

# Baker Chad Fitzgerald heads to television

The Cake Guys co-owner vies to be the 'Next Great Baker'

It's a good year for Fitzgerald as he also opens a new location in Oak Lawn

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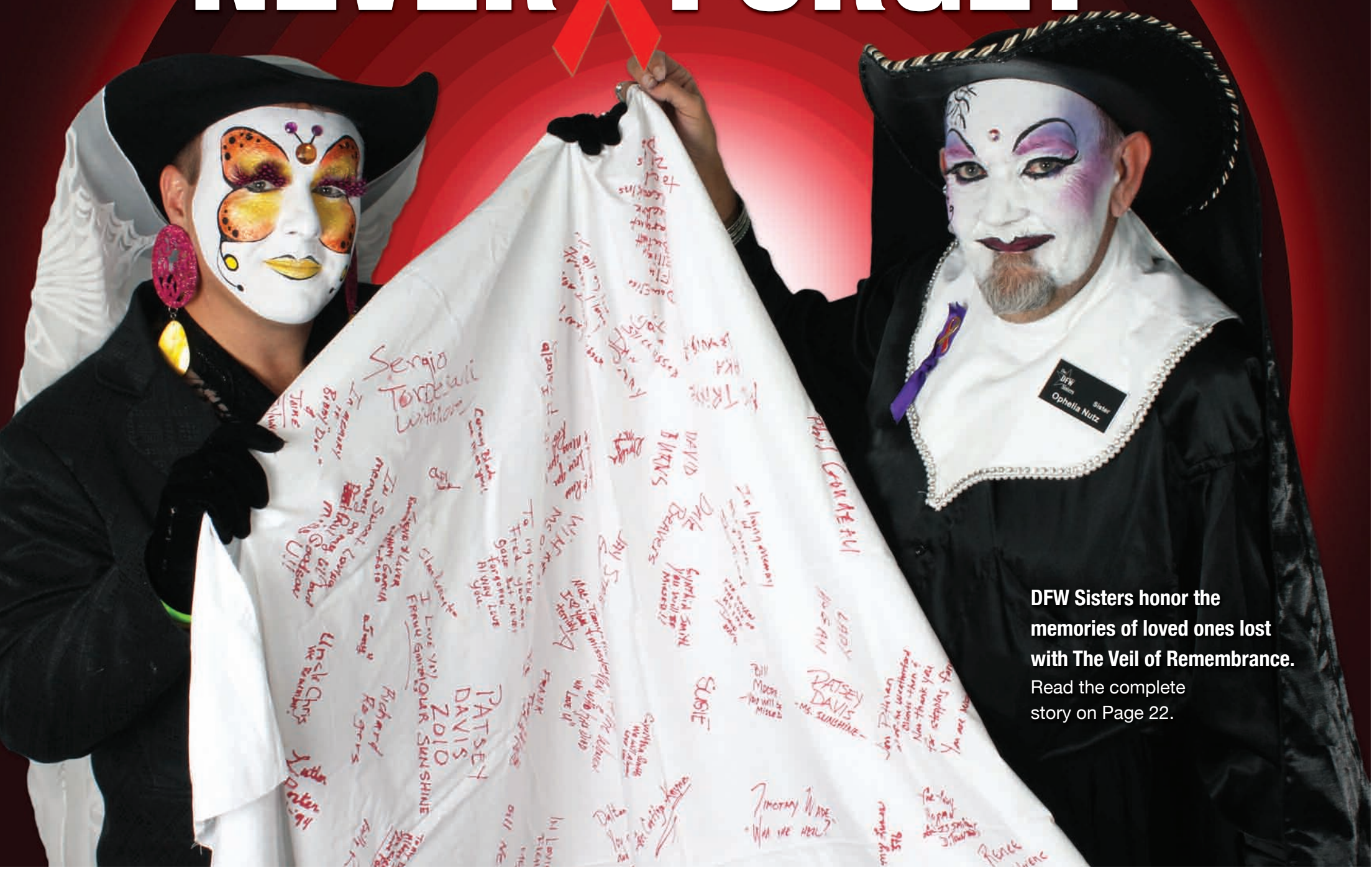
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FREE | Friday, November 25, 2011

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**DFW Sisters honor the memories of loved ones lost with The Veil of Remembrance.**

Read the complete story on Page 22.

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DFW Sisters MaeLynn Hanzment and Ophelia Nutz with the Veil of Remembrance. Photo by Tammye Nash. Cover design by Kevin Thomas

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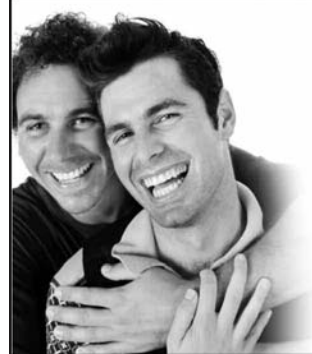
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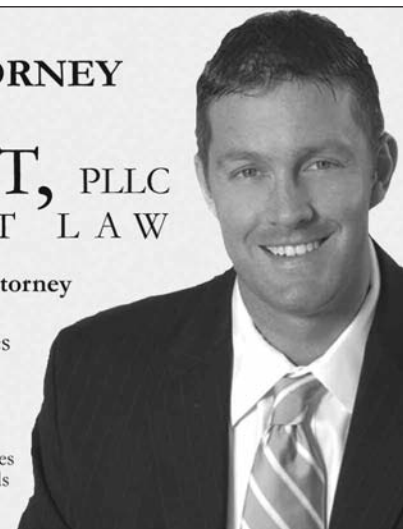
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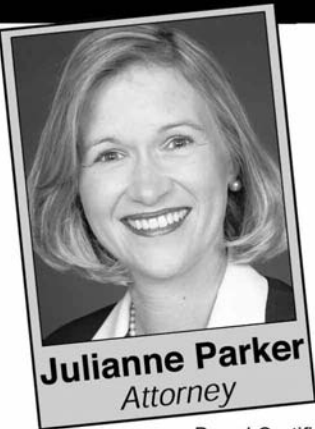
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Joel Burns



Kathleen Hicks

## LGBT allies Hicks, Veasey seek new congressional seat

A federal court in San Antonio today released a map of proposed new congressional districts for Texas.

The proposed map from the court (the North Texas section is shown above) includes four new congressional seats resulting from reapportionment. One of the seats is a Democratic district in eastern Tarrant County.

Shortly after the court released its map, Fort Worth City Councilwoman Kathleen Hicks announced that she plans to run for the new District 33 congressional seat. Hicks, whose district includes the Rainbow Lounge, was an outspoken supporter of the LGBT community in the wake of the police raid of the gay bar in 2009.

"The Federal Court in San Antonio has released new proposed maps for the 2012 Texas Congressional Elections," Hicks said on Facebook. "District 33 has been drawn within Tarrant County and includes much of the City of Fort Worth. Today, I am announcing my intent to seek a place on the ballot with the Texas Democratic Party for this Congressional District, pending a final map from the court."

**UPDATE:** Gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns, who lives in the new District 33, announced he is not running for the seat. Burns said he'll instead endorse State Rep. Marc Veasey, who apparently plans to run against Hicks:

"To all who've called in the last hour, I am NOT running for new 33rd Congressional District announced this morning," Burns wrote. "[Husband] J.D. [Angle] and I both are proud to announce our endorsements of Rep Marc Veasey in his 1st run for Congress. I believe in Marc & know he will be a great Congressman & the best choice for Fort Worth & Arlington."

Veasey is also a strong LGBT ally. He has repeatedly sponsored a bill backed by Equality Texas calling for a study on implementation of the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act. Veasey also had an openly gay chief of staff, and he gave an impassioned speech on the House floor earlier this year against an anti-gay bill.

— John Wright

## MLB to add sexual orientation after letter from RCD

Major League Baseball is set to ban anti-gay discrimination as part of a new collective bargaining agreement to be released, following a request

from Resource Center Dallas. Last month, after the National Football League added sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, Resource Center's Rafael McDonnell penned a letter to MLB Commissioner Bud Selig calling for pro baseball to follow suit.

McDonnell received responses from both Selig and MLB Executive Vice President Robert Manfred Jr.

"While it is my policy not to comment on matters currently on the table, I think it is safe to say the issue you have raised will be addressed in a positive way," Manfred wrote to McDonnell on Nov. 3.

The New York Daily News is reporting that the new MLB collective bargaining agreement does in fact ban anti-gay discrimination. From the Daily News:

Major League Baseball, which saw Jackie Robinson break the color barrier in 1947, Tuesday will announce incremental progress in another civil rights



Rafael McDonnell

issue. The new collective bargaining agreement adds "sexual orientation" to its section on discrimination, a person with direct knowledge of the agreement told the Daily News.

Article XV, Section A of the MLB's expiring Basic Agreement, in effect from 2006-2011, states: "The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied to all Players covered by this Agreement without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

In the new agreement, which will be made public Tuesday afternoon, the words "sexual orientation" will be added to the equivalent section.

McDonnell has also written a letter to the National Basketball Association calling for the NBA to ban anti-gay discrimination, but he said he has yet to receive a response.

Major League Soccer added sexual orientation protections in 2004, while the National Hockey League did so in 2005.

— John Wright

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—*Chicago Sun-Times*, August 26, 2011



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# Valdez gearing up for re-election bid

Nation's only lesbian Latina sheriff to seek 3rd term says she expects to once again be a GOP target

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Political Writer  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Seven years ago, she became the first female, first Hispanic and — of course — the first openly LGBT person elected sheriff of Dallas County.

She remains the only lesbian Latina sheriff in the nation, and she's one of only two female sheriffs in the state.

But as she prepares to seek a third four-year term in 2012, Lupe Valdez said she no longer gives much thought to her pioneering status.

"I don't even pay attention to that anymore," the 64-year-old Valdez said recently. "What I want to hear is, 'She's a good sheriff.' What I want to hear is, 'She's making a difference.' What I want to hear is, 'Changes are for the better.' That's what I want to hear."

"It doesn't matter whether I'm Latina or lesbian or whatever I am.

"The important thing is that we put in place a good, functioning sheriff's department, which is what we've done."

In 2004, Valdez was one of four Democrats — along with three judges — who broke a Republican lock on countywide elected office. Her victory over Republican Danny Chandler shook the Dallas establishment and served as a

■ **VALDEZ**, Page 12



**RIDING HIGH** | Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, shown on horseback in this year's gay Pride parade, is seeking re-election to a third four-year term in 2012. (Chuck Dubel/Dallas Voice)

## TX Dems won't vote on marriage in 2012

Party leaders opt against placing nonbinding resolution on primary ballot

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Political Writer  
wright@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN — Democrats in Texas won't get to vote next year on whether they support same-sex marriage, after the party's Executive Committee shot down a proposal to place a non-binding resolution on the March 2012 primary ballot.

Meeting in the capital on Saturday, Nov. 19, the State Democratic Executive Committee voted 33-22 against placing the resolution in support of same-sex marriage on the ballot, according to Dan Graney, president of the party's

LGBT caucus.

The resolution, backed by the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, called for same-sex couples to receive "equal access to civil marriage and all its benefits," and stated that "all state and federal laws denying such access should be repealed."

In addition to gauging support for marriage equality among Democrats in Texas, the resolution was designed to boost interest and turnout in the primary, especially among young voters, given that President Barack Obama is running unopposed, Graney said.

However, some SDEC members feared backlash from the marriage resolution and said it

could be used against Democratic candidates by their Republican opponents, Graney said.

"Unfortunately, many SDEC members are afraid to let Democratic voters have their say on issues they regard as too controversial," Graney said after the SDEC's vote. "Polling data shows that legal recognition of same-sex relationships is now supported by 63 percent of all Texans, so I don't understand the fear about allowing voters to weigh in on this."

Some openly LGBT members of the SDEC argued passionately in favor of the marriage resolution, Graney said. However, two openly gay SDEC members — both from Tarrant County — opposed it.

SDEC member DeeJay Johannessen, former president of Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County, said he voted against placing the

■ **TX DEMS**, Page 13

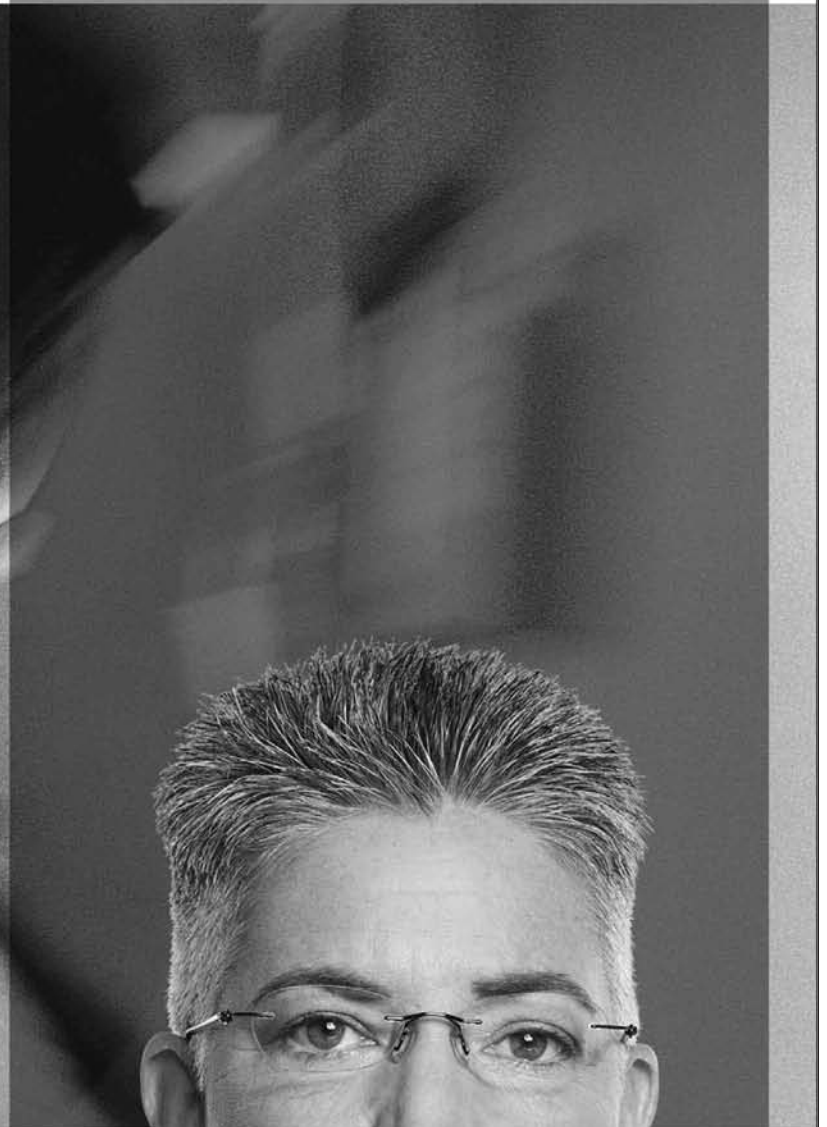


Dan Graney

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## localbriefs

### Blanket collection drive set

As part of the weekly Breakfast at Cathedral of Hope — called BACH — program that provides a meal for homeless people, Denise Shoemaker is spearheading a drive, in honor of the late Windy Churitch, to collect blankets to be distributed to the homeless as colder weather approaches.

