

Mayor won't back pro-LGBT resolutions

6 council members express support for measures endorsing marriage, ENDA
8 others are undecided or didn't respond to inquiries, while 1 is expected to vote against Councilman Scott Griggs' proposals

■ TEXAS NEWS, Page 6



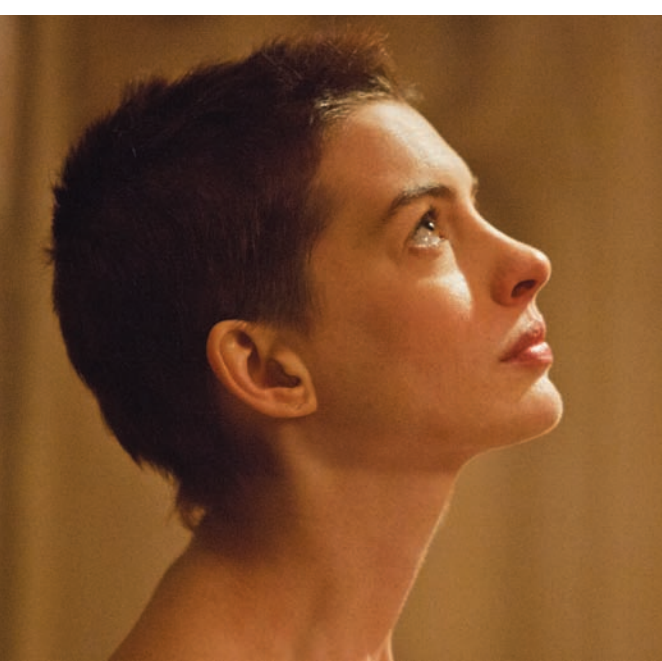
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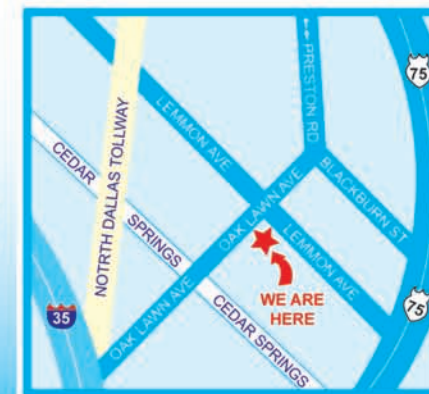
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SIAMESE SAVIOR | Alisa Lee feeds cats at the Texas Siamese Rescue in Corinth. Lee and her partner say the rescue could be forced to close if they don't meet a fundraising deadline.

Lesbian-run TX Siamese Rescue facing closure at year's end

The Texas Siamese Rescue is facing possible closure if it doesn't raise enough to pay off its former owner's debt, leaving dozens of cats without homes.

Tami Manning and Alisa Lee took over the rescue in Corinth last year when its founder died. But the rescue had a debt of \$244,000, of which all but \$40,000 was waived if the couple could raise the funds by the end of the year. The task seemed daunting, but the pair didn't want the rescue's 179 cats to be euthanized.

Since taking over, Lee and Manning have reduced the number of cats at the rescue by donations and foster homes.

Lee said the rescue has paid back \$10,000 so far. A donor has agreed to match up to \$5,000 in donations. So far, \$3,500 has been matched in the challenge.

The deadline is Dec. 31, but Lee said if the rescue can't raise the funds, she hopes the owner of the property will work with them.

"We are doing all we can and I know that God will take care of us," Lee said. "We are doing all that we can to make this work."

If the funds aren't raised and the rescue is forced to close, Lee said she and Manning will find homes for the cats as quickly as possible, but she hopes it doesn't come to that.

"I don't think closing is an option. We will just need to regroup in order to save these lives," she said. "We have our volunteers and many have picked a handful to adopt if there is no other option and we will adopt everyone out as fast as possible. We will not leave anyone behind if we ever have to close these doors."

People can donate at TX.SiameseRescue.org or by mail to 1123 N. Corinth St. Corinth, TX 76208.

— Anna Waugh

Texas ENDA would protect 400,000 workers, study finds

If the Texas Legislature passes a bill to ban anti-LGBT employment discrimination in the upcoming

session filed by state Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, the law would protect more than 400,000 workers, a new study finds.

The Williams Institute, a prominent LGBT think tank at UCLA, estimated that 431,095 LGBT workers live in Texas, according to U.S. Census data.

Research found adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the protected categories would have a minimal impact on state agencies and the budget, estimating that the changes would result in 203 more complaints a year.

The number of additional complaints came from applying the national average of 4.7 complaints alleging discrimination in the workplace for every 10,000 LGBT workers to Texas' number of LGBT workers.

The institute focused on research from 2008 that found 37 percent of gay and lesbian respondents to a survey had experienced workplace harassment and 12 percent were fired because of their sexual orientation. A 2010 survey of transgender people revealed that 78 percent experienced mistreatment at work.

"Data from other states show that the LGBT population files discrimination complaints at a rate similar to other protected groups, such as, women and people of color filing on the basis of sex or race," co-author Christy Mallory, Reid Rasmussen Fellow of Law & Policy, said in a release. "However, the absolute number of complaints we expect to see from LGBT people is very low, because the LGBT population is small compared to other protected populations."

The cost of reviewing and investigating the complaints by administrators would be low, costing \$267,500-\$334,400 in the first year and \$248,600-\$310,800 each subsequent year.

"We expect that enforcing these additional complaints will only cost the state approximately \$300,000 in the first year; and the expenses will drop in the following years," said co-author M.V. Lee Badgett, Williams Institute research director. "Although there is some administrative cost associated with enforcing these laws, they can also have positive effects on businesses and the state."

— Anna Waugh



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Mike Rawlings

COUNTING VOTES | Six members of the Dallas City Council (designated by green check marks) have said they support resolutions backing marriage equality and a ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination. Eight members (with blue question marks) either said they're undecided or did not respond. One member, Vonciel Hill, is expected to vote against the measure based on previous statements. (Graphic by Michael Stephens/Dallas Voice)

6 back pro-LGBT resolutions

Mayor Rawlings still won't commit to supporting measures calling for marriage equality, statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Enough Dallas City Council members are willing to sign two pro-LGBT resolutions to bring them before the full council, according to inter-

views conducted over the last week by Dallas Voice.

It remained unclear, however, whether the resolutions authored by Councilman Scott Griggs have the eight votes needed to pass the 15-member council.

Mayor Mike Rawlings continued to be unwilling to commit to supporting the resolutions, which would state the council's support for marriage equality and a statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination.

The resolutions received support from council members who've been strong LGBT allies — Scott

Griggs, Angela Hunt, Pauline Medrano and Delia Jasso. But they also received support from two unexpected sources, Jerry Allen and Dwaine Caraway.

"I'm probably the most open person, whether people believe it or not," Caraway said. "I'm open to anything that's anti-discrimination."

Caraway and Allen, like others who expressed support for the concept of the resolutions, said they'd want to see the final language before casting a vote in favor of them.

"Need to see the two resolutions before going 100 percent but overall I am supportive," Allen

said in an email.

Griggs said he's confident the resolutions can go through the council's legislative committee. However, other council members suggested Griggs would have to get the five signatures needed to bypass the committee and bring the resolutions before the full council.

Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill, the only council member who's been outspoken in her opposition to LGBT equality, chairs the legislative committee. If the committee doesn't approve them, the resolutions could also be brought before

■ **RESOLUTIONS**, Page 10

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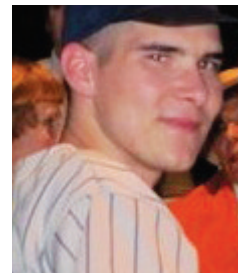
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localbriefs

Memorial service will be Saturday for murdered Carrollton man

The funeral service for Dustin Reeb, 22, known locally as Shaun Walsh, was held in Enid, Okla., on Dec. 15, according to Brown-Cummings Funeral Home.

Reeb was murdered on Nov. 30 after a brutal attack in his home in Carrollton. His friend, Nathanael Gehrer was arrested for the murder. Gehrer was arrested on Dec. 4 and is being held in Denton County jail on \$1 million bond.



The pending charge is capital murder, which could result in the death penalty.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, at Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas, 1840 Hutton Dr #100, Carrollton.

As a memorial, MCC, where Reeb was a member, is still collecting money for a crime scene cleanup fund to help his housemate, Tony Adams.

The Rev. Colleen Darraugh, who described the attack as brutal at the time, said everything from carpet and furniture to clothing needs to be cleaned or replaced.

Reeb's family in Enid requested memorials be made in his name to the United Methodist Church

of Waukomis and the crime victims compensation program with Brown-Cummings serving as custodians of the fund. Condolences may be made to the family on the funeral home's website.

Death

Jack Barton McMahan, 72, was born Sept. 4, 1941, and died Dec. 17 of natural causes.

He was retired from Hargrave Detailing where he was a structural steel draftsman.

McMahan donated his remains to UT Southwestern Medical School.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at McIver Memorial Chapel at Wilshire Baptist Church, 4316 Abrams Road, Dallas. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity or the North Texas Food Bank in his honor.



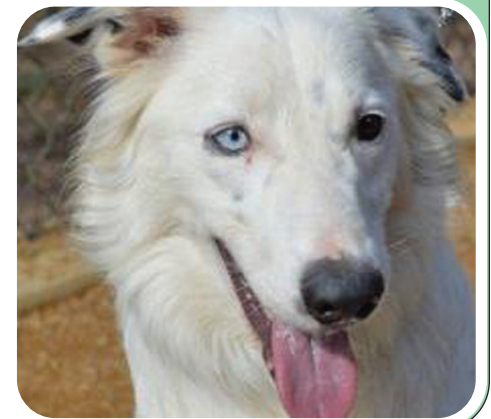
Correction

AIDS Services of Dallas resident Matthew Kowalewski did not lose a partner to AIDS. A photo caption on Page 11 of the Dec. 14 edition of Dallas Voice said otherwise. We regret the error.

pet of the week / AUSSIE

Aussie is a beautiful boy with a happy-go-lucky personality and loving temperament. He's a little energetic, so he will need to go to an active household with adults who enjoy running or plenty of park time or he would be great in a home with kids who can run and play with him. This is a great family pet. Please consider giving Aussie a home for the holidays!

Aussie and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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Monica's closure a mystery, but 'something special' will replace it, developer says

Greene returns to Aspen, says she doesn't know what led to eatery's demise; ilume's Luke Crosland says space shouldn't be difficult to lease

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Monica Greene said she doesn't know what led to the closure of her new Cedar Springs restaurant after only four months.

"I have no comment," she wrote to Dallas Voice in a Facebook message from Aspen, Colo. "Just note that I left before the restaurant closure, and I left on good terms with both landlord and my former partners."

She suggested getting the story from her former partners, the owners of Axiom Sushi. "They know what happened," she wrote. "I don't."

