What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

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

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:**
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:
- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:
- Changes in your immune system. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- 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.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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.
KEEP SHINING.

Because HIV doesn’t change who you are.

BIKTARVY is a 1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment for adults who are either new to treatment or whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with BIKTARVY.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.
BIKTARVY®
(bik-TAR-vee)

**IMPORTANT FACTS**
This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

**MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

**ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

**BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY**

Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- 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.
- The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

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

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

**HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY**

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

**GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.
Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines you take:

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- If you have any of these conditions:
  - Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.
  - Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious side effect that may cause death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:
    - Feeling lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
    - Trouble breathing, being short of breath or fast breathing.
    - STomach pain with your breathing.
    - Feeling unusually weak or being more tired than usual.
    - Feeling unusual muscle pain, which may be muscle cramps that are sharp, constant, and occur in the legs or other muscle groups.
    - Feeling unusual weakness, fatigue, or pain in joints.
  - New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
  - Changes in your immune system.
  - New or worse skin rash, hives, swelling, or other signs of an allergic reaction.
  - Having severe or life-threatening skin problems, including TEN (Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis) or SJS (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome).
  - New or worse confusion.

Before taking BIKTARVY, talk to your healthcare provider if you:

- Are taking certain medicines, including:
  - Rifampin.
  - Dofetilide.
  - If you are allergic to any medicines in BIKTARVY.
  - Rifabutin.
  - Pentamidine.

About BIKTARVY:

- BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.
- Healthcare providers will check your condition and your treatment before you start taking BIKTARVY and regularly for several months.
- It is important to talk to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check for any new symptoms while you are taking BIKTARVY.
- If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:
  - Changes in your immune system. Your immune system helps protect your body from infections. If your immune system is weak, you may have infections or get infections more easily. Your immune system may continue to get weaker for several months after you stop taking BIKTARVY.
  - Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious side effect that may cause death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:
    - Feeling lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
    - Trouble breathing, being short of breath or fast breathing.
    - STomach pain with your breathing.
    - Feeling unusually weak or being more tired than usual.
    - Feeling unusual muscle pain, which may be muscle cramps that are sharp, constant, and occur in the legs or other muscle groups.
    - Feeling unusual weakness, fatigue, or pain in joints.
  - New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
  - Changes in your immune system.
  - New or worse skin rash, hives, swelling, or other signs of an allergic reaction.
  - Having severe or life-threatening skin problems, including TEN (Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis) or SJS (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome).
  - New or worse confusion.

• The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were:
  - Diarrhea (63%).
  - Nausea (5%).
  - Headache (5%).
  - Diarrhea (6%).
  - Nausea (5%).
  - Headache (5%).

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Mayor presents Pride proclamation and awards

Mayor Mike Rawlings declared June Pride Month in Dallas wearing a rainbow sash he got last weekend at Boston Pride. He said Boston’s parade attracted a lot more people than we do in Dallas, but joked, “We have less clothes in our parade.”

The mayor also told the more than 150 people in the Flag Room at City Hall that he always wanted to have a sash that said “mayor” so he could look like Mayor Quimby (the mayor of Springfield on The Simpsons).

The proclamation at City Hall has become an annual event, but this year’s event on Wednesday, June 13, was the best attended.

City Councilman Adam Medrano handed out awards on behalf of the Mayor’s LGBT Task Force, which he chairs. City Attorney Larry Casto received an award for work done to make city ordinances equal and benefits more comprehensive. Over the past year, benefits have expanded to provide fully comprehensive transgender healthcare. Jo Giudice received an award for opening the library for a number of LGBT events including a recent prom for seniors and the ongoing Drag Queen Story Time for children.

In his invocation, the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas noted that the Southern Baptist Convention was meeting at the convention center next door with Westboro Baptist Church protesting outside, but the mayor and council were there with the LGBT community. He also noted that the day before was the second anniversary of the Pulse massacre in Orlando.

Medrano presented three additional awards: Equality Texas President Steve Rudner for leadership, Dr. Ximena Lopez of the gender clinic at Children’s Health and Lost Souls Rugby for representing the community. Patti Fink presented Dallas police Det. Laura Martin with an award for her years of service as police LGBT liaison.

DISD adding immigration status to anti-bullying policy

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, not known for her knowledge regarding educational issues, was asked if she believed a principal or teacher should call ICE if they learn a student is undocumented. “Sir, I think that’s a school decision,” DeVos responded. “That’s a local community decision.”

However, in Plyler v. Doe, a 1982 Supreme Court decision, the justices struck down both a Texas statute denying funding for education to undocumented children and Tyler ISD’s attempt to charge undocumented immigrants $1,000 tuition for each immigrant student to compensate for the lost state revenue. And last year, Dallas ISD passed a resolution declaring that Dallas ISD schools are welcoming and protective of all students regardless of immigration status.

In reaction to DeVos’ lack of knowledge that school districts are simply required to educate all children in their jurisdiction, Dallas ISD Board President Dan Micciche has announced that at its next meeting the board will vote on adding “immigration status” to DISD’s anti-bullying policy.

Putting the fairy in the fairytale: Legacy’s enchanting party

Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage has long benefitted the North Texas community, and every summer has held a big fundraising bash … which used to be called Be An Angel. Well, this year, they have moved into another spirit world with Once Upon a Time, a fairytale-themed benefit taking place Saturday, June 16, at the Hall of State in Fair Park. The event will include live and silent auctions, live entertainment K-Marie & Friends and Stephanie Sallie, tunes from DJ Charlie Phresh, Stoli cocktails and bites. VIP tickets are available for $100 (and early admission) but you can also get general admission for just $40 (prices go up at the door!).

—David Taffet

For our biggest, most fabulous year yet!

Patron Sponsor

Rose VIP Sponsor

To all our sponsors, table hosts and attendees...

Thank You!
TOBACCO IS TOXIC

THIS LIFE IS NON-TOXIC

There’s no room for shade or haters in this life. Cigarettes and their toxic chemicals? NEVER. Because this life is non-toxic.
JUNE

• Through June 30: Pride at City Hall
  The exhibit The Impact of HIV/AIDS in Dallas on display in the lobby of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.

• June-September: Pride at the Library
  From UNT’s LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Archive, documenting the history and culture of the LGBT community in Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas History & Archives (7th floor), 1515 Young St.

• June 15: Late Night at the DMA
  A celebration of arts and culture in the Dallas LGBT community. At 6 p.m., the Turtle Creek Chorale performs in the atrium. A spotlight talk at 6 p.m., on LGBT artists in the collection. At 6:30 on level 4 is a performance of music by Leonard Bernstein. At 7 p.m., Robert Emery teams up with Uptown Players for some Dallas LGBT history. At 7:30 is Drag Queen Story Hour with Cassie Nova. Later, Chris Chism performs. The Birdcage will screen outdoors. UBE displays their talents in ballroom, vogue and other dance forms. The Rose Room cast arrives.

• June 16: City of Dallas Juneteenth celebration
  City of Dallas Park and Recreation presents its 9th annual Juneteenth celebration from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at K.B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St.

• June 16: Once Upon a Time fundraiser
  Once Upon A Time, a fairytale-themed even including a silent and a live auction benefiting Legacy Counseling center and Founders Cottage, will be held from 6-11 p.m. at The Hall of State in Fair Park, 3939 Grand Ave. DJ Charlie Phresh, K-Marie and Friends and Stephanie Sallie will provide entertainment. Tickets are $40 for general admission and $100 for VIP if purchased online in advance at OnceUponATimeTheLegacy.eventbrite.com. Tickets at the door are $50 and $125.

• June 16: Waikiki Gaybingo
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• June 16: Turtle Creek Cleanup
  Clean up from 8:30-10:30 a.m. along the Turtle Creek corridor.

• June 16: Summer Cantina
  Team Metro nighttime pool party, blackjack, Gloria Devine performs, underwear model auction from 4 p.m.-midnight at 1207 Lakewood Dr., Allen. $25 donation to Lifewalk.

• June 16: LGBTQ Estate Planning
  If you don’t have a will, the State of Texas has one for you. Attorney Lorie Burch presents legal planning for the LGBTQ community to help keep couples and individuals up-to-date and informed from 6-7 p.m. at Grauwlyker Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St.

• June 19: Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello
  Join leaders from the African American Museum, Dallas City Council, VisitDallas and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello to announce this fall’s exhibition at 10 a.m. at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. in Fair Park. Reception follows.

• June 19: Tall Tales & High Heels
  Dallas Public Library hosts its first LGBTQ-themed story hour featuring Cassie Nova, Your Highness and Jenna Skyy. Children will sing, dance, and interact with these fabulous ladies in a safe environment to learn about the LGBTQ community in Dallas from 1-2 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• June 19: Dallas LGBT History night
  The Dallas Way co-founder Robert Emery speaks at 6 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St.

• June 19: Classic Chassis Car Club
  See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR.’s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• June 21: Thursday Happy Hour
  Federal Club happy hour from 6-8 p.m. at Pour House Dallas, 1300 W. Davis St.

• June 21: Stonewall: The After Party
  Special appearances by State Reps. Mary Gonzalez and Celia Israel and State Rep.-elect Jessica Gonzalez from 8-11 p.m. at Meso Maya, 604 Main St. Fort Worth.

• June 21: TAG Dinner Group
  7 p.m. at 1836 Texas Kitchen, 2467 Crow Road, Tyler.

• June 21: GALA Third Thursday
  Happy hour at Blue Martini, 7301 Lone Star Dr, Plano.

• June 22-24: TAG camping trip
  Tyler Area Gays is going camping. RSVP or ask questions: contact Ryan Benicky at Benicky.who@gmail.com.

• June 23: Ascend
  Oak Lawn Band presents Ascend, its fifth annual march for freedom concert.
Meet Lola, a 6-year-old, red-and-black German shepherd mix weighing 60 pounds. She’s a laid back, loving lady looking for a forever home. She’s super sweet and will instantly make friends with everyone she meets. She adores being petted but especially loves belly scratches. She gets along great with children and does well with other dogs. She really likes being around people and gets stressed when she’s alone, so she’d do best with someone who can spend plenty of time with her. Lola has been spayed, microchipped and current on all age-appropriate vaccinations.

#104000

Lola 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.

Lola 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.
Dallas Wings Assistant Coach Erin Phillips has her eye on her goals

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

he goal of each and every team in the WNBA is winning the championship, and Dallas Wings Assistant Coach Erin Phillips said her team is no different.

After Tuesday night’s last-minute loss to the Phoenix Mercury, the Wings are in 7th place out of the 12 WNBA teams, with a 4-4 regular season record. But with 26 games still to go in the 34-game season are just now finding their groove, Assistant Coach Erin Phillips said this week.

“Every year, you have to continually improve. Players come and go, so it always takes a few games each year to find your stride as a team,” Phillips said. “We’ve kept our core group, and we’ve added some nice rookies. And now we’ve got [6-foot, 9-inch Liz] Cambage,” the Australian pro player who returned to the WNBA this year.

“We are always looking to improve ourselves as coaches, always looking to improve our players individually. And we’re always looking at how do we improve as a whole, how do we make the team better overall,” Phillips said.

This is Phillips’ first year as assistant coach for the Dallas Wings, but not her first year as a member of the Wings family. She was traded to Dallas from the Los Angeles Sparks in March 2017, then waived by the Wings in May 2017.

Phillips announced her retirement as a player in the WNBA on Mother’s Day, saying she wanted more time to spend with her wife, Tracy Gahan, and their young twins. But just a week later, the Wings announced that they were bringing Phillips on as director of player and franchise development, and this season, “I was promoted to assistant coach,” she said.

Phillips said that Taj McWilliams-Franklin, the other assistant coach, tends to focus more or less on the team’s post players, since she played that position, while Phillips tends to focus on the guards, which was the position she played. “But really, we all focus on the team overall,” she continued.

“[Head Coach Fred [Williams]], Taj and myself, we work really well together as a team. Taj and I, we do what Fred wants us to do. We work on individual practices with players, we work on individual film studies,” she added. “We are both another set of eyes and ears for our head coach.”

The three coaches, along with Manager of Basketball Analytics Travis Charles and Manager of Basketball Analytics are “the team behind the team,” Phillips said. Phillips brought a long list of accomplishments with her when she came to Dallas. In 2004, while playing in the under-20 national championships with the Australian Institute of Sports, she won the Bob Staunton Award. And in 2005, while she was with the Adelaide Lightning, Phillips was named to the WNBL’s All-Star Five.

Phillips also played several years with Australia’s national team, including 2006 when the team won gold at the Commonwealth Games and gold at the World Championships in Brazil. She won a silver medal with the Australian national team at the 2008 Summer Olympics and bronze at the World Championships in Turkey.

Phillips first started playing in the WNBA in the U.S. in 2006, winning two championships — in 2012 with the Indiana Fever and in 2014 with the Phoenix Mercury — before retiring as a WNBA player. And beginning in 2008, during the WNBA off season months, she played overseas, first for Israel and then for different teams in Poland.

**Australian Rules Football**

And yet, Phillips’ first love — and the sport that still captures her true passion — is Australian Rules Football.

Her father, Greg, played professionally with the Port Adelaide and Collingwood teams, which meant “it was the sport I grew up with,” Phillips said. “I played until I was 13. The boys I played with were my closest friends.”

But that came to a screeching halt when she turned 13. “They did have a women’s senior league, but there just was no pathway to professional football for girls past 13 at the time. So my father purposely introduced me then to basketball.

“I mean, there was netball,” a sport that used to be called “women’s basketball” but that is distinctly different from basketball played by women as we know it, Phillips continued. “My sister played netball. But netball is played in skirts, and there was no way I was going to play in a skirt. So basketball was the best thing for me. I enjoyed basketball, but my passion, really, was football. It always has been.”

Phillips had the chance to rediscover her passion when, in December 2015, she was signed as the inaugural AFL Women’s captain for the Port Adelaide Football Club, with the provision that the club was licensed for the 2017 AFL Women’s season. A few months later, though, Port Adelaide decided not to bid on a license for 2017.

But in September 2016, Adelaide Football Club signed Phillips as a rookie, and the following January the team announced that Phillips and Chelsea Randall would be the club’s inaugural co-captains.

Phillips quickly proved that Adelaide had made a good decision in signing her. In the AFL Women’s debut competitions, she kicked the goal of the year in round three and turned in a “best on ground” game against Brisbane in the AFLW Grand Final. She was named vice captain of the All-Australian team, and she won the AFLW Best and Fairest award and the AFLW Players Association MVP Award.

