ask first, and if children want to pet a dog, please make sure that the dog is comfortable with kids, and be sure to remind the children to be gentle.

Some dogs do not like kids and can show aggression towards them, even if the children are being careful. If the child is too young to interact in a calm and gentle manner, I would recommend avoiding any contact to prevent issues, because some kids can be rough with pets, and those pets can respond in a negative way.

Visiting dog parks or areas where leash use is optional can be challenging for some dogs, so please ensure your dog behaves appropriately and continually supervise your kiddo.

If your dog tends to hump anything that moves, bark excessively or act aggressively, they might not be ready for parks or similar social settings. On the other hand, if your dog is very shy or submissive, you will want to consider this, too, as parks can be more stressful



Dr. Josh
Woof

than enjoyable for them.

You may want to consider training and/or behavioral management to help these furry kids through these situations. Additionally, there are supplements and potentially even medications that your doctor may recommend. But these would be based on a consultation and further assessment of what may be going on.

Some of us may not have the luxury of having a private backyard and may need to walk our dogs outside in common, public areas. I want to share some insight on two common mistakes to avoid.

The first common mistake is not keeping your dog on a leash at all times, including inside until they are safely back indoors with the door closed behind you. This may seem excessive, but it's vital for preventing conflicts with other dogs or people.

If you walk your kitty on a leash, avoid areas frequented by dogs, as many dogs are not that friendly to cats.

The second mistake is leaving your dog's waste behind. Always pick up after your pets right away to prevent leaving potential parasites in the environment and to keep shared spaces clean.

You may think these rules are obvious, but unfortunately, we see these mistakes happen too often.

Some of our pets can have separation anxiety or stress and exhibit destructive behavior or bark/meow excessively. In an ideal world, this would be addressed

with behavioral management through an animal behaviorist. You can also consult with your veterinarian, who may recommend different routines, supplements or, if needed, prescription medications that could help your kiddo feel better. This helps us raise well-behaved pets, avoid conflicts with neighbors and ensure our pets' happiness.

As always, I hope this Woof column can help to improve our relationships with our pets and the people around us. If we follow these basic recommendations, we should have healthier, happier families, and I hope we are reminded to be considerate of those around us at all times. As always, take care and abrazos!

Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital at 14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110, in Addison. Call him at 972-738-1111 or visit IslaVet.com.

Warped reasoning?

So-called Christian pastor condemns depictions of loving parents as ‘child abuse’ while suggesting that feeding the hungry violates God’s word

As I write this, it is still Pride Month, a.k.a. June, and I have just spent the day at a Pride event in the city where my wife works as a teacher. It was a very small gathering at a picnic pavilion — no drag queens, no thumping dance music (unless you count La Roux’s “Bulletproof”), no merch tables.

It felt like a family gathering: hot-dogs on the grill, picnic tables set up with face painting and plenty of arts and crafts. I have seven temporary tattoos that I applied myself while my wife did a little decoupage, as one does at a Pride event.

As I sat there eating Skittles, kids came up to the table and asked if they could have tattoos, too. They thought I was a volunteer. I was more than happy to help. Most kids chose rainbows. At the face painting table, a kid maybe 9 years old asked for a bisexual Pride flag. The next kid asked for a pansexual flag. A parent standing by was wearing a shirt that read, “God loves you in a gay way.”

I looked at my wife in wonder. Things sure have changed since we were kids.

I couldn’t help thinking of how anti-LGBTQ conservatives would see this altogether very wholesome and home-grown event as something negative. For example, Christian Nationalist Pastor Paul Blair, who recently went on a rant against Pride Month on his Liberty Pastors YouTube channel.

According to Right Wing Watch, Blaire showed a photo of a child holding hands with an adult who is presumably his mother at a Pride event. The child is wearing a rainbow tutu and beads.

“This is child abuse,” Blair said.



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

“This person will one day stand before God and give an account, but the damage that she is doing to this young man and the like-

lihood that he is going to wind up on drugs and contemplating suicide because of his mother’s abuse.”

That is ... well, quite a leap.

If Blair and people who think like him really cared about addiction and suicide, let alone child abuse, they would push for public policy that actually addresses these issues. But they don’t.

Conservatives are big on “personal responsibility.” If you’re poor, it’s your fault. If you have an addiction, it’s your fault. If you have a mental illness, it’s your fault. God forbid that tax money should go toward, say, addiction treatment or the alleviation of poverty.

Nope. God would obviously want tax cuts for the rich, which is Republican doctrine.

And one Blair supports.

“Here’s God’s design,” Blair said at an event in 2023. “It wasn’t for a federal welfare system; the family is supposed to care for the family. Parents raise their children and provide for them as they’re young, and then as parents get older, their kids are to honor their parents, which means to provide for their needs as they get old. Throughout scripture, slothfulness and laziness is condemned as sin.”

