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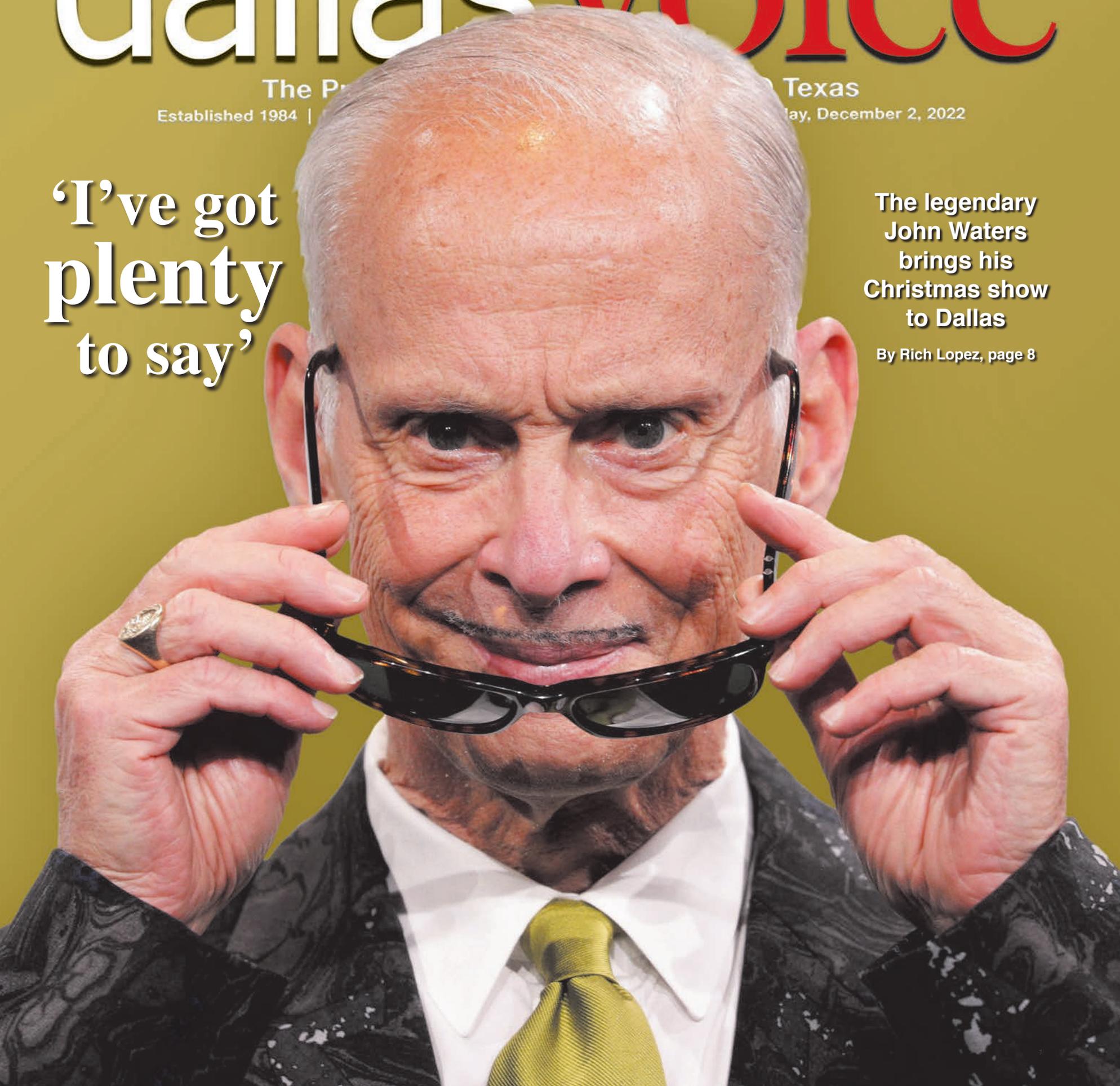
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Friday, December 2, 2022

**‘I’ve got  
plenty  
to say’**

**The legendary  
John Waters  
brings his  
Christmas show  
to Dallas**

By Rich Lopez, page 8





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**PUBLISHER** Leo Cusimano, leo@dallasvoice.com

**MANAGING EDITOR** Tammye Nash, nash@dallasvoice.com

**SENIOR STAFF WRITER** David Taffet, taffet@dallasvoice.com

**STAFF WRITER** Rich Lopez, rich@dallasvoice.com

**PROOF READER** Philip Burton

**CONTRIBUTORS** Chris Azzopardi, Sean Baugh, Gary Bellomy, Jenny Block, Joey Casiano, Jesus Chairez, Lawrence Ferber, Januari Fox, Hardy Haberman, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Mark Lowry, Jonathon McCellan, Cassie Nova, Dr. Josh, Josh Robbins, Gilberto Rodriguez, James Russell, Howard Lewis Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Gregg Shapiro, Casey Williams

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Chad Mantooth, mantooth@dallasvoice.com

**CONTENT MARKETING SPECIALIST** Mathew Dominguez

**NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE** Todd Evans, Rivendell Media Inc. 908-232-2021

**ART DIRECTOR** Kevin Thomas, thomas@dallasvoice.com

**MULTIMEDIA** Jimmy Bartlett, Website Management  
Israel Luna, DVtv Video Producer  
Tom Roma, DVtv Producer; Joseph Herrera, Producer

**DVtv Hosts** Regina Lyn, Larry The Fairy, Corry Williams

**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Linda Depriter, distribution@dallasvoice.com

**FOUNDERS** Robert Moore | Don Ritz

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# Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



The Rev. Neil Thomas of Cathedral of Hope leads the crowd in remembering friends and loved ones who have died of HIV/AIDS during Resource Center's Red Ribbon event commemorating World AIDS Day. Resource Center CEO Cece Cox also spoke at the event, and The Women's Chorus of Dallas performed. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## Senate passes Respect for Marriage Act

The U.S. Senate this week passed the Respect for Marriage Act by a vote of 61-36. The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives, which passed a version without amendments including certain protections for churches earlier this year. The amended bill is expected to pass the House easily, and President Joe Biden has already said he will sign it when it reaches his desk.

The Respect for Marriage Act repeals the Defense of Marriage Act and requires the federal government and state governments to recognize interracial and same-sex marriages performed in other states. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* declared that prohibiting same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. However, Justice Clarence Thomas, in a concurring opinion in the court's Dobbs ruling in July that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, suggested that the court revisit that ruling and others securing rights for LGBTQ people as well as other reproductive rights.

— David Taffet

## Customer carrying gun arrested at S4

Less than two weeks after five people were shot to death and 25 others injured inside Club Q, a gay bar in Colorado Springs, a man was arrested at S4 for carrying a gun.

Christian Rios, 23, was watching the show in the Rose Room on Thanksgiving night and acting drunk, according to someone who witnessed the incident, when Cassie Nova called him up toward the stage. From the audience, people were encouraging him to take off his shirt. As he was dancing near the stage, he removed his shirt and that's when people noticed he was carrying a gun in his back waistband. Security was informed and Rios was escorted off the property and arrested.

Caven Enterprises, owner of S4, has implemented new security procedures including wanding customers before they enter the bar.

— David Taffet

Backpacks and large purses are banned, and small purses are subject to checking at the door. Since the Club Q incident, Dallas Police have increased patrols in the area. That measure was taken as a precaution, not because there have been any credible threats.

