

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 36 | Issue 43 | FREE | Friday, February 28, 2020



## Walk the Rainbow

The first of 10 rainbow crosswalks installed this week

by David Taffet, Page 8

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### Stacy Bailey, Mansfield ISD announce settlement in discrimination lawsuit

Art teacher Stacy Bailey and Mansfield ISD have reached a settlement in her lawsuit against the district, according to Bailey's attorney, Jason Smith, who announced the settlement on Feb. 25 and said it "is a win-win for Stacy and the educators and students in Mansfield ISD."

Bailey said, "The agreements the district and I made in this settlement are a positive first step in making things better for gay employees, gay students and gay families in Mansfield."

Bailey was an art teacher at MISD's Charlotte Anderson Elementary and was twice selected teacher of the year. However, after Bailey showed a photo of her "future wife" along with photos of her family to students during a welcome to school presentation in August 2017, she was accused of promoting a "homosexual agenda" and, shortly afterward, suspended for more than eight months. Bailey filed suit.

According to the settlement, MISD agrees to withdraw the designation of "administrative leave" regarding Bailey's eight-month suspension. The district also agreed to provide mandatory training to human resources and counseling staff regarding LGBTQ issues in school, as part of the district's social and emotional health training, and to offer optional training for administrators, educators, staff or parents who are interested. And the board agreed to vote on adding "a prohibition of 'sexual orientation' discrimination to its policies."

The school district also agreed to provide Bailey with a letter of recommendation for "any future employers" and to pay Bailey and her attorney \$100,000.

Bailey and her wife, Julie Vazquez, will donate \$10,000 of the settlement to a non-profit addressing LGBTQ student issues, and Smith will donate \$10,000 of his reduced fee to the Human Rights Campaign.

— Tammye Nash

### 9 Dallas restaurants/chefs named semifinalists for James Beard Awards

Several Dallas restaurants, bars and individuals were singled out for nominations

as semifinalists for the James Beard Awards, the preeminent honors in food, drink and dining.

In total, nine Dallasites were singled out: Salaryman, which was my No. 3 new restaurant in 2019, is one of 30 places nationwide nominated for best new restaurant. Clyde Greenhouse of Kessler Baking Studio in Bishop Arts is in the running for best baker, again nationwide. Las Almas Rotas has been cited as best bar program in America.

Two local pastry chefs — Maggie Huff of Homewood (my No. 2 restaurant of 2019) and Ricardo "Ricchi" Sanchez of Bullion (my favorite fine-dining restaurant of 2018) — are semifinalists as outstanding pastry chef in the country.

Finally, four Dallas Chefs have been cited as best chef/Texas: Donny Sirisavath of Khao Noodle Shop, which I declared the best restaurant (casual) of 2018 (pictured) will compete against Regino Rojas of Revolver Taco Lounge, Misti Norris of Petra and the Beast and Teichi Sakurai of Tei-An.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

### Texas GOP platform plank would criminalize doctors treating trans kids

Even as Log Cabin Republicans continue to fight to get their party to move forward on LGBTQ issues, some GOP officials continue to throw red meat to the party's homophobic base, most recently in the form of a platform proposal on the Texas GOP primary ballot targeting transgender youth.

The proposed platform plank reads:

"Texas should ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for transition purposes, given that Texas children as young as three (3) are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex."

Transgender activist Leslie McMurray described the proposed plank as "pure manufactured bullshit designed to rile up a base of voters too lazy to fact check it."

The proposed platform plank is part of a trend of transphobic legislation currently making the rounds in state legislatures. Eight legislatures have introduced legislations so far in 2020 that would enact statutes making it a crime for doctors treating adolescents with gender dysphoria to follow best practices, such as prescribing puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones.

Texas Republicans have pledged to introduce similar bills in 2021, as have lawmakers in Utah and Georgia. And while a bill under consideration in New Hampshire wouldn't criminalize doctors treating trans youth, it would classify gender-affirming care for trans minors as "child abuse."

— Tammye Nash

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# THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

## FEBRUARY

### • Feb. 28: Go Red for Women Luncheon

The American Heart Association luncheon features Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum who's devoted her career to early detection, education and prevention of heart disease at Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. [GoRedForWomen.org](http://GoRedForWomen.org).

### • Feb. 28: Log Cabin Republicans candidate debate

Log Cabin hosts a debate among five candidates for U.S. House District 32. Meet and greet at 6 p.m., forum at 6:30 p.m., candidate time with constituents at 8:30 p.m. at Venture X Uptown Dallas, 3232 McKinney Ave.

### • Feb. 28-29: Austin Car Club meet up

LGBT car clubs from around Texas meet at LaQuinta Inn, 11901 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin. [ClassicChassis.com](http://ClassicChassis.com).

### • Feb. 29: Understanding Transgender Identities and Realities

Deepen understanding of transgender topics and practice skills to be a great ally from 6-9 p.m. at First Unitarian

Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Ave. \$10. Register at [dct.org/andiboi](http://dct.org/andiboi).

### • Feb. 29: TAG Game Night

Tyler Area Gays game night will be held at The Well, 3320 Troup Hwy, Suite 230, Tyler. [TylerAreaGays.com](http://TylerAreaGays.com).

### • Feb. 29-April 19: Sherwood Forest Faire

A 25-acre medieval village with 100 permanent buildings 40 miles from downtown Austin with more than 170 artisans and merchants. Sherwood Forest Faire, 1883 Old Hwy 20, McDade. \$22. [SherwoodForestFaire.com](http://SherwoodForestFaire.com).

## MARCH

### • March 1: PrimeTimers

Games hosted at 2 p.m. in Oak Cliff. For address and directions, call 214-218-0912.

### • March 1: Queer and Trans Inclusive Lactation Workshop

Queer and trans inclusive lactation education workshop to help LGBTQ parents and prospective parents navigate the challenges of infant feeding options hosted by Precision Chiropractic from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 4255 Bryant Irvin Road #101, Fort Worth. [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com).

### • March 1: Evening of Hope Launch Party

Evening of Hope benefits AIDS Outreach Center. This year's theme is the Roaring 20s from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at

Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams, 5001 Ozona Blvd., Fort Worth. \$25 at the door.

### • March 3: PrimeTimers

First Tuesday lunch at Golden Corral at 11:30 a.m., 3312 Forest Lane. 214-218-0912.

### • March 3: Classic Chassis Car Club

Members socialize and talk about their rides beginning with a tire kick in the parking lot at 6 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

### • March 3: Brewing Up Business Plano

Develop business relationships and practice your elevator speech from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Legacy Texas Bank, 3512 Preston Road. Members free. General admission \$10 advance/ \$20 at the door.

### • March 4: Wine Walk

Monthly first Wednesday wine walk on Cedar Springs Road. Purchase glass outside The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • March 5: Travelin' Voices

The Women's Chorus of Dallas sixth annual celebration of women composers for Women's History Month features Moira Smiley with her ensemble VOCCO — known for providing visceral and experimental musical experiences — along with 200+ voices from TWCD and collegiate and high school choirs at

7:30 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$20-45. [TWCD.org](http://TWCD.org).

