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8



10



18

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Therapy animals save lives
- 10 One-stop shop for canine needs
- 11 AHF sues county over conflicting rules
- 12 Equality fight moves beyond clerks

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 18 Photographer helps shelter animals
- 24 Best street food: Taco Stop
- 25 Ian McKellen plays Sherlock Holmes
- 28 Out sportsmen redefine stereotypes

■ ON THE COVER

Design by Craig Tuggle

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 7 | The Gay Agenda | 31 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 35 | Ask Howard |
| 16 | Texas Voices | 36 | Scene |
| 18 | Life+Style | 39 | Classifieds |

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Burleson's Mayor Ken Shetter on marriage equality



Mayor Ken Shetter

Burleson Mayor Ken Shetter has been getting a lot of attention on the Internet for a lengthy "note" he posted on Facebook on Monday, July 13, explaining why he supports marriage equality — both as a public official and as a Christian individual.

"As the mayor, I congratulate LGBT citizens of Burleson on their right to marry. Further, I am pleased the Supreme Court's ruling is just one of many ways we are telling members of the LGBT community (particularly LGBT youth) they are fully accepted and valued participants in our society—no matter where they live.

"For anyone who feels the statement above infringes upon their rights as a Christian, I would hasten to say I am bound by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment just as much as the separation clause. My views as public servant do not in any way inhibit your ability to exercise your religious beliefs, no matter how they relate to the issue of gay marriage.

"On a personal level, I celebrate the right of my gay friends to be married, as well as the fact they are accepted and embraced more fully in today's society. I do so not in spite of my Christian beliefs, but at least partially because of my Christian beliefs."

And in response to the challenge to quote chapter and verse where God says marriage equality is OK, Shetter opts for a portion of 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, commonly known as The Love Chapter, ending with this: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Then he adds verses from John Chapter 13: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

— Tammye Nash

Anti-LGBT legislator failed to disclose affiliation with conservative nonprofit

State Rep. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, failed to list his leadership role on the board of the Wilberforce and Lincoln Center, Inc. in his six most recent personal financial statements.

James William Odom, a Baylor University graduate student and former spokesman for the university, founded the organization, initially called the Wilberforce Center for Civic Engagement, in 2008.

Per state law, elected officials must list all entities, including nonprofits, where they serve as members of the board, on their statements said Ian Steusloff, a spokesman with the Texas Ethics Commission, which enforces state election code.

Failure to disclose this information could result in a civil penalty of \$500.

— James Russell

Man found murdered in West Dallas

Dallas Police are investigating the murder of Tony Sanchez, a 51-year-old man found dead Saturday, July 11, in his apartment at the Budget Suites on North Walton Walker Freeway at Singleton Boulevard.

Roger Herrera, attorney and one-time Dallas mayoral candidate, said Monday, July 13 that Sanchez was a gay man who had been an AIDS activist and LGBT community activist.

According to information released by police, officers responded to the Budget Suites at about 2:13 p.m. Saturday after a friend of Sanchez's, unable to reach him by phone, went to his apartment and found him dead. Homicide detectives responding to the scene determined that Sanchez "died as a result of homicidal violence."

Police have no information on a potential suspect, according to reports, and the investigation is ongoing.

— Tammye Nash



Attorney General Loretta Lynch

AG orders SSA and VA to extend benefits

Attorney General Loretta Lynch issued the following statement:

"Following the Supreme Court's historic decision in Obergefell that every couple has the same right to participate in the institution of marriage, whether the partners are of the same-sex or opposite sexes, I directed Justice Department staff to work with the agencies to ensure that the ruling be given full effect across the federal government."

And with that, a number of rights that had not been available to married same-sex couples were extended to them.

Most notably social security benefits were not offered in states that didn't recognize same-sex marriage and some veterans benefits were also denied.

What's not clear is whether couples who were married but denied benefits because of where they lived will be able to reapply.

Couples will now qualify for survivor benefits, but it's unclear if a surviving spouse who was denied can now reopen that claim.

Veterans will qualify for educational, medical, pension and home loan benefits.

— David Taffet

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Henry is a fun-loving, 2-year-old Welsh mix. He has been groomed to keep daily brushing down and reduce shedding. Henry will be a great addition to most families but would do best with an owner that is home regularly. He enjoys playing in the yard and loves belly rubs. Daily exercise and healthy living will keep him and you enjoying a long, happy life. Come bring the family and other four-legged members for a meet-and-greet with Henry. He will steal your heart.

Henry and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.

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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

JULY

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is attorney **Lorie Burch**; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; **Fuse game** night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt. 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• **July 17: HRC DFW Federal Club Mixer** Light appetizers. 6-8 p.m. at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave.

• **July 17-19: Courage and Authenticity in the LGBT Community Workshop** Led by Kristina Tutt, LMSW, CDWF, and based on the research of Brené Brown, the workshop explores vulnerability, self-compassion, empathy, and authenticity. \$425 per person. Sliding scale prices available. For more information and to register visit InspirationalOutcomes.com.

• **July 18: Turtle Creek Chorale Presents Paul Phoenix in Concert** Former King's Singer Paul Phoenix joins TCC in performance 7:30 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Benefits Cathedral of Hope and TCC. Free. \$20 suggested donation.

• **July 18: "Viva Dallas"** Celebrate the marriage equality decision 5 p.m.-midnight at Cedar Canyon DFW, 4523 N. Houston Road, Lancaster. For more information, TxDudeRanch@gmail.com.

• **July 18: Gaybingo: Salute the Troops** Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or email Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **July 21: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting** Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **July 24: CinéWilde Presents The Broken Hearts Club** 8 p.m. with pre-show discussion at 8:30 p.m.

followed by a summer game night at 11 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson.

• **July 25: Dallas Red Foundation's Third Annual Fashion Show** 9:30-11:30 p.m. at SISU Uptown, 2508 Maple Ave. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Bit.ly/1RisHW2.

• **July 25: Legal Hospice of Texas Annual Heat of the Night Fundraiser** Fundraiser celebrates 25th anniversary of Legal Hospice of Texas with casino games, a raffle, silent auction, food and more 7-10:30 p.m. at the University of North Texas School of Law, 1901 Main St. For sponsorship information and tickets, call 214-521-6622 or visit Mkt.com/legal-hospice-of-texas.

• **July 26: Cathedral of Hope Marks 45th Anniversary** Celebrations at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. worship services followed by local celebrations. CoH, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CathedralOfHope.com.

• **July 31-Aug. 1: Seventh Annual Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit** Summit addressing transgender issues in higher education with keynote speakers, workshops and panels. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday at University of Texas at Dallas, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson. Register online at Ttxtns.org/register. For more information, contact Josephine Tittsworth at josephine@txtns.org.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 1-14: Youth First Youth Reception Art Show** Meet the artists from 6-8 p.m. on August 5 at illume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 1: AIDS Interfaith Network Leo Party** 8 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. For more information, visit AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org.

• **Aug. 1: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting** Meets from 7-8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information email info@dfwtgladies.org or visit DFWTGLadies.org.

• **Aug. 4: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting** Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by email at



Cathedral of Hope's 45th anniversary celebration

Cathedral of Hope's membership has grown by a lot since 1970. And "a lot" may be too conservative of a term. The church, originally comprised of 12 friends looking for a safe and inclusive worship space, has grown into a 4,500-member church — making it the world's largest church for the LGBT community and its allies.

The United Church of Christ congregation has a lot to celebrate too. On Sunday, July 26, the congregation will celebrate its anniversary during three worship services at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Other commemorations will follow. And of course, there are other reasons to celebrate too. July 26 marks the one-month anniversary of the Supreme Court's marriage equality decision. The congregation will also celebrate its newly appointed senior pastor, the Rev. Dr. Neill G. Cazares-Thomas.

It'll be a big day for a big church.

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information, visit CathedralofHope.com

sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 5: First Annual Adult Protective Services Community Board Caregiver Awards Luncheon** Awarding excellence in professional elder care advocacy, promotion and best practices 1:30-4:30 p.m. at 5 Star Premiere Residences, 5455 La Sierra Drive. For more information, call John Dornheim at 214-341-7133.

• **Aug. 6: LGBTQ Saves Back to School** Gathering for area LGBT youth at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information, visit LGBTQSaves.org.

• **Aug. 6: Fort Worth PFLAG meeting** Meets every first Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information, call 817-428-2329 or visit PflagFortWorth.org.

• **Aug. 7: Youth First Art Show Young Professionals Advisory Council Reception** Learn about YPAC and ways to support Youth First from 6-8 p.m. at illume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 15: Lambda Legal's Sixth Annual Landmark Dinner** 6 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. For more information, call or email Roger Poindexter at 214-219-8585 ext. 224 or e-mail rpoindexter@lambdalegal.org.

• **Aug. 18: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting**

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information, call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 20: Urban Engagement Book Club: Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class** by Ian Haney Lopez

CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• **Aug. 15: Gaybingo: Pigskin** Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4495 or email Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Aug. 22: Razzle Dazzle Dallas bus trip to Winstar Casino** First of three bus trips to Winstar Casino from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. benefits Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Home for the Holidays and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. \$75. Party Bus will include adult beverages and soft drinks, snacks, entertainment and raffle prizes. Leaves Cedar Springs at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9 a.m. For more information and to register, visit T.co/r7voNP2HBu or contact Info@razzledazzledallas.org.

Ranch Hand Rescue: saving animals and lives

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Animal-assisted therapy approach takes the practice another step

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer

russell@dallasvoice.com

Ranch Hand Rescue founder Bob Williams had a stroke 10 years ago.

The Motorola executive had climbed the corporate ladder for years, becoming one of the company's leading diversity experts.

But the stroke changed him, and ultimately changed his career path.

"I saw my own mortality," he said. "I wanted to do good. I wanted to save animals and help people."

Driven by his love for animals and advocacy for the underdog, he founded Ranch Hand Rescue, a nonprofit counseling center and animal sanctuary in Argyle north of Fort Worth. Prioritizing the least among us, counselors specialize in traumatized youth. Many clients come from their partner agencies, including Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Denton and County Juvenile Services. Their clients suffer from mental health issues, primarily trauma from physical or sexual abuse. But some are also homeless. Others struggle with addiction. Often a high proportion of their LGBT youth clients may struggle with more than one trauma.

Not only does Ranch Hand take on the hardest

cases, they provide help through animal and equine-assisted therapy. The increasingly popular practice explores clients' emotional, mental and social issues, according to the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, an international certification and education agency.