— David Taffet

## Right-wingers want Pride displays banned in Arlington libraries

Cantor Sherri Allen, along with members of the Inclusive Faith Coalition, testified at a recent Arlington Library Advisory Board meeting, where members were voting on whether to include Pride displays and updated inclusion guidelines in the Arlington libraries. The board reached a compromise, allowing these Pride month displays in the teen and adult sections but not the children's section, and giving books a dedicated space in each age-range section of the library, according to Allen.

But a group called The Woodlee Fundamentalists is demanding that the Pride displays be banned completely, forcing the Arlington City Council to reconsider the issue and possibly ban such displays.

In a letter to the council, the Rev. Katie Hayes urged the council to "stand up for justice for LGBTQ+ people in the city's library system."

She wrote, "I'm aware that fundamentalist religious voices have said that their faith demands the elimination of LGBTQ+ materials and displays from the library. ... But this is an ugly and unnecessary misrepresentation of Christian faith. ... My church follows Jesus by embracing the most marginalized, feared, and despised people among us, which for this cultural moment are LGBTQ+ people and their families. ... Please stand with the librarians and inclusive citizens of Arlington to keep Arlington a 'Dream City' where its values of diversity, kindness, respect, and integrity are upheld. ... Don't ask your constituents to continue arguing over the basic human dignity of all God's children."

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# Celebrating the holidays with pets

WOOF! DR. JOSH TALKS TO THE ANIMALS

**H**ola! Welcome back to my Woof column, and guess what: Holiday season is here! Many of us have been waiting for this time of the year, for a lot of different reasons. Our furry loved ones will be enjoying these holidays with us, but remember to make sure the holidays are as safe for them as possible.

As a Puerto Rican man, the first thing I think about when it comes to the holiday season is the cold weather. I have been in the States for about 14 years, and I am still not used to the cold! Make sure not to leave your babies outside unattended for extended periods of time and to always supervise them outside, because we do see some wild animals attacking our beloved pets left outside on their own.

The holiday season would not be complete without decorations, and when decorating, it is important to pet-proof our homes and avoid items that could be ingested or broken into pieces by our pets. Avoid having plants that are easily accessible to dogs or cats, especially if they are known for nibbling on



**Dr. Josh**  
Woof

plants. Some of these plants can be very toxic for our babies. Make sure that all electric cords are secured and hidden. Keep gifts away from your pups and kitties, since they can be interested in exploring those gifts with their mouths and nails.

If you were thinking about giving away a cat or dog as a gift, please consider adopting instead of buying, especially adopting a pet with special needs or a senior baby. And be sure you are making the right decision, because that baby will be relying on their new family, and a pet is a long-term commitment. Never give pets as gifts without careful consideration and without approval from the family receiving the pet.

Food is a vital part of the holiday season,



but please avoid giving table scraps to your pets. Many dogs and cats can be sensitive to different types of human food, and, after eating table scraps, they can end up with everything from mildly soft stools or a vomit to life-threatening conditions that may lead to hospitaliza-

tion and intensive treatments.

Also keep in mind that many of us can accidentally drop food, and, if our babies are around, they will likely get to that dropped morsel before we do. This is even more possible when there are human kids present or when alcohol is involved. Consider informing everyone ahead of time that your babies cannot have any table scraps, or consider putting your babies away when food is served.

For many people, exchanging gifts is part of the holiday traditions. Our pets deserve gifts too, but, just like with us humans, there are bad gifts for pets. If you have cats, avoid toys that have threads or feathers and toys that can break down to threads. Consider

catnip-stuffed toys or interactive, robotic toys as options.

If you have dogs, avoid hard toys and bones, as they can break their teeth. If you cannot put an indentation on the toy with your fingernail, the toy is too hard. Avoid smaller toys that can be swallowed and stuffed toys if your dog is known for destroying them and swallowing the contents. I recommend avoiding fatty treats and sticking to healthier options like baby carrots, apples and green beans, among others.

Many people celebrate New Year's Eve with fireworks, but fireworks can be terrifying to pets. Consider putting your babies in a room with a white noise machine and, if possible, away from the outside walls. If your pet's anxiety is too severe, please consult with your veterinarian ahead of time to discuss other options.

I wish everyone the best, now and always, and I hope that we see every day as a new opportunity to improve ourselves. Please remember to be kind to those around you and to approach everything with a positive mindset. It is OK to not be OK, but always know that someone out there is ready to help. ¡¡Felices fiestas y muchos abrazos!

*Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital, 14380 Marsh Ln. Ste. 110 Addison. Call him at 972-738-1111 or visit IslaVet.com*

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# VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

## Going stone age

New social media platform Mastodon is a friendly place for LGBTQ people

As Elon Musk continues his rapid dismantling of Twitter — laying off thousands of employees, scaring advertisers away, possibly violating FTC rules and bringing the company to the verge of bankruptcy — many people, especially LGBTQ people, are shifting to other social media platforms.

I am one of them.

I actually abandoned Twitter years ago when it became a dumpster fire of far-right flames fanned by The Donald. Even with the expanded post lengths, it is no place to have any kind of rational discourse, and it seems designed for quick and attention-getting blurts.

The amount of anti-LGBTQ posts I had noticed in recent years seemed to be increasing, and who needs more of that in their life? So I left Twitter.

Twitter is an interesting idea, but from the start it was an idea that was in search of a way to monetize it. Ad revenue has never caught up with the operating overhead and not even a supposed wunderkind like Musk can save it.

So, what are the alternatives?

Well, the Book of Faces is still alive and kicking, but apparently it is seen



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

as an “old folks’ home” on the net. Though I have a robust Facebook presence, I am not ready to be institutionalized, so I searched

for something else.

After a recommendation from a close friend, I settled on the stone age, or at least a platform with a stone-aged animal mascot, Mastodon.

Mastodon is organized in a federated network of servers which are organized into “interest groups.” It’s an open-source software and is not in the hands of a large corporation, which has its appeal.

The hardest part of Mastodon is getting started. Since there is no general server as with Twitter, you have to select a group. Servers are based on interests, location, professions — just about anything.

Mastodon was created by a German software engineer Eugen Rochko who began creating it in 2016. The big difference from Twitter is the “federated” design made up of thousands of independent federated servers instead of



just one site.

Though this structure has a lot of benefits, it also has the downside of being more complex than Twitter. There is a learning curve in joining, and some things are not intuitive. But I like it.

I signed up for a server that is tailored to the Leather/Kink/BDSM/Bear communities and found it to be a lively and safe place for conversation and connections — “woof.group.” Members post comments, photos, memes and more — much like Twitter, but the posts are called “toots.” That probably comes from the mascot’s upturned trunk and the imagined sound it would make.

The other interesting feature of Mastodon is the “CW” — or content wrapper/warning. Posts with potential NSFW or risqué photos are blurred with specific warnings as to the content. Clicking on the wrapper opens it to your view.

This makes the platform very work friendly and also lets you know very clearly what to expect.

It takes some getting used to if you are accustomed to just tweeting out there to the universe, but it has proven to be a fun and effective way to build a circle of friends with mutual interests. So, like many other LGBTQ folks, I am moving my random blurts to the stone age and will be tooting rather than tweeting from now on.

You can find me on Mastodon as @HardyHaberman@woof.group. You can find more about Mastodon at [joinmastodon.org](http://joinmastodon.org).

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and chairperson of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance board. Read his blog at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).

