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APRIL 6, 2018
VOLUME 37, NUMBER 32
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FAMILY FEUD

Why can't all the overzealous and rabidly anti-choice groups in Texas just get along?

BY MARY TUMA • P.16



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The Austin Chronicle (ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. 512/454-5766 ©2013 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.
Subscriptions: One year: \$110 2nd class. Half-year: \$60 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.



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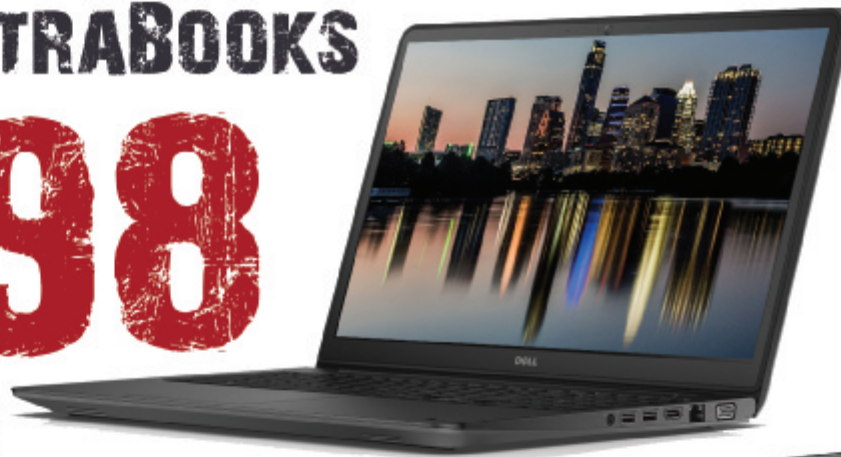
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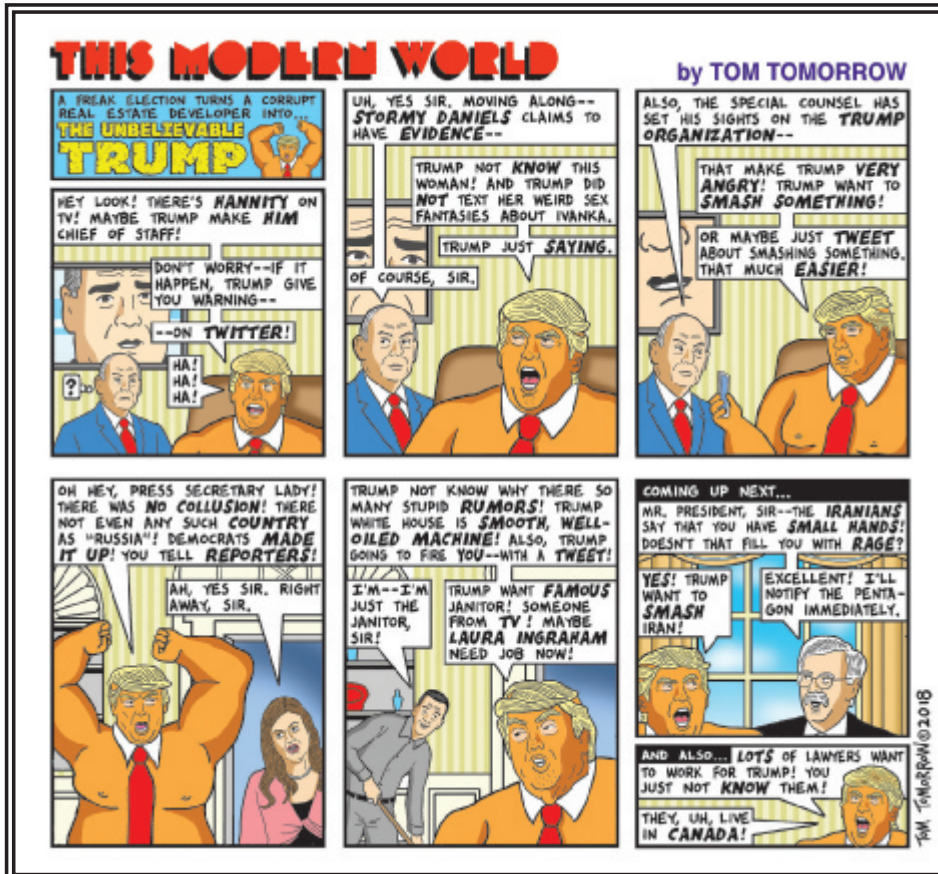
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MISSED THE BALL

Dear Editor,

National press coverage has included interim Chief Brian Manley's initial description of the Austin bomber as a "very troubled young man" which he further amended to "domestic terrorist." Being only an occasional *Chronicle* reader, I searched your site and then News section for the phrase "very troubled young man" and came up with no entries related to the March 2018 events. I am disappointed that your recent coverage in "Beside the Point: All Eyes on Him" [News, March 30] did not include at least a discussion of Manley's evolving description of the bomber. It feels like it is relevant and you missed the ball, opening yourselves up for racial criticism.

Mike Post

News Editor Chase Hoffberger responds: Manley called the bomber a "domestic terrorist" on Thursday morning, after this story published.

CHALLENGING & HEARTBREAKING

Dear Editor,

Discussions are swirling around as to why the Austin serial bomber, who killed and terrorized people for weeks, is not called a "terrorist" or "suicide bomber" by the White House and media outlets. [See "Sympathetic Coverage for Austin Bomber," News, March 30.]

As an American Muslim, it is more challenging and heartbreaking to make sense of the logic for such a stark difference in how such

OOPS! In the March 30 report on mayoral candidate Laura Morrison's kickoff event ("Laura Morrison Kicks Off Mayoral Campaign"), we wrote in error that she said there should be consideration of economic incentives for Amazon (for its potential second headquarters). In fact, Morrison said there should be "no consideration" of such incentives.

events are covered in the media. We never hear of terrorists who claim to be of Muslim background being addressed as "a very challenged young man." Muslims who have committed such acts are not "normalized" as facing mental health and other societal pressures. In addition, there is no room for viewing these individuals as being political as well as religiously neutral.