But Williams points out their approach is also controversial. The animals are also broken.

The animals may have been brutally beaten or starved. They're as broken as many clients.

"I take animals near death," he said. "When people ask why, I say 'Just because they're blind or have cancer doesn't mean their lives are less important.'"

'Relationship facilitation'

Sitting in an office with a stranger can often be intimidating or even triggering, if a client didn't voluntarily seek therapy. Ranch Hand's approach mixes traditional and progressive therapeutic practices. Their counseling approach is relationship-based, said Ranch Hand's Clinical Director Cathy Champ.

A typical first session at Ranch Hand involves introducing the alpacas, donkeys, ducks, llamas, horses and other animals to the client. The client then cultivates a relationship with an animal. A therapist monitors each session.

Sessions can range from a few sessions to once a week. Sliding scale rates are available for individual clients.

"A relationship could be with a horse with a broken ankle or a duck," she said. She loves working with animals as much as she enjoys working with clients.

"Working with animals is a genuine approach to counseling. The feelings associated with and process are so genuine," she said.

When cultivating relationships, said Ranch Hand counselor David Lawson, clients are also exploring their personal identity.

"[The process] is awesome, especially for younger people and anyone with trust or relation-



A client works with one of the many rescue animals at Ranch Hand Rescue.

(Photos courtesy Ranch Hand Rescue)

ship problems," he said. "Barriers come down when you work with animals. Conversations happen as you develop relationships."

The therapist grows along with the client too.

"Therapists are drawn to animal-assisted therapy because it gets you in touch with your roots," he said.

Working with LGBT youth

All relationships are important at Ranch Hand. But the relationship with LGBT youth is personal for Lawson and Williams.

Lawson overcame a lot as a gay man who struggled with a drug addiction.

"There's no group of kids who are more systematically abused than LGBT kids," he said. "Whether covert or overt, kids absorb the sense they are second rate and have no value. They tell themselves, 'I am second rate.'"

According to the Human Rights Campaign, 92 percent of LGBT youth hear negative messages about their identity, mostly in school or their peers. 34 percent of LGBT youth report emotional or physical abuse by their families, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Additional research from Lambda Legal reveal between 25 to 40 percent of out LGBT youth is homeless.

Williams knows those percentages are likely higher because many youth won't report their experience.

"So many cases of abuse or eating disorders are underreported among LGBT youth. They're more likely to tell the animals these feelings first," Williams said.

An estimated 80 percent of the center's LGBT youth are covered by scholarships, many arranged by Williams.

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Above left, Ranch Hand Rescue President and CEO embraces one of the sanctuary's rescued horses. Emmy award actress Doris Roberts, right, serves as RHR's spokesperson.

"There's so much we don't talk about in the LGBT community," he said. "Parents are still kicking their kids out because they don't get LGBT youth. I wouldn't have thought 20 years ago we'd still see it happen."

Focusing on one issue at a time, even when

facing the most complex issues, makes the work easier. But Williams also remembers to think back to his stroke 10 years ago, when he faced mortality.

"I'm promoting healing," he said. "Ranch Hand Rescue is the greatest thing I've ever done to help animals and people." ■



Adoption resources

The Humane Society of North Texas, with four Tarrant County locations, takes in animals in need from anywhere.

While they're best known as a great place to find a special cat or dog, they've also taken in bears, birds, lizards and horses. They found a home for a camel in a sanctuary and placed a tiger in his new home. Staff members are experienced with exotic animals. Earlier this year, they rescued 140 donkeys.

Because of the large number of donkeys they still have, they're running a \$100 adoption special.

"If it's stray or abandoned, we intervene," said Whitney Hanson, director of development and communication. "Our equine program is growing."

Working with law enforcement, the Humane Society has an investigation team to seize abused animals. The donkeys and horses are housed at four equine facilities that organization owns.

Most people come to the Humane Society for dogs and cats. Dogs are evaluated and none with a history of biting are placed for adoption.

The SPCA employs behavior specialists to do an assessment with animals it takes in. Stephanie Knight said some animals are super-shy and won't warm up to people while others may be more aggressive. They work with a team of volunteer fosters who work with those animals anywhere from two weeks to months.

"We do whatever we can to make it work," Knight said. "They're a great team of volunteers."

They prefer animals are not adopted for someone else. Gift certificates are available for someone who wants to give a pet as a gift, but the SPCA prefers people don't adopt for someone else.

Knight said look under the news tab on the website for vaccination specials usually on Sundays. The clinics aren't prepared to do emergency veterinary work, but are good place to get an animal spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccines at a low cost.

— David Taffet

Humane Society of North Texas

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Any dog or puppy: \$85; Any cat or kitten: \$55

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Dogs: \$43; Cats: \$27

Includes: Spay/neuter, microchip, vaccinations
Other services: Takes in stray animals to be reunited with their owners

SPCA

2400 Lone Star Drive
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Clinic: 4830 Village Fair Drive

SPCA.org

No-kill shelter

Dogs: Puppies 0-6 months: \$125-\$250

Adult dogs 6 months or older: \$75-\$125

VIP dogs (available more than 30 days): \$50

Senior dogs 7 years and older: \$50

Cats: Kittens: \$125; Cats: \$75

July special: senior cats and cats who have been there 30 days are free at the McKinney location only through the end of the month.

Includes: Vaccinations, Flea/tick treatment

Heartworm test, preventive for dogs

Behavior assessment for dogs,

Spay/neuter, microchip

Other services: Low cost spay and neuter clinic, livestock adoptions

Fort Worth Animal Care & Control Center

4900 Martin St., Fort Worth
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PetSmart, 2901 Texas Sage Trail, Fort Worth
FortWorthTexas.gov/animals

Dogs: \$49; Cats: \$25

Includes: Health and temperament assessment,

Spay/neuter, vaccinated, microchip, licensed

Other services: Takes in stray animals to be reunited with their owners

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Vhea's LaundroMutt Services: a one-stop shop for all your canine needs



And your feline friends, too

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Vhea Cannon loves dogs. When asked if she preferred dogs or people, she definitively replied, "Dogs, every time."

She just doesn't love dogs; her life revolves around them. She grew up with dogs, as well as cats, cows and horses.

She remembers her first dog, "a red nosed pitie."

The animals weren't just her best friend, but a passion. She studied pre-veterinary medicine in college. She met her partner Shelley Roberts through mutual friends — and a dog rescue.

Though she pursued a corporate job, "I knew there was something else out there for me," she said.

That something, without a doubt, involved dogs. And that something became known as Vhea's LaundroMutt Services, founded in 2004.

"I got into this business ... because of my passion to serve the community and went on my own in 2009," she said. The business briefly closed but re-opened in 2014. It now serves clients all over Dallas but continuously receives business from East Dallas, White Rock Lake Area, Casa Linda, Garland and Lake Highlands.

Vhea's LaundroMutt Services isn't just an opportunity to surround her with dogs. Nor is she, as she put it, "out to make a buck." With a top-notch staff, Vhea's LaundroMutt Services is all about customer satisfaction.

"We really want what's best for the customers and their pets," she said. "Whether that's about food, grooming, day care or fostering — we are

about health and nutrition."

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She's still a dog person but knows people love their cats. She does too. She loves all six of them.

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LaundroMutt is a business. But someone passionate about dogs also runs it. It's not just about making a profit.

She helps animals find home as well.

"We not only work with the public with day-care dogs and cats but serve the community by fostering for local rescues all across the Metroplex," she said.

LaundroMutt helps local organizations like Paws in the City with boarding, grooming and foster care. A mere \$25 donation underwrites the cost for one animal.

For Cannon, it's not just about making customers happy, but dogs in search of a home too. ■

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AHF sues Dallas County over Ryan White funding

Bret Camp and Jonathan Petrus attended Dallas County Commissioners Court meetings earlier this spring to request inclusion in Ryan White funds distribution. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Agency claims county changed the rules — its story — several times through the bidding process

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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AIDS Healthcare Foundation filed a lawsuit against Dallas County this month for excluding it from receiving Ryan White funding to provide services to people HIV.

AHF filed a grievance in March and filed, but did not serve, a lawsuit. After receiving information from a Freedom of Information request that it had been recommended for — but not awarded — a \$1.1 million grant, it served the lawsuit earlier this month.

AHF, which operates three clinics in Texas claims Dallas County changed its requirements several times during the application period and accuses it of creating rules that specifically exclude the organization.

AHF Texas Regional Director Bret Camp expressed his frustration in the process.

"The process was not transparent," he said.

He said Dallas County's own needs assessment showed the area needed more HIV/AIDS care providers based on geography and demographics to reach unserved populations. AHF's Dallas facility is the first to serve North Dallas and is adjacent to a zip code with one of the highest rates of HIV in the county.

Applicants, according to the grant rules, had to

be "incorporated for a minimum of three years prior to submission of a proposal." Or so, they were originally told.

AHF has been incorporated since the 1980s, but they sent questions to the county to clarify.

In December, AHF was told applicants had to be incorporated in Texas and, if connected to a national organization, had to have its own Texas incorporation in place three years. The organization has been incorporated in Texas two years.

In its complaint, AHF calls this method of excluding it "unethical and impermissible under state and county law."

When AHF objected, county officials told the organization disputes are subject to a grievance process, so it requested a copy of the grievance process on Jan. 5. Instead of dealing with a grievance, two days later, the county changed its position on incorporation within the state to only having to provide evidence of authorization to transact business in the state with the secretary of state.

On Feb. 25, the agency received a letter saying its proposal was disqualified because it didn't submit a "certificate of registration" from the secretary of state, a document AHF claims doesn't exist. Without the documents, the county wouldn't have scored the application.

In March, AHF received the grievance procedure from the county that it requested in January. A few days later, it was told its request had been scored, but it received low marks.

AHF filed its grievance. Although the county

■ AHF, Page 15

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Same-sex couples can now marry in most places in Texas

Temper tantrums from county clerks are giving way to other types of protests against marriage equality

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Rusk County Clerk Joyce Lewis-Kugle became the first elected official in Texas to resign rather than issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Although others in her office were available to issue licenses, Lewis-Kugle offered her resignation on July 10. County commissioners accepted it on Monday, July 13 and appointed her chief deputy, Trudy McGill, as her successor.

Rusk County is in East Texas, east of Tyler and south of Longview. Henderson is the county seat.

No couples have applied for a marriage license in the county, and Lewis-Kugle hadn't taken an aggressive stand against marriage equality as a few other clerks have done.

