Despite some disappointing losses in Texas, LGBT and ally candidates posted huge victories nationwide.
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** 824 Knott Pl. • Kessler Park • 385,000 **
Sleek mid-century ranch home, 3/2/2 1/2 bath, exceptional kitchen & quality upgrades throughout. 2,204 SF/Tax

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** 1022 Kessler Pkwy • East Kessler Park • $535,000 **
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late last week that she was forced to show her claims in a lawsuit she filed against Dallas County over improper strip search.

Dallas trans woman sues county

Dallas transgender resident Valerie Jackson claims in a lawsuit she filed against Dallas County late last week that she was forced to show her genitals to deputes at the Dallas County Jail so they could determine her gender after she was arrested at Dallas Love Field in 2016. She charges that county jailers humiliated her and endangered her life by housing her with men.

The lawsuit, filed Nov. 2, names former Sheriff Lupe Valdez and current Sheriff Marian Brown among the defendants.

Jackson was arrested at the DFW International Airport in 2016 when screeners found a handgun in her purse as she passed through security. Jackson said she simply forgot to remove the gun from her purse before heading for the airport for a vacation trip, and a Dallas county grand jury declined to indict her in connection with the incident.

The suit charges that DCSO employees violated the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which quoting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that bans “deliberate indifference to the substantial risk of sexual assault violates prisoners’ rights under the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment.”

Final rules for implementing the act say decisions on housing a prisoner “cannot be made solely on the basis of a person’s anatomy or gender assigned at birth.”

Dallas County rules say the prisoner’s medical, psychological and medication needs must be assessed before determining where to house the prisoner.

According to Jackson’s lawsuit, one officer insisted, “We need to see if you have a penis or a vagina,” to justify the strip search.

Watch for in depth coverage of this story next week. — David Taffet

LifeWalk raises more than $400,000

Prism Health’s Oct. 7 LifeWalk raised $400,284. Of that total, about $60,000 went to eight partner agencies to be used for the HIV-related programming and services they provide.

The funds raised by LifeWalk are unrestricted, said Chief Marketing & Development Officer Tori Hobbs. That allows the agency to use the funds to pay for services that don’t match up with grant-funded programs.

“We don’t have to say no to anyone,” Hobbs said.

If someone is uninsured or underinsured, Prism Health is able to provide medical care.

“We’ve been doing a lot of insurance assistance,” she said. “Helping people pay premiums.”

While that may be a big expense, Prism Health saves money when more of its clients are insured.

— David Taffet

DPD issues Katy Trail crime alert

Since Oct. 21, four robberies at knifepoint have taken place on the Katy Trail. The offenses have occurred on October 21, 25, 29 and November 7, 2018, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. During one of the offenses, the victim was wearing headphones while exercising. These suspects are taking cell phones and other property that the victims have on their persons, and then fleeing the scene on foot. These incidents are under investigation and are reported under case numbers 241867-2018, 236621-2018, 233880-2018, 231283-2018.

The Dallas Police Department encourages citizens to remain vigilant while exercising on the Katy Trail.

— David Taffet
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**Women and LGBT Center presents an**

- **Nov. 13: I’ll Have a Blue Christmas**
  Ed-U-Care presents I’ll Have a Blue Christmas: How to Navigate the Holiday Season for LGBT Older Adults from 6-8:30 p.m. at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. $8. RSVP for dinner and event at EduCareDallas.com.

- **Nov. 13: Resource Center tour**
  Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center’s community center at 11 a.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

- **Nov. 13: Lunch & Learn: Dallas Gay History**
  The Dallas Way co-founder Robert Emery speaks about Dallas LGBT history at The Dallas Holocaust Museum’s Lunch & Learn Series features programs on Holocaust history and human rights topics at noon at the Aaron Family Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven Road. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP at Eventbrite.com.

- **Nov. 13: Grief support group**
  LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Nov. 14: TAG Dinner Group**
  Tyler Area Gays co-ed dinner group meets at 7 p.m. at Manny’s Tex Mex Cafe, 1433 S. Beckham, Tyler.

- **Nov. 15: SMU Triumph of the Spirit Human Rights Award**
  SMU’s Embrey Human Rights Program in Dedman College presents its 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Human Rights Award to Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld at 6 p.m. in the Mack Ballroom at the Umphrey Lee Center, 3300 Dyer St. on the SMU campus. Sponsorships and tickets available.

- **Nov. 15: DIFFA Wreath Collection**
  The 2018 holiday wreath collection and works of art and curated accessories from 7-10 p.m. at Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. $75.

- **Nov. 16-17: TranScending Hope Conference**
  Conference at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, to educate clergy and lay leaders about the Trans experience with special guest Austen Hartke, the author of Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians. For info, contact the Rev. Erin Wyma at 214-351-1901.

- **Nov. 17: Bah Humbug Gaybingo**
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

- **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**
  Transgender Pride of Dallas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event

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

**NOVEMBER**

- **Nov. 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
  Monthly happy hours and psychic night at restaurant from 5-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, The Quadrangle, 2800 South St. #140.

- **Nov. 10: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**
  DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 8 a.m. Shotgun, at Cowboys Golf Club, 1600 Fairway Drive, Grapevine. $152.42.00 includes golf, cart, range balls, prizes and all food and beverage (excluding alcohol) in clubhouse and on the course. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

- **Nov. 10: Holiday kickoff celebration**
  Coalition for Aging LGBT Tarrant County buffet lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Chadora Mezza Grill Restaurant, 1622 Park Place Ave., Fort Worth. $10. RSVP at Eventbrite.com search Coalition for Aging LGBT.

- **Nov. 10-11: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Craft Festival 2018**
  About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

- **Nov. 12: We Will Not Be Erased**
  A panel discussion on transgender lives with Finn Jones, Christine Ford, Ginger McMurray and Maxwell Cater at 6 p.m. at Hughes Trigg Center, Portico CDE, 3140 Dyer St. at SMU.

- **Nov. 13: LGBT Equality Forum**
  Women and LGBT Center presents an equality forum with keynote speaker Dominique Jackson from Pose from 4-8 p.m. in Hughes Trigg Ballrooms, 3140 Dyer St. at SMU. 214-768-4792.

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- **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**
  Transgender Pride of Dallas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event
Meet Slater, an 8-year-old, red-and-white pit bull mix. He may be an older guy, but he still has plenty of pep in his step! He is friendly with everyone and enjoys going new places and making new friends. He loves belly rubs and back scratches, but treats are his favorite. He will even do cute tricks in exchange for them. He also appears to be housetrained and rides well in the car. He is a happy, goofy guy that will never fail to make you smile. Slater has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today. #164375

Slater is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, $25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and $25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

**Pet of the Week / Slater**

- **Nov. 20: Classic Chassis Car Club**
  See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR.’s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Nov. 20: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**
  Stonewall Democrats monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Mattio’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

- **Nov. 22: Thanksgiving**

- **Nov. 22: Resource Center tour**

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

- **Nov. 27: Grief support group**
  LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Nov. 29: Red Ribbon**
  Commemorate World AIDS Day in support of programs and services of Resource Center with chef-crafted bites, desserts and cocktails from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Stoneleigh Hotel, 2927 Maple Ave.

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Trending blue in the Lone Star State

High-profile candidates at the top of the ballot came up short, but LGBT Texans have much to celebrate in the 2018 elections.


david taffet | senior staff writer

While progressives in Texas, including many in the LGBT community, were hit hard by Beto O’Rourke’s loss to Ted Cruz in the race to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate, the Nov. 6 elections included some huge victories for LGBT and ally candidates. And even in many of those races in which high-profile progressive candidates fell short, there was good news for LGBT Texans.

Winners

When the Texas Legislature convenes next year, there will be five women from the LGBT community in the House of Representatives. Rep. Celia Israel in District 50 and Rep. Mary Gonzales in District 75 were both re-elected, without any general election opposition. They will be joined by new state Reps. Julie Johnson, who claimed a substantial 14-point win over homophobic bathroom bill author Matt Rinaldi, the incumbent, in District 115; Jessica Gonzales, who won the District 104 primary and had no general election opponent, and Erin Zwiener, who defeated Republican Ken Strange by 4 points for the open seat in District 45.

