

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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A watercolor illustration featuring a large red AIDS ribbon in the center. Several globes are scattered around the ribbon, rendered in various colors including red, orange, and teal. The background consists of soft, blended watercolor washes in shades of teal, orange, and red.

World AIDS Day

Organizations join forces
for 2024 commemoration

By David Taffet, page 10



Starting Jan. 2025

Erin Duhaime, PA-C, AAHIVS

Erin Duhaime is a dedicated Physician Assistant with 16 years of experience in HIV care. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Stony Brook University. Credentialed as an HIV Specialist, Erin is also a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine and the International Anal Neoplasia Society.

Erin emphasizes patient-centered care, empowering individuals to manage their health. She specializes in HIV prevention, treatment, and complex case management, with expertise in PREP, gender-affirming care, Hepatitis C, and more. Passionate about advocacy, Erin works to reduce stigma and raise awareness in her community. In her free time, Erin enjoys live music, travel, and board games with friends.

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— 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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WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



Donald Trump listens as Scott Bessent speaks

Trump nominates gay man for Treasury secretary

Donald Trump announced Friday, Nov. 22, that he is nominating hedge fund executive Scott Bessent, a top fundraiser for the Trump campaign, to serve as secretary of the Treasury in his second administration. Bessent is a married gay man with two children.

Charles Moran, president of Log Cabin Republicans, hailed Bessent's nomination as "a reminder of President Trump's love and respect for LGBT Americans."

In a statement announcing his nomination of Bessent, Trump said Bessent will "help me usher in a new Golden Age for the United States. Unlike in past administrations, we will ensure that no Americans will be left behind in the next and greatest economic boom, and Scott will lead that effort for me."

Moran, in a statement issued after Trump's announcement, called Bessent "a terrific choice to become the next Treasury secretary," adding that "Log Cabin Republicans applaud President Trump for his pick."

Moran continued, "As one of the most brilliant minds in the financial space and a vocal supporter of President Trump's economic agenda, Bessent will be a strong asset to help President Trump put America back on the path to financial security and economic prosperity. His nomination is another step in President Trump's steadfast determination to fill his administration with the most qualified people for the job who can help carry out his agenda. ... The Log Cabin Republicans looks forward to working with Bessent and other LGBT allies who have been asked to serve in his administration, like RFK Jr., Pam Bondi, Tulsi Gabbard, Matt Whitaker and others, to carry out President Trump's agenda."

— Tammye Nash

Upcoming Arlington exhibit should be 'Popular'

Costumes from the movie *Wicked* will go on display at the Arlington Museum of Art in January, running from Jan. 17-April 17. The exhibition will be free to the public.

Curated by the Arlington Museum of Art, the exhibition will feature original costumes, props and images from the film *Wicked*, provided by NBCUniversal Archives & Collections. Highlights from the exhibition will include Glinda's "bubble" dress and Elphaba's "Defying Gravity" costume.

"The Arlington Museum of Art is always proud to bring exciting new exhibits to Arlington and its visitors. We hope fans of *Wicked*, costuming and film enjoy seeing the new versions of these iconic costumes", said Arlington Museum of Art president and CEO Chris Hightower.

The Arlington Museum of Art is located at 1200 Ballpark Way, and it is open Tues.-Sat from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

— David Taffet

Vehicle-pedestrian accident?

According to eye-witness reports, a woman was hit by a vehicle while crossing Cedar Springs Road in a crosswalk at Throckmorton Street early Saturday evening, Nov. 23. However Dallas Voice has been unable to confirm these reports with Dallas Police, despite photos from the scene, provided to Dallas Voice by Richard Schalij, showing officers blocking the intersection as they investigated the accident.

Dallas Voice's initial request for information was answered with an email from the DPD Public Information Office saying that, although police received reports of "a person in the roadway" at that location around 8 p.m., officers were unable to locate any problem when they arrived.



Police officers block off the intersection of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton after an accident on Saturday involving a pedestrian (Photo courtesy of Richard Schali)

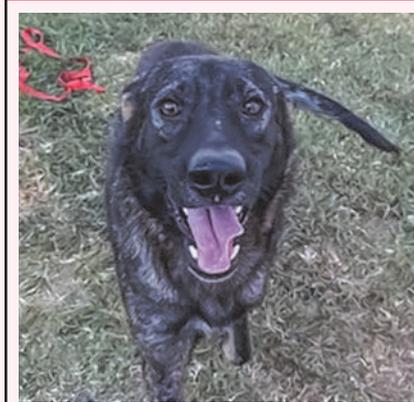
Dallas Voice then sent a second request noting that the accident allegedly happened around 5 p.m., but that officers had the intersection blocked for several hours. We have received no response as of yet to that second request for information.

A witness at the scene said that the victim was loaded into an ambulance after the acci-

dent, and that she was "conscious and coherent" when she was put into the ambulance. However several people have said they were told the victim had later died. Again, though, Dallas Voice has received no confirmation that the accident even happened, much less that the pedestrian has died.

— Tammye Nash

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VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

A New GOP for a new era

Log Cabin Dallas is dedicated to building the Unity Party

As the new president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, I'm excited to share our vision for the "Unity Party" — a broader coalition focused on common sense, bipartisanship and an unwavering commitment to the issues that truly matter to Americans.

This isn't your old Republican Party. It's a new movement built on inclusion, reform and a genuine desire to make America better for everyone.

A broader coalition

This election was a wake-up call. The data is undeniable: Minority groups, young voters and even members of the LGBTQ+ community are finding their place within this new Republican coalition.

Trump made historic gains among Black voters, marking his best performance since Gerald Ford nearly 50 years ago. Among 18-to-29-year-olds, the GOP had its strongest showing in two decades. Trump also achieved the highest level of Latino voter support for a Republican in the history of exit polling, showing a significant shift among this key demographic. And here in Texas, over 30 percent of LGBTQ+ voters cast their ballots for Trump, according to ABC exit polling.

These shifts aren't just demographic; they're geographical, too. Trump gained 12 points in New York, 9 points in Illinois and 10 points in Maryland. Emerging swing states like New Jersey, Virginia and New Mexico are changing the political map.

These shifts are significant, reflecting a growing frustration with the establishment and a desire for a party that focuses



Blaine LaBron
Special Contributor

on economic and personal freedoms over divisive social issues. We've also seen inspiring bipartisan initiatives from leaders like Bernie Sanders, AOC and Cory Booker. Even Cenk Uygur's recent discussions with Elon Musk and Donald Trump Jr. about Pentagon reform highlight the importance of bridging divides. The Unity Party is about fostering collaboration between once-polarized groups, proving that common ground is within reach if we're willing to talk and listen.

Not just MAGA: The Unity Party vision

It's easy to mistake this movement for being solely about MAGA, but the Unity Party is much bigger. It's a coalition of disillusioned Democrats, independents and conservatives who are united around shared goals and common-sense policies. Former Democrat leaders like RFK Jr., Tulsi Gabbard and Elon Musk have shown that Americans are ready for a pragmatic, solutions-oriented approach to politics — one that focuses on economic stability, healthcare reform and protecting individual liberties.

