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### YEARIN REVIEW

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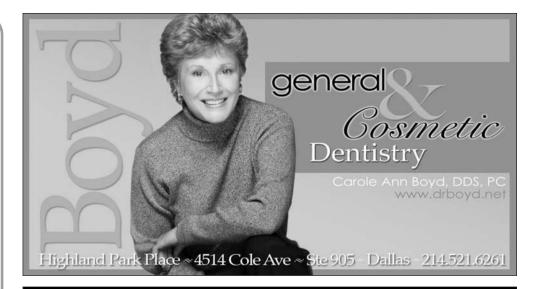
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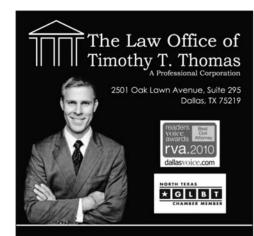


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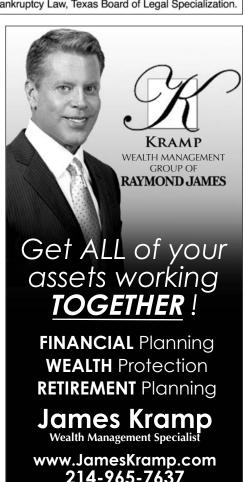
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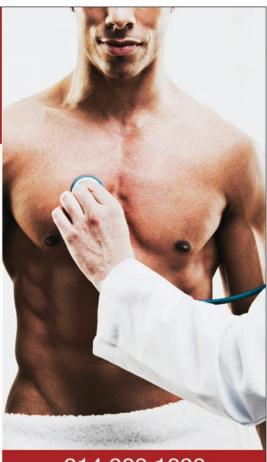
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A LITTLE CHRISTMAS | Several organizations benefited recently from the Dallas Tavern Guild's annual Holiday Gift Project. Volunteers are pictured above. (Courtesy Photo)

### Gay men say they were kicked out of bar for dancing together

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas is supporting a gay couple after the men said they were kicked out of a South Texas nightclub for dancing together to country music.

The incident occurred Saturday night at a Victoria nightclub when Justin Meyer, 21, said he and his partner danced together to the country song "Cowboys and Angels," the Victoria Advocate re-

The men said a manager approached them and told them Cactus Canyon has a policy barring two men from dancing together to country music.

Meyer's partner, James Douglas, 30, said the manager told them they could dance together to rap or hip-hop music, but not country.

"So you're telling me it's OK for me to bump and grind my boyfriend to the song `Bubble Butt,' but we can't dance a two-step?" Douglas told the newspaper.

But Cactus Canyon's director of operations, Robert Dillender, says the men were asked to leave because they were being disruptive.

"We've never kicked anyone out of the club for dancing," he said, adding the club does not have a policy barring same-sex couples from dancing together.

However, Dillender said the club does have to "maintain the peace" under its obligation to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the agency that issues liquor licenses. Cactus Canyon is now reviewing how it interprets that policy, he said

"We apologize for the misunderstanding," Dillender added.

The issue has already caught the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union in Texas, and the group plans to reach out to the couple to offer assistance.

"We encourage all people to stand up for their individual rights," said Tom Hargis, an ACLU spokesman.

Steve Ramos

### Marriage equality gains legal ground in three states

One of two lawsuits challenging Virginia's ban

on recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples advanced after a federal judge denied the state's motion to dismiss the case. Judge Michael Urbanski of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia (Harrisonburg) issued a 17-page memorandum, saying, "It is abundantly clear that plaintiffs' alleged harm is actual, concrete, and particularized."

Harris v. McDonnell is a challenge organized by Lambda Legal and the ACLU for two lesbian couples. One couple would like to marry in Virginia: the other has married in the District of Columbia and would like their marriage recognized in Vir-

Citing sovereign immunity, the judge did dismiss the suit as it was applied to Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell, but the lawsuit will proceed with chief defendant Thomas Roberts, the clerk of the Staunton Circuit Court and Janet Rainey, the state registrar.

In Ohio, U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Black issued a 50-page decision, saying the state constitution's ban on recognizing same-sex married couples violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection.

The lawsuit was Obergefell v. Wymyslo, in which two surviving spouses sought the right to be identified as such on the death certificates of their spouses.

Citing the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in striking down the DOMA in U.S. v. Windsor, Black said, "It is beyond debate that it is constitutionally prohibited to single out and disadvantage an unpopular group."

Black issued a permanent injunction against the state from refusing to identify a deceased person's same-sex spouse on his death certificate.

Ohio Attornev General Michael DeWine said the state will appeal the decision to the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

And in Utah, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Shelby denied Utah's request to delay the effect of his Dec. 20 order that the state stop enforcing its ban on same-sex couples marrying.

Republican Gov. Gary Herbert's administration then asked the Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to issue a stay of Shelby's order, pending the state's appeal of Shelby's decision that the ban on same-sex marriages is unconstitutional.

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### 1. DOMA was defeated



**VICTORY** | Omar Narvaez addresses the crowd at the Day of Decision rally at the Legacy of Love Monument on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue on June 26. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

With one decision striking down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act in June, the U.S. Supreme Court brought federal recognition to millions of same-sex couples, even Texans.

The Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional in United States v. Windsor, requiring the federal government to recognize married same-sex couples and provide them with the full benefits of marriage they were previously denied.

However, it remained unclear how many of those benefits couples, who are legally married in other states but reside in Texas, would receive

Although some federal benefits were given to same-sex couples in states where they live, many benefits, like military spousal benefits and joint tax filings, are allowed in any state as long as the couple is legally married. And some agencies are still analyzing how benefits will change.

But the biggest gain from DOMA's defeat was immigration. With the federal government recognizing same-sex unions, gays could have their foreign spouses receive citizenship with marriage, ending legal battles and uniting bro-

ken families.

In addition to DOMA, the court ruled in Hollingsworth v. Perry, the challenge to the constitutionality of California's same-sex marriage ban Proposition 8, that supporters of the amendment didn't have standing to appeal.

The decision resulted in same-sex marriage resuming in California, but the ruling didn't bring marriage equality to other states.

Although the odds for a sweeping Prop 8 decision were slim, some advocates still hoped the court would strike down California's ban and all state constitutional marriage amendments as unconstitutional in the 34 states with marriage laws, including Texas.

But the rulings' significance is not lost on the Lone Star State, as the momentum from the Supreme Court will bring marriage equality to the state in one way or another within a few years.

And even as benefits are still unclear and the tangled patchwork of state laws must work with new federal regulations, one thing is clear: equality is coming to all of America.

— Anna Waugh

### 2. Marriage equality won

The momentum pushing same-sex marriage built up steadily throughout the year. By year's end, 18 states, the District of Columbia and eight Native American tribes that includes one Oklahoma county had marriage equality covering more than 39 percent of the U.S. population.

Several Legislatures began debating marriage equality bills when their sessions opened in January.

Rhode Island's Legislature became the first to pass a marriage equality bill on May 2. The state was the last in New England to legalize same-sex marriage. Its previous civil union law was extremely unpopular and few took advantage of it. Anyone in Rhode Island could drive less than 20 miles to a marriage equality state.

A week later, with little opposition, Delaware's Legislature passed marriage equality.

After Minnesota voters turned down an antimarriage amendment by a large margin in November 2012, the gay and lesbian community quickly organized and used that momentum. On May 14, the Legislature passed marriage equality.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in two marriage equality cases.

In California's Proposition 8 case, the court ruled the plaintiffs had no jurisdiction to defend the law so the Ninth District Court of Appeals' decision stood. That court found Prop 8 was driven by animus against same-sex couples and violated the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment.

As a result of that ruling, California became the fourth new marriage equality state of the year.

In August, a county clerk in Las Cruces, N.M. began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. He said in his reading of the state constitution

and under state law, there is no mention of gender in marriage law. Over the next month, several other county clerks followed suit. In several other counties, courts ordered county clerks to issue licenses.

The county clerks realized that having a patchwork of counties issuing licenses in the state was unworkable and asked the state Supreme Court for a ruling. The court made marriage equality a statewide right on Dec. 19.

In New Jersey, the state superior court ruled the state's civil unions were not equal to marriage as required under state law and ordered marriage equality to begin. Gov. Chris Christie filed an appeal to the state Supreme Court but he withdrew it after that court refused to issue a stay.

New Jersey began issuing marriage licenses on Oct. 21.

In October, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie called a special session of the Legislature to consider marriage equality.

The opposition argued the state passed a constitutional amendment that stopped it from becoming the first marriage equality state in 1998. However, unlike amendments in other states that forbid marriage equality, Hawaii's amendment only allows the Legislature to define marriage. In 1998, the Legislature defined marriage as only between a man and a woman. The new law removed that restriction.

The first same-sex weddings took place in Hawaii on Dec. 2.

A bill to upgrade Illinois' civil union law to marriage equality stalled most of the year. As rulings from the federal government, after the Defense of Marriage Act fell, made it evident civil unions



**NO MORE WAITING** | Dallas couple Jerrett Morris, left, and Jef Tingley married in New Mexico the week it became legal. (Courtesy Photo)

were not equal to marriage, the state House of Representatives finally passed a bill on Nov. 5, amending an earlier Senate bill. The Senate quickly passed the House version, and the governor signed the bill into law on Nov. 20.

Marriage equality doesn't begin in Illinois until June 1, 2014, but marriages have begun. If one partner is terminally ill, the couple is allowed to marry immediately.

On Dec. 20, a judge ruled Utah's anti-marriage constitutional amendment was illegal and ordered licenses to be issued immediately. The state requested a stay but the U.S. Court of Appeals denied the request. Unless the Supreme Court stops

it, Utah is marriage equality state No. 18.

Marriage equality also began in one county in Oklahoma.