Gina Ortiz Jones, running in U.S. House District 23, still has a chance to become the first lesbian elected to Congress from Texas. At press deadline, incumbent Republican Will Hurd led Jones by only 689 votes, with all precincts counted by a number of provisional ballots, absentee ballots and military and overseas ballots still left to be tallied. And with less than 1 percent point separating the two, Jones’ campaign was already gearing up for a recount.

Jones is responsible for paying the cost of the recount up front, and that cost could be considerable. District 23 stretches 500 miles from San Antonio to El Paso and includes 1,123 precincts. Recount costs are charged per precinct — $60 per precinct using paper ballots and $100 per precinct using electronic ballots. If half the voting locations used paper and the other half used machines, the cost would be about $90,000.

If the recount changes the outcome, the money is returned to the campaign and the counties pay the cost of their error.

Other LGBT candidates that won on Tuesday included: Beau Miller for judge in the 190th Judicial District Court; Charles Spain for justice in the Court of Appeals for the 14th District of Texas; Jason Cox for judge in the Harris County Probate Court; Jerry Simoneaux for Judge in the Harris County Probate Court; Jim Kovach for judge in the Harris County Civil Court at Law, and Shannon Baldwin for judge in the Harris County Criminal Court.

Near misses

While former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez lost her bid for governor, she pulled in nearly 43 percent of the vote against incumbent Greg Abbott — an astounding feat for an openly lesbian Democrat in a statewide election in Texas.

Abbott had hoped to increase his margin of victory this year over the 20 percent lead he held over Wendy Davis in the 2014 gubernatorial race. Instead, Valdez cut his margin by half, even though she never tried to hide who she is.

“I ran as the first Latina, the first LGBT major party nominee for governor,” she told a crowd in Austin during her concession speech on Tuesday night, during which she gave special thanks “to my incredible, patient and caring partner, Lindsay.

In addition to thanking a number of her campaign workers, Lupe offered “my sincerest gratitude to the late, great Gov. Ann Richards, who helped pave the way for women like me, and those yet to come, to know that occupying the highest office in Texas is well-within our reach.”

Other candidates made similar strong showings: Lorie Burch won 44 percent in her race for the District 3 seat in the U.S. House, while Mark Phariss came within 2 points of winning the District 8 seat in the Texas Senate.

Burch thanked her team for their hard work and suggested she isn’t done with public life. “Our goal was to win and we fell short of that goal,” Burch said, adding that when she called her opponent, Van Taylor, on Wednesday to congratulate him, she told him, “My 44 percent is the part of Collin County that is growing.”

In perhaps the most surprising result of Election Night, openly-transgender man and first-time political candidate Finnigan Jones pulled in 44 percent of the vote in solidly-red Texas House District 94 against Tony Tinderholt, a right-wing “family values” incumbent.

Phariss’ campaign for Texas Senate District 8 may have set several records for a Democrat running in Collin County.

“No one’s been this competitive,” Phariss said the day after the election. “I feel very proud.”

Phariss raised more money than any Democrat running in the conservative county north of Dallas and may have earned the most votes any Democrat has gotten in a local race there.

But, he said, what surprised him most throughout his campaign was that “not one person asked me about being LGBT or questioned if I could be a good senator.”

He said his experience on the campaign trail confirmed to him that Texas leaders and members of the Texas Legislature are way out of step with the people of Texas.

As for his future political aspirations, Phariss said, “I’m not going to even think about it. Right now, I have to take down signs and get thank-you letters written and sent.”

The winning strategy

Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said discrimination just wasn’t a campaign theme that resonated in this election. Of the 12 House seats that flipped from Democrat to Republican, 11 had been held by anti-LGBT incumbents.

The 12th was Jason Villalba’s seat. Villalba, a North Dallas Republican, lost his District 114 primary to Tea Party candidate Lisa Luby Ryan, who then lost in the general election to Democrat John Turner.

Villalba received among the highest Equality Texas scores of any Republican member of the House.

In the Senate, two notoriously anti-LGBT North Texas Tea Party members — Kon-
As the first returns in Minnesota’s Second Congressional District began to emerge Tuesday night, Nov. 6, it looked as if lesbian businesswoman Angie Craig would lose — a second time — to a former talk show host that once compared LGBT people to criminals.

At the three-hour mark after polls had closed, Craig, the Democrat, was trailing Republican U.S. Rep. Jason Lewis. But before midnight, a “blue wave” began breaking in the state, and Craig’s campaign delivered not only its own victory but an important win for the LGBT community and a critical threshold that ensured Democrats would take back control of the U.S. House.

Overall Tuesday night, openly-LGBT candidates picked up three new seats in the U.S. House: Craig in Minnesota, Chris Pappas in New Hampshire and Sharice Davids in Kansas. All three were the first openly-LGBT candidates to win election to Congress from their states, and Davids was one of the first two Native American women elected to Congress.

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis won his historic bid to become governor of Colorado and is the first openly-gay man to be elected governor of any state. Voters also welcomed three new lesbian mayors: Teri Johnston in Key West, Betsy Driver in Flemington, N.J., and Julia Fahl in Lambertville, N.J.

LGBT candidates around the country won in large numbers. Of the 225 openly-LGBT candidates endorsed by The LGBT Victory Fund, 151 — more than half — have already been declared winners in their races, with several others yet to be determined.

And there were also some historic races with no winner yet declared as of press deadline:

U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema’s bid for a U.S. Senate seat from Arizona was still in limbo. With 99 percent of precincts tallied, Sinema had 48.46 percent of the vote to Republican Martha McSally’s 49.30 percent. No winner has yet been declared for the Michigan attorney general seat, though Michigan Secretary of State results Wednesday morning showed Republican John James had 49.57 percent of the vote to Democratic Attorney General Dana Nessel’s 45.54 percent. Bisexual Democratic candidate Katie Hill was hanging onto a razor-thin lead over Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Steve Knight in California’s 25th Congressional district.

And in Texas, congressional candidate Gina Ortiz Jones trailed her Republican opponent by less than 1 percentage point, with provisional and overseas/military ballots yet to be counted. Jones’ campaign is already gearing up for a recount in that race.

And to top off the rainbow wave, voters in Massachusetts said a resounding “Yes” to retaining a state law prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodations — the first statewide vote on such protections.

There were not, of course “blue waves” in every state on Tuesday, leaving the LGBT community disappointed in many instances. Transgender Democrat Christine Hallquist fell short in her bid to unseat Vermont’s Republican incumbent Gov. Phil Scott, for one.

According to the Victory Fund, 2018 marked the first time in U.S. history that there was an openly-LGBT candidate running for office in every state. Victory Fund Executive Director Annise Parker called it “an unprecedented rainbow wave.”

Parker also said that Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s re-election was among the community’s “highest priorities” for 2018, and “to see this champion of equality handily defeat her anti-LGBTQ opponent was phenomenal.”

A new Congress

Openly LGBT candidates were running for 23 seats in the U.S. House and four in the U.S. Senate. They won at least seven U.S. House seats and one U.S. Senate seat.

As expected, Democratic U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin breezed to re-election in Wisconsin. Green Party candidate Paula Overby in Minnesota and Independent candidate Brad Peacock in Vermont lost their bids for U.S. Senate seats.

The four incumbent LGBT U.S. representatives running for re-election all won: David Cicilline in Rhode Island (who is expected to seek a leadership position in the newly Democratic House), Sean Maloney in New York, Mark Pocan in Wisconsin and Mark Takano in California. The newcoming
Original Wonder Woman Lynda Carter brings her ‘Red Rock N’ Blues’ show to North Texas

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

When you think of Lynda Carter, maybe you think of her role as President Olivia Mars on the current Supergirl TV series. Or if you think back a few years, you might think of her as Pauline in The Dukes of Hazzard movie, or even Principal Powers in the movie Sky High.

And of course, for most of us, Lynda Carter is and always will be THE Wonder Woman.

But there are other sides to Carter that you might not have ever seen: rock-and-blues singer, video game voice actor, outspoken advocate for equality.

In an interview this week, before Tuesday’s midterm elections, Carter talked about her activism, saying that she has been involved in politics “for a long time,” and even admitting, “Sometimes, I think I am too involved. I get so upset when I hear some of the things people say.”

This election season, Carter continued, “there’s been so much hate, so many people talking about, speaking against things they really know nothing about. There are people talking about gay and lesbian people, or people of color, or people of different religions, and all they are doing is hating.