Shoemaker said this week that blanket donations will be collected during the December Chick Happy Hour on Thursday, Dec. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. at Kinki Lounge, 3606 Greenville Ave.

Blankets can also be delivered to The Brick/Joe's, 2525 Wycliff Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Shoemaker explained that BACH volunteers last year began a program to provide "something extra, besides the breakfast" for homeless people during the holiday season. She said the blanket drive is being held in honor of Churitch, a long-time Dallas-area resident who died unexpectedly in October.

"Windy was a really good person and a good friend, and we thought that this would be a great way to honor her memory," Shoemaker said.

### O&E elects officers

Jeffrey Gorczyński with Citi was chosen as affiliate chair of the Out and Equal DFW Regional Affiliate on Saturday, Nov. 19, when the organization elected its officers for 2012.

Other officers are Chair Emeritus Paul von Wupperfeld with Texas Instruments, Community Outreach Chair Ted Vantrabert, Secretary Samantha Seelbach with American Airlines and Treasurer Brandon Aldrich with KPMG.

Gorczyński is a vice president at Citi and has been an active leader and officer of the Out & Equal DFW Regional Affiliate for several years. He played a major role in planning for the Out & Equal Workplace Summit, held in Dallas in October.

Gorczyński said the organization plans to "leverage the success of the summit to start some new initiatives right here in Dallas/Fort Worth. Our ultimate goal is to make the workplace a better place for everyone."

Von Wupperfeld, who was the first chair of the Out & Equal DFW Regional Affiliate when it was formed five years ago, said he was "particularly pleased we were able to engage so much of our community in those events [during the summit] and show the summit attendees what an exciting place Dallas can be to live and work."

Out & Equal is a national, non-profit organization headquartered in San Francisco that champions safe and equitable workplaces for LGBT people. In addition to holding its annual workplace summit, the organization has a "Building Bridges" program offering LGBT diversity training for all workplace settings.

For more information, go online to [OutAndEqual.org](http://OutAndEqual.org).

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# Gay couple shot near downtown apartment

Police say investigation is ongoing but decline to discuss details

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

David Zaragoza and Travis Vanderlaan were shot during a robbery near their Dallas Farmer's Market-area apartment at about 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

One of the victims was shot in the head and the other in the neck. Both are improving and expected to survive.

Two suspects were taken into custody soon after the incident.

According to friends, Zaragoza and Vanderlaan are a couple. The two live at the Camden Farmer's Market apartments in Downtown Dallas.

Police are releasing very little information about the shootings or the arrests.

"We don't want to jeopardize the investigation," said LGBT police liaison Laura Martin.

The names of the suspects arrested are being withheld by police, Martin said. Although she said that was unusual, she said it was because of the ongoing investigation.

She could not confirm if police are looking for additional suspects.

According to Dallas County jail records, however, one of the people taken into custody is Kyle Bibbs, 31, of Carrollton. He is being held in Lew Sterrett on \$100,000 bond for two counts of aggravated robbery.

Police would give no details about the robbery beyond what went into the police reports.



David Zaragoza

Travis Vanderlaan

"The complainant was shot during the course of an aggravated robbery," said the police report. "Complainant was shot twice and robbed."

The report also indicates that a blue Puma messenger bag containing \$3,500 was taken during the robbery but recovered, apparently by police when they arrested the suspects.

Records from 9-1-1 indicate Vanderlaan called for help at 2:46 p.m. on Friday, reporting it as a shooting and robbery. Police were dispatched at 2:47 p.m.

Bibbs' time of arrest is also listed as 2:47 p.m.

Bibbs has had several prior charges. One case was no billed by the grand jury. One was dismissed. In February, he agreed to plead guilty on a possession of marijuana charge. Dallas County records indicate he had probation revoked for possession of marijuana and possession of a prohibited weapon.

The incident is not being investigated as a random shooting.

Zaragoza is listed on police records making two calls to 9-1-1 earlier this year. No details appear on the reports but the signal codes indicate that one was to report a major disturbance and the other a burglary. ■

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## ■ texasnews

### HOLIDAY HEROES

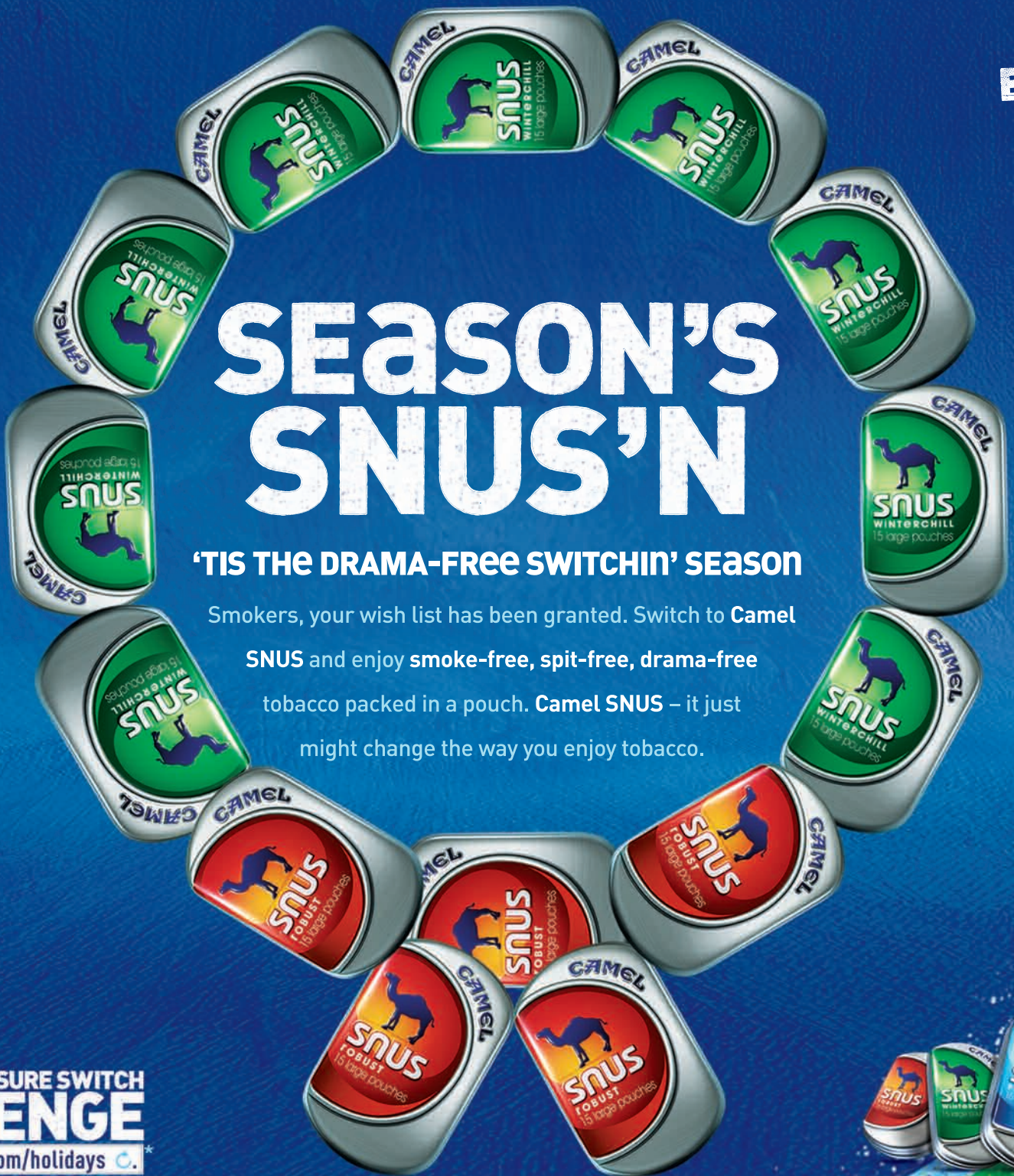


**A HELPING HAND** | Members of Cathedral of Hope distribute more than 400 food bags to low-income families and individuals for Thanksgiving. Volunteers participating in the effort on Sunday, Nov. 20, included, from left, Rusty Baldrige, Marty Cramer, Mark Wright and Alex DaSilva. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice).

### REMEMBRANCE



**HONORING THE DEAD** | The names of transgender people murdered in the last 12 months were read at memorials on Transgender Day of Remembrance. About 150 people gathered at the Interfaith Peace Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 20, for a service. A separate service was held Saturday night, Nov. 19, at Agape MCC in Fort Worth. (Photo courtesy Gwendolyn Scogin)



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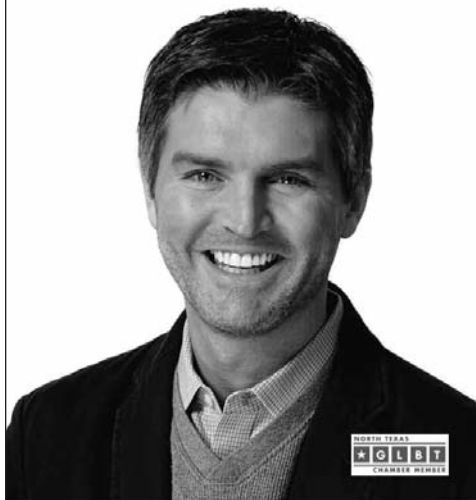
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## ■ texasnews

### VALDEZ

From Page 6

harbinger to the countywide Democratic sweep of 2006.

Since then, the county has remained solidly blue, and with President Barack Obama again atop the ballot, the incumbent sheriff is a heavy favorite to win re-election.

But Valdez, long a preferred target for Republicans as they seek to win back the county, said she isn't taking anything for granted. For one, there are rumors she could again face a challenge in the Democratic Primary — as she did in 2008.

The candidate filing period begins Nov. 28 and

runs through Dec. 15.

"I'm worried about both," Valdez said when asked whether she's more concerned about the primary or the general election. "I don't ever assume anything. That's how you lose, so I never assume anything."

"I'm really hoping that I don't have a primary opponent."

Not having a challenger from within the party would allow her to "focus and save

money and go ahead and gather more money so I can hit whatever's coming on" in November, Valdez said. She confirmed recent reports saying her fundraising is lagging and that she's failed to amass much of a war chest.

"We all know that I'm going to be the [GOP's] target for Dallas County," Valdez said. "Last time I was the target for the state of Texas. I wouldn't doubt that's going to be the case again."

"We know there's a pendulum switch every so often," she added. "I'm not going to assume anything, because I may be right on that pendulum."

"And even in 2004, when a lot of Republicans were elected, I was elected. So that says to me, whichever way it goes, I need to work so that I can get elected. I don't assume anything. The only thing that I'm assuming is that I'm going to work as hard as I possibly can."

The only Republican who's publicly declared his intent to run for sheriff, former State Rep. Thomas Latham, said this week he doesn't believe Dallas County is as blue as some may think.

"I think what this county has is a large number of swing voters," Latham said. "I think the flow is going the other way."

Latham said he believes Valdez's Republican challenger in 2008, Lowell Cannaday, "got caught up in the Obama situation."

"There was so much enthusiasm for him [Obama], and I don't think that enthusiasm exists any longer," Latham said. "I think the enthusiasm is now on the other side."

Latham, 64, a former commander for the Garland Police Department, called Valdez "a nice lady" but said she doesn't have the experience to effectively oversee the department.

"I think there's a lack of leadership in the sheriff's department," Latham said. "I think there are some management issues down there that need to be addressed."

In each of her previous election campaigns, Valdez has come under attack for her sexual orientation, and she said she fully expects that to happen again in 2012.

"What can they attack me on?" she said. "They can't say I'm not doing my job ... so what are they going to attack me on? 'She's a lesbian and she's trying to push the gay agenda.'"

"Please tell me what the gay agenda is, so I can figure out how not to push it."

Latham, for his part, said he doesn't plan to bring up Valdez's sexual orientation and doesn't think it's an issue in the race.

But he added that if someone else brings it up, he'll respond by saying, "I wasn't raised that way."

Asked what he meant by that, Latham said: "I'm Southern Baptist. Southern Baptists don't believe in that." ■

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## TX DEMS

From Page 6

resolution on the ballot because he didn't think it would accomplish the stated purpose of increasing voter turnout.

Johannessen said valuable resources would have been spent trying to get the resolution passed, even though it would have no practical impact.

Johannessen was joined in voting against the resolution by openly gay Tarrant County SDEC member Mary Edwards.

"My thoughts are that we should be dealing with issues about jobs and education and the economy," Johannessen said. "We need to be focused on issues where we can affect change."

"It wasn't about marriage equality," he said of his vote. "It was about whether or not putting this on the ballot would bring more people out to vote, and I didn't think that would happen."

Graney said he feels the majority of SDEC members support same-sex marriage. But he said a majority, like Johannessen, opposed the measure for strategic reasons.

The state Republican Party has placed resolutions on primary ballots in at least the last two election cycles, but Democrats have not, Graney said.

Other resolutions voted on by the SDEC last weekend called for abolishing the death penalty, legalizing marijuana, passing the DREAM Act, mandating affordable college tuition and legalizing casino gambling.

The SDEC approved the resolutions related to the DREAM Act, college tuition and casino gambling, and they will appear on the March 6 primary ballot.

Graney noted that the marriage resolution received more support than those calling for abolishing the death penalty and legalizing marijuana, which got only 14 and 12 votes, respectively.

He also commended Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie and Resolutions Committee Chairman Dennis Teal for allowing the full SDEC to consider the marriage resolution even though the committee voted against it.

"We had a 45-minute discussion and debate on the issue," Graney said. "They could have squashed it, but they didn't."

Although their votes drew attention because they're openly gay, Johannessen and Edwards weren't the only SDEC members from North Texas who opposed the resolution.

In fact, only one of six SDEC members from Dallas County — Theresa Daniel — voted in favor of placing the marriage resolution on the ballot, according to Omar Narvaez, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Daniel, a straight LGBT ally and Stonewall member, is running for the Precinct 1 seat on the Dallas County Commissioners Court in 2012.

Erin Moore of Dallas, vice president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, is a non-voting SDEC member and spoke in support of the marriage resolution during Saturday's meeting.

"We just thought this was the perfect opportunity to get the pulse of the electorate again," Moore said of the resolution.



Erin Moore

Regardless of whether the resolution appears on the ballot, Moore said, Republicans will try to attack Democrats over gay rights, and voters will ask candidates about their views on same-sex marriage.

