What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer 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 TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.

- To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

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 Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
I’m **open-minded, not uninformed.**

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

Learn more at [truvada.com](http://truvada.com)
While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Take 1 tablet once a day, every day.
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.
- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.
- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.
- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
• Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking
• Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

• Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about

reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help

•  Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.

•  See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

•  If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to

•  You must be HIV-1 negative.

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT

TRUVADA for PrEP

• Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become

You must get tested to make sure that you do not already

•  You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

•  You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not
Psst, hey… do me a favor…. 

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For years now, Dallas Voice has sponsored the Readers Voice Awards — we call them the RVAs, which is not the same the Recreational Vehicle Association — and we report what you, our readers, think is best about gay Dallas. Hey, we call ourselves the Voice… that’s your voice! 

And, as with actual elections, if you don’t vote, you can’t make your position heard. That means supporting your favorite doctor…. or bartender; the care dealership that treated you right… or the straight ally who made you proud; the best gay destination in the U.S…. or where you buy Fido the treats he loves the most. 

There are nine areas — Pets, Dine, Shop, Show, Metro, Health, Travel, Services and Nightlife — with multiple categories in each. And you don’t have to vote in all of them to register for the grand prize: Tickets to a musical, dinner for two at Mattito’s and $500 cash money! 

Go to DallasVoice.com/rva — Arnold Wayne Jones

Hate crime charges may loom for group who lured men on Grindr

One man is in custody, and Dallas police are searching for two to four others accused of using Grindr to lure men to a vacant apartment where they were robbed and beaten. 

On its blog today (Jan. 20), Dallas police wrote, “There are indications that the offenses were motivated on the perceived sexual orientation of the victim and are being considered hate crimes.” 

Just attracting men on Grindr doesn’t rise to the level of hate crime, although it indicates gay men were the target. However, if language indicating bias was used during the commission of the crime, hate crime charges could be added. 

Three offenses occurred on Dec. 7 and 8. Four more men were lured to the same location on Dec. 12. The apartment was in the 8000 block of Chariot Drive. One offense took place in the 8000 block of Rothington Road off South Buckner Boulevard. The two streets are a block apart. 

On Dec. 12, a 17-year-old was taken into custody and charged with four counts of aggravated robbery for the Dec. 12 attacks. He remains in Dallas County Jail. The investigation is ongoing, and additional charges may be filed. 

Police detectives said it’s possible additional attacks took place. Anyone who was attacked or has information about the assaults should call Det. Jason Jarc at 214-671-3584. If you would like to remain anonymous, contact CrimeStoppers at 214-373-TIPS. — David Taffet
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Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

- Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week’s guests are Leslie McMurray and Katie Sprinkle; 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; 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 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasusquares@gmail.com; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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, 5730 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.

JANUARY 2018
- Jan. 27: Krewe de Kidds
  A Mardi Gras Masquerade presented by Kidd’s Kids from 7-10 p.m. at House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St.

- Jan. 27: TAG Game Night
  Tyler Area Gays host Game Night, at 6 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce’s Genecov Room, 315 N. Broadway St., in Tyler. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com or email projecttag@gmail.com.

- Jan. 31: The Kennedy Experience
  Caven Employees Benevolence Association presents The Kennedy Experience, starring Dallas’ own Kennedy Davenport and, from Shreveport, Chi Chi Devayne, both of RuPaul’s Drag Race Allstars 3, in the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. The evening begins at 9 p.m. with VIP meet-and-greet, following by the show at 10 p.m. VIP tickets are $20; general admission is $10. For more information and advance ticket sales, visit CEBADallas.org.

FEBRUARY
- Feb. 4: Pizza & Politics
  LGBT issues are on the agenda at the YPC of Dallas 32nd congressional district candidates forum at 12:30 p.m. at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

- Feb. 6: Mid-Cities Democrats
  Grief Support Group For people who have lost a same-sex spouse at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

- Feb. 6: Outlast Youth:
  2018 Vision & Equip Discussion of where Outlast Youth is headed, what resources are available to address LGBT youth homelessness and how to get involved from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at Promise House, 224 W. Page Ave.

- Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas
  PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Truly Trusted Dental Care, 3300 Douglas Ave. Ste. A (@ Hall St.) 214.855.0789

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GAY AGENDA

• Feb. 6: Outlast Youth: 2018 Vision & Equip
Discussion of where Outlast Youth is headed, what resources are available to address LGBT youth homelessness and how to get involved from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at Promise House, 224 W. Page Ave.

• Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• Feb. 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour
DFW Pride Happy Hour at the SMU Cox School of Business LGBTQ and allies organization, from 5-8 p.m. at the Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. For information call 214-768-2516. Free parking in the museum’s parking garage.

Meet Sandy, a 4-year-old, red rottweiler/shepherd mix weighing 77 pounds. She's super sweet, loving and an all-around happy-go-lucky gal. She loves cuddling, spending time with people, lots of petting and just hanging out. She's laid back, easygoing and gentle. She's house trained. She sits on command, rides well in the car and does great walking on her leash. She'll make a wonderful companion to anyone willing to love her in return. She can be picky about her canine friends, so bring any current dogs you have for a meet and greet to make sure they get along. Sandy has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #159252

Sandy 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. Regular adoption fees are $100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, $25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and $25 for 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 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospital, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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GOP lawsuit threatens Dem Primary ballot

Democrats respond with countersuit, charge racism and ask suit be thrown out

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Democratic candidates have filed a petition to intervene in response to a lawsuit the Dallas County Republican Party filed late last week against the Dallas County Democratic Party and Carol Donovan, Democratic Party chair. If the Republican suit were successful, 128 Democrats would be removed from the Democratic Party Primary ballot.

Among the charges by Democratic candidates in the countersuit is that the Republican Party has no standing in the Democratic Primary.

On Jan. 19, five minutes before the deadline to remove a name from the ballot, Republicans filed their suit charging that Carol Donovan didn’t sign 128 of the Democratic candidate applications. Ironically, on page 21 of the request for a temporary injunction, Missy Shorey, chair of the Dallas County Republican Party, forgot to sign the lawsuit.