“There is this fear of ‘other’ that they are grasping onto. They hate anything and anyone different from them,” she said. “And especially when they say they are doing it in the name of religion, or that they are speaking for God, it is just so very upsetting to me.”

Carter, who has spoken out in recent months about her own experiences with sexual harassment, said women have been targets for hate and harassment “for a very long time,” as has anybody who is “different in any way.”

Targeting someone for hatred and discrimination that way, she said, is “a sign of insecurity; of wanting to elevate yourself above somebody else because you are insecure in yourself. And when those people that are being attacked are someone that you love, well, it is a really shocking thing to see.”

Her voice rising in indignation, Carter said that anyone who tries to interfere with another person’s control over their own bodies and their own lives should be confronted, the same way U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris confronted Supreme Court justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearings, when she demanded of him: “Can you think of any laws that give government the power to make decisions about the male body?”

Carter said, “I think anyone who is speaking to one of these people [who want to discriminate against LGBT people] should ask them, how would you feel if the government put restrictions on your marriage, on how you can or cannot interact with your spouse, the person you love? Ask them, if you couldn’t have children for some reason, how would you like it for the government to tell you that you can’t adopt children? Would that be constitutional?”

If someone speaks against marriage equality, she said, ask them why they got married. Then make sure they understand that same-sex couples want to be married for the same exact reasons.

“It’s the same reasons!” she declared. “There’s no difference! But whenever I see [same-sex couples] talking about ‘my husband’ or ‘my wife,’ it just sounds so great! It makes me so happy that people have the chance to say that. And it makes me happy to know that for millennials, for people like my children, it’s just such a non-issue.”

Back to the music

But the main reason for this interview was to talk about Carter’s concert on Saturday night, Nov. 10, at the Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts in Richardson. So Carter shook off politics and switched gears.

“‘This concert,’ she declared. ‘You will love this concert! We will just have so much fun!’”

Carter and her All-Star Band present the Red, Rock N’ Blues show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Tickets start a $40, available online at EisemannCenter.com if you buy your tickets online, use the secret code “Jenna” at checkout to get a discount.

(And yes, that refers to Rose Room star Jenna Skyy, aka Joe Hoselton, who is a huge Lynda Carter fan.)

While Carter may be best known as an actor, she actually started out as a singer. She said this week that she had performed in North Texas “a few times in the past, on my way around the country with some of the different bands I’ve been in.” And she was looking forward to coming back to Dallas and, hopefully, setting the stage for regular performances here.

“I want you to hustle up all my fans there in the LGBTQ family and get them to come to the show,” she said. “I need your support. I want to build a strong base in Dallas so I can come back there every year, and if I can find a following there, I can return every year.”

And, Carter promised, it will be worth it. “We’ll be doing a lot of the songs from my new album [also titled Red Rock N’ Blues] and some re-imagined rock-and-roll, with a little splattering of blue-eyed blues and then some country, too,” she said. “It’s going to be very irreverent and casual, and we are just going to have a ball together.”

Lynda Carter and her All-Star Band present the Red, Rock N’ Blues concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Tickets start a $40, available online at EisemannCenter.com if you buy your tickets online, use the secret code “Jenna” at checkout to get a discount.
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*Our PrEP Navigator has more information about the free PrEP medication program.
nie Burton in District 10 in Fort Worth, and Don Huffines in District 16 in Dallas — lost their re-election bids to Democrats who will be allies to the LGBT community, Smith said. Those winners were Beverly Powell in District 10 and Nathan Johnson in District 16.

Smith said the formula for the winning campaigns was sticking to the issues that affect people like property tax relief and school funding.

He said Erin Zweiner, who identifies as bi, benefited from the community values of her hometown of Dripping Springs, west of Austin. In 2016, Dripping Springs school officials decided to allow a trans girl use the girl's restroom. The anti-LGBT group Texas Values became involved, orchestrating a media blitz attacking the child.

But, Smith said, “Parents stepped up, demanding they stop using kids as political pawns,” and protected the trans girl.

When it came to issues, he continued, Zweiner stuck to the same issues Johnson and others did — school finance and property tax relief.

Around the country, Smith said, results proved: “Being for equality was a winning campaign message.”

Smith applauded all the LGBT candidates who ran in primaries, whether or not they made it to general election and whether or not they won and will serve in office. They are, he said, role models for younger people. For younger LGBT people to see someone like them running for office “continues to elevate the conversation,” he said.

Despite O’Rourke’s disappointing loss, Smith pointed out that Democrats did better than they have done in years in Texas. “The gap was smaller than what we’ve seen in a long time,” he said.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick won by only 5 percent this time. In his last election, he won by a 50 percent margin. Attorney General Ken Paxton led by 20 percent in 2014 but only 3 percent this year. And O’Rourke’s 2.5 percent loss to Ted Cruz was much closer than Paul Sadler’s 16-point loss to Cruz in 2012.

ers, so far, will be Chris Pappas from New Hampshire, Sharice Davids from Kansas, and Angie Craig from Minnesota.

Governors

There were four openly-LGBT candidates for governor across the country on Tuesday night. Incumbent Democratic Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon won re-election with a five-point margin. And as noted earlier, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis won with a six-point lead over his Republican opponent in Colorado.

Both losing LGBT candidates for governor earned strong support at the ballot box, despite coming up short.

Christine Hallquist, a state energy activist who became the first transgender candidate to win a major party nomination for governor, won a robust 40.5 percent of the vote, but was ultimately beaten by popular Republican incumbent Gov. Phil Scott in Vermont. And Lupe Valdez, a former Dallas County sheriff, won 42 percent of the vote against Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott in Texas.

Transgender referendum

Voters in Massachusetts did not vote as strongly to keep a transgender non-discrimination law as polls had predicted. The latest poll predicted 74 percent would vote to retain the two-year-old law. But, with 82 percent of the vote in, 68 percent voted “Yes” on Question 3, still ensuring the law would remain intact.

“By winning the first statewide popular vote on transgender rights, Massachusetts voters reaffirmed our Commonwealth as a place that fiercely defends our basic values of dignity and respect for everyone,” said ACLU Massachusetts Executive Director Carol Rose.
In the days leading up to this year’s Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, Southern Methodist University is hosting two events for its LGBT students in the next week, and Sidney Gardner, director of the Women and LGBT Center, said alumni and the community are welcome to participate.

On Monday, Nov. 12, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program presents We Will Not Be Erased, “a panel discussion on transgender lives between resilience and affirmation.” The Women’s and LGBT Center presents “An LGBT Equality Forum” on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Registration for the Equality Forum begins at 3:30 p.m. in the ballroom in Hughes Trigg. At 4 p.m., Equality Texas will deliver a “state of the state” address, describing what to expect in the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature, telling those attending “how to get involved,” Gardner said.

That includes contacting local representatives and going to Austin to lobby on specific legislation. Although Gov. Greg Abbott said a return of the anti-transgender bathroom bill isn’t on his agenda, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has promised to bring back that legislation back.

Gardner said there will be time for networking before dinner at 6 p.m. During dinner, an award will be given to a student who’s work for the LGBT community has been exceptional.

Transgender actress Dominique Jackson, star of the FX series Pose, is the keynote speaker, scheduled to appear at 7 p.m. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Jackson fled to the U.S. at 18 to escape bullying and sexual abuse.

Once in the U.S., she experienced homelessness and turned to sex work to survive. While living in Baltimore, she was exposed to the ballroom scene and began her modeling and acting career. In 2016, she was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award for her work on the Oxygen reality series Strut.

“We Will Not Be Erased” is the slogan adopted over the past few weeks by trans rights advocates protesting the Trump administration’s rollbacks of federal policies and regulations, dating from the Obama administration, that protect transgender rights. Under one proposed rollback, trans people would not be able to change the sex assigned them at birth on official documents, even though their gender identity doesn’t match.

The “We Will Not Be Erased” program will include panelists Maxwell Carter, Ginger McMurray, Christine Ford and Finnigan Jones.

We Will Not Be Erased at 6 p.m. on Nov 12 at Hughes Trigg, Portico CDE, 3140 Dyer St. LGBT Equality Forum from 4-8 p.m. on Nov. 13 at Hughes Trigg, first floor ballroom.