A second county clerk, Karen Irving from Live Oak County northwest of Corpus Christi, retired this week rather than issue licenses. To avoid any lawsuits, the county had been reporting it would issue licenses as soon as it had software updates.

Instead, it was protecting the retirement of its county clerk, who refused to comply with the law.

Lambda Legal attorney Ken Upton said he was surprised how busy he's been since the marriage equality ruling, but looking back over the first few weeks following the SCOTUS decision, was happy how quickly things fell into place here and the other 13 new marriage equality states.

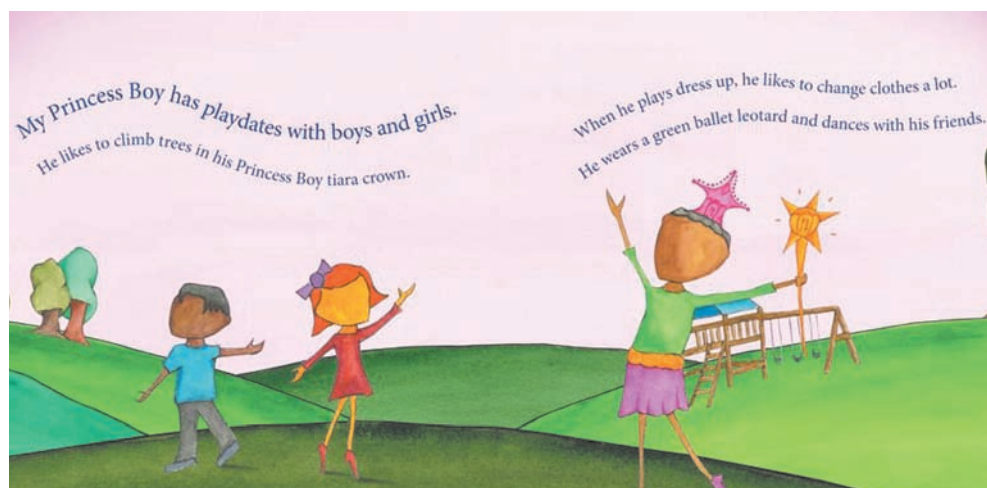
He noted that Louisiana is not only issuing marriage licenses across the state, but is about to begin issuing two-parent birth certificates to same-sex couples.

Maybe Texas, is too. Before the ruling, Texas had an automatic refusal letter that went out to same-sex couples who requested both names on the birth certificate. Now, Upton said, those requests are on hold. He didn't know if the state was waiting for a software update to begin issuing two-parent birth certificates to same-sex couples, but something was happening.

Texas employees and retirees were adding spouses to their health benefits within hours of the ruling, but in some places county clerks in several places are grandstanding.

Kentucky has at least two holdouts. The state's governor angrily urged them to issue or resign.

Citing her religious views, County Clerk Kim



Hood County residents protested *My Princess Boy*, but were they really protesting the marriage equality ruling?

Davis in Rowan County, Ky., stopped issuing marriage licenses when four same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses in her office. The couples are suing her.

If the court rules in their favor, she must begin issuing or could be found in contempt of court and fined or sent to jail.

In Texas, 252 of the 254 counties are issuing marriage licenses or said they would if asked. Of the remaining two — Irion and Hartley — only one is committed to long-term defiance of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Hartley County Clerk Melissa Mead is using a stalling tactic. She said she won't begin issuing until a 25-day waiting period runs out. During that time, parties to a case decided by the Supreme

Court can ask for a rehearing, something rarely granted. Hartley, in the Panhandle on the New Mexico border, reports no one requesting a license there.

In Irion County, west of San Angelo, County Clerk Molly Criner has stuck by her defiant refusal to issue, not that she's been asked, either.

"To keep my oath to uphold the Constitution, I must reject this ruling that I believe is lawless," Criner said in a press release.

Former state Rep. Glen Maxey said he had a couple planning to visit Criner's office and prepared to file a lawsuit if a license isn't issued.

Other than these few holdouts, the protest of

■ COUNTY CLERKS, Page 14

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COUNTY CLERKS, From Page 12

same-sex marriage has moved beyond the county clerks offices.

In Hood County, County Clerk Katie Lang quickly changed her stand after being threatened with a personal lawsuit. The publicity surrounding her stance may have prompted a different kind of protest against LGBT-equality — a request to remove two children's books from the Granbury library.

After receiving the request, librarians decided to keep *My Princess Boy* and *This Day in June* on the shelves.

The issue was appealed to the Hood County Commissioners Court, which discussed it on July 14.

Dallas Public Library District Manager Peter Coyl attended the meeting. He said the American Library Association sent commissioners copies of a 2000 court ruling written by U.S. District Court Judge Jerry Buchmeyer.

In that case, a group of 300 people in Wichita Falls, instigated by their pastor Robert Jeffress, complained about two children's books on library shelves. Buchmeyer ruled that a group of "300 people with library cards" didn't have "the right to censor" for the community.

Coyl said one woman said her 4-year-old saw the book and asked questions she was not prepared to answer. Another countered by telling the story of her own "princess boy" and said she wished she had the book to read to him when he was young.

One commissioner, who made clear he was not a fan of marriage equality, noted one of the books had been in the library four years without complaints. The commissioners didn't take a vote, noting Buchmeyer's ruling stands and the books remain in the Hood County library.

In Denton County, a different type of protest over marriage equality played out in the office of a justice of the peace.

Denton County Clerk Juli Luke began issuing marriage licenses on June 29. but that decision didn't sit well with Justice of the Peace James R. DePiazza.

DePiazza had a choice. He could either perform weddings for any couple with a valid marriage license or not. What he can't do is pick and choose.

Something that might have helped him decide is that J.P.s charge a fee. Unlike the license fee, which is split between the county and state, the money the J.P. charges goes directly into his pocket.

DePiazza doesn't hate same-sex weddings — or the money he was making from them — enough to stop performing them. Instead, he came up with a new form that says he agreed to do their wedding even though he's opposed to same-sex marriage.

By some reports, even straight couples have to sign the form.

Upton wondered if the form was legal, but said as long as everyone was treated the same, he's not sure what grounds couples could file against the J.P. He pointed out there are other J.P.s available in Denton.



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Obituary



Brooks Lamar Camp was born Oct. 28, 1944 and died July 10, 2015. He was born in Dallas to James L. Camp and Ariana W. Camp and was preceded in death by them; a brother, Thomas M. Camp; a sister, Stirling Camp Austin, and a nephew, Brent

Austin.

After graduating from Highland Park High School, Camp went on to earn a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin he then received a scholarship from Texas Tech University, where he earned an M.B.A. He earned advanced degrees from University of North Texas.

He shared a love of flying with his father and spent many joyous years traveling the world while establishing a successful career with Delta Air Lines and then Air New Zealand in marketing and sales. Fortunate enough to have two career loves, Camp became a psychotherapist in 1984 and has guided thousands of Dallasites to happier, more productive lives.

He had a lengthy history of volunteer work and served on many boards, such as AIDS Interfaith Network and The 500, Inc.. He served five years as a board member of the Texas Counseling Association and was appointed to two two-year terms to the University of North Texas Advisory Council. He was also a founding board member of the Dallas Metro Counseling Association.

He is survived by his brother, Alec G. Camp of Dallas; his sister, Ariana M. Camp of Plano; and eight nieces and nephews. He was beloved by a host of friends and family members for his sense of humor and loyalty and was appreciated by his patients for his warmth, caring and understanding as he guided them through troubled waters.

A memorial service for Dr. Camp will be held at Sparkman Hillcrest on Saturday, July 18, noon, followed by internment at Greenwood Cemetery at a later date. He will always be remembered by his favorite motto, "I Believe I Can Fly."



AHF, From Page 11

has 23 days to respond, AHF didn't hear from them until June 10. It was told it hadn't submitted proper documents, which indicates the county didn't score the application.

Because the process wasn't transparent, Camp said he filed a Freedom of Information request with Dallas County for papers relating to its application for Ryan White money. He said he needed that paperwork to understand why it had been denied funding and to support any claim his organization had against the county.

The request was delayed when the county requested a ruling from the attorney general who directed it to comply.

"What we found was shocking," Camp said.

The documents received on July 2 not only scored AHF on a par with other agencies that were awarded funding, but the Ryan White External Review Committee recommended AHF to receive \$1.1 million in funding for outpatient medical services. ■

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A quiet victory

In a recent TED Talk, transgender model Geena Rocero referred to her driver's license with the corrected name and gender not as a license to drive — but a license to live!

I'm continually surprised by the number of people who aren't even aware that your driver's license identifies you with the gender binary — either "M" or "F" ... perhaps because those folks have never had to suffer the indignity of being challenged when trying to use a bathroom or changing room when buying clothes.

They have never had to spend anywhere from several hundred to maybe several thousand dollars to have their gender marker changed.

Texas isn't exactly a friendly place for transgender people. We face opposition at every turn; in fact this past legislative session, four bills were sent to committee that would have criminalized bathroom usage and created a slew of unintended consequences.

Richard Peña and Debbie Riddle authored those bills using fear as reasons why transgender people should be unfairly punished. Thankfully, those bills failed. The truth is, that in the 200 or so municipalities or school districts where laws respecting the rights of transgender people using the restrooms with which they identify, there have been no significant increases in public safety issues. Frankly, it's a non-issue.

It's more critical now than ever before that our I.D. match who we are and how we present.

I will never forget the day I received my court order legally changing my name to Leslie and my gender to female. I cried in the judge's chamber and thanked the judge for changing my life. It's that big a deal.

Recently, a renegade bureaucrat at the Texas Department of Public Safety became a one-woman



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

crusade against name and gender changes. The DPS began requiring paperwork they were not legally entitled to; asking for a copy of the name and gender petition when she was sent a fingerprint card in order to do a background check. She began asking for surgeons' letters,

neither of which are required.

Nothing that indicated a gender marker change was being processed.

The majority of name and gender marker changes in Dallas County are done through one local attorney, Katie Sprinkle. (Full disclosure: She is also my partner, whom I love dearly.)

Katie knew she had the law on her side. She hit the books and pulled up statutes pertaining to background checks, name changes and what was required to be sent to DPS. The brief was 10 pages of compelling and unambiguous evidence that the employee at the DPS was over-stepping ... to put it politely.

Katie presented this brief to Presiding Civil Judge Craig Smith and he agreed — even going so far as to call the DPS and speak with the renegade employee and her supervisors, telling them to knock it off.

The other 12 civil court judges in Dallas County were all in agreement.

