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Jeffrey Payne announces run for Texas governor

Dallas businessman Jeffrey Payne on Friday, July 14, announced that he is running for governor of Texas, challenging Republican incumbent Greg Abbott, who he characterizes as a “disaster for Texans” and a governor who “offers nothing in the way of new ideas.”

“Texas needs a governor who believes in real Texas values, like integrity, honesty, freedom and independence,” Payne said in a statement announcing his candidacy. “It’s time we stopped wasting our time and money on silly legislation and start investing our time finding ways to help Texans, their families and businesses prosper.”

Payne pointed to his history of success as a businessman — from his respected court reporting firm, to his real estate dealings and his thriving nightclub, The Dallas Eagle. The candidate said he makes no secret of his active involvement in the Dallas LGBT community or his history as a former International Mr. Leather, a title that gave him a platform to promote many charity events.

He also said that his philanthropic work reflects his commitment to helping others not just in the LGBT community, but the greater Texas community, as well. He founded the Sharon St. Cyr Fund, an organization that assists people in obtaining hearing aids and provides grants for sign language interpreters at public events.

Payne, born in Maine, lost his mother when he was 3, and he spent much of his childhood in an orphanage before entering foster care at age 15. From that point on, he said, he was driven to succeed no matter what the circumstances. By age 23 he owned Payne’s Fine Jewelry, which marked the beginning of a series of successful ventures — ventures that were interrupted suddenly when Hurricane Katrina whipped out everything he had built up in New Orleans, where he lived.

Undeterred, Payne relocated to Dallas and started over again.

Payne said Texas has been good to him, and he believes it’s time he returned that good fortune. He has chosen to run for the governor’s office because he holds a strong commitment to real Texas values and truly believes he can make a positive difference in Texas politics as usual.

“It’s time we stopped letting the Republican Party run unopposed in this state,” Payne declared. “We need a governor who is not a career bureaucrat, but one with real world experience and dedication to making Texas a better, safer and healthier place for all Texans.”

— Tammye Nash
Join us for the first glimpse into this year's highly anticipated Black Tie Dinner while enjoying refreshing cocktails at our open bar graciously provided by our liquor sponsors and sweet treats that will leave you begging for more. It’s the best way to kick off the weekend with friends and family while supporting our fabulous beneficiaries.

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OBITUARY

Robert Lee Covington Jr., 54, formerly of Jonesboro, Ark., entered into the life eternal on Friday, July 7, 2017. He was born on Sept. 1, 1962, to Robert Lee “Skip” Covington Sr. and Anita McFarlin Covington of Jonesboro, Ark. He was raised as a member of First Christian Church and graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1980. He briefly attended Arkansas State University before obtaining a degree from Texas Christian University in 1985.

He began his career working for General Dynamics in Fort Worth before he found a passion for interior design, a field in which he worked many years in Fort Worth, Little Rock, Jonesboro, before the profession eventually brought him back to his final residence in Dallas.

Lee was a quality man in all that he did and finally realized the best quality of all was found in the church. For the past several years, Lee has served as the executive assistant to the senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas.

Lee had many good qualities; he was prompt, professional and immaculate in everything he did. In his later years, Lee found entertainment, pleasure and a supportive community in the church. He enjoyed time with his family and friends and was loved by many. His impeccable appearance was usually accompanied by a signature smile and laugh that was instantly recognizable to those that knew him.

Lee was preceded in death by his grandparents, WB “Bud” Covington, Marzelle Rees Covington, Winston O. McFarlin and Helen McFarlin; an aunt, Diane Noah; and an uncle, Steve Covington.

He is survived by his mother and father, Robert and Anita Covington Sr. of Jonesboro; a sister and her husband, Kathleen and Harold Copenhagen of Jonesboro; a niece, Lauren Nunnally (Michael) of Jonesboro; nephews, Austin Copenhagen and Myles Copenhagen of Jonesboro; a grand-nephew, Landry Nunnally of Jonesboro, and many other family and friends from his hometown.

He is also survived by his partner, Lee R. “Mack” McLeod of Dallas, and numerous friends and co-workers in North Texas, and by a cousin, Jason Hurley, and his husband, Benjamin Owen, of Tyler.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, July 22, at 1 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to assist in funding one of Lee’s passions, the new entryway at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ. Checks may be made payable to Cathedral of Hope UCC, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75235 and marked “Entrance Project.” Each donor will be acknowledged in the Weekly Bulletin at Cathedral of Hope UCC.

THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taaffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

- Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNOK-FM. This week’s guest is David Collins, author of Accidental Activists about Mark and Vic, the Texas marriage equality couple; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Greymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org, LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; Dallas Fraternity meets for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; Gray Pride support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men’s meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

- JULY
  - Through July 23: The Eclectic Anniversary Art Auction
  As part of its 47th anniversary celebration, Cathedral of Hope is transformed into an art gallery featuring a collection of original 20th and 21st century movie posters and art, including Texas artists and commissioned works. CathedralofHope.com/47years.
  - July 21: Ice Cream Social
  Silver Pride Project holds a getting to know you ice cream social from 2-5 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.
  - July 21: Federal Club mixer
  Mixer for LGBT adults and allies from 6-8 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.
  - July 22: Pride festival auditions
  Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.
  - July 22: TAG screens A Very Sordid Wedding
  Tyler Area Gays hosts a screening of Del Shore’s new movie, A Very Sordid Wedding, at 8 p.m. at Liberty Hall, 103 E. Ervin St. in Tyler. Tickets are available online at LibertyTyler.com/events/
  - July 22: Book signing
  Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.
  - July 23: The Wedding Party & Expo
  Dallas Voice presents the third LGBT Wedding Expo to connect businesses with couples who are planning a wedding. Vendors include bakers, car services, caterers, clergy, florists, formal and bridal wear, jewelers, musicians, photographers and videographers, printers, venues, destinations and more from 1-4 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. Free. bit.do/wpexpo2017.
  - July 23: A Very Sordid Wedding
  Screening of the film followed by Q&A with Ann Walker, Emerson Collins (producer), Rosemary Alexander, Newell Alexander and Del Shores at 5:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at CathedralofHope.com/47years.
  - July 24: HRC Monday
  Finn Jones of Trans-Cendence International and Jade Lenore of Black Transwomen discuss transgender civil rights followed by candlelight vigil for trans lives lost this year at 7 p.m. at Chino Chinatown, 3011 Gulden Lane #110.
  - July 24: Multi-Candidate Meet & Greet, Collin County
  Dani Pellett, candidate for Texas’ District 32 congressional seat, hosts a multi-candidate meet-and-greet for Collin County from 7-9 p.m. at 281 Paddock Trail in Fairview. For information email Dani@DaniForCongress or call 802-392-DANI.
  - July 25: Grief Support Group
  Grief support group for LGBT people who have lost a same-sex partner meets from 7-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.
  - July 27: Book signing
  Randy Schmidt signs copies of his new book Dolly on Dolly at 7 p.m. at Interabang Books, 10720 Preston Road. (See story, Page 13.)
Meet Leroy, a 9-year-old black-and-white border collie mix weighing 87 pounds. A staff and volunteer favorite, Leroy is a gentle giant and just the sweetest boy ever. He walks well on a leash, rides great in the car and as long as you take him out regularly, he does all his business outside. He even knows some commands such as sit and shake. Leroy is neutered and microchipped and has all his age-appropriate vaccinations. His adoption fee is only $25. Stop by and meet Leroy soon. #20411