What sets this new movement apart? For the first time in 40 years, the Republican National Convention had no anti-gay legislation or national abortion bans in its platform. Under Trump, the GOP has appointed openly gay individuals to high-profile positions — like Rick Grinnell as the director of national intel-



ligence and Scott Bessent as Secretary of the Treasury — proving that inclusion and qualifications, not identity, should define leadership.

Yet, these stories are barely discussed because they don't fit the typical narrative the media likes to portray.

The role of LGBTQ+ advocacy groups

This brings me to a critical point: LGBTQ+ advocacy needs a reality check. Organizations like the Human Rights Campaign have lost their way, focusing on niche issues like gender-expansive care for minors while neglecting impactful legislation like the Equality Act. The Equality Act would provide protections for 13 million LGBTQ+ Americans — protections we all need.

Meanwhile, the HRC's own data shows that issues like gender care affect only about 33,000 children nationwide. When you Google the Human Rights Campaign, articles titled "Supporting Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender-Expansive Children" dominate the conversation.

Why are we prioritizing divisive, headline-grabbing topics over comprehensive solutions that could benefit millions? I can't help but wonder if the reason for this focus is strategic: Does HRC fear that if the Equality Act passes, or if other legislation codifying *Obergefell* succeeds, it could hinder their fundraising efforts? Is the urgency of niche topics more financially beneficial than fighting for broader, impactful change?

In a recent episode of the *Coffee with Gays* podcast, we discussed the importance of kindness and respect regardless of who you support politically. It's crucial that advocacy groups adopt this broader mindset — focusing on unifying, meaningful legislative action rather

than creating unnecessary division.

Reforming the Texas GOP

At the state level, the work is just beginning. My goal as president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas is to help reform the Texas GOP to focus on economic policies rather than social wedge issues.

Take, for example, the recent debates over kids at drag shows or transgender participation in sports. These are manufactured distractions that don't reflect the priorities of most LGBTQ+ Texans — or Texans in general. We need to shift our focus to real issues — education, healthcare, and economic opportunity for all — that can make a difference in people's lives.

A call for unity

The Unity Party isn't just a political label; it's a mindset. It's about rejecting the divisiveness that has plagued both parties for too long. It's about reaching across the aisle and having real conversations, even when they're uncomfortable.

This election proved that Americans are ready for a change. Let's honor that by working together to build a future where everyone has a seat at the table.

I invite you to keep an open mind and join us in this effort. Together, we can reshape the narrative, challenge stereotypes and create a movement that truly represents the diverse, dynamic fabric of our country. ■

Blaine LaBron is the president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas and co-host of the Coffee with Gays podcast. Visit LogCabinDallas.com for more information, and check out Coffee with Gays at CoffeeWithGays.com for candid conversations on the important issues impacting our community.

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To remember, to honor, to **celebrate**

WORLD AIDS DAY

Dozens of groups gather at Cathedral of Hope for World AIDS Day commemoration

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
Taffet@DallasVoice.com

World AIDS Day began as a desperate cry from the LGBTQ community, begging elected officials to say the word: AIDS.

Today, the annual Dec. 1 commemoration is a remembrance of those lost during the AIDS pandemic and a celebration of how far we've coming in treatment, prevention and eradication of the disease.

This year, a coalition of more than two dozen community organizations, along with their donors and allies, will gather on Monday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope to mark World AIDS Day with Together We Thrive.

The event is organized by DR Hanson, David Hearn and Prism Health North Texas.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will open the event with a blessing.

State Rep. Venton Jones, who made a name for himself during his first term in office as the first legislator to be open about his HIV-positive status, will speak about the progress made in ending the HIV epidemic in Dallas and his proposed legislation for the 2025 session of the Texas Legislature.

The Turtle Creek Chorale, Patti Le Plae Safe and Miss Lifewalk 2024 and Miss Big Thickette 2024 Shantae Morgan will perform.

DR Hanson will moderate a panel that includes public health strategist Chris Walker and Hardy Haberman. Among other things, they will discuss those protests in the 1980s and 1990s that laid the foundation for the strength of the HIV/AIDS movement.

In Dallas, one of the largest AIDS



DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will open the World AIDS Day commemoration with a blessing

protests took place outside the Dallas Convention Center. While President George H.W. Bush spoke inside, activists chalked outlines of dead bodies on the sidewalk outside. Although protesters were banging on the glass outside of the building where the president was speaking, no arrests were made.

Together We Thrive will be the largest number of Dallas community organizations in many years to come together to commemorate World AIDS Day.

"For decades we have taken time every year to remember and to give thanks, to remember those whom we have lost to the AIDS epidemic and to give thanks for the advances made in healthcare provisions that have given hope to a new generation," said the Rev. Neil Thomas, Cathedral of Hope's senior pastor. "By remembering our history, we find the strength and courage for the journey ahead of us as we continue the work of bringing an end to HIV globally.

Politically, socially and economically we must use World AIDS Day to motivate us for the future generations who look toward a time when HIV is no longer among us," Thomas added. "As a person of faith, I hold this truth and this sacred space for all those impacted by HIV — that God is greater than any disease, including HIV, that faith has given us hope from one generation to

another."

David Hearn, founder of the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, said, "I am glad to say that after living through the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1994, when we lost 41,390 lives — including the life of my partner, Greg Dollgener, for whom our foundation is named — that the progress has moved away from dying with AIDS to living with HIV.

"Thanks to the great strides in medications to treat and prevent infection in the past 40 years, we see folks living with HIV longer than ever before," he continued. "Knowing your status is as important as ever, especially to prevent the loss of another generation of talent and individuals to this epidemic."

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox reiterated, "At this time of reflection around World AIDS Day, we remember and honor those we have lost, while also celebrating the strength and love we experience by joining together in community.

"For 41 years, Resource Center has advocated for and tended to the health and well-being of the LGBTQIA+ community and individuals living with HIV, and we are committed to continuing until HIV is eradicated. We encourage sexually active individuals to get tested and know their status," Cox said.

Organizations participating in the event include Abounding Prosperi-



Cece Cox



David Hearn



The Rev. Neil Thomas

ty, AIDS Outreach Center Fort Worth, AIDS Walk South Dallas, AIN, A Sister's Gift, Badge of Pride, Cathedral of Hope, C.U.R.E., Dallas Bears, DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, DIFFA Dallas, Firedancers Dallas, Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System, Prism Health North Texas, Resource Center, Texas Health Action, Turtle Creek Chorale, United Court of Lone Star Empire and Yester-

The question before the court

LEGAL MATTERS



The west facade of United States Supreme Court Building at dusk in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Joe Ravi)

SCOTUS to hear case on Tennessee law banning gender-affirming care for trans minors beginning Dec. 4

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

On Wednesday morning, Dec. 4, the U.S. Supreme Court will take up an important legal question concerning whether states can ban medical treatment for gender dysphoria in youth. The case comes from Tennessee, one of several states that have enacted such laws.