### • March 9: Gender inclusive career workshop

Navigating the workplace as a trans or gender variant person can come with questions and challenges. These free workshops empower with information on how to prepare, search, find, interview and land a compatible and inclusive job from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

### • March 10: Same-sex partner grief group

Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • March 11: PrimeTimers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Mario's, 5404 Lemmon Ave. 214-218-0912.

### • March 12: Punch Bowl Social

The LGBT Chamber of Commerce holds its Business Connections Mixer/ New Member Showcase at Punch Bowl Social, 2600 Main St. [LGBTChamber.com](http://LGBTChamber.com).

### • March 12: Thrive mixer

Dinner with speaker award-winning master gardener Nancy Wilson from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.** on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink with this week's guest is the **Rev. Christopher Thomas** of St. Thomas the Apostle Church; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets Mondays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwylar Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets

Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. First Monday is birthday night at 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or [Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); **LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St.

For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive**, program of Resource Center for LGBTQ adults 50+ support group every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by free lunch at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525

Inwood Road. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

• **March 12-15: TBRU XXV**

Texas Bear Round Up's theme this year is A Roman Holiday at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. TBRU.org.

• **March 13-15: Sweethearts & Orphans**

Classic Chassis Car Club visits Waxahachie's Sweethearts & Orphans car event. Info at ClassicChassis.com.

• **March 14: DFW Gaymers**

Game night for LGBTQ gaymers from 7:30-10:50 p.m. at Common Ground Games, 1328 Inwood Road.

• **March 14: Graffiti Arts Festival**

Spray can artists create billboard-sized murals, shop for crafts and eat from food trucks from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1953 Golden Heights Road, Fort Worth.

• **March 14: PrimeTimers**

Irish Fest at 10 a.m. at Fair Park. 214-218-0912.

• **March 16: Gender inclusive career workshop**

Navigating the workplace as a trans or gender variant person can come with questions and challenges. These free workshops empower with information on how to prepare, search, find, interview and land a compatible and inclusive job from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

• **March 16: Pride festival tickets go on sale**

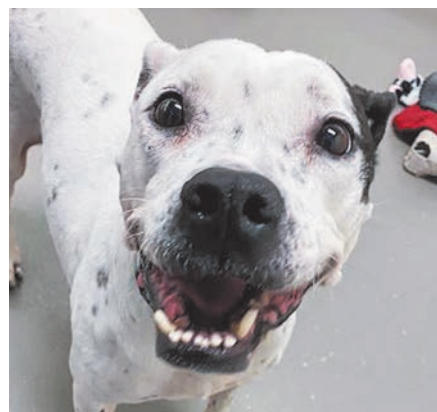
Tickets to the 2020 Pride festival on June 6 go on sale. Purchase tickets at DallasPride.org.

• **March 17: St. Patrick's Day**

• **March 18: PrimeTimers**

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Cheddars, 12355 Greenville Ave. 214-218-0912.

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# City begins installing rainbow crosswalks

When the project is completed in a couple of months, Cedar Springs will have gateway signs and 10 rainbows

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The first rainbow crosswalks were installed on Cedar Springs Road this week, as construction at the intersection with Oak Lawn Avenue was completed. An additional feature is set to be added near that intersection — a gateway monument — but that won't interfere with the crosswalks.

North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Vedda, who has been involved with the design of the street improvements and whose organization will maintain the crosswalks, said "monument" is really the wrong word; it's actually gateway signage.

Two signs will be placed — one in the new, widened median on Oak Lawn Avenue near the Legacy of Love monument, and one in the median near Kroger.

A total of 10 rainbow crosswalks will be installed on Cedar Springs Road between Douglas and Oak Lawn avenues, but the additional crosswalks won't be installed until other construction is complete at those intersections.

The crosswalks are made of thermoplastic, Vedda said, explaining the process: The stripes are glued to the pavement or asphalt, and then heat is applied to make the strips permanently adhere. He said thermoplastic will last longer than paint.

The Oak Lawn crosswalks look like they're painted, unlike the one on McKinney Avenue near West Village. That

Uptown crosswalk looks like a plastic floor covering and gets slick in the rain.

The plastic used on Cedar Springs Road affects available color choices, which is why the green in the crosswalks is not the more familiar bright Kelly green in the rainbow flag. Vedda said had the crosswalks been painted, they would have had a wider choice of colors to select from, because the paint could have been custom mixed. Instead, Vedda said, the city had to choose from colors available from the manufacturer of the thermoplastic product being used.

The cost of installing the rainbow crosswalks is being funded by private donations. The committee that raised the money presented a check for \$128,250 to



The first of the rainbow crosswalks was installed on Cedar Springs Road, above, and the community presented the city a check for \$128,250 to pay for them. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



the city by on Feb. 12. Former Mayor Pro Tem Chris Luna spearheaded the fundraising effort.

Maintenance of the crosswalks will also be paid for with private funding raised by the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Lighting for the gateway signage will be maintained by the

Cedar Springs Merchants Association with private funding as well.

Other upgrades to the street are being paid for with city bond money, including a new traffic signal at Knight Street, where there have been several fatal accidents over the years. Other upgrades include landscaping, sidewalk repairs,

a new plaza in front of Hunky's and bump-outs.

The plaza on Cedar Springs Road at Throckmorton takes away three parking spaces that were not up to code. Those spaces are replaced by four new spaces next to Hunky's along Throckmorton Street.

The bump-outs narrow the street to make crossing on foot safer. But they have also made it harder for drivers to turn and are being redesigned. Also being redesigned are the sidewalk ramps at Throckmorton and Cedar Springs. Vedda said they were laid out poorly, and, he added, he's not sure what they will eventually look like.

"They're still working on that," he said.

Construction is expected to continue through April, with the additional rainbow crosswalks added as each intersection is completed.

"We're close to the finish line," Vedda said.

But don't expect everyone to be excited about Oak Lawn's new rainbows. Dallas City Councilman David Blewett's office has already gotten calls calling the new crosswalks graffiti. ■



# Texas votes on Super Tuesday

17 candidates are on the ballot for president in the Texas Democratic Primary, and a variety of down-ballot nominees will be also chosen

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**O**ne third of delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be decided on Super Tuesday — March 3 — as voters in 13 states cast their ballots for presidential nominees as well as nominees in a number of down-ballot races.

South Carolina holds its primary Saturday, Feb. 29, and the outcome of that



race may affect who many undecided voters, vote for on Super Tuesday.

Texas and California are among the states that will choose delegates on Tuesday. Three candidates' home states are among the Super Tuesday contests — Minnesota, Amy Klobuchar; Vermont,

Bernie Sanders; and Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren.

In Texas, early voting has been going on for two weeks. During the first week of early voting, 40,000 more Democrats voted than Republicans. Since early voting started in Texas, turnout in the Dem-

ocratic primary is up in each of the 10 largest counties compared to 2016, but down compared to voting in 2008, the year Barack Obama was first nominated.

In Denton and Collin counties, both

VOTE, Page 11

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# LGBT organizations across North Texas owed money

Here's how to get it

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Contributing Writer

james.journo@gmail.com

**P**harmaceutical company Sanofi Aventis owes Dallas Voice \$968.

The Voice is among the millions of Texans, businesses, non-profits and states agencies owed money, according to the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the state's tax assessor and collector and repository of unclaimed funds.

