On the job

Officer Amber Roman is DPD’s new LGBT liaison

by David Taffet, Page 8
Are you PrEPed for summer?

Spring is here so you are probably thinking of getting on that diet and hitting the gym harder to get your Summer body in shape. In order to get fully in shape you may want to get on PrEP as well. The HELP Center is the only PrEP clinic in North Texas that provides access to PrEP free of charge.

FREE CONSULTATION
FREE TESTS
FREE MEDICATION

For more information:
HELPfw.org
817.332.7722
1717 S. Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76110
headlines

- TEXAS NEWS
  8 DPD's new LGBT liaison officer
  10 Heading into the runoffs
  10 Ryan White funding delays

- LIFE+STYLE
  14 TRAVEL: Key West's gay highlights
  18 M. Cho on the importance of comedy
  20 STAGE: Exploring drug culture

ON THE COVER
Officer Amber Roman. Photo by Tammye Nash. Design by Kevin Thomas

departments

6 The Gay Agenda
8 News
12 CommUNITY
14 Life+Style
21 Best Bets
24 Cassie Nova
25 Scene
28 MarketPlace

dallasvoice.com
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas
Texas Gay Rodeo Association hosted its 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo at Mesquite Rodeo’s Resistol Arena April 7-8. (Cassie Quinn/Dallas Voice)

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn’t hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn’t prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn’t hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet
NORTH TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Gala 2018

Benefiting the mission and programs of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Silent Auction
Specialty Cocktails
Gourmet Hors d’oeuvres

Entertainment by
Skeleton Krew

Special Guest Appearance by
Sister Helen Holy

Sponsored by
American Airlines
TNT Promotions
VISIT DALLAS
McShan Florist
Southwest
Texas Instruments

$65 All-inclusive tickets available at www.GLBTChamber.com

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce fosters an inclusive business community that promotes economic vitality, connects members, and advocates on their behalf. We work to achieve equality through business.
APRIL

• April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium
  Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

• April 13: DFW Pride Happy Hour
  From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Bluffview Growler, 3850 W. Northwest Highway, Suite 1180.

• April 13: FashionCITED
  Legal Hospice of Texas fundraiser from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, 100 S. Houston St. $55-$60. LegalHospice.org.

• April 13: UCLA SE Murder Mystery Night
  The Grand Duke and Duchesses of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire host a Murder Mystery Night at 8 p.m. (lineup at 7 p.m.) at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. in Dallas. Proceeds benefit the Greg Dolgeler Memorial AIDS Fund.

• April 13: UCLA SE’s Drag Bag 6
  United Court of the Lone Star Empire and Penny Cilyn host Drag Bag 6, benefitting The Greg Dolgeler Memorial AIDS Fund and the SSC Fund at 7 p.m. (lineup at 6 p.m.) at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. All entertainers are welcome to participate.

• April 14: Estate Planning for LGBT Texans
  Dallas attorney Lorie Burch presents a program on Estate Planning for LGBT Texans from 2-4 p.m. at CC Young The Point, 4847 W. Lawther Drive. CEU credits are provided. The event is sponsored by Alzheimer’s Association Dallas and Northeast Texas, The Senior Source, AARP, Dignity Memorial, The Point and Pavilion at CC Young, Metrocare Services and The Family Place. To register contact Alzheimer’s Association of Dallas and Northeast Texas.

• April 14: Family Fun Day at the Dallas Zoo
  Free admission to the Dallas Zoo for residents of Districts 1, 2, 6, and 14 (The 4 Amigos — Griggs, Medrano, Narvaez and Kingston) from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R.L. Thornton. Parking is $10 or take the Red Line.

• April 14: HRC Federal Club Spring Luncheon
  From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Tower Club in Thanksgiving Tower, 48th floor, 1601 Elm St. Special guest will be Geoff Wetrosky, campaign director of HRC Rising. Tickets are $35-55, available at fcspingluncheon2018.eventbrite.com.

• April 14-15: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Craft Festival 2018
  About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

• April 15: Crawfish Boil
  Benefit for OutLast Youth from noon-5 p.m. at Deep Ellum Brewing Co., 2823 St. Louis St.

• April 15: LGBT grief support group
  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.

• April 15-16: Dallas Pride
  For more information visit DallasPride.org.

• April 17: Grief support group
  Noon-5 p.m. at Deep Ellum Brewing Co., 2823 St. Louis St.

• April 19: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop
  Did you come out recently? Have you been out for a while? No matter where you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family, and friends. Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Robin Booth, United Methodist Pastor Rev. Jane Graner and Will Fields on six Thursday evenings through May. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at CathedralofHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups.

• April 19: Federal Club Happy Hour
  From 6-8 p.m. at Ross & Hall Kitchen and Beer Garten, 3300 Ross Ave.

• April 19: Third Thursday Happy Hour
  GALA holds its monthly happy hour from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Plano Kitchen & Bar, 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d’oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are $65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

• April 20-22: Rainbow Roundup camping trip
  Camping trip includes hay rides, crafting, fishing, face-painting and a BBQ dinner. Tent camping at $30 per day, cabins at $131 per day and RV sites for $50-65 daily at North Texas Jellystone Park, 2301 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson. Promo code is: rainbow18. There’s a $9.25 per person per day entrance fee to the park.

• April 21: Gaybingo of Oz
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• April 21: Chamber Gala
  The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d’oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are $65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

• April 21: Cirque du SoGay
  Mayhem Miller joins Ivana Tramp, MayMay Graves and Ryan Tiffin for an Impulse Group party from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• April 21-22: White Rock Home Tour
  The 2018 White Rock Home Tour
Meet Javier, a 1½-year-old, white-and-tan Anatolian shepherd mix weighing 63 pounds. He’s friendly, playful and energetic, loves to play outside and go for walks, loves playing with squeaky toys and getting lots of attention. He makes friends easily, and is very outgoing. He’s smart, too, and already knows how to sit and come, and is completely housetrained. He’d love a home with a nice, big backyard with plenty of space for him to romp around in. He does well with teenagers and adults, but may be a little too rowdy for small children. He likes to be the center of attention, so he would do best as an only dog. If you’re looking for a handsome guy with a happy-go-lucky attitude, he’s the one for you! Javier has been neutered, microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today, you won’t be able to resist falling in love with him! #158238

Javier 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 Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

- Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.; 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, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesdays at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; DTV in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

Put your health in the hands of one of the most trusted physicians with Concierge Medicine

• Direct access 24-hours a day, seven days a week
• Same or next day appointments • More consultation time

MEDICAL PRACTICE OF Dr. Steven M. Pounders
A medical practice with more than 25 years in the heart of Oak Lawn at Lemmon
Call today for a private consultation 214-520-8833 | 3500 Oak Lawn, Ste. 600 | drpounders.com
DPD appoints new LGBT liaison

Amber Roman replaces Laura Martin as the community's connection to the police department

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Amber Roman was in the police academy, the Dallas Police Department’s LGBT liaison officer, Laura Martin, spoke to the incoming class of rookies. And as Martin addressed the group, Roman listened and promised herself: “I’m going to be that one day.”

When new Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall did some realigning in the department, Roman got her chance.

Martin’s position as liaison had followed her wherever she went in the department. When she was on bike patrol in East Dallas and later when she was promoted to detective, Martin remained the liaison.

But Hall decided the position needed to be in one place, and that place was the Office of Community Affairs where the Asian, African-American and Latino liaison units are headquartered. For Martin, who recently has been spending quite a bit of her time escorting dignitaries around town — including former First Lady Michelle Obama — that would have been a demotion.