Certainly, there will be widespread media coverage. The “transgender issue” has been blamed in large part for Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris’ loss to Republican nomi-

nee Donald Trump. Trump wielded the subject matter in many of his campaign speeches, claiming Harris was in favor of free sex change operations for prisoners, migrants and children.

The targeted messages, including heavy use of anti-transgender ads during nationally televised football games, was effective in winning votes for Trump and in devastating the sense of safety for transgender people of all ages.

Now, a heavily pro-Trump Supreme Court will decide whether states can ban legitimate medical treatments for people under 18 who suffer from a recognized medical condition.

Readers can listen to the one-hour oral argument live, listen to the recording, or read the transcript afterwards. Here are important details to help understand what is being discussed:

- **Case name:** *U.S. v. Skrmetti*: This appeal originated with *LW v. Skrmetti*, a case in which the parents of three transgender teenagers in Tennessee sued to

COURT, Page 20

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Community stolen

RAISING AWARENESS



Ryan and Bradley

Although his bike was stolen from his garage, Ryan Hines is determined to participate in the last California AIDS ride

history on that bicycle. And he even credits his engagement to his future husband, Bradley Gilliam, to the bike.

When Alejandro and two other bikes were stolen from his garage, Hines said, more than just a bicycle was taken.

Hines moved to Dallas seven years ago when Toyota moved its North American headquarters to Plano. His first assignment in the new Texas office was overseeing the company's sponsorship of AIDS LifeCycle, the annual AIDS ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

The 545-mile ride benefits San

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
Taffet@DallasVoice.com

Alejandro was more than just a bike. Ryan Hines gained a sense of community riding that bike. He learned LGBTQ community

Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center. The event raises awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and proceeds from the ride fund HIV testing, prevention, care and more.

Participants have raised more than \$300 million over the past 30 years.

The California AIDS Ride began in 1994 and spawned a number of other rides around the country, including the four-day Texas AIDS Ride from Houston to Dallas. But those other rides never were as successful as the California ride. The Texas ride became the much shorter two-day Lone Star Ride around North Texas.

The other rides, including Texas, couldn't compete with the magnificent views along the California coastline.

In 2002, the California ride rebranded itself and streamlined production costs to become AIDS LifeCycle.

After moving to Dallas, Hines jumped into his new role overseeing Toyota's sponsorship of the California ride. He not only worked with the organization, he registered to do the ride. He purchased a bike, named it Alejandro and began raising money and training for the strenuous seven-day event.

He even created a Toyota team to participate as riders and crew.

"When I met my now-fiancé, Bradley, in spring 2022, I asked him if he'd do this bike ride with me," Hines said. "He didn't even particularly like cycling, but he knew how special the ride is to me, and he purchased a new bike and signed up."

He said they began training with others in the DFW area, participating in other crewed rally rides that provided rest stops. Their longest ride was about 40 miles.

They began fundraising to meet the \$3,500 minimum each rider was expected to contribute. They hosted one successful fundraiser at the Round-Up Saloon, and each reached their goal.

The week before the ride, they took their bikes apart and shipped them to California. They flew to San Francisco and were as ready to ride as they were going to be.

Hines said he was amazed at how well Gilliam did. The second day of the ride was a hilly 109-mile stretch, and he was in awe to see Gilliam,

whose longest ride until that point was 40 miles, ride his first "century" — or 100-mile stretch.

That was one of those signs that he had found the right guy, Hines said, and they're now engaged.

Hines said he sat out the California ride last year. But this year, when he saw that the June 2025 ride would be the last one due to soaring production costs, he knew he had to participate, although Gilliam decided to sit this one out.

So Hines began training and had made it up to 60 miles a ride. Then, a couple of weeks ago, Alejandro was gone. The garage door was left open and the bikes that were hanging on hooks on the wall weren't there.

Hines called the police. He said they came promptly, took the report and told him bikes are rarely recovered, "but you never know."

Because of high deductibles, Hines didn't report the theft to his insurance company.

"The violation of being robbed was a kick to the gut. But even worse, it was a real blow to the heart," he said.

Before the ride, Hines said, he wasn't a cyclist. And he didn't know much about AIDS, either.

During the course of the ride, he met parents and siblings riding for their son or their brother who died of AIDS. He met people living with HIV who were riding to raise money and awareness to help others. And hearing their stories, he learned about the history of his community.

He knew he could find other bike rides for other great causes, but he also knew he'd never find a community like he met on the AIDS ride.

But expenses to stage the ride have gotten out of hand. Shower trucks and kitchen trucks follow along the route. Tents for thousands of riders, crew and staff have to be transported from campsite to campsite.

Rest stops are set up and equipped with snacks, games and other diversions every 15 miles along the 545-mile route. Hines said that, especially since the pandemic, costs have soared.

So the June 2025 ride will be the last one. And Hines said nothing will stop him from seeing the magnificent scenery along the route or the spectacular

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Around town

HOLIDAZE

Check out these queer-tastic DFW events to make your holiday spirits bright

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
Rich@DallasVoice.com

The holiday season is legit upon us, and DFW isn't short on a full festive month of events. This year, though, just feels a bit gayer than most. We got drag queens, musicals, chorales and even some burlesque all heading our way with that bit of extra dazzle.

Make a list of these queer events and check it twice to play your big gay holiday season.

Through Dec. 29: Camp Christmas

This fully immersive art installation brings everything you love about the holiday season to the Annette Strauss Square at the ATT Performing Arts Center.

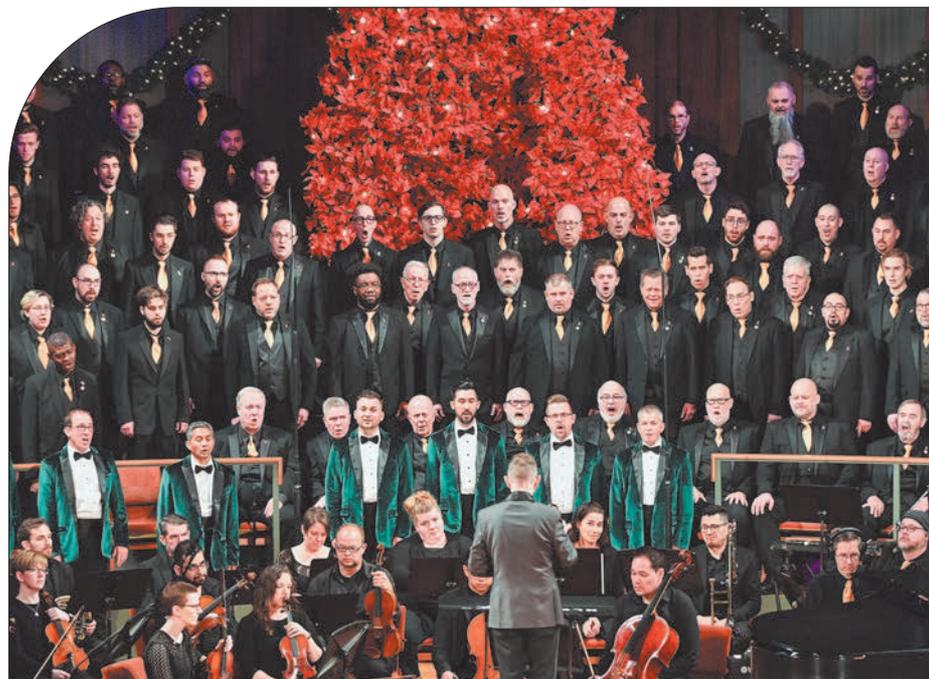
Conceived by the fabulous Camp Director Lonnie Hanzon and his band of merry magic makers, this dreamscape will touch all your senses with its lighted displays, nostalgic sounds and scenes and cocktails and snacks at its Base Camp and Fairy Bar. ATTPAC.org.