Leroy, is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed., and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. In celebration of 100 Days of Summer at the SPCA of Texas, you can adopt any dog, cat, puppy or kitten for only $25 (excluding livestock). Regular adoption fees are $250 for puppies, $125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, $75 for adult cats 6 months or older and $50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats. 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

• July 27: Peeling back the curtain
Stories you haven’t heard. Tour the clinic and hear about programs you made possible through LifeWalk and other donations. Beverages and hors d’oeuvres served from 6-8 p.m. at Prism Health North Texas, Oak Cliff Clinic, 219 Sunset Ave #116A.

• July 28: Last Bag Standing
Corn Hole Tournament with two-person teams. $50 entry fee. Hosted by Chad West and Chris Moffett. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Hogg Elementary School. From 7-10 p.m. at BBBoP, 828 W. Davis St. DashfortheBeads.org/last-bag-standing.

• July 29: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)
DSGA proudly celebrating its 20th anniversary season has a playdate open to all interested golfers at 10:08 a.m. at Luna Vista Golf Course, 11223 Luna Road. $55 includes golf, cart and range balls. A cookout and pool party at a nearby member’s home follows. Info at DSGADallas.org or info@DSGADallas.org.

• July 29: Pride festival auditions
Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• July 29: Gay For Good
G4G will be serving food, water and busing tables at The Stewpot from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up at GayForGood.org/dfw_g4g_the_stewpot.

• July 29: Texas Latino Pride pool party
DJ Charlie Phresh, photo booth, catered bites and open bar at TX Latino Pride’s pool party from 3-8 p.m. at 13339 Pandora Drive. $25-50. Facebook.com/TexasLatinoPride.
The special session of the Texas Legislature that convened this week in Austin offers some interesting parallels to what’s going on in Washington.

In D.C., Republicans control both houses of Congress and the White House and still can’t pass much of anything. In Austin, Republicans control both houses of the Legislature and the executive mansion, and Gov. Greg Abbott had to call a special session to keep the Texas Medical Board, and four other commissions from sunsetting.

While lawmakers are in Austin again to pass legislation to enable doctors to continue practicing legally in the state beyond Sept. 1, Abbott thought it would be a good idea for them to pass bills to take away cities’ rights to regulate trees on property within the city limits, to propose more bathroom bills, to rein in unions further, to nibble away even more at a woman’s right to choose and a variety of other insidious new pieces of legislation.

But can any of it pass?

Many Democrats in the Texas House don’t think so. Versions of all of the proposed bills were introduced in the regular session of the Legislature and got nowhere.

State Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, said all the special session does is give Republicans more time. But, he said, “Time doesn’t cure bad leadership.”

To ensure every piece of bad legislation passes, the Senate has chosen to suspend rules on posting info and on public hearings.

In the House, state Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington, tried to outmaneuver Speaker of the House Joe Straus, complaining from the House floor that some bills had been assigned to committees chaired by Democrats. He wanted to know if those bills could be brought to the floor even after they die in committee.

But Straus didn’t give Tinderholt a direct answer. He said that would be a question for the parliamentarian and explained that the bills in question were sent to committees chaired by Democrats because those were the appropriate committees for those bills. Straus didn’t change the rules for the lower house.

Among the bills Tinderholt was, no doubt, referring to were the various bathroom bills targeting transgender people.

“Appropriate” is exactly what Straus meant when he assigned those bills to committees where he assumes they will die. Last week, Straus said he didn’t want to be responsible for any suicides that resulted from passing anti-transgender legislation.

Johnson noted that other Republicans have also expressed opposition to the bathroom bills, using a business argument. On Monday, Dallas City Councilwoman Jennifer Staubach Gates held a press conference in Austin, with Visit Dallas CEO Phillip Jones, to warn about the amount of tourism and convention business the state will lose if any of these bills are passed.

But Straus, Johnson said, was the first Republican in Austin that he knew that used the moral argument that discrimination is simply wrong and could have dire consequences for transgender people.

About 1,000 attended a rally outside the Capitol on Tuesday where different speakers addressed different issues expected to come up during the special session.

The variety of issues represented was apparent from the variety of signs and T-shirts. Planned Parenthood was represented, while education was paramount to demonstrators holding “No vouchers” signs. A group called United We Dream represented undocumented Texans.

Local control was on the minds of many. A “Tree lives matter” sign referred to a bill to prevent cities from regulating trees on private property. The representative who filed the bill was fined when he cut down a large tree on his property without a city permit.
Union representatives protested a bill that would prevent the Texas State Comptroller from withholding money from public employees’ paychecks.

But the Rev. Carmarion Anderson, who is transgender, got the largest ovation from the diverse crowd when she denounced the bathroom bills and talked about hate crimes that target trans women of color.

“These bills are about using us,” she said. “Tokenizing us. Not protecting us. These bills give permission to commit a hate crime.”

By the end of her rousing speech, she had non-LGBT people chanting “Trans lives matter.”

State Rep. Chris Turner, D-Arlington, concluded the rally, offering some statistics: “Texas’ economy dropped from number 3 to 21 since Abbott took office,” he told the crowd.

Turner also said that the mortality rate for mothers in childbirth in Texas is the worst in the developed world and Texas tuition rates have increased 147 percent in 15 years.

The special session lasts 30 days. Johnson said whether or not any of the right-wing agenda passes, Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick “brilliantly figured out this no-lose political maneuver to create primary issues.”

Republicans not voting for these issues are already being threatened with primary challenges.
These days, bridal expos are a dime a dozen. But the third annual Wedding Party and Expo, taking place Sunday afternoon, July 23, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, ain’t your grandma’s show.

This is an LGBT community event, created and presented by Dallas Voice, so expect a wedding expo that’s a step above the ordinary.

