
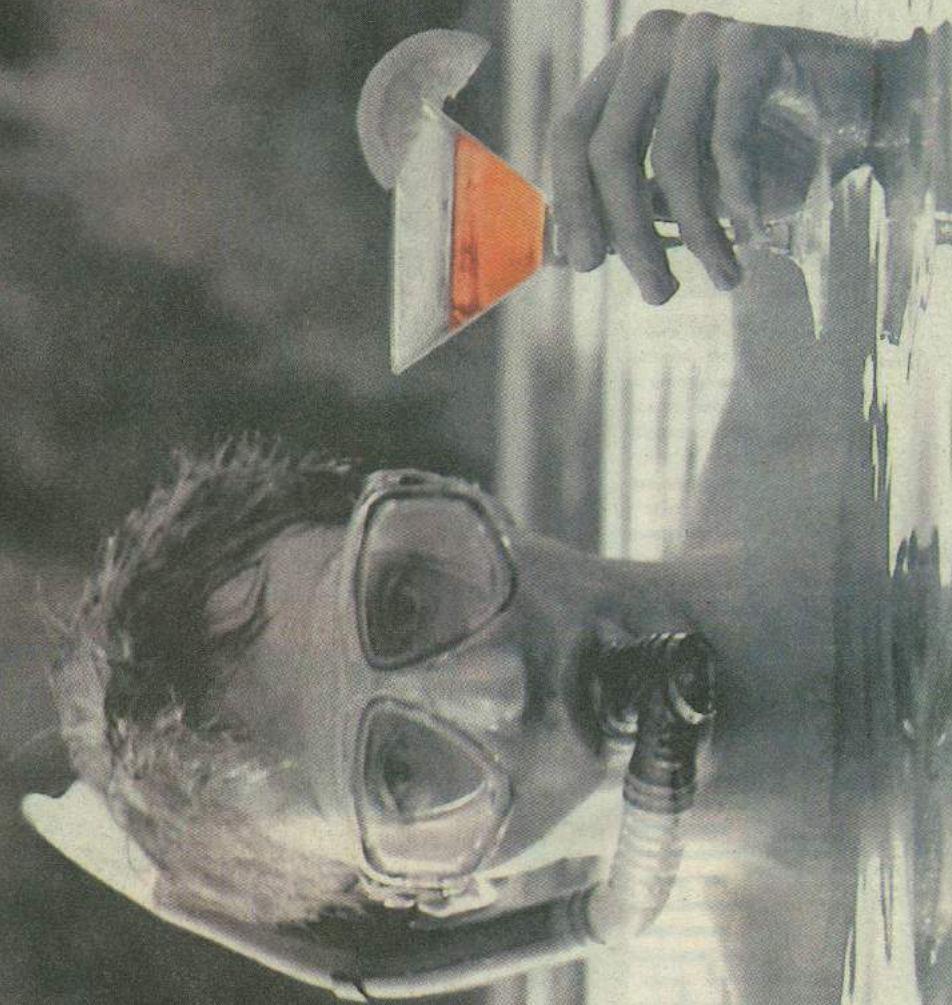


29.95  HOUSTON CHRONICLE | 6.20.13-6.26.13 | WHERE HOUSTON IS

Much ado about Joss Whedon



Director with a cult following took



Associated Press

Joey Guerra provides you

7 8 9 10 11 12

Joss Whedon

Where to go for National Onion Ring Day

2013

HOUSTON CHRONICLE | 6.20.13-6.26.13 | WH



Associated Press

Joey Guerra provides you with all you need to know to plan 10 days of Pride Festival fun. Pages F4-10.

Director with a cult following took a break from 'Avengers' by putting his own spin on Shakespeare

PRIDE

Spotlight shines bright on performers

By Joey Guerra

The Houston LGBT Pride celebration is putting a dose of pop in its 35th anniversary.

Jaymes Vaughan and James Davis, this year's celebrity grand marshals, headline the Pride Festival entertainment. The duo competed as Team Chippendales on "The Amazing Race," coming in second during Season 21. They will perform new, original songs during the festival (1-7 p.m. on June 29 in Montrose). Vaughan is a singer and Davis plays guitar. They employ those talents, among others, during a nightly Chippendales show in their own theater in Las Vegas.