A gay couple living on the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation asked if they could get a marriage license. Since tribal nations are not bound by state law, and the Arapaho and Cheyenne Constitution bans discrimination based on sexual orientation, they were given a marriage license along with several other same-sex couples. That made a number of state legislators and the governor very unhappy, but the marriages are valid under federal law.

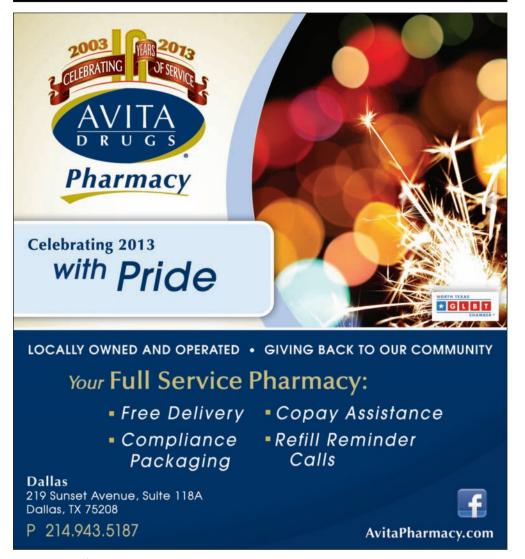
— David Taffet

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### yearinreview

### 3. Gay marriage, divorce became Texas issues

With marriage equality gains across the country in 2013, the Lone Star State turned its attention first to whether officials should allow same-sex couples to divorce.

The Texas Supreme Court heard two combined cases in November of couples who married in Massachusetts but sought to dissolve the unions in their home state of Texas.

The couples argued the validity of the marriages was recognized in Massachusetts, so Texas didn't need to recognize them in order to grant a divorce. But Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott fought them, arguing that same-sex couples in Texas can't divorce because the state's 2005 constitutional marriage amendment doesn't allow the state to recognize their marriages, resulting in conflicting opinions from appeals courts in Austin and Dallas.

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Austin couple Angelique Naylor and Sabrina Daly were granted a divorce in a lower court. Abbott intervened and filed in the Third Court of Appeals, but the lower court's decision was upheld. Abbott then appealed that decision to the Supreme Court.

Abbott intervened to block the divorce of Dallas couple H.B. and J.B. from the beginning. The couple appealed to the high court.

Abbott has spent \$189,912.08 fighting the cases from January 2009 to July 2013, according to documents obtained by Dallas Voice.

The cases were before the high court since 2011. Briefs were once requested, and were again requested over the summer after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor.

Jody Scheske, the attorney for the two couples, focused his arguments on the validity of their marriages in another state. He further highlighted that only the parties petitioning for a divorce, and not the state, have a right to contest it.

Assistant Attorney General James Blacklock, representing the state, argued the constitutionality of the state's ban on same-sex marriage was brought into the cases by the previous judges' rulings. He said the state was, therefore, justified to intervene and defend state law, which doesn't recognize the same-sex couples' marriages for any

### pet of the week / BAILEY

**Bailey** is an adorable little princess with a sweet and loving disposition. Bailey was surrendered by her owner because she had too many pets. She was brought to Operation Kindness in hopes of finding a home. This little sweetie likes to be held and is a cuddle bug. She is still young and likes to play with all her toys. Bailey needs a home that will give her the love and attention she needs. We are hoping to find Bailey a home for the holidays. Please consider sharing your home with this little one. She will make you smile.

Bailey and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$70 discount



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WAITING FOR WEDDED BLISS | Mark Phariss, right, and Vic Holmes have cense. been together for more than 16 years and are tired of waiting for marriage equality to come to Texas. They, along with an Austin couple, filed a federal Orland lawsuit in October for the freedom to marry in Texas. (Courtesy Photo) hear a

purpose.

Meanwhile, a Plano and Austin couple hoping to marry in Texas filed a federal lawsuit in San Antonio in October.

Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, joined by Austin couple Cleopatra DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman, are the plaintiffs in the case.

Both couples met in San Antonio years ago, but while the lesbian couple later married out of state, they want their union recognized here, and Phariss and Holmes want to marry in Texas.

The attorney for the couples filed a temporary injunction to prevent state officials from enforcing the state marriage amendment. The motion further requested the Plano couple be issued a marriage license.

Federal District Judge Orlando Garcia is set to hear arguments for the injunction on Feb. 12.

While the couples' attorney sees a favorable outcome for the injunction and case, Gov. Rick Perry and Abbott, listed as defendants in the case, could request proof that the law harms same-sex couples, delaying a ruling on the motion for a year or more.

— Anna Waugh

### 4. Texas National Guard fights benefits

As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court knocking down key parts of the Defense of Marriage Act, the Department of Defense began equalizing benefits for gay and straight married couples. In September, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel ordered National Guard units across the country to register married same-sex partners for ID cards so they could receive their federal benefits.

Texas refused and told same-sex spouses to register at federal bases, no matter how far they had to travel

The benefits offered include access to the base for medical care, discounted shopping, housing allowances and legal assistance. If the military partner is wounded or killed, registration in the system is necessary for contacting next-of-kin.

On the first day of registration, Alicia Butler, a National Guard wife in Austin, tried to register at Camp Mabry where her wife is stationed.

Instead of entering her in the federal computer at the base, she was directed to Fort Hood about 75 miles away. Instead of driving that far with her 5½-month-old baby, she contact Lambda Legal.

Lambda Legal contacted both the Department of Defense and Texas Military Forces to work out a solution.

Several states that originally registered samesex spouses quickly followed Texas' lead.

In November, the Department of Defense lost patience with states not complying with the federal order. Hagel sent each state a letter ordering it to begin registering same-sex spouses. Although Texas continued to resist, the states

were never in much of a position to bargain. Texas claimed it wouldn't use state personnel or state facilities to register same-sex partners because it violated the state constitutional amendment banning recognition of anything similar to marriage.

Partners are registered in the DEERS system, a federal computer for tracking federal benefits placed by the federal government in every military installation, including National Guard bases.

The federal government also funds the National Guard, paying salaries of soldiers and employees. The federal government places the tanks, planes, guns, trucks and all the other equipment used by the Guard on the state bases. The federal government even pays most of the expense of building those bases.

So Texas' claim that they wouldn't use state employees or equipment to register spouses was grasping for ways to discriminate.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin refused to change her position. Instead, she decided the Oklahoma National Guard would comply by inconveniencing every National Guard spouse and send them all — gay and straight — to federal bases to apply for an ID card.

Texas claimed in its announcement of a compromise with the federal government that only federal employees would register same-sex spouses at National Guard bases. The state designated certain employees as federal — those that register military spouses — but Texas, somehow, believes it saved face.

David Taffet



### **5. DART, Exxon extended benefits**

Two local long-running battles ended in victories for LGBT employees and their families this fall when Dallas Area Rapid Transit and ExxonMobil both began offering partner benefits.

### **DART**

DART debated for more than year whether to add approximately \$70,000 to its multi-million dollar employee healthcare budget to cover domestic partners.

The battle began when a former DART employee, no longer able to work, tried to go on his husband's benefit plan. His husband is a current DART employee.

The debate stalled in March when several board members opposed to adding DP benefits proposed waiting until after a Supreme Court ruling on DOMA

Community groups didn't let the issue drop. Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell scheduled three to five speakers at each of DART's twice-monthly board meetings.

After the DOMA ruling, DART took up the item again. In September, the item passed the committee-of-the-whole the required two times, but when the item went to the full board for a vote, two board members opposed to it staged a walkout and broke quorum.

Two weeks later, with all Dallas DART board members present and enough support from suburban representatives, the measure passed.

Only 10 people have taken advantage of the plan so far, about half the number estimated when the agency projected benefits would cost \$70,000 per year.

The two DART board members that walked out represent Garland, so members of the LGBT community attended a Garland City Council meeting in October to ask the city to add a nondiscrimination policy for its LGBT employees. That council

is considering the proposal.

### **EXXON**

Exxon Mobil Corporation has been fighting the addition of nondiscrimination to its equal employment policy since 1999.

During the past year, Resource Center engineered a meeting between Exxon's international vice president of human resources and executives from Bank of America, AT&T and Texas Instruments to discuss implementing nondiscrimination policies and partner benefits. After the meeting, Resource Center heard from Exxon that they weren't going to be pushed into acting by a bunch of gay activists.

Those gay activists that have been pushing for nondiscrimination include New York state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who filed shareholder resolutions to add sexual orientation to the company's equal employment opportunity statement and believed Exxon was violating New York state law by picking and choosing which of the state's wedding licenses to honor when offering benefits.

In October, Exxon issued a short press release, stating employees would be eligible to put same-sex spouses on its company insurance. Human Rights Campaign gave the company no points on its Corporate Equality Index for the move. HRC President Chad Griffin called them the worst corporate citizen in the United States.

Because no nondiscrimination policy is in place, employees outing themselves to get health coverage for a partner could immediately be fired, so the company received no points. Another 25 points were deducted for fighting the placement of a shareholder resolution on the ballot at its annual meeting. The Securities and Exchange Commission had to intervene.

Exxon's final CEI rating remains minus-25.

— David Taffet



**WAITING TO SPEAK** | Resource Center's Rafael McDonnell bombarded the DART board with speakers until domestic partner benefits passed. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

### 6. City Hall took on marriage equality



**BACK TALK** | LGBT activists turn their backs and walk out of a Dallas City Council meeting on June 12 during remarks from Councilman Dwaine Caraway about the equality resolution. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

What started as a measure to give LGBT Dallasites a voice in local government with an equality resolution supporting marriage equality and job nondiscrimination eventually turned into a political pawn this year.

Dallas Councilman Scott Griggs began work on two resolutions last December — one supporting marriage equality and one favoring workplace protections in the state — but he later combined them into one resolution. Without support from Mayor Mike Rawlings to place the item on the agenda, Griggs obtained a memo with five signatures on it, forcing the item to be placed on the agenda.