Moore said she thinks the SDEC's vote against placing the resolution on the ballot amounted to Democrats "running scared instead of running strong."

"They're scared of losing what we've got, which is very little," she said.

The tally was based on a headcount of SDEC members who stood up, and there is no written record of how each person voted. But both Moore and Graney recalled a clear demographic split over the marriage equality resolution.

They said most members who opposed the resolution were older white males, and they called for the party to respond by electing more progressives and minorities to the SDEC next year.

"The SDEC needs to look like Texas is now, not like Texas was," Moore said.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, said he also would have liked to see the resolution on the ballot.

Smith said opponents of LGBT equality frequently point to results from 2005, when three-fourths of Texas voters supported a constitutional amendment banning both same-sex marriage and civil unions.

"We would like to see every candidate for every office asked where they stand on marriage equality," Smith said. "It's a subject we need to talk about, and the more we talk about it, the more we're going to find how significantly the numbers have changed since six years ago." ■



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# It's beginning to look a lot like Black Friday

Merchants talk about the importance of the day after Thanksgiving to the overall health of their business

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Although most gay shopkeepers don't approach Black Friday with the same frenzied mentality as mainstream retailers, the day after Thanksgiving is nonetheless important to their businesses.

To get the edge of those holiday shopping dollars, big box stores have been opening earlier and earlier. Wal-Mart even announced its Friday hours will begin on Thursday this year.

Dallas' LGBT retailers haven't turned the day into that kind of maniacal hysteria, but gay merchants on Cedar Springs Road and in the Bishop Arts District want customers to know they depend on good sales this weekend, too.

"Oh my God! It's very important," Skivvies owner David Richardson of the day-after-Thanksgiving shopping rush.

He said that he and partner Todd Seaton get to the store three hours early that day to start setting up, and business starts the minute they open the doors. He schedules extra help for the day and stays in the store himself from open until close to help answer questions, work the register and bag items.

"We'll have discounts on some groups of merchandise throughout the store," Richardson said, but every category sells well that day.

Black Friday accounts for as much as 20 percent of the Christmas season sales at Skivvies.

"It can be the biggest day of the year," Richardson said. Only the day before Halloween rivals it.

Nuvo salesperson Daneen Foster agreed. She said she expected her store to be busy from open until close on Black Friday, even without any spe-



**BIG GAY SANTA** | Fete-ish owner Chad Vogel placed a big Santa over his doorway in time to welcome Black Friday shoppers to his Bishop Arts District store. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

cial promotions.

"We're just going to be here with our fabulous merchandise, free gift wrapping and a knowledgeable, helpful and friendly staff," she said.

TapeLenders owner Mark Milburn said, "This is the first time we've publicized Black Friday specials."

In the past, he hasn't noticed a big spike in business, but he said he thinks his "buy one, get one

free" offer on adult videos and an additional 10 percent off on clearance items would especially boost sales.

Things are a little different for OutLines.

"It's not one of our busier days, like at the malls," owner David Lester said.

He said that for the past three years, Black Friday has been no better than any other Friday at OutLines. However, to boost sales over the holi-

day weekend this year, Lester planned to open the store from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

During those four hours last year, he said, he did more business than on the traditional shopping day. He said that specials would be offered throughout the store during the weekend.

"But our biggest weekend is Pride," Lester said.

"And First Wednesday is always a good night for

■ **FRIDAY**, Page 17

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## Buli now under new ownership



**MOVING ON** | After selling Bull Cafe, Scott Whittall plans to concentrate on the cattle business he owns with his partner. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

New owners say they plan to update the interior but keep the Buli name and format.

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Scott Whittall sold his Cedar Springs Road coffee shop, Buli, to new owners this week and will resign as president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association.

New owners Robert Clawson and Rob Auman are partners and plan to retain Buli's format.

"These were two long-time, loyal customers who wanted to purchase Buli," said Whittall. "They want to see it remain Buli."

Last week, Clawson and Auman signed a lease with the property owner and Whittall got a release from his obligation for the store from the landlord. Sale of store assets should take place this week.

"In the beginning, we're going to run it the same way," Clawson said.

Over the next three to six months, Clawson said they would redesign and update some of the interior. He said that they plan to replace the bar top to give the shop a new look.

"But we're going to continue to be Buli," he

said.

Whittall said they had talked about extending hours and some additions to the menu, but those changes would also not be immediate.

Dec. 1 is the planned takeover date, but Whittall will continue working at the café for several weeks after to help with the transition and to finish some planned events and catering jobs.

Earlier this year, Whittall tried to expand his business into a neighboring space formerly occupied by a hair salon. He applied for a liquor license but the city requires more parking for restaurants and bars than for retail and service businesses.

By doubling the space, Whittall would have had to provide four times as many parking spaces.

When he couldn't secure the necessary extra parking, Whittall was released from his option for the additional space and withdrew his Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission application. He said he thought about reapplying for a TABC license and turning his original space into a piano bar.

During this time, Clawson and Auman told Whittall that they'd be interested in purchasing the café. Whittall told them at the time that it wasn't for sale.

■ **BULI**, Next Page

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## FRIDAY

From Page 14

us."

Bishop Arts retailers report less reliance on a Black Friday surge.

Bishop Street Market owner Mike Harrity said it is usually busier than a normal Friday, but he expects to do much more business on Small Business Saturday. That is an American Express promotion started last year that gives \$25 off to anyone that uses an Amex card in a small business on the Saturday following Black Friday.

"Down here we have Jingle Bells on Bishop," Fete-ish owner Chad Vogel said.

That event takes place the following week.

"We'll have live entertainment," Vogel said. "Thousands of people roll through that weekend."

Harrity agreed that Jingle Bells on Bishop was his store's biggest weekend of the year.

But Vogel said that Thanksgiving weekend does give his store a healthy and welcome spike in sales.

Then he reacted to the question of how gay stores do on Black Friday.

"What makes you think our store is gay?" he asked as he was lighting up the big pink Santa whose mouth is the front door of the store, while other employees were spraying tinsel and glitter everywhere. ■

## BULI

From Page 16

But Whittall and his partner also own a successful cattle business that has been growing rapidly lately. For eight years in a row their cows won the Houston Livestock Show.

But Whittall explained that they don't ship meat or animals.

"It's a genetics business," he said. "We ship embryos and semen. We help them create their herds out of championship stock."

Whittall is also president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association. He said he wants to see planned events through until the end of the year.

But Whittall said he would talk to the board at the CSMA meeting in December about who will lead the organization after he leaves.

On Dec. 2, the merchants group is hosting a fundraising event at The Rose Room. The evening includes a buffet dinner catered by Jim Lee Events and entertainment by Linda Petty, Victoria Weston and Rusty Johnson. Tickets are \$75.

Money raised will be used to hire a security guard on the east side of Cedar Springs Road. Caven Enterprises currently pays for a security on the west side of the street where that company's bars are located.

Even though he's leaving, Whittall said he is passionate about the continued success and safety of business in the area and encouraged people to come to the event to support the neighborhood.

"The event will be an elegant, white-linen dinner," he said. "The Rose Room will be decorated as you've never seen it before." ■

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## nationalnews

# Republicans tout support for 'traditional values'

Candidates jockey for position as most anti-gay at forum sponsored by 'family values' groups

**LISA KEEN** | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

Current Republican presidential frontrunner Newt Gingrich used a right-wing Christian forum Saturday, Nov. 19, to claim "the left" is trying to "drive out the existence of traditional religions ... and use the government to repress the American people against their own values."

He made the comment in the context of a discussion about whether religious-oriented adoption agencies should be allowed to refuse adoptions to same-sex couples. Some states, such as Massachusetts, have cut off government funding to adoption groups that refuse to obey state laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual

orientation.

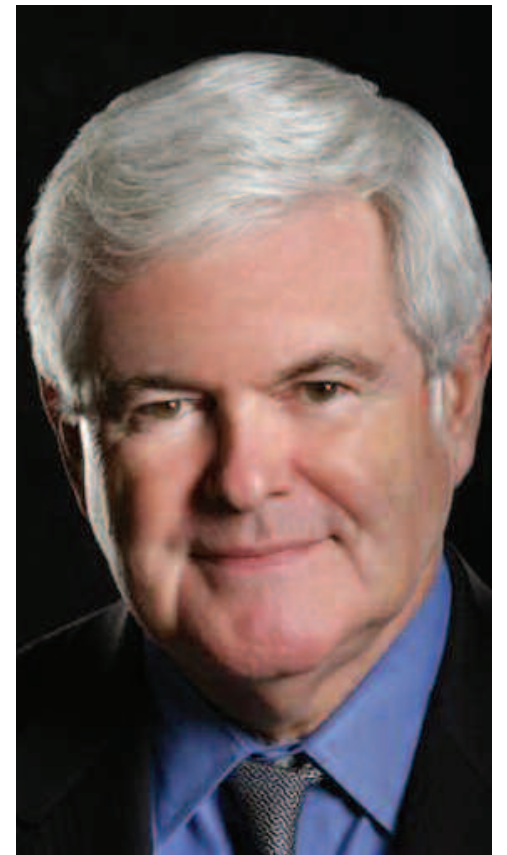
At that same event, Texas Gov. Rick Perry said that gay couples in Texas cannot adopt, which isn't true, strictly speaking. Gays and lesbians can adopt as individuals, and in most cases, that person's partner can do a second-parent adoption separately.

Without referring to gay groups or the LGBT community specifically, Gingrich lashed out against a movement that, since the 1960s, has gone from "a request for tolerance to an imposition of intolerance ... [and] closing down those with traditional values."

Gingrich said he would support a law that would cut off "all federal funding to any jurisdiction that discriminates against religious beliefs in that format."

The forum was the "Iowa Thanksgiving Family Forum," sponsored by the Family Leader group of Iowa, as well as the National Organization for

■ **REPUBLICANS**, Page 20



Newt Gingrich

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# Donovan says trans equality is a priority, not an issue

HUD secretary becomes first cabinet member to address transgender event with his speech at NCTE anniversary celebration

**DANA RUDOLPH** | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan became the first United States cabinet secretary to address a transgender event when he gave the keynote speech Nov. 15 at the eighth anniversary celebration of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Mara Keisling, executive director of NCTE, told Keen News Service, "Having Secretary Donovan keynote our event is an important symbolic and historic advance for transgender Americans."

Keisling said that having a cabinet member address the group "really shows tremendous societal movement." She attributes this progress to "all the great education that transgender people and allies are doing all over the country."

"It's added up to a lot more visibility and understanding," said Keisling.

Prior to Donovan's appearance, the highest federal official to address NCTE was Kathy Greenlee, assistant secretary for aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Greenlee spoke at the organization's policy conference in March.

And Lynn Rosenthal, the White House advisor on violence against women, met with NCTE staff and other transgender advocates Nov. 16 to discuss violence against transgender people.

But Donovan's speech, at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., garnered almost no attention in the mainstream press.

HUD included a copy of his speech on its Web site. And, following his speech, Donovan spoke to a reporter from the Washington, D.C., gay newspaper Metro Weekly.

When asked whether he supports marriage equality, Donovan replied "absolutely." He also agreed with the reporter's suggestion that marriage equality should be the subject of "more work" in a second Obama administration.

But at NCTE's annual event, Donovan spoke of the Obama administration's accomplishments towards equality for transgender people. He said the administration is the first to view the fight for transgender equality "not as an issue — but as a priority."

Quoting figures from a February 2011 study by NCTE and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Donovan said an estimated 1-in-5 transgender Americans have been refused a



Shaun Donovan

home or apartment, and more than 1-in-10 have been evicted because of their gender identity or expression.

There are currently no explicit federal protections that ban housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Only 15 states plus the District of Columbia have protections specific to

gender identity.

Massachusetts will become the 16th when Gov. Deval Patrick, a Democrat, signs a bill just passed by its legislature, as he is expected to do. Approximately 150 cities, towns, and counties have LGBT protections as well, according to HUD.

Such protections are needed, Donovan said, because of experiences such as that of Mitch and Michelle DeShane. When Michelle wanted to add her partner Mitch, a transgender man, to her housing voucher, the local housing authority refused because the couple did not meet its definition of "family." It referred them to a neighboring housing authority, which, they said, "accepts everyone — even Martians."

"That's just wrong," Donovan said.

Donovan said "the most significant step" HUD has taken to address this type of discrimination has been proposing new regulations to "ensure transgender individuals and couples can be eligible for our public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs that collectively serve 5.5 million people."

The proposed rule would prohibit owners and operators of HUD-assisted or -financed housing from inquiring about applicants' sexual orientation or gender identity, and prevent them from excluding otherwise eligible families if one or more members is or is perceived to be LGBT.

It would also prevent lenders from using the sexual orientation or gender identity of an applicant as a basis to determine eligibility for Federal Housing Administration mortgages, which represent one-third of all new mortgages in the country.

Donovan said that HUD is still reviewing comments before final publication of the rule.

A HUD spokesperson said that the agency can't say exactly when the final rule will be published, since it must also be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Donovan noted that HUD has provided its staff

■ DONOVAN, Page 20

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## nationalnews

### REPUBLICANS

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Marriage and Focus on the Family. Its format was an "around the family table" kind of conversation with Gingrich and five other Republican presidential hopefuls, including Ron Paul, Michele Bachmann, Rick Santorum, Herman Cain and Perry.

Mitt Romney, who has been eschewing most Iowa events, declined an invitation.

The candidates responded to questions from a moderator and from several representatives of the host groups, including Brian Brown of the National Organization for Marriage. The topics centered around such broad themes as values, morality and liberty, with a strong bent toward the view that the country is divided into conservatives — who are all happy, God-loving citizens — and liberals, who are all sad and out to destroy religious freedom.

As has become his routine, Santorum boasted about his superiority in the GOP field when it comes to opposing marriage between same-sex couples. Same-sex marriage, he said, "radically changes the entire moral fabric of our country."

"Gay marriage is wrong," said Santorum. "As Abraham Lincoln said, the states do not have the right to do wrong. ... America is an ideal. It's not just a Constitution."

But only Cain spoke up when Brown solicited responses for what each candidate would do, as president, if the U.S. Supreme Court should overturn the Defense of Marriage Act.

Cain said he would "lead the charge to overturn the Supreme Court." After some prodding from the moderator, Gingrich did offer up that he thought it important to "make DOMA not appealable" in the courts.

Brown's questions came near the end of the

two-hour event, held at the First Federated Church in Des Moines. His first, directed to Rep. Paul, was whether he would support an amendment to the federal Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. It was an odd question, given that Paul has for years been on record publicly as opposing such an amendment and voted against it in 2004.

Paul reiterated his opposition, noting that he believes generally that the issue should be left to the states or, preferably, to individual churches and families.

But Paul added that he does support DOMA.

Brown then asked other candidates to explain why they believe a federal marriage amendment is necessary. Santorum jumped in with a recap of his strategy to "stop this problem" through battles state by state. Bachmann touted her own leadership against same-sex marriage in Minnesota.