He also recites a quote he attributes to Benjamin Franklin: “Hunger is a great motivator.”

It’s pretty callous to tell a hungry



person that they should stop being so lazy. Last time I checked, Jesus would have given that person food.

Blair then pulls up a photo of two dads with their kid on one of their shoulders. The dads are smiling, and the kid is leaning down to kiss one of them. Blair calls this “pedophilia.”

It makes me really angry to think of all of the kids who really are abused when people like Blair call something like taking a child to a Pride event child abuse or a dad showing affection to his child pedophilia. How callous can you be to turn a blind eye to real suffering to punish people who don’t think like you?

He points to two smiling people in the background, referring to one as a “wench” and one as an f-slur. “They ought to be intervening and putting

[the dad kissing his son] face down on the concrete for abusing this child,” Blair said. “I can’t imagine that this is going on in the streets in the United States of America, and there’s no one here that’s godly enough or courageous enough to protect this child from this. One day, these men and these accomplices to the crime will stand before God and they’re gonna give an account.”

Maybe Blair is right. But something tells me that God is going to be much more concerned with how Blair thinks it’s better to watch a person starve to death than to take a kid to a parade. ■

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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Duel – identity

BEYOND THE STAGE

Playwright brings sword fights and queer love front and center in Prism Movement Theater's 'La Maupin'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Some serendipitous force must have been at play in 2020 for Kelsey Milbourn. During those high COVID times, the artist happened upon a podcast that covered lost history, and one particular episode stuck out to Milbourn so insistently that they could not get out of their mind.

"I even remember where I was when I heard it," they said. "We were rehearsing in my living room, and when this show talked about a bisexual duelist who was a famous opera star and renowned for fighting men, my ears perked up."

That was Milbourn's introduction to Julie d'Aubigny.

Four years later, Milbourn is telling d'Aubigny's story in *La Maupin: The French Abomination*, a movement play which opens July 11 as part of ATTPAC's Elevator Project by Prism Movement Theater.

The idea stirred in Milbourn's head, but at that time, the artist admitted, she was worried about telling such stories.

"Doing queer plays felt like a scary idea at the time. Trump was in office, and people being who they were, I just wondered then if this was the right time," Milbourn said. "Plus, I thought, would anyone see a queer play about this human and their experience living out loud?"

But Milbourn couldn't let d'Aubigny go.

"She was this queer woman who had sword fights, and she also fucked with gender. That wasn't the language at that time, but she was this openly queer human in a different and more oppressive time," they said. "As a transmasculine, nonbinary lesbian who is also a fighter, d'Aub-



Kelsey Milbourn and the cast of *La Maupin: The French Abomination*

La Maupin: The French Abomination

Written and directed by: Kelsey Milbourn

Cast:

Nicole Carrano
Trey Estes
Kristen Lazarchick
Ania Lyons
Kelsey Milbourn
Carissa Jade Olsen
Mitchell Stephens
Shanthany Wilkerson

Costume Designer: Aaron Patrick DeClerk

Fight Coordinator: Mitchell Stephens

Light Designer: Jonah Gutierrez

Sound Designer: Kelsey Milbourn

Stage Manager: Alexandra Hernandez

Performances: July 11-13 at Hamon Hall and July 25-Aug. 3 at Latino Cultural Center.
PrismMovementTheater.org.

igny was too fascinating for me."

Milbourn is an actor. They are a playwright and a director. They are also a fight choreographer who has worked with swords for years, as well. It seemed destined for Milbourn to tell d'Aubigny's story.

The process started as something else entirely, but Prism's artistic director, Jeff Colangelo, had a bigger idea.

"I told Jeff I had started writing about

Milbourn added that because of d'Aubigny, they now feel fearless.

Enough so that not only did they write the show, they direct, sound designed and star in the show as the titular character.

The arc of the show encapsulates d'Aubigny's entire life up to her death in her late 30s. The story includes her love affairs — most prominently with Madame la Marquise. Of course, Milbourn had to include the famed sword fight d'Aubigny had against three men — and won.

But while writing, Milbourn could put themselves into the story as well. Outside of their research, there are no recorded conversations or quotes by d'Aubigny. This gave Milbourn a freedom in their writing.



this woman and had this idea of putting movement and choreography to these fights," they said. "I kept finding so many details about this openly queer human. I had to write about her. Jeff suggested writing a whole play."

This idea seemed to open a floodgate for Milbourn as they uncovered d'Aubigny's story.

"I feel so connected to her, and she's a bit of a mentor to me now. Writing this has helped me come more into my own unapologetic loudness as a queer person," they said.