It was scheduled to go before the entire council June 12, during LGBT Pride Month. But a week before the meeting, former Councilwoman Delia Jasso pulled her support and her signature, and the item didn't make the agenda.

Jasso, a longtime LGBT ally who started the city's LGBT Task Force, signed on as a co-author with Griggs. Reasons for why she backed out of pushing for the measure could've been anything from being upset Griggs beat her in May after they'd been redistricted into the same district to pressure from anti-gay council members who wanted it to fail.

Former Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano then intervened in a last-ditch effort to see the resolution come up for discussion when she tried to place it on the agenda as acting mayor. Rawlings was out of town on business in Brazil, but he interfered, contacting the city attorney's office to be declared present so Medrano couldn't add the item. Although he'd told Dallas Voice numerous times he supported the issues of marriage equality and workplace protections, he also said he disagreed with them being discussed at City

Hall

The only other option to have the resolution added to the agenda was through the city manager's office, but former City Manager Mary Suhm said it wasn't in her realm to add the item, as she would never add policy issues to an agenda.

LGBT activists then showed up in full force on June 12 to address the council on their lack of support for bringing the measure forward, during which Councilman Dwaine Caraway offended activists by saying they held members to one issue. In response, audience members turned their backs on him and shouted out that he was wrong. In addition, other council members voiced support and encouraged the resolution to go before a committee.

But Griggs said resolutions never go before committees, and the earliest a committee could take it up was October. But advocates were determined to see the measure advance.

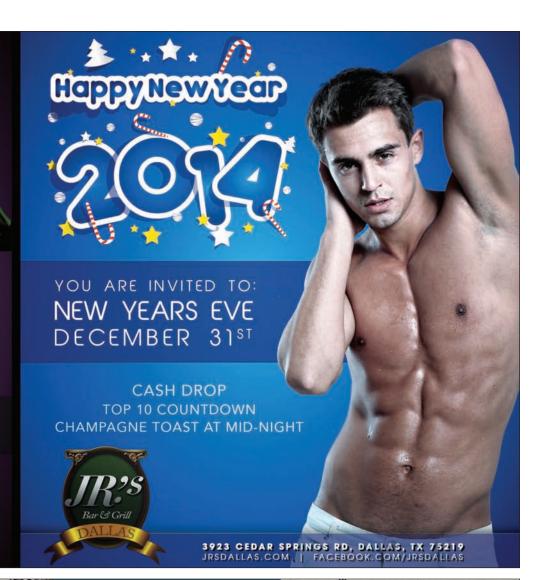
The Austin City Council passed a marriage equality resolution last year, and Denton activists tried to bring one before the Denton City Council over the summer, but they lacked support to pass it.

In September, the LGBT Task Force, now chaired by Councilman Adam Medrano, voiced support for the resolution's success and decided to rewrite it.

The issue was brought up during a Budget, Finance and Audit Committee in early December when two openly gay city employees briefed the committee on LGBT equality. The committee will revisit financial questions about marriage equality in January before taking up the resolution in coming months.

—Anna Waugh







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### 7. The Boy Scouts accepted gays



VICTORY AT LAST | Ousted lesbian den mother Jennifer Tyrrell, left, and gay Scout Pascal Tessier speak during a May press conference in Grapevine after the Boy Scouts of America announced it had voted to lift its 22-year ban on gay youth. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

A bittersweet advancement in the Boy Scouts of America policy swept across America in May.

On one hand, the 103-year-old organization would now accept openly gay youth members, but its ban on openly gay Scout leaders remained in place.

After heated debate, a February resolution to allow gay youth and Scout leaders was placed on hold until the 1,400 members of the BSA's National Council could consider the policy change in May at its annual meeting in Grapevine. But by then, the resolution only opened the organization to gay youth who'd be forced to leave BSA ranks at 18.

The debate on whether to overturn the 22year ban caused friction that divided the religious and Scouting communities. Since the change, many churches in Texas and across the country have stopped sponsoring troops and alternative Scouting organizations have taken

The Boy Scouts ban on gay Scouts and leaders began in 1991 when the organization determined open homosexuals went against the part of the Scout oath that mandates members be "morality straight."

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban in a 2000 case when justices ruled that the private organization could choose its membership.

The historic vote came more than a year after Ohio den mother Jennifer Tyrrell was removed from her position for being gay. Her removal created a national outrage and launched a national campaign with GLAAD to end the ban. She later sparked a local response when she met with BSA leaders at its Irving headquarters and dropped off her petition that 300,000 people had signed to reinstate her as den mother in July last year.

The successful vote was one of many reasons Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout and founder of Scouts for Equality, was awarded the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award at Black Tie Dinner in November. At 22, he is the youngest person to receive the

But the work isn't over. Advocates hope to get the ban on openly gay Scout leaders overturned next year.

—Anna Waugh

### 8. LGBT issues advanced in legislative session

Advocates saw major wins at the state Capitol this year from advancing pro-LGBT bills out of committee for the first time in 12 years to defeating anti-equality measures.

With a record 30 pro-equality bills filed in the state House and Senate covering job nondiscrimination to the freedom to marry and with openly pansexual state Rep. Mary Gonzalez in the chambers to speak for LGBT Texans, advocates were energized for the session.

The first big success was in April when Dallas Republican John Carona supported SB 1316 which would've provided legal protections for same-sex minors in intimate relationships under the "Romeo and Juliet" defense — to help it out of committee.

The bill was the first pro-LGBT bill to make it favorably out of committee since 2001, when the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which includes protections based on "sexual preference," passed out of committee and was signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry.

The House version of SB 1316 by Gonzalez also passed out of committee. Neither bill made it to the floor for a vote.

Carona also helped advance SB 538, authored by El Paso's Jose Rodriguez, to remove the unenforceable "homosexual conduct law" from the Texas Penal Code. The law remains on the books despite being declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2003 Lawrence v. Texas case.

Carona's support wasn't a complete surprise after he came out in support of LGBT rights during an interview with Dallas Voice last fall before going silent on the issues.

Other pro-LGBT bills received hearings, though none made it to the floor for a vote, but two pro-equality bills endorsed by Equality Texas did pass.

But with allies working for the LGBT community, its enemies were working against it. Three anti-gay bills were defeated and two anti-gay measures were conquered.

The Senate passed Republican state Sen. Donna Campbell's SB 1218, which would have prohibited anyone from obtaining a marriage license with a document that lacks a photo, including an affidavit of sex change. But advocates delayed the process for its advancement in the House and it never made it out of committee for a vote.

Republican Fort Worth state Rep. Matt Krause's HB 360 originally stated that student groups at state-funded universities could discriminate based on gender, race and sexual orientation. A compromise bill later passed out of committee that would have allowed student groups to disregard a school's nondiscrimination policy in determining membership.

Krause then attached the bill as an amendment to another bill and it passed the House,

but the amendment wasn't included in a final version of the bill.

HB 1568, authored by state Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, aimed to cut state funding for school districts that offer domestic partner benefits after Pflugerville ISD announced it would offer DP benefits. The bill was left pending in commit-

And Arlington state Rep. Bill Zedler ended up withdrawing an amendment that would defund LGBT resource centers at hit the House floor.

gender centers

caused high-risk behavior and the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases created an uproar among LGBT advocates. Petitions and letters opposing the amendment were sent to lawmakers before it

The measure urged the University of North



state universities when it LEGISLATIVE AGENDA | LGBT state Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, speaks during a panel at Stonewall Democrats' Equality Forward summit in Austin in News of the amend- April. Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, left, is among four senators who voted ment that stated LGBT to advance a pro-LGBT bill this year. (Jessica Borges/Dallas Voice)

> Texas, which has long debated creating a student LGBT Resource Center, to open one this fall called Pride Alliance.

> With the many successes this past session, advocates should be revved up to expect another stellar session in 2015.

> > — Anna Waugh

### 9. San Antonio adds LGBT protections

The San Antonio City Council knew its staff meeting. She was discussing ways to nondiscrimination ordinance was controversial, but members never expected the high level of protests during the debate or the fallout after it passed.

After the ordinance was introduced, the debate turned ugly quickly.

Marine veteran Eric Alva, who lost his leg fighting in Iraq, was booed by opponents of the ordinance when he addressed the city council supporting the measure. Alva, who is gay, was the first U.S. soldier injured in the war.

"To all you people that preach the word of God, shame on you because God loves me, like the day I laid bleeding on the sands of Iraq, and that's why he saved me," Alva said before leaving the podium.

At a prayer vigil outside City Hall, about 300 people protested the ordinance. About 200 signed up to speak at the council meeting.

The ordinance passed on Sept. 5, amending sections of the city code that cover public accommodations, fair housing, city employment, city contracts and appointments to city boards and commissions.

The language in the code now includes sexual orientation, gender identity and veteran status as protected classes.

During the debate, a staffer released a recording of Councilwoman Elisa Chan calling homosexuality "disgusting" during a private avoid the inevitable political fallout that would come from voting against the ordinance. Chan refused to apologize, calling the statement her private opinion.

After the ordinance passed, Chan resigned from city council to the relief of the city's LGBT community. A few days later, however, she announced her run for the state Legislature.

Attorney General Greg Abbott threatened to file suit against the ordinance based on wording removed during the debate. He claimed the new law infringed on religious freedom. His idle threats of filing an injunction continued for a few weeks until he quietly dropped them.