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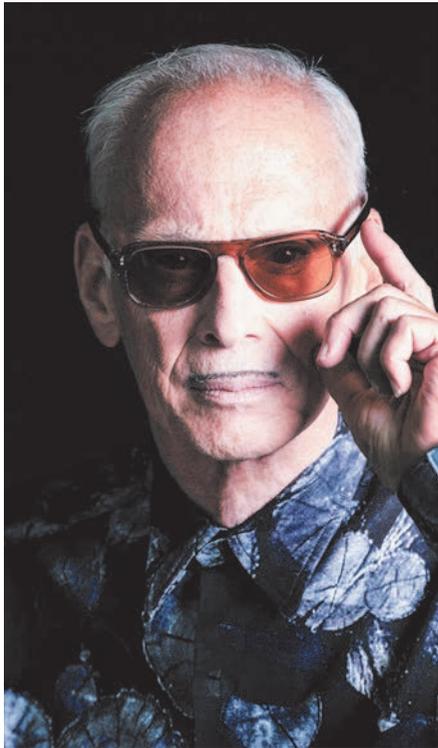
## LEGENDARY

John Waters comes upon the midnight clear with holiday show

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

It may be the most wonderful time of the year for some, but it's about to be the most irreverent time, too, thanks to the "Pope of Trash" (William Burroughs words, not mine). Director, author and storyteller John Waters is on his way to Dallas for a not-so-silent night at the Kessler on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. His annual show *A John Waters Christmas* is back, and he's got a lot to say — as always.

This year marks the longest tour yet for Waters' show. He is hitting 20 cities in 23 days, and he's already stressing about that. As he got ready to head to Dallas, he talked about getting this year's show ready the old fashioned way and how his holidays may not be what one would expect from the auteur.



**Dallas Voice: We're still under the cloud of the pandemic but you've been on the road since then, right?** John Waters: I did it last year, and I just made



it because the new strand just came out in our last leg. This time will be the most cities I've ever had, and so 'Oh god, here we go.'

**You rewrite this Christmas show each year...** I just finished it this morning, and

I've got two weeks to memorize it. I rewrite it every year. There's the term "command performance," which is a polite way to say you were too lazy to write a new show. A lot of people come every year, and I got plenty to say. Just wind me up.

**What's new this year? What do you touch on?** Nothing's the same. Nothing's coming back. It's the end of the world. Is it the end of Christmas? Everything is broken. But I can despair and have insane optimism. I think the audience will identify with feeling both of those the same way. I talk about politics, too.

**It's fair to say that you are perceived as an eclectic person. So how is Christmas with the family for you?** We're very traditional. My parents aren't alive, but I take out my formal settings and do all the trimmings. It's pretty traditional.

Traditional doesn't seem a word often associated with John Waters. My Christmas decorations aren't so traditional.

**Speaking of family, do you discuss them in your shows?** Not like David Sedaris does. Well, wait. Do I talk about my parents? I do a bit about my mother talking about proper English. I don't wanna give away my new material — I just wrote it!

**Has your family seen the show?** My sister has seen it. She would always say, 'I am not sitting next to Mom,' but I don't think Mom even saw it. I never encouraged them. They were always horrified and supportive.

**You wrote your first novel — *Liarmouth: A Feel-Bad Romance: A Novel* — this year. Is that included in the show at all?** I talk a bit about it in the show. I want it to sell. It was optioned to make into a movie. It was all the news, you know.

**Oh, congratulations! Will you also be directing?** Yes, I was hired to direct, and I'll start writing the script on Jan. 2. It still has to go through the system of being budgeted and then cast and all the many green lights that have to happen, but it is a very exciting beginning.

**You've written several books already but what brought on your first novel?** I just wanted to write one. Fiction is a different way to create. I wish there was a shortcut to writing a book, but there isn't. It takes three years to write all my books. But I wanted to try something different.

**You write by hand, correct?** I like physical writing. They don't even know how to write anymore. My friend's children don't know how to write their name. But I like the act of it, but my handwriting just gets worse and worse.

*For tickets, visit [TheKessler.org](http://TheKessler.org).*

# LGBTQ rights on the line — *again*

## IN THE COURTS

SCOTUS to hear case on Monday that could clear the way for discrimination

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

The ordinary rights of LGBTQ people are on the line again at the U.S. Supreme Court, this time on Monday, Dec. 5, with a case seeking to allow any business to deny service to a customer by claiming a personal objection to treating that customer the same as others.

The footnotes to this oral argument (see below) are as interesting as the argument itself. But, first, here's a guide to taking in Monday's historic event:

**When:** Monday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m., ET. Seventy minutes has been allotted.

**Where:** In the U.S. Supreme Court courtroom in Washington, D.C. Some members of the public will be allowed to attend the argument in person but on a first-come-first-serve basis, which generally requires camping outside in a designated line overnight. There are other ways to take in the argument (see below).

**The case:** *303 Creative v. Aubrey Elenis*, the Colorado attorney general. This case was initiated by the Alliance Defending Freedom, a legal group which has focused largely on anti-LGBTQ projects. In this case, ADF sought to restage an earlier case that fell short — *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado* — where the group won only a procedural victory. In this case, ADF has asked a web designer to press a pre-emptive case against the state public accommodations law protecting LGBTQ people, saying that, if she did offer wedding page services, she would not want to offer them to same-sex couples because of her religious beliefs.

**The appellant:** Graphic artist Lorie Smith was recruited by the Alliance Defending Freedom to file this law-



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait following the addition of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson at the Supreme Court building in October. Justices are, bottom row, from left, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Elena Kagan, top row, from left, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

suit even though no same-sex couple had yet come to her seeking a design for their wedding plans. In fact, Smith had not yet even offered to provide wedding site designs for any potential customers. Although Smith said she has had LGBTQ clients, she said she could not do wedding site designs for same-sex couples because of her belief that the Bible prohibits same-sex marriage.

**The respondent:** The state of Colorado, and its attorney general, Aubrey Elenis, are defending the state law prohibiting, in public accommodations, discrimination based on "disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin or ancestry."

**Previous rulings:** Both a U.S. district court and the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) in this challenge. The 10th Circuit ruled CADA to be a "neutral law of general applicability" and said it is neither unconstitutional nor overbroad and does not violate the free speech or free exercise rights of the plaintiff.

### The question at the Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court has dramatically reframed the question posed by attorneys for the web designer. ADF attorneys asked: "Whether applying a public accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent, contrary to the artist's sincerely held religious beliefs, violates the Free Speech or Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment." The Supreme Court, in accepting the ADF appeal, posed a much larger question, one that does not require a religious objection but any objection: "Whether applying a public accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent violates the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment."

"The court framed the question to presuppose that designing a website for money in a business open to the general public is 'artistic expression' rather than an ordinary commercial service," explained Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "That is a radical departure from existing law. It's one thing for the court to change the law. It's another for the court to do so sur-

reptitiously by framing the question in such a highly-loaded and novel way."

**Arguing for web designer:** Kristen Waggoner, head of the Alliance Defending Freedom.

**Arguing for Colorado's anti-discrimination law:** Colorado Solicitor General Eric Olson and U.S. Deputy Solicitor General Brian Fletcher.

**How to take in the argument:** Interested parties can attempt to go in person, read a transcript of the argument or listen to an audio recording. Written transcripts ([https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcript/2022](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcript/2022)) and audio recordings ([https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_audio/2022](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_audio/2022)) of the argument are available on the court's website either 90 minutes after the argument or soon thereafter.