The owners of Sushi Axiom did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

When Greene announced on Facebook on Dec. 12 that she was no longer affiliated with the restaurant that bears her name, she assumed it was still open and operating.

"For the moment the restaurant still carries my name," she wrote. "I hope that changes soon. I believe that the owners of this restaurant still committed to serve great Mexican food. I wish them the best."

But by then, doors at Monica's Nueva Cocina and Mi Lounge were locked with curtains and blinds drawn and no sign in the window indicating whether the closing was temporary or permanent.

Luke Crosland, developer of ilume, said he was hesitant to comment on something he didn't have

details about.

"What went wrong is a partnership issue between Monica and her partners," he said. "I'm just as disappointed as everyone else that it didn't work out for her."

He said before she left, she terminated the lease. "I'm very fond of Monica," Crosland said. "I've known Monica for 35 years and think the world of her, and I'm sorry that her plan didn't work out with her partners but again there's nothing I can do about that."

Greene was owner of Monica's Aca y Alla on Main Street in Deep Ellum for more than 20 years. She also opened a few other restaurants during that time including Ciudad on Oak Lawn Avenue.

After closing Ciudad, Greene moved to Aspen, Colo., where she consulted for a local restaurant. In 2010, she returned to Dallas to open BEA near Bishop Arts District.

Last year, Monica planned to open a new restaurant called Tajin in a smaller space in ilume. But halfway through building, she joined forces with the owners of Sushi Axiom.

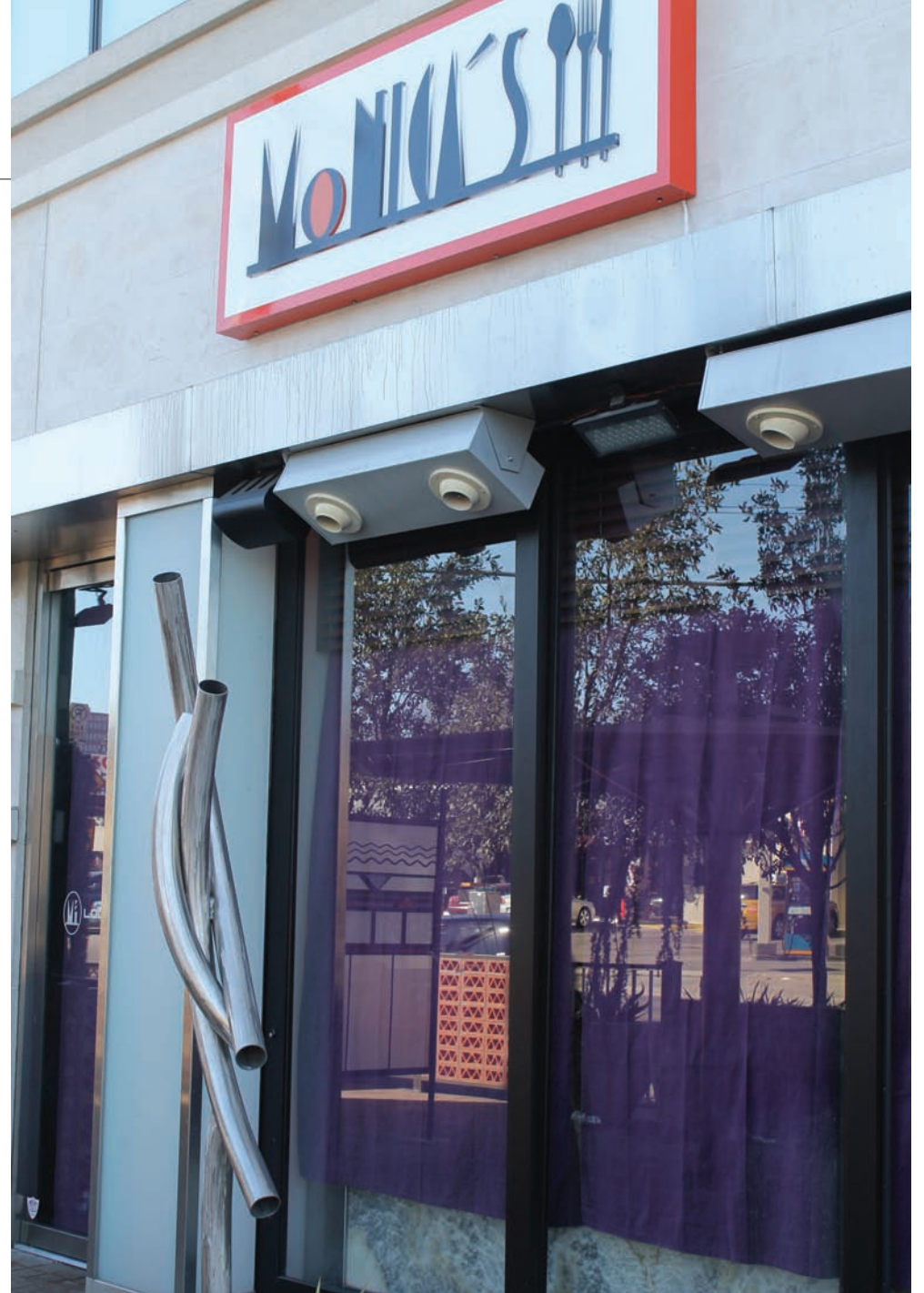
Sushi Axiom has other locations on North Henderson Street and in Addison, Fort Worth and Burleson.

They combined spaces and the new restaurant opened in August.

Greene is a transgender icon in the Dallas LGBT community who once ran for City Council, and the new Monica's restaurant was a highly anticipated addition to the Cedar Springs strip.

Crosland is optimistic that the space will be filled soon. He noted that Dish has been operating since ilume opened and has been doing well.

"We see it as a restaurant to serve our neighborhood, our community down there," he said. "It'll be something special when it comes back."



SHORT-LIVED | Monica's Nueva Cocina and Mi Lounge was open for only four months.

He said his company had already been contacted by several interested parties and they've begun preliminary discussions about the 7,000-square-foot space.

"It's got a fantastic layout in it and it's a great location with great parking," he said.

He said growth in the area will make the location even more attractive. That growth includes

ilume Park under construction a block away.

"We have 500 residents at ilume and we have another 500 that will be living across the street," he said. "And then there's another 650 apartments going up in walking distance."

"We just want to get the right operator in there, and we wish everyone involved in the previous operation the best of luck." ■

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BCBS, Humana expand DP benefits in TX

2 large insurance providers join Aetna in offering plans that cover same-sex partners to businesses with fewer than 50 employees

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Small businesses in the Lone Star State now have more options for offering health insurance to employees' domestic partners in Texas, after both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Humana were approved to provide them in 2013.

BCBSTX is the largest health insurance provider in Texas, and the change could allow thousands of gay and lesbian employees at small businesses across the state to insure their partners. Until this year, only Aetna offered a policy to small businesses to allow their employees to add same-sex partners to health insurance coverage in Texas.

Margaret Jarvis, a spokeswoman for BCBSTX, said the company regularly reviews the benefits it offers to ensure it is meeting customer needs. Until this year, BCBSTX offered DP benefits only to employers with 51 or more employees.

While one employer reported being told by an insurance company that DP benefits violate state law, Jarvis said there are no legal barriers to offering them.

"It's no more difficult than adding any new service or product," she said.

While Aetna offered a policy, without competition from other insurance companies the benefit was largely unaffordable.

"The rate for our group was not competitive, and completely unaffordable," said Dallas Voice Publisher Robert Moore.

Thanks to BCBSTX's decision to offer DP benefits to businesses with fewer than 51 employees, Dallas Voice will begin offering them in 2013.

"Our health insurance rates rose for 2013, but the rise was much smaller than I anticipated based on the last few years and I can in no way attribute the rise to the addition of domestic partner benefits," Moore said. "It's important to us as an employer to offer DP benefits."

Bob Witeck, president of Washington, D.C.-based Witeck Communications Inc., reached out to BCBSTX earlier this year after being contacted about the issue by Dallas Voice. The newspaper pointed out that some insurance companies that received a 100 percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index were not offering DP benefits to small businesses in Texas.

Witeck's public relations firm works with companies on LGBT social and marketing issues. Insurance coverage is one of its specialties. He had a similar experience locally in his company and has worked with companies, including American Air-

lines, on partnership issues across the country.

Witeck said offering the policies makes sense for insurance companies because they will add customers. And employers who offer that benefit will make more employees happy.

Originally, the fear among insurance companies was cost and possible backlash from conservative customers, Witeck said. Insurance companies had no actuarial figures and worried that they would mostly be covering people with AIDS, he said.

Witeck said the main stumbling block he's seen are state regulators. Every benefit offered must be approved by the state insurance commission. Without approval, Blue Cross Blue Shield couldn't offer partner benefits.

"Regulators have to bless policies," Witeck said. In Virginia, where Witeck lives, he said until the Supreme Court's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* overturned the sodomy law, regulators refused to allow insurance companies to offer DP benefits.

Several years ago, the issue arose at Equality Texas. Executive Director Chuck Smith said the organization had an employee who wanted to cover his partner. The organization's health insurer Humana did not offer the benefit.

"They took the position that they were legally prevented," Smith said.

He added that Equality Texas hasn't pursued the issue since then because it doesn't have any employees seeking DP benefits.

Ross McLerran, a Humana spokesman, said his company will also begin offering DP benefits to small businesses in Texas in 2013.

According to a Human Right Campaign study, the experience of most companies offering benefits to same-sex partners is a lower cost of insurance. The cost of AIDS medications for gay male couples is offset by the lack of the HIV virus among lesbian couples and the fact that gay and lesbian couples have much lower rates of pregnancy, which is an expensive healthcare cost.

The slow pace of insurers adding partner benefits for small companies may be due, in part, to the market not being very large. HRC statistics show that only about 1 percent of eligible employees take advantage of those benefits.

Because of the Defense of Marriage Act, partner benefits are taxed as income, while spousal benefits are not. So taking advantage of partner benefits can be costly.

In many gay and lesbian relationships, both people work at jobs where they're covered by insurance so partner benefits aren't accessed.

On its website HealthCare.gov, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has added policies with partnership benefits as a searchable option. Under Texas, only Aetna is currently listed. BCBSTX has not yet been added. The change was implemented as part of the Affordable Care Act to help LGBT people find coverage. ■

■ RESOLUTIONS, From Page 6

the council if they receive at least five signatures or if the mayor or city manager place them on the agenda.

Hill didn't return calls or emails seeking a comment on the resolutions. Other council members who did not respond were Sheffie Kadane, Monica Alonzo, Sandy Greyson, Carolyn Davis, Tennell Atkins and Linda Koop. Ann Margolin declined to comment until she had read the resolutions.

Griggs said the resolutions are still in the early drafting stages but there's been positive interest

since Dallas Voice first reported on them last week. He said he wants to meet with council members over the break to discuss the resolutions and gain their support.

