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Remembrance
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ON THE COVER

Model: Krista De La Rosa.
Hair & makeup by Gloria Paz and
J. Anthony Martinez.

Photo & concept by Tammye Nash.
Design by Kevin Thomas
See Page 4 for more info.

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New traditional



June Cleaver has nothing on Krista De La Rosa, a Dallas transgender activist ready to create new traditions of equality for her community. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

KRISTA DE LA ROSA

This week's Dallas Voice covergirl is 28-year-old Krista De La Rosa, a Dallas activist for transgender rights. This cover, featuring Krista as our version of a "traditional" housewife getting ready to celebrate a "traditional" Thanksgiving, is the third in a series of special "collectible" covers celebrating the transgender women and drag queens who have led the way for our community — from the Stonewall Riots through the height of the AIDS crisis to today.

Krista is "a proud transwoman" who currently serves on the board of directors for Arttitude as the project coordinator for Transpose, a project that "highlights trans-

gender individuals and lets us tell our stories through the arts," she explained.

She is also part of many other nonprofit organizations promoting mental and sexual health in the transgender community and will be one of the speakers at the Transgender Day of Remembrance event next Tuesday, Nov. 20, in Dallas. (See Page 9 for details.)

Krista adds, "My hobbies are sports, movies, music and anything fun — as long as it's with the right crowd!"

She says 2019 "will be a BOLD year for the trans community, not only because of the movement but because of visibility! Having mentors like Finn Jones, Amber Lynn and Jayla Wilkerson definitely keeps me rooted and excited to see what the future holds."

— Tammye Nash

instanTEA

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instanttea

John Wright Martin arrested in Travis County



Former Dallas resident John Wright Martin, wanted on four felony warrants in Collin County on charges of theft and forgery, has been arrested and is in the Travis County jail as of Thursday, Nov. 15. Martin faces trial on charges related to funds embezzled from his former employer, Kristy Pitchford of Frisco, owner of Nerdvana restaurant and wife, Randy Pitchford, owner of Frisco-based Gearbox Software.

Warrants were issued out of Collin County for Martin on Aug. 28 after he failed to appear in court to stand trial on charges of property theft between \$30,000 and \$150,000 and forgery of a financial instrument and two different charges of property theft over \$300,000.

A Travis County SO spokeswoman said Thursday that Wright remained jailed there on two "out of county" misdemeanor warrants and five "out of county" felony warrants, as well as a newly-issued warrant from the Austin Police Department for charges of theft of property equal to or greater than \$30,000 but less than \$150,000.

— Tammye Nash

Lambda Legal names Belyeu South Central Regional director



Officials with Lambda Legal this week announced that Avery Belyeu has been named director of its South Central Regional Office in Dallas.

Interim CEO Richard Burns said, "Avery has been in the trenches fighting for LGBTQ rights — from working as an intern at Equality North Carolina to serving as education director at The Trevor Project — and we are delighted she will be leading our Dallas office.

"Avery joins us at a challenging time and in a challenging region. With her dedication and drive, we look forward to tremendous growth in the eight states that comprise our South Central Region," Burns added.

Belyeu most recently worked with the Education Development Center, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, where she focused on suicide prevention strategy with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. Prior to that, Belyeu worked at The Trevor Project, the country's leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people under 25, where she held several positions, including education director.

Lambda Legal's South Central Regional Office is located in Dallas and covers Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico.

— Tammye Nash

Former Dallas Cowboy to marry his boyfriend

Jeff Rohrer, 59, who was a linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys for six seasons in the 1980s, has come out and is getting married to his fiancé, Joshua Ross, 36, according to The New York Times. The couple, who met two years ago, will marry in Southern California this weekend.

Five other former NFL players have come out after retiring from football. The first was Dave Kopay in 1975. Rohrer is the first to marry a same-sex partner, according to the Times.

Rohrer told the Times that had he told the Dallas Cowboys while he was on the team that he was gay, he would have been cut immediately.

This is not the first time a gay player has been affiliated with the Dallas team: Michael Sam was on the practice team for a few months several years ago.

Ross is a skin care expert and has appeared on Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. He grew up in De Leon, Texas.

— David Taffet

Gay man sworn in as Watauga City Councilman

This election cycle, it was difficult keeping up with all the LGBT candidates running in Texas. We entirely missed one in Tarrant County.

On Election Day, Scott Prescher won a special election to fill an unexpired council term. Four candidates ran for the Place 1 seat on the council, and Prescher received more than 53 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff. He was sworn in Wednesday night, Nov. 14.

After his swearing in, the first thing he did was recognize his husband, Cody, and he talked about how they have become active members of their community.

Prescher becomes that north Fort Worth suburb's first openly-gay council member, and the first openly-LGBT elected official in Tarrant County since Joel Burns served on the Fort Worth City Council.

Prescher made news in this city of about 25,000 over the summer when he organized citizens to oppose a rezoning plan that would have allowed a mixed-use development in a residential neighborhood.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA



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

NOVEMBER

• Through Jan 11: Branch Out Dallas

The City of Dallas will provide residents a tree at no cost. Register online at GreenDallas.net or for assistance go to any Dallas Public Library.

• Nov. 16: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour

The DFW Federal Club hosts its November Happy Hour from 6-8 p.m. at Dragonfly, inside Hotel Zaza, 2332 Leonard St.

• Nov. 16-17: TranScending Hope Conference

Conference at St. Luke UMC, 5710 E. R.L. Thornton Fwy., to educate clergy and lay leaders about the Trans experience with special guest Austen Hartke, the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. For info, contact the Rev. Erin Wyma at 214-351-1901.

• Nov. 17: Bah Humbug Gaybingo

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

• Nov. 18: Lost Souls v. Houston's Space City

The Dallas Lost Souls play Houston's Space City at 10 a.m. at Lake Highlands Park, 9500 E Lake Highlands Drive.

• Nov. 18: Lip Synch Battle Royale

An epic lip synch battle between two of the hottest rugby teams in Dallas, the Quins and Lost Souls, at 1 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Pride of Dallas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

• Nov. 20: Classic Chassis Car Club

See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 20: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Stonewall Democrats monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Matito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

• Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

• Nov. 22: Resource Center tour

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

• Nov. 27: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.** This week's guests are trans activists **Leslie McMurray** and **Katie Sprinkle**; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. 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.

p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 29: Red Ribbon

Commemorate World AIDS Day in support of programs and services of Resource Center with chef-crafted bites, desserts and cocktails from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Stoneleigh Hotel, 2927 Maple Ave.

• Nov. 30: C.U.R.E. marks World AIDS Day

Community Unity Respect Education (C.U.R.E) marks World AIDS Day 2018 with End AIDS Together, an reception and program at the George W. Bush Presidential Library, 2943 SMU Blvd. Reception at 5:30 p.m. and program at

7 p.m. Sponsorships and partnerships are available. For information contact WorldAIDSDay@CURENTX.org

• Nov. 30: Deck the Plaza

Visit Dallas and the city of Dallas present Deck the Plaza, a holiday celebration featuring lighting of the holiday lights at Dallas City Hall, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The event will include interfaith speakers, an appearance by Santa Claus, music by Dallas Winds and by the Castro band, as well as hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies and the lighting of the 40-foot tree.

DECEMBER

• Dec. 1: World AIDS Day



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• **Dec. 1: AOC's Hope Walk**

Hope Walk, benefitting AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County, steps off from Trinity Park Pavillion, in Trinity Parl just off 7th Street in Fort Worth, at 8 a.m. This year's walk features a chipped 5K and a fun run/walk. Also includes the Pooches on Parade costume contest.