“We’re gay, so of course we’re going to make this a real party,” said Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano. “It’s going to be informative and useful, of course. But it’s going to be a ton of fun, too. It says it right there in our name: ‘Wedding PARTY.’”

But there was more behind the impetus

Wedding officiants, venues, caterers, dance instructors, DJs and formal wear vendors will all be represented. Frosted Art Bakery and Studio, whose cake baker Bronwen Weber has been named one of the world’s best cake decorators by The Food Network, is among those vendors, giving you a chance at a “celebrity sighting,” too.

Destinations for wedding, transportation to get there and where to stay will also be part of the mix. And if putting it all together yourself seems daunting, event planners that can do all that for you will also be on hand. And while we couldn’t profile every vendor, here’s a look at a couple of the folks who will be there to make the day special.

Specialists

Sarahbeth Marshall offers edible thank-you gifts and an entertaining dessert option for a wedding.

Vendors offering everything from traditional to creative to make your wedding memorable

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com
Her Yelibelly Chocolates produces artisan chocolates at her facility in Addison. There, she makes bonbons, truffles and chocolate-covered Oreos personalized with your wedding colors, theme or monogram that can be given to the wedding party as a personalized gift.

Her facility is open for tastings and a class to teach you to “savor the flavor,” Marshall said, teaching fans how to tell the difference between a Hershey bar and a fine chocolate with a red raspberry taste. For that upscale bridal party, she said, Yelibelly offers a tasting of fine chocolate and liquor.

For an interesting dessert option, Marshall offers an interactive, liquid nitrogen dessert bar. In front of your guests’ eyes, she’ll make ice cream in about a minute and a half. The liquid nitrogen freezes the ice cream quickly, giving it a consistency somewhere between yogurt and butter cream cake icing. She said it’s a lot easier than a hand-crank ice cream bucket that takes at least half an hour of work.

“This makes it light and fluffy,” she said, and because of the flash-freezing process, she can even use alcohol, which usually doesn’t freeze.

“My favorite is bourbon-infused,” she said, which has a “smoky and oaky flavor.” Marshall will have samples of everything at the Expo.

Wedding planner

Maybe the idea of putting a wedding together yourself is daunting. Maybe you’re afraid you’ll encounter some of those homophobic florists who would rather ruin your day rather than sell you some flowers.

Danielle Hasting, owner and event director of One Fine Day, may be just who you’re looking for. Her resume includes planning a Laotian/Jewish wedding. For the Jewish side of the family, she said, the reception had to be strictly kosher. But a Laotian ceremony includes a pig roast. Hasting said she was able include both traditions that respected both sides of the family.

One Korean groom approached her with similar concerns. Hasting said she knew she was doing her job and had done her homework when he told her she was more Korean than he was.

“I’m a skilled logistics coordinator,” Hasting said.

She said she earned her title as The Red Dragon by handling difficult situations like the time she dealt with a men’s store that wouldn’t accommodate one bride who wanted to wear a tuxedo because they didn’t know how to measure her. She began renting her own tuxes specifically for

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And she wondered about bridal stores that couldn’t deal with two brides buying dresses. That’s double the sale for just one event.

“With the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality in 2015, we saw a real need in our community, and it was important to us to find a way to fill that need,” Cusimano said, explaining what prompted Dallas Voice to create the expo.

“I mean, same-sex marriage is now legal in this country, but that doesn’t mean all the discrimination ended,” he added, pointing to a Colorado case headed to the Supreme Court involving a baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple.

“When the Supreme Court handed down the Obergefell ruling two years ago, 60 percent of Americans supported marriage equality. That’s a significant majority,” Cusimano said. “But that still leaves 40 percent who oppose it.

“That same ratio is reflected among wedding services providers, so we wanted to create an event that allows same-sex couples — and others who believe in equality — a chance to interact with service providers that actually want their business and will treat them fairly,” he said.

The Wedding Party and Expo is the largest LGBT wedding show in the region, Cusimano said. More than 65 exhibitors will have booths at the expo, including community organizations and businesses as well as those offering wedding-related services,

he noted.

Vendors include providers specializing in audio/visual and staging, bakeries, caterers, venues, decorators, entertainment, florists, formal wear, officiants, jewelry, photography, wedding and event planners and more.

There will be live music, free cake and other food samples, a cash bar featuring mimosas, a wedding reception featuring the music of the No Limits band, and more.

“And this isn’t just for those planning weddings,” Cusimano said. These are event planners and service providers, so if you have an anniversary or a big birthday party or some other special event coming up, come see us on Sunday. You’ll find what you need at our party.”

The Wedding Party and Expo takes place in the Coronado Ballroom at the Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway, from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, although those attending must register first. You can register online in advance by visiting DallasVoice.com and clicking the link in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage, or register at the door on Sunday.

Parking for the event is also free.

Hilton Anatole is presenting sponsor and host for the event. A Very Special Day AV/sound/staging and wedding planning company, is the main stage sponsor.

Register at bit.do/wpexpo2017

Yelibelly specialty gifts for the wedding party. (Courtesy Yelibelly)

brides.

And she wondered about bridal stores that couldn’t deal with two brides buying dresses. That’s double the sale for just one event.

Hasting summed up her job as simply helping the couple put on the event they want: “Two people figure out what their needs are and I make it happen.”

Hasting said she’ll have her Access 360 available at the wedding expo. It allows the couple to stand on a platform as the slow-motion video camera rotates around them. She has an editor that adds music, creating a video great posting on social media.

One Fine Day is the only company in Texas offering Access 360, Hasting said.

Hasting said because she works with lots of same-sex couples, her contracts don’t list bride and groom but just asks for the signatures of the wedding couple.
Hello, Dolly

Denton writer compiles interviews that trace the career of Dolly Parton

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
	taffet@dallasvoice.com

In the Ladies Home Journal, Jim Jerome described Dolly Parton as Patsy Kline in Jessica Rabbit’s body. What editor Randy L. Schmidt learned, though, as he compiled interviews with Parton from the late 1960s through today for his new book Dolly on Dolly, was that Parton herself considered her public persona as something of a character.

She was never offended by the “dumb blonde” label because, as she said, “I’m not dumb and I’m not blonde.” “She’s so down to earth,” Schmidt said of the country superstar.

Schmidt found almost 100 interviews from sources like The Tennessean, Nashville’s daily newspaper that interviewed Parton early in her career, to Rolling Stone and Playboy, which spent a couple of weeks with her to write about the singer in depth.

A more recent interview by Chris Azzopardi first appeared in Dallas Voice. Schmidt culled the interviews so that information doesn’t overlap and so that, taken together, it traces Parton’s career.