In May 2017, Adelaide signed Phillips as a marquee player for 2018. She said this week she will be heading back to Australia in November for the AFLW pre-season and will start the season with Adelaide next January.

Australian Rules Football, for those not familiar with the sport, is a full-contact game that is kind of a cross between American football, soccer and rugby (with maybe some deadly martial arts thrown in here and there for good measure). When she had the chance to play in the AFLW, Phillips said, she did have some concern about how the Dallas Wings management would feel about her spending the WNBA off season playing such a dangerous sport. She was, she said, very glad when they agreed to it.

But on a purely personal level, Phillips said, the risk of injury was never really an issue.

“For me, personally, there are things you just cannot worry about in life. I just don’t think you can’t NOT do something just because you are afraid of getting hurt,” she said. “I have always been willing to try new things, and I’ve always taken risks. I’ve found that if you go into something thinking you might get hurt, you generally end up getting hurt. So I don’t think about it.”

**Family**

The other — and probably the biggest — passion in Phillips’ life is her family — her
The Dallas Wings celebrate Pride Night, in recognition of June as national LGBT Pride Month, tonight (Friday, June 15), during their game against the Las Vegas Aces.

The game is at the Wings’ home stadium, College Park Center at the University of Texas in Arlington, 600 S. Center St. The game starts at 7 p.m. But there will be pre-game festivities including a cheer led by David Taffet, longtime LGBT community activist and senior staff writer of Dallas Voice.

This is the fifth year that the WNBA is celebrating Pride month league-wide, with initiatives intended to “empower teams, players, fans and employees to share their voices and create a more inclusive environment for their communities,” according to the WNBA website.

WNBA President Lisa Borders said, “The WNBA is thrilled to unite with our players, teams, partners and fans during Pride Month to amplify our shared values of equality, inclusion and respect. Honoring the WNBA’s diverse community is always a highlight of our season.”

WNBA will have a float in the New York City Pride parade, set for June 24, again this year. As openly lesbian Baylor alum and current center for the Phoenix Mercury, Brittney Griner, points out in a video at WNBA.com/pride, the WNBA was the “first league to have a float in the Pride parade. It meant everything to me. It meant that our league — they’re behind us.”

The WNBA is also once again collaborating with GLSEN and Fanatics on an exclusive line of Pride apparel that includes Fanatics-branded WNBA T-shirts and New Era caps featuring league and team logos. The products are available on WNBAStore.com, and all league proceeds benefit GLSEN (The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network). Be sure to look for shirts and caps featuring the Wings’ mascot, Lightning, in rainbow colors.

GLSEN is also one of the beneficiaries of the WNBA’s Take A Seat, Take A Stand. For each ticket purchased through the program, the league will donate $5 to the beneficiary of the purchaser’s choice. Other beneficiaries in addition to GLSEN are Bright Pink, It’s On Us, Mentor In Real Life, Planned Parenthood and The United State of Women.

For information visit WNBAStore.com/TakeAStand.

— Tammye Nash
City honors AIN’s CEO

Steven Pace receives Lifetime Achievement Award from AIN board

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dallas City Councilman Omar Narvaez presented Access and Information Network (AIN) CEO Steven Pace with a special recognition certificate recently at the 12th annual Bloomin’ Ball. Bloomin’ Ball is AIN’s largest annual fundraiser, and this year’s event was held June 2.

The certificate says, in part, “We celebrate a life well lived, a role model citizen and an ambassador contributing to the vision of Dallas to be a diverse, vibrant and progressive city. Steven Pace has worked passionately to improve the vitality and quality of life for not only those citizens of Dallas in need, but for all the citizens of Dallas he has touched with his life of committed and devoted service to humanity.”

Also at the event, the AIN Board of Trustees presented Pace with the first annual Steven Pace Lifetime Achievement Award. In the future, that award will be presented to outstanding individuals to honor their service to people affected by HIV and other life-altering ailments, an AIN spokesperson said.

Formerly known as AIDS Interfaith Network, AIN was created by local LGBT clergy in 1986 to support those living with HIV and to educate the faith community about HIV to secure a more compassionate response to those affected and rapidly dying. The agency quickly realized people needed practical assistance, and that HIV education was paramount to helping stop the spread of this new disease.

AIN started organizing support and volunteer programs and after incorporating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, began adding outreach, HIV education, health education, HIV prevention and client advocacy programs. A transportation program, the Daire Center Nutrition Program and medical and non-medical case management programs, along with a mobile health care unit and outreach to underserved communities were all added through the years.
In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection

Tired of planning your life around diarrhea?

Enough is Enough


Mytesi (crofelemer):
• Is the only medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
• Treats diarrhea differently by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
• Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION
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NP-390-25
Lost Souls win international rugby competition

Dallas team is first to repeat winning its division in Mark Bingham Cup

Lost Souls Rugby won the Hoagland Cup in Tier 2 competition at the Mark Bingham Cup, held in Amsterdam on June 7-10, and was honored with an award from Dallas City Councilman Adam Medrano. In three days of competition, the team won five of the six games they played.

The Bingham Cup, established in 2002, was named after amateur rugby player Mark Bingham, a gay man who is credited as one of the heroes of Flight 83, the United Airlines plane taken over by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001 who intended to crash the plane into the Capitol just as others that day crashed American Airlines flights into the World Trade Center in New York and Pentigon near D.C. When Bingham and others on Flight 93 realized the terrorists’ plan, they fought to take control of the plane, forcing it to crash into an empty field in Pennsylvania instead of allowing it to reach the Pentagon.

The Hoagland Cup is named for Bingham’s mother, Alice Hoagland, who attended the games this year.

The gay Dallas rugby team was founded six years ago and is coached by Todd Maria. They flew to Amsterdam planning to defend their 2016 Tier 3 championship title, but were upgraded to Tier 2 competition before their first match.

According to Maria, this is the first time a team has won its division in two consecutive competitions.

Lost Souls lost its first game to Birmingham Bull before winning the rest of their matches and the division championship. The Birmingham Bull moved up to Tier 1 and won the Bingham Vase, placing No. 17 out of 25 in its division.

Of Lost Souls’ six matches, five were against teams from Europe, where rugby is more commonly played and more popular with fans.

Team member A.J. Tello said Lost Souls doesn’t belong to a league in Texas. “We do ‘friendlies,’” he said. Those are games arranged individually with other teams rather than organized by a league.

Tello credited Lost Souls’ success to their coach, Maria, complimenting his coaching ability, technique and strategy.

Maria explained that he prefers rugby to the similar game of American football because rugby is continuous play and faster-paced. There are no time outs. But beyond that, he said rugby is a more inclusive sport.

“It welcomes anyone regardless of skill set, body type, athletic ability,” Maria said. “There is a spot for all on a rugby pitch.”

Tello agreed, pointing out that one of his teammates is in his 50s.

“The sport teaches you teamwork, and in the process, you build lasting friendships,” Maria said.

Rugby and football both developed in the late 1800s from the same game.

A rugby match is broken down into two 40-minute halves with a 10-minute break. Each team has 15 players with seven substitutes. The Bingham Cup matches consisted of two 20-minute halves with one five-minute half time. The final matches in each division were two 25-minute halves. Each team was allowed 25 players on the roster.

A rugby pitch is similar in size to a football field, although the rugby field is about 10 yards longer — the difference between 100 yards and 100 meters — and about 15 yards wider.

The team with the ball must move the ball up the field, but can’t pass it forward. They can only run or kick the ball forward. The opposing team stops them by tackling.

“A scrum is like a face-off in hockey,” Maria said. “Eight players form a massive formation to move the ball.”

To score, the rugby player has to do more than cross the goal line. The ball must be “touched down” to the ground to score a try, worth five points. A field goal, that is drop kicked, is worth one point. The extra point in football is called a conversion in rugby and is worth two points.

In rugby, there’s no offense or defense team — everybody plays both roles. A limited number of exchanges of players is allowed during the game. If all the exchanges are used up and a player is injured, that team just has to play short.

The team with the ball can be tackled six times before turning over possession to the other team.

While the ball can’t be passed forward, it may be passed backward and remains in play even if the ball’s not caught.

After the team returned to Dallas with a world championship, Dallas City Councilman Adam Medrano presented Lost Souls with the Mayor’s LGBT Task Force community award, recognizing them for the number of community service projects the team did during the year in addition to the Hoagland Cup win.
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The right college?

Independent education consultant conference includes session on helping LGBT students choose the best college for them

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Helping LGBT high school students get into the right college was among the topics discussed at the Higher Education Consultants Association (HECA) conference held in Dallas this week.

HECA has about 1,000 members, explained communications chair Whitney Bruce. She said membership has doubled in the past few years in this fairly new and growing field of independent education consultants.

IECs help students determine their interests, get into the right college and work toward their career goals. Bruce said she works with some students from ninth grade through graduation. Others she helps just during the college application process during their senior year of high school.

“When you’re spending a quarter of a million dollars on college, you should put some thought into it,” Bruce said.

Dale Price, a HECA member, is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping LGBT students make sure their college experience is successful. He said his own experience in high school inspires him to help other LGBT students.

When he was a teenager, Price’s parents threw him out of the house when they learned he was gay. Suddenly, his education wasn’t his main priority. “All I wanted was a stable place to live,” he said.

Despite his homelessness, Price graduated high school and began working. As his life stabilized, he met someone from Baylor who guided him into a program that allowed him to attend community college at no charge and later transfer to University of Texas with financial assistance.

Price said he felt lucky to be at a school like UT that embraced who he was. Not all schools celebrate diversity. Which schools welcome LGBT students may be surprising, he said, noting that not all religious schools should be ruled out, and just because a school is in a liberal city like Los Angeles that doesn’t mean it will be affirming.

One counselor attending Price’s workshop at the HECA convention suggested Loyola in Chicago for LGBT students. Although a Catholic school, it has affirming student groups and supports its LGBT students. On the other hand, Pepperdine, located in L.A. — well, it doesn’t.

And Georgia Tech is among the schools several IECs attending the workshop recommended as best for transgender students. It has a transgender dorm for transitioning students, and although it’s a tech school, it’s looking for creative students who will be innovators. Georgia Tech embraces its LGBT students, IECs at the conference said.

Price said that while the top concern of high school students in general is classes, exams and graduation, those aren’t among the top three issues LGBT high school students face. Acceptance by their families tops the list of worries among LGBT teens. Next comes bullying, and third is the fear of being outed.

With all those extraneous concerns, many LGBT teens don’t even consider the idea of higher education. They already deal with lots of distractions in the community including drugs and alcohol and a lack of vision and priorities.

Price said he’s had a gay student tell him that he “didn’t have the confidence to go to college.” Gay/Straight Alliances are one of the best ways to give students confidence and help them make friends, fight bullying and concentrate on their education. But something proven to work is often shut down by school administrations.

One counselor said a friend of hers who tried to start a GSA in her school a number of years ago was asked by her principal, “Is that a good idea, or will it encourage other students to be gay?”

In determining whether a college or university would be a fit for an LGBT student, Price suggested looking at what support is offered by the school, as well as what the school’s policies are. What Pride activities occur on campus? Are there LGBT clubs, resource centers and departments of gender and sexuality studies? Are there majors or minors offered in those fields?

For transgender housing, if nothing appears in the school’s catalog, one counselor suggested calling the housing office to see what its dorm policies are. Does the school have any bathroom policies?

Does the school issue an ID with the trans student’s preferred name and encourage professors to use the preferred name rather than legal name?

The school’s student health plan will give clues to its inclusion of trans students. Some policies cover hormones and transition. Once a student turns 18, some may offer guidance on legal name changes.

Price talked about whether a student should include that they’re LGBT in the application essay. He said there’s not just one correct answer to that: “It’s a personal decision.”

If it’s important to the student and he or she can write about it in a way that would persuade an admissions officer to accept the student, Price said it was fine to include the information. If the inclusion of gender identity or sexual orientation were something that would disqualify a student from admission, that school wasn’t a good match in the first place.

Price suggested that in recommending schools to LGBT teens, counselors need to take into consideration the locale as well as the school’s policies. When a student goes off campus, what’s the experience going to be like? Does the city or state have nondiscrimination policies in place. How well does the campus reinforce those laws?

Speaking about his profession, Price said, “We change lives.”

But to change those lives and help an LGBT student get a great education, consider the social factors, school’s policies and housing arrangements that will affect the student’s educational experience.
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PrEP WITH US
Students hold die-in to protest lawmakers who will do nothing about gun violence

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Danika McLeod is a student at Santa Fe High School in Texas, where eight students and two teachers were killed and 13 injured on May 18 by a student armed with an assault-style semi-automatic rifle. Danicka drove to Dallas with her mother this week to participate in a die-in on Tuesday, June 12, outside the offices of U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz.

Danika’s brother, Kyle, was one of the eight students who died that day at Santa Fe High.

At the protest here in Dallas on Tuesday, Danika pulled out her cell phone and read aloud the text messages between her and Kyle from the day of the massacre: He told her he was hit in the arm; she pleaded with him to play dead.

But he didn’t have to. By then, he was dead.

Then Danika echoed the strident voices of the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 were killed and another 14 wounded by a student armed with the same kind of gun on Valentine’s Day this year. Those students made headlines around the world by refusing to be consoled by “thoughts and prayers,” and forced the Florida Legislature to enact some new gun regulations.

“Guns are the problem, and because you won’t fix it, we will,” Danicka told any elected officials who might be listening.

Students from Plano West High School planned the die-in at Sen. Ted Cruz’s Oak Lawn office to commemorate the two-year anniversary of the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, when 49 people were murdered and more than 50 others wounded by an assailant with a semi-automatic assault-style rifle.

When Cruz’s office refused to allow the protesters to enter the building, the more than 50 students, teachers, parents and supporters held their event on the lawn on the corner of Hall and Welborn streets, under the senator’s office windows.

Before the 12-minute die-in, students, including some who have been personally af-
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More people disagreed with the Associated Press’ headline about the U.S. Supreme Court’s Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruling than disagreed with the interpretation of the decision itself.

The June 4 headline — “Supreme Court rules narrowly for Colorado baker who wouldn’t make same-sex wedding cake” — referred to the decision by the justices in a case involving David Mullins and Charlie Craig, a Denver couple denied a wedding cake by Masterpiece Cakeshop owner Jack Phillips. Citing his religious beliefs, including opposition to same-sex marriage, Phillips declined to make the cake.

Mullins and Craig complained to the Colorado Civil Rights Division, which ruled in 2014 that Phillips violated Colorado’s nondiscrimination statute. Phillips and his lawyers asked the court to grant review, and the court heard oral arguments in the case on Dec. 5, 2017.

