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Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 41 | Issue 18 | FREE | Friday, September 6, 2024

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The Dinah — a lesbian must-see

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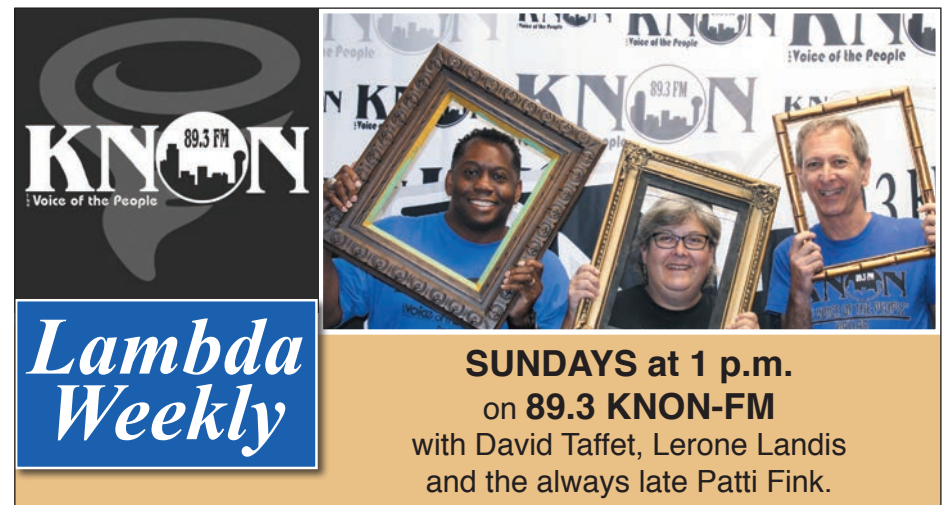
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Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

Anti-LGBTQ state Rep. Shawn Thierry leaves Democratic Party



Shawn Thierry

Texas state Rep. Shawn Thierry — who lost her Democratic Primary race this year to an openly LGBTQ candidate after voting during the 2023 session of the Texas Legislature with Republicans in favor of legislation targeting LGBTQ people — announced on Aug. 30 that she is switching to the GOP.

Lauren Ashley Simmons defeated Thierry in the primary and now faces Republican Lance York in the race to take the District 146 seat in

the Texas House.

In a written statement explaining her changing of party affiliation, Thierry said she switched parties because the Democratic Party “has veered so far left, so deep into the progressive abyss, that it now champions policies that I cannot, in good conscience, support.”

She added, “I am leaving the left because the left has abandoned Democrats who feel betrayed by a party that has lost its way, lost its commitment to hard working families.”

Democratic National Committeeman Jeff Strater, immediate past president of the Texas Stonewall Democrats also issued a statement saying Thierry’s decision to change parties “feels like a plot twist in a political soap opera — unexpected, yet oddly predictable.”

— Tammye Nash

DSHS secretly changes policy to deny gender marker changes on birth certificates

As of Aug. 30, The Texas Department of State Health Services, following in the footsteps of the Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Division, will no longer accept certified court orders to change gender markers on a person’s birth certificate.



Pentatonix

Texas law allows changes to a birth certificate if the information on the birth certificate is proven “by satisfactory evidence to be inaccurate.” (Previously, a court order was “satisfactory evidence” for such a change.)

But Texas law doesn’t allow state agencies to make substantive policy changes without 30 days’ notice and a public comment period.

The DSHS change, confirmed by comparing archived copies of DSHS’ website to the current content of the website, was unannounced and there was, obviously, no public comment period.

On Aug. 20, DPS’ Driver License Division Chief Sheri Gipson announced in an email to employees that gender markers on driver licenses and state-issued ID cards would not be changed on the basis of a court order. Such changes can only be made if there was a clerical error. That change, too, was made in secret.

The DPS policy requires employees to send

the name of anyone requesting a gender marker change for any reason other than clerical errors to a specific email address. No word on whether DSHS employees are also required to report trans Texans to the database.

— Tammye Nash

Pentatonix’s Christmas tour headlines AAC this December

Pentatonix’s holiday tradition returns with the group’s *Hallelujah! It’s A Christmas Tour*. The three-time GRAMMY Award-winning and Day-time EMMY Award-nominated quintet will return to the road to celebrate this year’s holiday season. The tour kicks off on Nov. 14 in Connecticut and concludes on Sunday, Dec. 22 in Dallas at American Airlines Center.

— Rich Lopez



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Being prepared for emergency, disasters

DR. JOSH TALKS ANIMALS

Greetings, Dallas Voice readers, and thank you for joining me in my September Woof column. I hope that the crazy heat we experienced recently is behind us and that better weather is ahead of us.

Speaking of weather, September is National Disaster Preparedness Month, highlighting the importance of being ready for emergencies such as storms, tornadoes and floods. Since I focus my Woof column on animal related topics, I want to discuss how this relates to those of us who are pet parents.

When we are preparing ourselves for challenging times, we need to make sure our kiddos have food and water for the days ahead. I would recommend having a food and water stockpile that can last several days, stored in airtight containers. Keep this reserve separate from your daily supplies and make sure it is always ready to go if you need to leave your home quickly. Be sure to use the same brand and type of food your pet is used to, as sudden changes can lead to gastrointestinal issues in some pets.

Additionally, consider setting aside some treats, toys and a comforting blanket to help ease your pet's stress during an emergency, especially if have to be away from home.

Beyond food and water, it is vital to have at least a two-week supply of any medications your pet may be taking, along with heartworm and flea/tick preventatives. Boarding facilities typically require rabies and Bordetella (kennel cough) vaccinations and may also require fecal analysis results (to make sure no intestinal parasites are present). But requirements can vary, so I would recommend ensuring your pet is up-to-date on all necessary vaccines and wellness checks.

Keep both physical and digital copies of your pet's vaccination records, including the rabies certificate, as these are often required if you need to board your pet. A first aid kit should also be part of your emergency supplies, and



Dr. Josh
Woof

it is a good idea to check the expiration dates on medications and kit contents at least every six months.

Don't forget to save the contact information for at least one

along with their current rabies tag (in case you may not have access to the rabies certificate during an emergency). If your pet is not microchipped, consider getting this done, as pets can easily get lost during emergencies, and having a microchip (and a collar) significantly increases the chances of them being returned to you.

A microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under

move or change your phone number.

Finally, consider having a carrier or portable crate ready, especially for cats. If you have a cat, keep a spare litter box and litter on hand as well. Sanitation supplies for cleaning the crate, carrier or litter box are also recommended.

I hope we never have to face any of these emergencies, but being prepared is the best way to protect our families, including our pets, who rely on us for



emergency veterinary hospital or clinic in your area on your phone.

Consider storing all of these items — and anything else you may need in an emergency — in a backpack or duffle bag, and keep it in an easily accessible spot so you can grab it quickly if you need to evacuate.

I also think it is important to ensure your pet's collar has up-to-date ID tags,

the skin between your pet's shoulder blades. The common microchip does not have GPS capabilities — yet. But it can be scanned at shelters or veterinary hospitals, and, as long as you have registered the microchip under your name and with your contact information, your kiddo should be able to be reunited with you. Remember to update your details with the microchip company if you

their safety.

Well, the start of fall season is around the corner, and I am excited for all the pumpkin related things! Enjoy the season and best wishes for all of you Dallas Voice readers! 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.

It's Kamala or chaos

Fascism doesn't sit well in U.S.

One good reason to vote in this year's election is to prevent Trump's MAGA nonsense from metastasizing into government policy.

For all their talk of freedom, Trump partisans are eager to weaponize government against everyone who doesn't look and think like them. They claim the Department of Justice has been weaponized against Trump by the Biden administration, despite Biden having bent over backwards not to interfere with DOJ — either to harm Trump or to protect his own son.

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right of peaceable assembly are enshrined in the First Amendment. Trump threatens all of them.

He takes it for granted that the only people whose rights matter is himself and, by extension, those loyal to him. He treats the independent press as enemies of the people. He wants to use federal troops to suppress protesters he doesn't like.

When he was president, Trump claimed that Article 2 of the Constitution "lets me do whatever I want." Now the Supreme Court, with a far-right majority engineered by Sen. Mitch McConnell, has granted him immunity from prosecution for presidential acts. Trump claims this is necessary to prevent routine prosecution of former presidents, despite him being the first ever prosecuted.

A Trump supporter on social media proudly noted that Trump donated his salary as president. This ignores his shameless profiteering from the presidency. His gift included running up charges for the Secret Service when it protected him during stays at his resorts, profiting by foreign government representatives staying at his hotel when they were in Washington, daughter Ivanka obtaining dozens of trademarks from the Chinese government, and son-in-law Jared receiving \$2 billion from the Saudi government after leaving the White



Richard J. Rosendall
Contributing Writer

House. Dear reader, if you believe Trump is a selfless patriot and humble servant of the people, I'd like to sell you

The fight is not about votes only, but America's soul.