In addition, on that same page that Shorey forgot to sign, the document appears to be a template that begins, “I, Davin Bernstein,” and continues through giving his birth date of “08/24/1965” and his home address of “228 Hollywood Drive, Coppell, Tx, 75019,” rather than changing the information to Shorey’s.

If courts rule the Republican Party does have standing, the dispute may come down to what Texas election law actually says about having the county chair’s actual signature on the application.

Donovan’s signature does appear on 23 candidate applications and not on 128 others. On the others, candidates are divided into two groups — those signed by “John Doe #1” and those signed by “John Doe #1.” That second group probably should have been labeled “John Doe #2,” but isn’t.

But does Texas election code require the county chair’s signature?

Texas Election Code Chapter Section 172 refers to parties nominating by primary. Section 122 says the application must be filled with the county chair. Election Code 1.007(a) makes it clearer what filing with the county chair means. Candidates may file with “an employee of the authority at the authority’s usual place for conducting official business constitutes filing with the authority.”

Nowhere in the code does it specify the county chair’s signature must appear on the application. The code doesn’t even say what the application should include. However, it does specify what information must be electronically submitted by the county chair to the secretary of state to be included on the ballot.

That information was successfully transmitted by the county chair to the Texas Secretary of State and has been on the Secretary of State website since December, when the deadline for applications closed.

Application forms that are used to appear on a primary ballot are created by the Secretary of State and are not mandated to be in any particular format by law. Nowhere in the election code does it specify the county chair’s signature must appear on an application form for the application to be valid.

One section of the election code Republicans contend Democrats have violated is 141.037: “Form of name certified for placement on the ballot.” Republicans contend this refers to a form that must be filled out. But what that section of the code actually refers to is the form in which the name will appear on the ballot.

For example, Larry SECEDE Kilgore will appear on the Republican ballot running for governor against Gov. Greg Abbott. This disputed section allows Mr. SECEDE Kilgore’s name to appear in that format and has nothing to do with the forms he filled out to get his name onto the ballot.

Lee Daugherty, president of Stonewall Democrats, is a Democratic precinct chair and a member of the Democrats’ County Executive Committee. That group, which includes all precinct chairs, met on Monday evening, Jan. 22. Many of the candidates attended as well.

Daugherty described the group as concerned but unified to fight the lawsuit.

“If this is the way they want to behave, we’re not just going to smash them at the polls, we’ll smash them in the courts as well,” Daugherty said.

He called this a desperate attempt to put their own people into positions throughout the county. “If they can’t find candidates to run in Dallas County, that’s not our fault,” he said.

Donovan is up for re-election as county chair. That election is held during the primary. She has one opponent, Chris Hamilton, who released a video on Monday calling for Democrats to come together without finger-pointing.

“This lawsuit is a cynical attempt to undermine the rights of our voters in Dallas County to select their elected officials,” Hamilton said. “Now is not the time for us to engage in a dispute within our own party.”

He said there would be time later to sort out what happened and make sure it doesn’t happen again. At the executive committee meeting, Donovan thanked Hamilton for his words.

Candidates are not letting the lawsuit distract them from their campaigns.

Julie Johnson is running for the Northwest Dallas County Texas House District 115 seat currently held by Republican Matt Rinaldi, who authored the House version of the bathroom bill.

“We are not going to let the Republicans be successful and distract us,” Johnson said.

“I have full faith in the Dallas County Democratic Party’s attorneys who are going to get this fixed and have that lawsuit dismissed.”

She said she was staying focused and has several fundraisers planned as well as a number of campaign appearances she’s concentrating on.

Jessica Gonzalez, who is running for the Texas House District 104 in Oak Cliff, said her campaign was business as usual.

“We’re hoping to get it resolved,” she said.

“I’m keeping focused on the campaign.”

State Rep. Eric Johnson, who was also one of the 128 candidates Republicans wanted off the ballot, said, “Texas Republicans are constantly looking for ways to disenfranchise minority voters.”

He pointed out that the vast majority of the 128 candidates are minorities.

“This is just the latest attempt by Texas Republicans to take away the ability of minority voters to elect candidates of their choice,” Johnson said.

Donovan sent a message out to Democrats in Dallas County on Wednesday, Jan. 24. She said by the end of the week, the party would file a response to the Republican lawsuit and “seek sanctions and legal fees and counter the falsehoods perpetuated by the Republican Party lawsuit.”

She said the party is evaluating whether the Republican lawsuit violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965, because, as state Rep. Eric Johnson charged when he first saw the suit, “it appears calculated to deny minorities the right to vote for candidates of...
Taking on the incumbent

First-time candidate Jessica Gonzalez wants to unseat Roberto Alonzo in District 104

DAVID TAFFET  | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

While most of the LGBT candidates running for office entered the race to challenge a conservative opponent who has worked against equal rights, Jessica Gonzalez is facing an entrenched Democrat in her race for Texas House District 104. Gonzalez said she doesn’t see her race as running against Rep. Roberto Alonzo. She’s simply running for the Legislature as a Democrat in a very blue district.

Alonzo received an A-plus from Equality Texas for his work in the Legislature in 2017. But he has been criticized in Dallas for not voting for Rep. Eric Johnson’s bill to protect voters’ rights. Senior citizens in West Dallas using mail-in ballots were defrauded by individuals who tried to influence their votes. Johnson tried to address the scam with his legislation. Alonzo, whose district includes part of West Dallas, voted against the bill.

“There’s a general sense of frustration for him not voting for Eric’s bill in the district,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also pointed out that Alonzo voted for a bill that stripped Denton of its...
Kennedy Davenport talks about
Drag Race All Stars Season 3
and more

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

By the time you read this, the premier of RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars season three will have aired. We will have found out who the mysterious 10th queen is. We will (I guess) have found out which of the 10 competitors didn’t make it to week two.

And we will have seen a Dallas favorite back in action on the Drag Race stage.

Kennedy Davenport — the “dancing diva of Texas” and the fourth place finisher in Drag Race season 7 — is competing for her place in the Drag Race Hall of Fame, a big ol’ crown (to add to the many she already has, including the most recent, Miss RoundUp 2017) and the $100,000 prize.

(Shangela, another queen with North Texas roots, is back for a third time, and who knows who the mysterious 10th might be — Alyssa Edwards or Laganja Estranja from North Texas, or maybe Cynthia Fontaine from Austin?)

