

# OBSERVER

Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

July 4, 2012

Issue 1432

## The U.S. Supreme Court upholds health-care reform

By Nancy-Ann DeParle  
WHITE HOUSE  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act ensures hard-working, middle class families will get the security they deserve and protects every American from the worst insurance company abuses. The court has issued a clear and final ruling on this law.

For a comprehensive overview of the Affordable Care Act, visit [WhiteHouse.gov/HealthReform](http://WhiteHouse.gov/HealthReform) and [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov).

Let's take a look at what the ruling means for the middle class:

- Insurance companies no longer have unchecked power to cancel your policy, deny you coverage, or charge women more than men.
- Soon, no American will ever again be denied care or charged more due to a pre-

existing condition, like cancer or even asthma.

- Preventive care will still be covered free of charge by insurance companies--including mammograms for women and wellness visits for seniors.
- By August, millions of Americans will receive a rebate because their insurance company spent too much of their premium on administrative costs or CEO bonuses.
- 5.3 million seniors will continue to save \$600 a year on their prescription drugs.
- Efforts to strengthen and protect Medicare by cracking down on waste, fraud, and abuse will remain in place.
- 6.6 million young adults will still be able to stay on their family's plan until they're 26.

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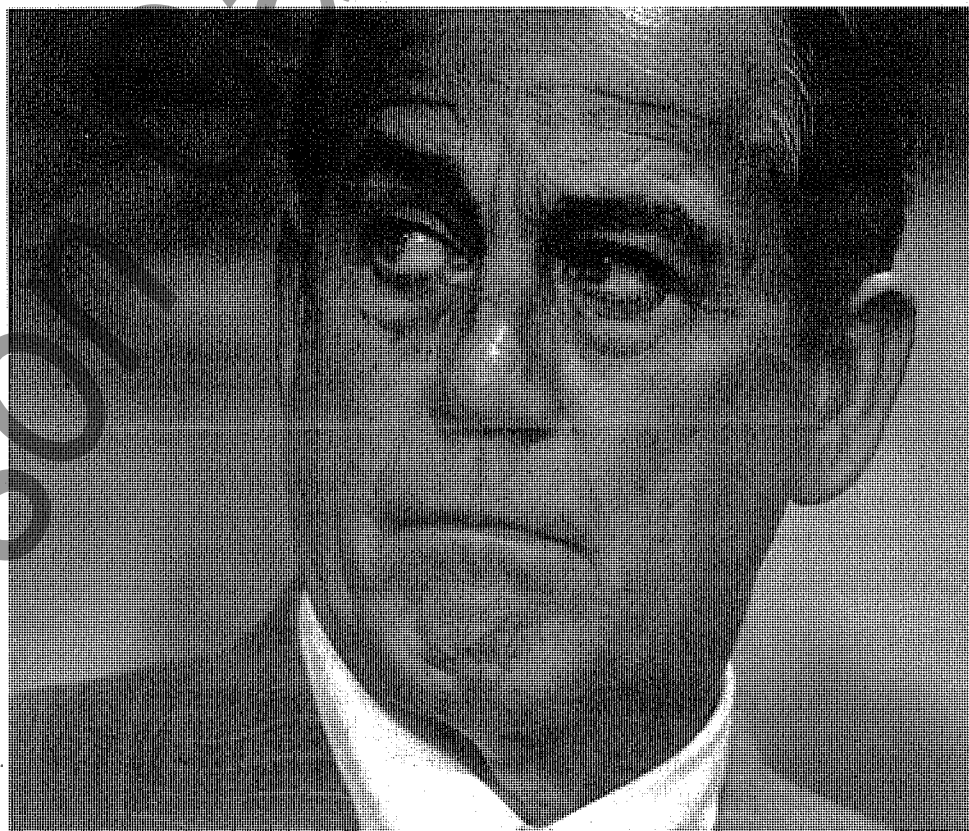
## Speaker Boehner pledges to rip out health-care reform 'by its roots'

By Melanie Mason  
LATIMES.COM

U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner pledged his caucus would "rip [the health care law] out by its roots" in the wake of the Supreme Court upholding the law last week.

Appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" Sunday morning, Boehner said he was surprised by the court's ruling.

"The idea that the federal continued on page 5



House Speaker John Boehner talks about Affordable Care Act /J. Scott Applewhite

## Vigil for teen lesbian couple brutally shot in Texas park

By Tracy E. Gilchrist  
SHEWIRED.COM

A vigil was held in San Francisco June 28 for the young lesbian couple shot in a Texas park over the weekend. Mollie Judith Olgin, 19, and Mary Christine Chapa, 18, a couple of about five months, according to friends, were shot in a secluded area of a park in Portland, Texas. Mollie died from her wounds while Christine survived but is in serious condition.

LGBT activist Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and a contemporary of Harvey Milk's, called for nationwide vigils to honor the young women, although police have yet to determine if they were targeted for being a couple.

"I'm here, because I want to honor Mollie's life, I want to send love to her girlfriend Christine, I want



their friends and families in Southern Texas to know that we're paying attention, and I also know that sometimes justice doesn't happen unless we speak out," Jones said at the vigil.

## CDC moves Pima County's HIV funding to Phoenix

Observer Staff

MShape Lounge and HIP/AZ, two of SAAF's HIV prevention and outreach programs have been forced to close their doors due to lack of resources. The programs had been fueled by a generous five-year grant for which expired on Saturday.

The void left by the grants will not be refilled by federal funds due to the unfortunate collateral implications of the Center for Disease Control's "High Impact HIV Prevention" initiative announced in January. The CDC's goal is to increase resources in large metropolitan areas with the greatest presence of HIV infections. Counties with lower HIV rates such as Tucson have now seen their funds drastically decreased in order to concentrate the money where the CDC believes it is best applied.

Now that SAAF's grants have

expired, and no new money is being allocated to Pima County, the organization is seeing a 78% decrease in funding for prevention programs. SAAF now receives 16% of the state's federal funds – likely due to the fact we now account for 16% of the HIV-positive population in the state. Maricopa County, which has a much larger HIV-positive community, will receive increased funds accordingly under the new reallocation of resources.

The shift in funding came as a difficult shock to the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation which along with cutting their HIV prevention programs have been forced to lay off six employees. The programs were designed to increase awareness through preventative education as well as counseling for the community. In an exclusive interview with the Observer, SAAF Executive Director continued on page 5

**AIDS.gov embraces digital strategy**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On June 27, National HIV Testing Day, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that AIDS.gov, the gateway to all federal HIV/AIDS information and resources, has been re-launched using responsive design.

Responsive web design is a next-generation web development method of designing content so that it works well on both a laptop screen and a smartphone, automatically adjusting its size to fit the screen.

AIDS.gov is among the first full-scale federal website launched using responsive design, one of the modern tools and technologies that the Obama Administration's new Digital Government Strategy instructs federal agencies to use in order to deliver better digital services to any device, anytime, anywhere.

"Redesigning AIDS.gov using responsive web design ensures that more Americans can easily access critical information about HIV/AIDS, including the latest news on the government's efforts to usher in an AIDS-Free generation," said Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH, HHS assistant secretary for health.

The launch of the redesigned site coincides with National HIV Testing Day, which is observed every year on June 27.

**Colossal Cave features Hohokam arts and culture**

VAIL, Ariz. -- Colossal Cave, 16721 E. Old Spanish Trail, will feature a program on the Hohokam culture Saturday.

The Hohokam culture flourished in Southern Arizona from the sixth through the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Archaeologist Allen Dart illustrates the Hohokam way of life and what might have led to its demise, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, July 7; free, \$5 per car entrance fee includes admission to the park.

More information is available by calling 647-7275.

**VOTERS DO IT ON THE BALLOT REGISTER NOW!!!**




**Tucson Culinary Festival celebrates ten years of flavor!**

TUCSON -- The 10th annual Tucson Culinary Festival kicks off for 2012 with the Reserve & Grand Tasting on Saturday, October 6, at Casino del Sol Resort followed by the World Margarita Championship™ on Friday, October 26, on the plaza at the Tucson Museum of Art. A portion of the proceeds from both events will benefit Tucson Values Teachers and the Tucson Hispanic Chamber Foundation (Scholarship Fund) on behalf of Cox Charities.

Early Bird Sale before August 1: \$85 After Aug 1, tickets are \$100 per person in advance (\$125 at the door) and can be purchased at <http://www.tucsonculinaryfestival.com/tickets>

The Tucson Culinary Festival is a production of the Tucson Originals, Tucson's leading group of 50 independently owned, local restaurants. The mission of the festival is to showcase the fresh original flavors of Tucson, to the focus on the importance of supporting all locally owned businesses, and to generate funding for selected beneficiaries [www.tucsonculinaryfestival.com](http://www.tucsonculinaryfestival.com).

