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07.04.14 • dallasvoice
Police investigating hate as possible motive for graffiti as more taggings found

Dallas Police are looking into hate as a possible motive for graffiti found early Sunday around Oak Lawn Avenue, but its video did not catch activity at the Observer building across the street.

Officer W.C. Humphrey, who attended the press conference, told Dallas Voice that graffiti is not unusual, but the particular “666” message at the specific sites is unusual.

Jarse said anyone with information about these or additional taggings should contact Dallas LGBT police liaison Laura Martin at 214-490-0541.

Truth in Progress funding documentary with Kickstarter

Marilyn Bennett, a white lesbian author and activist and former Dallas resident, and the Rev. Gil Caldwell, a retired black minister, first met when they were arrested together during an act of civil disobedience in Cleveland in 2000. That meeting began a dialog between the two on issues of race, sexual orientation, faith and justice that has lasted ever since. Out of that dialog was born Truth In Progress, a “multimedia project dealing with issues of race, sexual orientation and religion” that takes “a special look at the similar yet different experiences and histories of the black civil rights and LGBT rights movements.”

Also out of that dialog came the idea for “From Selma to Stonewall,” a 30-minute documentary that links the struggles of two communities fighting for civil rights. Now Marilyn and Gil are asking for their communities to help out by contributing to the Kickstarter campaign, launched earlier this month, to fund the production and distribution of the film. You can watch a trailer for the film below.

There are a number of folks working on the documentary, including Dallas filmmaker and activist Cd Kirven. She joins Director of Photography/Film editor Tonya Easbey, web guru Steffen Rasile, author Krys Holmes, the Montana Human Rights Network, Philadelphia filmmaker Phil Katz, Chicago filmmaker Ky Dickens and activist/storyteller Long Time Holy Rain — along, of course, with Bennett and Caldwell.

Maybe they should call it Burger Queen?

Continuing with our run-up to Friday’s Food Issue, we have this gem from San Francisco, an object lesson in gay-friendly marketing.

The Burger King corporation decided to sell a “Proud Whopper” — a “gay burger” offered only in the City by the Bay, and only for a few days. And they didn’t even change the formulation at all. But that’s not the point. In fact, it’s kind of the exact opposite of the point.

By selling the exact same burger, only with a rainbow wrapper, during S.F. Pride, Burger King sent a clear message — one they even spelled out on the wrapper itself: “We are all the same inside.”

The San Francisco location can sell a pretty finite number of burgers in the time frame, but it’s funny how a wrapper — and a welcoming attitude — can raise brand awareness in a demographic.

Are you more inclined to go to Burger King now?
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PC/CD Dems to hear program on drought

Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats meet Saturday, July 5, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the University Park Public Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza, Ste. 200, in University Park.

Guest speaker will be Al Armendariz with the Sierra Club and regional director of the Environmental Protection Agency, speaking on “Climate Change and the Texas Drought.”

For information email mortonisis@aol.com.

No-Refusal weekend in Dallas

The Dallas Police Department is conducting a “No-Refusal DWI Initiative” throughout the Independence Day holiday weekend. The initiative began at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 3 and will run through 6 a.m. Monday, July 7.

During the “No-Refusal DWI Initiative,” officers will secure a search warrant for a blood sample from all persons arrested for DWI who refuse to voluntarily give a breath and/or blood sample.

Gaybingo early birds get a chance at GaGa tickets

Everyone who purchases a ticket online by noon on Thursday, July 10 for the Summer Camp Gaybingo on July 19 will be entered in a drawing for two tickets to Lady Gaga’s July 17 concert at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, thanks to ticket vendor LiveNation.

Winners, selected at random, will be announced at 2 p.m. that same day on the Gaybingo Facebook page.

Camp Glitter on Sparkle Lake Summer Camp Gaybingo, hosted by camp counselors Patti Le Plae Safe, Jada Pinkett Fox and Chris Gregory, will be held at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs, on Saturday, July 19. Doors open at 5 p.m., play starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are $25 per person for general admission, $30 per person for preferred table seating and $40 per person for VIP seating, available at dallasshark.org/events/event-calendar/gaybingo-dallas.

Charitable raffle sponsor for July is Uptown Players, raffling off a pair of season tickets.

TCC wins Life Improvement Challenge Grant from IKEA Frisco

Turtle Creek Chorale has won the IKEA Life Improvement Challenge Grant provided by IKEA Frisco, which honored the Chorale for its contributions in artistic performance in the Dallas community.

The grant will support the creation of a music library to help TCC better serve the musical community and allow the Chorale to strengthen its partnerships with local organizations by sharing more than 750 musical compilations, along with enhancing educational programming for local high school students.

pet of the week / ROGER

Roger is a 5-year-old German shepherd mix with a perfect disposition. He’s confident, intelligent and calm; he likes other dogs, is very gentle and appears to be housebroken. He even sits on command. He’s been at the shelter since June 12, so his adoption fee has been waived. Pay him a visit and see for yourself at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland Rd., Dallas, TX 75212. Ask for Roger, ID# A840268.

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Watkins’ team holds meeting at Resource Center to introduce itself to the community

MATTHEW SHAW  |  Special Contributor

Members of Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins’ newly-formed LGBT Task Force told those attending a June 30 town hall meeting at Resource Center that the justice system is there to protect them.

Watkins got the idea to create the task force after learning that the city’s LGBT residents are often afraid to report crimes committed against them, said task force member James Tate.

Watkins said creating the task force “really gives us an opportunity to address issues.” He added, “We are there to protect you just like we are there to protect all citizens of Dallas County.”

Task force members attending the meeting included Community Relations Manager James Tate; Assistant District Attorneys Ellyce Lindberg, Justin Lord and Craig McNeil; Investigator Tonia Silva and Senior Clinician and Case- worker Renee Breazeale. Members who were not present were Victim Services Advocate Raquel Mayhorn and Investigator Edith Santos.

According to the website for Watkins’ office, this task force is the first of its kind for the Dallas County DA’s Office, and it was “created to specifically address concerns within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.”

The website says the task force’s mission is to “fortify a continued relationship with the LGBT community and Dallas County communities at-large.” It includes prosecutors, an investigator, a senior case worker, a victim advocate and a spokesperson who “work jointly to increase communication and awareness between the District Attorney’s office and the LGBT community,” according to the website. “The Task Force will advise on issues that affect LGBT interests and safety, and will serve as an advisor to address needs within victim services.”

Lindberg talked about the process of trying cases, explaining that the DA’s Office doesn’t prosecute cases just in Dallas. She noted that 26 cities and 42 agencies — such as Parkland Hospital — generate cases that feed into Dallas County.

“All of those different cities, when any kind of crime happens, from a Class B misdemeanor or above, come down to Dallas County,” Lindberg said.

Every felony case has to go before a 12-person grand jury to get an indictment. Then prosecutors have to prove “beyond a reasonable doubt” that the accused is definitely the one who committed the crime.

“That’s the highest standard in the law that exists,” Lindberg said. “We struggle with that on a daily basis.”

That same burden of proof, Lord noted, applies to getting convictions in hate crime cases, too. He said that the hate crimes law is “basically a punishment enhancement statute,” and that prosecutors have to prove to the jury that the defendant committed the crime out of “bias or prejudice against a group identified by race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender or sexual preference.”

Lord cited the recent graffiti incidences in Oak Lawn as an example. Normally, defacing a public monument with graffiti is a state jail felony punishable by up to 180 days to two years in jail. If the graffiti is motivated by hate, however, the crime becomes a third degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

“We want everybody in the community to know that we’re all about fighting for justice, and we’re on the side of the victim,” Lord said. “And anybody who is the victim of a crime … should feel absolutely free to come to us and expect us to prosecute, and we will. And we can’t do it without cooperation.”

Activist Oliver Blumer, a Dallas County resident, attended the June 30 meeting and commended Watkins for creating the task force. But Blumer criticized use of the singular term “community.”

“They’re all trying to be politically correct, but it’s really a default term for them because they don’t really know where to start,” he said. “It’s not just ‘community.’ It’s ‘communities.’ This is just the start to working towards intersectionality.”

The task force can be contacted at lgbt@dallasda.com, and the DA’s office can be found at facebook.com/dallasda, at @dallasda on Twitter and on Instagram.
Blue Cross refuses to ship some HIV drugs to certain doctors

Dr. Jaime Vasquez accuses Accredo of recommending a drug that is cheaper but not indicated for treatment of HIV-related symptom

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Two of Texas' most experienced AIDS physicians say Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has refused to ship certain specialty medications they ordered to them because the doctors also offer cosmetic treatments.

Specialty medications, including some used in treating HIV and AIDS, often aren't readily available through neighborhood pharmacies. Because of the costs associated with those drugs, insurance companies control their distribution, sometimes distributing the medications through their own pharmacies.

But spokespeople with Dr. Steven Pounders and Dr. Jaime Vasquez say this system has forced them to refer patients needing some medications to specialists.

Chris Brown, Pounders' medical assistant, said that two such drugs are Egrifta and Serostim, injectibles that are used in treating the wasting syndrome associated with AIDS. Accredo, Blue Cross' pharmacy, ships the two medications to physicians for infusion. But the pharmacy won't ship them to Pounders.

"They're refusing to ship because [Pounders] does cosmetics as well," Brown said.

