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The Premier Media Source for

Established 1984 | Volume 31 | Issue 50 | FREE | Friday, April 24, 2015



Carter and Espy Brown:
Transitioning from suburbia
to national activism

★ A Typical **AMERICAN** Couple

By David Taffet
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photo by Arnold Wayne Jones

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County Judge Clay Jenkins, Sheriff Lupe Valdez and Dallas City Council members Adam Medrano and Jennifer Gates helped Resource Center break ground on its new facility at 5714 Cedar Springs Road at 10:30 a.m. on April 23. Current and past board members gathered along with representatives of many of the groups that meet at Resource Center. Among the early board members who attended were Bruce Monroe, Deb Elder and Ron Allen.

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox announced the capital campaign is 28 percent away from its goal with about \$2.5 million left to raise over the next year.

Rain threatened but mostly held off through the ceremony, which included leaders of more than half a dozen groups that have used Resource Center through the years for meetings, religious services, support groups and as a source of legal information.

Once the new building is completed, the old buildings at 2701 Reagan St. will be renovated as offices.





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localbriefs

Senior summit planned

Cannon Flowers has announced a summit on LGBT aging to be held in June, with more details to come later. Flowers attended a White House national elder summit in February.

The meeting will be held at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. Flowers said the date will be determined later, but that the summit will be a day-long event.

A screening of the film *Silver Tsunami* and a presentation by Robert Emery on his planned senior housing project are among the items included on the agenda.

Candace Thompson, who works with the city of Dallas Senior Affairs Commission, is co-chairing with Flowers.

TCGPWA announces vendor opportunities

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association announced vendor opportunities for its Oct. 3 parade and festival and the Oct. 4 picnic.

About 10,000 people are expected for the parade and 5,000 for the picnic. The annual Pride Week booklet will be distributed weeks prior to event to LGBT and ally businesses, churches, organizations and sponsors.

For more information, contact vendors@tcg-pwa.org or visit TCGPWA.org.

GALA Youth meets

GALA Youth Fourth Sunday speaker is GALA's own youth member, McKinney High School Homecoming Queen April Swartz-Larson, who tells her story and talks about plans for the future. GALA Youth meets at 6 p.m. on April 26 at 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

Estate planning seminar offered

Resource Center presents a complimentary estate planning seminar, featuring local financial planning experts, on issues important to the LGBT community. The event takes place at The Ashton, 2215 Cedar Springs Road at 5:30 p.m. on April 28.

Light bites, wine and complimentary valet parking provided. To attend, RSVP to Dean S. Wilson at dwilson@myresourcecenter.org.

Chorale concerts

The last two nights of the Turtle Creek Chorale's Britten, Beatles & Bond concert are April 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

Musica de Mayo honors Sheriff Lupe Valdez at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. at 7 p.m. on May 1 and 2.

Tickets are available at TurtleCreekChorale.com



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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

APRIL

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings.

Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367. **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• **April 24–26: Earth Day Texas at Fair Park**
Billed as the world's largest Earth Day initiative, colleges, universities, entrepreneurs, non-profits and more come together to address environmental issues with an Earth Day Eco Expo featuring art, activities, exhibits, music and presentations. For more information visit EarthDayTX.org.

• **April 24: North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce 10th Annual Dinner**
Honoring North Texas business and community leaders at 5:30 p.m. at Renaissance

Dallas Hotel, 2222 N Stemmons Freeway. CelebrationOfExcellence.com.

• **April 25: Tenth Annual Prairie Fest**
Now in its tenth year, Fort Worth's Prairie Fest is an outdoor festival benefitting the Tandy Hills Nature Center, one of the last remaining natural prairies in the region. Free. 11 a.m.–8 p.m. at Tandy Hills Nature Center, 3400 View St., Fort Worth. For more information visit Tandyhills.org.

• **April 25: Fuse Starbucks Social**
Meet new friends and enjoy one free beverage at 7 p.m. at Starbucks, 2801 Allen. For more information e-mail fusebox@myresourcecenter.org or visit DFWfuse.com.

• **April 25: DFW Federal Club "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Party**
Federal Club members host dinner for randomly assigned guests followed by an exclusive after-party from 9:30–midnight at Mitchell Bar, 1404 Main St., with select complimentary drinks. Guests will be contacted a day before the event with dining details. Seating is limited and RSVP required. \$75. Visit

DFWfederalclub.org/gwctd-2015 for more information.

• **April 26–27: TransTexas Caucus and Lobby Day**
Transgender Education Network of Texas and Equality Texas host caucus meeting and lobby day about issues facing transgender people. Caucus meets 1–6:45 p.m. on April 26 at AIDS Services of Austin Offices, 7215 Cameron Road Austin. Lobby legislators from 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m. on April 27 at the State Capitol, 1100 N Congress Avenue, Austin. Advanced registration required. Register at Transtexas.org. For more information contact Katy Stewart at 877-532-6789 or by e-mail at katy@transtexas.org.

• **April 27: DFW Fuse Spark! Roundtable**
Resource Center's group for same gender loving men between the ages of 18 and 29 hosts its monthly Spark! Roundtable about relationships, sex, meeting new guys, and more at 8 p.m. at the Fuse Center, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt. 2367. For more information e-mail fusebox@myresourcecenter.org or visit DFWfuse.com.

• **April 27–May 3: National Black Trans Advocacy Conference & Awards Gala**
Black Transmen Inc. presents its fourth annual national conference April 27–May 5 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, 8250 N. Central Expressway. This year's theme is "Thinking & Speaking A Better World." Limited scholarships are available. For more information and a full schedule visit Blacktrans.org/conference.html.

• **April 27: Eve of SCOTUS Marriage Hearings Gathering**
Local organizations gather on the eve of the Supreme Court's hearings on marriage equality to educate others about the importance of marriage equality. 6:30 p.m. at the Legacy of Love monument at the Oak Lawn Triangle.

• **April 27–May 5: Early Voting begins for municipal elections**

• **April 28: Free LGBT Estate Planning Seminar**
Resource Center hosts a free estate-planning seminar featuring local financial planning experts on issues important to the LGBT community. 5:30–7:30 p.m. at The Ashton, 2215 Cedar Springs. Complimentary valet parking. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Dean S. Wilson at dwilson@resourcecenter.org

• **April 30: Fuse midnight screening of Avengers: Age of Ultron**
Studio Movie Grill in Arlington. Get reserved seating at Spark! roundtable on April 27. For more information e-mail fusebox@myresourcecenter.org or visit DFWfuse.com.

• **April 30: 25th Annual LifeWalk Kick-off Party**
AIDS Arms benefit features beverages, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and raffle from 6:30–9 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. For more information and to RSVP visit Lifewalkkickoffparty.rsvpify.com.

• **April 30: GEAR Monthly Mixer**
Make new friends and learn about GEAR and Resource Center 6–8 p.m. at La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. For more information and to R.S.V.P. call 214-528-0144 or email gear@myresourcecenter.org.

• **April 30–May 3: TGRA Texas Tradition Rodeo, Music Fest and Fair**
The four-day event at Fair Park features out country singer Ty Herndon, live music and a jackpot barrel race as well as \$6,000 in prize money covering several events including rough stock, speed and roping competitions. Annual royalty pageant starts at the Round-Up Saloon and finishing at Fair Park Coliseum. Tickets are \$20 per day or \$30 per weekend pass. Special VIP passes also available. For more information visit TGRA.org.

MAY

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; Fuse game night** every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• **May 1–3: Austin International Drag Festival**
Benefits Austin International Drag Foundation to educate, promote and provide resources and opportunities to the drag community.

• **May 2: Oak Lawn Community Outreach Center Home Ownership Conversation**
Find out if home ownership is right for you from 10:30 a.m.–noon at the Oak Lawn Community Outreach Center at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3707 Cedar Springs Road To RSVP call or e-mail Rev. Gregg Alan Smith at 214-521-5197 ext. 121 or gregg.smith@olumc.org.

• **May 2: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Cinco de Mayo Bingo**
TCGPWA hosts another Pride Bingo benefit for Pride Week events from 6–9 p.m. at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 993 E. Avenue J, Grand Prairie. \$20 donation includes 2 bingo cards, 15 rounds of bingo, beverages and snacks. \$5 extra donation includes extra rounds of bingo. For more information and prize donation opportunities call or e-mail "Richard" James Tinker at 817-921-3318 or tink2withu@aol.com. For anonymous donations e-mail Tony Coronado at tonyconradodsns@aol.com.



Earth Day Texas

SPOTLIGHT

Regardless of your feelings about Earth Day Texas, the annual Earth Day Expo in Fair Park, it's once again upon us. Now five years old, organizers say the three-day expo, which takes places April 24–26, is the largest in the world.

"We've invited regionally and nationally known speakers to engage the business community and the family at this year's event," said Trammell S. Crow, the confab's founder.

They represent a wide range of perspectives, some of whom you'd least expect. Speakers include Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business, who recently voiced opposition to anti-LGBT religious freedom bills in the statehouse ... and Lt. Gov. Dan

Patrick, who has been vocal in his opposition to LGBT equality.

One event, "Conservation Has No Parties" from 1–2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, highlights that odd divide. National Audubon Society's President David Yarnold and ConservAmerica's CEO Rob Sisson will discuss their social media campaign "Conservation Has No Party" and why conservation is an important cause on both sides of the aisle.

Minus the political oddities, participants of all ages will find something to please them. Foodies can attend presentations on farm-to-table cuisine or catch one of four screenings of *Racing Extinction*, a film by Academy award winning director Louie Psihoyos. The event is free.

A Typical American couple



Espy and Carter Brown disappeared into the suburbs until they decided to create a community. (Arnold Wayne Jones /Dallas Voice)

Black Transmen founder ‘didn’t know there were other guys like me’

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Carter Brown says he began his transition in 2001, the same year he met his wife, Esperanza.

But Espy — as she’s known to family and friends — differs on the timeline: “He was already there when we met,” she says of her husband.

When he was younger, Carter says, he knew he just wasn’t a girl. But he had no role models, unlike transwomen did. By the time he transitioned, Carter still hadn’t met another transman. But there was no question he was a man who was attracted to women.

Espy isn’t as clear about her own orientation. She’s a cisgender woman attracted to her husband. But is she straight? She thinks a little before answering: “No.”

Lesbian? “Oh, no.” Bisexual? “No. Not that,” she says, shaking her head. “Maybe pansexual.” That term seems more inclusive, she says, and in-

cludes her attraction to her transgender husband.

ATypical couple

In some ways, the Browns are just a typical suburban couple raising a daughter.