The 7-2 vote in favor of Phillips, with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissenting, was not narrowly decided, but was instead narrowly interpreted — referring to specifically the case itself rather than the ruling. That is despite tweets from conservative elected officials disparaging the headline, while missing the point of the ruling.

Among them were Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano. In reply to the ruling, Leach wrote, “Narrowly? Give me a break. This is a strong, overwhelmingly bi-partisan decision.” And in another, he argued the headline was “intentionally misleading the fly-by reader to believe the narrow ‘holding’ was a narrow ‘decision.’”

Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said the court decided in favor of Phillips in this case because of a commissioner’s antagonistic comments.

“The neutral and respectful consideration to which Phillips was entitled was compromised here. The Civil Rights Commission’s treatment of his case has some elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs that motivated his objection,” Kennedy wrote.

“Nevertheless,” Kennedy added, “while those religious and philosophical objections are protected, it is a general rule that such objections do not allow business owners and other actors in the economy and in society to deny protected persons equal access to goods and services under a neutral and generally applicable public accommodations law.”

But Ginsburg disagreed that the commissioner’s animus factored into the decision by the commission.

“When a couple contacts a bakery for a wedding cake, the product they are seeking is a cake celebrating their wedding — not a cake celebrating heterosexual weddings or same-sex weddings — and that is the service Craig and Mullins were denied,” Ginsburg wrote.

Minneapolis labor and employment lawyer JoLynn Markison, a partner at the law firm Dorsey and Whitney, said the case would have long-reaching effects for businesses and similar cases.

“The Supreme Court failed to consider whether the commissioner’s ‘inappropriate’ statement about religion impacted the outcome of commission’s decision. Finding instead that the commissioner’s statement evinced ‘hostility’ towards religion, the Supreme Court invalidated the commission’s decision without analyzing whether the decision was correct.

“In so doing, the Supreme Court side-stepped the ultimate question in this case — whether freedom of religion can be used to discriminate against gay people in places of public accommodation,” Markison said.

Lambda Legal CEO Rachel Tiven called the ruling a pathway for future decisions that could adversely impact the LGBT community.

“Religious freedom under our Constitution has always meant the right to believe whatever you wish but not to act on your beliefs in ways that harm others. The court … alarmingly fails to heed that distinction,” Tiven said. “The Supreme Court has become an accomplice in the right’s strategy to hollow out one of its finest achievements, the right to equal marriage.”

One of those cases is pending review by the Supreme Court, Arlene’s Flowers v. Washington. Barronelle Stutzman, who owns Arlene’s Flowers in Richland, Wash., declined to make a floral arrangement for a same-sex couple’s wedding because of her religious beliefs. The couple and state attorney general sued. While the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in the couple’s favor, Stutzman appealed.

It is just one of the cases the court could consider in the future testing the limits of religious liberty. But the debate will not just play out in the courts.

“This decision will go a long way to helping Texas lawmakers pass state law protection on these specific religious freedom attacks from local government laws like Dallas, Austin and San Antonio have, just to name a few,” said Jonathan Saenz, president of Texas Values, a statewide group opposed to LGBT rights.

Saenz is a proponent of the bill from the last legislative session restricting bathroom access to transgender individuals as well as other religious exemption bills.

Markison agreed. “We can expect to see many more instances of public businesses refusing to provide services to gay people in the name of religious freedom,” she said.

“The Supreme Court may have dodged the issue for now, but it will not be able to avoid it forever.”

Until then, Craig and Mullins said in a statement provided by the ACLU, they will keep fighting: “[This] decision means our fight against discrimination and unfair treatment will continue. We have always believed that in America, you should not be turned away from a business open to the public because of who you are. We brought this case because no one should have to face the shame, embarrassment and humiliation of being told ‘we don’t serve your kind here’ that we faced, and we will continue fighting until no one does.”
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resource Center recently added Patrick Hanley to its advocacy staff to work on issues affecting the LGBT community. Rafael McDonnell, who recently celebrated his 10th anniversary with the organization, created the position to work with local governments and agencies, as well as with the state and federal government.

Hanley moved to Dallas from London where he earned his masters degree from the London School of Economics. Before earning his graduate degree, he worked in Washington, D.C., where he worked in the Capitol for his home state senator, Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

His other previous experience included a stint as a policy associate for Human Rights First, where he focused on issues that included counter-terrorism, torture and closure of Guantanamo. In his work, he said, he went to Guantanamo where he observed military trials being held for detainees.

After living in D.C. for eight years, Hanley said he decided he wanted to get out of the “bubble” and chose to continue his studies in London for a complete change of environment.

After graduation, Hanley decided he
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TOYOTA
Jewish congregation invites Muslim friends to worship with them in their Methodist church home

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Congregation Beth El Binah, a Reform synagogue that meets at Northaven United Methodist Church on Preston Road, celebrates Pride Month at its June 22 Shabbat service with Muslim and Christian friends.

The annual Pride service tradition began after the congregation joined the Union for Reform Judaism, North America’s organization of Reform synagogues, more than 25 years ago. Beth El Binah was the seventh and final predominantly LGBT congregation to join the union. After that, synagogues began changing their bylaws to allow LGBT couples and families to join as households or family units.

The service was originally billed as Family and Friends and was part of a congregational membership drive. The service quickly became one of the most attended each year.

Family and Friends, which has always taken place in June, morphed into Gay Pride Shabbat, which the congregation has dubbed “the ancient biblical holiday.” The service has become an interfaith service, co-hosted by the LGBT groups from the two large Reform synagogues in Dallas — Temple Shalom and Temple Emanu-el.

For this year’s Pride Shabbat, congregation member Linda Evans, who founded UNA-Dallas committee on refugees, invited a number of local Muslim refugees to be the congregation’s guests. Several have attended and told their compelling stories at Shabbat services over the past year.

Evans said considering the political cli-
preferred working on local issues, and when he and his partner moved back to the U.S., they decided to move to North Texas, where his partner is from. Currently, they are living with his partner’s parents in Bedford, and his partner works for Deloitte. His current project is in New Jersey, but he’s on an extended work assignment in China, so Hanley is living with his in-laws on his own.

“Most people cringe when I say I’m living with them,” Hanley said of his in-laws. “But I love them, and I came to know about Resource Center through them.”

His partner’s parents, he explained, are active in P-FLAG and other LGBT work in Tarrant County.

About his new job, Hanley said, “I was looking to do something with local impact.”

Hanley said he was still in learning mode, going out into the community and meeting people, but he has a lot of ideas for his new position.

“Texas is important in the fight for LGBT equality,” he said, suggesting that the state lags behind other large states in providing adequate protections. He said a top concern for him and Resource Center is the 2019 legislative session.

“Bringing back the bathroom bill was on the GOP primary ballot,” he said.

That issue took up most of the special session of the Legislature in 2017, but next session Speaker of the House Joe Straus won’t be back to derail future attempts to regulate whether transgender people may use public restroom facilities as he did in the last session.

Hanley said he would like to see more access to PrEP, the HIV preventive treatment. He’d also like to see more anti-bullying initiatives begun.

He said he has found storytelling to be the most effective form of advocacy. So he said he wants to hear from people with great stories to tell that are willing to tell those stories to Texas’ decision makers.

“Homeless kids telling their stories is very powerful,” Hanley said.

In the 10 years Hanley has been working in public policy, he said he’s seen a lot of change. He said working with allies has always been an effective tool for him. When he was working on torture issues, Catholic bishops were a powerful ally who could speak to the issues with authority.

Locally, Hanley hopes to become a point of contact for the LGBT community. Employment situations, he said, are an example of how he might help individuals and create change for the community.

McDonnell said expanding the advocacy department has been a goal of his for years. “This will allow us to be more proactive as well as reactive,” he said. “The administration in Washington keeps us busy reactively.”

Over the years, McDonnell has worked with area school districts on their bullying policies. In May, he spoke to DISD board members about adding immigration status to the Dallas policy, and board members have pledged to add that at their next board meeting.

McDonnell has worked with Dallas County on its nondiscrimination policies and with DART on its transgender nondiscrimination as well as a 14-month effort to get the transit agency to add partner benefits long before marriage equality became law.

He worked with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission on a training program after the raid on the Rainbow Lounge and recently helped UT Southwestern develop an allies program for its medical students.

McDonnell said he was surprised how many people applied for the new advocacy position with Resource Center.

“Patrick brings Washington and international experience to the table that will be particularly valuable as we look at intersectional issues such as LGBT immigrants,” he said.
Dallas Southern Pride holds its 2018 June-teenth Unity Festival on Saturday, June 16, from 5-10 p.m. at the Longhorn Ballroom, 216 Corinth St.

The annual celebration, organizers said, emphasizes “the intersection between the black community and LGBT identity and creates a space to come together without fear of judgment.”

This year’s Juneteenth Unity Festival features numerous locally and internationally renowned artists, organizers said. R&B singer Tank, a five-time Grammy Award nominee, and legendary female rap artist Trina will headline the festival’s outdoor stage. Other performers include Love and Hip Hop stars Mariah Lynn and Brittany Taylor.

Tank, one of the many non-LGBT stars performing at the Juneteenth celebration, said, “It’s my pleasure to share my talent with the LGBTQ community and Dallas Southern Pride’s Juneteenth Unity Festival. The LGBTQ community has supported my career over the years, and I will support them with no hesitation when called upon. I’ve been transparent and vocal with my support of the LGBTQ community. I am looking forward to performing a few songs Saturday.”

LGBT artists performing at festival include Terrell Carter of the hit Fox Network show Empire, Bobby Lytes from Love and Hip Hop, and more.

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Gov. Greg Abbott and Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings again are sending formal written recognitions for the unity festival. Sponsors for the event include Gilead Sciences Inc., Barefoot Wine, Radio One, Caven Enterprises, Dallas Voice, AHF, Red Bull and more.

Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity and leader organizer for Dallas Southern Pride, said, “This is an important time for our communities to come together and celebrate freedom and equality. The Juneteenth Unity Festival has grown from a few hundred attendees more than 10 years ago to a few thousand attendees today. This is proof that we are able to organize together regardless of our individual identities.”

Myers and other organizers explained that the Juneteenth Unity Festival is a multi-purpose event. It is intended to celebrate the lives, loves and culture of Dallas’ black LGBT communities as well as create an avenue for awareness, education, voter registration and health screenings.

There will be a vendors market showcasing several businesses and resources — LGBT-owned and otherwise — that market to the black LGBT communities. In addition to the local, regional and national LGBT and ally entertainers performing live music performances, there will be dance, creative expression and spoken-word/poetry performances, too.

DSP is the largest black LGBT convening to ever take place in North Texas, with some 3,000 people expected to attend. For more information, contact Public Affairs Director Ahmad Goree at ahmadg99@hotmail.com or visit DallasSouthernPride.com.
Vanessa “Vanjie” Mateo, one of the contestants on Season 10 of RuPaul’s Drag Race, will be one of the special performers appearing at “Down to Float 4: Candy Land,” this year’s incarnation of Impulse Group Dallas’ annual pool party. The party takes place Saturday, July 28, 2-7 p.m., at 7044 Royal Lane in Dallas.

The party will also feature a fashion runway show presented by The House of Avalon, with local models of all shapes, sizes and genders, and music by internationally-recognized DJ and music producer Joe Gauthreaux.

Singer/songwriter/actor/model/musician Blake McIver, known for playing Michelle’s friend, Derek, on the sitcom Full House, will be special guest host.

Another highlight of the party will be complimentary cocktails, courtesy of Tito’s Handmade Vodka and Austin Eastciders.

Impulse Group Dallas’ DTF party is intended to entertain and, even more importantly, to increase awareness and HIV testing in Dallas and surrounding areas. Representatives of AIDS Healthcare Foundation will be on hand with free rapid HIV testing and to answer any questions. Attendees will have a chance to sign up for PrEP treatments through AHF.

Erik Vasquez, vice president and events director for Impulse Group Dallas, said, “When it comes to your sexual health, every move counts. The right move can get you ahead, while the wrong move can take you back several steps. Candy Land is all about the message of making the right choice and the right move for your sexual and mental well-being.”

Early bird tickets are on sale through July 16 for $20. Last call tickets will be available July 16 for $30. Online sales end July 27, and tickets at the door will be $40. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for $70. ID and ticket will be required for entry. Guests must be at least 21 years old to enter.

For more information visit, DownToFloat4.com.

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AP Briefs

Pulse anniversary marked by art, litigation

ORLANDO, Fla. — Survivors and victims’ relatives this week marked the second anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting with a remembrance ceremony, a run, art exhibits and litigation.

In the run-up to the June 12 commemoration of the massacre of 49 people at the gay nightclub, some survivors and victims’ relatives filed a lawsuit against the Orlando Police Department and the owners of the nightclub.

The lawsuit against the police was filed June 7, and it claims the city and police didn’t do enough to try to stop the shooter. The lawsuit against Pulse owners Barbara and Rosario Poma was filed June 8, and it says the nightclub had inadequate security.

Both lawsuits were filed by plaintiff attorneys based in Philadelphia and Michigan.

The Pomases said in a statement that they hadn’t seen the lawsuit and that the focus this week should be on healing.

“We ask that everyone keep the focus where it belongs as we prepare for this Remembrance Week,” the couple said.

Council meeting canceled over Pride recognition

HOMER, Alaska — A city council meeting in Alaska where the mayor had planned to recognize LGBTQ Pride Month was canceled after council members failed to show.

Homer Mayor Bryan Zak had planned to read a mayoral recognition in support of Pride celebrations in June, but the city council meeting was canceled Monday, June 11, for lack of a quorum, The Homer News reported.

Council members Heath Smith, Shelly Erickson and Tom Stroozas had notified the city clerk Monday afternoon that they could not attend the meeting. The city had received numerous emails supporting and opposing the recognition after it was proposed.

All three council members said their decision for not attending the meeting was not based on opposition to the recognition, but they did not want to promote discord and controversy within the community.

The mayor decided to read the document to a crowd of dozens gathered outside the city hall. “I think we’re making history with the council members not being present with short notice,” Zak said. “I can’t really say for sure why they’re not being there. Given the circumstances, I think we can read something into this.”

Before Zak spoke at the gathering, a man in a silver pickup truck drove into the city hall parking lot and yelled, “Shame on you, Bryan.”

Council member Rachel Lord criticized the absent council members at the unofficial gathering, saying the council and staff had dedicated a lot of time preparing for the meeting.

“It feels very wrong to step away from our duty like I feel three of our council members did,” Lord said. “I’m deeply disappointed.”