Brown said the two drugs are used to treat conditions related to HIV and side effects of HIV medications. Egrifta treats excess abdominal fat that occurs in some people on HIV medication. Serostim treats AIDS-related wasting. He said patients are prescribed Egrifta until they lose the excess weight, but patients might be prescribed Serostim for the rest of their lives.

But, Brown added, both drugs are also often used in cosmetic procedures that are not medically necessary and therefore not covered by insurance.

Jeanette Grant, who works in the office of Dr. Jaime Vasquez, said Accredo also refuses to ship Serostim to Vasquez's office because the pharmacy assumes the drug is being used for off-label body-building purposes.

"We had to refer patients out to an endocrinologist," Grant said.

But doctors do cosmetic procedures. But both are also well known for their infectious disease practices.

Brown said Accredo also ships Botox, adding that “Blue Cross is blacklisting any doctor who also does dermatology.”

He said this isn’t something that started with the new Affordable Care Act rules that kicked in this year, but last year when Accredo refused to ship the drugs, they found a way around it. This year, they haven’t been able to.

Grant said Blue Cross refused to fill a Serostim order Vasquez's office place, recommending another drug, Omnitrope, instead. Omnitrope is used to treat anemia, she said, but is not indicated for use with AIDS-related wasting syndrome and no study has been done to show it would be an effective treatment for it.

Brown said last year Blue Cross suggested using the much cheaper appetite-stimulator Marinol, but eventually shipped Serostim when other medications failed. He said Blue Cross even claimed they turned down filling the prescription because they saw on Pounders' website that he does cosmetic procedure.

At the time, Brown said, his office had no website.

Both Vasquez and Pounders have been treating HIV for years and are considered two of the experts in the field in North Texas. Pounders treated Dallas Buyers Club founder Ron Woodroof. In the 2013 film about Woodroof's life, titled Dallas Buyers Club, Pounders was portrayed as a female doctor, played by Jennifer Garner.

Blue Cross spokeswoman Margaret Jarvis sent a written statement that said, "Benefit coverage, including for prescription medications, varies among plans," and directed individuals with questions about their coverage to call the number on the back of their Blue Cross card.

"We recognize the opportunities presented by innovations in specialty drugs and other treatments and the value they can bring as we work to improve the health of our members," Jarvis said. "With input from physicians and researchers, our medical staff constantly reviews the effectiveness of various medications, including Serostim and Omnitrope, to produce the best and most cost-effective outcomes. Both of these prescription medications are covered by BCBSTX."

While there is no question Omnitrope is cheaper, Jarvis did not address the issue of Accredo recommending the drug when it is not indicated for treatment of AIDS-related wasting. She also did not say whether AIDS physicians who also do cosmetic procedures are flagged and refused specialty medications.
Party calls reparative therapy ‘quackery’ and calls for ENDA, marriage equality and facilitating trans gender markers

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The platform that emerged from the Democratic Convention held in Dallas on June 26–28 stands in stark contrast to that of the Texas Republican platform, which encouraged reparative therapy to “cure” gays.

So does the reception Stonewall Democrats received at the convention compared to the Republican rebuffing of Log Cabin Republicans and Metroplex Republicans at their Fort Worth convention earlier in June.

Log Cabin was refused a table at the GOP Convention, as were Metroplex Republicans, who were originally given a table until party officials learned they were also an LGBT group. But at the Democratic Convention in Dallas, Stonewall Democrats were warmly welcomed. While other caucuses were assigned meeting rooms, Stonewall’s caucus was so large, the group was given the main convention hall in which to meet.

Gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis, lieutenant governor nominee Leticia van de Putte and most other statewide office candidates, as well as a number of elected officials, addressed the LGBT caucus. Houston Mayor Annise Parker introduced some of the 11 LGBT candidates running for local office in Harris County that includes her city.

The Democratic platform clearly distinguishes its party’s position on LGBT issues in Texas from the Republicans’ platform, which calls for “reparative therapy” for LGBT people.

“For decades it has been beyond dispute by health professionals that homosexuality is a normal, natural and positive variation of human sexual orientation,” the Democratic platform says. “Similarly, it is clear that a person’s gender identity—one’s inner sense of being male or female—is deep-seated and cannot be changed.”

Jeff Strater, a gay delegate, was elected to serve on the state Democratic Executive Committee from Senate District 23. He said he was overwhelmed by Democrats’ response to the Republican platform.

“For decades it has been beyond dispute by health professionals that homosexuality is a normal, natural and positive variation of human sexual orientation,” the Democratic platform says. “Similarly, it is clear that a person’s gender identity—one’s inner sense of being male or female—is deep-seated and cannot be changed.”

Jeff Strater, a gay delegate, was elected to serve on the state Democratic Executive Committee from Senate District 23. He said he was overwhelmed by Democrats’ response to the Republican platform.

“LGBTQ mentions are peppered throughout the [Democratic] platform,” Strater said, adding that each plank in the platform was passed by the entire convention. “There were no holdouts, no cranky ‘no’s’ from East Texas.”

Gay former state Rep. Glen Maxey said he was impressed by the planks submitted by the trans community that passed just as easily as the others. Those planks call for making it easier for a person to change gender information on their state identification.

While LGBT issues are mentioned elsewhere in the Democratic platform, there is one whole section devoted to “personal security and equal protection for LGBTQ Texans.”

Had Texas Republicans not made so-called “reparative therapy” an issue by calling for it in their state party platform, Strater said, most Democrats would likely not have given the concept a second thought. But with the GOP platform making headlines on the subject, reparative therapy ended up being included in the first section in the Dems’ platform relating to the LGBT community. Democrats want to ban the practice — referred to as “quackery” in their platform.

Jay Narey, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, said, “Democrats stand in stark contrast to Republicans — like day and night.” He said the reparative therapy issue was just the obvious contrast, but positive platform planks on issues affecting everyday life in the LGBT community were also passed overwhelmingly.

Other planks Democrats adopted dealt with marriage equality, trans-inclusive employment nondiscrimination and personal security that call on “social, health care and public service professionals to seek out and adopt best practices in the delivery of services to all Texans.”

Narey estimated at least 300 LGBT delegates participated, but hundreds more allies also attended Stonewall events.

“There’s been a dramatic shift on our issues over the last four election cycles,” Narey said. “State Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa is extremely supportive of the LGBT community. He’s largely responsible” for that shift.

Strater said he was energized and motivated as a result of the convention and made quite a few new contacts that he’ll call on through the campaign. His only negative comment about the weekend concerned the Ladybird Johnson breakfast: “When [anti-gay Dallas City Councilwoman] Vonceil Jones Hill was introduced to give the prayer, there were gasps from the audience,” he said.
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STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safe sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency.** Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.

- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.** In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.

- **For a list of brand names for these medicines, please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.**

- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, or the medicine adeefovir (Hepsera®).**

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.

- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.

- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).

- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.

- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.

- **If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed.** Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with important warnings on the following pages.
STIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIKIL®?

- STRIKIL® is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIKIL® is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- STRIKIL® does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others. Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIKIL®?

STRIKIL® can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIKIL® or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:
   - feel very weak or tired
   - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
   - have trouble breathing
   - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
   - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
   - feel dizzy or lightheaded
   - have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIKIL®. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:
   - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
   - dark “tea-colored” urine
   - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
   - loss of appetite for several days or longer
   - nausea
   - stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIKIL® for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIKIL®, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIKIL®. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

Do not run out of STRIKIL®. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIKIL® is all gone.

Do not stop taking STRIKIL® without first talking to your healthcare provider.

If you stop taking STRIKIL®, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIKIL®.

Who should not take STRIKIL®?

Do not take STRIKIL® if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cispred (Propulsid®, Propulsid QuickSolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migraanal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migretex®, Ergost®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergometrine®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advair®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- piroxicam (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifaxim®, Rifamate®, Rifaxer®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s Wort

Do not take STRIKIL® if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIKIL® is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIKIL®?

STRIKIL® may cause the following serious side effects:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIKIL?”

- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIKIL®. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIKIL® if you develop new or worse kidney problems.

- Bone problems can happen in some people who take STRIKIL®. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection

- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
  - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - None of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to breastfeed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Hormone-based birth control (gels, patches, rings, shots, etc)
  - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
  - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
  - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
  - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
  - bosentan (Tracleer®)
  - buspirone
  - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpa®)
  - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
  - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
  - colchicine (Colcrys®)
  - medicines that contain dexamethasone
  - diazepam (Valium®)
  - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
  - disopyramide (Norpace®)
  - estazolam
  - ethosuximide (Zarontin®)

- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serentil®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that lasts longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- taladafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edluar®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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Food Pantry lists needs

More than 2,000 HIV-positive people accessed Resource Center program last year

BY TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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In 2012, 49 million Americans lived in “food insecure households,” according to statistics posted on the North Texas Food Bank’s website. Disabilities — including HIV/AIDS — are associated with higher risk for food insecurity, the website notes, and nearly one in three food insecure households include a working-age adult with a disability.

The purpose of Resource Center Food Pantry, part of the center’s Nutrition Program which also includes the Hot Meals Program, is to combat hunger among those with HIV/AIDS. In the 12-month period ending on Sept. 30 last year, the pantry had done just that for more than 2,100 HIV-positive people. Of these individuals, 1,653 — or 60 percent — had incomes at or below the federal poverty level of $11,490 per year.