One thing’s for sure, Kennedy promised during a phone interview on Tuesday (Jan. 23): “We start out with a bang!”

“It’s gonna be singing. It’s gonna be dancing. It’s gonna be acting — everything!” she said of the third All Stars season. “It is action-packed this time around.”

Action-packed is also a fitting description for Kennedy’s life these days. While the All Stars episodes have all been filmed, except for the grand finale where the winner is announced, she has more than enough to keep her busy.

“I am home here in Dallas until [Jan. 27]. Then I will go to Atlanta and be there through the 30th,” she said. “I will be at a pageant there, and then I’m recording the video for my new single, ‘I’m Moving Up.’”

Wait — Kennedy dances AND sings? “Oh yes. I was singing before I ever started doing drag,” she explained, adding that there is no set date for the release of the single and the video, but that it will be sometime during All Stars Season 3.

Kennedy will be back home in Dallas on Jan. 31 just in time for “The Kennedy Experience,” a special show co-starring ChiChi DeVayne — a Drag Race Season 8 competitor from Shreveport who’s also back for All Stars Season 3 — that will benefit CEBA (the Caven Employees Benevolence Association). (See details in sidebar).

But it is the suspense of All Stars Season 3 that is on most people’s minds right now. And Kennedy promises it will be worth the wait.

“It’s gonna be a great first episode!” she declared. “It’s gonna be a great season.”

Kennedy said that when she was invited to return for All Stars Season 3, it wasn’t the crown or the prize money that prompted her to say yes. “I wasn’t even thinking about that $100,000. That’s just truth,” she said. “I was just excited for a second chance. I just really felt [in Drag Race Season 7] that I wasn’t able to show all of me. This [All Stars] was an opportunity to let people see what I can really do, all of it.”

Coming back for All Stars is “definitely different” than competing in Season 7, Kennedy said.

“This time, I know everybody. That offered a little bit of comfort. The first time, you had to get to know everybody else, and that was a little challenging,” she explained. “But this time, these are my sisters. I know them going in. That made the road a little easier.”

Still, she added, “All Stars is very draining emotionally. It’s very competitive. I mean, every girl there came with her A game. It’s not easy at all. As an all star, [judges and fans] expect perfection.”

Shade has always been an integral part of Drag Race, in every episode of each incarnation. After all, “when you get that many drag queens together at one time, there’s bound to be some drama,” Kennedy acknowledged.

But, she said, “It’s not about that. The focus should never be on the drama of it all.” And the competitors in All Stars Season 3 understood that.

“We all had the frame of mind of, ‘Let’s make good television.’ We all knew that this was our second chance, our second opportunity to make good for ourselves, and we were all more focused on that, on making...
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- Treats diarrhea differently by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
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- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

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**Mytesi (crofelemer):**

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good for ourselves,” she continued. “And that’s what makes a good competition, and it makes good television.”

But really, Kennedy said, the hardest part of it all was not telling anybody she had made the show in the first place.

Drag queens know going in that they can’t tell anyone they are on the show. The names of each season’s competitors remain a secret until RuPaul reveals them just before the season premiers.

“It’s hard as hell” not to tell anyone, Kennedy declared. “We have to wait so long! It’s just like having to pee really bad and having nowhere to pee, honey! You just gotta find a place to let it all out! And it just felt so good to be on the show this go-round, and you just want to tell everyone all about it!”

**Life between 7 and 3**

*Drag Race*, Kennedy said, has already changed her life. And it has changed the world of drag, too.

“I think, thanks to *Drag Race*, there is definitely a newfound respect for drag, not just in our [LGBT] community, but in the heterosexual community as well,” Kennedy said. “We [drag queens] are being seen differently now. Drag is being seen as an art form, as an actual profession where a girl can make an honest, decent living.

“And I think it’s definitely happening in a positive manner. Drag queens are being more active in a lot of ways, on a lot of issues, and we’re bringing a lot of attention to our community,” she continued. “You never know how something you do, some number in a show, might affect some person in the audience. We are bringing more awareness; we are the most popular thing going right now.

“Straight people, gay people — all kinds of people look up to us, and it’s up to each of us to live a life that will inspire and be a testimony, especially for the younger people in our community. I am proud to be part of that.”

Like other contestants who did well on the show, Kennedy has had a chance to “tour the world, meet beautiful people and share your talent with them. I am just blessed, so blessed and humbled to have had the chance to have this experience,” she said.

But there have also been some very tough times for Kennedy and for the Davenport family. Kennedy had already endured the sudden and unexpected deaths of her father and her drag sister, Sahara Davenport. Then on Dec. 8 last year, came another blow: her drag sister Bianca Davenport Starr was shot to death in her Fort Worth home during an apparent robbery.

“Bianca and I were very close,” Kennedy said this week. “She was nothing but real and genuine and unconditional when it came to our relationship. She always told me how proud she was of me, how proud she was to have me as her big sister. We worked together and were always able to help each other in this field.”

Kennedy said she uses Bianca’s death “as a motivation. I know she would want me to carry on, to keep on going, to do the very best I can in this competition and in life. In fact, I am actually dedicating my new single, ‘I Am Moving Up,’ to Bianca.”

Kennedy said that while she is proud to call Dallas her home, she hopes that she will see more support from her hometown this time around.

“In Season 7, I felt a real lack of support from our Dallas community, and I would really love to see more support from Dal-

las this time,” she said. “Shangela, Laganja, Alyssa — we all need more support from our Dallas, Texas family. We get all of this support from other cities, other states, even other countries. And I do have beautiful, wonderful fans here in Dallas, and I appreciate all of them from the bottom of my heart. But I really hope the girls here, and the fans here, can rally and support each other like I see in other cities.”

How can her fans here in North Texas do that?

“Through tweeting [and social media],” Kennedy explained. “Come to the shows, come to the functions we have here. Give us more verbal support. Just simple, simple stuff like that.”

And, she added, Kennedy isn’t just asking others to give without being willing to give in return.

“I will do better, too,” she said. “I have to make a pledge myself, to be more visible, to go to more bars, different bars than what I have gone to usually. To give back, so that it’s not just me asking, it’s me doing, as well. We can all do that.”

*RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars Season 3* airs each Thursday at 7 p.m. on VH1.
right to ban fracking within its own city limits. She said that one of the few places in Dallas where fracking companies wanted to drill was at the Dallas Naval Air Station, which lies entirely within District 104.

Gonzalez said the incumbent is also on the wrong side of the gentrification debate. Just as Omar Narvaez ousted Monica Alonzo from the Dallas City Council over that West Dallas issue, she hopes to beat Roberto Alonzo on that same issue.

Another topic resonating in her district is SB 4, the sanctuary cities law that forces local law enforcement agencies to do the work of federal immigration officers.

“So many people are terrified,” Gonzalez said. “They’re scared to go to the grocery store. Scared to go pick up their kids from school.”

Gonzalez, who’s an attorney, said she’s had clients move out of state because they were so scared after the passage of SB 4.

Finally, she said she’s challenging Alonzo because he hasn’t been engaged with his constituents. “Why didn’t we have town halls?” she questioned.

Gonzalez started her political career as a Stonewall Democrats board member. She left Dallas to attend law school and became secretary of the organization when she returned after also spending time working as a White House intern and then as an Obama campaign organizer in 2012.

In the White House, Gonzalez worked with the senior advisor on immigration policy. She worked on a memo to the president laying out options that would become the DACA program.

The Obama campaign saw a paper she had written on voting rights, recruited her and sent her to Nevada, where she created a statewide plan. Among her jobs was to connect with county voter registrars and hold them accountable, create training materials for poll workers, recruit attorneys and do grassroots campaign organizing. Obama won the state’s six electoral votes.

After the campaign, Gonzalez returned home to Dallas where she went to work for attorney Domingo Garcia. After a few years, she opened her own firm with a partner with the understanding that she might run for political office.

“Running for office is something I always thought about,” Gonzalez said. And she always wanted to run right where she grew up, so she bought a house in the Lake Cliff section of Oak Cliff.

After the disastrous 2017 legislative session ended, she attended a briefing Alonzo gave calling 2017 “overall it was a good session.” Gonzalez said that’s when her business partner looked at her and said, “You gotta do this.”

“Everything fell into place,” and her campaign began, Gonzalez said.

Since then, she’s been knocking on doors and rounding up endorsements. So far, Dallas City Council members Omar Narvaez, Scott Griggs and Adam Medrano have endorsed her campaign. So has the Mexican American Bar Association and the Dallas Morning News.

But her parents are among her biggest supporters.

She said her mom has always been a big supporter. When Gonzalez was bullied in high school and had her car and her locker vandalized, her mother took her to get her hair cut into a very short, butch hairdo, telling her, “If they’re going to judge you for that, you don’t need people like that in your life.”

In college Gonzalez said she found herself defending a transgender friend. “It made me furious,” she said, describing the treatment her friend endured. The episode prompted her to work to update the school’s nondiscrimination policies to include gender identity.

Gonzalez’s campaign is different from those of other LGBT candidates for state legislature. Finn Jones has no primary opponent in his Mid-Cities race and will challenge Tea Party incumbent Tony Tinderholt in the fall. Julie Johnson, who has received a broad range of endorsements from the LGBT Victory Fund to the Dallas Morning News, will face the author of the bathroom bill, should she win her primary.

But Gonzalez only has to win her primary. Although she’s among the candidates Republicans are trying to force off the Democratic Primary ballot, the winner in March faces no opposition in November in this heavily blue district.
It’s up to us as citizens to pull the country back from the edge of Trump’s disaster

It’s been a year — a long year, especially for LGBTQ folk — since Trump was inaugurated, and so far, his record is even bleaker than I expected.

I doubt if anyone but a Log Cabin Republican could forget the scene at one of Trump’s rallies where he held up a hastily-defaced rainbow flag bearing the words “LGBTs for Trump.” I cannot imagine those handful of deluded sycophants could look at his record and not wish that their Magic Marker had run out of ink.

The Human Rights Campaign pulled together a list of Trump’s greatest hits against LGBTQ Americans. Foremost among them is the creation of a division in the Civil Rights section of the Department of Health and Human Services cynically titled the “Conscience and Religious Freedom Division.” Most likely, this sham is designed to defend medical personnel who object to treating LGBTQ patients for everything from HIV to gender reassignment.

In other words, it’s open season on “the gays.”

Trump has failed to appoint a director to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. Couple that with his ham-fisted attempts to defund the Affordable Care Act, and it leaves many with HIV/AIDS without anyplace to turn for help and healthcare.

He gutted the State Department’s policy on LGBT rights, and by doing so, tacitly encouraged places like Chechnya and Indonesia to unleash monstrous campaigns of oppression and murder against their LGBTQ citizens without fear of consequence.

Trump has even reportedly ordered the Centers for Disease Control to stop using words like “diversity,” “transgender,” “science-based” and even “fetus!” Guess we are restricted to only fourth grade vocabulary when referring to epidemics and other health issues.

And did I mention his appointment of Jeff Sessions, a virulent homophobe, as our U.S. attorney general? Or the appointment to the Supreme Court of another right-wing ideologue, Neil M. Gorsuch?

Now considering this litany, hark back to that Colorado rally where he held up that flag and ask yourself: What were those people thinking?

My answer is most likely not going to win me any friends, but here it is:

Trump is not so much a great deal maker as he is a fortune teller. He lures customers into his tent with all the trappings of a Cassandra. He gives the appearance of someone who is successful and thus, by inference, knows what he is doing.

He must have some kind of abilities; after all, he has a crystal ball and all the other trappings of someone who can see and influence the future.

He tells his followers not what is true but what they want to hear. He feeds into their aspirations and hopes and becomes the answer to their problems.

Feeling like your jobs have been stolen from you? Trump will bring them back, as if by magic.

Feeling like what used to be your secure position in society by mere virtue of your pale skin is threatened? Trump will defend you and “Make America Great Again” by subjuggling or getting rid of any people of color who threaten that.

Feeling like your authority as a man is somehow threatened by equal treatment of women? Trump understands and will keep those pesky women in their place.

Feeling like politicians don’t care about LGBTQ people? Trump does! Look at that flag he’s waving!