If the 45th president were a *Star Wars* character, he would be Jabba the Hutt. He recently claimed he was better looking than Kamala Harris. If he is entertaining Princess Leia fantasies about her, it could represent a new stage in his cognitive decline.

It is never smart to underestimate an opponent, much less give her free lodging in your head. Trump has flailed in response to the vice president's campaign.

the true patriots who would do all we could to thwart a Trump dictatorship.

We would not sit idly by as our beloved country was destroyed by a treasonous sociopath. How many millions of dissidents does Twitler plan to round up? And how long would the rest of the populace put up with him if he tanked the economy again by deporting millions of migrant workers?

We ourselves should not underestimate the capacity of brazen ignorance to prevail. It is amazing how far Trump's



Greenland. Did you know this modest man autographs Bibles?

The trouble with pointing out signs of the wannabe-Glorious Leader's pathology and corruption is that his core supporters cannot get enough of it. They treat him as a paragon of virtues he defiles.

On the other hand, Trump is bleeding support around the edges. Some Republicans who supported him before vow not to do so again. That won't matter if MAGA Republicans succeed in their vote suppression, voter intimidation and shenanigans around certification. But voting rights defenders are battling back.

He tries to pull her into his darkness, but she is a creature of the light, offering voters a more uplifting alternative.

A group called Professor Pride states that Harris would be the most pro-LGBTQ president in history based on her career so far.

Still, darkness appeals to some people. They may be damaged and afraid, but they tend to perpetuate the damage. As William Faulkner once wrote, they cling to that which has robbed them. And if darkness wins on Nov. 5, it will cost us a great deal of blood and treasure before it can be overcome.

Which brings me to the Resistance —

know-nothingism has taken him. But how smart was it for the Heritage Foundation to publish Project 2025 so we could see what they were planning? It's like a Bond villain speech that gives the hero time to turn the tables.

Americans have flirted with fascism before, but it was defeated. It does not sit well with us. Best to avert the Trumpian chaos by embracing a party whose experienced, forward-looking nominee embraces our country's best aspirations. Vote Democratic up and down the ballot. ■

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rrosendall@me.com. Copyright © 2024 by Richard J. Rosendall. All rights reserved.



"I am honored and thrilled to join the team at MD Progressive Care. I will work with the group to provide excellent care to the LGBTQ+ community in North Texas."

— Taylor Schmidt

Taylor Schmidt grew up in Elmore City, Oklahoma, and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2012 with a degree in history. He then moved to Dallas, Texas, for medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and graduated in 2017. His education continued at UT Southwestern with a residency in Internal Medicine in 2020 and a fellowship in HIV Medicine in 2021. He was awarded with a national clinical fellowship from the HIV Medical Association in 2020. His interests include HIV primary care and prevention, general internal medicine, and transgender medicine.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing the piano, reading non-fiction books, running at the Katy Trail, learning new recipes, and spending time with family.

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TWO Pride months. TWO Pride parades



COMMUNITY PRIDE

Who says you can only have one Pride month? Dallas likes to celebrate

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
Taffet@DallasVoice.com

September has always been Pride Month in Dallas. But then parade moved from Oak Lawn to Fair Park in 2019, and — since the park can't accommodate a September event at the same time it's getting ready for the State Fair — Dallas Pride moved to June.

That left something missing in September.

That September tradition started in the early 1980s when a federal judge for North Texas, Jerry Buchmeyer, declared the state's sodomy law unconstitutional within his jurisdiction. While the rest of the state was still living under that antiquated law, our portion of the state wasn't. And the LGBTQ community celebrated.

While the ruling came in August, it took a month to hang the posters, get word out and plan the celebration in Turtle Creek Park. The next year, the first annual Pride parade began in addition to the party in the park.

But who says Dallas can't have two Pride parades?

So a number of groups filled in with smaller events, and as soon as the pandemic was over, the Cedar Springs Merchants Association decided to stage a parade along The Strip on the traditional third Sunday in September.

Here's how Dallas is celebrating Pride this September:

Pride in Dallas Parade

Completely volunteer run, the parade on Cedar Springs Road is less corporate and more community than the June parade. The parade route is simple — from Wycliff Avenue to Oak Lawn Avenue —



and steps off at 2 p.m. on Sept. 15. State Rep. Venton Jones is the grand marshal. Ramaya Lord, Liquor Mini and Mayra D'Lorenzo are the presenters.

"Our core mission is to reinforce the bonds LGBTQ+ individuals share with the nurturing spaces that have been pivotal in Pride celebrations from the start," the organization Pride in Dallas writes on its website.

The goal is to inspire, educate, honor and rejoice in the diversity of our community, to be out on the streets and celebrate our diverse gayborhood.

Queer Justice exhibit

Lambda Legal brings a traveling exhibit to Dallas that examines how the organization has been at the forefront of equality for the LGBTQ community.

The exhibition originated at the American LGBTQ+ Museum in New York City and has already seen successful runs in Atlanta, Los Angeles and Chicago. This immersive showcase delves into groundbreaking Lambda Legal cas-

es that have paved the way for broader freedoms for LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.

The exhibit, which celebrates 50 years of Lambda Legal, opens on Sept. 6 at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road and runs through Oct. 7.

Lambda Legal symposium

After a Friday night opening of the Queer Justice exhibit at Resource Center, the celebration continues with a symposium at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7.

The symposium features a series of dynamic panels exploring the Unstoppable State of LGBTQ Rights: Past, Present, and Future and includes free admission to the museum until 5 p.m.

Experience thought-provoking discussions led by leading experts, lawyers and activists who are shaping the conversation around LGBTQ rights and everyone living with HIV.

Speakers include Professor Wesley

Phelps, *Before Lawrence v. Texas: The Making of a Queer Social Movement*; lawyer and activist Dick Peeples, J.D.; Lawrence trial attorney Mitchell Katine; Lawrence U.S. Supreme Court legal and education team member Lee Taft; Texas state Rep. Jessica Gonzalez; Equality Texas Government Affairs Director Miriam Laeky; Resource Center CEO Cece Cox; Lambda Legal's Senior Counsel and students' rights strategist Paul D. Castillo; counsel and criminal justice and police misconduct strategist Richard Saenz; and transgender and nonbinary rights project director Sasha Buchert.

Big Gay Fair

Pride in Dallas presents The Big Gay Fair of Dallas on Sept. 7 from 1-7 p.m. on Cedar Springs Road. Local merchants and organizations will be out on the street with entertainment to kick off Pride in Dallas week.

GDMAF Night of Stars

The 2024 *Night of Stars — Icons* show, on Saturday, Sept. 7, in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, benefits the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and its mission to help people impacted by HIV/AIDS to cover emergency expenses.

This year's show is hosted by Caress Riata and features the return of *RuPaul's Drag Race* and *Drag Race All Stars* alum, the multi-talented Thorgy Thor, alongside a stellar lineup of local legends. Performers include Wayne Smith, Edna Jean Robinson, Carmella DuBuque, Devon DeVasquez, Sierra LaPuerta, Gloria Devine, Vanity Storm, Sienna Silver, Layla La Rue, Mary Anne Somers and Mattie Madison.

The evening gets underway with a VIP reception at 5 p.m. and a meet-and-greet with Thorgy Thor at 5:30 p.m. General admission opens at 6 p.m., and the big show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Carrollton Pride Dinner

Eat, drink, relax and meet new people



while celebrating Pride in Carrollton. The dinner takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 7-9 p.m. at Nico's Cocina Carrollton, 3065 N. Josey Lane.

Impulse Group Dallas

Two events on Friday, Sept. 13 sponsored by Impulse Group make this a very busy kickoff to September Pride.

After a five-year hiatus, the city's premiere LGBTQ pool event is making

a splashy comeback. *Down to Float 6: Neon Cowboy* takes place at Lee Harvey's Dive In, 1315 Beaumont St., from 7-11 p.m. with headliners Lala Ri and Dan Slater. Also performing are Oliver Twixt, Kameron Ross, Nick Stacener and Lutfy.

Dress code: Channel your inner cowboy, or cowgirl, and wear your sexiest neon gear and swimwear.

Complimentary shuttle service will be provided to and from Lee Harvey's Dive

In. Pick up location will be in the parking lot behind JR.'s on Cedar Springs. Tickets \$20 at Eventbrite, \$30 at the door.

Dallas Down to Float After Hours begins at 11 p.m. until closing at JR.'s Bar & Grill. Performing live is Hershii LiqCour-Jete from *Ru Paul's Drag Race* Season 16 and Jett Jeff, Kenya Blue and hosted by Kylee O'Hara Fatale.

More information at ImpulseGrp.org.

DFW Sisters Glittering Hope

DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Novice Sister O.M. Gee present *Glittering Hope: A Drag Spectacular* to raise funds for Dallas Hope Charities on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. In the Rose Room.