The forum was marked by dramatically emotional moments in which the candidates shared personal stories related to their faith.

Santorum acknowledged having decided to keep an emotional distance from his infant daughter who he believed would soon die in order to avoid the pain of the potential loss.

Herman Cain talked about what it was like to hear that he had stage four cancer.

Michele Bachmann recalled what it was like, as a child, to watch her mother sell the family's dishes and other possessions after she divorced Bachmann's father.

The moderator, Fox News contributor Frank Luntz, and news reports indicated 3,000 people were in attendance at the forum. The chief sponsor, The Family Leader, helped organize last year's ousting of three Iowa Supreme Court justices who voted with the unanimous court to say the state constitution required equal treatment of same-sex and heterosexual couples under marriage laws.

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### DONOVAN

From Page 19

with guidance that they can pursue cases of housing discrimination when a person's identity or expression doesn't conform with gender stereotypes, because such discrimination violates the Fair Housing Act's ban on sex-based discrimination.

The act is a pivotal civil rights act that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability and familial status — but does not specifically cover sexual orientation or gender identity-based discrimination.

Since that guidance was issued in July 2010, Donovan said, the number of complaints from LGBT individuals to HUD about housing discrimination has increased 15 times compared to the same date range the previous year, according to HUD.

Donovan also said that HUD is working to better understand the challenges that transgender people face. It included a session on gender identity- and sexual orientation-based housing discrimination in its annual National Fair Housing Policy Conference this year, and launched the first-ever

national study of LGBT housing discrimination.

A HUD spokesperson said the target date for publication of the study is late 2012.

Donovan also spoke of accomplishments by the broader Obama administration, where, he said, "the LGBT community has had a seat at the table since day one."

He cited the administration's "record number of LGBT appointments," including openly transgender appointees; the Office of Personnel Management's prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender identity in federal employment; the Veterans Administration's directive for non-discriminatory care for transgender veterans; the State Department's efforts "to ensure greater dignity and privacy" for transgender passport applicants; and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention law.

NCTE's Keisling said, "Secretary Donovan's presence echoes what we at NCTE have long known about HUD and the rest of the Obama administration, and that is that transgender people matter. We are a priority for the administration, and it shows in the policies that we are winning."

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 worldAIDSday

# Remembering the fallen



**NEVER FORGET** | Sister MaeLynn Hanzment, left, and Sister Ophelia Nutz handle the Veil of Remembrance from World AIDS Day 2010 with loving care. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

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# and helping others bear burdens

DFW Sisters will once again mark World AIDS Day by taking their Veil of Remembrance into the community for signatures

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Names have power. And for those who have lost a loved one to AIDS, being able to write those names down and know the memories those names evoke will be preserved and treasured in doing so, can be powerful medicine for healing.

The DFW Sisters, Abbey of the Lone Star, will once again give members of DFW's LGBT community the opportunity to exercise that healing when they take to the streets on World AIDS Day with their Veil of Remembrance.

"It's our way of honoring those we've lost and making sure their memories live on," explained Sister Ophelia Nutz, mistress of rituals and ceremonies for the DFW Sisters.

The Veil is a plain white cloth that Sister Ophelia will wear attached to her headdress. Anyone who has lost someone to HIV/AIDS is welcome to write that person's name on the Veil.

The DFW Sisters, a fully professed house of The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence elevated by The United Nuns Privy Council in October, created their first Veil of Remembrance last year as they marked their first World AIDS Day as an officially recognized Sisters mission.

"We spent most of the day last year at JPS Hospital in Fort Worth, participating in their World AIDS Day event," Sister Ophelia said. "They had just lost a fairly prominent community member there to AIDS, and once they found out what we were doing, what the Veil was for, everyone there wanted to sign it."

After that event, the sisters came back to Dallas, taking the Veil into the bars here.

"People reacted to the Veil as if it weren't that big of a deal really — until they thought of someone they had lost," Sister Ophelia said. "But when they were told that they could write that person's name on the Veil, that they could write down that memory, some people got very emotional. There's

more than one tear stain on that Veil, I promise you. Some people were too emotional to even sign it themselves, so they asked me to write down a name and a date for them."

This year, she said, the sisters will start the day by taking the Veil to the noon hot meals program lunch at Resource Center Dallas. Then they will head to Fort Worth for World AIDS Day events at the Tarrant County Health Department, before coming back to Dallas to participate in the World AIDS Day events being held in downtown Dallas.

The sisters will wind up the night by taking the Veil to the bars in Dallas.

"We'll just meander, handing out pens and gathering signatures on the Veil," Sister Ophelia said.

Sister Ophelia said that she wore the Veil throughout the day on World AIDS Day last year, and will do so again this year. But when the sisters head out next Thursday, they will do so with a new Veil, ready for more names and memories.

Last year's Veil, Sister Ophelia said, was retired at the end of the night, just as this year's Veil will be.

■ REMEMBERING, Page 25

## 2011 World AIDS Day

A coalition of 15 North Texas AIDS service agencies and other community organizations will present the 2011 World AIDS Day Dallas event Thursday, Dec. 1, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Main Street Garden, 1900 Main St., in downtown Dallas. It will feature speeches by local community leaders and AIDS activists, performances by the Booker T. Washington High School African Drum Ensemble and Women's Chorus of Dallas, and a display of blocks from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Partner organizations are AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Arms, AIDS Services of Dallas, the Anthony Chisum AIDS Foundation, Booker T. Washington High School, Bryan's House, C.U.R.E., Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Dallas, ONE, Out & Equal DFW, Parkland Health and Hospital System, Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Resource Center Dallas, RESULTS and Women's Chorus of Dallas.

## World AIDS Day at CoH

Cathedral of Hope UCC, located at 5910 Cedar Springs Road, will hold World AIDS Day events on Thursday, beginning with a display of 20 panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and free and anonymous HIV and syphilis testing provided by UT Southwestern Medical Center from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and F.A.C.E., an HIV/AIDS support group at the church, will host a reception from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a special worship service including a performance by the Turtle Creek Chorale at 7 p.m.

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## REMEMBERING

From Page 23

She said the sisters will start the day by “saying a few words to kind of sanctify the veil, make it ready to hold those precious memories.” And at the end of the night, they will once again gather to honor the memories this year’s Veil will hold.

“Afterwards, in a more private ritual, we will gather to read the names on the Veil and to light candles in their memory,” Sister Ophelia said. “At the end, we will have a ceremony to fold the Veil and put it away. We take good care of the Veils; we hold them close and dear to us, just like those who signed it hold their lost loved ones close and dear.”

### The Sistory

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were born in San Francisco in 1979 when, tired of the monotony of the city’s ever-present “clone” trend, three men donned nuns’ habits (given in 1976 by a convent of Roman Catholic nuns to a group in Iowa called the Sugar Plum Fairies for a production of *The Sound of Music*, and a year later transported to San Francisco by Ken Bunch, who later became Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch) and headed out to the local nude beach on Easter weekend.

By the end of the year, their ranks had grown and they chose the name Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, adopting as their mission statement, “to

promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt.”

The sisters participated in a variety of activities, from performing their pom-pom routine at the first Gay Olympics (now the Gay Games), to protesting the Three Mile Island nuclear plant to staging a gay disco/bingo fundraiser for gay Cuban refugees.

But by 1981, AIDS had begun to emerge as the LGBT community’s biggest, most devastating threat, even though it wasn’t yet called AIDS. The sisters produced the world’s first fundraiser for an AIDS organization that year, a dog show that featured singer Sylvester as one of the judges.

By 1982, San Francisco was at crisis levels, and two sisters, Florence Nightmare and Roz Erection, both registered nurses, worked with other medical professionals to create “Play Fair!,” a safer-sex pamphlet intended to help curb the spread of “the gay cancer” and other STDs.

As the epidemic grew, the sisters fought harder, doing their best to spread the word not just about preventing AIDS but about LGBT equality in general. But the disease was taking its toll: “In 1984, ’85, the sisters in San Francisco had about 16 members. Within a year, that number had dropped to four, because people were dying so fast from AIDS,” Sister Ophelia said.

“That’s why the sisters always have a purse full of safe sex kits,” she added. “And since the Dallas County health department stopped doing it, we are the only ones in Dallas handing out free condoms.”

### More than camp

While many people may think of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as little more than campy entertainment, for the sisters themselves, it is serious business, Sister Ophelia said.

“For a lot of us, for most of us, this is a real calling, a way to give something back to the community,” she said. “This isn’t just something we do for fun. And it’s not something just anyone can do. There’s a whole process you have to go through to be a sister, and we have a packet that everyone who wants to be a sister has to read right at the start that explains the cost, so that they know what is involved.”

“There’s just so much more to it than people realize,” Sister Ophelia added. “People just don’t realize everything that goes in to being a sister.”

She points to another “veil” the sisters offer up — the Veil of Shame — as an example of how the sisters serve their community as so much more than just comic relief.

On the Veil of Shame, Sister Ophelia said, the sisters invite people to write down “every hateful, mean thing that has ever been said to them or done to them, to write that down and let it go. We offer to bear that burden for them, and afterwards, we take the veil out and we have a ceremony to burn it, to release all that negative energy and to let that burden go.

“The last time we did the Veil of Shame, I had several people tell me how much easier they felt after writing that stuff down,” she added. “And I

have to tell you, to wear that veil, to carry around all that pain — it took everything I had in me not to break down and start bawling my eyes out.”

Even without the Veil of Remembrance or the Veil of Shame, Sister Ophelia said that when the sisters go out in their garb, they often serve as a kind of spiritual advisor and confessor for the people they meet.

“If I go out to a bar in my regular clothes, just as myself, I am not going to have strangers walk up to me and start telling me their problems. But when we go out as the sisters, people come up to us all the time and they will tell us their deepest, darkest secrets. And we have to be ready to help them,” Sister Ophelia said.

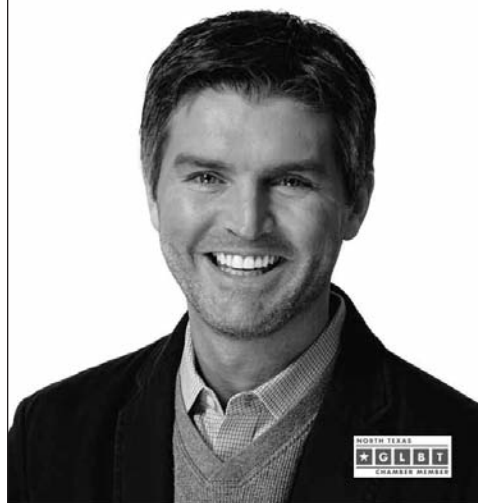
“We’ve all had what we call ‘a sister moment,’ when something like that has happened to us,” she continued. “Maybe it’s because of the sense of anonymity we have when we go out in our makeup and our habits. I think that maybe that makes it easier for people to approach us. At least, it’s easier for those who aren’t afraid of clowns!”

And despite their camp antics and outrageous makeup and costumes, despite the fact that they are just men looking for a way to give something back to their community, Sister Ophelia said, when someone comes to them in need, whatever the need is, the sisters will answer the call.

“We have to be able to offer them help, to give them resources, to give them somewhere to go to get the help they need,” she said. “After all, that’s why we’re there.” ■

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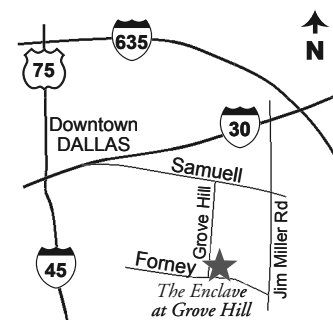


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viewpoints

# Knowledge is power

A generation of young people have never known a world without AIDS, but their complacency means new infections continue

People who weren't yet born when AIDS first emerged are today most at risk for becoming HIV positive — an alarming development that underscores how essential awareness is, especially as we approach World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

From 2006 to 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the HIV incidence rate for Americans between 13 and 29 years old increased by about 21 percent. In fact, most of the new HIV infections reported in this country involve people under 30.

Americans under 30 have never known a world without AIDS. At the same time, they've



**Dr. Sam Ho**  
Special Contributor

never really known a time when effective treatment for HIV and AIDS wasn't available. This hasn't always been the case. As this disease turns 30, we need to ensure that people — especially younger people — remain aware of AIDS and how to prevent it.

AIDS awareness is one of the biggest challenges we face when trying to prevent it. After



30 years of addressing what was once considered one of America's most pressing health problems, AIDS is no longer front page news. But on this World AIDS Day, let's not forget that about 56,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year, according to the CDC, and that more than 14,000 Americans with AIDS die each year.

Thanks to more effective and more available treatments, more Americans who have HIV and AIDS are able to live. The CDC estimates this number at more than 1 million nationwide. Regularly testing people most at risk for HIV — and then providing antiretroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS patients — dramatically reduces the number of new infections.

Preventing HIV is not complicated. If you're sexually active, get tested. Don't use IV drugs or share needles. Abstain or practice safer sex.

With preventive care, patients and their health care providers can fight and manage this disease and slow its spread. But we can't allow today's more effective treatments to make us complacent or ambivalent, or to lessen our resolve to find a cure.

To learn more or to find a place near you to get tested, visit [ActAgainstAIDS.org](http://ActAgainstAIDS.org).

*Dr. Sam Ho, M.D., is the chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare.*

# The Republican shuffle continues

Presidential candidates' standing in polls undergoes another change as 'fringe' candidate Paul rises

For entertainment's sake, it just doesn't get any better than watching Republican candidates vying for the 2012 presidential nomination give it their all — or lack of it — for a national TV audience.

Texas Congressman Ron Paul, who is now polling as a frontrunner in Iowa and New Hampshire, is the most recent to take center stage after months of sharing his political views on the sidelines and being dismissed as a "fringe" candidate by the political establishment and the national media.

Judging from his appearance on CBS' *Face the Nation* broadcast Sunday, Nov. 20, he intends to make the most of it.

TV news host Bob Schieffer often showed signs of exasperation as he struggled to get in the last word during the interview with the controversial candidate.



**David Webb**  
The Rare Reporter

race in May.

While his fellow Texas presidential candidate — Gov. Rick Perry — might often be at a loss for words, that's obviously not the case with

Paul, who lobbed the ball back to Schieffer every time it came flying at him.

In the process, Paul probably left most federal employees — especially career bureaucrats and military brass — a bit shaken now that he is rising in the polls.

Paul's most controversial theory focused on the reason he believes Al Qaeda attacked the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. He claimed it occurred because of the influence of "flawed" U.S. foreign policy on other nations, and he placed the blame on U.S. "policy makers."

The nation's 12,000 diplomats should be put to work in improving relations with countries like Iran rather than trying to scare other countries' leaders into submission, said Paul, who is a medical doctor in addition to being a politician. Sanctions against other countries are a bad idea because they are a preamble to war, he said.