By the mid 1970s, Parton had done about everything she could in country music and began to cross over into pop. Porter Wagoner warned her she’d never be able to do that, but she replaced her band, played in places like New York and San Francisco and began becoming a gay icon.

If there was any doubt about her appeal to the LGBT community, the movie Nine to Five sealed the deal. The story of women who work for a large company and were never be promoted because of their gender subconsciously appealed to the gay community, many of whom had been passed over for promotions or fired because of who they were.

And if Nine to Five wasn’t enough, Parton followed that role up with a starring part in Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.

Over the years, Parton has changed the way she talks about her long-term marriage. Some have even thought she was lesbian with a husband as a beard to placate her country fans. She tells Playboy she was reluctant to do that interview because of how some of her fans would react.

The interviews Schmidt chose to use barely overlap, so taken together they tell Dolly’s story in her own words. Some interviews and articles he found had one particular gem, so he excerpted a paragraph and included them as a ‘Dolly Diamond’ after a related full interview. A longer one addresses the Dolly lesbian rumors that accused Parton of paying off her husband Carl to remain married and “keep his mouth shut.”

Schmidt, an elementary music teacher in Denton, said compiling the interviews and seeking permission for their use took about two years and fit in nicely with his teaching schedule. Previously he edited a similar book of interviews with Judy Garland.

As he’s out promoting the Dolly book, he said, he’s waiting for his next subject to find him.

Randy Schmidt speaks and signs copies of his book at 7 p.m. on July 27 at Interabang Books, 10720 Preston Road.
With the Texas State Fair coming along soon, I started wondering, what if Big Tex were to suddenly change his welcome speech: “Howdy Folks! Now take your business Elsewhere!”

After listening to the condescending tone of Texas State Rep. Scott Sanford, R-McKinney, during a recent Facebook Live roundtable hosted by CBS 11, I couldn’t help but ask, when did Texas Republicans lose their “pro business” stance?

I was part of a six-person panel moderated by Jack Fink, CBS 11 political reporter. Maintaining my composure during the onslaught of hate wasn’t easy.

Considering the bathroom bills filed and awaiting debate in the Legislature’s special session, SB4 (the “show me your papers” bill) and bills seeking to undo protections in non-discrimination ordinances, like the one Dallas has in force, it seems that while Republicans for ages have trumpeted “local control,” saying cities across Texas could govern themselves better than state lawmakers, they have now had a change of direction. Now it is Texas Democrats that are fighting against anti-business legislation.

Pro discrimination? Not a Texas value, according to the 1,300 businesses that Texas Competes says have signed a letter opposing discrimination in the Lone Star State. Yet Rep. Sanford claimed that these business leaders didn’t know what they were signing.

I don’t even know where to start with that ignorant and insulting statement.

IBM took out a full-page ad in the Dallas Morning News, San Antonio Express-News and Austin American Statesman opposing any legislation that discriminates against transgender Texans. They also dispatched key executives to Austin to try to put a stop to this bill. That sounds to me like they knew exactly what they were signing.

Sanford’s arrogance in taking business for granted could come back to bite him. Hard.

And IBM isn’t alone; companies ranging from Dow Chemical to Nordstrom to United Airlines, from LaQuinta Hotels to Sea World, Dell, Allstate and Hewlett Packard — along with more than a thousand others — have signed on to stand against discrimination.

If Texas isn’t careful, other states will be only too happy to take a bite out of our No. 4 ranking among top states for business.

Actually, that No. 4 ranking doesn’t tell the whole story. OK, so Texas ranks No. 1 in workforce. But if the members of that workforce don’t feel accepted and protected, they will go elsewhere.

And when you look a little further, Texas ranks middle of the pack in economy (No. 25) and lower in terms of quality of life (No. 37). We are No. 34 in education and, perhaps most telling, No. 24 in business friendliness.

So legislators take note: If you are going to vote in more legislation that discriminates against a quality workforce, brace for impact. It won’t be fun.

Rep. Sanford was correct in pointing out that North Carolina is No. 5 on the list, implying HB2 — North Carolina’s infamous bathroom bill — didn’t have the economic impact critics predicted it would. Then Sanford claimed Texas would be unaffected as well. But Phillip Jones, CEO of Visit Dallas, disagreed, saying that the full impact of HB2 has yet to be felt as conventions and conferences are booked well in advance.

If, as Sanford says, there was no economic backlash against HB2, that makes me wonder why it was repealed (if only half-way and haphazardly). Possibly because the NFL, NBA, NCAA and more than 100 performing artists threatened to leave North Carolina off of their list as possible site for high-profile events. Losing the NBA All-Star game was one thing, but losing NCAA tournament games in a hoops-crazy state like North Carolina was unacceptable.

The simple fact is, discrimination is just plain bad for business. It’s also not a “Texas Value.”

Obviously, Rep. Sanford holds the truth in the same “high regard” as does Donald Trump. In addition to lying about businesses not knowing what they signed, Sanford claimed that affirming care by parents of transgender kids is “child abuse.”

This has been proven false. His assertion that parents push gender identity on kids is just plain ignorant. The best parenting permits children to be who they are. Denying their identity leads to tragic outcomes.

During the discussion, I pointed out that there are thousands of homeless children in Texas, many of them on the street because of parental rejection. I suggested Sanford worry less about where children pee and maybe concern himself with where they sleep.

But my suggestion fell on deaf ears.

Sanford, who is a Baptist executive pastor in addition to being a state representative, did express the need to protect college coeds from sexual assault on college campuses. I suggested he start with Baylor. (Was that wrong?) He was being a good Republican, moulding the same tired (and discredited) tropes about trans people that could have come from Dan Patrick’s hand up his back or the playbook from hate group Family Research Council.

Texas Republicans seem nostalgic for the days of Jim Crow laws. Have we learned nothing? Diversity and equality are good for business, good for building strong communities and a recipe for strong growth.

All of this noise about bathroom bills, repealing non-discrimination ordinances and replacing them with “religious freedom” license to discriminate bills are the death throes of a dying breed of dinosaurs known as the Republican Party. The rifts we are seeing now will only grow wider as those on the extreme ends draw their final lines in the sand.

Texas Republicans used to be thoroughly pro business. But now, other than discrimination and separation, I can’t figure out what else Republicans are for.

Seriously, 2018 can’t come soon enough. Texas deserves better.