For 10 years after transitioning, Carter says, they just disappeared into the community. He had a good job. She was finishing her graduate degree.

They might still be that typical American couple living a peaceful suburban life — if Carter hadn’t been outed by a coworker.

Carter says he had been in the mortgage industry for years and was doing quite well. He changed companies a few times and received one promotion after another. Years beyond his transition, he was earning a six-figure income.

Things were going great until one day a coworker recognized Carter from another company where they worked together years earlier. She remembered him having a different name and presenting as a different sex, and she decided to share that information with the owner of the company she and Carter were currently working for.

Carter thought he had put his past behind him.

But the mortgage industry is fairly small. He says now it’s not surprising that he crossed the paths with some of the same people he had worked for before.

Carter says he probably didn’t handle the situation well when the company’s owner confronted him: “I was caught off guard,” he says. “I was shocked, humiliated.”

He says his boss asked him if he had a vagina. Not until much later did he even realize how inappropriate that question was in the workplace.

That was 2008, and the real estate market was crashing. The company’s owner told him he was downsizing and Carter’s services would no longer be needed.

Of course, Carter was the only one laid off — a familiar story for many transpeople.

As he worked to get back on his feet, Carter began to see the problems facing the trans community in ways he’d never seen them before. He got another job, but he also began searching for others in his community.

By 2011, Carter could clearly see need for a group specific to the community of black transmen. He had looked diligently and was unable to

find a group like that anywhere — either online or off. When he realized nothing like that existed, Carter decided he would create the first one.

What followed, he says, was “a wave of men.”

When Carter staged the first conference for black transmen that year, hundreds attended from around the country. The conference is now an annual event that has grown every year.

Common concerns, special issues

Espy says all LGBT people share some common concerns, on issues like coming out and family acceptance. And some issues, she adds, are common to all transpeople, like the cost of transitioning and learning to present.

But there are other issues that are very specific to black transmen, and some issues that black transmen have in common with cisgender black men.

“I’m more concerned about my safety as a black male than as a transman,” Carter says, explaining that learning to navigate society as a black man is something he could only experience after transitioning.



"A butch female is not as frightening" as a black man, he says.

Espy says she and her husband also are sometimes faced with the expectations of the black community in general. That community, she notes, doesn't expect black women to transition.

"It's something white people do," she says. "We [blacks] don't have the money and we don't have the time."

Espy says the black community thinks of transitioning as a luxury they can't afford because of the cost, both in money and in time. Blacks, she says, see themselves having to spend more of their time working just to get by with no time or money

for luxuries.

Licensed professional counselor Feleshia Porter works with many trans clients. She agrees some issues are unique to black transmen, while others are shared. The black community, Feleshia notes, is "deeply steeped in religion," with a "strong patriarchal" tradition.

On the other hand, the counselor says, transmen "socially blend quickly." She attributes that to the powerful effect of testosterone on the body: once a transman can grow a beard, he can pass quickly.

But all transmen face one common challenge, Feleshia says — "being a man on the planet without a penis." It is a challenge that is slowly being overcome as surgical techniques improve.

Feleshia also says that black transmen living in the South also have to learn how to be black men living in the South. For instance, she notes, black men in the South are more likely to be arrested.

All transmen need to build

Feleshia Porter



confidence as a man, Feleshia adds: "Learn to look 'em in the eye and don't show fear."

Historically, the counselor notes, transmen were invisible. They existed — and often still do exist — in the lesbian community as really butch women, "studs" who in reality were more trans than lesbian. Once those lesbian "studs" begin to transition, though they usually have to give up the lesbian community to become straight men living in a heteronormative world. It takes a lot of confidence to live in that world, Feleshia adds.

Building community

Carter's organization, Black Transmen, and its annual

conference help those transmen begin to build a community of their own and grow the confidence they need to live in the world. Carter has dedicated himself to the cause of black transmen, leaving his job late last year to work full time as executive director of the organization he founded.

The fourth annual Black Transmen Conference is being held April 27-May 3 at the Doubletree Hotel, near NorthPark in Dallas. Carter says the hotel is already sold out, with people from around the world coming to town to attend the conference.

All trans and cisgender people are welcome. "You're not just welcome to come," Espy stresses. "We need you to come."

Carter says his group's conference is a call to unify.

"It's urgent we stand up without apologies and humanize trans lives," he says.

Both agree with Porter that issues overlap and hope a variety of LGBT community members will share some of their time with those coming to Dallas for the week from around the world. ■

For more information on the conference and group, visit BlackTransmen.org.

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The Legacy of Love monument has been the site of numerous marriage equality rallies. The next will be held Monday, April 27. Photo courtesy Chuck Marcelo



Who's who, what's what

Some things to know in preparation for the Supreme Court's hearing Tuesday on marriage equality

LISA KEEN | Contributing Writer
lisakeen@mac.com

When the Supreme Court of the United States hears arguments Tuesday, April 28, on marriage for same-sex couples, there is much more on the line than whether states can ban the licensing and recognition of marriage for same-sex couples. The court could also decide what level of judicial scrutiny must be applied to laws that seek to disadvantage LGBT people.

At a time when some states are seeking to pass laws that enable people to discriminate by simply expressing a "religious" motivation, such a ruling could have far-reaching implications. And even beyond the law, a ruling that allowed discrimination against LGBT people under some circumstances or in some places could stall momentum

that has been clearly building in favor of greater acceptance of LGBT people and their families.

To help readers prep for the oral argument and the crush of media reporting on the case, here is a quick guide to the issues, the attorneys, and what to listen for:

When: Tuesday, April 28, beginning at 10 a.m. EDT (that's 9 a.m., CDT). The oral arguments are not broadcast, but there will be many television and radio news outlets reporting on the arguments as soon as they are completed at 12:30 p.m. EDT.

An audio recording and transcript of the arguments will be available on the Supreme Court's website (SupremeCourt.gov) by 2 p.m.

Case name: The appeal being heard is a consolidation of four cases, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (Case No. 14-556) from Ohio; *Tanco v. Haslam* (Case No. 14-562) from Tennessee; *DeBoer v. Snyder* (Case No. 14-571) from Michigan; and *Bourke v. Beshear* (Case No. 14-574) from Kentucky.



Local LGBT advocates, organizations to rally for marriage equality

Event set for the eve of Supreme Court hearing to show solidarity

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

On Tuesday, April 28, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases that could lead to nationwide recognition of marriage equality. The day before — Monday, April 27 — numerous local LGBT advocates and organizations will gather at the Legacy of Love monument to voice their support for marriage equality and what it personally means to each of them.

A wide variety of speakers will speak in support of marriage equality, including activists, faith leaders and students. Speakers include Liz Rodriguez, co-chair of HRC DFW's Federal Club; Daniel Scott Cates, a community activist and organizer; the Rev. Katie Holmes of Mansfield's Galileo Church; Josh Rudner, a student and Gay Straight Alliance leader at Dallas' Greenhill School, and the Rev. Colleen Darraugh of MCC Greater Dallas. Lambda Legal's Community Educator Omar Narvaez will keynote.

Rodriguez said it's time for nationwide marriage equality. "At a young age ... I was like any other girl; I imagined a dream wedding. But unfortunately, years ago, I came to terms with the fact that this dream would never happen in the state I love," she said in a written statement. "Fast for-

ward to present time: I am astounded at what has taken place and the progress made by so many individuals who fought before us and continue to fight with us and for us. [Their] passion, drive and determination have made marriage equality a reality for us all."

Todd Whitley, executive director of rally co-sponsor Hope for Peace & Justice, said the local LGBT community must stand in solidarity to show support for a positive ruling by the Supreme Court.

"I can't wait for the entire state to see images of our community coming together — gay, transgender, and straight together — to light the way for justice, not just for the freedom to marry, but also for the work that lies ahead to secure the full equality of everyone in the LGBT community," Whitley said. "You simply cannot shut out the light from this much love."

Rudner, the Greenhill student, said a Supreme Court ruling for marriage equality will empower his generation.

"Today's youth will soon inherit the task of governing this country. The question before us today is how heavy that burden must be. Marriage equality today means less of a burden for the leaders of tomorrow," he said.

According to the Williams Institute, a LGBT policy think tank at the UCLA School of Law, an estimated 350,000 same-sex couples are currently legally married in the United States. Since the

■ RALLY, Page 17



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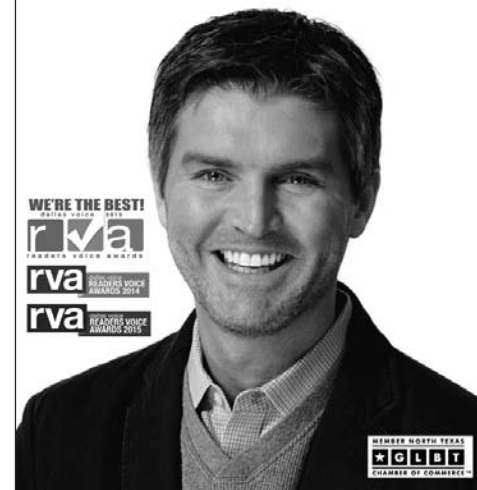
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Dallas City Council election wrap-up

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Even though there are certain areas of town known as "gayborhoods," LGBT people live all over Dallas. And response from candidates in next month's Dallas City Council election show that at least some of the candidates understand that their constituencies include LGBT people.

When Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance began its endorsement process, candidates from every district applied and for the first time in its 38 year history, DGLA endorsed in every district. Also for the first time, every council member running for re-election — whether opposed or unopposed — sought the group's backing.

Traditionally, the largest concentration of LGBT people are found in Oak Lawn and North Oak Cliff. Those districts are represented by Adam Medrano, Philip Kingston and Scott

Griggs. All three are running unopposed.

For the 2013 election, council districts were redrawn. District 3 Councilman Scott Griggs' neighborhood was redrawn into District 1, where he won re-election. District 5 Councilwoman Vonceil Jones Hill's neighborhood was drawn into District 3.

Hill, who has been a vocal opponent of the LGBT community throughout her tenure on the council, suddenly found herself representing one of the city's largest LGBT communities — southern Oak Cliff, including the Kiestwood neighborhood as well as the Mountain Creek Lake area.

Now, five candidates are running to replace Hill, who faces term limits.