According to statistics provided by Food Pantry Manager Daniel Sanchez, the pantry served 1,961 clients with 31,880 weekly pantry visits. Clients are allowed one visit per week, and can make their own selections from among the available items, “within limits established for inventory control and fairness,” according to information Sanchez provided.

During that same year, the center’s Hot Meals Program served 18,443 lunches to 1,079 people with HIV at the Resource Center Community Center, 2701 Reagan. This program provides many clients with their only hot meal of the day, while at the same time giving them “their only chance for stigma-free social interactions,” center officials said.

Both programs are kept afloat by volunteers, donations and the support of the community, said Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center. The Food Pantry gets much of its stock from the North Texas Food Bank, but the pantry is always in need of donations, as well, he said.

“Our needs are fairly consistent throughout the year,” McDonnell said. But events in other parts of the country, or even the world, can have an impact on the food supply that “trickles down” to the Food Pantry, he said.

“We are headed into the summer storm season, and sometimes when a major storm or some other disaster hits, then the food supply system shifts to disaster mode,” McDonnell said. “When that happens, food we would have had access to is sent to these other locations.

“For instance, in 2012 when Superstorm Sandy hit the east coast, the only kind of meat we could get here were lamb trotters, which are the front legs of a lamb. And lamb is not something a lot of people like,” McDonnell said.

Such events can also cause local donations to the Food Pantry to take a dip, he added, since people shift their donations to disaster relief efforts.

But even under normal circumstances, McDonnell said, the Food Pantry is always in need of certain kinds of donations.

“We are always looking for donations of items we can’t get” from NTFB. That includes things like sauces, ketchup, mustard, spices — “the things you put in your foods to give them flavor,” he said. “We have clients that are gluten-intolerant, so we need gluten-free donations. And of course, we always need the protein items; peanut butter is one of our most cyclical items.”

McDonnell said Nutrition Program officials are also “working aggressively to get in-kind donations” to broaden the variety of items the Hot Meals Program can offer its clients. Seven different Starbucks locations in Dallas have recently agreed to donate surplus pastries each day, and Whole Foods Market has agreed to donate its fresh cut fruits that do not sell to the program. Brinker International restaurant chain has also agreed to donate some of its “just-in-time-dated” foods — canned foods that are reaching their expiration date.

According to information provided by Sanchez, the pantry currently needs:

- Shelf-stable proteins such as canned tuna, chicken or salmon, Vienna sausages or deviled ham, chili, stews, meaty soups, mac and cheese and canned pastas with meat.
- Instant meals such as ramen, protein bars, soup cups and protein supplements.
- Breakfast cereals, including dry cereals, oatmeal and instant oatmeal.
- Canned fruits and vegetables.
- Meal “fixings,” including items like canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, marinara sauce, condiments, picante sauce, cooking sauces and spices.

Sanchez noted about 30 percent of the clients the pantry serves are homeless or in unstable housing situations. Those homeless clients, he said, can best utilize small or single-serving-size containers, preferably with pop-tops.

In addition to donations of food items, the Nutrition Program can also use volunteers from the community, McDonnell said. He said anyone interested in volunteering can contact Sanchez at 528-0744.

Donations can be dropped off at the Resource Center Food Pantry, 5450 Denton Drive Cut-off, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Mondays or between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays. Donations can also be taken to Resource Center Community Center, 2701 Reagan St., between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, or between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturdays.
New restaurants opening, but at least 1 landmark is closing its doors

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Daily Juice is the latest entry in the Cedar Springs Road dining category. Located in the space formerly occupied by Buli, the outdoor patio remains recognizable, but the interior has undergone a complete makeover.

Co-owner Joe Berry also owns Winslow’s Wine Cafe on Camp Bowie Boulevard in Fort Worth.

Daily Juice is a juice bar that features a rotating selection of exotic salads. Earlier this week, the choices included quinoa korma, zucchini alfredo and fire kale.

Store manager James Mayfield described the drinks as “authentic, nurturing, energy.”

“We’re already developing a following,” Berry said after a soft opening a week ago. He said a more formal opening will be planned after he and Mayfield get all the kinks out.

This is Daily Juice’s third location after the flagship store in Austin and a newly opened shop near the Houston Galleria. Berry has plans for as many as 10 stores around Dallas.

Daily Juice isn’t the only new restaurant opening on Cedar Springs Road. A Mexican restaurant is beginning permitting and buildout in the corner space formerly home to Nuvo.

In Ilume, Ai Sushi Sake Grill opened in the corner space formerly operated as Monica’s. Xamacha, another Mexican food entry, plans to open this weekend several doors down from Ai.

Xamacha is the third Mexican restaurant to open on the strip this year. Mattito’s, which has had several locations in and around Oak Lawn, moved to The Centrum recently after extensive renovations to the facade.

Mattito’s location on the corner of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs now features an outdoor patio and glass wall in what had always been a granite wall closing the space off from the busy intersection along the Strip.

Several blocks down Oak Lawn Avenue, Dyllon Elchami promises something really different when his new restaurant, Scotch and Sausage, opens in mid-July.

“We’re serving only exotic sausage sandwiches from locally crafted, small batches from our own recipes,” Elchami said.

By exotic, he meant sausage fashioned from recipes that include buffalo, South Texas antelope or quail.

He’s transformed the building that was a drab cement attorney’s office with freshly polished wood and other updated features but will retain some of the building’s industrial look.

Elchami said he loves the irony that earlier in the building’s life, it served as a drug and alcohol treatment center with bars on the windows — he’ll be serving 21 varieties of craft beer and have a “pre-Prohibition-style bar” offering only four or five specific cocktails.

For those who lament The Hideaway’s inability to reopen, Elchami is turning his back room into a lounge with live music that will be open until 4 a.m.

On the other end of Oak Lawn Avenue, Good Eats, which has been in its current location in Turtle Creek Village since 1986, closes July 17. One of the office towers in the shopping center has already been torn down. Most of the other retail spaces have been leveled or are shells. All that remains is the restaurant, World Market and Inwood National Bank.

The landlord is redeveloping the property and wants to put retail where Good Eats now stands, so the owners refused to renew the lease for the restaurant.

The manager of Good Eats said employees won’t be losing their jobs while management looks for another location somewhere in Oak Lawn. The staff will be disbursed among other company restaurants like nearby Lucky’s, El Chico or one of their other branded establishments.

While other locations are available in Oak Lawn, few offer enough parking to accommodate a restaurant. Dallas ordinances require restaurants and bars to provide twice the parking retailers must offer.

Changing dining scene in Oak Lawn

REFRESHING | Joe Berry, left, and James Mayfield are getting the kinks out at Daily Juice before scheduling an official grand opening.

(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)
Lesbian brigadier general addresses first Pride gathering at Texas Army base

BY IRENE ANDREWS | Special Contributor

History was made in Killeen, Texas, when Fort Hood, the largest Army base in the free world, held its first Pride month celebration on June 25.

My wife and I carpooled with several LGBTQ and straight allies to Fort Hood, for the event, which took place in the Club Hood Grande Ballroom.

Sgt. Major Michael Horton and her wife were among the mixed — military/civilian — couples there. Sgt. Major Horton said, “I am here to help support our Pride month. We have seen a big change in the Army and it has made it a better unit, a better force.”

Her wife, Consuela Jackson Horton, added, “I’m here to show support and I’m actually very excited to see the military community coming together as one.”

I was able to catch up with Capt. Robert W. Caruso, a chaplain, who said, “I’m here because this is a momentous event. It’s historical, and I’m excited about it. I’m a gay man, out of the closet, and I’ve been a chaplain for two years, after seven years serving in ordained ministry as a civilian, and I am now married to my partner John.”

Brigadier Gen. Tammy Smith was the guest speaker. She was the first LGBT Army member to have her wife, Tracey Hepner, promote her, as is the tradition for a service member’s spouse to do. This action was their “coming out” moment.

Smith shared her deeply personal struggle to live “two separate lives” for more than 24 years while serving in the military; until she met and fell in love with Tracey. Smith said she nearly walked away from a distinguished military career because she could no longer deal with the stress of lying about who she was. She refused to disrespect her wife and their relationship by denying their love and commitment. Shortly before she was set to retire, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell was repealed and Smith decided not to leave the army. She and Tracey proudly live on base in a family housing unit.

For Andrews’ complete report and more photos, visit DallasVoice.com.
Activist and former Dallasite Jesús Chairez reports in from Pasea de la Reforma

BY JESÚS CHAIREZ | Special Contributor

A huge crowd attended Mexico City’s 36th annual Gay Pride Parade, officially known as the Marcha del Orgullo Lésbico, Gay, Bisexual, Transgénero, Travesti, Transsexual e Intersexual, on June 28.

Organizers had said they expected a million people to attend this year’s event, and it looked like they got their crowd. As far as the eyes could see, to the right and to the left, Paseo de la Reforma was wall-to-wall LGBT Mexicans.

The Pride Parade began at the Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City’s gayborhood, La Zona Rosa, and ended at the historical city square, El Zócalo, in front of the Presidential Palace and Mexico City’s main Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral.

The parade is a really a march — la marcha gay — because there are no metal street barriers keeping people back from parade entries. People actually start walking alongside their favorite bar or community organization.

Or they just walk when the mood moves them — and many were moved.