• **Dec. 1: TAG holiday party**

Tyler Area Gays potluck holiday party. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. From 6-9 p.m. at Genecov Room, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

• **Dec. 2: First night of Hanukkah**

• **Dec. 2: Women's Chorus holiday concert**

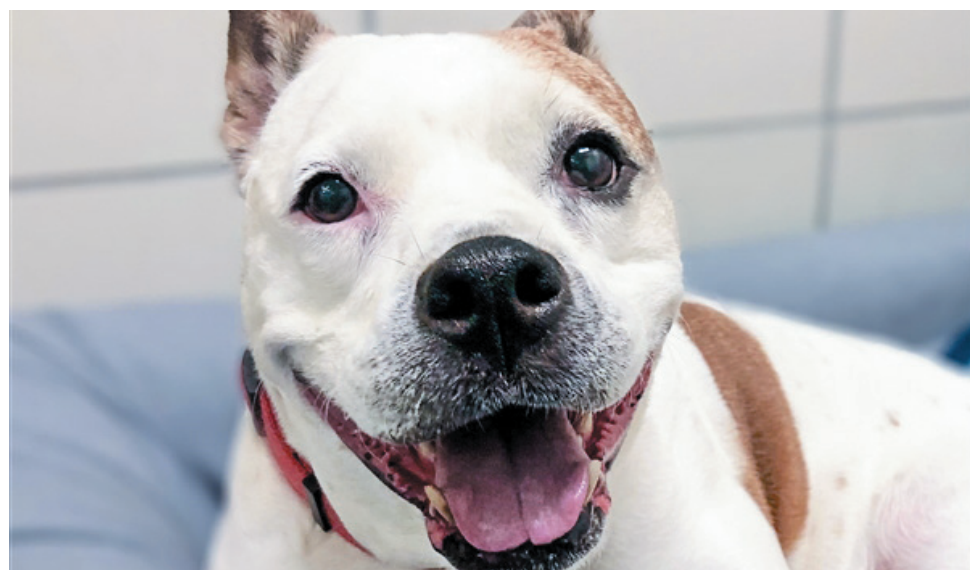
The Women's Chorus of Dallas presents its holiday concert Sleigh Ride with a full orchestra from Texas Chamber Music Project and acclaimed high school choir Singing Girls of Texas at 7:30 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$15-45. TWCD.org.

• **Dec. 2: The Dallas Way brunch**

The Dallas Way's 6th annual winter brunch fundraiser to help preserve and

GAY AGENDA, Page 15

• **pet of the week / SUNNY**



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Anti-trans harassment at Dallas County jail

Trans woman's lawsuit brings to light other cases of mistreatment at Dallas County's jail

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

During her tenure as sheriff, Lupe Valdez issued a policy on how transgender people should be treated in the Dallas County jail. But according to Valerie Jackson, those guidelines were ignored when she was arrested two years ago.

And since Jackson filed suit against Valdez, current Sheriff Marian Brown, the county and several specific deputies earlier this month, others have come forward with similar stories.

Jackson was arrested at Dallas Love Field in 2016 when screeners found a gun in her purse. She said that she was carrying the weapon because she was being stalked, and police had told her they were unable to do anything about the stalker unless something happened, so she felt compelled to protect herself.

"He was showing up to my job," she said of the stalker. "I had to be escorted in and out of work."

Then when she was leaving on vacation, she simply forgot to take the gun out of her purse before heading to the airport. Jackson was later no-billed by a Dallas County grand jury, and all charges were dropped. But that was too late to stop the harassment and embarrassment she said she suffered at the hands of Dallas County sheriff's deputies at the jail.

When she was arrested, Jackson said, she was told not to worry, that she'd be processed at Lew Sterrett and then wait in a room and watch TV until she was bailed out. "Everything would be fine," Jackson said she was told; it would be an easy process.

But after being processed as a woman, a male nurse at the jail asked Jackson about her menstrual cycle. When she said she didn't have a uterus, the nurse asked why. "He kept pressing as to why I had no uterus," Jackson said. "I got the impression he didn't understand what transgender is."



Valerie Jackson

An officer asked Jackson if she had had a sex change, and Jackson said yes. She was told she would have to prove it — even though, according to DCSO's written policy, having a transgender person "prove" their transition is not allowed: "Detention personnel WILL NOT [emphasis theirs] conduct a strip search on an individual to determine the gender or sex," the policy states.

The policy says deputies can conduct a strip search only if contraband is suspected or with a written request or a court order.

(The entire nine-page policy on how members of the sheriff's department should interact with the transgender community has been posted on DallasVoice.com.)

After the incident, Jackson spoke to Capt. Shelley Knight, the sheriff department's LGBT liaison. Jackson said Knight apologized for the incident and told her it was a training issue. She gave Jackson her cell number and said if it happened again to have intake personnel call her.

It did happen a second time. "I had a minor disagreement with a friend," Jackson

explained. "I called the police on her, but they took me to jail for assault."

That charge was dismissed as well, but when guards at the county jail repeated their treatment of Jackson, she requested they call Knight. They refused.

Once she was released, Jackson filed a formal complaint. Nothing happened — even though the county's policy says a review board will address concerns and complaints about housing.

Jackson described the officers' behavior as "mean, aggressive and argumentative." At one point when she pointed out all of her identification indicating she is female had been issued by a judge, she said deputies told her, "That's your opinion and your opinion doesn't matter."

Jayla Wilkerson is a Dallas County assistant D.A. who is transgender. When news of Jackson's lawsuit became public earlier this month, Wilkerson was outraged and began posting links on social media. She also met with Capt. Knight.

Wilkerson said she was already thinking about leaving the D.A.'s office and had been offered a job with the city attorney. When Jackson's story broke, Wilkerson said, she decided to turn in her resignation so she could fight for better training and implementation of the policy, something she felt couldn't do while inside the D.A.'s office.

Others come forward

As a result of this lawsuit, not only has Dallas County lost an experienced assistant D.A., but other people have been coming forward to talk about their experiences at the Dallas County jail.

One trans man, who asked to remain anonymous, texted Wilkerson, telling her "I was denied my rights." Although his gender had been corrected to male on his identification, deputies made him dress in a female inmate uniform. After he was paraded in front of the men's section, where he was taunted and "called every name imaginable," he was placed on the female side of the jail, Wilkerson said of the man's experience.

Another transgender woman contacted Dallas Voice with a similar story.

"I was going through a break up with my boyfriend of six years," she explained, say-

Remember their names

At least 22 transgender people have died violently so far in 2018, according to the Human Rights Campaign, and at least two other men who dressed regularly in women's clothing have been killed as well, including one here in Dallas in October.

The tally of 22 does not include three trans women killed between Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, 2017, and the first of this year. We list these victims here now to honor their memories:

- **Brooklyn BreYanna Stevenson**, 31, murdered in a motel room in Oklahoma City on Nov. 27, 2017.

- **Brandi Seals**, 26, shot to death in a Houston neighborhood on Dec. 13, 2017.
- **Rhiannon Layendecker**, 51, shot and killed by her wife, Jessica Winkler, also transgender, after a domestic dispute in their home on Dec. 16, 2017, in Englewood, Fla. Both women are transgender.

2018

- **Christa Leigh Steele-Knudsen**, 42, killed by her husband in their home in North Adams, Mass., on Jan. 5.
- **Vicky Gutierrez**, 33, stabbed and her body set ablaze

REMEMBER, Page 14

TDOR EVENTS



In Dallas

Transgender Pride of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope and Black Transmen Inc., will hold a Transgender Day of Remembrance event Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., in Dallas.

Speakers will include Jayla Wilkerson, Krista De La Rosa, the mother of a local transgender child and others, discussing several topics of interest to the trans community. After the names of transgender victims of violence in 2018 are read, participants will go across the street to gather at the flagpole in front of Dallas City Hall for a candlelight vigil in memory of the victims.

In Denton

Denton Trans-Cendence, OUTreach Denton and UNT Pride Alliance host an event Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 6-8 p.m. at the Denton County Courthouse honoring transgender and gender non-conforming people who lost their lives to violence.

The event includes open worship at First United Methodist Church of Denton with a labyrinth walk beginning at 5:45 p.m. at 111 E. Sycamore St. and ending on the courthouse lawn in time to join the vigil at 7 p.m. In the event of rain, the walk will be in Flinn Hall Lounge, accessed via Cole Chapel entrance on Locust.

Weekend conference

Cathedral of Hope's Transgender Conference has merged with the Red Letter Christian Dallas Revival Event, Nov. 16-17 at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 East R. L. Thornton Freeway. Contact the church at 214-821-2970 for details.