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

AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER
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Whenever an arts organization brings in a newcomer to lead it, there’s an expectation that fresh blood equates with fresh ideas ... and sometimes radical rethinking. The decision by Addison’s WaterTower Theatre to tap Chicagoan Joanie Schultz to take over for longtime artistic director Terry Martin was a leap of faith for both: Schultz had never led a theater company as AD before, and WTT was looking to expand its footprint in North Texas theater. Sometimes, the new guy — or new woman — dips a toe into the waters gingerly, but Schultz has decided to dive in.

Her first production as a director — a bowshot to signal her lively approach to making theater — was to replace the planned summer musical, Sondheim’s Sunday in the Park with George, with something far more radical: Hit the Wall, a play about the Stonewall Riots that triggered the modern gay rights movement.

Replacing a musical by a beloved icon of American theater with a rarely-performed, politically charged retelling of liberation? It’s not as crazy as it sounds... or at least, Schultz didn’t imagine it would be so.

“When we knew we were going to reprogram the summer show, we went to the [usual suspects]. I was looking for something uplifting and inspiring [to replace Sondheim], something that would attract a young, excited crowd,” she says. She then remembered Hit the Wall, which she first encountered about five years ago in Chicago.

“I knew it would be a good summer show. What struck me when I saw it was the unique storytelling — a hybrid between being a rock concert and a play. It has characters, but it’s the feel for the passion, the spirit underneath it [that captured me],” Schultz says.

She also realized at the time she first saw it how little she actually knew, as a straight woman, about its subject matter.

“I remember not knowing a darned thing about Stonewall,” she admits. “I had heard the words but didn’t really know what happened. I was shocked that a major historical moment in America” was not more widely known. “Stonewall is not being taught in our history classes, though for sure it should be.” It would, she thought, be a good way to start her tenure at WTT.

But the journey has been more uphill than she expected. “When I picked it, I hadn’t moved to Texas yet,” she says. “It was a huge hit [in Chicago],” so she anticipated an easy sell. “It’s been more challenging for my audience than I anticipated. Some people have said, ‘Haven’t we heard so much about Stonewall?’ But we have a cast full
We’ve seen plenty of plays and movies in which a beautiful, healthy female actor pretends to have a serious illness. Think Cynthia Nixon as the cancer patient in *Wit*, Diane Keaton as a leukemia sufferer in *Marvin’s Room* or Mary Tyler Moore as the quadriplegic in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* It is a rare and startling thing then to watch Dallas theater star Sherry Jo Ward act the saga of her own ongoing struggle with Stiff Person Syndrome in her dazzling new one-woman show titled *Stiff* at the Festival of Independent Theatres at the Bath House Cultural Center.

*Stiff* was one of four short plays leading off the first weekend of the four-week fest, and it was by far the standout. Ward, 40, delivers her one-hour monologue from a big orange armchair, her long legs stretched onto a matching ottoman. Only a few years ago, audiences saw her in the leading role in WaterTower Theatre’s production of *August: Osage County*, bounding up and down a three-story set. Now because of the stiffening of her muscles, just one of the symptoms of the incurable autoimmune disease she was diagnosed with, Ward is unsteady on her feet. She has tremors. Her speech is slowed and sometimes slurred.

In her play, Ward doesn’t ask for pity — she demands it, wondering why pity has gotten such a bad rap. Pity helps, she tells us, as does medical marijuana, crying with her physical therapist and figuring out new sex positions with her husband of 18 years. “When you don’t feel good, you do whatever you can to feel better,” she says.

*Stiff* is hilarious, bold, informative, fanciful (she practices an imagined interview with Diane Sawyer) and never, ever too heavy. Exquisitely written and performed by Ward (who was directed by Marianne Galloway for Risk Theatre Initiative), it is an hour you won’t soon forget. The standing ovations it’s earning at the Bath House are a reminder to all of us that sometimes just standing up is a victory. *Performed July 22 at 2 p.m., July 27 and Aug. 5 at 8 p.m.*
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AV | Sound | Staging
- AVSD A Very Special Day
  Main Stage
- One Fine Day LLC
  Booth #401
- PSAV
  Booth #100

Bakeries | Beverages
- Brigante Private Label
  Premium Wine
  Booth #305
- Frasted Art Bakery
  Booth #104
- Lakewood Brewing Co.
  Booth #410
- Posh Cakes by Shane
  Booth #114
- The Classic Gourmet
  Booth #202
- Yelibelly Chocolates
  Booth #401

Caterers | Restaurants
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  Booth #214
- City Kitchen
  Booth #117
- Mattito’s
  Booth #207
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  Booth #414
- Sambuca
  Booth #110
- Tower Club Dallas
  Booth #403
- Wendy Krispin Caterer
  Booth #308

Decorators
- Balloon City USA
  Booth #115
- Cebolla Fine Flowers
  Booth #416
- Donnie Brown Weddings
  Booth #204
- Howard Brown
  Events & Design
  Booth #111

Florists
- Absolutely Bloo
  Booth #301
- Cebolla Fine Flowers
  Booth #416
- Donnie Brown Weddings
  Booth #204
- Joche W. Events
  Booth #215

Churches
- Royal Lane Baptist
  Church
  Booth #406
- Disc Jockeys | Entertainment
- 1564 Entertainment
  Booth #116
- Carol Marks Music
  Booth #310
- No Limits Entertainment
  Booth #210
- Cortez Ballroom
- The American Dream
  Booth #108
- Turtle Creek Church
  Booth #408

Facilities | Venue
- 7 for Parties
  Booth #308
- Belo Mansion
  Booth #214
- Doubletree by
  Dallas Market Center
  Booth #211
- Hilton Anatole
  Booth #100
- Hilton Garden Inn
  Booth #306
- Lakewood
  Booth #410
- Mediterranean Villa
  Booth #202
- NYLO Las Colinas
  Booth #106
- Performing Arts
  Bass Hall
  Booth #315
- Perot Museum
  and Science
  Booth #307
- Resource Center
  Booth #206
- Tower Club Dallas
  Booth #403
- Warwick Melrose
  Booth #302

Photographers
- Picture This Green Screen
  Booth #208
- Prime Limo & Car Service
  Booth #410
- Photobomb DFW
  Booth #105
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  Booth #303
- 2nd2Nunn Photography
  Booth #209

Transportation
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  Booth #406
- Real Live Connection
  Booth #107
- Rainbow Roundup
  Booth #204
- Lifewalk | Prism
  Booth #205
- Legacy Counseling
  Booth #307

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The Wedding Party & EXPO Show Guide
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I know why ‘La Cage’ birds sing

Uptown Players finds the human connection in a camp classic

In a world of Kinky Boots, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, The Producers and more, it can be a challenge to wrap your mind around the idea that, in 1983, La Cage aux Folles was absolutely revolutionary. There had been gay characters on Broadway before, and drag queens, and musicals with cross-dressing. But a story focused on a stable, middle-aged, married gay couple (one of whom we might call trans by today’s standards) that paints a sympathetic portrait of same-sex parenting? Unheard of.