Former Dallasite Mario de la Luz, who now lives in Puebla City, Puebla, Mexico, participated in Mexico City’s Pride events for the first time this year. De la Luz said that although he had always enjoyed Dallas’ parade, he was most amazed and proud to see the number of LGBT Mexicans on the streets in a country he once believed was so very closeted.

Jesús Chairez is gay Latino activist and freelance writer. He created, produced and hosted the United States’ first two-hour LGBT Latino radio show, Sin Fronteras, which aired on KNON 89.3 FM in Dallas from 1993 to 2005. Chairez now resides in México City and may be reached at chairezstudio@gmail.com

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Democrats’ ‘Texas Promise’ includes LGBTQ community

Stonewall Caucus received a warm welcome at the Texas Democratic Convention

The LGBTQ community is used to being left out of the “bright future” that the Texas Republican Party talks about. This year Texas Republicans denied Log Cabin Republicans a booth at the Texas Republican Convention, and delegates once again voted to spread misinformation about our community and our contributions to society through their platform.

That may be their vision for the future. But it’s not the future Texas deserves.

Last weekend, the Stonewall Democratic Caucus attended the Texas Democratic Convention. And although the convention is over, our community is still celebrating its acceptance by convention attendees and the progress the Texas Democratic Party has made.

The theme for the Democratic Convention was “A Texas Promise.” Following the highly divisive Republican gathering, I was expecting Texas Democrats to draw stark contrasts between themselves and close-minded Texas Republicans. I was not disappointed.

The Texas Democratic Party not only put the Republican Party to shame by emphasizing the importance of our contributions to our local communities, but also ensured all LGBTQ delegates knew that they were valued attendees of the convention. We were not expecting the 6,000-plus delegates to follow suit and make us feel just important and welcome.

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus (TSDC) is a general-purpose political committee and the official lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) caucus of the Texas Democratic Party. We promote civil rights throughout the state of Texas through grassroots-based organization.

This year, the TSDC celebrated more than 20 years of personal progress at the convention and reflected on how far we’ve come. We kicked off the convention by hosting the “Blue After Party,” with more than 500 delegates. We celebrated equality and heard from the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, from Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa, from Texas Democratic Convention Chair Sen. Royce West, and from U.S. Senate Democratic nominee Dr. David Alameel.

As soon as the convention was called together, TSDC members lead LGBTQ delegates in chanting “We don't need fixin’” as we marched onto the floor. Our community had heard that the Texas Democratic Party came out against the toxic plank of the Texas Republican Party Platform that supports voluntary psychological “reparative therapy” to convert homosexuals to heterosexuals, but we were blown away when we heard Sen. West shout from the stage, “We are here for you,” and when we saw the center full of delegates applaud and stand in solidarity with us.

After the warm welcome TSDC received, we returned to the convention floor for our caucus meeting with 350 LGBTQ delegates and were treated to speeches by the Democratic nominee for governor, Sen. Wendy Davis, Sen. Van de Putte and Congressman Al Green.

The Texas Democratic Party shares the values of opportunity, fairness and freedom with everyday Texans. In our platform, we don’t condemn an entire community to live a lie just to make others comfortable; we open our gates and take you as you are.

Our platform declares that no matter your age, you should feel safe expressing yourself, that you should be able to get and keep a job based on merit, and that under no circumstances should anyone tell you that you cannot marry who you love.

The platform approved by thousands of Texas Democrats from all across our great state does not say we are broken and need to be fixed. It simply says if you believe in equality and justice for all, work with us to fulfill the “Texas Promise.”

This November, as a community have a choice. We can take a gamble on the Texas Republican Party and see what rights they want to take away from us. We can work with them to make sure that only the Texans who look, think and act like them can access to the American Dream.

Or we can stand with the Texas Democratic Party and stay true to ourselves and our values. We can stand with the leaders who will elevate everyone in Texas and when we saw the center full of delegates applaud and stand in solidarity with us.

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The Food Issue

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Our peaches are small,” says the farmer from Southeast Collin County, having picked the fruit from her own mother’s trees, “but that’s because we don’t use any fertilizers. It’s all organic.”

You get the sense that the vendors — farmers, candle-makers, cooks, canners and soap-makers among them — who take a booth at the Oak Lawn Farmers Market are used to being both entrepreneur and educator. They not only have to attract customers, they have to explain to them why their produce and other products are worth the premium.

Consider: One single juicy Cherokee purple heirloom tomato from Baugh Farms can set you back several dollars. One. But look at it — dusky, earthen-colored and ripe with green shoulders, almost pregnant with succulent, scarlet flesh inside. (It clocks in at about a pound on the scale.) This isn’t just a fruit meant to garnish a hamburger or disguise within a salad; it’s a meal in itself.

That’s the kind of excitement you can find at the OLFM, a summer pop-up located in the open lot behind the Oak Lawn United Methodist Church near the intersection of Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn. It’s a brief window — just three months (it will end by September) between 8 a.m. and noon on Saturdays only. Now in its second year, though, it has already become a welcome addition to the gayborhood.

Charlie Baugh, the son who mans the OLFM stand for his parents’ Canton farm, is in his second year here, and while there’s room for the market to expand, he’s been pleased by the repeat business. (The Baugh family also sets up shop at the markets near Trinity Groves, in McKinney and elsewhere around North Texas. “Fridays are chaos,” he drawls in a soft East Texas accent.)

Designs by Diana’s Diana Loring, another regular, does a steady business selling her homemade preserves, jellies, relishes and salsas. All are hand-chopped, from the fruits in the jams to the corn in the chow-chow to the cucumbers in the pickles.

“My grandmother taught me to can at an early age, and now I [produce] about 200 cans a week,” she says.

The variety Loring offers is staggering, from her own favorite, strawberry jelly (sometimes gussied up with jalapeno, rhubarb or other items), to her “SweetFire,” a proprietary blend of pickled peppers that is so versatile it can be added to everything from an omelet to a pizza to a burger, to make the most ordinary meal come alive. And best of all, you know the very person who made it for you.

“The spices and herbs I used are from my garden,” Loring says. (She sources the fruits and vegetables locally as well, some grown on her own property.) And because most sellers here have to look you in the eye, they tend to give you the best. Loring was
expecting to have her fig preserves ready by the end of June, but when they weren’t up to her standards, she held off picking them (they could be available as early as next week).

It’s not just food sellers who enjoy the OLFM. Beau Tye, the gay-owned Dallas company that produces hand-made beauty and body products from shaving balms to fragrances to bath salts and lotions, is also in its second year here. “It’s a great location,” says George, who’s manning the booth this week. “There’s a density of people who don’t want to go downtown and fight for parking. We’ve thought for years that Oak Lawn needed a farmer’s market — it’s so walkable. But people need to find out about us!”

It’s a natural fit for a farmer’s market to sell such artisan items, even if they aren’t edibles. Products are from sustainable sources with no petroleum in any of the formulations, designed especially by founder Tye Shirley because of his own skin sensitivities. (In addition to exotic aromatics, they even offer fragrance-free soaps.)

That’s true also of some of the other sellers here. One booth is occupied by a man selling room-deodorizing rocks; another has collectibles; yet another woman here repurposes old clothes (T-shirts, jeans, etc.) into hand-stitched new items, from aprons to recyclable grocery bags. Have an old T from an AIDS walk you never wear but don’t wanna throw away? Bring it by and she’ll turn it into something useful.

The nature of the people who sell at OLFM is much the same as the kind of people who would shop here: Those interested in health, in nature, in organic and sustainable products for the planet and the body.

For anyone potentially put off by what you think might be sticker shock, don’t worry about that too much. One farmer last week was ready to deal quickly on squash because its in too-great abundance at the moment and will spoil if she doesn’t move it; she’ll also put together a good deal for you at the end of the selling day — the produce equivalent of a baker’s dozen. And the price you put on freshness and quality is something only you can judge.
When the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge was being erected, critics dismissed it as an expensive “bridge to nowhere.” But nobody’s saying that now. In addition to providing an alternate route to West Dallas and Oak Cliff, the Trinity Groves project is anchoring the kind of traffic people like — the kind that comes to stay.

A strip mall-ish development at the western foot of the bridge, Trinity Groves was a warehouse-y stretch of empty shells when it started, but the space is filling in nicely — not with clothing stores or department stores or jewelry stores, but with restaurants. Dallas-based restaurateur Phil Romano gets credit for the idea, intended as a testing ground for new cooking concepts. (Most of the interiors have similar set-ups, allowing some unique décor but with limits on creating one-of-a-kind atmospheres, but they still can make their mark in design and food.) It’s Thunderdome with spatulas.

Since the first concepts opened their doors last fall, the attraction of the space has grown, with genuine acclaim being visited on many of the concepts (some gay-owned or run). Sucking up most of the oxygen has been Casa Rubia, chef Omar Flores’ Spanish tapas gem. But Casa Rubia is only open for dinner, while many of its neighbors offer lunch options as well. Here’s a rundown of what to expect from the other restaurants.

3011 Gulden Lane. TrinityGroves.com.

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Since the first concepts opened their doors last fall, the attraction of the space has grown, with genuine acclaim being visited on many of the concepts (some gay-owned or run). Sucking up most of the oxygen has been Casa Rubia, chef Omar Flores' Spanish tapas gem. But Casa Rubia is only open for dinner, while many of its neighbors offer lunch options as well. Here's a rundown of what to expect from the other restaurants.

