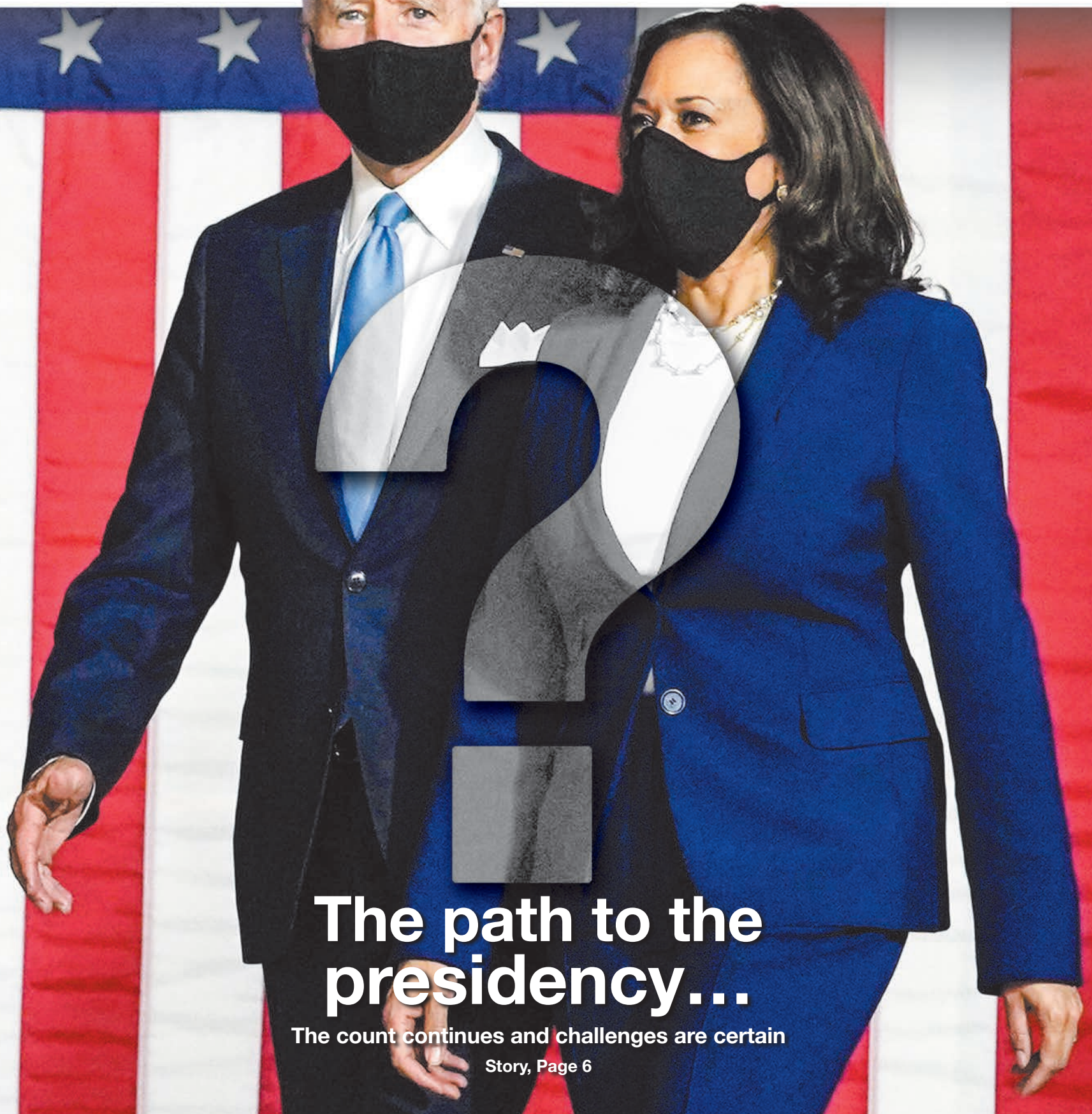


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The path to the presidency...

The count continues and challenges are certain

Story, Page 6

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6

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 6 And the counting continues...
- 6 Texas LGBT Caucus is re-elected
- 8 Win some, lose some

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 14 DRIVE: The 20s
- 15 DRIVE: 2020 Lincoln Aviator
- 18 DRIVE: It's getting hot in here
- 20 DRIVE: Going electric

■ ON THE COVER

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
photo by Associated Press
Designed by Kevin Thomas



8



15

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|-------------|
| 4 | InstanTEA | 23 | Best Bets |
| 6 | News | 24 | Jenny Block |
| 13 | Voices | 26 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 30 | Marketplace |

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Dream Stream: SMU Meadows to stream student plays inspired by John Lewis

American statesman and civil rights leader John Lewis passed away this summer, but his legacy lives on through the theater. Theatre East, the off-Broadway theater company, partners with SMU Meadows School of the Arts and its Division of Theater for the "Wet Ink Series," which features seven new plays by student theater artists. The plays will be livestreamed free on Nov. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. featuring both student and professional actors under the direction of New York professionals and SMU faculty and alumni.

Each play is inspired by a quote from Lewis:

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month or a year; it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

The seven plays will be presented throughout the two-day livestream with three 10-minute plays on Nov. 9 and four 20-minute plays featured on Nov. 10 via Zoom.

"The plays deal with the here and now, in this age of COVID and social unrest," SMU Associate Professor of Theater Benard Cummings says in a press release.

The partnership gives the area students an opportunity for exposure to a New York City professional theater ahead of graduation and to work with professional actors and directors from New York.

"We're really excited about this opportunity to connect with Theatre East and to enable our playwrights, stage managers and actors to make this connection and to see their work on a new platform," Gretchen Smith, SMU theater chair and head of the

playwriting program, says in the release.

The public is invited to watch all performances online. Attendance is free, but advance registration is required. Visit smu.edu/meadows/areasofstudy/theatre for more information and for the Zoom links to register or call the Meadows ticket office at 214-768-2787.

— Rich Lopez

Alan White remains missing

These are updates on Alan White, who has been missing since he left LA Fitness CityPlace early on Oct. 22:

Family members of Alan White said that Dallas police have confirmed

that the Porsche Macan White was driving at the time of his disappearance was found Thursday, Oct. 29, in south Dallas. There is still no word, however, on White's whereabouts.

There is a \$10,000 reward now being offered for information leading to the whereabouts of James Alan White. He was last seen around 6 a.m. on Oct. 22, driving out of the LA Fitness Cityplace parking lot on Haskell.

James Alan White is 5'11" tall and weighs 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a light gray tank top and dark gym shorts, and carrying a maroon-and-navy two-tone sling bag.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Alan White is asked to contact the Missing Person Squad at 214-671-4268 and talk to the detective assigned the case.

— Tammye Nash

The Donald Fowler Theater Arts Memorial Fund fundraising campaign announced



The Donald Fowler Theater Arts Memorial Fund, created following the unexpected death of Fowler in May, plans a fall fundraising campaign honoring the late Dallas actor, composer and playwright.

The fund also plans to award the first grant from the fund and a memorial celebration and concert in 2021.

The fund will provide annual support in the form of seed grants to artists living in the Dallas Metroplex, supporting their creation of new works of theater, including plays and musicals. The grants will assist with early costs of creation for individual artists whose work-in-progress is not yet financially supported by a theater or presenter.

An online campaign for additional gifts to the fund, which has its home at The Dallas Foundation, has begun and lasts through Fowler's Nov. 13 birthday.