So Martin decided it was time to pass the torch on the liaison position, and Roman is delighted she did. Since Martin’s still on the force, Roman said, she’s been a great mentor for her, helping her figure out how to be the greatest help to the community.

Joining the force

Roman is the youngest of four children and grew up in Oak Cliff. But even being the youngest, “I was never treated like the baby,” she said. “Always had a big mouth.”

She remains close with her family, and when she was married last year to her partner of 10 years, Roman said she had a “traditional” wedding: Her family threw her a bridal shower and were all there as she and her wife were married by a judge in a Dallas courtroom.

Roman always knew she wanted to do something meaningful with her life, and for awhile in college, she thought she wanted to be a counselor. “I always had a yearning to reach people, to speak to people,” she said.

Her sister, who’s a nurse, suggested she become a police officer. But Roman said she didn’t want to be a cop and write tickets. Still, on a whim, she applied to the Dallas Police Department, was accepted and went to the academy. And, she said, writing tickets has always been her least favorite thing to do.

Roman has spent her first five years on the force doing neighborhood policing. She engaged businesses and neighborhoods by attending crime watch meetings and finding out what the community needs. Among her many activities was a Share the Shoe Drive.

“Lots of kids don’t have a decent pair of shoes,” she said. So she got businesses to donate shoes, and she gave those shoes to local rec centers to distribute.

Roman said she found lots of creative ways to connect with the community she served. She did foot patrols because, she explained, she couldn’t speak to people when she was in a car. She read to kids at the library. At Christmas she collected food and clothing “for people who don’t have access to those things.”

When she was told the liaison position was open and her name was on a short list of candidates, Roman said, “I was speechless and honored I was being considered for the job. When it was offered, I didn’t have the words. It took awhile to sink in.”

She is the first person of color to hold the LGBT community liaison position. “There just aren’t that many Hispanic women on the force,” she said.

In addition to Martin, Roman said a number of people have been inspirations to her. Former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez is among her heroes. She first met Valdez at the Round-Up Saloon. She said once she got up the courage to walk up to the sheriff and introduce herself, Valdez was delighted to meet her and, she said, was sweet and encouraging.

Lynn Albright, DPD’s first LGBT liaison, is another inspiration, Roman said, because lesbian officers weren’t welcomed to the force with open arms at the time.
Albright was appointed to the liaison position after the city of Dallas lost a lawsuit brought by Mica England in the late 1980s. England had applied to become a Dallas police officer. She was rejected because she was considered a criminal since she violated section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code that criminalized consensual sexual contact between adults of the same gender.

While the case worked its way through the courts, protesters appeared regularly at Dallas City Council meetings wearing “No Homo Cops” buttons and speaking about preventing gays and lesbians from gaining employment equality. In 1994, after England’s case was settled, the council passed its first non-discrimination ordinance protecting the city’s LGBT employees from discrimination.

To everyone’s surprise, even Mayor Steve Bartlett, a conservative Republican, said before casting his vote for the ordinance, “I don’t discriminate in my business. I don’t see why the city should discriminate.”

While England never did become a DPD officer, her lawsuit paved the way for otherwise qualified LGBT people to join the force, and the city’s then-new police chief, Ben Click, created the liaison position.

Roman said Albright and England were brave women to have done what they did.

On the job as liaison

Since taking over the position less than a month ago, Roman has spent most of her time getting to know the vast number of groups, organizations and institutions within Dallas LGBT community. She also jumped right in to help when a couple was held up in Oak Lawn while walking from a bar on Cedar Springs Road to Maple Avenue.

She said that incident and a similar attack several weeks earlier immediately brought to mind the string of assaults that occurred in the neighborhood about two years ago.

What was most frustrating for everyone about those attacks, Roman said, was that there never was a satisfying Law & Order-type ending. Because the victims who were assaulted from behind and were blindsided when they were hit in the head, there was no usable description of the assailants. Without tangible evidence, no one was arrested for those violent crimes.

But the attacks ended and, during that period, several people were arrested for other crimes. Roman said the people responsible are probably in jail for other offenses, but police are unable to officially link them to the attacks in Oak Lawn.

Roman said that one thing police learned clearly during the months of attacks was that the LGBT community wasn’t going to stand for continual assaults.

“It was on everyone’s radar,” she said. When Take Back Oak Lawn formed, police noticed. When volunteers stepped up to take police training and do VIP — Volunteers In Patrol — shifts throughout the neighborhood, police noticed and worked with the community groups.

Roman also said she is deeply disturbed by the rampant violence targeting the trans community, and she wants the community to know, “I’m somebody they can believe is on their side.”

Roman said she’s there for people who may not normally be comfortable talking to the police, either because the topic is sensitive or because they feel other officers may judge them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Or if someone feels police are ignoring their case or haven’t gotten information back in a timely manner, as liaison, she can assist the community.

Roman can be reached by email at amber.roman@dallascityhall.com.

Laura Martin, pictured with former Chief David Brown, continues to serve on the Dallas police force, but decided it was time to pass the LGBT liaison torch. (Dallas Voice file photo)
Canddiates prepare for runoffs

Valdez receives endorsements; Burch stays focused on issues

DAVID TAFFET  |  Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

T he Texas Equity PAC has endorsed Lupe Valdez in the Democratic gubernatorial runoff set for May 22. The PAC is the political action committee of Equality Texas.

“We have an opportunity to create a state that reflects our values and priorities,” said Chuck Smith, the PAC’s CEO. “We must come together and fight for the state we want. Now is the time to act with our vote. It is our civil right and our civic duty. We cannot sit this out.”

Other LGBT organizations in Texas that have endorsed Dallas’ former sheriff in her bid for governor include Victory Fund and Stonewall Democrat chapters in Austin, Dallas, Denton, Houston and San Antonio.

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Texas Equity PAC,” Valdez said in a written statement. “My candidacy is in no small part thanks to them and Equality Texas.

as leading efforts in our state to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. With their support, I not only hope to inspire others to break new ground as the first governor of Texas from the LGBTQ community, but I will tirelessly work for a Texas that treats everyone equally, with dignity and respect.”

Despite twice as many votes cast in the Democratic primary this year compared to 2014 when Wendy Davis secured the nomination, 50 percent more votes were cast by Republicans in their primary this year compared to Democrats. While many Democrats voting in local races stand a good chance of election, a statewide win will take plenty of work.

Congressional District 3

Lorie Burch received 49.6 percent of the vote in a four-way race for U.S. Rep. District 3 centered in Plano. That put her in a runoff with Sam Johnson, who received 28.6 percent of the vote. Johnson is not related to retiring Rep. Sam Johnson, who has represented that district since 1991.

Despite leading in the primary by more than 6,500 votes, Burch isn’t taking anything for granted. If she wins the primary, her opponent in the fall will be Van Taylor.

He received more votes in his primary than the four Democrats put together.

Burch said that in Collin County, a number of people traditionally vote in the Republican primary, because that’s where elections have been mostly settled.

Because she was so close to an outright win, Burch said she’s going into the runoff quite confident. But that doesn’t mean she is taking it easy. She’s been busy block-walking and attending meet-the-candidate events. She’s also been scheduling meetings at taco joints in her district for

“All federal funds get delayed in one form or another,” she said.

She said the delays haven’t impacted Prism Health, however, because of strong community support.

“We’re in a good position,” she said, but added that smaller agencies would feel the delay more, and Parkland Hospital, which serves many more clients than Prism, might have also been pinched by a delay in reimbursement.

Another concern HHS mentioned in its report is the composition of the Ryan White Planning Council, which has 26 members. Only 16 members attended committee meetings, and those who attended were not representative of the population receiving services.