Unfortunately, the consequences of the horrible actions of a very few misled individuals are felt and dealt with among thousands of peace-loving Muslims in the form of fear and backlash. My question remains, is the terror caused by a Muslim different or bigger than terror caused by another individual from another faith?

Touba Khurshid

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Don't miss the post-ride festival with kid's activities, food, and music. The Ghisallo Foundation Bike Rodeo will feature a youth skills clinic where participants learn basic riding and safety skills.



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Register at the Rosedale School on Thursday, April 5th at our rider packet pickup or at Samsung on the day of the ride. Music and refreshments at the rider packet pick up from 5-8pm.

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JANA BIRCHUM

QUOTE of the WEEK

"I think it's contrary to reason to think that any department can police themselves when a complaint is turned in to the executive team and expect there to be a just outcome."

— Austin Firefighters Assoc. President Bob Nicks, on the city's current process for investigating harassment complaints against public safety department chiefs

HEADLINES

NO REGULAR CITY COUNCIL meeting this week, but formal **budget preparation** began with Wednesday's work session featuring the five-year regional forecast and the FY 2019 city budget forecast – morning at City Hall, afternoon at the Central Library. Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 12 – currently a light agenda with several council members expected to be absent.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

elects officers for the next year on Monday. **Rebecca Webber** and **Brian Haley** return as chair and parliamentarian. **Carol Lee** assumes vice chair duties from **Daniela Nuñez**.

VILLAGE IDIOT ALEX JONES

is facing a **\$1 million lawsuit** after his "news" website **InfoWars** used an image of a man depicted as the **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** shooting suspect and a communist. The suit was filed in Travis County District Court by Massachusetts man **Marcel Fontaine**, who claims the photo resulted in "enormous injury and continuing personal harassment."

CALLOUS POLICY REVERSAL ICE

will now **detain pregnant women** instead of automatically releasing them from detention, as a result of Trump's anti-immigrant January executive order. Under the Obama administration, pregnant women were detained only in "extraordinary circumstances."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENTS

are in the air, with the city's affordable housing working group initially recommending a **\$161 million housing bond package** for November, while Council Members **Delia Garza**, **Pio Renteria**, and **Greg Casar** announced a "Housing Justice Agenda" and expect to press for a housing bond as high as \$300 million.

AMONG THE DOZENS

of **Sinclair Broadcast Group** local TV stations reciting an Orwellian corporate script denouncing "fake news" over the weekend was Austin CBS affiliate **KEYE**. When Deadspin compiled a video of numerous news anchors simultaneously reciting the "must-run" script, Sinclair denounced the site's actual journalism as "insidious." Sinclair owns nearly 200 stations, covering much of the country, and often dictates reactionary "must-run" segments to its news readers.

ELSEWHERE IN MEDIA

New **Austin American-Statesman** overlords **GateHouse Media** were in Austin on Tuesday to address the paper's staff following Monday's completion of their acquisition. Executive **Jason Taylor** said the organization, a division of **New Media Investment Group**, had a desire to make the local daily "a flagship" of its enterprise, and is "doubling down" on its commitment to the city. Austin is already home to GateHouse's **Center for News & Design**, which employs 240 people.



Fred Lewis, Susana Almanza, Nelson Linder, and Mary Ingle step into City Hall last Thursday with a reported 32,000 signatures on the petition circulated over the past half-year demanding that CodeNEXT be put up to a public vote. The signatures went to the city clerk after a brief press conference and could take a full month to count.

SARAH MARLOFF

Partly Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

CITY HALL BEGINS BUDGET PREP WITH A FAIR-TO-MIDDLING FORECAST

This week City Council began in earnest its annual grind of budget preparation, kicked off with Wednesday's work session presentation of the FY 2019 budget forecast. That's about a month earlier than last year, in Council's annual attempt to "reinvent" the budget process. Wednesday's forecast at City Hall was followed by an afternoon session at the Central Library, devoted to continuing discussion of aligning spending with Council's six declared "strategic outcomes": "safety," "health and environment," "culture and lifelong learning," "government that works," "economic opportunity and affordability," and "mobility."

This column is being written in the middle of those deliberations, so it also looks backward, to similar discussions last year and to the projections that more or less

came due. Last spring, budget guru Ed Van Eenoo told Council (in paraphrase) that for FY 2018, "costs are expected to rise about five percent, and incoming revenue is anticipated to rise by less than five percent." Wednesday he confirmed that, with a few adjustments. The FY 2017 budget year concluded with overall General Fund spending at a little less than 99% of the projected budget, and Development Services revenue (a "growth bonus"?) was about \$2.9 million higher than expected. With that little bit of help, about \$15 million could be transferred into the city's reserve fund (\$6.1 million over projections), providing some cushion for this year.

At the same time, non-property tax revenues – primarily sales taxes and those same development fees – have continued to level

off from the high boom years (when the sales tax bump could reach 6%), and instead of meeting already lowered estimates, are beginning to come in lower – for sales taxes, 2.9% above last year, but below the budget estimate of 3.3%. For development services, the numbers are similarly leveling off, now budgeted to equalize the city's expenses.

Simultaneously, labor costs – somewhat thanks to currently busted meet-and-confer negotiations – are lower than expected, overall resulting in an anticipated "surplus" for FY 2018 of \$750,000 (i.e., not much wiggle room).

External Considerations

Before I descend completely into financial waters far too murky for my inexpert abilities, we'll revisit the big numbers next week, after the forecast dust settles and Council has had a chance to ask questions and mull the projections. Most things won't

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POINT AUSTIN CONTINUED FROM P.6

change much, year to year – while expenses continue to rise, the city's continuing prosperity will cover base costs while allowing for at least some new Council initiatives. As always, in August Council will find itself earnestly fussing over small expenditures. Last year's tug-of-war was over all of about \$5 million within a \$1 billion GF budget.