3011 Gulden Lane. TrinityGroves.com.

Souk. A Moroccan style bistro, it's the brainchild of Yaser Khalaf, who has plumbed Middle Eastern cuisine at Baboush in the West Village, as well as pizza at Farmach and burgers at Ketchup.

Luck. An abbreviation for Local Urban Craft Kitchen, Luck’s name omits its biggest draw: its tap wall. The casual dining grill offers 40 beers on tap, all sourced within 75 miles of Dallas. If you have a taste for micro-brews, there's no better place to forage than here.

Chino Chinatown. The name conjures both China and Mexican slang, and that's what Chef Uno delivers, a fusion of Latin with Asian cooking and décor that mixes Peking Opera with quinceanera.

Kitchen LTO. The “LTO” is short for “Limited Time Only” at creator Casie Caldwell’s “permanent pop-up,” which swaps out chefs three or four times a year, meaning each time you go there is the potential for something different. (The current chef is Brooks Egger.)

Resto Gastro Bistro. An eclectic menu from chef DJ Quintanilla offers a twist on the trendy gastropub, where food, wine and cocktails occupy equal value for the food lover's palate.

Potato Flats. The restaurants on the front of the building were mostly developed first, but the back row is coming online too, with this gourmet potato bar opening just this week. (They smash the potatoes to make them flat, hence the name.)

Amberjax. For fish lovers, Amberjax is the principal seafood option at the development, with a blackboard that changes with the tides. Other concepts are also in development, including a new sweets shop from Kate Weiser of Chocolate Secrets on Oak Lawn, and the upcoming Japanese restaurant Sushi Bayashi.

The restaurants at Trinity Groves aren't the only attraction of the neighborhood, either. Across the street are more eateries, including Hofmann Hots, and next door is Five Corners Brewing Company, which brews some of North Texas' best beers.

Making brunch a drag

It's the golden age for brunch! It's the golden age for drag! So of course, it's the golden age for drag brunch.

When Dish at the ilume started its monthly drag brunch three years ago (it falls on the last Sunday of each month; the next one will be July 27), it was the only game in town. But since then, other restaurants have tapped into how to put the "kitsch" in "kitchen." Hard Rock Cafe began hosting an occasional weekend of bacon, eggs and sass, and now Sambuca joins in.

The Uptown eatery, known for its live jazz music and its cuisine, is gaying up Sunday Funday. Starting this week, July 6 — and scheduled again for July 20 — Sambuca's drag brunch will feature a three-course chef-prepared menu for $34/person, as well as bottomless mimosas for 12 bucks. And your host for the two seatings will be brunch veteran Jenni P., as well as queens Vega Marie St. James (pictured), Kandy Cayne and Raquel Blake. It's an ideal way to extend your Saturday night party and throw a little shade.

— A.W.J.

When changes in ownership at the building that housed Stephan Pyles’ Samar — his multi-fariously, globally-inspired tapas restaurant catty-corner from his eponymous eatery along Ross Avenue — forced him to close for a remodel, he made some noticeable changes. The space is more open and light, with colorful artwork (shiny “balloons” made of metal; hand-painted stripped lizards attached to the walls) and a buoyant atmosphere. The hookahs are gone (for now, at least — maybe bring them back for Waterpipe Wednesdays?), but the bar still provides a pocket of social humming with inviting cocktails.

But it turned out that more than just the walls and décor got a makeover; the menu and the concept got reworked, as well. What was expected to be a five-month project stretched to a year, and in that time, Pyles — always the most peripatetic of chefs, who absorbs how different cultures create memorable meals and re-fashions then with a gourmet twist — decided to go south for his new bill of fare ... in fact, if it’s south of Harlingen, it’s probably finding its way on a plate at San Salvaje.

Samar drew its culinary inspiration from across the planet, mostly Spain, India and the Middle East; its replacement, San Salvaje (Spanish for “savage saint”) explores Central and South American influences. The name itself is a paradox, with “salvaje” (savage) reflecting pagan roots, and “san” the imprimatur of Christian saints common in the culture. In that way, the menu is a mélange of the indigenous and the imported.

The differences can be subtle. Many dishes we know by one name are, with slight variations, familiar to others by another — whether you call ceviche, tiradito, sushi or crudo, it’s raw fish. The menu here lists “arepas, gorditas y empanadas,” three staples of Latin American dining.

**OVERALL RATING**

San Salvaje by Stephan Pyles, 2100 Ross Ave, ste. 100. Open Daily for dinner, 5–10 p.m. SanSalvaje.com.

Peasant flavors get a gourmet twist with a menu culled from a variety of Latin inspirations. The tacos, platos grandes and desserts soar especially.

Food: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★
Price: Moderate

**BUTTERSCOTCH OR NOT?** | The lucuma sus-pirio dessert is a treasure of unexpected delights — a custard made from a South American fruit with hints of butterscotch and citrus.
cooking that vary in popularity by region (arepas more common in Colombia and Venezuela, gorditas in Mexico). And while plantains may look like bananas, they are starchier and the flavor profiles distinguish them.

The rangy menu — about 40 items including desserts, priced from $6–$28 with most around $10 — and the sizes encourage sharing and experimentation. You’ll want to take an experimental approach for many of the items, which contain unusual ingredients and combinations. *Huitlacoche*, a Mexican delicacy dating back to the Aztecs, is a corn fungus employed like mushrooms; the *lucuma suspiro*, a dessert made from a Peruvian fruit that resembles an avocado, produces a custard that tastes like butter-scotch.

If any of those words frighten you, good. This is adventure dining, with just enough tweaks to soften the edges for curious but cautious palates. The *huitlacoche* empanadas ($10), for instance, are earthy but sweet, made even sweeter with the addition of guava. The foie gras tacu tacu ($18) — a rice-and-bean patty topped with a lobe of foie gras, then crowned again with caramelized banana — gives a glimpse of indulgence on a Peruvian peasant dish, its richness a cause for celebration.

Many of the flavors are deftly designed to allow the essence of the ingredients to breathe. The causa limena ($9) is a tower of chopped yellow fingerling potatoes, lightly seasoned but doused in a traditional spicy-shrimp sauce. Inside, the surprise of a soft-cooked quail egg spreads its emulsion, with each element blending with the others. That’s also true with the grouper tiradito ($10), where garlic, fennel, orange juice and EVOO combine for a unique marinade.

Tacos rear up on the menu as well. (Pyles’ Stampede 66 has its own taco bar — well worth a trip.) The duck ($10) is smoky and chewy, and the tangy tomatillo salsa soared. The squid taco ($8), however, was the menu’s most unexpected delight, though my dining companion preferred the humita ($12), a South...
Pink-haired cabaret performer Mistress Ginger proudly proclaims herself a rare and rather elusive quadruple threat — singer, dancer, actress... and vegan know-it-all. She combines showgirl glamour, bawdy humor and a broad knowledge of plant-based cuisine in a new cookbook, *Mistress Ginger Cooks!: Everyday Vegan Foods for Everyone*.

There is some controversy, however, as to whether credit should go entirely to Mistress Ginger — who earned the title “mistress” as a dominatrix in a 2006 BDSM-meets-song-and-dance revue called *Broadway Bound and Gagged* — or should be shared with Justin Leaf, a 2001 Juilliard graduate with a BFA in dance and Ginger’s alter ego.

“Justin Leaf is, shall we say, my creative advisor,” Ginger explains. “He is sort of behind the scenes, giving me little ideas now and then. But, of course, I am the true author of *Mistress Ginger Cooks!* You can read it right there on my cookbook — by Mistress Ginger. So there you go.”

One of Mistress Ginger’s primary motivations for writing the glitzy, photo-laden cookbook was to introduce the notion that a variety of plant-based food alternatives are readily available for vegans and non-vegans alike. And a recurring theme in the book is the romantic notion that food and passion are inextricably intertwined.

How does a drag queen keep her figure? For Mistress Ginger, vegan does it — or should be shared with Justin Leaf, a 2001 Juilliard graduate with a BFA in dance and Ginger’s alter ego.

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“Just have to discover new options for...”
yourself and fill your plate with those things,” she advises. “Most times, people don’t know all the variety of things that exist out there. And the same applies to dating — sample all you like.”

Indeed, it was through her dating experiences that Mistress Ginger discovered veganism. “My vegan lovers introduced me to plant-based cookery and the wonder of that world,” she says. “I just saw a new way that I could fuel my singing and dancing that was in alignment with my compassion for animals and the relationship that I want to have with them.”

Easy food preparation is another of the cookbook’s themes. “A lot of the dishes I prepare in the book are geared towards those who are living a fast-paced — what I like to call a snazzle frazzle — lifestyle,” she says. “So I’ve really created a number of recipes that pack in a lot of flavor and a lot of nutrition and, at the same time, are easy to make.”

The recipes — including tasty creations like Gingersnatch Cookies and Pound Me Cake — often have suggestive if not downright scandalous names.

“At one point, my editor said to me, ‘Ginger, we cannot have the words ‘seminal emissions’ in a cookbook,’” she recalls, admitting she sometimes has problems understanding boundaries. “Who knew? But they didn’t have a problem with Pop My Cherry Scones, Drizzle Me Dressing and Sloppy Gingers. Then there is Mistress Ginger Dressing. I think I’m going to include the recipe for Mistress Ginger Undressing in my next cookbook.”

