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Purple Party

Coverage begins
on Page 8



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Photo by Chuck Marcelo
Design by Kevin Thomas

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Dallas Voice founder among winners of Excellence in Journalism award

Robert Moore, co-founder and former publisher of Dallas Voice newspaper, has been announced as a winner of the Press Club of Dallas' Excellence in Journalism Award — North Texas Legends. Other recipients of the award, now in its fifth year, are Helen Bryant Anders, B.J. Austin, Mollie Finch Belt, Sam Blair, Becky Munoz Diaz, Dan Jenkins, David McHam, George Riba, Bob Ray Sanders, Brad Sham and Clarice Tinsley.

Press Club President Niki McCuiston said the awards are intended to "honor those who have made a difference in our profession and our community, have significant journalistic achievements and are household names." The awards ceremony will be held May 21 at the Sixth Floor Museum.

Moore founded Dallas Voice in 1984, along with Don Ritz and William Marberry. Marberry was publisher, Ritz was editor and Moore was advertising director.

The first issue was published May 11, 1984.

Ritz and Moore bought out Marberry's share of the company in 1985, moving all production from Houston, where Marberry lived, to Dallas. Ritz became controller, while Moore continued as advertising director and Dennis Vercher was hired as editor.

Ritz retired as controller in 1998 but retained his ownership stake in the company, which had incorporated in 1987 as Voice Publishing Co., until his death in 2001. Moore became sole owner at that time, and remained so until April 1, 2013, when he sold Voice Publishing to long-time employees Leo Cusimano and Terry Thompson.

Cusimano joined the Voice staff in 1993, first as a part-time graphic artist and then as a full-time advertising salesman. He was promoted to advertising director in 1998. Terry Thompson, who joined the staff in 2001 as office manager, became promotions manager in 2010.

— Tammye Nash

Attorneys call charges against Scott Griggs 'trumped up'

More than 100 people gathered at City Hall Plaza in downtown Dallas on Saturday, May 2 to support Dallas City Councilman Scott Griggs who was charged on Friday with coercion by an elected official, a third degree felony that carries a punishment of 2 to 10 years in the state pen. Attorneys and supporters called the charges "ridiculous" and "trumped-up."

Among the elected officials at City Hall to support Griggs were Councilmen Philip Kingston and Adam Medrano, former City Councilwoman Angela Hunt and County School Board member Omar Narvaez and County School Board President Larry Duncan. Griggs was not in attendance because he can't speak about the case.

Griggs' attorneys said Griggs passed a lie detector test that morning with "high" flying colors.

Griggs was asked if he ever threatened physical harm, if he ever said, "I'll break your fucking fingers," or if he received certain papers before a 1 p.m. deadline. He answered "No" to each question and the lie detector agreed he was telling the truth. His attorneys said that evidence and more will be turned over to District Attorney Susan Hawk this week and they will ask her to dismiss the case.

Larry Friedman, one of Griggs' attorneys, said it was unprecedented for the mayor, police chief and city manager to each release a statement about the allegations even before any charges were filed. He called the investigation "one-sided" and said he was told the charges were going to be misdemeanor, but the police chief told the press they would be felony.

Friedman said "the powers that be" were trying to silence Griggs on the toll road issue in the final week before the election. Griggs is running unopposed, but the mayor has an opponent and a number of races across south Dallas and East Dallas will be decided on the issue of the toll road.

Griggs is accused of yelling at the assistant city secretary, who apparently didn't remember that he yelled at her for eight days. Two other witnesses still don't remember him using threatening language. Only the assistant city secretary seems to remember being threatened.

Kingston and others at the rally said they have never heard the mild-mannered Griggs use "the f word" or ever use abusive or threatening language. Signs at the rally called Griggs "dedicated to integrity, transparency and anti-corruption." Chants of "Stand with Scott" erupted through the event.

"The charges are a laugher," Kingston said, "except the stakes are too high. I'm not laughing."

Hunt said Griggs is being charged because he exposed the dangers of fracking, has stopped the toll road and is an opponent to the status quo.

— David Taffet



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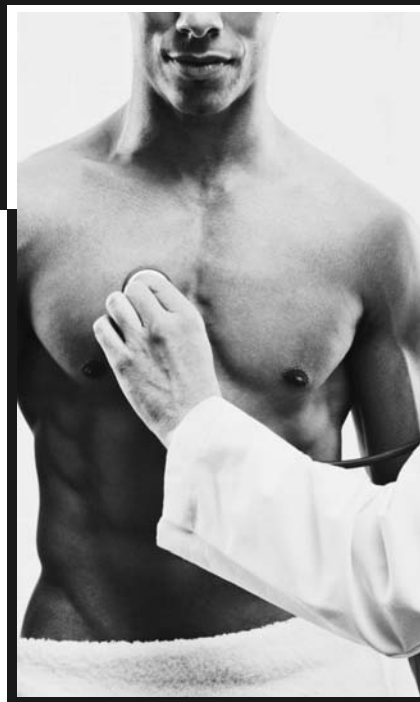


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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

MAY

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest: Erin Moore; Fuse game night every Monday

evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• May 8: High Tech Happy Hour Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and

Obituary

Paige Nicole Thompson, 33, was born Feb. 5, 1982, in Bryan, Texas, and passed away on April 22, 2015.

Paige was an incredible friend, a loving mother to her Great Dane daughter Sadie, a tireless advocate for LGBT equality as a leader for the Human Rights Campaign, and could never say no to an outdoor adventure.

Funeral services were held on April 29, at City on a Hill Church in Fort Worth, attended by those who were lucky enough to have known her amazing spirit and kindness. If desired, donations can be made in Paige's name to the Human Rights Campaign or Great Dane Rescue of North Texas. Rest in power, sweet Paige.



pet of the week / BANJO

My name is **Banjo** and I need a home. Come visit me at Operation Kindness and let me show you how much love I have to give. I do not think that I would like an apartment or a townhouse. A big back yard with lots of running room and lots of playtime will be perfect.

Banjo and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Komali Restaurant, 4152 Cole, Ste. 106. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• **May 9: Election Day**

• **May 9: Bloomin' Ball: Sowing Seeds of Hope**

Spring fundraiser for AIDS Interfaith Network honors Crystal Hope Awards in the individual, corporate and faith leader categories. 5–9 p.m. at Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets available online at 2015bloominball.eventbrite.com. For more information call 214-943-4444 or e-mail space@aidinterfaithnetwork.org.

• **May 13: Lambda Legal Dallas Spring Mixer**

Meet new friends and learn about Lambda Legal's victories from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Sambuca-Uptown, 2120 McKinney Ave. For more information call Carla McKinzie at 214-219-8585.

• **May 13: GEAR: Transmen Community Session**

Monthly meeting discussion topics relating to masculine gender identity and transitioning. 6–8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **May 15–May 23: Couple Communication Workshop**

Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5–7 p.m. on May 15 and May 22 and 10 a.m.–noon on May 16 and May 23 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple includes two workbooks and eight hours of instruction. 214-521-1278. For more information call or e-mail Candy Marcum at 214-521-1278 or candy@candymarcum.com.

• **May 14: Preston Hollow Democrats Meeting with Dallas Elections Administrator**

General meeting features Dallas' elections administrator Toni Pippins-Poole about the current Texas legislative session legislation from 6–8 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library, 5626 Royal Lane. For more information e-mail DrDonkey@thephd.org.

• **May 16: 2nd Annual Contemporary Relationships Conference**

Learn and discuss ways to strengthen LGBTQ dating, relationships, and parenting with over 30 international and national speakers at this one day conference. Optional pre-conference institutes on May 15. St. David's Bethell Hall, 301 E. 8th Street, Austin. Online registration deadline is May 7. For more information and to register visit Bit.ly/1tZKYke or e-mail info@contemporaryrelationships.com.



Honor the memory of LGBT pioneer and icon and former Dallas resident Harvey Milk with a celebration and light march from 8–10 p.m. on May 22 at the Legacy of Love Monument. The event winds up with a birthday cake reception at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 16: Gaybingo: 80's Gay Prom**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 16: GEAR Voice Feminization Support Group**

Monthly meeting to study and practice voice feminization training. Free, but seating is limited to 30. 2–4 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail gear@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 17: TAG Pride Picnic**

Tyler Area Gays hosts its largest pride picnic yet with more auction items, entertainment, food and vendors. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Southside Park, Tyler. For more information e-mail info@tylerareagays.com or visit Tylerareagays.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays](https://www.facebook.com/TylerAreaGays).

• **May 17: Equality Texas' Spirit of Texas Brunch**

Equality Texas' annual statewide celebration

of LGBT and ally Texans. VIP reception at 10:30 a.m. and brunch program at 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at Historic Pearl Stable, 307 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales visit Spiritoftexasbrunch.org.

• **May 17: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Monthly Meeting**

Pride planning meeting at 3 p.m. at the Baron House Counseling Center, 908 W. Pennsylvania, Fort Worth.

• **May 19: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club**

Monthly book club discussion open to all women 7–9 p.m. at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road Free. For more information e-mail jewel@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 19: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting**

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinnjones@gmail.com.

• **May 20: GEAR Monthly Mixer**

Make new friends and learn about GEAR and Resource Center 6–8 p.m. at La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. For more information and to R.S.V.P. call 214-528-0144 or email gear@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 21: The Dallas Way Presents a Special 'Outrageous Oral'**

The GLBT history project presents a special installment of its popular Outrageous Oral series with performers Michael Lee (Michael Doughman), Helen Holy (Paul J. Williams), Edna Jean Robinson (Richard Curtin) and Patti Le Play Safe (Rodd Gray). Doors open at 6 p.m. and program starts at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets are \$35 each or \$50 for two for reserved seating or \$20 for standing room only. For more information, call 505-400-4405 or visit TheDallasWay.org.