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.



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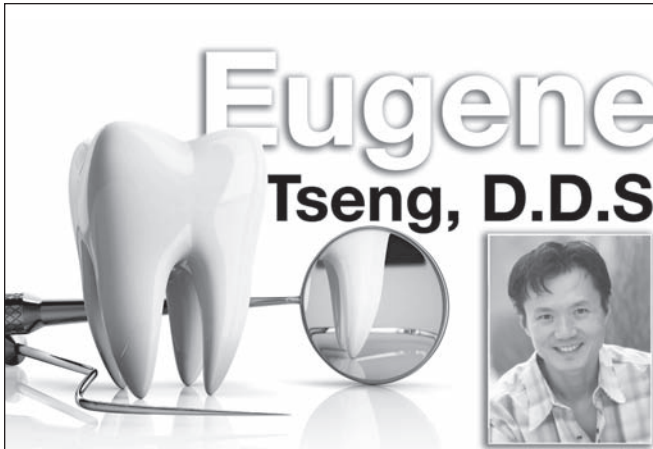
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ANTI-TRANS

From Page 8




Jayla Wilkerson, left and County Commissioner Theresa Daniel

ing that they had come home from a DIFFA event when he “started going crazy.”

The woman described her ex as abusive, both emotionally and physically. When he started attacking her, she recorded the incident on her phone before calling 911.

But when the police arrived, they explained to her that in a domestic abuse situation, someone was going to jail, and because the only visible mark on either of them was the mark she left on him when she tried to fend him off by biting him, she was the one going to jail in this instance.

Because the woman’s driver’s license, Social Security card and passport all list as female, she was processed as a woman. But one female officer eventually asked, “Are you female? Do you have a working vagina?” And when the woman replied she did not, the female officer said, “Ha! I told you all you should have frisked this one a little better.”

Officers told the woman she could be put in a special holding cell if she signed a paper indicating she was either gay or HIV-positive. Since she doesn’t have HIV and, as a woman who dates men, doesn’t consider herself gay, she refused.

She said three male officers then had her undress, refusing her request to have a female officer in the room. “I felt like I was being raped,” the woman recalled.

Officers then started reprocessing her as male and dressed her in male inmate clothing, even though, she said, her double-D breasts didn’t fit in the shirt very well. As she was paraded through the women’s section, inmates were asking why a woman was dressed in men’s garb. Then one officer took her to the men’s side, but on a circu-

itous route through the kitchen and what she described as “the catacombs” of the building.

Alone with just one officer, she said, “Anything could have happened.”

As she walked through the men’s cellblock, inmates were catcalling and asking why a woman was on their side. Finally, she was placed in solitary where she was held for about 14 hours. After about 10 hours, she was given something to eat.

Had her gender identity not been an issue, she would have been out in three to four hours.

The woman’s case went to a judge, who looked at the video, said she should never have been arrested in the first place before dismissing the case completely. In addition to having to pay an attorney, she also had to spend time and money getting her mugshot removed from websites. She is currently spending more to get her record expunged.

Several additional policies were broken in these cases: “Use pronouns as requested by the individual,” the policy says, a directive that was violated in both these cases.

And according to the policy, “Employees will not embarrass, ridicule or harass transgender/intersex/gender nonconforming inmates.” That rule was ignored in all of the cases.

Gays aren’t safe either

If you are feeling safe because you aren’t transgender, you should reconsider.

William is a gay man with long hair

CLARIFICATION

In the Nov. 9 issue of Dallas Voice, we published an article about an LGBT student in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District who has suffered ongoing anti-LGBT harassment, both as a student at Ed Willkie Middle School and at Chisholm Trail High School. The actual order of events as included in that article was incorrect.

The young man targeted by bullies is referred to here by an alias, to protect him from further attacks, and the accused bullies are referred to by initials only because they are juveniles.

The harassment began during the 2016 basketball season, when "Matthew" was a student at Ed Willkie Middle School, when a student, identified here as H.R., asked Matthew, in front of the whole team during a practice, if Matthew were gay. That was the beginning of Matthew being harassed on a daily basis by H.R. and/or two other students, K.W. and T.W., with them asking him constantly if he were gay, insulting him during classes, in the hall and at basketball practice, calling him names, including "fucking f---t."

During basketball practice on Jan. 19, 2017, Matthew won a half-court shot contest, sinking the ball on his first try. K.W. then yelled across the gym, "You're still a fag." After practice that day, a fourth student, C.D., grabbed Matthew from behind, restraining him as K.W. came over, grabbed Matthew's face and said, "You look beautiful today," then once again calling him a f---t. Matthew broke free and ran from the two boys, but K.W. chased him down and held him from behind, using force to bend Matthew over and rub his own penis against Matthew's butt crack while calling him f---t. Matthew broke free and ran from the locker room looking for help. When he returned to the locker room later that day, he was afraid to change and instead went home wearing his gym clothes.

The very next day, at an out-of-town basketball game, with Matthew's mother, Fort Worth Police Officer Sara Straten, and his older brother sitting in the bleachers directly behind the team, Matthew's brother overhead boys on the team, seated next to the coach, calling Matthew a f---t while he was on the court playing. The next day at the same tournament, the coach apologized to Matthew and his mother, acknowledging that he should have been more aware of the harassment and should have taken action after the assault in the locker room.

K.W. was sent to alternative school for 10 days after the incident, but then returned.

The constant harassment continued until Matthew then quit basketball and his parents removed him from school to home school him.

On May 11, feeling isolated and depressed, Matthew attempted suicide in his bedroom, and was found by his older brother. His parents hospitalized him in Denton. On May 14, he was assaulted by another patient and taken to the ER with head trauma. His parents took him out of the hospital.

In August 2017, Matthew was getting ready to go into ninth grade at Chisholm Trail High School and planned to play football. But when he and his mother went to the team meeting to pick up equipment, K.W. also showed up and sat right behind Matthew, despite the fact that K.W. was still under a "no contact" school contract requiring him to stay away from Matthew. The incident upset Matthew so much he decided not to play football. Instead he decided to participate in wrestling.

At the end of April 2018, Matthew came out publicly as gay on his Instagram account. Shortly thereafter, three students on the wrestling team — C.B., B.B. and A.T. — began to send Matthew homophobic and threatening messages via Instagram direct messages. The three also refused to allow Matthew to shower in the locker room after wrestling practice, harassed him in the weight room and during wrestling practice. Matthew's older brother, also on the wrestling team, stepped in to protect him while he showered.

Again, school officials sent one of the bullies, C.B., to alternative school, but he has since returned to the high school and to the wrestling team. Matthew and his family are waiting on hearings, set for later this month, regarding C.N. and B.B.

— Tammye Nash

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Simply: We love HER

The fabulously ridiculous story of Leslie McMurray's transition, as explained by her loving daughter Sarah

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

So let's start at the happily-ever-after ending. When Leslie McMurray married Katie Sprinkle in September, Leslie's two daughters were beaming as they walked her down the aisle. As daughter Sarah explained, now her children have two grandmas; Katie was now officially part of the family, and they adore Katie. And, Sarah said, she'd never seen Leslie happier.

And that's the way every story of transitioning should be.

When Leslie recalls the time she told Sarah about transitioning, she remembers that her daughter told her she wished she had known before, so she could have told her dad goodbye.

Sarah explains that she didn't quite grieve for her father when she became Leslie. After all, she still had a parent who shared all the memories of their life together. Yet, it did mark an end to one period of her life. For example, they no longer celebrate Father's Day. But, Sarah says, she was glad when they discovered Trans Parent Day.

And, as it turns out, Sarah likes Leslie much more than she ever really liked Dad.

"Dad was a staunch Republican," Sarah said. "Close-minded, always battling over whether gay is a choice. I was always the advocate, even after dad began transitioning."

Yes, the Leslie McMurray who regularly berates the right wing via her Dallas Voice column for trampling on her civil rights, who works for Resource Center as a policy advocate, and who testifies about equality before the Texas Legislature ... in the distant past, another lifetime ... was a



From left: Chrissy, Sarah, Leslie, Katie and her friend Helen. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Trump-supporting Kardashian who could have become Caitlin Jenner.