Catholic family rally to include LGBT issues

VATICAN CITY — An international family rally the Catholic Church is hosting in Ireland will feature workshops on hot-button issues facing Catholic families, including protecting children from clergy sexual abuse, weathering divorce and ministering to lesbian and gay faithful.

Pope Francis will join the Aug. 21-26 World Meeting of Families for the last two days and preside over the final Mass in Dublin.

Organizers on Monday, June 11, unveiled the pastoral program leading up to Francis’ arrival, and it includes some surprising entries. Perhaps none is more surprising than the inclusion of the Rev. James Martin, an American Jesuit scheduled to deliver a presentation on welcoming LGBT Catholics and their families into parishes.

Martin, author of “Building a Bridge,” about Catholic outreach to the LGBT community, has had several talks canceled in the United States in recent months because of pressure from conservative groups who oppose his call for the church to better accommodate gay Catholics.

Martin told The Associated Press it was “immensely significant” that a Vatican-backed meeting would include his presentation, saying it showed “that LGBT Catholics and their parents are an important part of our church.”

“The message from the Vatican to LGBT Catholics is this: you belong,” he said.

Martin recalled that during the previous World Meeting of Families, held in Philadelphia in 2015, the only official event about gay Catholics featured a gay man and his mother speaking about chastity.
fected by gun violence, spoke. One student, Lexy, read the names of the 49 people killed at Pulse.

“After Pulse, I was left with an eternal feeling of fear,” she said, calling the massacre “one of the greatest hate crimes in our history.”

Along with other speakers, Lexy condemned political leaders who take National Rifle Association money and do nothing about gun violence. Cruz is the No. 1 recipient of NRA funds.

“Our leaders have failed us,” she said. “Guns kill people. Donald Trump’s thoughts and prayers do nothing.”

A McKinney North High School student named Marianna spoke about a recent gun tragedy at her school. On June 1, her school was placed on lockdown when one student died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

She described how her class led special needs students into a closet during the lockdown, held their hands and protected them. Afterwards, she was told to be grateful that there was only one death.

“I shouldn’t have to be grateful only one student was killed at my school,” she said.

After the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, McKinney North students protested and held discussions about school safety. They were told not to mention guns.

Another student from Santa Fe High School criticized people who are “pro-life until guns are involved.” She called security measures being taken to protect schools “stressful” and objected to police on campus because of racial profiling.

Arming teachers? “Our teachers are not soldiers,” she said, adding, “If we don’t have money to put in bathroom stalls doors that work, why do we have money to arm teachers?”

She also quoted statistics that show that more guns equal more homicides. “Save lives — vote them out,” she said. “Dear Ted Cruz: We are dying. Help.”

One student organizer of the event encouraged students who are old enough to register to vote, and she urged all students, even those who won’t be able to vote this fall, to get involved in the election. She suggested Plano’s U.S. House candidate Lorie Burch, who is a lesbian and a Democrat, as a “gun sense” candidate that teens should be backing.

Once the speakers finished, people attending did a 12-minute die-in remembering not just the victims of Pulse but everyone killed and injured in gun violence.
LifeWalk kicks off

Prism Health North Texas kicked off this year’s LifeWalk with a party in Trinity Groves on June 6. This year’s theme is “The Walk to End AIDS.”

“We’re focused on registering people to show North Texas this is still an important cause,” said Tori Hobbs, Prism’s director of development. “Let’s stop the transmission.”

If a person with HIV is virally suppressed, the chances of transmission are virtually zero.

LifeWalk steps off from Oak Lawn Park on Oct. 7, but there are fundraising opportunities throughout the summer. Prism’s goal is to raise $450,000.

Prism Health provides medical care at two health centers, offers counseling and testing and does clinical trial research.

— David Taffet
Welch alert

The ever-looming threat of right-wing evangelicals in Texas

A coordinated attack by powerful conservatives threatens LGBTQ communities in Dallas-Fort Worth, and every other major urban area, as an anti-gay Houston extremist makes plans to grow his organization.

U.S. Pastor Council President Dave Welch boasts about his prowess in trampling on LGBTQ rights in Houston, and he makes clear his ambition to expand the group — also known as the Houston Area Pastor Council and the Texas Pastor Council — beyond its current regional boundaries. Given his previous successes, Welch could succeed in his expansion plans.

Welch founded the U.S. Pastor Council in 2012 as an extension of the Houston Area Pastor Council he launched in 2003 with 12 associate pastors. The organization has steadily grown in size and influence since its inception.

The council’s website claims a membership today of 200 pastors in the Houston area, with associate pastor councils in Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Fort Bend County, Montgomery County and Waco. The nonprofit’s Form 990 for 2016 — the most recent available — showed total contributions of $1.8 million in five years.

As the only employee, Welch earned $95,090 in 2016.

Despite the modest size and financial strength of his organization, Welch convinced Houston voters in 2015 to shoot down the city’s anti-bias ordinance protecting LGBTQ people. In that election year, the group raised $833,749 — by far the largest fundraising year in its history.

The group’s success overturning the ordinance surprised many because in 2009 Houston voters had elected an out lesbian, Annise Parker, as mayor. But by organizing church congregations in Houston, Welch and his team of strident pastors managed to strike fear in conservative voters in 2016 with the slogan, “No Men in Women’s Restrooms,” a version of the debunked transgender bathroom myth.

In 2017, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that same-sex spouses of government employees are not entitled to marriage benefits, a decision that grew out of a lawsuit filed in 2013 by a pastor council member who objected to Mayor Parker’s plan to award spousal benefits to same-sex couples working for the city of Houston.

If Welch continues his success, he could easily recruit pastors in other states who will want to follow his model and form their own councils to achieve political gains favorable to conservative religious interests.

The presence of several other archenemies of Texas’ LGBTQ community makes Welch alert...
in Jerusalem on May 14, delivering, respectively, the opening and closing prayers. The appearances of both at the ceremony stunned many politicians and human rights leaders, not so much because of the pastors’ virulent anti-gay views but instead because of their unabashed condemnations of Jewish people.

Jeffress claims in sermons that Jews are going to hell, and Hagee has dubbed Hitler a “hunter” commissioned and sent to earth by God to return Jews to Israel. Their denunciations also extend to Muslims, Mormons and even the Catholic Church. The discriminatory language is common to Southern Baptist theology, which threatens the faithful with hellfire and damnation if they stray.

The reach of the Southern Baptist ministry is long in Texas, and that includes the state’s most liberal cities. To the mix of unfriendly-LGBT churches add Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, where Christian pastors gathered in February 2017 to develop strategy for promoting legislation to ban transgender-friendly restrooms. With that addition, a network of anti-LGBT institutions come into play in all of Texas’ largest cities.

Not all of the pastors are members of Welch’s council, but they all share a common goal: to suppress and reverse LGBT-equality gains.

With all of that ground work laid, Welch is off to a pretty good start. LGBT rights is not Welch’s only focus, but it is the one that gains him and the other conservative heavyweights the most publicity and contributions. They also decry abortion rights, the evolvement of the Boy Scouts, any efforts to regulate the sale of guns and any other progressive cause.

So far, the only cause Welch got behind that failed came when the Texas Legislature failed to pass Senate Bill 6, the so-called bathroom bill. Welch attributed the loss to corporate interests, or “fat cats” as he called them, who feared such legislation would harm business in the state.

In the wake of that loss, Welch vowed that he and his associates would continue to fight any measure that benefits the LGBT community. That includes, the right to marry, despite its guarantee in the U.S. Constitution as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015.

In the past, smaller towns and cities represented the stronghold of conservative religious political control, but that could change. Texas’ larger cities could come under a heavier coordinated attack from conservatives aiming to turn back LGBT progress.

The unfavorable political and social climate the Trump Administration fosters makes people — especially conservative Christians — more susceptible to the dogma of zealots like Welch, Jeffress, Hagee, Graves, Scarborough and Saenz. Texas already fostered the climate, but it is now more hostile.

No one should take past human rights gains or the possibility of new advancements for granted.

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than four decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. In 2016, he received the Press Club of Dallas’ Legends Award, bestowed in large part for his work with Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.
Methodist preacher who performs same-sex marriages in a small country church and a cattle rancher who owns a large electrical contracting company are vying for the Texas House District 4 seat that represents Cedar Creek Lake’s LGBT community.

Both men are newcomers to state politics, and each is promising to consider the interests of the LGBT community — at least to some extent in one candidate’s case.

It is the first time for candidates in the race for the District 4 seat to even mention the LGBT community. Elections in recent years featured contests only in the Republican primaries, as the seat is considered part of the East Texas Republican stronghold.

Eston Williams, the preacher for Aley United Methodist Church of Seven Points, is running as a Democrat this year for the seat representing Henderson and Kaufman counties. He is a well-known advocate for the LGBT community who opposes the United Methodist Church’s position that Christianity condemns homosexuality and that pastors should not officiate at same-sex marriages, as stated in the UMC 2016 Book of Discipline Statements.

“I have long opposed my United Methodist denomination’s evil ruling that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,” Williams said in an email statement. “The people in the congregation of the little country church I serve voted to host weddings of LGBTI persons, and I have stated that I would officiate at such a wedding.”

The United Methodist Church’s General Conference will again consider the issue of human sexuality in a special session Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, but for now Williams is in violation of the denomination’s global laws.

Keith Bell, the Republican candidate, is a deacon for the First Baptist Church of Forney. His campaign materials tout his “conservative values,” but he has no record on LGBT issues. In response to a request for information regarding his plans to represent Cedar Creek Lake’s large LGBT community — many LGBT residents of Dallas-Fort Worth maintain weekend residences on Cedar Creek Lake or have retired there — and other socially-liberal constituents, Bell also provided a written statement:

“I will make myself available to listen to the viewpoints and concerns of all residents of House District Four, including the LGBT members of the community. It will be my responsibility to listen, research, discern and consider the opinions of 170,000-plus constituents before making the best determination of how I will present legislation and cast votes on issues that I want to ensure will make our communities stronger and better off for the next generation.

“With that being said, I have been very clear during my campaign in presenting the fact that social issues will most likely not be top priority during this next session because of the nature of many other issues at hand. It is my belief, based on the results of the runoff, that the individuals of House
District 4 share the same sentiment.”

Bell referred to his success in defeating former State Rep. Stuart Spitzer in a runoff election for the Republican nomination in 2018. Spitzer held the seat for one session, in 2015-2017. At the conclusion of the session, Spitzer, also a Baptist deacon, touted his major accomplishment as being the support of legislation protecting pastors from lawsuits should they be sued for refusing to perform same-sex marriages.

Spitzer had vowed that in the next session he would pass legislation expanding those protections to bakers, florists and other service people who might be asked to assist in same-sex marriages.

Spitzer failed to win re-election when Lance Gooden, the former incumbent who had held the seat for two sessions, challenged Spitzer and won the seat back from him. Gooden said he decided to run for the seat again at the urging of supporters unhappy with Spitzer’s social agenda. Gooden criticized Spitzer as unproductive for failing to pass any legislation despite the Republican majority in the Legislature.

Gooden did not run for re-election to the legislative seat this year because he ran for and won the Republican nomination for Texas’ Fifth Congressional District.

Both Williams and Bell are family men, and they both are vowing to make changes for the benefit of the district’s constituents. Both have served on their communities’ school boards.

Williams said he will focus on ending gridlock in state politics, that he would make decisions that would reflect what “Jesus would do,” would work to end gerrymandering of legislative districts and to restore state funding for public education that will allow school boards to reduce property taxes.

Bell said he plans to advocate for lower property taxes, improvements in public education, more local government control and better security in schools, communities and along the international border.
PrEP available free of charge in Tarrant County, regardless of insurance status

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Fort Worth’s HELP Center for health and wellness has been so successful in its first year of offering PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) that it’s opening an office in Arlington. Since opening its PrEP program, business has been booming, the center’s executive director, DeeJay Johannessen, said.

“We thought we’d have 120 people the first year,” Johannessen said. “We just surpassed 400.”

The clinic provides free PrEP treatments that use the HIV medication Truvada administered to people who test negative for HIV to prevent transmission of the virus. At HELP Center, all medications as well as lab work are included at no charge, regardless of insurance status, to eliminate financial barriers to prevention.

Johannessen said his is one of only two such clinics in the country. What surprised him has been the clients who’ve traveled from as far away as Odessa to access the clinic’s services.

After an initial visit, clients who have never been on PrEP before are required to return for a one-month follow-up to check blood work. After that, they have to return every three months for checkups.

Johannessen said side-effects reported by clients have been minimal. Some clients have called saying they’re feeling bloated or have other gastro-intestinal reactions. Those symptoms pass in a few days. Out of 400 people the clinic has already put on PrEP, only one had to stop because of side-effects, and those went away when the patient stopped taking the medication.

But even if some people can’t take PrEP, those on the medication are reducing the community viral load, which reduces the chance of transmission. “For the first time since we began this fight, we have the ability to have an HIV-free generation,” Johannessen said.

The organization’s other programs include transgender health and wellness. “We’ll start with hormone replacement therapy,” Johannessen said. And as with its PrEP services, office visits, labs and medication will be provided free of charge.

The new clinic, which will have three exam rooms, will be at 200 E. Division St. in downtown Arlington.

Johannessen raved about the cooperation he’s gotten from the city of Arlington. “They waived permit fees,” he said. “They’re working well with us.”

He said that included approval of the sign in downtown Arlington that will read in big letters: Health Center for LGBT Health and Wellness.

Contact HELP Center about accessing services at HELPFW.org.
wife, Tracy Gahan, and their 19-month-old twins, Blake and Brooklyn.

Gahan, who is just a couple of months shy of five years older than Phillips, grew up in McKinney, Texas and played college basketball at Iowa State. She was drafted by the WNBA’s New York in Liberty in 2002, but after being released by the team, went back to school for another year.

In 2003, Gahan headed to Greece to begin her pro basketball career. After two seasons with two different teams there, she went to Ireland for the 2005 season. In 2007 she played the last part of the season in Turkey, and from 2009-2010, she played in Poland.

In 2006, Gahan began her career with the WNBL in Australia, playing for the Adelaide Lightning. She spent four seasons with the Lightning, from 2006-2009, and then played for the Dandenong Randers from 2010-11.

Gahan met Phillips when she started playing for the Lightning, and the two became a couple in 2007. They were married four years ago.

“The long-distance relationship thing was really tough,” Phillips said. “It’s always challenging for athletes to maintain a relationship when you’re always traveling, especially when you’re in different countries for long stretches of time. There were times during the last 11 years that we weren’t always together, but at the same time, we were always kind of together.”