While Mistress Ginger has sworn off animal flesh, she still has the occasional craving for meat — a hunger which she now satisfies in alternative ways. “I’ve been vegan for about 12 years now, and I’m quite committed to that,” she says. “I haven’t had meat per se, but I eat meaty things — a nice tofu steak, for example, is quite meaty or a nice Portobello mushroom has a meaty texture to it. So I still get all the flavors and the textures that I may miss from time to time.”

And lest you assume Ginger acquired her creative cooking skills at a renowned culinary institute, the truth is much simpler. “I learned on my own,” she says. “I enjoy cookbooks. I got a lot of practice making other peoples’ recipes. I haven’t gotten any kind of certification to be a chef or anything — although I sometimes hear people say, ‘Wow, she should be certified!’”

Despite being a cabaret performer with a wardrobe full of slinky sequined gowns, Ginger doesn’t believe in skipping dessert. She actually considers dessert mandatory. “Oh, no, I never skip dessert,” she says, touting her vegan alternatives. “I actually love to have dessert. It’s a must — everything from my Barbarian Tart to my Babushka Bundles.”

Mistress Ginger even uses one of her favorite dessert pairings — the union of peanut butter and chocolate — to make a political statement. “They’ve been married since the beginning of time,” she exclaims. “Who are we to say who should be married?”

With its animal-friendly attitude, has Mistress Ginger’s cookbook had a positive impact on readers’ love lives? “It’s possible,” she says, though perhaps not in ways you’d expect. “They haven’t told me yet, but I make lots of recommendations. For instance, in my recipe for Scantily Clad Squash and Tofu, I suggest serving this scantily clad combo with only three things: an apron, bobby socks and a big smile. It is bound to improve one’s love life in unexpected ways.”

While a strict vegan lifestyle works well for Mistress Ginger, she understands it may not work for everyone. But something is better than nothing.

“I’m not saying everyone needs to go 100 percent vegan,” she asserts, “but each step that we take can have a positive effect, both on the environment and ourselves. Taking a few steps in that direction can be a wonderful thing.”

---

**Food fit for Fido ... and his folks**

Everyone knows gays treat their pets like members of the family, pampering them like only children even when there’s a pack of dogs under the same roof. Well, Gayle Pruitt feels the same way. That’s why she developed Dog-Done Good Cuisine (St. Martin’s Griffin 2014), a follow-up to her Dog-Gone Good Cookbook. This collection of recipes and photos teaches you not just how to cook a feast fit for a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, but for yourself as well.

“What?! Giving dogs people food? Isn’t that a no-no? Well, look at it this way: When if comes to your dog, who really adheres to that rule? Or think of it more like humans eating dog food. Maybe that makes more sense to you. With tons of inventive and healthy recipes for pooch and person alike (she explains the spices, herbs and other ingredients safe for both species), Dog-Gone Good Cuisine gives a fresh spin on the idea of “cooking for two.”

— A.W.J.
Taste of Dallas returns to Fair Park, Pakpao gets a menu makeover

Taste of Dallas is right around the corner, offering bites from dozens of North Texas restaurants next weekend, July 11–13, at Fair Park. It starts Friday with “date night,” designed specifically for couples with not only food but palm reading and fair games. Tickets are $12 at the gate for single-day admission ($8 if you get them ahead of time at Walgreen’s). Tickets for Taste of the Town VIP Indoor Tasting Experience — which includes 15 tastings of food and 15 of beer or spirits, as well as air conditioning — are $40, and available exclusively at TasteOfDallas.org.

If you prefer tablecloths, wait until next month when DFW Restaurant Week starts up again, with more restaurants offering special deals on three- or four-course menus for a fixed prices. It officially runs Aug. 11–17, with some restos offering extensions to Aug. 24 or 31. July 14 is “Reservation Day,” when you can find out who’s participating and start arranging your dining schedule. The event benefits the North Texas Food Bank, and is sponsored by Central Market. DFWRestaurantWeek.com.

Asador, the farm-to-fire restaurant inside the Renaissance Hotel, offers one of the more reasonable fine dining options in the Uptown area, especially with its Summer Harvest Series, which kicked off in June with a wine dinner. That will be followed this month with a beer dinner (on July 11) and next month with a cocktail dinner (on Aug. 8), all featuring chef Brad Phillips’ admirable take on the freshest ingredients (you never know what you’re gonna be eating until he does the morning of the dinner).

Brian Zenner has been named the new executive chef at Oak, a jewel in the up-and-coming Design District dining scene that also includes FT33, Meddlesome Moth, Ascension, The Slow Bone and Pakpao, among others. He will continue to oversee Belly & Trumpet, the Uptown eatery he opened last year.

Speaking of Pakpao, the menu there continues to undergo an evolution, thanks to the new chef-partner Jet Tila. The casual Asian restaurant, which specialized in Thai-Chinese fusion, has added many Indian elements, from the curries to the spicy flavor profiles, but maintains a mainland China influence and upscaled presentations. Nowhere is that more apparent than on the showpiece halfed pineapple packed with fried rice, shrimp and whole cashews. The Khao soi curry noodles recalls beef stroganoff with an Asian attitude, with a creamy yellow sauce, while morning glory salad is an unexpected delight, dancing on the tongue. The fried boiled eggs with tamarind remain a hit appetizer, and the cocktails, including the Phuket-fashioned (a spin on the old-fashioned) and the Buddha’s gold daiquiri, are worth a happy hour as well.

If you’ve ordered a glass of wine at Savor (probably Dallas’ best-looking restaurant of the moment, a glass palace looking out over Klyde Warren Park), you might be surprised to know it might have come not from a bottle, but from a keg. That’s the technological advance offered by Free Flow Wines, which provides wines delivered in small kegs, allowing controlled release of wines to reduce spoilage and give patrons access to higher-end options, instead of the ordinary house. “This isn’t about house wines,” they say, and they mean it. Just try a glass, and I dare you to tell the difference.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Firecrust, Neapolitan-style pizzeria that just opened near Uptown in the Knox Village development along North Central Expressway. — Arnold Wayne Jones
Drink up!

With Independence Day upon us, we can all celebrate with a toast to America. And there are many different ways to do so.

Acclaimed crystal glassware maker Riedel has designed a special tumbler that can actually enhance your beverage. This is nothing new — the shapes of wine goblets have long been tailored to specific qualities of red and white wines — but what it applies to might be.

The Coca-Cola-Riedel is made to make Coke taste better in the glass. The shape, a sort of exaggerated hour-glass figure that echoes the iconic bottle itself, accentuates the aromas, carbonation and flavors of the soft drink. The glasses are available at Bed Bath & Beyond for 2/$25, or online at Riedel.com.

For an even more indulgent drink, Tillman’s Roadhouse in the Bishop Arts District has developed what they call “sweet tooth cures,” but which are really rich versions of classic milkshakes. One, S’mores for the Team, combines strawberry, java and maple marshmallows, cinnamon Graham crackers and dark chocolate bark; Not Your Momma’s Milkshake is equally awesome, mixing fresh vanilla bean ice cream, salted caramel and … wait for it! … a bacon straw. Yup. Bacon. In straw form. I’m gonna need to take a moment…

For those who don’t mind a little alcohol (I’m sure some of you qualify), there’s this recipe for the “big ginger,” of course from the Irish whiskey brand 2 Gingers: Two parts whiskey, poured into a pint glass of ice. Top with ginger ale and one wedge each of lime and lemon. For another refresher, try a “cherry rickey,” pictured: Shake two parts whiskey with fresh-squeezed juice from a quarter of a lemon and a teaspoon of maraschino liquid, then top with Sprite or 7-Up. And enjoy your Fourth!

— A.W.J.
TABLE SALES HAVE BEGUN

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Keeping cool

As the Texas heat begins to take over, we offer some sexy ideas to stay chill.

When the mercury rises, so should your creativity to stay cool … or at least entertain yourself and your partner. Consider these seven ways to beat the heat, and add a little sexy time to your life while you’re at it. And we’ve even incorporated food into the mix!

1. **Make a batch of adult popsicles.** First things first: If it’s too hot outside to breathe — let alone move — it’s time to break out the blender and get phsy-sicle. Start with a pitcher of margaritas (or your favorite summertime cocktail with a kick) and pour the liquid into ice-pop molds. Molds are abundantly available these days in all sorts of (unintentionally phallic) forms, like the rock-shaped ice pop molds from Tovolo, available on Amazon. When the hooch sets, enjoy instant refreshment (and perhaps satisfaction) that’ll not only cool you off but also help you perfect your form … if you know what I mean.

2. **Bring a bowl of ice to the bedroom.** Yeah, I know what you’re thinking — this doesn’t seem practical unless you want a waterbed. Easy fix: Just put a few towels down. I’ve employed what I like to call the “Frat Sex” method for more than a decade, and whether or not ice is involved (because who wants to wash the sheets every single time you get down to business?), it’s the perfect solution to achieving all your goals by bringing ice to the bedroom. You’ll cool down, you’ll perk up, and you’ll both feel fresh as a daisy when all is said and done. Aaaaah.