**The prospects:** The current composition of the court — with six conservatives and three progressives — has been aggressively pursuing decisions that square with Catholic and evangelical doctrine. Most notably, the six issued a decision in June overturning two longstanding precedents and, in doing so, gave the green light for states to enact laws prohibiting abortion.

One of the six, Clarence Thomas, wrote a concurring opinion urging his colleagues to "reconsider all of this Court's substantive due process precedents, including *Griswold*, *Lawrence* and *Obergefell*."

*Lawrence* struck down state bans against same-sex sexual relations; *Obergefell* struck state bans against marriage for same-sex couples, and *Griswold* struck bans against couples using contraceptive.

The fact that the court accepted the *303 Creative* appeal even though the plaintiff never had a same-sex couple seeking a wedding web design, suggests an eagerness to fulfill Thomas' wishes.

**How bad could it be:** A worst case scenario decision in *303 Creative* could allow any business in the public marketplace (hotels, restaurants, bakeries,

# A city in flux

## IN THE AFTERMATH

Religious right retains a strong presence in Colorado Springs even as city becomes more progressive

**SAM METZ AND STEPHEN GROVES**

Associated Press

**C**OLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — When officials unfurled a 25-foot rainbow flag in front of Colorado Springs City Hall last week, people gathered to mourn the victims of a mass shooting at a popular gay club couldn't help but reflect on how such a display of support would have been unthinkable just days earlier.

With a growing and diversifying population, the city nestled at the foothills of the Rockies is a patchwork of disparate social and cultural fabrics. It's a place full of art shops and breweries; megachurches and military bases; a liberal arts college and the Air Force Academy.

For years it's marketed itself as an outdoorsy boomtown with a population set to top Denver's by 2050.

But the Nov. 19 shooting at Club Q has raised uneasy questions about the lasting legacy of cultural conflicts that caught fire decades ago and gave Colorado Springs a reputation as a cauldron of religion-infused conservatism, where

LGBTQ people didn't fit in with the most vocal community leaders' idea of family values.

For some, merely seeing police being careful to refer to the victims using their correct pronouns after the shooting signaled a seismic change. For others, the shocking act of violence in a space considered an LGBTQ refuge shattered a sense of optimism pervading everywhere from the city's revitalized downtown to the sprawling subdivisions on its outskirts.

"It feels like the city is kind of at this tipping point," said Candace Woods, a queer minister and chaplain who has called Colorado Springs home for 18 years. "It feels interesting and strange, like there's this tension: How are we going to decide how we want to move forward as a community?"

Five people were killed in the attack last weekend. Several people were hospitalized with injuries.

In recent decades the population has almost doubled to 480,000 people. More than one-third of residents are nonwhite — twice as many as in 1980. The median age is 35.

Politics here lean more conservative than in comparable-size cities. But city council debates revolve around issues familiar throughout the Mountain West, such as water, housing and the threat of wildfires.

Residents take pride in describing Colorado Springs as a place defined by reinvention. In the early 20th century, newcomers sought to establish a resort



Nic Grzecka, right, co-owner of Club Q, hugs a supporter after a 25-foot historic pride flag was unfurled to cover the exterior of City Hall to mark the weekend mass shooting at the gay nightclub on Nov. 19. (David Zalubowski/Associated Press)

town in the shadow of Pikes Peak. In the 1940s, military bases arrived. In the 1990s it became known as a home base for evangelical nonprofits and Christian ministries including broadcast ministry Focus on the Family and the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys.

"I have been thinking for years, we're in the middle of a transition about what Colorado Springs is, who we are, and what we've become," said Matt Mayberry, a historian at Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

The idea of latching onto a city with a bright future is partly what drew Michael Anderson, a Club Q bartender who survived the shooting.

Two friends, Derrick Rump and Daniel Aston, helped Anderson land the Club Q job and find his "queer family" in his new hometown. It was more welcoming than rural Florida where he grew up.

Still, he noted signs the city was more culturally conservative than others of similar size and much of Colorado: "Colorado Springs is kind of an outlier,"

he said. Now he's grieving the deaths of Rump and Aston in the club shooting.

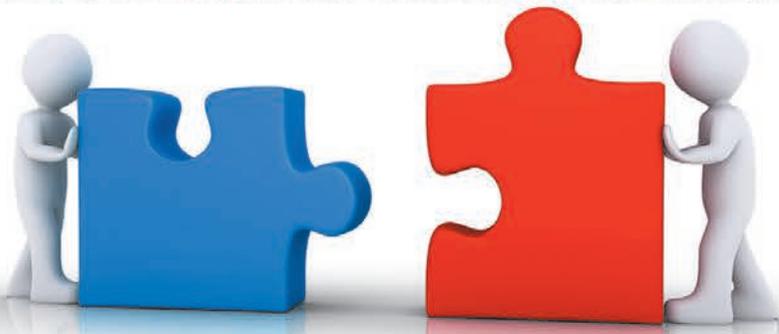
Leslie Herod followed an opposite trajectory. After growing up in Colorado Springs in a military family — like many others in the city — she left to study at the University of Colorado in liberal Boulder. In 2016 she became the first openly LGBTQ and Black person elected to Colorado's General Assembly, representing part of Denver. She is now running to become Denver's mayor.

"Colorado Springs is a community that is full of love. But I will also acknowledge that I chose to leave the Springs because I felt like when it came to ... the elected leadership, the vocal leadership in this community, it wasn't supportive of all people, wasn't supportive of Black people, wasn't supportive of immigrants, not supportive of LGBTQ people," Herod said at a memorial event downtown.

She said she found community at Club Q when she would return from college.

CITY, Page 16

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# Protecting 'the family I found'

## SHOOTING UPDATE

U.S. Navy serviceman who helped subdue suspect in Club Q shooting speaks out

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

**C**OLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A member of the U.S. Navy who was injured while helping prevent further harm during a shooting at a gay nightclub in Colorado on Nov. 19 said Sunday, Nov. 27, that he “simply wanted to save the family that I found.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas James made his first public comments on the shooting in a statement issued through Centura Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, where James is recovering



Thomas James

from undisclosed injuries suffered during the attack.

Colorado Springs Police Chief Adrian Vasquez said that James was one of two men who

helped to stop the shooter who walked into Club Q late on Nov. 19 with multiple firearms, including a semiautomatic rifle, and killed five people. At least 17 others were injured when a drag queen’s birthday celebration turned into a massacre.

James reportedly pushed a rifle out of

the shooter’s reach while Army veteran Rich Fierro repeatedly struck the shooter with a handgun the shooter brought into the bar, officials have said.

“If I had my way, I would shield everyone I could from the nonsensical acts of hate in the world, but I am only one person,” James said in a statement. “Thankfully, we are a family, and family looks after one another.”

Patrons of Club Q have said the bar offered them a community where they felt celebrated, but that the shooting shook their sense of safety.

The shooting suspect — Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22 — was visibly injured during his initial court appearance on Nov. 23. He was ordered held without bail. Formal charges have not been filed, and Aldrich has not spoken about the shooting.

“I want to support everyone who has known the pain and loss that have been

all too common these past few years,” James said. “My thoughts are with those we lost on Nov. 19, and those who are still recovering from their injuries.”