■ SHUFFLE, Next Page

■ **SHUFFLE**, From Previous Page

In connection with his peaceful approach to foreign affairs, Paul said if he were elected president, he would close the 900 military bases the U.S. now operates in 130 countries and bring the troops home to protect the country. Because the U.S. is "bankrupt," Paul said he also would shut down several federal agencies, including the departments of energy, education, interior, commerce, HUD and FEMA.

On top of that, Paul said he wants to reduce the federal workforce across the board by 10 percent.

Clearly, Paul has thought his proposal through more carefully than Gov. Perry, who near-fatally embarrassed himself in a recent debate, because the congressman can remember the names of all the agencies he wants to close.

But what on earth is going to happen to all of those federal employees when they are put out of work, and what is to become of the programs they administer?

This can't be a popular idea with federal employees, who make up the largest workforce in the U.S., and members of the U.S. Armed Serv-

ices. When you add in all of the relatives and friends of people who are on the federal payroll, it's possible that Paul's numbers are going to fall as fast as they suddenly rose.

Paul's stand on LGBT issues didn't come up during the interview, but they wouldn't appeal to anyone who considers advancement of them critical in voting for a presidential candidate, according to his past statements about marriage equality.

Paul is opposed to legalization of same-sex marriage, and he supports the Defense of Marriage Act.

In contrast, Paul opposes a constitutional amendment to protect the current definition of marriage, but that is likely based on a widespread belief that the document should be inviolate.

He did support the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" so he has gained some LGBT voter support.

On other progressive issues, Paul's views are similarly divergent.

With a medical background in gynecology, he is pro-life and opposed to abortions, yet he supports home-schooling and the legalization

and regulation of marijuana and other drugs.

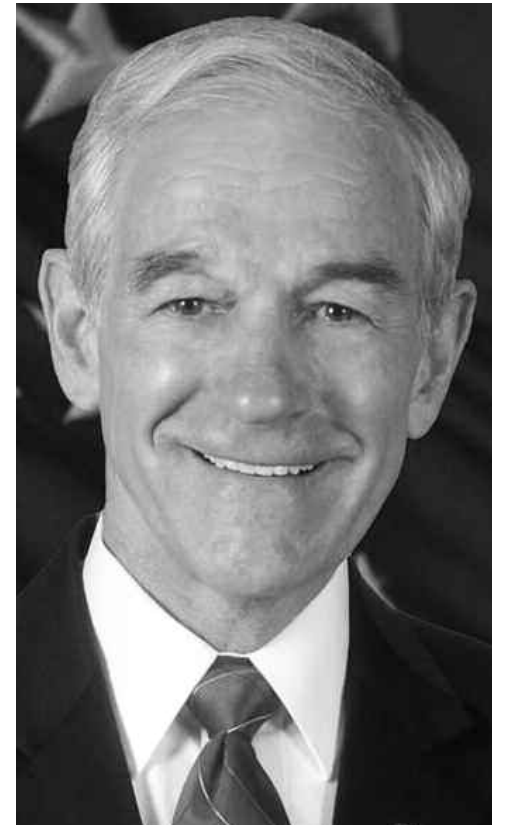
At this point, the most recent national poll by USA Today/Gallup is showing that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, at 20 percent and 19 percent respectively, are tied for the top spot in the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

They are trailed by businessman Herman Cain at 16 percent, Paul at 10 percent, Perry at 8 percent, Minnesota Rep. Michelle Bachmann at 5 percent and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum at 1 percent each. And with the exception of Paul, they are all virulently anti-LGBT.

Of course, those figures could go absolutely anywhere during the next year.

Perry and Bachmann were once frontrunners, and Gingrich has seen his fortunes rise, fall and rise again since he announced his candidacy.

Allegations of past sexual harassment will likely bring down Cain, and Gingrich's past association as a highly-paid "consultant" for federal housing agencies Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae will likely prove to be his undoing.



Rep. Ron Paul

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Romney's numbers have remained more stable than the other candidates, and he seems to carry less baggage. That has led many to speculate that the former Massachusetts governor will eventually wind up with the nomination.

But for now it's Paul's turn in the spotlight, and that's likely to make for some pretty intriguing debates when the seven candidates get on stage together in the coming days as the media pays more attention to the Texas congressman.

It will be interesting to see if they remember their goal is to prevent President Obama's reelection or if they succumb to another dogfight. ■

*David Webb is a veteran journalist who has covered LGBT issues for three decades. E-mail him at [davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com).*

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# Let 'em eat cake

LIFE+STYLE  
dining

Drag-queen-cum-pastry-chef **Chad Fitzgerald** rocks TLC — and now Oak Lawn — with his baking prowess

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

In what used to be a butcher shop, Chad Fitzgerald sits in the back room of a storefront now called The Cake Guys. The dark red walls of the bakery make for a cozy, elegant ambience, but the cakes take center stage: Towering confections with ornate scrollwork, rhinestones, peacocks and chocolate-covered strawberries are jaw dropping. Despite his calm demeanor as he strolls through his shop, Fitzgerald and his cakes are about to be seen on a much bigger stage.

"The producers told us when the show airs, life will change," Fitzgerald says.

"The show" is the second season of *Next Great Baker*, which debuts Tuesday on TLC, with Fitzgerald among the contestants.

The path from kitchen to TV studio has been a long one for Fitzgerald. As a kid, he would head to his grandmother's house after school in Hereford, Texas, where he picked up her creative skills. At her knee, he learned ceramics and sewing, but it was her baking that really nabbed his attention.

"She completely influenced that," he says. "She bought me pans and decorating tips and my first mixer while I was in high school. I ended up going to culinary school at Oklahoma State University but I didn't like it — I already knew how to make cakes; I didn't want to do any of the other chef stuff."

Fitzgerald received a degree in education at West Texas A&M. Baking became a hobby as Fitzgerald took up teaching for 21 years. Baking re-emerged seriously in 2003, when he and his partner, Edward Navejas, began The Cake Guys out of their garage.

It quickly boomed. They opened a full-service shop in Duncanville in 2008, and have just expanded to Oak Lawn, which led Fitzgerald to make a major decision.

"There were not enough hours in the day and I was overwhelmed," he says. "I'd teach, bake till 3 a.m. and get up to go to work. When I resigned this month, everyone told me they were surprised it wasn't sooner."

The Duncanville location is now a production facility; they handle all the cake orders — mostly from bridal parties — out of their Oak Lawn location.

A few years ago, Fitzgerald and Navejas started applying to appear on chef-based reality shows. They had the talent, but never made the cut, until a casting director for TLC called to ask them to try out for *Next Great Baker*.

"I got that call and I told them that we'll apply," he says. "But they needed something by that night. This was in May or June. It was a very long app, but I stayed true to myself."

By staying true, he means he let his natural tone come out, freely peppering *LOL* and *LMAO* throughout his answers, and not sounding pretentious. But it was the question "What would set you apart?" that acted as a mini-crossroads. In other applications, he'd held back, revealing some personal details, thinking his baking skills should be all that mattered. This time, he decided to go all-in.

"It was do-or-die, so I sent in pics and videos of me doing drag," he laughs. "I also bawled talking about my grandma, who died two years ago. It was about 6:30 p.m. when I sent it

in, and the casting agent called me around 7:15. She told me was the best application so far." With more than 10,000 applicants in the mix, Fitzgerald "started feeling good about it," he says.

Fitzgerald then flew to New York for a screen test and on-camera interview. There he met Buddy Valastro, better known as the Cake Boss.

"I had a fabulous time doing that," he smiles. "And they made me do a drag number on video — as a guy! I had told them I was Miss Texas USA At-Large and Miss USA At-Large in 1996 as Stacy Holiday." On July 31, Fitzgerald got the phone call.

"They said 'Congratulations, you're one of the Season 2 contestants,'" he recalls. "I started crying, of course. I called the staff and just said 'I made it! I made it!'"

Typical of reality TV, the show only now is airing, though the competition ended weeks ago. Fitzgerald has been baking away, waiting to see how life just might change as a result of the competi-

tion. He's already noticed some changes (a few autograph requests), but he'll know better once the series begins airing.

"Other contestants thought I was a cheater because I had my trinkets and gadgets," he says. "But I'm a planner. Other contestants

came with three bags [of supplies]; I shipped 38 boxes. I took an aquarium, strobe lights, anything that could go in a cake. This is the biggest thing in my life — why wouldn't I prepare?"

Fitzgerald says he never became a character. Although he was the only gay contestant and was occasionally encouraged to "gay it up" for the camera, he stayed true to himself.

"I kinda became the go-to guy," he says. "People would ask me for advice and that's just pure respect. I was the nice guy of the group, but I was definitely the crybaby on the show."

Of course, how he fared remains to be seen as the season plays out. For now, Fitzgerald knows he and Navejas have a good thing. Win or not, The Cake Guys know one thing for sure.

"I don't want people to buy our cakes just because I was on TV," he says. "But once you try our cake, you'll be hooked." ■

## CHAD FITZGERALD

*Next Great Baker*, airs Tuesdays on TLC at 10 p.m.

The Cake Guys, 3527 Oak Lawn Ave. TheCakeGuys.com.

**BATTER UP** | Chad Fitzgerald went all-in for his audition for TLC's 'Next Great Baker,' becoming the go-to guy and the crybaby ... as well as being the only gay contestant on this season.

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Tony Cragg, *Outspan*, (detail) 2008. Bronze, 74 7/8 x 78 3/4 x 48 7/8 in. (190 x 200 x 124 cm). Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg - Paris © 2011 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn. Photo: Charles Duprat

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# Queer the slopes

Winter resorts welcome gay skiers all season long, but many plan specific gay ski weeks that appeal to every taste

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

There are some notable anniversaries among the gay ski weeks this season — Aspen turns 35, and Mammoth celebrates a decade — but queer skiers have plenty of choices, starting right after New Year's and extending into April. The Shoot the Butte extravaganza from last year won't be back (too bad! Read about Crested Butte in Dallas Voice soon), but from Canada to Colorado, Utah to Vermont and over to California, skiing to snowboarding, choose your favorite.

- **Utah Gay & Lesbian Ski Week**, Park City, Utah. Jan. 4–8. The season kicks off, as always, in the home of the Sundance Film Festival. Gayskiing.org.

- **Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week**, Aspen, Colo. Jan. 15–22. The forerunner of gay ski weeks brands itself "Through the Years" this year, with the retro look of '70s porn in its marketing materials (the ski week began in the 1970s; this is its 35th annual event). It truly is a weeklong event,

starting with an opening party, continuing with the Downhill Costume Contest and wrapping up with a pool party, with parties like Demented Divas, Boutique Night and Late Night at Hunter Bar thrown in. GaySkiWeek.com.

- **Winter Rendezvous XXVIII**, Stowe, Vt. Jan. 18–23. Competing directly with Aspen — albeit on the opposite side of the country — is Winter Rendezvous in Stowe, Vt. The 28th outing includes performances by DJ Harrison, the team of Amy and Freddy and drag diva Varla Jean Merman. Winterrendezvous.com.

- **WinterPride**, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. Feb. 5–12. Whistler's big annual ski week bounced back to a week later than last year for its 20th party where Queernadians are joined by their neighbors to the south (that's



**SNOW BEAR?** | Elevation, the gay ski week in Mammoth, Calif., celebrates its 10th annual event — which, if anything like last year's (above), will be cold and hot.

us). Comedian Jason Stuart hosts a comedy night, DJ Ted Eiel will be there for the Furrocious party, for bear lovers and Manny Lehman spins the closing night Snowball Dance. GayWhistler.com.

- **Telluride Gay Ski Week**, Telluride, Colo. Feb. 25–March 3. Named the U.S.A.'s top gay ski week by Gay.com, the Mountain Village event is back with T-12. Events include the Wig Run, the Telluride AIDS Benefit fashion show (and several preview parties). American Airlines, the official airline for Telluride Gay Ski Week, offers directs from DFW to Montrose, plus a discount code (9121BB) when booking at AA.com/rainbow. TellurideGaySkiWeek.com.

- **Elevation Mammoth X: Gay Ski Week**, Mammoth Lakes, Calif. March 14–18. For the milestone 10th party, Elevation welcomes a string of DJs, including Brynn Taylor, Beau Dasher, Drew G, Josh Peace and DJ Pornstar at some of the nine scheduled parties. The big closing party Avalanche features headliner Roland Belmares. MammothGaySki.com.

- **OutBoard Gay and Lesbian Snowboard Week**, Steamboat Springs, Colo. March 27–April 1. OutBoard is unique among gay skiing events: It changes out its location every year or so. Not a bad idea — it caters to snowboarders, who are always looking for new challenges. Events planned for the 17th annual winter wonderland include an opening night cocktail party and western-style hoedown. Yee-haw! OutBoard.org.

- **Vail Gay Ski Week**, Vail, Colo. Dates not yet announced. Vail is excitedly touting its next ski week in 2012, but as of press time, the dates hadn't been released (last year it was March 30–April 3, though the previous year, it was in late January). Keep an eye on VailGaySkiWeek.com for updates (and we'll follow up on the website as soon as we learn anything concrete). ■



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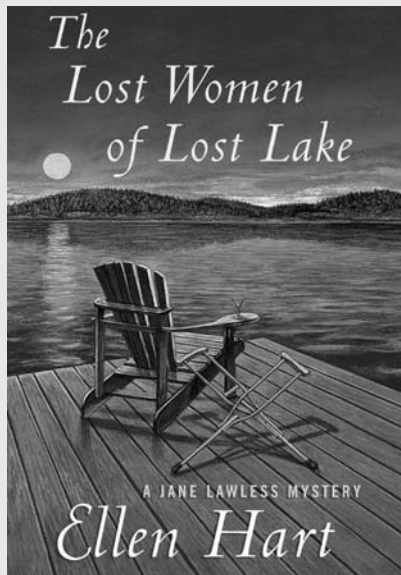
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## Plain Jane

Lesbian fiction author Ellen Hart loses her way with latest Jane Lawless mystery, 'Lost Women'

*The Lost Women of Lost Lake*, by Ellen Hart. Minotaur Press (2011), \$26, 320 pp.

Cordelia Thorn figured she would just lend a quick hand. Tessa Cornell, Cornelia's old friend in the northern Minnesota town of Lost Lake, had taken a tumble and hurt her leg. Tessa was directing the community play, so somebody needed to finish the job while she was healing; Cornelia volunteered, and invited her best friend, Jane Lawless, along. Jane, a restaurateur and part-time private investigator, was still mourning the death of her long-time partner; a trip would do her good.

Tessa was happy to have help with the play, but she didn't need any company — definitely not some P.I. wannabe.