Latinx Pride

Texas Latino Pride celebrates 10 years on Sept. 14 with a free community festival from 3-9 p.m. in Reverchon Park, 3503 Maple Ave. Enjoy music, dance food, a market with more than 70 vendors and other cultural activities with people from all walks of life presented by the LGBTQ Latinx community.

TxLatinoPride.org to register and for more information.

Pride in Business Awards

The North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual awards ceremony on Friday, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Freeway.

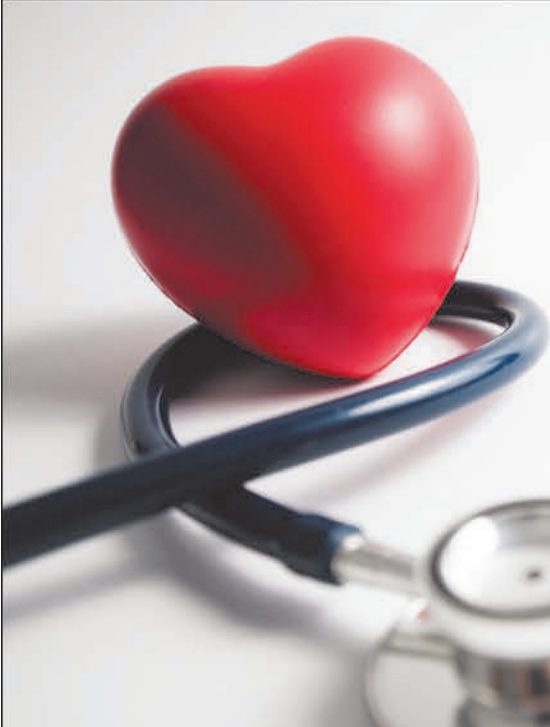
Eleven Pride In Business Award honorees will be recognized in categories such as Chamber Champion Award, LGBTQ Business of the Year, Employee Resource Group, Corporate Ally and more. Individual tickets are \$80. The entire community is invited to the only North Texas event focused on the LGBTQ business community.


Visit LGBTChamber.com for more information.

Gaybingo


Resource Center hosts Gaybingo on Sept. 21 from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. This month's theme is heroes and villains. Tickets go on sale

PRIDE, Page 25





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Eat, drink and be Maui



TRAVEL

There's never been a better time to visit Wailea, the island's most luxurious resort community

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing writer
StevenCraigLindsey@gmail.com

Being a mindful tourist can be a challenge in any destination, but particularly after devastation by a natural disaster. On Aug. 8, 2023, wildfires broke out on Maui that destroyed historic towns and buildings across the island's northwest shores, many of which were among the most popular vacation spots in all of Hawai'i.

The tragic effects still linger now, 13 months later, but members of various tourism organizations personally asked me and other writers to share the story that Maui's open for business. In fact, they need visitors now more than ever. Infusing the economy with tourism dollars helps locals recover from numerous types of loss, including generational homes and businesses for many indigenous residents.

It's a story I'm happy to tell because Maui has been a special place ever since I first visited as a teenager. It was magical then and only grows in my heart with each subsequent visit.

As with anywhere in the state of Hawaii, Maui welcomes everyone with open arms and a genuine aloha spirit. It was the first state in the union to recognize same-sex unions back in 1997, and today queer couples of all types can be seen openly displaying affection without a second glance.

So when my husband and I were invited to the luxe resort community of Wailea this past July, I couldn't type the word "yes" fast enough.

The last two times we've stayed on Maui, Wailea has been our home base. Located 30 miles from the epicenter of the wildfires in Lahaina, Wailea could be considered the Beverly Hills of Maui. With the fragrance of orchids filling the air and one five-star resort after another



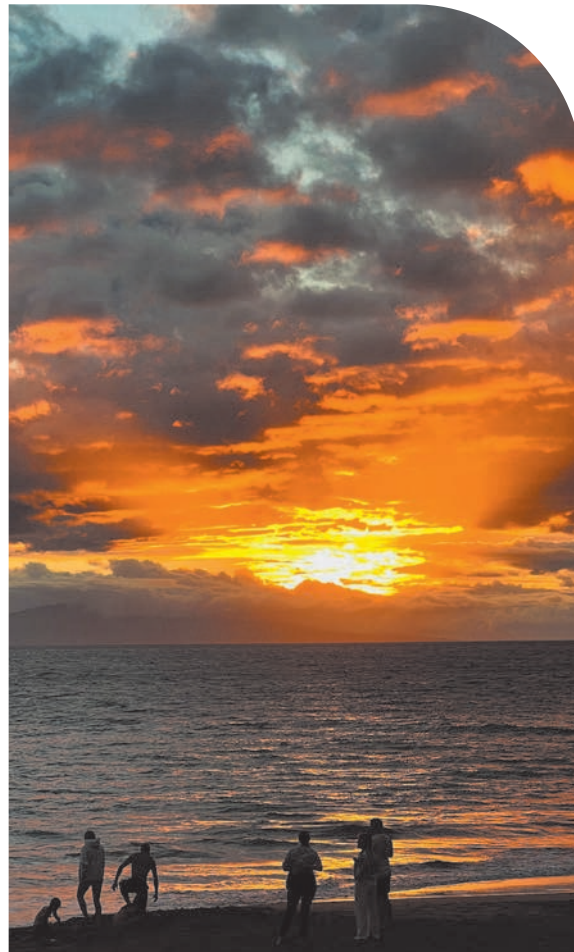
er nestled between designer boutiques, indulgent spas and chef-driven restaurants, it's a destination perfect for slowing down and getting in touch with both nature and yourself.

Rise early each morning to explore the beaches, then set an alarm each evening to catch every sunset possible. Even if that's all you do your entire vacation, it will be a memorable one.

But if you're destined to live out your White Lotus fantasy, where every cocktail comes in a coconut or hollowed-out pineapple and every Wailea wish comes true, read on for some can't-miss tips.

Getting there/getting around

It's easy to fly nonstop to Maui from DFW on American Airlines. But if an 8-hour flight doesn't sound appealing, try our trick: Spend a night or two in California. You can also opt to fly Southwest Airlines nonstop from Dallas to San Francisco, then catch a nonstop out



of Oakland a day or two later. This helps acclimate you to the time change and breaks up the flight, plus you get a little free time to explore the Queer Motherland!

Once on Maui, you can rent a car, but we found Uber and Lyfts readily available and even more affordable than renting, especially on days we never left the resorts. Plus, we never had to worry about drinking too many Mai Tais.

Stay

Because I travel, I rarely stay at the same property for more than a couple of nights at a time so I can experience more options to write about. It's a fun way to get a more well-rounded sense of a destination and its offerings.

This trip, the first stop was a return visit to the Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui (Fairmont-Kea-Lani.com), which has recently undergone major renovations — from its breathtaking lobby that perfectly frames

the sparkling Pacific Ocean upon your arrival to glorious one-bedroom suites with spacious lanais and two-bedroom villas if you want to bring family or friends.

The resort offers a host of complimentary activities to enhance your stay, including aqua fitness classes, hula lessons, yoga and a Hawaiian outrigger canoe experience (always a must-do). On-site restaurants include Pilina for sushi, cocktails and a side of live music, as well as casual fine dining at K Restaurant, both excellent spots to catch those sunsets.

Set aside time for island wellness rituals at Fairmont Spa, or book a cabana at the adults-only pool for extra peace and tranquility.

If you want a completely adult experience on your vacation, book a portion of your getaway at Hotel Wailea (Hotel-Wailea.com), Hawai'i's only adults-only, all-suite luxury hotel. It's the perfect addition to your Maui itinerary and just up the hill from the Fairmont. Spend a few hours each day in a complimentary poolside cabana (first come, first served), book a free outrigger ride most Sundays and set aside time on your daily agenda to partake in cocktails at The Birdcage (filled with real, live, wild birds!).

The Restaurant at Hotel Wailea showcases exquisite cuisine from Chef Ryan Cruz at every meal, but for the most unique dining option, request the Kitchen Table, where you sit facing all the action in the belly of the beast as chefs and servers perform a well-choreographed dance to bring you the best flavors of the islands.

Orlando? No! It's Scare-lando!



TRAVEL

LGBTQ-friendly city claims the title of Halloween Vacation Capital

JENNY BLOCK | Postcards From Jenny
JennyEBlock@icloud.com

Affectionately known as the “Halloween Vacation Capital,” Orlando has a surprising number of Halloween happenings. And the city, as you likely know, is beyond LGBTQ-friendly. It’s more than inclusive. It’s downright inviting to everyone and anyone in our community.

From family-friendly frights to super scary sights, you’ll find Halloween-themed happenings all over Orlando from their theme parks to their bars. Here’s a sampling of what this city of scary has to offer during this ghoulish season.

