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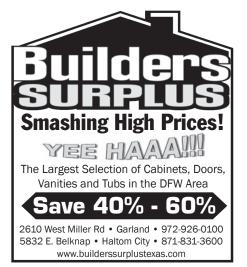
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#### **North Texas LGBT** Chamber elects board

Voting for the board of directors of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce ended Monday, Nov. 16, and President and CEO Tony Vedda has announced the names of new and returning board members.

New board members are Ethan Avanzino with Southwest Airlines, Jake Krysiak with Polsinelli PC, Stephen Lewis with Toyota North America, Joli Robinson with Habitat for Humanity, Waylon Tate with J. Waylon & Associates and Gary Sanchez with VisitDallas.

New members join existing board members including Shelley Hunter with Sky Branded Apparel, Armando G. Ramirez with Supreme Lending, Clint R. Thomson with Celeratec Managed Systems, Justin "JT" Williams with Independence Title and Rachel Wolf with Executive Leadership.

Board chair is Clint Thomson, and Gary Sanchez is treasurer and chair-elect. Justin Williams is immediate past chair and foundation chair. Shelley Hunter is ambassador chair; Armando Ramirez is Gala co-chair, and Rachel Wolf is membership chair.

In addition, to Vedda, the Chamber staff includes Lisa Howe as vice president, office volunteer Debbie Hoff and PR head Waylon

Visit LGBTChamber.com for more information

Tammye Nash

#### They're baaaaaaack! TITAS **Unfiltered bringing the Rose** Room back for a second show



Cassie Nova

Guess who's back!

It's the return of the Rose Room Girls as TITAS/Unfiltered, in association with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, presents TITAS Does Drag II, on Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St.

TITAS first brought The Rose Room on Tour to the Strauss Square in October, and that sold-out performance was such a rousing success that they quickly decided a Part II was in order. So emcee and entertainer — and Dallas Voice columnist — Cassie Nova is rounding up the cast for the return engagement of this "unfiltered performance [including] nine performers who specialize in comedy, dance and gender illusion."

The performers, in addition to Cassie, are Chevelle Brooks, Fantasha, Jenna Skyy, Kel-

exis Davenport, Kennedy Davenport, Krystal Summers, Layla LaRue and Sasha Andrews. The show starts at 8 p.m., and all COVID-19 guidelines, including social distancing and face coverings, must be followed.

Tickets are \$39 — \$50 for Cree Box Circle seats - and are available at Tickets.ATTPAC.

- Tammye Nash

#### AspenOUT announces Aspen Gay Ski Week Lite for 2021



AspenOUT announced it will hold a "Lite" version for its 44th annual Gav Ski Week, the oldest LGBTQ ski week in the U.S. The event takes place Jan. 17-24.

Aspen Gay Ski Week will be presented with the following changes, based on current state and county restrictions:

- Virtual events: Virtual events are being planned, so that people in Aspen and all over the globe can enjoy. Events may include Drag Queen Bingo, Piano Showtune Night and Virtual Happy Hours.
- Rainbow Flag Reveal: Each year, a giant rainbow flag is held by skiers as they descend Aspen Mountain. In 2021, the event will be streaming live. The rainbow flag, which will be updated with Transgender and BLM colors, will make its way down the slope as heartwarming stories of past AspenOUT benefactors are featured. This will be a special opportunity for viewers to donate to our organization that in turn, benefits many LGBT organizations.
- The opening reception, Belly Up events, Downhill Competition, Top of the Mountain Party and Pool Party will not be held in 2021.

"We realize that the comfort level of traveling during this time is a personal decision, and we would like to offer those who are inclined to do so the opportunity to enjoy the perks of being an Aspen Gay Ski Week participant," said Kevin McManamon, executive director of AspenOUT.

Limelight Hotel returns as the host hotel, offering luxurious accommodations in the heart of Aspen. Guests can take advantage of Aspen Gay Ski Week's discounted lift tickets and rental packages on the four mountains of Aspen. AspenOUT benefits from guests booking hotel, lift tickets and rentals on its site.

- David Taffet

#### Caven addresses neighborhood on new development



#### Ed Oakley

Ed Oakley represented Caven Enterprises at a community meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18, to discuss development on its 3 1/2 acres of property along Cedar Springs Road. About 50 people attended the meeting.

Among the biggest concerns of those attending was parking. Oakley explained that the 200-car lot behind 4001 Cedar Springs would remain open during construction be-

hind S4. Not until after the parking structure opens in the building behind S4 would construction begin on the 200-car lot.

Neighbors who live within a block of the Cedar Springs bars complained about noise from the bars. Others wondered whether people moving into these new buildings would complain about noise from the bars.

Other concerns involved traffic from the buildings and blocked streets and deliveries during construction. Oakley said some of

that would be alleviated by using the 200-car lot during the day to offload construction material. He compared the project to what's going on at the former Office Depot lot a few blocks away where construction stretches to the edges of the property and two lanes are blocked. He said that should be much less of a problem at this construction site because of the additional property.

Another question was about affordable housing, and Oakley said there will be an affordable housing component to the project.

Oakley discussed the timeline and said the next step in the project is talking with the Oak Lawn Committee and then taking the project to the zoning board. The projection is for the pocket park and first building to be open sometime in 2024

As plans are finalized and the project progresses, Oakley said he expects to schedule further meetings with the public.

- David Taffet

#### pet of the week / MORRIS



Meet **Morris**, a male, 2-year-old Siberian husky mix weighing 55 pounds. He's a sweet, fun-loving pup looking for a forever family.

He came to the SPCA of Texas when he was transferred in from another shelter, so not much is known about his past, but he has captured the hearts of several staff members here at the SPCA of Texas with his outgoing, goofy personality. He loves to play with toys, play outside and go for walks. He's smart, too, and knows how to "sit," "shake" and "lie down" on command. Morris is looking for a home with older teens and adults only and would love to meet any other dogs in the home to see if they get along. Morris is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Russell H. Perry Animal Care Center in McKinney.

In an effort to reduce the potential for spreading COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption events and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at spca.org/findapet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.



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# A quiet TDoR

Transgender Day of Remembrance marks another year of record anti-trans violence

**DAVID TAFFET I** Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

rism Health North Texas will mark Transgender Day of Remembrance with a gathering at the Marsha Johnson and Sylvia Rivera mural on Cedar Springs Road Friday evening, November 20. The names of the 34 transgender people that have been killed this year in the U.S. will be read and candles lit in their memory. While this is an in-person, socially distanced remembrance, other events around the country will be virtual.

That total number of trans people who have died violently in 2020 makes this the deadliest year for the trans and non-binary community in the U.S. since statistics have been kept. Overwhelmingly, the violence is targeted at Black trans women, but at least four of the deaths have been trans men and one victim was non-binary.

Carmarion D. Anderson-Harvey, Alabama state coordinator for the Human Rights Campaign, blamed the increase in violence against her community on COVID-19 and an administration that doesn't care about trans lives.