Another thing that won't change is the imbalance of power between the city's attempts to manage its own finances and the state's persistent threat to undermine those finances by flagrantly political pandering on property taxes. Van Eenoo's forecast includes projections based on an 8% "rollback" property tax rate increase (at the upper limit without an election), as well as a 4% projection (the 2017 legislative proposal), under which the city could not meet its basic expenses and would have to find substantial ways to cut costs.

But in fact, the latest threat emanating from the Capitol is Gov. Greg Abbott's recent proposal of a 2% cap on municipal property tax increases, a level that wouldn't even allow for normal inflation. His announcement was couched with various qualifications, but serves notice to local officials, once again, that local government remains at the mercy of state Republican political priorities.

The Arguments Continue ...

Beyond those external considerations are the ongoing tensions among local interest groups over annual budget decisions. The extended debate, during the March 22 Council meeting, over a largely symbolic resolution to confirm the funding of 12 already authorized new police officer positions, was a case in point. Nobody on the dais actually opposed the funding, though some members thought it jumped the gun on formal budget planning. More salient was the issue of just what sort of spending qualifies as "public safety." Currently, 67% of the GF spending is on public safety departments (about 40% is specifically APD), and under Council's new "strategic outcome" categories, the percentage is similarly figured at 68%. Some members (and certainly local justice advocates) say more of that funding should be going to other forms of "safety" – social service contracts, community development, programs that keep young people out of the criminal justice pipeline. Simultaneously, other influential advocates – notably the Greater Austin Crime Commission and their many allies – insist the police staffing "shortfall" is as high as 300 officers. The draft five-year staffing plan (also presented Wednesday) proposes reaching that level of new officers by 2023 – at which point, the GACC will no doubt be calling for another 100 or so more.

Settle in for a few months of those kinds of arguments, not to mention affordable housing bonds, and oh yes ... that little matter of a new land use code. As Roseanne Roseannadanna liked to say: "It's always something." ■

Doomed?

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

Community Not Commodity trundled 32,000 petition signatures into City Hall last week trying to force a November election on the **CodeNEXT land development code rewrite** (see Lead Photo, p.6), but they aren't the only ones trying to grab space on that November ballot this week.

The **2018 Charter Review Commission** will hold their final public hearing this Saturday to take feedback on the **City Charter amendments** that they're currently considering recommending that City Council place on the **November ballot**. Council created the group last year, and tasked it with examining various areas, and reporting back with recommendations by about now. For now, the Commission has adopted recommendations to:

- 1) Have City Council, rather than the city manager, appoint the **city attorney**;
- 2) Create a **city budget and efficiency officer**, to produce independent analyses of budgetary and fiscal issues, and reviews of proposed and existing programs;
- 3) Establish a **Democracy Dollars Program** for public financing of mayoral and City Council campaigns, to provide eligible Austin residents up to \$100 per election cycle to donate to city candidates;
- 4) Establish an **Independent Ethics Review Commission** to oversee campaign issues, conflicts of interest, lobbyist regulations, and the like;
- 5) Tighten rules on **referendum petitions**;
- 6) Ditto on **recall petitions**, including upping the number of signatures needed to trigger a recall;
- 7) Fix clerical and wording matters.



They're still considering two other proposals: clarifying and codifying the "timing and staggering of **Planning Commission terms**," which is something Council requested, and requiring a **city election** to approve utility revenue bonds over \$25 million, or power and water purchases over \$50 million, which was not on the original list. Want to weigh in? See more info at www.austintexas.gov/content/2018-charter-review-commission, and show up at City Hall, 301 W. Second, at 1pm this Sat., April 7 (or hold your voice until November). □

Meanwhile, **back to CodeNEXT**: Overall, what's made this whole process as painful and overwrought with drama as it has been, is the ridiculous set of **artificial deadlines** under which the land use commissions have been operating, combined with the planners' unwillingness or inability to produce consistent **versioning**. Thus far there have been three drafts, each dramatically different and with totally new and unexpected content, and each coming with a very tight deadline for review and no effort to incorporate intermediate corrections and revisions. In tech terms, we've gone from 1.0 to 2.0 to 3.0, with no attempts to tweak or fix bugs with a version 1.1 or 2.2, let alone a 3.1.1 or a 3.2.4. And at each step, City Council has not helped by insisting that the review process be accelerated and held to arbitrary deadlines, and generally forced into a timeline designed to produce a shoddy product. At this late date, there are still sections **not finished**, and sections that are noted as **errors**, and others that are

acknowledged as being **placeholders**, but no clear notation or index of those. Nor any report back from the **Planning Commission mapping subgroup**, which has been working on a regimen of scenario testing that ought to have happened before any mapping was even attempted.

This was brought home to me at around 9:35pm Tuesday evening at the latest meeting of the joint land use commissions (see "MobilityNEXT," p.12), watching consultant **Peter Park** casually remark that, due to some vagary or another, there might well be the need for another zoning category to be added, tweaking the R2C that's in the current draft. Which is fine: I don't really have a strong feeling on whether that's needed or not. But I do feel strongly that there needs to be at least one more draft, that's actually a revision of the current draft, rather than a whole new pass at a code. And once we have a set of codes, we can get an idea back from the mapping subgroup about what it would mean to apply those codes to different parts of the city. And then we can have the political battles over whether we're turning the various dials (parking requirements, density allowances, historical protection) too far up or down – but that needs to be *after* we've figured out what the dials are (the code text), and how they work (the mapping scenarios).

If that's not the timeline we're working on – if Council pretends they're going to get this thing done before it becomes a political issue in the November elections, and in turn staff pretends they've delivered a "final" draft – this is **doomed to failure**. □

Hill Country Ride for AIDS, coming up April 28, still needs volunteers; meanwhile, they just received a \$15,000 matching gift: Starting today until the funds run out, every donation to every rider will be matched dollar for dollar. Info at www.hillcountryride.org. ■

Send gossip, dirt, innuendo, rumors, and other useful grist to nbarbaro@austinchronicle.com.