Georges (Bob Hess) runs a St.-Tropez nightclub whose star, Zaza, is also Georges’ longtime partner. Albin (Mikey Abrams), Albin is what we might call “high-maintenance,” temperamental, flouency, self-involved, vain … but also tender and nurturing. So when their son Jean-Michel (Georges’ biological offspring from a hetero one night stand 25 years earlier) announces his engagement to a girl whose parents are right-wing homophobes, and asks that Albin “disappear” for the family dinner, feelings are hurt, courage is found, honor is restored … and the bigots get their comeuppance.

It’s a predictable froth, a pink meringue served with a dollop of bitter queen… I mean, cream. The entire point is to empower and reaffirm to the crowd the normalcy of even the most outrageous “lifestyles.” Albin, for all his flamboyance, is a traditionalist, perhaps having more in common with his future in-laws than anyone can fathom.

The production by Uptown Players now at the Kalita concentrates on the human scale of the story; despite the showgirls and feather boas and artifice, at heart this is a chamber comedy — a dinner farce where dessert is served with every course. Hess and Abrams make for a charming couple, all lived-in affection.

When Hess’ Georges shames Jean-Michel (a lanky, honey-voiced Seth Womack) with the touching ballad “Look Over There,” even Ted Cruz might get misty. Hess’ coolness contrasts to Abrams’ over-the-top joie de vivre.

But in this version, much of the supporting cast gets to shine as well. In addition to Womack, Alex B. Heika’s frenetic houseboy Jacob steals every scene he’s in, and the six actors portraying Zaza’s back-up dancers, Les Cagelles, execute some dazzling choreography and inhabit their characters with minimal dialogue.

The book (by Harvey Fierstein) was written with a different audience in mind; it touches trippingly but not deeply on issues that have somehow become more hot-button in the interim. And Jerry Herman’s score alternates between bombast and bathos. But who the hell cares? Sentimentality has its place, and that place is in a lavish summer drag show with heart.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

An audience fave from FIT 2007, Matt Lyle’s silent-film-onstage The Boxer is back with its original cast of Bootstraps Comedy Theater darlings, including onstage keyboard whiz B. Wolf and percussion/banjo/mandolin/sound-effects master Johnny Sequenza. Like a live-action Buster Keaton comedy, this hour of light pantomimed-to-music storytelling finds a Depression-era down-and-outer (Kim Lyle) pretending to be a man so she can fight-coach a bantamweight pugilist (Jeff Swearengen) in his face-off with a brute (Ben Bryant). Punctuated with perfectly timed physical sthickt and black-and-white “training montage” bits (from a decade ago but the actors haven’t changed much, darn them), The Boxer is still a comedy knockout. Performed July 20 at 8 p.m., July 28 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 3 at 8 p.m.

WingSpan Theatre Co. director Susan Sargeant has a thing for Edward Albee. She just gets his plays and insists that we should, too. With Finding the Sun, a rarely-produced 1983 Albee one-act set on the beach, we’ve almost come convinced there’s something to love about obtuse, interwoven conversations among four troubled couples. Two of the women (Robin Clayton, Catherine DuBoard, both excellent) are married to gay men (Matthew Stepanek, Ian Mead Moore) who’d rather be with each other. An older couple (Ethel Stephens, Jerry Crow) are facing mortality with bitter resignation. A mother (Charlotte Akim) contends with a sexually precocious teenage son (the terrific David Palmgreen) carry out mundane tasks as their boss (Octavia Y. Thomas) barks orders. A shopper (Allyn Carrell) speaks only in TV ad slogans — “Everything’s on sale today!”

Echo Theatre was the odd one out on FIT’s first weekend with its absurdist, impenetrable Trace of Arc by Ali Smith (adapted and directed by Kateri Cale). Two shopworkers (Natalia Borja, Abigail Palmgreen) carry out mundane tasks as their boss (Octavia Y. Thomas) barks orders. A shopper (Allyn Carrell) speaks only in TV ad slogans — “Everything’s better with Bluebonnet on it.” And now and then a woman named “Conscience” (the marvelously animated Pam Myers-Morgan) interrupts to announce that “a terrible play is going on!” She’s not lyin’. Performed July 22 at 5 p.m., July 23 at 2 p.m., July 29 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 5 at 5 p.m.

— Elaine Linder

One of the best parts of my job is discovering all the dynamic new people, places and things expected to interest the LGBT community. Every once in a while I stumble upon a few gems that catch my fancy — hopefully they will catch yours, too.

**REVRY LGBT streaming service.** You have to tip your feathered caps to Netflix, Hulu and other popular streaming services for providing (for the most part) satisfying LGBT programming options, like trans creator Jill Soloway’s award-winning *Transparent* at Amazon. But now you can effectively eliminate all the hetero noise dologging up your queues and go full “queerated content” thanks to REVRY, the first dedicated LGBTQ+ digital streaming platform. Available on Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, plus iOS and Android devices (with Pluto.tv and Amazon Fire capabilities coming soon), REVRY, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, features original content like *3030*, a series about platonic black lesbian roommates living in Las Vegas; the newly added Bob the Drag Queen comedy special, *Suspiciously Large Woman*; as well as international shows and movies, like the subtitled *Free Fall*, characterized as “the German *Brokeback Mountain*.” Spoiler alert: They bang in the woods using nature’s lube.

**OUTshine on the Sea.** Earlier this year I attended the 10-day OUTshine LGBT film festival in Miami, which featured some of the best LGBT films I have ever seen (not an exaggeration; find French-Canadian film *1:54* and have a box of Kleenex handy). So I’m pretty pumped for OUTshine on the Sea, the fest’s seven-night Eastern Caribbean Cruise (hitting Nassau, Punta Cana and St. Thomas), from Feb. 17–23, 2018, aboard Celebrity Equinox. If you’re a film and cruise lover — two of my favorite things! — pack your movie-marathon sweatpants and let’s gain 10 pounds of popcorn weight on the open ocean together.

**Hornet app.** If you’re fed up with all the blatant racism on your gay dating/hookup apps, take a break and zip into Hornet, a gay social-networking app oddly popular in France, Russia, Brazil, Turkey and Taiwan (you want to expand your horizons, right?), but whose user base is consistently
The service, event, product and app you should be into right now
woods using nature’s lube.