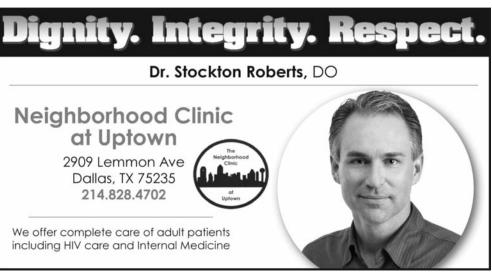
The San Antonio city charter gives opponents of a measure 40 days to gather signatures from 10 percent of eligible voters to force the issue on to the ballot. Church groups collected just 20,000 signatures, so the ordinance remained on the books.

When repeal by popular vote failed, opponents circulated a petition to recall Councilman Diego Bernal, the measure's sponsor. They claimed as a result of the ordinance, men are using women's restrooms. Ten percent of voters in Bernal's district would have to sign a pe-

The group has until March to gather the 6,000 needed signatures. ■

— David Taffet

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### 10. HUD took on trans housing case

When the Department of Housing and Urban Development took up the case of a Cedar Creek Lake couple who were turned out of their trailer park because one of them is transgender, the federal government set out to establish the principle that discrimination based on gender identity falls under sex discrimination.

Roxanne Joganik lived in the Texas RV Park in Athens for a number of years, but when she began presenting as a woman, she was told to move her trailer from the park.

The park had recently been purchased by George Toone, and Joganik told him she was transgender.

"He said he didn't care, as long as I didn't dress

Toone said she was disruptive, and he told her to leave because she refused to sign a code of conduct. In its lawsuit, HUD noted there is no dress code in the property's code of conduct.

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton reviewed Joganik's complaint before it went to HUD. He said it could be a landmark case establishing that discrimination against a trans person is a form of gender discrimination.

HUD alleged prohibiting someone from dressing as a female violates fair housing laws.

Toone said he didn't want Joganik dressed as a woman near the pool because there were children

Housing law prohibits limiting a person's use of a property's facilities or services because of

HUD also claims in its suit that the park's nondiscrimination policy does not include sex discrimination as legally required and requests to add it were denied.

Familial status is also protected under the Fair Housing Act and not included in the park's rules. Discrimination against Joganik's partner falls under that category.

Toone told Joganik wearing women's clothing around the pool is "not the type of atmosphere we want to promote on private property." HUD claims in its lawsuit that Toone's remarks mean he would just rather not have transgender people living on his property.

HUD is pursuing the case under regulations drawn up under the Obama administration claiming trans discrimination falls under the category of gender discrimination. The department is seeking \$16,000 in damages on behalf of Joganik "plus additional relief as may be appropri-

Although the amount of damages is relatively small, the case is being watched across the country to see if courts agree with the Obama administration's interpretation of trans protection.

— David Taffet





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### viewpoints

### Haven't we had enough of the bigots?

For too long, religious and political maniacs have battled against equality and social progress, and we should be tired of it

ore than eight decades after the Scopes Trial, we're still fighting that same religious mentality that throws up barriers each time someone fights for an enlightened government or equality for all Americans. Aren't we tired of them?

On Dec. 2, 2013, Heath and Ronnie, a Dallas couple, were married in New Mexico. It would have been nice if they could have driven the few miles to the Dallas County Records Building for their marriage license instead of the 650 miles to Albuquerque, but petulant Texas is holding out on allowing same-sex marriage — along with 32 other states.

In 2013, nine states — Maryland, Rhode Island, Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, Hawaii, Illinois, New Mexico and Utah — moved out of the socially challenged column and into the camp of the District of Columbia and another nine states where millions of tax dollars will no longer be squandered on fighting marriage

Not surprisingly, none of those states are in the Bible Belt, that region famous for its high teen pregnancy rate and inability to distinguish between a democracy and a theocracy. Oh, and there's another indigenous trait those states, including Texas, harbor — stupidity. We're right back to the Scopes Trial.

That 1925 legal case pitted the state of Tennessee against John Thomas Scopes, a high school teacher, who was accused of violating the



Steve Ramos Senior Editor

state's Butler Act, which made it illegal to teach human evolution in a statefunded school. That mentality still prevails in the Bible Belt, and it's so very sad that it does.

The fight Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and their followers

wage against same-sex marriage is an emotionally based one, not one fought with facts and rational thought. But the Bible Belt has always been as maudlin as an East Texas tent revival with its theological revisions and calls to fight anyone who believes Earth is billions of years old and not thousands.

For a country that faced the Great Depression, Nazi Germany, Japan, the Soviet Union and '70s sitcoms, we're a passel of pussies when it comes to shouting down the religious nut jobs. They attack us with their Bibles in their hands, acting as if the book was published last week in St. Louis. Listen to me, people. It's an Eastern book, written by Eastern people for Eastern people. We are, if you haven't learned, Western.

To understand the Bible, you need to under-

stand the political, religious and social happenings that influenced the thousands of years of history it covers. And, it wasn't written in English. There, I said it. Burn me at the stake.

Ignorant people wielding the Bible have been taking the government and schools hostage for too long. We don't dare challenge them because what are you supposed to say when they tell us it's the Word of God? Who's brave enough to fight that reasoning? Better to shut up and cower than be branded a heathen, right?

I, for one, wish Jesus would come again, like right now, and take care of Perry, Sarah Palin and the millions of people who think as they do. As we wrap up the season dedicated to celebrating the birth of the Christian Savior, I'd like to add a prayer. Please, God, give those people a brain. Do you see what they're doing? Do you hear what they're saying? They're about as Christian as a swastika.

We need to get angry with the religious bullies. We need to strip them of any control they have of our government and our schools. We need to debate them when they dare tell us we're sinners because we're gay and don't deserve equality. And I mean get right up in their hateful mugs and give them what for.

We need to re-enact the Freedom Riders of the '60s and descend on Austin, Baton Rouge, Oklahoma City, Atlanta and all the state capitals where same-sex marriage battles are being fought. We aren't mad enough, people. We aren't sick and tired enough of the religious tyranny. So, what's it going to take to get us

The walls are coming down, just as they have in the past when fed-up people fought the political and religious bigots. But we have 32 states to go before marriage equality is enacted throughout our land of the free. Now let's make it the land of the brave and help the activists pull down those last barriers.

Steve Ramos is senior editor at Dallas Voice. He can be reached at ramos@dallasvoice.com





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### RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

How important is the Catholic Church's opinion of the LGBT community?

- I could care less: 57 percent Somewhat important: 18 percent
- Very important: 25 percent

83 votes cast





### The year in entertainment

LIFE+STYLE

year in review

Our critics rank the best of 2013 in film, stage and music and more





ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

SCREEN

**MODERN PROBLEMS** | 'Dallas Buyers Club' movingly portrayed Ron Woodroof's role in the early fight for AIDS meds, left; Charles Busch's non-drag comedy 'The Tale of the Allergist's Wife,' right, took on sexual mores.

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW STAGE

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
Life+Style Editor
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2013 was the year the world ended. At the movies, at least.

Maybe it was the blowback from the 2012 election cycle. Maybe it was the continued influence of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Maybe it was the lingering economy-in-the-toilet news. But in 2013, earth did not fare well.

Some films — The World's End, This Is the End, Ender's Game, After Earth, Oblivion — said as much in their titles. Others predicted the human apocalypse more indirectly, simply by giving us a planet no longer worth saving, or so ravaged by war, disease, zombies and aliens that the very idea of normal life seems daunting: World War Z, Pacific Rim, The Hunger Games: Catching Fire, Elysium, Warm Bodies, The Purge, Upside Down, Escape from Planet Earth, The Host even Man of Steel and Star Trek: Into Darkness. And some movies just begged for life to end so we wouldn't have to keep watching dreck (The Lone Ranger, Much Ado About Nothing, The Canyons).

It got a little depressing.

And the thing was, none of them did a very good job at it.

Oh, we laughed at *World's End* and panted over Superstud in his Kryptonian codpiece, but raising the stakes so high — mass extinction — pushes the limits of what you can *do* to entertain.

Consider, instead, *The Great Gatsby*, a movie about *le fin de siecle* of the Jazz Age, a cautionary tale of the preface to privation as exemplified by the Great Depression and World War II. Those

were real-life events, and even they — and throw in 9/11 if you want — did not come close to the horrors visited upon mankind in any three minutes of the above-named films.

Why go so far? Why not, like *Gatsby*, use metaphor and allusion and suggestion? Why spell out, week after oppressive week, what a miserable place the future is?

Which is probably why my favorite films of the year were the ones with more upbeat messages — not all, mind you, but many.

10. Now You See Me. The smartest mindscrew since The Usual Suspects uses the world of Vegasstyle magic acts as a platform for exploring human curiosity and the inability to see what's right in front of your eyes. Being fooled has rarely been as fun.

9. The Croods. Like the best animated films — The Incredibles, Ratatouille, Wall-E, Up — this piece not only has its own style, but also something bigger to say about the world at large in telling about a family of cavemen who make a bold decision to enter modernity. It's the kind of movie that would incense right wing extremists if they were smart enough to catch on.

8. *Inside Llewyn Davis*. The Coen Brothers reinvent themselves slightly by opting for sincerity in this period piece about the Greenwich Village folk music scene of the early 1960s as told through the prism of an *artiste* too ornery to hit it

SCREEN Page 21

Theatre of Dallas). Mark Medoff's play about the conflict between the deaf and hearing worlds can be problematic — not in its subject matter, but its themes — but Marianne Galloway's performance as a deaf woman angered at the hear-

ing world was so emotionally raw you almost forget its puzzling choices as a play. It's the most successful staging of the show I've ever seen.

Year-end "best of" lists are always a mixed bag. Theater is the liveliest art form, and there can be gaffes or "off" days on performances, shows that grow on you and those that start strong but diminish with memory. And what do you do with the seemingly endless revivals and classics that pop up year after year?

But North Texas stages are ripe with talent — so much so, many excellent shows failed to make the cut this year. This list (technically not 10 shows, but 14) captured some of the spirit of the year for me. Good job, folks. Keep it up.