• **May 21: Urban Engagement Book Club: Empire of Cotton: A Global History**

by Scen Beckert
CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• **May 22: Harvey Milk Day Celebration**

Honor the memory of Harvey Milk from 8–10 p.m. at the Legacy of Love Monument for a celebration and light march concluding with a birthday cake reception with entertainment and speakers. For more information e-mail milkdaydallas@gmail.com or visit On.fb.me/1ODO1Uy.

• **May 27: Pride Screening Benefitting Equality Texas in Plano**

Fundraiser for Equality Texas features a screening of the 2014 movie *Pride* based on a true story about the unlikely bond between a rural United Kingdom labor union on strike and the London-based gay and lesbian activists who supported them. 6:30 p.m. at Angelika Film Center, Shops at Legacy, 7205 Bishop Road, Plano. Preceded by coffee and sweets reception sponsored by Bonnie Ruth's Bistro Francaise et Patisserie and Global Peace Factory Coffee Bar. Tickets are \$12 online at EqualityTexas.org or \$15 at the door. For more information, including sponsorship information, call Jeanne Rubin at 469-682-2198.

• **May 30: Evening of Hope**

Benefits AIDS Outreach Center. 6:30 p.m. at Worthington Renaissance Hotel, 200 Main St., Fort Worth. Pre-party for sponsors at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$175. Tables are \$1750. For sponsorship opportunities and ticket information, call 817-916-5224.

Purple passion

15 years of making a difference

Purple Party is Dallas' world-class weekend of spectacular circuit celebration. The three-day succession of dance parties features captivating light shows and crowd-pleasing sounds from the globe's most popular DJs.

The Purple Foundation, one of the largest all-volunteer nonprofit charity dance organizations in the U.S., has raised sizeable funds each year since 2001 organizing the weekend of dance and social events. Now in its 15th year, it has made a difference in the lives of those living with HIV and AIDS, giving proceeds to beneficiaries including AIDS Services of Dallas, Resource Center and Legacy Counseling Center.

"I'm very proud and excited that Purple Foundation is celebrating 15 years of producing Dallas Purple Party and 15 years of making a difference in the community, foundation President Blake Baker said this week. "I've been involved with the organization for the last 10 years, and I'm very happy to have seen Purple Party grow from a small regional event to one of the largest in the country.

"But, being the biggest isn't what makes Purple Party so special," Baker continued. "It's knowing that we are really making a difference in our local community with people and organizations that really need our help. The difference we are

making is clear. When ASD can say they built a new kitchen for their residents because of the money we donated, we know the work we are doing is really helping people.

"Ask anyone that's ever attended our weekend and they'll tell you, there's just some special about Purple Party and we couldn't agree more."

Here's a rundown of this weekend's events, with individual ticket prices (online and at the door). All-access passes are also available. For more information, visit PurpleFoundation.org.

• **Ivan Gomez,**

Ignite (Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, Friday, 9 p.m. \$15-\$20). The Barcelona native has taken the U.S. by storm, headlining A-list events including Palm Springs' White Party and Miami's Winter Party Festival. The DJ's sets are propelled by a mixture of

house genres including tribal, progressive, tech and underground. (J Warren of Dallas opens. Special Rose Room performance by Trixie Mattel from RuPaul's Drag Race — see interview Page 17.)



Blake Baker



Trixie Mattel



SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

International circuit party veteran — and Purple Party Weekend alum — DJ Alyson Calagna is excited about coming back to Dallas. Saturday night will mark the out DJ's seventh appearance at the annual weekend of parties. In years past Calagna has spun at Sunday afternoon tea-dances, but this year she's headlining the main event on Saturday night.

"I'm humbled and honored," Calagna says of being asked to return to Purple. "It feels like family to me. It started pretty small. I remember it growing and growing each year. I'm really happy to be a part of that change and to

Queen of Clubs

Out DJ Alyson Calagna debuts as Saturday's Purple Party headliner

have been with them so long. It's gratifying and rewarding."

Whether Calagna is in the DJ booth cueing up tracks that she produced (like the current Billboard chart-climbing remix of Yoko Ono's "Woman Power") or those that others have produced, she promises to take the dance floor crowd on an inspirational journey.

"What I've kind of stuck by is if [the music] moves me, then I play it," Calagna says of her trademark. "It's all about finding energy [through] peaks and valleys, yet still tying music together and telling a story. There kind of needs to be a flow between beginning, middle and end. It's a storytelling experience. It's a lot like life."

Calagna draws from a vast collection of dance tracks that transcends both time and musical genres.

"I firmly believe that [music] doesn't have an expiration date," Calagna says. "The beautiful thing about music is that, in one moment, you can be catapulted into a memory that can be from your childhood or high school or anything. It's so funny how we say, 'I used to love that song!' We put it in the past tense. The truth is we still love the song, but we just haven't heard it."

As a female DJ in a male-dominated circuit world, Calagna also believes that music has no gender.

"When I was coming up, there were not a lot of us," Calagna says of her female colleagues. "It was really, really hard for me to break through. It's easier in a sense now, but it still is not as accepted. For some reason, there is a bit of a stigma."

Calagna recalls one particular appearance several years ago during Orlando's Gay Days as a pivotal moment in her career — a night that elevated her circuit party credibility.

"It was the first Arabian Nights after-hours that I did for Disney," she recalls. "At the end of that, I remember feeling like 'What the fuck just happened?' That gig was kind of like the shot heard round the world. People from all over the country were there."

The secret to Calagna's success before and since, she says, has been to follow her instincts.

"Pretty much what pushed me through was to be myself — to be OK with exploring sound and constantly being a work in progress," she says. "It's easy to go with what everyone else is doing, but in the end you'll hurt yourself. Just follow you, be you, and play you."

Calagna and her partner recently relocated from Florida to Colorado. With a hectic travel schedule both stateside and abroad, the in-demand DJ realized that she had really begun to miss nature.

"I really enjoy living in [a place with] four seasons. It's good for me. I like the change — the physical change and the energetic change," she says.

She has noticed, however, a recent population boom in Colorado. Could it be that her fans have followed her there? "They followed me or they followed the legalization of marijuana," Calagna quips. "I'm not sure." ■

- **Doug Jackson, Roar!** (Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Friday, 9 p.m. \$5 suggested cover). South Florida's DJ has served as spinner-in-chief at several of the nation's hottest bear events including Provincetown's Fireman's Ball, NYC's FurBall and TBRU's BearDance. Jackson's sound mixes progressive, techno and tribal grooves with big room vocals and deep bass rhythms. (DJ Perry of Dallas opens.)

- **Wayne G, Rise pool party** (Sisu Uptown Resort, 2508 Maple Ave. Saturday, 1–7 p.m. \$35–\$40). A former resident DJ at London's Heaven, Wayne G is known internationally for his impressive skills. He is also noted for an imposing discography having produced dance floor remixes for divas Lady Gaga, Madonna, Katy Perry and the late Whitney Houston, and seam-

lessly blending house, electro and tribal sounds into his exhilarating sets. (MNDO of Dallas opens.) Note: Dallas Voice will be shooting photography for its upcoming Annual Swimsuit Edition at the Rise pool party. Come to the party and win a chance to appear in the coverage.

- **Alyson Calagna, The Purple Party** (South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. Saturday, 9 p.m. \$60–\$80). The high priestess of sound (see interview, this page) has earned top billing at the world's biggest dance and circuit events. Her profound and unmistakable signature style will transport revelers on a spiritual journey that rises above both musical genre and time. (Shane Stiel of Los Angeles opens.)

- **Danny Verde, Revival** (Hall of State in Fair Park, 3939 Grand Ave. Sunday, 4–10 p.m. \$35–\$40). Italy's Verde returns for his third consecu-

tive Purple appearance. Verde has remixed some of popular music's biggest names including Cher, Mariah Carey, Lady Gaga, Avicii and Selena Gomez. His high-energy sound is fueled by driving beats and powerful, uplifting vocals. (Brandon Moses of Dallas opens.)

- **Paulo, Glow** (Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Sunday, 10 p.m. \$25–\$30). Portugal native DJ Paulo has headlined parties including Montreal's Black and Blue Festival, NYC's Alegria, Orlando's Gay Days and Sydney's Mardi Gras. He also boasts impressive production credits with remixes for artists including Lady Gaga and Christina Aguilera. His hypnotic, percussive blend of tribal and percussive house sound promises to entrance the dance floor. (Mike James of Dallas opens.)

— Scott Huffman

Cedar Springs merchants, property owners unhappy with plans for 'improvements'

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Cedar Springs merchants and property owners were unanimous in their condemnation this week of a city plan to narrow the street to one lane in each direction with a third turning lane in the middle.

At an earlier meeting, that proposal was favored by some area residents who live off of Cedar Springs Road but discounted by area businesses.

On Monday, May 4, Cedar Springs business and property owners met at the Round-Up Saloon with Dallas City Council members Adam Medrano and Philip Kingston to discuss the

back up 30 to 45 minutes each time a bar on the street received a beer delivery. UPS deliveries and stopped taxis would also bring traffic to a halt, he said.

Pierce also worried about fire and emergency vehicles getting through, since a fire station is located on the block.

The plan the city prefers would be similar to the one used on Lower Greenville Avenue. But, Pierce said, "Lower Greenville is a mess during rush hour."

Construction to narrow the street would take more than a year. Business owners worried they would end up being out of business as patrons avoided the area for a year or more because of construction.

On Lower Greenville, construction caused some businesses to close.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Vedda said he is concerned that this project could doom Cedar Springs as the center of the LGBT community in Dallas, if merchants from outside the community took over stores abandoned by current merchants once construction ended.

Vedda is involved in helping sell Dallas as a destination to LGBT conventions, businesses and organizations, and he said having a central community is a big draw.