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Gay Fort Worth teen endures endless harassment, assault at school; 3 suspects finally arrested

MICAH MOORE | Contributing Writer
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EDITOR’S NOTE: An alias has been used for the young man at the center of this story to protect him from further harassment.

Matthew was beginning the school year like any other, excited about the upcoming year. Matthew loved sports and was looking forward to the different sports seasons in the coming school year. Although he was a timid young man, he enjoyed his life with friends and a close and loving family.

But instead of enjoying camaraderie with his teammates, instead of getting to enjoy his classes and goof off with his friends, Matthew found himself facing the harsh realities that come with being a target for bullies. In fact, for two years Matthew endured a relentless, unending barrage of verbal and physical abuse that went unchecked by officials in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District, his parents allege.

Matthew’s parents, a married lesbian couple raising two sons, have been fighting throughout those two years to get the school to stop the bullying. Instead, the harassment continued unchecked, getting worse as time passed.

One of Matthew’s parents Fort Worth Police Officer Sara Straten, a 26-year-veteran of the force now working as a school resource officer in Fort Worth ISD and serving as the department’s LGBT liaison officer. When the bullies targeting her son escalated to incessant verbal and even physical harassment, Straten told school administrators at Chisholm Trail High School she wanted them to file a report with the school resource officer. But 30 days passed without school officials filing such a report, despite her repeated phone calls and email exchanges with counselors and principals.

Recently however, Fort Worth Police arrested three suspects in the case, although two of them appear to still be enrolled at Chisholm Trail High School.

How it began

In the fall of 2016, Matthew was suitting up for football practice in the locker room when a teammate asked Matthew, loudly and in front of the whole team, if he was gay. Matthew immediately shrank away and tried to ignore him, but the teammate persisted in ridiculing him while some laughed from across the room.

From that day on, Matthew and his family say, three of Matthew’s classmates hurled slurs at and piled abuse on Matthew, who was still coming to terms with his sexuality. In class, students said things like, “Look at that fucking fag.” Between classes, students would brush shoulders with him, whispering, “Are you gay?” On the basketball court during practice, one teammate shouted, “You’re still a fucking fag,” even as Matthew sank a shot from half-court.

Instead of celebrating wins with his team and enjoying his years in school, Matthew was isolated and alone.

The locker room, the practice fields, the classrooms — nowhere at Chisolm Trail High could Matthew find any respite. Instead of being able to stay safely in the closet while coming to terms with his sexuality, Matthew had to face the bullies who were constantly attacking him.

Shortly after the harassment began, Matthew went to the office to speak to the principal. But the principal wasn’t available, so Matthew had to leave a note. The note went unanswered.

And the bullying continued, getting worse through the 2017 fall semester. Then came January 2018, when the abuse changed from just verbal to physical.

From verbal abuse to physical attacks

It happened one day after basketball practice, as students were changing in the locker room, the same day Matthew sank the shot from mid-court.

According to Matthew, two students grabbed him and tried to hold him down. He managed to break free. But one of the boys grabbed him from behind and started dry-humping him while another student grabbed his face, telling him, “You looked beautiful today” and calling him “faggot.”

Finally, the attack ended and Matthew was able to run to the coaches’ office. But no one was there. So he went to the office again to speak with the principal, but left with no reassurance. He had to go back to the locker room to grab his clothes and backpack but then left school without changing.

Megan Overman, director of communications for Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, said in a recent email, “Be assured that anytime a situation of potential bullying or harassment is reported, we investigate it thoroughly in accordance with board policy and our Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, and we work with the families involved in efforts to reach a positive solution for all.”

But the handbook and the code of conduct and board policy provided neither reassurance nor respite for Matthew. In fact, the physical attack coupled with the incessant verbal abuse caused Matthew to retreat back into the closet, and things took a dark turn. He felt more rejected and isolated than ever.

Finally, Matthew went to his bedroom and tried to kill himself, but his older brother found him in time.

“That was devastating,” said Straten. “We knew then we had to take matters in our own hands, since the administration was so absent. Everyone seemed to have turned their backs to the whole situation.”

Matthew’s mothers took him out of Chisholm Trail High School then, choosing to homeschool him for the rest of the spring 2018 semester.

“We hoped giving him the spring away and the summer off, would give him a fresh start and let all these guys move on from bullying,” Straten said.

Things were easier for Matthew after he left school, even though the same old bullies lurked around when he attended school sports activities. In one instance, a student followed Matthew from the bleachers to concession stand, despite a school protective order forbidding contact between the two.

Matthew chose to leave the event to avoid further harassment.

Coming out online

Matthew moved on, leaving the situation behind. But, Straten said, “Summer got lonely. We wanted to make sure he had the best possible start to the school year back at Chisholm Trail” when the school began this
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HELP Center
for LGBT Health and Wellness
past August.

But the new school year brought with it the same old patterns of harassment for Matthew, who joined the wrestling team with his brother. On the mat, the same bullies would hold him down, whispering vulgar suggestions in his ear. In the locker room, his teammates wouldn’t let him shower after practice.

Very quickly, Matthew needed a break from the haunts.

The family took a camping trip, hoping to escape the noise of school and work for the weekend. After texting with a romantic interest throughout the weekend, Matthew decided to come out on Instagram that Sunday. What he didn’t expect was the barrage of hate that began erupting from his phone as Instagram notifications lit up the screen:

“Suck, suck, choke, choke. Oh yes, put it in my …”

“No one cares, go kill yourself.”

“I wish we were in the 1980s so I could beat the shit out of you to the point of hospitalization without the cops even caring, you fucking loser.”

“I didn’t know dick sucking makes you athletic.”

It never stopped.

It’s easy to discount the impact of social media. But for someone, especially a teenager, already under attack, this digitally-connected world can be much more than tiresome. Imagine facing a barrage of notifications signaling such hatefulness — when you wake up, when you get out of the shower, right before a mid-term exam, when you’re at the dinner table.

That’s what Matthew faced, while he was away on camping trip and after he returned to school. This time, it was administrators at Chisholm Trail High that contacted Straten, notifying her that her son was the victim of extreme cyber-bullying.

Fort Worth Police began investigating the cyber-bullying case, as well as the past harassment. And on Aug. 21, police arrested three juveniles in connection with the case, according to Fort Worth Police spokesman Sgt. Chris Britt. Neither police nor officials with the Tarrant County Juvenile Court could disclose details of the charges or any prosecution because the suspects are minors. One of the three transferred to a different school after the arrests, but the other two remain at Chisholm Trail High, according to Matthew and his brother.

Neither officials at Chisholm Trail High School nor at Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD had responded to a request for comment by press time.

Understanding the laws

Straten points to a variety of laws and statutes already in place to protect students from bullying and sexual harassment. But, she said, the school has chosen to protect the alleged bullies at her son’s expense.

In Texas, David’s Law provides specific definitions and guidelines for dealing with bullying at school. The law, which took effect Sept. 1, 2017, includes offenses related to cyber-bullying and sexual assault, both on and off campus. The law was added to the Texas Education Code, authorizing school districts to take action against bullies.

“David’s Law gives [school administrators], a lot of tools they can use, but there are so many failures,” Straten said.

But application of the law is still uncharted territory for many Texas school districts. It’s hard to find a case where David’s Law has been used to resolve extreme bullying incidents two years after the law took effect. And while the law authorizes school districts to take action, the language in the bill doesn’t require schools to remove bullies or take other such action.

Still, schools are required to take certain measures regarding cyber-bullying, including notifying the victim’s parents.

Meanwhile, the Texas Penal Code also defines harassment as a punishable offense. Section 42.07 of the Texas Penal Code spells out harassment as the “intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment or embarrass” another person, either with obscene comments, requests, suggestions or proposals; by threatening to “inflict bodily injury on the person” or commit a felony against the person or his or her family or property; by falsely reporting that a specific person has died or been seriously injured; repeatedly making harassing phone calls, and by repeatedly sending harassing or threatening electronic communications.

While she doesn’t believe that the way school officials handled her son’s case, Straten encourages parents and her fellow school resource officers to be on guard against harassment and bullying.

“If you are a parent and have a child going through this at some point, you need to be prepared. It’s been a fight with the school, it’s been an absolute fight. They have no intention of helping,” Straten said.

“If I hadn’t had experience knowing the law, knowing the resources and pushing for a charge, then the harassment could have carried on and on.”