10. A Raisin in the Sun/Clybourne Park (Dallas Theater Center). On their own, both of these plays may not have made my Top 10 (though Raisin probably would've). But collectively, as presented in repertory by the DTC — Lorraine Hansberry's original, groundbreaking masterpiece about mid-century race relations and Bruce Norris' recent unofficial "sequel," which turns much of the sensitivity of Raisin on its head — made for a thoughtful one-two punch.

9. Children of a Lesser God (Contemporary

8. Sweater Curse: A Yarn about Love (independent). Full disclosure: My friend and fellow critic Elaine Liner wrote and starred in this one-woman show, so you might think I was predisposed to like it. But I was unprepared for how beautiful and well-acted her story is, explaining the travails of dating (from youth to middle age) as reflected through the act of knitting.

7. The Tale of the Allergist's Wife (Theatre Arlington). Charles Busch's straightest (literally) comedy is a kind of urban fantasy story about an Upper West Side quasi-intellectual in a safe but unexciting marriage and the jolt of energy brought to her by the appearance of an old friend. But is the friend real? This deconstruction of modern mores was one of the best looking shows of 2013, and solidly acted by a tight cast.

6. Fly By Night (Dallas Theater Center). This new musical, set on the eve of the great East Coast blackout in 1964, is a rangy piece, covering a cross-section of folks whose lives intersect in some charming and heartbreaking ways. Although a little too long, the score is occasionally magical, and David Coffee's second-act solo brought down the house.

5. One. Man. Show. (Kitchen Dog Theater). Tim Johnson, who mostly directs at Kitchen Dog, wrote and performed in this almost-solo production, a confessional musical comedy about his own struggles with HIV, middle age and in a grander way, the problems of modern society. It's a vaudeville multimedia performance art

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piece. If that sounds weird, it is; it's also brilliant.

4. The Most Happy Fella (Lyric Stage). We've grown accustomed to Lyric's facile handling of mega-musicals from days past, recreated with original orchestrations and full orchestra, but none was more successful in recent memory than the revival of Frank Loesser's operatic masterpiece, which is almost never revived. Maybe it's too ambitious for most theater companies, but opera houses should jump at the chance, especially with musical director Jay Dias' refined orchestrations.

3. Enron (Theatre 3). The Enron scandal has a special, musty place in the hearts of Texans (Houstonians more than Dallasites, to be sure), and this dissection of the hubris that allowed people to be fooled (and fool themselves) into financial ruin was sometimes almost too poignant, like reliving a nightmare. Director Jeffrey Schmidt assembled a top-notch cast for a play filled with absurdities (the occasional song, raptor-like marionettes) intermixed with all-too-real truths we are still grappling with.

2. RX (Kitchen Dog Theater). One of Kitchen

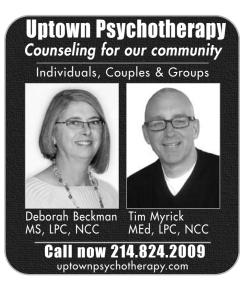
Dog's strongest seasons ever never got better than this comedy about modern healthcare, with Tina Parker as a harried publishing exec so heavily medicated she doesn't seem to mind her life is a mess. Max Hartman, Martha Harms, John Flores and the rest of the cast crackled with lively dialogue and a frenetic yet droll pacing by director Christopher Carlos.

1. Second Thought Theatre's 2013 season (A Behanding in Spokane, My Name is Rachel Corrie, Gruesome Playground Injuries and In a Forest Dark and Deep). I've never even named a tie for my No. 1 spot, not to mention a season, but it's finally time. 2TT made an artistic comeback about two years ago, but reached its peak with its four shows in 2013 that were among the most compelling across the board, starting with the sick comedy A Behanding in Spokane (the title says it all) and ending with the eerie two-hander In a Forest Dark and Deep. It turned the Bryant Hall rehearsal room on the Kalita Humphreys campus into a crucible of excellent work and design. Kudos to artistic director Steven Walters for bringing it all together.



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### **ACTOR OF THE YEAR**

I confess it: This is my favorite story of the

It's not because it's my last (thank god) or the best written (it's not, I hope). It's because after 51 weeks of saying what theaters don't always do right, I get to say what the actors who make those plays happen did perfectly.

It's a bigger deal than some think. Actors in Dallas toil long and hard for little recompense, but they are essential artists who elevate our community in countless ways (you're more likely to see them in TV commercials and on billboards than stages sometimes, but they are OK with that - it pays the bills). So to single out the ones who, as much as a year later, still resonate ... well, it's simply a privilege.

A privilege to remind everyone that Cindee Mayfield began the year strongly (with January's The Tale of the Allergist's Wife), reached a high mid-year with June's Lydie Marland in the Afterlife and ended strongly this month with Other Desert Cities. She also made many of her co-stars (Elias Taylorson, Brandi Andrade, Barbara Bierbrier and Catherine DuBord) raise their games to memorable levels

Full casts of other shows collectively shone as well, especially Drew Wall, Barrett Nash, Van Quattro and David Jeremiah, who made a potent quartet in the dark comedy A Behanding in Spokane.

Among large casts, **Doug Jackson** (*Enron*) and Linda Leonard (Kiss of the Spider Woman) distinguished themselves, as did Liz Mikel as the matriarch in A Raisin in the Sun; and David Coffee, who's heartbreaking solo in Fly By Night transformed the show from good to great. Another actor who scored, like Mayfield, in multiple roles: Max Hartman in Penelope and RX.

Several people you don't usually think of as actors also impressed me: journalist and film festival programmer Todd Camp, as a gay man delivering his partner's eulogy in Standing on Ceremony: The Marriage Plays and theater critic Elaine Liner moving in front of the footlights for her one-woman show Sweater Curse.

Tim Johnson is also best known for something other than acting (he's a gifted director), but

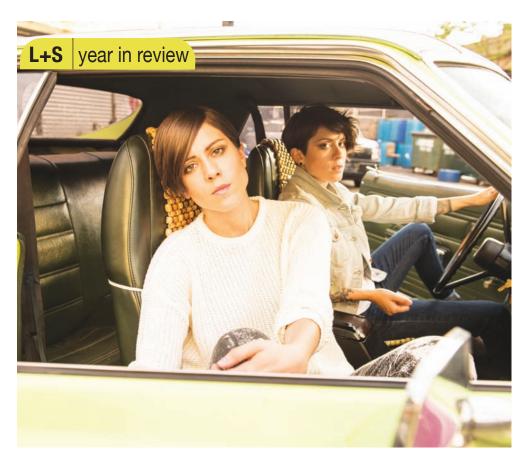


his confessional performance in One.Man.Show. was brave and striking. Another solo show that stood out was Georgia Clinton's turn as Molly Ivins in Red Hot Patriot. Johnson even even directed two actors to career-best work: Rhonda Boutté and Raphael Parry in The Chairs. What

But my four favorite performances of 2012 were all turned in by women. I couldn't take my eyes off Heather Henry in In a Forest Dark and Deep as she rose and fell with emotional nuances as a woman hiding gruesome secrets. Marianne Galloway (herself hearing impaired) turned the prickly character of a deaf-mute into a comprehensible damaged child in Children of a Lesser God. In a much lighter vein, Arianna Movassagh played vulnerability and hopefulness with comic mastery in the fluffy but enjoyable farce Made in Heaven.

But ultimately, the performer I think of most is one who seems to figure into every year's best-of list. In RX, and then again Detroit, Kitchen Dog co-artistic director Tina Parker showed how it's possible to be strong and weak as a marshmallow at the same time. No one does - nor has done in my memory - the combination of intelligence, willfulness and innocence with such deftness as Parker. She's a Renaissance woman made for the contemporary (st)age, and for that alone — but much more — Parker deserves recognition as our actor of the year.

— A.W.J.



2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

**MUSIC** 

**CHRIS AZZOPARDI I** Contributing Writer chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

From 10 to 1, our favorite CDs of 2013.

10. Arcade Fire, *Reflektor*. Winning the big daddy of Grammys for *The Suburbs* didn't just change Arcade Fire's career — an album of the year trophy *can* do that — but it also, in part, changed their sound. The Canadian avantgardes went bolder and older, harking back to the late '70s for a complex and myth-inspired

take on rebirth, post-love and societal standards. The concepts are vast, sure, but so is the sound. *Reflektor* is a sonic behemoth, where the band trots out their choral wallops for

the liberating twosome "Afterlife" and "It's Never Over (Hey Orpheus)," tracks that rank as some of Arcade Fire's best. The rocking "Joan of Arc" cautions that, "If you shoot, you better hit your mark." *Reflektor* gets it in the bull's-eye.

- 9. Kanye West, Yeezus. So about that Kanye West and Kim Kardashian video ... it gets better. The music on Yeezus including the inspiration for Kim and Kanye's awkward whatever-thatwas on a motorcycle, "Bound 2" is the most effectively delirious, biggity work of the rapper's already delirious, biggity career. He's angry and horny, he's delusional and deranged; he's everything you love to hate about Kanye West. And yet, he's still a mastermind in the beat department, producing some of his most vanguard tracks via a palette of punk rock and new wave hip-hop takes a backseat that's more maniacal than its creator.
- 8. James Blake, *Overgrown*. When James Blake sings, his soulful croon washing over you like water in a warm bath, you're helpless. That sexy thing he does will sweep you away. *Overgrown*, the follow-up to his 2011 debut, is a seductive and magically poignant head trip where gospel and R&B inspire the English producer's minimalist approach to electronica. Basically, these compositions won't get you dancing, but

hey, they'll probably get you laid. Sultry to the touch with its bottoming bass and synth progression, "Life Round Here" is a musical boner that transports you all the way to a magical place of ... ah, gotta go. Bye.