Rick Williamson with Crosland Group, owner of ilume and ilume Park, which both face Cedar Springs Road, agreed with other merchants about retaining the street's four lanes.

"This is a peculiar street with peculiar needs," Williamson said.

Another property owner defended his tenants and said, "The three lane proposal poses lots of difficulty for merchants."

The plan to reconfigure the street favored by city officials only involves two blocks of The Strip and includes removing some of the sidewalk improvements already made by the merchants and property owners.

The problem of cars not stopping at crosswalks, even when yellow warning lights are flashing, was addressed. Merchants said they wanted traffic lights at Reagan and Knight streets. The city traffic department had nixed that idea and Kingston said he had no power to overrule the traffic department.

Woody's owner Matt Miller suggested those lights could be synchronized to facilitate traffic flow as well as pedestrian safety. Kingston said existing lights are about 20 years out of date and so unable to accommodate the computer technology needed to synchronize them.

Caven Enterprises President Gregg Kilhoffer suggested an ordinance that would make it illegal for a car to drive through a crosswalk while warning lights are flashing. He said signs should also warn drivers to stop when the lights are flashing.

Although pedestrians haven't been hit recently, many near-misses have been reported when drivers speed up rather than stop at crosswalks with flashing lights. Pierce suggested that while some of it is simply drivers in a hurry, some of it might also be "the malicious factor" because of the nature of the neighborhood.

Back to the drawing board?



plan. Cedar Springs Road divides the two elected officials' districts.

Round-Up owner Alan Pierce said with only one lane in each direction, traffic would

The Centrum undergoing major overhaul



For years, The Centrum has loomed over The Strip. Now the nature of the building and its occupants is changing. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Despite plenty of free retail parking underneath The Centrum, stores and restaurants have rarely succeeded in the 19-story building at the corner of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road.

New owners of the building plan to change that.

The building sold about six months ago and the new owners plan to turn the lower floors into a small shopping mall. The salons complex is gone and other tenants have not had their leases renewed.

Some offices on lower floors may also be affected.

The popular Tex-Mex restaurant Mattito's moved into The Centrum in January 2014, breaking through the building's solid stone exterior wall to add an outdoor eating area. In sketches showing the new plans for the building, Mattito's is not shown, although the restaurant is likely to have signed a standard retail lease, which would be for at least five years.

What is included in the preliminary sketches are a Starbucks and a Target community store. Privately owned condos on the upper floors will not be affected.

— David Taffet

While the plan to narrow the street took into account the most recent traffic study done in 2011, about 4,000 new apartment units have opened or are about to open within a few blocks of the strip.

The alternate plan includes four blocks — from Reagan Street to Wycliff Avenue — and focuses more on sidewalks and landscaping.

Several merchants mentioned the idea of marking the area from Oak Lawn Avenue to Wycliff as an entertainment district with mark-

ers similar to those used in Uptown and the Design District. Currently, pillars, an arch over the street or the simpler markers that neighboring districts have, are not in any of the plans.

Kingston suggested planning might have to start over because there was no consensus on what the neighborhood wanted.

The day after the meeting, Medrano said he was going to talk to city staff. He said he'd like to look at the second option that doesn't realign the street.

He said he wasn't optimistic about adding traffic lights, but there are portions of the plan that could move forward. Sidewalks near the Melrose Hotel and near Wycliff Street need repair. Everyone agreed additional landscaping would add to the street's ambiance and has the effect of slowing traffic. He said other items from that plan might be possible to proceed with as well.

"We'll call another community meeting and go from there," he said. ■

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Herschel Weisfeld doesn't know why Stephan Yen singled him out.

Weisfeld was standing in the Wells Fargo branch on McKinney Avenue at Routh Street in Uptown, watching TV while waiting to speak to his bank officer, when a man he had never met approached him and demanded, "Stop checking out my ass."

Weisfeld, who said he had been paying no attention to the man, later identified as Yen, continued to ignore him and went back to watching the news — until Yen approached him a second time.

"Aren't you a Christian?" he asked Weisfeld, who is Jewish, and then said to anyone who would listen, indicating Weisfeld, "He's an abomination."

When Yen approached him a third time and said, "I'm going to knock your teeth out, you fucking faggot," Weisfeld called 911 as the bank manager escorted Yen into her office. She tried to diffuse the situation.

When the police came, Weisfeld said, Yen went ballistic: "He started raging at the cops."

Weisfeld, a real estate investor and developer, said he was dressed for work, not wearing a T-shirt that made any kind of political statement or any other provocative clothing.

"I was just standing in the lobby to do banking business," he said.

Weisfeld ran for Dallas City Council in 2013 against Adam Medrano. Since then, he's been out of the public eye, and much of the time out of Dal-

Many LGBT people are threatened with violence because of who they are, but one Dallas man scored small a victory in court

Prosecuting hate

las. But it's possible that Yen recognized him from that political run.

The incident ended with Yen being arrested for making a "major disturbance (violence)" and charged with a Class C misdemeanor.

Weisfeld questioned why hate crime charges weren't added. Doing so could have enhanced the penalty by increasing the crime from a Class C to



Herschel Weisfeld

a Class B Misdemeanor.

The \$500 maximum fine assessable for a Class C misdemeanor would have increased to a \$2,000 maximum with the hate crime charge added, and maximum jail time would have jumped to 180 days.

The incident took place on Oct. 8, 2014, and went before a municipal court judge this week on

Tuesday, May 5.

Weisfeld has been living in Mexico, supervising a construction project in Puerto Vallarta. But he flew back to Dallas for the hearing, at his own expense.

When Yen came off the courthouse elevator with his attorney on Tuesday, Weisfeld was in the hall near the courtroom. As Yen walked into the courtroom, he yelled at Weisfeld, who was standing in the hallway nearby, "You scumbag. Same smile."

After he saw the arresting police officer — who after all this time remembered the defendant quite well and commented that he was "a bad one" — as well the bank employee involved in the incident and Weisfeld, the defendant decided to plead "no contest."

The judge imposed a \$400 fine sentenced Yen to 90 days probation. The city attorney prosecuting the case had asked for 120 days.

Weisfeld said he considered getting a restraining order. But because he will be returning to Mexico soon, he chose simply to be cautious while in Dallas.

LGBT people are often threatened with violence simply for who they are. Weisfeld reacted to his threat by calling the police, filing a report and following through by speaking to city attorneys who would be prosecuting the case and traveling back to Dallas at his own expense for the trial.

While the fine for the defendant was small — equivalent to some traffic tickets — and probation just means Yen needs to stay out of trouble for the next three months, the sentence does say that Dallas doesn't stand for these sort of threats or intimidation. ■

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Legislative round-up: Calendars, committees and curve balls

Time is almost up for state representatives and senators looking to make their mark during the 84th Texas Legislature. Regular session ends May 31.

For a bill to be considered in the House, Saturday, May 9 is the deadline for bills to receive a simple committee hearing. Unless the rules are suspended, those bills that haven't been heard in committee are dead. The next deadline is May 12, when the calendars committee must schedule floor votes.

Finally, May 14 is the last day to consider votes on bills on the House floor.

May 17 is the deadline for Senate bills to be placed on the calendar, otherwise they, too, are dead.

A handful of both pro- and anti-LGBT bills will likely receive floor votes before the session's end.

Despite the time crunch, legislators have still found creative ways to push for their legislation like Sen. Craig Estes' SB 2065. Estes' companion to Rep. Scott Sanford's HB 3567 reinforces a clergy member's right to refuse to conduct a marriage ceremony based on religious conviction.

In essence, the companion bills would allow clergy to decline officiating at a same-sex wedding.

While the filing was timely — in advance of an expected positive ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in June on same-sex marriage — Estes' parliamentary trick was unexpected. Estes filed the bill on April 28, weeks after the filing deadline had



passed, at Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's insistence. Estes got his colleagues to vote to suspend Senate rules so he could introduce the late bill — a tactic not common but not unheard of, either.

Gov. Greg Abbott has said he supports the bill. But its vague language worries groups like Equality Texas, the ACLU and Texas Freedom Network, which is why they pushed the addition of four words to both bills: "acting in that capacity."

The law has to treat everyone equally, Equality Texas' Daniel Williams said. "But the bill is not clear whether or not clergy who, for example, worked at [the Department of Public Safety] could possibly invoke that statute to reject issuing a driver's licenses to a same-sex couple. We're not even saying under terms of employment as a religious leader but acting as a government employee."

During a contentious Senate hearing, Estes said he was unwilling to add the four key words, a move that surprised Dan Quinn of the Texas Freedom Network. Republican Committee Chair, Sen. Joan Huffman, Quinn said, supported the additional language. But she was also absent due to overlapping committee meetings.

Other religious liberty bills have raised eyebrows as well. HB 3864, also by Rep. Sanford, would allow child welfare organizations to deny care to children of LGBT parents based on religious beliefs. It passed out of committee and is waiting its calendar appointment. Its Senate companion, SB 1935 by Sen. Campbell, has yet to be heard in the Health and Human Services committee.

But not all the news is bad in Austin.

Two pro-LGBT House bills currently await a floor vote.

HB 71 by Rep. Mary González, D-El Paso, which would prevent two minors in a same-sex relationship from being charged with child indecency, was voted out of the Criminal Justice and Jurisprudence Committee and is now waiting for a floor date in Calendars.

HB 537 by Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, which would equalize access to accurate supplementary birth certificates for Texas children, passed out of the State Affairs committee on Monday, May 4 with the support of two Republicans, including Chair Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, and Rep. Patricia Harless, R-Spring.

A poll released Wednesday, May 6 showed signs of waning support for anti-LGBT legislation in Texas, with a majority of those polled expressing concern over anti-LGBT discrimination.