Now a year later, most of the country has figured out it’s all a con job. Even those alleged “LGBTs for Trump” have most likely woken up and smelled the Magic Marker.

Trump is a world-class fraud, and no matter what he promised, he will deliver only what is good for Trump. He is incapable of caring about anyone but himself, and that means LGBTQ people and all minorities are expendable pawns in his self-serving game.

It’s time we stopped believing him and, change it. It’s time we stopped believing the politicians who seem content to go along with his madness just to stay in power. Unless the House of Representatives gets serious about impeachment, ordinary Americans will have to be the ones to change things.

That means we MUST do more than gripe to friends on social media. We MUST do more than attend a march and wave signs. We MUST get off our collective asses and go out and work for progressive candidates.

We MUST open our checkbooks and contribute to candidate campaigns. We MUST get involved and learn where candidates stand on issues and hold them accountable when they are elected.

It’s time we stopped scribbling our aspirations on flags and started seeing the world as it is. Our country is in dire straits, controlled by liars and grifters. We MUST use the only tool at our disposal: Our vote.

We must vote and get all our friends and relatives to vote. And remember this wisdom from my grandfather, a Roosevelt Democrat, used to tell me: “If you ever touch that Republican lever, it will burn your hand!”

The next flag I want to see waving is the one signaling Trump’s surrender.
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At his East Dallas home, Justin O’Keith sits behind a desk in his cluttered but organized garage studio. He’s expecting a model anytime now, but his imagination is already at work for the shoot. Surrounded by shelves of props that include ventriloquist dolls, furry heads, a Donald Trump mask and pretty much anything else you can think of, O’Keith’s artwork is a mix of photography and painting — with rippling abs and pecs.

“Hot guys in photos. Sure. We’ve seen that. But O’Keith has some next-level stuff going on as well.”

His straight-up fitness shots are familiar territory: A guy in a double biceps pose; gym shots of men amid workouts or relaxing after getting their pump on. But while familiar, there is something a bit extra about them as well.

“I understand how the body functions,” O’Keith says. “I coach body models a little differently because I understand their body is a temple.”

He gets it for a reason. After graduating from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 2010, he gained “a shit-ton of weight. I knew it was time to make a change,” he says.

His first Zumba class would redirect the trajectory of his life. Starting out meekly in the back row, he caught on quickly.

“Within six months, I was a front row diva. I became one of those. If someone took my spot, I would kill them,” he proudly states.

O’Keith became a certified Zumba and Les Mills Bodypump instructor. He also lost 80 pounds. So when he photographs his models, O’Keith isn’t just a dude with a camera asking guys to disrobe for a picture.

“Health and fitness is something very close to my heart and when I was in the gym, I got to know athletes there,” he says. “Plus, after teaching classes all those years, I know how the body functions so I can work with them and their body for a great shot.”

In short, O’Keith’s own health has manifested itself into his art.

When he takes his work past the usual fitness and body photography, it’s far more magical. Upon adding his eclectic thrift-store props from his shelves, selecting backdrops and painting his models, the works transcend into something far more fantastical.

Scroll through his Instagram (@justinokeithcreative), and you’re bowled over by a provocative mix of shots that are sexy, disturbing, hot, funny all mixed with a bit of what-the-fuck? His artistic beginnings aren’t complicated, but they are a little unexpected. He practically jumped from his left brain to his right, ultimately ending up in the middle.

Following in his family’s footsteps regarding education, O’Keith’s need to help people led him to become an attorney. After graduation and passing the bar, he worked in Shreveport, Houston and now Dallas. But during school, his creativity was simmering to a boil.

“I loved doing that kind of stuff, so I bought a beginner camera. I was gonna teach myself how to do it,” he says.

Upon his return to Dallas (after leaving a bad relationship), O’Keith decided to instead follow his intuition. He began his adult life as a lawyer, but found his voice through the lens.

“I felt like I was finally living in my truth and coming into my path,” he says.

And of all things to confirm that was a Craigslist ad.

“No. Not that kind.”

“I’m a huge thrifter thanks to my great aunt and a lot of my work is inspired by her,” he explains. “Studio equipment is expensive, but I found this lady in Halton City on Craigslist selling two crates of photography equipment for $100. She actually spelled ‘photography’ wrong so I expanded my search, much like when I’m researching for legal matters.”

SHAPE Page 26
Richard Neal, like many gay guys, once considered his gym membership little more than a necessary means to achieving a desirable end. His workouts were less about healthy living and more about looking good in tank tops and shorts. Neal was focused on the now, not on the fitness long game.

“I spent a lot of time chasing the gay gym rat aesthetic,” says Neal, owner of Dallas’ Zeus Comics and Games. “It’s what we’re supposed to do, right? We starve to be thin, and we lift to get big. We curl for big biceps, bench press for a big chest, and leg press for big legs. Then we spend 30 minutes on the elliptical to be lean.”

Neal’s fitness outlook was profoundly reset seven years ago, however, with his first Dallas CrossFit gym experience. Exercises like burpees and barbell thrusters (known as functional movements in CrossFit parlance) replaced fitness machines. White boards used for scorekeeping replaced full-length mirrors. Neal quickly found that, in the universe of CrossFit, performance is the goal and physical results are merely a byproduct. Neal was an instant CrossFit convert.

“When I first walked into a CrossFit gym there wasn’t a mirror in the place,” Neal recalls. “There were all these fit men and women of all ages and not an elliptical or weight machine in sight. No one was chasing body. Body was the result of the work and not the goal of the work.”

Perhaps the most inspiring difference Neal observed was a pervasive CrossFit spirit of inclusiveness. Everyone, regardless of age, gender, skill level — and yes, even orientation — was considered an athlete. And, of course, there was an undeniable support group aspect.

“My Big D CrossFit community lifts me up,” Neal says. “It cheers my successes big and small and encourages me every time I’m down. To give back, I even coach a few classes at Big D to be more involved with the athletes.”

Neal’s passion for CrossFit has now moved far beyond his Big D home gym experience. Today, he competes with other CrossFit enthusiasts both nationally and globally. Once again, his goal is personal

Photo courtesy Rueben Gonzales

CrossFabulous!
Out Dallas CrossFit enthusiast Richard Neal flexes his fitness options
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Since surviving a cardiac episode last year, out celebrity fitness expert Bob Harper renewed his commitment to healthy living.