In a statement released by his office, Judge Jenkins said he will continue to work with the RWPC to address the board composition to bring it into a more accurate reflection of our population. His office has previously relayed a need to vet and present more prospects from underrepresented racial groups to consider for appointment to the council.

The additional issues will be addressed primarily by DCHHS.

Ryan White funds delayed

HHS finds 32 problems with Dallas County HIV funding distribution

DAVID TAFFET  |  Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A March site visit by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Dallas County office that distributes Ryan White funds found 32 areas of concern. A full report is expected within the next month, but among the concerns are problems with the distribution of the funds that might have delayed money getting to organizations providing HIV care.

Members of the Ryan White Planning Council and medical providers expressed concerns. But County Judge Clay Jenkins said the concerns are not new and reflect findings in other areas around the country.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer is taking these findings seriously, and his team is working to correct these ongoing issues, according to Jenkins.

According to a Dallas Morning News report, County Commissioner John Wiley Price said some people had to wait weeks for medications as a result of the delay in funding.

Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity, an HIV organization based in South Dallas, said his organization receives Ryan White money in the form of reimbursement grants. Slow pay impedes his agency’s ability to provide services to the next client.

He said with the delay, agencies end up serving fewer clients, and Ryan White money that goes unused is returned to the federal government at the end of the budget year.

Prism Health North Texas Chief Marketing & Development Officer Tori Hobbs said that hasn’t been the case at Prism, which is a much larger agency.
a series of events she calls “Taco ‘Bout Change.”

Burch and Johnson are both scheduled to attend an event, sponsored by the North Texas Jewish Democratic Council, along with Lillian Salerno and Collin Allred, who are vying for the Democratic nomination to face Pete Sessions in the race for U.S. House District 32. The event is set for 6-9p.m. at Walnut Hill Recreation Center, 10011 Midway Road. Everyone is welcome.

Both Burch and Johnson are scheduled to attend the Democratic Club at Heritage Ranch on April 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Heritage Ranch clubhouse West Ballroom in Fairview.

Burch said her opponent’s supporters have been claiming that Collin County won’t elect a gay woman. She said she finds that tactic disappointing and points out that in the primary she was the only Democratic candidate who spoke at Prestonwood Baptist Church and got votes and supporters out of her appearance.

“I feel very good about having support from all different walks,” Burch said. But, she noted, in the primary she proved she was the best at getting out the base.

Other LGBT candidates

In other races with LGBT candidates, Jessica Gonzalez won her primary against incumbent Roberto Alonzo and faces no Republican opposition in November. She will be the new state representative for House District 104.

State representative candidate Julie Johnson and state senate candidate Mark Phariss won their Democratic primaries outright and will face off against Republican opponents in November. State representative candidate Finn Jones had no primary opposition, but he does have a Republican opponent in the general election.

In the state House District 115, Johnson has made public education a priority in her campaign. Her opponent, incumbent Republican Matt Rinaldi who authored the House version of the bathroom bill, hasn’t supported adequate funding for education during his time in office. Johnson has the backing of many educators in her northwest Dallas County district.

“Texas teachers are feeling the squeeze due to a lack of state funding for public education,” Johnson posted on her campaign page this week. In response to walkouts by teachers in other states, she said Texas teachers earned about $6,500 below the national average for teacher pay in 2016 and in 10 years, state funding for public education went from 48.5 percent of the cost down to 38 percent by 2019. In state House District 94, Jones faces “family values” incumbent state Rep. Tony Tinderholt who’s been married five times. Phariss squares off against Angela Paxton in November for state senator for District 8. Paxton is the wife of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

While her primary against Philip Huffman turned personally nasty, Phariss said he gets along just fine with Paxton and hopes the race in the fall remains cordial. His campaign strategy is to stick to the issues.
MassResistance continues to fight the gays (while Bolton gets ready to fight everybody)

As I write this it is April 9, 2018 — my birthday. It’s also the day John Bolton starts as Trump’s national security advisor. Bolton, who was ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, really wants to go to war with North Korea and Iran. Like, bad. And now we’ve got him whispering into the ear of the dangerously impulsive and dangerously ignorant man we have as a leader.

And that should make all of us fear that we won’t make it to our next birthdays.

And yet, in the face of potential annihilation, there are still people who think that men kissing men is much worse than men killing men. Spoiler alert: It isn’t.

Such are the concerns of MassResistance.

No, MassResistance isn’t when you pretend you’re sleeping and cannot hear your mom hollering that it’s time to go to church (something I spent much of my formative years doing, which is probably why I’m gay). Rather, MassResistance is a group battling the so-called homosexual agenda. Because priorities.

It’s all the same stuff — and many of the same faces — we’ve been subjected to for decades. In fact, MassResistance just added notorious homophobe Peter LaBarbera to its staff.

“MassResistance has been expanding, and we have needed someone of his caliber for a while,” MassResistance President Brian Camenker said on April 8 of the decision to add LaBarbera to the staff.

And what caliber is LaBarbera? Well, he’s the president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, an organization that does everything BUT tell the truth about LGBTQ people.

“It goes without saying that Pete is despised and vilified by the LGBT movement,” Camenker added. Which is true! Here I am, vilifying him now: Peter LaBarbera is a villain.

MassResistance prides (not in the gay way) itself on being different from other anti-LGBTQ groups. For one thing, they’re based in Massachusetts, a den of sin and hellfire ever since they were the first state in the country to make marriage equality the law. There are no signs on the restrooms, and you have to get gay-married to own property or vote. Only straight people pay taxes. It’s a real shame (that Bolton will lead us into a war and untold numbers of people will die).

On the MassResistance webpage they brag that they’ve been described as a “hardcore pro-family group.” They are very clear as ‘reasonable’ and ‘not extreme,’” the MassResistance website declares.

So, clearly, MassResistance should be seen as unreasonable and extreme (just like Bolton). Got it.

So extreme are they that they managed to get blocked from participating at the Conservative Political Action Convention this year — even though CPAC is a notorious den of hateful filth — after 2015 remarks Camenker made about LGBTQ people came to light. He said it was totally fine to be “insulting and degrading” toward LGBTQ people because this was a “war” not a “church service” — not to be confused with the literal war/wars Bolton wants to start.

MassResistance was super pissed that the Log Cabin Republicans were allowed at CPAC and they weren’t. LCR, a group that continues to bewilder me, is probably the most milquetoast gay organization in existence. So MassResistance’s hysterical characterization of LCR as a group that “pushes hard to homosexualize the Republican Party,” is, well, hysterical.

So be on the lookout for MassResistance creeps as they pop up in places like public libraries in Texas to fight God’s war against LGBTQ book displays. And Jesus wept (after the earth was destroyed by nukes because Trump wanted to distract from his incompetence and his insanely corrupt administration).

D’Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @Ma-maD-Witkowski.
Halloween Cruise
Oct 28 - Nov 4, 2018
7 Day Western Caribbean Cruise from Galveston
Royal Caribbean’s Liberty of the Seas
Ports: Galveston, Roatan, Costa Maya, Cozumel

from $599

plus 2 FREE Open Bar Cocktail Parties!

Starring:

Miss Conception

Billy Gilman from “The VOICE”

Amy & Freddy

Private shows with guest celebrities * $1000 in Costume Prizes * Gay DJ * Afternoon T-Dance Themed Dance Parties *
Group Dining on most cruise lines * Optional Gay Beach Parties * Single, Couples, & Lesbian Get-Togethers and much more!