CIVICS 101 DUTY NOW FOR THE FUTURE

THURSDAY 4/5

CHITO VELA FUNDRAISER State Rep. candidate for District 46 hosts a public fundraiser at the historic home of D'Ann Johnson. 5-7pm. 1604 E. 11th. www.chitovela.com.

CENTRAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION Share your thoughts on CH's Strategic Work Plan and 2019 budget priorities. 6:30-8pm. Lanier High School, 1201 Payton Gin. www.centralhealth.net.

FRIDAY 4/6

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING 9am. Street-Jones Building, East 11th & Waller. Free. www.austintexas.gov.

NATASHA HARPER-MADISON The official kickoff for her City Council District 1 run. 6-9:30pm. Big Easy Bar & Grill, 1806 E. 12th. www.fb.com/natashafordistrict1.

SATURDAY 4/7

BRUSH SQUARE PLANNING PARD hosts a family-friendly public kickoff for the Brush Square master planning effort. 10am-noon. Brush Square Park, 409 E. Fifth. www.austintexas.gov/department/brush-square-master-plan.

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING No reservation required. First Saturdays, 10:30am. Travis County Tax Office, 5501 Airport. www.traviscountytax.org.

TEMPO 2-D ARTIST INFO MEETING for artists applying for the program. See online for additional dates. 1pm. Cepeda Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley. Free. www.austintexas.gov/tempo.

GENERATION SCREWED: How American Politics and Policy Hurt Millennials and What Can Be Done About It: A panel discussion. 2-4pm. Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. Free. www.cg4tx.org.

CECILE RICHARDS: MAKE TROUBLE Join Richards for a conversation with former Texas Sen. Wendy Davis. 3-6pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. \$40. www.cecilerichardsbook.com.

TOWN HALL FOR OUR LIVES IN TX-21 Highlighting activist action in the March for Our Lives movement, as well as set expectations for elected officials to lead the conversation. 3-6pm. Dittmar Rec Center, 1009 W. Dittmar. Free. www.marchforourlives.com.

SUNDAY 4/8

TOWN HALL FOR OUR LIVES Members of Congress and candidates are invited to a discussion on gun violence and prevention. 2-5pm. Travis High, 1211 E. Oltorf. Free. www.invisibleaustin.com.

TUESDAY 4/10

BLACK LIVES MATTER General Meeting: Working committees will discuss education, criminal justice reform, health, and other topics. 6-7:30pm. Anderson Community Center, 1705 E. 11th.

HUD ACTION PLAN Residents are invited to give feedback on the FY 2018-19 Federal Housing and Urban Development Action Plan. 6:30pm. Austin Energy, 721 Barton Springs Rd. www.austintexas.gov/cdc.

TEXAS INMATE FAMILIES ASSOC. Have a loved one in jail? TIFA can help. 7-8:30pm. AGE of Central Texas, 3710 Cedar. Free. www.tifa.org.

THURSDAY 4/12

VERONICA ESCOBAR The Texas Tribune talks with the Democratic candidate for Congress. 7:30-9am. The Austin Club, 110 E. Ninth. Free. www.texastribune.org.
CITY COUNCIL MEETING See p.13. 10am. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second.

CULTURAL ARTS FUNDING Thirty-minute consultations on applying for funding. 5:30-8:30pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron. www.austintexas.gov.

ONGOING FREE TAX PREP

• **Foundation Communities** has six locations with varying hours. Through April 17. www.foundcom.org.

• **StreetCred** helps low-income patients and the general public: Mon.-Sat. at CommUnityCare Southeast, 2901 Montopolis. Also: Mon., Tue., Sat. at People's Community Clinic, 1101 Camino La Costa. www.mystreetcred.org.

NAKED CITY

ONE COP FIRED, ONE'S FATE SEALED?

Interim Police Chief **Brian Manley** last week indefinitely suspended Officer **Robert Mathis** for a series of administrative violations stemming from an Oct. 7, 2017, incident in which he and his partner, **Nathaniel Stallings**, were running patrol near Rundberg Lane and came across a man and a woman in a car – the latter of whom they knew to have experience working as a prostitute. Mathis and Stallings questioned the man, but ultimately let him drive off, turning their attention toward the woman. Manley wrote in a lengthy memo – 14 pages, complete with a 10-paragraph conclusion – that the two were immediately physical with her (and overly aggressive in many instances), lacked an impartial attitude during the detainment, and ultimately lied about or withheld a number of inflammatory details during their reporting of the incident (and collaborated on their account of the events). Manley wrote he'd be “remiss in my duties and responsibilities if I allowed such an Officer to be bestowed the power to continue to have the duties and responsibilities that are designed to serve the public.”

The details of Manley's memo suggest that Stallings might suffer the same fate, yet Friday's release begat no such notice – a likely byproduct of the fact that Stallings is currently facing a class A misdemeanor indictment by the **Travis County District Attorney's Office** for his role in the arrest. Mathis' termination came 175 days after the incident in question, and civil service laws allow for a statute of limitations of 180 days. However, Manley may override that statute for any officer who's facing a felony or class A or B misdemeanor for that incident if he files a request with the state's attorney general. One would think that he won't be getting back onto the beat. – *Chase Hoffberger*

A copy of the Mathis memo is available online with this story.

THE JAIL'S DEADLY WEEKEND

The Travis County Sheriff's Office, Medical Examiner, and the Texas Rangers are investigating two deaths that occurred 12 hours apart this weekend in the Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle.

Corrections officers found the first inmate, 50-year-old **Donald Coor**, unresponsive in his cell just before 6am Saturday morning. They administered CPR on him until medics with Austin-Travis County EMS arrived, though they were unable to save Coor, who was pronounced dead at 6:30am. Around 5pm that afternoon, officers found 24-year-old **Eric Taylor** unresponsive on the floor of his cell. Again, officers performed CPR until ATCEMS arrived, but Taylor died just before 6pm.

TCSO believes both men died “of natural causes,” but are awaiting toxicology reports to make a final determination. Just last month, 35-year-old **Anthony Ray Harris** died in Travis County custody after receiving medical treatment at the Dell Seton Medical Center for ingesting what officials described as a “white powdery substance.” – *Nina Hernandez*

CHANGES AHEAD FOR AUSTIN PRIDE?