Fans of celebrity trainer Bob Harper were astonished when news broke a year ago that he had suffered a near-fatal heart attack while he enjoyed a routine Sunday workout at the gym. Harper was, after all, the epitome of health and fitness. Community shock, however, paled in comparison to the fitness star’s own disbelief.

“I tell you, when I woke up in a hospital two days later with friends and family from Nashville and from L.A. telling me that I had a heart attack, I literally was like, ‘You guys must have the wrong person’” Harper recounts. “There is no way that could have been me. It was a really crazy experience, and it’s been a really crazy year.”

Harper has since learned that high levels of lipoprotein(a), a hereditary condition from which he suffers, precipitated the unexpected cardiac event. Together, he and his doctors have charted a course of treatment, a process which has afforded the fitness expert some peace of mind. Yet the 52-year-old Harper cannot completely shake a feeling that his heart betrayed him.

“I definitely felt like my heart gave up on me,” Harper says. “That was kind of what I talked about and what I felt. This heart that has been beating in my body for as long as I’ve been alive just stopped one day. It was a really challenging experience. Also, being able to get to a place where I could trust my heart again has been a really interesting process.”

Not surprisingly, the near-death experience reformed Harper’s outlook on life. He now finds fresh perspective on what is important. He also feels that, “before it’s officially lights out” for him, he has many tasks left to tackle.

“What I’ve realized now is that life can just be taken away in an instant,” Harper says. “I want to be able to appreciate every single day. I want to be able to find the gratitude in every day because it can go so quickly. I don’t want to stress about things that I don’t need to stress about anymore.”

The prospect of a fresh start — an idea that is particularly appropriate at the beginning of a new year — inspired Harper to write his book *The Super Carb Diet*. In it, Harper lifts a long-imposed ban on carbohydrates … well, sort of. While bad carbs like potato chips and sugary sodas — ones Harper calls “carbage” — are still off limits, he encourages a sensible, measured diet that includes fiber-rich complex carbohydrates.

“What I really feel like people need right now in so many ways in their lives is balance,” Harper says. “And that is what *The Super Carb Diet* is all about. It’s about pressing the reset button. It’s about balancing your diet again and being able to incorporate your protein, your fat and your carbs every single time that you eat.”

Harper cautions, though, that the plan is not a fad diet or quick fix. Instead, the plan’s objective is to adjust one’s lifestyle and outlook in the long term, a task which demands both effort and time. Harper, in fact, is up front in his book about requiring a 90-day commitment to the plan.

“I think my publishers were nervous about that 90 days,” Harper says, “but I really do believe that this is not a diet. I feel like it’s a way of life. And this is going to be something you can do for the rest of your life. Again, it is about balance. I’m not telling you that you can’t eat bread. I’m not telling you that you can’t eat pasta. I’m telling you that you can eat all these things, still stay strong and lose weight.”
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READERS VOICE AWARDS 2018
Del Shores tackles his greatest challenge: Acting in one of his own plays

Fans of Del Shores — and he has a lot of them, especially in North Texas — know him best as a playwright, screenwriter and director of such shows as *Sordid Lives* (in its various incarnations), *Southern Baptist Sissies* and *Queer as Folk*. Some more will know him for his standup comedy, which he plies regularly at the Rose Room. But few may realize that Shores initially trained as an actor — indeed, writing was a secondary pursuit; he wrote to give himself parts to perform.

But that seems like a lifetime ago. Shores has become more famous (or is it notorious?) for his perfectionism, for monitoring how his plays are performed, for his exacting requirements from his actors.

And now, the tables have turned.

His latest piece, *Six Characters in Search of a Play*, is a solo work, a showpiece for a single actor to embody six major (and familiar) characters from some of his projects, to be director. It would be an exaggeration to call it sweet revenge for Collins, but it was an eye-opening experience for both of them.

"I was challenged by Emerson, my great director, to memorize the full script, and it was the hardest fucking thing I've ever done," Shores laughs. "I am not unfamiliar with memorization, but there is a big difference in memorizing a scene and performing all the dialogue in a full-length play. For years actors have praised and criticized me [saying], 'I never worked so hard at memorizing a monologue.' I've always been the asshole saying, 'You have to speak it as I wrote it!'

"Now he understands what actors go through [delivering his lines] — he's suffering the way so many of us have!"

Collins also has unique insights into the process; three years ago, he was the first actor to perform a regional production of the one-man play *Buyer & Cellar*, a role originated by another former North Texan, Michael Urie.

"The experience of doing a one-person show — how to memorize, how to rehearse it, how to be specific and plot your energy — helped me work him through the process of breaking it apart and pulling it back together. [You'd be surprised how important] planning your breathing is, something that you don't have to think about in a normal play. You have to worry how you expend yourself so you don't carry the mania of one character into another.

"His wonderful at directing me," Shores gushes.

"I would say directing Del has done far better than one would have expected. He's an artistic control freak in the best possible way, but when you're the person ceding your own control, 'it's difficult.'" Collins says. "But we've been working together for more than a decade, and we don't fight. I hope what I'm doing the best is serving him as a writer in directing him as an actor. I'm translating him for him."

Translating it, yes, but the stories are pure Shores. He pulls from personal experiences, so fans will not be seeing variations of Brother Boy or Noleta or Ty, though some may recognize a few of his impersonations.

"*Sordid Lives* fans will recognize Sarah Hunley, the elderly actress devoted to drinking and smoking herself to death before Trump got elected," Shores says. "And she succeeded. But there's also a waitress I met in Dallas, a redneck I met in Mississippi and my mother, who I used for inspiration for many years [for Latrelle in *Sordid Lives* and Lurlene in *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will*]. Near the end of her life, she really lost her mind, which is something I have never really talked about. It was so painful. But it was so cathartic to perform."

*Six Characters* was essentially workshopped for two performances last year in Palm Springs, but Dallas audiences will see the refined, polished two-point-oh version.

"We've seen a lot of stories on the *Sordid Lives* characters and how he as a writer encounters the world around him, from his family and finding comedy in things that are painful or mundane" Collins observes.