"These poll results should serve as a wake up call for those who think promoting discrimination is a good political strategy in Texas," Texas Freedom Network President Kathy Miller said. "Passing these bills wouldn't just damage our state's national reputation and bring to Texas the same condemnation from business and the rest of the country that we saw with similar legislation in Indiana. We also know now that these bills contradict the values of a large majority of Texas voters, who think discrimination against people because of who they are and whom they love is just plain wrong."

The question remains, however, if the legislators have the political will to listen to those voters. ■

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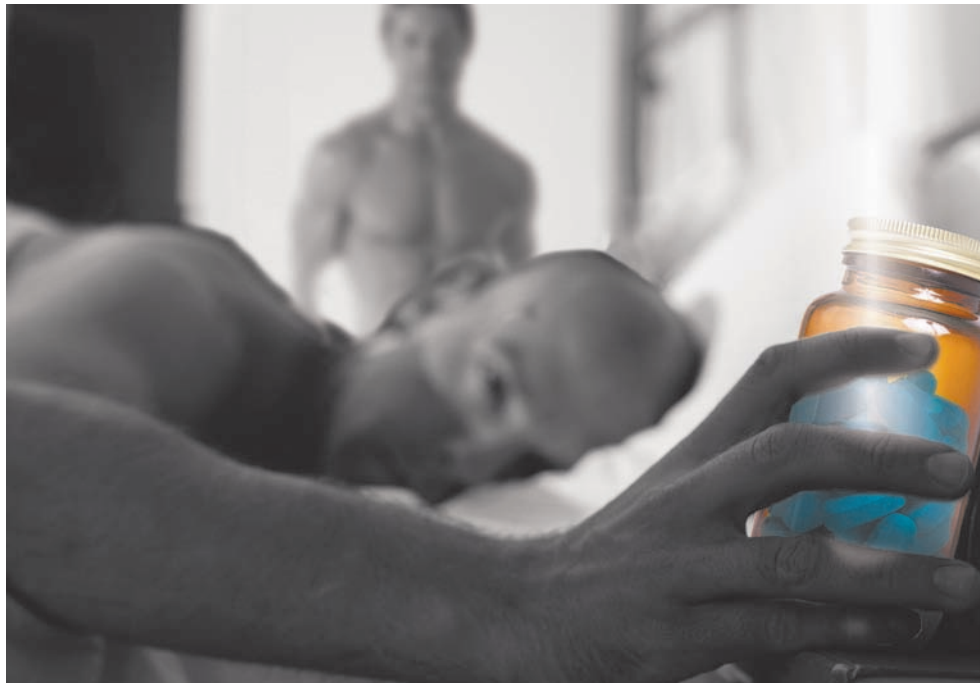
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Crossing the viral divide



It was little surprise when HBO's *Looking* — a critically acclaimed but poorly rated TV series about gay men in San Francisco — introduced an HIV-positive character in season two. After all, the city was once the epicenter of the AIDS crisis and now has one of the nation's highest rates of HIV-positive gay and bi men.



Diane Anderson-Minshall
Positive Thoughts

The real revelation, though, was that Eddie, the character Daniel Franzese (already popular from his influential role in *Mean Girls*) plays, is poz, proud and body positive.

People with HIV are rarities on TV (the last series to have one was *Brothers & Sisters* in 2011), and when they exist there's usually a lot of stigmatizing, handwringing and self-loathing around them, with singular storylines that play like a "very special episode."

But *Looking* (and the season finale of *How to Get Away With Murder*, in which Conrad Ricamora's character Oliver finds out he has HIV) broke the mold with an ordinary gay man who just happened to have HIV. Moreover, it was the first scripted television series to talk about PrEP, or Truvada, as pre-exposure prophylaxis.

"The brief conversation that we have in the Halloween episode happens in a way that I've heard PrEP come up amongst my friends ... not too preachy," Franzese told *Plus* magazine. "I really like the way that it's handled."

So did I. Eddie is sexy, healthy and — this is important — romantically pursued by an HIV-negative character. So that the pair can have sex without either of them worrying about transmission, the love interest begins a regimen of PrEP, the daily HIV prevention pill that the iPrEx study proved can reduce HIV infection by up to 99 percent when taken properly.

The fact that *Looking* handled PrEP in this manner may mean the tide has turned on PrEP, a prevention method initially debated — and actually lobbied against — by some gay men (notably AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Michael Weinstein, who argued it was a "party drug" that would make users ditch condoms).

Today in many gay communities, on TV or otherwise, we're increasingly hearing one thing about PrEP: It's changing everything.

Both the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have begun recommending PrEP to gay and bi men and transgender women, in hopes of stemming the tide of the 50,000 new HIV cases each year in the U.S.

It's not the numbers, though, that are interesting. It's the socio-cultural changes we see from PrEP. The social dynamics among gay men are changing. I've talked to dozens of men who are dating across the viral divide: poz and negative guys dating each other, marrying each other, becoming what romantics call "magnetic couples." (The rest of us call them sero-discordant couples, partnerships in which one is poz and one isn't.)

Between "treatment as prevention" (a method in which someone with HIV suppresses the amount of HIV in their blood, or their viral load, to "undetectable" levels and thus can no longer

transmit HIV) and PrEP, many gay men are now having sex without the fear that they can transmit, or acquire, HIV, whether or not there are condoms involved.

My friend Alex Garner, who conducts HIV awareness and prevention programs across the country, says this has impacted how gay men now relate to each other because it's eliminated a key emotional obstacle to love that gay men have had since the late 1980s: fear.

Like a lot of guys, Alex used to almost exclusively date other HIV-positive men, but PrEP has changed that. He told *Plus* magazine that the possibility of having a real relationship with someone who is sero-discordant seems much more realistic now because PrEP is available — and it changes the relationship, too.

Despite Weinstein's rants, PrEP really doesn't seem to be really used by wanton sluts who want to man-whore about town. (But, if it is, more power to the users, I say; the LGBT rights movements was built on sexual liberation, and PrEP is to gay men in 2015 what birth control was to feminists in 1970 — but I digress.)

In fact, when someone is considering PrEP because their partner has HIV, it's very often a sign that they love and want to build a future with that person, the exact opposite of one-night stands popular in hookup culture.

Weinstein's ditching condoms theory seems inaccurate. At least one study from Brown University found that many HIV-negative men in relationships already ditch condoms because they want more intimacy in their relationship (and they do so even when one or both of the guys are having sex outside of that relationship).

Over half the men in that study said they'd go on PrEP, which is good because we know from another study out of Emory University that nearly 70 percent of all new HIV transmissions for both gay and bi men and transgender women occur in a primary relationship. But the Brown researchers are quick to note: These men and women are willing to go on PrEP, not to suddenly ditch condoms once they're on PrEP, but to protect themselves because they already ditched those condoms long ago.

Today, PrEP is appearing in dating profiles and on apps like Grindr and Scruff. Even sites aimed at HIV-positive men, like BarebackRT, report that HIV-negative men are now posting profiles there and touting that they are on PrEP. For generations of men and trans women who've lived in fear of HIV, suddenly having a prevention pill is a god-send.

That it's mired in controversy is no surprise; birth control was once as well for many of the same concerns.

But the bottom line is that Truvada as PrEP is one option, one of the best we have available today. Like birth control pills, though, it isn't for

The letter I always wanted to write my mother

Dear Mom,

First of all, I want to tell you how much I miss you and love you. You have been gone now for 23 years, and when you passed away you left a hole that can never be filled.

I cannot begin to tell you how many times I've wished I could pick up the phone and hear your voice, or walk through your door and be greeted like I was the most important person on earth.

Whether you understood it, you were responsible for so much of who I became and who I am still becoming. You accepted me and whatever I was doing, 100 percent. You encouraged me. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself.

Mom, the more I live in this world, the more I realize just how lucky I was to have you as my mom. So many people I know have been rejected by their families, or grew up in an atmosphere of indifference or worse, violence.

I grew up knowing I was loved and that there was nothing I could say or do that would make you stop loving me.

Anyone that knows me knows that I am a hugger. That's due to you and Dad, who were always there with a warm hug. I want to share those with the people I care about.

In later years, I remember you questioning things you did in raising my brother and me. Please let me assure you that you were the best mom any kid could ask for.

You sacrificed for us, loved us and taught us values, respect and discipline. You showed me the value of friendship. You and Dad set a wonderful example for a life well lived.

It was little wonder that my friends all wanted to come over to our house to play; I heard countless times, "Your parents are so cool." How rare is that?

You gave us everything we needed to succeed in life. I sometimes wish I'd have asked more questions or paid closer attention.

The question that haunts me, Mom, is 'Why?' When you were so loving, so accepting of everything I was and everything I did, why couldn't I tell you about me before you died?

everyone.

Soon we'll have a rectal microbicide, injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis, vaginal rings, and more. And when we do, I hope the writers of *Looking* get at least a tiny footnote in history for breaking ground on TV and for having helped destigmatize PrEP for a generation of LGBT viewers. ■



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

You said on more than one occasion that you wished you had a daughter. You were a wonderful grandma to my two daughters, but I never found the words to tell you that you did have a daughter all along.

Perhaps I didn't have the heart to take away your first-born son. I know how much you loved him.

Sometimes that thought tortures me, Mom. I kept so much from you, but part of me thinks you may have suspected, especially if you added things up — my wanting to wear a dress to play when I was little, asking you what my girl name would have been (I carry that name today and always will).

I remember you coming in the bathroom when I was taking a bath one day. I had soap all over my legs and was pretending to shave them with a "popsicle stick" razor. The signs were there. You knew how sensitive and pensive I was.

What you didn't know was that I lay in bed at night praying that God would change my body and make things right. I hated my body and wanted it fixed to the point of pondering "do-it-yourself" remedies at a young age.

You never knew that I cried at night during puberty as my changing body betrayed me in all sorts of ways. I just wished it would stop. But I never said anything. I just couldn't bear to hurt or disappoint you.