Also topping the lineup is singer Alexis Jordan, who has scored three consecutive No. 1 singles on the Billboard dance chart, including recent topper "Acid Rain." She was a semifinalist on the first season of "America's Got Talent" at just 14 years

single, "R U Jealous Yet," is picking up steam all over the country. She graduated from the University of Texas and recently premiered the summery clip.

Lauren Miller is a local pop singer and performer with the Houston Burlesque Revue. She's performed at Bayou Music Center, AvantGarden, Cullens Live and Jones Hall. She was the Pride SuperStar

Pride continues on F8



Alexis Jordan

on performers

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Also topping the lineup is singer Alexis Jordan, who has scored three consecutive No. 1 singles on the Billboard dance chart, including recent topper "Acid Rain." She was a semifinalist on the first season of "America's Got Talent" at just 14 years old and eventually signed to Jay-Z's RocNation label. Jordan has scored several hits overseas and racked up millions of views for her YouTube covers. She is working on her second album.

The lineup also includes several promising pop locals. Houston native Chanel Dror's debut

single, "R U Jealous Yet," is picking up steam all over the country. She graduated from the University of Texas and recently premiered the summery clip.

Lauren Miller is a local pop singer and performer with the Houston Burlesque Revue. She's performed at Bayou Music Center, AvantGarden, Cullens Live and Jones Hall. She was the Pride SuperStar

Pride continues on F8



Mayra Beltrán / Houston Chronicle

Lauren Miller, a burlesque performer at Prohibition Bar, was a Pride SuperStar 2011 runner-up.



Alexis Jordan

Courtesy photo

PRIDE



Mayra Beltrán / Houston Chronicle

Houston native Chanel Dror's first single is "R U Jealous Yet."

Pride from page F4

2011 runner-up.

Christian Andreason and Kitten Kay Sera will team up to debut new single "Damn U." Andreason is a pop singer and motivational life coach. Sera is likely familiar to folks as a character actress and reality star of sorts. She's only worn pink for the past three decades and has been featured on "The Dog Whisperer," "Good Morning America," "Talk Soup" and other programs. She's also a native Houstonian. Her song "Sex Kitten" features backing vocals from a

young Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland.

Jess Walker featured a soulful pop sound last year on first single "Bones" and is finishing

Pride Festival schedule

(subject to change)

1:30 p.m. Pride Superstar 2013 finalists

2:15 p.m. Courtney Locke

2:45 p.m. Jess Walker

3:30 p.m. Lauren Miller

4 p.m. Chanel Dror

4:30 p.m. Jaymes Vaughan and James Davis

5:15 p.m. Christian Andreason and Kitten Kay Sera

5:45 p.m. Alexis Jordan

up a new EP. She's opened for the likes of Nina Hagen and God-Des & She and debuted music video "First & Last" in April.

Courtney Locke graduated from Taylor High School in Katy in 2008 and released "Last Dance" last month, a riff on the Donna Summer classic. She's the reigning Miss Ark-La-Texas (a tri-state pageant) and recently performed the national anthem before an Astros game at Minute Maid Park. Locke was inspired to join the lineup by her dad, who is gay.

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PRIDE

Pride's 10-day party

By Joey Guerra

The Houston LGBT Pride Festival and Parade aren't the only citywide celebrations. There are 10 days of official Pride events kicking off Thursday:

Pride Superstar Semifinals featuring Alyssa Edwards:

Six local singers vie for a slot in the finale of this seventh annual singing competition. "RuPaul's Drag Race" star Edwards guest judges and performs. Blake Hayes from Mix 96.5 FM hosts. 9:30 p.m. Thursday at South Beach, 810 Pacific. Free; 18 and older.

Eden — A Pride Girl Party: The first event for the women of the LGBT community, featuring DeeJay Kittie. (Guys are welcome, too.) 8 p.m. Friday at the Usual, 5519 Allen. Free; 21 and older.