Statistics on bullying

- More than one out of every five (20.8 percent) students report being bullied, according to numbers compiled in 2016 by the National Center for Educational Statistics.
- Bullied students reported that bullying occurred in the hallway or stairwell at school (42 percent), inside the classroom (34 percent), in the cafeteria (22 percent), outside on school grounds (19 percent), on the school bus (10 percent), and in the bathroom or locker room (9 percent), also according to the 2016 National Center for Educational Statistics.
- School-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25 percent, according to a 2013 report by McCollam & Feder.
- Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for poor school adjustment, sleep difficulties, anxiety and depression, according to a 2015 report by the Centers for Disease Control.
- The percentage of individuals who have experienced cyberbullying at some point in their lifetimes has nearly doubled — from 18 percent to 34 percent — from 2007 to 2016, according to a 2016 report by Patchin & Hinduja, 2016.
- 74.1 percent of LGBT students were verbally bullied — called names or threatened — in 2012 because of their sexual orientation, and 55.2 percent were verbally bullied because of their gender expression, according to the 2013 National School Climate Survey.
- 36.2 percent of LGBT students were physically bullied — pushed or shoved — in 2012 because of their sexual orientation, and 22.7 percent were physically bullied because of their gender expression, also according to the same National School Climate Survey.
- 49 percent of LGBT students experienced cyberbullying in 2012, according to the National School Climate Survey.
- Only 40–50 percent of cyberbullying targets were aware of the identity of the perpetrator, according to the 2016 report by Patchin & Hinduja.
- An analysis found that students facing peer victimization are 2.2 times more likely to have suicide ideation and 2.6 times more likely to attempt suicide than students not facing victimization, according to a 2014 report by Gini & Espelage.
- Information provided by PACER. Founded in 2006, PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center works to prevent childhood bullying, so that all youth are safe and supported in their schools, communities and online. For more information about bullying prevention and all of PACER’s efforts, visit pacer.org.
Looking at the bigger picture

TAMMYE NASH
From Where I Stand

Bet O’Rourke lost. He lost by less than 3 percentage points, but still, he lost. And that means that LGBT Texans — indeed, LGBT people all across the country — will have to spend the next six years dealing with homo/transphobe Ted Cruz sitting in the U.S. Senate.

As I sat watching the election results trickle in, I felt my heart sinking ever lower as Cruz’s numbers crept higher. And when the national news prognosticators called the race for Cruz, I felt my heart breaking. It felt like 2016 all over again.

Don’t get me wrong: It wasn’t just the Senate race that broke my heart. I wanted to see Lupe Valdez beat Greg Abbott, to see Mike Collier beat Dan Patrick, to see Justin Nelson beat Ken Paxton. I wanted to see Lorie Burch and Gina Ortiz Jones headed to Congress, to see Mark Phariss headed to the Texas Senate, to see Finn Jones headed to the Texas House.

And so many more. So many, many more.

But Beto was the flag-bearer. I know that many of the others were long shots. But Beto — well, that one seemed so winnable. But Beto lost.

I felt that same dark cloud of anger, almost of hopelessness, that had engulfed me two years ago rushing back in. But I held it off, because I had work to do. I was blogging election results, and not just in Texas’ Senate race.

And when I stopped moping over Beto, I started realizing all the reasons we had to celebrate.

Start at the top: Democrats won control of the U.S. House of Representatives! Sure, not all Democrats are friends of the LGBT community. But we can bang sure rely on a couple of run-off elections and recounts.

Those winners include Jared Polis in Colorado becoming the first openly-gay man elected governor of a U.S. state; Sharice Davids became the first lesbian elected to Congress from Kansas and one of the two first Native American women elected to Congress.

In Massachusetts, voters statewide upheld laws protecting transgender men and women from discrimination in that state. State-wide referenda used to be the bane of LGBT equality, and yet, at a time when our trans brothers and sisters have become the right-wing’s favorite targets, the people of Massachusetts stood up and told the bigots NO.

Of the 16 candidates the Victory Fund backed in Texas, 10 won, and two are in recount situations. Texas has five LGBTQ-identified women in the Texas House now: Celia Israel, Mary Gonzalez, Jessica Gonzalez, Erin Zweiner and Julie Johnson. Jessica, Erin and Julie are all newly-elected legislators, while Celia and Mary won re-election. And Julie’s victory was especially sweet since she beat Republican incumbent Matt Rinaldi, author of one of those detestable “bathroom bills” introduced in the last Texas Legislature.

And six LGBT candidates won judicial races in Harris County.

We saw some big wins here in Texas for candidates who are allies of our community: Colin Allred defeated Pete Sessions to win a seat in Congress. In Texas Senate races, Beverly Powell defeated anti-LGBT incumbent Konni Burton and Nathan Johnson beat anti-LGBT incumbent Don Huffines. Chika Anyiam defeated Stephanie Fargo for judge in Dallas County’s Criminal District Court 7 to become the first African immigrant in U.S. history elected as a state district court judge. The first Latinas to ever represent Texas in Congress were elected this week.

And there was more. So much more. Even in some of those races where we lost, we still saw some history being made. Lupe Valdez, an openly-lesbian Latina, pulled in more than 40 percent of the vote in a state-wide race. In Texas. Openly-lesbian congressional candidate Lorie Burch earned nearly 45 percent of the vote in a heavily-Republican district, while openly-lesbian congressional candidate Gina Ortiz Jones is looking at a recount after the initial count showed her less than 1 percentage point behind her Republican opponent. Mark Phariss finished his race for the Texas state Senate less than 3 percentage points behind the Republican in a deep red district.

And, in what I see as one of the most significant results of the state, openly transgender Finnegan Jones won 44 percent of the vote against a Republican incumbent in another deep red district. Y’all, that’s HUGE!

The more I see, the better I feel. Yes, we lost some big ones. But look at the bigger picture; in the bigger picture, we won. And I believe we will keep on winning.

As Texas Freedom Network President Kathy Miller said the day after the election, on Tuesday “we saw the beginnings of an historic sea change in Texas …” And it wasn’t just a blue wave, it was a rainbow wave of change, washing us all toward a brighter future.

Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice and Out North Texas, and executive producer of DVtv. She has been a professional journalist for more than 35 years.
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**Lincoln Navigator.** Lincoln returns to luxurious American style with the redesigned Navigator. It spoils passengers in 30-way adjustable front seats with cool, heat and massagers, gorgeous veneers and 20-speaker Revel audio. Plug in with Wi-Fi, Slingbox TV and wireless phone charging. Move out with the 450 horsepower twin-turbo V6 engine. Aluminum bodies remove 400 lbs. to enhance performance. It causes Escalades nightmares.

*Base price: $72,555.*

**Lexus LS.** Like a personal limo from the future, the new LS is more than its large spindle grille and F-Sport accoutrement. Check the 416 horsepower twin-turbo V6 or hybrid system delivering 354 horsepower and frugal 33-MPG highway. The decadent interior delights with ambient lighting inspired by Japanese lanterns, Shimamoku-inspired wood patterns and available massage seats in the rear. Name the safety system and this car has it.

*Base price: $75,000.*

**VW Jetta.** While the compact sedan segment is decimated by crossovers, VW dances. Exteriors are completely restyled with sculpted lines and LED headlamps while interiors feel a class higher with VW’s “Virtual Cockpit” flatscreen instrument cluster, heated/ventilated seats, Beats audio, and adaptive cruise. Left lanes disappear beneath the 147 horsepower 1.4-liter turbo-four that achieves 30/40-MPG city/highway.

*Base price: $18,545.*

**Toyota Corolla Hatch.** Billed as a “driver’s hatchback” with a sport-tuned suspension and 168 horsepower 4-cylinder engine, it still delivers 30/38-MPG city/highway. Stocked it with JBL audio, Wi-Fi, Amazon Alexa integration and Apple CarPlay. Safety tech includes crash mitigation with pedestrian detection, adaptive cruise, and lane tracing assist. All salute the tech nerd who got a makeover and pumped at the gym.

*Base price: $19,990.*

**Lincoln Navigator.** Lincoln returns to luxurious American style with the redesigned Navigator. It spoils passengers in 30-way adjustable front seats with cool, heat and massagers, gorgeous veneers and 20-speaker Revel audio. Plug in with Wi-Fi, Slingbox TV and wireless phone charging. Move out with the 450 horsepower twin-turbo V6 engine. Aluminum bodies remove 400 lbs. to enhance performance. It causes Escalades nightmares.