I know you would have supported me and accepted me. There is no doubt, because you would have set your feelings aside — the disappointment, the potential embarrassment (this was the 1960s and '70s remember), and the crushing sense of loss you may have felt.

You would have done it for me; I have no doubt.

I didn't want to let you down.

Today, my life is very different from what you envisioned for me. I wish I could introduce you to your daughter. You would love her. I know you would have tons of great advice, a hot cup of coffee and a hug.

Always a hug.

I love you mom. Happy Mother's Day. I miss you so much.

Your daughter,
Leslie

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

Diane Anderson-Minshall is editor in chief of Plus magazine, the HIV Plus Treatment Guide mobile app, and HIVPlusMag.com. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com, poz.com and thebody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

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Cho 'nuff

Queermedian Margaret Cho tackles series issues with her patented humor

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SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

Margaret Cho may not have the ability to transform base metals into gold, but she certainly seems to be an alchemist of comedy. In her new standup tour, *There's No I in Team, but There is a Cho in Psycho*, the Emmy- and Grammy-nominated queermedian tackles a number of disquieting current issues while simultaneously managing to uncover within them an abundance of humor. The topics Cho addresses include homelessness, violence against women and grieving the loss of fellow comics and mentors Joan Rivers and Robin Williams. Her brand of sorcery, it seems, is converting pathos into laughter.

"It's sort of a call to action," Cho says of her set. "It's a lot of serious topics that make for good comedy. It's good when you can actually find a way to talk about serious issues, whether they are political, social, cultural or whatever. It's great when you can take something that's very tragic and turn it around. That's what I am trying to do."

Cho is fearless about bringing her in-your-face comedic style back to red-state Texas ... though her perception of the Lone Star State differs from the stereotype.

"It's a big state and within it there are a lot of different points of view," Cho says. "Austin is probably one of the most liberal cities in the world, yet it's the capital. Texas has a conservative reputation, but there is a lot of diversity. I'm excited to be coming back."

Cho — who has publicly discussed the fluidity of her own sexuality — attributes much of her tremendous success to a devoted LGBT following. "Oh, it's enormous," she says of her gay fan base. "I am queer myself, and I've grown up in the gay world. It's a really big part of who I am. It's sort of given me my shot at having an audience and having a perspective. It has given me a community to be proud of and to draw from and to give back to. So, it's everything to me."

After recently splitting with her husband, Cho is experiencing a turning point in life: A period full of opportunity and personal reflection. "I just sort of am living," Cho says. "I'm single, which is good and important for my development as a person. I haven't ever been single really, not since I was an adult."

Besides touring, the industrious Cho is focusing her energy on several writing, music and television projects. She has also spent a great deal of time in her hometown San Francisco, raising funds and generating awareness of homelessness through pop-up street performances. She continues the work started by her late friend and mentor Robin Williams, a pioneer in homelessness awareness.

"In 1990 [Robin] spoke before Congress to get a homelessness



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bill to pass." Cho says. "He was very ambitious and concerned and very progressive about this particular issue. So when he died I wanted to do something that was in honor of him called the [#BeRobin] project. It's street performing which is what Robin did for many years before he became a major star."

Cho also hopes to carry on the legacy of Joan Rivers, another mentor who passed away within the last year. Cho credits the gay icon as her inspiration for pursuing a career in comedy. "I just knew that this was my role in life," she says. "That this is what I was supposed to do. A lot of it has to be attributed to Joan Rivers. When I first saw her in her prime, it was so inspiring. I just wanted to be her. Eventually I became friends with her and she took care of me a lot. I'm so grateful to have that kind of mentor and have that experience."

Is there any chance that Cho will be the next to fill Rivers' seat on *Fashion Police*? "Well, I'm the one who smells like pot and patchouli, so I don't know why they don't give me the job already," Cho quips. "I want to change it into *Fashion Police: Special Victims Unit*."

Despite enjoying longstanding friendships with two of the

biggest names in comedy, Cho admits that some celebrity encounters still leave her star struck. In fact, she was recently overwhelmed at the opportunity to meet Meryl Streep while portraying a Kim Jong Il-inspired reporter-general at the 2015 Golden Globes.

"She kissed me after our little picture taking," Cho says. "I just like fainted. I love her. Everyone is so exciting to see in person. Celebrities are so small, and that's really funny. Tina Fey I'm always starstruck by even though she's a friend and really great role model. She's also just a star in so many ways. I really adore her. But I get very excited when I see celebrities."

If Cho hadn't chosen to pursue a career in comedy, she thinks she might instead have chosen to work with another of her passions. "I love animals," she says. "I think I might have been a veterinarian, although I'm not sure how hard that would be. You would have to be like a doctor. That's the tough part. But I do love animals."

Cho promises that her new show will be funny, fresh and interactive. "I like to improv. I like to talk to the audience a lot. I like to vary and change and play around with people, so every show is different. It's kind of what I do." ■



All dolled up

... and someplace to go: Drag Racer Trixie Mattel goes Purple

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

“Oh my God! Are there any painful memories from your past that we can bring up?” quips Brian Firkus, aka Drag Racer Trixie Mattel. That’s her reaction when asked what was going through her mind as she lip-synced for her life — twice! — on this season’s *RuPaul’s Drag Race*. At the end of the performance first elimination, RuPaul asked Mattel to sashay away while Pearl was able to stay.

“I know Pearl, and I know her skill set and I know my skill set,” Mattel says. “We all have our superhero utility belts of skills. I was 700 percent confident I was going to win the lip-sync! I had seen Pearl lip-sync before. When she was safe, I thought ‘Oh my God! We’re both safe!’ And then RuPaul said, ‘Trixie, get out.’ RuPaul sees different things in everyone.”

Judging by the number of air miles she has recently logged to make live appearances, however, Mattel — who appears in the Rose Room at

■ **TRIXIE** Next Page

IGNITE IT | Trixie Mattel, who just sashayed away for the second time this season, performs at the Rose Room for the opening of the Purple Party Friday. (Photo courtesy Adam Ouahmane)

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■ **TRIXIE**, From Previous Page

the Purple Party's opening event, Ignite — seems to have come out a winner nonetheless. "I currently live in hotels," Mattel humble-brags. "I haven't been home in, like, two months. I'm either in hotels or down on the carpet in airports sleeping. I travel with a blanket and pillow. I go to the airport, get to the gate and I set an alarm for the boarding time. I lay down on my back with the blanket pulled over my body and my face so I just look like a freaking corpse."

Each travel mile she logs also seems to claim another piece of her love life. "It's destroying it slowly," Mattel says. "The thing about *Drag Race* is that it's hard. I had an amazing boyfriend, but the pieces aren't staying together right now. When you don't even have time to wash your dirty underwear, it's hard to have time to make someone else happy."

Mattel began her drag career four years ago, at age 21. But unlike most queens, she was not mentored by a drag mother or part of an extended drag family — she struck out on her own. "One thing about my drag you can tell is, for better or for worse, nobody taught me," she says. "Everything is just something that I did. I taught myself to sew and I do makeup the way I do because I just wanted to do it. I thought it was really important starting in drag not to have a drag family because I wanted to be an original. I wanted my own name and my own image."

Assuming the name Trixie was itself a take-back-the-night moment. "When I was younger, I had a really bad relationship with my stepdad," Mattel says. "Whenever I was acting too feminine or crying or being too emotional — acting too gay, basically — he would call me a Trixie. It used to be like the equivalent to faggot for me. It went from being the worst word



to my favorite word. And now I love it." (Mattel, of course, is her homage to the maker of Barbie, her plastic idol and major influence.)

In her recent travels, Mattel has managed to pick up a few sage tips from seasoned drag performers. "The best advice anyone has given me is 'Know what you are worth and charge three times that,'" she says. "Of course, I don't put that into practice because that's insane. I love drag so much. When you first start doing drag, you come from doing it for free basically. But [fellow Wisconsinite-turned-New Yorker] Davina DeVille told me, 'You're never going to be a happy drag queen until you have your bills paid.'"

One surprising development since her *Drag Race* appearances — she was brought back a few weeks ago, only to be kicked off again this past Monday — is that people are now recognizing Mattel when she's out of drag. "That's the weirdest thing. My transformation is so extreme, nobody recognized me out of drag. They just thought I was someone carrying Trixie Mattel's bags. Recently, I was at an H&M and buying something, and a guy behind the counter looked up at me and started crying."

Despite the rigors of competition and the disappointing early elimination, Mattel has no regret. "You know, you go to *Drag Race*, and you don't know what's going to happen," she says. "You don't know what people are going to like or what they're going to think. And to have people respond as positively as they have is unreal. I thought I was going to be too weird for people and that there was going to be a lot of rejection. People really like Trixie, and that's what's great." ■

Trixie Mattel performs at Ignite, the opening night party with DJs Wayne and Ivan Gomez at Station 4, 2911 Cedar Springs Road, May 8. Doors at 9 p/m.

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Pimp your Pridemix

11 gaylicious new anthems to add to your party playlist

With a passel o' DJs coming to town this week and Pride Month around the corner, you need to update your iPod shuffle to get your Pride on ... and not with the old standbys. Now, don't delete Madonna. You can keep your Diana Ross. But if "We Are Family" is still your go-to, maybe your rainbow losing its luster? Splash these new colors into your celebratory mix.

"We Exist," Arcade Fire. There's no ignoring us now, but still, it never hurts to remind non-queers that we have a place in the world, too. On this feisty rally cry directly inspired by the LGBT movement, these Canadian allies stand up with us, rocking their way through an '80s-inspired call for equality.

"Dance with Me," Kelly Clarkson. Leave your right-wing angst at the door and douse yourself in the shimmering sounds of Miss Independent's neon-bright dance delight. No crying. No fighting. No shaming. Kelly Clarkson won't have any of it... unless it involves body bumping. And glitter, because obviously.