(800) 592-9058 / AquafestCruises.com
Gay businesses in Key West escaped the wrath of Hurricane Irma virtually unscathed. The city’s four LGBT hotels, as well as the island’s gay bars and nightclubs, suffered only minor damage. As of late last month, tourism officials estimated that 92 percent of the city’s hotels (including neighboring Stock Island) were back in business, while the Keys overall linger around 80 percent. Still, the hardest-hit area of the Keys was a 30-mile stretch that began about 10 miles north-east of Key West up to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge.

If you have thought about visiting Key West for the first time, or are considering a return visit, now is actually the ideal time. Besides having a great time in the gayest of gaystinations, you will be helping support the jobs and the livelihood of not just those in Key West but those who commute from the northern Keys and depend on Key West tourism to support themselves. For many residents, the happiest sight was the arrival of the first cruise ship to the island on Sept. 24, two weeks after the hurricane. (Key West officially opened for tourists Oct. 1.)

You will find few signs of Irma’s wrath today. The city banded together early on to clear out debris. Most homes and businesses that were damaged by the hurricane were quickly repaired. All of the city’s landmarks are up and running. The only evidence of Irma I noticed was the observation tower at Shipwreck Museum that appeared in good condition but remained closed apparently until further repairs could be made.

The neighbor-helping-neighbor community spirit for which Key West is famous undoubtedly boosted the city’s fast recovery. And with a large gay community, it is no wonder that people simply would not tolerate the city looking unkempt.

Gay stays

In truth, Key West has evolved in the scope of its appeal. While many of the former gay resorts here have gone straight or “all welcoming,” what the city lacks in quantity, it more than makes up for in the quality of its remaining guesthouses. The Island House justifiably tops many lists as the best gay resort in the world; it stays busy even in the hurricane season. With 39 rooms, it is the largest gay resort on the island, and it’s not uncommon for regulars to check in and leave the property only rarely. The clothing-optional, men-only resort doesn’t charge a resort fee but offers guests a long list of freebies, including four alcoholic drinks a day during its late afternoon/early evening happy hour. Other

Go (Key) West, gay man

Despite a devastating hurricane season, the legendary gaystination at the edge of the U.S. thrives.
amenities include cafe and bar that never close, a small but well-appointed gym, wet and dry saunas, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, sun deck patio, porn video playroom and a large swimming pool. It is open for day passes so it is a good place to mix it up with locals and fellow travelers alike. If you are on budget, the upscale resort has some rooms that have a shared bath at a cheaper rate than the standard rooms. Island House also offers a deal that if you stay at least four nights over the winter, you get three summer nights free.

The upscale Equator Resort, just down the street from the Island House, is another first-rate property. The 34-room guesthouse is also a men-only clothing-optional resort. A few years ago it combined with the former Coral Tree gay guesthouse; as a result, it offers two pools and two hot tubs. The Equator also includes a continental breakfast, free WiFi, and a free cocktail hour. It does not offer day passes, though, giving it a more intimate feel than the Island House.

Alexander’s Guesthouse is an upscale LGBT hotel that is the place to be if you prefer a quieter stay. It is across the street from the Island House and offers discounted day passes, so you can have the best of both worlds. Although its clientele is mostly male, the property has a good share of lesbians and open-minded straight people. One of the hotel’s sundecks is clothing optional but the pool and other parts of the property require a bathing suit. It includes a deluxe continental breakfast and a free happy hour. The hotel is open only to those 21 and up.

If you want to experience Key West’s lively gay nightlife but don’t want to stray too far, the world-famous New Orleans House is a good bet. The 17-room gay men’s clothing-optional hotel is on Duval Street, in the heart of the city’s gay nightlife block over the Bourbon St. Pub. It includes a continental breakfast. Its pool and hot tub are part of the Garden Bar, which is clothing-optional and right behind the main Bourbon St. Pub. It also includes a well-equipped gym that is free for guests and non-guests alike. The New Orleans House has a patio deck for guests with the best people-watching in town. Drag Queen Sushi descends from the ceiling on giant high-heeled shoe each New Year’s Eve in a tradition that is usually covered live by CNN.

Nightlife

The Bourbon St. Pub includes a main open-air bar that fronts Duval Street. It has strippers who can often be seen beckoning customers in from the sidewalk. Depending on the night, you can also see live shows and karaoke there. The aforementioned Garden Bar is right behind the Pub. Like the name implies, it is an outdoor open-air bar in a garden with an adjacent pool, jacuzzi and sun deck. The Garden Bar space is clothing optional and open to men only.

The 801 Bourbon Bar is kitty-corner from the Pub and is appropriately located at 801 Duval St. It is famous for its upstairs cabaret bar featuring Key West’s legendary drag queens. The downstairs bar is always fun, and if you want to walk on the wild side, the One Saloon is right behind the main bar and is popular with the Levi/leather crowd. It has a pool table and is known for its infamous Friday night contests.

A block away on Duval sit a trio of connected nightclubs: Aqua, the Back Bar and the Side Bar. Aqua is famous for drag shows and live entertainment. The Back Bar is so named for its location behind Aqua. You can enter through Aqua or the side alley. It is an open-air space perfect for socializing while enjoying the warm Key West evening breezes.

Key West’s newest bar is Side Bar, the modern space on the side of Aqua. With the closure of Pearl’s years ago, there are no longer any full time lesbian bars in Key West but Side Bar has a women-popular “Hot Dog Church” on Sunday afternoons that serves up hot dogs for an old-fashioned cookout social. Lesbians take over for a week during Womenfest, which will be held Sept. 5–9 this year. Many of the mostly men’s bars will yield to women that week.

La Te Da on Duval, just down the street from the Bourbon Bars, is known for its nightly cabaret and drag shows and is famous for its early Sunday Evening Tea Dance.

The Monkey Bar is on Simonton Street, which runs parallel to Duval. The bar is off the beaten tourist path making it popular with locals who enjoy the bar’s nightly karaoke show. A mural on the side of the bar depicts the quirkiness for which Key West is known: It depicts Wilhelmina Harvey’s crossing of the Seven Mile bridge into Key West. The late Ms. Harvey was a Key West character who spearheaded a satirical separation of Key West from the rest of the U.S., known as the Conch Rebellion. The mural is patterned after the depiction of George Washington crossing the Delaware River. One of the conch loyalists is shown displaying the rainbow flag.

Attractions

The best place to get one-stop inform-
tion on Key West attractions, both LGBT and mainstream, is the city’s new LGBT Business Guild storefront, which opened this fall, just after Irma. The center at 808 Duval St. includes a list of daily activities related to the LGBT community as well as information on mainstream tours and attractions.

One of the city’s newest attractions is a museum dedicated to gay playwright Tennessee Williams. It is at 513 Truman Ave. (U.S. Highway 1). Before the LGBT Business Guild moved its offices to Duval Street, it shared the space with a much smaller Tennessee Williams exhibit. The new museum has taken over the whole space and dedicated it to the author’s life and work. It also includes a dollhouse replica of his home on Duncan Street, which is a private home and not open for tours.

Key West’s long-running Blu Q is a catamaran touring company that runs a number of excursions marketed to LGBTs, including a sunset tour and all-male, clothing-optional half-day tours. Blue Q is a great way to explore the waters around Key West with family.

The most photographed attraction in Key West is a buoy-shaped monument at the island’s Southernmost Point proclaiming it is just 90 miles to Cuba. But if you want to get precise, the Southernmost Point is 88 miles to Cuba and the actual Southernmost Point is the Naval Station adjacent to the buoy, which is just a little further south but off-limits to civilians.