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, the first openly gay man elected governor in the United States, appeared on two Sunday morning TV shows saying he would support increasing licensing requirements for semiautomatic weapons, improving mental health services and better use of red flag laws that allow courts to remove weapons from people having mental health crises and who may be a danger to themselves and others. He also urged the toning down of anti-LGBTQ political rhetoric.

“We know that when people are saying incendiary things, somebody who’s not well-balanced can hear those things and think that what they’re doing is heroic when it’s actually a horrific crime that kills innocent people,” Polis said on NBC’s *Meet the Press*.

James ended the statement by urging young members of the LGBTQ community to be brave.

“Your family is out there. You are loved and valued,” James said. “So when you come out of the closet, come out swinging.”



Luis Valdes Castillo, FNP-C | Peter Triporo, ACNP-BC | Marc Tribble, MD



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# Go-Go Dancers

## ON THE STAGE

Choreographer has got the beat for Uptown Players' 'Head Over Heels'

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

Uptown Players doesn't have its lips sealed about its season opener. In fact, the company has been waiting patiently to bring *Head Over Heels* to the stage. Originally planned prior to the pandemic, the musical based on songs by '80s pop punk band The Go-Gos is back from "Vacation" to bring all the retro glory against its 16th century setting.

To get all the moves down for a cast in period clothing and dance heavy numbers, Evor Wright may have their work cut out for them. But days before opening night, Wright is sure the cast (which they are a part of) is ready to "Get Up and Go."

(Editor's Note: That should be the last of Go-Go's song puns.)

"We are ready to share this show and story with an audience," Wright said by phone. "It's been a really great process that's gone smoothly."

A longtime choreographer for Uptown Players, Wright's work was last seen in this past summer production of *Kinky Boots*. For *Head Over Heels*, they had the challenge of connecting Elizabethan times to New Wave through choreography. The show had been choreographed on Broadway by Spencer Liff, but Wright had the opportunity to — literally — put their own spin on it.

"I did research on that show and Liff's inspirations. There were these vogue styles against these Renaissance paintings. I used all those references," they said. "In the show, there's baroque and ballet along with voguing and tutting and jazz."

Wright's background is in contemporary dance and their familiarity with all those styles gave them the access needed to apply a variety of dance languages. They added that dance is a huge part of this show. It's almost its own character, they said.



Choreographer Evor Wright works with the cast of Uptown Players' 'Head Over Heels' based on music by '80s band The Go-Gos. (Courtesy photo). Evor Wright, right

The 36 year-old has a long relationship with Uptown Players, and, despite their long commute, when the call comes from Uptown they show up. For Wright, the theater company has become a special place.

"Evor first danced on the Uptown Players stage as a Cagelle in 2017. Since then, they have developed into an excellent choreographer with all musical theater dance styles," Uptown Players co-founder and co-producer Jeff Rane said in an email. "Although they now live in Los Angeles, we are thrilled when they can return to Dallas and choreograph our big musicals or Broadway Our Way."

Other shows Wright has worked on include *Disaster the Musical* and *The View Upstairs* regional premiere.

"I think this is my sixth or seventh show to choreograph. As a queer person myself, I have gotten to play queer people in the shows, drag queens, people who are like me, and I get to

tell those stories that are close to home," they said.

Theater can often be seen as a haven for queer people, but Wright's experience wasn't always so before Uptown.

"Those gender norms and binary language are very prevalent and in some ways, *Head Over Heels* is kind of about that," they said.

Wright sees a very queer journey in the musical.

"It's about people learning they can change their way of thinking with all this strong female energy," they said. "And choosing your own journey is what being queer is." ■

For tickets, visit [Uptown-Players.org](http://Uptown-Players.org).



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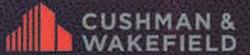
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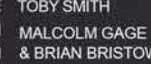
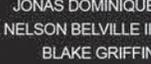


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## RIGHTS From Page 9

web designers, etc.) to refuse service to a customer by claiming to have some personal objection to treating that customer the same as all others.

**Outcome LGBTQ people would prefer:** A much better outcome for LGBTQ people would be for the court to rule that laws prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations protect people with religious beliefs, as well as others, from discrimination and only incidentally implicate free speech concerns. And, as a brief from the NAACP stated: "Public accommodations laws are vital to ensuring free and full access to society and its benefits on an equal basis to all. When merchants exclude individuals from commercial transactions based on their identity — as Petitioner wishes to do here — the excluded individuals suffer a stigma that the law is meant to guard against."

**Footnote 1 — Hiding behind a beard:** The oral argument comes just two weeks after the New York Times reported that Justice Samuel Alito has for years been carrying on cozy rela-

tionships with religious conservative groups. The Times obtained a June 7 letter (<https://int.nyt.com/data/document-tools/roberts-letter-redacted-annotated/fb6e34bb904bfafa/full.pdf>) from a former anti-abortion activist to Chief Justice John Roberts in which the activist claims that Alito leaked the outcome of a 2014 religious exemptions case to a personal gathering of anti-abortion donors leaders at his home. The leak enabled anti-abortion groups to move swiftly to capitalize on the decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*.

Alito wrote the 5-4 majority decision, denied leaking the opinion which held that a federal law may not require a closely-held commercial employer to provide health insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs. LGBTQ legal activists said the decision was a "dangerous and radical departure from existing law" with repercussions for LGBTQ employees.

Alito, who told an audience in Italy

last summer that attacks on religious liberty grow out of "a tendency to distrust and dislike people who are not like ourselves," was almost unrecognizable due to his newly adopted facial hair.

**Footnote 2 — Up front and center:** Ten transgender lawyers are scheduled to be sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court Bar just days before the historic *303 Creative* argument. The plan to swear in transgender attorneys as a group was initiated two years ago but delayed because of the pandemic.

To be sworn into the Supreme Court bar, an applicant "must appear to the Court to be of good moral and professional character," according to the Supreme Court's application instructions. The application asks applicants to indicate if they have ever "changed your name or been known by any name or surname other than those appearing on this application." The ten transgender attorneys include Rook Ringer from Florida, Jesse McGrath from California, Ames Simmons from Georgia and Zsea Ofure Bowmani from Illinois. ■

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## CITY From Page 10

But she didn't forget people and groups with a history of anti-LGBTQ stances and rhetoric maintained influence in city politics.

"This community, just like any other community in the country, is complex," she said.

Club Q's co-owner, Nic Grzecka, told The Associated Press he's hoping to use the tragedy to rebuild a "loving culture" in the city. Even though general acceptance the LGBTQ community has grown, Grzecka said false assertions that members of the community are "grooming" children has incited hatred.

Grzecka said he believes the shooting targeted a drag queen event because the art form is being cast in a false light in recent months by right-wing activists and politicians who complain about the "sexualization" or "grooming" of children.

Even though general acceptance of the LGBTQ community has grown, this new dynamic has fostered a dangerous climate, he said.

"It's different to walk down the street

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holding my boyfriend's hand and getting spit at (as opposed to) a politician relating a drag queen to a groomer of their children," Grzecka said. "I would rather be spit on in the street than the hate get as bad as where we are today."

Earlier this year, Florida's Republican-dominated legislature passed a bill barring teachers from discussing gender identity or sexual orientation with younger students. A month later, references to "pedophiles" and "grooming" in relation to LGBTQ people rose 400 percent, according to a Human Rights Campaign report.

"Lying about our community, and making them into something they are not, creates a different type of hate," Grzecka said.

