

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for Dallas | Dallas | Issue 28 | FREE | Friday, November 21, 2014

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Leather Knights,
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
join forces for Angel Tree effort
Tammye Nash | Page 8

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Lipps LaRue, Leather Knight Adam Lynn and Sister Lawna Jocqui get read to soar with the Angel Tree Gift Project. Photo by Tammye Nash. Cover design by Kevin Thomas.



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Ex-gay leader marries his husband in Oklahoma

John Smid, a leader of the ex-gay group Love in Action, married his partner Larry McQueen on Nov. 16 in a ceremony held in Oklahoma.

Several years ago, we ran a story about a Dallas couple tortured with so-called "reparative therapy" by Love in Action. After the story ran, the ex-gays involved in their ordeal who had all become ex-ex-gays by then, contacted the couple to apologize for their involvement.

That couple now lives in Paris, Texas, where marriage — thanks to the hard work of people like Smid — is still not legal. Nice that Smid lives close enough to marriage equality state Oklahoma that he can take advantage of the liberal marriage laws there. We wish Smid — who has done so much harm to so many gay people — and his husband happiness.

— David Taffet



Gay basher sentenced to 15-plus years

A 20-year-old Springtown man was sentenced Monday, Nov. 17 to more than 15 years in prison in connection with an assault on a gay man he met on an online dating network in 2013. The victim, identified in court papers as A.K., is also from Springtown, a small town straddling the line between Wise and Parker counties, just northwest of Fort Worth.

Brice Johnson invited the victim over as a joke after connecting with him on MeetMe.com.

Johnson said that after A.K. arrived at his home, they stayed outside talking for awhile before A.K. grabbed Johnson's penis. Johnson then said he wasn't gay and hit the victim several times. A.K. later told police he did not grab Johnson's penis.

Johnson then beat the victim severely, tied him up with an electrical cord and threw him in the trunk of his own car before driving the car to a friend's home. At the friend's house, A.K. began yelling for help, and the friend told Johnson to take the injured man to the hospital. Johnson then drove the injured man to an emergency medical center in Springtown.

— Tammye Nash

Black Tie Dinner recap: Hansen kills it

Saturday's Black Tie Dinner was noteworthy in part because, for the first time in a long time,

there was no keynote speaker announced to anchor the night. There as a lineup of guest appearances, sure, but the biggie? Never happened. (Organizers had one in mind, but negotiations couldn't be finalized at the last minute.)

But that doesn't mean there wasn't a major speech. There was.

Although he was listed merely as making a "special appearance," WFAA sports anchor Dale Hansen ended up delivering what many present felt was one of the best addresses to a Black Tie audience in memory. He got a standing ovation. And he deserved it.

The rest of the guests were excellent as well, from Alex Newell's searing vocals to Dana Goldberg's side-splitting comedy routine (and surprising deftness as the live auctioneer) to Ted Olson's speech (oddly, David Boies was present at the reception but ducked out before the dinner — kinda not cool, Dave) and Steve Grand's ... well, grandness.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas County offers free flu shots

Dallas County Health and Human Services offers free flu vaccines in an all-in-one shot that protects from multiple strains including H1N1 from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the County Health Department's building at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway. No appointments are necessary. For more info 214-819-2162.

— David Taffet

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Thank you to everyone who made this year's walk a success and congratulations to this year's winners!

Best New Teams

Individual - The Besties of Dallas
 Small Business - Caregiver Support Systems
 Corporate Employee - SpectraCorp
 Civic - LULAC Young Adult Rainbow Council #4215

Most Improved

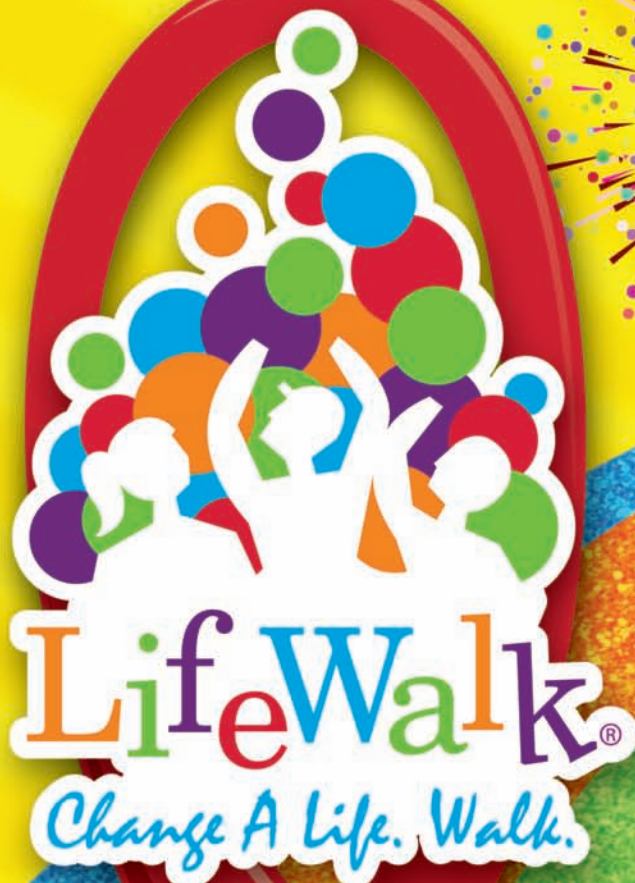
Individual - Team Clover
 Corporate - MAC Cosmetics
 Corporate Employee - Pride @ KPMG
 Small Business - Salon on the Square
 Civic - AIDS Services of Dallas

Top 3 Winners

Individual - 1. Guys & Dolls 2. Team Clover 3. Sugarstix
 Small Business - 1. Caregiver Support Systems 2. Salon on the Square 3. Baron Farha Interiors
 Corporate - 1. MAC Cosmetics 2. Avita Pharmacy 3. JCPenney
 Corporate Employee - 1. MAC Cosmetics 2. JCPenney 3. Team SWAGLE+
 Civic - 1. Team Metro 2. AIDS Services of Dallas 3. Dallas Gay Professionals

Congratulations to This Year's Individual Winners

Best New - Dannee Phann Most Improved - Terry Bax
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localbriefs



Todd Whitley joins EQTX staff opens North Texas office

Dallas activist and community organizer Todd Whitley, a regular contributor to Dallas Voice's Texas Voices pages, has joined Equality Texas as communications manager. He will coordinate statewide communications for the organization and act as liaison between other local, state and national organizations and media outlets.

He will also staff a new EQTX office in North Texas, giving the organization a physical presence in Texas' four major metropolitan areas.

TPride receives grant

Trans Pride Initiative received a grant from Trans Justice Funding Project to foster greater understanding of trans-identified persons in the Latina community and to encourage trans Latinas to become more involved in social and political advocacy.

Through the grant, Trans Pride will bring Bamby Salcedo and Dante Alencastre to Dallas at 4 p.m. on Jan. 10 at the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff for a free screening and discussion of the film *Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story*. Tickets and info at Tpride.org.

Cedars Open Studios Tour

The 12th annual Cedars Open Studios Tour takes place from noon-6 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Neighborhood artists open their studios to the public, giving visitors the chance to meet artists including mixed-media artist Joshua King, painter/metal sculptor Tony Collins, glass artists Jim and Mary Lynn Bowman and many others.

The event culminates with a sunset performance art piece titled "Decorating the Tree" by Jim Bowman at his studio, 1419 Griffin Street East.

DART's Cedars Station is within walking distance to many studios, including the artist quarters at South Side on Lamar. A map and list of galleries is available online at CedarsOpenStudios.com.

Thairrific collecting for LGBT youth

Thairrific is collecting toiletry goods and non-perishable food through Thanksgiving to benefit LGBT Homeless youth in conjunction with Real Live Connections.

The restaurant is also offering a 15 percent discount on dine-in orders to anyone bringing full-size or travel sizes of soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, lotion, razors, shaving cream and mouthwash and canned food with pop top lids.

Thairrific is located at 4000 Cedar Springs Road, #E.

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pet of the week / TEDDY

Teddy (A826037) is a 2-year-old boxer/pittie mix who has the doggie head-tilt down pat. And as you can see, he looks great on furniture. Teddy has been here more than 14 days, so his adoption fee has been waived. You can see Teddy at Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center, 1818 N. Westmoreland in Dallas.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat., and noon-5 p.m. Sun. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats with discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, for any senior citizen that adopts a pet and for anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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Leather Knights, DFW Sisters join together for Angel Tree Gift Project kick-off

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Knight: The word alone conjures up a world of chivalry and honor. Add “leather” before it and, here in Dallas, you are still talking about a world of chivalry and honor.

The Leather Knights, a nonprofit organization of gay leather men dedicated to providing service and support for the North Texas LGBT community, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. And this weekend, Leather Knights kick off their 10th annual Angel Tree Gift Project, with a little help from the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Lipps LaRue of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire.

“We do a lot of fundraisers and service projects, but this one is my favorite,” Leather Knight Adam Lynn said of the Angel Tree Gift Project. “Each year we focus on helping the clients at AIDS Services of Dallas and making some of their Christmas wishes come true. It’s what the holiday season is all about.”

Beginning Saturday, Nov. 22, the Leather Knights will have a Christmas tree near the front door of the Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave., decorated with tags bearing the wish lists of AIDS Services residents. Patrons are asked to choose an ASD “angel,” purchase the item or items on that person’s wish list and return those, unwrapped, to the Eagle by Dec. 14.

The Knights will then deliver the gifts to AIDS Services where they will be wrapped and given to the residents.

“The things they are asking for are usually pretty basic,” Lynn said. “They ask for anything from pots and pans to sheets or shoes. And if somebody wants to buy gifts for a child, they can do that, too. There are residents who have children and we will have some children on the angel tree.”

But the children aren’t the main focus this time.

“We do have about 35 children living here, and a few of them are included on the Leather Knights’ Angel Tree,” said Alexis Sanchez, residential coordinator at ASD’s Hillcrest House. “But really, it’s the single adults that we like to focus on with the Leather Knights’ Angel Tree.”

“The children and their families get attention from a lot of groups, but the single adults are really the overlooked population at Christmas,” she continued. “Most of the single adults here are estranged from their families and have no real support network. So it is really great when someone like the Leather Knights come in and focus on doing something for them.”

Sanchez agreed with Lynn that the ASD “angels” are asking for very basic gifts. “The majority of our clients here are very low income, so this gift project gives them an opportunity to ask for and get things most people just take for granted, things like blankets and pillows.”

Lynn said Leather Knights will have about 150 ASD “angels” on the tree for patrons to choose from, and “our goal is to clear the tree this year. We want to make sure that every person on the tree gets what they want and what they need.”

Last year, he said, there were about 200 ASD res-

idents on the Leather Knights Angel Tree, and not all of them were chosen by patrons. But the Knights won’t let anyone be left out. That’s where the cash donations — and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence — come in, Lynn said.

“Maybe someone doesn’t have time to go buy the gifts on the list but they want to help,” Lynn said. “So we accept cash donations and use the money to go buy whatever we still need at the end of the project.”

annual Sleigh Ride show last year, and the event brought in nearly \$2,000, she said.

This year, the Sisters are adding an underwear auction and “Lipps will be selling the undergarments right off the gentlemen on stage. No nudity, though, because that would get us a hefty fine,” Sister Lawna said. Other items will be auctioned off, including one of United Court member Danielle Starr’s famous cakes.”

Lynn noted that the Eagle Outpost, the leather

gating joy and expiating stigmatic guilt.’ Another part of our vows mentions asking for help when needed and providing help when called upon,” Sister Lawna said. “The Sisters worldwide give a large portion of their lives — in terms of finances as well as time and effort — to the communities they serve. For those who’ve been doing it for decades, it’s proof that it truly is a calling. The reward is knowing, at the end of the day, we’ve made a difference.”

Of knights and nuns and angels



DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS | Lipps LaRue, left, and Sister Lawna Jocqui, right, provided a little arm candy for Leather Knight Adam Lynn as the three prepared for the Angel Tree Gift Project kick-off show, A Sleigh Ride in Leather, Saturday, Nov. 22, at Dallas Eagle. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

“And the Sisters help with that, too, by staging a show to kick off the Angel Tree Gift Project,” Lynn added. “This year, that show happens Saturday night (Nov. 22), at the Eagle.”

And it will be one fun show, promised Sister Lawna Jocqui, mistress of events for the DFW Sisters.

Sister Lawna said she went to the Leather Knights three years ago to “ask how the Sisters could help make the Angel Tree even better, and if they’d consider letting me put together a variety-type show, with a little burlesque, live singing, drag and a number of other perfectly legal activities.”

The Knights agreed, knowing, Lynn said, that the Sisters have a higher and more public profile in the LGBT community and could therefore broaden the event’s reach. And so the Sleigh Ride in Leather show was born.

Sister Lawna asked “my best gal pal, Empress 37 of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire Lipps LaRue,” to join as co-emcee for the second

store located inside Dallas Eagle, is contributing to the Angel Tree Gift Project as well. The shop carries Nasty Pig clothing and Nasty Pig has created a line of special, limited edition T-shirts and a hat to commemorate its 20th anniversary. Eagle Outpost will donate \$5 from the sale of each limited edition T-shirt and hat from Nov. 22-Dec. 14 to the Angel Tree project.