You can go on your own or try one of its Drag Camp Christmas tours. Book a queen-led tour on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m. or 9 p.m. with Raquel Blake, Kylee O'Hara or Cassie Nova for a whole different type of experience.

ATTPAC.org/event/Drag-Winter-Wonderland.

Dec. 2: Cassie's Freakmas Onesie Party

This isn't just any holiday party; it's Cassie Nova's annual Freakmas One-



The Turtle Creek Chorale



Beaulaville

sie Party. And it's going bigger and bawdier, all for a good cause.

The event supports the Personalized Learning Preparatory at Sam Houston Elementary Secret Santa Program, helping make the holidays brighter for local children in need.

JR.'s Bar and Grill will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the party, which starts at 9 p.m. and will feature seasonal cocktails, raffle prizes, live DJ, holiday photo booth and more.

Don your gay onesie apparel and get your holiday freak on.

[Facebook.com/jrsdallas](https://www.facebook.com/jrsdallas).



Camp Christmas

Dec. 5-17: Wonder: Turtle Creek Chorale Holiday Tour

The Turtle Creek Chorale is taking its holiday concerts 'on the road' across DFW this year. With four performances around town, the annual holiday concert tradition will be a journey back in time to rediscover the wonder of childhood Christmases.

Concert stops include Lovers Lane United Methodist Church on Thursday, Dec. 5; Meyerson Symphony Center on Tuesday, Dec. 10; Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth on Friday, Dec. 13, and First United Methodist Church Rich-

ardson on Tuesday, Dec. 17. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Dec. 5-29: The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker by MBS Productions

The women of the Beulaville Baptist Book Club are in dire straits financially, and to save their book club, they decide on a fundraising performance of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Only the ballet dancers get food poisoning so the ladies hire the Velvet Kittens Burlesque Dancers.

How would they know what "burles-Q" means?

Catch this original and comical annual production by queer playwright and director Mark-Brian Sonna

MBSProductions.info.

Dec. 6-15: A Queer Carol by Uptown Players

Uptown Players presents the regional premiere of this LGBTQ adaptation of the Charles Dickens' classic. Written by Joe Godfrey, this retelling serves up the downward spiralling lives of Ben Scrooge and Jake Marley, who were partners in life as well as in their interior design business.

UptownPlayers.org.

Dec. 7: The Teddy Bear Party

This philanthro-party is the largest queer holiday charitable event, clocking in more than 700 attendees and a slew of sponsors often with headlining DJs and performers.

Every year, the party hosts this annual drive to donate new stuffed bears to Cook Children's. Led by husbands Jason Hanna and Joe Riggs, this year's holiday dance party will be headlined by DJs Eric Vilar and DJ Feeling filling up the Echo Lounge and Music Hall with beats while guests dance, sip and donate the night away.

TeddyBearParty.org.



A queer Carol

**Dec. 10: David Archuleta's
A Festive Evening**

Gay pop singer and former Mormon David Archuleta brings timeless holiday classics and fan favorites to the historic Arlington Music Hall for a night of comfort and joy.

**Dec. 17: *Christmas Actually*
by Emerson Collins and Blake
McIver**

How fun that Uptown Players added this cabaret show to its December! *Christmas Actually* is a special one-night event not included in the regular season subscription and features the dynamic duo of Blake McIver and Emerson Collins, known for their hit showtunes cabaret *I Dreamed a Dream-girl*. The two will bring their fabulous flair (and hair), fun banter and season's greetings to this new show at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

UptownPlayers.org.



Emerson Collins and Blake McIver

**Dec. 21 and 22:
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Our favorite queer hometown Grammy-winning acapella group returns to

North Texas to bring their distinct holiday sounds to both Fort Worth and Dallas. Penatonix will headline Dickies Arena in Fort Worth on Dec. 21 and then head over to American Airlines Center on Dec. 22. Ticketmaster.com.

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Head to **another** dimension

TEXAS TRAVEL

Meow Wolf Houston didn't kill the radio star; it took it to strange new places

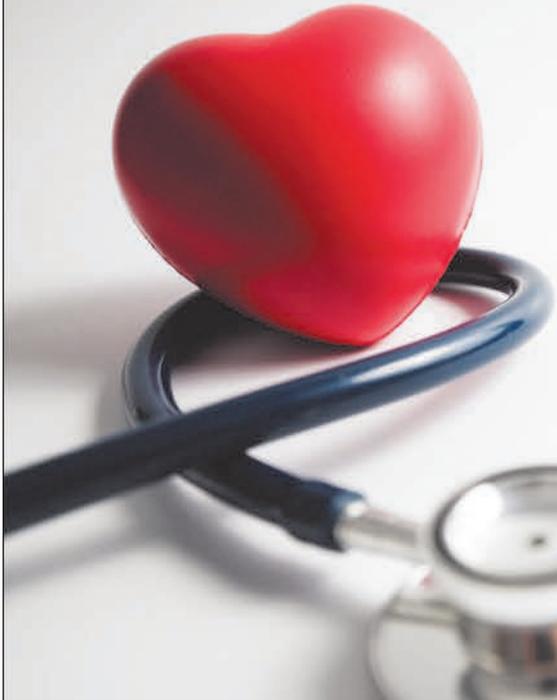
STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing writer
stevenlindsey@gmail.com

Pack your bags, hop in the car and tune the stereo dial to your soon-to-be-favorite station, ETNL Community Radio. Or hop on a Southwest Airlines flight and wait until you get to *Meow Wolf Houston: Radio Tavel* to discover what's actually transmitting through those particular airwaves.

In either case, prepare yourself for



The Royal Rumpus Room (Photo by Kate Russell)





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The Silence Between Stations (Photo by Kate Russell)

another trip to the multiverse. Now that we have a Meow Wolf right here in North Texas, the concept of immersive, next-level storytelling that transports you to strange new realms shouldn't be anything new.

(Shame on you if you haven't been to *The Real Unreal* in Grapevine. Shame!)

Dallas Voice had the chance to preview the latest addition to Meow Wolf's six-city collection of beautiful bizarreness a couple of weeks before it officially opened to the public in Houston on Halloween Day. As with each of the other locations across the United States, prepare to be wowed from the moment you walk through the doors to the office of the Little Thicket, Texas community radio station ETNL.