Those who have been around Colorado Springs long enough are remembering how, in the 1990s, at the height of the religious right's influence, the Colorado Springs-based group Colorado for Family Values spearheaded a statewide push to pass Amendment 2 and make it illegal for communities to pass ordinances protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination.

Colorado Springs voted 3-to-1 in favor

of Amendment 2, helping make its narrow statewide victory possible.

Though Amendment 2 was later ruled unconstitutional, the campaign cemented the city's reputation, drawing more like-minded groups and galvanizing progressive activists in response.

The influx of evangelical groups decades ago was at least in part spurred by efforts from the city's economic development arm to offer financial incentives to lure nonprofits. Newcomers began lobbying for policies like getting rid of school Halloween celebrations due to suspicions about the holiday's pagan origins.

Yemi Mobolade, an entrepreneur running for mayor as an independent, didn't understand how strong Colorado Springs' stigma as a "hate city" was until he moved here 12 years ago. But since then, he said, it has risen from recession-era struggles and become culturally and economically vibrant for all kinds of people.

There has been a concerted push to shed the city's reputation as "Jesus Springs" and remake it yet again, highlighting its elite Olympic Training Center and branding itself as Olympic City

USA.

Much like in the 1990s, Focus on the Family and New Life Church remain prominent in town. After the shooting, Focus on the Family's president, Jim Daly, said that like the rest of the community he was mourning the tragedy. With the city under the national spotlight, he said the organization wanted to make it clear it stands against hate.

Daly noted a generational shift among Christian leaders away from the rhetorical style of his predecessor, Dr. James Dobson. Whereas Focus on the Family published literature in decades past assailing what it called the "Homosexual Agenda," its messaging now emphasizes tolerance, ensuring those who believe marriage should be between one man and one woman have the right to act accordingly.

"I think in a pluralistic culture now, the idea is: How do we all live without treading on each other?" Daly said.

After a sign in front of the group's headquarters was vandalized with graffiti reading "their blood is on your hands" and "five lives taken," Daly said in a statement Nov. 25 it was time for "prayer, grieving and healing, not van-

dalism and the spreading of hate."

The memorials this week attracted a wave of visitors: crowds of mourners clutching flowers, throngs of television crews and a church group whose volunteers set up a tent and passed out cookies, coffee and water.

To some in the LGBTQ community, the scene was less about solidarity and more a cause for consternation.

Colorado Springs native Ashlyn May, who grew up in a Christian church but left when it didn't accept her queer identity, said one woman from the group in the tent asked if she could pray for her and a friend who accompanied her to the memorial.

May said yes because it reminded her of her beloved great-grandparents, who were religious. But as the praying carried on, and the woman urged May and her friend to turn to God, May said she felt as if praying had turned into preying. It unearthed memories of hearing things about LGBTQ people she saw as hateful and inciting.

"It felt very conflicting," May said. ■

Metz reported from Salt Lake City. AP writers Brittany Peterson and Jesse Bedayn in Colorado Springs contributed.

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### ■ **Weekly: Frontrunners**

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

### DECEMBER

#### ■ **Dec. 2: Sandra Bernhard**

Comedian/performer/actress and co-star of *American Horror Story* season 11, Sandra Bernhard, performs at The Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. SandraBernhard.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 2: Kind Clinic HIV testing day**

The Kind Clinic located inside Walgreens on Cedar Springs Road at Oaklawn Ave. offers free HIV testing in honor of World AIDS Day from noon-9 p.m.

#### ■ **Dec. 2: Federal Club Holiday Party**

Dancing and music from DJ Isaiah Wafer surrounded by panoramic views of downtown from 7-11 p.m. at Lorenzo Hotel, Skye Ballroom, 1011 S. Akard St. RSVP at DFWHolidayParty22.eventbrite.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 2: Cedar Springs Onesie Bar Crawl**

Eleven bars located on the Cedar Springs Strip host the second annual Cedar Springs Onesie Bar Crawl starting at 8 p.m., with themed drink

specials all night. Participating bars are S4, The Rose Room, TMC The Mining Company, Sue Ellen's, JR's Bar and Grill, Round-Up Saloon, Dallas Woody's, Mr. Misster, Alexandre's Bar, Cedar Springs Tap House and Lava Lounge. See the Facebook event page for more information.

#### ■ **Dec. 2: Queer Prom**

Impulse Group Dallas presents Queer Prom: 1981, a World AIDS Day event, from 8 p.m.-midnight, at Viva's, 1350 Manufacturing St., Ste.120. '80s prom attire is encouraged but not required; there will be a ballroom-style fashion show competition. Admission is free; register at the EventBrite page.

#### ■ **Dec. 2-18: Head Over Heels**

Uptown Players' new season begins with this unpredictable Elizabethan romp about a royal family that must prevent an oracle's prophecy of doom all set to the songs by The Go-Go's. At the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

#### ■ **Dec. 3: Dallas Holiday Parade**

The 34th Annual Dallas Holiday Parade steps off down Commerce Street at 7 a.m., followed by the 6th Annual Family First Dallas Holiday Festival at Main Street Garden Park, 1902 Main St., from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Reserved bleacher seats are available at DallasHolidayParade.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 3: Lost Souls Holiday Toy Drive**

Lost Souls Rugby Football Clubs's season of service holiday toy drive benefits the children of Adelfa Callejo Elementary School. Bring

unwrapped gifts to the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road from 1-4 p.m.

#### ■ **Dec. 3: Magnificat**

Credo Community Choir of Dallas is joined by choirs from the University of Texas at Dallas for *Magnificat*, a large-scale work for massed choir, orchestra, and soloists by Dallas-based composer, Taylor Scott Davis at the Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. at 7:30 p.m.

#### ■ **Dec. 3: Very Beary Christmas Bar Crawl**

The 7th annual Very Beary Christmas Bar Crawl starts at 8 p.m. at Dallas Woody's, 4011 Cedar Springs Road. Participants should wear a costume (more than just a Santa hat) then make a donation either online at the Facebook event page or to one of the volunteers the night of the event to get a wristband. The crawl includes stops at JR.'s and TMC The Mining Company before ending the evening at The Round-Up Saloon. Donations benefit Prism Health North Texas.

#### ■ **Dec. 3: Pride Sports Drag Race - Dallas**

Pride Sports USA presents Pride Sports Drag Race - Dallas, in which drag contestants from fall 2022 teams compete for the crown and title while raising funds for Resource Center and Gay Kickball World Series, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets are \$25-\$35, available at PrideSportsDragRace.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 4: Bougie Queens Drag Brunch**

Jenni P hosts Bougie Queens Drag Brunch, featuring Krystal Summers and special guests and presented by Drag Star Diva, from noon-4 p.m. at Commons Club, 1445 Turtle Creek Blvd. Two showtimes, at noon and 2 p.m.; reservations are required with a \$50 food and beverage minimum per person. Make reservations at Open Table online or by calling Commons Club at 469-436-7150.

#### ■ **Dec. 4: Drag Brunch at Blüm Dallas**

Macarena hosts Sunday Drag Brunch at Blüm Dallas, 2516 Florence St., from 1-4 p.m. Tickets range from \$15-\$150; must be 21 or older with a valid ID to attend. See the Facebook event page for information.