Sarah describes dad as "Rigid. Hostile. Your room had to be just so. Not the most pleasant of people to be around."

As kids, she says, she and her sister had no clue about their dad's secret. "Dad was uber-masculine," she says. "Always at the gun range. Asleep on the couch, mouth open. Nothing feminine about that."

Sarah recalls she first learned Leslie was transgender from her mom, who told her bluntly, "Your dad's a crossdresser." But rather than being shocked or angry, Sarah says she was grateful to see Leslie emerging, even though watching the transition was, at times, painful.

"It can be difficult watching your father turn into a 16-year-old girl starting from scratch — 'Look at me,' 'Look at my bracelet,'" she explains. "Being a woman is more than what's on the outside."

Going through a teenager phase is com-

mon for people who come out as gay, lesbian or transgender later in life. But from that initial adolescent phase emerged the women Sarah loves now more than ever. "Leslie's more open-minded than my dad ever was," she says. "She's embraced the gay community."

Leslie and Katie married in September in a ceremony at their house in Coppell. So that guests would easily find the house, they hung a transgender flag over the door. Before guests arrived, a child from down the street rang the doorbell, wanting to explain that they are transgender and they wanted to meet whomever was flying the flag. Leslie welcomed the little girl in and told her if she ever needed support or wanted to talk, their door was open.

"I loved that," Sarah says. "Dad wouldn't have done that."

As for Katie, Sarah says she is "the best part of this journey." Sprinkle, she explains, listens and cares — she is a whole person

who loves family and has an interesting career as an attorney. And, Sarah adds, Katie has helped Leslie grow as a person.

"It's so important to have someone in your life who understands you," Sarah says. "We were over-the-moon happy."

So when she found out Leslie and Katie were getting married, Sarah and her sister Chrissy knew they wanted to walk Leslie down the aisle.

And how did she explain the transition to her three children, who are now seven, eight and nine? When they learned several years ago, Sarah says, she simply explained, "Some people are born with the wrong outside and they get it fixed." And now having loving, transgender grandparents is the most natural thing to them.

Sarah believes Leslie would have been happier had she transitioned earlier. Had that happened, she says, it would have been okay, because "Your family loves you for who you are not what your genitalia is." ■



ANTI-TRANS, From Page 10

and painted nails. He said his long hair is because his mother died of cancer, so he grows his hair out to donate for wigs.

After work several years ago, he was pulled over because he had a headlight out. When the officer ran his license, there was a warrant out for an unpaid traffic ticket.

The officer kept calling him ma'am, he said, and took him to Lew Sterrett. Once there, the guards taunted him about his long hair and nails and told him they'd have to do a strip search.

"For a speeding ticket?" he asked. He said he was told to strip in front of five male officers and kept naked for awhile.

Once processed, he was held overnight until he could see a judge in the morning. The judge let him out after paying a \$10 bond.

PREA

Jackson's attorney Scott Palmer explained that Jackson's case is based on county employees violating their own written policies and procedures but also on violations of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, passed by Congress in 2003.

PREA includes grants for studies to find ways to implement the law. Almost a decade passed before rules were issued, but once they were, processes on how to screen, classify and house transgender inmates were clear, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Those "who may be at risk because of their transgender status, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation or intersex condition" as well as "an individual's own perception of their vulnerability" must be considered for their risk of experiencing or perpetrating abuse.

Individuals must not be disciplined for any nondisclosure during screening. Facilities must use the information for safe housing placement.

Decisions about housing should be made on a case-by-case basis. Regardless of where they're housed, transgender individuals must be given the opportunity to shower separately.

If the DCSO policy and PREA rules had been properly followed, Palmer said, "I would never have met Valerie."

After hearing these complaints, Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel has decided to initiate an investigation into the situation. She said, "Dallas County has policies to make sure all people are treated fairly and with respect and dignity. We take such claims very seriously, and I have started an inquiry into the accusations." ■

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REMEMBER, From Page 9

- inside her Los Angeles home on Jan. 10.
- **Celine Walker**, 36, shot to death in a hotel room in Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 4
 - **Tonya Harvey**, 35, shot to death in Buffalo, N.Y., on Feb. 6.
 - **Zakaria Fry**, 28, went missing in New Mexico in mid-January. Her body was found 40 miles outside of Albuquerque on Feb. 19. Albuquerque Police arrested and charged Charles Spiess with two open counts of murder.
 - **Phylcia Mitchell**, 45, shot and killed outside her home in Cleveland, Ohio, on Feb. 23. Gary Sanders has been charged with aggravated murder in her death.
 - **Amia Tyrae Berryman**, 28, shot to death at a Baton Rouge, La., motel on March 26.
 - **Sasha Wall**, 29, shot to death in Chesterfield Coutny, S.C., on April 1. The FBI is assisting local investigators.
 - **Karla Patricia Flores-Pavón**, 26, choked to death in her apartment in Dallas on May 9. Dallas Police arrested 24-year-old Jimmy Eugene Johnson III for her murder.
 - **Nino Fortson**, 36, shot to death in Atlanta on May 13.

- **Gigi Pierce**, 28, shot to death in Portland, Ore., on May 21. Sophia Adler has been charged with her murder.
- **Antash'a English**, 38, killed in a drive-by shooting in Jacksonville, Fla., on June 1.
- **Diamond Stephens**, 39, shot to death on June 18 in Meridian, Miss.
- **Cathalina Christina James**, 24, shot to death in Jacksonville, Fla., on June 24. James was the third transgender woman murdered and the fourth shot in Jacksonville this year, leading to concerns that a serial killer targeting trans women may be active in the area.
- **Keisha Wells**, 54, shot to death in the parking lot of a Cleveland, Ohio apartment complex on June 24.
- **Sasha Garden**, 27, was found dead with signs of trauma in Orlando, Fla., on July 19.
- **Vontashia Bell**, 18, shot to death in Shreveport, La., on Aug. 30.
- **Dejanay Stanton**, 24, shot to death in Chicago on Aug. 30.
- **Shantee Tucker**, 30, shot to death in Philadelphia on Sept. 5.
- **Londonn Moore**, 20, shot to death in a remote area of North Port, Fla. on Sept. 8.
- **Nikki Enriquez**, 28, was one of four women killed in South Texas in September in a "serial killing spree" allegedly carried out by a U.S. Border Patro agent.
- **Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier**, 31, stabbed to death during an argument with an unidentified man, who left her body behind an abandoned building in Chicago on Oct. 3.

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ALSO:

- **Roxsana Hernandez** died May 25 while in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after fleeing violence and discrimination in Honduras.
- **Jessie Sumlar**, who regularly performed in drag and identified as queer, was stabbed to death in Jacksonville, Fla., on July 19.
- **Traylon Brown**, aka Britnee White, who identified as a gay man but often dressed in women's clothing, was shot to death in his car in South Dallas on Oct. 21.

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GAY AGENDA From Page 7

share Dallas LGBT history from noon-2 p.m. at the home of Lory Masters, 4035 Mendenhall Dr. \$50 reservation. \$60 at the door. TheDallasWay.org.

• Dec. 4: Joe Biden speaks

Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks about his bestseller Promise Me, Dad at 7:30 p.m. at the Theater at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Tickets available at AXS.com.

• Dec. 6: BTD Wrap Party

Black Tie Dinner check distribution party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

• Dec. 6: GALA holiday party

From 7-10 p.m. at event1013, 1013 E. 15th St., Plano. Tickets at GALANorthTexas.org.

• Dec. 6: Chris Howell Foundation fundraiser

The Chris Howell Foundation, an organization focused on HIV education and prevention, hosts its first fundraiser and toy drive from 7-11 p.m. at Renaissance Hotel Dallas, 2222 N. Stemmins Freeway. The event will have a casino theme and will feature a special performance by KeKe Wyatt and live music by RC and The Gritz. Toys will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Dallas. For information visit ChrisHowellFoundation.org.

• Dec. 7: An enchanted Evening Under the Mistletoe

Federal Club party from 8-11p.m. At the Old Red Museum, 100 S. Houston St.