7. Chvrches, *The Bones of What You Believe*. Face it, no one does synth-pop like non-Americans, where those Swedes and them Brits know what's up when it comes to crunking. But don't forget the Scottish: Chvrches, a trio hailing from Glasgow, has been rolling out deliciousness since

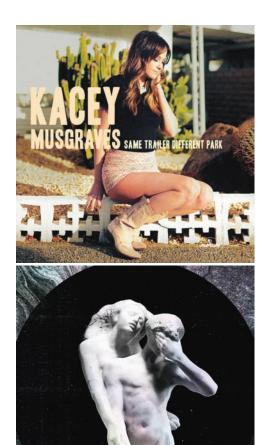
2012, eventually culminating into *The Bones of What You Believe*, where the icicles of lyrical woe melt all over balmy electro anthems. "Recover," a gem of exhilarating '80s-fashioned

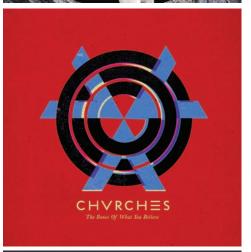
electronica with Robyn-type sensitivity, is big, booming and danceable — and it's also a facade. That's hurt you hear in the fragility of Lauren Mayberry's Kate Bush-like voice. Her pain, our gain.

- 6. Haim, Days Are Gone. One of the best pop albums of this year wasn't from Gaga, wasn't from Katy, wasn't from Britney. It was from Haim. And who is that, you might ask? An underwear brand? Not exactly, though they may motivate you to dance in yours. They're three geeky sisters from L.A. who obviously live for the '90s and let that era's sonic radness wash over a spirited sound so addicting it should probably be illegal. With that punchy hip-hop fever and those humdinger melodies that go down as easy as ice tea on a hot day, Haim is the modern-day answer to everything good having to do with a brilliant and bygone era in music.
- 5. Jason Isbell, Southeastern. It's only his fourth solo LP, but when people look back at the highs of Jason Isbell's career, Southeastern will be way up there. How does it get better than this an earthy, from-the-gut triumph that already sounds like a classic? Reflecting on the hard knocks goodbyes, addiction and domestic abuse and the soul-country crooner's own redemptive state with the sharpest of confessional

narratives ("A heart on the run / keeps a hand on the gun / can't trust anyone"), this deeply personal work from the former Drive-By Truckers member taps into his soul, his emotions and his heart — and then it taps into yours.

- 4. The National, *Trouble Will Find Me*. It's true that The National's latest is slow and slumberous, like a walk that never ends. But keep going and you'll get somewhere. You'll get to some of the most achingly beautiful melodies you've ever heard, like the lonely lament "I Need My Girl." "Don't Swallow the Cap" lets some light into the darkness, which is really where lead singer Matt Berninger likes to sulk. When he closes with "Hard to Find," a wistful daydream, it doesn't get any better for him. It does for us, though. The coda is a quiet reverie that's just about the prettiest thing you've ever heard. As for *Trouble*, let it sink in. Play it over and over. It'll find you.
- 3. Tegan and Sara, Heartthrob. Tegan and Sara ... pop stars? It happened this year, when the songful, great-hair-having lesbian twins busted through the indie barrier, got lost in all the nostalgia of their '90s records and turned out Heartthrob, a confectionary listen of Greg Kurstin-produced synth-rock with enough trademark touchy-feelies (they're still sad, so that's good) you'll hardly be concerned that the duo has shared the stage with Taylor Swift. From the cotton-candy rush of the Cyndi Lauperesque "Closer" to their pained plea of rejection the lovelorn-yet-liberating "How Come You Don't Want Me" Heartthrob is the pop marvel no one saw coming.
- 2. Patty Griffin, American Kid. It's tough to find any fault with Patty Griffin's artful Americana, except that there's never enough of it. And now she's gone and spoiled us: The "lost" LP, Silver Bell, finally got its official release, and her stunning American Kid used grief and pain as a crux to illustrate, quite poignantly, the experience of letting go. It's raw and transformative, effecting a truth that Griffin and her inimitable voice have delivered since her debut release 17 years ago. The "Faithful Son" who went his whole life underappreciated saddens, the tale of a "Wild Old Dog" is a spiritual godsend, and "Gonna Miss You When You're Gone" conjures classic Judy Garland. That's how legendary Griffin sounds on American Kid.
- 1. Kacey Musgraves, Same Trailer Different Park. It's about time country music got their Lady Gaga. Only 25 and easily the most outspoken of her peers, Texan Kacey Musgraves modernized the politics of dated tradition with her major-label debut's "Follow Your Arrow" — reminding folks that it's fine to smoke pot and be gay ("love who you love") — and "Merry Go 'Round," the launch single that gave stark insight to small-town living (it's not all it's cracked up to be). She even surprises with a little ditty about casual lust, "It Is What It Is," the saddest sex song you'll ever hear. Waitress and mobile home stories have heart and humor, but Musgraves also has the simple, old-timey sound to match her impressive wordplay. All the talk of her being "the future of country music"? Yeah, believe it.





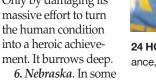


**SOUND DECISIONS** | Queer twins Tegan & Sara, pictured, reinvented themselves with their exceptional album 'Heartthrob' (No. 3). Among the other standout CDs of 2013 were by, from top down, Kacey Musgraves (No. 1), Arcade Fire (No. 10), Chyrches (No. 7) and James Blake (No. 8).

### ■ SCREEN From Page 18

big but too talented to ignore. Oscar Isaac shines, performing his own music, and John Goodman has a scenestealing cameo.

7. Blue is the Warmest Color. Don't allow its monumental length (three hours) deceive you. This isn't a leisurely, unfocussed lesbian romance, but an epic using a palpable romance for its framework. Could it be short? Only by damaging its massive effort to turn the human condition into a heroic achieve-



ways, this is the film Alexander Payne has made over and over, a tight-lipped comedy about the tight-lipped quirkiness of Midwesterners, with Bruce Dern in a twilight performance as a gruff but ultimately fragile and sentimental septuagenarian on a road trip with his harried son (Will Forte). Black-and-white photography has rarely been used less smugly, and June Squibb, as a say-anything mom, steals the show from the men.

5. Dallas Buyers Club. The more-or-less true story of Dallas AIDS patient Ron Woodroof (Matthew McConaughey) and his epic battle against the FDA to get helpful but unapproved drugs into the hands of HIV-positive people who need them. McConaughey's fiery performance galvanizes every scene, but Jared Leto and Jennifer Garner have priceless moments.

4. Philomena. The year's best-written movie — of any kind — is this charming two-hander about a jaded journalist (Steve Coogan) who takes on a puff piece about an elderly Irish lady (Judi Dench) looking for the son she lost to adoption 50 years earlier. Charming without being cutesy, heart-breaking without being cloying, angry without being venomous, it's a perfect little movie, elevated by Dench's career-topping performance.

3. Fruitvale Station. The last 24 hours in the life of Oscar Grant (a revelatory performance by Michael B. Jordan) were pretty much like anyone else's life, and that's the subtle genius of this true story about a man executed by traffic cops in Oakland. If there's justice in the world, Octavia Spencer, as Oscar's mom, should coast her way to another Oscar.

2. Gravity. The first 20 minutes of this film are so eye-poppingly unimaginable, it virtually reinvents the modern scifi genre in front of you. If that's all it was, it would be Avatar, but the human scale is never lost, and Sandra Bullock's performance grounds you, even as she floats weightless through the chasm of infinity. The movie is as humbling as it is electrifying.

1. 12 Years a Slave. Steve McQueen's harrowing but restrained adaptation of a fantastical memoir about a free man of color kidnapped



24 HOURS IN A LIFE | Octavia Spencer renders a heartbreaking performance, alongside Michael B. Jordan, in 'Fruitvale Station.'

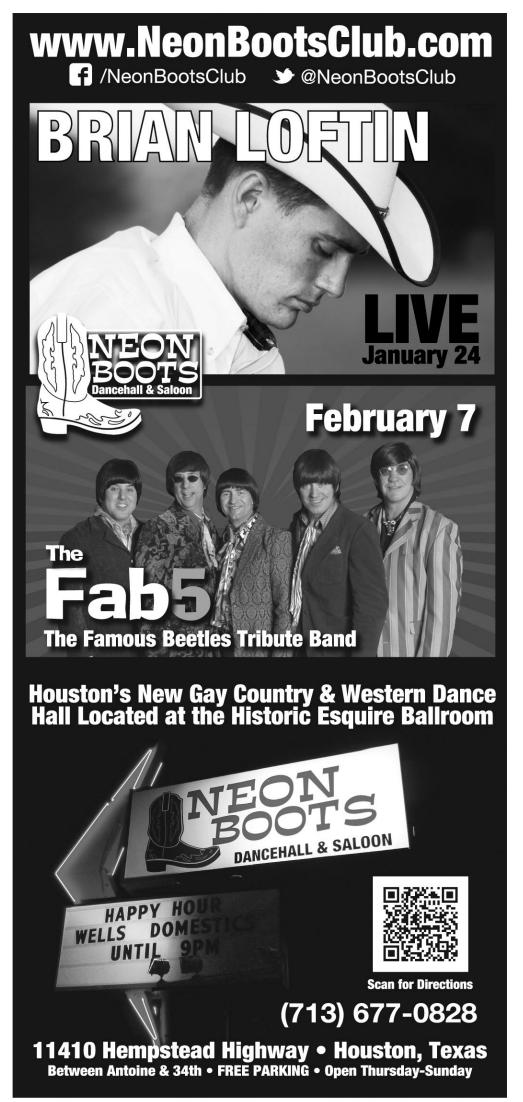
into slavery may be the best film about the enslavement of another man ever produced — a horror story that was all too real. Chiwetel Ejiofor led a spectacular cast, but it's the storytelling that's the star.