Jonah Ivorsen hated moving, so when he decided to hitchhike from St. Louis to Lost Lake, he was sure his aunt Jill and Jill's wife, Tessa, would let him stay with them. But then a body was discovered and another one followed it fast. The authorities were zeroing in on a mysterious fire, and Tessa was obviously lying to everybody. Can Jane Lawless sort things out before someone else dies?

Oh, how I love books with Jane Lawless in them! Jane is an unlikely heroine and reluctant private eye who doesn't seem to want her hobby to turn into work, yet there's a will-she-make-it-permanent thread in this book that's satisfactorily solved. There's also a possible romance angle that slyly teases readers.

But as much as I love Ellen Hart's main character, the supporting cast in *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* almost all need to take a dive. I had to work to keep my eyes from rolling, not only because of the cliché peripheral characters but also for the cliché things they say. Triteness definitely taints this otherwise fine mystery.

Fans of the Jane Lawless series should be able to overlook these faults, but if you're not already a fan, start with another book. For you, *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* will not be looked upon swimmingly.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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# Dynamic duo

LIFE+STYLE

fitness

For partners **Jeff Duffey** and **Matt Maynard**, working out is just part of the life cycle

Where there's a wheel, there's a way. Or in the case of this month's dynamic duo, it's more like four wheels to get the job done. Although golf, tennis and running factor into their weekly workout routines, it's lengthy bike rides (78 miles and counting to date) that really help partners Matt Maynard and Jeff Duffey to keep their healthy lifestyle in high gear. ■

— *Jef Tingley*

**Names and ages:** Matt Maynard, 37, and Jeff Duffey, 33. (Together 10 years.)

**Occupations:** Maynard: owner & founder of Discount Sport Nutrition and SportSupplements.com; Duffey: real estate broker and owner, Jeff Duffey & Associates.

**What sports and physical activities do you both participate in?** Biking, running, tennis, volleyball and golf.

**Exercise regime:** Maynard: Running or biking at least three times a week is my goal. If I am training for a race or ride, I try to make it four times a week.

Duffey: I play tennis three to four times a week. Otherwise, I try to bike or run a couple times a week.

**Most memorable athletic accomplishment:** Maynard: A year ago, I played in a high-profile charity golf tournament in San Diego and my team won first place. The prize was two, first-class tickets to Europe. It was Jeff's first time to visit Europe, so that meant a lot to me.

Duffey: I have a few. Back in 2003, my men's tennis league finished first in Texas and we went on to play in the National Tournament in Tucson — it was a great experience. Completing a 78-mile bike ride with Matt and several of our friends at last year's MS 150 Bike Ride was pretty awesome as well.

**Workout preference: mornings or evenings?** Maynard: Mornings.

Duffey: I wish I could work out in the mornings, but I gave up on trying to be a morning person a long time ago. I'd much rather go to the gym at 10 p.m. to run five miles than force myself out of bed at 6 a.m.

**And words of advice for people trying to work fitness into their life?** Maynard: Do it in the mornings and get it out of the way. Most people get tired as the day goes on and other things can come up allowing you to make excuses for not working out. Getting on a good supplement program can definitely help you reach your goals faster.

Duffey: I'm probably not the best person to tell people they need to make fitness a priority in their life, since I'm one of those people who is guilty of finding excuses not to go to the gym or workout. But you really do have to treat fitness as you would a social engagement or business appointment. It helps that with tennis, biking and golfing there is usually someone else there to keep you accountable.

**If you could become an Olympian in any sport, what would it be and why?** Maynard: Curling, just because it looks fun!

Duffey: Playing tennis is an obvious answer for me, but I've secretly always wanted to be a gymnast. But I'm 6-foot-3, and being tall isn't exactly a great quality to have in gymnastics.

**Do you have a favorite song or playlist for working out?** Duffey: I'm sure if you heard some of the playlists I run or bike to you wouldn't know what to think about me. For the most part, I like pop and hip-hop, but you just never know when an awesome rock ballad or Tupac song might show up.

**Which celebrity or athlete's physique would you like to have and why?** Duffey: It bothers me a little that he's less than six feet tall, but you can't get much more athletically and aesthetically perfect than David Beckham, although I do think Michael Phelps has a superior physique. So, yeah. Put David Beckham's head on Michael Phelps' 6-foot-4 frame and that's pretty much perfection in my book.



**RACKET, CLUB** | Jeff Duffey, left, is a tennis fanatic and his partner Matt Maynard, right, enjoys golf, but both enjoy training together as they did for the MS 150 Bike Ride earlier this year. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

# All that dazzle

Local actors get in the Christmas spirit with 'Holidazzle Act II' release

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Two years ago, local actors, musicians and other theater folk banded together for *Holidazzle*, a CD of Christmas music that featured some amazing voices in town while benefiting the charity Jonathan's Place. It was a win-win for carol-loving Dallasites.

Now another, bigger chorus of actors is back with a healthy collection of holiday tunes. **Holidazzle Act II** is filled with heart, but not without a few bumps.

The disc opens strong with "That's What Christmas Means to Me" featuring Denise Lee, Jeff Kinman, Susan Mills and Darius-Anthony Robinson and impressively displays a crisp production value — from the percussion to the vocals, the sound is crystal clear. It's a promising start as the music is layered well but with a nice simplicity. And Kerry Huckaba's bass ends up as a star here.

I have to admit I was worried about their take on "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," especially after reading that Jim Johnson, K. Doug Miller, Gregory Lush, B.J. Cleveland and David Coffee were all doing vocals. We've all heard it with the signature deep voice, but these guys pull off a great jazzy rendition with different but appropriate personalities for the tune. It's really hard to get through this one without a smile.

"Snow" from Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* movie soundtrack should win over die-hard fans, but at first, this version seems to have too many voices; they eventually come together in a beautiful, cheery mix. The added chorus gives it an old-fashioned, charmingly seasonal touch. This is what you want to hear while gleefully shopping at Macy's without a care in the world.

The group knocks it out of the park with the hilarious "Twelve Daze of a Theatrical Christmas." It may sound inside-jokey, but clever lyrics by Miller make this a viable comedic



**RAZZLE 'EM** | DFW Actors Give Back's adult chorus comes together again for a sometimes bumpy but consistently charming 'Act II.'

piece. If you think you'll be over the repetition of the usual lyrics, don't worry. They give the song as many twists as possible and they all work.

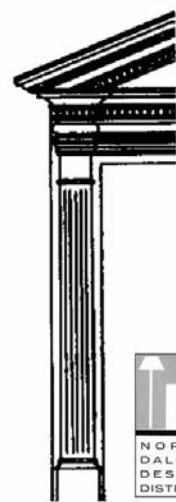
They also succeed in "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings." While practically a carbon copy of the Barenaked Ladies/Sarah McLachlan version, it works so well one could easily listen to it over and over.

But the album is not without misses. The cover of Celine Dion's "The Prayer" has a personal tone but with six voices doing the work, it derails into a mess. While the harmonies are beautiful, the song's intention is flooded over. Then there's "Silent Night." It's a carol everyone wants to put their stamp on, but it's also the one listeners tend to want to hear a traditional version of. The chorus here is a bit too chipper; "Night" needs a more Zen-like feel, and the harp challenges the voices rather than working in agreement with them. Even if they wanted to continue in this tone, the song is not audibly smoothed out.

Other tracks lack the lead-in's excellent production quality. Gary Floyd, Sonny Franks and Todd Hart do sublime *a capella* work on "I'll Be Home for Christmas," but the voices get tinny in the mix at times. Julie Johnson gives an ideal performance in the fun "Christmas Eve," but the turned-up bass distracts. The Patty Breckenridge-Ashley Puckett-Gonzales duet works well for the dramatic "Where are You, Christmas," but the music begins to overrun their voices despite Scott Eckert's emotional arrangement and direction.

Despite these issues, the album as a whole works magic. There is enough tradition here to appreciate the songs with added freshness on other tunes to make it interesting.

*Holidazzle Act II* is on sale in local theaters during the holiday season or available online at [DFWActorsGiveBack.org](http://DFWActorsGiveBack.org).



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**Evelyn Caldwell  
1943-2011**

Evelyn passed away on November 17, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer.

The Out & Equal - DFW Regional Affiliate members, along with her very large circle of friends, will miss her graciousness, generosity and good humor.

A Memorial Service for Evelyn will be held Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas, 1840 Hutton Dr., #100, Carrollton, Texas 75006.

All who had the privilege of knowing Evelyn are welcome.

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**Advent:** (from the Latin adventus meaning "coming") is a liturgical season we observe as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Part of our Advent observance is the use of an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is made of evergreen boughs, symbolizing everlasting life. The circle represents the continuous love of God, with no beginning and no end, as well as the soul's immortality. The four candles represent hope, peace, love and joy. On each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas we light one of the candles to help focus our preparation. On Christmas we light a fifth candle- the Christ Candle- symbolizing Emmanuel, God with us!



Please join us on the first Sunday of Advent as we gather to light the Candle of Hope, symbolizing faith in God keeping His promises to humanity.

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[www.fccdfw.org](http://www.fccdfw.org)

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# Drawing Dallas

MARK STOKES | Illustrator  
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

As 'Twilight' returns, **Skylar Brooks** shows blood sucking *can* be a service

**Name and age:** Skylar Brooks, 24

**Occupation:** Testing coordinator, Resource Center Dallas, and shift manager, Starbucks

**Spotted at:** Exxon on the Run at Maple and Oak Lawn

A twinkle in her unbelievably pale blue eyes and an effervescent smile are the first things you notice about this fine Virgo. Born in Monroe, La., and raised in Euless and Bedford, the perpetually positive Skylar considers herself a clown and a jokester — smiles and laughter come to her quite freely. She came out at 16.

**She loves the nightlife.** Skylar loves to dance, and her freestyle moves on the floor have garnered her three "dance off" wins at Station 4. She also loves to sing, especially R&B (Brian McKnight is a favorite). She auditioned for *American Idol* last year, and while she didn't get through, says she's determined to try again. Her love of music and dance is hereditary: Her mother was on the drill team and danced ballet, and her father plays drums and the trumpet and loves to belt out a song.

In addition to indoor activities, she plays midfield and forward in a local soccer league, and basketball for fun. Skylar loves to travel, she has a special affinity for the Caribbean (Dominican Republic, Bahamas).

**Enter love** "Three months in, I knew she was the one," says Skylar of her fiancé, Shereen, whom she met through mutual friends 18 months ago; they have a wedding set in Vermont next June. Both of their families are excited for them.

Skylar's goal is to become a surgical technician. Her motto: "I help people one blood draw at a time."

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L+S screen

## Life as a Cabret

Scorsese shows a soft side with the children's fantasy 'Hugo,' von Trier mixes opera with sci-fi in the navel-and-star-gazing drama 'Melancholia'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It would be nice to blame J.K. Rowling for ruining children's literature for all time, but in fact Roald Dahl, C.S. Lewis and others bear some of the responsibility. It has become now all-too-formulaic how (popular, at least) kid fantasy stories play out: An orphaned or neglected moppet (who came from the most loving family imaginable before falling on hard times) discovers a new friend, a nemesis who eventually becomes a friend, and an antagonist while living in a magical, Gothic castle that brings him extraordinary abilities.

Go ahead. Apply it to any kid's fiction. I dare ya.

**Hugo**, the film adaptation of Brian Selznick's graphic novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, cleaves so closely to this recipe, it would be momentous if even one second of the plot were able to catch you by surprise. It does not.

Hugo (the impossibly saucer-eyed Asa Butterfield) lives in the walls of a Parisian train station (circa 1930), surreptitiously winding the giant clocks so no one will know his caretaker-uncle has disappeared and send Hugo to an orphanage. He scavenges food and supplies from shops in the station, eventually getting caught

by Georges (Ben Kingsley), a curmudgeonly tinkerer and toy salesman. Georges has a secret (in this genre, *everyone* has a secret that could be easily told, except it wouldn't leave any mystery; it's borne of an WASPy sense of emotional repression and a desire to allow the plot to stretch out), so Hugo enlists Georges' ward Hermione... er, Isabelle (Chloe Grace Moretz) to help him retrieve the notebook the man took from him.

The notebook, of course, is just another storytelling device (the McGuffin) that ultimately proves irrelevant, as so much of *Hugo* is. The film's real goal is to stand as a paean to the silent film era, and especially the work of pioneering French filmmaker Georges Melies.

And that's where *Hugo* begins to get interesting.

The mushy themes and soft sense of innocent delight are ill-fitted to the director, Martin Scorsese, whose most prominent use of a child prior to this was probably Jodie Foster's teen prostitute in *Taxi Driver*. Scorsese doesn't approach most of the material with that harsh eye of his; he actually seems lost in it, charming

■ CABRET, Page 41



**SAFETY LAST** | The well worn kid-lit saw of an orphan (Asa Butterfield) hiding from thoughtless adults is given a silent-movie send up by Martin Scorsese in 'Hugo.'



By Charles Dickens • Adapted by Richard Helleesen • Directed and Choreographed by Joel Ferrell

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**MARRIAGE AT THE END OF THE WORLD** | 'Melancholia' is a sci-fi drama, about a bride (Kirsten Dunst, left), her citrus-lipped sister (Charlotte Gainsbourg, right) and the heavenly body hurtling toward earth.

■ **CABRET**, From Page 38

himself with the story's doe-eyed wonder. (The train station is as improbably kooky as the Wonka Candy Factory.)

But Scorsese sustains the film during its more familiar and less compelling periods with a movie fanatic's appreciation for the art of the silent film. It is a victory of form over substance, as Scorsese recreates the visual cues first explored by the likes of Melies, as well as Chaplin, Keaton, Harold Lloyd. Indeed, two key scenes mirror one another: One where Hugo takes Isabelle to her first movie (Lloyd's *Safety Last*, where the comedian dangles dangerously from a tower while holding on to the hands of a clock-face), and one later, where Hugo does the same thing while being chased by a station cop (Sacha Baron Cohen, whose rubbery face was made for silent film).

The structuring, photography and editing are such loving and eerily accurate reproductions of film classics, you're tempted to hold your hands over your ears and experience *Hugo* the way Melies' audiences would have *A Trip to the Moon*.

Still, a tone of wistful nostalgia permeates *Hugo*, and eventually dominates it. The fact it was made in (admittedly effective) 3D, however, only highlights its failings: Melies didn't have such technology to keep audiences in awe. We may have come a long way since 1895 in some particulars, but originality of story is still in short supply.

There's a difference between the nostalgia of *Hugo* and *Melancholia*, the new drama by Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier. Von Trier was one of the founders of the Dogme 95 filmmaking philosophy that touted minimalism over arti-

fic, but his career has been a testament to the theory's unworkability. Even in the wedding scenes in *Melancholia* that seem lifted directly from *Festen* (the first true Dogme feature — significantly, from a different director) reveal how the idea of steering clear of genre pictures is a boondoggle: Dogme 95 has become a shorthand for uncomfortable family get-togethers. (In the U.S., *Rachel Getting Married* felt like a Dogme film.)