Austin Pride is still reeling from the aftermath of **Hurricane Harvey**, which forced organizers to reschedule the city's annual LGBTQ festival and parade on exceptionally short notice and in doing so put the organization nearly \$100,000 in debt. Then on Feb. 24, the volunteer-run organization announced that president and board member **Paul Huddleston** had resigned. Former VP **Micah Andress** has stepped into the role, and last week he told me the decision was “mutual” – a recognized “time for a change.” Andress also con-

firmed that the new board has decided to pull the **Werk Fashion** show – a staple of Pride Week – in an effort to save money. Though the show could return in 2019, outreach director **Chelsea Wallace** said it's too soon to tell. In its place, the board hopes to produce a more community- and budget-friendly event.

Aside from Werk, Andress promised “nothing is really going to change.” The board has begun reaching out to potential sponsors and in December opened up registration for both festival and parade participants. Tickets are now on sale, but buyers might notice the date and location are TBD. Though Pride has plans to move to **Auditorium Shores**, that's unlikely to happen this year. Instead, the fest is expected to return to **Fiesta Gardens**, but its signature late summer date is currently reserved by the *Chronicle's* own **Hot Sauce Festival**, of all things. – *Sarah Marloff*

BRASS SHUFFLE

The **Public Safety Commission** heard an update on Monday from Assistant City Manager **Rey Arellano** concerning the process for hiring permanent chiefs for the Police and Fire departments, and a police monitor. The most high-profile of the three is APD, with interim Chief **Brian Manley** currently receiving broad support for his handling of the recent bombings. Arellano said City Manager **Spencer Cronk** will update the community soon on how he plans to fill that role, whether to remove the interim label from Manley's title or conduct a national search for candidates (or both). Arellano said Cronk will hold a search for a replacement to AFD Chief **Rhoda Mae Kerr**, and department Chief of Staff **Tom Dodds** will take over on an interim basis when she leaves this summer. Interim Police Monitor **Farah Muscadin** will continue in her role for the time being; the city wants to go through another round of contract talks with the Austin Police Association before deciding what to do with that position. – *N.H.*



Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano addressing the Public Safety Commission on Monday night.

ELDRIDGE CASE ONGOING

District Attorney **Margaret Moore** has recused herself, and District Judge **Brenda Kennedy** has appointed well-known Houston attorney **Rusty Hardin** to serve as “District Attorney Pro Tem” in her stead to look into allegations from 2006 that **Chantal Eldridge**, the Democratic nominee for the 331st District Court, had sex with a 16-year-old Brazilian exchange student who was living at her home. The student, now 27, is willing to come back to Austin to aid the inquiry, which petered out after a three-month investigation by the Austin Police Department (“You Be the Judge,” March 2). Eldridge denied the “false allegation” through a representative, defense attorney **Charlie Baird**, who nevertheless said he and Eldridge will “fully and completely” cooperate with Hardin's inquiry. – *N.H.*

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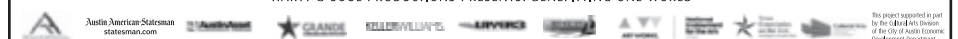
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THE STEELDRIVERS	10.11	STEVE TYRELL	1.12.19
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Uproar Over Judge’s Dismissal

CALLS TO REMOVE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

The **State Office of Administrative Hearings** is not usually a headline agency – for which the nonpartisan **administrative law judges** who preside over contested state agency cases are normally grateful. But SOAH has been pushed into the news in recent weeks by the actions of its Chief ALJ, **Lesli G. Ginn**. In late February, in response to a **Texas Medical Board** complaint over a contested-case ruling by ALJ **Hunter Burkhalter**, Ginn requested and received Burkhalter’s resignation “in lieu of termination.” (See “Medical Board Loses a Case ... and Attacks the Judge,” March 16.)

Ginn’s action is being strongly criticized as violating the integrity of SOAH’s administrative hearing process – established in 1991 by the Legislature “as an independent forum,” making the process fairer and less subject to official pressures, as it was when “examiners” employed by individual agencies were considered too deferential to their employers. Ginn’s position carries the explicit legal responsibility to “protect and ensure the decisional independence of each administrative law judge.” Inside and outside the agency, reaction has been strong, including calls for Ginn’s removal from her position, to which she was appointed by Gov. **Greg Abbott** in 2016 for a two-year term, expiring at the end of April.

Shortly after Burkhalter’s dismissal, **Ron Beal**, a professor of law at Baylor often described as the foremost authority on Texas administrative law, told me Ginn “should be fired immediately. ... Her job is to protect the independence of SOAH. Her action violates every premise that we have, as to what she should be doing.”

Beal has since written at length to Abbott expanding his argument. “This act of the Chief Judge is so fundamental,” he wrote the governor, “it cannot be called anything but a ‘crime.’ It is so fundamental that she cannot recover from it and must be dismissed. Maintaining her in this position will fundamentally undermine the integrity of SOAH. There will be no reason for the agency to continue to exist.”

Beal is not alone in his concerns. Ginn has reportedly informed staff members, including the more than 30 ALJs (all experienced attorneys) that they are not to speak to the media, and they have reason to fear that should they do so, they would be subject to retaliation. Nevertheless, several sources within the agency say “morale has never been lower” among the judges, and that the Burkhalter decision was “a tipping point” in their concerns that Ginn’s tenure has been characterized by autocratic behavior and mismanagement, and by a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of SOAH and the judges. “The person who’s in that [chief judge] job, their job needs to be to protect the integrity of the process,” said one ALJ, “and to protect the judges

unless they’ve truly done something wrong. ... Now nobody has our back.” Said another, “This never would have happened under previous chiefs.”