DGLA endorsed Wini Cannon, and Joe Tave got the nod from Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

DGLA said in its endorsement the group preferred Cannon over Tave because of Cannon's



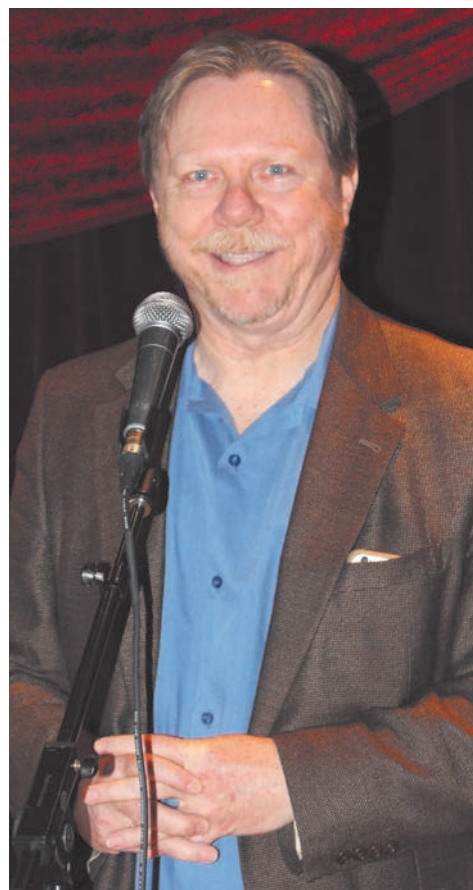
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James White



Joe Tave

Early voting: When and where

Early voting begins for local elections runs Monday, April 27–Saturday, May 2, 1–6 p.m. on Sunday, May 3 and 7 a.m.–7 p.m. on Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5.

Early voting locations in Dallas are:

Bethany Lutheran Church 10101 Walnut Hill Lane
Churchill Recreation Center, 6906 Churchill Way
Cockrell Hill City Hall, 4125 W. Clarendon
Dallas I.S.D. Administration Bldg, 3700 Ross Ave.
Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus, 802 S. Buckner
El Centro College-West Campus, 3330 N. Hampton Rd.
Frankford Townhomes, 18110 Marsh Lane
Grauwlyer Park Recreation Center, 7780 Harry Hines Blvd.
Highland Hills Library, 6200 Bonnie View Rd.
J. Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young Street
Lochwood Library, 11221 Lochwood Blvd.
Marsh Lane Baptist Church, 10716 Marsh Lane
Martin Luther King Jr. Core Building, 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Martin Weiss Recreation Center, 1111 Martindell Ave.
Mountain Creek Library, 6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy.
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse, 410 S. Beckley Ave.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7611 Park Lane
Paul L Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest Library, 2008 East Kiest Blvd.
Preston Royal Library, 5626 Royal Lane
Records Building (Main Location), 509 Main Street
Renner-Frankford Library, 6400 Frankford Rd.
Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.
Samuell Grand Recreation Center, 6200 East Grand Ave.
South Oak Cliff High School, 3601 S. Marsalis Ave.

Before you vote, make sure you have an approved form of photo identification. Currently voters may present a valid Texas driver license, Election Identification Certificate, personal identification card, concealed handgun license, military identification card, citizenship or naturalization certificate or passport.

For more information visit Citysecretary.dallascityhall.com/electionMay2015.html.

willingness to make transgender issues a priority at City Hall.

Tave said it would take very little for him to get up to speed on LGBT issues.

"I've worked over the years for fairness and equality," he said.

District 10 in northeast Dallas includes Lake

Highlands. Three candidates are running for that seat.

Last week, Highland Park ISD ended an investigation against District 10's DGLA-endorsed candidate Adam McGough. His children attended Highland Park schools for more than two years. The family maintained a home in Lake Highlands while also having an apartment in Highland Park.

McGough claimed his wife lived in Highland Park during that period.

The school district had the right to check residency using leases, electric bills and paperwork and could request a home visit.

Had the school district found McGough wasn't eligible to send his children to Highland Park schools, it could have charged him \$50 per day tuition reimbursement for the two years they attended those schools. The investigation has ended with no charges filed.

The children are now enrolled in a private Christian school.

Stonewall endorsed James White in the race.

In District 5, which includes Pleasant Grove, incumbent Rick Callahan has said he's struggled with the issue of same-sex marriage and voted with Sheffie Kadane and Hill against equal pension benefits for employees who are legally married to a same-sex spouse.

Sherry Cordova, who was endorsed by both DGLA and Stonewall, has promised to represent the interests of her LGBT constituents if elected.

District 4 is a South Dallas seat that includes a few LGBT neighborhoods in southern Oak Cliff. DLGA endorsed Carolyn King Arnold from a group of eight candidates running because of her commitment to support equality for the LGBT community. ■



Adam McGough

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Terry Bax is a top Lifewalk fundraiser who uses creative strategies to engage and entice donors. Here he poses with a quilt of 25 years worth of team t-shirts. (James Russell/Dallas Voice)

Local LifeWalk volunteer creates quilt
of 25 years worth of history

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Local accountant Terry Bax first participated in LifeWalk, which benefits AIDS Arms, eight years ago. He was on the cusp of moving to Kansas City and was wishing he had gotten involved in the event much sooner.

"I wanted to be involved because I've had so many friends who died from AIDS-related illnesses. I just wanted to do something," he said.

In 2012, Bax returned to Dallas. After establishing his independent ac-

counting firm, he dedicated himself to LifeWalk. In that short amount of time, he has become one of the walk's biggest fundraisers.

Team Clover, named for Bax's clover tattoo, helped raised more than \$53,000 last year, making it the second biggest fundraising LifeWalk team in 2014.

Bax solicits family and friends to donate, but he reaches his fundraising goals through a variety of other creative efforts, too. Emphasizing big events and projects as well as individual solicitations is the key to his success, he said.

Bax said his goal this year is to raise \$100,000. To reach that, he'll auction off a massive quilt, comprising 25 years of LifeWalk history, on Sunday, Oct. 4, the day of the walk. The 85-inch-by-101-inch quilt includes 200 blocks highlighting the teams involved in LifeWalk over 25 years. The six-inch-by-

six-inch blocks will evoke many memories for any longtime LifeWalk participant. They include corporate or team logos and personal memories of now-departed walkers contributed by teams ranging from the now-closed Lanny's Saloon to Starbucks.

Bax gathered every t-shirt and logo he could find, whether provided by AIDS Arms or from walkers he reached out to personally. He hunted down every last team to get pieces, and then the 200 blocks were patched together by a custom quilter. He said he wanted to include as much history as possible.

"Making this quilt at such a pivotal time not only honors the past but the progress we've made since [the AIDS crisis first hit] for gay rights. It's so much more than AIDS," he said. "It also represents people working toward the common good."

Friends initially shrug when he describes the quilt, he said. But, "I tell them they have to see it. When they see it, their mouths drop open. It even gives me goose bumps thinking about it," he added.

The quilt isn't his only creative fundraising project. Last year, Bax asked each bar to pitch in as well. With help from the Kansas City AIDS



Walk, he asked each bar to build a Putt Putt-style golf holes. It was a hit, and not just for the bars: Team Clover raised \$2,500.

This year, the Team Clover Open, as Bax called it, will take place Saturday, Aug. 29. He anticipates easily raising \$20,000 from a combination of participation fees from the bars and 20 teams.

A personal plea still matters though. Bax said he still sends texts and e-mails to family and friends, reminding them to donate to Team Clover. All of them are more than happy to donate.

"I sometimes ask myself, 'Why do I do this to myself?'" he said. "I do things out of passion. But I'm also competitive. It's a great use of skills. I'm able to help a cause." ■

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When, Where, Why
Rally for marriage equality supporters at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 27 at the Legacy of Love monument. A wedding reception honoring engaged and married couples will take place at Sue Ellen's Dallas, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. Wedding cake and champagne toast will be served. Musician Jason Huff will serve as the event's official wedding singer.



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■ WHO'S WHO, From Page 10

Issue in play: Whether states can discriminate against same-sex couples in the licensing and recognition of marriage.

Questions posed by the court: The court broke the issue into two questions: *Question 1:* Does the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?

Question 2: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?

Petitioners bringing the appeal: There are 28 plaintiffs (called "petitioners" when appealing to the Supreme Court) from four states. The Michigan case arose when a lesbian couple sought to adopt children together but were prevented from doing so because that state's law allows only married persons to adopt children. The Ohio lawsuit involves 12 plaintiffs denied rights in three different circumstances: while seeking a death certificate that identified the deceased's spouse, while seeking a birth certificate that listed both legal parents, and seeking recognition of marriage licenses obtained in other states. The Tennessee lawsuit was brought by three same-sex couples who married while living in other states, then moved to Tennessee. And the Kentucky lawsuit was filed on behalf of four same-sex couples married in other states who sought recognition from Kentucky.

States defending the bans: Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. They are among the 13 states that still enforce bans against same-sex mar-

riage. But if the bans are upheld, another 10 states would likely re-start enforcement of bans that have been struck by other circuits.

Attorneys arguing Question 1:

For same-sex couple plaintiffs: Mary Bonauto, civil rights director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. Bonauto led the successful lawsuit that established the right to marry for same-sex couples in Massachusetts, the first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. This is her first time arguing before the Supreme Court. (She has 30 minutes)

For the United States: U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli will present the U.S.'s position against state bans on same-sex marriage. In 2013, Verrilli argued against the Defense of Marriage Act in U.S. v Windsor and against California's ban on same-sex marriage in Hollingsworth v Perry. (15 minutes)

For states seeking to retain the bans: Joseph Whalen is one of two associate solicitors general for Tennessee. Whalen argued for Tennessee's ban before the Sixth Circuit, saying it is rational to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples because only opposite-sex couples can procreate accidentally. This is his first time arguing before the Supreme Court. (45 minutes)

Attorneys arguing Question 2:

For same-sex couple plaintiffs: Douglas Hallward-Driemeier, partner at prominent conservative-leaning Ropes & Gray and head of its Supreme Court practice. He served as assistant to Republican Solicitor General Paul Clement during the ad-



THE GAY AGENDA

■ GAY AGENDA, From Page 7

ministration of President George W. Bush and handled Supreme Court litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice. An article in the Journal of Law for Emory University School of Law said Hallward-Driemeier ranked 26th among the most frequent Supreme Court advocates between 2000 and 2012, having argued 13 cases. (30 minutes)

For states seeking to retain the bans: John Bursch, special assistant attorney general and former solicitor general of Michigan. Bursch did not argue the case before the Sixth Circuit. Michigan's primary argument has been that in the democratic process "the people get to decide what marriage is." Bursch has argued eight cases before the Supreme Court and is fond of bow ties. (30 minutes)

History behind the appeal: In early June 2013, only 12 states had paved the way for same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses. On June 26 of that year, the high court made that 13 by letting stand a Ninth Circuit ruling against California's ban. It did not rule whether California's ban was unconstitutional; it ruled only that the party who brought an appeal seeking to defend the ban did not have legal standing to do so. That prompted marriage equality supporters to file lawsuits in every other state that had a ban, with the aim of putting another case in front of the Supreme Court seeking a ruling on merits.