Pride in the Park: The Houston Dynamo take on Toronto FC during a game dedicated to the local gay community. 8 p.m. Saturday at BBVA Compass Stadium, 2200 Texas. \$22 for 200 level seating.

Salvation — A Pride Pool Party: Open bar, light bites and lots of flashy swimsuits. Featuring Special K from KRBE (104.1 FM). 1 p.m. Sunday at

the Morty Rich Hostel, 501 Lovett. Donations taken at the door.

Dine With Pride: Enjoy a meal at Gratifi Kitchen and Bar in Montrose, and a portion of your bill goes to Pride Houston. Monday at 302 Fairview.

Rock the Runway: A swimwear/underwear fashion show featuring male and female models. Hosted by Special K. 8 p.m. Tuesday at South Beach. Free; 18 and older.

REEL
Pride: Screening of the documentary "Breaking Through," which features openly LGBT political leaders discussing professional triumphs and personal challenges. Houston Mayor Annise Parker is featured in the film. 7 p.m. Wednesday at River Oaks Theatre, 2009 W. Gray. \$10.
Pride Super-



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle
Houston Mayor Annise Parker

cording Studio (home of La Mafia), a cruise and an entry in the Pride Parade. 9:30 p.m. June 27 at South Beach. Free; 18 and older.

Wonderland Houston: Second annual circuit dance party featuring DJ Brett Henrichsen and cirque aerialists. Winter Wonderland is this year's theme. 9 p.m. June 28 at Bayou Music Center, 520 Texas. \$30-\$75; 18 and older.

Houston LGBT Pride Celebration: The festival runs 1-7 p.m. June 29 south of Westheimer along Commonwealth and Yoakum. It features performances by celebrity grand marshals Jaymes Vaughan and James Davis (Team Chippendales from "The Amazing Race"), Alexis Jordan, Chanel Dror, Lauren Miller, Jess Walker, Christian Andreason, Kitten Kay Sera, Courtney Locke and more. The parade starts at 8 p.m. and runs down Westheimer between Dunlavy and Montrose.

Pride Houston After Party: DJ Drew G. plays his signature dance-pop mashups. "RuPaul's Drag Race" star Jessica Wild performs and meets fans. 10 p.m. June



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JUNE 21 22 23

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Mathu Andersen

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Pride Superstar Finale: The final four singers compete for the title and prizes, including time at Urbana Re-



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Houston Mayor Annise Parker

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Pride Houston After Party: DJ Drew G. plays his signature dance-pop mashups. "RuPaul's Drag Race" star Jessica Wild performs and meets fans. 10 p.m. June 29 at South Beach. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door; 18 and older.

Rapture — A Pride Foam Party: Party in 10,000 cubic square feet of foam on the dance floor. Don't wear anything you really like. 9 p.m. June 30 at South Beach. Free before 10 p.m. by texting SOBE to 46786, \$8 after 10 p.m.; 18 and older.

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PRIDE



Sara Kelly

Leo Laredo made an impression during the Pride Superstar competition.

Putting together the perfect playlist

By Joey Guerra

“Light Up the Skies,” Jaymes Vaughan and James Davis: A guitar-driven pop track with a simple hook (“We’ve got tonight/Let’s make it right”) that calls to mind the Black Eyed Peas.

“Happiness,” Alexis Jordan: International dance smash with lyrics — “Through strength I found love/In time I found myself in happiness ...” — that could double as a Pride anthem.

“R U Jealous Yet,” Chanel Dror: This breezy anthem seems tailor-made for summers in Houston. And not just because Dror is from here.

“First & Last,” Jess Walker: A soulful pop original from the burgeoning Houston act. It’ll be stuck in your head after a single listen.

“I Wanna Be an Amazing Man,” Christian Andreason: A self-empowering anthem about being a better person and remembering that we are all, indeed, created equal.

“Sex Kitten,” Kitten Kay Sera featuring Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland: Before they became icons, the bulk of Destiny’s



NBC

Sarah Golden performed on Season 2 of “The Voice.”

Child provided backup on this ‘60s-inspired tune from the woman who only wears pink.