"Like a lost and found" is how Kevin Lyons, a spokesperson for the comptroller's office, described the division, which was implemented in 1963. State statute requires entities report unclaimed funds

lion is there for Tarrant County residents. Statewide, around \$3 billion in funds are waiting to be claimed.

The high number can be attributed to no statute of limitations for filing claims.

"That means the state could hold onto funds for decades," Lyons noted.

All 50 states, Washington, D.C., the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have resources to claim property, thanks to these escheatment laws. These laws, the name deriving from Latin for "to fall out," date back to medieval England, according to the Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization, and, in the United States, are philosophically rooted in the time-held American tradition of private property rights.

"Under English common law, any lands held 'by tenure' (i.e., occupied by someone other than the owner) were returned to

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission, states use the unclaimed funds to sell the securities in escheated accounts and treat the proceeds as state funds.

"When a former account owner makes a valid request, however, the states will normally provide the former owner with cash equaling the value of the account at the time of escheatment. This amount of cash does not include any dividends or interest covering the time after escheatment," according to the federal agency's website.

These laws are state-based and not federal, however, creating a patchwork of state laws that makes compliance and reporting difficult. Texas, for instance, does not display small properties under \$25, and money orders, cashier's checks and gift cards are often reported with no name at all.

But if you can dig, the property is waiting. All you have to do is go online to ClaimItTexas.org. There, claimants can type in a name, including names of individual or businesses, and see listings that are exact matches or those close to it.

The same person could be listed under various names. For example, Robert Frederick Smith could go by Bob Smith, R.F. Smith or R. Smith. The location is sometimes but not always included, making the process more difficult.

Name differences can easily be ver-

to the state after five years.

Dallas Voice has compiled a list of local organizations and businesses owned by LGBTQ people or serving the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities with claimable funds, which include PayPal fees, utility bills, insurance claims, forgotten bank account funds, rental deposits, mineral rights and myriad other tangible property.

As of December 2019, about \$600 million in unclaimed funds are waiting for Dallas County residents, and \$300 mil-

the feudal lord upon the death of an heirless tenant."

In 1954, the U.S. Commission on Uniform State Laws debuted the first model unclaimed property law. Since then, the law has been revised, first in 1966 then in 1981 and again in 1995. These revisions added other forms of property, such as gift cards, and stiffened penalties for failure to comply.

ified by submitting additional info, such as a Social Security number and proof of ownership.

But transgender and gender non-conforming people may have a harder time verifying the property, even if it is rightfully theirs. Because not everyone's name or gender marker corresponds to the identification on record regarding these unclaimed funds.

## Organizations, businesses due unclaimed funds

1851 Club: \$34.50  
 AIDS Arms: \$404.51  
 AIDS Food Pantry: \$50.00  
 AIDS Healthcare Foundation: \$438  
 Ahi Sushi: \$32.43  
 Black Tie Dinner: \$3,879.60  
 Broadway Baptist Church: \$45.50  
 Bruce Wood Dance Company: \$62.99  
 Cathedral of Hope: \$55.00  
 Caven Enterprises: \$243.98  
 Celebration Community Church: \$160.75  
 Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance: \$43.39  
 Club Changes: \$203.87  
 Dallas Voice and Voice Publishing Co.: \$1,241.00  
 DIFFA: \$113.34 (A listing for \$70 for a DIFFA could not be confirmed as no location was provided.)  
 Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Dallas: \$360.93  
 Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas: \$104.57  
 HIV Prevention and Consulting: \$745.90  
 ilume and ilume Park: \$3,384.28  
 Legacy Counseling Center: \$268.48  
 Lesbian Gay Democrats: \$537.08  
 Log Cabin Republicans of Texas - Dallas: \$73.99  
 Lost Souls Rugby Club: \$78.55  
 Marquis at Cedar Springs: \$443.70  
 Oak Lawn Clinic: \$295.33  
 Oak Lawn Community Services: \$3,980.87  
 Oak Lawn United Methodist Church: \$405.84  
 Resource Center: \$1,014.06  
 Tarrant County Gay and Lesbian Alliance: \$490  
 Texas AIDS Rides: \$300  
 Tanqueray Texas AIDS Ride: \$434.82  
 Transgender Education Network of Texas: \$600  
 Turtle Creek Chorale: \$40.67  
 Women's Chorus of Dallas: \$416.81



traditionally red counties, Democratic voting is double this year compared to 2016. In purple Tarrant County, voting is up by about 50 percent compared to four years ago, and in blue Dallas County, voting is up by about a third.

On the Republican side, voting is down by about 2,000 votes in Dallas County and by more than 2,000 votes in Tarrant County. Collin and Denton counties both show an increase over 2016, but by only a few hundred votes each. In both counties, more Republicans voted than Democrats.

The good news, though, is that the so-called "Texas Two-Step" is long gone. Texans used to go to the polls on primary day to vote for candidates on the ballot, but delegates were selected that evening at caucuses. The caucus portion is gone from the process.

Today, candidates need to get at least 15 percent of the vote in Texas to get delegates. Theoretically, up to six candidates could receive delegates in Texas.

Because candidates had to sign up in December, 17 names appear on the pres-



idential ballot. Should Andrew Yang or Cory Booker receive enough votes in the primary, they would get delegates. And because of the way ballot position is randomly chosen, Michael Bennet, who has withdrawn from the race, is in the top position, while Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Tom Steyer, who are all still in the race and all appeared in this

week's debate, are toward the bottom.

On the Republican side, seven names will appear on the ballot, including that of Donald Trump. The only other two on all or most other state ballots are Joe Walsh and Bill Weld.

Texas holds open primaries. That means when voters go to the polls, they decide then which ballot to vote — ei-

ther Republican or Democratic. The number of delegates chosen will be decided on primary day, but who those delegates will be are decided at state conventions, which draw delegates from senatorial district conventions.

The Texas Democratic Convention will be June 4-6 in San Antonio, and the national Democratic Convention will be July 13-16 in Milwaukee. The Texas GOP Convention will be May 14-16 in Houston, and the Republican National Convention will held Aug. 24-27 in Charlotte.

A number of down-ballot nominees — including those for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, the Texas House, judicial seats and some local races depending on precinct — will be on the ballot. In most counties, on primary day, voters must go to their local precinct. In Dallas County, voters may vote at any polling location. ■

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■ commUNITYvoices

GOP's Prop 6: The height of political pandering

I've lived a lot of places. Dallas is the 13th different city, and Texas makes the seventh state I've lived in, so I have some perspective in making comparisons.

We are in the middle of a census, which will update the population estimates soon, but as of 2019, Texas was estimated to have just under 30 million inhabitants, second only to California. And about 900,000 Texans make important state-wide decisions about how we live our lives.

That's the number of Texans who vote down ballot in the Republican primary, and if you win the Republican primary in Texas, you win statewide office.

That's been the case since 1994, the last year a Democrat won a statewide office in Texas. No other state has gone longer.

So, those who vote in the Republican primary end up determining the fate of the other 28 million Texans.

On the GOP ballot for Super Tuesday this year are some "propositions" for planks in the state GOP platform. These are really just opinion pieces; they carry no force of law. BUT they DO provide guidance to legislators as to what the "dog whistle," or wedge, issues are that would endear them to primary voters.