"All Kinds of Kinds," Miranda Lambert. Thomas was a congressman with closets full of skeletons, the country superstar sings, before delivering the real kicker: *and dresses that he wore on*

Friday nights. With compelling character vignettes and a wise assessment of ignorance, Lambert's guitar-guided ditty celebrates every color of the rainbow.

"Unbelievers," Vampire Weekend. Capturing unification in all its magical heart-happy glory is this Vampire Weekend groove. As it playfully bounces about, just you try not to get wrapped up in the evocative adorability of the NYC hipsters' sweet sentiment — love — dedicated to the world's nonconformists.

"Looking Hot," No Doubt. Calling all spotlight stealers — this one's for you. A declaration of fierceness, Gwen Stefani struts her stuff over this ska-flavored synth song, urging anyone in her path to *go ahead and stare, and take a picture please.* It's how you'll feel when you join that sexy sea of gays, wearing your "clothes."

"Together You and I," Dolly Parton. To make much headway, we gotta do it hand in hand, right? Dolly knows, and she's preaching it on this bit of buoyant, pop-country inspiration. *Paint a pretty rainbow with love across the sky* the Country Queen sings, as if they're not already painted across every sky, and above every gay.

"Burning Gold," Christina Perri. Pop singer-

songwriter Perri is done waiting and hoping for change to just magically happen. With a thundering drumbeat behind her, she stops wishing and starts realizing, igniting the flame that's been right there in her hands the whole time.

"Queen," Perfume Genius. Who runs the world? You! Mike Hadreas (aka Perfume Genius) gives you permission — not that you needed it — to own the crown that was already yours, bestowing it upon all the *cracked, peelin'* queers who are *riddled with disease.* Haters gon' hate, but as Hadreas warns: *No family is safe when I sashay.*

"The Fight," Sia, pictured. Don't even bother trying to stand in Sia's way. The Aussie is one of the world's most sought-after songwriters, but even before she was swinging from her chandelier, Sia was bigger than life itself on this cartoony romp — and that's exactly how she makes you feel, too.

"Take Me to Church," Sinead O'Connor. Nothing compares to you. No, really — you're the best. *Set me on the floor; I'm the only one I should adore,* the Irish icon declares, waxing poetic about finding love in a place where it's sometimes seemingly impossible ... from within.

"Raise You Up / Just Be," Kinky Boots original cast recording. In case your kinky boots aren't enough to get you off the ground, this



Cyndi Lauper-penned number from the hit Broadway show will. The show closer is a sparkly, ensemble-sung, feel-good romp that won't just add pep to your step, but at least three inches to your height.

—Chris Azzopardi

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Get your gay on!

When traveling this summer, here are some destinations to put on your circuit

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

At least one consideration you should make before booking any trip this summer is, where will all the gays be? June is the biggest month for Pride celebrations, and various cities and communities roll out the pink carpet for gay visitors ... in addition to the events and circuit parties you can find. (Heck, a lot of folks nationwide will probably be coming to Dallas this weekend for the Purple Party!)

Here's a rundown of some of the events you might want to plan to use your frequent flier miles on.

Las Vegas Festival: Matinee Pride, May 22–25. Not everyone waits until June, of course! The fifth annual Matinee Party in Sin City takes place Memorial Day Weekend with eight events spread over the four-day fest, including the main event Saturday night at the huge waterpark Cowabunga Bay. Suites are already sold out at the host hotel, Rumor, but there are rooms there and at the nearby overflow hotels of the Tropicana and Hard Rock. Weekend passes start at \$199. MatineeVegas.com.

New York City: Matinee Pride, June 26–28. The fifth anniversary of this event comes to the city where gay rights started in June of 1969. Four events mark Matinee: Main Party at Capitale (Friday at 10 p.m.), Circuit Festival Rooftop Party in Hell's Kitchen (Saturday at 2 p.m.), Action Afterhours (5 a.m. Sunday morning) and VOP Boat Cruise on the Circleline at Pier 83 (Sunday at 7:30 p.m.). Pre-sale tickets start at \$99. MatineeNYC.com.

Chicago: Neverland Pride, June 27–28. The days of fun in the Windy City kick off with a



CIRCUIT SO GAY | Past Pride events in (opposite, from top) New York City, Austin and Vegas provide a summer of partying out and proud.

pool party in Boystown on Saturday afternoon, the centerpiece Bougie Ball at 11 p.m. that night and wrapping up with DJ Ivan Gomez spinning Sunday from 11 p.m.–4 a.m. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$85 for all three events at NeverlandChicago.com.

Austin: Splash Days, Sept. 4–6. Of course, you don't need to fly to the four corners to have fun — Austin is just a quick drive down I-35 for the season-ending Splash Days. It all starts on Friday with the official (free!) welcome party at Rain on 4th from 10 p.m.–3 a.m. The Saturday main event, Splash Dance (what a feeling!) will be at Highland Lounge with DJ Roland Belmares spinning. And of course, it concludes on Sunday at Hippie Hollow on Lake Travis with a party boat docked for your enjoyment. ■



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'Wet' in Texas

Gay memoir about flamboyant mom should resonate with Texas readers

Dangerous When Wet: A Memoir by Jamie Brickhouse (St. Martin's Press 2015 \$26; 288 pp).

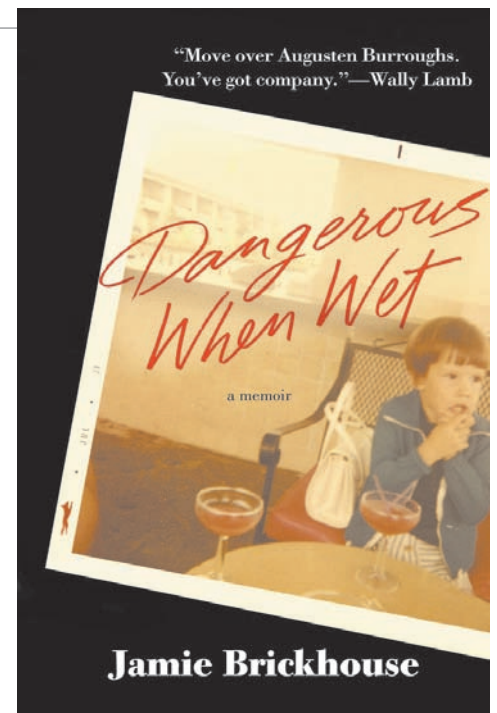
Jamie Brickhouse "had no business being a child." Then again, he never *was* a child, really. Starting at age 5 (an age his mother wished she

could freeze him, Peter-Pan-style), he was his Mama Jean's sounding board, fashion advisor and cheering squad. He recalls the fascination of seeing her put on make-up; his days were spent watching her sew and going to downtown Beaumont, Texas, to shop and visit the beauty parlor.

He also dimly recalls his first drink around that time.

Though his mother warned him that others would never love him like she did, his first grade teacher came close. Brickhouse adored that woman, who shared school gossip with him and invited him into her home. Later, after a playground friend became his "first boyfriend," that same teacher warned Brickhouse that the boy was a "sissy."

By junior high, he realized that he was, too, but since Mama Jean had had a fit when Brickhouse's older gay brother came out and had offered a psychiatrist to Brickhouse if he was "like



that," Brickhouse denied his sexuality. Years later, he also denied his HIV status to her, just like he denied his alcoholism.

From the time he was a toddler, Brickhouse had been obsessed with sex. His love of drink also came early and the two intersected when he went to college. Even after he found the love of his life, he couldn't let go of either vice: many nights after work as a book publicist, he drank until he could barely function and often woke up in the arms and homes of strangers. His boyfriend knew what was going on. Brickhouse hoped Mama Jean never would.

For some reason, I've been awash in mother-and-gay-son memoirs lately. *Dangerous When Wet* is the newest one, and only a little different than the others. Brickhouse is a funny guy, but the book has more charm than actual laughs. That may be due to the fact his thumb-sucking, profane, force-to-be-reckoned-with Mama Jean is ultimately like so many other moms: an exasperating reason for eye-rolls to their children, but adorable to others.

The small bit of humor lies with her antics, at any rate. The alcoholism, the black-outs, the promiscuity: not so much. This book is worth a try. I enjoyed it enough, but if you're drowning in similar memoirs, too, you could just as easily skip it. *Dangerous When Wet* may not make a huge splash, but it's not a drought of entertainment, either.

A Matter of Breeding by Michael Brandow (Beacon Press 2015 \$18; 288 pp.).