#### ■ **Dec. 5: Cassie's Freakmas Show**

Cassie's Freakmas Show benefits the children of Sam Houston Elementary School. Cash gifts and unwrapped toys will go to make sure every child at the school receives a present for the holiday. Checks can be made to Sam Houston Secret Santa Project. 9 p.m. at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

#### ■ **Dec. 5: Stonewall Holiday Gathering**

With the midterm elections behind us, it's time to party. The event will feature a keynote speaker to be announced, a lifetime achievement award and the announcement of a new scholarship program, The Stonewall Future Leaders Fund. From 6-10 p.m. at XOXO Dining Room, 3121 Ross Ave. Early bird tickets purchased by Nov. 18 are \$75. Gen admission \$100. StonewallDemocratsOf Dallas.org.

#### ■ **Dec. 6: Classic Chassis Car Club meeting**

Enjoy the cars out in the parking lots and then

enjoy the food from 6-8 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. ClassicChassis.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 6: Let's Do Dinner**

Coalition for Aging LGBT's Let's Do Dinner takes place the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at El Fenix, 6391 Camp Bowie Blvd Riddle #6, Fort Worth.

#### ■ **Dec. 6: PrimeTimers**

First Tuesday lunch and games at 11:30 a.m. at Flaming Buffet, 11722 Marsh Lane.

#### ■ **Dec. 6-25: Six**

The musical *Six* about the six wives of Henry the Eighth at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Tickets at ATPAC.org.

#### ■ **Dec. 8: Alzheimer's Association: Coping Through the Holidays**

If you're caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia this holiday season, you might experience elevated stress from the pressures of holidays, caregiving and family. Join the Alzheimer's Association to learn more about how dementia affects a person's ability to participate in typical holiday celebrations. This program explores the intersection of LGBTQ identities, family dynamics and the holidays to help the LGBTQ community. On Zoom from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Info at alzncn.news/Dec08LGBTQ.

#### ■ **Dec. 11: Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies**

Fern Connections presents a private screening of the new Jim Parsons film *Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies* at 2 p.m. Tickets, \$25 a person and \$40 per couple, include large popcorn and a drink. FernConnections.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 11: Christmas Stocking Auction**

The 23rd annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefiting Legacy Cares at 7 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. To donate baskets or stockings, contact auction@roundupsaloon.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 14: Same-sex spouse grief group**

Grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex spouse or partner meets on Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. For notifications, contact Richard DeKnock at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

#### ■ **Dec. 15: Let's Do Lunch**

Coalition for Aging LGBT's Let's Do Lunch takes place the third Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at Lupe's Tex Mex Grill, 2200 Airport Freeway #505, Bedford.

#### ■ **Dec. 15: GLFD member appreciation event**

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas celebrates the holidays with its members from 6-9 p.m. at Dallas Zoo Lights. Details at GLFD.org.

*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 Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.*

*Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com*

# Romeo San Vicente

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

## Kristen Stewart to direct 'The Chronology of Water'

It's time, of course, for Kristen Stewart to become the next great director. She's already shown the world what she can do in front of the camera, after all, so she's about to make her feature directorial debut with *The Chronology of Water* with Imogen Poots (*The Father*) set to star in the lead role.

Stewart and producer Andy Mingo will collaborate on the screenplay, an adaptation of the poetic memoir by author Lidia Yuknavitch. The story concerns Yuknavitch's difficult childhood with an abusive father and suicidal mother, her struggle with grief and addiction and her eventual, life-affirming coming-of-age as a swimmer, a writer and confident queer woman.

Since her days of *Twilight* superstardom, Stewart has been making her own confident, arthouse-driven choices in terms of the films she's in and the directors she works with — *Personal Shopper* with French filmmaker Olivier Assayas, for example — and this bodes well for her own instincts when she gets behind the camera.

## Gabrielle Union, Eva Longoria to produce a queer wedding comedy for Amazon

You're about to be treated to Gabrielle Union setting it on fire in the soon-to-be-released queer drama, *The Inspection*. Meanwhile, as the activist

stepmom to her transgender child, she's also become a super ally of the LGBTQ community. Now she and Eva Longoria will co-produce a queer wedding comedy for Amazon Studios.

The project has no title at the moment, though both women are likely to be cast in the lead roles as rival moms, future mothers-in-law, whose gay sons are getting married. The plot will involve the ego-driven parents trying to take charge of the wedding for their own purposes rather than what will make their queer kids happy, and though we've seen the monster-in-law trope before, we're very excited to see where this goes.

Look for more concrete news about this one in 2023.

## 'Euphoria' star Hunter Schafer has two films coming next year

Hunter Schafer is a bright light among the troubled and trouble-making teens in the world of *Euphoria*, and the trans actress is just getting started. In 2023 she has two films on track for release, one of which you won't be able to avoid.

*The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, a prequel to the Jennifer Lawrence-starring franchise, and directed by Hunger Games veteran filmmaker Francis Lawrence, will hit theaters in November of next year and feature Schafer alongside a cast that includes Viola Davis, Rachel Zegler (*West*

*Side Story*), Jason Schwartzman and Peter Dinklage.

Before that one comes along, Schafer will star in *Cuckoo*, a horror-thriller from German filmmaker Tilman Singer (2018's *Luz*). Prestige distributor NEON is handling this one, and it co-stars *Downton Abbey* alum Dan Stevens and Jessica Henwick (*The Matrix Resurrection*).

Three cheers for trans talent on the big screen.

## Stormy Daniels loves 'DILFS'

Everyone's favorite porn patriot, Stormy Daniels, has a new gig. The former adult film actress, known for her brave public battles with a former Republican president, is going to host a lighthearted reality show for queer men called *For the Love of DILFS*. Now, if you need to Google what a DILF is, then you should by all means do that. But in the press materials her job on the competition series will be to play "den mother to a bunch of Daddies." Set in a Bachelor-style mansion, a group of men who love men, divided into the somewhat reductive categories of "Daddies" and "Himbos," will live together and look for love.

Will the Daddies fall only for Himbos? Will the Himbos hook up with each other instead? These are the important issues certain to be explored when the eight-episode game show premieres on the OUTtv platform in early 2023. And you know we're going to watch.

*Romeo San Vicente: former Himbo, forever Daddy.*



Hunter Schafer will star in the upcoming *Hunger Games* prequel.

## this week's solution

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

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FIND IT ALL HERE AT

# AMAZING

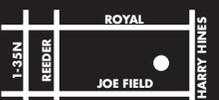
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# SCENE