"All the dialogue was created, so I could put myself into this story. Her bravery was what I connected to and her need to be seen. I see that in myself. I've had to come out in so many different ways.

"I felt like she always needed to prove to be worthy to herself. I get that, but she also gave me courage and inspiration to be my authentic self." ■

The show runs July 11-13 at Hamon Hall (tickets at ATTPAC.org) and then July 25-Aug. 3 at the Latino Cultural Center (tickets at PrismMovementTheater.org).

Meet the interns

OUR SUMMER STAFF

Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez, Don Tran join Dallas Voice's staff for the summer

Dallas Voice is once again working with the summer intern program at Southern Methodist University. After a very successful experience with the program last year, this year we chose to hire two interns for the summer, one in editorial and one in advertising. We'd like for you to meet these outstanding young people working with us this summer.

— Tammye Nash

Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez Editorial Intern

"I grew up in Northwest Dallas, in a shoebox of an apartment, with five other



people. I always wanted to escape from those snug four walls, so I turned to writing. However, as I got older and life got busier, there was no time to do what

I enjoyed doing the most. That quickly changed once I was offered a staff writing position for The Brookhaven Courier, the student newspaper at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus. I loved having the opportunity to write and to amplify the diverse voices of my com-

munity, especially those who may feel unheard and invisible.

"I am now an SMU transfer student majoring in corporate communications and public affairs with an interdisciplinary minor in writing across the arts. Through the help of the institution, I got the opportunity to intern with the Dallas Voice/OUT North Texas, the premier media source for LGBTQ Texas. I am very lucky to work with a media source whose goal is to amplify the diverse voices of communities in Dallas."

Don Tran Advertising Intern

"I am thrilled to be working Dallas Voice as an advertising intern for the summer of 2024.

"I am originally from Garland and Plano, and I graduated from Plano East



Senior High School. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame, and I am studying global affairs and digital marketing.

"My passions lie in exploring LGBTQ+ global perspectives and intersectionality. Outside of academics, I enjoy experimenting with cooking, traveling and spending time in nature.

"I am enjoying the opportunity to further develop my marketing skills and grow alongside Dallas Voice, delving deeper into one of the nation's most vibrant LGBTQ+ communities here in Dallas." ■



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Study: HIV cases still rising in Latinx communities

HEALTH MATTERS

Latino health advocates say there is a need for how we approach HIV care in Latinx communities

KAMILA VARGAS-GONZALEZ |

Dallas Voice Intern
editor@dallasvoice.com

Experiencing unstable healthcare is not something new to West Dallas resident Javier Enriquez, especially when it comes to HIV care. The added obstacle of homophobia in his community and the fear and distrust of engaging with the system also create a harder road toward getting

An advertisement for a special issue of Dallas Voice. On the left, a muscular man is shown from the waist up, leaning on the edge of a swimming pool. The background is a bright blue sky and water. On the right, there is a yellow sun graphic with the text "Coming July 12" inside it. Below the sun, the word "Summer" is written in large, blue, cursive font, and "and Swimsuit issue" is written in red and black cursive below it. At the bottom, the text "reserve your space today!" is written in bold black font, followed by the phone number "214-754-8710" and the Dallas Voice logo, which includes the text "dallasvoice" and "The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas".

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tested for the virus, saying, “When I first got tested, I was 25.”

Liv Mortel also experienced difficulty getting tested in the DFW suburb of Red Oak where they were raised. “[For Latine people], any sexual thing is very taboo. It’s very hush-hush,” Mortel stated. “I had to go outside of my community.”

According to the CDC, the estimated number of HIV cases in the United States had a 12 percent decrease between the years 2018 and 2022. However, in 2022, HIV diagnoses increased by 17 percent amongst Hispanic/Latinos.

And in 2021, the Dallas County Health and Human Services reported a 30 percent increase in male cases and a 6.5 percent increase in female cases.

“What we are looking at is the intersection of many different issues happening at the same time,” Daniel Castellanos, vice president of Research and Innovation at the Latino Commission on AIDS, said. “There are some areas, like in the South, and Texas in particular, where there are [multiple] factors happening.”

The Southern and Western states account for 73.8 percent of the HIV cases among U.S. Hispanics in 2021, according



Natalie Sanchez

to the Latino Commission of AIDS at the Institute for Latino Health Equity.

“We underfund prevention in this country,” Evelio Salinas Escamilla, a

senior research associate at the Latino Commission on AIDS, states. “Access to getting screened for these types of services is seldom, so you never get to really find out what you’re experiencing or having symptoms for until it’s a little too late.”

According to a KFF analysis, only 3 percent of \$43 billion United States federal funding for HIV in 2022 went to prevention.

“What needs to happen is funding has to be flexible enough that communities themselves can develop their own strategies and can make decisions about how to address their needs based on their demograph-

ics, based on the availability of services and the availability of providers,” Castellano states. “Funding needs to be distributed in a way that takes into consideration the context.”