Additional details regarding the May 8 Memorial Celebration will be shared in the spring.

More information about the Donald Fowler Theater Arts Memorial Fund, including how to donate and how to apply for a grant, may be found on the Fund's website: DonaldFowler-ArtsFund.com.

— David Taffet

pet of the week / EARL



Meet Earl, a 7-year-old male Labrador Retriever mix weighing 70 pounds. He's a gentle giant who would love to find a home

of his very own. He has a solid black coat with droopy ears and flecks of grey on his muzzle. He's an older guy who loves eating yummy treats, curling up on cozy beds and adores head and ear scratches. Due to his age, he's looking for a home without stairs so he doesn't have to struggle to get around too much. He would love to curl up on the couch, watch movies and read books with his new family. If you're looking for a laidback senior guy to spend time with, he's the one for you. Earl is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas.

In an effort to reduce the potential for spreading COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption events and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at spca.org/findapet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.

Teaching your dog good manners

Hello, mi gente! Bienvenidos again to my monthly column. By the time this is published, we should know who the next president of the United States

will be, and we can only hope we all did our part in shaping the future of our country.

With this column, I would like to touch on a subject that is technically not of a medical background but still related to our fur babies, of course: "Pet Etiquette." What I want to bring to the table is how to manage situations that should involve common sense but can sometimes prove to be challenging.

For those of us that may not have the privilege of owning a backyard but do have dogs to take outside, there are two common mistakes I see people making. The first common mistake is not walking our dog on a leash at all times. Walking your dog on a leash includes putting their leash on while still inside your home and not removing it until you are safely back inside. This may seem a bit too much for some people, but it is important in order to avoid conflicts with other dogs or



WOOF

Dr. Josh Talks Animals

because many dogs do not like cats.

The second common mistake with pet etiquette is leaving your dog's poop-mines behind. We should always pick up our babies' poops, right when they are fresh and warm (lol). This practice not only avoids potentially leaving parasites in the environment, it also helps with keeping common areas clean and keeps others from stepping in these lovely butt gifts.

We should also be mindful of our surroundings and other pets when walking our dog. For example, if someone has a dog and is walking towards you, a good practice is to cross the street whenever possible or walk away from the other person and their dog in order to avoid any type of conflict.

This type of situation can be dangerous because we do not know how friendly the other

even people.

If you walk your cat on a leash, please stay away from areas frequented by dogs

dog may be. Some dogs are very friendly with humans but may not be friendly toward other animals. There are even dogs that do not like dogs that are bigger than them and some don't like dogs smaller than them.

Along this same line, it is also important to avoid petting dogs that you do not know without the parent's consent. Always ask if it is OK to say hi to their baby before attempting to pet a dog. If children are involved, please make sure you ask if the dog is OK with kids and make sure you tell the kid to be gentle. If the kid is too young to know how to interact with dogs, it would be better to refrain from having any interaction, as some young kids may grab and pull, leading to potential — and unnecessary — problems.

When taking dogs to a park or common area where the use of leash is optional, make sure your dog has manners. For example, if your dog is trying to hump every living organism or is barking at everything or is being a bully, then your dog may not be "park" ready. Babies like this need to be assessed by a behaviorist before you allow them to be a part of any doggy social gathering.

Also, if your baby is very shy or submissive, you may want to address that first as well

because some shy/submissive dogs can feel stressed out at the park. This means that instead of being a pleasant time outside, it can turn out to be a torturous experience for them.

When it comes to dogs that bark when left alone at home and dogs that destroy things while parents are gone (or even when still there!), it is important to address these issues as soon as possible. This not only allows us to raise our babies with manners, it helps avoid conflicts with neighbors. And more importantly, it allows our babies to be as happy as they can be.

There are ways to help these furry ones, so please consult with your veterinarian and with your behaviorist of choice.

I hope these ideas help start a conversation at home that will lead to forming a healthier family, while keeping in mind that we should always be nicer to people around us, especially when the world seems to be falling apart.

As usual, of course, abrazos and hang in there!

Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital, 14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110 in Addison (next to Tom Thumb). Visit them at IslaVet.com or call 972-738-1111.



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And the count continues ...

Biden just 17 EC votes shy of a win, with 3 ways to get there

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Despite Donald Trump's premature declaration of victory on Tuesday night, Nov. 3 — and his ongoing claims of fraud and demands for legal action — the question of who will be the nation's president for the next four years remained unanswered as of the Dallas Voice's press deadline Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5.

Prognosticators are saying that Biden's path to victory is wider and more certain, but Trump still has a chance to pull out a win. As of noon Thursday, with the electoral college vote count standing at 253 for Biden and 214 for Trump, ballot counting continued in six states. One of those six — Alaska — appeared to be clearly in Trump's column, which would put his EC count at 217.

In two of the as-yet undetermined states — Arizona with 11 EC votes and Nevada with six — Biden was leading at press time. If his leads there hold up, Biden will have secured 270 EC votes, exactly the number needed to win the presidency.

News reports have indicated that officials in Arizona have had to temporarily halt the counting there after Trump supporters carrying guns surrounded the facility where the counting was taking place.



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Some news outlets, including the Associated Press and — to most people's surprise and Trump's chagrin —

Fox News, have already called Arizona for Biden. If they are right, then Biden needs only win Nevada to claim the White House.

At deadline, Biden was ahead in Arizona, 50.5 percent-48.1 percent, and, according to the New York Times, officials planned to release another update after 8 p.m. central.

More results in Nevada are expected to be released around 11 a.m. central on Friday. Biden was leading there by less than 1 percent.

At our deadline, Trump was still leading in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia — but by ever-shrinking margins in Pennsylvania and Georgia. There were enough ballots still uncounted in each of those two states to change the outcome, and the uncounted ballots in both states were said to be trending in favor of Biden.

In fact, as the counting continued Thursday morning in Georgia, U.S. Sen. David Perdue saw his lead in his race to re-election fall below the 50 percent mark, and since that is a three-way race, Perdue could be facing a runoff against

COUNT, Page 10

Texas' LGBT Caucus is re-elected

Ann Johnson flips a seat and increases lesbian representation in the Texas House

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Democrats had hoped to flip the Texas House in Tuesday's elections and thus gain control of redistricting the Texas Legislature as well as U.S. congressional seats. And the Texas House LGBT Caucus, which currently has five members, was excited about the possibility of doubling in size.

But little changed in the Texas Legislature on Tuesday. Democrats flipped just one seat. That one gain, however, did increase the size of the LGBT Caucus by one with the election of Ann Johnson in Houston.

House Democrats did hold onto gains made in the 2018 election, even though Republicans had targeted some of those seats that flipped from red to blue two years ago. That included the re-election of five members of the LGBT Caucus. Two of those members — Mary Gonzalez of El Paso and Jessica Gonzalez of Dallas — were elected unopposed. Celia

Israel and Julie Johnson easily won their elections, and Erin Zwiener, who was one of those targeted by Republicans, pulled out a 1-point victory.

Equality Texas CEO Ricardo Martinez congratulated the five founding members of the caucus and congratulated "pro-equality Senator Roland Gutierrez and pro-equality Representative Ann Johnson, on their election."

"We believe their representation is critically important to ensure that Texas continues its march toward equal justice under the law and that all people are represented in the Texas legislature and at all levels of government," Martinez continued.

Two gay men, two transgender women and one additional lesbian also ran for state House seats across the state, although none were successful.