By the end of the 2011, which she spent with the Dandenong Rangers, Gahan was “really ready to retire,” Phillips said. “We were both ready for the long-distance relationship to stop. And she usually traveled with me during my last three years as a player.”

Today, travel is still a big part of the couple’s lives. Phillips said they spend about seven months out of the year here in North Texas — Gahan’s parents still live in McKinney — and the other five in Australia. But now, they travel together, along with their twins, of course.

Phillips’ face lights up as she talks about her children, who are, she said, “polar opposites. Our daughter is very sassy and social. She’s definitely got a bit of grit in her. Our son — he’s ginormous! He’s very curious and very sweet. He has curly, curly hair and is huge, and she’s average height with dead straight hair. They are really funny little people.”

Phillips said she loves animals — “I would rescue them all if I could” — but since she and Gahan and the children travel so much between the U.S. and Australia, they have decided to leave their Yorkshire terrier, Howie, to live with Gahan’s parents.

“I like to say we have joint custody of Howie with my in-laws,” she laughed.

She also said that she is a “total vegan, not a ‘vegan-but-I-might-eat-fish-on-Saturday’ vegan,” for both health and ethical reasons. And she’s also a huge Dallas Cowboys fan.

“I love the Cowboys,” Phillips said, “and I was very, very said to see Jason Witten leave. I am still in mourning.”

Even though Phillips didn’t join the Dallas Wings organization until the 2016 season, she said she and Gahan have owned a home in North Texas for about six years, since Gahan’s parents are here. She said this is a great place to live, and the Wings are a great team to work for.

“The people here are wonderful, especially the LGBT community. This is a great place to be, and the Wings are a great team to be around,” she said. “This community has embraced [the team], and we love this community. We embrace everybody.

“We have so much fun as a team. Every time somebody comes to a game for the first time, they leave absolutely loving it. All it takes is for them to come to one game and they are hooked on us,” Phillips continued. “We are a very open and very welcoming team. This is a young team that loves playing basketball and competing in front of a crowd.

“We have a very awesome, very diverse crowd. We have a lot of LGBT supporters and we love that. We have so many fans, who are so passionate about our team; they love us and we love them. The fans have really embraced us coming here, and we absolutely value that support.”

Erin Phillips in 2016, her last year as a WNBA player.
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mate in Washington, it’s never been more important to welcome people who are escaping war and other terrible conditions. When she brings some of the refugees she works with to the synagogue, she introduces them as warmly “our new neighbors.”

Cantor Don Croll, who is Beth El Binah’s clerical leader, called it a biblical mandate to welcome the stranger and said he always enjoys meeting the people Evans has brought to services.

Synagogue President Josh Manes said the Pride service has been important to the congregation for a variety of reasons through the years. About 20 years ago, the synagogue’s Torah was a loaner and overdue for return. At a Pride service, the president of the congregation called on anyone who knew of any Torahs that were available to let leadership know.

Torah’s are handwritten on sheets of animal skin that are sewn together and rolled onto wooden scrolls Many are antiquities that can cost $20,000 to $50,000, and they aren’t readily available. To have a new one commissioned can take several years.

Within a week of asking at the Pride service, the congregation had three Torahs.

One member asked his parents, who belonged to an old synagogue in downtown Philadelphia, about extra Torahs at their synagogue. That congregation was shrinking as people moved to the suburbs. The Pennsylvania synagogue offered to put one of its Torahs on permanent loan with Beth El Binah. That member flew to Philadelphia and picked up the 100 year-old scroll.

Another member had an uncle named Izzy who had been president of a synagogue in Long Beach, N.Y. That synagogue had closed as its members retired and moved to Florida. Uncle Izzy had two Torahs stored in a closet in his home in Delray Beach and offered them to the congregation.

Unfortunately, Uncle Izzy had Alzheimer’s, so the congregation had to pick them up quickly before he forgot. Fortunately, Croll, who’s now Beth El Binah’s cantor but was with Temple Shalom in North Dallas at the time, was in South Florida visiting his mother that week. He and his husband Jan ran over to Uncle Izzy’s house, picked up the Torahs and brought them home to Dallas.

Today, Beth El Binah has the Philadelphia Torah and one of the Florida Torahs. The other they put on loan to a new synagogue in San Antonio.

At this year’s June 22 Pride service, Temple Shalom LGBTQ Pride will host a pre-service reception in the Atrium at Northaven at 6:15 p.m. That will include activities for children.

The Temple Shalom group is several years old. Kimberley Kantor is active with the group and said they’re busy this month. In addition to the Pride Shabbat, they’re on the host committee welcoming the Turtle Creek Chorale to Temple Shalom to kick off the chorale’s four-state Friendship Tour.

Kantor said she enjoys participating in a service with Beth el Binah that celebrates families like hers and sharing that with people of other faiths. Her wife, Lorie Burch, is a member of Northaven UMC.

“In a time where we feel so divided, it’s empowering to see different faith communities come together as well as showing their inclusion and support of the LGBTQ community,” Kantor said. “As a parent, it is especially impactful for my two girls to see other families like ours represented, embraced and celebrated.”

The service will be conducted by Cantor Croll at 7 p.m. Croll promised to keep the service to an hour. Manes, speaking on behalf of the board, said, “Yeah. Right.”

Temple Emanuel-LGBT will host the oneg Shabbat — the reception after the service — at 8 p.m.

Gay Pride Shabbat takes place on Friday, June 22 with pre-reception at 6:15 p.m., service at 7 p.m. and oneg Shabbat at 8 p.m. at Congregation Beth El Binah at NUMC, 11211 Preston Road. Everyone is welcome.
• June 23: Bears at the Zoo
Dallas Bears go to the Fort Worth Zoo from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1989 Colonial Parkway, Fort Worth.

• June 23: Houston Pride
40th anniversary celebration. Parade at sunset in downtown Houston.

• June 24: Birthday Show for Dana Bloom
Linze Serrell hosts a Special Birthday Show for Dana Bloom with AmeriMonte Records at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Buffet meal from 3-4 p.m., show and live auction at 4 p.m.

• June 26: Texas Business Equality Conference
Attendees will network, hear remarks from national speakers about the importance of diversity in the workplace, and attend breakout sessions designed to help businesses to grow and thrive from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Toyota North America, 6565 Headquarters Drive, Plano. Register at GLBTChamber.com.

• June 26: Resource Center tour
CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to kfields@myresourcecenter.org.

• June 26: Pride Night at Durkins
GALA meets at Durkin’s Pizza, 8930 Hwy. 121, McKinney.

• June 27: National HIV Testing Day
Rainbow LULAC and Prism Health team up for HIV testing night at 7 p.m. at Havana, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. No appointment necessary. Dr. Steven Pounders offers from HIV and Hep C testing from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave. RSVP to 214-520-8833.

• June 27: National HIV Testing Day
Testing from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. with Prism Health at Walgreen’s, 3802 Cedar Springs Road; with Abounding Prosperity at Walgreen’s, 1461 Robert B. Cullum Blvd.; with UT Southwestern at Walgreen’s, 2060 S. Buckner Blvd. and 8310 Abrams Road. Elsewhere at Walgreens stores in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Amarillo, Beaumont and Port Arthur. More info at GreaterThan.org.

• June 27: Red Ribbon Society appreciation event
Prism Health and Red Ribbon Society present an annual appreciation event with words from CEO John Carlo from 6-8 p.m. at Mercado 369 Gallery, 369 Jefferson Blvd. RSVP to development@prismntx.org by June 25.

• June 28: Becoming a Better Ally
GALA Ally Committee presents The ABCs of LGBT+. A discussion on how to be better allies, friends and neighbors from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Grace Avenue United Methodist Church, 3521 Main St., Frisco.

• June 28: MetroBall
Expose and Shannon headline the fundraiser for Greg Dollgner Memorial AIDS Fund from 7 p.m.-midnight at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Info at GDMF.org.

• June 29-July 1: Beyond Vanilla
Beyond Vanilla takes place at the Doubletree Inn, 4099 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Day passes $75. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.
Happy Pride Month.
Happy LGBT Pride Month. And add the Q and the I, too. Or as my friend Israel would say, happy Rainbow Community Pride Month.

Happy Pride Month to all of us.
But will it be? Or are we going to end up fighting so much amongst ourselves that when we end up, ain’t nobody happy? Sometimes it feels like that’s what is going to happen.

Usually, it seems, the Dallas LGBT(Q, I, Rainbow) community is pretty cohesive. I mean, sure, we have our moments: The activist types get mad at the party people. The street activists get mad at the checkbook activists. The women get mad at the men and vice-versa. The vanillas get mad at the kinkies. The Fort Worthians get mad at the Dallasites.

And of course, our community must constantly fight the racism, sexism, religious bigotry and prejudice of every stripe that plagues society as a whole.

Because we are, after all, a microcosm reflecting the larger society.

And still, when you compare the queer folk of North Texas to similar communities, we get along pretty well.

I say this because earlier this week, a friend sent me a message on Facebook, attaching the contents of a long, long (very long) discussion of exclusion, inclusion and anger in the San Francisco community.

I don’t know the person who made the original post, and I don’t know anyone who commented (at least, not when it comes to the comments I read. I couldn’t read the whole thread). So I’m not going to talk about those specific people or their specific comments. I am just going to say that when I stopped reading, I was angry, confused and very, very sad.

I know that there are lesbians who want to have as little contact as possible with men — lesbian separatists. I don’t understand that sentiment, but hey, it’s fine with me if they choose that lifestyle. (And yes, I know that being a lesbian is NOT a lifestyle. But being a separatist, of any kind, is a lifestyle).

And I know there are gay men who don’t want anything to do with lesbians. Again, I don’t understand it, but they are free to make that choice.

There are kinky folk who don’t want the vanilla folk in their bars, and vanilla folk who don’t want the kinkies in their parades. Some gays don’t want straight people in their bars — especially not straight females having bachelorette parties. And we know how some straights feel about the gays.

The list goes on and on. And it is all about people’s choices. Choices they have the right to make, even if you or I think their choices are stupid.

But there are some other choices people in our community insist on making that not only do I not understand, but that I can’t just accept.

There are some lesbians who refuse to acknowledge transgender women as women, and some rainbow people who only want to associate with others of their own color (which, by the way, makes for a very boring rainbow).

Neither of these things is OK with me.

I have read about lesbians who insist on calling trans women “male-to-trans” or “trans-bro” or just simply “men in dress- es.” These are the women that some call TERFs, which stands for “trans-exclusionary radical feminists.” Those being called TERFs insist that TERF is a slur, practically in the same breath as calling trans women “trans-bro.” And apparently, there are some transgender/non-binary/gender fluid people who have decided that it’s okay for them to threaten — and perhaps even inflict — violence against lesbians who are so-called TERFs or maybe even lesbians who just don’t agree with them on issues.

I don’t understand it. At all. And it’s not OK. Let’s get this straight (so to speak): Gender — including being transgender — is not a choice. It just is. Just like a person’s race or their ethnicity or their sexual orientation.

People do not choose to be transgender; people do not choose to be female, and they do not choose to be male. We are what we are, even though sometimes, through a biological accident, people are born with physical plumbing that doesn’t match their gender.

So why do some people choose to hate other people based on the way they were born?

Here’s the deal: I may not agree with things you believe, and I may not agree with choices you make. In fact, I may think you believe some really stupid shit and that you make some really stupid decisions. But when you get right down to it, I know that you have the right to believe that stupid shit and make those stupid choices (as long as you don’t try to force your prejudices on me or anyone else).

I acknowledge that you have that right. I won’t try to deprive you of that right and, in fact, I will defend your rights.

But the bigotry of racism, of genderism, of homophobia — well, that’s just not right. I can’t make somebody not be a racist or a homophobe or anti-transgender or any of those things. But I don’t have to pretend that it’s OK. And I won’t. None of us should.

Especially not during Pride.

Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice. She likes rainbows, and rainbow people.
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Texas Proud

Long one of the premiere out circuit DJs in America, Tony Moran calls Dallas home

When Tony Moran attended Dallas’ Purple Party last month, it was from, for him, a most unusual vantage point. The legendary mix master was not posted at the DJ booth, spinning a continuous mix of thundering dance anthems — which he has done in the past — but from a crowded dance floor, moving to the beats with all the other revelers.

“I took the day off and went to Purple Party,” Moran says. “They were like, ‘What are you doing here?!’ and I was like, ‘I live here, beeyotch!’”

Moran, a native New Yorker, met his partner, a Dallas resident, 10 years ago during Memorial Day weekend. The pair, both with careers requiring frequent travel, began a long distance relationship. They found, however, that arranging their hectic schedules to make time for each other grew cumbersome.

“We were just like, ‘Well, I’m living in New York and you are living in Dallas,’” Moran says. “The commuting thing is driving us both crazy, and we both travel for a living. It became so complicated, we decided to integrate.”

The two settled in an Uptown high-rise with a view of the Dallas skyline. Their home offers many of the amenities a New Yorker like Moran might expect. And, though he owns a car, Moran enjoys the fact that he can — as he did in New York City — walk to many of the places he regularly visits.

“The upside is, I found a place that makes me feel comfortable,” Moran says. “I had become accustomed over all these years to things that bring me joy: seeing people … seeing energy … basically appreciating oxygen, whether it’s full of carbon dioxide or not. I love to walk. Since I got the car — like, four years now — I’ve probably put only 1,000 miles on it.”

Uptown’s proximity to DFW International Airport was also a big selling point. With a career spent migrating from one metropolis to another, headlining major dance events, Moran is a longtime member of the million-miler club; the superstar DJ estimates he has logged around five million air miles throughout his career. In fact, LGBT Pride month is a peak time for the in-demand spin doctor. And Moran views Pride celebrations as special opportunities to use the power of music to unify an often-splintered LGBT community.

“We, as gay people, kind of have this caste system that can be based on social background or economic background,” Moran says. “It doesn’t mean we are judgmental as gay people, it just means we have these little walls. For some reason, a magical thing happens [during Pride
celebrations] and everyone is transformed to not giving a damn about walls. They embrace each other.”

A Grammy-nominated producer, Moran also intends to continue writing and releasing original tracks under his record label, Mr. Tanman Music. He built a recording studio in his new home and currently is networking with an area vocal coach in hopes of auditioning local talent. Of course, Moran will also keep working with revered dance divas like Martha Wash and Kimberly Davis and male dance vocalist Jason Walker. All are artists with whom he has produced several recent No. 1 Billboard dance hits.