Among those propositions is Prop 6. Here's what it says:

"Keep in mind that this is an opinion poll of Republican voters and not a policy referendum. When you vote YES or NO, you are telling us what you think should happen. You are not voting to make a law but merely saying YES you agree or NO you do not agree with the statement.

"6.) Texas should ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for transition purposes, given that Texas children as young as three (3) are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex."

Let me make this perfectly clear: Proposition six also has absolutely NO basis in fact.

I spend a fair amount of my professional time speaking at medical schools,



Leslie McMurray  
Accidental Activist

and I know there is a significant lack of information within the medical community at large. So imagine what it might be among the gener-

al public!

Then, let's narrow that down to the crowd that makes up the 900,000 GOP primary voters.

Good grief.

Not only are these voters being asked their opinion on something they know absolutely nothing about, the question itself they are being asked is a complete tangle of lies!

If legislators really wanted to gather information and learn about transgender healthcare, maybe they should speak to a doctor who knows something about it — say, for instance, like Dr. Ximina Lopez at the Genecis Clinic in Dallas. There is an abundance of information from mainstream medical organizations that support affirming care.

The fact is, there is NO MEDICAL transition for a transgender child who has not reached Tanner Stage 2 of puberty. For a young child, transition — if it happens at all — is purely social. Maybe it will involve a change of name, pronouns, hairstyle and clothing — ALL of which are 100 percent reversible.

There is no medical transition on children as young as 3. Where do they get the nonsense!?

Proposition 6 mentions genital mutilation surgery — you mean like circumcision?

Gender-related surgery for trans patients doesn't generally happen — if it happens at all — until at least age 18.

If this weren't so deadly serious, it would be laughable. The idiot who wrote this fiction clearly knows little of

the human body. The proposition suggests we wait until age 18 — the age at which a person is no longer a minor — before puberty blockers are administered. Seriously? Is there ANYONE you know who HASN'T gone through puberty by then?

Block something that has already happened? You can't. And puberty isn't reversible.

Puberty blockers, however, are reversible. Kids aren't chemically castrated. It's far more complex than that.

One of the biggest issues parents of trans kids have to work through is sterility. Some people don't want kids; some do. Some donate eggs or sperm before surgery. It's a case of informed consent.

But the most important thing to remember here is this: It's none of your fucking business if it's not your body or your kid's body!

This is doctor/patient stuff. It is not the concern of GOP primary voters. It's none of the business of insurance companies or the Texas Legislature.

I hated my puberty. I would do almost anything to have not gone through it. I hate being six feet tall with size 12 feet and a voice that gets me a cheery "Thank you, sir" when I use a drive through or talk on the phone.

NONE of those things can be fixed, and that's just for starters. I WISH puberty blockers were around when I was a kid, but they weren't.

Proposition 6 doesn't carry the force of law, even if GOP primary voters approve it. But it puts ideas in the heads of pandering fools, like Matt Krause in Fort Worth who has vowed to craft a bill to put the force of law behind Proposition 6.

And believe me when I tell that's not any indication that Krause cares about transgender kids at all; it's just plain ol' Texas-sized political pandering to a small group of voters too lazy to fact check these lies told purely for political gain — trans lives be damned.

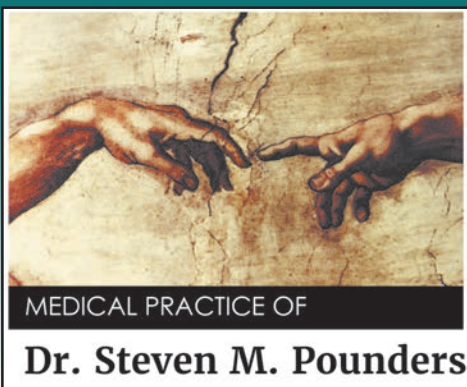
We deserve better than that. ■

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](http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com).

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Mariel Street prepared to open the dive bar Roy G's in her family's favorite neighborhood. (Photos by Arnold Wayne Jones)

Born into a storied restaurant family, Mariel Street continues to call Oak Lawn home with the new watering hole Roy G's

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Just because Mariel Street grew up in the restaurant business didn't mean she knew all the complexities of opening a restaurant, as her first venture painfully proved to her.

Returning from a stint in the Peace Corps and still in her mid-20s, she opened her first Liberty Burger in 2011. And while she had a basic understanding from her dad about some of the

bigger issues, the mechanics of day-to-day operations floored her.

"When the Liberty Burger on Forest Lane opened, I was wildly unprepared," she now freely admits. "Everything was a guessing game, and my guesses were *way* off. We thought we'd do 300 people a day, but I was running out of food in an hour and a half with people lined around the block. I slept there on a military cot for a couple of weeks because there was no point going home. I realized that just because I'm a drinker doesn't mean I know how to develop a bar program. It took several months to get my sea legs and to figure out how I could run a Friday night on my own."

The main lesson she took away from the experience was she couldn't do ev-

erything on her own. "I realized I had to put the right team together," she says.

That was less than a decade ago, but already she's an old hand at this restaurant game. There's no place she and her family enjoy opening a restaurant more than the gayborhood. And the latest, Roy G's, is an even more profound homecoming than usual.

Mariel was born into restaurant royalty. Her dad, Gene Street, began his business with "some one-off restaurants, like the biker bar J. Alfred's in the space where Al Biernat's now is," the Old Church, and a place called Faces, which he later sold to the late gay-club mogul Frank Caven, Mariel explains. But it was his launch in the 1970s of the

Black-eyed Pea, which became a huge franchise (and which Street later sold), that cemented the Street family name in the pantheon of great Dallas restaurateurs — alongside names like Brinker, Lombardi and Wynne — as powerhouses of hospitality. And for all of that time, the Streets have demonstrated a fondness for Dallas' gayborhood: Snookie's, Lucky's, Good Eats and the original Black-eyed Pea were all situated blocks from each other along Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs. So it suits Mariel just fine to call it home.

"I started going [to Pride] when I was 19 or 20," she says. "There's so much energy on the Strip, and such a predictable [customer base]. They are clear on what they want; they are not

flighty. They want to be treated well, to get good service, to get consistency and to have fun. They don't want rigid, uptight, buttoned-up. People go on the Strip to enjoy themselves and enjoy that sense of community that is not found on any other street in Dallas for the gay community. That's what I love about it. When the community embraces you down there, it's a fun thing. I love to spend time at Street's Fine Chicken, because it's like family there."

That wasn't the case initially, once the family took back over the old Black-eyed Pea space.

"Those first six months of Fine Chicken were rocky," Street says. "It was not doing what we thought it was. People were upset about [closure of] the Black-eyed Pea and were just waiting not to like us. We had to overcome [the misconception of us] kicking out [the Black-eyed Pea]. We did some tweaking on price points to get people to give us a chance, and we turned it around. Now

it's the No. 1 [store] in our company — it went from very bottom to the very top."

When the space that until more recently housed Zephyr's became available, Mariel and her brothers jumped at the chance to take it over. For one reason, it was in a building their dad originally owned when it was a honkytonk called Faces. When Gene Street sold the building to Frank Caven, "it was for a suitcase full of cash, which would never fly today," Mariel laughs. It also offered a chance to revive a beloved concept... at least, that was the first thought.