"We appreciate the talented pro-equality candidates who ran for office and unfortunately did not make it over the finish line," Martinez said. "This will make our job more difficult, with prolific anti-LGBTQ lawmakers re-elected, but we will not stop until we achieve full lived equality for LGBTQ+ Texans."

Ann Johnson defeated five-term incumbent Sarah Davis, generally considered the most liberal Republican in the Texas House. Davis had Equality Texas' endorsement and had signed on as a sponsor of Jessica Gonzalez's LGBTQ nondiscrimination legislation that she



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plans to file in the 2021 legislative session.

Johnson will represent a district that includes Houston's gayborhood of Westheimer, the Galleria and Rice University.

But Johnson disputes Davis' liberal cred, saying Davis was elected as a tea party candidate and maintains a high score with the NRA and a zero rating with the Sierra Club. She voted to cut education by \$5.3 billion and was a leader in the fight to prevent Medicaid expansion, leaving hundreds of thousands of Texans without healthcare insurance.

Johnson said Wednesday she is honored to be the representative-elect.

"From the beginning, this campaign has been about the people in this community," Johnson said. "I want to thank Rep. Sarah Davis for her service to our district. To those who supported Rep. Davis, I want you to know that I will work hard every day to earn your support. Tonight, our campaign ends. Let's all move forward together."

Her priorities in the upcoming legislative session, Johnson said, are to fight for working families, education, common sense gun safety reforms and Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare access for over one million uninsured.

"I will work with Republicans and Democrats to ensure we're investing in ordinary Texans and small businesses during this pandemic, so our communities can build back from this economic recession stronger," she added.

Jessica Gonzalez, currently serving her first term in the Legislature, defeated an incumbent in the last election. This year, she ran unopposed in both the primary and the general election. She said she

spent most of the campaign helping other candidates, especially block-walking for Johnson.

During early voting, Gonzalez said, she greeted people at the polls and participated in some get-out-the-vote pop-up events.

"Two years ago, I won my first election to serve Texas House District 104," Gonzalez said. "I want to thank my family, friends, volunteers, and voters who supported me to make that happen. I am humbled to serve a second term as your representative for Texas House District 104."

Gonzalez's district covers parts of Oak Cliff, West Dallas and Grand Prairie.

Julie Johnson is also serving her first term. Her district includes the northwest corner of Dallas County. She won re-election with 56.9 percent of the vote and a 10,000-vote margin.

In her freshman year, Texas Monthly named Johnson freshman of the year. In comparing Johnson to her predecessor, who made the previous term's list of worst representatives for threatening to shoot another House member, the magazine said, "Johnson, by contrast, is a paragon of collegiality. She co-authored some bills with Republicans and tried to build bipartisan goodwill by hosting a whiskey-tasting party in her office."

Johnson made a name for herself by defeating a religious exemption bill using her legal skills to convince the Speaker of the House that the bill violated House rules.

In a written statement, Johnson thanked her supporters and volunteers: "I am honored to be re-elected to serve the people of HD115 for a second term in the Texas House. Campaigning is always



The Texas House's original LGBT Caucus members from left, Celia Israel, Mary Gonzalez, Erin Zweiner, Jessica Gonzalez and Julie Johnson.

difficult, time consuming and demanding. I am humbled and thrilled to have such overwhelming support by the people of this district."

And she thanked her family who put signs up around the district and "put up with endless Zoom calls and dealt with my overall obsession with politics."

In making its choice for freshman of the year, Texas Monthly mentioned several other legislators including Zwiener. Other members, they wrote, described her "as the most savvy freshman and potential future leader of the House Democrats."

The three-time *Jeopardy* champion is also, simply put, one of the smartest members of the Texas House.

Mary Gonzalez created the LGBT Caucus last session when the number of LGBTQ members of the House reached five. About 20 other members of the House joined as well. Gonzalez was just re-elected for her fifth term. She ran unopposed.

Israel was elected in a special election in 2014 to represent a north Austin district and has been winning in landslides

CAUCUS, Page 10

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Win some, lose some

Election results for LGBTQ candidates across the country were a mixed bag

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

Despite the ongoing uncertainty over the race for president, there was some good news for LGBTQ candidates across the country after Tuesday's elections as well as some bad news.

Democrats did not manage to take control of the U.S. Senate. While they did win two new seats (from Colorado and Arizona), they also lost two (Alabama and Michigan). There is still an opportunity to pick up another seat in a run-off in Georgia, but the Democrats will fall short of reaching a 51-seat majority.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund had supported 312 openly LGBT candidates in Tuesday's election, and while many of those races remained unsettled by Dallas Voice's deadline, some of those wins were amazing victories, including the first transgender person elected to a state senate, the first transgender state legislator elected in Kansas — who also is the first trans person of color elected to any state legislature — and the first two openly-LGBTQ Black people elected to Congress.

Of the 15 openly LGBT people running for Congress, nine had been declared winners by noon Wednesday. Seven of those were incumbents, but two of those incumbents won by very slim margins.

First-term Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota's Second Congressional ended with a 2-point win over her Republican challenger. Just days prior to Tuesday's vote, Craig won an important victory at the U.S. Supreme Court after her Republican opponent attempted to derail the voting by filing a legal action to de-

lay the election until February, based on the sudden death in September of a third party candidate — one who had acknowledged, before his death, that Republicans had recruited him to run third party as a strategy to defeat Craig.

In New York's 18th Congressional district, which includes northern suburbs of New York City, four-term Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney held onto a two-point lead over his Republican opponent to win re-election. Incumbent U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas staved off a tough challenge in his bid for a second term representing New Hampshire's First Congressional District. Pappas' Republican opponent had attempted to play up Pappas' relationship with a male lobbyist for Amazon.

Other LGBT incumbents — David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Sharice Davids of Kansas, Mark Pocan of Wisconsin and Mark Takano of California — all easily won re-election.

Two of the brightest spots among the openly LGBT winners Tuesday had to be two Black gay men in New York — Ritchie Torres and Mondaire Jones. Torres won 88 percent of the vote in his first bid for the Congressional seat representing the Bronx. Jones won by 14 points and will now represent southern New York.

Among the other six openly LGBT challengers seeking Congressional seats Tuesday, all six appear to have lost their bids, including Jon Hoadley in Michigan's Sixth Congressional District, which includes Kalamazoo, and Gina Ortiz Jones in Texas' 23rd, which includes San Antonio. (See story, Page 7)

In other LGBT election news

Fort Lauderdale's incumbent openly gay Mayor Dean Trantalis easily won re-election Tuesday night.

Lesbian Alexis Rodgers came in third in her bid to become mayor of Richmond, Va.

Transgender candidates did well on Tuesday. Sarah McBride became the first

WIN SOME, Page 12



Ritchie Torres



Sarah McBride





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In a race that was predicted to swing Democratic, Gina Ortiz Jones lost her race for U.S. District 23 by about 12,000 votes or 4 percent. Jones is known in the district and ran a closer race in 2018 when she lost to an incumbent by less than 1,000 votes.



Gina Ortiz Jones



Ann Johnson

Locally, Rep. Colin Allred was re-elected to a second term by a six-point margin. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson was re-elected to her 15th term in office in her usual landslide with 78 percent of the vote.

A seat that was expected to flip was District 24. The race is between former Carrollton school board member Candace Valenzuela and former Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne. About 1 point separates them at press time, with Van Duyne holding the lead. Van Duyne declared victory on Wednesday afternoon.