Mickey’s Not-So-Scary Halloween Party

Where: Walt Disney World Resort: Magic Kingdom Park

When: Select nights, Aug. 9-Oct. 31

What: Guests can enjoy Hocus Pocus Villain Spelltacular! at Cinderella Castle, Disney’s Not-So-Spooky Spectacular, Disney Junior Jam for

young partygoers, Mickey’s Boo-to-You Halloween Parade, the Trick-or-Treat Trail and more. But buy your tickets soon. This amazing event sells out every year.

Universal Orlando Resort’s Halloween Horror Nights

Where: Universal Studios Florida

When: Select nights, Aug. 30-Nov. 3

They have 10 outrageous haunted



Gatorland’s Gators, Ghosts and Goblins



Halloween Horror Nights

houses, including ones inspired by *A Quiet Place* and *Insidious!* Guests will also find five sinister scare zones, amazing live entertainment and, of course, some of Universal Studios’ most breath-stealing attractions.

Howl-O-Scream

Where: SeaWorld Orlando

When: Select nights, Sept. 6-Nov. 2

What: Brace yourself. At Howl-O-

Scream you’ll encounter fully immersive fear with new fright-inducing haunted houses and scare zones, nighttime coaster rides, themed and interactive bars and live shows that will electrify you.

SeaWorld Spooktacular

Where: Sea World

When: Weekends, Aug. 31-Nov. 3

The kids get dressed up and the Halloween characters will giddy up to meet them! The family-friendly daytime event is included with regular theme park admission. Guests can enjoy the exclusive *Sesame Street* Halloween Parade, Scarecrow Halloween Dance Party and other themed activities.

Howl-O-Sprint

Where: Sea World

When: Sept. 13 at midnight

What: A new nighttime terror 5K.

Navigate a spine-chilling course with eerie landscapes, haunted roller coasters and relentless characters. And

it all culminates in a post-race celebration with treats and live entertainment until 2 a.m.

Brick or Treat Presents Monster Party

Where: LEGOLAND Florida Resort

When: Weekends, Sept. 14-Oct. 27

This signature Halloween event comes with your theme park admission. It features a trick-or-treat trail, live entertainment, exclusive LEGO characters and a cinematic experience. And don’t miss the brand-new Monster Skytacular drone aerial show illuminating the sky over Lake Eloise exclusively on Brick-or-Treat nights.



Brick or Treat Legoland

Cheers, Queers!

HEADLINE TRAVEL

TRAVEL

Bourbon & Belonging makes its neat – or on the rocks – debut in Kentucky

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing writer
StevenCraigLindsey@gmail.com

After all, if there's one thing I learned about Kentucky bourbon on my first visit to the region last month, it's entirely up to each person to decide how to drink their whiskey. In fact, such a celebration of individuality will undoubtedly carry over to the first-ever Bourbon & Belonging, Kentucky's Queer Bourbon Week (BourbonAndBelonging.com), taking place across the region from October 2-6.

Presented by Queer Kentucky (QueerKentucky.org), the multi-day event takes place in eight different cities and regions (Northern Kentucky, Louisville, Lexington, Frankfort, Winchester, Paducah, Bullitt County, and Bardstown).

When I visited in August as part of a long weekend exploring the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region, I was delighted to find such a diverse community and an encouraging number of LGBTQ-owned businesses. Red states continue to surprise me, and it's an important reminder that a destination's politics rarely reflect the attitudes of every citizen. (Right, fellow Texans?)

To make the most of Bourbon & Belonging, you must first decide which regions you wish to explore and where to set up your home base. For my visit, I flew into the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), which has several flight options out of Dallas. I stayed at the Kinley Cincinnati (KinleyCincinnati.com), a fun downtown hotel within walking distance of many great restaurants and attractions and just a short ride over the river to Covington, Kentucky. This particular region has 13 different Bourbon & Belong-



ing events scheduled, so it's a top option and a destination I wholeheartedly recommend.

You can also fly into the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF) or Bluegrass Airport (LEX) in Lexington if those make more sense with your airline preference or activities you

wish to enjoy.

During the five-day Bourbon & Belonging gathering, choose from a variety of booze-related experiences, including bottling your own bourbon, burlesque shows, drag brunches, pool parties, distillery tours and, of course, plenty of opportunities to sip, savor or chug your

way through multiple local whiskeys.

Whether you're a big fan of bourbon or ready to experiment with the brown spirit, I can't imagine a better opportunity to visit the Bluegrass State than during this big queer event.

Now, make like a bartender and head to Kentucky to shake things up! ■

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DINAH-mite



TRAVEL

The Dinah is much more than a party; it's a community where people can be their authentic selves

JENNY BLOCK | Postcards From Jenny
JennyEBlock@icloud.com

If you haven't heard of The Dinah, you aren't paying attention. It's become ubiquitous in the LGBTQ community — and for good reason.

It's been leaving its mark for more than 30 years and shows no signs of stopping. It's more than a party. It's more than hooks-ups. It's The Dinah.

It is the largest and longest-running LGBTQ event and music festival for queer women in the world. And the culture and longevity of the weekend of events known as The Dinah is due in no small part to founder and producer Mariah Hanson.

This year the festival is celebrating its 33rd year. That is an especially impressive feat with so many lesbian bars, LGBTQ spaces, festivals and publications disappearing at a terrifying rate all across the country.

Hanson created the space for women to live out loud and be free to be their authentic selves, and, every year, she ups the ante with bigger and better special guests and events.

"The Dinah is a unique invita-



Mariah Hanson, left, with Cara Delevingne at Dinah 2021. (Photo by ILDK Media)

tion to revel in the sense of unity and community that permeates the event and embark on a journey into a world of empowerment and inclusivity where true selves are celebrated," Hanson says. "Events like The Dinah are essential to recharge and reconnect the community."

The Dinah has been featured on a number of TV shows, including Showtime's *The L Word*, ABC's *Jeopardy!*, Hulu's *Planet Sex* with Cara Delevingne and, more recently, Netflix's *The Ultimatum: Queer Love*. It has unequivocally cemented its place in pop culture history.

It has also marked its place in the history books when it comes to making strides in LGBTQ representation. Year after year, attendees are treated to the boldest, the brightest and the most outspoken queer artists. This year is no different, with guests representing a whole



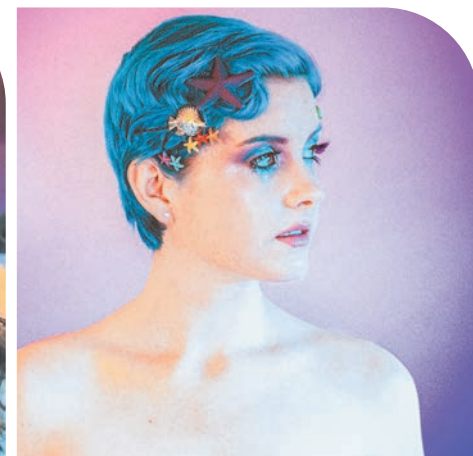
Iniko



King Mala



Lauren Jauregui



Lucy & La Mer

new generation focused on queerness in its most unfiltered state.

Lauren Jauregui, Iniko, KiNG MALA, Lauren Sanderson (who performed live recently at Sue Ellen's), Whitney Peyton, Lucy & La Mer and Sherrelle Holmes are all headlining this year's event, which is filled with dance parties and pool parties, performers and DJs. It all comes together to create the kind of safe space to celebrate and connect that you can find in very few other places.

Dallas Voice had the chance to catch up with Mariah Hanson to find out more about what makes The Dinah the ground-breaking event that it is.

Dallas Voice: What is the best way to describe The Dinah to someone who has never been? Mariah Hanson: A whirlwind of LGBT+ community, female-centric empowerment, celebrities, music, DJ's, performers, sunshine, pool parties, night parties, beautiful people of all shapes and sizes — all coming together to celebrate our lives together in sunny Palm Springs, one of the most-gay friendly cities in the states.

Who should come to The Dinah? Anyone and everyone who celebrates diversity, community, tolerance, music, differences, commonalities and all things female identified.

What surprises can repeat attendees expect at this year's event? Our line-up is amazing. It's 100 percent LGBT so far, which is great. We are fine-tuning our pool parties for the ultimate experience in the Palm Springs sunshine.

Why is an event like The Dinah still so relevant — or maybe even more so — in the current social and political climate? As LGBT+ individuals, we share a common culture that is under attack

again. So, to be together, to celebrate our lives out loud and to celebrate love — that is a beautiful, divine emotion that, when we experience it, makes all of us better people. It is a powerful thing.

The Dinah is a transcendent and joyful event that brings out the best of us, illustrated by the sweet greeting our guests have adopted that has come to epitomize the event and its feel-good nature. "Happy Dinah!" You hear that everywhere you walk at The Dinah as strangers greet each other and welcome everyone they see into the beautiful world of The Dinah.