At first glance, the wood-paneled walls, reception desk and "On Air" sign above the recording studio look like any other small-town radio station.

But you'll soon notice this one's been sucked into another dimension.

DIMENSION, Next Page

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COMMUNITY From Page 13

closing ceremony at the Santa Monica pier.

Apparently lots of others felt the same; Hines said he heard that when they announced it would be the last ride, so many people signed up, they had to close off registrations.

For the final ride, Hines set his fundraising goal at \$5,000. Plus, he's saving for a new bike to replace Alejandro.

He said talking about the AIDS ride community gives him goose bumps, and he is really going to miss "the community, the diversity and how everyone along the ride is looking out for everyone else."

"There will be lots of emotions when it's over next summer," he continued. "We need to find new ways to commemorate the generation lost to AIDS. We need to find new, meaningful ways for the work to continue." ■

Note: If anyone has a good road bike they could lend to Hines so he can resume his training sooner rather than later, email Taf-fet@DallasVoice.com, and we will get you in touch with him.



DIMENSION From Previous Page

Nothing is what it appears, so pay attention to every detail; feel free to push buttons, open drawers and snoop around wherever you can (you know, like you do at a hook-up's house).

Radio Tave has clues everywhere to a bigger story, and you'll find more the longer you stay or the more frequently you visit. There's no wrong way to explore a Meow Wolf experience, so walk through the refrigerator to find portals to other dimensions; climb up that random spiral staircase to discover what awaits, and step behind the DJ's turntable to put your own spin on things.

Like a springtime Sunday morning, Easter eggs are everywhere.

What's most remarkable about Meow Wolf Houston — and all Meow Wolf locations for that matter — is the collaboration with local artists, from Houston's Fifth Ward to cities across Texas. More than 100 artists collaborated to bring Radio Tave to life, with 50 hailing right from the Lone Star



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Queer creators play a significant role at Meow Wolf, too. Take note when you stumble upon The Silence Between Stations by Cosmica Siren (she/her) and The Royal Rumpus Room by Royal (they/them). You'll find nods to queer culture in other places, too, whether they're purposefully placed or it's simply your interpretation. (Whenever I see a rainbow, for instance, it's immediately gay to me!)

Best of all, at this particular Meow Wolf location, if hunger or thirst strikes while you're tapping into your inner Jessica Fletcher (does that age me?), seek out the wildest dive bar you'll likely ever visit. Cowboix Hevven (where every day is Friday night) feels like an inspired combination of the cantina in Star Wars and the Lakewood Landing in East Dallas. Various creatures lurk in the space, while humans (in my best estimation) serve cocktails like the Vodka Soduh and food ranging from a Fried Malarky Sandwich to Healthy Hot Slop.

(Trust me, they're way more deli-

cious and appetizing than they sound.)

Like the other spaces, poke around for more clues, check out the tiny TV/VCR to see what's showing and attempt to solve the secret of the jukebox. You'll want to hang out here for as long as they let you, promise. It'll be even better on Adulti-verse 21-and-over nights, too.

Of course, you can't truly discover everything in one visit, so consider purchasing a just-announced Supremum Portal Pass (MeowWolf.com/Portal-Pass) on sale for \$97 for a limited time. This gets you unlimited admission for an entire year to all locations (Grapevine, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Denver, Las Vegas and Houston), no blackout dates or reservations needed, two bring-a-friend tickets, plus discounts on food, drinks and goodies from the gift shop.

Otherwise, general admission tickets start at \$40. See what a great deal that pass is? Dare to say, it's out of this world. ■

Meow Wolf Houston: *Radio Tave*, MeowWolf.com/Visit/Houston

*A Nutcracker
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By Joe Godfrey

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stop the ban on treatment. The Supreme Court did not act on the original appeal from the three teenagers. Instead, it agreed to hear the U.S. government's position that argues the Tennessee law is unconstitutional.

- **Date/time of argument:** Tuesday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. Central

- **Link for live audio stream:** [SupremeCourt.gov/Oral_Arguments/live.aspx](https://www.supremecourt.gov/Oral_Arguments/live.aspx)

- **Link for recording and/or transcript:** [SupremeCourt.gov/Oral_Arguments/Argument_Audio/2024](https://www.supremecourt.gov/Oral_Arguments/Argument_Audio/2024)

- **Attorneys:** Attorney Chase Strangio, 42, came out as a transgender man while in law school at Northeastern University in Boston. He has been involved in some of the LGBTQ movement's most high-profile cases in recent years, including *Obergefell v. Hodges* (same-sex marriage), *Gloucester v. Grimm* (trans use of public school bathrooms), *Aimee Stephens v. Harris Funeral Homes* (trans employee firing), and others. He is now co-director of the ACLU's LGBTQ & HIV Project

and will help represent the transgender plaintiffs. There will also be an attorney from the U.S. Solicitor General's office, representing the U.S.'s opposition to the state bans, and an attorney from the Tennessee attorney general's office to defend the ban.

- **Chief argument for the U.S.:** The Tennessee law violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee to equal protection under the law. In doing so, it discriminates based on sex and should be examined with a heightened level of scrutiny. Under the Tennessee law, a male teenager could use testosterone to enhance his stereotypical male attributes, but a transgender male could not.

- **Tennessee's argument:** States should be allowed to ban potentially irreversible sex-transition interventions for minors who may not be able to fully grasp the lifelong consequences and risks. Tennessee law prohibits puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sex-transition surgeries. The state also argues that the Supreme Court should use its easiest