When Von Trier is being minimalistic, he composes scenes steeped in pain and awkward, raw emotions, but his flamboyant side cannot resist peaking through, as it did in his masterpiece, *Breaking the Waves*. *Melancholia* begins with an extended sequence of still shots, supersaturated in colors that make David LaChapelle photos look washed out, all set to a long, graceful overture from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. This isn't film, it's opera — big and bold and crazed with feeling.

Only it takes too much to get going. The confrontations — Charlotte Rampling giving an inappropriate wedding toast, Kirsten Dunst chastising Stellan Skarsgard and having her wedding called off, Charlotte Gainsbourg staring at something off-camera with a perpetual grimace clenched on her face — roll out with slow deliberation. There's a lot going on here — not the least of which is a huge planet called *Melancholia* hurtling toward the earth, about to destroy all life on the planet — but it's all so clinically presented, you don't get caught up in it. End of the world scenarios, from *Last Night to Deep Impact* to *Armageddon*, always trigger some amount of introspection, but *Melancholia* could use a little extroversion. It's as caught up in itself as *Hugo* is the kid-lit genre, with no escape velocity. ■



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# Papa bears

Gays love a big softie — tough but tender. These kick-ass cars have muscles over gentle souls

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

In one of my favorite movies, *Latter Days*, the character Christian describes getting hypothermia and being rescued by a big warm guy holding him naked in a sleeping bag. He felt loved, warm in the arms of a big ol' papa bear.

Like the ranger, these muscular mighties will hold you safe, but also respect a little nature along the trail.

**VW Touareg.** At the recent media launch for the VW Passat in Chattanooga, Tenn., the P.R. team had journalists riding in the back of VW Touaregs. Getting onto the freeway, our driver put the

big SUV into a sweeping uphill curve at high speed with confidence rarely seen off of a racetrack. I was in awe of his driving skills and the Touareg's ability to carve up Appalachian highways. Turns out, the driver was a state trooper working part-time. I never felt safer.

This SUV flaunts a cabin built to Bentley standards, but flexes a range of powertrains. Base models offer a 280hp 3.6-liter V6 that achieves 16/23-MPG city/hwy., but the tree hugger in our beefy driver was a big fan of diesels and hybrids. VW's turbo diesel generates 225hp and 19/28-MPG. The supercharged hybrid manages 380hp and 20/24-MPG.

Prices range from \$44,500 for a V6, \$48,000 for the diesel and \$61,000 for a hybrid.



**GMC Yukon Denali Hybrid.** GMC. Yukon. Denali. Just the name sounds tough, doesn't it? But *Hybrid*? Sounds like a Muscle Mary — where do we go with this? Probably to a good place. Despite an interior that spoils with heated leather seats, Bluetooth, DVD player, sunroof and a YMCA locker-sized center console, the full-size SUV achieves 20/23-MPG city/hwy. — comparable to a mid-size sedan.

Without diminishing its gleaming Denali looks, engineers coerced some hard engineering out of this softie. The core of its professional grade persona is a 332hp 6.0-liter V8 that can shut down four cylinders during cruise. There's also a battery pack two-mode transmission that can vary depending on workload.

Yukon can drive up to 30mph on electricity alone for very short



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distances. Revised air dams, running boards and rear body enhance aero. Best yet, the Yukon Denali Hybrid is a local boy, built here in Arlington. You'll have to bring at least \$59,000 to play.

**Ford F-150 EcoBoost.** This F-150 is kinda like that furry bear who started jogging, lost a little pudge and trimmed the foliage: He's still tough, but has taken a liking to more contemporary expectations.

EcoBoost, in Ford speak, means smaller engines with turbos for maximum fuel economy and power. In fact, the turbo V6 in the F-150 generates 365hp – more than the base V8. It is as smooth as a twink's legs as it eases itself around town and steps up briskly when hitting the freeway. Low-end throbbing from the turbos is an absolute joy.



It's also pretty sexy. A big chrome grille flashes bling like diamonds while the interior is industrial chic with silver panels, leather seats, SYNC voice-activated infotainment and space for friends. (If you like the engine, but want a more compact ride, the EcoBoost V6 is also found in the Taurus SHO, Flex, Lincoln MKS and Lincoln MKT; four-cylinder EcoBoost engines will soon be in the Ford Explorer, Edge and Focus.) Life in Turboland is pretty snug. Want more proof? The Texas Auto Writers Association just named the F-150 "Truck of Texas" at its annual Truck Rodeo.

This F-150 starts just under \$30,000.

**Honda Ridgeline.** Nothing is more papa bear than a hard-working pickup that is soft at its soul. Based on the popular Pilot, but with a reinforced under-frame, the Ridgeline is essentially a fuel-efficient crossover with a bed. It is the only pickup with an independent rear suspension for the best of rides. An in-bed truck is large enough to hold a cooler of your favorite inebriation or energy drink.



**CUDDLE MONSTERS** | VW's Touareg, opposite page, boasts Bentley-quality styling and a powerful hybrid engine; Ford's F-150 with Eco Boost, left, treats the environment well; GM's Arlington-built Yukon Denali, above, puts a bit of Alaska inside Texas. (Photos courtesy VW, Ford, GMC)

Moving the marbles is a 250hp 3.5-liter V6. AWD is standard. Authentically capable, the Ridgeline also looks handsome with its chiseled, integrated bodysides, beefy front profile, flying buttress sail panels and off-road rubber. Inside, navigation, 115v outlet, 160-watt audio, moonroof, Bluetooth and back-up camera satisfy. Honda isn't exactly blowing Ridgelines out the door, but that's only an opportunity to end up in the arms of a very loving truck without a lot of guilt. Prices start under \$30,000. ■



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## Saturday 11.26

### Raise your paws up

Dogs and furniture sometimes don't mix, but they do at Art is Art. The consignment shop teams up with Paws in the City for a pet adoption event that can also help with your holiday shopping. The consignment shop will donate 10 percent of sales of its local art, modern furniture, jewelry, candles and more to help out Paws' cause. And the dogs will be quite thankful for your help.

**DEETS:** Art is Art, 2811 N. Henderson Ave. 11 a.m. PawsInTheCity.org.

## Saturday 11.26

### Partying down with St. Nick

WaterTower Theatre brings back its holiday spectacular *Rockin' Christmas Party* with a whole lot of shakin' going on. Sure we love our dramatic, slow carols, but WaterTower spikes up the eggnog with this fun show of rock and soul. With the talents of Gary Floyd, Amy Stevenson, Marcus Lloyd and more, we'll figure on being well into the holiday spirit.

**DEETS:** Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 18. \$30-\$40. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

## Thursday 12.01

### Wreaths on the runway

DIFFA knows how to turn the volume up on the mundane. We know what they can do for denim jackets. Now holiday wreaths go designer at Turn Up the Cheer!, the 2011 Wreath Collection party. Trust, these aren't your grandma's wreaths.

**DEETS:** Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through Oct. 23. \$20-\$90. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



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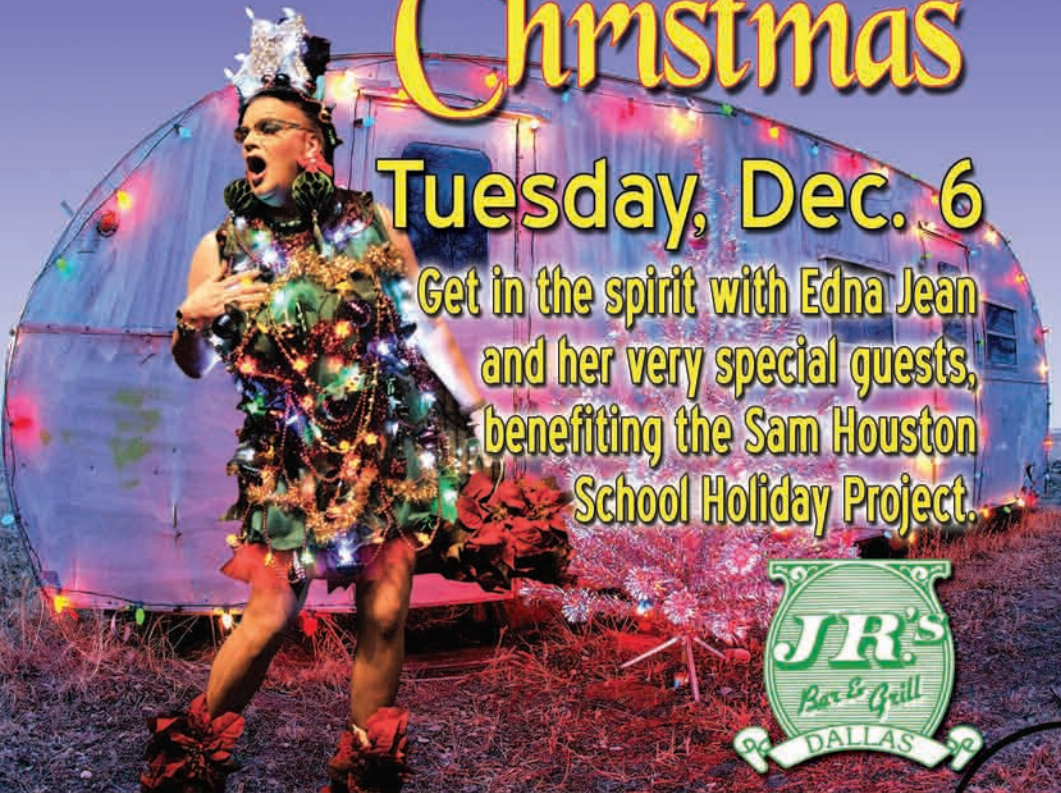
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**DIVAS LIVE** | Local singers Mi Diva Loca do up their Day After Turkey show at Sue's on Friday.



## FRIDAY 11.25

### COMMUNITY

**Congregation Beth El Binah** potluck at private residence. Contact Diane@BethElBinah.org for more information.

**Lambda Pride Toastmasters.** Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Lambdapride.freetoasthost.us.

**Business Network Collin County** luncheon. Fox Sports Grille, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano. 11:30 a.m. \$20. BusinessNetworkCC.org.

### ART

**Sweet Bullets.** Local queer artist Robb Conover curated the exhibit featuring work by Corey Godfrey, Duke Horn, Tony Reans and more. Kettle Art, 2714 Elm St. Through Dec. 10. KettleArt.com.

### MUSIC

**Mi Diva Loca.** Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton Street. 9:30 p.m. PartyattheBlock.com.

### THEATER

**26 Miles.** The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. 8 p.m. Through Dec. 10. \$15-\$30. KitchenDogTheater.org.

## SATURDAY 11.26

### COMMUNITY

**Khush LGBT** South Asian monthly social. 7 p.m. For more information visit KhushTexas.org or call 469-454-8741.

**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio t Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

### BROADCAST

**Cathedral of Hope** worship service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m. (Friday after midnight).

## SUNDAY 11.27

### COMMUNITY

**First Community Church of Dallas** worship services. The church is open and affirming. FCC of Dallas, 9120 Ferguson Road. 11 a.m. FCCDFW.org.

**Dignity Dallas** sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

## MONDAY 11.28

### COMMUNITY

**Log Cabin Republicans.** Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

**Mindful Monday Meditation** hosted by Fit for Faith. In IPC Classroom A. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

**DFW Prime Timers** play bridge every week at 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**F.A.C.E.,** support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. The group also meets on Thursdays. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

## TUESDAY 11.29

### COMMUNITY

**QLive! Open Mike Night** for comedy. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCinema.com.

**Q's Day Potluck.** Friendly casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-446-3395.

## WEDNESDAY 11.30

### COMMUNITY

**FUSE** drop-in. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m. 214-540-4435.

**Gay Teen Project.** 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

**El Sol,** an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

## THURSDAY 12.01

### COMMUNITY

**PFLAG Fort Worth** meets. First Jefferson UUC, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. Pflagfortworth.org.

**First Thursday Gallery Walk** where all showrooms and galleries along Dragon Street in the Design District will remain open until 8 p.m. each month.

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

## this week's solution



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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Jonathan Knight** turns 43 on Tuesday. As part of the boy band New Kids on the Block, Knight dominated the charts with hits like "Hangin' Tough" and "Step By Step" in the late '80s and early '90s. He left the group in 1994 and admitted to having severe stage fright. He was outed in 2009 by an alleged ex-boyfriend but Knight says he has never hidden the fact that he is gay.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Mother criticizes because she believes in your potential. A real grown-up can shrug it off. Or is there some truth in it? Take it or leave it, but thoughtfully. That can be a healing experience.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Running up against limits tempts you to struggle against authority. Learn to engage more thoughtfully. Be respectful, but don't be afraid to ask probing, even challenging, questions.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Nosy questions get way out of hand. Mind your own business. Look for ways to improve your home life. Thrift and resourcefulness will boost your confidence.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

It's easy to mouth off to your boss. It may be hard to keep your mouth shut and listen, but what you learn is well worth it. Your ability to handle criticism counts a lot toward your advancement.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Collaborative efforts only provoke arguments and resentments. Be aware of their limits. Focus on being more effective and forgive mistakes on all sides.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Sexual exuberance gets you into big trouble. Make time and space to explore those passions. Be very clear on safety issues and prophylaxis. Don't get so caught up in fun that work suffers.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Others seem eager to remind you of things you'd rather forget. Your outbursts aren't going to help. Take it all with good humor or make a better effort to avoid annoying people.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

You're liable to blurt out some ugly truth and you'll have all hell to pay. Keep your mind and your chatter on philosophy, art and impersonal things that won't cause offense.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

You mean well with your exuberant outbursts, but overdo it. Focus on elegance, subtlety, even minimalism. A whisper can hold attention where shouting only drives people away.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Fights at home are inevitable. Minimize risk by analyzing your issues before speaking up. Your parents may have programmed your worst faults into you, but you're responsible for fixing them.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

What's really being tested: your commitment to community or dealing with pointless crap? Know your limits and to what you want to dedicate yourself. Talk with a friend who's close.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Easy, comfortable chats with your partner lead to tests of commitment. They may not be worth passing. Think carefully. You may not follow friends' advice, but listen and think about it.