“I love recording females,” Moran says. “I’m a divas boy. All these people like Cher, Celine Dion, Patty LaBelle and Deborah Cox … that’s what I am so comfortable in. But there are so many guys who are so talented out there. It’s kind of my mission to make sure that everyone gets a fair shake. He’s a wonderful talent, he’s a wonderful spirit.”

Moran credits his gay fans for the longevity of his DJ career, and he is grateful to be doing what he loves. Yet he understands that, as an entertainer, he is only as good as his last show, a fact that keeps him busy scouting new music and creating entertaining mash-ups of the classics. Moran’s undying mission is to spread the gospel of dance.

“I think some people believe — because of lack of information, not of ignorance — that [DJs] are all recyclable and interchangeable,” Moran says. “That’s all fine. The fact that you have a good time while you are there does not require you to know who I am. I did my job in that case. I’m not a priest looking for a congregation, I just want to be somebody with good message.”
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Addicted by ES knows how to make a man show off his best assets in its Addicted collection. Celebrate Americana with the Star printed bikini ($56), above, or the Sports detailed binding squarecut brief ($56), left. Get some sun protection with a cap ($22.50) from Texas Standard, or full body coverage with the pillowy Arcadia navy polo ($78) by Marine Layer.

Even dads like to exude a casual fashion sense as they do in soft, retro corduroy Westlake short ($78) and a kitschy floral Mauna Loa popover ($88), both by Marine Layer. A coozie ($4.50) and ropelock sunglass strap ($9.50), both from Texas Standard, complete dad’s casual picnic look.

Models: Rob McCollum, Brandon Pettigrew, Xavier Johnson
Get your day started right with your morning regimen with colorful, comfy cotton dress socks ($16) and sleek Second Skin boxer briefs (including mini-pocket for stashing, say, a condom, $34), both by Tommy John. And a waxed leather utility kit ($54.50) from Texas Standard — a masculine, twangy way to keep all your grooming needs in one place when you head to the gym.

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‘Cherry’ on top

A new company of seasoned theaterfolk launches with a fresh take on Chekhov’s ‘The Cherry Orchard’

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Greg Patterson has spent more than a decade in the North Texas theater scene, though you probably won’t recognize his face. First at Dallas Theater Center, then at WaterTower Theatre (where last year he stepped down as managing director), he has been a behind-the-scenes kinda guy — money and development, not acting and directing. But for several years he has thought how nice it be to have a troupe to call his own.

“The thing is, I’m one-half of the equation — certainly not the artistic side,” Patterson jokes. To make the dream a reality, he needed a creative force who shared his vision. He found one in Joey Folsom, himself a seasoned actor, director and producer around town. “I knew Joey from my WaterTower years and always had great respect for him as an artist,” Patterson says. “So I threw out the idea of creating a theater company that focused on so-called ‘classics,’ and how relevant so many of them are today.”

“When I heard the seed of the idea I responded to it immediately,” Folsom says. “The elements that were being discussed could bring something to the community.”

In particular, Folsom was intrigued by the idea of a professional theater company dedicated to producing works from the canon other than Shakespeare. And so was born the Classics Theatre Project, which opens its first production later this month.

There seems to be an interest in the market. Patterson notes that 100 actors turned up for open auditions, and tickets have been selling briskly for a new company. “The response has been really positive and overwhelming,” he says.

“A lot of places we see these iconic shows are in community theater. [Professional companies] are all about new-new-new,” Folsom says. “I love being involved with that stuff, but it loses its [luster].”

There’s a reason, of course, that plays by the likes of Ibsen and Strindberg — but...
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Great moments in bad timing: Dying the same day as Michael Jackson (as Farrah Fawcett did); getting accused of sexual impropriety just before your next movie comes out (we’re talkin’ ‘bout you Kevin Spacey, Louis CK and, well, tons more); and being an acclaimed Broadway musical that debuts the same season as Hamilton. That’s what happened with Waitress, the sweet, low-key musical that marked pop star Sara Bareilles’ bow as a composer/lyricist for musical theater. Hamilton became a cultural sensation, sucking up all the oxygen (and awards) and leaving less showy productions as also-rans.

On the other hand, you can still get a ticket — now — to Waitress, which opens this week at Bass Performance Hall, instead of waiting nearly a year for the hip-hop Founding Fathers to freestyle into North Texas. Thank goodness for small favors.

Small, perhaps, but not insignificant. The origins of Waitress are prosaic: Based on a screenplay for an indie film starring Keri Russell, it’s about Jenna, a woman in a small town trapped in a marriage to an abusive layabout. Jenna’s skill at baking pies keeps her employed at the local diner, and she tries squirreling away tips so she can dump her hubby, without much success. Then the town gets a young, charming new doctor, and the attraction is almost instantaneous. As it turns out, the romance is more problematic than Jenna realizes. It’s a fairly simple story — one that seems especially relevant in an era when women’s empowerment is an actual movement, not merely one that flashes across the pages of magazines and disappears — but one told with such heart and affection that it charms the pants off you.

The national tour — an intimate affair, with about a dozen cast members and a clever but basic set — stopped through Dallas for two weeks in April; if you missed it then, it’s back for a week in Fort Worth with the same cast. Desi Oakley is winsome as Jenna, and Bryan Fenkart appropriately loveable as the new doc. But it’s Jeremy Morse as the goofy Ogie and Charity Angel Dawson as Jenna’s wisecracking buddy Becky who steal the show, which is chockfull of lovely musical numbers. You’ll wanna come back for seconds.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
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ERIC MILLER  | Contributing Writer
1ericmiller1@gmail.com

The town of Eureka Springs doesn’t have any traffic lights. Walking trails and stairways continue where streets leave off. Trolley buses shuttle visitors between sites and to hotels. The steep hillside provides a natural deterrent to auto traffic and parking.

The streets are in a constant flux between bustling and quiet. People here say it’s hard to make a lot of money, but a lot of money couldn’t get them to leave.

That was the case for the woman working at the counter at Brews, a coffee and beer shop here, when I told her I lived in Dallas. “Do you like it?” she asked with concern, as if “yes” was an impossible answer. She had visited recently and found the traffic and noise to be a turn-off.

While I understand comments about noise and traffic, I am not sure I could trade life in the city for the bucolic hills of the Ozarks, at least not permanently. But being able to visit? Well, that’s a valid reason for living in nearby Dallas.

Well, relatively nearby. Five hours is a little far for a weekend trip, but still doable. But flights from DFW to the regional airport in Bentonville are frequent, and drive or fly, it’s one of the closest getaways from Dallas you can make and still feel you got away.

Yet it’s remarkable how many people I come across in North Texas who have never even heard of Eureka Springs. They may have heard of Crystal Bridges, the awe-inspiring museum an hour north in Bentonville; more than likely, though, they have not been to Bentonville, either.

Despite having visited multiple times, we always find new things to do. The town sits in a valley, and it has become a tradition to walk from the hotel to the bottom of the valley. There we visit a gift shop with a natural spring dripping inside. Then it’s straight up to the hill, past Brews and up the steep staircase to the Crescent Hotel — known as the most haunted in America.

We make a detour this time and stop into an antique store featuring much-loved and long-treasured objects and paintings. While it is fun to blow off some dust and learn about the long-standing Eureka Springs art colony, it seemed clear we wouldn’t be leaving with anything we could afford.

Across the street sits an old bathhouse that now serves as a hotel. It was one of several in the town, which clamped about its healing waters similar to the Arkansas town most known for them — Hot Springs.

My favorite thing to do in Eureka Springs is to walk around the winding hillside streets and look at the Victorian-era houses. Many are still intact and dolled-up like the painted ladies in San Francisco. Many serve as bed-and-breakfasts, but a good portion are still single-family homes. From there we turn up Crescent Drive towards the hotel where we encounter a same-sex wedding in progress. It does not raise an eyebrow among the locals, as far as we can tell.

That’s the other thing about this town — in a conservative part of the country, a state where they say Bill Clinton couldn’t be

CAN I GET AN AMEN?
Preach, sister: ‘The Gospel of Eureka’

The cliché smacks of truth, as all clichés do: Gay culture is always at loggerheads with religious fundamentalism. How could there be common ground? And while people of faith continue to use their teachings to promote bigotry, it doesn’t have to be that way. Not in Oz, or Valhalla … but in Eureka Springs, Ark., a hotbed of unexpected progressivity in Northwestern Arkansas, a region of the country where fire-and-brimstone radio preachers are more common than Top 40 music. But Eureka Springs proudly embraces diversity, boasts drag shows and openly gay citizens… as well as one of the largest Passion Play productions this side of Gesthemane. And guess what? The drag queens are devout and the Christians are embracing. Whoda thunk it?

It’s not all brunch and brotherhood, as the documentary The Gospel of Eureka — a hit at SXSW and making its North Texas debut this weekend at the Oak Cliff Film Festival — lays out. Some ultra-conservatives in the area are actively campaigning for a repeal of a city ordinance that endorses tolerance; some gay folks have been burned by their Baptists roots and prefer a life of agnosticism. But the filmmakers deftly interweave the lives of several people — a gay couple experiencing more than 30 years of wedded bliss, the man who plays Jesus and directs the open-air story of Christ — in sympathetic and compelling ways, while the vote is going on in the town.

The haunting narration by Vivian Justin Bond only adds to the beauty and authenticity of the film, which might give hope to those victimized by hatred on both sides. Can I get an amen to that?

— Arnold Wayne Jones

The Gospel of Eureka screens at the Oak Cliff Film Festival on Saturday at 1 p.m. at The Kessler. For tickets and more information about the festival, visit OakCliffFilmFestival.com.
Cape and dagger

‘Incredibles 2’ comes close to capturing the charm of the original

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES  Executive Editor
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It’s been 14 years since the world met Bob, Helen, Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack, aka The Incredibles, a humdrum suburban nuclear family — Dad’s an insurance drone, Mom’s a homemaker — circa 1965. They also happen to have amazing superpowers and fight maniacal villains between mortgage payments. Ya know, like Father Knows Best in tights.

2004’s The Incredibles was inventive, smart, gorgeous, fresh. But 14 years: that’s a long time to wait for a sequel, as Incredibles 2 shows. Is that conducive to feverish anticipation… or impossible expectations? A sprinkle of both as it turns out. Part of the genius of the original — which is also true this outing — is the Mad Men-esque, Mid-Century Modern world writer-director Brad Bird creates. Folks are more likely to chat on clunky watchphones than sleek Apple products, ride in large-finned sedans or even commute by Monorail than take an Uber hybrid. Paired with Michael Giacchino’s jazzy score, the style gifts us with retro escapades in a World of Tomorrow that’s charmingly quaint. (Pointedly, Bird also directed the Disney flop Tomorrowland.)

But Incredibles 2 also hangs its plot around one of the most familiar tropes of contemporary superhero films (although, concededly, it’s a plot point from 2004, too): From X-Men to Avengers to Justice Leagues, I’m a bit worn out from the “superpowers have been outlawed” hook, with the saviors cast as putative villains. That means no support from the legal infrastructure; so while Helen — who has been tapped by a hero-loving industrialist Crime-fighting is the family business for the Incredibles.

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Having penned other memoirs, Martin Duberman says that people often ask him why he’s omitted roughly a decade of his life story. Once noted, he realized that “the mid-seventies to the mid-eighties… were the most painful years of my life.”

They began with his mother’s illness in late 1976, and her surgery for cancer that was initially said to be non-cancerous, but that was finally diagnosed as malignant melanoma. Duberman had had a complicated relationship with his mother, but they’d made their peace; still, hers was a horrible death, and it plunged him into his work and a bout with depression.

For years, Duberman had been involved in the LGBT community as an activist, and “in the wake of my mother’s death I hadn’t jumped ship, hadn’t abandoned academia or run off to join the circus.”

Still, he looked for ways to cope: he had his circadian chart read, and he used a fair amount of cocaine and pot. He immersed himself in projects, both of the literary kind and for the gay community, and he picked up his political engagements.

Duberman worried that the stress was bad for him — and he may’ve been right, because he had a few health scares, including a heart attack, and another bout with depression and “desperation.”

Still, he continued to write. It was a time “of a flowering of gay culture” when many gay literary giants were publishing, and that included Duberman himself. It was a time when bathhouses dotted New York City, AIDS was emerging as a crisis … and Duberman was celibate and addicted. It was a time when he had nearly hit bottom before he found help and love.

You may be thinking that The Rest of It sounds as if it’s on the self-contemplative side, and you’re right (many memoirs are). What keeps you reading isn’t the biography that Duberman offers but what’s behind it.

Duberman’s life was keenly interesting in the dozen years between 1976 and 1988, but so were then-current events, which he carefully recounts. This book shows an emergence of gay culture on a larger scale, growing activism, and the dawn of AIDS; his voice is occasionally snarky as he takes on the medical establishment of the times, gay nightclubs and bath houses, and Reagan politics. In these ways, his deeply-personal memories, mixed with what...
happened when, are vastly more appealing than if this book were mere memoir.

Though it may not attract casual-readers under “a certain age,” this book is perfect for older readers who remember these times. Also, for historians’ bookshelves, *The Rest of It* shouldn’t be missing.


Missing the last train back to her home was no problem. Actually, Erin White was glad for it. She was anticipating what could happen next. She’d never slept with a woman, had never even considered it but, on that night she met Chris at a dinner party, it was all she could think of. It was odd but thrilling, so by the time Chris told their hostess that White could stay at her apartment that night, White was already in love.

What would she tell her therapist? She knew he would disapprove — and he did, but they rarely discussed White’s relationship. Mostly, they talked about God.

For some time, White had been exploring that which her soul seemed to crave and, at her therapist’s urging, she read the Gospels and was stunned by the words. She cautiously attended Catholic services and began learning more about God and religion; eventually, she broke up with Chris, who’d been raised in the Church and avoided it as an adult, but White couldn’t stay away.

It was difficult to explain, she says. She was a lesbian, but she wasn’t; in fact, there were times when “lesbian” just felt wrong. As for God, she needed to know Him better. White wanted “to love a woman yet avail myself of the opportunities… of straight culture; to break the rules of the church but still feel myself beloved by it.”

But since nobody can have everything both ways, she made her choice.

Two kids, fights, triumphs and a strong marriage later, she sees things in a different light. Church is comfort now. It’s home. But to get to that point, it took the courage to say “I loved that crazy Church, I loved those wild ideas about God, and I gave them up because I also wanted you.”

Although it’s already pretty short, *Given Up for You* feels crowded. White offers a three-pronged memoir of love, faith and motherhood, and that’s a lot to pack into such a small space. Still, while readers may struggle with overabundance of story, there’s a lot to come away with.