Four federal appeals courts ruled that the state bans are unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court declined to hear those appeals last fall. But then one circuit, the Sixth Circuit, ruled the bans to be constitutional, and that essentially forced the Supreme Court to step in and resolve the conflict among the appeals courts.

What are the stakes? The decision in this case has the potential to reach far beyond marriage in two ways.

First, if equal protection applies to same-sex couples under marriage laws, then LGBT people could presumably rely on existing laws for equal protection in other arenas, including employment, public accommodations and adoption.

And, second, in deciding this case, the court will dictate what level of judicial scrutiny all courts must apply to laws that discriminate against people based on sexual orientation.

The argument brief submitted by Verrilli and the Department of Justice urges the court to use "heightened scrutiny," an intermediate level of judicial review that is easier to meet than "strict scrutiny," but much more difficult to satisfy than mere "rational" review, which most courts use now. ■

■ RALLY, From Page 11

Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *United States v Windsor*, which struck down a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act, 37 states and Washington, D.C., have allowed same-sex marriage. A total of 72 percent of Americans are living in jurisdictions that allow marriage for same-sex couples.

Texas is among the remaining 13 states where marriage equality is not recognized, though a case is currently pending before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A final ruling could come in June, when it is widely believed the Supreme Court will rule in favor of marriage equality. ■

• **May 2: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting** Meets from 7:00–8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail info@dfwtgladies.org or visit DFWTGLadies.org.

• **May 2: Razzle Dazzle Dallas bus trip to Winstar Casino**

First of three bus trips to Winstar Casinos from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. benefits Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Home for the Holidays and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. \$75. Party Bus will include adult beverages and soft drinks, snacks, entertainment and raffle prizes. Leaves Cedar Springs at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9:00 a.m. For more information and to register visit T.co/r7voNP2HBu or contact Info@razzledazzledallas.org.

• **May 5: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting: Nell Gaither of Trans Pride Initiative.**

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

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Legal marijuana in Texas?

It's not likely in this Legislature, but polls show times and opinions are changing

Cannabis legislation is popping up like seedlings in states across the nation because public opinion polls show most Americans support the decriminalization of marijuana for a variety of reasons.

A Gallup poll in late 2014 showed 51 percent of Americans favor legalizing marijuana, down from a high of 58 percent in 2013 but still above the 50 percent mark reached in 2011 and 2012. The upward trend reflected a dramatic change from nearly a half-century ago, in 1969, when only 12 percent of adults favored the drug's legalization.

The figure jumped to 28 percent in the late 1970s and to 34 percent by 2003.

The poll showed that support for the legalization of marijuana appeared to be the strongest in the eastern and western states. But a similar poll conducted by The University of Texas and the Texas Tribune indicated 76 percent of the Lone Star State's residents favor some sort of marijuana legalization.

Federal law prohibits the growing, marketing, possession and use of marijuana, but federal officials are not interfering in states where laws are passed permitting the medical use of marijuana and decriminalization.

House Bill 2165 introduced by Rep. David Simpson, a Republican from Longview in Northeast Texas, would put an end to Texas' century-old prohibition of marijuana. After he filed the bill, Simpson wrote in an editorial published by the Texas Tribune, "I don't believe that when God made marijuana he made a mistake that government needs to fix."

The legislator said marijuana should be regulated in the same manner as popular Texas vegetables like tomatoes and jalapeno peppers.

Lifelong Republican Ann Lee, an 85-year-old who formed Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition, noted the cannabis laws conflict with the Republican Party's views on promoting personal freedom and restricting government regulation. She praised Simpson's bill saying, "It's true saying that prohibition doesn't work, and we need to rectify if possible the harm that has been done."

There are now about a dozen pieces of marijuana legislation pending in the Texas Legislature that would either legalize medical use of cannabis or reduce the penalties for possession of the drug.

The House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence recently heard from supporters and opponents of reducing penalties for marijuana possession and legalization. Opponents argued any sort of tolerance of the drug would lead to



moral and physical decay of the state's population, similar to the Bible-waving naysayers of yesterday who stand firmly committed to regulating what goes on in the privacy of other people's living rooms and bedrooms.

Supporters of decriminalizing marijuana claimed Texas would save almost a quarter-billion dollars by ending the prosecution, and they cited an official state fiscal report. The legalization of personal marijuana use would remove



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

thousands from the criminal and juvenile justice system and reduce workloads in criminal courts, according to the supporters. Critics of Texas' marijuana laws point out that the state's prisons are full of people convicted of possessing or selling small amounts of marijuana. Supporters of marijuana reform also believe decriminalization would help reduce organized criminal activity and the violence associated with it.

Since Colorado voters legalized the sale of marijuana for recreational use and retail stores began marketing the drug in January 2014, the state has benefited from a new source of tax revenue. The state's new marijuana industry quickly thrived, and the influx of visitors to the mountain state no doubt includes countless Texans traveling there to get high while spend-

ing money in restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues. Some will be prosecuted in Texas for returning home with marijuana they purchased legally in Colorado.

The medical use of marijuana is now permitted in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, District of Columbia and the territory of Guam.

Critics of the laws allowing the medical use of marijuana claim prescriptions are too easy to obtain, but marijuana is highly effective in easing the pain and nausea associated with cancer treatment, according to many patients and their doctors.

Recreational use is allowed only in Alaska and Colorado.

Not many people expect the Texas Legislature to actually legalize marijuana this session, but the large amount of legislation supported by both Democrats and Republicans suggests attitudes will continue to change in the coming years.

Politicians react to phone calls, emails and letters. If everyone in the state who supports marijuana reform let their elected representatives know their stand on the issue, the state would see progress far more quickly than will otherwise occur.

Information about ongoing efforts to promote marijuana reform is available at www.TexasMarijuanaPolicy.org.

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Royce rose

Librettist Royce Vavrek is the Hot New Thing in opera. And even he's not quite sure how that happened

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

While talking to a friend who makes his career in the opera field, I mentioned that I was about to interview Royce Vavrek, and asked my friend if they had ever met. "I've never met him," he replied, "but he's the hottest young librettist in the opera world."

No pressure.

When I mention this to Vavrek during our telephone interview, I can hear in his voice a mix of pride and humility.

"I am working my ass off these days," he admits, "but I'm working with a lot of people who are very inspiring and passionate — the compositional voices that are defining the 21st century. I'm lucky."

It takes more than luck to have major premieres of new operas slated to open in the coming years — including his latest, *Dog Days*, which plays as part of the Fort Worth Opera Festival this weekend through May 10; it takes talent.



WORD AND MUSIC | Royce Vavrek, above, thought he would become a filmmaker, but his talent for structuring librettos for musicals and operas had led him to the performing arts, including his latest, 'Dog Days,' left, which opens at the Fort Worth Opera this weekend.

And while Vavrek loved classical music and musical theater from an early age — "I was a boy soprano and took music lessons, and even wrote what I called a pop operetta at 14" — it didn't really occur to him he would ever make a living at it. "There were so many clues [that I would work in the performing arts], but I thought I would be a filmmaker," he says.

After college, though, his interest in theater blossomed. He attended the American Lyric Theater to learn about how to structure books musicals. "There I kind of understood that the kind of stories I love warranted operatic exploration.

Opera just made itself apparent."

Vavrek feels comfortable straddling both worlds: That of opera and of Broadway. And he's not totally sure why there is often such a bright-line distinction between them.

"More and more, I'm trying to completely and utterly blur the line between opera and musical theater," he says. "People who are involved in the Broadway tradition think opera is too high-brow, and opera lovers think Broadway is too 'popular.' It makes sense in marketing to say *La Boheme* is an opera and *Rent* is a musical. But some of the most amaz-

ing musicals [have the scope of opera]. *Grey Gardens* is an exemplary piece of musical theater. The 'Soliloquy' in *Carousel* — the entire Rodgers & Hammerstein canon, actually — is really sensational music, period. Some of the most beautiful and sophisticated music ever written is in musicals. The main difference is that operas are usually classical music, and musicals are composed and intended as a popular vernacular. But more and more the exciting stuff [combines the disciplines]."

One of his latest collaborators, the composer Ricky Ian Gordon, composed the score for their work *27*, about Gertrude Stein, which opened last year. "Ricky's music is so wild and theatrical — it borrows from musical theater but it requires classical singers. But I also don't know that *27* couldn't exist on Broadway.

It's perhaps not a surprise that Vavrek approaches his work with a sense of equanimity. ("I'm really quite new to the operatic world," he admits.) He's Canadian, after all (birthplace of Rafael "Ted" Cruz I point out with a laugh), and didn't grow up being schooled in "right" and "wrong" kinds of culture.

"Classical music didn't flood our house in rural Vancouver," he winks. "My parents, where they would have encountered classical music, was through film scores." In the Vavrek home, "Kill Da Wabbit," the theme from *Jaws* and "Takin' Care of Business" were all on equal footing.

None of that is to say that Vavrek's work is easily populist and lightweight. Indeed, *Dog*

Days is a strange and apocalyptic work full of darkness and surrealism.

Its path to the stage was a long one. *Dog Days'* composer, David T. Little, saw a weird short film on cable that burrowed into his brain. Several years later, Little was asked to participate in a young composers' workshop and asked to "write something dramatic. He was given five singers with specific voice types. We had met early and thought he was a tremendous talent," Vavrek says.

Little suggested they collaborate on adapting that film — about a man who scavenges for food by pretending to be a dog in a post-nuclear wasteland — for the stage. "We wrote like 22 minutes of material," he says of the initial piece, which premiered in 2009. "That's what planted the seed of this opera." It arrives in North Texas as part of a mini-tour — the first collaboration between Vavrek and the Fort Worth Opera ... but not the last. The FWO commissioned Vavrek and Little to create *JFK*, which will receive its world premiere at the 2016 festival.

An opera set the night before Kennedy's assassination set in Texas that will also premiere here? Talk about pressure. But still exciting.

"*JFK* was one of the most exciting and wild and theatrical things I've had a hand in making," Vavrek says. "It's a huge, gargantuan challenge to tell a story about a man and woman who sleep — what is inherently dramatic about two people getting ready for the next day? It plays with dreams and this abstract theatricality. It's gonna be a wild ride."

The play was also a love letter to his best friend and muse, local actress Sally Soldo.