This is huge! It affects more than just the petitions of those transgender residents of Dallas

County, but everywhere there are judges that will sign gender correction orders.

You won't likely hear about this anywhere else. It was done quietly, with dignity, behind the scenes.

Recently, there has been an epidemic of Texas functionaries from county clerks to our attorney general threatening to thumb their collective noses at the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Constitution — so it comes as little surprise that the laws of Texas can be considered by some at DPS as mere suggestions.

I'm so proud of Katie. She doesn't go around tooting her own horn but she has been a tireless advocate for the Transgender community in North Texas. She founded a legal clinic at Resource Center serving members of GEAR and has done pro-bono work or reduced-fee services of all kinds for the transgender community. She even makes her name and gender paperwork available to do-it-yourselfers at no charge.


She and I joined others from Resource Center a couple of weeks ago in speaking to members of the U.S. Attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas and sharing the challenges of the transgender community. Katie also works in cooperation with Equality Texas and Lambda Legal. She puts herself out there. She truly cares.

So here's a big giant thank you to Katie Sprinkle and the judges in Dallas County who realize just how important it is to have the simple dignity of identification that matches who we are.

It's our license to live — it's good to know there are people out there to help make sure that license doesn't expire.

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

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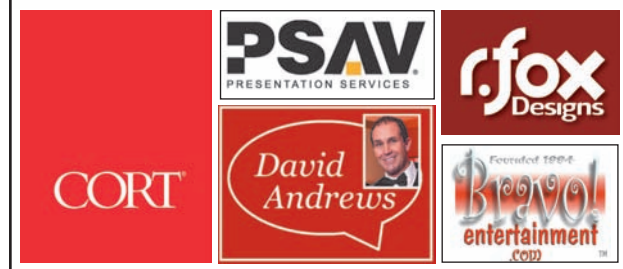
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Gimme shelter!

Photographer Sylvia Elzafo combined her profession with her love of pets into a crusade to help animal shelters

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Sylvia Elzafo takes her devotion to animals seriously. She's a dedicated vegan with a history of working for non-profit organizations like Mercy for Animals. Just how dedicated? Well, right now, she's in Nepal, helping with the recovery following this year's devastating earthquake ... not volunteering with the Red Cross, but with the Humane Society International, assisting the group in addressing the crisis over the effect of the tragedy on the animal population, as well as its effect on humans.

"In a lot of developing countries, a lot of families and villages rely on their livestock — they may have one cow and maybe two goats and that's their livelihood," she says. "The human-animal connection is a different dynamic." And the earthquake's impact on street dogs has left many starving or subjected to rampant disease; the Humane Society hopes to vaccinate and neuter these animals to minimize the spread of sickness and starvation.

But while Elzafo wasn't sure the day before she left exactly what her duties would be, she's not a veterinarian. Nor is she a nurse or first-responder. No, Elzafo is a professional photographer. And as hands-on as she hopes to be, she'll also be "documenting all the work in Nepal. It should be an amazing trip," she says.

Combining photography with animal rights and treatment isn't

new to Elzafo. In fact, it's been a passion for more than five years.

In 2009, she was living in Arlington when she visited an animal shelter in Fort Worth. "It was really kind of scary looking — a lot of outdoor enclosures, and lots of concrete," she says. "I was at a place in my life where I needed to do something with my life. So I reached out to them to say I'd like to work with you in any way I can — to use my skills to make a difference."

That's when she first starting taking photos of shelter dogs and cats. This was before the idea of shelter dog photography had become the norm. In fact, she helped establish the trend.

"Rescue groups are great because often they have been in a home and they can relate to [adopting families]," she says. "Shelter dogs require more patience, because those scars [of abandonment and being in a shelter] are hard to heal." By taking photos of them, Elzafo gave the animals a softer, more relatable look.

Eventually, Elzafo began working with Dallas Animal Services, the main city service for taking control of strays. The agency quickly became a priority "because of their intake numbers — they just have so many animals coming in. In the summer, imagine 50, 80 even 100 cats and dogs coming in a day," she says. "[The

■ SHELTER Page 20

DOGS AND CATS ... LIVING TOGETHER! MASS HYSTERIA! | A committed vegan for more than a decade, Sylvia Elzafo's love of animals informs her work as a photographer in a Shelter Series intended to perfectly pair pet with parent. (Photos courtesy Sylvia Elzafo)

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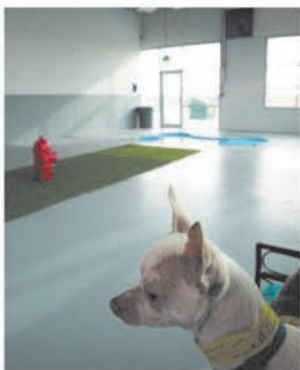
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L+S pets



STUDIO SESSIONS | Elzafon has been doing shelter-pet photography for more than five years, but once she was able to shoot them in a studio, rather than through cages, their personalities really shined through.

■ **SHELTER**, From Page 18

service] has a high euthanasia rate not because they want to but because they have to." And the best way to get those numbers down is to increase adoptions.

And that's where Elzafon works her magic.

"My photos didn't become a series with more artistic elements until I started working with Dallas," she says — after the shelter set aside space for a small photographic studio. "I have the ability [in Dallas] to work with the dogs in a controlled environment and get them to feeling safe instead of taking them through cages. The photos evolved from being a feeling of sadness and despair — and I think those are important, too — to reflecting [the pets' personalities]."

Spending time with such sweet, needy faces can take its toll, but Elzafon — as much as she loves animals — knows she can't personally save every one.

"People say to me all the time, 'Oh, I could never do what you do and go to the shelter all that often. It must be so sad and I'd want to adopt them all.' But I consider myself to be in a fortunate situation — I have two dogs at home, which is the limit my landlord allows. The temptation is there, but I have to put my heart and emotions aside and go, or else I'd end up being a crazy dog lady without a home!" she laughs. "I'm glad I have my boundaries and my limits."

Elzafon's own four-legged family includes her "old girl," 11-year-old Maddie; and a fairly recent addition, Leo (a lab mix), whom she ob-

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tained from DFW Rescue Me. In fact, getting Leo brought her mission full-circle.

"The coolest moment was when I was going through Facebook and a photo came up. I see dogs all day, but I just saw Leo and said, 'I need to have him.' I immediately fell in love with him. It turned out his foster mom is a photographer and she take photos for DFW Rescue Me! So a professional photographer took a picture and I fell in love. It took that for me to feel and understand the power of the image."

As Elza's career has taken off and kept her busy, she has less time than she used to for her Shelter Series, but she still tries to shoot at the shelter once a month, and perhaps more importantly, to train other people who can step in and keep the program going. "The point is to get as many photos out there on social media as possible," she says ... and therefore pair the perfect pet with the right family. ■

To see her Shelter Series and other photographic work, visit SylviaElza.com.



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— A.W.J.



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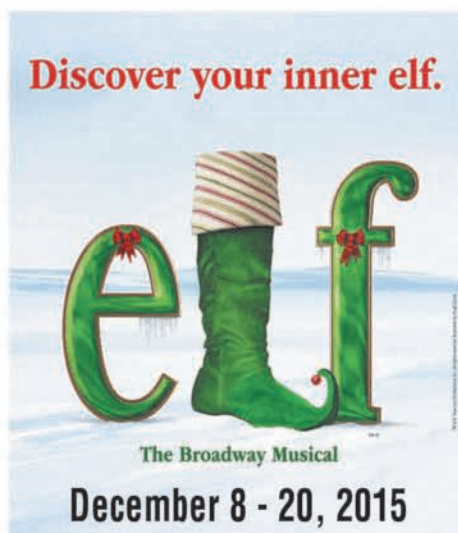
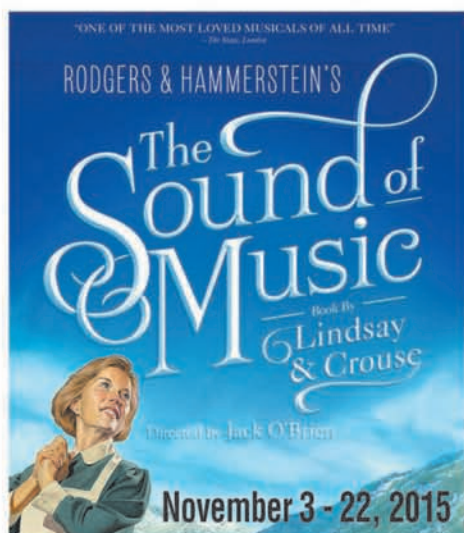
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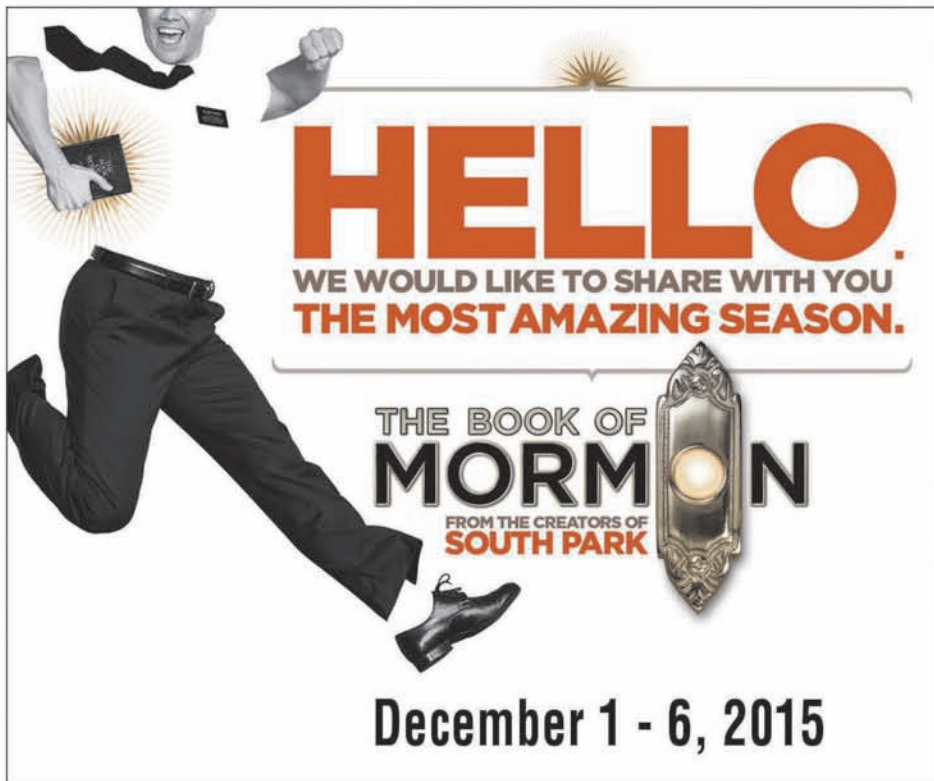
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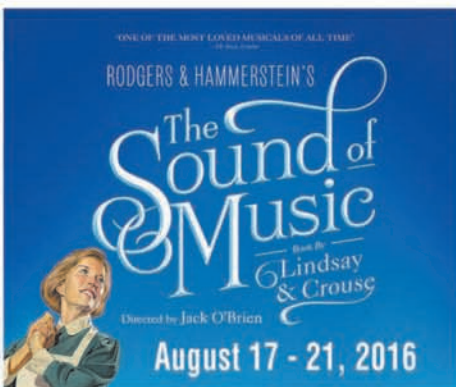
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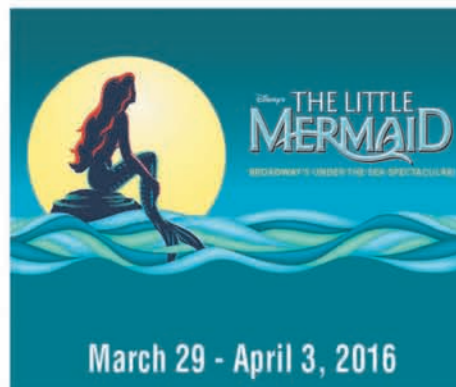
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L+S dining