"Our community," she said, "is being ignored."

In Dallas, the homicide rate has increased across the city as the pandemic has worsened. Anderson-Harvey believes that rather than bring people together or take any blame for its handling of the pandemic, the administration has encouraged those who have lost jobs and are idle to find scapegoats.

"COVID doesn't discriminate," she said. "Those victimizing us do."



Merci Mack

Other factors in the high murder rate, especially among transgender women, include stigma, lack of education and religion that teaches there's something wrong with being transgender, Anderson-Harvey said.

Her take on the Black Lives Matter movement is interesting. While she certainly agrees with what BLM is doing to protect Black lives, the outgrowth of Black Trans Live Matter has revealed what she calls a "disconnect of unity.

"We generally get disconnected out of our race culture," she said, referring to trans lives. "There's a huge divide."

Even though Anderson-Harvey has

been involved in the movement for years — she was a founder and board member of Black Trans Women and now works for HRC — she said this year has taken a toll on her.

"This year, it's hitting me hard," she said. "Life for everyone is precious. These killers have not gotten what they deserve."

But still she's optimistic. With a new administration coming to Washington, D.C., in January, she sees new opportunities for change and for progress. With a president who has worked with transgender people and has already appointed at least one to his transition team, she sees the possibility of better

#### **SAY THEIR NAMES**

- Dustin Parker, 25, McAlester, Okla., Jan. 1.
- Neulisa Luciano Ruiz, Toa Baja, P.R., Feb. 24.
- Yampi Méndez Arocho, 19, Moca, P.R., March 5.
- Scott/Scottlynn Devore, 51, Augusta, Ga.
- · Monika Diamond, 34, Charlotte, N.C., March 18.
- · Lexi, 33, New York, N.Y., March 28.
- · Johanna Metzger, Baltimore, Md., April 11.
- Penélope Díaz Ramírez, P.R., April 13.
- Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, 32, P.R., April 21.
- · Layla Pelaez Sánchez, 21, P.R., April 21.
- Nina Pop, Sikeston, Mo., May 3.
- · Helle Jae O'Regan, 20, San Antonio, May 6.
- Jayne Thompson, 33, Mesa County, Colo., May 9.
- · Tony McDade, Tallhassee, Fla., May 27.
- · Selena Reyes-Hernandez, 37, Chicago, Ill., May 31.
- · Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, Philadelphia, Penn., June 9.
- · Riah Milton, 25, Liberty Township, Ohio, June 9.
- · Brian "Egypt' Powers, 43, Akron, Ohio, June 13.
- Brayla Stone, 17, Little Rock, Ark., June 25.
- Merci Mack, 22, Dallas, June 30.
- Shaki Peters, 32, Amite City, La., July 1.
- Bree Black, 27, Pompano Beach, Fla., July 3.
- Summer Taylor, Seattle, Wash., July 4.
- Marilyn Cazares, Brawley, Calif.
- Dior H Ova, (Tiffany Harris), The Bronx, N.Y.
- · Queasha D Hardy, 22, Baton Rouge, La., July 27.
- · Aja Raquell Rhone-Spears, Portland, Ore., July 28.
- · Kee Sam, Lafayette, La., Aug. 12.
- · Lea Rayshon Daye, 28, Cleveland, Ohio., Aug. 30.
- · Aerrion Burnett, Independence, Mo., Sept. 19.
- Mia Green, 29, Philadelphia, Penn., Sept. 28.
- · Michelle Michellyn Ramos Vargas, 30s, P.R., Sept. 30.
- Felycya Harris, 33, Augusta, Ga., October.
- Brooklyn Deshuna, 20, Shreveport, La., Oct. 7.
- · Sara Blackwood, Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 11.
- Angel Unique, 25, Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 25.

education, better leadership and more acceptance.

And Anderson-Harvey is optimistic that, as a new legislative session begins, appropriate legislation for trans youth and support for their parents will be introduced.

When she was a teen and beginning her transition, she said, having a good therapist was essential. But the time, there was only one therapist in the Dallas area who specialized in transgender care. Today, she'd like to see better counseling services for trans youth available across the country.

On its website, the ACLU has identified a number of things that would make the lives of trans youth easier.

Among them are GSAs, which stands for either Gender and Sexuality Alliances or Gay-Straight Alliances. As of last year, every high school in Dallas ISD has a GSA. But in most of the suburban school districts in DFW, GSAs are spotty at best.

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# Common law, posthumously

A declaration of Dallas couple's informal marriage may allow release of evidence to help solve a murder

**DAVID TAFFET I** Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

ore than three years after the murder of his husband Joey Paul, Jeff Phillips can finally inherit his portion of Paul's estate, and he can finally get information from Dallas police about the investigation

that had been previously withheld from

him — and all because of a court ruling in Dallas County.

The couple

Jeff Phillips, left, and his late husband, Joey Paul

had been together for 15 years at the time of Paul's death, but they were not formally married. Still, probate Judge Brenda Hull Thompson declared Phillips' claim of common law, or informal marriage as it's known in Texas, to be valid.

And now that declaration of informal marriage could mean the difference between solving a cold case or never identifying Joey Paul's killer. Phillips said there's a video of the murder that Paul's family blocked from being released. But now Phillip's has the right to call for its release

Paul was shot and killed on Elmwood Boulevard in Oak Cliff on May 19, 2016,

less than a year after the *Obergefell* marriage equality decision. He and Phillips had been together for 15 years and had talked about getting married but hadn't gotten around to it.

To qualify for informal marriage status, Phillips had to show evidence that he and Paul had presented themselves as a married couple. As part of his proof, Phillips showed that he and Paul had purchased a house together in 2003 and that they had lived together and acted as a committed couple. He provided a stack of evidence about a foot high that included cards they sent to one another over the years, photographs and employee

benefit forms that had named the other other as beneficiary.

In addition, two witnesses — former Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns and his husband JD Angle — signed and submitted sworn affidavits that said Paul and Phillips presented themselves as a married couple.

Attorney Brian Hill represented Phillips in the case, and he referred to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* marriage equality decision in arguing for common law recognition.

"Although their marriage date preceded the Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell on June 26, 2015," he said, "the well-established doctrine regarding the retroactivity of decisions on constitutional issues is clear and requires that Texas Courts recognize the validity of informal same-sex marriages, even those that existed before the Obergefell ruling."

Hill said it was important to determine when the informal marriage began for the purpose of determining what property the two men acquired as a couple. So even though the *Obergefell* ruling didn't happen until 2015, the court recognized the marriage retroactively to 2003.

LAW, Page 10





GSAs "provide visibility, safety and social support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students and their allies," the ACLU website notes. Among other things, GSAs help connect students and create a community, help keep students safe in the face of harassment and advocate for a strong and supportive school climate.

One problem in many school districts is the dress code, according to the ACLU: "Many schools have gender-specific dress codes with different rules based on students' assigned sex at birth," ACLU's website points out. "For transgender and gender non-conforming students, this can mean risking disciplinary action for wearing affirming clothes or hairstyles."