Health advocates seek consistent and redistributed funding and accessibility for the diverse Latino communities for HIV care to be easily accessible.

In 2014, Prism Health North Texas developed and implemented Viviendo Valiente, a program based in Dallas that aimed to reduce HIV disparities in the Latino community, with a focus on those who were of Mexican descent. The program connected people to HIV and STI care, healthcare education and health literacy in individual, group or community-level interventions.

The program was supported by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access, and Retention Among Latino/a Populations Initiative. The program provided \$1,489,500 to be awarded between the years 2013 through 2019 at 10 different

STUDY, Next Page



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STUDY

From Previous Page



Daniel Castellanos

sites across the United States.

“Being able to provide that cultural-ly and linguistically appropriate care and service is important,” Fernie Sanchez, clinic case manager supervisor for Prism Health North Texas, said. “[The fact that] what works for one population may not work with another is something that we’ve really focused on here at Prism Health North Texas.”

According to Target HIV, at the individual level, 74 percent of those who participated in the program were kept in HIV care within a year, and at the community level, HIV testing among Latinos increased from 444 clients in 2014 to 721 in 2017.

“We get funding to do a special project, and then the funding goes away, and the emphasis diminishes,” Sanchez states. “Being consistent in our messaging and keeping it out there — we have to keep a presence and remind folks that HIV is still out there.”

The program may have stopped operating after 2019, but Sanchez notes that what Prism Health North Texas has learned from *Viviendo Valiente* isn’t gone.

Prism Health North Texas offers prevention services, like HIV/STI testing, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis medication and free condoms at any of their four locations: Oaklawn Health Center at

2801 Lemmon Ave. #200; Oak Cliff Health Center at 219 Sunset Ave. #116-A; South Dallas Health Center at 4922 Spring Ave.; and Worth Street Health Center at 4004 Worth St. #200.

Outreach in Latino communities persists in other ways. Natalie Sanchez, director of UCLA Los Angeles Family AIDS Network, has set out to create multilanguage online outreach for Latino communities to interact with. Sanchez’s most

well-known work is *Sin Vergüenza*, a tele-novela web series that addresses HIV in Latino families, which reflects the stories of patients she has worked with in clinics. She wrote, created, and is the executive producer of the series.

“We developed the series with the intent of making it entertaining, making it relatable, and ... communicating what we see in clinics to those who are watching the series,” Natalie Sanchez said. “Because of my recent work in working with women in HIV, I have a team, and we have a podcast called *Confessions, HIV-positive Women* — some are done in English, and some are done in Spanish, [and] our third season will be an all Spanish-[speaking] season.”

Through the years, the Latino community continuously responds to programs and outreach that are culturally compelling, readily available and easily accessible to them. “Being able to make inroads of genuine trust with marginalized communities takes a lot of investment and consistency,” Enriquez said. ■

For more information on the Latino Commission on AIDS, visit LatinoAIDS.org; for more information on Prism Health North Texas, visit phntx.org; for more information on *Viviendo Valiente*, visit TargetHiv.org; to listen to *Confession, HIV+ Women*, visit Confessionshiv.buzzsprout.com; to watch *Sin Vergüenza*, visit Altamed.org.

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The battle to protect IVF

MOMBIAN



The vast majority of Americans support IVF, abortion access, but Republicans keep blocking both



Dana Rudolph
 Contributing Columnist

I started my family more than two decades ago via in vitro fertilization, or IVF, and I've watched with growing alarm as the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned federal abortion rights two years ago, has also endangered access to this common fertility technique. Jennifer Klein, director of

the White House Gender Policy Council, spoke with me recently about the threat and the Biden administration's response.

The risk to IVF became clear this year when the Alabama Supreme Court



Sen. Tammy Duckworth

ruled on Feb. 16 that frozen embryos should be considered “children.” Almost all IVF providers in the state immediately halted services, fearful of liability.

State legislation was quickly passed to provide legal immunity to IVF providers and patients, but some lawmakers and advocates remain concerned that it still does not sufficiently address the state’s constitutional definition of embryonic personhood, as CNN reported on March 7.

The question of embryos also played into the June 12 vote by the Southern Baptist Convention, representing the country’s largest Protestant denomination, to condemn the current practice of IVF because it may create excess embryos that are frozen or destroyed.

A whopping 86 percent of Americans believe that IVF should be legal, according to a CBS News/YouGov poll in early March.

Klein said, “These attacks on IVF are a direct result of Republican elected officials advancing a really extreme agenda, which is out of step with the vast majority of Americans. This is not

a controversial issue, although it seems to have become one.”