Meal in microcosm



Our quest for Dallas' best street food stops in the Design District's Taco Stop

I have friends who will look you in the eye, hand on a bible, and declare that the taco is — without qualification — “the perfect meal.” I never disagree. Consider the humble avatar of Mexican street food (but common in cultures from Asia to Africa as well): Tortilla, protein, garnish, seasoning. That’s it. But in those ingredients live the potential for greatness. A *great* taco conjures a certain musicality — not of a symphony so much as an etude: A study on the balance of flavors in a single bite, a microcosm of a meal that fits in your hand.

While many sit-down restaurants and fine-dining establishments execute their tacos with skill, my favorite way to consume them in Dallas is at one of the many, varied and exciting walk-ups and holes-in-the-wall. At best, a taco will reveal the full flower of a taqueria’s personality: The smokiness, the juiciness, the choice of tortillas and sauces and its add-ons can tell you everything from the region whence it originated to the passion with which it is made. Taco Stop is one of those places I go back to over and over.

The tortillas are medallion-sized — smaller than a standard American taco (close to what you’d find in Mexico City), but fully packed with flavor; at less than \$2 apiece, you can mix and match your meal, building the aromas and textures and tastes that speak to your palate.

Here, the prime rib comes with so-called magic onions (sautéed with bacon) and cilantro, dusted with a trail of the viscous, punch-packing avocado salsa that adds the warm glow of spici-

ness without detracting from the flavor is the macerated meat. The barbacoa, with the pyramid slice of lime and spicy but not overwhelming pico de gallo, has a more smoked and burnished flavor, and usually arrives bulging in the middle, fat with beef.

My favorite taco, though, may be the pulled pork carnitas, which offers the most consistently savory profile: earthy and smoky, reminiscent of North Carolina pork barbecue. Pair it with the roasted tomato salsa.

Taco Stop opens daily at 7 a.m. (it’s closed by 3 p.m.), so a variety of breakfast tacos are available; the steak Mexicana is spicy enough to wake you up quick, even without coffee.

A “taco of the day” is usually available, and a recent one (a chipotle chicken tinga) pleased my dining companion more than me. Still, the only disappointing taco I’ve had here (and it’s a special, not on the regular menu) is the al pastor. It’s failing was more of omission than commission: An insufficiency of diced pineapple — which, aside from being trimmed off a trompo, is the distinctive characteristic of al pastor.

They also sell tortas (I was miffed recently when I was charged extra for cheese, despite cheese being in the description), but there’s a reason it’s called Taco Stop. No need to mess with success. Just close your eyes, take a mouthful and listen to the music.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Codgers & monsters

Ian McKellen, Bill Condon reunite for another masterful character study

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The first time most American moviegoers heard about Ian McKellen, believe it or not, was in 1998. That's when he received his first Oscar nomination for *God & Monsters*, playing ageing movie director James Whale in his last days in

the 1950s, as he navigates dealing with an officious housekeeper, growing senility and an intriguing young man who triggers painful memories of his past. (The movie won its writer-director, Bill Condon, an Oscar for its screenplay.)

That has been almost a lifetime — as well as countless Orcs, mutants, wizards and box-office records — ago. Now, at age 76, McKellen is one of the defining actors of his generation: A certifiable movie star, an outspoken gay-rights activist and a thespian of unparalleled skills on screen and stage. He's in the autumn of his life and career, yet has never been more secure in his powers — as he brilliantly demonstrates in his masterful performance in *Mr. Holmes*.

It's the 1950s, and McKellen plays the great sleuth Sherlock Holmes, who is treated here as an historical figure instead of a fictional creation. He hasn't solved a mystery in decades, having retired after a disastrous outcome to his last case. But the son (Milo Parker) of his housekeeper (Laura Linney) delivers him a letter that conjures long-suppressed memories and sets him off on his final adventure.

The familiar set-up almost eerily parallels that of *Gods & Monsters* — retracing a life and its sunsets, searching for meaning in the pain and pointlessness of it all — so the reunion of Sir Ian and Condon, nearly 20 years after they both got

put on the map, is a fitting and poignant one. This Holmes is a shadow of a man, infirm and riddled with doubts, his swagger crippled by regret. In flashbacks, he's arrogant and precise, methodically solving a mystery about a woman who routinely disappears, much to her husband's perturbation; in the present time, he'd addled and reclusive. And each time, McKellen is compellingly believable.

It would be difficult to over-praise this performance, which may finally win the actor an Oscar. It's a work of great detail, from how he surreptitiously writes crib notes on his sleeves to mask his failing memory to his each quiver of his lip. And like a book by A. Conan Doyle, the mystery is an engrossing one, made more profound in this character study.

McKellen's work fits comfortably within Condon's construct, which recreates both Edwardian and post-War England, as well as a nuclear-ravaged Japanese landscape. In those few scenes, Condon heart-wrenchingly gives life to the duality of the story — past and present, dark and light, write and wrong, young and old.

As much of a showcase as this is for McKellen, his scenes with the talented young Milo Parker as his puppy-dog-attentive fanboy sparkle with vibrancy, and a flamboyantly funny cameo by Frances de la Tour injects moments of levity into this dark but life-affirming masterpiece. ■



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Ford's Expedition King Ranch Edition gets gussied up for 2015 with a turbo-charged V6 ... and a Texas twang

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

With marriage equality now a reality nationwide, chances are a lot of couples will be seriously considering settling down, getting hitched and even starting a family. And that well could mean family-sized transportation.

While General Motors dominates the full-size SUV segment with highly-polished gems, Ford has been less than enthusiastic about spending precious resources on its full-size SUVs — namely, the Expedition. It simply had to age gracefully while the team in Dearborn, Mich., rolled out hybrids, electric cars and popular crossovers. It's far from all-new, but the Expedition goes in for a substantial nip, tuck and heart transplant.

Check out its King Ranch Edition, looking like

TEXAS SIZED | Ford's nipped-and-tucked Expedition seems custom-made for the Texas landscape ... including the interior. (Photos courtesy Ford)



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it rose up out of Texas prairie ready for the rodeo. For a decade and a half, Ford has partnered with Texas' ginormous King Ranch to imbue its luxury models with saddle leather interiors, deep woodgrain, paint hues inspired by open land, and all of the amenities a Dallas businessman could want. If Bobby Ewing had an automotive alter ego, this would be his horse and rope.

Expedition definitely has a family look with its shiny face, chiseled headlamps, raised hood and wrap-around rear glass. Our King Ranch put on bronze fire metallic paint and monochrome trim. Look close and you'll notice an updated front design with bolder chrome grille, halogen projector headlamps and LED fog lamps. Larger 22-in. wheels with King Ranch logo, chrome exhaust outlets and re-styled hatch finish the finessing.

Just the smell of leather makes you want to move inside. You'll sneak in to touch, pet and lick it. Just don't tap all of the hard plastic. Three rows of seats allow the entire clan to join the festival.

Heated/cooled front seats and heated middle-row seats take the sting out of extreme weather, but spoiled drivers will miss a heated steering wheel. Crisp Sony audio, navigation, voice-activated infotainment, power running boards and power-fold third-row seat add pleasure and convenience.

Saddle up the Expedition and head for open road. For 2015, all North American Expeditions



are driven by Ford's 3.5-liter EcoBoost (turbocharged) V6 that delivers a potent 365 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque — enough to tow 9,200 lbs. when properly equipped. Use the six-speed automatic with manual shift mode for quick get-aways and easy towing. Clearly not one of Ford's hybrids, the SUV manages just 15/20-MPG city/hwy.

You'd think given the Expedition's independent rear suspension that it would out-handle and out-smooth any competitor, but it doesn't. Even with the continuously-adjusting suspension, ride is not stellar. Go bucking across unpaved fields and you'll think you bought an F-150 pickup — not bad,

but not quite up to luxury SUV standards. That said; if you want a three-row SUV that drives like a car, buy the Explorer crossover. The Expedition is a real truck, capable of doing things only a real truck can. It just happens to seat eight in supreme comfort. Judging by sales numbers, it would appear competitors like the Chevy Tahoe and GMC Yukon have the Expedition on the ropes, but the GM team may get a surprise. The 2015 Expedition King Ranch is clearly not all-new, but it is new enough to keep it competitive and win some new friends — even better if those friends own vast expanses of land. The Expedition starts at \$43,845, but came to \$64,280 with the whole ranch.

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Outhletics

A new photobook of young, out sportsmen and -women seeks to redefine gay stereotypes — and foster inclusion on campuses across the U.S.

There are many ways for athletes to be fearless. They can stand at the plate with the bases, in the bottom of the ninth. They can attempt a difficult dive. Rocket down an icy ski jump. Or they can come out of the closet as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

It took Jeff Sheng many years to overcome his fears. But in the years since, he has made it his life's work to honor the fearlessness of over 200 young men and women.

Growing up in Southern California, Sheng was a competitive tennis player. Yet fear overtook him as a high school senior. He was starting to come out as gay. Unable to reconcile his sexuality with his sport, he quit playing.