"We considered going old school and opening Snookie's Revival," she says, mentioning the beloved joint that for nearly 30 years occupied a corner across from Lucky's, until the downturn of 2008 caused it to close. "But we just kind of got stuck on the idea that

■ STREET SMARTS Page 18



Marco and Mariel Street outside their new concept.

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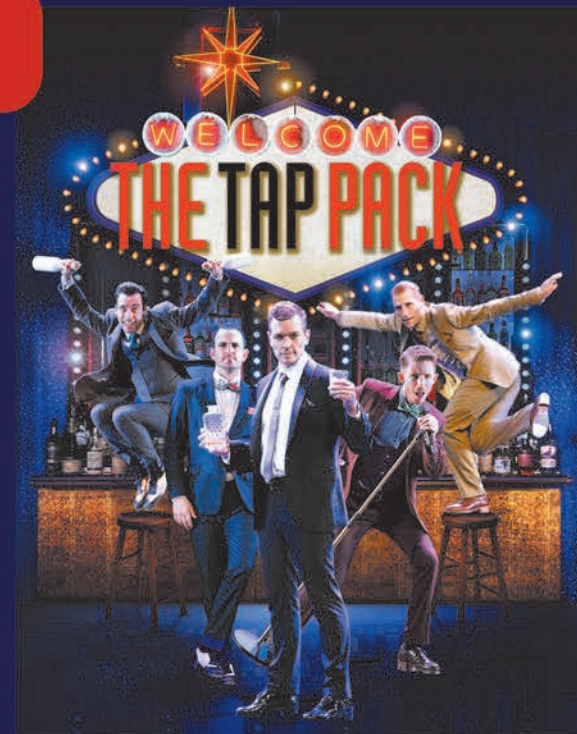
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Venny Etienne at F.I.G., where he launched a new program that highlights local fashion designers. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

'Project Runway' alum Venny Etienne continues his goal of fashion domination with a runway show at New York Fashion Week

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It has been almost a year since Dallas designer Venny Etienne made national waves as one of the contestants on the previous season of *Project Runway* — even longer since he filmed it — but the experience has already shown the power of exposure ... and the power that comes from being talented.

"I picked up Niecy Nash as a client,"

he says humbly but happily. "I've done like three [red carpet looks] for her. That's pretty amazing. I got her because [her stylist] saw how well I worked with curvy women. And a couple of other [clients] reached out to me last year for things they will need this year."

All good news. But there's still the hustle.

"It's about what you do with the opportunity. Regardless of where we placed, we just have to go hard. Being on *Project Runway* means when you knock, they have to open the door and listen to what you have to say," he says. Since the series ended last summer, he's been flown around the country to do speaking engagements and has even received recognition from a progressive church in Atlanta. ("That was very

special because they honored many celebrities and I was one! And it's not like I won the show or anything.")

But the fashion world is still something of a waiting game... or rather, a get-up-early-bust-your-hump-and-out-do-everyone-to-make-your-future-happen kinda game. And it's one Etienne is playing.

"I've planted a lot of seeds I'm looking to see grow in the near future to where designing is what I am doing full time," he says. And chief among those now? The recent invitation extended to Etienne and his label, LeVenity, by *Essence* magazine to design a collection for New York Fashion Week.

The day we first talked, his show was still about a month out, and if he was

nervous, he didn't show it.

"Literally once I'm done here, I'll go back with my interns and seamstresses to sew. It's all-hands-on-deck time."

The opportunity came suddenly, but he couldn't turn it down.

"We were expecting to do 30 looks for a Dallas show in April, but I had to put that on hold. Now I have to do 25 looks for a show in February. I've never done one collection of that many looks, so it's exciting. I really can't wait to show everyone my new collection," he says of the Fall/Winter looks he's been working on since August. "It's a whole new direction. This particular collection, I was inspired by my Caribbean roots and where I grew up in Brooklyn. I normally



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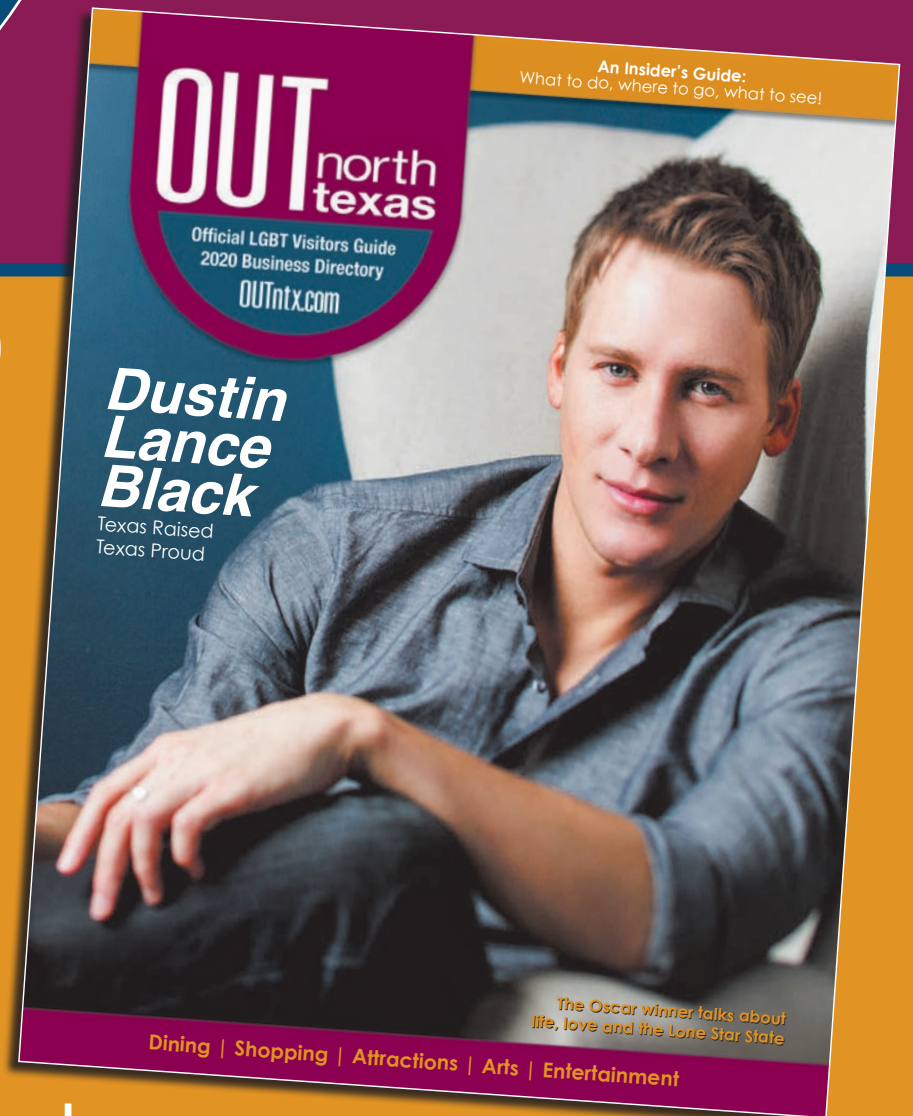
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The Roy-Al burger, one of the signature bites on the new menu.