On Feb. 29, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat from Illinois and an Iraq War veteran who used IVF to have her two daughters, sought Senate approval for a bill she had introduced with Sen. Patty Murray, a Washington Democrat, to establish a federal statutory right to IVF and — critically — to an individual’s use or disposition of their gametes and embryos.

Duckworth attempted to move the bill forward via unanimous consent, but Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith from Mississippi blocked it, asserting in a statement her “strong support of IVF,” but expressing concern that the bill ran counter to “our goal to protect life and religious freedoms.”

Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Katie Britt of Alabama then, on June 12, attempted a unanimous consent vote on their own IVF Protection Act, which would have withheld Medicaid funds from states that prohibit IVF, but said nothing about the disposition of gametes/embryos. Klein explained that

the bill “allowed restrictions on embryo storage, implantation and disposal, so it wouldn’t actually provide meaningful access to fertility services.”

Murray therefore blocked it.

Democrats countered with the Right to IVF Act, introduced in early June by Democratic Sens. Duckworth, Murray, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Mark R. Warner of Virginia and Tim Kaine of Virginia. This incorporated Duckworth and Murray’s earlier IVF bill along with three other bills, which as a whole would create a federal right to IVF access and gamete/embryo disposition, lower costs by requiring insurers to cover IVF, and further expand IVF coverage options and access for veterans, service members, and federal employees.

Senate Republicans, however, blocked that bill on June 13.

Klein observed that Republicans had also blocked a bill on June 5 that would have guaranteed a federal right to access contraception. She is adamant that “These attacks on reproductive free-

BATTLE, Page 17

Castro Nights

Coming to Plano on August 5th

New 'Guncle' delights

ON THE PAGE

Steven Rowley's second book about Guncle Patrick and his niece and nephew delivers laughs, love

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez
BookwormSez@aol.com

The *Guncle Abroad* by Steven Rowley; c.2024, Putnam; \$29; 307 pages.

The cake's going to be magnificent. You must've tasted 15 different samples and a dozen frostings and considered five unique looks before settling on a showstopper. Next, you have to get invitations addressed and in the mail. You have to confirm the tuxes. You have to get flowers and centerpieces ordered.



And, as in *The Guncle Abroad* by Steven Rowley, you have to get everyone on-board.

Patrick O'Hara couldn't believe how his life had

changed. A few short years ago, he was living in Palm Springs, having "retired" from making films. He was in love and happy, and he had temporary custody of his niece, Maisie, and his nephew, Grant.

Life was good.

Now — oh boy.

Patrick and Emory had split-ish (Emory was still living in Patrick's California home), Patrick was living in Manhattan, making a movie in London and looking

for another role soon, and the kids were four years older. Maisie was an attitudinal teen now; Grant was nine and too wise for his age.

They weren't the cuddly kids Patrick once knew — especially since their dad, Patrick's brother, Greg, was getting married again, and the kids didn't like Livia, their wealthy socialite stepmom-to-be. Patrick suspected it was because Grant and Maisie still missed their mom; it hadn't been all that long since Sara died.

Was a new marriage an insult to old memories?

Patrick didn't think so, and he'd prove it. While Greg and Livia were last-minute wedding-planning, he bought three Eurail passes, one for him and one each for the kids. He'd give them some culture and some new Guncle rules about love. Maybe — was it possible? — he'd even become their favorite GUP again.

But Maisie and Grant had other ideas. They agreed to go on the stupid trip around Europe with their GUP, if Patrick agreed to talk to Greg about calling off the entire wedding.

Something old (memories); something new (stepmother); something borrowed (trouble), and something blue (two kids)

just had to be undone, and soon.

There's an old saying, to paraphrase, that if the wedding is perfectly smooth, the marriage won't be. With this in mind, *The Guncle Abroad* is covered. Add a snarky lesbian with an entourage, a tipsy sister on a manhunt, a Lothario who doesn't speak English and lost love — all at a lakeside hotel — and yeah, we're good.

But here's the thing: Author Steven Rowley doesn't just make readers laugh. We're covered on that part, too, because the whole pre-wedding scene in this book is pure chaos and LOL funny. Long before that, though, you'll be charmed by Rowley's main character and his desperation to stay relevant, to avoid-not-avoid love and by his efforts to connect with his brother's kids.

And after the not-so-storybook wedding — well, you know how those things are.

Bring tissues, that's all you need to know.

If you're in need of a rom-com this summer, just bring the bubbly, pop a cork and make it this one. Reading *The Guncle Abroad* is best for beach, bench, or back yard. Loving it? Piece of cake. ■

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BATTLE

From Page 15

dom are a direct result of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and leaving matters of reproductive health to the states.

Such attacks “stand in stark contrast with this administration,” she said, noting that on the day of the *Dobbs* decision, President Biden committed to signing federal legislation to restore the protections of *Roe v. Wade* as soon as a bill reaches him.