Chase Strangio

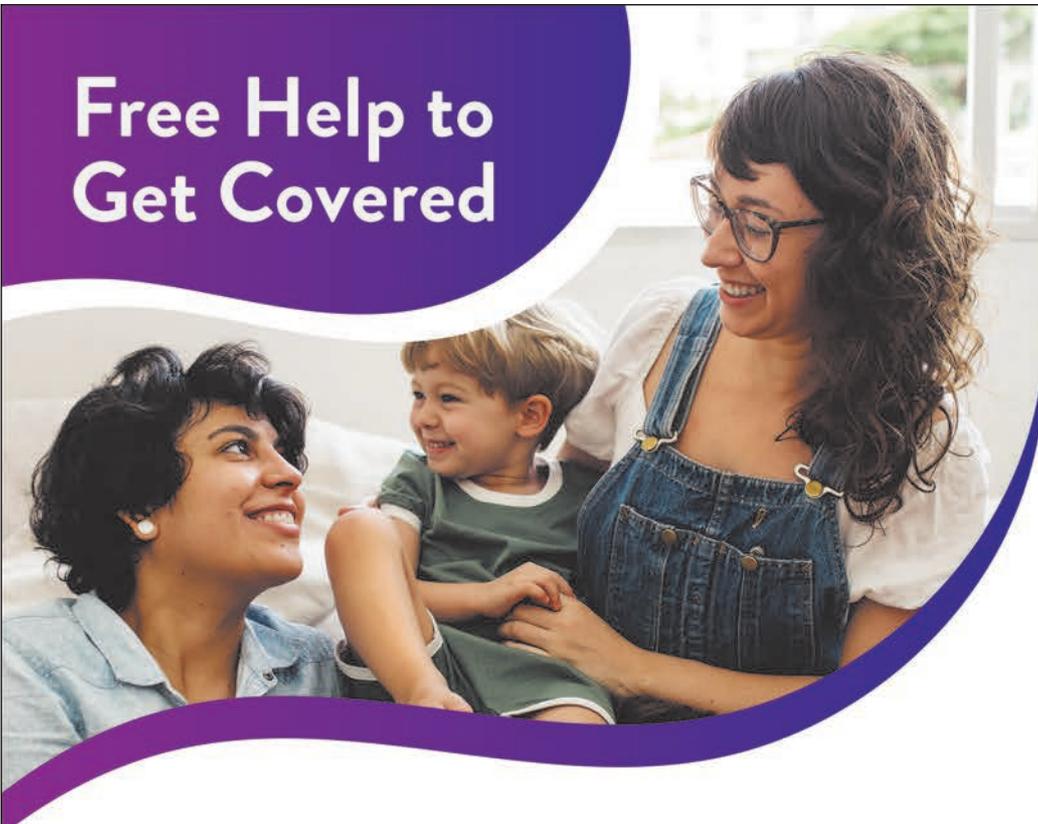
form of review (rational basis) in deciding whether the law can stand.

- **In other courts:** This type of case has emerged in several other U.S. federal circuit courts.

This one comes from the Sixth Circuit (which covers Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan). A three-judge panel of the Sixth ruled 2-to-1 that the state could legitimately ban such treatments for youth. It rendered the decision after first applying the lowest (easiest) level of review: rational basis. Attorneys for the plaintiffs argued that a more rigorous review was warranted (heightened) because the ban discriminated on the basis of sex and transgender status.

- **The legal question:** Whether a new Tennessee law (known as SB 1) violates a citizen's right to equal protection under the law by prohibiting all medical treatments intended to allow "a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor's sex" or to treat "purported discomfort or distress from a discordance between the

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minor's sex and asserted identity."

• **The political question:** President-elect Donald Trump made frequent statements on the campaign trail indicating he was opposed to gender care for people suffering from gender dysphoria. The current Supreme Court includes three of his appointees — all of whom helped deliver to *Trump Dobbs v. Jackson*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

In the past three years, Tennessee and 21 other states have banned gender-affirming care. The laws do not attempt to protect the rights and health of children; they simply ban any treatment of gender dysphoria.

• **The decision being appealed:** Comes from the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, covering Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. A three-judge panel of the Sixth Circuit ruled against the transgender teenagers. The teenagers have made this appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, hoping to reverse the Sixth Circuit decision.

• **The basic medical science:** The American Psychiatric Association says a transgender person is one whose self-perception is as one gender but whose birth certificate (and often physical/sexual attributes) causes him or her to be perceived by others as the opposite gender. Some transgender people function and live happy lives without any medical intervention. Some suffer a dysphoria — anxiety, stress, withdrawal, and self-destructive behaviors — because of the constant, jarring discordance between who they are and who others assume they are.

Professional medical organizations say children can experience this discordance as early as three, but many experience around age seven.

About 1 percent of the U.S. population is transgender. Of those, only about 2 percent take hormone blockers and 11 percent take gender-affirming hormones.

• **What do doctors say?:** The American Medical Association says state bans on gender-affirming care are "a dangerous intrusion into the practice of medicine." The American Psychiatric Association says that suppression of puberty hormones and administration of gender-affirming hormones may be warranted for some adolescents, but "Medical affirmation is not recommended for prepubertal children." The Department of Justice brief notes that intervention for pre-puberty children includes "al-

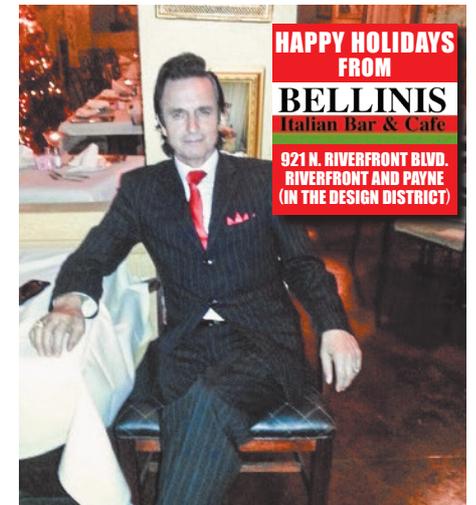
lowing a transgender child to live in accordance with their gender identity, including their clothing, hairstyle, name and pronouns."

• **The irony:** Opponents of equal rights for transgender youth are arguing in this case that transgender youth should not be allowed to receive counseling, hormone blockers or any form of surgery. These same opponents do not want transgender females to participate in girls/women's sports because they say the transgender females have an un-

fair physical advantage (such as muscle mass) over females identified as females at birth. The sports issue might be less of a problem if transgender females were able to receive hormone blockers before they develop the stronger physical characteristics that appear in adolescence.

• **Decision expected:** With most LGBTQ-related cases, the Supreme Court has released its decisions in June, the last month of the session. ■

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Model
portrayals

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



Get your freak on and get your ass to JR.'s Bar & Grill on Monday, Dec. 2, for Cassie Nova's annual Freakmas Onesie Party, a fundraising show and raffle benefitting the Secret Santa program at Sam Houston Elementary School. 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.

NOVEMBER

■ Nov. 29-Dec. 28: 'A Christmas Carol'

Dallas Theater Center brings this Christmas classic to the Wylly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Visit DallasTheaterCenter.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

DECEMBER

■ Dec. 1: 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.

■ Dec. 1-8: Holly, Jolly Christmas Online Auction

Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund (GDMAF) hosts their annual Christmas silent auction. Visit GDMAF.org/wp2/gdmf-christmas-auction for more information.

■ Dec. 2: Cassie Nova's Freakmas Onesie Party

Cassie Nova hosts this annual holiday party benefiting Sam Houston Elementary's Secret Santa Program at JR.'s Bar and Grill,

3923 Cedar Springs Road, at 9 p.m. Visit the event page on Facebook for more information.

■ Dec. 2: World AIDS Day

Join Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, from 6-9:30 p.m. in the main sanctuary for a panel discussion and community event in remembrance of World AIDS Day.

■ Dec. 2: Spirit of Stonewall Holiday Party

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas host this holiday party with light bites, awards and fun at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, from 6:30-8:45 p.m. RSVP at StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org.

■ Dec. 2: Alexandre's MOM

Alexandre's hosts its monthly Monday Open Mic night, starting at 9 p.m., with Stefan G. hosting. Register to perform at Form.JotForm.com/222497530917058.