Nos. 11–20: The Way Way Back; Love Is All You Need; The Great Gatsby; August: Osage County; Her; Enough Said; Capt. Phillips; Lee Daniels' The Butler; Before Midnight; Lovelace.

Memorable performances: Matthew Mc-Conaughey and Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club; Octavia Spencer and Michael B. Jordan, Fruitvale Station; Sandra Bullock, Gravity; Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine; Judi Dench, Philomena; Meryl Streep, August: Osage County; Adele Exarchopoulos, Blue is the Warmest Color; June Squibb, Nebraska; Oprah Winfrey and Elijah Kelley, Lee Daniels' The Butler; Tom Hanks, Capt. Phillips; Greta Gerwig, Frances Ha; Robert Redford, All Is Lost; Joaquin Phoenix, Her.

### Worst of the lot: The bottom 10

10. Pacific Rim (noisy and pointless futurism, sad because it had promise). 9. Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare's bubbliest comedy becomes a slogging drudge thanks to actors who speak without poetry in their hearts in Josss Whedon's pretentious misfire); 8. Stoker (bad thriller is worse than cheap thriller). 7. The Host (proof Stephanie Meyer is a one-trick pony). 6. Smurfs 2 (granted expectations were low ... but this low?). 5. Elysium (Jodie Foster's worst performance ever in the summer's mangiest dog). 4. Thor: The Dark World (has the Marvel magic run its course?). 3. The Counselor (Cormac Mc-Carthy's bleak outlook becomes an interminable sleaze wallow from Ridley Scott). 2. The Canyons (Lindsay Lohan's comeback turns into a betterto-have-stayed-away). And the worst film of the year ... 1. The Lone Ranger (in trying to give Native Americans their due, Johnny Depp and director Gore Verbinski made a loud, obnoxious and sloppy Western where Native Americans come off only as OK ... and Chinese coolies become mute cannon-fodder).



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# Tuesday 12.31

### Big Bad Gina kicks off 2014 with party and concert

What you get when you add together three women, nine instruments and a whole lot of noisemakers? The Big Bad Gina New Year's Eve concert and party, of course. The popular lesbian trio — a genre-hoppin' folkin' girl band with an edge — are returning to Fort Worth on Tuesday, just in time to welcome in 2014. It won't just be an evening concert, but a rockin' party to close out your year. Cheers!

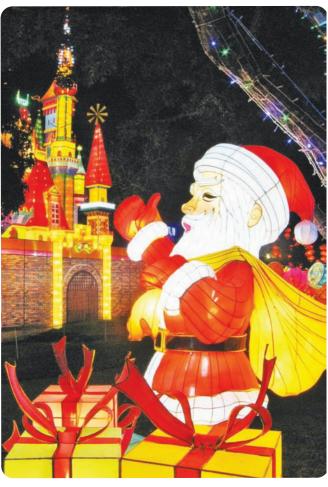
**DEETS:** 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. 8 p.m.–1 p.m. \$25. ODPTexas.com.

### **Friday** 12.27

### Chinese Lanterns keep the glow of the holidays going at Fair Park

Santa may have delivered all his presents, but you can still see him — or the lantern version of him — at the Chinese Lantern Festival. The exhibition of colorful silks illuminated in a giant funhouse of color and extravagance has been at Fair Park since the State Fair, but it won't be here forever. You have until Jan. 5 to catch this remarkable display, open after dark so you can fully appreciate the detailing and beauty of this ancient craft

**DEETS:** Fair Park at Martin Luther King Boulevard. Through Jan. 5. \$14. ChineseLanternFestival.com.





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### calendar highlights



**IN BLACK AND WHITE** | Pegasus Theatre launches its 29th season with the comedy caper 'Rehearsal for Murder!' including a New Year's Eve performance with champagne toast.

### **ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING**

### **THEATER**

Hedwig and the Angry Inch. John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask wrote this musical about a transgender German singer. The music is phenomenal. Starring Danny Anchondo (aka Mr. Pixie) and former VOP winner Mel Arizpe. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Dec. 27–28. 8 p.m. \$20. HedwigDFW.com.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! MBS Productions' annual comedy about a small-town Nutcracker that's racier than expected. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Final weekend. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

**Three Little Pigs.** Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, a beloved holiday tradition in England, always with a campy, cross-dressing twist for the adults. The Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. *Final weekend.* Theatre-Britain.com.

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical.
Stage adaptation of the classic carol. Majestic Theater,
1925 Elm St. Final weekend. ATTPAC.org.

Irving Berlin's White Christmas. Stage adaptation of the beloved holiday film. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Final weekend. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Jubilation: The Christmas Musical. Jubilee Theatre presents this holiday production. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Final weekend. JubileeTheatre.org.

**The Santaland Diaries.** The exploits of a gay Macy's elf during the holidays. Based on David Sedaris' novella. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. *Final weekend.* WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Something's Afoot. A comedy about Sherlock Holmes, set during the holidays. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650

Addison Road. Through Jan. 5. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

### BALLET

**Ben Stevenson's The Nutcracker.** Texas Ballet Theater presents this timeless classic from Tchaikovsky. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Final performance: Dec. 27. TexasBalletTheater.org.

### CIRCUS

Lone Star Circus: Charivari. The Dallas Children's Theater presents this family-friendly circus, with dogs, jugglers, acrobatics and more. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Dec. 27–Jan. 5. \$20–\$46. DCT.org.

### FINE ART

Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take. A living retrospective of the gay artist's eclectic work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 12. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Hopper Drawing: A Painter's Process. The towering 20th century painting Edward Hopper is revealed in a collection of pencil drawings and sketches that inform his creative choices. Includes several finished painting, including the iconic *Summertime*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 16.

Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Chinese Lantern Festival. Although the State Fair is over, the lanterns will be on display evenings for several more weeks. Fair Park. Through Jan. 5. \$14. ChineseLanternFestival.com.

Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals. The controversial Chinese artist reimagines zodiac figures of the Chang dynasty. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through March 2. Free. CrowCollection.org.

The Jerry Lee Musslewhite Collection of Korean Art.
The late docent at the Crow, also a devoted collector of



**DERRICK'S GOT TALENT** | 'America's Got Talent' contestant Derrick Barry welcomes in the new year at The Brick with his impersonation of Britney Spears.

Korean art, left behind this exquisite collection of pottery, stoneware and furnishings from Korea's storied past. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Aug. 24. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South. Photographs portraying same-sex couples and often their children, African American Museum 3536 Grand Ave. Through Feb. 28. AAMDallas.org.

Angels in DeGolyer. The Arboretum presents this collection of 400 works focusing on angels for its Holiday at the Arboretum. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

### SATURDAY 12.29

### THEATER

Rehearsal for Murder! Pegasus Theatre presents its latest production in its patented Living Black and White style, to resemble (eerily) a 1940s Black-and-white film. This time out, bumbling amateur detective and aspiring actor Harry Hunsacker gets involved in a crime while at an inn where actors are rehearsing a play. The production includes its usual New Year's Eve performance with champagne toast. Directed by Michael Serrecchia, Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2251 Performance Drive, Richardson. Dec. 29-Jan. 26 (in previews through Dec. 31)

### **MONDAY 12.30**

Are You Smarter Than a Drag Queen? The sassy game show is back, with more games and a cash prize. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m.



For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinvurl.com/dvevents

### submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

### TUESDAY 12.31 — **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

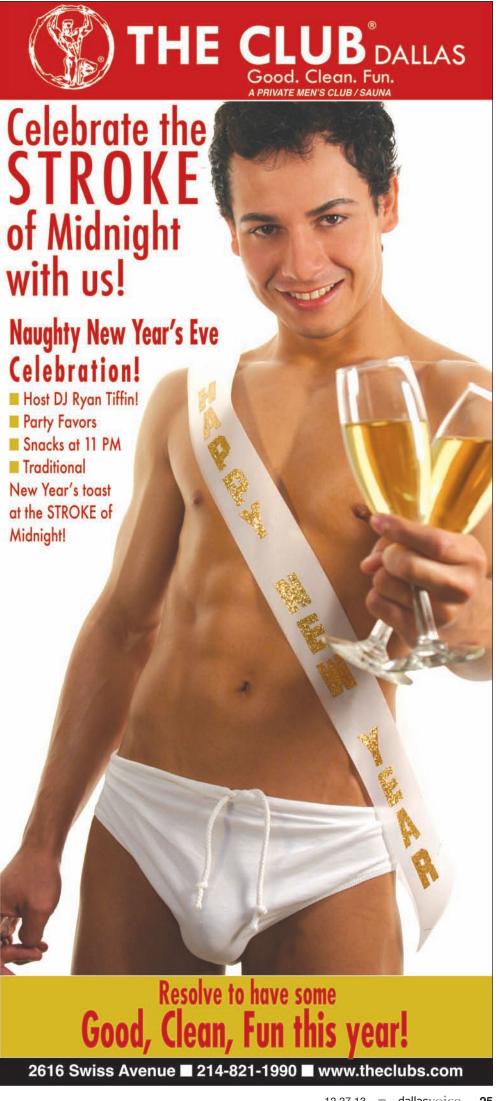
Big Bad Gina. The queer musicians return to their usual haunt in Fort Worth, but this time the party's really on — the trio will be performing a show and accompanying New Year's Eve party! Break out the funny hats and perk up your ears as you welcome in 2014. 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$25. ODPTexas.com.

Derrick Barry. The drag performer, who appeared as Britney Spears on America's Got Talent, welcomes in the New Year; with Kennedy Davenport and others at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. RSVP at TheBrickNYE2013.Eventbrite.com.

### WEDNESDAY 01.01 — **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

### this week's solution

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dallaseagle.com. EDEN LOUNGE — 2911 Main St.: edenloungedallas com

\*EXKLUSIVE — 4207 Maple Ave.: 214-432-2826.