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*Base price: $19,990.*

**Casey Williams | Auto Reviewer| autocasey@aol.com**

Sex is usually something you have *in* cars, not *with* them, but cruise one of these, and you may want to cross species and get busy — or at least get busy driving. From a luxurious SUV to sexy sedans and frugal hatchback, one of these should be what you desire.
Honda Insight. Honda’s hybrid rolls out with sportier attire. Interiors cozy passengers with premium materials, futuristic styling, and tech like Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Touring editions add leather, dual-zone automatic climate control and navigation. Beneath the chiseled hood is a 1.5-liter 4-cylinder engine paired with lithium-ion batteries achieving 151 horses and 55/49-MPG city/highway. It’s the frugal lad with spunk to spare.  
*Base price: $23,725.*

Toyota Corolla Hatch. Billed as a “driver’s hatchback” with a sport-tuned suspension and 168 horsepower 4-cylinder engine, it still delivers 30/38-MPG city/highway. Stocked it with JBL audio, Wi-Fi, Amazon Alexa integration and Apple CarPlay. Safety tech includes crash mitigation with pedestrian detection, adaptive cruise, and lane tracing assist. All salute the tech nerd who got a makeover and pumped at the gym.  
*Base price: $19,990.*

Mercedes-Benz A-Class. As the most affordable way to Mercedes ownership, this sleek little sedan brings it hard! Inside, twin screens and wood trim echo the S-Class while turbine-look air vents, 64-colors ambient lighting, and head-up display channel better Benzes. Step into a 188 horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-4 connected to optional AWD. Safety is enhanced with crash mitigation with pedestrian detection, lane keep assist and active lane change assist.  
*Est. $32,000.*

Volvo S60. The first American-built Volvo will elicit googly eyes. Bowers & Wilkins audio sends you over while safety is fortified by systems to prevent road run-offs or hitting pedestrians. Pilot Assist keeps it centered in its lane. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and 4G Wi-Fi connects devices. Choose from a 250 horsepower turbo-four, 316 horsepower supercharged- and turbo-4, or 400 horsepower hybrid. It’s safer and sexier, too.  
*Base price: $35,800.*

Genesis G70. It’s the Korean answer to the BMW 3-Series: a sassy little number stoked with a cabin that radiates luxury via aluminum trim and microfiber headliner. Check boxes for wireless charging, head-up display, 660w Lexicon audio and crash avoidance systems. Behind the big grille is a 365 horsepower twin-turbo V6 or 252 horsepower turbo-four. 0-60 mph rolls up in as little as 4.5 seconds. The G70 proves smaller can be better.  
*Base price: $42,000.*
Hey, it’s Texas — we like our trucks… especially these sizzlers

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

There are times when you just have to get down and do the dirty in a bed open to the stars. While that sounds like a sexy version of *Brokeback Mountain*, this is more about doing real work… with a pickup truck. From hybrids to exclusive luxury and affordable compacts, check this rodeo of hard-romping whips.

**Ram eTorque Hybrid.** Imagine a full-size pickup that rides on an air suspension, has a Tesla-like 12-in. touchscreen, and runs with a V6- or HEMI V8-based hybrid powertrain. Lithium-ion batteries and re-generative braking add up to 130 lb.-ft. of torque to pull up to 12,700 lbs. Fuel economy rises 2-MPG. A four-inch-longer cab with reclining rear seats and completed in 1978, is the hub of the largest in the nation.

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Ram eTorque Hybrid. Imagine a full-size pickup that rides on an air suspension, has a Tesla-like 12-in. touchscreen, and runs with a V6- or HEMI V8-based hybrid powertrain. Lithium-ion batteries and re-generative braking add up to 130 lb.-ft. of torque to pull up to 12,700 lbs. Fuel economy rises 2-MPG. A four-inch-longer cab with reclining rear seats mock limousines … especially when stocked with Wi-Fi and Harman Kardon audio. Adaptive cruise, automatic parallel parking, lane keep assist, auto braking and trailer-friendly blind spot warning add thick margins of safety.

Base price: $33,390.

Honda Ridgeline. Equal parts crossover and pickup, the mid-size Honda is stylish and refined. Tailgating takes on new meaning with a weather-sealed in-bed trunk that can store gear or iced beer. A truck bed audio system hops the tunes. Back inside, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, tri-zone climate control and ambient lighting set the mood. Throttle the 280 horsepower 3.5-liter V6 engine to tow 5,000 lbs. or achieve 19/26-MPG city/highway. Traction adjusts for normal, snow, mud and sand. Stay safe with lane keep assist, adaptive cruise and road departure mitigation systems.

Base price: $29,990.

Toyota Tacoma TRD Pro. When things get serious, grab a snorkel … and skid plates. Toyota takes the Tacoma TRD and adds Pro trim with heavy duty off-road shocks, raises the front an extra inch for more ground clearance, plants 16-in. wheels with Kevlar off-road tires, and installs a snorkel that sucks in air from above the cab to keep dust and water away from the 278 horsepower 3.5-liter V6. TRD emblems on the floor mats, and headrests accompany a black TOYOTA grille. Crank the standard JBL audio with subwoofer to get the party started!

Base price: $42,660.
These compact crossovers offer style in tight spaces

CASEY WILLIAMS  | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

When you’re ready to play, you may not want to take in a big hulking SUV or boring sedan. If you’re like a vast canvas of America, you prefer a little, tiny, um, crossover. From gas to electric and cheap to expensive, one of these stylish compacts should glamour your big fabulous life. (Best of all, all but one of these nine rides is base-priced at under $40k.)

Audi Q3. It looks less like a toy and more like its larger siblings. The Q3 now employs Audi’s virtual cockpit flatscreen instruments, natural voice recognition, Wi-Fi, Bang & Olufsen audio and reclining rear seats. The “Audi phone box” charges and connects phones to the antenna. There’s also auto parking, sport suspension and hill descent control. Go forth with a choice of four-cylinder engines generating 150–230 horses, or go Diesel.

Base price: $32,900.

Holiday Gift Guide

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Acura RDX. The RDX has always been a nice comfy crossover, but about as exciting as rice. The buff A-Spec variant changes that with LED headlamps, black trim and dark wheels. The all-new crossover also comes with standard touchpad interface, ultra-wide moonroof, and Studio 3D audio. Plant your paw into the 272 horses turbocharged 4-cylinder engine connected to a 10-speed transmission and AWD. Even better, it earns the IIHS’ Top Safety Pick +.

Base price: $37,300.

Lexus UX. Not a looker, but there’s a big helping of Lexus luxury in this tiny package. Optional leather upholstery is inspired by Japanese quilting and it’s stocked with a pre-collision system that can recognize pedestrians at night. Lane Tracing Assist and Adaptive Cruise further enhance safety. Choose a 168 horsepower 4-cylinder or 176 horsepower hybrid. Get the F-Sport mesh grille and stiffer suspension for a fun fling.

Base price: Est. $33,000.

Cadillac XT4. Going tiny, this fly Caddy is a more youthful interpretation of Cadillac’s design language with LEDs up front and a tailflap out back. Primo cabins feature wireless phone charging, 4G Wi-Fi, Bose audio, heated/cool seats and an array of crash avoidance electronics. Premium packages add diamond-cut aluminum, high-gloss wood and carbon fiber accents. Scat comes from a 237 horsepower turbo-4 that achieves 25/30-MPG city/highway.


Base price: $37,300.

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We’ve been promised high-speed automated driving since the 1950s — GM event built concepts like the 1956 Firebird II — but it’s all been bloviating. Until recently. We’re finally on the cusp of letting computers do the driving. Features already on our cars are paving the way to automated driving. Soon, some of these tech innovations will sound as common as “anti-lock brakes,” “back-up camera” and “power windows.” Here are some of the latest technologies and how they work.

Blind-spot warning (BSW). Try to change lanes with a fellow motorist in the way and drivers will hear this. Using cameras, blind spot warning systems beep, flash lights near the sideview mirrors, and sometimes vibrate drivers’ seats to warn them of vehicles in their blind spots. The 2019 Ram pickup will even adjust its warning to account for the length of trailers behind it.