■ Dec. 3: Funk Family Upstander Speaker Series

The Fund Family Upstander Speaker Series features Rami Janara, co-founder of the Khalid Jabara Foundation in Tulsa, created in the wake of the hate crime murder of Khalid Jabara. From 6-8 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, 300 N. Houston St.

■ Dec. 3: TAG Co-Ed Dinner

Tyler Area Gays hosts its monthly Co-Ed Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Clear Springs, 6519 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler.

■ Dec. 4: Sammons Jazz - 'Play It Cool'

Mahogany TheArtist, accompanied by Jay Mck, Todd Parsnow, Jaelun Washington and M Jelani,

and Myles Tate and The Soul Revival perform from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

■ Dec. 5: Wreath Collection

DIFFA Dallas hosts its 30th Annual Wreath Collection from 6-9 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. Visit DiffoDallas.org/wreath for information.

■ Dec. 5: CSMA Wine Walk

Cedar Springs Merchants Association hosts its third annual Ugly Sweater Wine Walk from 6-9 p.m. on Cedar Springs Road. Visit the tent in front of Round-Up Saloon to purchase your \$10 wine glass. There will be a raffle drawing at 9 p.m. in front of the Round-Up.

■ Dec. 5: Genderf*ck Christmas Special

Arya Jealous hosts the Genderf*ck Christmas Special from 7-9 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

■ Dec. 5: Turtle Creek Chorale Holiday Concert

The Turtle Creek Chorale kicks off *Wonder: The TCC Holiday Tour* with a performance at 7:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

■ Dec. 5: 'Queer Factor'

Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St., presents *Queer Factor*, hosted by Stefan G, from 9-10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15, available at PreKindle.com.

■ Dec. 6: DFW HRC Spooktacular Holiday Celebration

HRC DFW Federal Club hosts this holiday event filled with food, drinks and holiday cheer at Aloft Dallas, 1033 Young St., 7 p.m. Visit the event page on Eventbrite.com for tickets and information.

■ Dec. 6-15: 'A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker'

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club presents *A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker*, an unusual and comical version of *The Nutcracker* at the Studio Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Visit BurlisqueNutcracker.com for showtimes and tickets.

■ Dec. 6-8: Anime Frontier 2024

Crunchyroll presents this anime convention at Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. Visit AnimeFrontier.com for information and badges.

■ Dec. 6-15: 'A Queer Carol'

Uptown Players brings this LGBTQ adaptation of the Charles Dickens' classic to Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.

Visit UptownPlayers.org for tickets and showtimes.

■ Dec. 6-15: 'Auntee Explains Xmas'

Jubilee Theatre presents *Auntee Explains Xmas* at the W.E. Scott Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Visit JubileeTheatre.org for more information.

■ Dec. 7: The Red Ribbon Benefit Concert

Fort Worth AIDS Outreach Center hosts its annual fundraising event at 6 p.m. at The Shack at Panther Island Pavilion, 395 Purcey St., Fort Worth. Visit AOC.org for tickets and information.

■ Dec. 7: Teddy Bear Party

This annual party takes place at The Echo Lounge and Music Hall, 1323 N. Stemmons Freeway, at 8 p.m. Visit TeddyBearParty.org for more information and the event page on Universe.com for tickets.

■ Dec. 7: Kwanzaa Celebration

The Cathedral of Hope Coat of Colours Council hosts a Kwanzaa Celebration at 1 p.m., in the church's Fellowship Hall, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

■ Dec. 7: Lost Souls RFC Annual Toy Drive

Lost Souls Rugby hosts its annual toy drive at the Dallas Eagle, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd., from 1-4 p.m.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to [Mathew Dominguez at Mathew@dallasvoice.com](mailto:Mathew.Dominguez@dallasvoice.com) by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com



DIFFA Dallas hosts its 30th annual Holiday Wreath Collection on Dec. 5 at The Empire Room. See listings for details.

Romeo San Vicente

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Eddie Murphy, his 'Dreamgirls' director and the P-Funk

When one speaks of the gay sensibility in cinema, one is necessarily talking about queer filmmaker Bill Condon's 2006 showstopper of a musical cake, *Dreamgirls*. It was the movie that brought Eddie Murphy a truly meaty dramatic role and an Academy Award nomination.

It makes perfect sense, then for the director and star to reteam for yet another music-based film, an untitled biopic of the legendary George Clinton with a script by Virgil Williams, Academy Award-nominated screenwriter for *Mudbound*.

Clinton's Parliament-Funkadelic collective pushed every kind of psychedelic/R&B/rock boundary in the 1970s with still-beloved hits like "Flashlight." And since Murphy is no stranger to musical performance himself, to headline this project seems like the perfect collaboration.

It's still early in development with no other details announced, but there's no doubt the supporting cast is going to be special, and, who knows, maybe Oscar lightning will strike twice.

Kaitlyn Dever shooting 'See You When I See You'

Queer actor Kaitlyn Dever came out in high school as her career was in its early days. At 27 she has a long list of solid credits including the teen comedy *Booksmart* and the horror film *No One Will Save You*. And she's currently working on the latest project from filmmaker Jay Duplass (*Jeff*, *Who Lives At Home* and *Cyrus*), a dark family comedy-drama called *See You When I See You*.

Comedian Adam Cayton-Holland has adapted his own award-winning memoir, *Tragedy Plus Time*, for the project, a story of the impact his younger sister's suicide had on his family. *See You* will explore that grief and healing process and co-stars David Duchovny, Hope Davis (*Succession*), Cooper Raiff (*Cha Cha Real Smooth*), Lucy Boynton (*Bohemian Rhapsody*) and Ariela Barer (*How To Blow Up a Pipeline*).

Look for this one to show up sometime



Queer actor Kaitlyn Dever

later in 2025.

George Takei gets graphic, again.

Star Trek legend George Takei does not currently have a new film or television series or play or voice role for a video game or an animated project in the works, and it's because the 87-year-old actor, who is constantly involved in one or more of the above gigs, has written a graphic memoir.

And it's not even his first.

It's called *It Rhymes With Takei*, and it's all about his career in entertainment, from his early closeted days to his late-career coming out and popularity renaissance. It's the follow-up to his childhood memoir, *They Called Us Enemy*, and will hit bookshelves and online re-



George Takei

tailers in June of 2025.

You have time to catch up on that earlier one before Pride Month catches you checking out this one.

As for the author, he'll move on to the next job, of course. No one ever said getting old meant you had to slow down.

Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna's trans drama

Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna, the men from *Y Tu Mama Tambien* and a million other things, have taken their collective production power and used it for good over and over. This time they're the producers of a new Argentine film, *Thesis on a Domestication*, from director Javier Van de Couter (*Mia*, *Implosion*).

It's already won the Gold Q-Hugo award at the Chicago International Film Festival and is based on a novel by Argentine trans author and screenwriter Camila Sosa Villada. She stars in the film, as well, alongside Mexican actor Alfonso Herrera (*Ozark*).

Thesis is the story of a successful Argentine trans actress who becomes involved with a lawyer, eventually marrying him. And though that may sound traditional, nothing that happens fits

the usual pattern of domestic life as she demands the right to defy every kind of conservative structure.