**THIS WEEK**

The sun in Sagittarius square to Mars in Virgo cranks up mental energy but yields to dithering frenzies. Both move into semi-square to Saturn, a rude wake-up call. The right colleague helps you focus, a wrong one just makes things worse.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

**Kyle's Bed & Breakfast** by Greg Fox

321

**ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS LAST BUNCH OF LEAVES BAGGED UP, N' WE'RE DONE.** **SOUNDS GOOD.**

**I GOTTA' SAY, PRICE... YOU'RE SURPRISED, HUH? THAT A SPOILED RICH BOY LIKE ME... ...IS ACTUALLY PROFICIENT AT DOING YARD WORK?**

**BACK IN KENTUCKY, MY DADDY WOULD SEND THE MAINTENANCE STAFF AT THE MANSION ON VACATION FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF NOVEMBER... ...AND LEAVE MY BROTHERS AND I IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE FALL CLEAN-UP.**

**HE SAID IT WAS CHARACTER BUILDING.** **OH, ELIAS KINGSBURY IS A BRILLIANT BUSINESSMAN. HOWEVER, AS A FATHER...**

**HE SOUNDS LIKE A SMART GUY.** **...HE HAD HIS SHORTCOMINGS.**

**PLAYING MY BROTHERS AND I AGAINST EACH OTHER LIKE PAWNS IN A CHESS GAME... ...AND PUNISHING US WITH UNSPEAKABLE CRUELTY.**

**HEY, MY OLD MAN WAS TOUGH ON ME N' MY BROTHERS, TOO. BUT I'M GLAD HE WAS.** **IT MADE A MAN OUTTA' ME.**

**DID YOUR FATHER EVER FORCE YOU TO STRIP NAKED AND SHAVE OFF YOUR PUBIC HAIR IN FRONT OF YOUR OTHER BROTHERS... BECAUSE YOU LOST A TENNIS MATCH...** **UM...NO. GEEZ. THAT'S MESS'D UP.**

**I...FEEL BAD THAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MAN.** **YOU FEEL BAD ENOUGH TO SLEEP WITH ME?**

**DAMN, PRICE... I WAS JUST STARTIN' TO FEEL FRIENDLY TOWARDS YOU... N' THEN YOU HAD TO GO RUIN IT.** **I'M GOOD AT THAT...**

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**bitter girl**

**PASS FAIL**

**UH, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CALL... ME TOO!... I'VE GOT A PLUS-ONE FOR THIS AWESOME SHOW!!!**

**I'D LOVE TO GO.** **IT WAS A SILLY ARGUMENT WE HAD.** **TOTALLY, NO BIG DEAL.**

**NOT EVEN, JUST A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.** **WHO AGREES ABOUT EVERYTHING?**

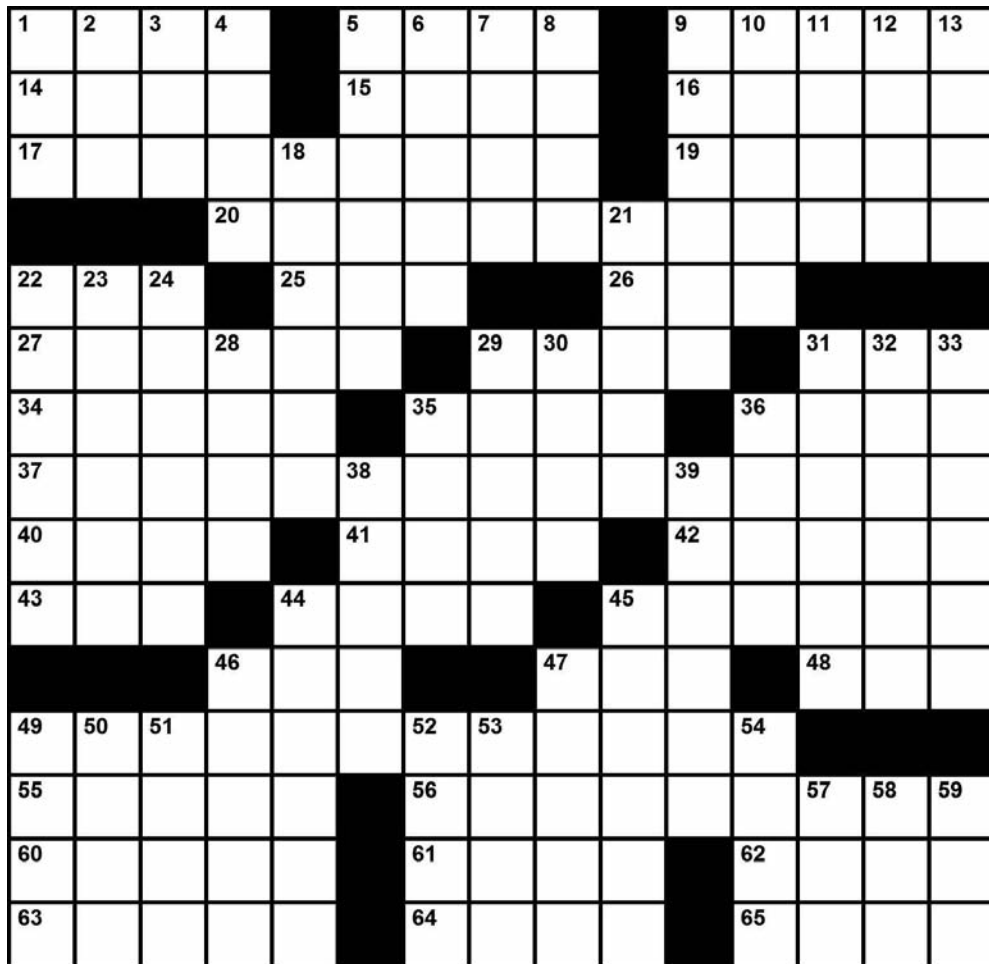
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# Helps

## Solution on page 47

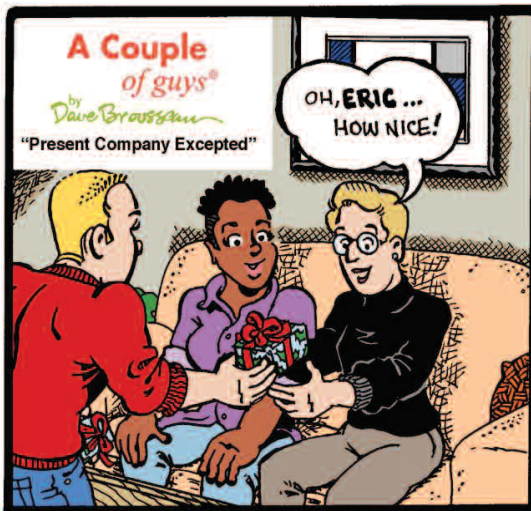
### Across

- 1 Dick under a Bush, e.g.
- 5 Intense attraction, with "the"
- 9 Amelia Earhart, for one
- 14 Jason went cruising in this
- 15 Hairy twin
- 16 \*ACT UP founder Kramer
- 17 Piece of Mary's little pet
- 19 Classic toothpaste brand
- 20 \*GoldenEye actress
- 22 Bruins great Bobby
- 25 Breakfast on Pluto actor Stephen
- 26 Versatile vehicle
- 27 Go over again
- 29 Helps, and a type of activism for the starred clues in this puzzle
- 31 Retired speedster
- 34 Range of the Rockies
- 35 Sweet opening?
- 36 \*Angels in America writer Kushner
- 37 \*Butterfield 8 Oscar winner
- 40 \*Richard of And the Band Played On
- 41 Janet or niece Hunter
- 42 Hubert's successor
- 43 Fruity drink
- 44 Lollobrigida of film
- 45 "Dr. K" of baseball

- 46 Kevin Bacon in Footloose
- 47 Awfully long time
- 48 Away from NNW
- 49 \*My Life on the D-List star
- 55 Vonda Shepard's "It's \_\_\_ Kiss"
- 56 Actually
- 60 \*Sharon of If These Walls Could Talk 2
- 61 Baltic Sea tributary
- 62 Pennsylvania city
- 63 One with an hourglass figure
- 64 Bianchi and Hulce
- 65 Pay for a pad

### Down

- 1 Jim Morrison portrayer Kilmer
- 2 Preposition that goes either way
- 3 One that gets laid
- 4 Gay guy, in Brit slang
- 5 Protection for your head
- 6 Japanese industrial center
- 7 Crack the whip at, e.g.
- 8 Hist. or sci.
- 9 Stones for starting fires
- 10 Run out
- 11 Gershwin and Levin
- 12 Sea flier
- 13 Phillippe, once of One Life to Live
- 18 Hot breakfast fare
- 21 Sit in on
- 22 Brand of Mexican food
- 23 Staggered
- 24 Go to bed
- 28 Sleep lightly
- 29 Allstate rival
- 30 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 31 They go well with plaids
- 32 Makes noise in bed
- 33 Power of old films
- 35 In view
- 36 "Equal justice under law," to a gay basher
- 38 Cause to have an orgasm
- 39 Tone deafness
- 44 It regularly blows its top
- 45 Tammy Baldwin's pages, e.g.
- 46 River of Cologne
- 47 The Deep Six actor Zimbalist
- 49 Star-\_\_\_ tuna
- 50 Start to climax
- 51 McAn of shoes
- 52 Historic Stonewall event
- 53 Front end o' China
- 54 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 57 Land of O. Wilde
- 58 Kind of man, in Oz
- 59 To now



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-LARRY



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TESTING INFORMATION:**

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- Free World AIDS Day gift for testers
- Free red ribbons while they last

**Friday, Dec. 1 &  
Saturday, Dec. 2**

9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

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- Free rapid HIV when you test for syphilis
- Free World AIDS Day gift for testers
- Free red ribbons while they last

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Bruce and Gabriela at The Brick.



Zack and Chad at Station 4.



Alex, Brino and Zazora at 1851 Club.



Trinity River Bears at Reflections.

After surviving **Thanksgiving** and **Black Friday**, you deserve a break. We think these might help .... Try your hand at the **Texas Hold 'Em Charity Poker Tournament** Saturday at the **Brick**. The night benefits **AIDS Interfaith Network** and you can work on your bluffing skills .... **Whitney Paige and the Cherry Girls** perform every Wednesday at **Randy's Club Cherries** .... Local queer band **Static Mind** will rock it out at the **Prophet Bar** Saturday. Those ladies will kill it like they did at **Twist Dallas** earlier this year. Trust .... **Mi Diva Loca** performs the **Day After Turkey Concert** at Sue Ellen's on Friday. It will be a nice change from all those trypto-naps. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** play Saturday night. **CHIX** finish out the holiday weekend on Sunday .... **The Imperial Court de Fort Worth Arlington** hosts the **Bah Your Humbug** party on Saturday at the **Rainbow Lounge** to kick off the Christmas season .... Dress up in your favorite gear for **Fetish Friday** at the **Dallas Eagle**. **DJ Paul Kraft** spins the music for **Dark and Dirty** as well. **DJ Blaine Soileau** hosts the **Dance Your Ass Off** party on Saturday. The bears headline Thursday night with the **Bear of the Year** contest .... Are you good at handling your stick? Tuesdays and Thursdays at the **Hidden Door** are **weekly pool tournament nights** with **ball in hand rules**. What better way to play? ... Tuesday nights are funny at **Percussions Lounge** with **QLive! Open Mic Night** for comedians — or for those who think they're funny .... Have you seen **DJ B3nd** on YouTube? Check it out and then catch him Friday at the **Lizard Lounge**. Trance DJ **Markus Schulz** headlines the club Saturday night with **Johnny Funk** .... Don't forget the leftovers. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT [DALLASVOICE.COM](http://DALLASVOICE.COM).



Bud and Ray at Pub Pegasus.



Katt and Melissa at Sue Ellen's.



Chance, Kevin and David at BJ's NXS!





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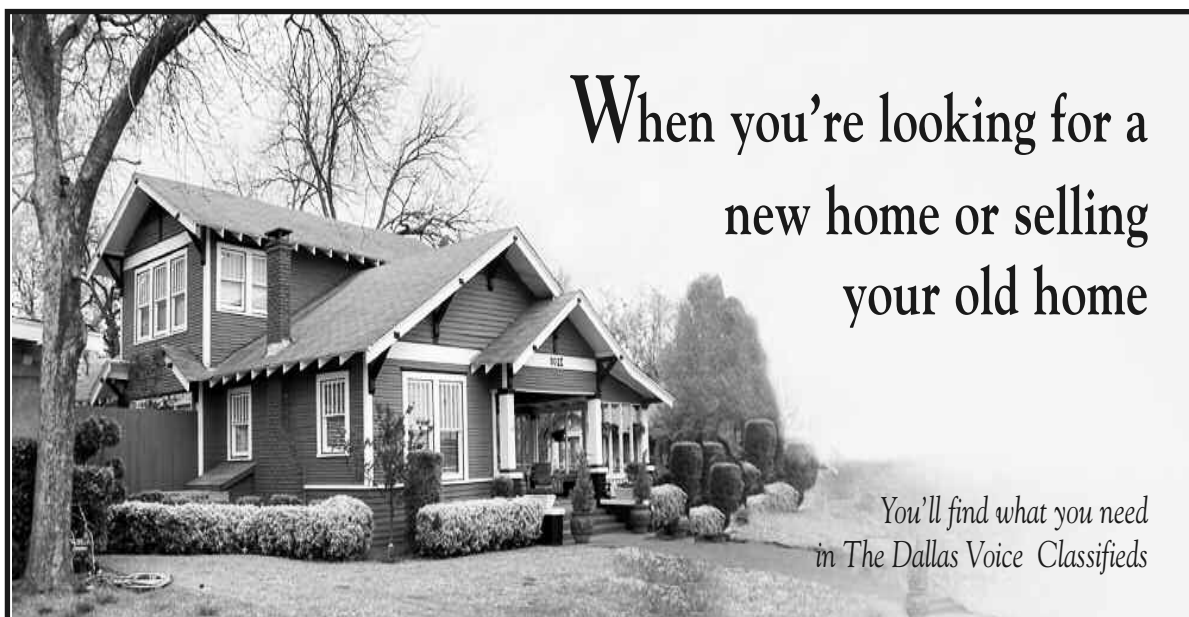


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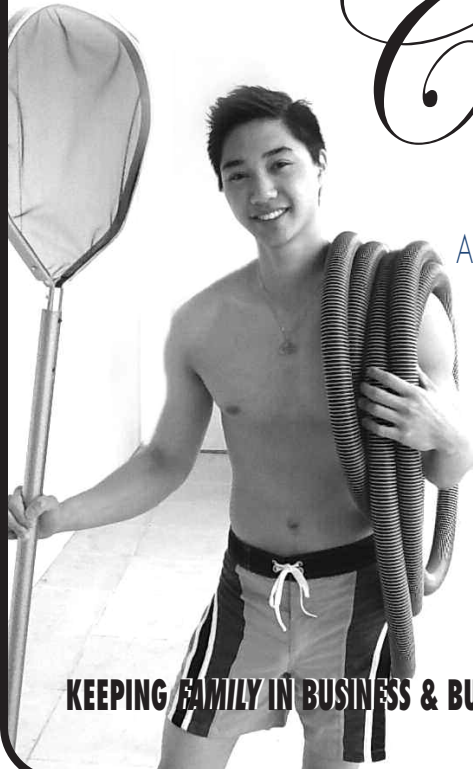
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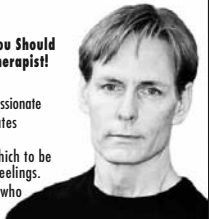
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