White’s search for faith is universal and easily understood; although she might have explored homophobia a bit more, the subject of gay Christians and her experiences are presented in a way that’s calm and thoughtful.

Enter into this book knowing that it’s sometimes slow. Beware that it’s a bit long. Read it with a perfectly happy willingness to (gasp!) skip paragraphs and *Given Up for You* may belong on your bookshelf.

*Tell: Love, Defiance, and the Military Trial at the Tipping Point for Gay Rights* by Major Margaret Witt with Tim Connor, foreword by Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer (ForeEdge 2017) $27.95; 258 pp.

For those who love her, Margie Witt has always been known as an active, take-charge, caring person. A tomboy growing up, she befriended the friendless, got along with everyone, and was a super-responsible leader. It was, therefore, a natural fit when, in 1987, Witt decided to join the Air Force, even though she was gay.

But, of course, nobody was supposed to know that. As an elite member of the military, Witt fully understood that just being gay meant a military discharge. By order, nobody could ask her about that, though; she, in turn, could not discuss her sexuality.

Still, because secrets are never totally secret, Witt was ever-cautious. Fearing rejection, she hadn’t come out to her parents or her siblings yet; on the other hand, close pals knew that Witt was a lesbian, as did a fellow reservist who’d defied DADT in order to put his suspicions to rest.

Even Witt’s girlfriend was mum, but there was trouble on that front: Tiffany desperately wanted a baby and was pressing, but Witt was uninterested in parenthood.

With a pregnancy deadline-or-else looming, Witt took solace not only in her
Bradley Hodges survived a gay bashing so he could make music

Name: Bradley Hodges

Spotted at: Cedar Springs Tap House

Handsome, gregarious Bradley Hodges is never at a loss for words. This charismatic gent was born in Grand Island, Neb., but moved to The Colony when he was 4. The middle child in an Irish family, he was reared in a blended household of Irish and Puerto Rican, so Bradley speaks Spanish and eats mofongo.

He was one of a handful of out gay guys in high school. "I was in band, and musically inclined people tend to be more open minded and accepting, so it wasn’t as hard for me as others had it. When I came out to my friends, they all said, independent from one another, ‘We know.’” His family is very supportive, but it took them a couple of years to realize that it wasn’t a faze.

Surviving a bashing: In college, he was at a house party changing the CDs in the player when he heard someone say “faggot.” When he woke up, he was covered in blood. Two guys that were at the party came inside and kicked him in the face, knocking him unconscious. He was beaten up pretty badly, with busted eyebrows, loose teeth, swollen and bruised all over. He made a police report and made sure it was written up as a hate crime. "It’s important that these things get documented as hate crimes," he says, “so there is data on it.” During that period of time at UNT in Denton, he threw a few parties at Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chainsaw Repair. One party was in response to his gay bashing to regain personal strength and to create unity amongst the queer community there. He called this party “Gay Bash.” He had bands and DJs playing, and it was a pretty good success.

Bradley played in UNT's premiere ensemble, the Symphony Orchestra, for four years as their associate principal clarinetist and E flat clarinetist. He's now in his fourth year as the principal clarinetist of the New Texas Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Cathy Brown. (Their next concert, a Moody Performance Hall, is June 24.)

He has also been hosting trivia games for Challenge Entertainment for eight years, and he hosts three regular shows weekly and has hosted three HRC fundraising events at Sue Ellen's and one for an AIDS Arms LifeWalk team (he supports the Green Team!) and volunteers at the Marco Polo World Foundation's Annual Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival.

Personal quote: “What you think about, you bring about.”
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also up to Arthur Miller and Sam Shepard — continue to resonate even decades after they were first produced: They speak to something essential in the human condition.

And the one that itched Folsom was Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard*. “I had a spot for that particular story when I reread it in college,” he says. Then about a year ago, Folsom’s long-time friend Ben Schroth got the same itch.

“Joey and I were having meetings with another company to plan future shows for them, and one idea that came up was *The Cherry Orchard*,” Schroth recounts. “At the time, I was really obsessed with Chekhov and said, ‘If you do *Cherry Orchard* then I’m doing script preparation for you, and I won’t take no for an answer.’”

That idea petered out, but not Schroth’s obsession. So what is it about the play that speaks to him?

“I’ve been trying to figure it out. There’s an ‘it’ factor, where a play really grabs you and seems both art and real life,” he says. “That’s Chekhov’s big strength. I love the characters — they are all just flawed and at cross-purposes constantly. The audience knows what’s going on and it’s funny and poignant that the answer is right in front of them, but they can’t get to it.”

So, when Folsom and Patterson called to ask about the status of the script, Schroth replied, “It’s ready to go.”

Well, maybe not totally ready. Folsom and Schroth both agree that the way a classic like *Cherry Orchard* — written more than a century ago originally in Imperial Russia — still resonates with contemporary audiences is by being true to its essence, but translating it for a modern ear.

“My job was to clean up the script for American audiences so they would see something spontaneous,” Schroth says. “The [productions of] Chekhov that I see around the world, with few exceptions, is very British, very stilted — clumsy grammar that has been part of Chekhov for a century now. And that’s what I was trying to work out of the script.”

“Ben and I met when I did *SubUrbia* at Upstart, but we have only worked together a few times. I appreciate his ideas and candor, and the adaptation that Ben has punched should roll off the tongues of the actors.”

“If the language is spontaneous, it becomes translucent, and you don’t pause for a second because you feel like you are seeing real life,” Schroth adds.

It also helps to modernize even the subtext for a more open society.

“Joey and I did discuss [how we think] the rich, privileged older man is probably gay, because he’s not interested in any of the girls onstage and keeps arguing with the servant, who is the boy-toy [of his sister], and whom he is probably attracted to,” say Schroth, who, like Patterson, is gay. That may or may not have been in Chekhov’s mind, but it fleshes out written characters and makes them real human beings.

Folsom puts it this way: “There’s a lot of opportunity [in *The Cherry Orchard*] to associate with someone onstage. I have a second and a third show in mind, but right now we want to produce plays that resonate [with what is going on in the culture]. I wanted something engaging yet topical, and *The Cherry Orchard* is not a heavy drama. *The Crucible* is topical, but too heavy for a first show. I wanna do it, just not right now!”
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“Old-school or new-school?” our hostess asks intently. She’s not asking if we prefer Blondie to Cardi B, or even if we prefer vinyl to MP3 downloads. Nope, she wants to know what type of video games we prefer: Are we the 8-bit PS2 Donkey Kong/Legend of Zelda-type? Or are we, ya know, young and cool? (We went old-school, of course.)

We’re not at a video store or an interactive gamer convention… at least not primarily, although we are comin’ to play. And play for free. While eating. And drinking. We’re entering a state of techie nirvana.

Nerdvana — the Frisco-based concept, which officially goes by @nerdvana. food+spirits, because geeks rule — is in some ways a pioneering next-gen restaurant. Remember when public shops first started providing Wi-Fi, then free Wi-Fi, then charging stations, then...? The culture is moving faster than a 4.2 GHz AMD processor. (You may have to ask a younger person to explain how fast that is.) But our bodies still need to eat carbon-based meals. So why not enjoy a little nosh while hyperdriving into the future?

If you are old enough to have gone to college before being online was emotional oxygen, you may have frequented a coffee shop or Rathskeller stocked with ratty Milton Bradley board games, chess sets and backgammon tables. You’d play games with friends while breaking bread and not staring at your phone, hypnotized by Words with Friends. Nerdvana has just evolved that idea — turning tech into a social interaction, rather than a solitary one.

Diners here actually put their phones...
we ordered some fried green tomatoes, though they were sliced too thin for a bad veg-to-breading ratio. The flatbreads (like the burgers and the toasts) are create-your-own “kits,” with “platforms,” “operating systems” and “modifications,” for you to compose as you desired.

Virtually all the entrees are priced in the 20s, though all are well-sized and filling meals on their own. My Boss Level charred ribeye ($29), while slightly more than the medium I ordered on the edges, was juicy and seductively topped with chucks of chimichurri chef’s butter that added an herbaceous quality. The brick chicken ($21) is a half-chicken deboned and spread flat then heated under a hot brick to create a scallopini effect. The addition of lemon-thyme butter enriched it.

We swapped out the mashed potatoes with cilantro-lime rice on the ribeye, and the veggie-of-the-day (broccolini) with a barley and mushroom soup on the chicken. I’ve enjoyed their rice before as one of my favorite sides — fluffy with a tang from the citrus, an ideal accompaniment for a host of proteins. But the soup was a discovery: Hearty but not heavy, with a likeable earthiness. The s’mores Duval — a gourmet take on the campfire classic — hits home the retro-appeal of being an adult playing video games.

But the adult element is integral. Happy hour offers half-off beer and wine, and the rotating list of beers is a well-curated selection of Texas brews, from the family (Lakewood Temptress, a Deep Ellum sour blonde) but also a McKinney-based imperial IPA and a ghost pepper porter from Magnolia. That’s a far cry from the root beer and Cheetos in your dad’s basement. It’s good to grow up.

down in order to look up at a bigger screen where they can sit face-to-face and engage. Sure, the interface is digital, but the connection is human.

In some ways, this is nothing new; Chuck E. Cheese’s was founded by a former Atari exec as a way to integrate the game and the arcade revenue streams. (Nerdvana itself is owned by Randy and Kristy Pitchford; Randy is CEO of the gaming company Gearbox Software.) But Nerdvana doesn’t require you to dash from one kiosk to another, or endure screaming kids at animatronic birthday parties. In fact, Nerdvana’s main dining room has an age minimum of 17. Here, an adult can be a kid.

You get a game controller depending on what booth you select (there’s an actual menu of which games are loaded at each table), and can choose from a host of games, both single- and multi-player. On a recent visit, I engaged in some hand-to-hand martial arts legerdemain via Street Fighter while we both explored the fare.

Nerdvana is a scratch kitchen whose items are campily named — Ate Bits for appetizers, Hand Helds for sandwiches, Cheats for desserts. If you were dining alone you could refuse the controller and spend your meal playing spot the puns. Yup, Nerdvana appeals to all dweebs — wordnerds as much as the game dorks.

The menu reaches out to modern diners with vegetarian and gluten-free specialties, as well as spicy options, and the spice can sneak up on you. We tried the coconut shrimp ($10), which packed an unexpected bite when dipped in the in-house Hadouken sauce. (“Hadouken” is Japanese for “fist wave,” meaning it packs a punch … but is also a signature move of Ryu, the character I played in Street Fighter. See? Even the menu has Easter eggs.) The shrimps were slightly over-cooked, but sizeable and crispy. It’s summer, so

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Little red dress
Mercedes’ new E-Class Coupe is prom-worthy

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
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There’s nothing wrong with owning a Mercedes E-Class sedan. They’re very respectable, undeniably responsible luxury cars for the respectable and undeniably responsible. But chop off two doors and lower the roofline, and suddenly you’re wearing a red dress. Going back to the 1970s, E-Class coupes have been some of the most desirable and timeless cars to dance out of Germany. The 2018 E400 is especially ravishing.

As in the 1980s when Mercedes had its golden era, designers are reducing bodylines and rendering simpler, more sensual forms. Stylists lengthened the E-Coupe physically, but also visually with a low star-strewn grille, long hood with

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Gullwing-derived power domes and an elongated roofline. A wide curvaceous rump, taillights that echo the exhaust of a fighter jet; 19-in. AMG wheels accentuate the positive.

Cribbing the big S-Class, the E400 embraces horizontal themes for the dashboard, which centers on twin flatscreens — one for reconfigurable instruments and the other for infotainment. Below, wide expanses of optional Black Piano Lacquer flowing lines wood looks decadent dressed with turbine inlet-inspired air vents. Red leather draped the seats while a perfume atomizer, 64-color adjustable ambient lighting and divine Bermester 3D audio system set the mood. Heated and ventilated front seats with massagers, heated steering wheel and heated armrests caress the soul.

Engineers layered in technology. Infotainment is controlled through a joywheel in the console and connects iThings with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Bluetooth and USB ports. Keyless entry/starting, rain-sensing wipers, and a power steering column are included. Keeping everybody safe are radar adaptive cruise, crash mitigation automatic braking, evasive steering assist and blind spot warning. Parking sensors, around-view monitor and head-up display assist drivers.

Decades ago, E400 would have highlighted the car’s 4.0-liter V8, but now identifies an engine producing V8 levels of acceleration. Beneath the power domes is a 3.0-liter biturbo V6 delivering 329 horsepower — adequate to blip from 0-60 mph in 5.2 seconds. It’s no supercar, but power is smooth and luxurious, shifted smoothly through a 9-speed automatic transmission. 4MATIC all-wheel-drive dispenses with winter muck. Drive lightly and leave ECO Stop/Start enabled to realize 20/26-MPG city/hwy.

There’s some fancy footwork accompanying the powertrain. Our car came with the Air Body Control multi-chamber air suspension that can adjust from old-school comfortable to ultra-stiff track star. Drivers can also change throttle response and shift points for Comfort, ECO, Sport, Sport+ and Individual to customize all drive attributes. If you want a comfortable ride combined with hair-trigger throttle, no problem.

It won’t matter how long you own the E400 Coupe; it will always be desirable. The benchmark W124 series coupes, sold from late ‘80s through the late ‘90s, are becoming one of the most collectible “young classic” Mercedes for their combination of conservative personality combined with a more personal cabin.

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From Page 58

Elected today, it’s not only welcoming, but its diversity feels ingrained. As the participants in the wedding, little-noticed by the hotel guests, could attest, Eureka Springs is a haven for LGBT people and known for its inclusivity. (See sidebar about the documentary The Gospel of Eureka.)

Tired from walking, we take the elevator to the top floor where a bar with a rooftop deck overlooks the green hillside. While many are eating deep-dish pizza, we order cocktails. (Hello? Gay!) “That looks good,” my companion calls to the couple eating next to us. “I couldn’t possibly eat it all, would you like a slice?” the man responds.

We don’t take him up on his offer, but all agree this kind of thing is unlikely to happen in Dallas.

Over drinks, we talk about the ghosts that are said to haunt the place. For some reason, the ghosts are most often female. The rooms thought to be most haunted are hard to get and they cost more when you do. We ask the waitress about the hauntings, and she tells us about some odd second-hand experiences.

Two young women sitting behind us happen to be staying in the reputed second-most-haunted room. One seems more excited about a potential encounter than the other. We leave the table and decide to walk past the haunted rooms, but can’t find either. We joke about the waitress and guests we spoke to being apparitions, but come to the conclusion that the rooms do not have numbers on the door to keep away curiosity seekers.