What do you wish people knew about the Dinah? It's so much more than a party weekend. It's a movement of people who believe that, for five days, we can emulate the world we want to live in where each person is valued, seen, and heard. You have to see it to believe it. It's an amazing event. There is nothing like it.

What is the biggest misconception about The Dinah? That it is a party fest. It's so much more than that. Sure, people party. They hook up. But mostly they celebrate their lives together; they create friendships, and they make connections that teach us that if we can be this open and welcoming and actually loving to one another for five days, we can do it for 360 more.

What continues to inspire you to put on this event every year? All of the above. It's an honor to produce.

What's your dream for the future of Dinah? That it continues to emulate the best of who we are, the most open and accepting of who we are and the most welcoming of who we are. We need this in the world, more now than ever.

This year's event is Sept. 25-29. Margaritaville is The Dinah host hotel. For tickets and more information, visit TheDinah.com.



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BEYOND THE STAGE

Playwright Amy Evans puts intersex and identity at the center of the new play 'Jet Fuel'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
Rich@dallasvoice.com

Before seeing Amy Evans' world premiere of her new play by Bishop Arts Theatre Center, it's important to know where it comes from. Because Evans did not write *Jet Fuel* about distance runner Caster Semenya. But she was inspired by the athlete and the controversy that followed her from her 2009 World Championship victory.

Jet Fuel

Written by: Amy Evans

Directed by: Tiana Kaye Blair

Cast:

Ali Crabtree

Victoria England

Claire Fountain

Tanasha Friar

Monica Jones

Tayla Underwood

Shanthany Wilkerson

Associate Producer: Albert Lewis Wash II

Stage Manager/Light Board Operator:

Carter Wallace

Lighting Design: Caroline Hodge

Scenic Design: Rodney Dobbs

Sound Design: Claudia Martinez

Costume Design: Suzi Cranford

Projection Coordination: Natalie Rose

Mabry & Camron Ware

Dialect Coach: David Jarzen

Runs Sept. 12-22

BishopArtsTheatre.org.

"I was really angered by her story. She was at such a vulnerable age when her privacy was intruded on," Evans said. "She was, what, 18 when this sensitive and private info about her body went out into the world. That person was suddenly abused in my mind."

After Semenya's 2009 Olympic victory, a sex verification test was ordered on the South African athlete after ques-



Bishop Arts Theatre Center presents the premiere of 'Jet Fuel.' (Photo by Daniel Hinton)

tions were raised about her identity and her improvement in race times. The test results had leaked, sparking mixed responses across the sport and world, with all eyes on her. Rules came into play that would test athletes and enforce hormone suppressants. Semenya refused.

The truth is, Caster Semenya is intersexed, and her body creates testosterone levels — referred to as "jet fuel" in the sport of running — equivalent to most males.

But the bigger truth is, Semenya is a woman.

"How do you come back from that? Especially in this arena where the talents and gifts that get you notoriety also make you vulnerable," Evans said of Semenya's situation.

Jet Fuel will have its world premiere when it opens on Sept. 12 at BATC. For the story though, Evans wanted to approach it differently. This isn't a biographical drama about Semenya.

"I didn't want to reproduce the trauma. We know what happened, and, in the show, nothing is explicitly stated. Because I didn't need to trot out all the awful things that were done," Evans said. "That's not the point anymore."

Instead, Evans says, this show is how

Semenya, the character, navigates this ordeal and comes back to reclaim her own power.

"I do want to preface all this by saying Semenya is like a superstar now in South Africa and is living the life and has a wife and a baby now," Evans went on. "I am also conscious that Caster doesn't use the term 'intersex,' so I don't want to label her as such if she doesn't do that."

In writing the play, Evans had much learning to do, and her research included the documentary *Too Fast to be a Woman* on YouTube, race recaps and athlete interviews as well as Hida Vilorias's memoir, *Born Both*.

What she found the most enlightening was the idea of gender and identity being labeled as being on a spectrum.

"A biologist I was watching said there is no such thing. A spectrum assumes a binary which ultimately has an endpoint," Evans explained. "He said, 'If there is a binary, then show me the end of male identity and show me the end of female identity. There's no such thing.'"

"Something about that clicked for me. Plus, Mother Nature has no sense of gender identity. Things just happen

as they happen."

Sports would become Evans' ideal metaphor because, in sports, so much is invested in that binary, with categories for men and women so embedded. And it's not just about a gender binary, but also ableism. Evans said she is currently watching the Paralympics, and she sees how the sports world can't exclude those with disabilities or handicaps just because someone says those athletes have to be excluded.

She said she also came to see how ideologies were manipulated in the case of Caster Semenya to benefit the haters.

"I found it interesting to explore feminist thought being twisted around and how women competitors were claiming that perspective against another woman," she said. "Caster is one of many women who have been through some shit."

Evans doesn't give anything away about what happens in her play, but she does make a guarantee with *Jet Fuel*: "It can be a challenging play for a lot of reasons. The tricky thing is writing this to be real and empathetic but to also carefully decide who's getting the platform and the final word," she said. ■

Visit BishopArtsTheatre.org for tickets.



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- Parade Patio Party, 1PM
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A beautiful expanse

IDENTITY



Exploring the spectrum of gender identities

MELISSA WHITLER | NBCU Fellow
Melissa@DallasVoice.com

What it means to be transgender has been discussed a lot in American society, yet so often actual trans voices have been and are being left out of the conversation. Many — including within the LGBTQ community — hold internal biases against gender nonconformity. Yet everyone has a gender identity, and being able to comfortably explore it adds so much richness to life.

For many people, their understanding of a person being transgender means that a person identifies with the “opposite” gender than the one they were assigned at birth. The transgender experience, in their understanding,

follows a path of transitioning from one gender to another after coming out.

And while that is the experience of some trans men and women, it is not that way for everyone.

Transgender has come to encompass anyone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. This includes people who identify as non-binary, genderqueer, agender and genderfluid. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that there are more than two million trans people in the U.S.

Nonbinary is a term most people have heard, describing someone who is not a man or a woman. Despite how it is often used, though, it is not just a third gender category. It is an umbrella term that covers a wide expanse of experiences. This is distinct from agender, which is when a person has no gender or feels gender neutral.

Genderqueer is another umbrella term for a person whose gender isn't man or woman, but outside the binary. There are more specific terms to describe people who experience their gender as more masculine or feminine. This can be reflected by their appearance and

how they dress but does not always correlate.

Some people will identify as trans-masc or transfemme, meaning they align with a masculine or feminine experience but aren't a man or a woman. There are also demiboy and demigirl, who partially identify with the experience of being a man or a woman.

The term genderfue is used for a person who experiences genderfluidity but never masculine genders. Genderfawn is used in a similar way for someone who never experiences feminine genders.

While we have many different identities with established definitions, the beauty of gender is that it is an extremely personal and expansive thing. Many cisgender people want clear explanations in an effort to understand, but real inclusion comes with embracing the unknown and even the confusion.

The trans experience is different for everyone and not simple to explain. Some people come out when they are very young, and some much later in life. There is no set timeline for coming out and transitioning.

As a nonbinary person, I experience gender as a very fluid thing that is not set but which instead fluctuates. I don't feel like other nonbinary people necessarily have the same gender as me in the way women feel a certain bond or un-

derstand me.

There is often this assumption that trans people aspire to "pass," or not be physically recognizable as trans. For many, passing can be a matter of safety, as being visibly trans can be potentially dangerous in certain situations.

Yet how one looks does not relate to one's gender identity. Someone might dress more masculine, feminine or androgenous, but their manner of dress might not align with their pronouns or gender.

Still, there is bias even in trans spaces against those who don't pass. But if a person chooses not to change anything about their appearance when they come out, that doesn't make them any less trans.

There also is the idea that being nonbinary is being 'women lite.' People expect a certain look for nonbinary people that usually excludes more masculine presenting people and those assigned male at birth. In spaces meant to be inclusive and accepting, there are still these biases that prevent people from feeling safe and accepted.

The gender binary is not rooted in scientific or biological facts but rather a Western colonial ideology. In many cultures across the world there have always existed more than two gender categories.



derstanding with other women. There is a kinship that exists with other trans people, but also different personal understandings that allow for great conversations.

It is a part of me I want others to rec-

Some Native American communities recognized Two-Spirit as a distinct gender category. These people combined aspects of men and women while also having traits unique to their gender. In



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DRIVE

2024 Kia EV6 GT: An all-electric, super-zippy, family-friendly performance car your Camaro-loving ancestors never imagined

CASEY WILLIAMS | AutoCasey
AutoCasey@AOL.com

On the way to the grocery store the other night, I was sitting at a red light in the 2024 Kia EV6 GT AWD. Opposite me was a '69 Camaro — revving its engine, looking for a fight. As I sat in near silence listening to Aretha on the Meridian audio system, it occurred to me how utterly the Kia would dispense with that iconic Chevy.