“In the meantime,” Klein said, “we’re doing everything we can to protect access to reproductive healthcare.” This includes three executive orders and a presidential memorandum “to protect access and expand access to affordable, high-quality contraception, including over-the-counter birth control; strengthening privacy protections for patients and doctors; supporting and expanding access to medication abortion; supporting access to reproductive healthcare for service members and veterans; and supporting the ability to travel for reproductive healthcare.”

The administration has also taken two actions specifically to protect IVF,



Sen. Ted Cruz

she said. First, it “expanded eligibility for IVF services for certain service members and veterans,” although the cause of infertility must still be a service-related health condition. Statutory restrictions mean that further expansion must be through legislation, one of the things the Right to IVF Act would have provided.

Second, the administration “expanded access to IVF benefits and coverage for federal workers,” something she hopes can also serve as “a model for other large employers across the country, because one of the major issues with IVF is affordability and insurance coverage.” She noted that a majority of states — 29 — don’t require private insurance to cover any fertility services.


While any administration is limited in what it can do in the absence of congressional legislation, Klein said that “We are working really closely with Democrats on the Hill to support their efforts.”

“I remain optimistic that [IVF] is a bipartisan issue,” she asserted. Citing a


March 2024 Navigator Research study, she explained, “Four in five Americans say IVF should be legal, the vast majority of Americans believe that *Roe v. Wade* should not have been overturned and support reproductive freedom, and we’ve seen that in ballot initiatives across the country in a very diverse set of states,” including Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, California, and New York. “When people have the opportunity to make their voices heard directly, they are quite clear that they want the ability to protect access to reproductive healthcare.”

She urged people to continue sharing their views, adding, “As we’ve seen from unlikely people in unlikely states, people are speaking out to make it clear that they want the right to make decisions about their own body free from politicians. There are many more opportunities to do that.”

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1,500+ LGBTQ family books.



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



Uptown Players presents the regional premiere of the hit Broadway show *The Prom* through July 28 at the Kalita Humphreys Theater. See listings for details.

■ Bi-Weekly: Hope Cottage Foster Parent Information Meeting

Hope Cottage holds informational meetings for those interested in becoming foster parents. The meetings are held alternately on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information email Clyde Hemminger at chemminger@hopecottage.org.

JULY

■ July 7: DMA First Free Sundays

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St., offers FREE admission on the first Sunday of each month from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit DMA.org for more information.

■ July 10: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoom and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com

■ July 10: Ellen DeGeneres' 'Last Stand ... Up'

Ellen DeGeneres brings her *Last Stand ... Up* tour to the Music Hall at Fair Park on Wednesday, July 10, at 8 p.m. Limited tickets are still available at Tickets-center.com.

■ July 12-28: 'The Prom'

Uptown Players presents *The Prom* at Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For information and to reserve or purchase tickets, visit UptownPlayers.org.

■ July 12-14: Best of DIFF 2024

Dallas Film hosts a weekend of award-winning films at LOOK Dine-In Cinemas Dallas, 10110 Technology Blvd. E. For a complete schedule of films and to purchase tickets, visit BestOfDIFF.eventive.org.

■ July 13: East Texas Rainbow Market

Join Tyler Area Gays the second Saturday of every month for the Rainbow Market from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bergfeld Park, 1501 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

■ July 13: Decorate Your Own Charcuterie/Cutting Board.

Fern Connections hosts this family friendly event at Hawaii Fluid Art, 820 S. MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 139, Coppell, from 2-4 p.m. Visit FernConnections.com for tickets and information.

■ July 14: A Night at the Honky Tonk

The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, presents "A Night at the Honky Tonk," the bar's annual MISS REBA (Round-Up Employee Benevolence Association) fundraiser, honoring last year's winner, Diamond, and featuring "turnabout" performances by Round-Up staff. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation at the door. Visit the Facebook event page for details.

■ Through July 14: 'Walk This Way'

The Dallas Holocaust Museum, 300 N. Houston St., closes this exhibit of footwear designed by iconic shoe designer Stuart Weitzman. Tickets and information are available at DHHRM.org.

■ July 16: Up & Out: LGBTQ Caregiver Support Group

Up & Out is a welcoming supportive group for LGBTQ caregivers who are currently caring for anyone 50 and up. This is a virtual event from 6-7:30 p.m. RSVP at CSP@TheSeniorSource.org.

■ July 20: Gaybingo

The Resource Center hosts this event each month from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets go on sale

at 3 p.m. the Wednesday following each Gaybingo event at MyResourceCenter.org.