Rawlings told Dallas Voice this week that he and Griggs will meet to discuss the matter in January and that he was still in "learning mode" about the resolutions. He said he told Griggs he would wait to give an opinion on them until after they'd met.

Rawlings said he is a proponent of marriage equality and nondiscrimination in employment, adding that he likes to focus more on substantive actions than symbolic ones. It's the same argu-

ment he made when he refused to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage earlier this year.

"I want to focus on substantive actions for the LGBT community," Rawlings said. "I do not have a lot of energy for things that might make you feel good but don't make substantive change."

Griggs announced his plans for the resolutions after Dallas received a score of 76 on the Human Rights Campaign new Municipal Equality Index, which rated 137 cities on their gay-friendliness. Fort Worth scored an 89. Rawlings and Jasso have vowed to raise the score by 10 percent next year.

Jasso, who created an LGBT Task Force in 2009, could face Griggs in next year's election after they

were both placed in the same North Oak Cliff district during redistricting. A lawsuit challenging the change is still pending.

Some say Griggs' resolutions are designed to compete for the LGBT votes against Jasso next year. On Monday, Jasso sent Dallas Voice a copy of a letter she wrote to North Texas' state legislative delegation, calling for them to address anti-LGBT employment discrimination and marriage equality in the upcoming session. But Jasso denied that the letter was in response to Griggs' resolutions.

Jasso said her focus has been on local issues since she created the Task Force. Task Force mem-

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Dr. Harati-Zadeh, DC, FASA

bers have reviewed nondiscrimination complaints filed under the city's ordinance that prohibits anti-gay discrimination, and are working on sensitivity training for police and firefighters.

Griggs said he's reached out to many LGBT groups including Equality Texas to help with the wording of the resolutions.

He came up with the idea for the resolutions while thinking about how to strengthen Dallas' nondiscrimination ordinance by backing it up with state law and looking to see what else could be done.

"It will affirm our support, and support, I think, will dovetail well with the efforts going on by larger state and national groups in Austin," Griggs said.

Jasso wouldn't discuss the lawsuit or whether she thought Griggs planned the resolutions to gain LGBT support, but said she would support them. She added that she's not sure they will pass if the mayor doesn't support them.

"It's hard to tell how far the resolutions will go if there was not a push from the mayor on the (marriage) petition," Jasso said. "I certainly would be open and amenable to anything having to do with advancing the issues of the LGBT community."

Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano said she thinks the resolutions have enough votes to pass, noting that typically 11 or 12 council members attend gay Pride. So even if one or two of those

aren't willing to support marriage, it could still pass.

Asked whether the mayor would support it, Medrano said, "I would hope he would."

"There's 15 of us, so I think we need to work really hard to get eight of us on board," she said.

Mentioning that the city's LGBT population is among the largest in the country, Medrano said the resolutions are a great idea.

"The GLBT community is a vital part of the fabric of our city," she said, noting the many LGBT board and commission members. "It's always good to bring it to the forefront. I think it's a great idea, and I will wholeheartedly support it. It's the 21st century."

Lesbian GetEQUAL Texas activist Cd Kirven said Rawlings' refusal to come out in support of the resolutions is a disappointment because he's supported LGBT issues privately but not publicly, reminding her of his refusal to sign the marriage pledge despite voicing support for marriage equality.

She said her promise to him remains that she will find someone to run against him who supports LGBT equality in 2015.

"I don't even see any progress or evolution on the mayor's part. I see him privately supporting us and not publicly supporting us and, to me, that's unacceptable," Kirven said. "So until I get both private and public support from the mayor, my goal will be to try to find a candidate to get

him replaced as mayor, somebody who can support LGBT families."

Patti Fink, president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said she asked City Council members to put their weight behind statewide employment nondiscrimination months ago. While she said she thinks the council could gain support for employment nondiscrimination, she said marriage equality could also pass, adding that she hopes Rawlings will support both.

"I think the council can take great leadership in joining other cities when the legislative session begins," Fink said. "I think the employment nondiscrimination in Texas is realistic and very doable."

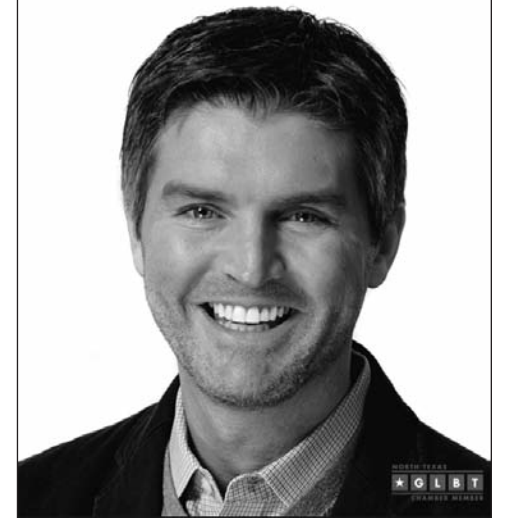
Cathryn Oakley, legislative counsel for state and municipal advocacy for the Human Rights Campaign, said the organization informally tracks pro-LGBT resolutions, including the more recent ones in support of marriage equality in Austin and Eureka Springs, Ark. She said they show state governments that "there is lot of momentum for doing these things and it's time for you guys to take action."

"It's wonderful and it's a great way for a city to show their commitment for LGBT equality and also to put pressure on the state government to do better," Oakley said.

"Public opinion has shifted, and it is absolutely timely to have the city to be making this kind of statement at the same time that the Supreme Court is thinking about it as well," she said. ■

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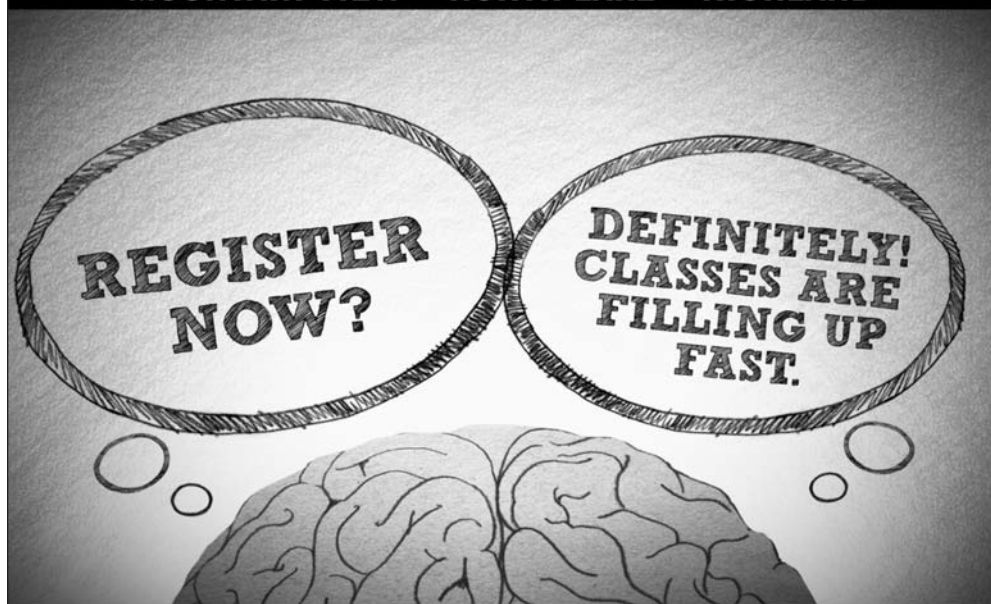
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■ nationalnews

There's still no ENDA in sight

Federal bill banning anti-LGBT job discrimination unlikely to pass new Congress, and Obama says he has no plans to issue executive order

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act has always been a top priority for the LGBT community politically. It's been around in one form or another for almost 40 years, passed the House once, and nearly passed the Senate once.

Now, as President Barack Obama — the most pro-gay president in history — readies to begin his second term, a Republican-dominated House still makes passage of ENDA extremely unlikely.

Many LGBT activists have pressured Obama to go around the Republican House and issue an executive order barring discrimination in employment at least by contractors who do business with the federal government. At a routine White House press conference Dec. 12, Washington Blade reporter Chris Johnson asked press secretary Jay Carney whether the president might consider



SEAT AT THE TABLE | Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, shown speaking in Dallas this year, is the first openly LGBT person elected to the Senate and likely will sit on the committee that would hear the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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doing that, now that he's secured his second term. But Carney said the White House has no such plans under consideration. Instead, he said, the White House plans to follow the same path on ENDA as it did on repealing "don't ask, don't tell" — and that path winds through Congress.

Michael Cole-Schwartz, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, said his organization will continue to press the White House to sign an executive order.

"ENDA is a critically important piece of legislation, and the political reality in Congress is that there is not an immediate, clear path to passage," Cole-Schwartz said. He said HRC also believes the potential paths — through Congress and through executive order — "don't have to be separate tracks."

In the 2011-12 congressional session, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions gave ENDA a hearing, and four of five witnesses favored it. The witness opposed to the legislation, National Religious Broadcasters Association spokesman Craig Parshall, claimed it would have a chilling effect on the right of religious organizations to exercise beliefs concerning homosexuality.

However, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — which prohibits employers from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex and na-

tional origin — already exempts "religious organizations" and "religious educational institutions" from the mandate concerning religion, enabling such organizations to give preference to employees who share their religion. It does not allow religious organizations to discriminate against employees based on race, sex, or the other covered categories and simply claim the discrimination is religiously based.

The ENDA bill introduced in this congressional session included an "Exemption for Religious Organizations" section, stating: "This Act shall not apply to a corporation, association, educational institution or institution of learning, or society that is exempt from the religious discrimination provisions of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964...."

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., introduced ENDA in the current session of the Senate. In the next congressional session, the Senate's first openly gay elected senator, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, will likely sit on that same Senate committee and be a part of ushering the bill forward.

In the Republican-controlled House, where the chief sponsor has been Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who is retiring, the new most veteran openly gay member of the U.S. House, Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), will take over the chief sponsorship of ENDA. ■

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House Republicans increase budget for DOMA defense to \$2 million

Nearly everyone knew the original contract to an outside legal team to argue the merits of the Defense of Marriage Act was low-balling the amount of money House Republicans would really spend.

The original contract drawn up by the Republican-dominated Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) in April 2011 called for paying \$500,000 to former Republican Solicitor General Paul Clement.

House Republican leaders tripled that amount within six months, and, according to a Roll Call newspaper report December 13, BLAG increased it again to \$2 million in September.

And that is very unlikely to be the last increase.

The American Foundation for Equal Rights paid almost that amount to another Republican former Solicitor General, Ted Olson, to press one

case against California's same-sex marriage ban. Clement and his team have been defending DOMA in five separate lawsuits in three different circuits — in Boston, New York, Connecticut and California.

Now, they have to argue the New York case before the U.S. Supreme Court — a service that generally commands a much larger fee than the \$520-per-hour fee the House is paying now.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi criticized House Speaker John Boehner for what she called a "frivolous" defense. But Boehner said the House has to pay an attorney to defend DOMA because the Obama administration has refused to do so.