Legislators are also reacting to Burkhalter’s dismissal. Rep. **Bill Zedler**, R-Arlington, has formally requested that the chief disciplinary counsel of the Texas State Bar investigate the actions of Ginn and **Scott Freshour**, interim executive director of the Texas Medical Board, who originally complained to Ginn about Burkhalter’s ruling in a TMB case. On March 25, Zedler asked that the bar investigate the possibility of “professional misconduct” by Ginn and Freshour, “including complicity in retaliation against a judge, which taints the integrity of TMB and SOAH.” State Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin, said he is also reviewing the growing concerns over Ginn’s actions. Watson’s judgment, as the local senator for the appointee, could carry decisive weight in the gubernatorial appointment process.

Burkhalter himself has written to Gov. Abbott, describing his dismissal (after a decade as an ALJ and several promotions) as “shocking, unwarranted, and cruel.” But the bulk of his letter (acquired via open records requests) recounts the damage he believes Ginn is doing to SOAH. He describes her tenure as characterized by mismanagement and arbitrary behavior undermining SOAH’s previously distinguished work, and writes: “Ms. Ginn was handed an agency that was not broken, and she is slowly but steadily breaking it.” His letter was echoed in comments by several ALJs, who say she has made no real effort to understand the importance of the agency’s judicial independence, nor to defend it – the Burkhalter episode only confirming that common opinion.

Rich DePalma officially announced on Tuesday that he’ll join the race for City Council in District 8. The Southwest Austin advocate boasts an extensive history of environmentalism, having founded the Friends of Dick Nichols Park in 2007, worked to secure funding as a member of the Parks Foundation, and served on the Parks and Recreation Board since 2015. (He’s currently the board’s vice chair.) “The environment has been something that has been the backbone to who I am,” he said. DePalma slots into the ever-crowding race alongside D8 incumbent **Ellen Troxclair**, fellow environmentalist **Paige Ellis**, and progressive attorney **Bobby Levinski**, whose body of work includes representation for **Save Our Springs**. – N.H.



Other former SOAH personnel have weighed in, including retired Chief ALJ **Cathleen Parsley** and retired General Counsel **Tom Walston**. In a letter addressed to Watson and several other legislators, Parsley described Burkhalter as “one of SOAH’s most experienced and capable ALJs,” and said, “When the Chief ALJ cannot or will not protect the decisional independence of the ALJs, it damages the rule of law and SOAH’s independence.” In a similar vein, Walston warned of ALJs henceforth feeling pressure to favor state agencies in their rulings, adding, “the neutrality and independence of SOAH’s ALJs will be impaired as long as Ms. Ginn remains Chief ALJ.”

Others directly affected by SOAH proceedings express similar concerns. **Mark Sharp**, an experienced health care law attorney who often represents clients in contested cases before SOAH, said Burkhalter’s dismissal “is something we hoped would never happen. ... It casts a huge cloud over the fairness of the agency and what we can expect in the future.” The **Texas Medical Association** has a direct interest in the regulation of health care professionals by the TMB, and in SOAH proceedings. TMA vice president of communication **Steve Levine** told me, “The purpose of SOAH is to insulate the judge from the prosecutor to ensure that all parties – both state agencies and those they are trying to discipline or regulate – are treated fairly and equitably according to the law. SOAH judges must be fair and impartial, not biased for or against any of the parties that appear before them. That is the American system of justice.”

Every person who responded to inquiries is concerned about what the Burkhalter episode means for the future of SOAH. The fear was summed up by professor Beal: “Every SOAH ALJ knows what happened. Every SOAH ALJ knows that from now on, when they rule against an agency, they will be provided no protection from the Chief Judge and most likely will be fired. How does that sit well for Texas citizens fighting for their job that is being threatened by a regulatory agency? The entire SOAH agency has been ‘polluted,’ and it will take a miracle for the ALJs to continue deciding cases on the merits.”

Ginn’s term in office expires April 30, and the governor has not yet indicated whether he intends to reappoint her (which would require Senate confirmation). Asked to respond to the widespread criticism and calls for her removal, Ginn provided her March 12 letter to Freshour that did not address those questions, though it cited a single phrase in Burkhalter’s 77-page opinion (“an attractive woman,” to describe a hearing witness, and explained in context) as not conforming to SOAH’s standards. Requests for comment from the governor’s office went unreturned.

– Michael King

Letters to state officials from Hunter Burkhalter and former SOAH Chief Judge Cathleen Parsley are available with this story online.

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EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT

At the March **Public Safety Commission** meeting, commissioners heard from the chiefs of staff of the city's three public safety departments about their respective administrative policies for addressing **harassment** of employees by members of the executive staff. The meeting took place three days after we reported that Austin-Travis County EMS Assistant Chief **James Hawley** retired amid an investigation by the Austin Police Department's **Internal Affairs** unit into accusations that he had physically and verbally harassed two female medics ("Something Rotten at EMS," March 9). Commissioners learned each department has policies, but that much of the discretion for those cases resides with the department chief those executive staffers serve under.

Moreover, the question of whether executive staff like Hawley should be able to retire in lieu of an investigation remained unanswered; that's an issue for Human Resources, and at the time HR was still updating city policy. And so after the meeting, PSC Chair **Rebecca Webber** and Commissioner **Noel Landuyt** requested a follow-up from the three chiefs of staff and HR Director **Joya Hayes**.

Commissioners heard a presentation Monday, but not one that addressed their specific request. HR Assistant Director **Monika Arvelo's** presentation came largely from the city's still-being-updated personnel policy, and wouldn't have been out of place at an orientation for new employees. Webber interjected to clarify why Arvelo had been summoned – to speak specifically to the protocols for dealing with accusations against executive team members. Arvelo said she may have misunderstood the request.

Webber reminded that commissioners



James Hawley, whose retirement spurred the Public Safety Commission's harassment probe

PHOTO VIA ATCEMS

wanted to know "how allegations of harassing behavior against a chief or assistant chief would be handled" and that "what we heard last time was that each department handles it differently; that they define prohibited behavior differently; and that ... there really was no set process that, for instance, sworn personnel on the street" could consult. Though she didn't cite Hawley by name, she did note that his case never made it to HR. Arvelo admitted she wasn't aware of the incident, but stressed the complicated nature of personnel policies for sworn employees, who "are mostly governed by" state civil service law. APD Chief of Staff **Troy Gay** said the three departments are currently consulting with city HR on its update to the harass-

ment policy, in particular the chapter governing sworn personnel. He suggested the commission allow them a couple of months to complete the work.