A good way to get the lay of the land in Key West is through a number of bus or open-air tram tours of the island. The tours start near the beginning of Duval Street, where it meets Front Street along the waterfront. Most of the tours allow you to get on and off at anything you want to see.

East coasters are not used to seeing the sun set over the ocean, so it is not surprising that sunset is a big deal in Key West. People gather at the Mallory Square waterfront promenade every night to watch...
the sun go down. The square is lined with street performers and food stands and local artisans.

Of course, aside from Tennessee Williams, Key West’s other famous writer-in-residence was Ernest Hemingway. His house is open for tours daily. Across the street from Hemingway House is the city’s historic lighthouse. If you don’t have vertigo, you can walk up the winding, narrow staircase to the lookout at the top of the tower. The keeper’s house next to the lighthouse is a museum that gives great insight on what it was like to live in Key West in the 19th century. The city’s old Custom House, now a museum, includes a section devoted to Williams’ paintings.

The waterfront is also home to a couple of museums dedicated to the shipwreck industry, but its oldest running attraction is the Key West Aquarium. A much-less traditional museum, the Ripley’s Believe It or Not museum includes oddities from around the world and a few from Key West.

Key West’s gay community was hard hit by the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s. A touching AIDS memorial stands on the start of the Edward B. Knight Pier where White Street dead-ends into the ocean. It includes the names of residents lost to the disease.

There are a couple of beaches near the AIDS Memorial, but a favorite is at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, which gays had dubbed the Elizabeth Taylor Park. The park includes a military fort that dates back to the civil war and has picnic tables and shade trees.

Getting there and getting around
A rental car is more trouble than it is worth in Key West. Parking is sometimes challenging. The best way to get around is by bicycle. You can rent a bike on the island for as little as $10 a day, and even less if you rent by the week. Scooters are also popular.

Several airlines run connecting flights from DFW to Key West. You can fly on American or Delta with connections in Miami or Atlanta in about 4.5 hours.

— Ed Walsh
I f you live long enough, it’s said, the venerability factor creeps in. First, you get accused of things you never did, and later, you get credit for virtues you never had. That’s ultimately true for politicians, poets … and even standup comedians.

Margaret Cho should know something about it. In the early ’90s, she was the young, disarmingly cuddly comic whose family-centric one-liners — especially about her traditional Korean mom — led the way for her to headline the first-ever American TV sitcom built around an Asian family.

But the series, All-American Girl, lasted only one season (1994–95). It would be another 20 years until the next Asian-centric sitcom debuted, Fresh Off the Boat in 2015, which is still on the air. And the title of Cho’s newest comedy tour, which she brings to the Addison Improv later this month for three nights, was clearly inspired by that.

Cho began her own Fresh Off the Bloat Tour last fall, and that nicely bookends the progression of her career. A protégé of the legendary Joan Rivers, Cho is now herself one of the world’s most famous female comedians; one of the most famous Asian comedians; one of the most famous queer comedians. But the labels don’t diminish her real accomplishment: Being one of the best comedians in the world, full-stop.

We chatted with Cho recently about comedic activism, the #MeToo Movement and her brilliant friend Kathy Griffin.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: Your tour is called Fresh Off the Bloat, an obvious reference to the sitcom, which I assume you have a great deal of affection for. Margaret Cho: Yes, I think it’s great and I also love a good pun. I’m so excited about [the show’s] success. It...
The scary, important, relevant role of comedy during Trumplandia and Dallas Voice: Your tour is called Fresh Off and her brilliant friend Kathy Griffin.

You've been on tour with Fresh Off the Bloat since last fall; how has the act changed over that time? Yes, it's been since September, so you're always going — I don't even know the end of anything. It's a constant thing. But [the material] has changed a lot, especially to include all the stuff with the #MeToo movement and Trump, which is a continual nightmare every day. Standup comedy is a living thing — it's always moving and growing. It changes due to the news — that's always a major factor in what I do.

Is it harder or easier to be a standup in the Trump Era, because a lot of it isn't funny. It's not funny — it's horrifying and really scary. In fact, it's amazing that we have survived this long through it. But it is the only way we can survive it to find the humor. It's definitely a scary time and it's weird when you think back on how George W. Bush wasn't so bad now — how good we had it for so long!

What are some examples of that change? I think definitely I'm talking more about sexual harassment. For my generation, those who were young in the ’80s and ’90s, that was terrible in terms of sexual harassment and the injustice that we had to deal with day-in and day-out.

So you have your own #MeToo stories? Of course. It's a big part of my life and something that, when you survive it, is a huge achievement. There's so much to talk about. It's something we can share and everybody is relieved we can talk about it openly.

... Even though, as in the cases of Harvey Weinstein and Woody Allen, the rumors have been around for decades. I know! We are finally taking rape allegations seriously! It's such a weird thing — why do we excuse the bad behavior of these men because of perceived importance around their work? I wasn't a fan [of either man] to begin with, so it's not something that [I had to adjust to].

It also seems like our comedians are the de facto political commentators of the day, akin to the Fool in Shakespeare's plays. Do you feel that? I do see it [as part of the mission of a comedian]. And it's been the case since Lenny Bruce. It's just the people are more aware of it now than before. I think [comedy] is an important job, especially now.

You've long been an advocate for LGBT and Asian rights, inclusion, acceptance. Does one speak more to you than the other? I think it's all important, it's all really vital. Activism in the way I do it. Every avenue is motivated by my history.

Many Asian stereotypes are ostensibly positive: Industrious, smart. The same is true for many gay stereotypes: Muscular, fashionable, tidy. As a comedian, I'm sure they prove useful, but is there a downside in the real world to these? I don't know. I think these assumptions that we have are fun to be played with, and used for effect. This is not just a stereotype but actual fact about a community. You could make an actual statement about that in comedy, and I appreciate all stereotypes for [that reason].

You, as well as Kathy Griffin, were once the protégé of Joan Rivers. Now that she's gone, you and Kathy are sort of the pre-eminent standard-bearers for her style of no-holds-barred comedy that "goes there." I hope so. I loved her. I aspired to that always. She was really important to me as a good friend and mentor.

Speaking of Kathy Griffin, she got huge backlash last summer for her photo holding the severed head. It bothered me that some people took it as a threat, rather than as a classical reference to Theseus and Medusa. Yes! It wasn't even a threat; it was just this ridiculous artistic reference, Biblical, also, like to Salome, but I really saw it [allude to] the French Revolution — a Robespierre feeling more than anything else. Why are we suddenly offended by nothing [when] a sexual predator who admits to abusing countless women [is in the White House]? It was meaningless and ridiculous. But Kathy's great. As much as has been said about Kathy and the unpleasantness she has endured, she's still incredibly prolific and has found a way to have a voice when people tried to silence her, which I think is phenomenal.

Did you sense the transition from ingénue to grande dame of comedy, or did you just wake up one day and say, "Wait! I'm Margaret Effin' Cho! I'm revered!" I don't know! It is amazing — what we all aspired to.

Are there things you still want to do? Will comedy always be an essential part of your public persona? I just love the work itself, whatever it is. All of it is appealing to me creatively. But comedy is what I'll always do — it's about trying to figure out what that magical thing is, night after night.