“It’s a great way for people to give and at the same time get a cool shirt,” he said.

Sister Lawna said those attending the show should expect Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza song parodies along with some of the traditional holiday favorites, like “I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus,” “Santa’s Baby” and “Blowjobs for Christmas.”

The Sleigh Ride in Leather show is “sure to be full of sin and debauchery,” Sister Lawna said. But there is a serious side to the endeavor, too, just as with all the group’s efforts.

“When we take our vows as fully professed Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, it includes ‘promul-

HIV stigma continues to cloud the lives of thousands upon thousands, and new infections continue to occur. “That’s why it is so important to support these fundraisers,” Sister Lawna said. “Show the people around you that this matters Let them know you give a damn. Everyone has something to give, even if it’s just a hug.”

She continued, “We want to help people living with HIV/AIDS. In the old days, the earlier days of the epidemic, when we did these things, we were trying to make sure someone got what they wanted for Christmas because it was probably going to be their last Christmas. It’s different now; people are living with AIDS now. But there’s still no reason they should be left out at the holidays. Whether it’s Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or just Dec. 25, they should know that someone, somewhere is thinking of them.”

LeatherKnights.org;DFWSisters.org; DallasEagle.com.



UPGRADES | Business owners and community members met in the Rose Room to discuss city plans for Cedar Springs Road. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Planning the future of **The Strip**

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

City planners met with Oak Lawn residents and Cedar Springs merchants on Tuesday, Nov. 19 to discuss options for enhancing the four-block area from Douglas to Oak Lawn avenues.

Money for the upgrades comes from a 2012 bond package. Former council members Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano, who represented Oak Lawn at the time, added \$1.3 million for Cedar Springs upgrades into the proposal.

Peer Chacko, Dallas assistant director of development services, presented two plans. One retains four lanes on Cedar Springs Road and adds gateways and landscaping. The other plan narrows the street to three lanes, with the center lane as a turning lane only.

A priority with both plans is to retain all available parking, make pedestrian improvements and add traffic-calming landscaping.

Bar owners worried the three-lane option would stop traffic during the day when beer trucks park in the street to deliver.

Another problem with the three-lane option is it wouldn't run the full four-block area. Because of the fire station between Oak Lawn and Reagan Street, that block can't be narrowed.

On the other end of the street, the three-lane portion would end at Knight Street because of the cost. Chacko said where the three-lane portion ended would become a speed-up zone. That's where several pedestrians were hit and one was killed several years ago.

To slow traffic, residents asked about adding a traffic light at Knight. Chacko said adding lights at one corner would cost \$200,000 and would be

taken from the amount allotted for other projects on the street.

The more than 30 people who attended the Tuesday night meeting universally rejected city planners' proposal for a children's play area in front of the library. Some said it wouldn't be safe so close to Cedar Springs Road, and others just didn't think that many children used the Oak Lawn Branch. Several people suggested that public art for that plaza in front of the library would be more in keeping with the neighborhood.

Chacko said the city doesn't use pavers at intersections anymore because of maintenance problems. Instead, the city pours concrete and finishes it with color and stamped designs to recreate the look of cobblestone. He recommended brightly striped crosswalks, while several people attending suggested rainbow-colored crosswalks.

City staffers also suggested adding benches but crossed that idea off the list after members of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association objected. The merchants noted they raised money for several beautification projects several years ago, including placing benches on the street. They've since removed the benches because people were sleeping on them and panhandling from them.

With the four-lane option, markers would be placed on either end of the district. Chacko said there isn't enough money for arches or gateways, but that there are adequate funds for markers similar to those used to indicate the entrance to the Design District and the Uptown area.

Staffers will take the input from the meeting back to come up with a final plan to show the community at another meeting planned for next summer. Once approved, bids will go out and construction could begin in about a year. ■

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Alexandre's celebrates 10 years

Entertainers call the bar their favorite place to perform, credit Daugherty with launching careers

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Alexandre's owner Lee Daugherty said he was excited to have Anton Shaw hosting the festivities Saturday, Nov. 22, as they celebrate the Cedar Springs bar's 10th anniversary.

"She's been with me since we opened," Daugherty said. And Shaw is not the only entertainer for whom Alexandre's is special.

Since opening, Daugherty has helped nurture a lot of local talent, and many of the performers have gone on to bigger careers elsewhere. Saxophonist Rusty Johnson has moved to L.A. William Blake now performs in New York. And Liz Mikel still stops by for an evening when she's in town. Her latest film, *Get on Up*, about James Brown, opened in August.

Johnson said he had a special place in his heart for Alexandre's.

"For the 10 years that I've been playing and hosting shows at Alexandre's, it's been more than the packed crowds or the first time I made record sales," Johnson said. "It's been the legends I've become friends with, who have motivated and pushed me — Buddy Shanahan, Paul Allen, Anton Shaw, Liz Mikel, Zach Dillon, Peggy Honea, Lee Daugherty."

If it weren't for Alexandre's, Johnson said he wouldn't have achieved the success he enjoys today.

Daugherty opened the bar after a corporate career. "I came from a successful run in telecom," he said, an industry he described that industry as turbulent. "I put the money together and bailed out."

So after bailing out of telecom, why open a bar? "It was cheaper than paying my bar tabs," he joked.

The name of the bar and its odd spelling speak to Alexandre's humble beginnings. The bar previously in the location was called After Dark. It closed under a cloud and the new establishment would need a new name.

Daugherty said there've been all sorts of stories over the years about who "Alexandre" is. And every night, he notices the name Alexander pops up more often than any other name when he's closing out bar tabs.

One of the most persistent stories is that the bar is named after Chris Bengston's son, Alexander. Bengston has worked for Caven Enterprises, which operates several bars on Cedar Springs, for years.

Daugherty said the name was a result of trying to save some money at a time when he was scraping together the funds to open as economically as possible. He took down the After Dark sign and rearranged letters. Using as many of those letters as possible, he came up with Alexander's.

But he couldn't register a DBA in Texas with that spelling because it was already taken. The alternate spelling worked for incorporation purposes, and Daugherty saved about half the cost of



Lee Daugherty

putting up the sign.

Daugherty said his nightclub is "more high energy" than the old Bill's Hideaway, which was a piano bar located on Buena Vista, off Fitzhugh. The Hideaway was more of a cabaret, Daugherty said, adding, "We veered away from the cabaret style."

He called Alexandre's a more interactive experience.

The bar doesn't have just one style, either. Alexandre's features blues, acoustic, R&B, bands and more. During the week, the entertainment may be more lounge and on the weekend more highenergy. Daugherty said he schedules singers so that the energy builds from Wednesday through Saturday.

One source of new entertainment has been Voice of Pride.

"I make it a habit to bring them in," he said. "Voice of Pride gets great local LGBT talent."

He also hears from musicians from all over who find him on Facebook, so he can always offer a fresh flow of musicians.

Among the Voice of Pride winners is Mel Arizpe of Mi Diva Loca.

"Mi Diva Loca has been very fortunate to perform in such an intimate setting on the strip that has allowed us to be who we are without compromise," Arizpe said.

She said Daugherty has given local talent the opportunity to showcase their work and establish and maintain the musical careers.

"It is definitely one of our favorite places to play," she said.

Daugherty said he's always trying to keep the place fresh. He's done extensive remodeling this year including adding an outdoor patio.

He also has a new logo and, after 10 years, that sign he pillaged from the After Dark neon will be replaced as well.

Daugherty is also the only Cedar Springs bar owner who's also a bartender, and he said he likes mixing classic cocktails featuring Texas spirits. And as a small business owner, he also likes showcasing the work of other small businesses, so he offers lagers from local micro-breweries and craft beers.

"It's been a great 10 years where I've learned a helluva lot," he said. "I'm looking forward to the next 10 years."

Facebook.com/AlexandresBar

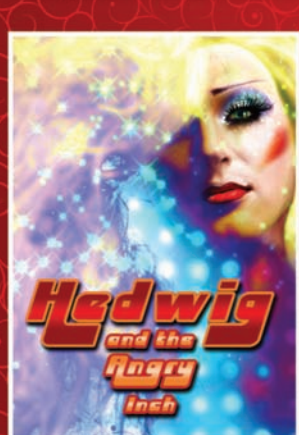
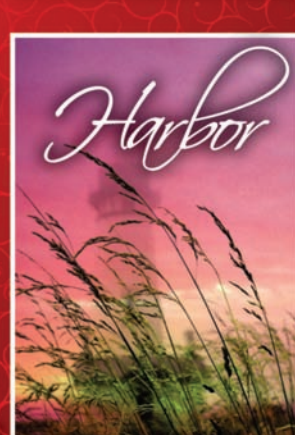
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Texas marriage equality group forms

New lawsuit challenging state's marriage ban is filed

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

On the heels of the latest lawsuit challenging Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, Freedom to Marry, in partnership with Equality Texas, launched a new campaign Nov. 18 intended to galvanize support for marriage equality.

Texas for Marriage will coalesce the growing bipartisan support for the freedom to marry in the state, organizers said.

Ward Curtin, deputy manager for all three of Houston Mayor Annise Parker's campaigns, has been tapped to lead the new marriage equality effort.

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, noted, "Nearly every state and federal court from last year on, more than 50 — with judges appointed by Republican and Democratic presidents and governors — has ruled in favor of the freedom to marry and moving the country forward.

"Texas families should not be left behind," he continued. "Government has no business interfering in important freedoms like who Texans marry, and no business putting obstacles in the path of families and employers trying to do the right thing.

Our new campaign will show that Texans are ready for the freedom to marry, and so is America."

With plans to run statewide TV ads, host town hall meetings, the campaign will identify new voices from the business, faith and law enforcement communities, and roll out a Republican-led effort by young conservatives.

Mark McKinnon, Texas chair for Freedom to Marry and former media advisor to President George W. Bush, said, "Gay marriage was barely a blip on the radar this past election cycle in Texas, as it was in the rest of the country. That's because discrimination doesn't sell like it used to and because Texans from all walks of life, from big cities to small towns, believe strongly in freedom and family. Supporting gay couples marrying is squarely in line with these Texas values."

The group touted a brief filed in September by major companies including Cisco, Alcoa, Pfizer, Target, Intel and Google supporting same-sex marriage in Texas. According to a new report released by Oliver Wyman in partnership with Freedom to Marry and Out and Equal, the last remaining bans on same-sex marriage — in just 15 states including Texas — cost American businesses \$1.3 billion annually.

The launch comes in the wake of latest lawsuit challenging Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, filed Nov. 14 in Travis County Probate Court by Sonemaly Phrasavath of Austin. Phrasavath is asking the court to recognize her 10-year marriage to her late wife Stella Powell,

who died in June, as a common-law marriage for the sake of inheritance.

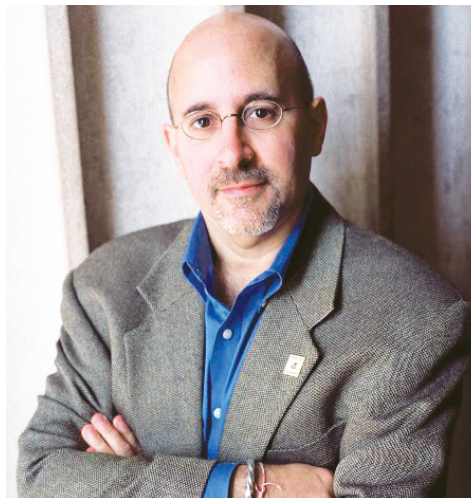
The case is scheduled for a hearing in Austin in January.

Phrasavath's lawsuit brings the number of cases challenging the state's ban to between nine and 11, depending on how you count.

According to AllTexasFamilies.org, a database developed by Equality Texas, five cases directly challenge the legality of the state's ban.

But between four and five other cases cite the ban as a barrier to larger issues impacting same-sex couples, including granting them a divorce, allowing a municipality to recognize its employees same-sex partners and preventing a widow or widower from receiving inheritance.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals hear the state's most watched case, *DeLeon v. Perry*, early next year.



■ Evan Wolfson



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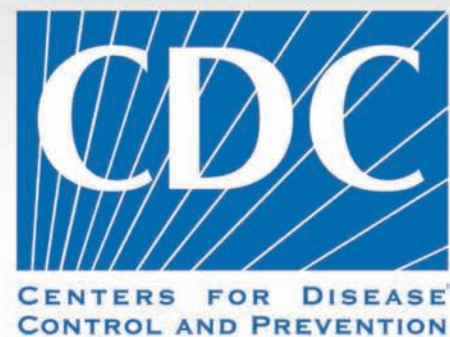
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An Open Letter To The



**What if
you're
wrong
about
PrEP?**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recommended that half a million gay men in the United States receive Truvada for the prevention of HIV. Further, they changed their wording from "unprotected sex" to "condomless sex" to describe intercourse without a condom, thus saying that sex without a condom could still be safe if accompanied by medication while ignoring the transmission of all other STDs besides HIV. AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) regards these decisions as dangerous to the public health of the country. Both of these decisions are based on the premise that PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) with Truvada is a sound public health strategy.

AHF believes that while Truvada may work to protect a small segment of the population of HIV-negative individuals, all of the scientific studies have shown that it will not work on a community-wide basis because of consistently bad adherence by study subjects - even under ideal circumstances.