#### ■ STREET SMARTS From Page 15

memories are always better than reality. Everyone would come in and say, hey, it's a hickory burger but it's not *the* hickory burger, or is the electric blue lemonade the same as the old electric blue lemonade, even though we have the same [people making it]?"

So for the new store, they wanted something of the caz-hang vibe of Snookie's without the baggage of serving someone's reverie of what it *was*. And it became a passion project for the Streets.

"I call Liberty Burger my baby, because Gene Jr. was still really consumed with Snookie's [when I was opening it]," Mariel says. "Marco took the ball and ran on Street's Fine Chicken. But with Roy G's, it's really been me and Marco. It's more collaborative. We've had a lot more fun figuring out our roles in the place. Liberty Burger is all about burgers, and Street's Fine Chicken is chicken. But this is the most fun because it's a blank slate. I never design the menu — I'm in the branding and marketing; Marco is the food guy; Gene Jr. is the bean counter. But we've been eating and testing since October. Two days a week we sit down and gorge on stuff."

They began making a list of all the best bar food they like, and where to find it. "We retro-fitted the menu to what we had in the kitchen — like, we don't have a pizza oven, so no pizzas.

But we are also giving ourselves room to listen to what people say about the menu and to have fun with it. We're definitely doing a late-night drunk menu, when we stay open until 3. Homemade versions of your favorite drunk food, like bagel bites and deep fried monster tacos; we're going to make our own taquitos — the perfect fix for a late night. "

It'll be a lot of work behind the scenes. Even with all their experience, the first 100 days of a new business are exhausting. "Marco and I both had to sit down our wives and explain we wouldn't be around much for three months!" Mariel says. (Mariel, her wife and one-year-old live in Oak Cliff — they had their first date at Bolsa — a few doors away from Marco and his family.)

It's important to Mariel that Roy G's (as in ROY G. BIV, the mnemonic for remembering the colors of the rainbow) quickly be perceived for what it hopes to be: A neighborhood hangout, the kind of Cheers-y (no uniforms on the servers), everybody-knows-your-name home to tasty but familiar and affordable pub-grub (price points at \$10 or less), endless liquor selections and most of all a welcoming atmosphere.

"We love the Strip and wanna keep taking over spots there. We are familiar with the people who live [and work] down there. We are trying to make a local watering hole — great bar food, some of it fancy but a lot just familiar." ■

# Heaven sent



Matching a Wrangler with a diesel engine was a stroke of genius

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

One of my guilty pleasures for the last few years has been the Netflix series *Grace and Frankie*. Individually, the two lead actresses, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, are icons; together, they are a match made in heaven — a delicious concoction that delights at every turn.

It's the same with the Jeep Wrangler

and its new diesel engine. Separately, Jeeps and diesels are forthright individuals, but together, a big heap of oh-yeah! Welcome the 2020 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited... diesel.

Like Fonda and Tomlin, the Wrangler has seemingly been around forever but always has a few tricks between and above its fenders. Compared to past generations, the windshield is sleeker, grilles are more rounded and fender vents diminish hood flutter. Chunky off-road tires cling to 18-in. alloys. Look closer to notice LED headlamps, LED turn signals in the fenders and halo driving lights. Our vehicle came with

#### '20 WRANGLER UNLIMITED DIESEL

Jeep. 3.0L TDV6. 22/29-MPG city/hwy. Base/as-tested price: \$31,795/\$55,925.

the regular retractable soft top and removable hard top. I'd prefer the optional roof with power retracting center section.

Interiors look deceptively simple with their spray-out ethos but are loaded with all the latest comfort and infotainment gear. Chrysler's touchscreen delights with intuitive icons for media, climate, navigation, phone and apps to control the dual-zone automatic climate control, heated front seats, heated steering wheel and thumping audio system with sound bar above the front seats. Redundant buttons below include large volume and tuning knobs that can be adjusted with gloved hands, or command by voice if you prefer. Connect devices with Apple CarPlay android Auto, Bluetooth and 4G Wi-Fi. I can only imagine Fonda and Tomlin figuring it all out.

They may need help to heave up and land inside, but once there, it's quite comfortable. Four or five, plus all of their luggage, fit comfortably. It takes mere seconds to remove the doors and enjoy summer or seal up, snug into the leather seats and enjoy a warm bum,

back and hands. Keeping everybody safe is a full suite of crash avoidance tech that includes adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning with auto brake, blind spot alert and rear cross path detection. Trailer sway control and hill descent control do their parts too.

But none of that is why you should choose this Wrangler. Yep, it's all about the diesel. The 3.0-liter turbocharged V6 delivers just 260 horsepower but a boulder churning 442 lb.-ft. of torque for hoofing itself up mountains or pulling heavy loads. It's paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission and auto stop/start to shift power to the 4-wheel-drive system and optimize fuel economy, which rivals mid-size crossovers at an impressive 22/29-MPG city/highway. It's a pretty efficient way to throw a brick down the road.

From the first time I met this generation Wrangler while banging skid plates in the Arizona desert, I knew it was a different beast. It looked a little sleeker, enjoyed a more comfortable interior, rode considerably better and added all the latest infotainment gear. No matter your age or perspective, it was finally a forthright citizen with a sense of adventure. It only needed a little better fuel economy and more torque for towing and off-roading. It seems, like *Grace and Frankie*, the Wrangler and its diesel engine were a perfect match. Here's where you should sit like you're on a "Rise Up." If you want a diesel, it's going to add \$4,000 to your tab. I know; you can burn truckloads of extra fuel for that much money. But it's still the one I'd most enjoy owning. Wrangler Unlimited starts at \$31,795, but rose to \$55,925 for our diesel-infused Sahara edition. ■

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do just a touch of color but am pulling away and doing some prints. Being on the show taught me to be more disciplined and think more outside the box.”

New York Fashion Week will be a full runway show with celebrities, press, buyers. And just connecting with the industry movers and shakers makes it worth all the effort, he says. “It’s where they take you more seriously, whereas before I was just a local Dallas designer.”

Well, maybe not “just.” Because one

thing is readily apparent: Dallas continues to be a hub of talent for the fashion industry. It’s what led the Fashion Industry Gallery to seek out Etienne to launch a new program highlighting local and regional designers with national appeal.

“Launching our Featured Designer program with Levenity was the perfect fit,” says Lisa Petty, director of marketing and trade shows for F.I.G... and a fan of Etienne. “Venny embodies the unique gifts, positive outlook and



Etienne and his models right after his runway show at New York Fashion Week. (Photo courtesy Nyki Elle)



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perseverance that are hallmarks of Texas-based talent.”

“In the mix of me finding out about NYFW, Lisa asked me to meet with the CEO of F.I.G. and I said, ‘Are you kidding me?’” Etienne says of the offer. “People from L.A., New York, come in for this. There’s a lot of homegrown talent [in Texas] so it’s nice that they started with me — for them to even think of me? I’m honored.”

The honors, though, have kept coming. Right after his Fashion Week runway show, Forbes magazine published an article naming the top five stand-out shows; LeVenity was one of the five. Etienne has already had stylists reach out about obtaining some of the looks for their clients.