The Obama administration has enforced DOMA, but has argued in court that it believes the law to be unconstitutional.

— Lisa Keen



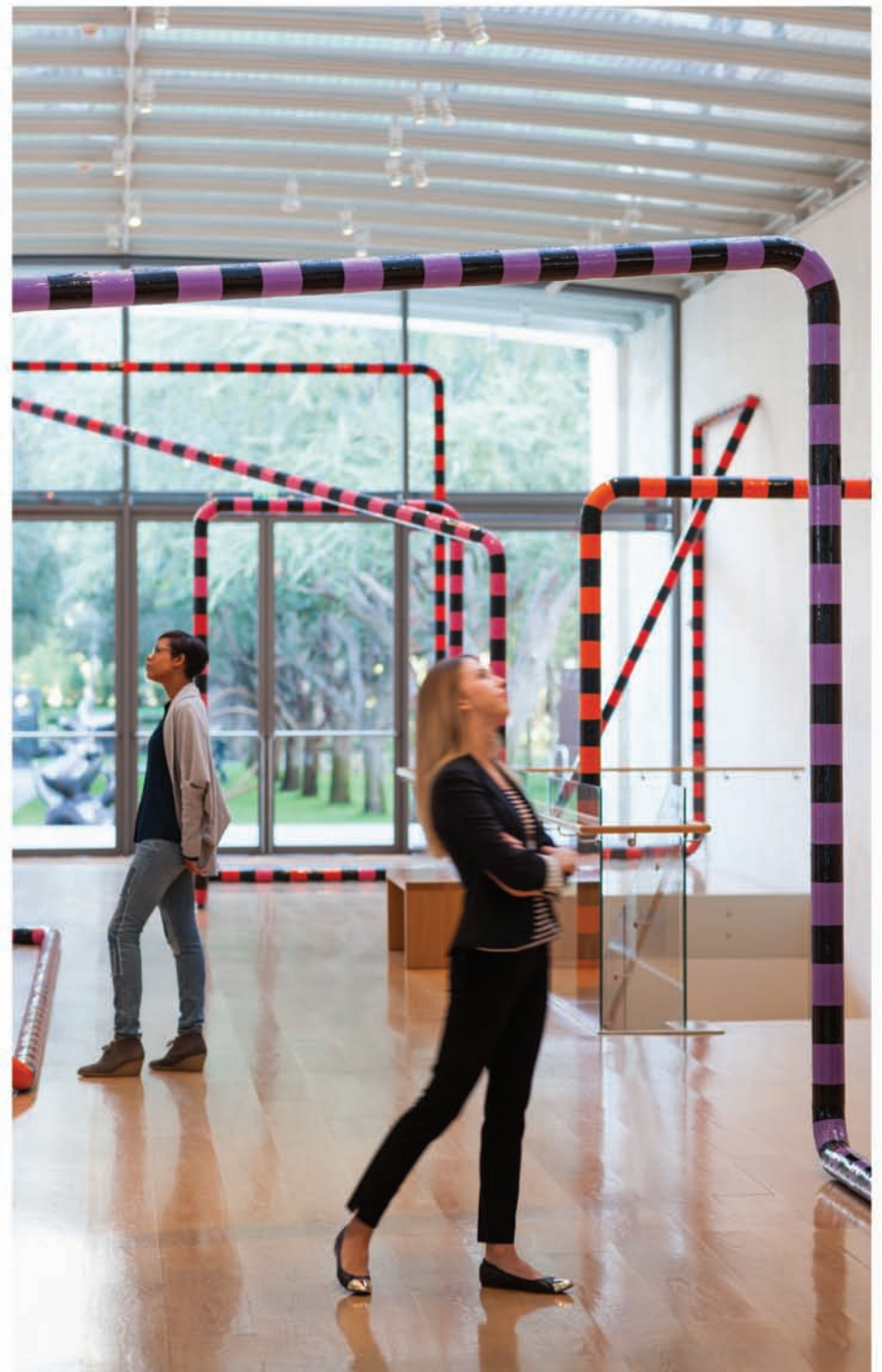
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Eva Rothschild, Irish, born 1971. *Why Don't You (Dallas)* (detail), 2012. Aluminum, fiberglass, epoxy, polyurethane paint, lacquer. Courtesy of the artist, Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, 303 Gallery, New York. Photo: Kevin Todora

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'We don't turn anyone away'

New congregation of Old Catholic Church in Oak Lawn provides home for gays, others who've felt rejected by traditional Roman Catholicism

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For Kyle Januszewski, Our Lady of Consolation Old Catholic Church fills a void.

"I grew up Catholic," he said. "One day, a visiting priest talked about the moral decay of society. He was gay-bashing."

He said church was a big part of his life growing up, but he hadn't been back since that day in 2003.

"It's great to go somewhere where our priest is gay, many members of the congregation are gay and we have shared experience," he said.

Januszewski now attends Our Lady of Consolation, a congregation of the North American Old Catholic Church that holds Sunday worship services at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of Hope.



FOUNDING FATHER | The Rev. Carl Francis McGowan, co-founder of Our Lady of Consolation Old Catholic Church in Dallas, stands with relics he began collecting on a pilgrimage to Israel several years ago during which he also discovered Catholicism. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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The Rev. Carl Francis McGowan was ordained in October and helped found Our Lady of Consolation, which is not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church or the Dallas Diocese.

"We want you to have the traditional Roman Catholic experience," McGowan said. "Every baptized Christian is welcome. We don't turn anyone away."

McGowan said Our Lady of Consolation OCC is attracting Roman Catholics who've been distanced from the traditional church for a number of reasons — including those who've been divorced, had an abortion, use birth control or are LGBT. The congregation's Sunday services typically attract 10-20 people.

Januszewski met McGowan at the Pride Festival in Lee Park in September. McGowan talked about the new church he was forming.

"It filled a big void for me," Januszewski said. "I went and have been going ever since."

Archbishop Michael Seneco, who's also openly gay, said the North American Old Catholic Church, based in Washington, D.C., has about 20 traditional parishes and about 100 ordained clergy.

"We expect to start small and stay small," he said. "Our largest congregation has 80 to 90 members, and we think that's perfect."

Old Catholic Church refers to groups that split from the Roman Catholic Church over the issue of papal authority beginning in 1724 in the Netherlands. After Vatican I in 1871, churches in Germany, Switzerland and Austria split over the issue of papal infallibility. By the early 1900s, the movement spread through Europe and came to North America.

While there are other Old Catholic Church groups in the U.S., Seneco said the North American Old Catholic Church was founded in 2007.

McGowan said Old Catholic priests have apostolic succession.

That means the bishops can trace their consecration to one or more of the Apostles and have the same connection to Jesus as Roman Catholic priests. Hands are laid on a priest by a bishop who was touched by a bishop whose connection goes

back to the time of Christ.

However, Old Catholic priests are allowed to be openly gay and may have a spouse or partner, and the churches perform same-sex weddings.

An only child not raised in a religious family, McGowan was a minister in a Protestant church for two years. For five years he attended Cathedral of Hope. But he continued looking for a better spiritual fit for himself. That journey included a trip to Israel to learn more about Christian history. He began a relic collection that now includes hundreds of items. And he discovered Catholicism.

"Catholicism seemed like home," he said.

While McGowan loves the beliefs and rituals of Catholicism, he criticized some of the Roman church's practices.

"The last thing we should do is send people away," he said.

He said any Catholic would be comfortable in his church. The Old Catholic Church has brought back a lot of people who thought they weren't good enough to be in a Roman Catholic Church, he said. For example, McGowan said that when Catholics divorce, they often flee to a Protestant denomination if they decide to maintain some form of worship. He believes they'd actually be more comfortable in his church, where services closely follow Catholic tradition.

He said the Old Catholic Church teaches unconditional hospitality.

"We would like to be a place where a mix — lots of people — recover some love for the church," he said. "Sometimes I feel like I'm doing a favor for the Roman church."

He said his congregation is made up of people who felt rejected by the Roman Catholic Church but retain strong bonds to it.

"For me, being Catholic, we're celebrating God as a community," he said. "I wanted more focus on God. A penitent turning away from ourselves and honoring God."

Our Lady of Consolation Old Catholic Church, Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Mass held Sundays at 10 a.m. OLOCTX.com. Christmas Eve mass at 9:30 p.m.

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Dennis Cordell and Michael Fuller were married in a civil ceremony at the Office of the City Clerk in New York City on Sept. 28, 2012. Friends from Dallas, Montreal and Maine joined them for the celebration. They plan to have a wedding at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas next fall. Dennis and Michael met in Dallas in 2003.

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viewpoints

The dirty deeds of David Dykes

East Texas pastor is caught on tape backing 'Kill The Gays' bill during trip to Uganda, then returns to U.S. and claims he doesn't know what it says

The Rev. David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, was in Uganda last week for a pastors conference where he managed to get himself on national television. "I'm extremely upset," he told NTV, "that our State Department is putting pressure on Uganda to recognize homosexual behavior. And I'm praying that Uganda will say, 'We don't want your money, America. It is blood money. It is sin money.' I hope that you will continue to stand strong on what the Bible defines as the definition of a real marriage."

Of course, the pressing issue in Uganda is not same-sex marriage. Since 2009, they've been debating whether to hang gay people or just send them to prison for life. Right now, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill calls for the former if you're HIV-positive, your partner is disabled, or you're a "repeat offender"—and who isn't, really? The so-called "Kill the Gays" bill would also imprison family members, doctors, landlords, lawyers, and anyone else who would assist or provide services to LGBT people, or who would "promote" homosexuality by not reporting them to police. Parliament Speaker Rebecca Kadaga announced last month that she would ensure the bill's passage as "a Christmas present for Uganda," but last week Parliament adjourned until February without acting on it.

President Obama called the bill "odious," and Secretary of State Clinton announced that nearly half a billion dollars in aid would be leveraged to protect LGBT people from this fate. I don't know if those threats got Parliament's attention, but they certainly put Dykes' panties in a twist. Because, to him, working to avert a human rights catastrophe is "recognizing homosexual behavior," and if Ugandans declined to kill or imprison gay people, they're accepting "blood money."

And that was unacceptable. "In America, Christians are going to put as much pressure as we can on our government not to cut the aid to Uganda over this issue," he told Ugandans. And if the U.S. does cut funding, he promised that American Christians would make up the difference. "We hope to stand alongside the believers of Uganda during this time of crisis."

Maybe Dykes thought that as long as he was 8,400 miles from home, nobody would find out what he said. But Uganda has the Internet and NTV has a YouTube channel. And now that we've heard what he said, he's trying to walk it back. On Tuesday, he told a Tyler TV station he



PREACHING HATE | The Rev. David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, is shown speaking in support of the Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill on the country's national NTV.

had no desire to kill gay people. "I've never read the bill. I don't know what the bill says. My whole point was that I think it's not right for our government to put pressure on any government about their moral decisions."