In Central Texas, former gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis lost her bid to unseat Chip Roy for U.S. House District 221. And in San Antonio, gay bar owner Mauro Garza lost his race to unseat incumbent Joaquin Castro. Garza, a Republican, had little support from the LGBTQ community.

Pete Sessions, who lost his House seat to Colin Allred in 2018, will return to Congress representing U.S. House District 17, stretching from Waco to College Station. Florida resident Sessions didn't live in his Dallas district and he doesn't live in his new Central Texas district.

Louie Gohmert, Tyler, commonly labeled the stupidest man in Congress, was re-elected for a ninth term with 73 percent of the vote.



Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff if that margin holds up.

The razor-thin margins in both that Senate race and the presidential race practically ensure a recount in Georgia.

As of about 12:30 (local time) Thursday, New York Times correspondent Michael Gold, reporting from New York, noted that Trump's lead in Georgia had shrunk to 13,540 votes, with about 50,000 votes — most from strongly Democratic areas — left to count. And Glenn Thrush, another Times correspondent, reporting from Washington, D.C., said around 1 p.m. local time that in Pennsylvania where Biden was trailing Trump by 111,369 votes, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar said there were about 500,000 ballots yet to be counted, but that officials there hoped to finish the counting and be able to declare a winner there by the end of Thursday evening.

Uncounted ballots in Pennsylvania are expected to favor the Democrats, and if Biden can secure that state's 20 EC votes, he will clinch a victory, regardless of the final outcome in Arizona and Nevada. ■

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WIN SOME, From Page 8

transgender person to win a state senate seat in Delaware, and Taylor Small became the first openly transgender person elected to the legislature in Vermont.

Stephanie Byers became the first openly transgender person to be elected to the Kansas state House and the first transgender person of color ever elected to a state legislature in the U.S. And Colorado incumbent State Rep. Brianna Titone appears to have won re-election to her seat, despite Republican efforts to paint her as a "radical" threat to "your wives and daughters."

Kim Jackson won a state senate seat in Georgia, becoming the first openly LGBT person to win a seat in the Georgia senate and one of only three black lesbians to win state senate seats anywhere in the U.S.

Shevrin Jones won his race for the Florida state senate, becoming the first openly LGBT person to win a Florida senate seat. Jabari Brisport became the first LGBT person of color to win a seat in the New York legislature, running unopposed for a seat representing Brooklyn in the state senate. Tennessee elected its first two openly LGBT people to the state house: Democrat Torrey Harris, a bisexual from Memphis, and gay Republican Ed Mannis of Knoxville.

In Cincinnati, lesbian Democrat Charmaine McGuffey has become the first openly LGBT person to be elected sheriff in Hamilton County, Ohio. It was an especially sweet victory since McGuffey had been fired from her job as a Hamilton County sheriff's deputy because, she said, she was a lesbian. She easily defeated the sheriff who fired her — Jim Neil — in the Democratic Primary, and Tuesday defeated Republican candidate Bruce Hoffbauer with 52 percent of the vote.

Kristin Graziano became the first openly lesbian sheriff in South Carolina when she won her race in Charleston County.

Helen Whitener won re-election to the Washington Supreme Court, handily defeating her opponent and becoming the first Black woman and the second openly gay person to be elected to the court.

Marko Liias lost his bid to become Washington State's lieutenant governor. And Bryce Bennett appears to have lost his bid to become Montana Secretary of State.

Vernetta Alston has won a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives, and Liz Bennett won a seat in the Iowa House to become the only LGBTQ member of the Iowa General Assembly. Brett Blomme became the second openly

gay man elected to a Wisconsin judiciary seat with his Wisconsin County Circuit Court win, and Harry Bronson won a seat in the New York State Assembly.

Also claiming firsts are Christopher Constant and Felix Rivera, who became the first two openly LGBTQ people elected in Alaska by winning seats on the Anchorage Assembly, and Allison Dahle, the first openly LGBTQ member of the North Carolina state Legislature since she won a seat in the House of Representatives.

Elias Diaz won a seat on the Eagle Pass, Texas, City Council, becoming that city's first LGBTQ elected official, and Rosemary Ketchum became Wheeling, W. Va.'s first openly transgender elected official with her victory in her race for Wheeling City Council.

In Vermont, Bill Lippert won a seat in the House of Representatives, while Marcia More became one of only three openly LGBTQ members of the North Carolina state House with her win on Tuesday. In Oregon, Karin Power became the first openly LGBTQ woman elected to serve District 41 in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Other Victory Fund-endorsed candidates known to have won their races are Max Prestigiacomo, who became the youngest elected official in the state of Wisconsin when he won a seat on the Madison Common Council; John Strand, who became one of only two openly LGBTQ elected officials in North Dakota by winning a seat on the Fargo City Commission; Peter Yacobellis, who is the first out member of the Montclair Town Council in New Jersey with his win on Tuesday, and JoCasta Zamarripa, who became the first openly LGBTQ member of the Milwaukee Common Council with her victory this week.

Dave Coulter won a full term as Oakland County executive in Michigan. Todd Gloria won his race for mayor of San Diego. Carrie Hamblin won a seat in the New Mexico state Senate, and Kim Johnson won a seat in the Georgia state Senate. Tiara Mack won a seat in the Rhode Island state Senate, and in Missouri, Greg Razer won a senate seat,

In Florida, Shevrin Jones was unopposed in his race for the state senate, and Michele Rayner was unopposed in her bid for a seat in the Florida House.

David Ortiz was elected to the Colorado state House, and in Hawaii, Adrian Tam was elected to the state House. ■

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administration

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advertising

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■ commUNITYvoices

The more things change ...

This week's election shows how far we have left to go to create equality

It is somewhat incredible — and somehow predictable — that I found myself in the same emotional state on the morning after the the 2020 presidential election as I was the morning after the 2016 election. This year I had retired quite late, going to be with the unsettling realization that Trump would likely win another term. I had the identical remorse I had that night in 2016.

The trigger that unleashed my emotional reaction around the thought of a Trump victory was never at the heart of my despair. That despair was, instead, based in my having to face the fact that nearly half of the citizens of this country are comfortable with Trump's complete lack of dignity and respect for anyone save those he finds of use.

He has enjoyed an approval rating that has faltered less than most of the former presidents. His base has remained constant. Social media and mainstream news portrays this group as mostly rural, uneducated, old white men. But the demographic of those that support him overall, it turns out, is much broader. They are quite middle class, better educated than what is portrayed, and they claim to be socially tolerant — all characteristics that make them a formidable opponent.

They are far more dangerous to our democratic ideals than their distant hayseed cousins.

An alarming number of young people have become enamored with Trump's fascination with social upheaval. But they are not his base. The largest part of his support comes from the solid middle class — folks of my generation, many of whom enjoy comfortable lives and yet have something in them is irreparably broken by the challenges life dealt them. Blaming others is an easier route, saving them from dealing with their own anger and sorrow. It is easier for them rationalize believing another individual is un-



being socially tolerant. But tolerance is an odd term. It conveys an unspoken term limit.

At what point does someone's tolerance expire? Are there behaviors in the person or group being tolerated that are unacceptable? Are there human rights that those doing the tolerating do not feel should be extended to some people? Do their religious beliefs keep them from fully accepting asome people?