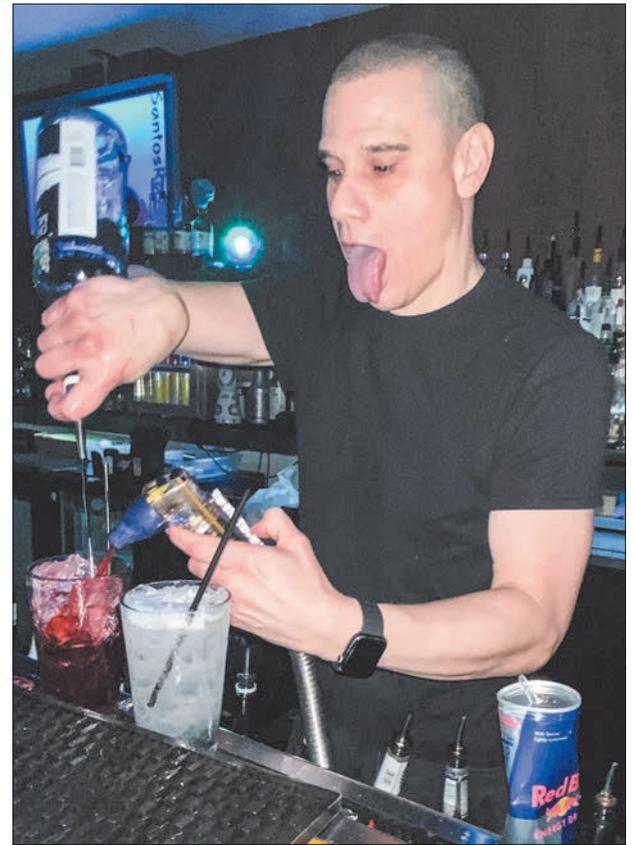
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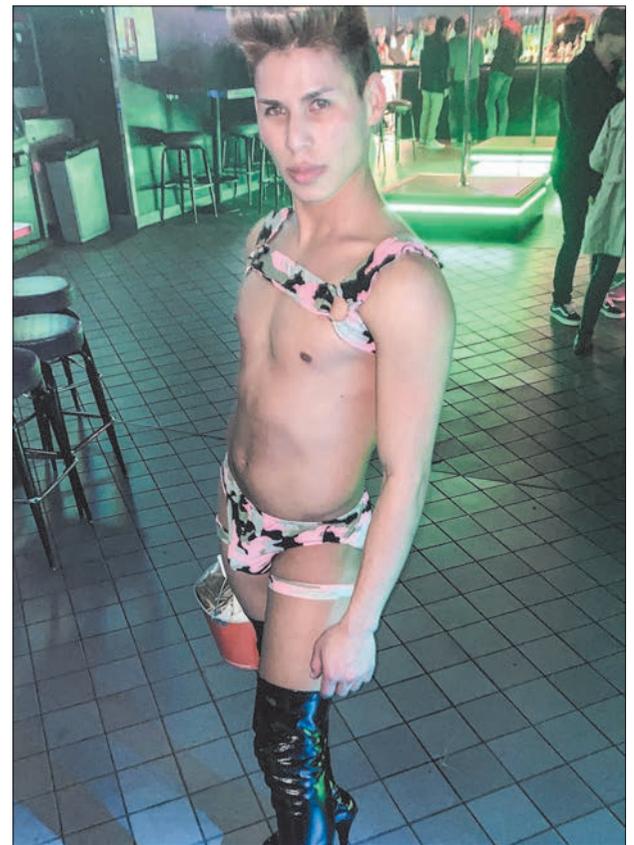
A heavy pour at S4



Let's get physical



Lady in red at the Round-Up



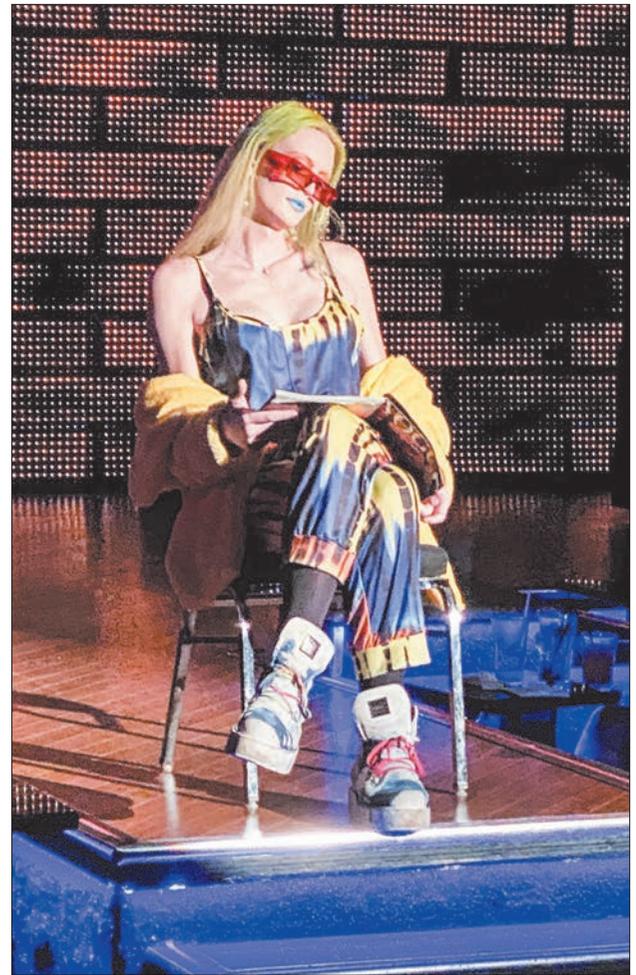
Hi cutie!



Mayra D'Lorenzo at Round-Up Saloon



Oh yes, it's ladies' night at Round-Up Saloon



Rising Star contestant in The Rose Room

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# PUZZLE | Moon Landing Kiss

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Solution on Page XX

Across

- 1 Like a tight opening
- 5 "Desire Under the \_\_\_"
- 9 Piece of Schubert
- 14 Reid of *Josie and the Pussycats*
- 15 Fruitless
- 16 Reproduce without being a breeder
- 17 Jazz singer Anita Dame
- 18 Barry Humphries' daughter
- 19 *Seascape* author
- 20 Comedy series about roomies
- 23 Stands next to O'Keeffe
- 24 Like a velvet Elvis
- 28 *The Music Man* setting
- 31 Gordon of *Oklahoma!*
- 32 Where to go straight
- 36 Mishima's continent
- 38 Eugene O'Neill's daughter
- 39 Start of a line from 20-Across about the first primetime gay kiss
- 42 Iago, notably
- 43 Producer Meron
- 44 Allow to penetrate
- 45 Cassablanca bit, with "the"
- 47 RuPaul's application
- 49 Battlefield formation
- 51 One who carries

Down

- Melissa's amps
- 22 Target before shooting off
- 25 Jolie's tomb-raiding role
- 26 Vietnam capital
- 27 Long for someone with a long one
- 29 Go down
- 30 Husband of a Duke
- 32 Bea Arthur's TV maid Esther
- 33 Seminal computer
- 34 *Macbeth* setting
- 35 Domestic partnership is one type
- 37 Man, as a cruising goal
- 40 Playwright Chekhov
- 41 *Candle in the Wind* singer John
- 46 Log Cabin and Stonewall candidate lists
- 48 Rubber
- 50 Sondheim's staff members
- 52 *The Seven Samurai* director Kurosawa
- 53 Knocked off
- 54 Where some may lie
- 55 Ideal spots
- 57 Straight, at the bar
- 58 High flat area
- 59 E. Wolfson, for one
- 60 *Murder, \_\_\_ Meowed*
- 61 Homophobia or gay-bashing
- 62 Patty Sheehan supporters
- 63 "Why, \_\_\_ delighted!"
- 64 Yours, in the King James Version
- 65 Make more bearable
- 66 Rimbaud's zip
- 67 Big tops
- 68 It may come before 69
- 69 Extra stipulations
- 1 Resort in Howard Dean's state
- 2 Conductor Boulanger
- 3 Range of Nureyev's land
- 4 Singer Crystal
- 5 Just the same
- 6 Cheryl of *Charlie's Angels*
- 7 Dynasty long before the Carringtons
- 8 Lewis Carroll creature
- 9 Tough bet
- 10 Use it to look at Uranus
- 11 Metro area
- 12 First note, in *The Sound of Music*
- 13 Program file extension
- 21 Defense in an Ellen Hart novel

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