The next year, at Harvard University, he met a closeted water polo player. Sheng could not go to games as his boyfriend (that fear again) and after a few months the relationship ended.

By senior year, Sheng's ex was out — and on the cover of *Genre* magazine. "He was confident — an inspirational figure," Sheng recalls. Having studied photography, he decided to focus his talents on gay college athletes. It seemed like a good way to honor their fearlessness.

In 2003, the universe of out sports figures was small. Friends of friends recommended subjects: a rugby player and squash player at Brown. A Harvard rower. A high school athlete, the first Sheng had ever heard of.



He photographed them after their workouts. They were sweaty and tired, but comfortable, and in their elements. The shots were powerful, and moving.

The first 20 or so subjects were almost all white, and lesbian, gay or bi. In 2005 Sheng began meeting athletes who called themselves 'gender queer.' He knew he had to be more inclusive.

The next year, the Queer Alliance at the University of Florida — where he'd photographed a female softball player who filed a lawsuit alleging discrimination — invited him to show his photos. A mix-up prevented gallery space from being used. Sheng suggested a hallway nearby. Despite fears of vandalism, he mounted the exhibit. The final piece was text, explaining that every photo showed an LGBT athlete.

A high school debate meet was going on. The teenagers looked at the exhibit, then read the statement with shock. They seemed awed and impressed — not giggly or nasty.

"I realized I needed to put the photos in student centers and athletic buildings, where everyone could see them and have their assumptions challenged," Sheng says. Around the country — at schools from Penn to USC — the reaction was always: "I didn't know gay people looked like that!"

He kept working too. By 2010, he'd photographed 100 athletes.

Despite positive attention on college campuses, the project — called *Fearless* — did not receive mainstream attention. Sheng suspected it was because he was an Asian tennis player, not a white football star.

But now he was not fearful. He was angry. He redoubled his efforts.

"I could have stopped," he says. "But I wanted to make this project so big, no one could ignore it."

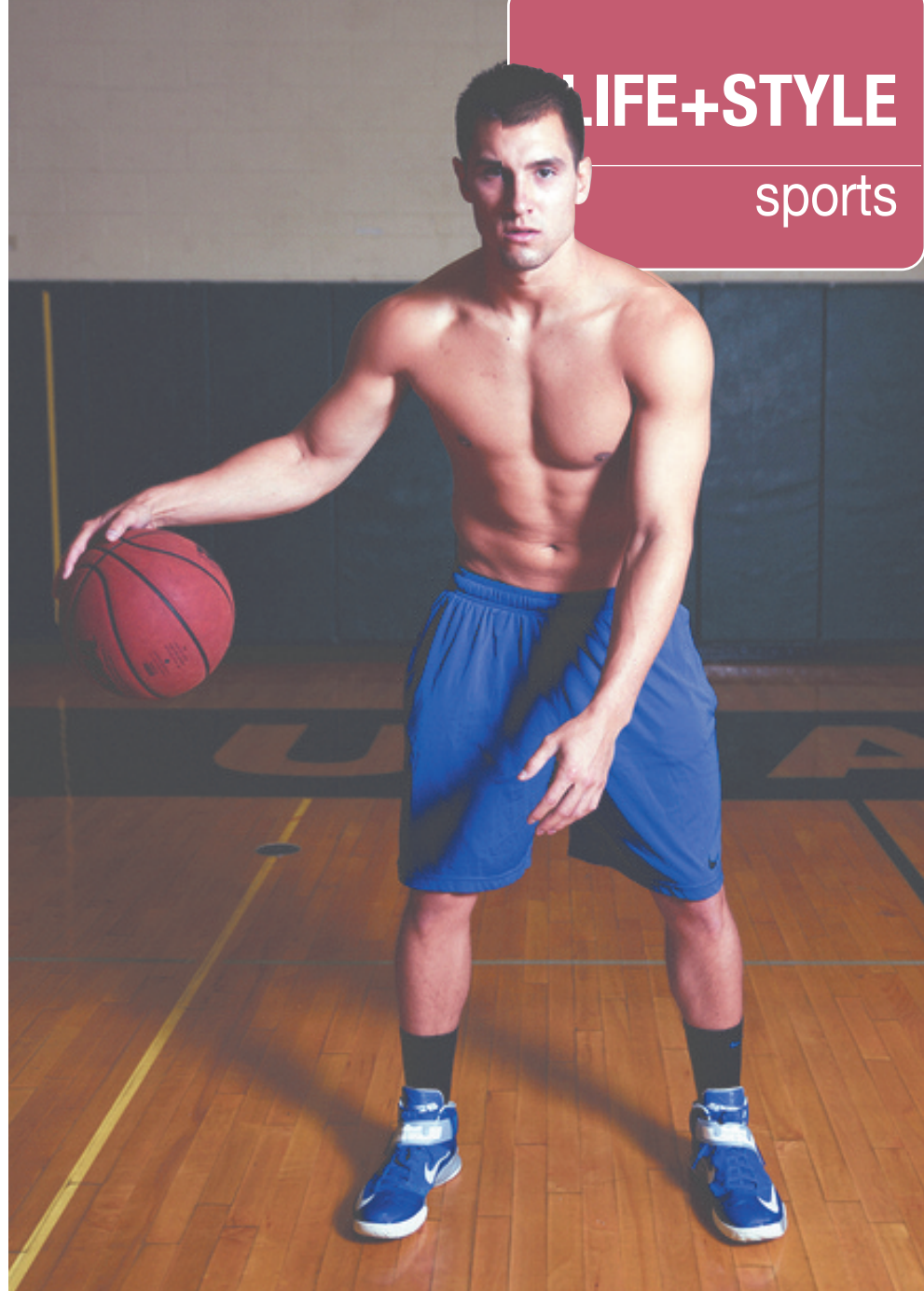
Now, no one can. Sheng has amassed 202 photos of LGBT college and high school athletes. They play every conceivable sport, and represent every type of self-identification. They look strong, proud, happy ... and fearless.

They are also no longer solely photographs in a traveling exhibit. Three years ago, Sheng began work on a book. *Fearless: Portraits of LGBT Student-Athletes* will be published next month.

Sheng has taken the title literally. Sandwiched in between the stunning photos (with accompanying explanatory text) is the photographer's own story. He's taken 30 years of his life and shared it with readers. Sheng includes unpublished photos from his first relationship with the water polo player — and details about the two times he considered suicide.

LIFE+STYLE

sports



A Kickstarter campaign raised \$50,000 — half the amount needed to self-publish. (Mainstream publishers told Sheng there was no audience for his book.) The money covered a fantastic design team: a young gay male couple and their female assistant. They came up with the idea of eight different covers, and eight spines, each a different color. When placed together in stores, they'll form a rainbow flag.

Fearless is a gorgeous, 300-page full color book. The photos and layout symbolize "the very beautiful, diverse community I've grown into," Sheng says. They include a number of trans athletes. As part of Sheng's own journey, he no longer uses headings like "Boys Tennis" or "Women's Crew." Now it's "Casey, Soccer, University of Wisconsin." The message is simple, proud, fierce — and very fearless.

— Dan Woog

Fearless was introduced at the Nike LGBT Sports Summit in Portland last month. On July 21, it will be featured at the WNBA Los Angeles Sparks' Pride Game at the Staples Center. To order a copy, visit FearlessProject.org.

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To see more of Sheng's photos, visit DallasVoice.com.

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Petropolitan expands to Oak Cliff



It's been nearly a decade since Chris Watts opened Petropolitan, his Downtown spa and pet oasis for grooming, daycare and four-legged-friend needs. As the business has grown its client base, it was time to expand. So Watts opened this week The Petropolitan OC, serving the Oak Cliff gayborhood (note: straight dogs and cats are also welcome). And it's not just a satellite office — it's a new experience.

"The new space is 9,000 square feet, and has allowed us to add training and boarding and extended care to our list of services," he says. The shop has also partnered with Green Pet to have a "story within the store," providing all-natural foods.

And in keeping with Watts' community involvement, there's even space for nonprofits to set up low cost/free neuter, vaccination and microchipping clinics, as well as a "great room" for hosting events like CPR classes and "Painting with your Pooch" nights.

They say "dogs are man's best friend." But we can add to that: "Petropolitan is a dog's best friend."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

The Petropolitan Oak Cliff, 2406 Emmett St. ThePetropolitanDallas.com.



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Saturday 07.18

Break out the tropical Speedo! THE Summer Pool Party returns with Jungle Inferno to raise money for LifeWalk

Texas gets hot in the summer... like *hot*. So a pool party that includes free drinks, free food, music, dancing boys ... *and* does some good in the world...? Well, that's the magic combination to get us out of air conditioning. THE Summer Pool Party has been a staple of the social scene for several years, and it returns this weekend to raise money for AIDS Arms' LifeWalk fundraiser. Admission gets complimentary booze (with sponsors like Ketel One Vodka, Lone Star Whiskey and Exotico Tequila), and street tacos ... and for a VIP admission, you get food prepared by a personal chef! So bring your bathing suit, dollars for tipping the bartenders and dancers and be ready to have fun.

DEETS: House of Doan, 3304 McNeil St. 3–10 p.m. \$15 general admission, \$100 VIP admission. Eventbrite.com and search "THE Summer Pool Party."



Saturday 07.18

Queermedian Cameron Esposito brings it to the Granada

She may look like Justin Bieber, but she's a whole lot funnier. Cameron Esposito is the diminutive, puckish and hilarious comic with the side-mullet who elevates every show she appears on (check her out on @Midnight) with her upfront take on queer issues. She brings her show to Lower Greenville's Granada Theater on Saturday.

DEETS: Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. \$20–\$24. GranadaTheater.com. CameronEsposito.com.



Saturday 07.18

Beulaville Baptists skewer another classic with 'Macbeth'

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club has a history of bad ideas. First they commissioned a group of strippers to perform *The Nutcracker*; now they've decided to mount "The Scottish Play," Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy. What could possibly go wrong? Hopefully everything, as MBS Productions stages the world premiere sequel to *Bur-Less-Que Nutcracker with The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents Macbeth*.

DEETS: The Stone Cottage at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 9. MBSProductions.net.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Pippin. National tour of the recent Tony Award-winning revival of the Stephen Schwartz musical. Stars John Rubinstein and Adrienne Barbeau. This production closes the DSM season; the production then moves to Fort Worth. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through Sunday. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. July 21–26. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Festival of Independent Theatres. Multiple theater companies present their one-act plays and stage projects. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 1. Visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com for complete schedule.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents:

Macbeth. A follow-up to the hilarious spoof of *The Nutcracker*, this time with the dim-witted conservatives mounting Shakespeare's shortest, bloodiest tragedy. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 9. MBSProductions.net.