However, if the data that will be reported in the next two years show that we are wrong about PrEP, we will be the first to admit it. We challenge the CDC to make the same pledge.

Currently, the gay male community is facing soaring rates of syphilis and other STDs.^{1,2} The CDC knows that Truvada offers no protection against syphilis. If those numbers continue to go higher, will the CDC go back to calling unsafe behavior "unprotected"? If people on Truvada become infected with HIV, will the CDC reconsider its rash decision on PrEP? If men who become infected develop drug resistance, will the CDC apologize?

Medical ethics are based on the concept of "do no harm."³ Beyond the potential damage to the health of the individuals, the CDC's ill-advised strategy of mass treatment with Truvada poses a significant risk to the condom culture, which while it has eroded, has still prevailed among gay men for three decades.

Studies show that the majority of gay men use condoms always or sometimes.⁴ This is borne out by the fact that the current rates of infection would be far higher if they didn't. Therefore, spreading misinformation that Truvada is an effective community-wide prevention strategy has the potential to do grave harm.

Both the community and the government must be accountable for the guidance they give to vulnerable populations. The debate about safer sex goes back to the beginning of the epidemic. Every time we didn't heed advice to protect ourselves, we paid a terrible price. AHF will do everything that we can to make sure that doesn't happen again. However, if we are wrong, we will take responsibility for our decisions. We hope that everyone else will do the same.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (May 9, 2014). Primary and Secondary Syphilis — United States, 2005–2013. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6318a4.htm>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2014). 2012 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats12/Surv2012.pdf>

³ Gillon R (1994). Medical ethics: four principles plus attention to scope. *British Medical Journal*, 309(6948): 184.

⁴ Rosenberger JG et al. (2012). Condom use during most recent anal intercourse event among a US sample of men who have sex with men. *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 9(4): 1037-1047.

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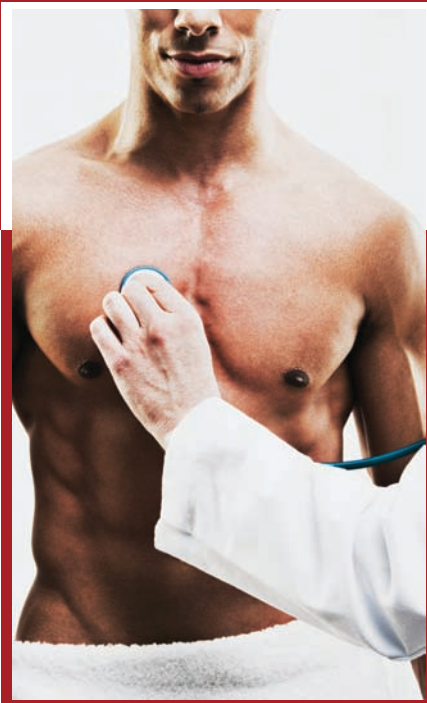
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David goes to prison



SPEAKING OUT | Filmmaker Christopher Hines, left, sets up recording equipment to capture the voice of gay prisoner Anthony Garcia during an interview recently at the James V. Allred Unit of the Texas prison system. Garcia said gays rank low in the hierarchy of prisoners, and that he is “preyed on” daily in various ways. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Dallas Voice reporter David Taffet spends a day at a Wichita Falls prison with a Logo filmmaker working on a documentary about gays behind bars

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
 taffet@dallasvoice.com

After a screening that’s more thorough but less invasive than airport security, a guard let us through the gatehouse at Texas Department of Criminal Justice’s maximum security James V. Allred Unit outside of Wichita Falls.

The unit is less than 20 years old. Although surrounded by razor wire, the modern facility isn’t as depressing or oppressive or frightening as I expected it to be.

The guard led us across the yard from the entrance gate to one of the white brick buildings.

Once we were inside that building, another guard, sitting behind a bullet-proof window, handed us visitor badges as the thick metal door with glass window slammed shut behind us, the sound echoing through the cold hall. I’m sure I heard those distinctive chords that play at the end of scenes on *Law & Order*.

This trip really started about a month ago when Christopher Hines, a producer who creates documentaries for Logo TV, asked if I’d like to join him as he interviewed a prisoner in Allred for his new video, *Gays in Prison*.

Sure, I thought. Why not?

So I sent a copy of my driver’s license for a background check. I sent a list of any equipment I’d bring into the prison: No iPads or phones were allowed, and we could have no more than \$25 in our pockets.

Our appointment was for 10 a.m., but we needed to arrive early to pass through security and then set up our equipment. In the parking lot, we locked our phones in the glove box. I left my iPad in the trunk and grabbed my camera, lenses and notepad. Hines took a tripod and his camera bag out and we headed for the main entrance.

We were patted down and “wanded,” including the bottom of our feet. One guard went through our equipment and matched it to our pre-approved list of equipment.

A guard, who ended up staying with us throughout the morning, told us the prisoner would be behind glass. Hines asked if he could be out in the day room with us to get a better shot and clearer sound, but the guard said this prisoner was at a custody level that only allowed us to interview him through glass and by phone.

So we tested the sound on a number of phones and looked for a booth with the least amount of reflection. The plan was for Hines to speak directly to the prisoner. I could ask questions through Hines, but I could hear the answers on a second phone receiver laying on the counter. The microphone was laid on the earpiece of that second phone to pick up the prisoner’s voice.

I made my way to the other side of the glass and sat in the prisoner’s booth to give Hines a chance to adjust his shot and lighting. When a guard told me she was going to get the prisoner, I left the booth so she could lock doors between

us before leading him in.

Then our prisoner walked into the booth.

Anthony Garcia, the custody level red prisoner, is 24 years old. At 5 feet, 2 inches tall, he weighs 120 pounds.

Before beginning the interview, Hines told Garcia he wanted to frame him. The guard jokingly pointed out the poor choice of words.

"In the shot," Hines said, and told Garcia to walk in again so he could shoot him. Again, the guard pointed out: Poor choice of words.

After getting those establishing shots of Garcia, Hines began asking questions.

First some basic information.

Garcia said he's been in prison 5½ years. He had another 2½ to serve on an eight-year sentence. He said he was in for assault.

He said it was hard to be openly gay in prison. There's a lot of gay bashing, but the guards monitor what's going on.

"I'm in safekeeping," Garcia said.

He said he was safe because his unit is for people who've been threatened or who fear they'll be attacked. He said he's more comfortable in that unit.

"I don't have to worry about people bashing me," he said.

Garcia said he doesn't share a cell right now because prisoners are matched up with someone of similar height and weight, and there just aren't many prisoners as small as he is.

Describing his daily routine, Garcia said he begins with a shower. Then he goes to the day room where he watches TV or works on schooling.

Hines first contacted Garcia on a prisoner penpal site, so he asked about correspondence and keeping in touch with other people. He asked whether he had friends in prison and the importance of human contact.

Garcia kept himself from crying. He talked about a friend of his who was younger and also gay.

"I could hang out with him," he said. But his friend was being preyed on sexually, even in their unit, Garcia said. A few weeks ago, his friend committed suicide.

We asked about Garcia's own experience.

"On a daily basis, I'm sexually preyed on" in different ways, he said, adding that he is stalked, watched in the showers, looked at in his cell. He said he's a target because he's small and smooth and boyish-looking.

"How do you survive it?" Hines asked.

"Being around people who don't prey on me," Garcia said.

Hines asked what his first few days in prison were like.

"The first couple of days were very scary," Garcia said.

"How have you survived?" Hines asked.

"To be honest, I don't know," he said.

We asked Garcia why he was in prison. Garcia said he was arrested for aggravated assault. He said he was a dancer backing up a friend of his in a drag show at a Fort Worth bar. Afterwards, he told us, he was attacked outside the bar.

"I was more injured than he was," Garcia said,

claiming he ended up with a broken arm and a broken nose. "He came up behind me and called me 'fag,'"

But if he was the victim, why was he arrested?

"The police didn't believe me," Garcia said.

I asked about parole. Garcia shook his head. He said he didn't know anything about parole.

The interview lasted about an hour. I had asked the guard about his custody level: He didn't seem like a troublemaker, more a bright kid who got into some trouble.

The guard said he didn't know Garcia. He said he'd know him if he was a troublemaker. So before Garcia was led back to his cell, the guard told him to pick up the phone again and he asked why he had a red bracelet band on, indicating his medium custody level.

Garcia said he didn't know.

The guard asked if he was in a fight and how long he's been at that level. Garcia shook his head. He said he didn't remember.

As we were packing up the equipment, we talked to the guard and we all agreed his story didn't add up. To me, the experience was fascinating and Hines thought he got some great footage for his film.

Over the weekend, I looked for any accounts I could find of Garcia's case. I couldn't find any newspaper reports, but The Texas Tribune maintains a prisoner list on its website. There is a page there about Garcia, listing his offense as "indecency w/child sex contact." The date of the offense indicated he was 17 years old when it occurred in Johnson County, south of Fort Worth.

On Monday morning, I contacted Joel Lazarine, an attorney with Legal Hospice of Texas, whose office is right above ours, as I became more involved in a story than I ever should — once again.

While LHT doesn't handle criminal cases, I thought Lazarine would know how to pull a criminal record from another county.

While we were expecting the "indecency" to have been with a boy a couple of years younger, that's not what we found: Garcia had been convicted in 2006, at age 16, of "indecency w/child sexual contact." He was sentenced to one year and 11 months but given probation. The age of the victim wasn't given.

But a year later, Garcia was convicted again, of the same offense. The victim's age is listed as 5 years old. Garcia was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Garcia talked about the hierarchy in prison. Gays rank low, he said. The crime committed also figures into a prisoner's status. A crime against a child would rank him much lower than an assault.

Garcia talked about looking forward to his release on Aug. 6, 2017.

"I want a fresh start," he said.

In prison, he said, he's taken some business management courses and he said he'd have a support group of family and friends until he gets on his feet. ■

Christopher Hines' Gays in Prison will be aired on Logo in 2015.

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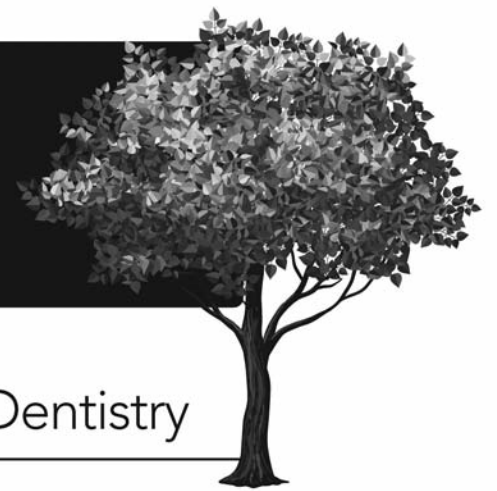
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PRIDE Calendar



Happy Thanksgiving from The Dallas Voice

November

• **Nov. 21: Marc Veasey's second annual 33rd Congressional District Job Fair**
Mountainview Community College, Building E Lobby, 4849 W. Illinois Ave. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free and open to the public.

• **Nov. 22: TAG Adopt a Highway**
Tyler Area Gays performs its quarterly highway cleanup. Meet at 10 a.m. at New Life Worship Center, 1.5 miles south of Loop 49 on the east side of the highway.

• **Nov 23: Gobble til ya Wobble**
A Thanksgiving dinner and celebration for LGBTQ youth, young adults, allies and families. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6-8 p.m. Facebook.com/RLConnection.

December

• **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**

• **Dec. 1: Night of a Thousand Names**
CURE honors The Names Project Foundation, Dr. Steven Pounders and Dr. Louis Sloan. Noah's Event Space, 2151 N. Greenville Ave., Richardson. 6 p.m. CUREnTX.org.

• **Dec. 3: World AIDS Day at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth**
Visual AIDS presents the film series Alternate Endings at 2 p.m. at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. A gallery tour of the museum's current exhibit Urban Theater: New York Art in the 1980s follows. 817-738-9215. TheModern.org.

• **Dec. 4: Red Ribbon Bash**
Resource Center's sixth annual Red Ribbon Bash in support of World AIDS Day at 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Hotel Lumen, 6101 Hillcrest Ave. Tickets at MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Dec. 6: LGBTQ Saves Winter Formal**
Fourth annual dance from 7-10 p.m. at

Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania, Fort Worth.

• **Dec. 12: AIDS Walk South Dallas launch party**
Fifth anniversary launch party hosted by Dallas Black Dance Theater at 6:30-9:30 p.m. at 2700 Flora St. AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

• **Dec. 20: Salvation Sisters**
The DFW Sisters will do The Salvation Sisters,

a take-off on the Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing, from 8:30-11 p.m. in front of Hunkey's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road. Proceeds benefit HIV services.

• **Dec. 22: Ring in the Holidays with Leslie Jordan**
Benefit for Legacy Counseling Center at 8 p.m. at Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St. Suite 168. Tickets at LegacyCares.org.

• **Dec. 24: Beth El Binah goes out for Chinese**
The LGBT Jewish congregation fulfills the biblical commandment to eat Chinese food on Christmas at 7:30 p.m. at Thairrific, 4000 Cedar Springs Road #E. Everyone welcome.

• **Dec. 25: Christmas**
LGBT-affirming churches that would like to be included in our Christmas calendar should contact editor@dallasvoice.com with time and location of services and other events.