"But I think this is different. People will be uniquely surprised."
“Del Shores shows his Pride with a tattoo inspired by his activism. We asked him and others to share their Pride ink. Visit DallasVoice.com to see their photos and read their stories.”

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As it turned out, the woman’s father was a traveling photographer. Those crates contained strobe lights, umbrellas, tripod and everything else O’Keith needed to start his studio work.

She told him she knew that the right person would find it and told O’Keith to do something with the crates.

“It was my sign from the universe,” he says.

Since then he’s competed at both the state fairs in Louisiana and Texas and won. His work appeared in the fall 2017 shows of Raw Artists and Conception Arts. And he’s vying for a potential campaign with a spirits company.

And while he still works with fit models, he’s discovered a new interest in drag photography. Upon shooting local queen Tylee AF, O’Keith has added that to his 2018 goals.

“But I’m really going to hit it hard this new year. I’m still involved with the legal side looking at a venture in Houston but until the universe takes me where I need to go, I just want to be me.”

O’Keith checks a lot of boxes on his identity but he says that all manifests in his work.

“I’m the black, queer, educated guy. I have tattoos, I like guns, I drink,” he says. “I’m a Libra, so it’s all about balance. I’m attracted to guys, girls and everything in between just as long as they have a good heart and personality. But I think that balance helps me tell so many stories in my work.”

For more about Justin O’Keith, visit justinokeith.com.
**Friday 02.02 — Sunday 02.04**

**See Uptown Players’ limited-run bonus show ‘A Chorus Line’**

*A Chorus Line* is one of the seminal theater experiences of the 20th century — one of a handful of musicals to win the Tony and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, as well as one of the longest-running hits in Broadway history. Uptown Players is mounting an all-new staging of the heartfelt tale of the life of a New York dancer for a limited run of one weekend only. Get your tickets now! They won’t last.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. UptownPlayers.org.

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**Wednesday 01.31 — Sunday 02.04**

**New play ‘Small Mouth Sounds’ opens 2018’s Off Broadway on Flora**

Six strangers find themselves together in the forest. All have taken a vow of silence, yet crave communication with other humans. Rachel Chavkin, the visionary director of last season’s New York hit *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, directs Bess Wohl’s new play *Small Mouth Sounds*, which opens the 2018 season of the AT&T Performing Arts Center’s Off Broadway on Flora Series.

**DEETS:** Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

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**Friday 01.26**

**Tuesday 01.30**

**Campy Ballets Trockadero are in Irving — live and on film**

They are classically trained ballet dancers. They are funny. And they are all men in tutus. That’s the premise of the legendary comic dance company Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. You can see them twice this week in Irving. On Friday, there’s the Dallas premiere of the new documentary about the Trocks, *Rebels on Pointe*; then on Tuesday, you can see them perform live and laugh your tights off.

**DEETS:** Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. 7:30 p.m. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

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**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**

*A Chorus Line.* A limited run staging of the cultural sensation produced by Uptown Players. Three performances only. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m., Feb. 4 at 5 p.m. UptownPlayers.org.


*Hillary and Clinton.* A woman named Hillary with a husband named Bill is running for president of the United States in this fictional work by playwright Lucas Hnath (*The Christians,* *Red Speedo,* *A Doll’s House Part 2,* Opens Second Thought’s 2018 season. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 3. 2TT.co.

*I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change.* The 18th (and final) production from Theatre Too of this musical revue about romance. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 4. Theatre3Dallas.com.


**FILM**

*The 39 Steps.* A spy story with memorable moments. 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. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

*Panoptikon.* A documentary about the famed queer comedy-dance troupe les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo; the troupe performs for one night only. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

*Peabody’s Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair,* *Glitterbomb Denton.* A weekly retro disco dance party, with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Moore and Lon Barrera.

**COMMUNITY**

*FrontRunners.* Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

**FRIDAY 01.26**

**COMMUNITY**

*Like a Billion Likes.* A new play about six strangers who have taken vows of silence and their ache to communicate. Part of the Off

**FILM**

*Rebels on Pointe.* A documentary about the famed queer comedy-dance troupe les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo; the troupe performs live on Tuesday. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

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

**TUESDAY 01.30**

**FILM**

*The 39 Steps.* One of Hitchcock’s early thrillers during his days in England, a spy story with memorable moments. Screens as part of the
FRIDAY 02.02
THEATER

HARPER From Page 22

Of his many accomplishments, Harper is most proud of his tenure both as a trainer and host on the NBC reality show The Biggest Loser. In it, he was able to assist contestants in making dramatic body and life transformations. He found the work rewarding and was grateful for the opportunity. It also gave Harper, who was at first silent on the show about being gay, an opportunity to make a public revelation as he assisted a contestant struggling with his own coming out issues.

“I came out of the closet when I was very young,” Harper says. “When I was working in television years later, people would ask when I was going to come out. I was confused by that because I wasn’t in. By not talking about my homosexuality, it cast a light that I was not out. I had to find that time and place to make it really important.”

Harper, who sports two full tattoo sleeves, is also passionate about his body art. While he favors tattoos of an American traditional style, Harper confesses that, other than having a fondness for each image, the tattoos he has selected lack any particular importance. Harper now plans to add at least one more tattoo to the mix, one with special significance.

“This one will absolutely have a meaning,” Harper says. “It will follow in line with the style that I like. There was a time when sailors used to tattoo nurses on them. It was a sign of protection. It was a very strong female figure in their eyes. I plan on getting a nurse tattoo to commemorate what I went through.”

And Harper intends to continue sharing his story of survival.

“I have found that people are so eager to tell their story,” Harper says. “I’m the same. I’ve met so many survivors now. It’s kind of this club that you don’t ever want to join. But once you are in this club, it has a profound effect on you, and you want to get that story out.”

— Scott Huffman
Girl on girls
Jenny Block observes breaking up (well) is hard to do

My mom always used to remind me that one should never put others down in an effort to make oneself look — or feel — better. It doesn’t work. In fact, it makes you look worse. And there is no occasion on which this is more true than during a breakup.

I have long admired couples who were able to breakup gracefully. I can’t say that has always been my experience. I have hurt women I have broken up with. I have been hurt by women who broke up with me. But I have always done my best to heed my mom’s words and not self-soothe by speaking ill of my ex.