I find that when I scratch the surface of these supporters, tolerance is entirely finite. One may have a black co-worker that's "not like other black people." Some have a gay — usually male — friend who is more like a pet, so he is "not like those other ones." They tolerate the family that operates their favorite Mexican restaurant, but none of them trust a Muslim; all Muslims are terrorists that don't belong here.

Liberals like me live in a vacuum. We believe the freedom we have found for ourselves, we believe, is shared by everyone. Before Trump was elected in 2016 we assumed those longtime friends of ours that became his supporters had experienced life as we had. Most of us grew up with the same fears and prejudices; if we didn't learn those things at home, we got them from the schoolyards and hangouts we inhabited.

But as we grew into adulthood, we learned how to accept the changes that were quickly becoming part of the social fabric. We discovered how we, ourselves differed from the norm and found ways to accept our own selves. In most cases,

worthy of true compassion or even the same basic rights they themselves hold.

Many of Trump's supporters see themselves as

that acceptance extended to others that were different.

I always believed that most reasonable, functioning people had done the same. It would really have been a challenge to remain unchanged. After all, the world has been transformed in so many ways. Much of the explosive social revolution we've seen was created by our generation.

It turns out, I was wrong, incredibly blinded by appearances. Many of these people never let go of any of their intolerance. Seeing the world being transformed only strengthened their ill-formed beliefs.

They did learn, though, that they had to keep their intolerance hidden. They knew that it could be detrimental to their own success.

But the advent of Trump changed that. They began to believe they could freely express their intolerance, their obsessive desire to return to the past — to a time when their prejudices could limit social justice for others.

They have become very comfortable in this "brave new world" where intolerance is the norm. They are constructing a narrative that blames liberals for wrongs Trump is accused of. They see themselves as victims, wrongly accused of racism and overall intolerance.

There are many times in my life where I had to look at my own deep flaws. I've had to admit that my racial acceptance was only skin deep, to, at some point, admit I needed to change my behavior towards women. I had to own my complicity in the suppression of transgender members of the queer movement.

None of this came easy. But I genuinely want to be the person I claim to be, so I will dig deeper. These people — these Trump supporters — won't do that. But they have to. Their ability to dismiss their hate allows the fascism Trump is establishing.

Those of us who understand that our system of democratic life is being eroded have to challenge them. We cannot live and let live which allows their dangerous beliefs to go unchallenged. Not now. Not ever.



The soon- to arrive Lucid Air electric sedan, above, will have a 500-mile range. The 1936 Lincoln Zephyr, right, could still keep pace on today's interstates.

Welcome to the decade that will transform the automobile

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

We're on the cusp of revolution. I'm not talking about Black Lives Matter versus Neo Nazis, or even about the levels of change that brought same-sex marriage (and could take it away again with Amy Coney Barrett on the bench).

This is about cars, and not since the early 1900s have our favorite modes of transportation been prone to so much transformation.

Consider Ford was still building the Model T in 1927, but just nine years later had introduced the V-12-powered Lincoln Zephyr, one of the first aerodynamically designed autos. A Model T could barely maintain 40 mph on gravel roads, but the Zephyr can still keep pace on modern Interstate highways. Bodies transformed as interiors rivaled living rooms. Cars progressed rapidly during the 1930s.

And it wasn't just design. At the beginning of the 1900s, steam- and electric-powered automobiles out-sold gasoline models. Henry Ford's wife, Clara, drove a Detroit Electric. In the

days when her husband's cantankerous Model T could break your arm while cranking it, Clara's electric coupe was smooth, quiet and easy to use. The problem then, as today, was range. But, that's changing.

I remember driving the infamous General Motors EV1, the first modern electric car, back in 1996. It was stunning — a sleek little two-seater that could accelerate as quickly as a Camaro without any of its muscular rage, just discharging speed instantly. Sadly, it only went 60 miles on a charge, and it cost as much as a Mercedes.

Tesla improved on the formula when it shoved lithium-ion batteries in a Lotus Elise sports car and debuted its Roadster in 2008. The car could travel 200 miles per charge and rocked 0-60 mph in 3.7 seconds. Tesla followed the Roadster in 2012 with the Model S, a full-size luxury sedan that can travel 400 miles per charge and clip 0-60 in under 3 seconds. It starts around \$70,000.

Cars like today's Chevy Bolt, Nissan Leaf and Kia Niro bring affordability and long-range to the joys of electric driving, but the next wave will be led by the compact Tesla Model 3 sedan and Model Y crossover — both delivering relative affordability and stunning performance.



You may buy an electric car to be environmentally friendly, but you'll become intoxicated with how it drives.

Wait until you see the next generation of electric vehicles. The Cadillac Lyriq, GMC Hummer and Nissan Ariya we showcase here are on their way, as is the Lucid Air electric sedan and its 500-mile range. BMW will join the Tesla Model 3 with its own i4 electric sport sedan. Rivian, Nikola and Lordstown will all introduce pickups to challenge Tesla's vaunted Cybertruck. And, you can expect to see an electric Ford F-150 before we meet here next year.

Beyond electrification, cars will finally drive themselves. Today, you can buy Teslas with Autopilot and Cadillacs with Super Cruise. While Tesla's is not

officially a hands-off system, Cadillac will allow you to lift off on designated highways. The days of reading books while driving wait at the end of this decade.

Imagine your 2030 "Model Z." It will back itself out of the garage and meet you at the curb. Once inside, it will ask you where you want to go, then autonomously take you there. It will burn no gasoline and go 600 miles per charge. It takes only a few minutes to top off the batteries through wireless charging. When the weekend comes, and you want to let off a little steam, turn off the guidance system, find your favorite curvy two-lane road and have at it.

These cars will still be exciting to drive.

2020 Lincoln Aviator

A layman's review

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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I am not a “car expert.” I can’t tell you all the technical details about any car or truck or tank or whatever. I can’t compare the specs of different makes and models. But I DO love to drive, and I CAN tell what I like and don’t like about vehicles I have had the opportunity to drive.

Recently, the folks at Randall Reed Planet Lincoln Dallas Love Field (the largest car dealership in the world) offered me the chance to drive one of their vehicles for a weekend and write what I call “a layman’s review” of it. That’s what this is — my review of the 2020 Lincoln Aviator.

William Stalik, the general sales manager at Planet Lincoln, set up this extended test drive for me. I was tickled at the opportunity, but when he pointed out the vehicle I would be driving, I admit I felt a bit of trepidation. The Lincoln Aviator is a BIG vehicle — three-row seating and just one step down from the biggest Lincoln SUV, the Navigator — and that’s kind of intimidating for someone who usually drives a sub-compact sedan.

Besides being a little intimidated at the thought of having to steer that much metal around DFW’s busy streets, I was a teensy bit disappointed that I would be driving this land yacht, rather than something smaller, sportier and more responsive. Trust me though, neither the intimidation nor the disappointment lasted past the first five minutes of driving.

I was worried that the Aviator would “drive big,” that it would feel heavy and wouldn’t respond to the steering wheel or the accelerator. But that wasn’t the case at all. Car & Driver tells me that the 2020 Aviator has a 400-hp twin-turbo V6 with a 10-speed automatic transmission that will get you 0-60 in about 5 seconds. I didn’t measure any of that. But I can tell you this: If you decide you need to get around that car in front of you that’s not going quite fast enough, just push that gas pedal down and the Aviator is gonna give you the power and the speed you need to do just that.