**Literature and Jewish experience today**

TUCSON -- As the summer heats up, so do the offerings of the Adult Education Academy! Join us for a fascinating four part series addressing complex modern issues as discussed in modern rabbinic literature - the Responsa. Our Tucson experts meet on four successive Thursday evenings in July, from 7:00-8:30 pm, to discuss the following controversial topics:

July 5 - "Legislating gender and sexuality in Jewish Law" - Rabbi Jason Holtz

July 12 - "Judaism and mental health: from legal fools and Messianic Madness to the Jewish Science" - Rabbi Samuel M. Cohon

July 19 - "You are what you eat - Kashrut and the Prohibition of Pork" - Rabbi Sandy Seltzer

July 26 - "Human cloning and Jewish tradition" - Rabbi Richard Safran

The registration fee is \$45 for Temple members/\$60 for non-members. Contact the Temple office at 327-4501 to register or for more information.

**LGBT Workplace Summit London set this week**

LONDON -- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and allies will gather in London on Thursday and Friday to consider ways to advance global workplace equality at the 2012 Global LGBT Workplace Summit. The conference will bring together hundreds of global executives and leaders from 23 countries to share their best practices and ideas for creating workplaces where LGBT people are safe, accepted, and valued.

The Global LGBT Workplace Summit will feature dozens of workshops, multiple learning and networking opportunities and a Gala Dinner.

BM is the presenting sponsor for The Global LGBT Workplace Summit, and is joined by fellow sponsors Accenture, British Airways, Citi, Eli Lilly and Company, The Walt Disney Company, Deutsche Bank, Ernst & Young, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, CA Technologies, The Advocate, GayStarNews, The Glass Hammer and Carnival Corporation. Partner organizations include: Equal India Alliance, Kaleidoscope International Diversity Trust of the UK, PARKS of Italy, Pride at Work Canada, Q Factor of Denmark, and Bailey Balfour Consulting of the UK.

The 2012 Global LGBT Workplace Summit has been approved by the Human Resources Certification Institute for 8.0 (General, Strategic and International) recertification credit hours toward HR Professionals in PHR, SPHR and GPHR recertification.

Onsite registration begins 4 July, at 14:00 at The Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel. Full conference information is available online: [www.GlobalLGBTWorkplaceSummit.org](http://www.GlobalLGBTWorkplaceSummit.org).


**Library, 4th of July, and Mt Lemmon**

TUCSON -- Pima County Public Library is pulling out all of the stops with an entry in this year's Fourth of July parade on Mt. Lemmon that is guaranteed to make people smile.

The library's Bookmobile and Bookbike will be rolling (and pedaling) along in the 37th annual parade this Wednesday, July 4, starting at 12 p.m. Entry to and parking at Mt. Lemmon is free for the public. All businesses and restaurants will be open in Summerhaven and in Ski Valley during the day.

"Traditionally, July 4th celebrates our country's independence, and what better way to help people gain independence and pride than through reading, learning and creating," said Melinda Cervantes, PCPL Director.

Supervisor Ray Carroll of District 4 represents the Mt. Lemmon community, and is the parade grand marshal this year. "Thomas Jefferson said that books are essential to democracy, so I am pleased that our county library is participating in the activities, since the parade is a celebration of America's democracy."



1830 E Broadway Blvd  
#124-215  
Tucson, AZ 85719

[www.tucsonobserver.com](http://www.tucsonobserver.com)  
[info@tucsonobserver.com](mailto:info@tucsonobserver.com)

Editor-In-Chief  
Bob Ellis  
[bob@tucsonobserver.com](mailto:bob@tucsonobserver.com)

Executive Editor  
Nicholas K. Pafford

Senior Editor  
Greg Miller

Assistant Editor  
Christine Beall

Assistant Editor  
Christopher L. Pankratz


Assistant Editor  
Ronn Smith

Send Classifieds, Pet Pix, Inquiry Letters, etc to:  
[submissions@tucsonobserver.com](mailto:submissions@tucsonobserver.com)

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**WARNING**



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**Three exciting ways to contact the Observer!**

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# Moon-howling birthers don't all live here, but we elect ours

By R.D. Smith  
TUCSON OBSERVER

One of the things that sets us apart as Arizonans is the fact that we like to have birthers in prominent positions of authority and responsibility, where in most parts of the country they're kept on the fringe.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is the state's most prominent example. Of course, as with so much of Arpaio's public persona, it's hard to know how much he actually believes and how much is show business.

Recently, we had a horse race: On the one hand, Arpaio sent county personnel to Hawaii to investigate President Barack Obama's birth certificate; on the other hand, Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett demanded that Hawaii come up with some new proof of the birth certificate's authenticity or Bennett might refuse to place Obama on the Arizona ballot.

There's also the matter in Tallahassee, Fla., in which Arpaio has been clamoring to testify in court in an effort to keep Obama off the Florida ballot.

The universal response to Arpaio butting into this issue in the first place should be: Exactly what gives a county sheriff from Arizona any authority to "investigate" any of this, even if there were a serious issue about the president's birth certificate?

Until people start responding to Arpaio like grown-ups and expecting

him to act like a grown-up, why should he change tactics? His antics keep generating press and his core followers keep loving it.

Bennett (who also is co-chairman of Mitt Romney's Arizona campaign -- how's that for a conflict of interest when it comes to Obama?) seemed to take offense at being lumped in with the birthers, saying he was merely responding to requests from citizens. So immediately an online petition began calling for Bennett to investigate Romney's legality as a presidential candidate, since Romney's father was born in Mexico. Apparently our secretary of state isn't as motivated to respond to those citizens as he was to the anti-Obama crowd.

Matt Roberts, a Bennett spokesman, spoke about the Romney birth-certificate request: "Right now, we are determining whether or not that's necessary." Ummm, too bad they didn't consider whether the Obama investigation was "necessary" before planting their foot in the cowpie.

Bennett even told a Phoenix radio station he was sorry for any negative publicity he brought to the state. Too late -- your shoe already smells like cow-flop!

Rep. Chad Campbell, minority leader in the Arizona House of Representatives, suggested that Bennett consider resigning the campaign post. That got about as much attention from Bennett as most requests that come from outside the GOP faithful.

Actually, Bennett's rumored to be planning a run for governor next time around, so he probably calculated that supporting the birther cause would help draw the GOP base to support him. With any luck, maybe it cost him more independent votes than he gained.

Meanwhile, over in California, voters were rejecting the candidacy of Orly Taitz, the Orange County grandmama she-elephant of the birther movement. Taitz was challenging longtime Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein in the first year of California's new primary system in which the top two finishers from each party square off in the general election in the fall.

Taitz was widely predicted to finish high enough to run in the general, but apparently enough California voters sought professional help at the last minute and voted for "anybody but squirrely Orly."

So she's back to seeking television appearances in which to advocate the birther cause, just like the most high-profile birther of them all, Donald Trump -- whom you may recall recently had an

implosion of his own when it came to getting people to vote for him.

Arizona pretty much remains the national leader in not only taking our birthers seriously, but electing them to high-profile positions of responsibility. It's sort of our version of the "tulip mania" of 17th-century Holland, in which a single tulip bulb reportedly could fetch up to ten times the annual salary of a skilled craftsman.

It'll probably be up to historians decades down the road to figure out what psychosis was causing Arizonans to lose our collective mind back in the early 21st century.

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# 7 most anti-gay U.S. representatives

By Josh Israel and Adam Peck  
THINKPROGRESS.ORG

So far this Congress, anti-LGBT Republicans have introduced at least ten major anti-gay bills, resolutions, and amendments in the U.S. House of Representatives. While 144 Members of Congress have sponsored or co-sponsored at least one of the proposals, seven signed on to five or more of the pro-discrimination measures, a ThinkProgress analysis reveals.

The most anti-gay member of Congress has been freshman Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-KS). As the author of his state's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages and civil unions, during his previous tenure as a state senator, his anti-gay fervor in Washington is not unexpected. In his first 18 months, he has authored an amendment to ban a directive that allows military chaplains to voluntarily solemnize same-sex unions, an amendment to "prohibit the use of funds to be used in contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act," and a bill to ban the use of military facilities for any same-sex unions. He also co-sponsored three measures to criticize the Obama administration for not defending the Defense of Marriage Act, to direct the Speaker of the House to defend the law instead, and to delay implementation of the Don't Ask Don't Tell repeal.

Six other House Republicans have each put their name on at least five anti-gay proposals, putting them just behind Huelskamp:

Rep. W. Todd Akin (R-MO), a sixth-term Congressman who warned in 2006 that "anybody who knows something about the history of the human race knows that there is no civilization which has condoned homosexual marriage widely and openly that has long survived."

Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), a fifteenth-term Congressman who is retiring at the end of 2012 and who has previously opined that "Marriage between a man and a woman has been the foundation of human civilization for thousands of years all around the world."

Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA), a fifth-term Congressman who has cited God as his reason for supporting an anti-gay constitutional amendment and who said in May "I don't like the secularism that's occurring in this country one bit and I think it is incumbent upon those of us [that] stand strong, to stand very strong, in regard to that and say 'look, [my wife] and I believe that marriage is a sacrament.'"

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), a first-term Congresswoman who was spokeswoman for the anti-gay constitutional amendment effort in Missouri and has compared same-sex marriage to pedophilia and

letting three-year-olds drive cars.

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), a third-term Republican who came under fire for racially insensitive comments that associating with



President Obama was like "touching a tar-baby."

Rep. Donald A. Manzullo (R-IL), a tenth-term Congressman who recently lost renomination after reportedly telling House Republican Leader Eric Cantor (VA) that the devout Jew was not "saved."

Fourteen more House Republicans sponsored or co-sponsored at least four of the proposals. Just one Democrat co-sponsored any of the anti-gay measures — Rep. Mike McIntyre (NC), who co-sponsored a proposed constitutional amendment to anti-gay marriage. The other 143 anti-gay activists were all Republicans.

The House Republican leadership has also committed \$1.5 million in taxpayer funds to defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court. While Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) has downplayed his party's focus on social issues, preferring to talk about jobs, it's clear where he and his caucus are really focused.

The anti-LGBT proposals were:

- H.R. 337, the Restore Military Readiness Act
- H.R. 875, the Marriage Protection

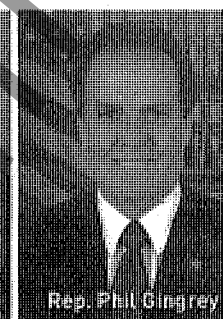
THE GOP'S 7  
WORST  
MEMBERS FOR  
GAY RIGHTS



Rep. Tim Huelskamp



Rep. Dan Burton



Rep. Phil Gingrey



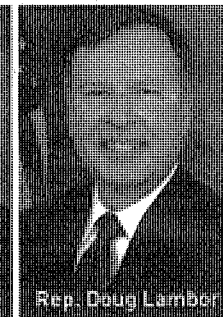
Rep. Vicky Hartzler



Rep. Don Manzullo



Rep. Todd Akin



Rep. Doug Lamborn

Act of 2011

- H.R. 958, the We the People Act
- H.R. 3828, the Military Religious Freedom Protection Act

H.J.RES. 45, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage

H.RES. 143, directing the Speaker, or his designee, to take any and all actions necessary to assert the standing of the House to defend the Defense of Marriage Act

H.CON.RES. 25, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Obama administration's discontinuing to defend the Defense

of Marriage Act

H.AMDT. 573 to H.R.2219, to prohibit the use of funds to enforce the directive of allowing chaplains to perform same-sex marriages on Navy bases regardless of any applicable State law requirements

H.AMDT. 546 to H.R. 2219, to prohibit the use of funds in contravention of section 7 of title 1, United States Code (the Defense of Marriage Act) and H.AMDT.1096 to H.R.5326, to prohibit the use of funds to be used in contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act

## U.S. health-care reform

continued from page 1

A major impact of the Court's decision is the 129 million people with pre-existing conditions and millions of middle class families who will have the security of affordable health coverage.

We should also remember that under the ruling, having health insurance is and will continue to

be a choice. If you can't afford insurance or you're a small business that wants to provide affordable insurance to your employees, you'll get tax credits that make coverage affordable. But if you can afford insurance and you choose not to purchase it, the taxpayers will no longer subsidize your care for free.

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## Anderson Cooper "The Fact Is, I'm Gay"

By Josh Grossberg  
EONLINE.COM

Anderson Cooper would rather cover the news, not be the news. But in this case, he's making headlines to put this question to bed once and for all.

"The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud," the CNN journalist told The Daily Beast columnist and gay rights activist Andrew Sullivan.

The CNN journalist came out

after being asked by Sullivan, himself gay and a friend for more than two decades, to comment on the idea of gay public figures who declare their sexuality in a "restrained and matter-of-fact way."

"Andrew, as you know, the issue you raise is one that I've thought about for years. Even though my job puts me in the public eye, I have tried to maintain some level of privacy in my life." Cooper said, citing safety reasons since his job takes him to war zones and other dangerous places.

## CDC moves HIV funding to Phoenix

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Wendell Hicks commented on the developments:

"This is a real blow to prevention efforts that have been effective and impacted so many lives for so long, keeping countless people HIV negative... SAAF will do everything we can to assure these services are not lost permanently, no matter how the National Strategy, CDC or the State directs the allocation of funds."

The action not only directs funds to major cities instead of smaller municipalities, but also represents a substantial shift in the CDC's focus from prevention among HIV-negative individuals to those who have already contracted the virus. AZ will now only be able to use about 10% of its total funding for programs that target those who are HIV negative for prevention

and intervention efforts. This puts the money into treatment and management and not into prevention and education.

Hicks does not want to risk losing the progress Tucson has made with the help of programs like MShape and HIP/AZ.

He pointed out that: "We would rather people not end up in care services with HIV so [the CDC decision] really cut hard because we know we can certainly save lives and human suffering -- but also a lot of money can be saved by keeping people from becoming infected with HIV. It's pennies to prevent it as opposed to hundreds of thousands of dollars to treat it...but when you are doing something that's working and the strategy changes so drastically you can't help but wonder now what's going to happen"

## Boehner pledges to rip out healthcare

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government can mandate that the American people purchase a product is shocking to me. But they made their decision, I respect their ability to make that decision," Boehner (R-Ohio) said.

He added, "all it really does is strengthen my resolve and resolve of Republicans here in Washington to repeal this awful law, which is increasing the cost of health insurance for the American people and making it harder for small businesses to hire new workers."

CBS's Norah O'Donnell prodded Boehner if there were any aspects of the law Republicans would uphold, such as allowing people under the age of 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance or

ensuring coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Boehner said Republicans are open to these "popular...many of them sound" provisions, but that repealing the entire bill was preferable to working within it.

"No, this has to be, this has to be ripped out by its roots. This is government taking over the entire health insurance industry. The American people do not want to go down this path," Boehner said.

"They do not want the government telling them what kind of insurance policy they have to buy, and how much they have to pay for it, and if you don't like it we're going to tax you. It has to be ripped out and we need to start over. One step at a time," he added.

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# Tucson Weekly

## @ COLORS

### CLOSED JULY 4

Colors will be closed this Wednesday in order for its staff to celebrate the 4th of July holiday. Colors will reopen at 4pm Thursday. Please have a happy and safe Independence Day!

### THIS FRIDAY @ 9PM



## HONEYBAKED GLAM

Special Guest Host Lucinda Holliday

While Tempest Du Jour takes a much needed, two week vacay, the fabulous Lucinda Holliday will fill her (extra-large) shoes as guest host of Tucson's Premiere Drag & Comedy Show

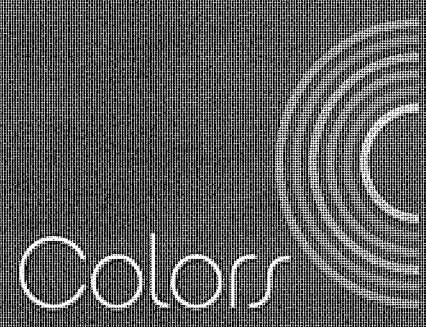
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**COLORS** - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-6p Melody Louise sings standards and favorites 6-9p.

**IBT's** - Happy Hour 12pm-8pm, Therapy every Thursday. 2-4-1 Drink Specials (excludes top shelf, wine & draft). DJ Sid the Kid, Inside 9pm, Million \$ DJ on the Patio 9pm. GoGo's Dancing @11pm.

**NEW MOON** - Open at 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8pm: \$2 well, \$2 domestic longnecks and pints, \$2 New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm.

**VENTURE-N** - Open 10am. Bears Beer Bust and Chili Feed 3-7p.

**WOODY'S** - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm. I♥Local Brew Night. Enjoy local craft beer at a special price. Free Pool.

**BRODIES TAVERN** - \$1.50 shots. \$6 64 oz Pitchers, \$2 domestic bottles and \$2 well cocktails. Karaoke 9pm-close.

**COLORS** - Open 4pm-close. Happy Hour 4-6pm Melody Louise sings standards and favorites 6-9pm Honeybaked Glam 9pm guest-hosted by Lucinda Holliday.