January

• **Jan. 10: Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story**
Bamby Salcedo and Dante Alencastre show their film and lead a discussion hosted by Trans Pride Initiative at 4 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Tpride.org.

• **Jan. 20: Coming Out Workshop**
Jim McBride and Rev. Jane Graner lead a seven week coming out workshop on Tuesday evenings through March 3. 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church 11211 Preston Road. 214-284-9194 or jimcbridedallas@sbcglobal.net. Free.

• **Jan. 30-Feb. 7: Couple Communication Workshop**
Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 10 a.m.-noon on Jan 31 and Feb. 7 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple. 214-521-1278. Candy@CandyMarcum.com.

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Going homo for the holidays

When you are out and proud, with a loving and supportive Rockwellian family, the holidays are a face-stuffing good time filled with presents, merriment and drinking for good times.

If you are not out, or if you come from a judgmental and conservative family more akin to something out of Tennessee Williams, it can mean eating alone, receiving gifts with strings attached or depression and drinking just to get through it all.

When it is not all carols and good cheer, there are ways to make it better.

For many LGBT people, the holidays become a time filled with the self-pressure of “just do it already” to come out. There is often something equal parts appealing and terrifying about the idea of all of the family being together and just ripping off the rainbow Band-Aid.

There is no wrong way to come out — as gay, bisexual or transgender — because there is nothing wrong with being LGBT. Anyone who tells you otherwise is suggesting there is something potentially negative about the information you are revealing, and they are wrong. Completely wrong.

There is not a right time to announce “I like pizza,” or “I’m a real estate agent,” or “Taylor Swift might be the anti-Christ.” (OK, that last one could start a fight.) You are just revealing a previously unknown piece of the puzzle that is you to the people who love you.

That said, considering the potential responses can make it easier for you and those to whom you

are coming out. If there is any potential physical danger in the response to your news, your personal safety should be the only factor in your decision. There is no benefit to your journey from putting yourself in harm’s way.

Outside of physical danger, if you are likely to receive an extremely negative reaction based on the prejudices of your friends or family, have a predetermined exit strategy. If it’s important to you to come out and you know it will not go well, have someone with you and somewhere to go after the conversation to protect yourself from being stuck if it becomes an emotionally harmful situation.

Beyond the worst-case scenarios, giving some consideration to those you are telling will make it the best for everyone. You may receive the “Oh, honey, we’ve always known” response, or the “Umm, we had no idea!” surprised reaction. The first can be relief for you and amusement for all and then “pass the stuffing...” followed by joking innuendos.

The shocked response could cause that lapse around the table where you can hear everyone chewing as they revise their internal understanding of you while thinking of something to say.

Being understanding of any initial surprise or shock, rather than resenting it immediately, can allow a conversation of love and understanding to continue over entirely too many kinds of pie.

Most of those in the closet have had a great deal of time to come to terms with their own identities before sharing them; allow others a moment to gather themselves and sitting down to not watch the sportsball game afterward will be easier for everyone.

It can also be all in the timing. It’s just possible that if your family is hosting a holiday dinner or party with a large group of guests, asking for a huge helping of meat and coming out by saying, “Because that’s what I like in the bedroom” might go over like vegan stuffing in the South — not because you should not be proud, but because asking for respect means giving it as well.

Of course, if your family is going to be absolutely fine, and you know that, bringing sushi to the potluck and announcing “Because I’m a lesbian” can be fun for the whole family!

Coming out is about you. The holidays as a time of love and gift-giving can be a wonderful time to do so. The time and manner should be what makes you feel most comfortable first. Remembering to be considerate of the feelings of the friends and family will help you choose the best moment for all of you.

Of course, the holidays can be challenging for those who are already out if family relationships are complicated. It can be a ballet of compromise for those who want to see and be involved with family members in spite of negative attitudes surrounding sexual orientation or gender identity.

In these situations, it is still important to remember that how, and how much, you are involved in the family holidays is up to you.

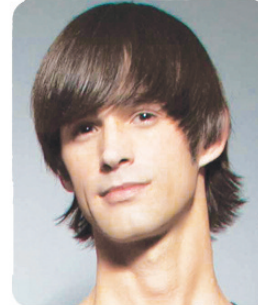
If your family loves you “in spite of” something about your orientation, there are many approaches to participating with them, and one that will fit you best. Some LGBT people choose not to be with their blood family at all and to focus on the new family they have built who embrace all of who they are.

For others, in spite of ongoing disapproval, cutting ties or issuing ultimatums would be too painful and a tenuous middle ground is reached. There is the “We talk about everything but that” approach. Or the “You are welcome here, but your partner is not” offer. And the ever-popular “We’re praying for you and just want you in church with us” guilt trip that is unfortunately popular in the Bible Belt.

And on and on and on.

However you deal with a less-than-completely-accepting family, do it on your terms. If you feel like you may lose out on time with them, remember they will also be losing out on time with you. Make compromises if you are truly comfortable with them, but do not agree to anything that makes you feel “less than;” don’t let them have their perfect holiday by sacrificing yours.

If holiday compromises involve your signifi-



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist



cant other, ensure that you are considering their feelings as well. They love you unconditionally and should be treated with more respect than those who do not.

If you make sacrifices, be open and vocal about what they are so your family is aware of them. Do not let them off the hook. That love they have for you, and their desire to have you for the holidays, should ensure they compromise at least as much as you do.

However, if you agree to a compromise, do not begrudge them the terms you agreed upon. If you do not like how it ends up, you can always leave. Or make it different next year.

For many in the LGBT community, the holidays are equal parts wonderful and challenging. The line between loving an imperfect family without sacrificing personal pride is a tight line to walk. There is no correct way to navigate it all beyond ensuring that you are not making any choices that you cannot live with.

Do not let anyone make you feel less than you are for their perfect meal, perfect holiday or perfect photo opportunity. Whether coming out or coming home, make sure those you give them to are worthy of your gifts during the holidays, and always remember there are no greater gifts than your time, your presence and your love. ■

Emerson Collins is one of the hosts of The People's Couch on Bravo.

Counting your blessings

Living life as a trans woman isn't easy. In fact, it can be hard as hell. It hurts; it's expensive, and at times can seem an insurmountable challenge. There are still many obstacles stacked before us that all seem to conspire to derail transition, or worse.

We need look no further than our annual observation of Transgender Day of Remembrance each Nov. 20 to illustrate the challenges and obstacles. Getting caught up in those challenges can be tempting. Poor me syndrome can creep in.

So I thought I'd share a tool I came across many years ago to help in facing the challenges. It works for me, and I hope it can help others, too.

I used to live in the mountains of Northern California, not far from Lake Tahoe. It was truly beautiful there. Lots of tall trees, free-running creeks and rivers and, of course, snow capped mountains.

But trying to plant a garden was a real chore. There were hungry deer eager to eat almost anything we planted. The ground was hard and had lots of rocks, from small baseball-sized ones to those too big to lift.

After digging and digging and extracting these rocks and tossing them into a pile, we decided to



Leslie McMurray
Contributing Columnist

make a rock garden of sorts. (We planted flowers, too, eventually.)

This rock garden took shape as a kind of border around the front lawn. It was a couple of feet wide and ran maybe 30 feet long at first, then grew from there.

I don't recall where I first heard

the idea but I loved it right away: Place every stone with a purpose and assign a blessing in your life to it. This was a wonderful exercise in living in gratitude because there were a LOT of rocks.

The blessings were easy at first: One for each of my two daughters, my wife at the time, a roof over my head, our two beloved dogs, a good job, enough food to eat, good health — and so it went.

After a while though became more of a challenge. But the funny thing was, it sort of forced me to really set my mind on just how fortunate I was.

Most of us are really blessed far beyond what

we are aware of on a daily basis.

Comfortable bed? Many people in the world lack even that. Music? Yep. Good friends? How about a rock for each one. Treasured memories? Sunny days? Sure! Rainy nights in front of a fire? Absolutely.

You get the idea. No matter how many rocks we found around the property and in the ground, we always found blessings to assign them.

You can do it with rocks, or collectable spoons or stuffed animals or whatever you want. It's even fun to go back and remember which rock was which blessing.

Is life a challenge sometimes? Yes. Is that going to change? Not anytime soon, no. Matter of fact, it can sometimes be a real beat-down.

But focusing on the good things we have in our lives can be a real attitude adjustment. Living life from a place of gratitude can really help your outlook.

For each one of you that read this and get something out of it, I've got a rock with your name on it. Please accept my deepest thanks. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

PrEP Works and is a substantial tool to prevent HIV.

Marking the four year anniversary of the iPreEx study, the first randomized, controlled study that found PrEP is effective in reducing HIV risk.

PrEP should be part of comprehensive HIV prevention which includes frequent screening, education, counseling, and continued adherence to other proven prevention methods, including condoms.





GRACIAS-GIVING | The sweet corn humitas with avocado and lobster, opposite, is one of the twists chef Stephan Pyles developed when coming up with his South American-inspired menu at San Salvaje. Unusual ideas for Thanksgiving meals give the flavor of the season without the traditional recipes. (Photo by Kevin Marple)

Beyond turkey

Why make the usual Thanksgiving meal? We offer some alternative recipes for alternative families



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Turkey is the unequivocal king of the Thanksgiving dinner table, but if you're tired of bowing down to a Butterball every fourth Thursday in November, there are alternatives. From indulgent Southern-style cuisine to a succulent Italian feast to a vegan spread, here are some non-traditional ways you can celebrate what you're thankful for ... while still stuffing your face.

"Sexy" Southern: Blythe Beck

Chef Blythe Beck developed her reputation as The Naughty Chef, coming up with indulgent, calorie-counters-be-damned recipes for those who are not merely gourmets, but gourmands. She's currently the executive chef at Kitchen LTO, the permanent pop-up restaurant at Trinity Groves. For Thanksgiving, she came up with the following spread: "Pounded pork loin breaded and fried; bacon-braised green beans; bourbon sweet potato mash; and black pepper country gravy."

If the abundance of words like "breaded," "fried" and "bacon" worry you, you don't know Beck. "I love this dish because it gives you the flavors of Thanksgiving — with the green beans and sweet potatoes — but it adds a naughty touch to the holidays with pork and frying!" she explains of her so-called "sexy Southern cuisine." "Anything smothered in pork gravy has to be good."

Vegan: Eddie Garza

You might think that Thanksgiving is a tense or disappointing time to be a vegan, but for Eddie Garza, the exact opposite is the case.

"I love Thanksgiving — it's my favorite holiday," says Garza, food policy coordinator for the Humane Society of the United States. All the talk of turkey doesn't make him feel left out? Not at all, he says. Vegans love to cook, and Thanksgiving is a cook's nirvana. "It is for me like everyone else," he says. "There are many vegan options."

He plans to buy a hazelnut cranberry roast en crouete by Field Roast. "It's kind of a vegan beef Wellington," Garza says. The holiday roast by Gardein is another popular option.

■ TURKEY, Next Page

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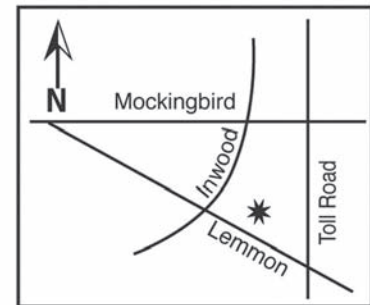
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Recipe: *Johnny Carino's Stuffed Artichokes*



Ingredients: 4 artichokes (1 per person)

- 1 cup Italian bread crumb
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 bunch parsley
- 2 tablespoons fresh shaved garlic

Instructions: With the exception of the artichokes, mix all ingredients together to form a paste and refrigerate until ready. Clean the artichokes by cutting the sharp points off the leaves using a scissors. Have a pot of water boiling with salt and submerge the entire artichoke into the water and cook five minutes or until soft. Remove from the water and immediately run cold water and if you can ice over the artichokes to cool them. Remove the center part of the artichoke and the “choke” which is above the heart and is not edible. I usually use a knife to cut around it and a spoon to remove it. Fill the center of the artichoke with the filling and also place the filling liberally into the leaves. Place into a sauce pot and add 1 cup of water and some olive oil and cover with foil. Steam over the stove top for about 35 minutes to heat the filling and cook the artichoke more so that the leaves are soft. Enjoy by removing each leaf and using your hands bite down on the leaf and using your mouth eat the filling but not the leaf. This is the Italian way to eat an artichoke and you tube it if you want to see what we do.

■ **TURKEY,** From Previous Page

If you wanna make it yourself, try a vegan meat loaf made with lentils, or vegan tamales. Black beans, quinoa, kidney beans and purple hulled peas can complete the feast. And don't forget standards like cornbread, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce — these are vegan anyway, as long as you don't add butter.

South American: Stephan Pyles

One of the deans of Texas cuisine, Stephan Pyles is known for exploring south of the border for bold flavors to complement his unique palate. With his new South American-inspired restaurant, San Salvaje, he worked out a season-of-thanks menu with Peruvian, Cuban and more Latin influences. (He hosted a special dinner of these items at the resto earlier this week.) On the bill: Caramelized butternut squash soup with Cuban-spiced apple dumplings; braised pork belly with perismon-chile chutney; quinoa-stuffed acorn squash; Peruvian sweet-potato mash; sweet corn humitas with lobster and avocado; and pumpkin-spiced tres leches cake.