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\*MOCKINGBIRD VIDEO — 708 W. Mockingbird Ln.; 214-631-3003

\*NEW FINE ARTS WEST — 1966 W. Northwest Hwy. 972-869-1097.

\*ODYSSEY ADULT VIDEO — 2600 Forest at Denton Dr 972-484-4999; 950 W. Mockingbird Ln., 214-634-3077.

\*PARIS ADULT BOOKS & VIDEO WAREHOUSE -1118 Harry Hines; 972-263-0774.

\*ZONE D'EROTICA — 2600 Forest, Dallas. 972-241-7055,

XPOSED ADULT THEATER AND MEGASTORE — 910 W. Mockingbird Ln.; 214-819-0571;

xposedtheater-megastore.com

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\*ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART — 201 W. Main St.,

Arlington;; 817-275-4600; arlingtonmuseum.org ARTES DE LA ROSS — 1440 N. Main St; Ft. Worth; 76164;

BASS HALL - 330 E. 4th St.: Ft. Worth: 817-212-4280. BEARDANCE — beardance.org. BRUCE WOOD DANCE PROJECT — 214-428-2263;

817-624-8333

brucewooddance.org.

CASA MANANA — 3101 W. Lancaster Ave.; Fort Worth;

817-321-5030; casamanana.org.

CITY PERFORMANCE HALL — 2700 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformaingarts.org.

**DALLAS ARBORETUM** — 8525 Garland Rd.; 214-515-6500; dallasarboretum.org.

\*DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART — 1717 N. Harwood; 214-922-1204. DALLAS SUMMER MUSICALS — 909 1st. Ave.: 214-421-5678: dallassummermusicals.org. **DALLAS OPERA** — 214-443-1000; dallasopera.org,

DALLAS THEATER CENTER — 2400 Flora St..; 214-252-3927; dallastheatercenter.org.

FT. WORTH OPERA — 31-877-FWOPERA; fwopera.org. FT. WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — 330 F 4 th St Ft. Worth; 817-665-6500; fwsymphony.org

\*MAGNOLIA THEATER — 3699 McKinney Ave. 214-520-0025.

MBS PRODUCTIONS — 214-951-9550; mbsproductions.com. McKINNEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER — 111 N Tennessee; McKinney; 75069; 972-547-2650.

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MODERN ART MUSEUM — 3200 Darnell, Ft. Worth;

817-738-9215

NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER — 2001 Flora St.; 214-242-1500; nashersculpturecenter.org.

SAMMONS PARK — (Annette Strauss Artist Square): 2100 Ross Ave.; 75201; dallaspeerformingarts.org. TEXAS BALLET THEATER — 1540 Mall Circle; Ft. Worth;

817-763-0207; texasballettheater.org.
\*THEATRE THREE — 2800 Routh, #168; 214-871-2933;

theatre3dallas.com. **TITAS** — 2403 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; titas.org. **UPTOWN PLAYERS** — P.O. Box 192264; 214-219-2718;

uptownplayers.org.

WATERTOWER THEATRE — 15650 Addison Rd.; 972-450-6232; watertowertheatre.org.

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**T&A** SUNDAYS

Ugh... I think it was that shot of tequila...

WHY DID I TAKE A SHOT OF TEQUILA?! Yeah, it had nothing to do with the seven vodka soda:

before and the seven vodka sevens after. Nothing at all.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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66	T		$\vdash$		67	$\vdash$		$\vdash$			68			
69		$\vdash$	$\vdash$		70	$\vdash$			$\vdash$		71			

### Goodbye, Mr. Chips

### Solution on page 25

### Across

- 1 Breaks for Heather's mommies
- 5 They circle Uranus
- 10 Slugger Ruth
- 14 "Houston, we have a problem"
- 15 Deuce follower, for Mauresmo
- 16 Traditional apple tree spot
- 17 O'Toole's role in a 1962 movie
- 19 Ron Howard film with Ellen DeGeneres
- 20 Shop with an anvil
- 21 Cumming on the stage
- 23 Sexual ending
- 24 Chicago producer Meron
- 26 Come and go
- 28 Last word of a fairy tale
- 31 Comrade, in Québec
- 33 "If \_\_\_ nickel for every time ..."
- 35 "If you'd been any prettier, it would have been ...", with 45-Across
- 37 Survivor adjective
- 38 Letters after CD
- 39 The late great O'Toole
- 41 The "A" in GPA
- 42 One with a gifted tongue
- 45 See 35-Across
- 48 Indian lute
- 49 "Just kidding!"

WRITTEN BY TYLER CURRY
ILLUSTRATED BY CLARIONE GUTIERREZ





What can I get you boys to drink?

(l'll have a mimosa.

Coffee please.

I am sooo not drinking today



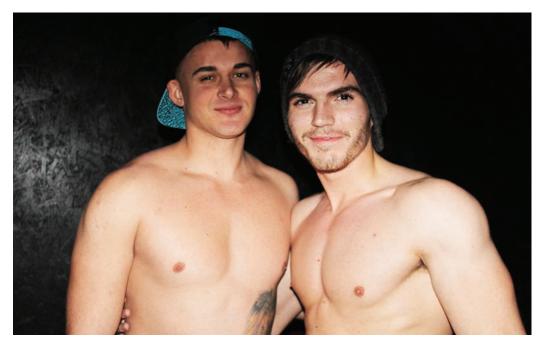
- 50 Remove a slip?
- 51 The Sound of Music song
- 53 Satisfy fully
- 55 Sibling, in brief
- 56 "That smarts!"
- 58 Head bones
- 62 Mekong River country
- 64 Source of this puzzle's quote about O'Toole
- 66 Bottoms' description of tops?
- 67 Like crystal
- 68 Slightly
- 69 Where to see sweaty athletes
- 70 Drag queen \_\_\_ Lettuce
- 71 Itches

### Down

- 1 Testicles
- 2 Clumsy come-on
- 3 Type of sci, in college
- 4 William, who played with George Takei
- 5 Bloody queen
- 6 Dedicated poem
- 7 Chaplin spouse
- 8 Cores, to Atom Egoyan?
- 9 Get to second base, perhaps
- 10 One ruled by a queen
- 11 Ethiopia's capital
- 12 Kim Carnes sang about her eyes
- 13 Word after "penis"
- 18 "I don't see it"
- 22 Neet competitor
- 25 Arsenic's old partner
- 27 Letter on a key
- 28 Kinky coifs
- 29 Pensacola people
- 30 Warhol subject
- 32 "Let's make it a threesome!"
- 34 Hot-tub buildup
- 36 Listener-sponsored org.
- 37 La leader
- 40 Small salamanders
- 43 Road top
- 44 Bite it
- 46 Like bell-bottom jeans
- 47 Sunken passage
- 49 Kidman of The Hours
- 52 Chew (on)
- 54 Capital of Ghana
- 55 Fruit flavor for gin
- 57 Pay attention to
- 59 Six Feet Under character
- 60 Persian Gulf land
- 61 Computes the bottom line
- 63 IRS info
- 65 Young chap



### LIFE+STYLE scene



Blayne and Jay at Club Stallions.

The Rainbow Lounge's Pre-New Year's Party takes place Dec. 28 with special guest DJ Sno White. On Dec. 29, the bar holds a casting call for The Whitney Paige Super Sunday Show. Layla Larue heads the panel of judges. ... Eden Lounge has a dusk to dawn New Year's Party. DJ Dragon from Las Vegas, Miss CJ and Sickone are among the guest DJs. Live dancers and go gos perform all night. View downtown fireworks from the rooftop bar. ... Backhand Sally is at Sue Ellen's on Dec. 27. Marisela the Voice appears on Dec. 28 and Story Taylors entertains on Dec. 29. Then its a Mi Diva Loca New Year's Eve with a cash drop, top 10 countdown and champagne toast at midnight. ... TMC: The Mining Company, Station 4 and JR.'s Bar & Grill also count down the top 10, have cash drops and champagne toasts at midnight. ... Alexandre's celebrates Rockin New Year's Eve with Andrea Dawson. ... The Brick/Joe's presents Derrick Barry as Britney Spears in 2013 World Tour. Charity Case and MC Big Meech host a \$1,000 balloon drop, meet and greet, champagne toast and confetti explosion. ... The Round-Up Saloon presents Masquerade featuring a dinner/breakfast buffet, cash balloon drop and champagne toast. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. ... Watch the Philadelphia Eagles play the Dallas Cowboys in HD on Dec. 29 at noon at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. There's no cover on New Year's Eve. Party hats and noisemakers provided. ... Garlow's rings in the New Year with black eyed peas and ham. ... Devon Devasquez presents the United Court of the Lone Star Empire's New Year Celebration Show on Dec. 29 benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network. New Year's Eve is a masquerade ball. ... Happy New Year.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos.



Dante, Kevin and Kylie at the Tin Room.



Brian, Cory and friend at the Dallas Eagle.



Christian and Jason at the Round-Up Saloon.







Jesse and Kevin at Club Reflection.





Eddie and Darrin at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



### LIFE+STYLE

scene



Marcela and Lina at Kaliente.



Mauricio, Louie, Junior and Amador at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Marvin, Kenneth, Brad and John at Club Reflection.



Carli and Sarah at TMC: The Mining Company.

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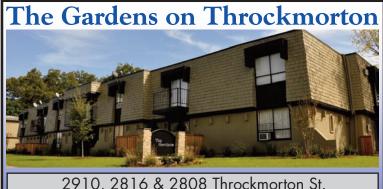
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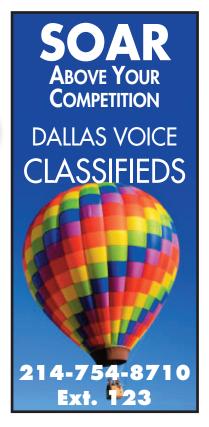
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