But progress is being made; ACLU attorney Brian Klosterboer said we're seeing more school districts adopt a gender-neutral policy.

In the recent *Arnold v. Barbers Hill ISD*, a black student sued after he was disciplined for wearing longer locks.

Klosterboer said the school district's antiquated dress policy said boys must wear short hair. The ruling, Klosterboer said, has mostly affected Black and Native American students, but it is being applied to transgender students in Texas as well.

Another issue that comes up for students is equal access to bathrooms. On its website, the ACLU writes, "School districts across the country have been successful in ensuring that transgender and gender non-conforming students have access to facilities that match their gender identity while still protecting the privacy of all students."

Klosterboer said more and more of his organization's work on this issue as well as access to gender-appropriate locker rooms is being done "quietly and privately." Schools are generally learning to work out a solution that doesn't escalate to a court battle.

Although bullying in schools is illegal in Texas, 75 percent of transgender youth feel unsafe in school; attendance

and grades suffer because of it, and, ultimately, trans youth have a high dropout rate. Attorneys for the ACLU recommend reporting bullying and harassment to a friendly teacher, counselor or administrator.

Several federal courts have ruled school must enforce their anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies equally among students. As a victim of bullying, harassment or discrimination, a student, parent or guardian has the right to file a complaint with the school or school district. The ACLU can assist in filing a complaint or mediating a resolution.

While every court case has resulted in a ruling in favor of access to bathrooms for trans students, Klosterboer said he is watching for discriminatory bills in the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature that would prevent trans students from participating in sports. But to fight those discriminatory laws, he said, we have the *Bostock* decision. This year's *Bostock* ruling says sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are

#### When & Where:

- Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil: Friday, Nov. 20, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Marsha Johnson and Sylvia Rivera mural, 4000 Cedar Springs Road.
- Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020, hosted by San Antonio Gender Association, Nov. 20 from 7 –8:15 p.m. online on Facebook Live.
- #MoreThanAHashtag –Transgender Day of Remembrance SF, hosted by San Francisco Pride on Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. central time on Facebook Live.

both sexual discrimination and are covered by Title IX.

"That was a transformational moment," Kloseterboer said of the *Bostock* case.

All sides are still sorting out how the ruling affects employment, housing and a wide variety of accommodations, he said, and it should make a huge difference bettering the lives of transgender men and women and non-binary people.



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**W**, From Page 7.

The ruling also affects Phillips' ability to collect any Social Security benefits due him as a legal spouse and to receive crime victim funds.

Even though this ruling is not the first of its kind in Texas, Hill said this case is important because it showed you can have a common law marriage declared posthumously, although the level of proof is higher than just showing they lived together, since one of the spouses isn't there to testify.

Most importantly though, Hill added, "Now Jeff can be involved in the homicide investigation and be informed about the status of the case by Dallas Police, a right which is typically reserved only for legally-recognized members of the victim's family and the surviving spouse in particular."

Phillips said not being recognized as the spouse included other indignities. Paul's family claimed his body from the Medical Examiner's Office and refused to let him see his husband's body before he was cremated. They also excluded

any mention of Phillips in his husband's obituary.

Phillips and Paul had had wills drawn up just before Paul was murdered, but Paul hadn't finalized his or signed it. He had, however, signed a will several years before the couple met when his family started a business. That will specified all property would revert to the family. Although she had a copy of that will, Paul's mother never filed it in probate court.

For Phillips, Judge Thompson's declaration of informal marriage was vindication. "It was special to get the declaration," he said. "The court said we were married."

While this isn't the first case of a posthumous declaration of common law marriage, it is the first involving a homi-

Lambda Legal attorney Shelly Skeen said the case is "one more example of Texas courts following Obergefell. What applies to opposite-sex couples applies to same-sex couples."

While Skeen wasn't worried about Dallas judges following the law, she said, it was important for there to be precedent for smaller, rural counties that rarely handle cases involving same-sex

couples. She said that precedent would be set in Texas' largest cities, because this is one of just a few states that recognize common law or informal marriage.

Skeen said one thing the case demonstrates is how important wills still are. Marriage, she said, confers certain rights and benefits, but property acquired before marriage could still be challenged. A spouse could also be forced to prove in court that other property was acquired during marriage, and that could be difficult in some cases, expensive to defend and not something someone who just lost a spouse should be put through.

For Phillips, the ruling is important because it may now lead to a break in his husband's murder.

The couple had been renovating their house, and the night he died, the dust from the remodel was causing Paul's asthma to act up. While Phillips was away, Paul left on foot to spend the night elsewhere. But somewhere on Elmwood Boulevard near Rugged Drive, less than a mile from their house, tragedy struck. Neighbors at the time told police they heard men arguing in the street, then a

But what wasn't made public at the

time was the fact that one of the nearby houses had a security camera, and that camera caught the murder on video. The license plate of the car that the assailant escaped in is blurry in the video and isn't legible. But still, Phillips believes that if the video had been made public at the time, someone might have recognized the killer or the vehicle and been able to give police the lead necessary to solve his husband's murder.

When then-LGBT police liaison officer Laura Martin read the file in 2016, she told Phillips she had never seen anything like it, Phillips recalled: Paul's family refused to let the video be released, and their refusal tied detectives' hands.

Now, though, the decision is in Phillips' hands, and he is already completing the paperwork necessary to get the video released publicly. Police have said that could take months, he said. But still, Phillips remains hopeful that the blurry video footage that has remained hidden away for more than four years now holds the key to the heart-breaking mystery of who killed Joey Paul. And he hopes that once it is made public, someone out there will turn that key, and his husband will finally be able to truly rest in peace.



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Trump continues to embarrass and endanger our country; it's up to GOP leaders to make him stop

t's finally over. Well, it's ALMOST finally over. I am talking about the 2020 presidential election, of course, and while it's clear that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won and will become the president and vice president, respectively, on Jan. 20 at noon, there are still a few, shall we say, "loose ends" left to clean up.

The 2020 race between the incumbent duo of Donald Trump and Mike Pence and Democratic challengers Biden and Harris has been called the most consequential election of our time. Would we continue down the dangerous and destructive path the Narcissist in Chief set us on four years ago? Or would we wrest the wheel of this ship of state from his grip and set our country on the road to sanity once again?

We have our answer now; we chose sanity. But I have to tell you, the five days it took us to get from Election Day to knowing for sure who won were perhaps the most difficult, gut-wrenching, insomnia-inducing bipolar five days of my life. I went to sleep Nov. 3 (well, in the early morning hours of Nov. 4) in despair. I was sure that Trump had won, and my exhausted brain was racing haphazardly through the options available for moving out of this country while keeping my job and my family. I woke up later that morning overcome by the same despair.