Italian: Johnny Carino

“Growing up in New York with an Italian family was a very different time for the holidays,” says Johnny Carino, the out chef (formerly with Dallas-based Brinker) who now serves as exec chef at King & Prince Seafood near Atlanta. “While most ate turkey and ham, our table became more focused on creations my grandparents brought back from Sicily. As a kid — and up until the time I moved to Texas — I had never seen, or eaten, cornbread stuffing. Ours was an awesome array of Italian sausage, garlic, basil, and day-old Italian bread cooked in olive oil and fresh chicken stock.”

Carino suggests, as his family did, replacing a turkey with a garlic-infused fresh leg of lamb rolled in olive oil, seasoned with fresh rosemary, sea salt and fresh-cracked black pepper. “This was the focus of our table, cooked to a vibrant medium rare.” The slow-cooked lamb was basted and covered with foil until the last 45 minutes “to give it that wonderful golden brown. Wow, I can still smell it cooking.”

Green bean casserole was also new to him. Instead, they ate steamed stuffed artichokes filled with breadcrumb, garlic, olive oil, freshly grated parmesan cheese and chopped fresh parsley. “The artichokes were cut on the leaves to remove the sharp points, submersed into boiling water for five minutes, then cooled. We then removed the inside leaves and the points above the heart. This and the leaves were then all stuffed with the above ingredients. The artichokes were then placed into a sauce pot, we added just enough water to cover the bottom and a touch of olive oil, covered it with foiled and stove top steamed them.” (See his artichoke recipes above.)

A great dessert table is also an Italian tradition: pies, yes, “but the emphasis was on cannolis, Italian cookies and rum baba,” Carino says.

Seafood: John Tesar

Although he's been a hit this year with the steakhouse Knife, John Tesar's Spoon proves his passion for seafood — even on Thanksgiving.

“I suggest to roast a swordfish — the whole side — and stuff it like a turkey!” he says. Make a seafood stuffing consisting of cornbread, shrimp, scallops, sage, thyme and pork: “It is out of this world.” Served with a classic beurre blanc sauce.

More ideas

Barbecue. Southern-style barbecue includes many meaty staples like brisket, pulled pork and slow-smoked ribs. To feed a crowd, however, finger-lickin' fried chicken is a wise option to keep the meal affordable, and to ensure that everyone can partake. (Even among carnivores, some have sworn off red meat or pork for various reasons, but chicken is generally foolproof.)

Tex-Mex. Begin with a cool ceviche made with fresh seafood like shrimp or whitefish. For your mains, prepare a selection of Mexican favorites likes enchiladas, tamales and tacos. To make these dishes more Thanksgiving-y, replace the traditional protein in these dishes — usually chicken, beef or pork — with chile-and-spice-grilled turkey. Finish on a sweet note with Mexican chocolate cakes with cinnamon ice cream. ■

— Additional reporting by Mikey Rox



*Holiday
Gift
guide
2014*



Special Section

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THE STATE OF THE UNION SUIT

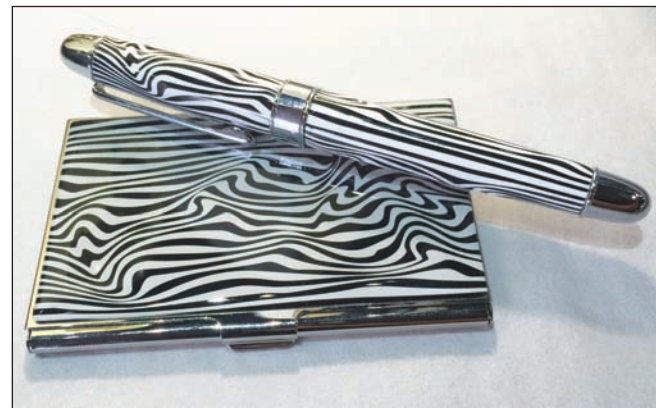
The union suit — basically a men's onesie — has been a classic garment since the 19th century, but it acquires a sexy updating in this version from 2(x)ist with Tartan print trim. The full-sized, step-in singlet provides all-over warmth. Uh-huh. We just think it's hot. Available in grey/heather and cranberry. Varied sizes. \$59.

At Skivvies, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. SkivviesMensUnderwear.com.

THE WRITE STUFF

Whether you're gifting a recent grad or an office professional of long-standing, you can't go wrong with an elegant pen, especially one from prolific designer Karim Rashid. Throw in a business card carrier, and you've helped make an office drone look — and feel — like a mover and shaker. Pen \$75, case \$39 (set \$114).

At Nuvo, 3311 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-522-6886. NuvoDallas.com.



IF YOU LIKE IT PUT A RING (AND TIE, AND CUFFLINKS) ON IT

The men's fashion set — pocket square, bowtie, ring and cufflinks — completes a gentleman's wardrobe like few matching pieces can, as this quartet of designer duds from Dubal Bros. and INOX illustrate. Rings \$28, Silks \$24-\$36.

At Outlines, 3906 Cedar Springs Road. 214-528-1955.



PUT SOME SPUNK IN YOUR STEP

People love hybrid cars, but where's the love for hybrid lubes? Well, look no further than here, as we sing the praises of Spunk, which sells a glycerin-free version of their popular product, making for a non-staining, Latex-safe lube in a fun pink color. Pink lube? How slick is that? \$13.

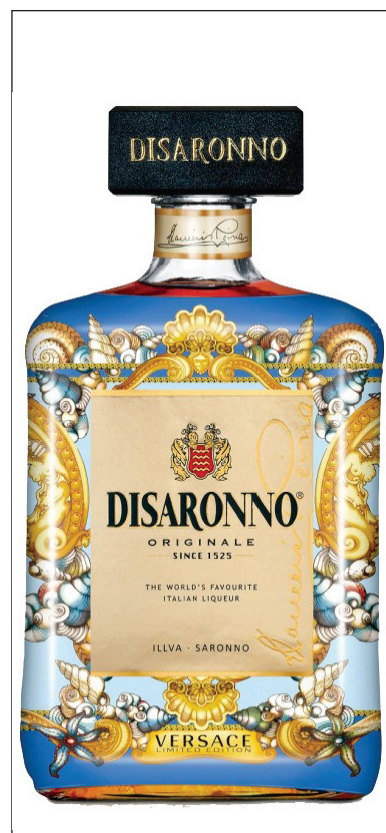
At Condom Sense, 4038 Cedar Springs Road. DallasCondomSense.com.



ALMONDS, JOYOUSLY

Christmas is the season of liqueurs, and nothing feels more soothing than a refreshing amaretto sour from the granddaddy of them all, Disaronno. The only thing that could make it better maybe? Buying it in one of these limited edition bottles decked out in Versace fashion. Now that's style.

At Sigel's Elite, 3209 N. Fitzhugh St. and other locations. Sigels.com.

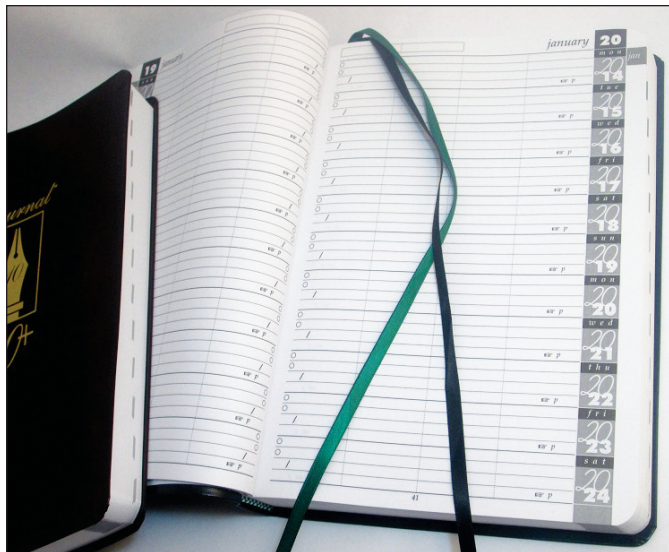




WAIST NOT, WANT NOT

We all have a favorite pair of jeans or slacks that, much as we like to think still fit us, have mysteriously shrunk (it can't be all those Sprinkles cupcakes you've been eating). The Fly Tie and Perfect Fit by Kevel, though, allow you to surreptitiously extend that waist (and keep that defective fly up where it belongs) so you get more wear out of that pair. It's a great stocking stuffer from Santa. Available in two sizes and colors. \$10-\$15.

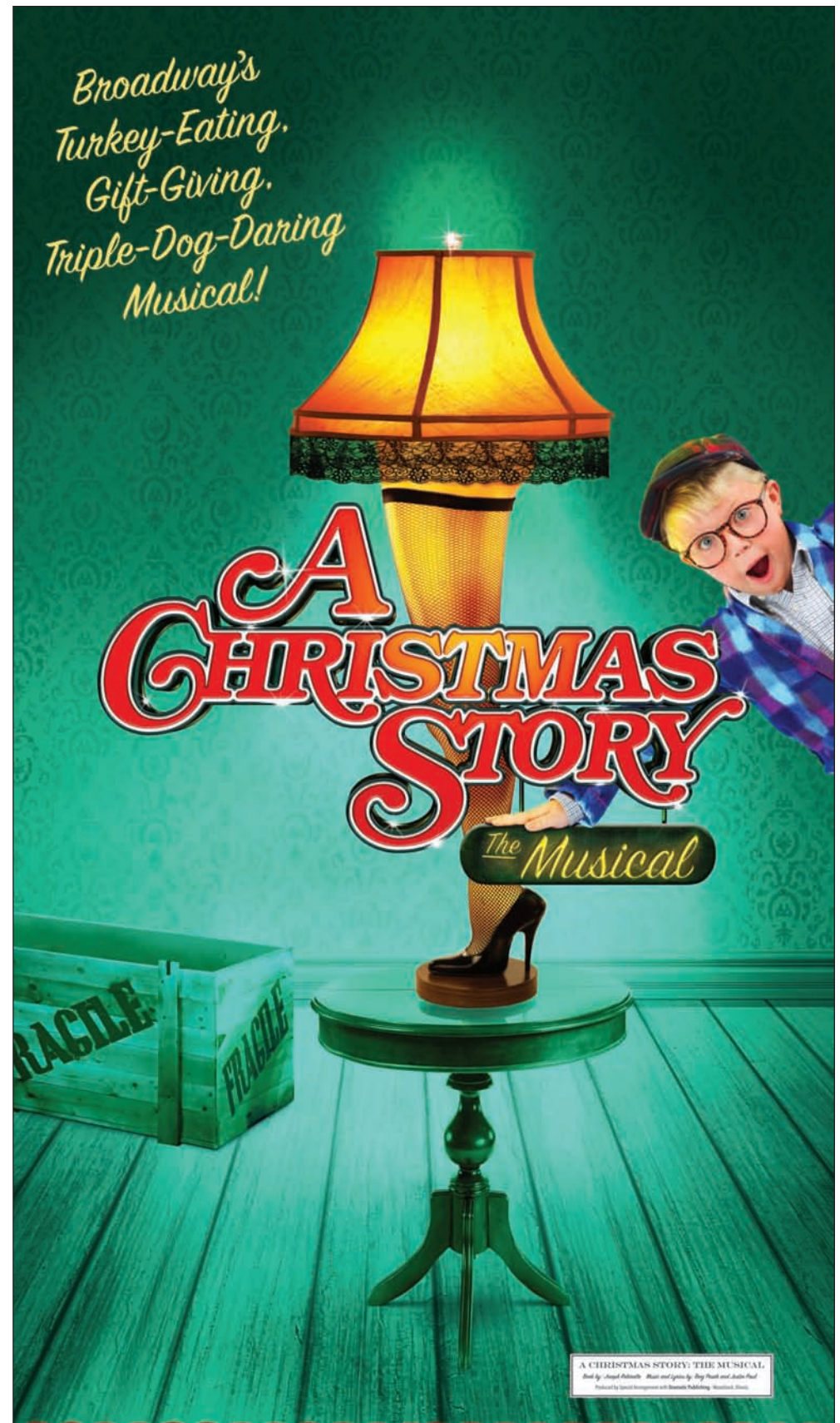
Available online at Kevel.com.



THE 10-YEAR JOURNEY (ON PAPER)

Blogging is great, but old-fashioned pen-to-paper journaling still means something to us. That's why we're especially entranced by the Ten Year Journal, a leather bound volume organized so that you can start it at any date and keep a complete record of your life for a full decade ... even during a power outage. \$40.

Available online at Amazon.com.

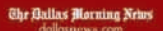


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We all admire great beards: ZZ Top. Abe Lincoln. Katie Holmes. But if you wanna help a friend get rid of his the way Tom Cruise did, don't give him a divorce lawyer — buy him Boots No7 Hydrating Shave Kit for men. This all-in-one package includes anti-friction shave gel, post-shave recovery balm, energizing face wash and the exclusive Boots 3 razor to keep those whiskers under control. \$20.

At Walgreen's, multiple locations.