That's bullshit. If Uganda was making a moral decision about hanging or imprisoning Christians, you can bet that Dykes would be singing a very different tune.

And his claims of not knowing about the bill are astonishing. I've been following the bill very closely for three years now, which is why I have set up automated Google alerts to notify me about every news story about Uganda and homosexuality. I can assure you that whenever any news outlet, foreign or domestic, talks about homosexuality in Uganda, it always mentions the bill and describes what it does. And every statement, every discussion, every op-ed and news item about homosexuality in Uganda for the past three years uses the Anti-Homosexuality Bill as a reference point.

But Dykes claims not to know about it. Which is staggering, because he's not just some small-fry preacher from the East Texas sticks.

He's a big wheel, both at his 14,000-member megachurch and in missionary work generally. In 2008, the Southern Baptist Convention recognized him for raising nearly \$13 million for foreign missions, and his church sponsors a group that specifically trains Ugandan pastors—which is why he was in Uganda last week.

But he would have us believe that he never read a newspaper article, never saw a TV report and never heard about the debate that has been raging there for the past three years. He would also have us believe that the whole time he was at that pastors conference in Uganda, the No. 1 subject on homosexuality—the anti-gay bill—

somehow never came up. And he would have us believe that he just happened to be standing in front of a TV crew from Uganda's largest independent network when he blurted out, apropos of nothing, that Uganda should refuse U.S. aid money rather than "recognize homosexual behavior" by not killing gay people.

I don't believe any of that, and here's why. If he really believes that gay people shouldn't be hanged or imprisoned for life, and if he really doesn't want their families jailed for not reporting their loved ones to police, then he should say so—to Ugandans, over there, and not to a TV station in Tyler. Because I don't think many Ugandans get CBS 19 on basic cable. Right now, they believe that he supports the "Kill the Gays" bill because they saw him denouncing efforts to fight it on national TV. And if they pass it and begin rounding up LGBT people, they'll be taking him up on his offer of blood money. ■

Jim Burroway is a former Dallasite living in Tucson where he blogs at Box Turtle Bulletin. He can be reached at editor@boxturtlebulletin.com.



Jim Burroway
Contributing columnist

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- ENDA only: 17 percent
- Marriage only: 3 percent
- Unsure: 14 percent

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- spearheaded community efforts that resulted in Dallas County commissioners offering domestic partner benefits in the form of an insurance voucher;
- provided diversity training to clients ranging from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the University of North Texas to Teach For America-DFW and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

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They (still) call her Barbra

The quintessential diva returns with a new Christmas movie (it's funny!) and she owes it all to her gay son

JEWISH MOTHER | Barbra Streisand plays the meddling mom of nebbishy inventor Seth Rogen in the family comedy 'The Guilt Trip.'

Barbra Streisand is finally taking center stage again. The legend — promoting her first major film in 16 years — has her hair perfectly coiffed, dressed in all black with an off-the-shoulder look going on. Hello, gorgeous, indeed.

Not long into the interview, a makeup artist waiting in the wings pats any remnants of perspiration from her forehead. You don't let a legend sweat — La Streisand is the epitome of an American treasure, the woman who stole hearts in *A Star is Born*. To us, a gay icon.

After a short stint of recent sold-out shows, Streisand returns to starring-role status in *The Guilt Trip* alongside goofball pothead Seth Rogen. If it weren't for director Anne Fletcher, who would only do the film with Babs, there'd be no movie.

Streisand (with a few shouts-outs from Rogen and Fletcher) sat down to chat about the reason she finally returned to film and what she thinks of being a gay icon. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: What was it like meeting Seth for the first time? Barbra Streisand: Seth sussed me out. He called people. I didn't know who to call. I don't know any of those people from his movies, so what was I gonna do? I thought he was adorable.

You must know a lot of gay people are going to come out to see this movie ... We hope so.

... because Seth is such a huge gay icon. Seth Rogen: I'm a gay icon? Do gay people like Barbra, too? I didn't know that.

How do you feel, Barbra, about the label of "gay icon" — and do you think your [gay son Jason Gould] thinks of you as one? He doesn't see me as an icon. He sees me as his mother who touches his hair too much. No — I love being an icon to anybody. Equal rights, you know!

How much contact did you and Jason have when you were considering the role? He actually was very important in my decision to make the movie. He was recovering from back surgery, so he was in bed for a few days after, and I brought the script over and we read it out loud. It

was interesting, actually. His father was in the room, too. Isn't that funny? We were both coddling our son, so he became the audience and Jason was reading the parts with me and he said, "I think you should do it, Mom." I really trust his integrity and his opinion. He has great taste in whatever he chooses to do. And he clinched the deal.

Anne Fletcher: I [said that to you] for a whole year!

Streisand: Well, he's my son.

What about reading it with Jason sealed the deal? Mothers develop guilt trips. I feel guilty as a parent that I couldn't pick up my son every day from school and bake him cookies. I know that feeling. I know that feeling a lot. Having a famous parent is an odd thing. I thought it was interesting to investigate trying to be my son's friend versus a mother.

It was a true story — it's [screenwriter] Dan [Fogelman] and his mother. She was a fan of mine, and Dan wrote this lovely script. It just felt like it was meant to be, meant for me to come back to work in a starring role.

■ BARBRA, Page 22

QUEER CLIP: 'The Guilt Trip'

Andy (Seth Rogen) is a nebbish inventor of an eco-safe universal solvent that he can't sell because he has the salesmanship of Droopy Dogg. When he finds out his widowed mom Joyce (Barbra Streisand) named her son after her long-lost love, Andy decided to combine a cross-country sales trip into a mother-son bonding experience.

Yeah, it sounds stupid and cliched, and sometimes it is (there are no plot twists that will catch you unawares), but the magic of *The Guilt Trip* is that, in spite of that, it wins you over, and easily so.

You don't have to be Jewish to have a Jewish mother,

and Joyce embodies that quality in a manner that seems authentic but never cloying. Is she idiosyncratic and frustrating to her son? Sure. Is talking about sex with the woman who birthed you uncomfortable? It can be, especially when she forces you to listen to a book-on-tape (*Middlesex*) with an intergender leading character. But the gimmicks never become cartoonish, and Barbra, radiant as the noonday sun (they shaved about 20 years off her real age to make the character work, but you believe it), makes you jealous that Andy ended up with someone who doesn't destroy his life. This isn't *Throw Momma*

from the SUV — it's *Mary and Tonto*.

It's also a fine addition to the genre of heartwarming road trip movies, from *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* to *Rain Man* to *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*, and like all those, its heart sustains it as much as its humor. Rogen, who has a face like The Joker poking through a laundry basket of dirty socks, uses his patented awkward dork role to good effect, but it's the luminous Streisand who drives away with the show.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Three stars. PG-13. 95 mins. Now playing.



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Gurrl talk

Gossipy gay fave Kathy Griffin dishes on the return of her talk show, her plans were she president and why she's glad all of Hollywood is afraid of her

For a good chunk of Kathy Griffin's act, the spitfire comedian has touted herself as a washed-up celebrity who nobody really cares about.

Her career says otherwise.

Griffin's rips on the Hollywood elite — plus Snooki — have opened up a world of opportunities: her reality series *My Life on the D-List*, her Bravo talk show (which returns in January), a book deal, DVDs aplenty (including a new collection of seven concert videos), sold-out live shows and a relationship with Anderson Cooper that most gay men only dream of.

The woman who likes to take on everyone else takes on herself in a completely ridiculous interview. Griffin gives tips on making fun of *her*, presents her plan for running this country if she were president and admits that she sometimes forgets how funny she is.

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Who's your favorite person to make fun of at the moment? Kathy Griffin: I'm gonna go with Demi Lovato because she seems to have no sense of humor about herself and she has a rather checkered past, and that is a great combination. And she changes the color of her ponytail almost daily. Sometimes it's blue, sometimes pink. I like that stuff.

Who's in your ideal threesome? I'm like that straight girl that wants my gay friends to experiment with heterosexuality for the first time with me, so my threesome is gonna be two gay guys I know I could never have: Jonathan Knight from *New Kids* and Lance Bass.

No Anderson Cooper? Would that be weird? Not for me!

Which women are in your binder? My binder is chock full of women. It's overflowing: Gloria Steinem, Jane Fonda, Suze Orman, Marlo Thomas and lots of young, smart, aspiring chicks: Olivia Munn, Scarlett Johansson, Rosario Dawson, Kerry Washington — the girls that seem to have a few brain cells working. You know what's weird? Somehow I also found room for Oprah. She was in the final flap.

Go-to karaoke song? "No Scrubs" by TLC. It's always a crowd-pleaser. And "Waterfalls" can be so pensive.

Say you have a magical power, what would it be and how would you use it? That's easy: It would be to make people more open-minded, because of course, this being an election year, I feel like we're somehow turning back the clock. As far as LGBT rights are concerned, we're sort of going forward, but as far as women's rights and a lot of issues that are on the ticket, we're kind of living out a bad episode of *Mad Men*. So, it would just be the power to say to the United States of America, "Calm down, girl." And I would spell it *g-u-r-r-l*. Because I feel like when people get upset about whether gay people should be able to get married or women should make equal wages, they have these nonsensical and illogical reasons for why they are opposed to these things, so I would just like to collectively say, "Calm down, gurrl. We're all gonna be fine. It's OK to have a little progress."

We already know everyone in Hollywood is scared

of you ... Good.

How could someone be successful at making fun of you? Oh, God. It's so easy. I mean, obviously things have rolled off my tongue and fallen out of my mouth that are cringe-worthy, so things I've said. You could make fun of me for a myriad of things. I'm neurotic. You can always make fun of my mom — that's throwing her under the bus a bit, but I never get tired of it. You could make fun of my Catholic upbringing and how it went so horribly wrong. My love life is usually in shambles, too. It's open season on my life.

What's your favorite cuss word? *Fuck*, for sure. I love *fuck*. I love everything about it. I love that it can be a noun or a verb. I love that "getting fucked" can be a bad thing or a good thing. I love that "what the fuck?" is now a part of the lexicon, even on a news channel. I love everything about fucking, unless it leads to any physical discomfort or any chaffing.

Or a baby? No thanks. I'm not in favor of that.

How does your mother, Maggie, feel about your use of that word? My mother says — this is so ridiculous — she says "feck," and that's an Irish thing. It's an old Irish Catholic thing where they think if you say "feck" it's like a clean way of saying fuck. My mother also says "whoo-re" because she thinks she's fooling you, so if she's going to call one of the Kardashians a whore, which she might if she has enough wine in her, she will say, "Look at those whoores," and think she's fooling you. And maybe if you're from a suburb of Dublin you'll get that reference; my mom is not afraid to make a reference from the turn of the century — the last one.

If you were president, what would you promise the people of the United States? I would promise — well, actually, I don't know how I would promise it because, good luck with Congress — but I would fire them. I would fire Congress and hire all Lady Gaga backup dancers; if they can get through that show, they can run a country.