The steering is delicate and responsive — but not too delicate. You don’t have



The 2020 Lincoln Aviator
Black Label: luxurious
AND fun to drive!



to worry that a sneeze at the wrong time is gonna send you careening willy-nilly across the interstate. But at the same time, if you need to dodge that truck that just suddenly stopped in front of you on the highway, or that kid that darted out in front of you down the block from your house, the Aviator will respond.

Another thing that I at first worried would detract from the experience was the heads-up display. I never allow anyone to put anything on the dashboard of whatever vehicle I am driving; the reflection in the windshield irritates the hell out of me and interferes with my view of the road. I was worried that the heads-up display would do the same thing. Again, I was wrong. In fact, the heads-up display actually made me feel safer and more confident as I drove. And

of course if you decide you don’t like it, you can turn off the heads up display.

As I said, I am no car expert, and I have never reviewed a vehicle before. So there are a lot of things I didn’t even think to test out as I was test-driving. The Aviator has so many features, it would have taken the whole weekend just to figure it all out! So I didn’t try, although I do wish I had taken the time to test out the adaptive cruise control, which adjusts your speed to keep you a safe distance from other vehicles on the road. I did love the lane-keeping assistance, the traffic sign recognition and the forward collision warning and blind-spot monitoring.

Just about every newer vehicle these days has a rearview camera to help you keep an eye out for hazards behind you. But the Aviator also gives you a 360-degree view that helps you make sure you are parking perfectly. And while most newer cars have jazzy “infotainment” systems, I don’t have that in my car, and the system in the Aviator offered great sound with an easy-to-navigate menu via the GIANT screen on the dashboard.

There is so much more to say about the luxury and the technology of the Lincoln Aviator (and, honestly Planet Lincoln itself, which is almost as much an experience as are the vehicles). But

I am going to end by talking about the seats. See, for someone like me, who deals with constant back and joint pain, the seats are the most special thing about the Aviator. It isn’t just the plush leather that lets you sink in and settle in for the ride. These seats let you adjust them nine ways to Sunday, right down to individual adjustments under each of your legs, so that you can drive any distance comfortably, no matter how far.

Oh, and both front seats are heated and cooled, and they both have BUILT-IN MASSAGES! I mean, what else do you need to know? I know I didn’t want to give those keys back at the end of the weekend!

The technical stuff: I drove a 2020 Lincoln Aviator Black Label, base price of \$77,697 and \$80,695 with all the options I got. Car & Driver says the basic Aviator starts at \$52,195, and prices go up from there for the Reserve, the Grand Touring, the Black Label and the Grand Touring Black Label. The model I drove gets about 20 mpg combined city/highway and gets an overall vehicle score of 5 stars on the Government 5-Star Safety Ratings. I didn’t download it, but Lincoln owners get The Lincoln Way App that lets you remotely start, lock and unlock your car, locate your vehicle and check your approximate fuel range, and receive vehicle health alerts. ■

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It's getting hot in here

All the sexiest, spiciest, most muscular autos for 2021

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
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It's been one mother of a year, but that hasn't stopped automakers from spending their time on lockdown creating some truly sexy, spicy and muscular rides for the new season. From the return of an off-road icon to chiseled sedans, suave crossovers and a daddy-worthy mini-van, here are the wheels you'll want to romp. ■

Ford Bronco returns

Ford resurrects an icon. Square styling is enhanced with removable roof/doors and highly articulating chassis. Navigation maps 1,000 curated trails. Selectable "G.O.A.T. Modes" configure the vehicle for all terrains. Choose a 270-horsepower turbo-four or 310-horsepower turbo-V6, connected to a 7-speed manual or 10-speed automatic transmission. There's also an Escape-based Bronco Sport for semi-serious off-roaders. **Base price: \$29,995**

Kia K5

Like a machete, the new K5 mid-size sedan is chiseled and sharp. Under its flanks is an available 290-horsepower turbo-four and 8-speed dual-clutch automatic throwing it 0-60 mph in 5.8 seconds. All-wheel-drive is optional. Wide flatscreens, flat-bottom steering wheel and panoramic sunroof elevate the experience. Bose audio, wireless device charging and a full suite of crash avoidance systems bring the tech.

Base price: \$23,490

Genesis GX90

Value-priced luxury defines Genesis, and that carries to this Bentley at Buick prices. Bold styling spans the large mesh grille, smooth flanks and wrap-around tail lamps over 22-inch wheels. Quilted seats accompany swaths of wood, leather and aluminum. Active noise control keeps it tomb quiet. An electronic suspension and choice of 300-horsepower turbo-four or 375-horsepower turbo-V6 kick it down-road. **Base price: \$48,900**

Subaru Crosstrek

The Crosstrek was capable but slow. That improves with a new 2.5-liter four-cylinder that sends 182-horsepower to its standard all-wheel-drive system. Fuel economy rates 27/34-MPG city/highway. New Sport trim includes dark 17-inch wheels, amped body accents and StarTex synthetic upholstery with yellow stitching. Adaptive cruise with lane centering is standard with the EyeSight crash avoidance system. **Base price: \$22,245**



Acura TLX

Acura finds its balls and displays them in the all-new TLX. An angry face and body sides with a composition of curves and creases are lifted from the Precision Concept car. Type S editions employ a 355-horsepower turbo-V6, adaptive shocks and torque-vectoring AWD to keep it planted. The dual cockpit theme with real aluminum, full-grain leather, 3D audio and ambient lighting enhances any mood. **Base price: \$37,500**



Buick Envision

Buicks are the hip luxury cars for those without pretense. Completely redesigned, the mid-size Envision crossover flaunts a sculpted body harboring an available 252-horsepower turbo-four engine. A driver-focused interior boasts a head-up display, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Adaptive cruise and autonomous braking enhance safety. Avenir editions spoil with diamond-stitched leather seats. **Base price: \$35,000**



Mercedes-Benz S-Class

The Best Car in the World starts its next generation with up to five on-board screens, 3D head-up display, and rear steering to imbue the handling of a compact car. Passengers indulge in 1750 watts of Burmester audio, 10 massage functions and air suspension that can raise the car to better survive side impacts. Choose from a 429-horsepower inline-six or 496-horsepower turbo-V8 engines. A proper star on the hood is best admired from the driver's seat. **Base price: \$95,000**

Hyundai Elantra

Hyundai created an exotic four-door coupe at economy car prices. Origami angles front a flying buttressed fastback that looks stunning from all views. The cockpit features twin flatscreens and upscale materials. Choose between a 50-MPG hybrid or 147-horsepower four-cylinder. Technology includes lane following assist, natural voice recognition infotainment, safe exit warning, Bose audio and digital key that allows access via smartphone.

Base price: \$20,000

Chevy Trailblazer

The affordable Trailblazer's tight-handling chassis is draped with an angry grille,

squinty running lamps and contrasting color roof. Check the Oasis Blue paint in RS trim. Collision warning with auto brake, lane keep assist and adaptive cruise are available. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, wireless charging and 4G Wi-Fi connect devices. It moves with a 155-horsepower turbo engine that achieves up to 29/33-MPG city/hwy.

Base price: \$19,000.

Toyota Sienna

This butch daddy wagon goes all-hybrid. Inspired by the Bullet Train, it's sleeker and beefier with accented rear fenders and angry schnoz. Command this starship from a cabin with wide flatscreens and reclining rear loungers. A color head-up display, adaptive

cruise and lane trace assist enhance safety while devices connect via Amazon Alexa and Wi-Fi hotspot. Get an onboard vacuum, refrigerator and Bose audio, too.