Adaptive Cruise Control. ACC uses lasers, radar, cameras or a combination thereof to maintain a safe pre-set distance between vehicles and the ones in front of them. Some can even creep through stop-and-go traffic automatically. To maintain space, it can modulate throttle and brakes as required. The best systems, like Subaru’s EyeSight, places an image of the front vehicle in the instrument cluster to tell drivers, “Relax, I got this covered!”

Lane Departure Warning (LDW)/Lane Keep Assist (LKA). Both systems are designed to keep cars in their lanes and away from ditches or other traffic. LDW uses cameras, usually located behind the windshield, to track lane lines and give an audible alert when drivers cross without a turn signal. LKA goes further by braking inside wheels or giving the steering a gentle tug to encourage vehicles back on-track. It’s always nice to have a helping nudge.

Lane Centering Assist. Here’s where advanced safety systems veer towards true autonomous driving. Imagine driving down the road in adaptive cruise mode, with hands loosely on the steering wheel, and the car stays centered in its lane ... even around curves. Drive vehicles as diverse as a Nissan Rogue or Mercedes S-Class and this is reality. I once drove two hours without really steering, braking or touching the throttle. Take your hands off, though, and the car gets pissy.

Cadillac’s Super Cruise. Going one step further, Cadillac’s Super Cruise lets drivers take hands off the wheel, though it doesn’t let nap. Sensors watch eye movements to make sure drivers are looking ahead. Think of drivers as pilots on airliners with auto pilot engaged. Sure, the plane is flying itself, but pilots must always be ready to take control. Now available on the CT6 sedan, Super Cruise will roll out to most GM vehicles in the coming years.

Tesla’s Autopilot. The electric vehicle builder from California is very close to true autonomy. Using an array of radar, cameras, and ultra-sonic sensors, installed hardware will allow cars to maintain safe speed in traffic, center in lanes, change lanes without driver intervention, and change freeways automatically. It can even park itself and be summoned to/from your garage. These features will be introduced as regulatory approval is granted.

Taken apart, all of these systems are pretty amazing. But, put them together and they create the primordial stew that will become fully autonomous vehicles. Ten years from now, this will all seem as normal as summoning the universe from your telephone.

To discover what new vehicles have these advanced safety systems, check out Consumer Reports’ report at ConsumerReports.org/carsafety/cars-with-advanced-safety-systems/
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Our head-to-head pits the Chevy Camaro against the Hyundai Veloster

CASEY WILLIAMS  | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Quick jocks come in many different forms, but automotively speaking, they’re usually muscle-bound linebackers with deep voices or lean sprinters that are versatile in use. Either can be sent off to finishing school or lean sprinters that are versatile in use.

Chevy Camaro: Against the skin for 2019, so let’s see if you prefer your latter. Both are redesigned with flashy new features. The Chevy Camaro is more of the former muscle car. Either can be sent off to finishing school or lean sprinters that are versatile in use.

What’s in a name:

Camaro: It’s either your pal or a small angry animal that eats Mustangs, depending on whom at Chevrolet you ask. Either way, it sounds like a very nice way to slay Japanese sport coupes.

Veloster: sounds like one very fast hungry dinosaur. It’s probably angry from getting its feathers kicked by Camaros, so I wouldn’t try to pet it.

Under the hood:

Camaro: Choose a 275 horsepower turbo-4, 335 horsepower V6, 455 horsepower V8, or 650 horsepower supercharged V8. However you want to do it, he’s hot and ready to perform.

Veloster: Packs a 147 horsepower 4-cylinder or 201 horsepower turbo-4 engine. She’s certainly not slow, but will run out of steam soon after its quick romp.

Making it last:

Camaro: Achieves up to 22/31-MPG city/highway with the turbo-4 and automatic transmission — pretty impressive for a modern day muscle car.

Veloster: Up to 28/34-MPG city/highway with its own turbo-4 — its compact car roots keep it frugal.

Stripper name:

Camaro: Hunky Lansing. He hails from Michigan and lives to go balls-out whether hitting the track, slithering through traffic, or twitching his ass at the club.

Veloster: Funky Ulsan. It’s a spicy little Korean that likes to rev it on curvy roads, slide into tight spaces and give a cheeky grin to introduce itself.

Favorite car:

Camaro: The fast Chevy pulls on forward collision, side blind zone, rear cross traffic, and lane change alert systems.

Veloster: The energetic Hyundai takes the Camaro’s protection and raises it adaptive cruise, lane keep assist, forward collision mitigation and driver attention alert.

Favorite asset:

Camaro: The availability of Magnetic Ride Control that uses a magnetorheological damper system with metallic particles that can be electrified and de-electrified to adjust from Touring comfort to Track firm. Yeah, it sounds nerdy, but it is an amazing experience.

Veloster: Gotta be the third door on the passenger side to let kids and pets enter with ease. Sure, having an extra third door is a bit like a third nipple, but it makes the car even sexier.

Bottom line:

Camaro: $25,905. You pay cheap trick prices for a Muscle Mary who has more power than a 1980s IROC. It’s a hell of a deal no matter where you’re cutting a rug.

Veloster: $17,500. You can buy more powerful, and more expensive, performance cars, but none are as easy to own. Drive it like you stole it, because you almost did.
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Nissan Kicks. Having sent the Juke to pasture, Nissan kicks out a new baby crossover all tatted up with funky styling and high stance to imply actual off-road capability (though not really). Check LED low beams and floating roof in contrasting colors. Moving this art piece is a 125 horsepower 1.6-liter 4-cylinder engine that achieves 31/26-MPG city/highway. Automatic Emergency Braking is standard, so crank the Bose audio and kick it up.

Base price: $17,990.

Hyundai Kona. Named after a region of the Big Island, it’s a tasty little coconut. Kona comes in all kinds of extroverted color combinations with a contrasting roof. Narrow LED headlamps highlight her face. Choose between a 147 horsepower 4-cylinder (33-MPG highway) or 175 horsepower turbo-4. A head-up display, wireless phone charging and rain-sensing wipers are optional. Stay safe with the latest crash avoidance tech.

Base price: $19,000.

Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross. Sport coupes are nearly extinct, so the Eclipse gets reimagined as a crossover. Essentially an Outlander with a bubble rump, the car has an edgy look. Slide inside to appreciate head-up display, heated rear seats and panoramic roof. Forward collision mitigation, lane keep assist and adaptive cruise protect peeps. Drivers enjoy the 152 horsepower 1.5-liter turbo-4 and all-wheel-drive with torque-vectoring to carve corners.

Base price: $23,295.

BMW X2. (Pictured above) A smaller and more affordable crossover coupe, the X2 brings style and performance to the fashion-forward masses. Standard LED headlamps, 20-in. wheels, and dynamic proportions hint at performance from the twin-turbo 4-cylinder engine that delivers 228 horsepower. Adjust the suspension from Comfort to Sport. Interiors flaunt premium materials, panoramic roof and comprehensive safety gear. Be fabulous; choose Magma Red leather seats.

Base price: $38,400.

Jaguar I-Pace. Jaguar challenges Tesla with this sleek little crossover. Beneath its sexy body are lithium-ion batteries that enable 248 miles driving range. Respecting the luxury of time, drivers can achieve an 80 percent charge in just 40 minutes. Cab-forward proportions cosset a roomy cabin loaded with Jaguar’s Touch Pro Duo infotainment system, 4G Wi-Fi, adaptive cruise and panoramic sunroof. EV navigation chooses routes to optimize range. It’s one efficient kitty.

Base price: $69,500.
Friday 11.16
Saturday 11.17

Bruce Wood Dance celebrates founder will All Bruce lineup

It’s been about five years since choreographer Bruce Wood passed away suddenly, but his dance company has continued on with new commissions as well as classics from Wood’s repertoire. Well, the final concert series of the year is appropriately titled All Bruce: All three performances are classic dances by Wood himself, including his unforgettable Bolero and a tour-de-force featuring Nycole Ray. Dallas Voice Executive Editor Arnold Wayne Jones hosts a post-performance Q&A each night.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

Thursday 11.15

DIFFA’s Holiday Wreath Auction returns for 23rd fundraiser

For 22 years, DIFFA has not only held its big runway fashion show, but also flexed its design muscle in a holiday wreath auction. For the 23rd incarnation, arriving just before Thanksgiving, the eye turns to the boulevards of Paris. Marche de Noel is a French market-themed event, with celebrity decor all benefiting the AIDS service organization.

