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LEGISLATURE '17

Handguns without licenses stuck in chamber

House measure made it through committee but may not make it to floor

By **MADLIN MEKELBURG**
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AUSTIN — A bill allowing Texans to tote handguns without a license is creeping slowly

ABBOTT signs sanctuary cities ban into law. **1A**

through the Texas House, infuriating law enforcement groups and emboldening advocates who want fewer gun restrictions.

The legislation passed

through the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee last month, the farthest such a proposal has ever moved through the Legislature. But with a web of procedural deadlines fast approaching, it's unclear if the Legislature is prepared to pull the trigger and bring the measure to the floor.

"If you really feel passionate about something, you keep talking to your colleagues and keep making changes. That's what we're doing," said Rep. James White, R-Hillister, the bill's author. "I'm always confident, but confidence doesn't amount much to probability."

House rules create a number of avenues for those in

leadership to kill bills without ever putting them to a vote. Mark Jones, a political science professor at Rice University, said it looks like White's unlicensed carry bill could run the risk of getting lost in the calendar shuffle. Thursday is the last day the House can give preliminary approval to bills that originated in the lower cham-

ber. "This is the time of the year where Todd Hunter does that voodoo he does so well," Jones said, referring to the chairman of the powerful Calendars Committee that sets the House schedule. "Since there doesn't seem to be a real groundswell

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He's off and running



Ashley Landis/Staff Photographer

Three-year-old **Royce Mancini** got off to a good start with help from volunteer **Jonah Branch** (left) during the Wylie Downtown Merchants Association's 13th annual Pedal Car 500 Race on Sunday in downtown Wylie. See more shots at dallasnews.com/photos.

LEGISLATURE '17

How LGBT rights bill gained a Republican's vote

A GOP threat, dealmaking and a Twitter fight helped change lawmaker's mind

By **LAUREN MCGAUGHY**
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AUSTIN — Steve Hotze and Eric Johnson have little, if nothing in common. One is the head of the

Conservative Republicans of Texas, a far-right activist who's loud and proud in his gay bashing. The other is a Dallas Democrat who's fought for years to uphold the rights of the LGBT community.

But last week, the combined actions of these two men led to a small yet unprecedented victory for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Texans. What happens

when you combine savvy dealmaking, a public Twitter fight and a threatening text sent by one of the state's most virulent anti-gay activists?

An unexpected conversion.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at how bills really become laws, and how a deal between two Dallas lawmakers from different parties led to a narrow but notable step forward for gay rights in Texas.

The convincing

Texas has no statewide law protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Texans from discrimination in the workplace. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, has been trying for years to turn this around, but time and time again, he hit a brick wall in the GOP-domi-

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BALCH SPRINGS

Fired cop, city sued

Jordan Edwards' father alleges excessive force used in fatal shooting

By **JULIETA CHIQUILLO**
Staff Writer
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Jordan Edwards' father says in a lawsuit that former Balch Springs police Officer Roy Oliver used excessive force when he fatally shot the 15-year-old



JORDAN EDWARDS



ROY OLIVER

on April 29 as he left a house party. Odell Edwards said in the federal suit filed Friday that after Oliver fired his rifle at the car carrying Jordan, Balch Springs police unlawfully detained the driver, Jordan's stepbrother Vidal Allen. The suit alleges that police used a racial slur to describe Vidal and put him in handcuffs after the teen witnessed Jordan being shot in the head.

The complaint also targets the Balch Springs Police Department, which the teen's father says failed to properly train and supervise Oliver.

Balch Springs Police Chief Jonathan Haber fired Oliver on Tuesday, three days after the fatal encounter with Jordan. On

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DALLAS

Meadows Building saved, set for makeover

Instead of erasing landmark, owners decide to renovate

By **ROBERT WILONSKY**
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Around the time 2015 was turning into 2016, the out-of-town owners of the 61-year-old Meadows Building on

Greenville Avenue pitched architect Craig Melde on plans for their new purchase. Melde met them in the lobby of the two-story wing along Greenville near Lovers Lane. The building, inside and out, was in disrepair and showing its age, Melde said Friday. But it was still "awesome."

Then, the men from Chicago-based GlenStar Properties hit him with the

news: "They said, 'We're gonna come right through here with a new driveway,'" Melde said. Meaning, they were going to raze the structure, which, like the adjacent office tower, was constructed out of pink marble, red brick, turquoise terra cotta and white terraz-

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Architexas/Gensler/GlenStar

A rendering of the Meadows Building was sent to the city in advance of the renovation of the 61-year-old building on Greenville Avenue.

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