• Dec. 8: The Teddy Bear Party

Annual party that collects teddy bears for children at Children's Health from 8 p.m.-midnight at the F.I.G., 1807 Ross Ave. #167. \$50 and a 24" teddy bear.

• Dec. 8: Lost Souls Toy Drive

Toy drive benefits Adelfa Callejo Elementary School from 6-9p.m. The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Dec. 11: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

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The courage to live authentically

Trans people deserve the right to live the lives they've fought for

Look, I don't know anyone who wants to be transgender. I did everything I could to not be. To deny it. To hide it. To defeat it. I mean, here I was in my early 50s. I had a nice house, a job I've always dreamed of, a nice car, and a family. Who in their right mind wants to burn the whole thing down and rebuild from the ashes?

That old life was familiar. There was much of it I would have dearly loved to preserve — my 4,500-square-foot house in Flower Mound, my well-paid job programming radio stations for CBS.

I just needed to live my life as the woman I truly was. And to do that, I had to let go — of all of it.

Think to yourself how powerful self-preservation is. Imagine letting go of everything you know and starting over, from scratch. Imagine denying yourself everything you've ever known and plunging head first into the abyss — a refugee in your own country.

Then there is the ridicule. Surely you don't think I never heard the jokes about and mocking of transgender people. The ol' "guy in a dress!" joke — har-har-har. That one is never not funny, right?

I didn't want to be laughed at. I didn't want to be murdered. I didn't want to lose my job. I didn't want to be alone.

Part of starting from scratch was learning how to dress, accumulating a wardrobe and all the accessories, getting my name and gender markers changed, learning how to act, walk, talk — and overcoming the terror of learning my place in women-only spaces. I'm six feet tall, and I have big hands and beard shadow. Where to even start? Would I be laughed at? Ridiculed? Arrested?

I had no one to lean on. I was utterly alone.

I started growing my hair, a six-year process. Then there was two years of electrolysis, every six weeks. It was insanely painful and cost about as much as a Hyundai. I added cross-sex hormones and, for me, the next step was surgery — which was not covered by insurance.

In fact, none of it was covered by insurance. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, transgender people couldn't get health insurance. Period.

I knew I was transgender from a young age — around age 5 was my earliest memory. Except the word transgender hadn't



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

been coined yet; they were still using the other one: "freak." I learned to keep my mouth shut but the feelings never left. My first radio job was in Jackson, Wyo. I remember once, when my wife was

away, sitting in a closet wearing one of my wife's old bridesmaid dresses, crying. I was fighting a silent war with myself that I thought I could win, over something I knew was there but I didn't understand. This was long before support groups or the internet.

I was so terrified to present as female in public. I failed the first time I tried. I drove to the Grapevine Mills Mall the sat there and cried for a half hour — screwing up my courage and then losing it all again. I drove home in defeat.

But I came back the next day, more determined than ever and this time, I got out, walked inside the mall and did a whole lap.

I didn't choose to be female. I had no say in the matter. What I did have control over is whether I would try and live with the body I had. And I tried hard; I really did. But choosing to transition, for me, was deciding to live rather than die.

It's funny: When I was little, I always knew I'd transition, though I didn't know that was the word for it. I figured I'd live as a hermit, in a home, alone, far from the nearest neighbor. I'd live as a woman, in peace.

That's a strange dream for a kid. But I had it all worked out. I just couldn't imagine being able to live around other people because I was so afraid of being laughed at or ridiculed or hurt.

I was a kid with every advantage; pretty much anything was possible. Yet the pull to be my real self was so powerful, the need so great, that sacrificing everything was worth living an authentic, if isolated life.

Today, I'm not alone. My wife, Katie, and I live in a house in Dallas County. But I worked hard, saved money and transitioned late in life. So 7-year-old me had about half of it right.

There are days when I have survivor's guilt. Why am I alive when so many of my sisters are not? I'm not special. I think sometimes it's an odd part of sexism that provides my safety: I'm old. Men, if they

see me at all, don't give me a second glance. I'm invisible.

For the most part, I'm OK with that, because there is safety in invisibility. I just try not to draw attention to myself any more than my six-foot frame already does. I won't win any beauty contests, but I have enough privilege that I can move through this world in relative safety.

It is a privilege not every trans woman enjoys. Every year on Nov. 20, we remind ourselves of that fact. Transgender Day of Remembrance is a time to count our dead. We tend to express these deaths in numbers, but those precious brothers and sisters have names and faces. They have families, friends, people who love and miss them. Their lives had value and meaning. They didn't deserve their fate.

In the United States of America, according to the Transgender Law Center, the life expectancy of an African-American trans woman is 35 years old.

That has to change!

Who is Artega Madden? She's a trans woman found dead in Denton County on Sept. 1 of 2013. Five years later and still no suspects, no investigation, no justice. Gwynivere River Song was shot to death in Waxahachie on Aug. 12, 2017, by her father. A grand jury recently declined to prosecute him for her killing. There will be no justice for her either. Transgender lives matter! At least the killer of Karla Pavon who was murdered in Dallas this past May will face justice.

The grim roll call of murdered trans people continues on. It's why we must resist attempts by those in power to erase us, to erode our civil rights, to pretend we don't exist. If we do not loudly proclaim that our lives have value, that they are worth fighting for, then our trans brothers and sisters will continue to die.

And we must have allies join in the struggle, for it's their voices that will amplify our own, sending a powerful message that we matter. Our lives are not disposable.

The political attacks from the Trump administration carry a toll, as well. When the Department of Health and Human Services; decision to try and erase transgender people became public, calls to the Trans Help Line quadrupled! We cannot and will not let this stand.

We do exist! We will NOT be erased. We deserve nothing less than full participation, not just in American society by also in access to the American Dream! ■

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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Holiday Gift Guide **2018**





Holiday Gift Guide 2018

Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas! It all means the same thing: Time to go shopping for those special people on your list. Well, Dallas Voice has you covered — here is a curated list of the funky and fun, the useful

and the useless, the fancy and the faux, all to make it easier to get through the holidays sane. Check out these two dozen items, and look on DallasVoice.com throughout the season for more ideas.

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ART FOR ART'S SAKE

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Prices vary. Available at Lula B's Oak Cliff, 1982 Fort Worth Ave. 214-824-2185. And Lula B's Design District, 1010 N. Riverfront Blvd. 214-749-1929. Lulabsdallas.com



HANDMADE ART

Local artist Beverly Ann Moore handcrafts all her works; whether elaborately decorated note cards or garden amulets, each is unique. These traditional items include sacred wood beads, gem stones and found objects. Each design is one-of-a-kind and is inspired by the Japanese tradition of wabi sabi, the art of appreciating detail in found objects and honoring the beauty in every day.

\$8 notecards; \$20 amulets. North Haven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road. 214-363-5316. NHG.com.



HOT PIECE O' GLASS

We're gay — we decorate. And we like color. (Rainbows — duh!) So a piece of Badash art glass from Outlines really fits the bill for anyone with a sense of style.

\$118. Outlines Men's Wear, 3906 Cedar Springs Road. 214-528-1955.



FORM OVER FUNCTION

A piece of art is always a great starting place for a gift list. But art that celebrates the male form? Well, that's a bonus, especially for the people you probably know. This modern resin male statuette from Antique Gallery of Mesquite is a statement piece ... and that statement is always welcome.

\$175. Antique Gallery of Mesquite, 3330 N. Galloway Road, Mesquite. 972-220-7700.



WHO'S A GOOD BOY? YOU ARE!

You've probably heard of CBD oil, or hemp oil, which is made from the same plants as weed, but has medicinal purposes for humans. Well, why not let your dog get into the act? Hemp Bombs CBD Oil for dogs is used to relieve stress, anxiety, chronic pain and other pet health issues. It's a simple, tasty addition to your pets' diets that will promote overall wellness.