DEETS: Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. $75. 7–10 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.

Monday 11.12

Tan France of ‘Queer Eye’ judges Big Idea Competition at UTD

The University of Texas at Dallas’ annual Big Idea Competition is pretty much what it sounds like: Students (and others) present ideas, and win substantial prize money ($5,000 and more) for their pitches. Among the judges at this year’s event will be Tan France, the style guru on the Emmy-winning reboot of Queer Eye on Netflix… so you know he has quite an eye for a big idea.

DEETS: ATEC Auditorium n the UTD campus. 4:30 p.m. UTDBigidea.com.
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The Moors. The lives of two Victorian era sisters are disrupted by strange arrivals in this dark


Carol Burnett shares stories from her life and career and answers questions from the audience at the Winspear on Sunday.

DANCE

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

DANCE

FUNDRAISER
DIFFA Holiday Wreath Auction. Theme: Marche de Noel, a French market. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. $75. 7–10 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.

FRIDAY 11.16
DANCE
Bruce Wood Dance: All Bruce. The company, now under new artistic director Joy Bollinger, celebrates the late founder with a slate of his classic dances, including Echoes of Enchantment, The Edge of My Life So Far (with Nycole Ray) and Bolero. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Nov. 16–17. BruceWoodDance.org.

TUESDAY 11.13
FILM
Guys and Dolls. Marlon Brando singing in a musical? Yup. But so is Frank Sinatra in this classic musical. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.15
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

COMEDY
Amy Schumer. The comedienne performs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

FRIDAY 11.16
CABARET

TUESDAY 11.13
CABARET

this week’s solution

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

SATURDAY 11.10
COMMUNITY
FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

SUNDAY 11.11
APPEARANCE
An Evening with Carol Burnett. The comedy star discusses her career. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

MONDAY 11.12
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. $10.

If you have an item to submit for the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.
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Hello all. So last week was one of my own personal anniversaries. Nov. 1 was the anniversary of when I lost my virginity, many (many ... many) years ago. Looking back, I realize that I was basically a teenage girl: I wrote in a diary (I called it a journal if anyone asked, but we all know what it was); I sketched in it; I practiced my autograph; I wrote my name with the last name of the boy I liked, and I wrote down the dates of the events in my life that I thought were important.

Good Lord! I really was a basic-ass teenage girl from every movie ever! Now back to my virginity: I was very young, only 13. Seriously, one day in the October of my 13th year, puberty hit, and all I could think about was dick. By Nov. 1, I got some. It was with a friend I actually really liked.

Looking back, there was an element of shame and embarrassment involved. It took weeks before we could make eye contact with each other again. But a few weeks after that, we did it again. Then we did it about five more times. (I don’t know why I said “about;” it was exactly five more times ... the diary doesn’t lie). We were young and not sure how to process what we were doing. It always started with us wrestling; it always ended with fear and shame. Fear of what if we got caught, and fear of AIDS (I was 13, and had no access to information of any kind). I knew that the news talked about men dying from having sex with men, so I just wished, hoped and even prayed that everything was going to be okay. I would swear to myself that I was never going to do that again, then the wind would blow and I’d be a horny teenage boy again.

I can only imagine what it must be like for young gay kids today, considering the amount of information available online — good and bad. Being young and gay is scary enough, but I hope that it’s a little easier when you can get some of your questions answered immediately.

In my head, I think of that guy as my first boyfriend, which is kind of weird since he turned out to be “straight.” I often wonder if he even acknowledges in his own head what we did, because I know he would never admit it to anyone. I almost tried to track him down on Nov. 1, just to send him the message, “Happy Anniversary,” just to see if he would reply, and if so, what he might say. I’m sure he would say he had no idea what I was talking about, but part of me hopes that he would know exactly what I was talking about.

I hate when you find out that something that actually meant a lot to you meant nothing to others. I guess I am still a little bit of that basic-ass teenage girl. Who knew?

Dear Cassie:
I could really use some advice. My husband and I have been together for almost 10 years, and things are great. We do not have an open relationship, but a while back we downloaded Grindr onto his phone as a couple, mostly to see what was going on and if we knew anybody on there. We were curious, and since we missed out on the app hook up stuff, we thought it would be fun to check it out. Maybe we thought that one day we might like to have a threesome or something.
I never really thought of it as a big deal — until recently. When we got the app our profile name was very generic and showed us to be a couple, but had no pics of us. We would look at guys, passing the phone back and forth and mostly making jokes, sometimes commenting on someone if they were hot, but nothing serious. Then a few days ago, I see a random dick pic on his phone as he is scrolling and I ask WTF? He said it was a dick of a guy on Grindr. I guess he liked it so he did a screen shot; it was a nice-looking dick. I rolled my eyes but didn’t make a big deal of it.
Since then I have not been able to stop thinking about him being on Grindr when I am not around. Last night, while he was sleeping, I went through his phone (we know the passwords to each other’s phones and have for years. He has changed the Grindr profile name to his name and added a picture of himself. There were no messages from anyone except from a friend that we both know and I know is not someone he is interested in. But he has to be talking to guys on there if he is getting to see dick pics. He has never given me a reason not to trust him until this.
I am not sure how to proceed. I can’t sleep. I feel I have a right to be angry, but also feel like maybe I am the one that made it seem okay for him to do this. I’m hurt. I’m angry. I’m frightened. I’m confused. I thought I was enough for him, but what if I am not?
Signed, Sleepless In Saginaw

Dear Sleepless:
You have every right to be angry and hurt. This feels deceptive. Confront him and ask every question that you need to ask. You need to find out if the rules of your relationship have changed, and if they have, he needs to be honest with you. Everything about this feels shady. Trust is one thing that once it is lost is so hard to get back.

You need to nip this in the bud. Talk to him as soon as possible. Get him to explain his actions, but prepare yourself for the worst. See how far this app nonsense has gone. Can you forgive him if he has cheated? Could you be in an open relationship? Do not let him tell you that you are over-reacting. I think anyone in this situation would lose their shit and blow up.

There is trouble on the horizon my friend, but how are you gonna handle it? With love and forgiveness or anger and hostility? I hope a little of both. Good luck.

Love, Cassie

Now if you would forgive me, I must depart from you. My dog Lucy has the worst gas and has been farting so much it sounds like Morse code, and if I do not take her outside immediately, I may vomit. So I bid you adieu. Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova
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• 1851 Club: Barbie Davenport, Sapphire Davenport and Ronnie Skyy Mikyles on Friday. Fauxbia, Rochelle Roulette and Candi Carroll on Saturday.
• Cedar Springs Tap House: AHL Poker Night at 7 p.m. on Friday. Hangover Brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday. American Horror Story Watch Party at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
• Club Changes: Rhonda Mae's Veteran's Day Bash at 9 p.m. on Saturday. Autumn Romance Wall of Food Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
• Dallas Eagle: Discipline Corp Club Night at 10 p.m. on Friday. United Court Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Miss Gay Texas and Tucker’s Gift Benefit Show from 4:30-10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
• Hardrock Cafe: Drag Brunch at 1 p.m. on Sunday.
• Havana: Cowboys Watch Party hosted by Chris H from 3-9 p.m. on Saturday.
• JR.'s Bar & Grill: Miss Missed America with Cassie benefiting Caven Employee Benevolence Association at 10 p.m. on Monday.
• Round-Up Saloon: Saturday Karaoke at 7 p.m. Sunday Funday Dance Party at 4 p.m. ManCandy on Sunday at 8 p.m. Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs hosted by Sassy O’hara at 10 p.m. on Monday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
• Sue Ellen's: DJ Sno White on Friday and Saturday. Strange Love performs on Saturday. The Southpaw Preachers at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday followed by Anton Shaw with Kathy and Bella.
• The Rose Room: Kenya Black on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Mr. and Miss Gay Lone Star America 2018 hosted by Dessie Love-Blake at 10 p.m. on Monday.
• Urban Cowboy: Sweetheart Ball at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
• Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Laugh Out Loud with hot hits and comedy clips at 9 p.m. on Friday.
• Zippers: DJ Rubix on Saturday.

SCENE Photos by KAT HAYGOOD and CHAD MANTOOTH
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