BRUSH WITH GREATNESS

If you like to tend to your choppers with an electric toothbrush, chances are Oral-B and Sonicare are the names you know. But we're impressed by the product by ToiletTree. In addition to its sleek look and design, the ergonomic handle fits as comfortably in your hand as it does your mouth, while its two settings (up to 8,800 oscillations per minute) will remove plaque and buildup with ease. It's a marriage of form and function. Available with bonus travel-sized version and extra bristle heads. \$50.

At Brookstone @ NorthPark Center and online at ToiletTreeProducts.com and Amazon.com.



HEY, NO SWEAT

The Thompson Tee has long made sweat-proof undershirts to provide comfort and protection without staining, but it's taken its protection a step further to help the environment. The new Slim Fit tee not only slims and keeps away perspiration stains, it's eco-friendly, made of 95 percent micro bamboo fibers (and five percent Spandex) for a flattering look that's also green ... although it's only available in black or white. Go figure. Available in crew, scoop or V-neck in a variety of sizes. \$25.

Available online at ThompsonTee.com.



barks & wags



BOWL GAME

Would you eat your food off the floor? We're not animals ... and neither are our pets, really. They are part of the family. The Pomeroy pet bowl not only lifts Princess' food off the floor and away from bugs, it makes digestion easier and cleaning spills less of a mess. Designed in Houston in stainless steel and wrought iron. \$24.50

At Gifted, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

WARHOL, MEET WOOFHOL

Let's face it: Cute animals are sooooo much cuter than even the cutest human babies, so why not preserve their adorableness in a customized canvas print from local artist Judy Babinki. She can turn your photo of Fido into an objet d'bark in two shakes of a tail. It's the kind of gift sure to get tongues wagging on Christmas morn. Prices vary.

At Dee's Doggie Den, 6444 East Mockingbird Lane. 214-823-1441. DeesDoggieDen.com.



HUMANS SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Who says "a dog's life" means something hard? Certainly that's not the case for the four-legged fellas in our lives, as this faux fur blanket for Joey more than proves. Warm, soft and cozy, it makes having dog breath a little more bearable. Available in white, brown and leopard print. \$40.

At Petropolitan, 408 S. Harwood St. ThePetropolitanDallas.com.



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IN ONE EAR

(right) We all know someone who keeps misplacing his earbuds, which means you have to listen to his terrible music over a tinny speaker. Well, the Airbuds are a fun replacement, complete with several soft, form-fitting foam tips and high-quality sound. \$40

Available online at Air-Buds.com.

WE GOT THE POWER

(below right) With technology now omnipresent, everyone always looks for two things: 1. More storage space and 2. a way to charge a device on the move. The Mazzo Mobile PowerDrive P1 (and PowerDrive Slim) actually allow for both with an all-in-one charger and backup drive, specifically tailored to work with Apple products. The P1 gives 40 hours of power plus up to 128 gigs of space in a pack the size of your iPhone. From \$129.

Available online at Amazon.com.

HAVE AN UPTOWN HOLIDAY

(below) Uptown Players' annual fundraiser arrives early this year, with *Christmas Our Way*. But more than just attending the best revue in North Texas, it's a perfect pre-holiday opportunity to snag a season subscription that includes B.J. Cleveland in *The Nance*, the spoof *Gilligan's Fire Island*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Harbor*. (Season passes start at \$110.)

Christmas Our Way at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Dec. 11-14. UptownPlayers.org.





IT'S INDESCRIBABLY BEAUTIFUL

The holiday classic *A Christmas Story* is a TV favorite, but now you can see it live onstage in a new musical adaptation perfect for the holidays. This production launched the Dallas Summer Musicals' new season of entertainment, and it's a good time to see it and give a friend – or yourself – a season subscription (or even a mini-pack of any three shows for as little as \$55.) It's a gift that gives throughout the year. \$25–\$93.

Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Dec. 2–14.
DallasSummerMusicals.org.

NOTE! You can also enter to win an authentic reproduction of the famous leg lamp from the film, as well as tickets to the opening night! To enter, simply LIKE Dallas Voice on Facebook, and share the picture of the lamp on Facebook ... and don't shoot your eye out! (Winner announced Dec. 1.)



RUDY, RUDY, RUDY

Last year's hit stage production of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* returns to the Majestic Theatre, and whether you're taking the whole family or just reliving the warm-'n'-fuzzies of your own childhood, you won't wanna miss it.

Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Dec. 16–21.
214-871-5000. ATPAC.org.

HOW TO LOVE CHRISTMAS

Darlene Love has been a song goddess since the 1960s (maybe you saw her in the Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*) and her way to rock a carol puts Bing Crosby to shame. You can see the Love-ly performer share some holiday cheer by snagging a pair of seats to *A Darlene Love Christmas* at the Eisemann. Best part: It's a gift you can give to someone else and yourself at the same time. \$38–\$56.

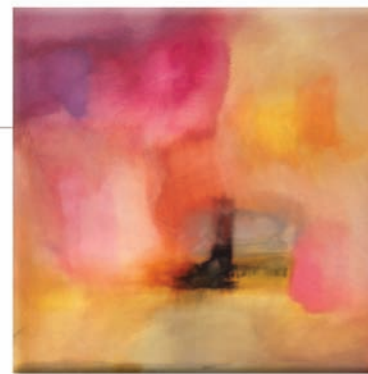
Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.



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CROWN ROYALTY

The lion is king of the jungle, so naturally he deserves a gold crown, which designer Angeline Tetrault seems to understand with her whimsical canisters, available at Flower Reign. Also available in bear and fox versions — hey, sounds like the guys you'd meet at a gay bar. \$105.

At Flower Reign, 3904 Cedar Springs Road. 214-774-9236.



STEAMPUNK STYLE

Any lamp can throw light, but it takes a special kind to throw attitude, which is why we fell instantly in love with this tall desk lamp from Dulce. In edgy steampunk fashion, this all-the-works illuminator with a white and black artglass shade rages against the industrial machine while being stylish and somehow sexy. \$354.

At Dulce Interiors Showplace, 2914 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-219-5656. MyDulce.com.

A HOT PIECE O' GLASS

We're devotees of artglass, probably because it bridges the gap between painting and sculpture, between function and mere beauty. Whether it's a Tiffany lampshade or a Murano vase, we're hooked. Add to those classics the lovely (and affordable) piece from the Large Kaleidoscope Collection at Jones Walker. This hypnotic glass, with stand, adds color and sophistication to any interior. \$264.

Jones Walker Homes, 1531 Dragon St. 469-916-5500. JonesWalkerHome.com.



VINTAGE GIVING

The Tower Antique Show, Dallas' premier showcase for premium vintage items, will be at Fair Park soon, and that's a perfect chance to check out one-of-a-kind items for the collector in your life, from country chic to period furniture to tchotchkes and Texana for all tastes (and prices ranges).

At the Embarcadero Building at Fair Park. Dec. 5-7. ralphwillard.com



CUPPA JOE

We know it's not rocket science, but we've never fully understood how a coffee percolator works: How does the pot know what's coffee and what's water? We're just as puzzled by the Moka Express coffeemaker by Bialetti, and that's even lower tech: You put water in the base, add espresso into a funnel, screw on the top and set the entire thing on your stovetop and BAM! Ten minutes later a fresh, strong pot of java. We still don't know how it works, but with its full-bodied taste, and an assortment of designer colors, we're just happy to have one. Available in red, orange, blue and purple in 6 espresso demitasse-size (2 standard cups) and larger. \$40.

At Bed Bath and Beyond, 8005 Park Lane and other locations, and online at Bialetti.com



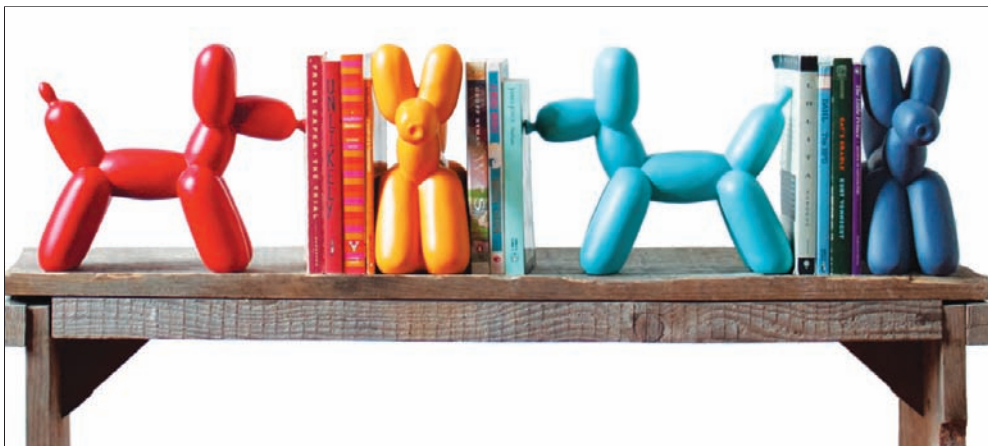
DECK THE HALLS

Out of the Closet, the new thrift shop on Cedar Springs, is a retailer with a heart (it's owned by the nonprofit AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which has two clinics in the area). But it's also a great place to get some good deals, including tree toppers, ornaments, broaches and all kinds of décor for the season. Prices from \$.25 and up!

At Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. OutOfTheCloset.org.



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TICKET TO RIDE

The holiday season often means holiday parties, and who wants to be driving around in the cold after a few toddies? Uber has teamed with Dallas Voice to make it easier (and safer) to make the rounds. Simply download the Uber app from your smartphone and enter the code "VOICEHOLIDAY" to receive \$20 off your first ride this holiday season. (Offer available to new users only.)



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Original Choreography by Jerome Robbins

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LIFE+STYLE

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Tuesday 11.25

If Dallas had hills, they'd be alive with 'The Sound of Music'

If you grew up without cable TV or Netflix, you know that broadcast event movies like *The Ten Commandments* and *The Wizard of Oz* were family-viewing staples. Add to that *The Sound of Music*, for a time the most successful film in history and still a juggernaut in pop culture. Fresh off her Oscar, Julie Andrews delivered another knockout performance as Maria, the singing nun in this sincere but tuneful adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein hit. As old TV audiences will remember, it arrives just in time for Thanksgiving as part of the Magnolia's Tuesday New Classics Series, presented by Dallas Voice.

DEETS: Magnolia Theatre in the West Village. 7:30 p.m.

Friday 11.21 Saturday 11.22

Brian Brooks Moving Company makes North Texas debut

If the name Brian Brooks Moving Company sounds like someone you'd hire to relocate, well, don't feel too bad. The up-and-coming dance troupe has never performed in Dallas until now. But it's making up for it with shows on two days. The modernist, sexy company will dazzle with its energetic and spirited choreography, performed on works with titles like "Torrent" and "I'm Going to Explode."

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Nov. 21-22. \$55-\$75. ATPAC.org.



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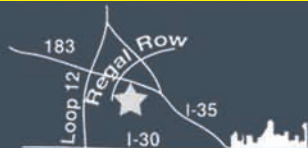
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calendar highlights



GIRL POWER | Undermain presents 'The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls' in Deep Ellum through Dec.6.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Arsonists. A new translation of the dark comedy by gets its regional premiere, courtesy of Kitchen Dog. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Dec. 13. KitchenDogTheater.org.

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual tradition begins previews, with Chamblee Ferguson as Scrooge and Lee Trull directing Kevin Moriarty's 2013 adaptation. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Nov. 25–Dec. 24 (in previews through Nov. 28). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration. Lesbian playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner Paula Vogel (*How I Learned to Drive*) wrote this show, with music by Daryl Waters, about the holidays while all of the union was at war with itself. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Dec. 14 (in previews through Nov. 27). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Elf. The stage musical adaptation of the popular film comedy about a non-magical creature working at Santa's workshop. Presented by Performing Arts Fort Worth. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

Fellowship! A spoofish send-up of *The Lord of the Rings*. *Final weekend.* Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. CircleTheatre.com.

The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls. The glitz and corruption of modern Russia are satirized in this modern dark fantasy. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 6. Undermain.org.

Miracle on 34th Street. Dallas Children's Theater stages this adaptation of the seasonal movie favorite. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St.

Nov. 21–Dec. 21. \$15–\$28. DCT.org.

DANCE

Danielle Georgiou Dance Group: Nice. The new Dallas-based troupe, which focuses on feminist themes presented through the prism of metatheater and German Expressionism, stages this fall series, interpreting the social convention of being thought "nice." Presented as part of the Elevator Project Series. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre Studio Space, 2400 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

Brian Brooks Moving Company. The acclaimed modern troupe performs its North Texas debut. Presented by TITAS. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Nov. 21–22. ATPAC.org.

FINE ART

Isa Genzken: Retrospective. The German modern artist gets a rare and dazzling retrospective. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 4,

this week's solution

G	R	A	P	H	S	T	E	M	S	A	D	E			
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2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Bouquets; French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse. A reexamination of the painting of flowers in the 19th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 8, 2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Mario Testino: Alta Moda. The famed fashion photographer turns his lens on the ordinary, indigenous residents of Peru. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. Through Dec. 20. DallasContemporary.org.

Cecelia Feld. A show of the Dallas collagist and multimedia artist. ilume Galerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 107. Through Nov. 29. ilumeGalerie.com.

The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion. Stunning couture from three of Japan's most iconic fashion designers: Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Feb. 22, 2015.