But this EV has talents your gas-burning ancestors never imagined.

Kia would have you think of the EV6 as a crossover, but it's more of an extended hatchback. It's what the Brits would call a "shooting brake:" a sporty car with space for sporting endeavors.

2024 Kia EV6 GT AWD

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Output: 576hp/545 lb.-ft.
Suspension f/r: Adap. Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 21-inch/21-inch alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
Driving range: 218 miles
0-60 mph: 3.4s
Recharge (10-80 percent): 18m
Economy city/hwy: 88/77 mpg-e
Assembly: Hwasung, Korea
Base/as-tested price: \$42,600/64,090
Likes

- Exotic styling
- Rapid acceleration
- Jetsons interior

Dislikes

- Short range
- Aspirational price
- No hands-off cruising

But check its wide stance, angry headlamps and slashed lower fascia. Bulging fenders surround fat, 21-inch wheels



fronting lime green brake calipers. Our car wore Steel Matte paint, which lends a sinister look — like Bruce Wayne's Batmobile. I especially like the barely sloping roof, gently kissed by the up-turned rear pillar, and that wide, curvy rump with just a strip of LEDs arching over.

It looks like it rolled off an auto show turntable.

The artwork continues inside where twin 12.3-inch screens top the dash for gauges and infotainment and sueded sport seats with lime piping that are heated and ventilated. The flybridge console houses cupholders, rotating gear selector and wireless phone charger. It's like commanding a spacious starship with a heated steering wheel.

Safety is highlighted by front/rear automatic braking, augmented reality head-up display and safe exit assist that prevents passengers from stepping into traffic.

You can even back it into your garage from the key fob, but driving is still your responsibility.

Giving me confidence against that rambunctious Camaro is an electric powertrain that conjures 576 horsepower



and 545 lb.-ft. of torque — delivered instantly to pavement through dual-motor all-wheel-drive. It'll demolish 0-60 mph in 3.4 seconds ... if you're into those sorts of shenanigans.

But the EV6 also flaunts 88/77-MPGe city/highway and fast charges 10-80 percent in just 18 minutes. Range is ter-

rible at 218 miles, but choosing the rear-drive economy package raises that to 310 miles. I'd argue any modern EV in the EV6's price range should be comfortably over 300 miles.

You'll definitely want to drive it beyond its range!

Energize the big pedal and it whooshes silently away. In Eco mode, it's very happy slipping through city traffic, but click into Normal for making haste on the interstate with regenerative braking feeding batteries on off-ramps. Put it into Sport mode to waste classic muscle cars.

Adaptive cruise and lane centering steering calms long highway drives. The

car weighs over two tons, but that road-absorbing weight is low down in the chassis, and the adaptive suspension tames rough pavement and grips corners with equal aplomb.

Don't get indignant: I love classic muscle cars, especially Camaros. I own an old Corvette, and there's little I enjoy more than revving its big V8 engine and shifting the manual transmission while eviscerating country two-lanes on the weekends.

But the EV6 GT is an entirely different cocktail. It can tenderly take kids to school or unleash Ares on wannabe muscle cars. It also rides comfortably and swallows bicycles whole.

It does everything well — except travel long distances without a charging station.

It's not cheap, either. While the EV6 starts at a reasonable \$42,600, our GT AWD eviscerated \$64,090.

Compare that to the Tesla Model Y, Chevy Blazer EV, Ford Mustang Mach-E and similar Hyundai IONIQ 5.

Storm forward! ■

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.



The author, right, and his husband

Eat and drink

We absolutely adored the on-site restaurants at both the Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui and Hotel Wailea, but we always enjoy venturing out to try other local places. You might not immediately think of Italian fare when visiting Maui, but Matteo's Osteria (MatteosMaui.com), quite possibly serves the best lasagna on the planet, as well as their signature dish, Isola, made with the day's fresh catch.

Another favorite Maui experience for us is going to the nearby Kihei Foodland (Foodland.com) location, grabbing the most expensive poke from the deli (we're told that's always the freshest fish), then taking it to a picnic table on the beach. It's definitely not fancy, but it's a nice break from white tablecloths and a sommelier.

For some of the best tiki cocktails anywhere, head to the recently opened Tikehau Lounge (TikehauLounge.com), which shakes up creative concoctions that pay tribute to time-honored tiki recipes but with modern twists on presentation and

quality of ingredients. Mari Howe's creations will surprise and delight, plus you'll be supporting owners and employees who created the bar after losing their hospitality jobs due to the wildfires.

Do

I made a promise to myself years ago that I would never write about Maui without recommending a sunrise visit to Haleakala National Park (NPS.gov/Hale). Reservations are now required, and you'll need to rent a car or hire a tour company. But it's easily one of the most awe-inspiring experiences of my life — and I'm confident it will be one of yours, too. Even if you do have to get up at 3 a.m. to make the most of it, you will be connected to the earth and history of Hawai'i in ways you can't quite grasp until you go.

A new experience for us this year was our first-ever sunset sailing, courtesy of Trilogy (SailTrilogy.com). The tour company offers plenty of options, including snorkeling, scuba and whale-watching

adventures, but we found sailing an ideal way to see the sun dip into the ocean at the end of the day.

We booked a cocktail sail, which included an open bar and a thoughtful selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Last, but not least amount of clothes, staying in Wailea means you're only minutes away from Little Beach (LittleBeachMaui.com), Maui's unofficial clothing-optional beach. Read up on the website for details on how to access that specific section of beach, which also includes an area all the way at the end that's frequented by predominantly gay men and other queer people.

The scenery is spectacular (and sometimes that includes the beachgoers), and if you arrive right when the larger park opens (7 a.m. weekdays, 5 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays), you will very likely have the entire beach to yourself. Like so much of Maui, describing that experience simply as magical feels woefully inadequate.

Life-changing feels a little more on-brand. ■

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Nosferatu

Vampirates: When the Blood Moon Rises

Where: Pirates Dinner Adventure

When: Select nights, Sept 3-Oct 31

What: This Halloween-themed dinner show is suitable for all ages and features

aerial artistry, swordplay, death-defying stunts and dynamic duels. Family-friendly.

Screamin' Green Hauntoween

Where: Crayola Experience

When: Sept. 23-Oct. 31

What: Visitors can enjoy a themed scavenger hunt, spook-tastic crafts, character photo opps, weekend trick-or-treating, pumpkin decorating and slime making. Family-friendly.

Happy Frights

Where: Harry P. Leu Gardens

When: Select dates, Sept. 27-Oct. 31

What: This don't miss trick-or-treat journey winds through 12 themed worlds with fun surprises, including a mysterious swamp, a Crazy Carnival, a Mad Hatter maze, hip-hop dancing aliens, giant deadly plants, live music at a Dia de Muertos celebration and more. Family-friendly.

A Petrified Forest

Where: Altamonte Springs

When: Select nights, Oct. 4-Nov. 2

What: The Forest offers three horrifying trails with uniquely-themed rooms and frightful scares around every turn, all set in a genuinely spooky two-acre forest. The

annual Halloween event now features food concessions, local art vendors, laser tag, backstage tours and more.

Spooky Empire

Where: Hyatt Regency Orlando, FL

When: Oct. 11-13

What: One of the largest horror conventions, Spooky Empire returns for a weekend-long event. Halloween and rock-n-roll fans of all ages can meet TV stars, buy collectibles from more than 200 vendors, see new films and old favorites, in large Zombie Walks and get tattooed by top artists.

Gators, Ghosts and Goblins

Where: Gatorland

When: Weekends, Oct. 12-27

What: This annual daytime Halloween event features a haunted zone and exhibit, interactive characters, animal meet-and-greets, candy giveaways, a children's Halloween costume parade and more.

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Join us for the Grand Opening on Sept. 6th at Resource Center and on Sept. 7th for the Symposium at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. Both events are free. Register at <https://www.queerjustice.info/programs>.



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ORLANDO , From Page 22

Lake Nona Graveyard Smash

Where: Lake Nona Town Center

When: Oct. 26

What: Guests will get to party with ghosts and ghouls, participate in trick-or-treat stations, experience live music and take a journey through inflatable courses. Free and open to the public.

Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical

Where: Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

When: Oct. 31-Nov. 3

What: You won't want to miss this hilarious "upside down" take on the hit Netflix series in all its campy 1980s glory, featuring the whole Hawkins gang out for a night of adventure, thrills, pubescent angst, cheap effects, dancing monsters and more.

Nosferatu

Where: Renaissance Theatre Company

When: Select dates, Sept. 13-Nov. 10

What: This 90-minute horror experience led by a cast of 32 vampires will take you into hidden corners of the building. With



Howl-o-scream

separate admission, guests can attend an exclusive Vampire Nightclub featuring dancers, music, specialty cocktails and drag performances later in the evening. Adults only.