**IBT's** -Happy Hour 12pm-9pm, Flawless Fridays. Karaoke Inside 5pm-9pm.

**NEW MOON** - Open at 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8pm: \$2 well, \$2 domestic longnecks and pints, \$ New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays there is a Country DJ playing 8:30-10:30pm, followed by the Shimmer Show at 10:30. 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday is Latin Music Night starting at 9pm.

**VENTURE-N** - Open 10am. Bear's Happy Hour 5:30-7:30pm: \$3 wells, domestic, pitchers, wine!

**WOODY'S** - Happy Hour 11am-8pm. Wine till 9-1/2 off bottles and glasses of selected wines. Gin+Sin 9pm-Close. Enjoy our selection of gin's all at a discounted price.

**BRODIES TAVERN** - A Taste of Mexico: \$2 Mexican Beers and \$3 margaritas all day. \$1 Coronitas & Pacificos, \$3 32 oz pitchers and \$6 64 oz pitchers, Post Big Gay Scavenger Hunt party at 6.Latino Night from 9pm-close.

**COLORS** - Open 4pm-close. Happy Hour 4-6p. Jams by James 9p-close. DJ James spins retro and requests all night long.

**IBT's** - Happy Hour 12pm-8pm, Karaoke on the Patio 5pm-8pm,

**NEW MOON** - Open at 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8pm Kitchen open 5 - 9pm. \$5 cheeseburger and fries.

**VENTURE-N** - Open 10am.

**WOODY'S** - Happy Hour 11am-8pm. ELEV8: \*2-4-1 Cockatils and Bottle Beers 9pm-Close. \*excludes top shelf/draft/wine.

**BRODIES TAVERN** - \$1 Coronitas and Pacificos, \$3 32 oz. pitchers & \$6 64oz pitchers, \$2 domestic bottles & \$2 well cocktails. Sunday Recovery Session (back bar) 2pm-7pm: \$2 Zesty Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers, \$5 red cup draft beer with 50 cent refills. Patio Party 2-9.

**COLORS** - Open 11am. Colors Brunch 11-3p.

**IBT's** - Happy Hour 12pm-9pm, Karaoke on the Patio 4pm-8:30pm. "Cheap Ass Sunday's" 9pm-Close featuring 2-4-1 Drinks and Bottle Beer (exclude top shelf, wine & draft), Karaoke Inside 9pm, Dancing on the Patio w/ DJ Sid the Kid 9pm.

**NEW MOON** - Open at 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8pm: \$2 well, \$2 domestic longnecks and pints, \$2 New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. \$5 Cheeseburger and fries. Check our ad for events.

**VENTURE-N** - Open noon. BBQ on the patio 5-7pm: \$4 Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Turkeyburgers, Boca Veggie Burger or Hot Dog w/ fries.

**WOODY'S** Happy Hour 11am-8pm. Karaoke Overdrive 4pm-Close. \*AJIA'S GOSPEL BRUNCH IS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

**BRODIES TAVERN** - Open 10 am. 2-4-1 All drinks from open till close! \$1.50 shots. Brodie-rita Monday: \$3 margaritas all day. \$1 Coronitas & Pacificos, \$3 32 oz. Pitchers and \$6 64 oz. pitchers, \$2 domestic bottles and \$2 well cocktails.

**COLORS** - Closed.

**IBT's** - Happy Hour 12pm-8pm. Reverse Happy Hour Monday's 8pm-Close. Dance to All Request Music or Lounge on the Patio 9pm.

**NEW MOON** - Closed.

**VENTURE-N** - Open noon.

**WOODY'S** - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm. Martini Mondays-\$5 Absolut Martini's 8pm-Close.

**BRODIES TAVERN** - \$1.50 shots. \$1 Coronitas and Pacificos, \$3 32 oz. pitchers & \$6 64oz pitchers, \$2 domestic bottles & \$2 well cocktails.

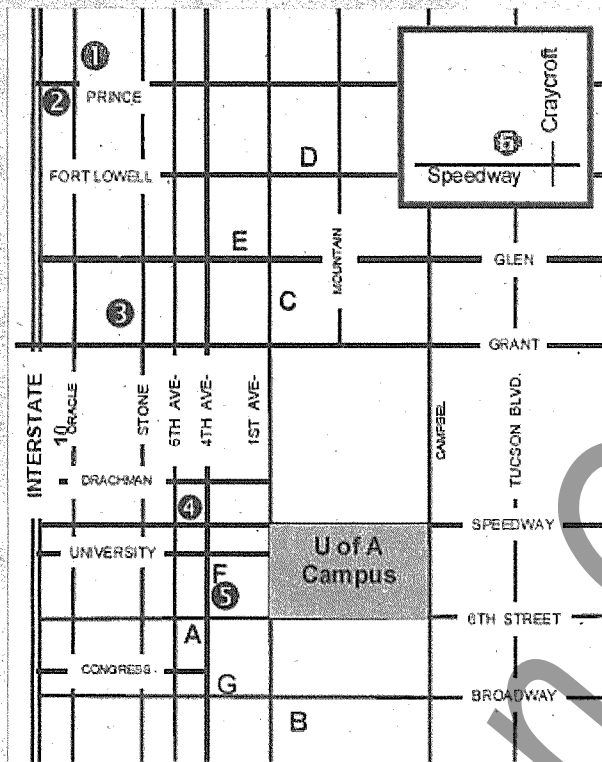
**COLORS** - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-6p. 9p close.

**IBT's** - Happy Hour 12pm-8pm, Taco Tuesdays. \$1 Tacos. Drink Specials 9pm-Close: Mix-n-Match Mexican Beer Special, Tequila Specials (Patron \$6, Milagro \$4.50, Hornitos \$4, Cuervo \$3.50), Million \$ DJ Inside 9pm.

**NEW MOON** - Open at 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8pm: \$2 well, \$2 domestic longnecks and pints, \$2 New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. Ladies Poker at 6pm. Karaoke at 9pm.

**VENTURE-N** - Open noon. Double Darts 7pm: \$3 entry, Bar matches pot!

**WOODY'S** - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm. 2 for Tuesdays + Karaoke 9pm-Close. Enjoy 2 for 1 cocktails and sing a song.

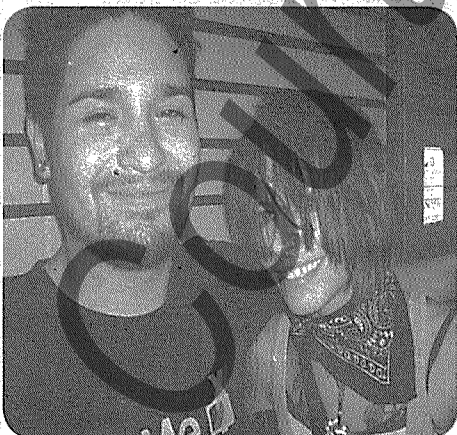
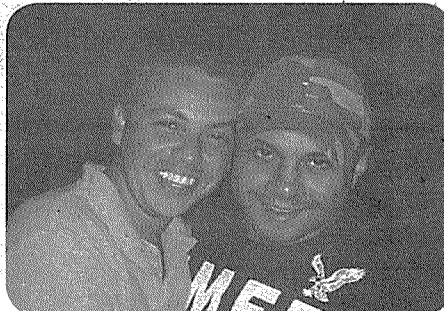


- BARS**
- 1 Woody's  
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(520)292.6702
  - 2 The New Moon  
915 W. Prince Rd.  
(520)293.7339
  - 3 Brodie's Tavern  
2449 N. Stone  
(520)622.0447
  - 4 Venture-N  
1239 N. 6th Ave.  
(520)882.8224
  - 5 IBT's  
616 N. 4th Ave.  
(520)882.3053
  - 6 Colors  
5305 E. Speedway  
(520)323.1840

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- A. Wingspan: 430 E. 7th St. (520)624.1779
- B. SAAF: 375 S. Euclid Ave. (520)628.7223
- C. TIHAN: 2660 N. 1st Ave. (520)299.6647
- D. Metropolitan Community Church: 3269 N. Mountain
- E. Cornerstone Fellowship: 2902 N. Geronimo
- F. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd.
- G. Fluxx Productions : 414 E. 9th St.

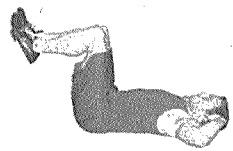


## Swimsuit season slim down workout!

Summer is here already, and no doubt you've been hitting the pools, unless of course you are still grappling with your fear of that itty bitsy teeny-weenie yellow polka-dot bikini and how it makes your thighs look. Fortunately, it's never too late to slim down and tone up for the poolside.

Try these simple and fun exercises anywhere; all you need is some open floor space and a few minutes. Do it at home during your next commercial break, at work when no one is watching, or at a party to become the center of attention!