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BOOK REVIEW: Wedding belle

Equally Wed by Kirsten Palladino, fore-
word by Lance Bass and Michael Turchin

Like many people, Kirsten Palladino grew
up dreaming of The Perfect Wedding. She
pictured it, but making it happen started
out wrong: when she got engaged to her
now-wife, Maria, and went looking for help
getting started, she could only find books
for straight couples. That was definitely not
going to work, so the Palladinos created an
online wedding magazine … and eventually
this book.

So what if you just got engaged? As you
might guess, there’s a lot of planning that
goes into a wedding, starting with whom
(and how) you tell about it. Palladino adv-
ciates being gentle with family members who
may feel uncomfortable. She says, “give
them some time” and know how to decide to
invite them or not.

Time management will be your friend in
this process, so find a system that works for
you and be faithful to it. Keep phone num-
bbers, contracts, ideas, lists, worksheets, and
budgets in the same place, and keep track of
all gifts received. Take a look at Palladino’s
list of possible items needed, then remember
that nothing there is mandatory.

Decide on the kind of wedding you want,
the venue you’ve dreamed about, and the
size of your ceremony. Remember that age
and gender of attendants isn’t cast in stone,
and the only requisite for attire is comfort.
Know what questions to ask the “wedding
pros” you need to make your day special:
a planner, photographer, videographer, the
officiant, baker, bartenders, and your DJ. Re-
member that flowers are optional or you both
can carry bouquets; in fact, your decorations
and what you carry down the aisle can be
anything unique to the two of you. Person-
zize the ceremony in ways that make you
happy; there are all kinds of options and it’s
your wedding.

Ever since you were small, you’ve
dreamed of getting married but, if you don’t
have a model to follow, it can be hard to
know where to start and where to get what
you want. Equally Wed shows prospective
“grides” and “brooms” the path.

Beginning with gender-neutral terms for
wedding participants, Palladino progresses
through the year-plus-long preparations for
the Perfect Wedding, and beyond. Prospec-
tive newlyweds will find lists and bullet-points
that are useful and reminders for things they
may never have considered, including ideas
that may seem to fall into an “over-the-top”
category. Still, she stresses that individu-
alization is what makes a wedding special
and that “Something will go wrong on your
wedding day,” but nobody can ruin it unless
you let them.

This is an easy-to-use book that covers all
bases, from “will you?” to “I do.” If there’s a
wedding in your future and you need a start-
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— Mikey Rox

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**Friday 07.21**

And your new Miss Gay Texas America is…

… Well, that’s what we will all find out when the finalists perform at the Rose Room tonight. All week long, contestants have been competing for the direct, state-wide preliminary to Miss Gay America, now in its 45th year. The current titleholder, Sofia Anderson, will be on hand to help crown the new queen. The theme for the night is Queens on Fire… and for Texas in the summer, that’s no exaggeration.

**DEETS:**
The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. doors. $25 cover. MissGayTexasAmerica.com

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**Saturday 07.22**

**Dave Koz and Larry Graham Jr. go Side by Side at Meyerson**

Out saxophonist Dave Koz has been performing his brand of jazz for decades. Now the Grammy nominee teams up with bassist/vocalist Larry Graham Jr. (Sly and the Family Stone) for a new tour, called Side by Side, which be-bops into the Meyerson on Saturday for a one-night-only performance.

**DEETS:** Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., 7:30 p.m. Meyerson. DallasCultural.org

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**Sunday 07.23**

**Do you hear wedding bells? If you’re at the Anatole on Sunday, probably**

Same-sex marriage has been the law of the land for more than two years, but that doesn’t mean engaged couples know everything they need to about how to get hitched — where, when, how much, etc. So Dallas Voice has once again gathered dozens of top vendors in the same place to share knowledge, information and ideas for planning your nuptials … or just deciding if you even want to get married one day. There will be cake, a cash bar and best of all: it’s free to park and attend.

**DEETS:** Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 M. Stemmons Freeway. 1–4 p.m. Tickets and parking info at Bit.do/epexpo2017.

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La Cage aux Folles. The groundbreaking musical about a gay couple with a straight son forced to “straighten up” for his fiancee’s conservative parents. Presented by UptownPlayers. Reviewed this week. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 30. UptownPlayers.org.


Disaster! Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick developed this musical that parodies disaster movies. Final weekend. Trinity Arts Theater at Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. OnstageInBedford.com.


The Bible: The Complete Words of God (Abridged). Amphibian Stage Productions presents the return engagement of this comedy. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 13. AmphibianStage.com.


The Life and (Cruel) Times of Conchita Zaragoza: A Mambo Musical. Comedy by Mark-Brian Sonna about a Mexican girl obsessed with being the next big star in America... despite being undocumented. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 6. MBSProductions.net.

The Merry Wives of Windsor. Shakespeare Dallas kicks off with this comedy about Sir John Falstaff. Performed in rep with an adaptation of Cervantes’ Quixote. Final weekend. Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

The Necessities. A world premiere from local gay playwright, director and actor Blake Hackler, about four strangers in a small Texas town whose lives converge. Closes Second Thought Theatre’s season. Joel Ferrell directs. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 29. 2TT.co.

Quixote. Shakespeare Dallas continues its 2017 with this stage adaptation of Cervantes’ Quixote. Performed in rep with The Merry Wives of Windsor. Final weekend. Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.


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FRIDAY 07.21
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 07.22
CONCERTS

SUNDAY 07.23
COMMUNITY

MONDAY 07.24
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. $10.

TUESDAY 07.25
FILM
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Elizabeth Taylor tries to get Paul Newman to stop lusting after his dead lover. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

this week’s solution
M O O D  P O R T  B R O W N
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B A Y A R D  R U S T I N
O T E L L O  N  T H  W A S
E R G  E S C O R T
S P A N  A U D R E Y  L O R D E
A L G O L  A W E  Y O D E L
H A R V E Y  M I L K  T Y N E
I C E A G E  Y U P
B E E  L A W  B R I D G E
S Y L V I A  R I V E R A
A T S E A  A L L I G A T O R
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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie admits it: She is a tech addict

Technology was created by the devil. This past week, I have Hulked out twice and almost killed a few people and all because my computer, Wi-Fi and DVR all went kaput at the same time. I like to think of myself as a calm, rational person, but when every electronic device in your house revolts, it’s hard not to take it personally. Last Tuesday something evil happened. Either an alien pulse, lightning bolt or something more sinister plunged my household into the dark ages of 10 years ago.

My husband and I went immediately into action to try to remedy the eerie quiet of our home. He called Dell tech support for the computer, and I called AT&T Uverse for everything else. Our only ray of hope was that our cellphones still worked. I was shown just how serious this mess was when I asked Alexa for some help, and she basically said, “You are on your own, faggot!” Alexa and I have gotten close since she showed up at Christmas. I play Jeopardy every day with her, she sets timers and alarms to help me out, she plays me music all day. But on this day, I felt abandoned.