It happens all too often. You get that call from a close friend or family member. “We’re breaking up,” the teary voice on the other end of the line says. “I’m so sorry,” you say. “What happened?” The story ensues and it goes one of two ways. “I couldn’t do it anymore” or “She left me.” Either way, the danger zone awaits.

In one case, the person on the line then laments over the loss saying how much she loved him, how she really thought they could make it work, how it was some of the best — and maybe worst — years of her life. There are confessions of wrongdoing and stories of being wronged and then the pivot point.

The person on the line then makes a choice, likely a subconscious one, to either talk about how much better they are than their soon-to-be-ex or not. In doing so, they reveal not who that other person is, but who they are. Either they are a self-confident person who is sad about a loss or an insecure one who can only see to raise themselves up by putting someone else down.

I’m not talking about things like abuse — emotional, sexual, physical or otherwise. If your ex abused you, you have every right to share that and every responsibility to report that. I’m not talking about saying, “One time she did [fill-in-the-blank]” followed by, “Of course, one time I [fill-in-the-blank]” or “And, yes, I enabled that behavior.”

I’m talking about, “Well, she’ll be sorry because I have lots of friends and a family who loves and supports me and she doesn’t.” Or, “I am an amazing gardener and now every growing thing she goes near will die.” Or, “Our dog never listens to her, only to me. She won’t be able to handle Spike without me.”

I get it. You’re angry, especially if she did the breaking up. I understand. You didn’t want this. You wanted the girl you fell in love with and the relationship you dreamed of. I feel you. This sucks. And if you’re married or domestic partnered, own a house together, and/or have a kid together. It’s going to be tough. Not just in the immediate future but for years to come.

Here’s the thing: If you need to put her down to bring yourself up, you’re leaving yourself on very shaky ground. Of course, she has friends and family and when they start showing up, you’ll look silly at best, bitter at worst.

Of course, she can keep a plant alive even if means she has to get help, and when her garden grows, you’ll shrink. Of course, she can get Spike in line. It just might be time for obedience school. And when he sits and stays, you’ll want to stand and run.

That’s the problem with putting someone else down. They don’t look smaller. You do.

In the moment, I can imagine it makes you feel better to think that you’re, well, better. But you aren’t. None of us are. She’s great. That’s why you were with her for 20 years. You’re great. That’s why she was with you. And now, 20 years later, you’re no longer great together. That’s OK. It happens all the time. People grow and change, and that growth and change is apart rather than together.

It is very likely that the two of you have mutual friends. It’s very likely that your circle is even smaller than you think. It’s very likely that you will continue to have dealings with one another. Looking silly and bitter is not going to help your cause. Clearly, if you’re feeling the need to belittle them, things are already in a bad way. Trust me, this will only make things worse.

People will see you as the pitiful one. People will feel sorry for you because you feel the need to behave this way instead of because of your loss. It’s hard. Your ex is going to say what she’s going to say, and people are going to think what they’re going to think. And you may look like a villain even if that feels unfair.

Saying unkind things about your soon-to-be-ex won’t change that. The only person you are in charge of is you. It’s true. What other people say or think about you is none of your business.

You need to know that you are fine. You can stand on your own two feet. You were good with your soon-to-be-ex, and you’ll be good without her. Michelle was right — “When they go low, we go high.”

Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.
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Snuggling on The Strip

Guys’ night out at Pekers

Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 26–Feb. 1:

- **Alexandre’s**: Chris Chism and the band on Friday. Vero Voz y Compania on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday.

- **Club Changes**: The Miss Divine Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday. Closet Ball 2018 with new drag entertainers stepping onto the stage for the first time at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

- **Club Reflection**: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. King & Queen of the Rodeo Show at 6 p.m. on Sunday. RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars watch party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

- **Dallas Eagle**: Mutt Mosh from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Mr. & Ms. Texas Leather 2018 Weekend on Friday and Saturday. Texas Leather Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday. Line dance lessons with Yoshi at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

- **J.R.’s Bar & Grill**: Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

- **Marty’s Live**: Crystal Waters appears with special performances by Nicole O’hara, Bleach, Raquel Blake, Leyla Edwards and Sunel on Saturday.

- **Randi’s Alternate Route 2 to 2**: Imperial Court candidate bar crawl at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

- **Round-Up Saloon**: Boys, Boots and Boxers at 10 p.m. on Monday.

- **Sue Ellen’s**: Ciao Bella on Saturday. Bella & Darla at 3:30 p.m. followed by Bad Habits on Sunday. Miss Lady of the Lake State and State at Large Prelim at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

- **The Rose Room**: The Kennedy Experience with Kennedy Davenport and Chi Chi Devayne Wednesday at 10 p.m., benefitting CEBA.

- **TMC**: The Mining Company: Lip Sync in a Bag hosted by Athena O’hara at midnight on Wednesday.

- **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: Imperial Court candidate announcement at 7 p.m. and Emperor’s Red & White Ball at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

- **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar**: DIVA spring season kickoff and registration party from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday.

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10 Alternative to “Go straight”
14 A shade of the color purple
15 Skater Sonja
16 Langston Hughes was born here
17 Like vanilla sex
18 Including everything
19 S&M response
20 Start of a quote from 62-Across by a swell movie character
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57 Like clothing that’s hung
58 Barbra’s *Funny Girl* guy
59 AIDS flick *Under__*
60 With 65-Across, actress who played the pregnant teenager
61 Nectar inspector
64 With 65-AAcross, actress who played the pregnant teenager
65 See 64-Across
66 Dating from
67 Terse summons
68 Barbra’s *Funny Girl* guy
69 AIDS flick *Under__*
70 Strait-laced
71 42-Across is a play on an expression using this word

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1 Fam. docs
2 What little things mean, in a Cher song
3 Rife with vegetation
4 One that reproduces without sex or adoption
5 Zadan/Meron musical
6 Kidney-related
7 About Uranus?
8 Places to set geraniums
9 Protection for the heads for tight ends
10 Object of a foot fetish
11 “No way!”
12 *Aids* lyricist Tim
13 Type of drama in the land of Samurai
14 “No way!”
15 Skater Sonja
16 Langston Hughes was born here
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Kim Fischer as the Creature, photo by Paxton Maroney