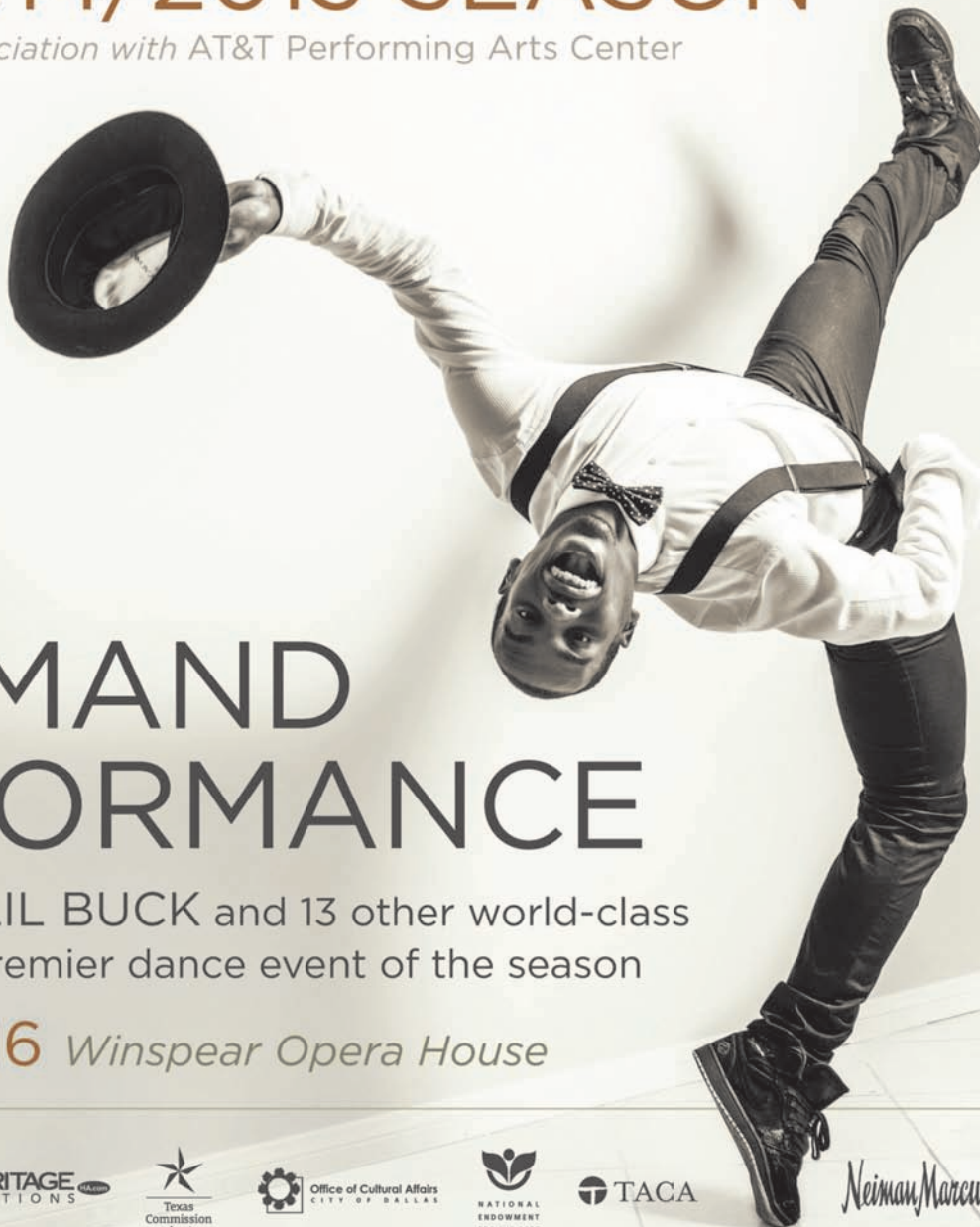
An outraged rant against dog shows, the pedigree industry, breeders and owners of purebred dogs, this screed feels incessant, which can overwhelm and even numb the reader. It also can detract from the book's main point. But while it's not easy reading, this book is worthwhile for dog lovers. Just beware: It could start a few arguments, too. Depending on where you sit, with mutt or unmix, it could land someone in the doghouse.

—Terri Schlichenmeyer

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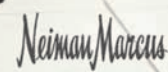
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The grown-ups are back

Some local legends of the North Texas gay music scene are back in town. This is how music is made



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

With all due respect to the Queen (Bey) and the Lady (Gaga), musical royalty existed long before Spotify, before Pandora, even before Napster. (Remember that?) In fact, the North Texas music scene has known how to produce great (local) musicians back to the 1920s (Leadbelly, Blind Lemon Jefferson), 1930s (Robert Johnson) up until the 1970s (Steve Miller Band), '80s (Erykah Badu) and beyond. And some in the gay community who didn't become household names were among the best ever... and many still are.

So with Sue Ellen's 9th annual Music Festival kicking off on May 17, expect to see some veterans who don't appear enough in Dallas to show the youngsters how it's done.

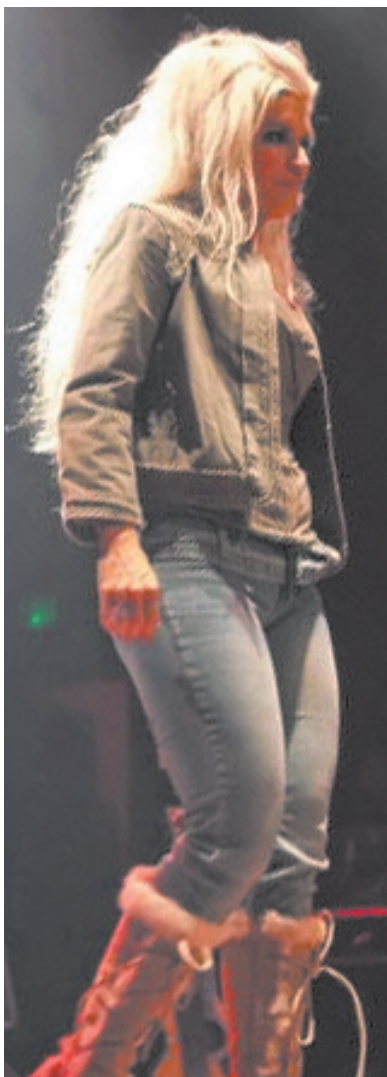
The festival's headliner, Deborah Vial, fled the heat of Texas for the sun of Maui more than a decade ago, but as anyone who has seen the hard-rocking Vial at one of her annual visits back in Dallas (last summer, at the House of Blues) knows that the chick can wail on a bluesy number like nobody's business. And she's not the only one — Hunter Valentine, Anton Shaw, Heather Know, Yoza and Barefoot Hippies are all on the ticket for the all-day concert that starts with doors opening at 1 p.m.

Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. May 17. 1 p.m. \$20-\$50. SueEllensDallas.com.

The men have their king as well, in the form of Gary Lynn Floyd. The honey-voiced singer-songwriter-pianist's delicate tenor has enough spiritual heft to get you believing again. And the current Los Angeles resident will give you a few opportunities to see it. First, he'll be tickling the ivories at Alexandre's for a late set on May 8, starting at 10 p.m. Then on May 19, Floyd will be the headliner at fellow singing legend Denise Lee's new cabaret series at the old Women's Museum space at Fair Park with When Gary Met Harry: The Music of Harry Warren. It starts at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road. May 8. 10 p.m.

Women's Museum at Fair Park, 3800 Parry Ave. May 19, 7 p.m. Free.



HIS AND HERS | Deborah Vial, above, headline the Sue Ellen's Music Festival May 17, and Gary Lynn Floyd, top, follows up with his cabaret two days later at the Women's Museum on May 19.



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Saturday 05.09

Out pro footballer Robbie Rogers takes on FC Dallas

In America — you know, the only place that matters — we all know football is played with pads and helmets, but in the rest of the world, football (what we call soccer) is a sport of shorts and tanktops. If you haven't seen FC Dallas, North Texas' major league soccer team play, this might be the time. On Saturday, they take on the L.A. Galaxy, and among the opponents will be Robbie Rogers, the first out active football... er, soccer star ... in the U.S. The question will be: Who do you root for?

DEETS: Toyota Stadium, 9200 World Cup Way, Frisco. 7:30 p.m. \$22-\$100. (Airs on KTXA, Ch. 21.) FCDallas.com



Saturday 05.09

AIDS Interfaith Network holds annual Bloomin' Ball fundraiser

AIDS Interfaith Network (AIN) has spent decades serving the HIV/AIDS community, and they couldn't do it without community support. And for years, that support has sprung during spring with the Bloomin' Ball. Themed Sowing Seeds of Hope, it will feature a cocktail party, dinner and entertainment, with Travis Gasper as the master of ceremonies, and Gary Lynn Floyd — whom we wrote about on Page 23 — as the event's music coordinator.

DEETS: Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. 5-10 p.m. \$150. AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org.

Saturday 05.09

DTC's Centerstage Gala welcomes Seth Rudetsky, Megan Hilty

The Dallas Theater Center is used to putting on big productions, but few are as big as their annual Centerstage Gala, a dinner and benefit featuring top-notch entertainment. This year's event includes performances by Broadway (*Wicked*) and TV (*Smash*) star Megan Hilty, and maaaaahvelous musician and raconteur Seth Rudetsky, pictured. And DJ Lucy Wrubel will spin at the after-party. But you gotta pay to play — tickets start at a grand each.

DEETS: Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St. 6 p.m. DallasTheaterCenter.org.



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ARTSWEEK

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Sense & Sensibility. Stage adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic comedy of manners. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

All My Sons. Arthur Miller's meditation on profiteering during WWII, with a strong performance by Terry Martin. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Avenue Q. The Tony-winning musical about sexually active puppets. Art Centre Theatre, 5220 Village Creek Drive, Plano. Through May 16. ArtCentreTheatre.com.

The Lady with All the Answers. Gay playwright David Rambo wrote this solo show about advice columnist Ann Landers. Starring Gene Raye Price. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. May 8–June 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Jackie & Me. Rene Moreno directs this play about a time-traveling kid who meets Jackie Robinson. Presented by Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through May 17. \$13–\$26. DCT.org.

The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild. A comedy about a movie fan losing touch with reality. *Final weekend.* Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Red. Gay playwright John Logan's Tony Award-winning play about expressionist painter Mark Rothko and the creative process. *Final weekend.* Stage West. 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

Newsies. Musical adaptation of the live-action Disney film about newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York.

Final weekend. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

I and You. Circle Theatre. 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through May 23. CircleTheatre.com.

Urinetown. The hilarious Tony Award winner about a bleak future where water is more valuable than gold. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through May 24. TheatreArlington.org.

The Liar. B.J. Cleveland directs this modern twist on a Corneille farce. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 31. Theatre3Dallas.com.

OPERA

Fort Worth Opera Festival. Performances of *Hamlet*, *La Traviata* and *Dog Days* at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., and Scott Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. For complete schedule and information, visit FWOpera.org.