Any interest in pursuing politics one day? I have been interested in politics since I was a kid. I love that Cynthia Nixon is running for governor. I love the idea of politics. But all I know is, when I did Real Time with Bill Maher we smoked pot and started talking about ISIS. You have no idea what it's like to be incredibly stoned on live television talking about terrorism. I was totally freaked out and I haven't smoked since.
Take your meds

‘Empathitrax’ forages through the unintended consequences of quick-fix drug culture

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I Executive Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

A couple of urbanites awkwardly welcome an uncommonly chipper and well-dressed delivery man — really more a concierge of prescription medication — into their small but tasteful flat, shuffling nervously at what he has in a fancy box. In the 1970s, it might be weed; in the 1990s, Viagra; but in the current millennium, the contents are something new: A dozen pills, called Empathitrax. The drug has some mild side effects (arm numbness, dry mouth), but the benefits are the ultimate in couples therapy — swallow one, and for the next 12 hours, you can intimately empathize with the exact emotions of the person you touch. Wonder whether your wife loves you? You can tell how much. Turned on when your husband does the dishes without you asking? Now he knows exactly how much.

Which is both good and bad, of course. What are the limits of emotional bonding? What if you could know your partner’s true nature, and what you discovered frightened you? And how much does our society turn to drugs to solve our problems rather than put in the work required of a relationship?

Those are some of the myriad issues — there are quite a few more — in Empathitrax, Ana Nogueira’s semi-satire about modern relationships now staged by Second Thought Theatre. The play is at its best in the first half, when the couple known only as Him (Drew) and Her (Jenny Ledel) (an infuriatingly self-indulgent conceit) are obliquely navigating the bumps they have endured recently. They snipe at each other, passive-aggressively but politely — witty, uncomfortable banter in the Apatow vein. But the play swerves into more serious territory when we learn that Her has developed what is referred to as depression, but which sounds more like bipolar or dissociative disorder. Him isn’t sure he can live with it. What are the ethics of knowing more about your partner than you wanna share? What are the unintended consequences of a quick-fix, self-help drug culture?

The dour tone doesn’t quite fit well into the first half, but there’s no denying the powerful and comic performances by the small, tight cast of Wall, Ledel and Ramirez (especially in an amazingly heartfelt ending). They all do excellent work at making the audience empathize with the anxiety inherent in contemporary society. Ya feel me?
Turtle Creek Arts & Craft Festival debuts at Reverchon Park

Despite the recent cold snap, it really is spring in North Texas. As evidence? Outdoor arts festivals. The newest, right in the heart of the gayborhood, at Reverchon Park, is the Turtle Creek Arts & Crafts Festival, in which nearly 100 local artists, artisans and craftspeople will be on hand to display and sell the fruits of their disciplines, from painting to photography to jewelry. Admission is free, and is open to all ages.

DEETS: Reverchon Park, 2505 Maple Ave. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

Friday 04.13 — Thursday 05.31

Goss-Michael Foundation dips into its collection for new exhibition

George Michael and Kenny Goss spent years acquiring a vast collection of edgy contemporary art, which is one reason they created the Goss-Michael Foundation in the first place. After all those years, the collection has grown, and so Goss tapped art advisor Filippo Tattoni-Marzocchi to curate a special show of more than a dozen artists from the collection. The show, Beauty and Subjugation, is in exhibit at the foundation through May.


Friday 04.13 — Sunday 04.15

Turtle Creek Arts & Craft Festival debuts at Reverchon Park

Despite the recent cold snap, it really is spring in North Texas. As evidence? Outdoor arts festivals. The newest, right in the heart of the gayborhood, at Reverchon Park, is the Turtle Creek Arts & Crafts Festival, in which nearly 100 local artists, artisans and craftspeople will be on hand to display and sell the fruits of their disciplines, from painting to photography to jewelry. Admission is free, and is open to all ages.

DEETS: Reverchon Park, 2505 Maple Ave. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

Friday 04.13 — Sunday 05.06

Regina Taylor’s Dallas-based play ‘Bread’ gets world premiere at WTT

It would be difficult to conceive a play more timely and relevant to North Texans than Bread. Set in Oak Cliff in the fall of 2017, a middle class African-American family have hopes for the future, until a family reunion brings up buried secrets and puts everything in jeopardy. Award-winning actress (and Dallas native) Regina Taylor wrote this world premiere, whose cast includes Denise Lee, Stormy Demerson, Calvin Roberts Elliot Sims, pictured. Presented by WaterTower Theatre.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER


Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday. Drag queen Dixie Longate’s solo show. McDavid Studio, 501 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.


OPERA


One of the presenters at the Dallas Art Fair, this weekend at Fashion Industry Gallery Downtown.

Watch...@dallasvoice.com

The World’s First Guybrator™ with patented PulsePlate Technology™

Xbiz Awards WINNER

Xbiz Awards Product of the Year

“PROUD PLEASURE PROVIDERS”

1720 W. Mockingbird Ln. Dallas, TX 75235 • 214-630-7071 (enter in rear behind New Fine Arts)
FUNDRAISER
FashionCITED. 12th annual runway show benefiting Legal Hospice of Texas. Old Red Courthouse Museum, 100 S. Houston St. 6:30–9:30 p.m. $60. LegalHospice.org.

FESTIVALS

Turtle Creek Arts and Craft Festival. Nearly 100 local artists and artisans will present their varied disciplines, free and open to all ages (and dogs are welcome, too). Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

FINE ART


First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherSculptureCenter.org.


FRIDAY 04.13
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 04.14
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.

TUESDAY 04.17
FILM
The Awful Truth. Director Leo McCarey won one of his Oscars for this classic screwball comedy with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. 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.

WEDNESDAY 04.18
FESTIVAL
Thin Line Film Festival. A film, music and arts festival in Denton, that includes the screening of a gay documentary. Between the Shades, on Friday and Saturday. Festival runs April 18–22 in Denton. For a complete schedule, visit ThinLine.us.

THURSDAY 04.19
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

THEATER

FRIDAY 04.20
THEATER
The Trials of Sam Houston. The legendary Texas governor, hero of San Jacinto and metropolis namesake was actually involved in two trials that formed his legacy. Aaron Loeb’s world premiere play, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 20–May 13. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

COMEDY

Let’s Get Busy Tonight. An LGBT comedy show at Dallas Comedy House in Deep Ellum, 3025 Main St. 9 p.m. DallasComedyHouse.com.


OPERA

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.
Cassie Nova
Cassie asks some hard questions

Hello, my rainbow of friends. I woke up today kind of pissed off with the state of the world. So I am going to vent and probably not be very popular with some of you.

First, I want to run a scenario by you. I voted for Obama. I think he was probably the best president in my lifetime. I was Team Barack for Obama. I think he was probably the best popular with some of you.

So I am going to vent and probably not be very kind of pissed off with the state of the world. I was pro-Obama, so I can rationalize some of his awful behavior. I might even say, “What he does in his bedroom shouldn’t affect his ability to run the country.” I’m less a fan, but still a supporter.

Then say a few months after that, he has another scandal — one where, oh, I don’t know, more women come forward and name him a sexual predator. Meanwhile, throughout his presidency, he denies everything, tweeting ridiculous things. He even fires a few people through Twitter. I am on the Obama train, and am not happy about his behavior, but I might feel like I am in too deep with this. He’s my man. I voted for him. I will continue to support him even though my heart and my brain are telling me, this isn’t right.

Then, a year or so into his presidency, he cuts funding to many of the things I hold dear, has another sex scandal with a porn star and does so many outlandish things that it is just a blur of lies and bullshit. Now in my heart, I know he’s a bad guy. I am certain I would jump off of the Obama train and do whatever it took to make sure he is never president again. I would be able to say, “I fucked up by voting for him.”

But none of that happened under President Obama. Regardless of what you thought of his policies, he proved himself a loving family man that could be looked up to and admired for his actual Christian values.