I would run the country in a way that makes sense. I feel like we're all waiting for that politician to say something that makes sense and they're all so scared to say something like, "Yes, we should all have equal civil rights. Yes, men and women are



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LIKE, WHATEVER | What does Anderson Cooper look like naked? Kathy knows, and she's talkin'.

equal. Yes, LGBT people are equal. We shouldn't practice *tolerance*; we should practice *actual kindness*." How about that, fuckers? That would be my campaign slogan: How about that, fuckers? It would be the Hey Gurr! campaign of 2016.

And I would resign and I would appoint Suze Orman president, which has never happened before. You've never actually had someone say, "Well, thank you for electing me, but the more I think about it there is someone a little better for the job and her name is Suze Orman."

Please describe, in detail, Anderson Cooper naked.

He's creamy and dreamy. He's as pale as I am, muscular and his eyes are just as blue naked as they are with clothes on.

What makes you cry? Honestly, I can cry at a fucking commercial. It takes almost nothing to make me cry. Like, if I see those frickin' ASPCA PSAs for dog shelters, I don't even need to hear the Sarah McLachlan song; even if I just see the images, I will start sobbing and I will then grab my own rescue dogs, who, by the way, have zero appreciation for the fact that they are fucking rich.

I'll cry at Olympic commercials, too. And I love a slow

clap. I don't even like sports, but I will cry if there's a sports movie and the guy with one leg gets a touchdown or a basket.

If you could turn back time like Cher, what experience would you want to relive all over again?

You know what's funny, I was actually thinking of turning back time and going back to the ship with Cher and putting her back in the outfit from the "Turn Back Time" video.

There's so many I would relive again. My great times with the divas: Bette Midler, Joan Rivers, Cher, Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and Gloria Vanderbilt [Anderson Cooper's mom]. I just love those gals, and I know you guys do too, and you get them and you love them and you support them. It's something that's the most important thing to me.

Author, TV host, singer, public pap smearing — what's left? Look, I am so excited about the Kathy talk show on Bravo. We're coming back Jan. 10. I

hope we stay on; I think we'll stay on. I am so looking forward to the guests. Last year I did a show with Jimmy Kimmel and two gays; I did a show with Jane Fonda, Lisa Ling and Sharon Osbourne. I love the

■ **KATHY**, Next Page

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BARBRA, From Page 18

It was time to challenge myself again.

Of course, I made it very difficult for them to hire me, because I kept wanting an out: "I really don't wanna schlep to Paramount. It's two hours each way, so would you, like, rent a warehouse and build the sets in the Valley no more than 45 minutes from my house?" They said yes.

What do you want audiences to take away from the film? I want them to be moved and I want them to see themselves in the movie. I want them to get closer to their children. A lot of things. It's a transformative kind of movie. They start at one point and are both kind of tragically alone, not finding a mate, and then at the end there are many more possibilities. Horizons open. He took me out of my shell. It's about love. I always say it's a different kind of love story.

Anne, what did your gay friends think when you told them you were working with Barbra? Fletcher: Everyone in my life is gay, but I have one best friend who has been obsessed with her since he was a child. His entire childhood was saved because of Barbra — with her music and her movies. His mom had just died four or five years ago, so for him to meet her on the movie — and her and I having such a relationship — was just full circle.

Who is another gay icon you want to work with, Anne? Fletcher: I don't really like the "gay icons," by the way. I don't really respond to them very well. I think Barbra is so grounded in many different things, but there's some of them — I'm really insulting gay sensibility. But Liza Minnelli. I do love Liza.

What was harder for you to act: the drama or the comedy? Streisand: Eating steak! That was the hardest thing, I think. But no, they're both the same. I



Rogen, Streisand and director Anne Fletcher on the set of 'The Guilt Trip.'

don't think there's a distinction between how you play drama or comedy, if it's based in truth.

You must see a lot of scripts ... I don't. You see, everybody thinks like you. Meanwhile, I go, "Where are the scripts?" It's not the same as when I last made a film. They're not interested in love stories. It's a different time. I don't like it as much.

You sing, act, produce, write and direct. What can't you do well? I can't cook at all. I mean, I would not know how to make coffee. I took cooking classes. I know how to make chocolate soufflé. Just ask me if I want to make it. I'd rather have somebody else make the chocolate soufflé and I eat it. When I tried to cook, put it this way: It was never appetizing to eat. And the hands! So filthy with the stuff. And then cleaning up — no, I don't like that part.

Barbra, what's your beauty secret? God, what is my secret?

Rogen: Sitting next to me helps.

KATHY, From Previous Page

combinations of people and mixing them with the topics that we're talking about around the water cooler — that is really what I'm looking forward to most. I'm still kind of working on the *Kathy* show, seeing what works about it and what you respond to, so that's still a work in progress that I'm really excited about.

Who do you most want on your talk show when it returns for a second season? You know, it's not about most; it's more about who's going to have fun doing it. We're talking to everybody on the planet and all these unusual combos of people and seeing who's going to be in Los Angeles. I joke that I am bored with anybody under 80, because my dream talk show would be my mom, Gloria Vanderbilt and Jackie Collins. I guess there are some people under 75 who are interesting; I'm just looking for them. Of course I'd love to have Cher on the show. I'd love to have Anderson again; he's so much fun. I've also been talking to [Kristin] Chenoweth and Megan Mullally and her husband Nick Offerman. All these people are just great. The type of person who's just game for anything is my dream guest.

Who should play you in your biopic? The vain part of me wants Christina Hendricks, but it could end up being Andy Dick.

Song you love most on Taylor Swift's new album? Well, obviously the break-up song ("We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together") because there's something so hilarious to me that she's writing a really silly, fun, insipid song about Jake Gyllenhaal while he was promoting his shaved-head, gritty, South-Central L.A. crime movie. There's something funny about a split screen of a clip from that movie and then a



Griffin's talk show returns to Bravo Jan. 10.

split screen of Taylor singing, *Never, ever, ever, like I am never going out with you, like never. Don't even call Jake Gyllenhaal. I'm serious this time. It's me, Taylor.* Look, if she didn't get crabs from John Mayer, then she's gonna live a long, safe life.

Finish this: When I see myself on TV, I ... I watch myself saying a joke that I forgot I said. There's so much material that sometimes when I watch the special later I'll say something and I'll think, "Oh, I forgot I said this. That's kind of a funny joke." So there: When I watch myself on TV, I think, "She's funny!"



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Our Christmastime movie roundup: 'Cirque,' 'Les Miz,' 'Django,' 'This is 40'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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Django Unchained. After remaking various genre pictures throughout his career — blaxploitation, pulp, Hitchcock, grindhouse, war movies, kung fu actioners — it was only a matter of time until Quentin Tarantino eventually turned his sights on the spaghetti Western. And since he chose with *Inglourious Basterds* to rewrite the history of World War II, can we be surprised that *Django Unchained* turns the revenge Western into slavery-empowerment potboiler?

Not surprised, and not disappointed, either. *Django* may be QT's best movie — certainly his best since *Pulp Fiction*. Well paced and beautifully shot, it sets out as a get-the-bad-guys quest pic: In 1848, German dentist-cum-bounty hunter King Schultz (Christoph Waltz, who waltzes away with the picture) purchases slave Django (Jamie Foxx — apparently Jim Brown was unavailable) to help him identify three men with high bounties; if Django will tag along and do it, King will grant him his freedom.

But the quest is unexpectedly and quickly fulfilled, and rather than part ways, the duo become a team — think of them as *The Magnificent Two* — cashing in bounties while simultaneously looking for Django's wife, who was sold to an-

other slave owner in Mississippi (Leonardo DiCaprio).

As a plea for racial tolerance, *Django Unchained* makes more pervasive use of the "N" word than any place shy of a Kanye West video, but the themes of humanity translate even while the film evolves into a bloodletting. Tarantino even inserts a gay subtext, with DiCaprio seeming unusually obsessed with the strapping and charismatic Django (Foxx has never looked sexier), adding a homoerotic undertone to the later scenes.

QT keeps his characteristic send-ups of old genres (a '60s-era Columbia Pictures logo, a score that's wannabe Ennio Morricone when it's not contemporary rock songs, jump-focus camerawork, even casting Don Johnson as a Col. Sanders look-alike), but rather than distract they add moments of levity to the flamboyant a bloodbath that is more like a swimming pool before the final credits. This is what *Shane* might look like if Tarantino were born a few generations earlier, and it has the capacity to become that kind of classic.

Four and a half stars. Rated R. 175 mins. Opens Dec. 25 in wide release.

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D. There are surely some cynics who will dismiss this film as a 90-minute commercial for the MGM Resorts in Las Vegas, which host the half-dozen

MOVIES, Next Page



An aerialist (Igor Zapiro) and a girl (Erica Linz) create heat in 'Worlds Away' in 3D.

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MOVIES, From Previous Page

Cirque du Soleil shows performed herein. That would diminish, though, the impressive character of this charming and family-friendly film ... one that also has definite gay appeal. On Christmas Day, if you want to see well-toned male bodies doing magnificent athletic tasks without watching football, *Worlds Away* is the answer.

Not simply a concert movie that films Cirque acts, it's more of a filmic transcription of the theatrical experience: An adventure *a la Labyrinth* where a girl, obsessed with an aerialist (the breathtaking Igor Zariyov), follows him down a rabbit hole to an alternative universe. There she meets the carnival acts culled from several shows in Vegas, most notably *O* and *The Beatles: Love*, but also *Ka*, *Mystere*, *Viva Elvis* and *Zumanity*.

The editing, photography, costumes and music are all top-notch, and 3D has rarely been so well employed, accentuating the musculature of the athlete-artists while the use of slo-mo

makes mere water droplets feel dramatic. Hypnotically theatrical, it toggles between Hong Kong action film, androgynous sex show and demonstration of remarkable skill (a crazy fire dance, Elvis superheroes on trampolines, a cube juggler with a great body — let's face it), it is balletic and dreamy. If you haven't seen a Cirque show, this is the introduction you've been waiting for; if you have, it's a journey of a different kind.

Three stars. Rated PG. 85 mins. Now playing in wide release.

Les Miserables. The trend nowadays is not to make movies of the big hit new Broadway musical quickly, but to wait decades, once the show has become an institution with a built-in audience desperate to see it. In the '60s and '70s, *Oliver!*, *The Sound of Music*, *Cabaret* and *West Side Story* all took less than six years to go from stage to screen. Compare that to filmed versions of *Sweeney Todd* (30 years), *Nine* (28), *Chicago* (26), *Dreamgirls* (25), *Evita* (17) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (16); even *Mamma Mia*, comparatively rushed at seven years, was based on music from 30 years earlier. And we're still waiting on *Cats*, *Wicked* and *Jersey Boys*.