COMEDY

Margaret Cho: There's No I in Team but There is Cho in Psycho. Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road, Ste. 250. May 8, 8 and 10:30 p.m., May 9, 7 and 9:30 p.m., May 10, 7:30 p.m. \$30–\$40. Addison.Improv.com.

FINE ART

Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga. A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 15. DMA.org.

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. The DMA's conservationists restore this



VIOLETTA'S FAREWELL | Saturday is the final performance of 'La Traviata,' one of the productions performed at this year's Fort Worth Opera Festival, which concludes Sunday.

MAY

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century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

EXHIBIT

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes. The Baker Street Irregulars are the focus of this elementary tribute to Sir A. Conan Doyle's enduring creation, the master consulting detective and cocaine addict. Includes interactive mystery-solving adventures. *Final weekend.* Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. PerotMuseum.org.

FESTIVAL

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 25 (weekends), 10 a.m.–7 p.m. \$25. SRFestival.com.

FRIDAY 05.08

COMMUNITY

Purple Party. The 15th annual series of parties begins a weekend of fun and fundraising. Visit PurpleFoundation.org for complete schedules.

High Tech Happy Hour — Cinco de Mayo Edition. It might be May 8, but it's not too late to appreciate Cinco de Mayo with specialty margaritas from Leann Berry at the monthly gay mixer. Komali, 4152 Cole St. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 05.09

SPORTS

FC Dallas vs. L.A. Galaxy. The professional soccer teams meet, with out Galaxy player Robbie Rogers in the lineup. Toyota Stadium, 3200 World Cup Way, Frisco. 7:30 p.m. FCDallas.com.

COMMUNITY

Bloomin' Ball. Annual fundraising dinner and party for AIDS Interfaith Network. Hilton Anatole, 2001 N. Stemmons Freeway. 5–10 p.m. From \$150. AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org.

SUNDAY 05.10

BROADCAST

Mad Men. The final season of the iconic drama about life in 1960s America. Airs on AMC at 8 p.m.

MONDAY 05.11

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race. The seventh season of the reality competition series continues. Airs on Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 05.12

FILM

Rebecca. Alfred Hitchcock's only Best Picture Oscar winner went to this romantic mystery about a tortured noble (Laurence Olivier) and the memory of his first wife. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.



A VIEW OF A BRIDGE | Out photographer Alex Remington opens his show Bridge at GR Home Furnishings on Thursday from 5–8 p.m.

THURSDAY 05.14

CONCERTS

New Kids on the Block Tour. The '80s boy band reunites. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7 p.m. AmericanAirlines.CenterDallas.org.

FINE ARTS

Alex Remington: Bridge. A photo exhibit inspired by large Marge. GR Home Furnishings, 1201 Oak Lawn Ave. 5–8 p.m. AlexRemington.com.

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Group outing at Havana's.



Friends at S4.



Show girls on The Strip.



Guys' night out at The Round-Up Saloon.

Making the SCENE the week of **May 8–May 14:**

Alexandre's: Gary Floyd at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Scott Bucklin Trio** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Chris Chism** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Liz Mikel** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: **Imperial Court Investitures XXVI** at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Brick/Joe's: **Rupaul's Drag Race** viewing with **Kennedy Davenport** in person and **Eric Way** hosts karaoke open mic at 9 p.m. and contest at 10:30 p.m. on Monday. Sexy dancers seven nights a week.

Candice Cayne appears on May 16.

Club Reflection: **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **TGRA** show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Cowtown Leathermen** game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Dallas Eagle: **Purple Party Roar** at 9 p.m. on Friday. **National Leather Association** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Nasty Pig Gear Night** and dance at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Bear Night** and **Bear of the Month** at 10 p.m. on Thursday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Cassie's Freak Show** on Monday.

Round-Up Saloon: **Does Your Mother Know 2015** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

S4: **Purple Party** on Friday.

Sue Ellen's: **Barefoot Hippies** (Urban Cowboy) on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3 p.m. on Sunday. **Susan Gibson** at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. **Purple Party Ending Event** at 10 p.m. on Sunday.

The Rose Room: **Rising Star** with **Layla** and **Patrick** on Thursday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: **Kat Haygood**.

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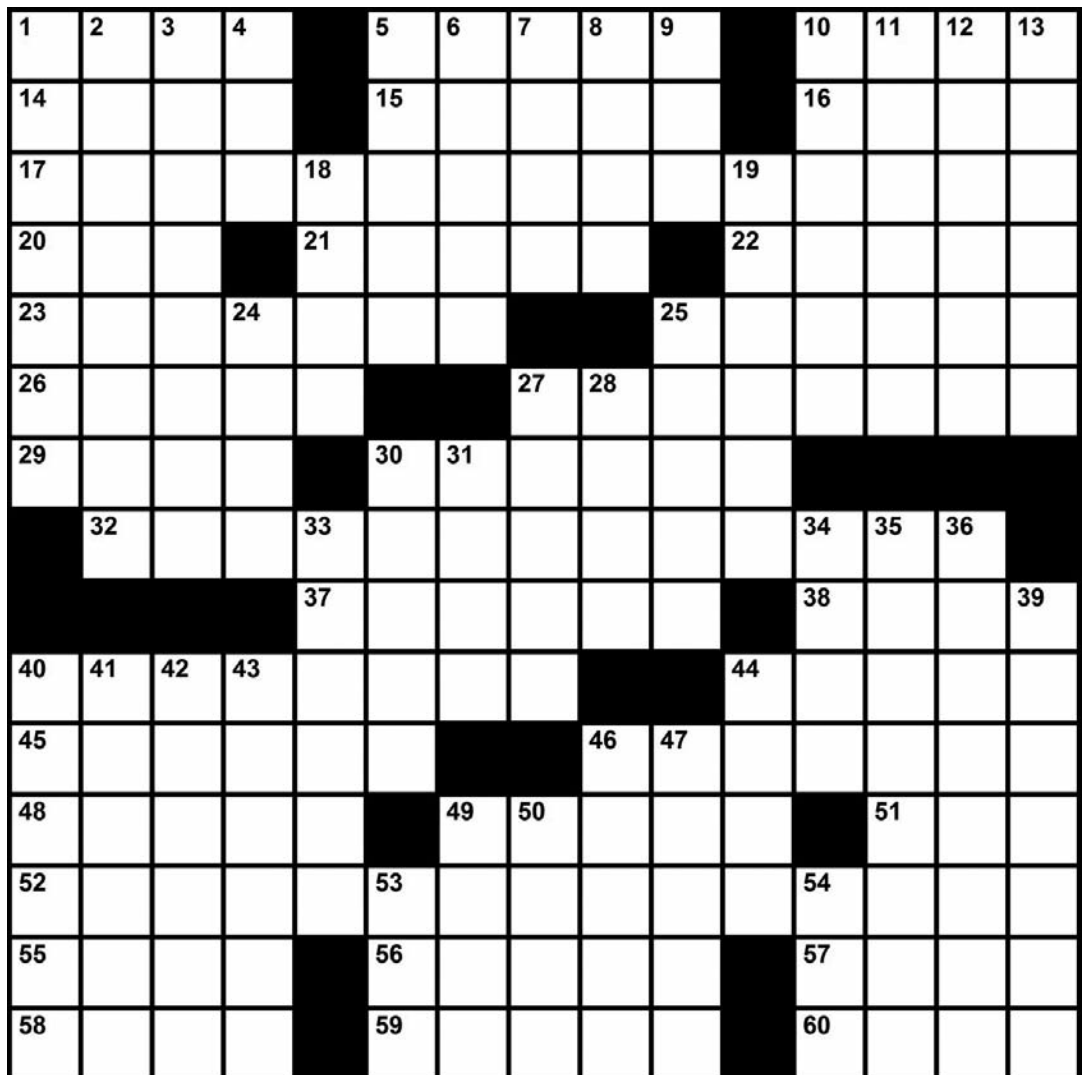
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q-puzzle



Orientation Identification

Solution on page 28

Across

- Lie beside
- Gold Olympic award for Megan Rapinoe
- "My stars!"
- Kelly McGillis' *The Monkey's* ____
- Shelley in *Popeye*
- Stow, as cargo
- Start of a quote from 32-Across
- Be in the hole
- Mishima, for one
- Like notebook paper
- Title woman in a 1925 Broadway hit
- Novelist de Balzac
- Prefix for da Vinci's land
- Got naked and wet
- Records, to Lambda Legal Defense
- Bundle up
- Movie about an overprotective parent
- One that reproduces without sex
- Shrinking sea
- Desperate Housewives* lane
- Hull section
- Words after honey
- Customer on *Six Feet Under*?
- Cathedral of Hope topper

Down

- Smelling salts ingredient
- Jason Simmons was a lifeguard in this TV show
- Tammy Baldwin's body?
- WBA decision
- Excited
- Interior designer de Wolfe
- Merrill who played with Dick Sargent in *Operation Petticoat*
- Shakespearean stream
- Give the green light
- Noble or Valby
- "I Will Survive" singer Gloria
- Stick fast
- Signed over
- Western defense gp.
- Look from Judi Dench in *Notes on a Scandal*
- Carrier to Tel Aviv
- Hang around
- Mapplethorpe's "Dark ____ Rose"
- Type of crime
- Bernstein manuscript, e.g.
- Native American tongue
- Male deliverers
- Despina, in *Così fan tutte*
- Allen Ginsberg partner Peter
- Captains of industry
- A Girl Thing* director
- Smarts
- Make obligatory
- Most bashful
- Trunks of sculpture
- Inconsequential upturn
- Bars of soap
- Black pussy cats, e.g.
- Epithet
- Like some bad shots by Mauresmo
- Ben Vereen forte
- Adverb for Lord Byron

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Location: Discovery Green park, Downtown. Photo Credit: Spenser Harrison.