Monumental Works. A group show of large format paintings. Kirk Hopper Fine Art, 3008 Commerce St. Through Nov. 29. KirkHopperFineArt.com.

FRIDAY 11.21

DINING

Beaujolais & Beyond. The 31st annual celebration of French wine. Presented by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Dallas. Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. \$60-\$70. FACCDallas.com.

FILM

The Art of Film Gala. The Dallas Film Society presents its 5th annual gala, this time honoring Oscar winner Marisa Tomei. Included red carpet, cocktails, reception and seated dinner. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. 6:30 p.m. Individual tickets at \$500. DallasFilm.org.

TUESDAY 11.25

FILM

The Sound of Music. The perfect movie to get in the holiday spirit, this sentimental charmer, with Julie Andrews as a novice-cum-nanny, was the box office sensation before *Jaws* invented the summer blockbuster. Winner of five

Oscars, including best picture. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. only.

WEDNESDAY 11.26

BROADCAST

Top Chef. This season, in Boston, with Padme, Tom, Gail and Richard Blais. Aired on Bravo at 8 p.m.

American Horror Story: Freak Show. The creepiest season yet of the anthology series. Aired on FX at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.27 — HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

BROADCAST

Project Runway All Stars. Returning contestants compete. Aired on Lifetime at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 11.28

FILM

The Birdcage. CineWild presents its monthly LGBT film and mixer with this hit starring Nathan Lane and Robin Williams at a special "community cornucopia" potluck dinner before the screening. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 6 p.m. doors, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m.

THEATER

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Rd. 214-477-4942 \$20-\$23. Through Dec. 28.

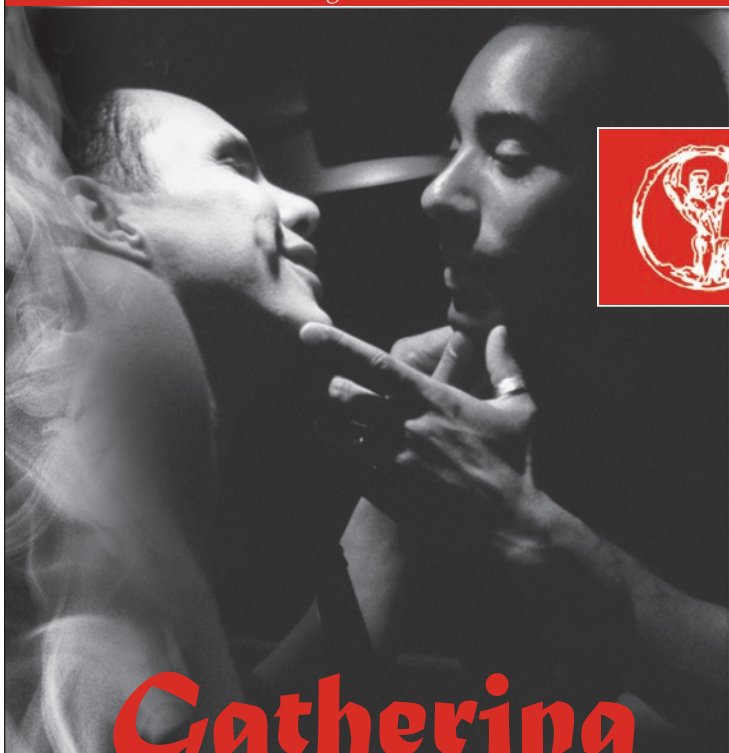
The Explorers Club. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Ft. Worth. 817-784-9378. Through Jan. 4, 2015



MONA LISA SMILE | Oscar winner Marisa Tomei will be honored at the Art of Film Gala at the Perot Friday.

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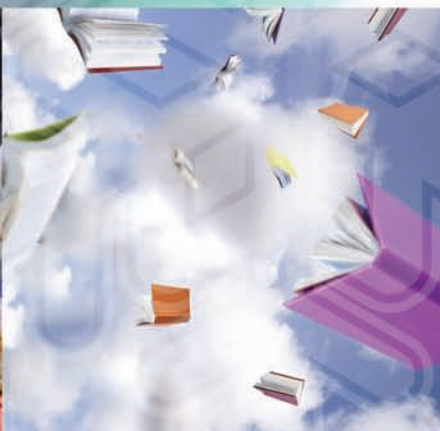
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A CHRISTMAS CAROL



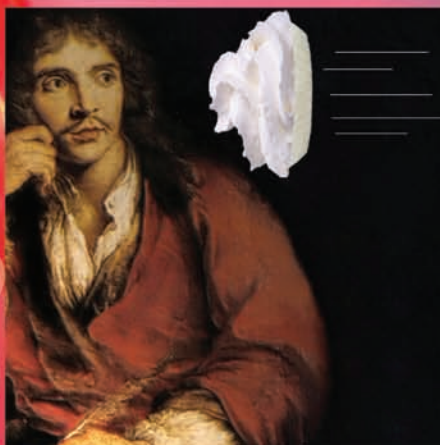
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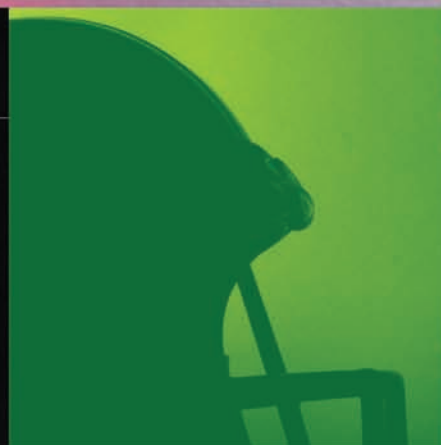
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Billy Masters

Bette's regrets: No duet with Babs

Kickstarter seems to have become a godsend for both new and established artists to fund their projects. Openly gay country singer **Steve Grand** — who just appeared at Dallas' Black Tie Dinner last week, pictured — was looking for \$81,000 for his CD *All American Boy*. By the deadline, he raised more than four times the amount he was looking for. With \$326,593 raised, it's been named one of the 10 most-funded music projects in Kickstarter history.

Speaking of gay country artists, **Chely Wright** also raised money for her new release. During her 45-day Kickstarter fundraiser, she raised \$249,181! That makes her the sixth most successful Kickstarter music campaign, and the number one campaign in country music.

Someone who don't need no Kickstarter is **Bette Midler**. The Divine Miss M has released her tribute to girl groups, called *It's The Girls!*, and it's a delight on every level, due in no small part to the genius producing, arranging and overall futzing by **Marc Shaiman**. The CD also marks a milestone for Bette: It's her fifth consecutive decade of having an album in the top 10. That's not a bad distinction, especially since she's second to only one other female performer: **Babs**. And that brings up one of Bette's regrets: "I would have liked to have dueted with Barbra Streisand by now. She is adorable. There was talk of a collaboration on her latest album and I wanted her on mine, too, but sadly it didn't come to anything because we were both buried in our respective projects." If Babs ever makes her film version of *Gypsy* (which Bette made for TV in 1993), maybe Midler could play a role. I can just hear her belting out, "I'm electrifying — and I ain't even trying."

I love the Internet, for a few reasons: 1. Virtually anyone can publish whatever they want and call it news; and 2. people will believe it. For my job (such

as it is), I spend hours carefully re-searching stories. Others, not so much.

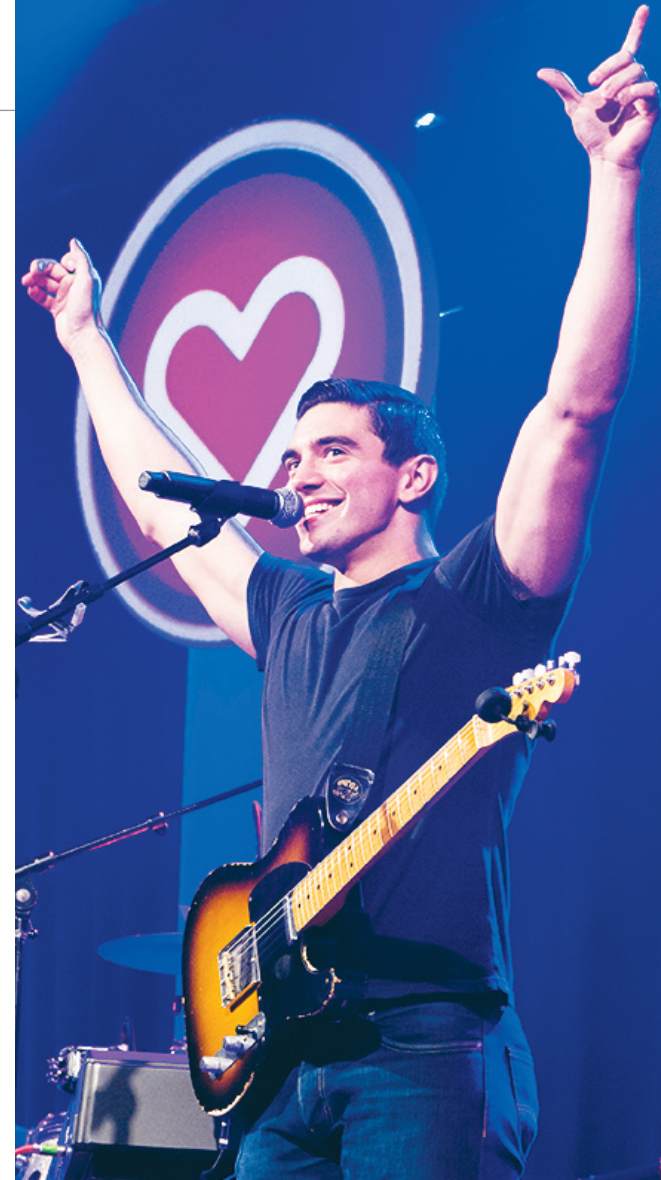
Last week, some websites reported that Disney would be making an animated feature about two gay princes. The alleged movie was to be based on the children's book *The Princes and the Treasure*, which is a real book released earlier this year. It features two handsome princes who fall in love with each other during their quest to save a princess. So far, so good. However, the report also said that Disney would release this film in fall of 2015. How on earth could this movie be out in a matter of months when the long-gestating *Finding Nemo* sequel has been in production for years? Yes, someday our prince will come; but this story is a bunch of crap. Disney is not making a movie about gay princes anytime soon. Sure, many people believe that *Frozen* is a veiled lesbian allegory. But that's as far as it's going ... for now.

A few years ago, the thought of a professional athlete saying he was gay would have been fantasy. But it's happening more and more every day. Last week, it was **Robbie Rogers** who was out front and center. The soccer player was feted at a West Hollywood soirée to celebrate the release of his autobiography, *Coming Out To Play*. Since he's the spousal equivalent of TV producer **Greg Berlanti**, it's no surprise that his story has already been attached to a television show. In July, producers **Craig Zadan** and **Neil Meron** optioned Robbie's life story and began developing a sitcom about a young gay male soccer player. Three months later, ABC signed off on *Men In Shorts*. That's an awful lot of attention for a soccer player in the U.S. — regardless of his sexuality.

If you know one thing about me, it's that I don't kick someone when they're down. Others made jokes about **Clay Aiken** being a perpetual bridesmaid after his second-place showing to become a congressman from North Carolina. But not moi ... no sirree. I made those jokes long before the election (I always like to be first). But Clay's a clever mix; he's always got a plan B. A film crew was following him on the campaign trail and the result will be a four-hour documentary series for the Esquire Network (whatever that is). But we hear that some of his supporters are less than thrilled to be a part of this project. Someone who organized a fundraiser in Los Angeles went public with his dismay in an open letter. He claims that guests were misled when asked to sign waivers by the film crew — they "were told it was for a BBC documentary that would not air here in the United States." This person feels that Clay had himself "covered with a reality TV show deal the entire time, just in case you didn't win." Ouch.

Here's something you won't read anywhere else: I was talking to someone close to **Renée Zellweger** and they tell me that she's shocked anyone even noticed that she's had massive reconstructive surgery. She didn't think it was a big deal and is perplexed by the attention she's attracted. I'm perplexed whenever she gets attention, but that's just me.

Hugh Jackman has returned to Broadway in *The River*. The show is slated to run through Jan. 25 and, thus far, it's been a bloody ordeal — literally. In a performance last week, he cut his finger while slicing a lemon on stage. But he gamely continued with the show while bleeding. Why didn't he find a way to get



offstage and bandage himself? Because two weeks earlier in rehearsal, he had cut another finger while preparing a fish dinner. That slice required five stitches, so Jackman was hell-bent on not repeating that situation. Although this most recent slice was less severe and didn't require stitches (the first cut is always the deepest), his mishaps prompted his representative to quip, "Let's try to get through *The River* run with at least 7.5 fingers intact!"