Soldo was with Terry and members of his family when he passed away last night in New York City. Plans are currently underway to arrange for a cremation.

Terry was a longtime HIV survivor, and was very open about his status. About a year ago, his health took a serious turn which necessitated him stepping down from his duties at Theatre 3. But in recent weeks, he had bounced back. Personally, I ran into Sally and Terry about a month ago at the Dallas Summer Musicals. He was in good spirits and alert and friendly. "He was in great shape and happy," Soldo told me. "This was very sudden."

His fatal illness was unrelated to his HIV status. Terry recently traveled to New York City to take in some Broadway shows. While there, he fell ill and was admitted to a hospital. He had developed sepsis owing to a perforated ulcer. He was treated with antibiotics and seemed to be improving. Then he developed some abscesses and his condition worsened over the weekend. Soldo flew to his side Tuesday to meet with the family.

Dallas services are pending. "Terry hated memorial services," Soldo said. "When he had to play music for them, he ducked out as soon as it was over. So I don't know what we will be doing, but I am sure it will involve chocolate."

Terry would have appreciated that.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

FW OPERA FESTIVAL

Dog Days performed at

The Scott Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. April 24–May 2.
La Traviata and *Hamlet* performed at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. April 25–May 10. FWOpera.org.



Beloved music director and actor Terry Dobson dies at 59

Terry Dobson, who for 30-plus years served as a music director, keyboardist, actor, playwright and bon vivant in the Dallas theater community, died April 22. He was 59.

It was hard to miss Terry. Standing six-foot-six and cutting a lanky silhouette with a Marty Feldman-esque mug, he towered over theater lobbies. But much of his career, mostly as the musical director at Theatre 3, was spent behind the scenes, arranging scores of the musicals performed there, usually leading the band and playing piano. But Terry could also be frequently seen in front of the footlights. He last trod the boards in *Assassins* and a brief run in *Greater Tuna*, both at Theatre 3.

The play Terry will be most closely associated with will surely be *My Own Private Diva*, a more-or-less solo show about his journey from his native Slapout, Ala., to the big city of Dallas.

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Through Tuesday, May 5th.**

Election Day is Tuesday, May 9th!

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District 1: Scott Griggs

District 2: Adam Medrano

District 3: Joe Tave

District 5: Sherry Cordova

District 6: Monica Alonzo

District 7: Hasani Burton

District 8: No Endorsement

District 9: Mark Clayton

District 10: James White

District 14: Philip Kingston

Dallas County School Board

President: Larry Duncan

Trustee: Omar Narvaez

No candidates from Districts 4, 12 or 13 sought our endorsement.

**Selected Convenient
Early Voting Locations***

- Grauwylar Recreation Center – 7780 Harry Hines
- Marsh Lane Baptist Church – 10716 Marsh Lane
- Records Building – 509 Main Street
- Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla
- Oak Cliff Sub Courthouse – 410 S. Beckley

*Visit www.dallascountyvotes.org for a full list of early voting locations

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Ya gotta have art

Out fine art consultant Sylvia Wilkins shares her tips for acquiring home beauty

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer

Acquisition of fine art is often perceived as a luxury. The limited availability and irreplaceable nature of such art — two aspects that make it appealing and valuable — can create an environment ripe for both risk and reward. As a result, the purchase of an original painting, a limited edition print or a freestanding sculpture can be an intimidating venture for novice collectors and experienced art traders alike.

Sylvia Wilkins, an out art collector and senior fine art consultant with Martin Lawrence Galleries in Dallas, is an expert at pairing budget, client and artwork. (She estimates at least 20 percent of her clientele is LGBT.) She agreed to share a few tips to consider when purchasing fine art, regardless of your budget or experience.

Allure. The notion that beauty is in the eye of the beholder is perhaps never truer than when buying fine art. The works we display in our homes should be something that we love — and, more importantly, enjoy. It should also reflect our personalities. “It’s the one thing that people may not realize,” Wilkins says. “It’s even more personal than the clothing that you buy. You are defining yourself by the art that you have.”

Wilkins advises potential buyers to view as much art as possible prior to making an initial

purchase. Become familiar with a wide range of styles and media. A current market trend, for example, is graffiti art (*a la* Banksy and Mr. Brainwash). Also gaining popularity is the work of out artist Robert Deyber, who specializes in witty visualizations of language. “Look at a lot of art, and look at it more than once,” Wilkins advises. “Art is a process. It’s like eating food for the first time. You don’t always have the pathways in your brain yet [to appreciate it].”

Investment. Investment in fine art is limited only by the depth of one’s pockets. Yet not all art has to be expensive to be fine. Indeed, Wilkins believes there are instances in which a buyer should feel comfortable worrying more about his or her personal connection to a piece rather than with its value.

As a rule, Wilkins advises starting with a threshold for impulse buys — say, \$5,000. “If you are out somewhere and you see some art and it’s less than \$5,000, then buy it,” Wilkins says. “It’s worth it because it moved you.” Transactions in greater amounts, however, will probably involve some due diligence to validate the initial cash outlay.

Condition. When evaluating fine art, condition is perhaps the chief element influencing price. The better the condition, the greater its

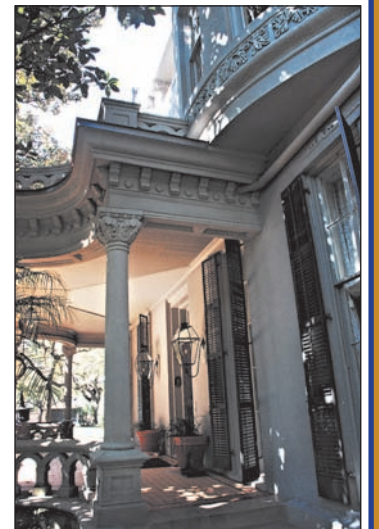


GALVESTON CELEBRATES 41st HOME TOUR

Galveston is one of the gay-friendliest cities in Texas, if not the U.S., as well as one with a great tradition of historic buildings and architectural preservation. The Galveston Historical Foundation — led by out executive director (and former Dallasite) Dwayne Jones — will happily show you what the city has to offer, especially during its 41st annual Historic Homes Tour. Held May 2–3, and 9–10, the tour includes nine different private homes as well as many special events both weekends, with packages that include VIP access (hours earlier than everyone else), appetizers and beverages and you can, naturally, enjoy the other sites of the area as the beach season is just getting underway.

“This tour is a vital part of our community, and brings visitors from across the country,” Jones says. And all it takes you is a four-hour drive down I-45.

Tickets from \$20 (early bird admission) to \$50 (VIP packages). Available at GalvestonHistory.org.





Sylvia Wilkins describes Martin Lawrence Galleries as a hidden gem of Dallas art, offering unique works from Picasso and Warhol, as well as mainstay Robert Deyber, rear, and favored new acquisitions from legendary Mark Kostabi, front. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

worth. Wilkins recommends viewing prospective pieces unframed whenever possible, which allows one to inspect for common condition issues including fading, repairs or alterations.

In the current market, pristine pieces from highly collectible artists are becoming more difficult to find. "When you are looking at blue chips, we probably pass on about 70 percent of the things that go to Sotheby's and Christie's," Wilkins says. "Everything [for the gallery] has to be perfect."

Research. As anyone who has watched *Antiques Roadshow* knows, provenance is critical when evaluating fine art. Wilkins recommends that buyers request historical documents, like certificates of authenticity and bills of sale connected to the piece. She also suggests looking at the backsides of artwork for labels, markings and other clues of historical significance. "There [can be] a lot of information on the back," she says. "Is it signed? Is it numbered?"

Authentication of highly collectible pieces can be key as well. Experienced dealers will generally inspect such works and then match their findings to information recorded in an artist's catalogue raisonné — a task which helps to prove a piece has not been forged or altered.

"The acquisition price may be a little higher," Wilkins says of authenticated art, "but you are buying the peace of mind that the curating efforts provide."

Recourse. Wilkins recommends buying fine art from reputable dealers — if not just for their market experience, then for an increased likelihood of recourse in the event a piece turns out to be something less than anticipated. "You want to buy it from a place that has a lot to lose if [the piece] isn't what they say it is," Wilkins says. "You want to do business with people who have been in business for a long time."

Wilkins also discourages purchasing art that one has not viewed in person. She likens the electronic procurement of art to online romance. "Buying art over the Internet is like dating over the Internet," she jokes. "You don't always get what you signed up for." For those who choose to purchase art online, Wilkins recommends making sure the dealer's return policy allows ample time for authentication of the work.

Enjoyment. Ultimately, art is meant for viewing. And selecting pieces wisely will result in a lifetime of enjoyment. "Every piece has a history," Wilkins says. "You buy it, and it then becomes a part of your history." ■



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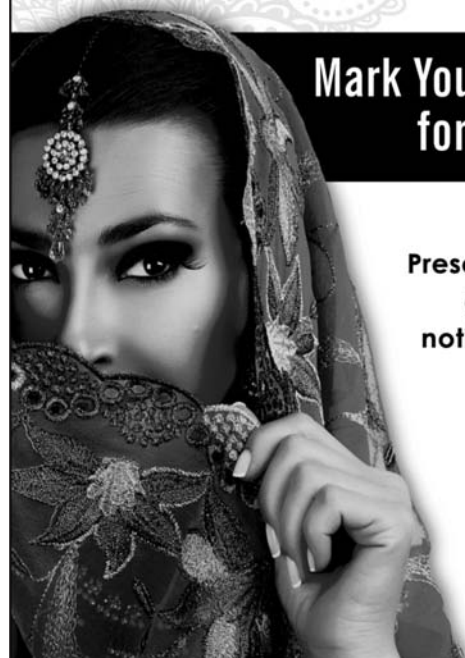
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Growing Texas

North Haven Gardens' Cody Hoya knows how to make your garden grow ... even in Texas' brutal summer heat

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer

Cody Hoya, general manager of the very gay-friendly North Haven Gardens, stands among the lush Japanese maples. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

Ahhh, yes, a garden. You can envision it: Flower beds bearing bright pops of color. Maybe some cute little shrubs or even some veggies. Your home surrounded by lush vegetation and vibrant blooms.

The *fantasy* is easy; it's the *execution* that can be difficult. How to start? What plants will do best? What kind of soil does North Texas even have, anyway? What the heck should you plant in a part of the state that can swing wildly from flood to drought, freezing cold to boiling hot?

Hold up there, cowboy. Don't freak out. Here's what you do: Take a deep breath. Maybe do a quick meditation. You better? Good, now here's your first step: Go outside and take a look around.