The trailer has dropped online so be on the lookout for this one at an arthouse theater near you.

Romeo San Vicente is probably at an arthouse near you right now.

this week's solution

S	H	E	D	S	T	E	V	E	O	K	R	A
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browse

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

submit

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SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



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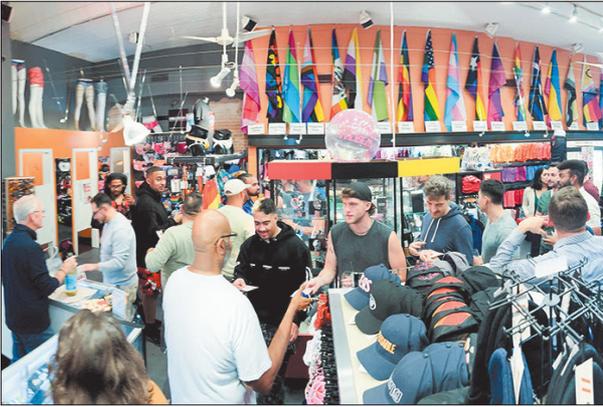


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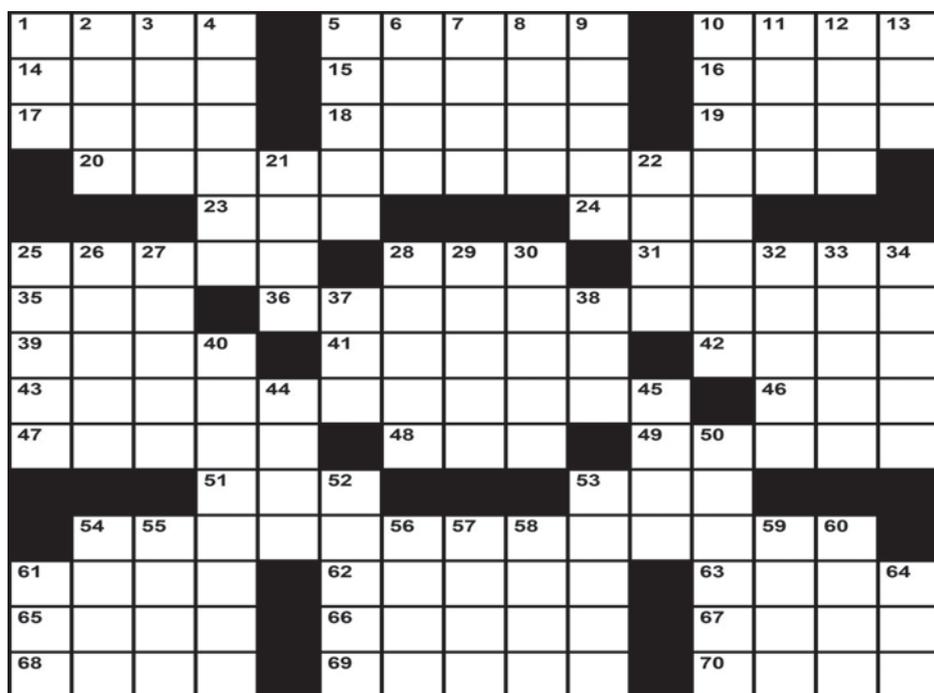
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Planned Parenthood Dallas Awards



PUZZLE | Iconic Kisses



Solution on Page 25

Across

- 1 Where to stick your tool
5 Adam's partner in gay Eden?
10 Pod in Craig Claiborne's gumbo
14 Vidal's ___ from *Golgotha*
15 Strips in the locker room
16 *Charlie's Angels* role
17 Part of YSL
18 Creme de la creme
19 Lake, to Edward II
20 He kissed Sean Hayes in an episode of *Will & Grace*
23 Dorm VIPs
24 Pleased sound
25 Homophone for hairy ones
28 Org. of the big bucks
31 Proposal in a bar
35 Tooth care org.
36 He kissed Timothy Chalamet in *Call Me by Your Name*
39 Cans, to Auden
41 *The Babadook* actress Davis (found in "access I enjoy")
42 Baldwin staffer
43 He kissed Jake Gyllenhaal in *Brokeback Mountain*
46 Half of a Greta Garbo monogram
47 Spencer's *Gay Kama* ___

Down

- 48 Big load
49 Ban targets
51 Org. for your first mate
53 Sked info
54 He kissed Yahya Abdul-Mateen II in an episode of *Black Mirror*
61 Rita Mae's horses may do this
62 Paul Monette's partner Horwitz
63 Track postings
65 Soothing agent for skin
66 Internet troublemaker
67 Collette of *The Hours*
68 Mx Justin Vivian ___
69 Built to take it
70 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley
- 1 Cunning
2 Sweet spot
3 "If ___ I Would Leave You"
4 Handle on a streetcar, for Williams?
5 Parts of pansies
6 Soft rock
7 *Ben Hur* or *Spartacus*
8 Kill, as a bill
9 Former NFL player Tuaolo
10 Word sung with a long O?
11 Ray who gets the meat to you fast
12 Ilsa's love
13 What hangs from a Cuban

- 21 Lorca's house
22 ___ Hari
25 Sites for three men in a tub
26 Rimbaud's "Bye-bye"
27 Tried to tackle tight ends
28 "Good to go here"
29 Blow it
30 Make a pretense of
32 Kahlo's cohort
33 It commemorates coming out of Egypt
34 Where fruits hang around
37 Concern of Rev. Troy Perry
38 Part of a giggle
40 Walked in a cocky way
44 Diced meat dish
45 Org. with olive drab hankies?
50 Fanning of *The Runaways*
52 Good witch Glinda's compass point
53 At the crack of dawn
54 His grandmother had a Woody
55 Climax time in a Gary Cooper film
56 *You've Got Mail* female
57 Role for Bela
58 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
59 Judy Garland, to many
60 ___ St. Vincent Millay
61 '50s heartthrob Hunter
64 Liza, to Lorna



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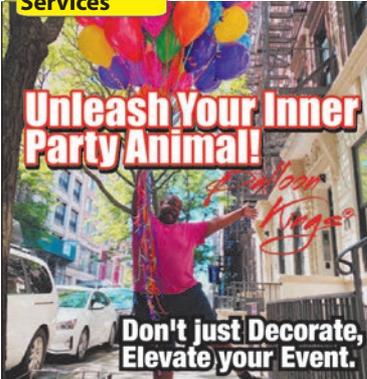
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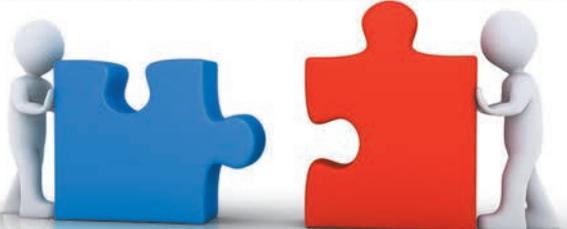
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