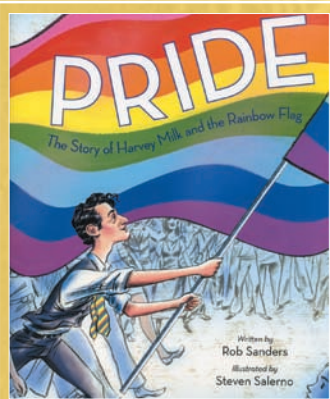
DFW Holistic Health, 424 S. Main St., Grapevine. dfwholistic.com. 469-955-8218.



A TROVE OF GOODIES

Still can't decide what to get for that impossible person on your list? Well, Dulce Interior Consignment is a great place to trigger ideas because the lineup is so eclectic, like this orange leather and Otomi-embroidered jewel box. Or maybe a Riedel decanter. Or a vase. The options are endless.

Jewel box is \$60. Dulce Interior Consignment, 2914 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-219-5656.



MILK IN BOOK FORM

Many gay folks may not have kids themselves, but they certainly find themselves surrounded by them at the holidays — who doesn't love being the quirky gay uncle? So it's nice to find a gift that's appropriate for children but also unabashedly proud. So this illustrated book about gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk and the history of the rainbow flag, called *Pride*, is educational, but also colorful and fun.

\$17.99. Available from Amazon.com and other booksellers.

Your Personal Shopper™

Count on Sigel's this season for gift ideas, party planning advice, pairing suggestions, and more!



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Grooming/Personal



HOW TO TOP A TOP

Men's headwear has been undergoing a renaissance since at least Pharrell made looking like Roy Rogers cool. But there are tons of styles of hats out there, from safaris to newsboys to pork pies to boaters. The varieties are endless, and Tenth Street Hats has all of them. We checked out a few fedoras, as well as a boater, and were impressed by the attention to detail, the luxury and the fit of each of them. Top that.

Gondola for \$63. Kathmandu for \$65. Legacy for \$200. Dozens more available. TenthStreetHats.com.

MY PRECIOUS

Local jeweler Joe Pacetti is a force in the Texas gay community as a philanthropist, but the items he produces through J. Pacetti Precious Jewels dazzle just as much. His selection of cufflinks will certainly stand out under the tree, whether archaeological revival links, Greek key bezel in 18k yellow gold, solid sterling silver oxidized replica Greek coins or Tiffany-inspired sterling.

Prices start at \$300. Available at jpacetti.com. 214-521-0815.



HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH!

How to shop for the beauty-and-health-conscious giftee on your list? They probably have their own preferred cosmetics and work-out clothes, but what about a no-risk vitamin supplement that also has beautifying effects? Aethern is a shot-glass-sized drinkable supplement that you can take once a day (alone or in water or juice) for 28 days and the result is a glowing complexion, more radiance and increased hydration. Who wouldn't want healthier skin with little effort?

\$236/one-month supply. Aethern.com.

TRAVEL IN STYLE

Let's face it: Air travel isn't the sophisticated adventure it once was — it's more like WalMart in the sky. So even if you don't fly first class, you can pretend you do with the First Class Travel Pack from Great Useful Stuff. The lightweight doppel kit comes with a blanket and eye mask (or you can keep the blanket inside for a cushy pillow). Classy.

\$70. GreatUsefulStuff.com.



THE GIFT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

Everyone is always looking for a gift; everyone is also always looking for their keys. So why not combine them with these stylish key rings, designed by Le Corbusier. This design is also available in card case for \$39 and cufflinks for \$60. Collect them all.

\$30. NUVO Dallas, 3311 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 101. 214-522-6886. nuvodallas.com.



Pets



A FETCHING GIFT FOR FIDO

Get tired of hurling a ball for your best friend over and over? This Launch and Fetch Tennis Ball Launcher is interactive fun with a convenient, hands-free system (no slobber on your mitts!) that keeps your pet happy and exercised.

\$19.98. Available at Pet Supplies Plus (multiple locations). PetSuppliesPlus.com



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

You could see a MagnaReady flannel shirt as the ultimate in lazy fashion — it seems to have buttons, but actually uses magnets to instantly close (and just as quickly open) your fashionable shirt. And you know what? Maybe it is lazy. But also super cool, and the shirts look and feel great, too.

From \$64.95. MagnaReady.com.



BLING FOR YOUR BICHON

The holidays are a time of dressy parties, but why should Rover be left out of the fashion? Consider for your pet — or pet-owning friend — a Bling holiday bow tie for dogs from Doggie Den. It's not only cute ... well, yes, that's the main reason.

\$6–\$10. Doggie Den Dallas, 6444 E. Mockingbird Lane. DeesDoggieDen.com. 214-823-1441.

A POUCH FOR THE PUGNACIOUS

A Fluffy Layers Zip Pouch is convenient wherever you go to keep money or other items you wanna take on the move, but why not sweeten the look for pet owners? These adorable and secure carrying cases are ideal for all sorts of on-the-go occasions.

\$9.99. Available at Hollywood Feed stores (multiple locations) or at HollywoodFeed.com



WHISKERS, SLUMBERCATS!

No need to share your bed with your (or your partner's) four-legged friend. A platform pet bed from Luna is an attractive, no-assembly-required way to give the dog or cat a place of their own to sleep. Available in mahogany, walnut and maple, in sized medium, small and extra-small.

From \$455. Modern Paw Furniture. 817-789-5677. ModernPawFurniture.com.



Entertainment



TAKE THEM TO THE CIRQUE

A mysterious island ruled by goddesses. That's the core around which the newest Cirque du Soleil show, Amaluna, creates its Tempest-like dazzling show, which opens in the Metroplex in January. Get tickets now for this always-amazing modern circus with a feminist slant.

Tickets starting at \$45.
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie,
Jan. 23—Feb. 17.
cirquedusoleil.com/amaluna.

IN MEMORY OF STAN LEE

With the passing of Marvel Comics icon Stan Lee, and the upcoming release of *Aquaman*, comic books are probably on the brain of your gay nerd friends. So why not something from one of Dallas' two gay-owned comic book shops? There are tons of Marvel, DC and other books and collectibles out there, including this Batgirl figurine. You go, 'Girl!

Zeus Comics and Collectibles,
1334 Inwood Road. 214-219-8697.
zeuscomics.com.

Red Pegasus, 319 N. Bishop Ave.
972-413-8716.
redpegasuscomics.com.



BLU-RAY WITH BALLS

For the cinephile on your list, nothing beats a classic film, especially a restored or remastered classic, like Terry Gilliam's sci-fi thinker *12 Monkeys* or gay director Terence Davies' coming of age drama *Distant Voices, Still Lives*, both now on Blu-ray in new 4K restoration editions from Arrow Video.

Available at Amazon.com



Food/Beverages

SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETIE

Nothing says "I love you" quite so much as candy, and when it's custom-made, local-produced boxes from North Texas' Yelibelly Chocolates, it must be true love. Boxes can be customized to include chocolate covered Oreos, turtles and bonbons.

Three-tier boxes are \$30-\$38; four-tier boxes are \$40-\$48.
Yelibelly.com.



NOW YOU'RE COOKIN'

Although the Hungry Fan thermal bag was designed for tailgating (a popular pastime in Texas, for sure), it's more than just an insulated way to keep food warm — it actually can slow-cook chili, BBQ and casseroles without batteries or a plug. It even comes with a recipe to get your gift recipient started!

\$39.99 at HungryFan.com or Amazon.com.



Crafts

WHICH CRAFT?

Ever wanted to learn a new skill but didn't know where to start? Blueprint boxes are the ideal solution for you or your giftee. The content library is tied to NBC Universal's new on-demand streaming lifestyle service, with more than 3,000 hours of instruction. Crafting boxes are offered in many forms, from knitting to cake decorating to quilting and watercolors, so there's a skill set out there to be explored.

From \$85. MyBlueprint.com.



Happy Holidays!



CANDY IS DANDY BUT LIQUOR IS MORE WOKE

At 38 proof, Candy's all-natural infusion of white chocolate, fresh peppermint, real dairy cream, premium vodka and Caribbean rum is perfectly blended to enjoy chilled over ice or in your morning coffee. Best of all, the product is made by women, for women (though men are welcome to drink as well).

\$17.99. Available at Sigel's (multiple locations) or sigels.com.