“It was crazy... in a good way,” Etienne says after the fact. “I was using every single minute I had — it was like being on *Project Runway* again. Showing my collection in the same caliber [as other famous designers] felt surreal. Just the adrenaline of it all!”

The next step will be to have the looks photographed, to arrange an editorial campaign and then, of course, to hustle. Meanwhile, Etienne has already started working on his *next* collection — spring looks which he will debut in Dallas in September to coincide with New York Fashion Week... meaning North Texans will get the first glimpse at his talents then.

Texas may not be New York, but we clearly appreciate fashion. ■

*You can keep up with Etienne’s fashions at [Levenity.com](http://Levenity.com).*

*F.I.G. will hold additional markets, each featuring a different designer, on March 25–27, June 24–26, Aug. 26–28 and Oct. 21–23.*



Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine’s Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America’s Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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and Dr. David Lee,  
BEST General Practitioner



Saturday 02.29

Paula Poundstone ready to whip up laughs in Dallas

Since the '80s, Paula Poundstone has toured regularly across the U.S., charming audiences with her improvisational approach to comedy, which landed her gigs on *The Tonight Show* and a series of HBO specials. She also became the first woman to perform stand up at the White House Correspondents' Dinner ... in its 73rd year. But many people might recognize her commentary on NPR's *Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me*, which she frequents as a popular guest panelist. She brings her observational wit to the Winspear this weekend for one show only.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.



Saturday 02.29 – Sunday 03.08

Casa Mañana opens a can of 'Tuna'

The wacky inhabitants of Tuna, “the third smallest town in Texas,” bring their hilarity to Sin City in *Tuna Does Vegas*, the so-called “fourth play in the trilogy.” After an odd-ball conservative radio host announces his Las Vegas wedding on air, the entire town tags along. Actors Jonathan Beck Reed and David Coffee portray a variety of zany characters — every man, woman and child of the entire town, that is — in this comedy show, featuring a few showgirls and Elvis impersonators.

**DEETS:** Casa Mañana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.

Thursday 03.05

Voices of Women serenade with another showcase

In celebration of Women's History Month, more than 200 female vocalists from TWU, DISD and TWCD choirs unite in *Travelin' Voices*, a multi-generational collaborative showcase. And along with choral performances, featured composer Moira Smiley leads award-winning acapella quintet VOCO through a harmonic combination of polyphonic folk songs and percussive movement.



**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$45. TWCD.org.

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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Little Women.** Umpteenth adaptation of the 19th century novel. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. *Final weekend.* DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**One Man, Two Guvnors.** A Mod 1960s farce. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through March 7. CircleTheatre.org.

**Mlima's Tale.** Second Thought Theatre kicks off its 2020 season with this play by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage about the black market ivory trade. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 14. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

#### INSTALLATION

**PY1.** A light and music pop-up installation, with two shows (Through the Echoes and the family-style Stella: The Time Machine Journey) it also becomes a late-night dance club with themes on select weekend nights. 1550 Convention Center Drive, Arlington. Through Sunday. Visit PY1.com for details.

### FRIDAY 02.28

#### DANCE

**TITAS/Dance Unbound.** The planned performance by BeijingDance, which was cancelled as a result of travel restrictions occasioned by the coronavirus, has been replaced by a program of equal value —

performances by four local dance companies. Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bruce Wood Dance, B Moore Dance and Texas Ballet Theater will each present performances for this mini-festival, preceded by a talk from each of the artistic directors. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb. 28–29. 7 p.m. ATPAC.org

### SATURDAY 02.29

#### COMMUNITY

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

#### COMEDY

**Paula Poundstone.** The queermedian performs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

#### THEATER

**Tuna Does Vegas!** The so-called "fourth play in the trilogy" about the third smallest town in Texas, where all the denizens are played by just two actors (David Coffee and Jonathan Beck Reed). Casa Mañana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Feb. 29–March 8. CasaManana.org

### MONDAY 03.02

#### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Amy Stevenson's weekly show featuring talented singers. Mainstage, 222 E. Irving Blvd., Irving. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

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## TUESDAY 03.03

### FILM

**The Bad and the Beautiful.** The recently departed Kirk Douglas received one of his three Oscar nominations for playing the cutthroat movie exec in this iconic potboiler. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY 03.04

### COMMUNITY

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 7:15 p.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

### The Queer Off All Stars: The Winter Games.

Contestants from season 1 and 2 return for this elimination-style talent show for the queer community. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY 03.05

### CABARET

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

### THEATER

**Playwrights in the Newsroom.** Part of the Elevator Project. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 5-8. ATPAC.org.

### this week's solution

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 browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

 submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

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03 MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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# Cassie Nova

Planning ahead, just in case

Hey kids! As I write this, my birthday is in a few days; by the time you read it, my birthday will have been a few days ago. Yay me! I am 48-freaking-years old.

I remember being in my teens and twenties and just knowing that I would be dead by now — live hard and fast and leave a beautiful corpse. Well, that time has passed. The day I die, whenever that may be — hopefully about 40 to 50 years from now — I can honestly say I freaking lived.

Today we found out that a friend of my husband passed away from cancer. I didn't know him at all, but still, you just hate to hear something like that. So, me getting older and hearing so much about death today has me thinking.

Death is the real BIG D! I hope that writing about it doesn't put a bullseye on me. But I don't think I'm that superstitious. I figure after I die, someone will probably find this article and repost it. Hopefully, like I said, that will be years from now and not, like, next week.

Maybe I am that superstitious.

So, let's say I died. First of all, if you didn't like me when I was alive, don't act like you care about me now that I am dead. Just bite your tongue when you start seeing all of the sad posts about me. I probably didn't like you either, but I forgive you for being a bad judge of character.

I should start planning my funeral now, so that I get what I want. For the record, this is how I would like it to go:

I don't want my services held in a church, led by a preacher that did not know me. I hate that. I want to be cremated or freeze-dried or used as fertilizer for a tree or something that grows. I'd be okay being shot into space or being turned into a diamond to live eternity like I lived my life: slightly tacky.

Mix my ashes with the ashes of my dead pets, and sprinkle us all in the air and ocean at Cape Elizabeth in Maine, which is one of my favorite places on this planet. Use my death as an excuse for a vacation. While mourning my death, I'm sure you will all need a few days off work anyway, so you better do something awesome.

At my memorial or service or whatever you have, have a large screen television above my urn/seed pod/wax figure — whatever you choose. On that TV, I want you to play a video of me saying, "If you are watching this, I must be dead!" That is just fucking funny to me.

Of course, I want a horribly cheesy montage of pictures of me with all of my friends and family, but mostly of just me. I want some of the standard songs playing — Garth Brooks' "The Dance," LeAnne Rimes' "How Do I Live," Celine's "My Heart Will Go On," — you know, the drag standards. But also throw in "Carry on My Wayward

Son" by Kansas and "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" by Aerosmith.

Then right in the middle of all crybaby songs, I want you to play the cussing song I do in the show: "fuck Hell Shit Damn Shit Fuck Shit." Ya know, to break up the sad songs. Laughter through tears — I mean, if you don't cry then laugh, were we even friends?