Leaving the hotel, we traipse down the staircase, into the main part of the town we circled around on the way up. By the time we make it back to our hotel, a nap is necessary. (The Matterhorn, our preferred hotel, was booked this trip, so we opt for a Best Western. While there’s a case for choosing a quirky little property, the Best Western is clean and modern with views of greenery and comfortable amenities. It is also one of the few options within walking distance of downtown.)

Eureka Springs it’s a small town, but there’s still more to experience. We wait more than an hour for what seems to be the most popular restaurant, Emilio’s home-cooked Italian, but grow frustrated and end up at The Bavarian Inn, an old-school place (no take-out and no phones, please) from the days when this was promoted as the Little Switzerland of the Ozarks.

When morning comes, I can’t resist another walk around the town; my husband opts for a run. On the stroll, I realize Emilio’s sits within a short walk from the Best Western. The Bavarian Inn was satisfying, but had I known I wouldn’t have to deal with parking, I would have suggested walking over to Emilio’s and waiting in line.

But this way, there’s still something on the Eureka Springs bucket list.
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hoping to “rebrand” mutants as friendly and helpful — stops a terrorist bent on hypnotizing the world, she’s also fleeing from the cops. Meanwhile, Bob is house-bound, his masculinity now in question as he’s a stay-at-home dad contending with a moody teenaged daughter and an infant with powers that dwarf his own while wifey brings home the bacon.

It’s that modernist twist (heroism in the age of gender equality) more than the MacGuffin that drives the story which is so enjoyable. It sets Incredibles 2 — and, for that matter, the ethos of most Pixar films — apart from the colorful kids’ adventures of so many other cartoons.

Bird waits too long to reintroduce us to the chic supercostume designer Edna Mode (with her pageboy cut and oversized glasses, herself inspired by Hollywood legend Edith Head, and voiced by Bird himself), and Frozone inexplicably disappears for a long middle stretch, but he mines the humor and the action breathlessly. (It’s more James Bond or Catch Me If You Can than Captain America.) Bird also exacts fine vocal performances from Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Bob Odenkirk, Catherine Keener and Sarah Vowell; great voice acting is still great acting.

The action moves effortlessly, including through the closing credits, which re-tells the plot in deco storyboards. No teaser for the next superhero movie, though. The Incredibles have better things to do. Like homework.

That, of course, is not the end of what you’ll learn inside Tell.

There’s much more to the story, sometimes too much. In an oddly appealing third-person voice, Witt starts her tale with a deployment and moves quickly to a charmingly nostalgic biography that ultimately loses some of its charm in an overload of details. There are a lot of peripheral people in this tale, the presence of which sometimes feels more shout-out and less necessity.

Stick around: the details have a shift of focus about mid-way here, once you get past the set-up and into the books’ raison d’être. Things move faster in the re-telling of the legal aftermath of Witt’s exposure, the fight for gay rights in the military, and Witt’s own (mostly)-happily-ever-after.

That’s what makes Tell a score.
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Friday 06.15 — Sunday 07.07

Timely Ibsen update ‘Enemies/People’ gets world premiere

Chekhov, Ibsen and Shaw are generally recognized as the 19th century playwrights who transformed theater into a modern art form, and of them, Ibsen was surely the most socially active. His 1882 play An Enemy of the People, about a doctor who calls attention to a public health crisis in his resort town only to be shouted down and suppressed by the craven citizenry, was the Inconvenient Truth of its day. Well, Dallas’ Blake Hackler noticed the same thing, and so freely adapted Ibsen for his world premiere updating Enemies/People, which officially opens tonight at Bryant Hall, courtesy of Second Thought Theatre. Alex Organ stars.

DEETS: Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

Friday 06.15 — Saturday 06.16

Bruce Wood Dance mounts summer show Harmony with world premiere and two classics

Despite the passing just a few years ago of its founder, Bruce Wood Dance continues to grow and innovate, as well as commission world premiere works. The latest premiere, from acclaimed New York-based choreographer Yin Yue, will share the stage of the Moody Performance Hall with two works from Wood’s archive: The Day of Small Things, and the stunning Rhapsody in Blue in a program named Harmony. Dallas Voice’s Arnold Wayne Jones will moderate the post-show Q&A each night.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org

Friday 06.15 — Saturday 06.16

‘The Lion King’ roars back into North Texas

Ah, the circle of life! Hakuna matata, folks! Can you feel the love tonight? Any of those phrases sound familiar? Of course they do, because Elton John and Tim Rice made them inescapable in the Oscar winning animated film The Lion King. But the stage musical, which won its year’s Tony Award for best musical, is a sensorial delight of its own, owing to director Julie Taymor’s masterful stagecraft and charming puppetry. Oh, and Simba is usually a nice bit of eye candy as well. The Lion King purrs into Music Hall at Fair Park for a three-week run.

Dallas Southern Pride’s Juneteenth weekend gets underway, with the centerpoint the Unity Festival on Saturday.

**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**


**20th Annual New Works Festival.** Kitchen Dog Theater celebrates its landmark 20th season of this festival with an expanded schedule of nine staged readings, several by local playwrights (Blake Hackler, Jenny Ledel) and several by returning favorites (Zayd Dohrn, Steve Yockey). Final weekend. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Get full schedule at KitchenDogTheater.org.

**Enemies/People.** Local actor, director and playwright Blake Hackler loosely adapted Ibsen’s health-crisis social drama *An Enemy of the People* for a modern environmental rights age. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 36346 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 7. 2TT.co.


**The Lion King.** The Tony Award-winning megahit returns for three weeks; based on the Disney animated film. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through July 7. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Portrait of a Man.** A new play by Mark-Brian Sonna, based on a true story about how a popular 19th century painter scandalized English royalty. Final weekend. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 16650 Addison Road. MBSPProductions.net.
DANCE

FESTIVAL
Oak Cliff Film Festival. The seventh annual fest kicks off with screenings at the Texas Theatre, the Kessler, and more, with a variety of films, including gay-interest (Bar Reputation, Meow Wolf: Origin Story and more), running through June 17. Consult the festival’s webpage, OakCliffFilmFestival.com, for a completely lineup.

PRIDE

FINE ART
Laura Owens. The controversial, eclectic artist is featured at a show at the Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through July 29. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 06.15
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

COMMUNITY
Pride Late Night at the DMA. The Dallas Museum of Art holds its first Late Night summer blockbuster with a Pride theme. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. 6 p.m.–midnight. $10. DMA.org.

SATURDAY 06.16
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.

MONDAY 06.18
FILM
Sister Act. Free outdoor screening of this musical classic, part of the Downtown Dallas Movie Night. Downtown Arts District. Arrive by 7:45 p.m.; screening begins at 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY 06.19
FILM
Cabaret. Multiple Oscar-winning film about life in Weimar Germany, with a career-defining performance from Liza Minnelli. 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.

THURSDAY 06.21
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.

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.
To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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Girl on Girls
Jenny Block reminds us we all get to choose who we’re attracted to.

I’m worried — worried that people within our own community are starting to treat one another in the same judgmental, disrespectful way that we are constantly fighting against with those outside our community. We have to allow people to define themselves for themselves and to love who they love, and we have to stay out of it. Otherwise, we are just as bad as our enemies.

I am a lesbian. I love women. I’m sexually attracted to women. I have long hair. I prefer dresses to pants. The woman I married and with whom I fell hopelessly in love has short hair and prefers pants to dresses. Some people are mad about some of these things. And I’m mad about that. Partially for my own sake, but more for others who have not yet found their partner.

We have to be gentle. It’s hard enough to find love in this world without telling other people how to do it. You have the right to be respected for what you are looking for in a person, and you have the responsibility to respect others for what they are looking for. Just because someone is not interested in one thing or another does not mean they look down upon or hate or disrespect whatever that might be.

For instance, I am a short woman. But I was never interested in women as short as I am. I don’t want to date a short woman. And that’s not anyone’s business. When someone else makes it their business, it suggests that they think they know better than I do what is “good” for me. But more than anything, it reveals that they feel left behind: “You can’t be a femme lesbian because then I feel bad about myself for not being one.” “You can’t be only interested in women.” “You have to like what I would or would not go out with when I was dating, because it makes absolutely no difference what you think. And if you’re upset about people not wanting you, well, it’s time to look internally. Not eternally. No one gets to be interested in you, and they aren’t racist or transphobic or whatever for not choosing you. They get to choose.

What’s so great about that is it means that if and when someone does choose to be with you, they really do want to be with you. They aren’t doing it out of pity or pressure from the outside world or whatever. When we allow people to be themselves and respect people for honoring their truth, we do ourselves a favor, too. We have the security of knowing they aren’t being fake, and they aren’t faking it when they choose us.

That advice they give you on the airplane is good advice: Put on your own oxygen mask before you help others. You have to be honest with yourself about who you are, what you want and what you are and are not willing to do in the name of partnering with someone. You have to be whole first. Putting others down and demanding they want you is not being whole. It’s not self-care. It’s the boring old blame game.

Everyone gets to be themselves, and no one gets a trophy for doing it. Barney sold too many of us a false bill of goods. Most of us don’t mean a thing to the world. But if we’re lucky, we might mean the world to someone else. But it’s not a given. None of us is owed anything.

We do, however, owe it to everyone to be respectful and keep the judging to ourselves. It’s only fair. If you want to do you, then I get to do me.

Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.
The folks at Barry’s Bootcamp are getting their Pride on all month long.

Making the SCENE the week of June 15–21:

• Alexandre’s: Wives and Lovers on Friday, Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday, Wayne Smith on Sunday, K-Marie Broadway on Tuesday, Carymel on Wednesday, Chris Chism on Thursday.

• Club Reflection: Wall of Food Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

• Dallas Eagle: United Court Show from 6-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Dallas Bears Club Night starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday. DIVA Night starts at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Night starts at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

• Hidden Door: Messy Mondays at the Hidden Door.

• JR.’s Bar & Grill: Asia O’Hara hosts a watch party for the finale of RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 10 on Thursday.

• Liquid Zoo: Comedy Night Open Mic at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

• Marty’s Live: Sexcapade Fridays with Nicole O’Hara Munro and Rudeboy Dallas.

• Pekers: Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents “Send in the Clowns” at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

• Round-Up Saloon: Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Boys! Boots! And Boxer Briefs at 10 p.m. on Monday. Project Runway with Sassy O’Hara at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. RuPaul’s Drag Race watch party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

• Sue Ellen’s: Mustache Envy on Friday. Corsettes and Cocktails from 5-8 p.m. followed by Devils Burlesque on Saturday. Honey Folk from 3:30-5:30 p.m. followed by Tyla Taylor on Sunday.

• The 515 Bar: Those Guys TX Live from 9 p.m.-midnight on Friday.

• The Rose Room: Necole Luv Dupree on Friday-Sunday. Mr. and Miss Gay Dallas America at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Miss Dallas FFI and FFI at Large hosted by Layla Larue on Wednesday.

• TMC: The Mining Company: Athena O’hara hosts Lip Sync in a Bag on Wednesday.

• Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Jada Pinkette Fox hosts the 14th annual Turnabout Show, Does Your Father Know? benefiting Resource Center, from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Big Gay fans of Dallas Voice, staying cool in the pool

Jose's birthday at TMC: The Mining Company

Suki at TMC: The Mining Company

Justin and Ernest at TMC: The Mining Company

Gary at Liquid Zoo
City of Dallas celebrates Pride
Friends having fun at JR’s

Chris and Marcus at The Round-Up Saloon

Jameson and Frida Corey on The Strip

Krystal Summers and friends keep JR’s hopping with Krystal’s Girls Like Us show.

The friendly staff at The Hidden Door

All smiles at The Hidden Door

Friends and fun at Liquid Zoo

The regulars at The Hidden Door

Jameson and Frida

Corey on The Strip

Chris and Marcus at The Round-Up Saloon

Friends having fun at JR’s
The bridal party at The Rose Room

Couple cuteness at S4

Lighting up The Rose Room

Girl Power rules The Strip

Friends in The Rose Room

Toby strikes a pose

Friends’ night out at The Round-Up
North Texas Pride

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**q-puzzle**

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### Pronoun-Appropriate Love Songs

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52 Kevin of *Dances with Wolves*
56 Literary contemporary of Truman
57 Gardner of Hollywood
58 Loaded for bear
61 Opera villain, usually
64 “I Kissed a Girl” singer
67 Ariz. neighbor
68 Release from bondage
69 Makes tats
70 Exit the closet, with “out”
71 Egg holders
72 Bottomless
73 “What’s going ___ there?”

### Across

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5 Melissa Etheridge’s “___ It Heavy”
9 Climax, e.g.
14 Midvoyage
15 Visitor at gay.com
16 The Lone Ranger’s male companion
17 Story teller
18 “She’s Crushing My Mind” singer
20 Emma Stone’s beard movie
22 Kind of light for Joel Schumacher
23 Fraternal Order member
24 Bone by the humerus
26 Hot stuff in Frida’s land
28 *Madame Butterfly* props
32 Went lickety-split
33 Banana stalk
34 With 45-Across, “I Think She Knows” singer
36 Q, and others, in Scrabble
38 Got to second base, perhaps
39 Foot bottom
41 Guys in underwear ads, e.g.
46 Band’s one-night stand
49 Mostel of *The Producers*
51 High tennis shot from Mauresmo
52 Bourbon Street cuisine
53 Like Mary’s little follower
54 Men in the navy
55 Foaming at the mouth
59 The sound of music
60 Sommer of film
62 Interstate rumbler
63 Alternatives to asses
65 Eng. class about Virginia Woolf
66 Gaydar, perhaps

### Down

1 In the pink
2 Tibet’s setting
3 Be competitive with stats
4 “She Keeps Me Warm” singer
5 Diving bird
6 Writer Dinesen
7 *Chicago* producer Meron
8 Sexual orientation, e.g.
9 Wounds of Mary’s son
10 VIP of DC, e.g.
11 Photographer Adams
12 Got to second base, perhaps
13 Men who don’t sleep with women
19 Rupert Everett’s Ready to ___
21 T or F, on exams
25 NASA “thumbs-up”
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28 Exam for hrs.
29 Blade name
30 Like young Abe Lincoln
31 Flying flock of geese
35 New York college
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39 Foot bottom
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43 Hersey’s *A Bell For ___*
44 Like a mouth, in BDSM
45 See 34-Across
46 Band’s one-night stand
47 TV singing competition, for short
48 Peri’s *Frasier* role

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