HOT AND COOL

With a chill in the air, this is the perfect time to make a gift of wonderful hot teas. But in addition to tasting terrific, the items from Flower Pot Tea are beautifully packaged and delightful to look at — the bulbs of tea actually unfold in the pot into a blooming flower! (And you can get your giftee a clear glass pot to go along with it!)

Teas from \$8.99. Accessories also available. FlowerPotTea.com.

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Wednesday 11.21 — Sunday 12.30

Bah! Humbug! Scrooge is back at the Wylly

Dallas Theater Center has staged its holiday show *A Christmas Carol* for decades, and even though the script has stayed mostly the same for a decade, a rotating cast and director keep it fresh. This year, Tiffany Nicole Greene directs Alex Organ as Ebenezer Scrooge in this incarnation of DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty's adaptation, which for the 11th year also served as a fundraiser for the North Texas Food Bank.

DEETS: Wylly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Friday 11.23 — Monday 12.24

Sugar plums, on deck! It's time for 'The Nutcracker'

You can always tell when it's holiday season in North Texas: That's when Texas Ballet Theater stages its annual Christmas pudding, aka Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. As always, Sir Ben Stevenson's lively version of the gorgeous classic will have runs both in Fort Worth's Bass Hall and Dallas' Winspear. There's no excuse not to see one and get in the yuletide mood!

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 23–Dec. 2. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 7–24. TexasBalletTheater.org. ATTPAC.org. BassHall.com.

Saturday 11.17

The sound and the furry: DJ Barry Harris spins at Fur Ball

The bear community doesn't go into hibernation just because the weather has gotten colder — they are coming out for it this weekend, with DJ Barry Harris spinning at Fur Ball. (Harris is from Toronto, so he's used to the cold!) The dance event features some other treats, including free pizza at 9 p.m. and Icee Pops at midnight.

DEETS: Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. 9 p.m. \$8 in advance/\$10 after midnight. Search Facebook for details.



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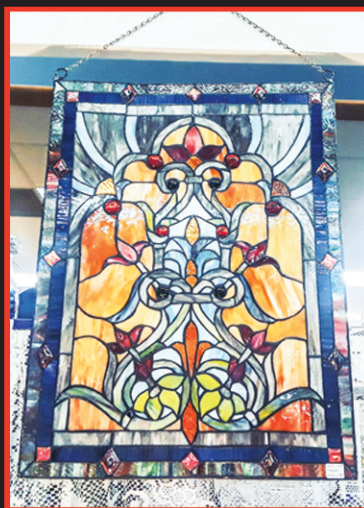
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER
Elwood. A world premiere musical comedy by Matthew Posey. *Final weekend.* Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. OchreHouseTheater.org.
The Moors. The lives of two Victorian era sisters are disrupted by strange arrivals in this dark comedy. Directed by Garret Storms. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

DANCE
Bruce Wood Dance: All Bruce. The company, now under new artistic director Joy Bollinger, celebrates the late founder with a slate of his classic dances, including *Echoes of Enchantment*, *The Edge of My Life So Far* (with Nycole Ray) and *Bolero*. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Nov. 16–17. BruceWoodDance.org.

FINE ART
An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and Modern Art. The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and now on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17, 2019. DMA.org.

The Nature of Arp. Exploration of the work of the influential 20th century artist. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. NasherSculptureCenter.org.
Dali: Poetics of the Small, 1929–1936. Before he was an acclaimed surrealist of monumental work, Salvador Dali was a craftsman of small, classic (and modernist) paintings. Meadows Museum of Art on the SMU campus, 5900 Bishop Blvd.

EXHIBITIONS
Ultimate Dinosaurs. Exhibit analyzing the history of the creatures that would come to occupy Jurassic Park. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 N. Field St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. PerotMuseum.org.
Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello. Archeological exhibition that details life for possessed peoples who worked the plantation of the third president of the United States. African American Museum at Fair Park. Through Dec. 31.

FRIDAY 11.16
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

DANCE
Bruce Wood Dance: All Bruce. The company, now under new artistic director Joy Bollinger, celebrates the late founder with a slate of his classic dances, including *Echoes of Enchantment*, *The Edge of My Life So Far* (with Nycole Ray) and *Bolero*. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Nov. 16–17. BruceWoodDance.org

SATURDAY 11.17
COMMUNITY
FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.



Taste of France, the annual culinary and wine celebration sponsored by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Dallas-Fort Worth, takes place on Friday at F.I.G.

MONDAY 11.19
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

TUESDAY 11.20
FILM
East of Eden. Last week was Marlon Brando — this week is James Dean in his most iconic and powerful role. 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.

THURSDAY 11.22 —
THANKSGIVING DAY
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.

this week’s solution

H	A	L	F		S	K	I	S		A	M	P	S								
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Intimates

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AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK

AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER

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LogCabin.org/Chapter/Texas-Dallas

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS

214-506-3367 | StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org

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817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

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DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION

214-540-4460 | DGLBA.org

GLOBE

972-308-7233 | FedGlobe.org

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214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

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info@leadershiplambda.freetoasthoast.com

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LGBTLawTx.com | 800-204-2222 ext. 1420

N. TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

214-821-GLBT | GLBTChamber.org

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Outandequal.org/dallas-fort-worth

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DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

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DALLAS LATINO PRIDE

texaslatinogaypride.com

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

So, what is the *official* definition of “thanksgiving” anyhow? Well, glad you asked, pilgrim: Upon consulting three reliably official sources — The Webster Handy College Dictionary, The American Heritage Dictionary and the “Type Here to Search” feature on my new Dell — I discovered all three define the term with near identical verbiage: Both dictionaries refer to it as, “The act of giving thanks, especially to God,” whereas Dell calls it, “The expression of gratitude, especially to God.”

Neither feasting nor food, apparently, are anywhere to be found among the definitive meanings, leaving one to conclude what has always been suspected from reading between the lines of our American history books about Capt. John Smith and his passengers, but never dared say aloud: That among the smattering survivors of The Mayflower cultists’ first winter — in thanks that following autumn once the crops were safely in — those still standing all merrily went on an orgiastic, four-day-long bacchanalian bender, expressive of their God-fearing gratitude for Him (perhaps especially choosing to kill off those other shiftless, varmint-heathen sect members, instead of them), with the tradition-birthing legend of pumpkins, roasted turkeys and wild cranberries virtually serving little more feasting-function than our current-day equivalency to happy hour bar snacks would.

Fast-forwarding 400 years, and up here inside my Dallas sky aerie office, adjacent to my writing desk of its rather puritan-ish antiquity (a two-seater partners’ desk, ornately replete with carved American chestnut claw feet and a varnished, dark green leather velum writing top) reposes a 180-degree-turn of contrast in modernity, strictly utilitarian of function, and designed to be nothing more than what it invisibly is: just a plain ugly, blandly beige, boxy metal filing cabinet, which invariably inspires me to always refer to it, grandly, as “The Ask Howard Gay Archival Library Canon Repository.” In other words, all it does is store my column’s queer-bait queries, filed alphabetically, according to subject matters that only gays have much interest in, and sometimes even that’s not much.

Case in point: Nary a question filed within said archive may be accused of suffering any Thanksgiving gluttony. Hell, even such fetish/extreme obscurities as the “necrophilia,” chastity,” “teratophilia” and “K-9” folders pique a far girthier gay interest than do any homosexual’s “nutritional concerns.”

In sorry truth, I have amassed, during an accumulation of nearly 14 years now, precisely *four* questions pertaining to food—*four!* Moreover, fully half of these rare delicacies were published at least half-a-dozen years back, and the other two never were, nor will be, at all.

Of the exactly *two* food questions I’ve published, the first was actually more of a detective request, involving my tracking down some cryptically rare recipe, of vaguely Eastern/Tibetany origins, for a penis enlargement poultice that requires only seven ingredients, yet guarantees “any man show large always, as ever like the horse, when apply to the member for one turn of hourglass.” Surprisingly, Inspector Hercule Howard actually sleuthed this mythical recipe out — it really does exist. (Albeit, oddly missing are any affirmational testaments to its transmogrifying powers of permanently turning light switches into horses within just an hour.)