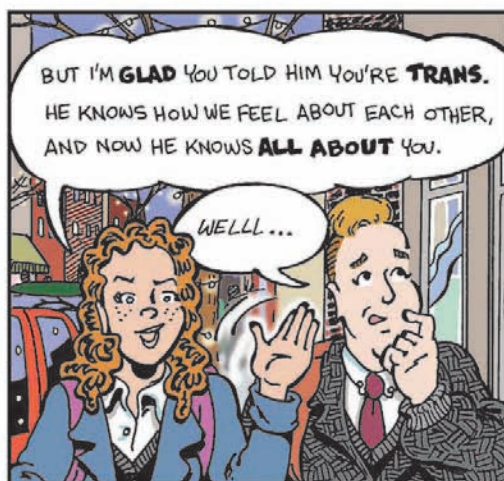
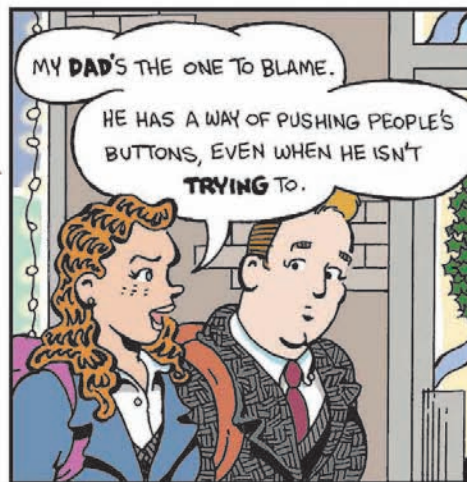
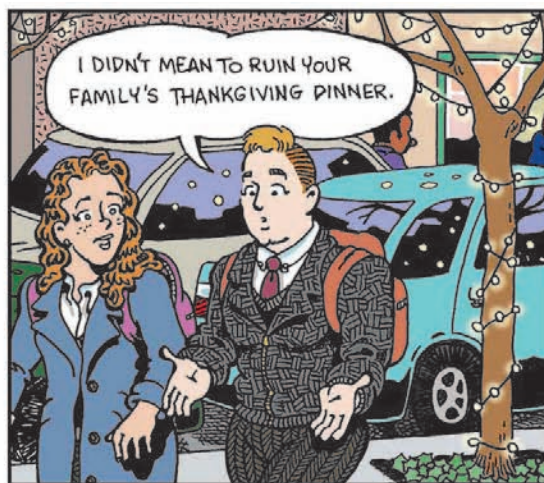
Our Ask Billy question comes from Javier in New Jersey: "What has that guy from Smallville — Tom Welling — been up to? God, he was gorgeous."

One doesn't think of Tom Welling often — or even, I daresay, annually. I have enormous fondness for him because the footage of him diving into the water wearing only a "cock sock" was first on my website. Recently, I saw one of those spreads about former heartthrobs. I remember stopping at one guy who was positively breathtaking, and positively unknown to me. It was Welling, who happens to have become an incredibly handsome man. There is virtually nothing about him that resembles his *Smallville* persona, so one would think he'd get some work. But since we last saw him in *Cheaper By The Dozen 2* (and where, oh where, is **Bonnie Hunt**?), he's done two very small film projects. Of course, he's still big — as the video we have of him demonstrates. It's just the projects that got small.

When anyone refers to Babs as adorable, we've definitely come to the end of another column. But again I ask, where is Bonnie Hunt? If you have someone or something you want me to look into, write to me and I promise to get back to you before Tom Welling turns up in a project as big as his talent.

Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Have a question for Billy? Send an email to him at Billy@BillyMasters.com.





Dillon and Will at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Nov. 21-27:**

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Bad Habits** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Mi Diva Loca** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Alicia Silex** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: **Empress Starlight** AIDS benefit buffet at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

BJ's NXSI: Gay movie Monday on the patio bar.

Changes: Non-traditional **Turkey Day Dinner** at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Club Cherries: **Vega Vixens** showtime at 11 p.m. on Saturday.

Club Reflection: **Fall Frolic Fort Worth** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** cookout at 4 p.m. and candidate show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food** show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: National Leather Association: Dallas presents **Leather Perspectives**, a leather discussion with demonstrations at 2 p.m. on Saturday. \$5 for non-members. **DFW Sisters** presents **Sleigh Ride** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** presents **Thanks for the Giving** from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.

Havana: Thanksgiving bash with DJ **Nonsense** and **Chris Huerta** on Wednesday.

Hidden Door: Fall frolic at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Edna's Angels** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Round-Up Saloon: **North Texas Council of Clubs Fall Frolic 2014** runs Friday through Sunday.

S4: Open Wednesday to start **Thanksgiving** early.

Sue Ellen's: **Scotty Isaacs Band** on Friday. **Lauren Alexander Band** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** from 3-5 p.m. and **Tyla Taylor Band** from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday. Open **Thanksgiving** night at 7 p.m. with **Little Chalupa**.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Watch **Dallas** at N.Y. **Giants** at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday and **Philadelphia** at Dallas at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: **Kat Haygood**.



Alejandro, Eli and Jerry at the Round-Up Saloon.



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.



Jacob at Alexandre's.



Friends at Havana.



Dancers at Marty's Live.



Friends' night out on The Strip.



Girls' night out at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



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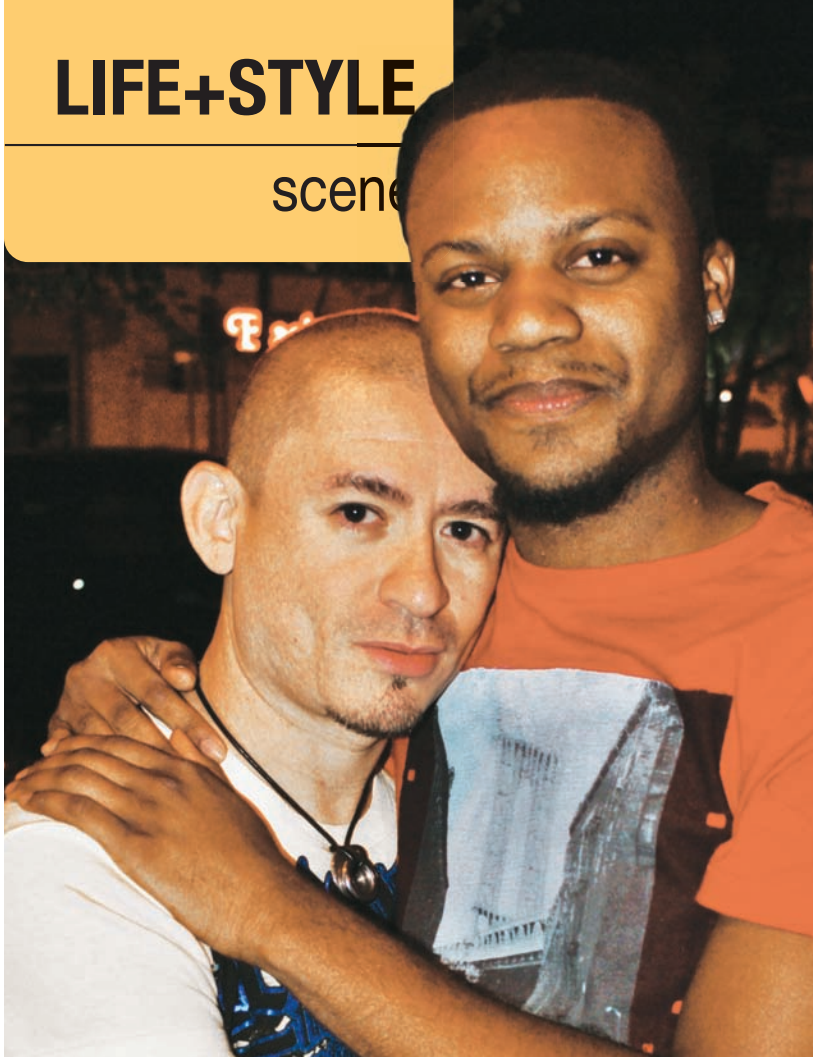
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Friends on The Strip.



Darla and Sue at Sue Ellen's.



Onyx at the Round-Up Saloon.

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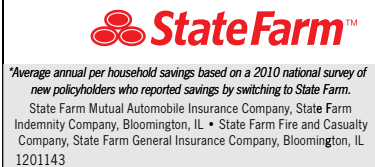
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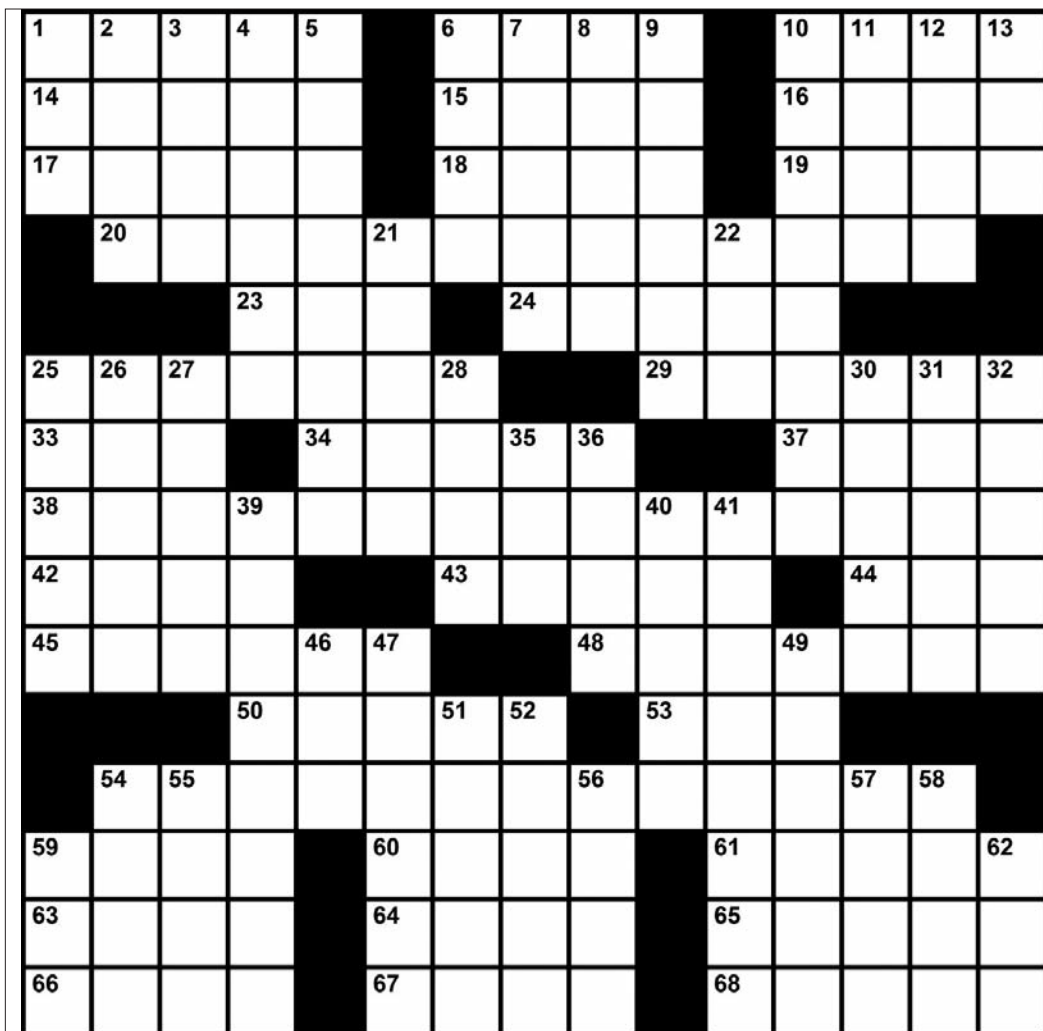
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q-puzzle



I Hear a Melody

Solution on page 36

Across

- Chart with the bottom line, maybe
- Pansy supporter
- Quills* subject
- Spine-chilling
- Irene of *Fame* fame
- Mireille of *World War Z*
- Photographer Grace
- LSD, e.g.
- Carbon compound
- Kitchen appliance with spinning blades
- Airline in *The Aviator*
- Sebastian or Joan
- He rubs you the right way
- Says "Bottoms up!"
- Sixth word of Abe's address
- Over one's head
- Actress Perlman
- Subject of a recent book of photos by James Spada
- Place in a Robert Redford movie
- Gussy up
- Island necklace
- Rough house
- Broadway title woman that everybody noes?
- Roman Empire invaders

53 Pt. of SSN

- Song about 38-Across using 20-Across on a dairy product?
- Swimmer you can eat
- "To be" to Henri
- Tiny amounts
- Russian singing duo
- Screw royally
- Snatch
- Get ready for action
- Chose not to swallow
- Flynn role opposite Davis

Down

- Dropout's doc.
- Where a sailor may hit bottom
- Alice's Restaurant patron
- Earhart and others
- Condoms?
- The Lion King* villain
- Meat-filled treats
- Lucci's Kane in *All My Children*
- Arrived
- Be an onlooker at the Oscars?
- Word used in dating
- Closet opening
- Immigrant ed. choice
- Former *American Idol* judge Abdul

22 Cone head?

- Pirates of Penzance* heroine
- Type size
- Somewhat, slangily
- The Horse Fair* painter Bonheur
- "Thou ___ not covet thy neighbor's ... ass"
- Religious principle
- When repeated, a *Funny Girl* song
- Flower shop letters
- Disney sci-fi flick
- What the top did from underneath?
- Wipe away
- Not at all
- Kind of truck
- Maupin's *Significant* ___
- Rubber stamps
- Highly agitated down south
- Lebanon neighbor
- Whar she blows?
- Crime category
- ___ to the bottom (sank)
- "You know how ___"
- Use wrecking balls on
- Gas additive
- Sarah Jessica Parker's "city" activity

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