Webber agreed to bring the item back this fall, but said she would like Gay and company to include information about what happens to these investigations if the person retires. Austin Firefighters Association President **Bob Nicks** suggested that the **Office of the City Auditor** or another independent entity take control of such investigations. "I think it's contrary to reason to think that any department can police themselves when a complaint is turned in to the executive and expect there to be a just outcome," he said.

— Nina Hernandez

MobilityNEXT

Land use commissioners spent Tuesday night covering a hodgepodge of material in **CodeNEXT draft three**, including sections on mobility, parking requirements, and accessory dwelling units. Draft three's transportation chapter introduces entirely new text and regulations, but the **Austin Transportation Department** is confident that the proposed language is superior to today's regulations. The latest rewrite calls for a multimodal approach to addressing transportation, whereas the current land development code only accounts for vehicular traffic. Focusing on roadway capacity only goes so far, said ATD Assistant Director **Annick Beaudet**, while a comprehensive approach considers mass transit, bicycles, and pedestrian modes of travel. Under CodeNEXT, new developments must provide "thorough" and "high quality" transportation analyses, which Beaudet said is "really important if we're going to improve all of our systems." Using the city's new **transportation demand management** tools, developers will find a set of strategies to help minimize the number of car trips generated by a proposed development. The

goal is to get the development's number of net vehicle trips per day below 1,000. Should that not happen, the development will need a **transportation impact analysis** (currently triggered when net trips are over 2,000). Additionally, CodeNEXT adds a five-year expiration date to all TIAs. "Things change," Beaudet quipped.

Planning Commission Chair Stephen Oliver noted how the entire chapter had been "swapped out" and confessed he had trouble understanding the latest rewrite. "I felt like it got harder," he said. Concerns were alleviated when ATD said they have not yet received negative feedback from the civil and engineering communities, but Beaudet anticipates a learning curve for both staff and the community. The department has brought on a demand management staff and trainings are expected.

Tuesday's conversation grew tense when consultant **John Miki** addressed questions regarding **parking requirement reductions**. These remain a deeply contested part of CodeNEXT, reraising the question of whether the rewrite goes too far, or not far enough. Planning Commissioner **Karen McGraw** appears to believe the rewrite goes too far, and asked if any thought has been given to

"what's going to happen in reality" when there's limited or no business parking available in a given place. Project Lead **Greg Guernsey** emphasized that parking reductions will not stop property owners from providing parking, and said some parking will still be required on most sites. Meanwhile, PC's **Greg Anderson** applauded the latest draft for lowering parking requirements and asked if it would be possible for "big A" affordable housing to benefit from even greater reductions – a possibility, Miki said, though he also clarified that the new code will not trump ADA requirements, and ADA spaces will still be required.

There was also clarification on some **ADU allowances**. A 10,000-square-foot lot zoned single-family 3 today could be rezoned to R2C, under which it would be possible for the property owner to subdivide the lot into two and put ADUs on both lots. This has been a source of concern for neighborhood preservationists. Tuesday's meeting did not assuage those fears, though Guernsey said the aforementioned example wouldn't be greenlit without going before land use commissions. He also said city ordinance does not trump private deed restrictions, which prohibit ADUs entirely in some areas.

— Sarah Marloff

City Council: Budding Budgets

In lieu of its regular meeting this week, **City Council** bundled into the Boards and Commissions room on Wednesday to hear a five-year financial forecast from Deputy Chief Financial Officer **Ed Van Eenoo**. His concern last cycle that the city would struggle to maintain revenue growth proved correct, he reported, which will make things even more difficult for the city if the state Legislature makes good on its promise to further limit property tax rate hikes.

Even with a shortfall in sales tax collections, franchise fees and traffic fines trending below budget, and development activity leveling out, the city can still expect a "slight" **Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund surplus of around \$750,000**. Van Eenoo noted, however, that the city's number-crunchers are more conservative with their estimates around this time of year; that number could still change as the budget process moves forward. "It's typically not until much later in the year where we start really being able to project potential savings." See "Point Austin," p.6, and next week's issue for more details.
— *Nina Hernandez*



Campaign Notes

In his bid to unseat Republican Sen. **Ted Cruz**, U.S. Rep. **Beto O'Rourke** raised more than \$6.7 million in the first quarter of 2018 – more than any Democratic Senate candidate nationwide, his campaign says. O'Rourke is anti-PAC, meaning those funds came from more than 141,000 individual contributions. (M.T.) ... Democratic gubernatorial candidate **Andrew White** unveiled a plan to create a million new jobs in Texas within the next five years, including gas station signs that display what portion of the station's fuel is pumped in Texas, an effort to stimulate the oil and gas sector. (M.T.) ... Congressional District 21 Democratic candidate **Joseph Kopser** appears to be locking up most of the local Dem officials' endorsements. Thus far, the names include: Sen. **Kirk Watson**, Reps. **Donna Howard** and **Eddie Rodriguez**, Bexar County Judge **Nelson Wolff**, and Travis County Commissioner **Brigid Shea**. Kopser faces **Mary Wilson** in the May 22 run-off. Wilson, considerably outspent, was the surprise front-runner in the initial round, besting Kopser and eliminating **Derrick Crowe** and **Elliott McFadden**. (M.K.) ... Both CD 21 Dems are participating in "March for Our Lives" events this weekend. Kopser's campaign has organized a "**Town Hall for Our Lives**" event, including other local candidates, at Dittmar Recreation Center, Saturday, April 7, 3-6pm. Wilson says she'll be at the **Texas Gun Sense Town Hall for Our Lives** on Sunday, April 8, 2pm at Travis High School, where **Lloyd Doggett**, CD 25 run-off candidate **Chris Perri**, and other candidates are also expected. (M.K.)