■ July 20: Lesbian & Queer Women's Speed Dating

The event takes place at Crush It Virtual Sports Lounge, 401 W. Highway 114, Grapevine, from 5-8 p.m. Visit FernConnections.com for tickets and information.

■ July 24: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoom and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

■ July 27: Dinner for a Cause

Join Legacy Cares at Hamburger Mary's, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, #100, as they close out their dinner for a cause series from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Get your tickets at LegacyCares.org.

■ July 27: Comedy Improv Show

Fern Connections hosts this comedy show at the Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St., from 5-7 p.m. More information coming soon.

AUGUST

■ August 1-24: 'Imposter! Hypocrite! Tartuff!'

Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth, presents *Imposter! Hypocrite! Tartuff!*, Tickets and showtimes are available at CircleTheatre.com.

■ August 3: Come As You Are Bowling Social

Join the North Texas Pride Foundation at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 K Ave., Plano, for the 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament and Social from 7-9 p.m. Visit NorthTexasPride.com to sign up.

■ August 4: DMA First Free Sundays

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St., offers FREE admission on the first Sunday of each month from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit DMA.org for more information.

■ August 6: Classic Chassis Car Club

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

■ August 9: On Top: Dallas Edition

Nightlife legend Susanne Bartsch hosts this event at It'll Do Club, 4322 Elm St., at 9 p.m. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com

■ August 10: East Texas Rainbow Market

Join Tyler Area Gays the second Saturday of every month for the Rainbow Market from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bergfeld Park, 1501 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

■ August 14: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoom and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

■ August 15: OASIS LGBT+ Monthly Social Support Group

Oasis is an online, 90 minute monthly social support group for LGBT+ folks 18 and older providing a safe, welcoming space for people to connect. To register email Oasis.Tag.Plus@gmail.com.

■ August 17: Gaybingo

Resource Center hosts this event each month from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets go on sale at 3 p.m. the Wednesday following each Gaybingo event at MyResourceCenter.org.

■ August 18-Nov.17: 'Frida: Beyond the Myth'

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St., presents *Frida: Beyond the Myth*. Tickets go on sale at DMA.org July 13.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Mathew Dominguez at Mathew@DallasVoice.com by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com



Miss REBA 2023 Diamond will be honored at The Round-Up Saloon's 2024 Miss REBA contest benefitting the Round-Up Employee Benevolence Association on July 14. See listings for details.

Romeo San Vicente

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Kristen Stewart to star in Sally Ride biopic

Kristen Stewart is the kind of movie star who can turn chameleon character actor anytime she chooses. She's played real-life people as unlike as Princess Diana, Jean Seberg and Joan Jett, and next she'll take on the role of pioneering astronaut Sally Ride in *The Challenger* for her first TV series starring role.

From screenwriter and show runner Maggie Cohn (*Narcos: Mexico*), it's the story of the first American woman — and first queer person — to fly on the space shuttle in 1983. Tragedy struck the Challenger three years later, though, when it exploded on its ascent, and Ride became part of the presidential commission to investigate the disaster, eventually identifying the structural flaws of the craft, earning her legacy as a real American hero.

Kyra Sedgwick's production company is behind the project, and it looks like it will eventually wind up at Amazon. In the world of famous-person biopics, Stewart's turning into not only the go-to choice, but the rare actor who can get her chosen projects the green light needed to build lasting art.

Kate Winslet reteams with Todd Haynes for *Trust*

The last time Kate Winslet and acclaimed *May December* filmmaker Todd Haynes worked together, they brought 2011's expansive, stunning, longform *Mildred Pierce* to HBO. Now they'll collaborate again on *Trust*, a limited series based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning 2023 novel from Hernan Diaz.

Set in the 1920s, a man builds a huge fortune on Wall Street and loses his wife in the process. Years later, he finds himself desperate to maintain the secrets he's accumulated in the face of a biographer out to reveal them all. Seemingly tailor-made for Haynes' brand of storytelling, the narrative weaves together various competing perspectives and versions of the truth.

So far, Winslet is the only cast member attached (she's also a producer) but Haynes' projects always attract top-tier talent. More news to come on this one.



Queer casting call: Colman Domingo, Kate McKinnon and Murray Bartlett

We love it when queer performers are cast as heterosexuals, and that seems to be what's happening with recent roll assignments for Colman Domingo, Kate McKinnon and Murray Bartlett.

Domingo — Oscar-nominated for *Rustin* — has taken a part in the upcoming limited series remake of the 1981 comedy film *The Four Seasons*, about straight couples who vacation together. The orig-

inal starred Carol Burnett and Alan Alda. This one has Tina Fey and Steve Carell. Will Domingo be part of a queer or less-than-queer couple? No one's talking yet.

Meanwhile Kate McKinnon has joined Andy Samberg, Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch for *The Roses*, a reimagining of the 1989 black comedy *The War of The Roses*, another one about battling straight lovers.