Then I looked at the news, and the despair lifted. As I had slept, the vote-counting had continued, and slowly but surely, Biden was pulling ahead. I didn't truly relax until around 10 or 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, when word came:



Tammye Nash From Where I Stand

victory. Final tallies were still out in Arizona and Nevada and Georgia, but it didn't matter anymore. Biden had passed the magic mark of 270.

Arizona and Nevada finally finished their vote tallying and declared for Biden, as did — surprise, surprise — Georgia, although the paper-thin margin in Georgia has prompted a recount, which is still expected to go Biden's way. And two Senate seat runoffs there will determine who has control of the Senate for the next two years — something nearly as important as the outcome of the presidential race.

So it is done. At least, it should be done. But there are those "loose ends" I mentioned.

There's really only one loose end, when you get right down to it. But man, is it a doozy.

That loose end, of course, is Donald Trump. He didn't manage to totally destroy our democracy over the last four years, but he is certainly giving it his best shot in his last nearly three months in office.

Donald Trump has lost the popular vote by — at last count — 5.7 million-plus votes. And as things stand now, he will lose the Electoral College vote 306-232 (the same margin by which he defeated Hillary Clinton in the EC

vote in 2016 and that he and his minions then called "a landslide"). And yet, this lunatic continues to claim, in nonstop tweets, that he won. He claims he won "by a lot." He claims the Democrats are trying to "steal" the election, and his campaign is bombarding those on their email list with constant pleas for money to help them "stop the steal" and "defend the integrity of the election."

It would be laughable if it weren't so pathetic. And embarrassing. And dangerous to our democracy.

Short of an outright military coup—and no, I don't believe that will happen—Donald Trump has lost the presidency and will have to leave the White House no later than noon on Jan. 20, 2021, even if he has to be dragged out, kicking and screaming, like the ill-mannered toddler he is. But his insistence on challenging the election outcome, his constant claims of "widespread voter fraud" are tainting our whole election process, casting doubts that will take decades to clean away, if they ever can be.

I don't expect Trump to suddenly grow up and start acting like a reasonable adult. That will never happen. But it is time — past time, really — for men and women of conscience in the Republican Party to stand up and demand that this lunacy end. Stop enabling Trump's temper tantrum (I'm looking at you, Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz and John Cornyn). Step up and do your duty to this country and your constituents. You can stop this madness and make sure we see a peaceful transition, so that we can put these last four years of endless bad decisions and embarrassing antics behind us and take the first step on the road to recovery.

Tammye Nash is managing editor. The opinions expressed here are her own and do not necesssarily represent the opinions of her coworkers or of Dallas Voice as a whole.











1208 N. Riverfront Blvd. Dallas, TX 75207 214.219.5656 MyDulce.com

## Our 2020 Holiday Gift Guide Cover

The centerpiece of Christmas decorations is always, of course, the Christmas Tree, and Treetopia gives you a wide, wide variety to choose from, in all colors of the rainbow, even include one with all the colors of the rainbow! This year, Dallas Voice chose Treetopia's Color Blast silver tree (\$409.99), complete with programmable LED lights. You can choose clear lights today, single-color lights tomorrow, and multi-color lights the day after. Or choose to have them changing constantly from one to the other!

Dallas Voice brought in our personal Elf on a Shelf, Angel, to decorate, and he chose a bright yellow decorative star gift box from the Beekman 1802 "Twinkle Twinkle Collection" (\$65), filled with a variety of of Beekman's finest skin care products to top the tree, and a couple of Beekman "Ornaments" (\$25-\$30) as well, also filled with Beekman products, all designed to make your skin as beautiful as your Christmas tree.

And because Santa got our letter, Elf Angel left us a Christmas cactus from North Haven Gardens and a couple of bottles of Charles-Le-Bel Brut Champagne (\$45.96) from Goody Goody Liquor under the tree. **Treetopia.com**; Beekman1802.com; Goody Goody Liquor, 3316 Oak Lawn Ave. and other DFW locations, GoodyGoody.com, North Haven Gardens, NHG.com.

#### Elf Angel: Dallas Voice's personal Elf on a Shelf

Dallas Voice this year brought in our very own Elf on a Shelf to help us get ready for the holidays and make sure that this year's Holiday Gift Guide is the best one yet. And we thought you'd like to get to know our Elf Angel a little

Dallas Voice: What is your "real" name, as opposed to your Elf name? Elf Angel: Angel Blanc on social media.

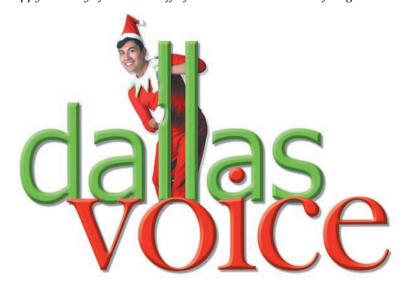
When did you move to Dallas from the North Pole? I was born and raised right here; I'm a native Dallasite.

When you aren't being one of Santa's elves, what is your daytime job? I manage an apartment community.

Are you single, or is there a Mr. Elf Angel? I'm very single and always ready to mingle! Take me off the market!

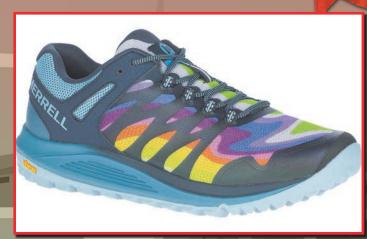
What are you hoping Santa leaves under your tree this year? Tickets for a vacation trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Happy Holidays from the staff of Dallas Voice and our Elf Angel!





## Out of The Closet



#### **Merrell Nova 2**

If you are looking for a holiday surprise for the hiker on your list — or that person that just wants to be stylish and comfortable when they are out and about — take a look at the Merrell Nova 2, the shoe offering both sneaker-light comfort and hiker-like durability, not to mention this eye-catching rainbow-striped option. (Solid color options are also available if you want to keep it low-key.) With a padded collar, breathable mesh lining, air cushioning in the heel and TrailProtect rock plating protecting your foot from underfoot debris, you are ready for a day on the trails. **Merrell.com; \$110, men's and women's styles available.** 

(left to right)

#### **Chill Boys**

This is Texas, and even in winter things can get uncomfortably warm, especially if you are still wearing drab old tighty-whitey underwear. But you can keep your boy business cool and comfy year-round with Chill Boys bamboo underwear. ChillBoys.com; From \$19.95.