3. **Hop on your bike and head to the ice cream parlor.** Not everything you do to beat the heat has to be tainted with sexual innuendo and opportunity, of course. A super simple and sure-fire way to rejuvenate your sun-worn body from the inside out is to hop on your bike and take a leisurely ride to your local ice cream parlor or stationary ice cream truck for a cool-and-creamy treat.

4. **Play a game of strip (enter favorite game here).** Air conditioner on the fritz? Create your own climate control by playing a game of strip whenever you’d-like with your partner and/or a group of friends. The best part about this game is that everybody’s a winner (if you’re a glass-half-full kinda group), so there are no hurt feelings when the last player crosses the finish line.

5. **Get a little dirty washing the car.** Is there anything sexier than a shirtless hard body soaked in suds from head to toe? Fulfill your college car-wash fantasy at home by heading out to the driveway to get your ride clean as a whistle in the naughtiest way possible. Just remember, the neighbors may be watching … so put on a good show.

6. **Drop trou and go skinny-dipping.** Not to be too obvious, but if you have the good fortune to have access to a pool — preferably one surrounded by a privacy fence — there’s absolutely no excuse why you shouldn’t be shimming out of whatever you’re wearing when the sun goes down to take a dip in the buff. If your partner is hesitant, do it the hard way: toss’em in fully clothed (sans valuables in the pockets) to remind them that’s it OK to play every once in a while.

7. **Invite your friends over for a wet undies contest.** One of the best things about being LGBT (in my opinion, at least) is that we generally don’t subscribe to the social norms of our hetero counterparts … basically because they’re boring. Case in point: It’s easier to round up our best gay guys and gal pals for an impromptu wet-undies contest in the backyard that will, if you’ve got really good friends, result in an afternoon of sopping-wet flirty fun with endless possibilities. Why not plan it the same time as the skinny-dip party, and kill two birds with one stone?

— Mikey Rox
American version of the tamale with sweet masa, elevated by a claw of avocado and diced lobster.

Most of the above items are sharable or appetizer sized, but large entrees are offered as well. One of my favorite dishes is the feijoa (fay-zhawdah), a kind of Brazilian cassoulet made here with heirloom beans and a generous medallion of pork cheek, braised until it has the velvety tenderness of a love sonnet. A ragout of greens (spinach, I’d say) with bits of citrus and hard spices undergirds the broth, and a crisp chicharron reminds you of the humble nature of this style of cuisine. It grounds you to another culture while conveying a comforting warmth without leaving a heavy feeling.

Just as good was the ropa vieja ($21) of stewed short rib, braised and compressed and served with stuffed plantains. For drama alone, the standout item is surely the fried red snapper ($28), a whole fish that you can both eat and which holds the pickled green beans. It’s not dinner theater so much as dining as theater.

With their out-of-the-box concepts and unique twists, the desserts here are as necessary as breathing. Only tres leches cake ($8) was a familiar hit (as was its tart strawberry sorbet). How do you explain the lushness of the lucuma suspiro ($7) being derived from a fruit, or the doughnut-like picarones ($6), which is actually a fried mash of squash and sweet potato? (You can justify a lot of fried foods if they are made from vegetables.)

The banana corunda ($8) — a sugary, grainy pancake so intensely sweet from caramel and candied nuts that it gave me a post-dinner rush — captured what sets San Salvaje apart: A strange, exciting journey through the foods that bind us, culture to culture, palate to palate.
**Friday 07.04**

DTC’s ‘Les Miz’ offers up modern-day twist

Take a look at the photo for *Les Miserables* — yes, that’s it — and you can’t help but know the Dallas Theater Center is shooting for a game-changer with this modern dress production of the hit musical, one traditionally set in early 19th century France. But while the look and staging may be unexpected, the music is the same, one of the most operatic of contemporary musicals. *Les Miz* opens on Independence Day with an early performance, followed by a rooftop fireworks show, but you have most of the summer left to see it — it runs through Aug. 17.


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**Saturday 07.05**

Miss Firecracker fundraiser and picnic at Dallas Eagle

Not all the fireworks will be going off on Friday; the Texas Gay Rodeo Association has saved some of them for Saturday’s Miss Firecracker pageant at the Eagle. Messy Panocha, pictured, and Sable Alexander will emcee the annual show, fundraiser and picnic.

**DEETS**: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m.

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**Thursday 07.10**

Asian Film Fest returns for 13th event, again with queer content

Asian Film Festival of Dallas programmers were disappointed when Oak Cliff Film Fest scooped them with the documentary about George Takei, but there will still be some queer content in its upcoming 13th festival, which runs for a week starting Thursday. But gay or not, it’s always an exciting selection of films about or set in the vastness of Asian culture. (The fest opens with screens of *Black Butler* and *The Five*.)

**DEETS**: Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5321 Mockingbird Lane. July 10–17. AsianFilmDallas.com.
ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER


FRIDAY 07.04 — INDEPENDENCE DAY

FIREWORKS

Independence Day. North Texas will be lit up on Friday, with fireworks displays going on all over the Metroplex. Among the ones you might want to know about are at the Dallas Arboretum (DallasArboretum.org), at Fair Park FairPark.org), at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie (LoneStarPark.com), at the Stockyards in Fort Worth for Willie Nelson’s annual picnic and at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens with the Fort Worth Symphony performing.

SATURDAY 07.05

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

COMMUNITY

Miss Firecracker Pageant. Messy Panocha and Sable Alexander host this show, picnic and fundraiser for TGRA. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m.

FIREWORKS, ANYONE? | Numerous locations will offer fireworks displays on Friday night, including Fair Park and the Dallas Arboretum. The Dallas Theater Center’s production of ‘Les Misérables’ will even start early so that audience members can head to the roof of the Wyly Theater to watch the explosions.

QUEER CLIP: ‘LIFE ITSELF’

If you’ve seen a movie in the last 30 years, chances are you’ve seen Roger Ebert’s name — not on the credits onscreen, but on the posters and ads. With rival-cum-partner Gene Siskel, Ebert patented the “Thumps Up!” system of movie evaluation — first on the PBS series Sneak Previews, then through various re-names until it was just Siskel & Ebert. Their names were the brand.

The show is gone now, even with casting changes, and nothing has ever come close to replacing it, largely because it wasn’t the reviews themselves so much as the lively banter between the two hosts: The casual erudition of the lanky Siskel, and the bouncing populism of the portly Ebert.

Siskel died of a brain tumor in 1999, and Ebert followed him just last year, at age 70. In his final years, he wasn’t the tubby leprechaun folks remembered anymore, but a man so ravaged by cancer he lost his jaw, with just the skin of his chin flapping as he smiled while a Hawking-like computer spoke for him.

But if Ebert lost his mouth, he never lost his voice. He left TV in 2006, but his blog continued (and continues still under the guidance of Dallas native Matt Zoller Seitz) and his gift with words (he won a Pulitzer, as he loved to mention as often as possible) made him a part of pop culture, the spokesman for the common moviegoer. (For the record, I was usually in the Siskel camp.)

Before he died, Ebert wrote a memoir, Life Itself, which Steve James — the director of Hoop Dreams, one of the many indie films Ebert enthusiastically championed — has turned into a documentary. Siskel figures prominently in it, as does Ebert’s writing, his newspaper career, his writings and his opinions about movies. But what you walk away from the movie thinking most about is Ebert’s dignity and power, even after he became frail and in extraordinary discomfort. Ebert never shied away from allowing himself to be photographed, and there’s an openness, a bravery about how vulnerable he appears, yet how happy, that gloms onto you in ways you can’t really describe.

The movie isn’t perfect (James makes a big deal about having tons of written questions for Ebert to answer, but most of them are fairly sophomoric), but Ebert and his wife Chaz, pictured, are strong, memorable characters and you watch with awe and admiration. There’s really only one review you can give Life Itself: Thumbs up ... way up.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Now playing at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village.
SUNDAY 07.06
WORSHIP
Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY 07.08
FILM
Live and Let Die. The seventh entry in the James Bond franchise, and Roger Moore’s debut as the British superspy. Dallas Voice presents this entry in the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark’s Magnolia in the West Village. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 07.10
FILM
Asian Film Festival of Dallas. The 13th annual event, which runs for a week with all screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 3321 Mockingbird Lane. The opening night films are Black Butler and The

FRIDAY 07.11
FOOD
Taste of Dallas. The 28th annual chance to sample food from dozens of area restaurants returns to Fair Park, starting with a “date night” Friday and offering special VIP tasting (and drinking!) packages. Fair Park, July 11–13. TasteOfDallas.org

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Billy Masters

Life is not a cabaret for Shia LaBeouf

Most television shows don’t deliver breaking news over the summer, but most shows ain’t The View. During the talk show’s 17-year history, most of the explosive moments have taken place when the temperature rises. Meredith Vieira left the show amicably on June 9, 2006. Two weeks later, Star Jones ambushed the show by announcing her departure on live TV. Rosie O’Donnell and Elisabeth Hasselbeck’s historic split-screen squabble took place in May; Hasselbeck’s last day was in July 2013; Joy Behar left a month later. Even Barbara Walters is rumored to have been nudged off the show, but spun it more to her liking. In her case, ABC seemed to see little value in the daily presence of the octogenarian. In fact, since the retirement of Willard Scott, no network has embraced the elusive (and rapidly fading) 80-to-death demographic.