### BICYCLE KICK

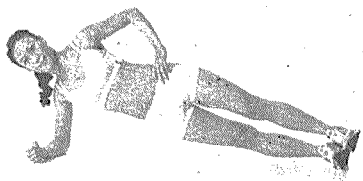


**STEP 1.** Lie on your back and bend your knees to 90 degrees. Place your hands behind your ears with your elbows wide.

**STEP 2.** Pump your legs back and forth, as if riding a bicycle and rotate your torso from side to side to bring your elbow toward the opposite knee.



### SIDE PLANK



**STEP 1:** While laying on your side raise up onto your elbow with your forearm to the front and palm facing down. Raise your body off the ground to maintain a straight line from head to toe.

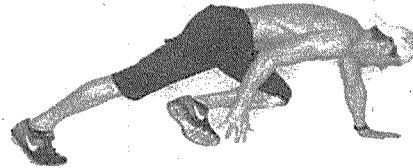
**STEP 2:** Engage your core muscles and breath slowly. Hold this position for 30 seconds then repeat on the other side to strengthen your core and slim your waistline!

### CROSS-BODY MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

**STEP 1.** Assume the pushup position.



**STEP 2.** Pull your left knee towards your right shoulder. Tense your core as you lift your right hand off the floor balancing on your left hand and right foot.



**STEP 3:** Touch your hand to your foot and return to pushup position. Repeat for 10 reps alternating sides.

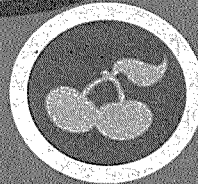
### TRICEP DIP

**STEP 1.** Sit on a chair and slide forward placing your palms on the edge of the seat.

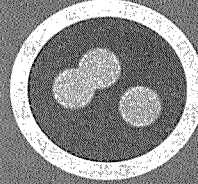
**STEP 2.** Lift your tushie and step your legs forward as shown. Slowly dip down below the level of the seat until your bottom hovers just above the floor using your arms and core muscles. Raise back up with control and repeat for 10 reps.



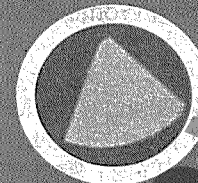
# Summer Super Fruits



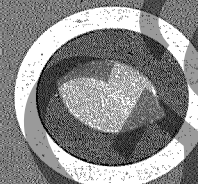
**CHERRIES:** Adorable and nutritious! Packed with anthocyanins to combat inflammation. Opt for the tart varieties for the biggest benefit. Impress your friends with a stem tying contest!



**KIWI:** It ain't easy being green, but it sure is tasty! These fuzzy little buggers are loaded with 5 grams of fiber with 3 times less sugar than an apple and more potassium than a banana!



**WATERMELON:** Juicy and delicious, this summertime favorite has been shown to lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease to keep you at your best for the seed spitting contest!



**LEMONS:** When the flying spaghetti monster gives you lemons, make lemon squares! A lemon has only 12 calories but 1/3 of your daily vitamin C to help fend off colds and scurvy!

## Party ideas for sizzling summer days!

When the temperature outside is downright insulting, sensible hosts move the daytime parties indoors. But this is no excuse for drab get-togethers!

Try reinventing your party persona for the summer months by choosing a sensational, weather friendly theme like one of the following fun shin digs suggested by Observer staff:

**POLAR BEAR PARTY:** Invite over all your bear buddies for a swimsuit party--pool optional. Serve shaved ice flavored with blue raspberry syrup and your favorite alcoholic beverage! Sea otters welcome!

**COLD SCHOOL JAMS:** Turn back time with your favorite beats from the way back machine. Break out your parachute pants and aviators while you dust off your Vanilla Ice and Ice Cube CD collection.

**AC BEACH PARTY:** Turn down the thermostat and pump up the surf! There is absolutely nothing wrong with turning your hallway into a gnarly slip-n-slide!

**ICE SCULPTING PARTY:** On second thought, this is probably not a good idea. Chain saws and alcohol rarely mix well.

**DESERT DENIAL DAY:** Spend the day with witty friends having a debate about whether it is actually hot out. Full mock-trial setup recommended.

**ICE QUEEN/KING PARTY:** For all the Kings and Queens out there. Turn your two bedroom apartment into an Ice Palace!

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Every First Friday

# Community Calendar

# Entertainment Calendar

## Could there be a lesbian princess at Disney?

By: Leslie Dobbins  
SHEWIRED.COM

E! Popwatch blogger Adam Markovitz set the web ablaze over the weekend with his commentary about Brave, Pixar Animation's new film for Disney, and the idea that the lead character, princess Merida, could be gay.

Let's start with the story, Brave centers around Scottish tomboy princess Merida, who spends the entire movie trying to avoid the prearranged marriage that her parents have set up to one of the noblemen in her village. Ok, she doesn't want to get married. And even if she did, she certainly wouldn't want her parents choosing her partner. Could go either way...

Next, we have the tomboy factor. Princess Merida can shoot arrows with the precision of Katniss Everdeen (The Hunger Games), she can fight like one of the boys like Maggie Fitzgerald (Million Dollar Baby), she can climb rocks and trees like Lara Croft (Tomb Raider), and she doesn't really like to dress in frilly, girly clothes like most of the female protagonists before her, a la Gracie Hart (Miss Congeniality). Again, could go either way...

The point is, there are plenty of straight tomboys, and there are plenty of feminine lesbians. You can never tell someone's sexuality based merely on the factors above.

But, what makes this debate interesting is the idea that maybe, someday, we might see a Pixar or Disney animated film featuring a lesbian princess, one who ranks among the most beloved; Snow White, Cinderella, and Belle.

What is true of Merida is that she is both emotionally and physically stronger than any other princess before her. The others seem to be in search of their "Prince Charming," where Merida adopts an "I'll take care of myself mentality," and basically shuns the idea that she needs a prince in her future.

Is Merida just a product of the changing times and culture, have female characters finally achieved full equality within the Disney animation workshop? Could we ever see a lesbian Disney icon? Not really sure, but it makes for fascinating water cooler discussion. And, we always have Dory (Ellen DeGeneres) from Finding Nemo.

### Wednesday June 27

- 12-1p Pink Triangle AA Meeting, 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 6:30-7:30p Wednesday Night Christian Bible Study, Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo Ave.
- 7-8p Positively Sober, HIV+ Alcoholic Support Group, 840 S. Campbell
- 7-9p Weekly Bears Coffee at Crave, 4530 E. Broadway Blvd.

### Thursday June 28

- 8a-8p HIV Testing at SAAF. Call 520.628.7223
- 12-1p Pink Triangle AA Meeting, 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 4-5:30p Support Group for Transgender Survivors of Sexual Trauma, SACSA, 1600 N. Country Club
- 4:30-6p LGBT Grief Support Group. Unitarian, Universalist Church, 4831 E 22nd St.
- 6p Write Now! a writer's group open to all at Revolutionary Grounds 606 N. 4th
- 6:30-7:30p Regardless of... NA LGBT Meeting, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd.
- 7-10p Triangle Tribe, Men's Support Group. Call 520.207.5336
- 7-8:30p Tucson Women's Chorus Rehearsal/Enrollment, 520.743.0991

### Friday June 29

- 12-1p Pink Triangle AA Meeting 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 5-8p Eon Youth Fridays, Wingspan, 430 E. 7th St
- 5:30-6:30 Oasis LGBT Social Group. Email oasis.wingspan@gmail.com

### Saturday June 30

- 1-5pm BBQ at your place!

### Sunday July 1

- 8-11a Rainbow Riders Cycling Group. Location varies, check health groups.yahoo.com/group/wingspan\_fun2bhealthy for details.
- 9-11a Co-ed Softball, all abilities welcome. Oury Park, 600 W.St. Mary's
- 12-1p Pink Triangles AA Meeting, 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 4-6p The Men's Massage Group. Call 881-4582 or email- bleu55@gmail.com at least 3 days in advance to sign up.

### Monday July 2

- 12-1p Pink Triangles AA Meeting, 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 12-3p Senior Games at Himmel Park Library. Ages 50+, 1035 N. Treat
- 4-5:30p In Our Own Voices, Women's therapy group for survivors of sexual trauma, SACSA, 1600 N. Country Club, 520.327.1171
- 4:30-6:30p Cancer Support Group for LGBT People, Arizona Cancer Center at UMC-North, Rm 1127, 3838 N. Campbell Ave. 520.694.0347
- 4:30-5:30p Eon Youth Support Group, Wingspan.
- 6:30-7:30p Regardless of... NA LGBT Meeting, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd.
- 7-9p SAGA General Meeting at Wingspan
- 7-9p Desert Voices, weekly rehearsal open to all. Water of Life MCC
- 7-10p Reveille Men's Chorus Open Rehearsal, Rincon Congregational Church, 122 N. Craycroft
- 7-8:30p Tucson Women's Chorus rehearsal. Call for details: 520.743.0991

### Tuesday July 3

- 8-10a Iron Horse Park Clean Up 10th St between 1st and 4th Ave.
- 12-1p Pink Triangles AA Meeting, 439 N. 6th Ave.
- 5p-7p City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues at Ward 1 Office, 924 W Alameda.
- 4-5:30p Eon Youth Peer Working Group, all youth welcome. Wingspan.
- 6:30-9p T-Squares Dance Club, LGBT Square Dancing free and open to all, Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo.
- 7p-9p Desert Boys Support Group for all people on the Female to Male continuum. Open to all. Takes place at Wingspan
- 8:30-10p Community Bike Ride, All welcome, Meet at the UofA Flagpole in front of Old Main, 1200 E. University Blvd.