#### **Shinesty Ball Hammock**

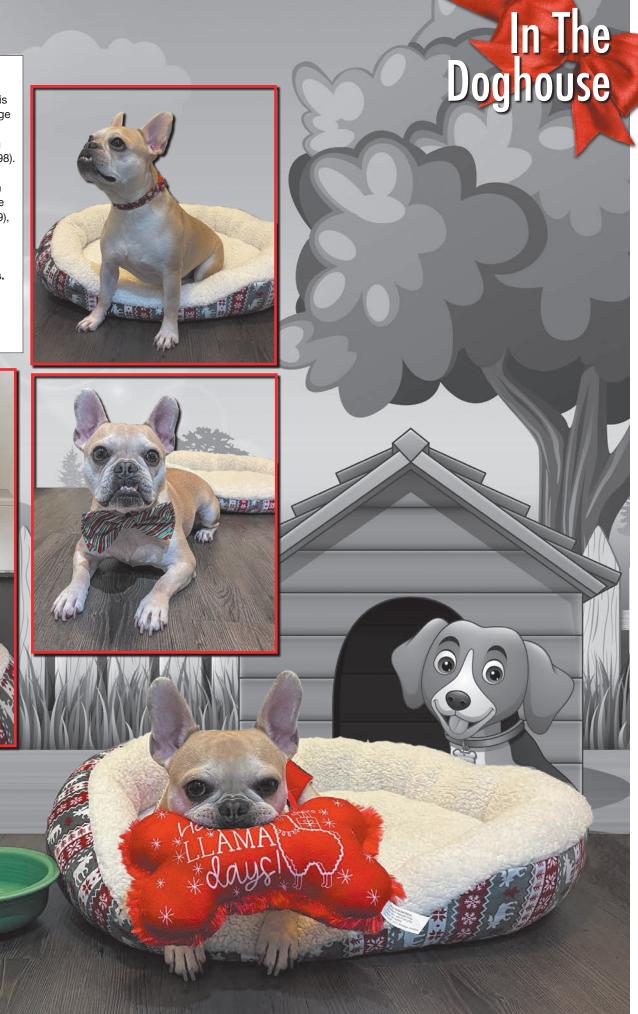
Men's Health calls Shinesty's Ball Hammock pouch underwear "the most comfortable underwear you'll ever wear." And with the company's wide variety cheeky designs for all seasons — like the "Kiss Me There" design our elf is modeling — you'll never run out of fun drawers to wear.

Shinesty.com; \$25.99 and up.



#### In The Doghouse

Don't forget the furry four-legged loves of your life this holiday season! Pet Supplies Plus carries a wide range of Play On goodies to make any dog's day, including the Play On Collar (\$3.98), the Play On Holiday Plush Bone (\$7.98) and the Play On Holiday Sweater (\$15.98). Doggie Den Dallas has Walk-e-Woo Dog Collars in various sizes (\$10-\$19.99), and their Neon Collection is sure to get attention. And your pet can dine in style with Fiesta IQ Food Bowls in assorted collars (\$18.99), and dress in style, too, with the Lupine Dapper Dog collar (\$9.99) or the Huxley & Kent Bowtie (\$6.95), all from Hollywood Feed. Pet Supplies Plus, 2525 Wycliff and other DFW locations, PetSuppliesPlus. com; Doggie Den Dallas, 6444 E. Mockingbird Lane, DoggieDenDallas.com; Hollywood Feed, 3425 Knight St. and other Dallas locations, HollywoodFeed.com.







#### In The Bar

We all have that friend who has that retro vibe going on. Now you can help them class up their home bar with the coolest of retro finds at Lula B's, including this RCA transistor radio (\$65), vintage cocktail shaker (\$85) and Georges Briard plaid rocks glasses (4 for \$75). Throw in a bottle of Barr Hill Gin (\$37.99) or any of your other favorite adult beverages from Goody Goody Liquor, and you are good to go. Lula B's, 1010 N. Riverfront Blvd.and 1982 Fort Worth Ave.; Caledonia Spirits.com; Goody Goody Liquor, 3316 Oak Lawn Ave., and other DFW locations, GoodyGoody.com.





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\*Holiday Wine Sale runs 11/16/20-12/24/20. Discount applies to wines 750ml or larger, includes Sparkling Wine. No further discount on Sale Items, Final Few or Closeouts. Some exclusions apply. Please drink responsibly.





## WHEATLEY & COINTREAU, DEALER'S CHOICE

#### COMBO PACK INCLUDES:

- Wheatley Vodka 750ml
- Cointreau Orange Liqueur 375ml

#### APEROL FIZZ

1 oz Wheatley Vodka

1 oz Cointreau Orange Liqueur

1 oz Aperol

¾ oz Lemon Juice

1 Egg White\*

Shake all ingredients without ice (dry shake); then add ice and shake vigorously; strain up into a coupe glass; garnish with Luxardo cherry

\*Consuming raw or undercooked eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness.

#### CLASSIC KAMIKAZE

1 1/2 oz Wheatley Vodka

1 oz Cointreau Orange Liqueur

1 oz Lime Juice

Shake & strain up into a coupe glass; garnish with lime peel



Look for more Cocktail Combo Packs in stores and at sigels.com this season!

#### COSMOPOLITAN

2 oz Wheatley Vodka

1 oz Cointreau Orange Liqueur

1/2 oz Lime Juice

1/2 oz Cranberry Juice

Shake & strain up into a coupe glass; garnish with lime twist

#### VODKA SIDECAR

2 oz Wheatley Vodka

1 oz Cointreau Orange Liqueur

1 oz Lemon Juice

Shake & strain up into a martini glass with a sugar rim; garnish with lemon peel





FINE WINES & GREAT SPIRITS

sigels.com f 0





No further discount on Sale items, Final Few or Closeouts. Some exclusions apply. Please drink responsibly.



#### The Fuschia Throne

Every queen — and king — needs a throne. And if you are still looking for yours, Dulce has you covered. This custom fuschia throne chair, complete with bolster pillow, is definitely fit for any royal behind. Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace, 1208 N. Riverfront Blvd., MyDulce.com; \$1,500.

#### **Ceramic Menagerie Animals**

Bring the grace and elegance of the African savannas' most distinctive denizens to a living room near year with these silver ceramic giraffe and gazelle statues. Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace, 1208 N. Riverfront Blvd., MyDulce.com; \$72 each.

#### **Bronze Art**

This art piece from Global Views brings to mind Superman's crystalline Fortress of Solitude, only with the warmth of bronze rather the distant cold of ice. NUVO Dallas, 3311 Oak Lawn Ave., NUVODallas.com; \$300.

#### **Glass Art**

Dragonflies symbolize, wisdom, change, transformation and light, and are thought to bring us messages from Heaven. And there is no denying the heavenly beauty of this Dragonfly vase, handetched and signed by Dallas artist Polly Gessell.

NUVO Dallas, 3311 Oak Lawn Ave.,

NUVODallas.com; \$425.





#### **Art of Shaving**

Everybody's crazy 'bout a sharp-dressed man. The same goes for a well-groomed man. And the Art of Shaving has just the thing to keep your special man well-groomed, from the Sandalwood Shaving Kit (\$95) to the Beard Prep Grooming Kit (\$40), each of which comes in a TSA-approved zip-top pouch. **ArtofShaving.com.** 

#### **Quickys Body Wipes**

Get the gym rat on your Christmas list Quickys Body Wipes by Ballsy, extralarge cooling and cleaning wipes to quickly wipe away sweat, smell and dirt. Ballwash.com; \$12.