And Emmy winner Murray Bartlett (*White Lotus*) will play husband to Amy Adams in *At The Sea*, a new drama from Kornel Mundruczó and Kata Wéber

(*Pieces of a Woman*). All three projects are currently in production, with no release dates yet. Anticipation!

Broadway beckons Dolly, Netflix courts Kylie

Who never slows down? Dolly Parton, that's who. Not content to disrupt the boxed cake mix industry and reintroduce vintage banana flavor to American palates, she's finally taking her turn on Broadway by producing her own bio-musical, for which she'll write songs and co-write the book. It's coming in 2026, it's called *Hello, I'm Dolly* (clever...) and will star someone who can simultaneously remind you of and make you forget its creator.

Who that will be is currently a mystery. Stay tuned.

And while you're waiting, word is that Netflix is getting into business with global pop princess Kylie Minogue for a documentary about her life. No real details on this one yet, but it seems that the queer fan favorite, after decades of cult status in the United States, is poised to become more recognizable than ever before. Longtime fans are already hyperventilating.

Romeo San Vicente can't get you out of his head.

this week's solution

A	M	O	S	I	R	I	S	H	E	Y	E	S
R	O	U	T	M	U	S	T	O	N	E	V	E
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SCENE

Dallas Pride Awards Party

(Photos 2nd2Nunn photography)

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Dallas goes to Washington

(Photos courtesy of Ahmad Goree)

Adam Medrano: "It was an honor to receive an invitation from President Biden and the First Lady Dr. Jill Biden to celebrate Pride Month at the White House. It shows this administration loves us, supports us and is going to fight with us as LGBTQ rights are being attacked all over the country. I was proud to be representing Dallas on the South Lawn with hundreds of other LGBTQ people from all over the country."



Jasmine Crockett Pride Party

(Photos courtesy of Susie Hess)



Pride Block Party



Resource Center Sweet Soiree Pride Celebration

(Photos courtesy of Gabriel Cano)



PUZZLE | Quality Levels



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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Solution on Page 20

Across

- 1 Israeli author Oz
- 5 Like Oscar Wilde
- 10 Bette Davis feature of song
- 14 Whip the butts of
- 15 Michael of *The Village Voice*
- 16 *Party of Five* actress Campbell
- 17 Prefix with plasm
- 18 Playwright Chekhov
- 19 Top
- 20 Start of a quote from Mae West
- 23 Like cornstalks that bear
- 24 Slight paralysis
- 28 Gay rodeo target
- 32 "*Riverfinger Women*" writer Dykewomon
- 33 "So, it's YOU!"
- 36 Books of school photos
- 39 Oink pen
- 40 More of the quote
- 43 Errol Flynn's *The Sun ___ Rises*
- 44 Trim and graceful
- 45 Mary topper
- 46 Sound of three men in a tub
- 48 Debra Messing, in *Garfield: The Movie*
- 50 Train like a Muscle Mary
- 52 Equal rights org.
- 56 End of the quote

61 Start of a Mozart opera title

- 63 "Over my dead body!"
- 64 Man or Lesbos
- 65 Stroke from Sheehan
- 66 Nuts
- 67 Some have electric organs
- 68 Get out of bed
- 69 Music of Ty Herndon, for short
- 70 Abuse orally

Down

- 1 "___ having fun yet?"
- 2 Starbuck's order
- 3 Like the space around Uranus
- 4 Balls
- 5 Mosque leader
- 6 Made a "Clang, clang, clang" sound
- 7 Words in an analogy
- 8 What you do after you drop the soap
- 9 Bike in a Beach Boys song
- 10 Hard stuff in your mouth
- 11 Affirmative for Gomer
- 12 She had no heterosexual parents
- 13 Sarah Jessica Parker's "city" activity
- 21 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 22 Start of a legal conclusion
- 25 Younger daughter of Michelle
- 26 Chip company
- 27 Larry Kramer's *Just ___*
- 29 Chimp that was out in space
- 30 Name on a bomber
- 31 Less polite
- 33 Word used to stop seamen
- 34 Greeting for Dolly
- 35 Careless flaming queens?
- 37 His brother laid him in his grave
- 38 Leia's brother
- 41 National park in California
- 42 Bruce Jenner was a spokesperson for this cereal
- 47 Dupont Circle of D.C., e.g.
- 49 SSW's opposite
- 51 Jodie Foster's ___ Room
- 53 Cruising, maybe
- 54 "Oz" settings
- 55 Pink Triangle ___
- 57 TV actress Dietrich
- 58 Bizet opera title character
- 59 Get better
- 60 Suds in a gay bar
- 61 Nonrecreational mouth-to-mouth
- 62 Yes, to Yves

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