“Just Praise,” Leo Laredo: The Pride Superstar finalist goes to church on this autobiographical tune about embracing his musicality.

“Hold Me Down,” Wendy Taylor: Another PSS contender (and “American Idol” top 42 hopeful) wails like a diva on this urgent original from her EP.

“I’m in Love With a Girl (But She Used to Be

a Man),” the Sexual Side Effects: This one explains it all in the title. (Atlanta rock band SSE, led by transgender singer Amber Taylor, performed at the 2012 Pride Festival).

“Wild World,” Sarah Golden: A stirring song about preconceived notions and stereotypes. Local folk favorite Golden was seen on Season 2 of “The Voice” and performed at the 2012 Pride Festival.

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Wendy Brown / Focus On 'U' Photography

Wendy Taylor took part in the Pride Superstar competition and “American Idol.”

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Location	Flood stage	Latest stage	24-hr. chg.
Brays Bayou	South Main	54 16.6	0.0
Brazos River	Bryan	43 7.5	0.0
	Hempstead	50 9.4	-0.3
	Richmond	48 8.6	-0.1
Buffalo Bayou	Piney Point	50 27.9	0.0
	Shepherd Dr.	23 1.1	+0.1
Clear Creek	Friendswood	12 0.4	+0.1
Colorado R.	Austin	29 14.2	-0.2
	Bastrop	25 3.4	0.0
	La Grange	32 4.6	0.0
	Columbus	34 10.1	+0.1
	Wharton	39 7.4	0.0
	Bay City	44 2.1	+0.4
	Greens Bayou	Eastex Fwy.	61 38.7
Guadalupe R.	Hunt	12 7.6	0.0
	Comfort	26 7.6	0.0
	Spring Branch	36 1.8	0.0
	New Braunfels	7 1.6	0.0
	Gonzales	31 10.8	-0.8
	Cuero	20 7	+0.1
Victoria	21 4.9	-0.1	
	Little River	30 1	0.0
Cameron	30 1	0.0	
	Navasota R.	Easterly	19 2.9
Neches River	Evadale	19 5.2	0.0
Pine Island B.	Sour Lake	25 12.1	-0.1
Sabine River	Orange	4 0.9	+0.1
San Bernard R.	E. Bernard	17 6	0.0
	Sweeny	16 10.8	-0.4
E. San Jac. R.	Cleveland	19 3.9	0.0
W. San Jac. R.	Conroe	20 93.8	0.0
San Jacinto R.	Sheldon	10 0.2	+0.2
Sims Bayou	Telephone Rd.	30 4.6	+0.1
Trinity River	Goodrich	36 5	-0.1
	Liberty	26 6.4	-0.2
Village Creek	Kountze	20 3	+0.2
White Oak B.	Heights Blvd.	48 7.8	0.0