Base price: \$32,000

Jeep Grand Wagoneer

It has everything but woodgrain body sides. Jeep revives its iconic luxury SUV with the first-ever passenger screen among a full glass cockpit and cabin awash in wood, raw aluminum, custom ambient lighting and 23-speaker McIntosh audio. The SUV previews the electrification of Jeep with a plug-in hybrid on fully-framed Ram architecture. Look for this three-row dreamboat later next year.

Base price: \$75,000

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Going electric

Killer app EVs to expect over the next year

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
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General Motors first commercialized electric vehicles in the 1990s with the infamous EV1, but it took Tesla to make them mainstream. You could call the Model S the first killer app EV that everybody wanted, but here are five more to covet before the Tesla's Cybertruck arrives. ■

Nissan Ariya

Nissan signals it's done blowing the half-ass Leaf EV as this sleek crossover will offer a 300 mile range, all wheel drive and hands-off driving on designated highways. The lounge-like interior is a model of "Japanese Futurism," with simple curved dash, thin profile seats and twin screens. Autonomous braking and driver attention monitor enhance safety. Connect with Amazon Alexa, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Sales commence later in 2021.

Base price: \$40,000



Tesla Model Y

Tesla made Elon Musk a gazillionaire, but this is the vehicle that will define its future as a formidable automaker. It looks like a bulbous Model 3 but can hold up to seven adults or their gear beneath a panoramic glass roof. Hit 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds, 150 miles per hour top speed or 300 miles range. V3 Superchargers add 1,000 miles of range per hour. Tesla's Summon system enables the car to automatically pick you up. Deliveries begin this fall. **Base price: \$39,000**



GMC Hummer

It crab-crawls, packs 1,000 horsepower, runs 0-60 mph in 3 seconds and can travel 350 miles per charge. Hummer makes its return as an all-capable EV under the GMC brand to combat Rivian and Tesla. Removable roof panels work with an air suspension for extreme off-road enjoyment. As GM's technology leader on all-new EV architecture, the Hummer features hands-off autonomous interstate driving and underbody cameras as off-road spotters, and it can gain 100 miles of range in 10 minutes. Sales begin next fall with an SUV version to follow.

Base price (Edition 1): \$112,595 (\$79,995 Spring 2024)



Cadillac Lyriq

Lyriq begins Cadillac's transition from gas to electric with design language that minimizes lighting and highlights strong form over 23-inch wheels. Its interior boasts a 33-inch widescreen, 3D head-up display, glass roof and a 19-speaker AKG audio system. GM's new EV platform supports a 300-mile range, AWD, hands-off Super Cruise, autonomous parking and acceleration off the chart. A \$200,000 electric super sedan will follow the Lyriq's 2022 launch.

Base price: \$60,000

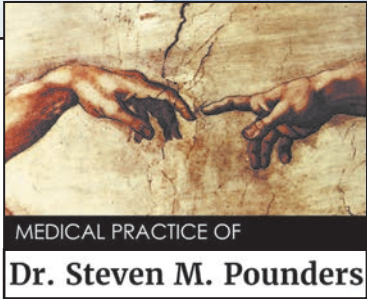


Ford Mustang Mach-E

Ford stampedes into the EV age with a radical new Mustang. Familiar styling cues include the front fascia, kicked up rear fenders and wide rump with triple element tail lamps. Check the tablet-style touchscreen, glass roof and wireless device charging. Before blaspheming Ford, this crossover runs 0-60 mph in 3 seconds and wrestles curves with AWD and three driving modes: Whisper, Engage and Unbridled. It travels 300 miles per charge — plenty to get your posse to dinner. **Base price: \$43,895**



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DRIVE: Buff pickups from hell to get you through it

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Think of these trucks as muscled super men dressed in spandex devil suits. That bulging fantasy may get you all revved up, but hopefully Mr. Man is also capable of doing real work. Almost nobody needs the capability of these debonair trucks, but a little hedonism never hurts whether picking up cargo ... or your buff date. These will get you through it. ■

Chevy Silverado Trail Boss

Channeling an Eagle Scout, the Trail Boss is prepared to hike with off-road shocks, skid plates, push button 4x4 and meaty tires. Note the sinister black trim, dual exhaust outlets and Camaro-inspired air blades up front. Heave inside to enjoy heated seats, freezing air-conditioning, Bose audio and navigation. Rear passengers stretch out. Get it with the 420 horsepower 6.2-liter V8. Prepare for the worst, look your best. **Base price: \$55,040**



Ram 1500 TRX

Oh, sweet devil! This is what happens when you ram the Hellcat's engine into a pickup. It looks like molten sex with its composite fender flares, hood scoops and 18-inch wheels. Hand-wrapped leather, flat-bottom steering wheel and 900w Harman Kardon audio dress up interiors. Nice, but its release is the 6.2-liter supercharged V8 that conjures 702 horsepower and 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds. The adaptive suspension tames balls-out Baja runs.

Base price: \$71,690

Ford F-150

The world's best-selling truck is reborn with refined exterior, tablet-style touchscreen, 180-degree reclining front seats and integrated work surface. Fuel economy should reach 30 MPG as a hybrid, but a full range of turbo-V6, V8 and diesel powertrains shall also appear. Hybrids offer an on-board generator to power tools and toys. A pickup first, the truck can be driven hands-free on 100,000 miles of compatible highways. **Base price: \$30,000**

GMC Canyon AT4

Kiss the pretty boy who likes to camp. Canyon is more urban-sized, but AT4 editions hit trails with four-wheel-drive, off-road suspension, aggressive tread and underbody skid plates. Even in the wilderness, it looks debonair, with dark chrome finishes, larger grille and red tow hooks. Interiors are lavished with available heated seats, Wi-Fi, and wireless phone charging. A 308-horsepower V6 pumps the calves. **Base price: \$38,200**

Jeep Gladiator Moab

Bred to span deserts quickly, the Moab has a reinforced frame, skid plates, increased ground clearance and 285-horsepower V6 connected to a 6-speed manual or 8-speed auto transmission. One button configures the powertrain for sand, rock crawling or proper streets. Bolstered seats with orange accent stitching caress passengers. Of course, the roof and doors come off for adventures and a good hosing when finished. **Base price: \$43,875**



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11.09-13

DIFFA/Dallas kicks off the holiday season with its annual wreath auction

The 25th annual DIFFA/Dallas Home for the Holidays wreath auction takes place over a weeklong event from Nov. 9-13. The one-of-a-kind wreaths have been created by designers from Tiffany & Co., Aston Martin, Neiman Marcus, Mary Kay, Moët & Chandon, Kathy Kincaid and more. A selection of wreaths will be displayed at the Tower Club in the Santander Tower in downtown Dallas. Proceeds benefit DIFFA/Dallas, which funds HIV/AIDS service organization in North Texas.

DIFFA/Dallas Holiday Wreath Auction from Nov. 9-13 from 3-6 p.m. at the Tower Club, 1601 Elm St., 48th Floor. Auction at DIFFADallas.org/wreath.



11.12

Texas LGBT Chambers of Commerce host Pride Across Texas

Celebrate Pride across Texas with the LGBTQ and allied business community. Members of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce will be networking with LGBTQ and allied business owners through the Austin, Greater Houston and San Antonio LGBT chambers. Combined, the chambers include more than 1,000 businesses. Create new business networks across the state.

Nov. 12 from 4:30-6 p.m. Register link for the virtual meeting at LGBTChamber.com or contact lisa.howe@lgbtchamber.com.