As for the other remaining ancient history question, it hit publication jackpot, via just straightforwardly asking (major yawner), “How many empty calories are there in an average ejaculation of



sperm?” (Yes, *this*, above all others, is the one question I’m constantly having to answer at least once a year since Ask Howard’s long ago, Bush Era inception.) By far, still, it’s my *most* popular query: God only knows scurrilously why.

Which takes us now to those remaining two questionable food queries that didn’t get published, and why not? Well, the first inquired, “Out of the myriad of all phallic-shaped fruits and vegetables, Howard, which ones wisely need always be peeled, first, prior to anal insertion; or, should one jadedly just assume nowadays that even ‘organic’ can’t be trusted anymore to truly be pesticide-free, either?” Yeah, exactly, sweet readers: Enough said about some dude’s cucumbers, zucchinis, eggplants and bananas. Who the hell gives a juicy

funk anyhow when they’re that horny? Right, bois? Organic is as nonorganic does.

And lastly, for this year’s Thanksgiving column, we arrive to that (also unpublished) fourth “dietary concerns” question. In all honesty, it’s one of my favorite questions asked ever, which, as you’ll shortly see yourself, is the exact same reason why it was never published:

“Dear Howard, Ice cream or cake? — Sweet Tooth”

And that was all there was to it: Nothing else. Just a mouthwatering question asked in four simple words. Hence, with this being as good a Thanksgiving column template-guide as any, a simple rifling through Howard’s Gay Archival Library Canon Repository quickly unearths brevity pay-dirt,

filed under (appropriately enough) a tab titled, “one-sentence wonders;” thus, guys, pardon the turkeys, please, and let’s thankfully just get right to the quick-and-short of it.

Dear Howard: Do you ever get love notes from boys? — **Shy Guy**

Dear Opey: Love notes from boys? Where are you composing this blushing Valentine’s from anyhow, Ophelia — your fourth grade recess monkey bars? No, I can’t recall having ever received a love note, per se; now *lust* notes, certainly... if you want to politely call such truck stop-esque graffiti “notes” of love. Additionally, more than several notes have I received with passionate sentiments expressed to me of a burning hate-and-loathing; subsequently, where love is concerned, well, I’ve always more preferred it be verbally expressed, rather than penned, but then I’m old-school like that . . . and from men, though, not boys.

Dear Howard: Why is it that there are, you think, so few gay male professional chefs? It seems such a natural fit. — **Meat and Taters**

Dear Chateaubriand & Pommes Frites: For the same reason, you think, there are so many gay female professional golfers? Ask a bigoted cliché, and you’ll get answered more reflectively than if strung upside down with diamonds wearing a green Masters’ blazer to the James Beard Awards.

Dear Howard: I’m already a self-professed gambling addict, and now I’m beginning to also question my bedroom habits. Could sex really (wink, wink) be addictive? — **Benny and His Jet**

Dear Electric Boots: Sex, addictive? Hmmph! Of course, it’s not *addictive*; hell, I oughta know — I’ve been doing it for years!

Dear Howard: I’m a beginner crossword puzzle enthusiast — it keeps me out of trouble: What is a four-letter slang word meaning, “To accidentally knock over?” It a gay term? — **Stumped in Silver Dollar City**

Dear Queen of the Silver Dollar: A “gay” term? Honey, what kind of respectable Southerner are you anyhow, that you’ve never heard of the oft hysterically-used word “tump” before? “Stop, Suzie-Jean . . . now, Miss Priss, you’re a-fixin’ to tump it over!”

Dear Howard: Not that it’s any of my faggoty business, but are you a creationist or a Darwinist? — **Walt**

Dear Disney On Ice: An amusingly mediocre anthology of fairytales, the Book of Genesis is.

Dear Howard: Is it possible, for real, to become sexually attracted to an inanimate object? — **Beaux (the ‘x’ is silent)**

Dear DumBoXXX: I dunno, Bo, why don’t you pull open that drawer full of dildos next to your bed and ask whichever one of ‘em’s the greasiest.

PS: Dear Sweet Tooth: Cake. Every time, cake: I’ve never met a slice of cake yet that I didn’t enthusiastically welcome to come on inside, sweetie, and join me!

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a question about love, sex, etiquette or anything else hat needs a special spin from Howard? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.



Staying warm and having fun

Making the **SCENE** the week of Nov. 16–22:

- **515 Bar:** Karaoke at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Tap TV Trivia at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Alexandre's:** Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Geeks Who Drink at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. American Horror Story Watch Party at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court Wreath Auction at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Brook Ashcroft hosts a show in his bid for Mr. Yellow Rose of Texas at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Cowtown Leathermen Cookout from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** NLA fundraiser — Let's Talk about Sex, Baby from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. DJ Brandon Moses' Retirement Party from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Friday. SSC Fund Wreath Auction from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Bears Club Night from 9-11 p.m. on Saturday. DIVA Night with DJ C-Rail begins at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night from 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Pekers:** The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents Thanks For Giving, with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour on Friday. Lost Souls vs. Quins Lip Synch Battle Royale at 1 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. The Mojo Dolls on Saturday. The Anton Shaw Band followed by the Mescaline Americans on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Chevelle Brooks on Friday and Saturday. Miss Texas FFI At Large starring Kara Foxx-Paris at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Mayra D'Lorenzo hosts a show at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** College Football Happy Hour on Saturday. I Love the 90s at 9 p.m. on Monday. Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

SCENE Photos by KAT HAYGOOD and CHAD MANTOOTH



Bundled up at The Round-Up



The men of Club Stallions



The garbage pail boys at Sue Ellen's



Joe (aka Jenna) meets his idol, Lynda Carter



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Rocky and Kylee strike a pose



What's shakin,' bacon?



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The leather jacket crew at Woody's

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Gay Martyr

Solution on Page 29

Across

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 9 Roadies' burdens
 13 What comes to mind
 14 Make less difficult to bear
 15 Simba's love, on Broadway
 16 Disneyland street
 17 "Look __, I'm Sandra Dee"
 18 Rotary phone feature
 19 With 48-Across, 2014 movie about a gay martyr
 22 "Hey, sailor!"
 23 Davis of *Commander in Chief*
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 29 Morales of *Resurrection Blvd.*
 30 Skater Mattis
 31 "Bali __"
 34 2000 play about a gay martyr (with *The*)
 38 "... a rose by __ other name..."
 39 Bannon and Northrop
 40 Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye __"

- 41 The Name of the *Rose* characters
 43 Composer whose name sounds like a dagger part
 45 Flies like an eagle
 47 Strap on a stallion
 48 See 19-Across
 53 A little behind
 54 *Kiss of the Spider Woman* setting
 55 Moves the head
 57 Gomer's "opposed to"
 58 Weight loss product
 59 Infatuated with Mr. Right Now
 60 Fender bender evidence
 61 Rimbaud's zip
 62 Where to stick your tool

Down

- 1 "Hymn to __" of *My Fair Lady*
 2 Gay video directory name
 3 Future queen of *Star Wars*
 4 Disney movie with a sorcerer
 5 Time of the year
 6 Najimy of *If These Walls Could Talk 2*
 7 Demi Lovato's "This __"
 8 Penetrate the cracks
 9 *Evita* composer __ Lloyd Webber

- 10 Women's restroom?
 11 Bagel variety
 12 Music style for Ricky Martin
 20 Howe'er
 21 Part of a club name
 24 Words before Hoya
 25 Straight __ arrow
 26 Peter Pan portrayer
 27 Dips in gravy
 28 Heston's *Ben* __
 30 Pride places
 32 Suburban plot
 33 "__ put hair on your chest!"
 35 Home for Troy Perry
 36 Pen contents
 37 LGBTQ rights activist
 42 Set straight
 43 *Battle Cry* actor Van
 44 Draw a bead on
 45 Mixed-up fruits, perhaps
 46 No longer jail bait
 47 Bea Arthur's TV maid Esther
 49 Home st. of Maupin
 50 Where you can eat a hero
 51 He cruised with a bear pair
 52 Slight advantage
 56 Like McCullers' cafe

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