And then we had to repeat almost everything. When I got to speak to an actual person, and know how frustrating it can be. It took forever all day. But on this day, I felt abandoned.

And that’s when I decided to judge a movie mostly by whether or not I enjoyed watching it. Recently I saw The Mummy. Not the best film of the year, but I enjoyed it. It was creepy at times and the stunts were really cool. The underwater zombie things creeped me the fuck out. But it was ridiculous. It was goofy and laughable at times, but over all I enjoyed watching it. So my review was basically, “Good movie, fun to watch.” I love movies and the whole theater going experience. I love movies that stay with you, that you think about months after you have watched them, but the truth is 98 percent of movies made are just fluff. A mental getaway for about two hours. There are plenty of movies I didn’t enjoy and don’t mind telling people when I hate one. Recently the movie It Comes at Night pissed me off. No one came. Seriously though, it had some cool, creepy elements but with no real payoff. I can enjoy a cerebral film, but this one just annoyed me.

For me, Tarantino is very hit or miss. I loved Inglorious Basterds, which a lot of my friends loved, I did not, endless scenes of supposed tense dialogue. It would have been better with some serious editing. It got a little wordy without saying much. Although I enjoyed the acting and some of the action, mostly it annoyed me. I guess I pick things apart. I understand that my taste is questionable and I’m okay with that.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

Signed, your future best friend.

Dear Pushy, I appreciate that but no, keep my movie reviews to just a few words or one sentence. No offense to professional movie reviewers, but I feel like it is their job to basically find things to dislike about a movie. It’s easy to pick apart a movie and rip it to shreds over any number of things. I review movies with one criterion: Did I have fun watching it? If I did, regardless of plot holes or bad acting, I will say I liked it. I have a friend that nitspicks and tears apart every movie he sees. For instance, Titanic. He hated it. Said it was the worst movie ever made. Got on his soapbox and told me a thousand reasons why I was stupid for liking it. He said he is a sheep who only likes what he is told to like, you don’t think for yourself. Bitch, please. I loved Titanic. It was fabulous on so many levels.

Since then, I decided to judge a movie mostly by whether or not I enjoyed watching it. Recently I saw The Mummy. Not the best film of the year, but I enjoyed it. It was creepy at times and the stunts were really cool. The underwater zombie things creeped me the fuck out. But it was ridiculous. It was goofy and laughable at times, but over all I enjoyed watching it. So my review was basically, “Good movie, fun to watch.” I love movies and the whole theater going experience. I love movies that stay with you, that you think about months after you have watched them, but the truth is 98 percent of movies made are just fluff. A mental getaway for about two hours. There are plenty of movies I didn’t enjoy and don’t mind telling people when I hate one. Recently the movie It Comes at Night pissed me off. No one came. Seriously though, it had some cool, creepy elements but with no real payoff. I can enjoy a cerebral film, but this one just annoyed me.

For me, Tarantino is very hit or miss. I loved the Kill Bill films, but Inglorious Basterds, which a lot of my friends loved, I did not, endless scenes of supposed tense dialogue. It would have been better with some serious editing. It got a little wordy without saying much. Although I enjoyed the acting and some of the action, mostly it annoyed me. I guess I pick things apart. I understand that my taste is questionable and I’m okay with that.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of July 24–27:

- **Alexandre’s**: K-Marie on Friday and Tuesday. Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday and Thursday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. Blanka on Wednesday.
- **Club Changes**: Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection**: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: Wayne Davis hosts the United Court of the Lone Star Empire’s Christmas in July fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill**: Road to Newcomers USofA, a benefit show for Rocky Tacoma, hosted by Keleixis Davenport at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Boys, Boots, & Boxer Briefs on Monday.
- Sue Ellen’s: Reckless Angels on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room**: Miss Gay Texas America 2017 final night at 9 p.m. on Friday. Miss LifeWalk at 5:30 for VIPs, doors at 6 p.m. and show at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: The Sh*t Show with Frida Monet, Bleach, Nia Courtland and Sofonda John at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. Jada Pinkett Fox at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth

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Solution on Page27

Across
1. “I’m not in the ___!”
5. Left to pirates
9. Rubyfruit jungle writer Rita Mae
14. Shakespeare’s Hathaway
15. US citizen
16. The sound of music?
17. One who does it just for the money
19. “___ and tigers and bears...”
20. MLK associate and LGBT advocate
22. Verdi opera
23. Math degree
24. “Till There ___ You”
27. Work unit
29. Cowboy’s job in The Boys in the Band
32. Nine inches
36. Zami author
39. Star in Perseus
41. Leave open-mouthed
42. Sing part of “The Lonely Goatherd”
43. San Francisco activist
46. Daly of Judging Amy
47. Time of frigidity
48. Gay rodeo affirmative
50. One who goes after your honey
51. Jude of The Talented Mr. Ripley
54. Bit of dental work
59. Stonewall veteran drag queen
62. On the ocean
65. Type of leather from a reptile
66. Lindsay of Liz & Dick
67. Inedible Apple
68. It’s a gas on Broadway
69. Former congressman Barney
70. Like young Abe Lincoln
71. Venus de Milo’s lack

Down
1. Latin dance
2. “___ at time!” (serial monogamy motto)
3. Way to serve your meat
4. Kid’s “tattoo,” for example
5. Eve counterpart on Lesbos
6. Nicky, in Funny Girl
7. The Golden Girls episode
8. No-tell motel meeting
9. Start of a song from South Pacific
10. Totally screw
11. Rene Auberjonois role
12. Come out on top
13. Sixty-nine and others (abbr.)
18. Gardner of mystery
21. Of ___ I Sing
24. Long-winded
25. Shakespearean forest
26. Ancient erection
28. One of the Marianas
30. Like a cunning linguist
31. Crotchety sort
32. Sir, in India
33. Melrose ___
34. Hollywood Squares choice
35. PBS science show
37. Motorist’s offense, briefly
38. Trust, with “on”
40. Stocking stuffer?
44. “We’re here! We’re queer!” e.g.
45. Spartacus director
49. Nice Nellie
52. To no ___ (in vain)
53. Sprinter Rudolph
55. Trump ex
56. Try to put a restraint on
57. One who handles your horse
58. Picks up
59. Jack portrayer Hayes
60. Tug
61. Six Feet Under creator Ball
62. TV character from beyond Uranus
63. Rocky top
64. Singing syllable
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