Othello. The final show of Second Thought Theatre's season is Shakespeare's classic tragedy of jealousy and revenge; directed by Joel Ferrell. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Aug. 8. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Lady Bug, Lady Bug, Fly Away Home. A revival of a play originally developed by Paul Baker at the Dallas Theater Center, starring now — as then — local actress and director Cheryl Denson. *Final weekend.* Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. \$22–\$32. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

The Quixotic Days and Errant Nights of the Knight

Errant Don Quixote. A world premiere, commissioned for Amphibian Stage Productions, about the comic escapades of Cervantes' timeless hero. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 2. \$18–\$33.

FINE ART

Digital Photography. The ilume Gallerie opens a group exhibit of digital photos from five artists. The opening night artists' reception is a benefit for a fund set up in honor of one of the artists, who was murdered in 2013 during a robbery. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Through Aug. 11. ilumeGallerie.com.

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 07.17

EXPO

Christmas Expo. It's Christmas in July for lighting and decor junkies, with this first-ever-in-Texas trade show for those who have the holiday spirit all year. Includes free classes and a concert by Judy Pancoast. Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Friday–Saturday. \$8. ChristmasExpo.com.

CONCERTS

Suzy Bogguss. The thoughtful country singer ("Passionate Kisses," "Letting Go") performs. McDavid Studio, 301 E. 5th St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. BassHall.com.

SATURDAY 07.18

COMMUNITY

THE Summer Pool Party: Jungle Inferno. Slip on that Speedo and head over to the annual fundraiser and

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GLOW PARTY
 (Glow Sticks provided by Midtowne Spa, while supplies last)
 11pm-4am

SATURDAY JULY 25
FOAM PARTY
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SALUTE TO THE TROOPS | Show up for Gaybingo this Saturday in your sexiest fatigues and tightest sailor outfits for the monthly fundraiser with fun and games.

pool party in East Dallas, benefiting AIDS Arms' LifeWalk. 3304 McNeil St. 3-10 p.m. \$15-\$100. Eventbrite.com, search for "THE Summer Pool Party."

Gaybingo. Annual fundraiser and bingo party for Resource Center. This month's theme is Salute to the Troops. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

COMEDY

Cameron Esposito. The out comedian performs. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. \$20-\$24. GranadaTheater.com CameronEsposito.com.

CONCERTS

The Turtle Creek Chorale Presents Paul Phoenix in Concert. The Grammy Award-winning artist, formerly with the King Singers, performs alongside the TCC's Camerata in a free concert (suggested donation of \$20 will benefit the TCC and Cathedral of Hope). Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 07.21

FILM

The Music Man. One of the all-time great musical comedies, about a conniving grifter named Harold Hill (the incomparable Robert Preston) who

descends on a small Midwestern town in turn-of-the-century Iowa to bilk the citizens out of money to form a fake band for their kid. Also starring Shirley Jones. The score is a class. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie new Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. only.

FRIDAY 07.24

THEATER

Sweet Charity. The buoyant musical with book by Neil Simon and score by Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields; starring Whitney Hennen as Charity Hope Valentine. This production concludes WTT's 2014-15 season. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. June 24-Aug. 16 (in previews through June 26). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

DANCE

Dallas Hip Hop Dance Fest. 4th annual event includes industry seminar, dance-offs, workshops and a competition and showcase. Venues include Holiday Inn Park Cities, 6070 N. Central Expressway, and the Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. June 24-25. For complete schedule and information, visit DallasHipHopDanceFest.com.

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Dear Howard,

I succumbed the other night in finally agreeing to go out with this *totally* moronic, 6-foot-5 pro athlete from New Orleans who's been jonesing to date me now for, like, six months. All my star-fu**er drooling "friends" kept haranguing me, "Duh, hello? Who cares what he's packin' brain-wise *upstairs* — the dude wears *size 17* cleats!"

I stupidly listened to their warped logic and, well, come that very next morning I had to of course do the walk-of-shame out this idiot's bedroom *exactly* when — get this — his ex-wife just bright-and-early happened to show up demanding more alimony; worst of all, to set things straight here: "cleat size" is *not* a dependable indicator in any way *at all*.

Is there *any* physical attribute on a man that's actually *reliable*? — **Size Queen Carlos**.

Dear Carlos,

Extend your right hand, fingers together, Carl: Is your index finger (the one next to your thumb) *shorter* than your ring finger (the one next to your pinky)?

Men with short index fingers and long ring fingers are the *most* well-hung, according to a 2011 study published in the *Journal of Andrology*. Bottom line, the *shorter* a man's index finger is, relative to the ring finger—likely a result of testosterone exposure in the womb—the *longer* his penis is. This is *science*.

That aside, my advice is: Inform your size-obsessed friends to stop choosing dates for you based upon antiquated "shoe size" old wives' tales. Instead, just steal a peek at any given stud's index finger; the stubbier it is, the more operationally higher your voice will be,

To set things straight here: 'Cleat size' is not a dependable indicator in any way *at all*.'

Carlotta, when yodeling "Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In!" in a cappella soprano ecstasy behind closed doors to your future Mr. Big topping you in the privacy of his bedroom.

Dear Howard,

I've been dating my same boyfriend now for two years, doing the same ol' thrills over and over (and over) in bed with him, and I'm just plain old bored as hell in the sack at this point. Both of us travel for work regularly a lot; he probably cheats on me out of town, even though I try not to cheat on him when I'm likewise traveling myself (though a man does make mistakes on occasion). I do love him, and I want to stay with him and make things work. So: Any viable suggestions for me ... us, rather, I mean? — **Precious Pete**.

Dear Peter, Precious Pumpkin Eater,

In all the history of Gayville's existence (i.e., my experience), there has never been even so much as one recorded instance of any successful, long-term/long-haul relationship succeeding via both partner's 100 percent allegiance to monogamy. In fact, just the opposite is true: Every successful gay relationship achieves long-term/long-haul success exclusively because each partner is able to carnally compartmentalize "dumb

lust" from "devoted love."

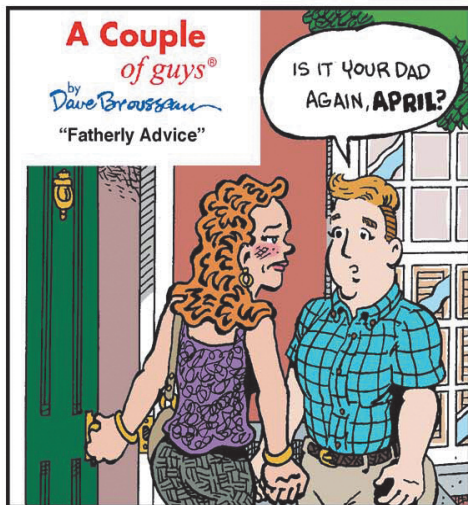
Therefore, Precious, I suggest you wake up to this simple fact: Momentous love is not, nor ever will be, predicated on sexual monogamy. (Oh, and Dan Savage agrees with me.)

Dear Howard,

I bought a new, too-fabulous designer shirt the other day (for only \$327!) that my husband refuses to allow me now wear out in public because he says it makes me look, quote, "Too faggoty." Help? — **Cornelius**.

Dear Corny,

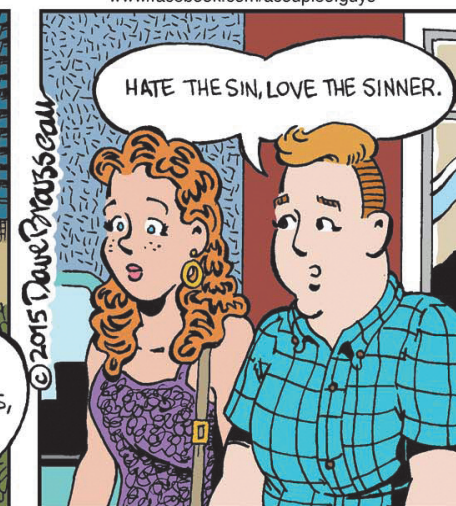
Was it your husband's money you used to purchase your "too



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fabulous" versus "too faggoty" new shirt, or, was it your own money you used?

Uh-huh. That's what Dear Howard here thought. Return the shirt now, Cornelius.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a question for Howard about etiquette, love, life or almost anything else? Email it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer.

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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this week's solution

T	E	S	T	S	A	L	A	D	E	P	I	C				
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Fiancees at S4.



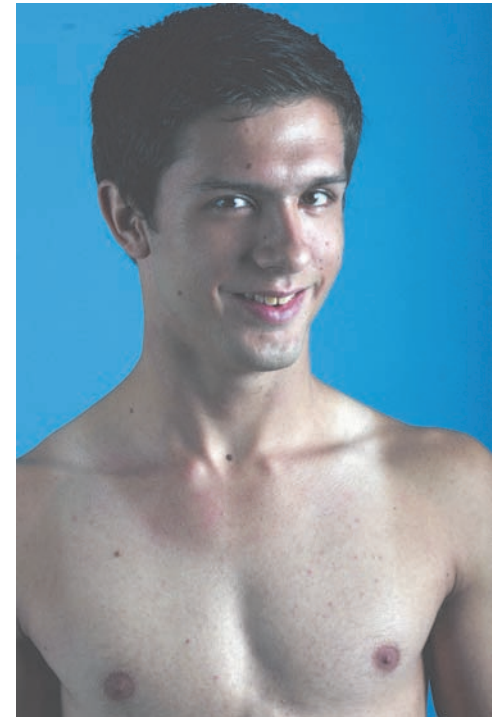
'If love is labor, I'll slave to the end.' At Sue Ellen's.



Karaoke crowd at The Round-Up Saloon.



Milo and his pup on The Strip.



Jay at Club Stallions.

Making the **SCENE** the week of July 17-23:

- **Alexandre's:** Jason Huff on Friday. Chris Chism and the band on Saturday and Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joes:** The Katya event was rescheduled for Dec. 12. Teanna Nicole McIntosh birthday bash hosted by Ida Mae Watergate on Friday.
- **Changes:** Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** 18th annual Crown Jewel Ball at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Texas Gay Rodeo Association candidate show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Blue Party on Saturday. MasT Dallas meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Fierce Music and Fashion at 7 p.m. on Saturday. PSSA End of Season Award Ceremony from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** AIDS Arms happy hour on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Voice of Pride semi-finals at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** What's Up Band on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Tyla Taylor Trio at 6 p.m. on Sunday and Diane Michelle at 10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Final night Miss Gay Texas America on Friday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Glamazons at TMC: The Mining Company.