INTERNATIONAL

Detroit	79/58/sh	79/63/ts
Duluth	80/55/pc	76/52/pc
Fairbanks	84/59/ts	79/54/pc
Fargo	82/57/pc	83/59/pc
Fresno	111/80/pc	112/80/pc
Great Falls	92/61/pc	93/61/pc
Hartford	81/68/ts	80/69/ts
Helena	94/60/pc	95/62/pc
Honolulu	84/74/pc	85/74/pc
Indianapolis	73/60/ts	74/64/ts
Jackson, MS	90/65/pc	85/66/pc
Jacksonville	87/74/pc	86/73/ts
Juneau	76/52/f	71/54/r
Kansas City	78/59/pc	78/59/pc
Las Vegas	118/92/pc	118/92/pc
Little Rock	81/63/pc	82/63/pc
Los Angeles	83/69/f	81/67/f
Louisville	78/65/ts	79/65/ts
Memphis	81/66/ts	81/65/ts
Miami	89/77/ts	88/78/ts
Milwaukee	70/58/pc	73/58/pc
Minneapolis	81/61/pc	81/60/pc
Montgomery	91/70/ts	91/71/ts
Nashville	82/65/ts	81/64/ts
New Orleans	92/72/pc	88/74/pc
New York City	81/70/ts	80/71/ts
Norfolk, VA	83/74/ts	83/73/ts
Oklahoma City	83/60/pc	82/59/pc
Omaha	79/56/pc	81/58/pc
Orlando	92/75/ts	88/73/ts
Philadelphia	85/71/ts	86/73/ts
Phoenix	115/87/pc	113/86/pc
Pittsburgh	79/63/ts	79/64/ts
Portland, ME	80/64/ts	76/65/ts
Portland, OR	91/65/s	93/66/s
Providence	80/69/ts	81/69/ts
Raleigh	86/71/ts	82/71/ts
Richmond	84/72/ts	84/72/ts
Sacramento	106/69/s	107/71/pc
Salt Lake City	102/71/pc	101/72/pc
San Diego	75/68/f	75/68/f
San Francisco	74/58/s	74/58/pc
Santa Fe	89/58/pc	82/56/ts
Seattle	87/65/s	89/64/s
Shreveport	90/66/pc	88/66/pc
Sioux Falls	79/54/pc	79/56/pc
St. Louis	78/61/ts	79/62/ts
Syracuse	81/65/ts	81/67/ts
Tucson	110/81/pc	106/80/pc
Tulsa	84/62/pc	83/58/pc
Washington, D.C.	85/74/ts	84/72/ts
Wichita	84/60/pc	83/60/pc

AFRICA		
Algiers	80/59/s	84/60/s
Cairo	96/71/s	93/71/s
Cape Town	62/48/pc	62/50/pc
Casablanca	86/71/pc	82/69/pc
Dakar	82/71/pc	84/71/r
Johannesburg	66/50/s	68/50/s
Lagos	84/73/ts	84/75/pc
Nairobi	71/57/ts	68/57/ts
Tunis	84/66/pc	82/66/s

ASIA/PACIFIC		
Bangkok	93/78/pc	95/78/s
Beijing	87/69/pc	87/71/pc
Ho Chi Minh	91/77/ts	91/77/pc
Hong Kong	89/80/ts	91/78/pc
Islamabad	98/75/pc	93/78/s
Jakarta	89/75/ts	91/75/pc
Karachi	93/86/pc	95/84/pc
Kuala Lumpur	93/75/s	93/75/pc
Manila	89/77/ts	86/77/ts
New Delhi	102/84/pc	96/82/pc
Seoul	89/71/pc	87/71/ts
Shanghai	82/69/ts	86/75/pc
Singapore	91/78/ts	91/80/ts
Sydney	64/50/r	64/46/s
Taipei	89/82/s	89/80/pc
Tokyo	78/68/r	75/66/pc

CANADA		
Calgary	80/51/pc	78/53/pc
Edmonton	82/60/pc	82/64/s
Montreal	71/59/r	75/60/pc
Toronto	73/60/pc	71/62/pc
Vancouver	75/60/r	80/60/s
Winnipeg	78/55/s	82/53/s

EUROPE		
Amsterdam	62/50/pc	68/57/pc
Athens	87/68/s	82/69/s
Berlin	66/48/r	64/51/pc
Brussels	64/48/r	68/53/s
Budapest	73/53/r	73/48/r
Copenhagen	62/53/r	60/53/r
Dublin	71/51/pc	66/48/r
Frankfurt	68/46/r	69/57/s
Geneva	64/50/r	71/53/pc
Istanbul	84/73/ts	86/69/ts
Lisbon	91/69/s	89/64/s
London	71/55/pc	77/57/pc
Madrid	91/62/s	93/64/s
Moscow	87/66/s	82/60/ts

Paris	68/48/pc	75/53/s
Prague	66/50/r	64/50/pc
Rome	80/55/s	84/59/pc
Stockholm	69/53/pc	69/48/r
Vienna	71/53/s	69/53/pc
Warsaw	73/53/s	64/51/r
Zurich	60/51/r	69/48/r

LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN		
Bogota	71/50/ts	66/50/ts
Buenos Aires	62/46/s	57/48/s
Caracas	80/66/ts	80/68/ts
Havana	87/73/ts	87/71/ts
Kingston	87/80/ts	89/80/ts
Lima	62/59/pc	64/59/cd
Rio	86/71/s	84/69/pc
San Juan	88/77/ts	86/78/sh
San Salvador	80/68/ts	82/66/ts
Santiago	51/37/pc	55/44/pc
Sao Paulo	75/62/s	68/60/ts
St. Thomas	88/79/r	89/80/r

MEXICO		
Acapulco	82/77/pc	87/77/r
Cancun	87/75/ts	87/77/ts
Chihuahua	96/68/s	96/69/pc
Guadalajara	82/59/pc	82/60/s
Guanajuato	89/55/s	87/57/pc
Mazatlan	87/77/pc	86/75/s
Merida	91/75/cd	93/73/pc
Mexico City	77/53/pc	77/51/s
Puerto Vallarta	91/75/ts	91/77/pc
Tampico	89/77/pc	89/75/pc
Veracruz	87/73/pc	91/73/pc

MIDDLE EAST		
Baghdad	113/86/s	114/86/s
Beirut	89/73/s	87/73/s
Dubai	105/87/s	102/87/s
Jerusalem	91/69/s	89/69/s
Kabul	89/62/s	86/64/s
Mecca	111/86/s	113/86/pc
Riyadh	107/78/s	109/82/pc
Tehran	84/68/r	89/68/s
Tel Aviv	87/73/s	84/73/pc

Weather page prepared by Weather Underground Inc., San Francisco, Calif. 

TEXAS LAKES

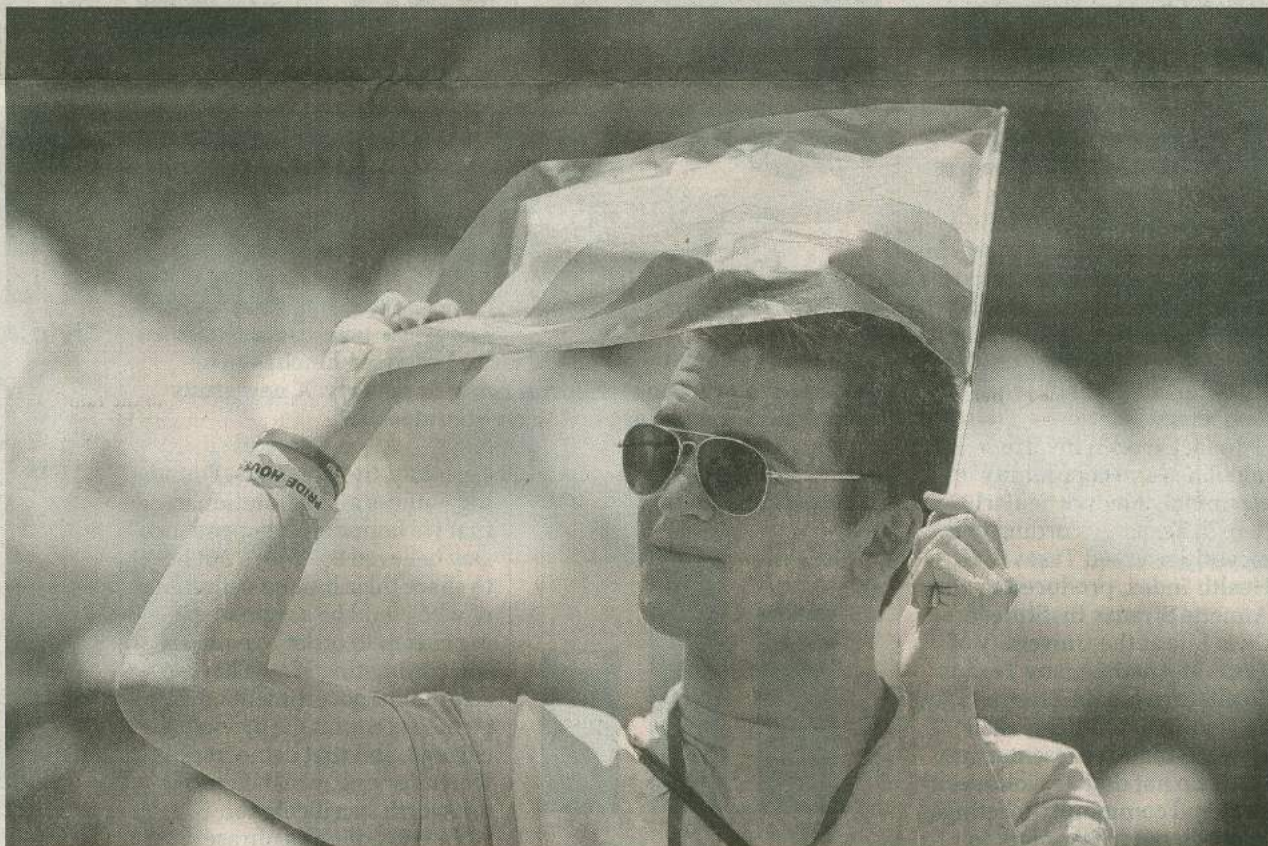
	Full level	Actual level	Release cfs
Canyon Dam	909	899.7	61
Conroe	201	198.4	0.0
Houston	41.73	41.8	0.0
Lake Travis	681	626.9	0.0
Livingston	131	131.2	1060