So my question is: Are there Trump supporters who struggle with still supporting him? I know that race plays a huge part in this. I get so confused by people who know that, but make excuses for all of Trump’s behavior. One lady even told me that he was sharing the word of the Lord with that porn star. What? No, he wasn’t. He was shooting his Cheeto dust all over her … Sorry, I am trying hard to have a conversation, not a fight.

I would like to hear from Trump supporters that can explain their reasoning for still supporting him. I don’t want Obama bashing or make excuses for all of Trump’s behavior. One can’t claim to have an open mind if I am not willing see how the other side fares.

Another truth about the show is that although Barr actually is a Trump supporter. But the truth is, the household on the show is a house divided just like so many households across America. We don’t talk politics at my mom’s because it will always end with my feelings being hurt and me pissed off.

I am the Aunt Jackie of my family, although I wasn’t dumb enough to waste my vote on Jill Stein. I watch the show to try to see the other side of things. I can’t claim to have an open mind if I am not willing see how the other side fares.

Another truth about the show is that although I am enjoying it, I am also reminded of where I come from and how hard I work every day to never be there again. Some may be offended by that, but for me, my truth is that I fear living paycheck to paycheck and always being broke.

I am by no means rich or even well-to-do, but being comfortable is enough for me. I have insurance, I save a little, I buy things when and if I want them because I can but I have nightmares of all of that being taken away. This is America and that is a very real possibility.

I have tried talking about it lightly and with increased seriousness about the topic but it doesn’t seem to be doing much good. I even realize it could be reduced libido by his age, but I just don’t know what else to try to get him to understand that this is a major issue for me. It’s not exactly a topic I can ask others for advice on, because I would die if it got back to him. Any suggestions?? Signed, Needing more of my man!

Dear NMM, Ooooh girlfriend, I don’t envy you. Eight months — you are still in the honey-moon phase. If the sex is already sparse, it will only get worse. He might need testosterone to boost that libido, but how are y’all gonna have kids if he never cumm when you are there?

You need to ask yourself a bunch of questions: Are you sure he is straight? Are you sure he is interested in you? Is your relationship comfortable and easy for him but he isn’t really attracted to you? Tough questions, but it’s better to know now than years down the road. You have to communicate and start a real conversation with him.

Ask him to jack off in front of you. See if he does something different that he doesn’t do when y’all are together. I knew a guy who could only get off if he masturbated really hard, almost violently. He said he had been jacking off that way since he was a kid and now that is the only way he can orgasm. Try scheduling sex to make sure your needs are met. Not everyone is good with spontaneity. Sex is an important part of a healthy relationship and without it your relationship will suffer. I hope this works out for you both. Good luck!

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO! Cassie Nova.
Making the SCENE the week of April 13–19:

- Club Changes: Deejay DJ presents the Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday. Jason's Birthday Bash benefiting King & Queen of the Rodeo at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Wall of Food Megashow on Thursday at 9 p.m.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire shows from 6-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Discipline Corps club night on Friday. National Leather Association-Dallas club night on Saturday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Asia O'Hara hosts a watch party for RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10 from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday.
- Marty's Live: Brut Dallas, NYC's sexiest gear party, returns at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- Pekers: Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents the fundraiser A Salute to Earth Day that benefits GDMAF and more, with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Project Runway with Sassy O'Hara at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Sue Ellen's: Cherry Bomb on Saturday. Bella & Darla at 3:30 p.m. followed by Bad Habits on Sunday. Tuesday Tease at 9:30 p.m.
- Taqueria La Ventana: Grand Opening Party benefits Lambda Legal from 6-8 p.m. at 3847 Cedar Springs Road.
- The Rose Room: Amanda Nicole is the special guest Friday-Sunday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Lip Sync in a Bag with Athena O'hara on Wednesday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: Miss Fort Worth America at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Dallas Woody's Sidebets Extra Innings from 4-7 p.m. Sunday.

Scene Photographer: Kay Haygood and Chad Mantooth
FDA - cleared to treat the flanks (love handles), abdomen, double chin and more.

Now offering FREEZE away your fat.

FDA - cleared to treat the flanks (love handles), abdomen, double chin and more.

$300 OFF your package of 2 treatments!

Offer expires May 4, 2018
Not to be combined with other specials or promotions.
Call Today! 214-521-5277
2928 Oak Lawn Ave.
advancedskinfitness.com

Friends on The Strip
Guys' night out on The Strip
Aaron Rey on The Strip
Caleb and his incredible father at JR.'s
Keeping a watchful eye out at The Grapevine
Prom posing on The Strip
Earl and Chachi on The Strip

Actual 70 year-old Advanced Skin Fitness Patient
Guys' night out on The Strip

Wearing the birthday shades

Manly men at Woody's

Avah and Jordan at JR.'s

Time to get your joust on at Scarborough Renaissance Festival

Photos by Gail Blanchard Dittenber
MarketPlace
Your calling card for LGBT Texas business
For information on advertising, call us at:
214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at:
dallasvoice.com/marketplace
dallasvoice.com
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

Insurance
Drive happier.
Join the millions who protect their cars with us. It’s one more way I’m here to help life go right.”
CALL ME TODAY FOR A QUOTE.

State Farm
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
Texas County Mutual, Dallas, TX


Attorneys
Estate Planning • Wills
Trusts & Asset Protection
LGBT Resources
Powers of Attorney
Advanced Directives
Business Law
Covellpc.com • 214.443.0300
3710 Rawlins St. Dallas, TX 75219

Travel
LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS
AQUAFEST
from $599
OCT 28- NOV 4, 2018
Royal Caribbean’s Liberty of the Seas
7 Day Western Caribbean Cruise from Galveston
17th Annual Halloween Cruise
Ports: Galveston, Roatan, Costa Maya, Cozumel
(800) 592-9058 / AquafestCruises.com

Moving
Fantastic Moves
VOTED BEST MOVERS 8 YEARS & COUNTING
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Home Services
Jade Air
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
SERVICE • SALES • INSTALLS
ALL MAJOR BRANDS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
VISACARD, AMEX, DISC
JadeAirDallas.com
214.522.2805
214.923.7904

Home Services
North Star
ROOFING • FENCING • GUTTERS
MAIN: 214.234.5596
WE GUIDE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Home Services
Morris Garcia
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
972-489-4130

Home Services
Tim Phillips
OPERATIONS
972-935-7926

Real Estate
hgroup
An innovative approach to changing your address

Phil Hobson
FOUNDER/REALTOR®
214.659.3624
phil@hgrouphomes.com | www.hgrouphomes.com

Experience Counts!
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Home Services
Fantastic Moves
Moving
VOTED BEST MOVERS 8 YEARS & COUNTING
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Real Estate
hgroup
An innovative approach to changing your address

Phil Hobson
FOUNDER/REALTOR®
214.659.3624
phil@hgrouphomes.com | www.hgrouphomes.com

Experience Counts!
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Home Services
Eddie’s Quality Painting
Fence Staining, Interior/Exterior, Tape, Bed & Texture
Meticulous & Attention to Detail
Power Washing
469-471-8618
25 Years Experience! Satisfaction Guaranteed!
Neat, Clean & Reliable

Travel
LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS
AQUAFEST
from $599
OCT 28- NOV 4, 2018
Royal Caribbean’s Liberty of the Seas
7 Day Western Caribbean Cruise from Galveston
17th Annual Halloween Cruise
Ports: Galveston, Roatan, Costa Maya, Cozumel
(800) 592-9058 / AquafestCruises.com

Moving
Fantastic Moves
VOTED BEST MOVERS 8 YEARS & COUNTING
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Real Estate
hgroup
An innovative approach to changing your address

Phil Hobson
FOUNDER/REALTOR®
214.659.3624
phil@hgrouphomes.com | www.hgrouphomes.com