"My very first tip would be to take the time needed to understand your existing property or space and how you wish to use it," says Cody Hoya, general manager of North Haven Gardens, when asked how the heck to start a garden. So take a stroll around your property and, as Hoya suggests, "take into consideration any existing plantings and vegetation that will affect future planting space, as well as existing structures and paved areas." Even if the area is new construction with nothing planted, "it's important to take the time to observe how sunlight falls across the space: what areas are exposed to full sunlight and what areas are primarily shade."

Another thing to note: "Pay attention to how water moves across your space; if there are areas of runoff where erosion needs to be addressed or if there are places holding water and creating boggy conditions."

Next, make an assessment of how much time (and money) you can realistically devote to your garden. The planning, prep and planting are just the beginning; there will always be maintenance and upkeep. "Balancing your expectations with your desired investment will determine the gratification you receive from your garden and landscape long-term," Hoya says.

OK, so you've taken stock of your space, locked down how much you want to invest money- and time-wise. Now what?

In order to start narrowing down what kind of vegetation you want (be it decorative or edible), you want to take climate, soil and water use into account.

Climate. "DFW's climate is a challenging one for gardeners," Hoya says, citing winters that can be very cold and the blazing hot summers. He also notes that most DFW rainfall occurs between November and May, "so plantings — especially trees, shrubs and perennials — do best when planted early and given a chance to establish a vigorous root system before summer heat sets in."

Soil. "Most of the soil in the Dallas area is montmorillonite clay, which tends to be sticky, heavy and alkaline," Hoya says. The lowest-maintenance vegetation is tolerant of such soil, while others require amending with organic material or other additives. For edible gardens, Hoya says that raised beds are a good alternative to amending native soils, because those beds give the gardener more control over the soil. Ask your local garden shop for plant suggestions best suited to your soil, and what kind of amendments you might need.

Timing. An oft-overlooked element of gardening is timing. "Due to our seasonal temperature and rainfall variations, it's imperative to time your plantings so that your plants have the best chance of success, especially with edibles," Hoya says.

Water use. "Even if water restrictions are less severe after the spring rains we've had, we know that water is a precious resource and it's a good long-term investment to make wise decisions when planting," Hoya says. Choosing xeric or low-water-use plants is always a good idea, but Hoya also notes that water-wise plants still will require regular watering for a while just after they're planted, until they are established.

If you're going the water-wise route, Hoya suggests ornamental grasses like Mexican Feather Grass (*Nasella tenuissima*) and native perennials like Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*) as a good start.

Pests. Scale, spider mites and aphids "are ever present," Hoya says. In general, a healthy organic landscape tends to take care of itself regarding pests with beneficial insects like ladybugs and trichogramma wasps (which can even be purchased), and while mites may cause cosmetic damage, they rarely are destructive.

There is one exception, says Hoya: Rose Rosette disease, caused by the eriophyid mite, causes quite a bit of damage to rose bushes and is reaching epidemic levels.

Resources. Look for area Independent Garden Centers (IGCs) for plant varieties that do well in North Texas. NHG provides a number of handouts with details on recommended planting dates, varieties and cultivation techniques. "We also do most of the homework for you ahead of time by selecting species and varieties that we know will have an increased chance of success

in our area," Hoya says.

The Dallas County Master Gardener's website is a comprehensive resource for research, and the master gardeners also take questions via the site. Well known Texas horticulturalist Neil Sperry's site is also an excellent resource for general or specific information.

Remember: A garden is more than plants thrown in the ground, but with a little thought and planning, they can be a lifelong joy. "Plants are living things, and living things vary and have infinite responses to their environments," Hoya says. "You get to know them as you do people, over time, and through understanding their needs and individual personalities." ■

For more information and one-on-one consulting, visit North Haven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road. NHG.com.



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Design•asty

Born in the decor trade, Carolyn Hall gladly shares her secrets

JEF TINGLEY | Contributing Writer

Some children are born with silver spoons in their mouths. But interior designer Carolyn Hall was born with a hutch in her house (complete with a matching set of china). Not just a hutch, either: She had a slew of perfectly-appointed interior furnishings, compliments of her father's furniture business in Little Rock, Ark. As if growing up "in the business" weren't enough to seal her career fate, Hall's mother also proved an infinite fount of design knowledge, even serving as a mentor and teacher, surrounding her from a young age with professionals who worked in the store or shared stories and ideas around the dinner table.

This early training, along with degrees in liberal arts, literature, interior design and even set design for theater arts, lead to a creative career for Hall that now spans more than 30 years. Today, her company (Carolyn Hall Interiors, LLC) works with a wide range of clients — ranging from same-sex households to swinging singles and every permutation in between — to help create spaces that are artful, elegant, personal and, most importantly, that reflect a space that can truly be called "home."



So if you're in need of professional help, what should you look for when it comes to choosing a designer? Hall recommends starting with the basics and don't be afraid to do a little digging. After all, you'll be working intimately with this person in one of your most sacred spaces.

"Start by reviewing their design work," she says plainly. "Do you like it? Does it speak to you? If you are able to contact their clients, that can help you, too. Ask some essential questions: Are they flexible? If not, strike this particular designer off the list quickly. Continue to snoop — do they finish their work in a timely manner? Do they listen to and address your needs? Do they have time for your job? Can they stay on budget?"

Once you've identified a designer who suits your needs, it's time to decide upon the space's aesthetic. Design ingénue instinct can be to opt for the latest trends to trick out a room in the hot new bling. But Hall warns that today's trend can be tomorrow's avocado refrigerator or wall-to-wall shag carpeting.

"I do not follow design trends because they will become obsolete in a very few years," she counsels. "Then people are stuck with a house full of outdated furniture, fabrics or color. What I propose is classical pieces, be they contemporary



Designer Carolyn Hall holds one of her favorite pieces: A ceremonial helmet from Nigeria. Photography by Tammye Nash.

or traditional. They will endure over the years."

As for adding her personal flair to a place as an interior designer, Hall relies on drawing from a range of styles and eras to create a one-of-a-kind look. The end result is not only something that truly reflects the homeowner's personality, it guarantees you won't see the same look on page 47 of a Pottery Barn catalogue.

"I like to mix old and new, contemporary, traditional, and ethnic," Hall says. "It enables a space to develop depth and dimension. It creates

the unexpected and adds spontaneity — it gives the home a little soul!"

Of course, not every household has a budget that includes trained pros. That's OK — there are DIY options Hall heartily endorses. She encourages individuals to invest in design magazines or watch TV on the subject for inspiration. We can't all grow up as designers, but as the saying goes, "You're never too old to learn ... or to budget for a little professional assistance."

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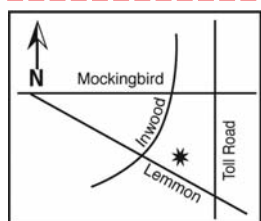
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Anatomy of a redo

It took him 25 years, but Oak Cliff-dweller Paul Harwood finally designed his dream home — and one of the major overhauls was turning 2 small bathrooms into oases

When Paul Harwood set as his goal to moving into Oak Cliff 25 years ago, he was confronted with the reality that the only house he could afford at the time was marked as a tear-down. The ceilings were low, the rooms small, the garage a termite habitat. But Harwood was determined that he could



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make even that into his dream home.

"For the first 10 years, there was a lot of duct tape and wire hangers," he admits with a smile.

But starting in 2013, he and his partner of nine years decided it was time to do an overhaul. They brought in architects, designers,



contractors. And by the time it was done 10 months later (though he concedes there are always little things they want to tweak), Harwood finally had almost everything he was looking for. They blew out the kitchen, converted the former carport into a home office (complete with antique subway doors salvaged from the Paris Metro) and created a master bedroom with, finally, a suitably large walk-in closet. But what really pleased Harwood about the redo was the house's two bathrooms.

"One was just a powder room; there was this triangular shower, but it was so small it was useless; in fact, the home inspector warned us never to use it," Harwood says. When they began gutting the interior, though, they found there was room to expand the room, not only giving it a quaint sink and nice toilet, but a full-sized shower, and *voilà!* The powder became a legitimate guest bathroom. But the master took more work ... and more care.

Harwood wanted a kind of oasis to make up for the atrocity the bathroom had been.

"When I moved in, it was decorated in all this red, white and blue tile ... and not like at-

The original 'master bath' was an unpatriotically red, white and blue disaster, below, but Harwood had it expanded into a showplace, above, complete with a Japanese 'smart' toilet and pricey light fixture. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

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The second bathroom used to be a powder room with an unusable shower, right, but Harwood and his architect added contemporary fixtures, including a stylish but small sink and spacious shower stall, to make it a true guest bath. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.



tractive, patriotic colors but this maroon and pale blue," he jokes. He wanted something timeless. That meant a sit-down shower with a glass door ("I was tired of messing with shower curtains whenever I got in and out," Harwood says), a spacious tub and a vanity with ample counter space. He also splurged on a modernist light fixture that tied everything together — a box-like lamp crafted in Barcelona that he admits was embarrassingly expensive and which led to more than a few fights with his partner. Eventually, though, Harwood won out and believes it to have been

a sound investment.

But perhaps the most radical addition to the space is a Japanese toilet that borders on the space-aged.

"The first time I went to Japan, I avoided them," he says. He felt intimidated by a commode that sensed when you were arriving, that lit the floor at night to make it easy to find, that was self-cleaning and even had a remote control that could do any number of functions, "including washing and blow-drying [your behind]," he says. After he finally tried one for the first time, however, he became a convert. Now, barely a year later, he can hardly imagine how he lived without one. If a man's home truly is his castle, then his toilet is the throne room ... so why not live like a king? ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Saturday 04.25

TITAS presents modern troupe
Parsons Dance Experience

The Parsons Dance Experience isn't just a virtuosic troupe that creates exuberant modern dance, it's also one of the sexier shows out there. TITAS presents this exciting show of contemporary movement with a one-night-only performance.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

Wednesday 04.29

Disney's new Alan Menken musical 'Newsies' opens at Winspear

Disney has been on a tear for decades, turning its animated movie properties into stage musicals (*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Tarzan*, etc.), but it's also been doing it — albeit with less frequency — with its live-action properties: First with *Mary Poppins*, and now with *Newsies*, which became one of the dancingest shows in recent B'way history. The Tony Award-winning show about newsboys unionizing in turn-of-the-century NYC taps into the Winspear Wednesday for a two-week run.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 29–May 10. ATPAC.org.