Available at Outlines Men's Wear, 3906 Cedar Springs Road, OutlinesMensWear.com.







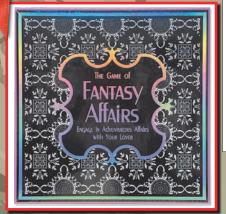
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# In The Gameroom



#### **The Game of Fantasy Affairs**

Being on COVID lockdown does not have to be boring. If you are looking for ways to spice up your home life, check out the wide selection of adult board games available at After Hours Video, including "The Game of Fantasy Affairs," which takes you and your love on some wild adventures. After Hours Video, 2528 W. Walnut, Garland; \$19.99.



#### Tiny Tina and a **Borderlands wedding**

If you are looking for the perfect gift for the LGBTQ gaymer in your life, look no further than Gearbox Loot, home of Borderlands, one of the queerest video game series ever. "Tiny Tina's Robot Tea Party" card game (\$20 Gearbox Software, Nerdvana Games and XYZ Game Labs) let's you spend the afternoon at a claptastic tea party with all your favorite Claptraps. And to help you keep hydrated while you play, check out the "Guns, Love and Tentacles Tumbler" (\$19.99), a copper, vaccum-sealed piece of official Borderlands merch celebrating the marriage of queer couple Wainwright and Hammerlock.

GearboxLoot.com.

SINO \*





#### A Game of Queens

Drag is all the rage these days, thanks in no small part to the original glamazon, RuPaul, and the many interations of the award-winning RuPaul's Drag Race. Now you can get in on the action, even if you don't know which end of a wig is up, with "A Game of Queens," a drag queen card game. Glue on those eyelashes, tighten that tuck and get your game on. Alternatives, 1720 W. Mockingbird Lane, \$18.99. Alternatives-of-New-Fine-Arts.business.site.

#### **Simply Organic Bamboo**

What better way to alleviate the stress of another day in the pandemic than to get a good night's sleep? And these bamboo sheets from Simply Organic will help make that happen. SimplyOrganicBamboo.com; \$199 for king; prices vary for other sizes.

#### The Cozee

Electric blankets for your bed have been around forever, but now Life Giving Warmth has made that cozy comfort portable with The Cozee, a batteryoperated heating blanket that can keep you snug as a bug in a battery-operated rug for up to five hours. LifeGivingWarmth.com; \$249.99.







## Hands-on or Telehealth

- In office appointments available
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#### **Services include:**

- Primary Care
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- Cosmetic Procedures
- Ask about PrEP

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Erin Simms FNP-C

Steven M. Pounders, MD

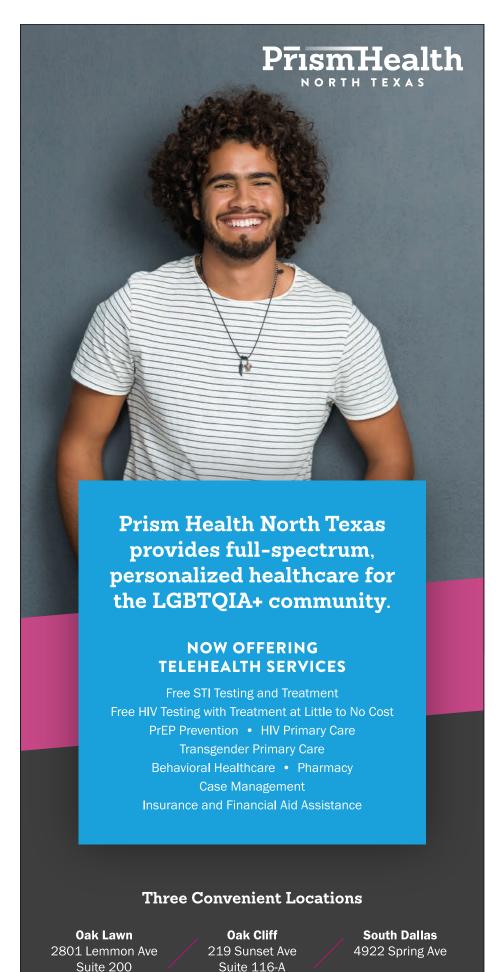
Chad Nyland,

D. Trew Deckard, PA-C, MHS

Cameron Wyatt, FNP-C

Chad Crager, FNP-C

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The Jewelry Box



If you are looking for that special, one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry for that special, oneof-a-kind person in your life, then you want to check out J. Pacetti Precious Jewels. Visit Jpacetti.com to inquire about this ring or one of their other pieces.

In The Library

#### **Delicora**

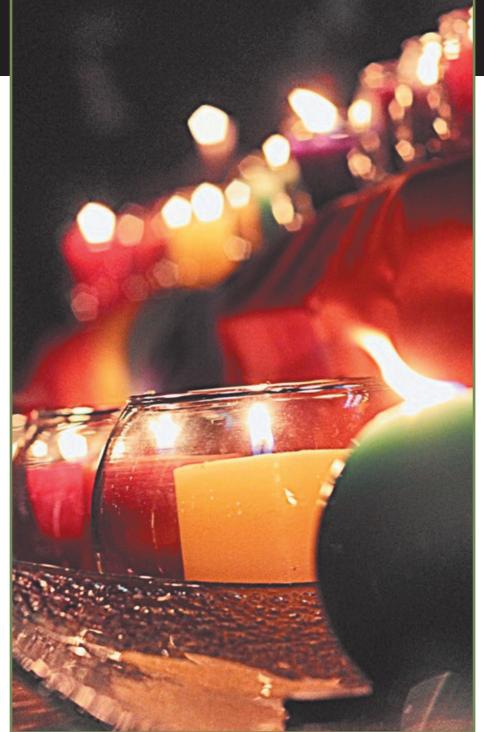
Simple gold hoop earrings never go out of style. And when they are Delicora earrings, you get not only elegant jewelry but the added bonus of knowing you are helping others since Delicora participates in numerous charitable programs. Check out the Anna May hoops (\$62), the Amelia Huggies and more (\$42) at their website, Delicora.com.

#### LumiCharge-II All In One Desk Lamp

This year is a good year for staying home and reading a good book. And the LumiCharge II premium smart lamp is the perfect accessory for anyone who wants to shed a little light on their reading material of choice — or on their

#### LIFE+STYLE

best bets



#### 11.20

#### **TDOR** vigil

So far in 2020, at least 34 transgender people are known to have been murdered or to have died under suspicious or violent circumstances. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, at least 23 of the victims were trans women, four were trans men and one was non-binary. And most of the victims have been Black or Latinx trans women. Nu Trans Movement, Prism Health North Texas and DFW Human Rights Campaign have organized a Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil for Friday near the Marsha Johnson and Sylvia Rivera Mural on Cedar Springs to honor those who have been lost and to focus attention on the ongoing epidemic of anti-transgender violence. Come light a candle and say their names. 6:30-8 p.m., beside the Nelson Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road; 214-521-5191.