DO NOT, and I repeat, DO NOT do a balloon release. I know it is beautiful and all, but I hate the thought of some poor bird or turtle getting hurt because ya'll wanted to remember me. I'd rather you all go to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and find the Japanese garden and feed the turtles. Then if you see a dragonfly, it will be me — not in the cool way you are thinking; more like I will be a ghost, and I possess the dragonfly to do my bidding, and I will try to bite you or possibly pee on you.

I would prefer to not be embalmed. Plus, I don't want anybody to see my dead body. I'm not there anymore, so don't bother. I hate seeing someone after they are dead; I will forever have that memory of seeing their dead body. I don't want anyone to remember me like that.

My mother says she will absolutely have to see my dead body if I die before her. I guess she can see me like that; she's stubborn. Plus, she is my Momma, so — you know.

Honestly, once I am gone, I am gone. Do whatever you all need to get through it. If my husband wants me to be buried so he can be buried next to me, do it. He is the only one in this world that can change any of this, and if anyone tries to get in his way, I will find a way to get you back — haunting, possession, poltergeist, hell, even reincarnation! I will find a way to get you back. I can be petty AF.

In all seriousness, if I died tomorrow, I was so lucky to have the life I lived. I found true love, and it shaped everything about me. Being gay was a blessing. I never felt normal, and I never wanted normal. I wanted extraordinary, and I got it. I found happiness in all of its fleeting glory. I found the most joy in just being content. I don't know if I got everything I wanted out of life, but I know I got more than I expected.

If I was murdered, AVENGE ME! If I died in my sleep, check again — I can be a heavy sleeper. If I died horribly in some gruesome way, then my dreams were correct, dammit! If I died of natural causes in my old age — WOW! Who saw that coming?

However I go, just know I loved you, and I was lucky to have been a part of your life. Except you Loraine, you can fuck off.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova





### Resource Center Toast Sponsor Party

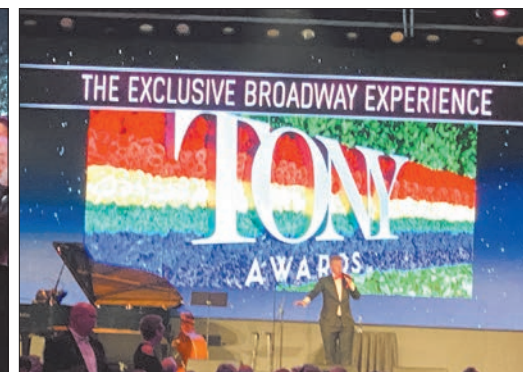


#### Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 28–March 5:

- **1851 Club:** Nia Courtland, Beyonshade Starr and Shelly Von Miller on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Addison Foster and Chanel St. John on Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** Vero Voz y Compania on Friday. Filter on Saturday. Karaoke with Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** Karaoke hosted with a spin by Tucker at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Route 66 Bootblack Fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cook Out from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** T-Bear Club Night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Cher-e-oke at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Double Trouble at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Dream Girls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Magnum:** Masquerade Ball benefiting Dallas Hope Charities from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** Vogue Night with cash categories at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Pekers:** Sign up for Totally Twisted Karaoke by 10:30 p.m. and be eligible for cash prizes on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** 2020 Round-Up Diesel E Annual Chili Cook-Off from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. Seventh annual Stoli Key West Cocktail Classic: The Stolimpics from 8-11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** DJ Sno White on Friday.
- **The Rose Room:** Rajah O'Hara on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** RuPaul Drag Race season 12 watch party at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Relive the 90s on Monday. Showtunes Tuesday.

Photos by Chad Mantooth and Nicholas Gonzalez

### TCC Rhapsody



# Chorale at 40



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# Chorale at 40



## q-puzzle

# Sowers and Reapers

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Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Online room type
- 5 Aussie greeting
- 9 Pirate's stash
- 14 Petty of *A League of Their Own*
- 15 John work
- 16 Direct elsewhere
- 17 Sowers is the first coach in the NFL to be this
- 19 Like a fairy
- 20 "\_\_\_ for Our Lives"
- 21 French cathedral city
- 22 Doe in Disney's *Bambi*
- 23 Sam's twitcher on *Bewitched*
- 25 Neighbor of Mass.
- 26 Scar, in *The Lion King*, e.g.
- 27 Tennis star Amelie
- 31 "Great balls of fire!"
- 34 *LesbianNation.com* conversation
- 35 Former govt. watchdog
- 36 *Lady Sings the Blues* star
- 37 San Francisco 49ers coach Sowers
- 38 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You \_\_\_"
- 39 Part of TGIF
- 40 Sponsorship
- 41 Black pussy cats, e.g. Andersen audience

44 Cock follower

- 45 Any minute now
- 46 Restaurant critic Greene
- 48 Nutty fruitcake center?
- 51 Lulls in the action
- 53 Like pricier items at Barney's
- 55 Anticipate the coming of
- 56 Sowers is the first
- 17-Across person to coach in this
- 58 Like a nervous Nellie
- 59 Person with a PC
- 60 Sad about having no porn?
- 61 Artist Hernandez
- 62 Just says no to
- 63 Pacifiers

13 Marine birds

- 18 *Peanuts* boy with a blanket
- 21 Type of triangle
- 24 Play too broadly on Broadway
- 26 Audiophile's stack
- 28 Label on a lemon that isn't a fruit
- 29 Big name in shoes
- 30 Newspaper publisher Adolph
- 31 *Spamalot* writer Idle
- 32 Rock music style
- 33 See 11-Down
- 34 Worker under Tammy Baldwin
- 37 Joanna of *Growing Pains*
- 38 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 40 Gay parent, often
- 41 Ship that delivers lube?
- 43 Thelma's lady friend
- 44 Pears and Cameron
- 47 Navratilova's winter home
- 48 Speed skater Ohno
- 49 Clinch, as a victory
- 50 City on the Rhone
- 51 A little behind
- 52 Meadow moms
- 54 Comes out on the beach
- 56 Where to stick your baloney
- 57 Home o' the brave

### Down

- 1 Glenn of *South Pacific*, TV version
- 2 Invitation to a ride
- 3 Gladiator area
- 4 Metallic sound
- 5 "I Will Survive" singer Gloria
- 6 Taye of *Rent*
- 7 Canine care org.
- 8 Cheer that goes either way
- 9 Good orgasms?
- 10 Fix, as brakes
- 11 With 33-Down, Sowers is this kind of coach
- 12 Blood line

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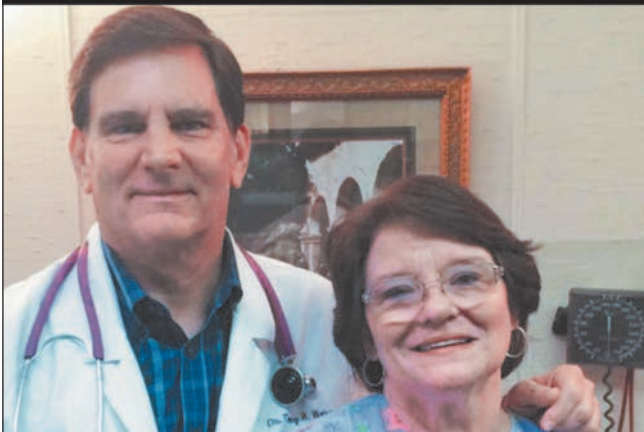
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