Athena Sapphire and friends at S4.



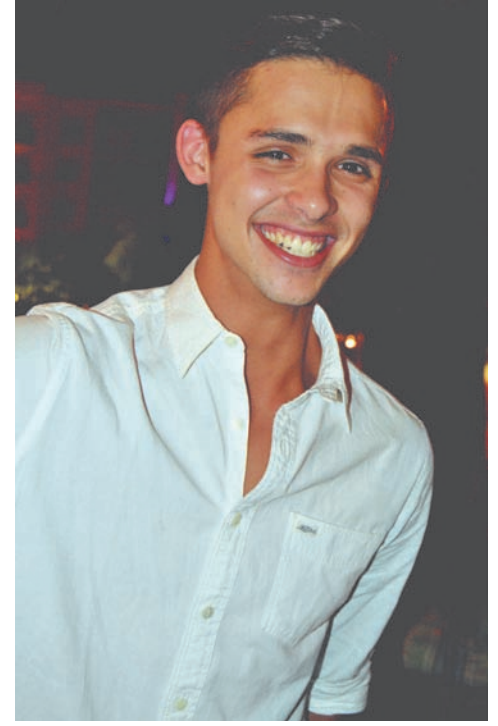
Friends' night out on the town at TMC: The Mining Company.



Friends' night out on The Strip.



Bartender at Liquid Zoo.



Dillon at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Patio friends at TMC: The Mining Company.



Jen, Russell and Amy on The Strip.



Bryon at the Hidden Door.



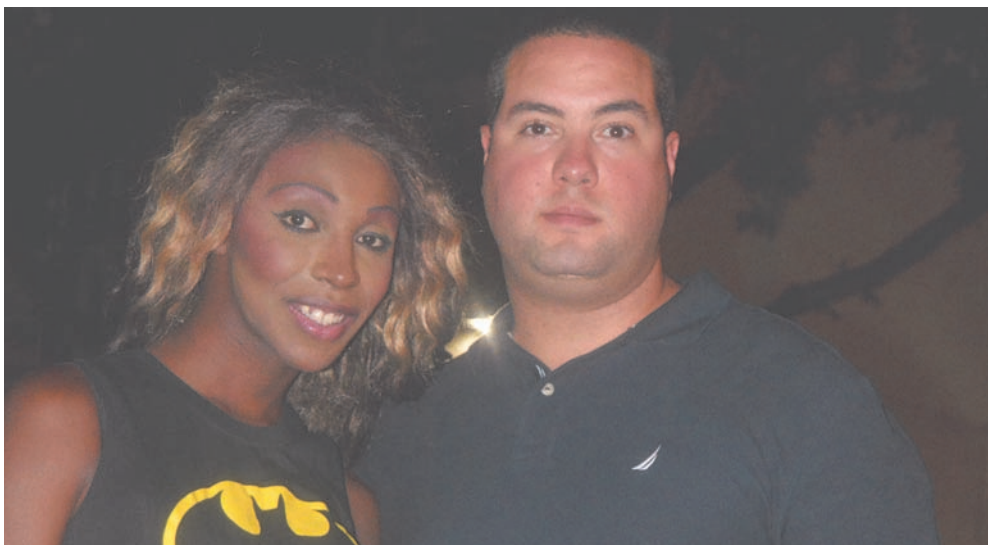
Jason and Josh at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Leyla O'Hara Edwards, Miss Fame, Alyssa Edwards with superfan at The Brick.



Richard and Larry at Zippers.



Jenn and Brad at BJ's NXS!



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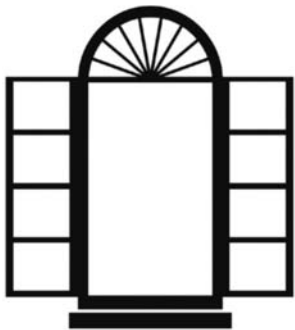


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- St. Thomas Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road
(Inwood at Mockingbird)
Dallas, Texas 75209

- LAMBDA GROUP
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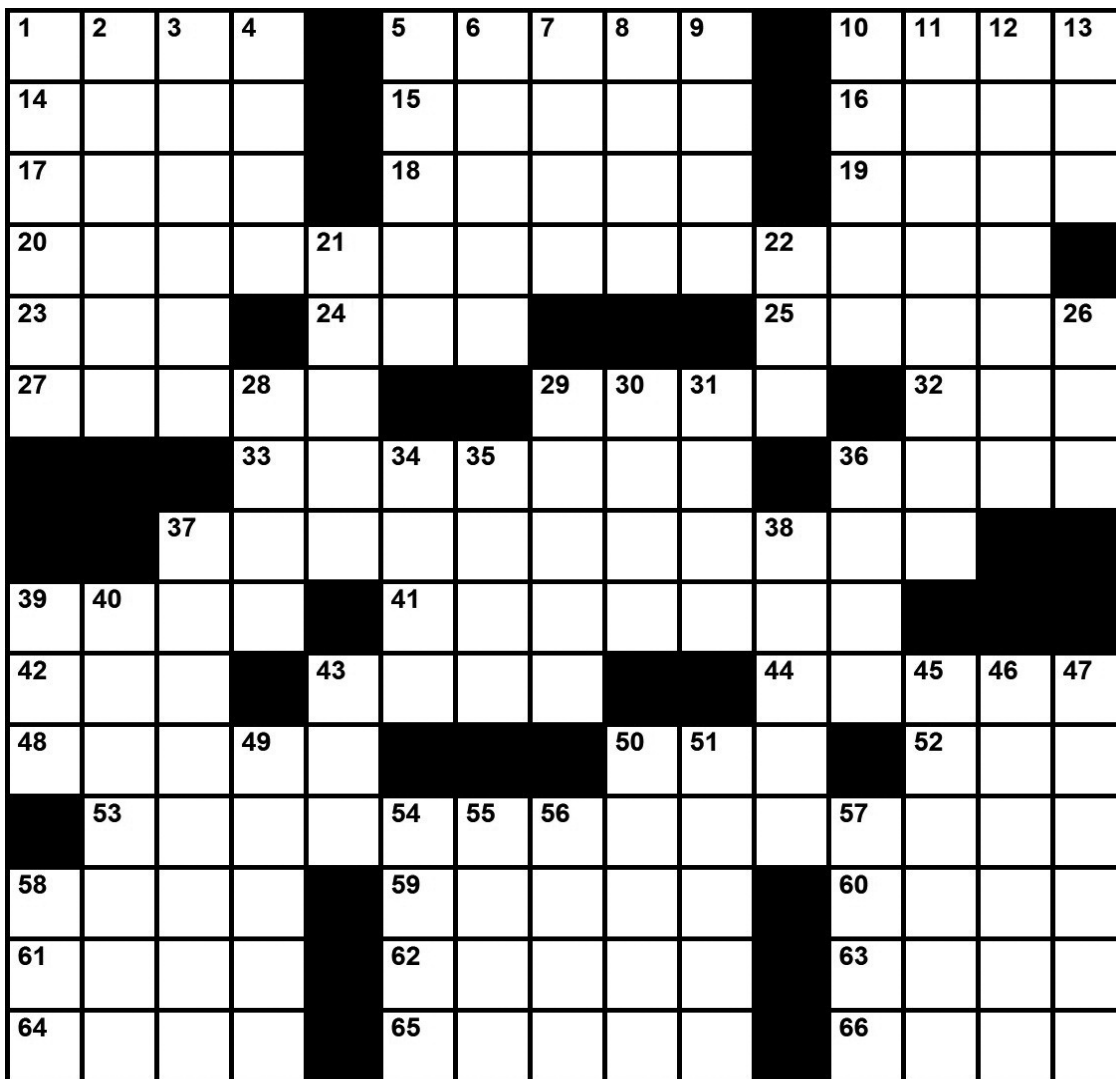
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q-puzzle



Top Review of a Probe

Solution on page 35

Across

- 1 HIV exam, e.g.
- 5 You may pick one up at a bar
- 10 *Spartacus* or *Ben-Hur*
- 14 ___ *The Woods*
- 15 Computer knockoff
- 16 It means nothing to Frida
- 17 Source of red balls
- 18 Single-handed
- 19 Wet spot cause
- 20 Start of a top review
- 23 Moist ending
- 24 Maiden name preceder
- 25 Big tops
- 27 Gas or clutch
- 29 New corp. hires
- 32 Rilke's ice
- 33 Pussy input
- 36 Curve and others
- 37 A space probe
- 39 Sound of getting banged?
- 41 Tammy Baldwin ad word
- 42 The other woman
- 43 Make messy
- 44 Artist Eva
- 48 Some nerve
- 50 Preposition that goes either way
- 52 Alf and others

53 End of a top review

58 Ambience

59 Oscar, for one

60 Court figure Mandlikova

61 Jacques of song

62 One who comes out after some
rubbing

63 Firm member (abbr.)

64 Warhol of soup fame

65 Look dirty?

66 Porgy's lady

Down

- 1 Is active in B&D
- 2 Bear
- 3 Eyed impolitely
- 4 Gertrude Stein's *A Long Gay Book*,
for one
- 5 "Do-Re-Mi" subject
- 6 Kate's sitcom partner
- 7 Admire a hottie
- 8 Shakespeare's Hathaway
- 9 Bottomless
- 10 Provide
- 11 Wife and wife, e.g.
- 12 Cockamamie
- 13 Head cover
- 21 Sib of the bride, to the other bride

22 OCS grads

26 Inflated doll leak sound

28 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo

29 Social customs

30 Make water bubble

31 Woodcarver's tool

34 Kind of traffic

35 Batman and Robin to Catwoman

36 Initial stake

37 Like gay teens with supportive
moms and dads

38 Earth tone

39 Even if, for short

40 *Breakfast at Tiffany's* actress

43 AT&T rival

45 *Julius Caesar* setting

46 Jobs of doubles

47 Some Bacon pieces

49 Pisa place

50 Kind of queer

51 Less polite

54 Gets behind

55 Wilson of *Zoolander*

56 Weathercock

57 Moby Dick chaser

58 Old cagers' org.



I didn't survive HIV
so I could die from lung cancer.

I had to stop smoking.

— PAUL

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