At 25 years, the wait for *Les Miz* is about average. The plus: It has a built-in audience who know every note by heart! That's also the bad news. *Les Miz* is now so iconic, so familiar, that to change it in any significant ways would risk pissing off its legions of fans. When a piece of

Jamie Foxx and Christoph Waltz go on the hunt in 'Django Unchained.'



theater is so sacrosanct, it becomes hard for it to breathe.

And *Les Miz* needs breathing room, desperately. Although it has been opened up, with sweeping landscapes and gorgeous sets (it's definitely a pretty film), it's constrained by its operatic sing-through conception. In musicals, songs are needed to set up location, to give exposition,

to tell the interior life of characters; movies have visuals for that, and often there's a redundancy. Devotees may be satisfied, perhaps even thrilled, but everyone else is looking for a movie.

Nonetheless, director Tom Hooper's decision to have all the actors sing live (not to recorded tracks), serves him well with the likes of Hugh Jackman as Valjean and Anne Hathaway as Fan-

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Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway in 'Les Miz.'

tine: Both can sing, but more, they can act.

Less impressive is Russell Crowe, who has the look of evil Javert but not the chops. His voice isn't strong, and it's not a true baritone (tenoring as the villain?! Puccini would roll over) and sings through his nose as if he's fighting off a cold (he loses the fight). As Cosette, Amanda Seyfried's voice is marked by a bird-like coo, brittle as an octogenarian's bones; the trills grow annoying. And "One Day More," on-stage a thrilling quintet that ends Act 1, turns into an editing nightmare. How do you juggle all the components successfully? The answer is: You don't. *Les Miz* has scope and power through its music, but as a movie? It preaches to the choir of fans ... and leaves little room for new converts.

Two and a half stars. Rated PG-13. 165 mins. Opens Dec. 25 in wide release.

This Is 40. Everything I dislike about a Judd Apatow movie is encapsulated in the closing credits of *This Is 40*: "An Apatow Production / A Judd Apatow Film / Written and Directed by Judd Apatow / Based on Characters Created by Judd Apatow / Produced by Judd Apatow / Starring Leslie Mann [Mrs. Judd Apatow], Iris Apatow and Maude Apatow."

Vanity, thy name is Apatow.

Add to that a scene of outtakes, where Melissa McCarthy improvises insults against a middle school principal, and you have the clubby, indulgent nature of Judd's aesthetic, where funny people say increasingly outrageous gross-outs until the audience buckles over.

It doesn't help the enjoyment of this movie that I saw *Annie Hall* again just a week before. Woody Allen has usually been able to channel improvisational riffs from his own life into masterful looks into the human condition; Apatow just makes us endure his buddies getting high and working out their issues onscreen.

There are some funny jokes, sure, especially when Paul Rudd and Albert Brooks share a scene, but you have to endure the whining of Leslie Mann's in-denial wife and the overlong, foul-mouthed meandering that is Apatow's stock-in-trade. Parenthood — couplehood (at least in heteroworld) — never looked less appetizing.

One star. Rated R. 130 mins. Now playing in wide release.

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Friday 12.21

Turtle Creek Chorale camps up Christmas

Earlier this month, the Turtle Creek Chorale touched audiences with their *Comfort & Joy* concert of sentimental holidays faves ... but that was so first half of December 2012 — we're well beyond that now, what with the Mayans being wrong and all. *Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas* is the campy sequel to *C&J*, presented in the style of vintage TV specials ... why, they'll even have Liza hosting (in the personage of B.J. Cleveland). You have three more chances to get into the spirit before Christmas Eve!

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 21–22 at 8 p.m., Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. \$39–\$54. TurtleCreek.org.

Monday 12.24

COH holds slate of Christmas Eve services

You think the holidays are busy as a shopper or traveler? That's nothing compared to being a preacher. The staff of the Cathedral of Hope — the Rev. Jo Hudson, the Rev. Alex De La Torre and Minister Todd Scroggins — will be busy during the five services offered at the COH on Christmas Eve, from a noon "Shoppers" service to a mass in Spanish and three evening chances to worship.

DEETS: Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. "Shoppers' services" at noon (Interfaith Peace Chapel), Congregacion Mass En Espanol at 7 p.m. (in Interfaith Peace Chapel), traditional services ("Expecting the Unexpected") at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; "Silent Night Christmas: What Child Is This" at 11 p.m.

Thursday 12.27

'Forbidden Broadway' gets naughty for Santa

Some things are forbidden ... and some just ought to be. *Forbidden Broadway* has been around for decades, spoofing the recent season of theater on the Great White Way. This touring production arrives right at the end of the year, leaving plenty of room to poke fun at all the outrageous and delightful theater experiences of 2012.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Dec. 27–30. \$40–\$45. 214-880-0202. ATPAC.org.



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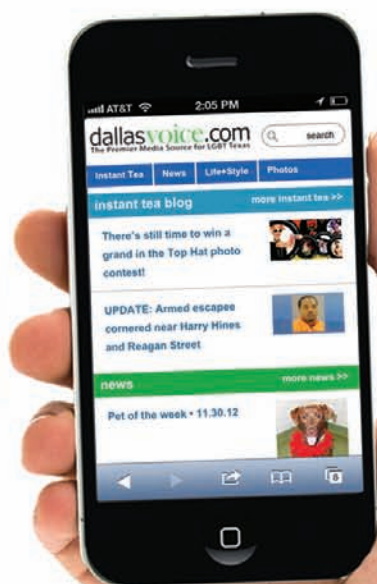


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calendar

FRIDAY 12.21

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's traditional holiday show begins its final season at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in Uptown. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 23. \$15-\$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque-Q Nutcracker! A small town inadvertently hires strippers to dance *The Nutcracker*. Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 29. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Ebony Scrooge, an all-black version of the Dickens classic. DeSoto Corner Theater, 211 Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. Dec. 14-28. \$10. ShowTix4u.com.

Cirque Dreams: Holidayze. A Christmas-themed show of French-style circus acts. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 18-23. ATPAC.org.

Mother Goose. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, a children's show with tons of saucy adult content, including cross-dressing. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Avenue, Plano. Through Dec. 30. \$10-\$20. 972-490-4202. Theatre-Britain.com.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Ben Stevenson's new version of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic. Presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Final weekend. TexasBalletTheater.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Naughty and Nice. The second of the chorale's two holiday concerts this season, with a bit of camp. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 21-23. \$39-\$54. TurtleCreek.org.

FINE ART

Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album. An exhibit of 71 photos of the Frank family, taken by Otto Frank. Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through March 31. Open daily. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

WORSHIP

Winter SolstiCelebration: Transformation. After 20 years, the annual celebration of the spirit of the earth holds its finale, on the last recorded day of the Mayan calendar. Services include music, ritual, dance, poetry, storytelling and fellowship. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6 p.m.; services from 7-9 p.m.; fellowship 9-10 p.m. \$17-\$20. 214-261-5599. EarthRhythms.org.

SATURDAY 12.22

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 12.23

WORSHIP

The ONE Church, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

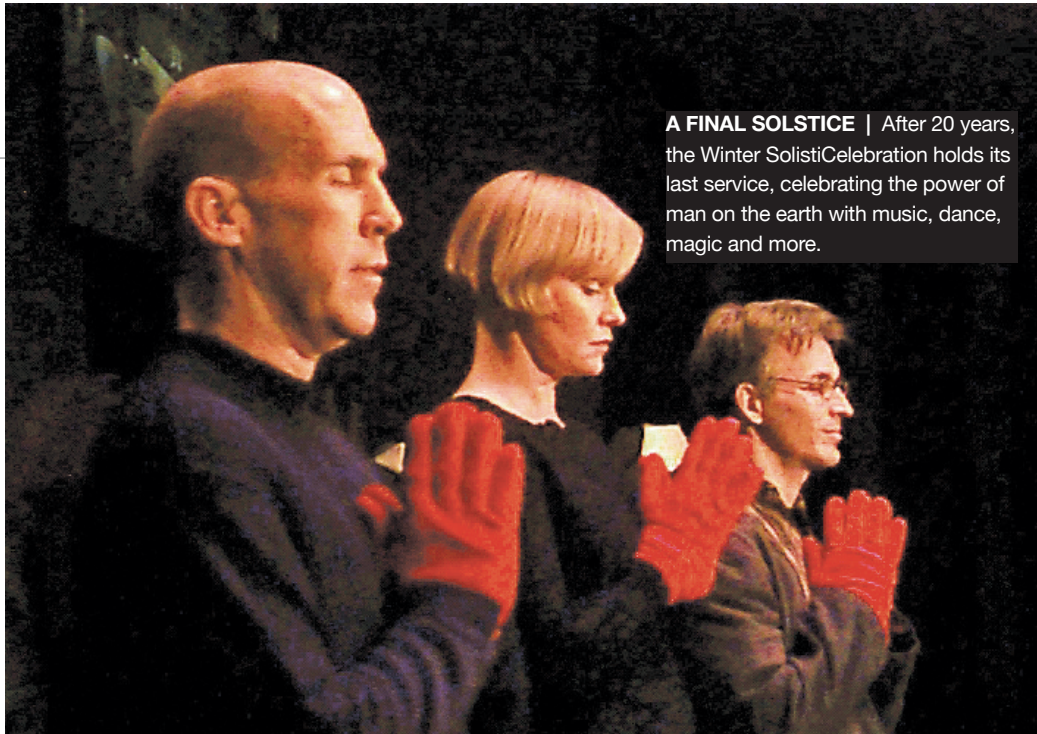
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A FINAL SOLSTICE | After 20 years, the Winter SolistiCelebration holds its last service, celebrating the power of man on the earth with music, dance, magic and more.

COMMUNITY

Youth First Texas Collin County. Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection – Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road, Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

MONDAY 12.24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The Cathedral of Hope will celebrate with several ceremonies on Monday, including a “shoppers’ Christmas Eve” service in the Interfaith Peace Chapel, a mass in Spanish, traditional services and a “Silent Night Christmas,” starting at noon. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralofHope.com.

TUESDAY 12.25

SCREEN

Les Miserables, Django Unchained and other films open in wide release.

WEDNESDAY 12.26

COMMUNITY

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

THURSDAY 12.27

THEATER

Lone Star Circus: Cirque Banquiste. An all-new holiday production featuring canine acts, hand balancing, juggling, acrobatics and more. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Dec. 27–Jan. 1. \$20–\$46. LoneStarCircus.org.

COMMUNITY

Standing on the Promises is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Andy Dick turns 47 on Friday. The actor (*News Radio*) and comedian has become as famous for his unusual behavior as for his work. In 2006, he gave an interview in which he identified himself as bisexual.



CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

You see so far ahead, others can barely keep up. Right now, you are doing your best to move mountains and looking forward to getting it done without too much of a hassle. Others whose issues keep cropping up will be back to haunt you.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

The sense of being ready to snap — and the idea that you have to use every trick in the book to stay on track — is showing up in one form or another. Circumstances are always the kicker and you have too many things at stake.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

Sometimes you have to do things just to be nice. You could be spending too much time making things OK for other people. I am sure you've heard it before — no one needs to tell you that you can't keep doing this.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

Whatever's going on, it's right in your face. So much of what you never expected is forcing you to come to terms with yourself. This may feel good, bad or confusing. The need to be flexible, and open enough to step out of your pictures and deal with the reality of your situation, can't be over emphasized.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

This sense of fullness and confidence has a lot to do with the feeling that you've finally found your niche. If that sounds over the top, tone it down enough to suit yourself. The sense that nothing can shake, or rock you is as strong as it's ever been.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

The next month will see you doing more than your share of people, places and things; I see tons of people showing up at your door, and a lot of fun and games. This could turn out to be one of the most productive times of your life.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

You find it hard to believe that you might have to change your "master plan." Good luck with this one! The best way to approach this will require you to open your mind and give life enough time to show you what does or doesn't work.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

You don't have to worry much about anything except getting stuck. No matter where you think you're are, it's always good to check and see if you're really *in* your life, or if you're living in a cardboard cut-out that screens off the heart of the matter.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

The last thing you need to do is worry about how this is all going to work out. For God's sake, give it a rest. If you've had enough faith to let this come true in its own good time, all I can say is keep up the good work.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

The last few years have tested you on many levels. At this point you're home free. If the after taste of too much stress has you waiting for the next piece of trouble to knock, it's time to stop being defensive about what is no longer the case.

SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

How far will people go to keep you from telling the truth? This could be more about coming to terms with it, but either way, it looks like there's a lot of pressure to keep things to yourself. In the long run, it helps to keep in mind that none of this matters.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

The way things are going, you are holding your breath and crossing your fingers. I see a big tendency on your part to get too wound up about the wrong things. How this works out isn't up to you.

JANE'S WORLD



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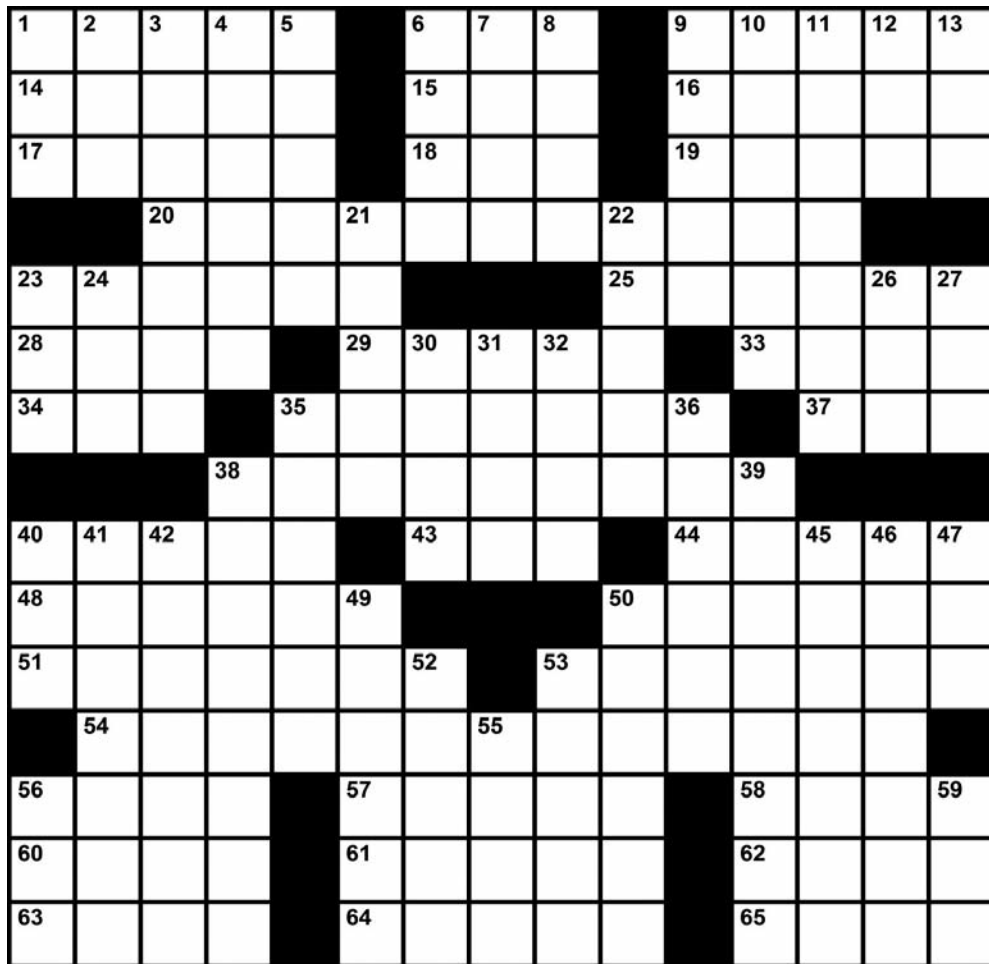
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Giant Star

Solution on page 29

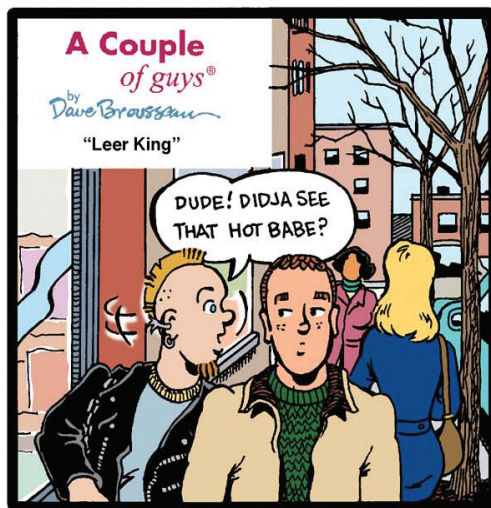
Across

- 1 With 54-Across, movie of 38-Across
- 6 With 9-Across, co-star in this puzzle's movie
- 9 See 6-Across
- 14 "Scary Movie" Cheri
- 15 "Double Fantasy" artist
- 16 Fred's first partner
- 17 Empathetic phrase
- 18 "___ De-Lovely"
- 19 Triangle sign
- 20 Co-star in this puzzle's movie
- 23 Pal around
- 25 Mary Cassatt, for one
- 28 Zoo barrier
- 29 Hotel quote
- 33 Burn the surface of
- 34 Sticker datum, for short
- 35 Sonny and Cher, to Chaz
- 37 "Crying" singer Orbison
- 38 Gay icon of the '50s
- 40 Samantha of "The Collector"
- 43 It comes after kick or kiss
- 44 Dances in a grass skirt
- 48 Bones that are the farthest up
- 50 Muslim palace areas
- 51 Giant killed by David

- 53 Tennis great Navratilova
- 54 See 1-Across
- 56 Like autoeroticism
- 57 Loaded
- 58 Trojan Horse, e.g.
- 60 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 61 Metaphysical poet John
- 62 Buffalo's lake
- 63 Lines from Lesbos
- 64 Golf great Sam
- 65 Stud poker demand

Down

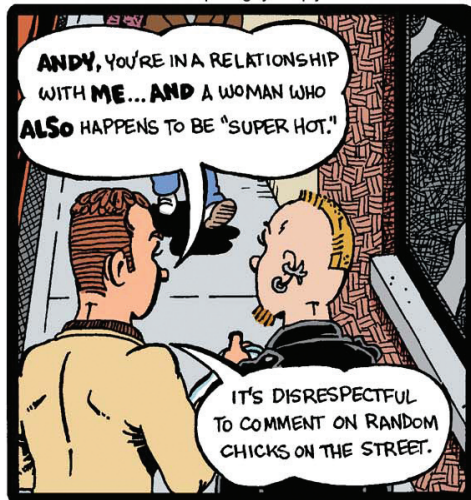
- 1 Colette's king
- 2 Truncation abbreviation
- 3 Chair style named for Baseballer Billy?
- 4 Like a *Man of la Mancha* knight
- 5 Try to deceive
- 6 Erosion loss
- 7 Start to climax
- 8 Blow, as a game
- 9 George Moscone, for one
- 10 Real jerk-offs
- 11 More like Albert in *The Birdcage*
- 12 Cockney's place of torment?
- 13 Brit. word ref
- 21 Genesis patriarch
- 22 Piss away
- 23 "Let's see ..."
- 24 Comic caveman Alley ___
- 26 Saint, in Rio
- 27 Take a shot at
- 30 Perimeter contents
- 31 Gay wedding guide author Ayers
- 32 Targets of men who make passes
- 35 Persona non grata
- 36 1943 Bogart film
- 38 Cleaning agents
- 39 Like gay teens with supportive moms and dads
- 40 Heart exam
- 41 What Dorian Gray didn't do
- 42 Ancient Roman province
- 45 Suit type
- 46 Result of a lick on the head, perhaps
- 47 FICA funds it
- 49 Likely to butt heads
- 50 Did a circumcision roughly?
- 52 Iroquoian language
- 53 Unexpected help
- 55 Dancer Tommy
- 56 Cone starter
- 59 Sushi selection



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JouJou, Jevon, Brad and Matt at Station 4.



Sara and Jennifer at Sue Ellen's.



Kim and Tess at Best Friends Club.



Hawkins and David on the Strip.

Tonight's the end of the Mayan calendar and **S4** marks the day with **The End of the World**. They're pretty sure that date was arbitrary but either way, wouldn't you rather be dancing? ... **Kristen Majors** and the **Funk Soul Muthas** perform at **Alexandre's** on Dec. 22. **Anton Shaw** sings on Dec. 26 and **Denise Lee** performs with **Gary Floyd** on Dec. 27. ... **Chris Miller Band** performs at **Sue Ellen's** on Dec. 21. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** is the entertainment on Dec. 22. The weekend wraps up with **Krimson Door** on Dec. 23. ... **Zippers, BJ's** and **Midtowne Spa** hold a **Glow Party** on **Fitzhugh Avenue** on Dec. 21 beginning at 4 p.m. Then **Chanel** hosts **BJ's Sunday Strip Contest** on Dec. 23 at 11 p.m. with a \$75 first prize. ... **Christmas Hip Hop Party** at the **Brick** has free admission until 10 p.m. on Dec. 21. **Ruby Scott & Ida Mae Variety Show** begins at 11 p.m. with **DJ Unique** and **DJ C Wade Mc Big Meech** in the mix until 4 a.m. with a mini ballroom madness spotlight show at 2 a.m. ... **Beau Chandler** pays his debt to society with a public flogging benefiting **Youth First Texas** at **Dallas Eagle** on Dec. 27. The court ordered community service after he was charged with trespassing when he applied for his marriage license. Tickets are for a raffle for a **Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1** and two whacks with an assortment of floggers. Now that's what we call community service! ... Have a Merry Christmas. ■

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Gary and Stallia at Pekers.



Miguel and Quinn at the Dallas Eagle.

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