Experience Counts!
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Home Services
Jade Air
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
SERVICE • SALES • INSTALLS
ALL MAJOR BRANDS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
VISACARD, AMEX, DISC
JadeAirDallas.com
214.522.2805
214.923.7904

Home Services
North Star
ROOFING • FENCING • GUTTERS
MAIN: 214.234.5596
WE GUIDE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Home Services
Morris Garcia
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
972-489-4130

Home Services
Tim Phillips
OPERATIONS
972-935-7926

Real Estate
hgroup
An innovative approach to changing your address

Phil Hobson
FOUNDER/REALTOR®
214.659.3624
phil@hgrouphomes.com | www.hgrouphomes.com

Experience Counts!
20+ Years Supporting the Community
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Home Services
Eddie’s Quality Painting
Fence Staining, Interior/Exterior, Tape, Bed & Texture
Meticulous & Attention to Detail
Power Washing
469-471-8618
25 Years Experience! Satisfaction Guaranteed!
Neat, Clean & Reliable
Real Estate

MarketPlace
Your calling card for LGBT Texas business
For information on advertising, call us at: 214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at: dallasvoice.com/marketplace
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

Real Estate

Andrew Collins
urban dallas
oak lawn
uptown
turtle creek

REALTOR
AndrewCollinsReal@Gmail.com
214.668.8287

ANDREW
COLLINS
city life
realty

Real Estate

Tim Stoll
214-889-2959
www.timstoll.com

Real Estate

Let’s Make a Deal!

Todd Maley
www.mrealtygroup.com
toddmaley@aol.com
972-205-0636

CREEKSIDE OAKCLIFF
CONDO FOR SALE!

2x2 + Den, W/ 2 Walk-ins.
Living Room/Dining Room,
Galley, Kitchen, 14x12
Private Patio with Laundry.
New Paint, Ground Floor with
No Units Above. $95,500

4659 Country Creek Drive
Loop 12 Dallas 75236
Owner Appointment
214-597-6949

Real Estate

Open House Sunday 1-3PM
FOR SALE

Sparkling in-ground pool with
attached spa. Only minutes to
White Rock Lake. Easy commute
to downtown. Pristine condition.
Recent interior paint. 3 large brdm.
2 remodeled baths. Sunroom.
Circle drive with porte cochere.
553 Aqua Drive, Dallas
$465,000

Call Greg Hutchinson, Agent
(214) 566-8143 - Cell

Real Estate

Christian Johnson
Branch Manager • NMLS#: 552551
The ‘go to guy’ in the mortgage industry!
214-763-8767 • Homeloansbychristian.com

Real Estate

2 Bedroom 1 Bath
House for Lease

Nicely updated kitchen, bathroom,
fireplace and living
room. Located just
two blocks east of
Love Field near
Lemmon Ave and
W. Lovers Lane.

Call James
(214)797-7291

Real Estate

DALLAS URBAN LIVING – We get it.

Urban Home? Urban Realtor.
Talk to Jason Melton:
214.883.6854
jmelton@davidgriffin.com

David Griffin & Company Realtors
A Virginia Cook, Realtors Company

Real Estate

Caliber Home Loans, Inc., 1525 S. Beltline Rd Coppell, TX 75019 NMLS ID #15622 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). 1-800-401-6587. Copyright © 2018. All Rights Reserved. This is not an offer to enter into an agreement. Not all customers will qualify. Information, rates, and programs are subject to change without prior notice. All products are subject to credit and property approval. Not all products are available in all states or for all dollar amounts. Other restrictions and limitations apply. Residential Mortgage Loan Originator. Equal Housing Lender. Branch address: 1300 Monticello, Suite 150 Dallas, Texas 75205.

Christian Johnson
Branch Manager • NMLS#: 552551
The ‘go to guy’ in the mortgage industry!
214-763-8767 • Homeloansbychristian.com

Real Estate

CREEKSIDE OAKCLIFF
CONDO FOR SALE!

2x2 + Den, W/ 2 Walk-ins.
Living Room/Dining Room,
Galley, Kitchen, 14x12
Private Patio with Laundry.
New Paint, Ground Floor with
No Units Above. $95,500

4659 Country Creek Drive
Loop 12 Dallas 75236
Owner Appointment
214-597-6949
Across
1 Martin Crane’s support
2 Pinball Wizard’s game venue
3 Realm of C.S. Lewis
4 Give the slip to
5 Drag queen’s blade
6 Cowhand’s chow
7 Atkins, who played Woolf on Broadway
8 Come out
9 Short run
10 Poisonous bush
11 Dominate like a hairy guy?
12 Tony of The Odd Couple
13 Asian inland sea
14 Like a muscle Mary’s waist
15 Thomas ___ Edison
16 Drag queen’s stocking shade
17 Desert of the Heart novelist Jane
18 Gertrude Stein’s Wars I Have ___
19 She plays a lesbian in the comedy reboot
20 Ballet ___
21 Little black bk. listings
22 Farewell to fifty million Frenchmen
23 l, Claudius?
24 New York Knicks org.
25 Breakfast on Pluto actor Stephen
26 Bones in the back
27 Prop for Once Upon a Mattress
28 “At Seventeen” singer
29 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
30 In midvoyage, maybe
31 Rupert Everett’s ___ Life
32 She just rebooted her comedy series from the ’80s-’90s
33 Site of Macbeth’s death
34 Sister Act extra
35 Nice beach season?
36 Aspirin brand
37 PR piece about Revamp, for example
38 Colorado neighbor
39 Fairy’s cousin
40 Frozen studio
43 Rene Auberjonois role
46 Flower for Colette
47 Army N.C.O.
48 Orally pleasured
50 She plays a late-in-life lesbian mom in the comedy reboot
54 Melville’s whale hunter
55 Place for a Malgieri pastry
56 Actress Skye
57 Video game name
58 Poring noise?
59 Set down
60 Genie portrayer Barbara
61 Adopted son of Adam and Steve?
62 Untouchable head

Down
1 Many a senator stuck it in him
2 Pinball Wizard’s game venue
3 Realm of C.S. Lewis
4 Give the slip to
5 Drag queen’s blade
6 Cowhand’s chow
7 Atkins, who played Woolf on Broadway
8 Come out
9 Short run
10 Poisonous bush
11 Dominate like a hairy guy?
12 Tony of The Odd Couple
20 Ballet ___
21 Little black bk. listings
27 Prop for Once Upon a Mattress
28 “At Seventeen” singer
30 Numbskull
31 Cheerleader’s shout
32 Smacked one’s lips over
33 Site of Macbeth’s death
34 Sister Act extra
35 Nice beach season?
36 Aspirin brand
37 PR piece about Revamp, for example
40 High-speed connection
41 Homes near polar bears, perhaps
42 Nicks on a CD
43 Peter who played Lawrence
44 Sandy of Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf
45 Beginnings
49 Mishima, for one
51 Meir contemporary
52 Bottled (up)
53 Ornament in Cleopatra, perhaps
Grab a coffee, take a survey, change the world.
Making a Difference is Easy.
Take the 12th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey®
https://tinyurl.com/y7wdqb91

CMI Community Marketing & Insights
Proudly LGBTQ-owned and -operated
A pioneer in LGBTQ research, founded in 1992
NGLCC-Certified LGBTQ Owned Business Enterprise

Your information is confidential, used for research purposes only. You will not be contacted for marketing purposes.
Come see Ian for a groovy deal!

Clay Cooley Volkswagen Park Cities
5555 Lemmon Ave, Dallas, TX 75209
(469) 425-9452