Saturday 04.25

Q Cinema opens second
annual lesbian film fest

Last year, Fort Worth's Q Cinema launched its first-ever one-day Lesbian Film Festival, and its success has led the fest to repeat it again, with a full slate of its Best of the Fest on Saturday. Among the films screening: The romance *Bumblefuck, USA*; the drama *Margarita*; the German film *Concussion*; and the foul-mouthed Brenda Fricker–Olympia Dukakis road film *Cloudburst*, pictured. Screenings take place starting at 12:45 p.m. and continue throughout the evening.

DEETS: Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St, Fort Worth. All access pass \$25–\$30. Screenings at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. Qcinema.org.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Colossal. A new play about football, centered on a gay University of Texas player who suffers a spinal injury. Directed by Kevin Moriarty. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through May 3. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Sense & Sensibility. Stage adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic comedy of manners. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 24 (in previews through May 1). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

All My Sons. Arthur Miller's meditation on profiteering during WWII. Reviewed this week. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 10. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild. A comedy about a movie fan losing touch with reality, with Marcia Carroll and Marisa Diotalevi. Reviewed this week. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through May 10. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Red. Gay playwright John Logan's Tony Award-winning play about expressionist painter Mark Rothko and the creative process. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through May 10. StageWest.org.

Newsies. Musical adaptation of the live-action Disney film about newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 29–May 10. ATTPAC.org.

I and You. Circle Theatre. 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. April 30–May 23 (in previews through May 1). CircleTheatre.com.

Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope. The lively 1970s musical. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through May 3. JubileeTheatre.org.

SCREEN

45th Annual USA Film Festival. Lots of gay content at this year's festival, which continues Friday–Sunday. All screenings at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. For complete schedule, visit USAFilmFestival.com.

2nd Annual Q Cinema Lesbian Film Festival. Four films with lesbian content screen. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. 12:45 p.m.–10 p.m. Qcinema.org.

OPERA

Fort Worth Opera Festival. Performances at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., and Scott Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. April 24–May 10. For complete schedule and information, visit FWOpera.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Britten, Beatles and Bond. A concert celebrating the British music invasion of the 20th century. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

DANCE

Parsons Dance Experience. The modern troupe performs, presented by TITAS. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

COMEDY

Dixie's Tupperware Party! It's a real Tupperware party ... but she's not a real woman. Drag queen Kris Andersson "plays" sassy hostess Dixie Longate in this off-Broadway hit. Presented by Performing Arts Fort Worth. McDavid Studio, 301 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. Through May 3. \$30–\$40. BassHall.com.

FINE ART

Jesse Meraz: Haute Fauxx. The local gay artist opens a solo exhibition of displays that emply the trappings of the falsehoods, fantasy and emptiness of fashion. Ro2Art Downtown, 110 N. Akard St. Through May 3. Ro2Art.com.

What's Up Doc? The Animation Art of Chuck Jones. An exhibit celebrating the iconic cartoons of the Oscar-winning animator, from Pepe LePew to Bugs and Elmer. Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1600 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through April 26. FWMuseum.org.

George Tobolowsky: Targeting (Large and Small). A collection of smaller sculptures. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 107. Through April 25. ilumeGallerie.com.

Ronald Radwanski. New works. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 107. Through May 9. ilumeGallerie.com.

Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga. A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the

OK, CHORALE | Sean Baugh leads the Turtle Creek Chorale in the concert Britten, Beatles and Bond at City Performance Hall Friday and Saturday.



post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 15. DMA.org.

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of

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Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

EXHIBIT

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes. The Baker Street Irregulars are the focus of this elementary tribute to Sir A. Conan Doyle's enduring creation, the master consulting detective and cocaine addict. Includes interactive mystery-solving adventures. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through May 10. PerotMuseum.org.

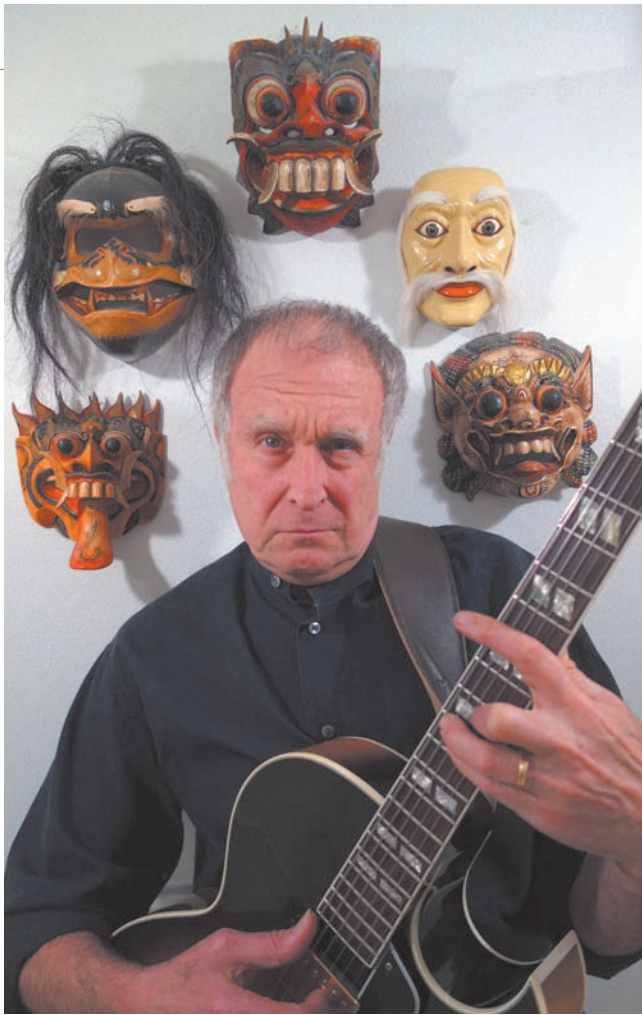
FESTIVAL

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 25 (weekends), 10 a.m.–7 p.m. \$25. SRFestival.com.

FRIDAY 04.24

CONCERTS

Shenanigans, Obfuscations and Interruptions: An Evening of Music-Theater with Fred Curchak, Scot Gresham-Lancaster and Dean Terry. Three UTD professors team up for concert music and fun. Margo Jones Theater at the Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. 8 p.m. \$15. MargoJonesTheatre.com.



FRED X2 | Performance artist and musician Fred Curchak puts on two different shows this week: First as a trio of music-theater at the Margo Jones on Friday, then a solo show of new songs at the Greenville Center for the Arts on Sunday.

SUNDAY 04.26

BROADCAST

Mad Men. The final season of the iconic drama about life in 1960s America. Aired on AMC at 8 p.m.

CONCERTS

Fred Curchak: New Songs. Political, polemical and theatrical new songs from the local artist. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. 8 p.m. \$10. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

MONDAY 04.27

BROADCAST

Dancing with the Stars. The new season (20th) of the competition series. Aired on ABC at 7 p.m.

RuPaul's Drag Race. The seventh season of the reality competition series continues. Aired on Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 04.28

FILM

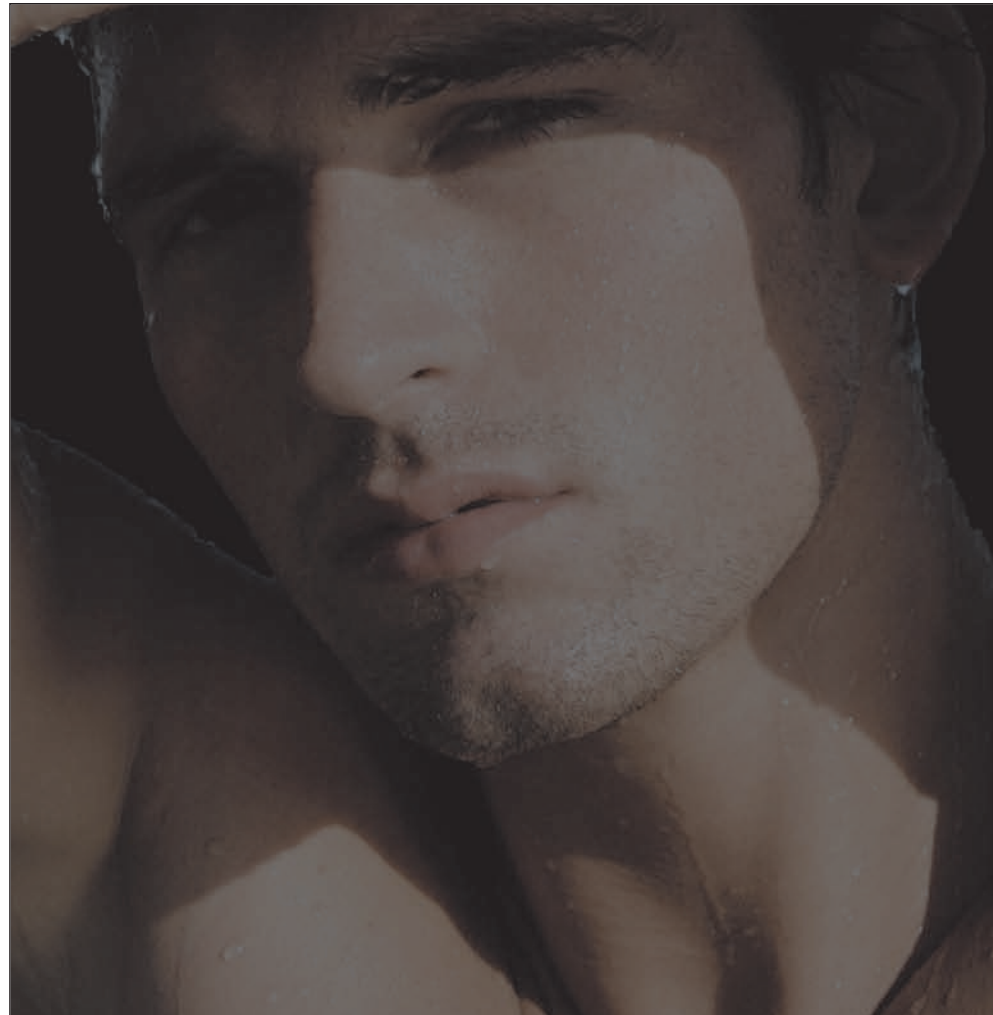
The Bad Seed. A camp classic about the devilish little girl Rhoda (Oscar nominee Patty McCormack), whose mother (Oscar nominee Nancy Olson) slowly realizes she is a murderer. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

this week's solution

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	BARRYMAN	LOW
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CIA	SATIE	MESSY
OATH	GARRY	DALE
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	AVE	DESIGNER
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Billy Masters

Rehab update! Andy, Ireland and, of course, Liza. Plus trans women!