Haunting Nights

Where: Harry P. Leu Gardens

When: Sept. 27-Oct. 31

What: This event serves as the teenager/adult-focused counterpart to Happy Frights, complete with

jump scares and themed characters. Looking for a more chill vibe, guests can also enjoy hip-hop dancing aliens and festive foods. Adults only.

Cocktails & Screams

When: Year-round

Where: Downtown Orlando

What: This Halloween-themed bar features live music and an extensive list of creative cocktails.

Guests can enjoy spooky experiences like the Beetlejuice Brunch, Quiet Place: Silent Disco Party, Just A Bunch of Hocus Pocus Drag Show, Dan Sperry Shock Illusionist Show and more. Click here for a full list of events. Adults only.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show 49th Anniversary Spectacular Tour with Barry Bostwick

When: Oct. 4

Where: Steinmetz Hall

What: This original and unedited screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* offers the classic live shadow cast, audience participation, a costume contest and more. Adults only.

Scream n' Stream Drive-Thru Halloween Experience

When: Weekends Oct. 6-29

Where: The Florida Mall

What: You don't even have to get out of your car to enjoy this haunted Halloween drive-thru event. Drive, if you dare, through seven horrifying zones complete with monsters, music, lighting and special effects. Adults only.

The Orlando Zombie/Halloween Crawls

When: October 25, 26 and 31

Where: In downtown Orlando

What: Drink specials to die for and a Halloween contest at more than 10 bars and nightclubs. All-day and all-night access tickets available. Adults only. ■

For more information on Orlando's Halloween events, go to VisitOrlando.com.

Local LGBTQ+ Media Giving Day October 8th!

Celebrating 100 years of local media for and by our community.

The first gay publication in America was 100 years ago this year—1924's *Friendship & Freedom*, produced by Henry Gerber. It was shut down by police after just two issues. Through the years, LGBTQ+ media faced similar censorship and hardships. But 100 years later, there is a chance to revitalize this journalism and make it stronger to face the anti-LGBTQ+ backlash, providing critical coverage of this vital part of the U.S. media landscape.

This first year, with one donation, you can support six of the top LGBTQ+ outlets serving our community:

- Bay Area Reporter ■ Dallas Voice ■ Philadelphia Gay News
- Washington Blade ■ Windy City Times ■ Tagg Magazine

This project is a program of News Is Out, a collaboration of six of the top local LGBTQ+ media across the country, supported by Local Media Foundation, a 501(C)(3) organization. Tax-deductible donations can be made anytime from now until Oct 8th.

Learn more here: givebutter.com/LGBTQequityfund

Give today!

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more than \$1 million to support Human Right's Campaign's mission to end discrimination against LGBTQ people.

This year's tournament takes place Sept. 21 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave.

More information at DFW.HRC.org/events and register at Act.HRC.org.

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

Fairway to Equality

Now in its 27th year, the Fairway to Equality golf tournament has raised

WETT official Dallas Lesbian Pride

Betty Neal presents WETT: Official Dallas Lesbian Pride on Sept. 27 at 9 p.m. Sue Ellen's moves to S4 for the night. Shemar Collins Dupree and Tyra Rah-Rah are the emcees.



Hindu cultures, the gender category of hijra can be traced back to their holy texts. Hijras consider themselves to be a third gender, neither male nor female.

To erase these identities is to oppress non-white cultures and erase the deep history of gender-nonconformity.

Biology also supports the concept that there are more than two distinct genders. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that 1.7 percent of the population are born with intersex traits. This means people are born with biological characteristics that do not fit binary understandings of male and female.

While this might seem like a small number, it is comparable to the number of people born with red hair. And we don't say they don't exist.

The very existence of transgender people is contested in American politics, making even basic respect something we must fight for. Using someone's correct name and pronouns and

correcting yourself when you make a mistake are the bare minimum.

Real acceptance and understanding go beyond this. Someone can still use my correct pronouns and internally view me as a woman. There is a mental step that individuals need to take to really view a trans person as who they are — just as 'loving' a gay person and still considering homosexuality a sin isn't real acceptance.

It takes more than words to be inclusive.

For our community to be open and accepting, we all must take time to examine our internal biases and sit in the uncomfortable. Even trans people can have internalized transphobia, meaning we all have to consider other experiences.

While we like to seek definitive categories, what matters most is how an individual person identifies and understands themselves. There is no right or wrong way to be transgender or non-binary, just as there is no right or wrong way to be a man or a woman.

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AL FARB





The American LGBTQ+ Museum partners with Lambda Legal to present *Queer Justice*, an exhibition highlighting more than 50 years of LGBTQ rights on Friday, Sept. 6, at Resource Center. See listings for details.

■ **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, send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

SEPTEMBER

■ **Sept. 6: 'Queer Justice' exhibit opening**

The American LGBTQ+ Museum and Lambda Legal present this exhibition highlighting 50 years of LGBTQ rights at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, from 6-8:30 p.m. Visit AmericanLGBTQMuseum.org for more information and to RSVP.

■ **Sept. 6: Ever Mainard**

Comedian Ever Mainard brings the laughs to The Comedy Arena, 305 E. Virginia St. #104, in McKinney at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Tickets.TheComedyArena.com.

■ **Sept. 6 & 7: Ryanhood Live in Concert**

Award-winning acoustic duo Ryanhood celebrates their 20th anniversary together at Windmills, 5755 Grandscape Blvd. in The Colony, at 7 p.m. Tickets available at Prekindle.com.

■ **Sept. 7: 2024 Human Rights Campaign National Dinner**

HRC hosts its fundraising dinner at 5 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Allen Lew Place NW, Washington, D.C. Visit Tickets.HRC.org for information and tickets.

■ **Sept. 7: Tim Murray's 'Witches' Tour**

Comedian Tim Murray brings his *Tim Murray is WITCHES!* tour to Dallas at the Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St., at 7 p.m. Visit TimMurrayComedian.com for tickets.

■ **Sept. 7: Night of Stars – Icons**

GDMAF hosts this fundraising event starring Thorgy Thor of *RuPaul's Drag Race* at 5 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Visit the event page at Eventbrite.com for tickets and information.

■ **Sept. 7: The Big Gay Fair of Dallas**

Pride in Dallas hosts this fair from 1-7 p.m. on Cedar Springs Road, with local merchants, organizations and entertainment to kick off Pride in Dallas week. Visit the Pride in Dallas page on Facebook for more information.

■ **Sept. 7: State of LGBTQ+ Rights: Past, Present, and Future**

Join Lambda Legal for a day filled with educational panels at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, 300 N. Houston St., from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Visit AmericanLGBTQMuseum.org for more information and tickets.

■ **Sept. 8: Online Queer Book Club**

Fern Connections hosts its online book club at 2 p.m. Reserve your spot at Eventbrite.com.

■ **Sept. 9: Alexandre's MOM**

The monthly Alexandre's MOM — Monday Open Mic — starts at 9 p.m. at the bar, 4026 Cedar Springs Road, and features local professional and amateur comedians. Those interested in performing can sign up online before noon on Sunday, Sept. 8, at Form.JotForm.com/222497530917058.

■ **Sept. 10: LGBTQ Suicide Prevention Vigil**

Dallas Hope Charities hosts this heartfelt vigil at The Wild Detectives, 314 W. 8th St., to raise awareness, offer support and honor the lives impacted by suicide. Vigil begins at 6:30 p.m. Visit DallasHopeCharities.org for information and to register.

■ **Sept. 11: Carrollton Pride Dinner**

Eat, drink, relax and meet new people at Nico's Cocina Carrollton, 3065 N. Josey Lane, from 7-9 p.m.

■ **Sept. 12: Ignite: 2025 Season Reveal**

Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth, presents an evening celebrating theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. Visit CircleTheatre.com for tickets and information.

■ **Sept. 12: 'Jet Fuel'**

Amy Evans' new play *Jet Fuel*, inspired by the story of Olympic sprinter Caster Semanya and focusing on the intersection of gender, race identity and the quest for fairness in athletics, runs Sept. 12-16 at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Visit BishopArtsTheatre.org for details.

■ **Sept. 13: Slide with Pride**

Impulse Group Dallas hosts a pool party for a cause at Epic Waters, 2970 Epic Place in Grand Prairie. Visit ImpulseGrp.org for more information.

■ **Sept. 13: 'Down to Float: Neon Cowboy'**

Impulse Dallas presents the city's premiere LGBT pool event featuring Lala Ri of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Kameron Ross and others at Lee Harvey's Dive In, 1315 Beaumont St., from 7-11 p.m. Visit the event page on Eventbrite for tickets.

■ **Sept. 14: 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.

■ **Sept. 14: Glittering Hope: A Drag Spectacular**

DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Novice Sister O.M. Gee host this show to raise funds for Dallas Hope Charities. Event begins at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Sept. 14: Texas Latinx Pride Fest**

A FREE community festival celebrating LGBTQ Hispanic/Latinx intersections takes place from 3-9 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Visit TXLatinoPride.org to register and for more info.