11.06

Coalition for Aging LGBT harvests gratitude

The Coalition for Aging LGBT presents its fourth annual Harvesting Gratitude event celebrating the community's support. The group improves and protects the quality of life for older LGBT adults through collaborations in housing and a variety of social services. All past, present and future volunteers are invited. The Zoom room opens at 5:45 p.m. for pre-event chats, and there will be additional chat time after the event. The program begins at 6 p.m. with gratitude, celebration and prize drawings. All community partners, supporters and volunteers and potential volunteers welcome.

RSVP for virtual event that takes place on Nov. 6 from 6-6:30 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84812848128>

Jenny Block: Girl on Girls

Someone else's shoes

I've often heard people talk about the importance of putting yourself in someone else's shoes. The idea is that you can imagine how that other person is feeling — or will feel — and, in that way, you can figure out what you should say to or do for that person. It's a good practice in theory. It offers us the opportunity to step outside of ourselves and fully consider the wants and needs of someone else separate from us.

But here's the rub: Unless you know someone exceptionally well — in fact, even if you do know someone exceptionally well — putting yourself in their shoes can be really hard, maybe impossible, to do.

So, instead of uncovering what they would want in the situation, what we end up doing instead is imagining what we would want if we were in their situation. And that can be a double whammy because now we're not really thinking about them at all. We're thinking about ourselves.

Instead of putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, we need to do something much harder. We need to talk to the person. We need to ask the hard questions. We need to be prepared to hear the hard answers. We need to actually do what it is that that person would want instead of what we would want.

Doing what we would want if we were in someone else's shoes happens all the time. It happens with friends, with family, with significant others. And it always ends badly.

I've done it more than once in my lifetime. I've made a friend cry when I overstepped a boundary for her that would have never ever been one for me. I've lost contact with a relative when I reached out to help in a way that I longed for and she found downright offensive. I've had knock-down-drag-out fights with significant others when I've said exactly what I wanted to hear, assuming it would be exactly what they would want to hear, too.

It's just a part of being human, I suppose. We want to help, and we want to believe that we know and understand the people we love. We're also terribly flawed, we humans. We are as damaged as we are remarkable. And try as we might, we can hardly understand ourselves, let alone others, even when it comes to the people we love.

The truth is, there is no easy way to know what someone in need actually wants or needs. It's a lot like getting healthy. You can't just join the gym. You have to work out. You can't just take a pill. You have to eat less and move more.

You can't just know what someone needs.



You have to inquire. If you want to help someone in pain or need, you have to reach out and ask what can sometimes feel like the hardest question in the world: "How can I help you?"

And keep in mind, that's not always easy to answer. So be patient and assure them they can trust you and that you are ready, willing and able to help.

Now there's a flip side to all of this, of course. We have just as much responsibility as the helpee as we do as the helper. If you need help, ask. If someone asks you if she can help, respond. Be honest and clear.

It's unfair to not ask and then be upset when no one does what you were hoping someone would be a mind reader and do. It's not ok not to answer or to say, "I'm fine," and then be angry or sad when the person who asked listened to you by doing nothing.

And it's downright cruel to tell the person what you want or need and then get upset when they do it.

It's fine to say, "I'm not sure what I need. Can we talk about it?" Or, "I'm not sure. Do you have any ideas?" It's also fine to realize after the fact that what you asked the person to do wasn't what you wanted or didn't feel the way you expected it to.

But it is unfair and unkind to then be upset with the person who did it. You asked. They helped. If it didn't work out the way you hoped, that's on you.

I get it. It's scary. It may be why we as humans have a tendency to isolate and neither ask for nor accept help. It's hard to know what we want. It's hard to ask. It's hard to feel like we need help. It's hard to accept help. We feel small and insignificant and helpless and pitied. We don't want people to feel sorry for us.

And as helpers it's just as nerve wracking. What if we do it wrong? What if it's not really what they wanted? What if? What if? What if?

As with nearly everything, when it comes to human interaction, it's all about communication and kindness and understanding. If we're talking about a friend or family member, if we're talking about someone you love, their heart is likely in the right place. And that, in the end is all that matters.

So lead with kindness. Follow The Four Agreements. And instead of putting yourself in someone else's shoes or asking someone to intuitively step into yours, speak your truth. No matter how hard that seems, it's always worth it in the end.

Send your comments or questions to GirlOnGirls@gmail.com.

this week's solution

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The Cedar Springs Tap House crew at Halloween



Dia de Los Muertos at Tacqueria La Ventana



BeyonShade Starr and Sabrina Carter



Nando is ready for his closeup at TMC



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Tanner, Larry and Matt



Matthew, Tony and Albert at Cedar Springs Tap House



Barbie Davenport Dupree



The Tap House has eyes



Who are those masked men at Round Up Saloon?



Working off that Halloween candy

Halloween Haunted Brunch at The Adolphus



Ra'Jah



Kelexis



Tasha Kohl

q-puzzle

The Boysin the Band

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69						70				71				

Solution on Page 24

Across

- 1 Lawman who shot off at O.K. Corral
5 "How queer!"
9 The whole shebang
14 Former Time film critic
15 Denver elevation, roughly
16 Toklas of expats
17 Dry wines for lovemaking?
18 Wings for Julia Morgan
19 Bass formerly of NSYNC
20 Start of a quip about the advantage of masturbation, according to Michael
23 Meryl Streep's *Out of ____*
24 Pants dropped
25 ____ generis
28 Like lace with arsenic
30 Beds, with "with"
32 Actress Madeline
36 More of the quip
39 Cager Shaq
41 Shoe store spec
42 Make a pass at
43 He plays Michael in *The Boys in the Band*
46 M. *Butterfly* star John
47 Military position
48 Photographer Corinne

- 50 Dorothy's home st.
51 Sauna bath sites
54 Enjoys orally at a gay bar
59 End of the quip
61 Triangle-shaped peninsula
64 *Bus Stop* playwright
65 Karen Carpenter, for one
66 Hard woody nut
67 Drumbeat succession
68 Type of job
69 Joltin' Joe
70 Fruity drinks
71 Cleo told them "Bite me!"

Down

- 1 Emma Stone's beard movie
2 "____ Aquarius"
3 Happen again
4 Joe who played gay in *JFK*
5 City hue in Oz
6 Gold layer
7 ____ once (suddenly)
8 Ferro's *The Family* of Max ____
9 *Lifeboat* actress Bankhead
10 Big name in oil
11 Kind of man, in Oz
12 Jock org. for FSU
13 Jason of *Chasing Amy*

- 21 Prefix for system
22 Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
25 Take care of
26 *The Jungle* novelist Sinclair
27 "What ____ to do?"
29 Lesbian couples in *Bambi*?
31 Lev Raphael's *Little Miss ____*
32 Lollipop cop
33 Drag queen Mann
34 Macho dudes
35 Western wine valley
37 Character for Keanu
38 Where Boy Scouts sleep together
40 Using a Wonder Woman accessory
44 Debtor's car, maybe
45 *Scarlett*, and others
49 Where to find It.
52 *The Seven Samurai* director Kurosawa
53 Ecclesiastical gathering
55 Addis ____, Ethiopia
56 Chops down
57 Mapplethorpe's opening size
58 Packs away
59 Byron poem
60 Look up and down
61 McCullers' *Ballad of the ____ Care*
62 Here, to Colette
63 Marseilles moniker

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