This column is being filed from the friendly skies. Alas, I'm not flying out of Denver, where they get very friendly with you as you go through security. Last week, two Denver-based TSA agents were fired after it was discovered that hot male passengers were being unnecessarily patted down. Here's how the scheme worked: The male TSA agent would let his female co-worker know when he found somebody attractive. She would then flag him and request a pat down, which would be done by the male agent. In these cases, he would pat both the groin and buttocks area, which I believe is how they do it in prison. The TSA was alerted to this situation by an anonymous tip (presumably a heterosexual male). Turns out that other agents knew of these shenanigans. One said, "More people [knew] it was going on. They made it seem like a game." So remember, if you aren't patted down going through security, you may not be as hot as you think.

Moments after **Hillary Clinton** officially announced her candidacy for president, a small group of San Franciscans started a campaign, cheekily called I'd Bottom for Hillary. I'm not exactly sure how bottoming would help her, but I suspect a strap-on might be involved. In a related story, these same guys would also bottom for a sunny day.

Last week, **Ireland Baldwin** entered rehab. You remember Ireland, otherwise known as a "rude, thoughtless little pig." Reportedly, the 19-year-old

spawn of **Alec Baldwin** and **Kim Basinger** had been "partying non-stop" and had to be forced into the facility. When she heard these stories, Ireland tweeted a response ... because, naturally, this is a facility that has wifi: "Apparently I'm in rehab for intensive partying soooo I'm just going to lay pretty low for a bit and maybe get some frozen yogurt." I look forward to her stint on *Dancing with the Stars* in two seasons.

As luck would have it, one of Ireland's rehab pals is none other than **Andy Dick**, who voluntarily admitted himself to the same facility. Andy has spent lots of time in rehabs, but I didn't know this is his 13th stay. If visits were Subway sandwiches, this one would be free!

We hear that **Liza Minnelli** has concluded her most recent stay in rehab. Her spokesperson says, "Liza is home and doing great. She is very excited to get back onstage and to see her fans again." Her first scheduled gig is at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, Miss., on July 24. She's excited ... she's just not anxious. Although she was anxious to come to West Hollywood, where she was spied eating at Pump just hours before we filed this.

Surely *Going Clear* represents some of **Tom Cruise's** best acting work. Alas, the same cannot be said of the **Grace Kelly** biopic starring **Nicole Kidman**. Rumors of a film in trouble seem to have been confirmed. The studio has yanked the flick from a theatrical release and instead will send it directly to television. Adding insult to injury, it won't air on HBO or Showtime — nope, *Grace of Monaco* will have its world premiere May 25 on Lifetime, television for women (and gay men).

By the by, it's recently been reported that **Suri Cruise** hasn't seen her father in well over a year. And who is that?



Remember **Bradley Manning**? The soldier who was charged with sharing classified government secrets and branded a traitor? Once imprisoned, he announced that he was transitioning to female and would henceforth be referred to as **Chelsea Manning**. With the help of the ACLU, the Army has ap-

proved hormone therapy for the person they refer to as "Inmate Manning." The next landmark will be when they start referring to the inmate as Chelsea.

Laverne Cox, pictured, continues to be a trailblazer; she's the first transgender person to be shot for Allure magazine's annual Naked Truth issue. She's featured alongside **Jordana Brewster**, **Katheryn Winnick**, **Nicole Beharie** and **Sandrine Holt**. So not only is she the only transgender person in the group, she's also the best known of the bunch.

This leads beautifully into our "Ask Billy" question, which, believe it or not, comes from **Alexis Arquette** in *Delusionville* (and I am bringing it to you exactly as she wrote it): "Did you not print a story about me and **Jared Leto** are you not a journalist maybe I have the wrong person but I believe it's you if it is you you said I was untrustworthy source are you out of your mind I'm the first openly gay actor ever ever I built everything for ever young gay actor in this town. Are you not the gutter press writer for the frontiers crap rag?"

Oh my — where to begin? First, *Frontiers* is the publication that carries my column in Southern California, and it's one of the biggest gay papers in the country. In fact, the story about Alexis and Jared Leto was recounted by Arquette in an interview published in *Frontiers*. What I find most disturbing is that Arquette has such a low opinion of gay publications, especially since they have provided roughly 80 percent of the press she's ever received. I am sure that openly gay actors from **Bill Haines** in 1933 to **Tommy Kirk** in 1973 pale in comparison to someone who once appeared on an episode of *Friends* as Drag Waiter #2. That said, my personal experience with Arquette over the past decade or two makes me more than qualified to have an opinion about her grasp on reality. Let this be a cautionary tale to you all: never believe your own press releases.

When most of you are asking, "Who is Alexis Arquette?", it's definitely time to end yet another column. Should you have a question for me (and do use correct grammar and punctuation), send it along and I promise to get back to you before Hillary sets up a campaign booth at the Folsom Street Fair.

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

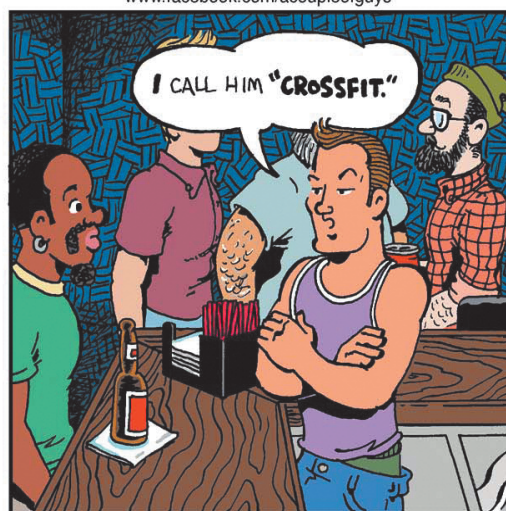
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Having a laugh at the Round-Up Saloon.



Family night out at Sue Ellen's.



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Making the **SCENE** the week of **April 24–April 30**:

Alexandre's: *Alicia Silex* at 10 p.m. on Friday. *Bad Habits* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Chris Chism* at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. *Liz Mikel* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe's: RuPaul drag show with *Jiggly*, *Ongina*, *Mystique Summers* and *Kennedy Davenport* on Saturday night and Sunday brunch. Monday night karaoke finals right after watching *RuPaul with Kennedy*.

Club Reflection: *Trinity River Bears* cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: *Dallas Eagle 20th Anniversary Weekend* on Friday and Saturday. *National Leather Association* presents *Leather Perspectives* at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. *Dallas Bears* presents *Cake Walk* at 7 p.m. on Saturday. *Yellow Party* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *20th Anniversary Celebration* at 5 p.m. on Sunday. *Dirty Bird Awards* at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: Viewing of the documentary *Candid Love* at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Free *HIV Testing* at 4 p.m. on Sunday by *The Council*.

Round-Up Saloon: *Miss Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association 2015* at 7 p.m. on Sunday. *Texas Gay Rodeo Association* royalty competition at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Sue Ellen's: *Chaz Marie* on Friday. *Miss Stacy & Her Texas Sugardaddy's* on Saturday. *Kathy & Bella* at 3 p.m. on Sunday. *Bad Habits* at 6 p.m. on Sunday. *Five Drag Queens and A Game Show* on Wednesday. ■

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



Guys' night out on The Strip.



Mike and Joan at Zippers.



Friends' night out at Alexandre's.



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Dru and J.C. at Sue Ellen's.



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



Knight at Scarborough Renaissance Festival.



Dancers at The Brick.



Miss Gun Barrel State 2015 Nadia McQueen, left, and Miss Gun Barrel State At Large 2015 Bristol Alexander Gunz, were crowned last weekend. Miss Texas State 2014 Sapphire Ray Brooks and Miss Texas State At Large 2014 Onyx Anderson there to congratulate them.



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 6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at Mockingbird) Dallas, Texas 75209
 •LAMBDA GROUP
 6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
 OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
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 Meeting Type: Open, Sharing, Steps, Welcoming to all, Safe for GLBT

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62					63						64	65	66	67
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71					72						73			

Coping at the Copa

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Dancer Taylor
- 5 Michelangelo's Mary and son
- 10 Org. in a Jim Nabors program
- 14 Humerus neighbor
- 15 Brigham Young man, for one
- 16 Home st. of Maupin
- 17 Lions or Tigers or Bears
- 18 Lobbyist Hilary
- 19 Billy of *Titanic*
- 20 Singer who recently married his manager
- 23 #1 hit of 1974 by 20-Across
- 26 Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
- 27 Does Mr. Clean's job
- 31 Maple fluid
- 32 *Argo* employer
- 33 Composer Erik
- 35 Like Oscar Madison
- 39 What a boy scout takes
- 41 Manager Kief who just married 20-Across
- 43 Sheltered spot
- 44 Actor Milo of Oz
- 46 '80s tennis star
- 48 King James word before verily
- 49 St. crosser
- 51 Edith Head, to costumes
- 53 Jane Spahr and others

- 57 With 58-Across, #1 hit of 1976 by 20-Across
- 58 See 57-Across
- 62 *Diary of ___ Housewife*
- 63 He waved his stick in Mudville
- 64 Symbols of queens
- 68 Russian singing duo
- 69 *Krippendorfs* ___
- 70 12-incher
- 71 *Brady* _ prefix
- 72 Chat room request
- 73 Cunning

Down

- 1 Had partners, with "out"
- 2 Soho pub drink
- 3 Acapulco article
- 4 Queer L
- 5 Sound of a pussy in your lap
- 6 "Believe ___ not!"
- 7 Cole Porter's "You'd Be So ___ to Love"
- 8 Main melody in a musical
- 9 Meticulous records by anal historians?
- 10 Ready for action
- 11 "Do Re Mi" subject
- 12 House of the lord
- 13 Bodies of sailors
- 21 Author Rand and others

- 22 Linguist Chomsky
- 23 Singer Marilyn
- 24 Reid to Tobias
- 25 Like a bottom
- 28 Jason Stuart chairs its LGBT committee
- 29 List ender
- 30 Successfully donated sperm
- 34 River of Wilde's land
- 36 Larry Kramer's *Just* ___
- 37 Having nice lines
- 38 Sentence units
- 40 Became aroused
- 42 Stat for Kopay
- 45 Swear to
- 47 Taylor of *Six Feet Under*
- 50 Becomes hard
- 52 Experienced the Big O
- 53 Subdivision maps
- 54 Target before shooting off
- 55 Imitate Dick Button
- 56 *Designing Women* co-star Jean
- 59 Area east of the Urals
- 60 Arrears
- 61 Herbert's *Fortune and Men's* ___
- 65 Kanga's baby
- 66 Engage men in shorts
- 67 Swine cooler?

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