That brings us to Sherri Shepherd and Jenny McCarthy. Yes, it’s true — both are leaving the show, but neither of them has been fired. Jenny was given a one-year contract when she started in September. Given that audiences have not overwhelmingly embraced her, it was decided months ago that this would be a one-year gig. Sherri’s situation is similarly embraced her, it was decided months ago that LaBeouf was “disruptive during act one and escorted out of Studio 54 during intermission,” onlookers filled in some of the gaps. His behavior included smoking inside the theater, feeding a stranger woman food from her own plate and slapping audience members on the back of their heads and/or asses. He also reportedly reked, but that was a crime, the subways would be empty! While being dragged off by the fuzz, he allegedly called one cop a “fag” and also said, “I’ll fuck you up” … which apparently he didn’t mean in a good way. He even added, “I have millions and millions of dollars and attorneys. I’m going to ruin your career.” Doubtful. Once in custody, he had to be muzzled because he was spitting at people. He was charged with two counts of disorderly conduct, one count of criminal trespassing and one count of harassment. Some weeks this column just writes itself.

Kathy Griffin just did something for the first time — the 53-year-old funny gal posed nude! We normally bring you male celebrity nudes, but why should I discriminate? Griffin was doing a photo shoot with Tyler Shields when he suggested she do something risqué — or, as he describes it, “iconic.” That meant stripping down and posing languidly by a pool, showing off her back and the top of her breasts.

Our “Ask Billy” question comes from Jay in Sacramento, who asks: I just saw Jersey Boys and wondered about the gay producer. Is that part true? And who was the actor playing him? He was so hot. Is he gay?

So many questions. The character you are referring to is Bob Crewe, who was indeed gay — well, mostly gay (he identifies himself as bisexual). What is kinda glossed over in the film is that he wasn’t just the producer; he wrote the lyrics to most of those hits. In fact, “Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You” was written as he watched a post-coital young man sleeping in his bed. So it’s a gay love song. But you didn’t ask about that.

The role was played by the dashing Mike Doyle, pictured. That name sounded familiar to me, so I immediately checked out the Billy Masters Archives, and what did I find? A choice item from 2008 where I answered a question from Roger in Toledo (I hope he’s still reading this column) about the handsome hunk he saw in Paul Rudnick’s play The New Century opposite Linda Lavin. That was in fact the same Mike Doyle who walked across the stage — well, bounced across the stage — completely naked. Well, not completely naked. He was wearing a cock ring (I believe this was the first time a cock ring was officially used in a Broadway production). You must certainly should check him out on BillyMasters.com.

As to the second part of your question, Mike is openly gay. He was, for a while, the spousal equivalent of actor Matt McGrath, who most notably helmed the national tour of Cabaret. They were good friends with another gay couple, Broadway performer and choreographer Denis Jones and the lovely Andrew Rannells. Nothing wrong with that … until Matt got a job out of town. Then Denis and Andrew kept Mike company. Sometimes, it was just Andrew. And, bing, bang, boom! A new couple is formed. Mike Doyle and Andrew Rannells have been together for over a year and everyone seems to be happy … at least everyone they’re talking to!

When I’m relating the gay equivalent of Debbie Reynolds, Eddie Fisher, Elizabeth Taylor and Mike Todd, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. Well, there is a difference — nobody went down in a plane crash (although I’m sure more than a few people went down). For all your gossip needs check out BillyMasters.com, the site that always thinks ahead. If you’re reading of a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we find out what Shia was doing at Cabaret in the first place.

So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.

Contact Billy by email at Billy@BillyMasters.com.
Making the SCENE the week of July 4–10:
Alexandre's: Girl’s Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday at 10 p.m. Andrea Dawson on Saturday at 10 p.m. Liz Mikel on Wednesday at 9 p.m. Alicia Silex on Thursday at 9 p.m.
Best Friends Club: Barbie Doll Birthday happy hour on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
BJ's NXS!: Voice of Pride elimination round on Wednesday at 9 p.m.
Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout on Sunday at 4 p.m.
Dallas Eagle: Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Miss Firecracker 2014 with Sable Alexander and Messi Panocha on Saturday at 7 p.m. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Saturday. Girls of Leather monthly meeting on Sunday at 5 p.m. Voice of Pride elimination round on Tuesday at 9 p.m.
Hidden Door: Weekly darts tournament on Monday at 9:30 p.m.
JR.'s Bar & Grill: Potluck with Edna Jean, Onyx, Buck Wylde, Raquel Blake and Fantasia on Tuesday. Edna's Angels on Thursday.
Pekers: Voice of Pride elimination round on Thursday at 9 p.m.
Rainbow Lounge: Tea Dance with Kiara Lee on Sunday at 4 p.m.
The Rose Room: Asia, Cassie, Jenna, Kele嗦, Krystal, Layla and Valerie on Friday and Saturday. Asia, Cassie, Kele嗦, Krystal, Layla and Valerie on Sunday. Miss Gay Dallas USofA on Thursday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos.
B.J., Neil, Will and Bill at Woody’s Sports and Video Bar.

Edward and Francisco at the Tin Room.

Josh and Juan at The Brick.

Kyle and Jim at Kaliente.

Marco, Bo, Kristy and Vincent at Sue Ellen’s.

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972-729-9572
www.dignitydallas.net

Let’s Talk
Join the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office as we host a Town Hall meeting to discuss our newly implemented LGBT Task Force. Where: Resource Center 2701 Reagan St. Dallas, TX 75219
When: Mon, June 30th, 5:30-7:00pm Watch online: live.dallasda.com

The Oak Lawn Community Outreach Center at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church is seeking participants for a new, highly supportive financial pilot designed to help participants reach THEIR self-expressed financial goals. Whether it’s starting a savings plan for the first time or creating a realistic path to paying down debt, this program may be for YOU.

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3) being in a position to start saving.

To schedule an interview, or for more information, please email gregg.smith@olumc.org

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Pegasus Squares, an LGBT North Dallas Square Dance Club, meets the first and third Sundays of each month, 3pm-5pm at the Resource Center. Lessons beginning March 9th. Contact Rob Miller at 214-320-9598 for more information.

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Co-Dependants Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings in the area meet: • St. Thomas Episcopal Church 6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at Mockingbird) Dallas, Texas 75209 • LAMBITA GROUP 6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP 7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours Meeting Type: Open, Sharing, Steps, Welcome to all, Safe for GLBT

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Well-rounded Films

Solution on page 37

Across
1 Puccini opera
6 Like many a Mapplethorpe model
10 Cry before getting off
14 Where the elated walk
15 “If ___ I Would Leave You”
16 Butch Janet
17 One with a big bag of money
18 Basketball analyst Rebecca
19 Bring down
20 Not in the pink
21 Albert’s anthem
24 Point between “gay” and “com”
25 Without a doubt
27 Lancaster of Bride of Frankenstein
29 Franklin and Jefferson, religiously
32 Gillette razor product
34 B. D. Wong, for one
36 Western treaty grp.
38 Meat source Down Under
39 Category of the words spelled out in the circles
42 Lacto-___ vegetarian
43 Vote of support
44 Are able to, to Shakespeare
45 Kiss from Kahlo
47 Broadway star Stritch
49 Enjoy Forster

1 GIN diluter
2 ___ fours (doggy-style)
3 Liberace’s choice of fur
4 AFL counterpart
5 Like a family tree?
6 Ignores, as an order
7 Bard’s river
8 “Queen of Country” McEntire
9 Eat away at
10 Broadway bio
11 Cops in gay Paree
12 Prefix with China
13 12-incher
14 Where the elated walk
15 “If ___ I Would Leave You”
16 Butch Janet
17 One with a big bag of money
18 Basketball analyst Rebecca
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45 Kiss from Kahlo
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49 Enjoy Forster

51 Gator relatives
55 Pee-___ Herman
57 Boy toy?
60 Ben Hur novelist Wallace
61 “Understood” to Ginsberg
63 One with a foamy head
64 Free, in France
66 Buster Brown’s bulldog
67 Now and ___
68 Prop for “I have a headache tonight”
69 Big top, e.g.
70 Drinks slowly
71 What you shoot off at in the air

Down
19 Bring down
20 Not in the pink
21 Albert’s anthem
24 Point between “gay” and “com”
25 Without a doubt
27 Lancaster of Bride of Frankenstein
29 Franklin and Jefferson, religiously
32 Gillette razor product
34 B. D. Wong, for one
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38 Meat source Down Under
39 Category of the words spelled out in the circles
42 Lacto-___ vegetarian
43 Vote of support
44 Are able to, to Shakespeare
45 Kiss from Kahlo
47 Broadway star Stritch
49 Enjoy Forster

1 12-incher
2 Like insecure people
23 Home st. of Harper Lee
26 Fatty
28 Ms. magazine co-founder
30 The bottom line
31 Pop star Harris
33 Czech Rep. neighbor
34 “She ran the gamut of emotions from ___” (Dorothy Parker)
35 Queen, for one
37 Like Jane Addams’ activism
40 One who goes after your honey
41 Some pudding flavorings
46 Symbol of sturdiness
48 Nuts of a tall one
50 You have them when you’re in the hole
52 Three Tall Women writer
53 Balls
54 Like Neil Diamond’s Caroline
55 Ice queen Katarina
56 Nurse Jackie star Falco
58 Old fruit drink
59 Bottomless
62 Porter’s “I ___ a Kick Out Of You”
65 Variety
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