### Theater, Film & Stand Up

**Back to the Past, or Its About Time** opens June 21 at 7pm at Gaslight Theatre on Broadway and Kolb.

**Joan Is Burning**, a new play devised by The Next Theatre, is staged at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, June 22, 23 and 29; \$18, \$8 student, \$15 senior, military and teacher. beowulfalley.org

**Slow Clap Improv Show** July 14 at Beowulf Alley Theatre at 10 p.m. Suggested donation. beowulfalley.org

**Her Husband's Wife** continues through Sunday, July 15, except Friday through Sunday, June 29 through July 1. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 3 p.m., Sunday; \$18. at Comedy Playhouse. 3620 N 1st Ave..

**The Fireside Chats With F.D.R.** is staged Friday through Sunday, June 29 through July 1, and Wednesday, July 4. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday; and 3 p.m., Wednesday; \$12, \$10 senior and student. Comedy Playhouse 3620 N. 1st Ave.

**I Hate Hamlet!** opens Friday, July 6, and runs through Sunday, July 22. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 2 p.m., Sunday; \$16, \$13 senior, student or military, \$10 Friday. Call or visit theredbartheater.com for more information.

### Music, Dancing & Drag:

**Honey Baked Glam** Fridays, 9pm at Colors.

**Boys Night Out** - A Rat Pack tribute by the Invisible Theatre June 27 & 28 at 8pm at The Arizona Inn 2200 E Elm

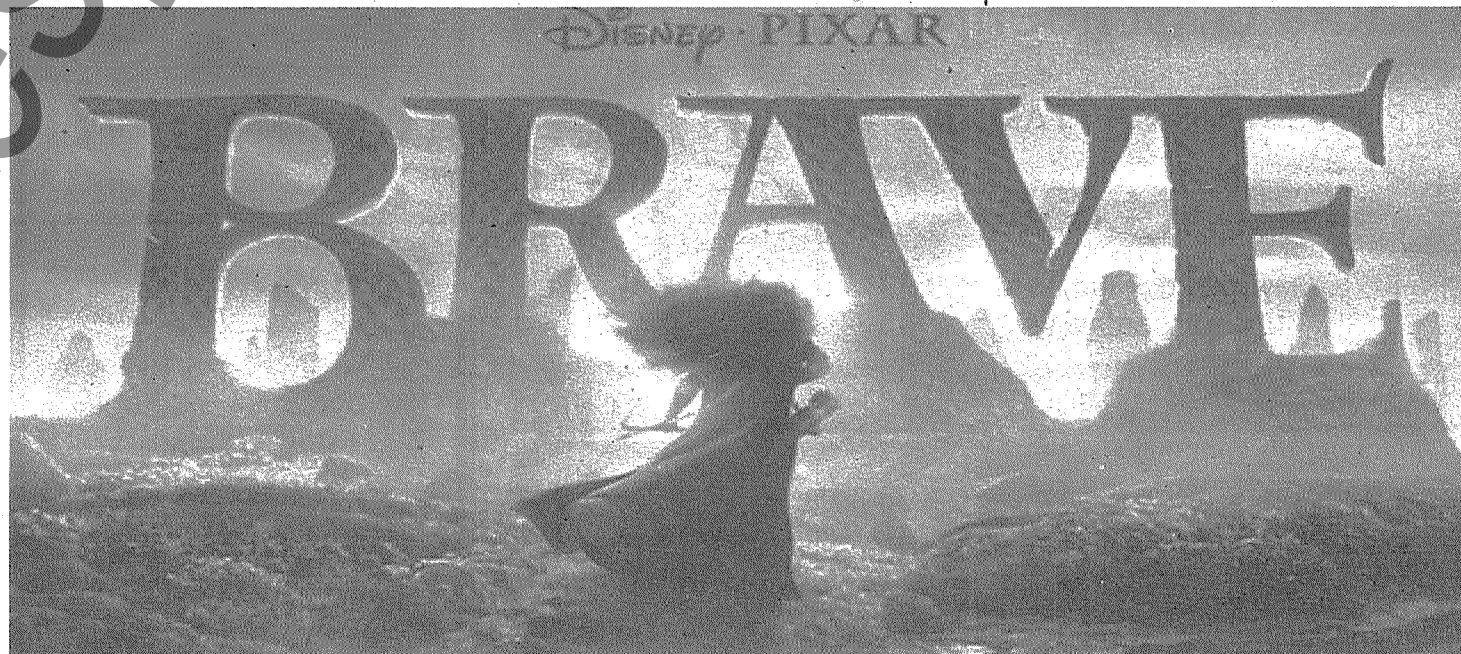
**One Tough Cookie and Bearsnail** queer punk rock, June 28, 7pm at Fluxx. \$5 donation.

**Wally Lawder** June 29, 7pm at Delectables 533 N. 4th Ave

**Sharon McNight** presented by Invisible Theatre June 30 at 8pm at The Arizona Inn 2200 E Elm

**T-Squares Dance Club** Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo. July 3 at 6:30-9

**Stefan George** June 30 7pm at Delectables 533 N 4th.



# Hopi quilt exhibit 'uniquely universal'

The Arizona State Museum's newest exhibit, Hopi Quilts: Unique Yet Universal, presents 20 quilts from the 1970s to contemporary times. The exhibition showcases the best of the quilting tradition, tracing its rich aesthetic and historical development.

As Beth Grindell, director of the Arizona State Museum, and Carolyn O'Bagy Davis, guest curator describe via an online interview, "One of the most interesting aspects of the Hopi quilts is that wonderful blending of an Anglo tradition with Hopi imagery and ceremony. You might see a traditional Irish chain quilt with Hopi corn hand stitched into the solid setting blocks. Other quilts show traditional patchwork with clan designs of spiders, water or butterflies painted and stitched into the quilt."

The size of the exhibition—just 20 quilts—invites the viewers to take their time to observe and contemplate: "The small size of the exhibit allows us to focus on some smaller pieces that would be lost in a large exhibit," they say.

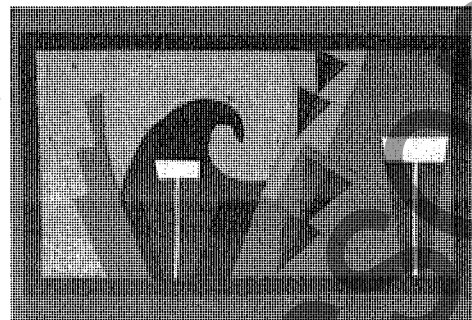
From the 1880s on, both Hopi women and men have embraced quilting. Over the past century the craft has become a fixture in Hopi society. The Hopi have a long history of producing beautiful cotton and wool blankets, robes, belts and ceremonial sashes.

Traditionally, men were the weavers among the Hopi, with their

looms set-up in kivas, or ceremonial chambers. Hopi women quilt for many of the same reasons as other women from different cultures - for wedding and baby gifts, for family use, for personal satisfaction, and sometimes, for sale. While many typical American quilt patterns are evident - "crazy quilt," "log cabin," "nine-patch" - a uniquely Hopi aesthetic is expressed with katsina or butterfly imagery, as well as with pottery and basketry motifs.

The layout of the exhibition is designed to emphasize the creativity that the quilts display, as well as their design influences. Visitors will see quilts blended into already existing exhibits. The gallery holding the quilts is right next to a display on Hopi origins, history and life ways. And some of the quilts with traditional Hopi motifs appear right next to the objects that influenced their design.

Whether you're looking to warm your soul in the cold this winter or wishing for rains for the summer to come, the time is right to experience Hopi Quilts.



Modern Hopi quilt

# Chaz Bono joins 'Degrassi' cast

TeenNick's progressive youth drama will welcome the transgender activist and former Dancing With the Stars contestant to *Degrassi Community School* as a guest judge for a battle of the bands event.

Bono will also be featured in a scene opposite Jordan Todosey who plays the show's fictional transgender teen, Adam.