#### 11.21

#### **Canned Food Drive**

Lost Souls Rugby Football Club is not just committed to promoting inclusion in the North Texas rugby community, the team members are also committed to serving the communities in which they live. As part of that commitment to serve, Lost Souls RFC will be holding a canned food drive benefiting Resource Center Food Pantry on Saturday in the parking lot of the Round-Up Saloon. Noon-4 p.m. behind The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road; Facebook.com/LostSoulsRFC.



#### 11.26

#### **Thanksgiving Potluck**

The House of Rebirth is hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner Thursday to "bring the family together." House of Rebirth was created a little more than a year ago to "provide life-giving resources to under-served Black trans-identified women through transformative housing programs and to build power within the intersection of LGBTQIA communities of color in order to spark sustainable change and solidarity." 2-9 p.m. For more information, visit Facebook.com/TheHouseOfRebirth.

#### Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

And then came November: Our nation of (officially) 8 percent unemployment is mourning a quarter-million COVID-19 deaths from a virus infecting well more than 100,000 new Americans every...single... day. With trepidatious anxiety, "blue" America decided to lay blame for this latest new hyper-driven upswing of "Rona" squarely upon our Oracle L'Orange's now quacking, blustery-lame shoulders. No presidential candidate in American history ever received more votes than "Sleepy Joe" Biden, who'll turn 78 come Nov. 20. (Useless factoid: Of our 45 prior presidents, only 11 of them ever lived past the age where Biden begins his own presidency.)

Four out of five Americans now believe our country (subsequent to L'Orange's petulant reign of tyrannical bombast) is headed in the wrong direction. Yeah, I know: How only four out of five? Of the sole presidents (Harding and Trump) who ever ran and won on isolationism, Harding at least had the good sense to die in office before the exposure of his cronyism saw the voltage of daylight.

2020 was a referendum on the triage measures needed for an electrocuted democracy's very survival. To quote a frazzled gentleman in my building's elevator, shaking his head somberly on Election Day, "I had no idea our sacred institutions were so vulnerable." Sighing, his mask ruffled, "America either lives or dies today. I don't recognize my country anymore — I went to the cemetery, but it was closed."

This reminds me, kids: Next month, we'll have cycled full-circle since America's Patient Zero became diagnosed with COVID-19 (upon Rona's stealthy escape from Wuhan's sieve-tight borders) to make her debut on freedom's shores last January in ... where was it now? Portland? Spokane? How fitting a hippie-commune region of our nation played host to that slatternly bitch disease so sunnily monikered as "Coronavirus:" Sounds pretty, doesn't she?

Global pandemics, of course, have ravaged our world continuously, quite hysteria-free, ever since primates first appeared on Earth sporting thumbs and vocalizing larynxes more than 1,000 centuries ago. Mumps, measles, smallpox, pneumonia, hepatitis, chicken pox, polio — all are now relegated to the biohazard bins of toxic history thanks to vaccines, stunning medical advancements to the point that within a span of just 100 years, even hideous forms of STIs up to HIV are now either perfectly curable or easily treatable via a pill popped just once per day!

From the first disease ever "cured" (diphtheria, in the 1890s) to fantastical advances in the 1920s that turned into a rocket-ascent of cures following the discovery of our final missing element, francium — the last naturally-occurring element to be discovered. Subsequently, science has reaped



a bonanza of medical breakthroughs:
Pandemic nightmares of 20th century (polio, AIDS) catapulted within a matter of only a couple decades from being murderous to manageable; hence, enter the 21st century, where it's a given that an inoculation against COVID-19 will be widely available to the public within a few months — not decades, not years ... months! Compare this light-speed advance to the arduous slog it took just to stamp down tuberculosis, with TB still vanquishing even those famous amongst us (Vivien Leigh, for instance) as late as 1967!

Thus, on this gone-with-the-wind note, let's just get right to it.

Dear Howard: At 31, I feel I'm past the age of soliciting private-life advice from strangers, but I think I could use some Howard wisdom. I snooped and read my boyfriend's texts, thinking maybe he'd be sorry for telling me to move out and trying to figure out how to win me back. Instead, a mutual friend is already trying to find him a rebound, surprised that he was even still with me, that I was terrible "marriage material," yadda, yadda.

It just really hurts, and makes me livid at the same time. I could use a comforting, Howard ego-booster. — **K.E. Van** 

Dear Kevan: I don't consider myself a cook, but I do enjoy baking, especially desserts — cakes and pies. It gives me pleasure giving them away to friends, all of whom are brutally honest with their truthful opinion(s) regarding my gift's palatability. Everyone has his/her own personal favorites, but my palliative pumpkin pies of November always seem to hit a sweet spot. The recipe's easy, too; however, I insist upon one caveat regarding its main ingredient: One cannot shortcut it by opting for canned pumpkin. (If you're gonna go Libby's, don't bother at

all.) Real, fresh pumpkin is the Thanksgiving difference between those who give a damn about authenticity vs. those whose wattles should be wrung at sunrise with the turkey's.

Should you be brave enough to attempt a scratch pie crust, then, by all means, please give it your whole Martha (Stewart); otherwise, just do as I and buy a deep-dish frozen crust. It's the only fudging allowed.

Ready? First, you'll need a real pumpkin. You've seen those pretty "sugar" pumpkins festooning the grocery entrance; they're about the size of a toddler's head. They'll keep forever — or until you decide it's time to impress the natives. Take a large, gleaming knife to the thing, splitting it down the center from the stalk. Claw out all the seeds and place both domes on a cookie sheet, cut-side down. Bake for an hour at 350. Remove, then dial your oven up to 425.

Now for the fun part! Peel away the puckered, crispy skin from its steaming flesh, and trash this whole sticky mess along with the woody stem. Quickly dump your pile of orangish flesh into a large mixing bowl and then root through the cabinets until you find that hand mixer your ex left behind (or, should you be one of the fortunates, a food processor). Shove both beaters in and whip that warm punkin' meat 'til it screams, i.e., morphs into a smooth, glossy puree.

To your slurry add the following (it matters not the order): three eggs, one can of evaporated milk (12 oz.), one large handful each of white sugar and brown sugar, a big pinch of salt, a good slurp of vanilla extract (the real Madagascar bourbon shit, not imitation) and a piquant spoonful each of the following ground spices: cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice and cloves (actually, make it two spoonfuls each of both cinnamon and ginger).

Blend it all together into an evenly-colored, butterscotch-ish bisque, pour into a cold pie shell and just pop into the oven — easy as pie! Keep in the 425 oven for 15 minutes, then reduce it to 350 for another 45 minutes.

Voila! Remove your bronzed beauty, cool it down long enough so that it'll slice rather than run (mine simply migrate directly to the fridge straight from the oven). Oh, and don't forget to dollop each serving with your favorite cream topping!