■ **Sept. 14: Badge of Pride's Pride and protest sign-making workshop**

Badge of Pride will hold an educational workshop from 1-3 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. The event will explore the history of Pride and give participants a chance to make their own signs, just in time for the Pride in Dallas parade on Sunday. Visit the BadgeOfPride Facebook page for more details.

■ **Sept. 15: Pride in Dallas Pride Parade**

The 3rd Annual Pride in Dallas Parade on Cedar Springs takes place from 12-4 p.m. Visit PrideinDallas.org for more information.

■ **Sept. 17: 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.

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



Country crooner Kameron Ross will be among the featured entertainers at Impulse Dallas' *Down to Float: Neon Cowboy* on Sept. 13 at Lee Harvey's Dive In. See listings for details.

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Jenny Block

GIRL ON GIRLS

Undercover life saver

I save lives. I do. I don't mean it metaphorically either; I mean it quite literally.

I don't do it alone, not by a long shot. I don't run into burning buildings. I've never had to take my CPR skills out in the real world. I have yet to suck the poison out of anyone's body.

But I am a bone marrow courier. And every time I take a journey, a life is saved.

It's kind of amazing when you think about it: One person is sick. Another person's body holds the fix. But the two might never meet. That's where the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) registry comes in.

All that's needed to join the registry is a cheek swab. People swab up, sign up and, if they are ever needed, they get called up. Matches are found every day all around the world and every day people's lives are saved.

Every day.

Once the donation is set up, that's where I — and other couriers just like me — come in. We volunteer to pick that donation up from wherever in the world it might be to deliver to the patient in need of it, wherever they might be.

Just me and my little blue cooler against the world.

I'm not going to lie to you, I love the travel — I do — even to the tiniest of places. I love the planes, trains and automobiles. I love the people I meet along the way. I love getting out of my little bubble and reminding myself that we are all specks in this giant universe and there is always more to see and explore and understand.

But more than anything, I love playing a part in something that seems so far outside of my own universe. I could never make it through med school. Science is not even my second-best subject. Math isn't even on my radar. And I don't love the sight of blood let alone anything beyond that.

I'm not strong. I'm not particularly brave. I'm not involved in terribly risky happenings. So, saving lives always seemed like something I'd have to take off my list.

Enter NMDP.

They need weirdos like me with remote jobs and no little kids at home who



have nerves of steel and a MacGyver brain when it comes to travel and logistics. I'm smart and friendly and patient and kind.

I am a Girl Scout to the nth degree when it comes to rule following, and I love the trainings because school is my jam. I am good at the covert aspect, since HIPAA rules mean staying as much under the radar as possible when I'm on a trip. I am super well-traveled and can figure out the train system no matter the country or the language.

And, speaking of languages, I, strangely, have an ear for many.

So yes, I am a bit geeky by all accounts. But for this gig, geekiness is queen.

There are lots of forms and protocol, and every once in a while, I mess things up a bit. But mostly I thrive in this tidy little world impeccably designed and managed by the most incredible people, keeping the wheels turning and the cogs greased in this fast-paced, ever-changing, massive and life-saving pursuit.

And I get to play my little part. And, each time I do, I feel a little better about this crazy world we live in that only seems to be getting crazier, which means a lot. It can be tough to find any hope some days. But knowing that a stranger is willing to do this for another stranger

— donate marrow or stem cells, I mean — makes me feel like the human race still has a chance.

My wife is my rock when I am on the route. At the ready, with a "You got this!" when flights are inevitably delayed, and trains are off-schedule, and things aren't going quite as planned. She keeps the home fires burning and reminds me how important this work is — because it is.

NMDP also works hard to advocate for patients and donors alike, training many of us to be ambassadors and working to make sure there are laws in place that support patients and donors alike. That means fundraising too, of course. And, should you like to help, you can do that at Fundraise.NMDP.org.

And if you want to join the registry, you can find out more about that at NMDP.org/Get-Involved/Join-The-Registry. NMDP is not currently seeking couriers, in case you were wondering. But you can find out more about what is required at Volunteer.NMDP.org/CourierProgram.

I want to be remembered — not my name necessarily, but my good acts. I want to do something that deserves remembering. I think this is it. I don't even know who will hold the memory, maybe just the universe itself. But I know that this work I do will be remembered.

It will be remembered that a person took the time and effort to make sure that another person would live, no matter the distance or the hours or the weather. The mission will be completed.

And somewhere, a family sighs with relief; friends gather with joy, because someone they love gets another day. And that is something we can all celebrate.

this week's solution

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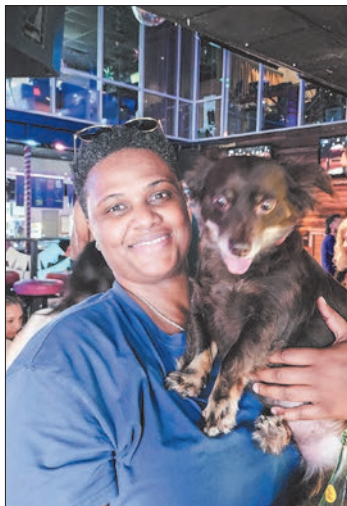
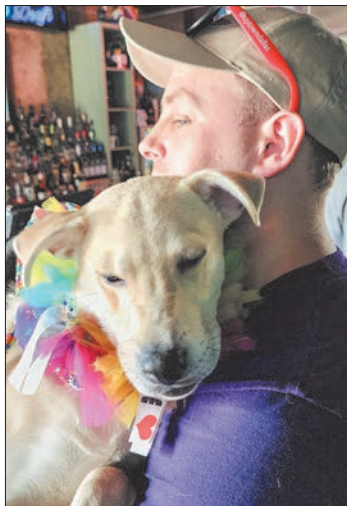
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PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



GLFD and SPCA Dog Days Adoption Event at Sue Ellen's

(Photos courtesy of Jeremy Watkins)



LGBT Chamber New Member Showcase

(Photos by Chad Mantooh)



GLFD at Hamburger Mary's

(photos courtesy of Jeremy Watkins)





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Solution on Page 29

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- 1 Personality parts, to Frasier
 - 5 Fey Dudley Do-Right's org.
 - 9 Doug Mattis leap
 - 13 Odo portrayer Auberjonois
 - 14 Former netman Nastase
 - 15 Care beginning
 - 16 Frequent Trump portrayer Baldwin
 - 17 Branch of math, briefly
 - 18 Lesbian character in *No Exit*
 - 19 Actress who said she was always trying to perform *Annie* for everyone
 - 22 It may come before long
 - 23 Problem for Sylvester the Cat
 - 24 Poetry muse
 - 27 Delivered a mouthful, perhaps
 - 29 Solo among the stars
 - 32 *The Ref* star Leary
 - 33 Home of T. Bankhead
 - 34 Rainbow flag site
 - 35 Start of how *Annie* convinced 19-Across to be an actress
 - 38 Gallery of London
 - 39 Type of school that trained Rev. Perry
 - 40 "___ you loud and clear!"
 - 41 *Sex and the City* shower
 - 42 Type of New York Liberty defense
 - 43 Unpleasant, as weather
 - 44 Like Lindsay Lohan's girls, in a film
 - 46 Guy under J. Edgar?
 - 47 End of the quote
 - 52 How quickly one comes
 - 53 Ward of *Once and Again*
 - 54 Collected
 - 56 Cukor's rib donor
 - 57 Former lovers
 - 58 *Diana* singer Paul
 - 59 "On that you can ___" ("As Time Goes By")
 - 60 Leave as is
 - 61 Look at a hottie in a bar
- Down**
- 1 Bill written by Alice Paul
 - 2 Gets hard
 - 3 Top draft level
 - 4 Like a tryst
 - 5 Wealthy, to Mauresmo
 - 6 Encourage the cast
 - 7 Kunis of *Black Swan*
 - 8 Queer
 - 9 Cockeyed
 - 10 They fear people of PlanetOut
 - 11 Place of the first fig-leaf codpiece
 - 12 Nickname that Taylor disliked
 - 20 Became erect
 - 21 It covers your public hair
 - 24 Head of costume designing
 - 25 Place where some go straight
 - 26 About your bod
 - 27 Negligee material
 - 28 Relief for the head
 - 30 ___ once (like simultaneous orgasm)
 - 31 Hard up
 - 34 Like the men of Penzance
 - 36 Good-looking guys
 - 37 Drummer managed by Brian Epstein
 - 42 Go the other way
 - 45 The Riddler, to Batman
 - 46 Word used to stop seamen
 - 47 Marquis name?
 - 48 Shout at an open call
 - 49 Fox comedy with Jane Lynch
 - 50 Peppermint stick you can lick
 - 51 Sommer of film
 - 52 Four, usually, to Spencer-Devlin
 - 55 Mo. of Mardi Gras, often

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