"Adam's story line on *Degrassi* is important to me because it means more transgender representation in the pop culture, and it also sends the message to trans teens that they are not alone in their struggles." - Chaz Bono

# 'Sound of Music' live on TV

*The Sound Of Music*, a live broadcast of a new production of the original Broadway musical will be produced by *Smash* executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron.

"There used to be a tradition of broadcasting musicals live back in the 1950s and we're thrilled to do it once again with a musical that has been a family classic for five decades," said NBC chairman Robert Greenblatt.

"There is no more talented and creative producing team than Craig Zadan and Neil Meron to bring Rodgers and Hammerstein's final - and



most beloved - collaboration to network television in this ground-breaking live telecast."

"While television's early days consisted of all-live programming, musicals rarely broadcast live, making NBC's production a very good place to start," said Greenblatt.

### If you go:

The Arizona State museum is at University and Park Ave. Parking is available in the Tyn-dall and Main-gate garages.

The exhibition runs from January 21 through August 20, 2012.

♦ Weddings      ♦ Corporate Events  
 ♦ Anniversaries      ♦ Special Events  
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## 'Dyke of Our Time' awarded best in show

By Boo Jarchow  
SHEWIRED

Tania Olive, a lesbian photographer who just graduated from Westminster University, has won the British Journal of Photography's Best in Show Award for her collection Dyke of Our Time at Free Range, Britain's largest collection of student shows.

This award being given to a lesbian for her photography of gay women is a reminder of just how few photographers and artists are examining the lesbian community. Olive's collection of straight-on portraits of lesbians at home that offers a new look at a frequently stereotyped group will be featured in the July edition of the Journal.

"I wanted to do a project that showcased the diversity of the lesbian community," Olive told



the Journal. "I have always found the butch and femme labels with which lesbians are associated to be antiquated. In fact, I find the idea that gender is a distinct dichotomy unrealistic. I wanted to show the fluidity of gender in the lesbian community.

"I am a huge fan of typologies and photographers influenced by the New Objectivity era such as the Bechers or Thomas Ruff," she continued. "I wanted to do a typology of lesbians, capturing a group of people at a certain time in history and giving them a voice. August Sander's work from the early 20th century on Germans is so interesting to look at in terms of style and type; his work, Face of Our Time, is where my title came from."

Check out a few of the photos from Tania Olive's Dyke of Our Time below:



## France to legalize same-sex marriage

By Lucas Grindley  
ADVOCATE.COM

The new president of France will legalize same-sex marriage in "the next few months," according to a statement from his office reported by Reuters.

President Francois Hollande and his Socialist party campaigned on marriage equality, and with a solid majority in Parliament it is largely up to them on the timing of changes.

The administration also plans to ensure adoption by same-sex couples is legal in France, and it will hold a series of discussions on what can be done to help transgender people specifically. Those moves will happen before the end of the year, administration officials have said, according to the Reuters report.

## Catholic officials seek to deny school-aged girls HPV vaccine

By Neal Broverman  
SHEWIRED.COM

Think the church can't get any worse? You're wrong! Apparently, Catholic officials in Canada are working hard to stop school-age girls from getting the life-saving HPV vaccine, which helps prevent cervical cancer. The publicly funded school board governing Calgary Catholic schools has declined to give students HPV because they believe it will give girls the green-light to have premarital sex – the horror!

Bishop Frederick Henry jumped on the crazy-train in 2008, when the HPV program was first initiated in Calgary. He, along with five male Catholic cohorts, wrote letters to parents telling them HPV was bad because it would expose their daughters to "counterproductive influences and potential abuse."

Of course, as Jezebel reminds us, girls can get HPV through rape or sexual abuse. (You're familiar with that, right Pope Benedict?) We suggest a new motto for the Catholic Church: We hate women and gays with an equal fervor!

## Gay journalist found dead in elevator shaft

By Brody Levesque  
PINKNEWS.CO.UK

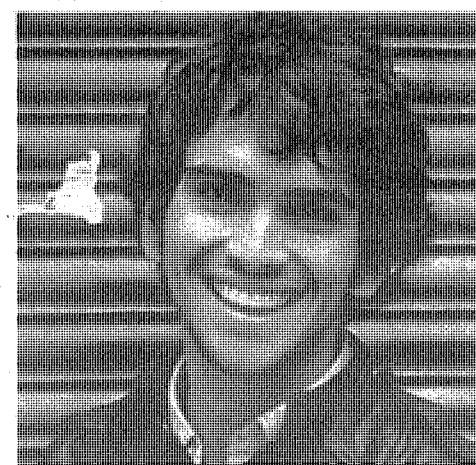
Armando Montano, an openly gay apprentice journalist working as a summer intern for the Associated Press in Mexico City, was found dead early Saturday. He was 22 years old.

Montano's body was found in the elevator shaft of an apartment building near where he was living in the capital's Condesa neighborhood. The circumstances of his death were being investigated by Mexico City's law enforcement officials.

AP staffers, on hearing of the popular young reporter's untimely death, told colleagues: "He absolutely loved journalism and was soaking up everything he could. In his short time with the AP, he won his way into everyone's hearts with his hard work, his effervescence and his love of the profession."

"Armando was a smart, joyful, hardworking and talented young man," said Marjorie Miller, AP's Latin America editor based in Mexico City.

Montano, who was openly gay, was a member of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Journalists. He was a Newhouse Scholar and member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.



Armando Montano/Facebook

In Washington D. C., NLGJA Executive Director Michael Tune said in a statement Monday: "We are deeply saddened to hear of the loss of one of our NLGJA members, Armando Montano."

Richard Berke, an assistant managing editor at The New York Times, who had met Montano at a New York Times Student Journalism Institute in Tucson, Ariz., noted: "Mando was a standout young journalist, with a rare passion and exuberance for life and for people. He accomplished so much and touched so many in a short time, and his potential was truly limitless."

Montano is survived by his parents, Diane Alters and Mario Montano, both of whom teach at the Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jesus loves you just as you are.  
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Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.  
Water of Life

Metropolitan Community Church  
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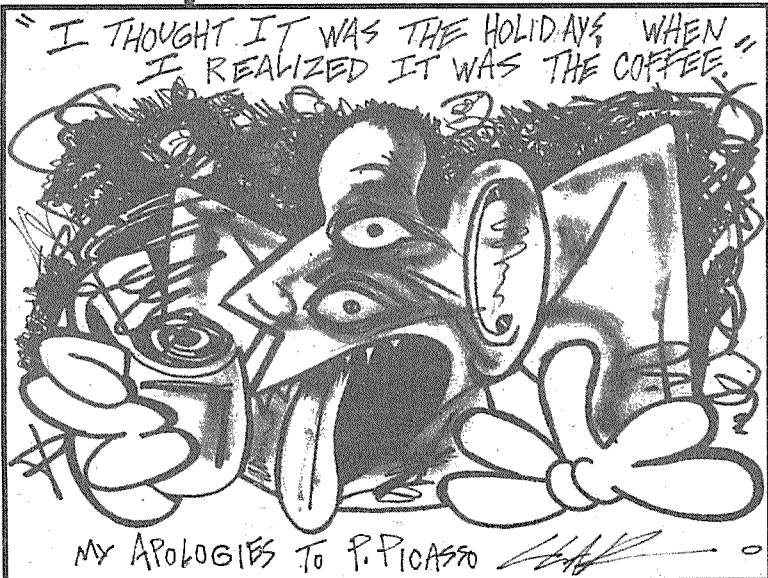
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**The Way Clark Saw it!** By Gary Clark



**Pet Pic of the week**



**Jocularity**

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 42 degrees north latitude and between 58 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the man, "but how did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost."

The man below responded, "You must be a manager."

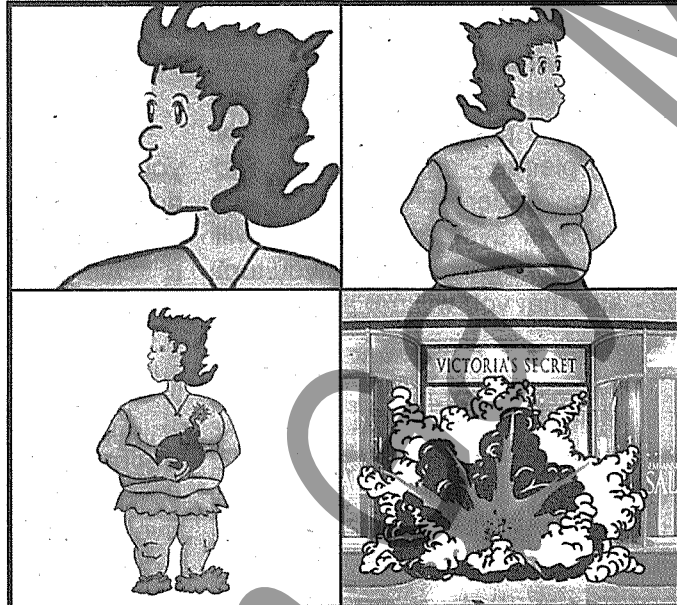
"I am," replied the balloonist, "how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are exactly in the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

**Apocalypse Cafe** By Sisol Hendrix



**Adventurous Days** By New Merrily Gargoyle



**Which presidential candidate would you trust during an alien invasion?**

By Jeffrey Marlow  
WIRED

Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are busy guys these days, each making his case for leading the free world. In speeches and interviews, they make their case for how they would handle some key challenges, from health care to the economy to foreign policy challenges in the Middle East.