Key to conditions

c.....	cloudy	h.....	hazy	r.....	rain	sh.....	showers
d.....	drizzle	i.....	ice	rs.....	rain/snow	sn.....	snow
f.....	fair	mm.....	missing	s.....	sunny	ts.....	thunderstorms
fg.....	fog	pc.....	partly cloudy	sf.....	flurries	w.....	windy

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wunderground.com



Mayra Beltrán photos / Houston Chronicle

Ryan Tyler Ash finds a rainbow flag can also be used for shade while enjoying entertainment at the festival.

Theme for '13: 'Pride Unleashed'

Theme from page B1

celebrating the court ruling.

"That's how amazing this past decision was," said Frankie Quijano, CEO and president of Pride Houston. "This year, above all years, is definitely a time to celebrate because we've worked so hard as a community to get equal treatment."

Darrin Brindle and his partner, Mark Eggleston, were legally wed in California when the state first began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2008. They say the landmark decision was a reason to celebrate, but it's just a "stepping stone" on the journey to equal rights and acceptance for the LGBT community.

Cheers and kisses

"It was a lot of hugging and kissing going on," said Brindle, who watched at home as the decision was announced on Wednesday. "There was just a lot of joy and



Andrea Trevino and C.J. Tate kiss in front of demonstrators Chris LePelley and Victor Persinger along Westheimer near the route of Saturday's Houston Pride Festival in Houston's Montrose neighborhood.

there was also a lot of hope for the future."

Food trucks and tents lined Westheimer Road between Dunlavy and Montrose in the early afternoon to prepare for the pride celebration. The summer heat was intense — temperatures soaring well above 100 degrees — but it didn't stop people

right in front of the demonstrators to kiss, drawing cheers from the crowd across the street.

Hope for Texas' future

"It's almost like a joke that those people would even show up," Eggleston said of the protesters. "But that's what they choose to do despite the growing support we get."

Thirteen states currently recognize legal same-sex marriage, but the decision has little impact on the second largest state in the nation.

"I would love to see Texans open up their minds a little more and be more accepting," Ronny Adriansyah said in response to whether same-sex marriages would ever be legal in Texas.

"You can't prevent people from falling in love and they're going to want to get married," said Adriansyah, "because ... that's one of the basic needs of all human beings."

from arriving early to claim the best spots to watch the parade that started later in the night.

"Pride Unleashed" was this year's official theme, and some couples chose to display their pride in front of protesters who showed up with signs declaring homosexuality a sin. One couple stopped

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Mayra Beltrán / Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON PRIDE FESTIVAL 400,000-plus show up to party with a purpose

A sizable crowd was in a celebratory mood on Saturday for the 35th annual Houston Pride Festival and Parade in Montrose. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to dismiss a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act fueled the festive atmosphere for the events. **See story, page B1.**



Weather

Partly cloudy, High 98, Low 70

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