Also, here's a little helpful hint regarding punkin' pie, courtesy that culinary bible, The Joy of Cooking: "Custard and cream pies, unless eaten almost at once, must be kept well chilled. The lightly cooked eggs are especially subject to adverse bacterial activity, even though they may give no evidence of spoilage."

Girl, wha? Did Rona herself coin this custards' commentary? Ultimately, on the subject of pumpkin pies, The J of C concludes, "It is Hobson's choice here: eat within three hours if the pie is left unrefrigerated or risk wateriness under refrigeration." Hobson's choice? Who the hell is Hobson? I say just risk the "wateriness." At worst, your pie from the fridge the following day will prettily look like it's collected a few sparkling dew drops. God knows, too, nobody has ever turned

down a little dewy sparkle.

Oh, wait! My sincerest apologies, Kev: You didn't ask me at all how to bake this sparkling dessert for your man, did you?

Listen up, girlfriend: I know how irresistible it is to sneak just a tiny, quick peek into someone else's mail/phone/texts/life; hence, as I also learned long ago, if your name ain't on it, sweetheart, don't open it. Don't touch it. Don't go near it. Ever!

There's an old Arabian adage: "The dogs may bark, but the caravan rolls on." Just keep on a rollin' onward. Don't let the petty confetti of others' gossipy backstabbing bring you down to their level. Toxicity does not the path of transcendency take. In good pilgrim spirit, just leave a freshly baked pumpkin pie for him on your way out his door ... and try to resist pullin' any kind of The Help tomfoolery. Dontcha even give me that furrowed brow, either. You know exactly what I mean. Take the high road.

Finally bois, lemme give a shoutout here to my little brother, Command Sergeant Major Russell, who retires this month, following a long and distinguished Army career: Two stints in Iraq and surviving a crashed Blackhawk — You rock, Wiley! A grateful nation is thankful for your service. Also, a happy birthday to you, President-elect Biden; we're rootin' for you, sir!

This month has been the emotional equivalent of lancing, in the nick of time, a gangrenous pustule; suddenly, near-miraculously, all the putrid rot of these past four years in a lunatic asylum is over: We went to the cemetery, but it was closed.

Happy, happy Thanksgiving, bois and girlz!

 Howard Lewis Russell Send your question to AskHoward@

dallasvoice.com and Howard may answer it

horal

#### this week's solution



#### browse

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

#### **Submit**

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

### LIFE+STYLE

scene



Johnny and Eskee at Campuzanos



Adam and Jenny at Kaliente







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	ROYAL
1-35N REEDER	JOE FIELD





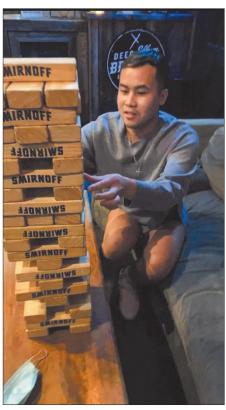
Esteban and Johnny at Virgin Hotel



Barbie Mulan and Ariel - Ladies who brunch



Kiana Lee and Victoria Fox



Jenga Master Boone at Cedar Springs



Brunch is a drag



JT Davenport, Shelly Von Miller and BeyonShade Starr





Ivana, Kandy and Ashantee at Illusions Celebrity Brunch at Gaslight Dallas

#### Stonewall Democrats of Dallas



Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Brandon J. Vance, Senate candidate MJ Hegar, Stonewall Legislative/Political Affairs Chair Josh Cogan and Stonewall Voter Registration Chair Joey Casiano at the Stonewall's socially-distanced and televised rally on Nov. 2 (above), and Stonewall officers at the rally with Congressman Colin Allred (below).



#### Kellyoke

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66	+	+	+		67	+	+	+			68	+	+	+

#### Solution on Page 28

#### Across

- 1 Shakespeare's foot, but not his 12 inches
- 5 Old Queens location
- 9 "Livin' La \_\_\_ Loca"
- 13 It's sold in bars
- 14 Loads
- 15 Dry as a bone
- 16 Like a Peter Lorre film
- 17 Incur, as debts
- 18 WKRP actress
- Anderson 19 Kelly's song about
- "what doesn't kill you..."
- 21 Airport area
- 23 Game with "Skip" cards
- 24 Kelly's song about "There's a wolf that preys..."
- 26 Bewitched actor Dick
- 30 Floor covering
- 31 "Well, Did You \_\_\_"
- 32 Steinem's "\_\_\_ Playboy Bunny"
- 34 Charlotte of *Facts of Life*
- 37 Kelly's song about self-sufficiency
- 41 AOL, e.g.
- 42 Bearing
- 43 Give a lot of mouth
- 44 Successful pitch
- 45 Novelist Brown

- 48 Kelly's song about the negative side
- 52 Wheel tooth
- 53 AARP concern
- 54 Kelly of Kellyoke
- 59 Kopay's team
- 60 One who screws around
- 62 Sophie B. Hawkins'
  "As \_\_\_ Me Down"
- 63 LA Dodger, for one
- 64 Style some hair, in *Hairspray*
- 65 Re or so
- 66 They have boughs for bows
- 67 Match parts, to Navratilova
- 68 Tale of adventure

#### Down

- 1 Charged particles
- 2 Loads
- 3 Golda of Israel
- 4 Queens and others
- 5 Andrew of Melrose Place
- 6 Painter Matisse
- 7 La mer, essentially
- 8 Appreciation display on Broadway
- 9 Addams Family
- 10 Subtle sarcasm
- 11 Dog from
- Down Under
- 12 "...farewell, auf Wiedersehen, \_\_\_\_"

- 14 About one percent of air
- 20 U-turn from SSW
- 22 Phantom's Opera instrument
- 25 Cloth merchant
- 26 Sweet opening?
- 27 Hertz competitor
- 28 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
- 29 Made neat
- 33 Bentley of *American Beauty*
- 34 Paper amount
- 35 *Tales of the City's* Madrigal
- 36 Novel conclusion
- 38 Successful cross dresser's boast?
- 39 "Wide open"
- 40 Impersonator of males
- 44 They go down
- 46 Empathetic phrase
- 47 Hard top?
- 48 Kaye of Hans Christian Anderson
- 49 Able to bend over
- 50 Continue to get *The Advocate*
- 51 Ostentatious display
- 55 More, to a minimalist
- 56 Fruit flavor for gin
- 57 Stallion's supper
- 58 No, in Moscow
- 61 Sandra, in a *Grease* song

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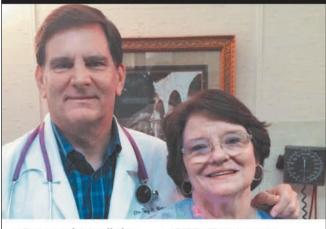
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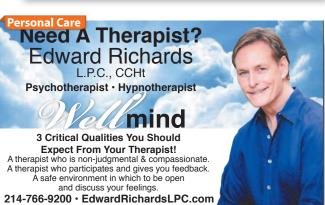


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