But a new survey definitively shows how Americans feel about what is almost certainly the most important issue facing the country: which candidate is better able to deal with an alien invasion?

The results of the 1,114-person survey – sponsored by the National Geographic Channel in concert with its new Chasing UFOs series – offer a decisive victory for President Obama in the extraterrestrial diplomacy arena, a portfolio he has no doubt watched closely during his administration. 65% of survey respondents believe Obama would handle an alien invasion better than Romney.

The survey examined other aspects of the American public's relationship with aliens. Selected findings include the following:

- 36% of Americans think UFOs exist; 11% believe they have

personally seen one.

- If the traditional intergalactic diplomatic process ran amok, and superheroes somehow became real, 21% of respondents would request the Hulk's assistance. 12% would flash the Bat Signal, while just 8% would trust Spiderman.

- 28% think a visiting UFO would land in Roswell, New Mexico, beating out Washington, D.C. (19%) as the most likely landing zone.

- A vast majority of the public (79%) believe the U.S. government has kept information about UFOs secret.

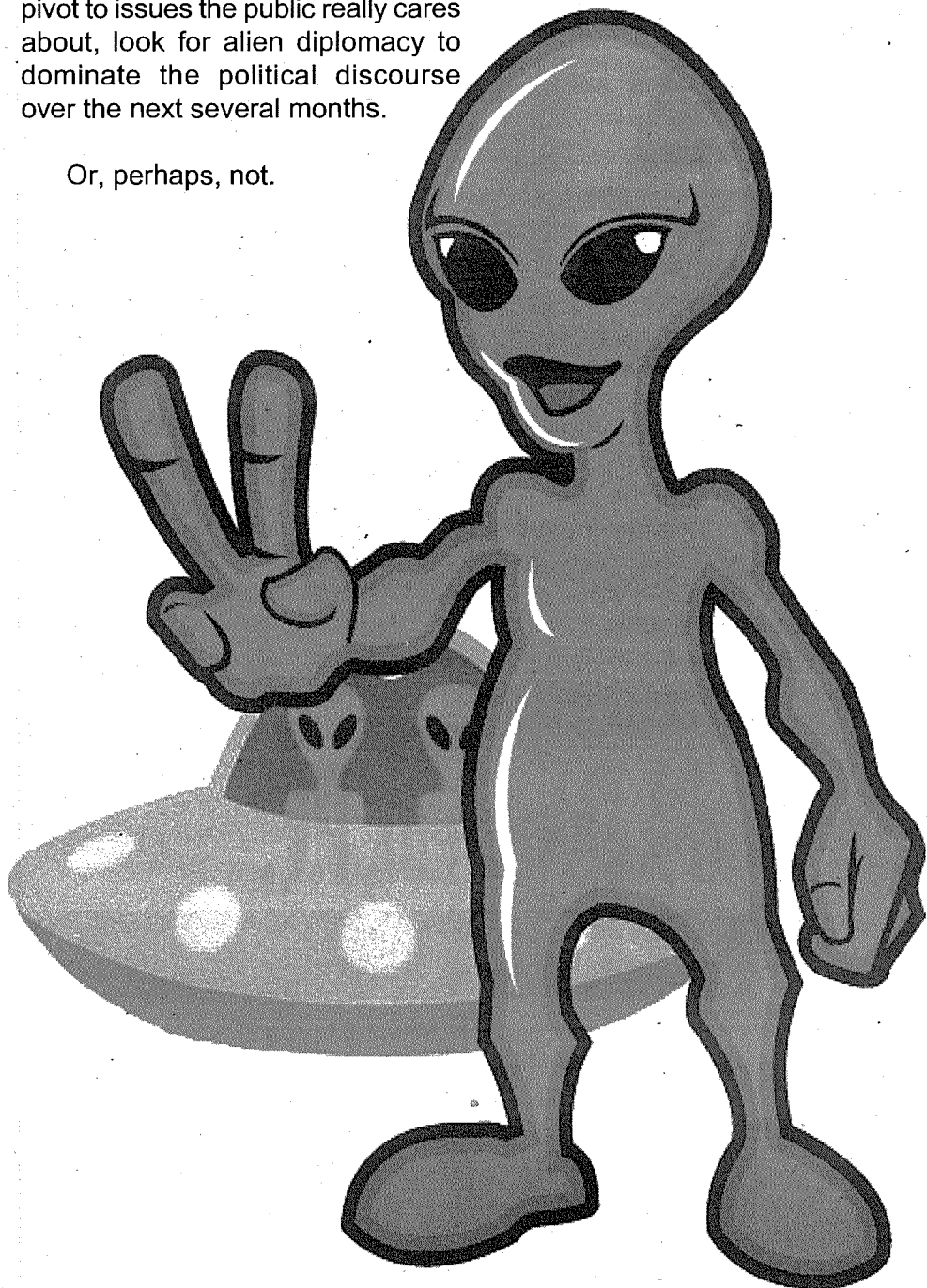
- The aliens' PR firm is apparently doing a very effective job: 22% of respondents would try to befriend any Little Green Men, behavior that could be construed as evolutionarily unwise. 15% would run away, while 13% would take a more measured approach and merely lock their doors.

- 77% of Americans think aliens have left behind evidence of previous visits. 60% are convinced by photographs, 57% by videos, and 36% by ancient monuments such as Stonehenge and the Egyptian Pyramids.

The survey shows that most Americans believe in intelligent alien

civilizations that have visited our planet. So as political campaigns pivot to issues the public really cares about, look for alien diplomacy to dominate the political discourse over the next several months.

Or, perhaps, not.



Opposed to Obamacare - pay for your parents medical bills

Commentary
By Mark Karlin
BUZZFLASH.COM

I'm so sick of freeloaders on my tax dollars, aren't you?

So, I want to get a message across to those who are on Medicare, and to the children of those who are on Medicare, who oppose health care reform and Medicare for all: remove yourself from Medicare, or remove your parents from it and just pay for your/their medical services without me paying for them, all right?

Before, BuzzFlash at Truthout has made this request of Tea Party promoters of the oxymoron: "Down with socialized medicine and the government better not touch my Medicare." We've asked that those who have such outlooks to remove themselves from Medicare because we don't want them to be such hypocrites and make us pay for a health-care program that they oppose

for other Americans under 65, but support for themselves.

Now we are extending that challenge to Tea Party advocates and other Americans who have parents on Medicare, but who in their middle age oppose improving health-care insurance - for even themselves (out of ignorance, it appears). To those middle age Americans with such an outlook, we ask that you remove your parents from Medicare and pay for their health-care yourselves. Because we don't want to make a hypocrite out of you on our tax dollars by providing socialized medicine to your parents while you denounce it in principle.

And while you are at it, if you oppose medical care for all Americans, please sign a legally binding pledge - and this applies to all of you under 65 who oppose a single payer system - that you will not apply for Medicare when you turn 65 - and that you will not ask the US

government to pay for your health care in your senior years.

And to those who oppose the partial health-care reform bill that was upheld yesterday by the Supreme Court, we ask that you not put any of your children over the age of 19 on your insurance policy; we ask that you or anyone in your family who has a pre-existing condition not be covered; we ask that you be charged for preventative health care which the new law provides free; and we ask that you inform your insurance company that you do not want your lifetime coverage to be unlimited but you would prefer to pay all charges above a current lifetime insurance company imposed cap.

And we ask that you inform your insurance company that you don't care how much they spend on administrative salaries as compared to actual health care (because patient care must be 85% of premiums

under the new health-care reform law); we ask that if you lose your job, you accept that you have no health insurance and incur massive debt if you need coverage; we ask that if you are an employer who will now be getting a tax credit for providing health-care insurance to employees that you refuse to take the tax credit under the new law; and we ask that you if become extremely sick and are tossed off your insurance that you accept your fate and abide by your principles and pay for your care and your growing debt.

We know that you wouldn't want to have it any other way. After all, the worst kind of person you would want to be is a freeloader on a program that you denounce.

And we can't allow you, for your own integrity, to become a freeloader.

That would be downright un-American.

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