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Pitch Definition

WHAT'LL HAPPEN AT MCKALLA? GOOD QUESTION.

Thanks to **City Council's** approval of a resolution directing the city manager to complete a "community engagement process" and detailed analysis of **McKalla Place** as a possible site for a stadium for the potentially incoming **Columbus Crew**, soccer fans in Austin are now one step closer to having their own top-shelf American soccer team to support. **Spencer Cronk's** report is due by June 1, and should (among other things) take a closer look at the community benefits outlined in a preliminary four-page proposal by **Precourt Sports Ventures** (which owns the Crew), including the possibility of incorporating affordable housing into the site's development plan, potential improvements to transportation infrastructure – such as a new **MetroRail stop** – and an analysis of the number of Austin residents who visit nearby cities to watch Major League Soccer. Assuming Cronk doesn't come back with a bleak opportunity cost analysis that would cause Council to turn a double take, both parties are confident they'll reach a preliminary deal.

PSV has made clear its desire to set up at this city-owned tract in North Austin that for decades played host to a chemical processing plant. (Environmental testing will need to happen.) The group is working with the Los Angeles-based sports office of the **Gensler** architecture firm, whose credentials include work with the L.A. Dodgers, Cleveland Browns, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech. Gensler is currently drawing up renderings for what's projected to be a 20,000-seat stadium to occupy 10 of the site's 26 acres, with additional on-site features to include parking, perhaps a mixed-use development, per-

haps some affordable housing, and perhaps also some ... well, nothing's for certain quite yet. (See a speculative mock-up online.)

The vague nature of what else will get kicked into the mix points to the relative lack of clarity concerning what everybody's currently talking about when they talk about Major League Soccer in Austin. (Gensler hasn't yet decided which direction the stadium will face so as to best keep fans from baking in the summer sun, and we're not even sure what we'd call the team.) But the reality of a working stadium in North Austin remains two to three years away. Precourt and MLS need to know by June whether a move to Austin is feasible; if that happens, MLS soccer begins in earnest here next March. The organization has already identified several locations around town that could serve as a temporary field, including the **Lewis-Chen Family Field** at St. Edward's University or a number of

Austin Independent School District sites (where a prohibition on alcohol sales could prove troublesome), but the ideal option remains the **Mike A. Myers Stadium** at UT, which holds the same number of fans as the proposed stadium at McKalla, is centrally located, and can serve beer. UT Athletic Director **Chris Del Conte** told the *Statesman* last week that he had not yet been approached by PSV and wasn't exactly sold on the idea. "There's added value to the community" if the team were to play at UT for a few years, he told the daily, "but there's no added value to the University of Texas. That's wear and tear" on the field.

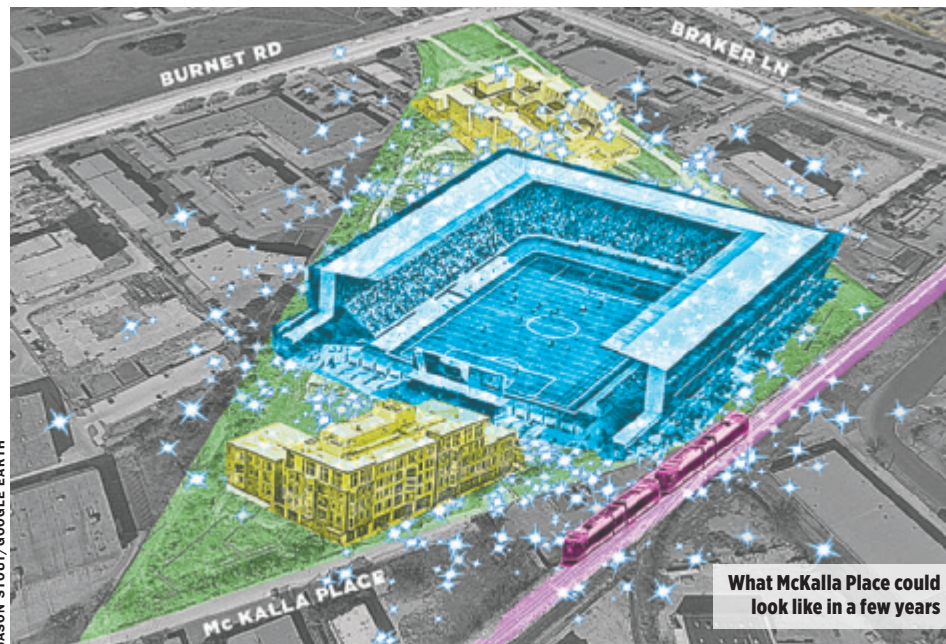
Outside of the stadium site itself, the big question is how fans will get to games. The

WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE WHAT WE'D CALL THE TEAM.

station, the **Kramer Station**, is half a mile away.) At present, Cap Metro appears to be on board with that plan. In a December 2016 study, consulting firm AECOM estimated the cost of building a new station at \$13.1 million, and Cap Metro officials recently stood by that figure, noting however that "the real costs of serving a station with transit are the ongoing operational and maintenance costs in contrast to the initial capital costs."

Butts and fellow lobbyist **Mark Littlefield** said Precourt is open to working with Cap Metro on a new station, but that they hoped the construction project could be achieved for significantly less than the 2016 estimate. Beyond the MetroRail, the two also mentioned the potential for additional stops on the **803 MetroRapid bus** and new pedestrian or bike paths, calling the stadium "an opportunity to hit the reset button" on transit in the area.

There's also public transportation, and Council Member **Leslie Pool**, whose district houses McKalla, announced quickly after it was identified as PSV's ultimate choice that she plans to push Precourt to pay for a new MetroRail station that would drop off at the stadium. (The nearest active



What McKalla Place could look like in a few years

TEXAS COULD LOSE BIG IF CENSUS UNDERCOUNTS

Latino lawmakers and advocacy groups in Texas are condemning the Trump administration's decision to add a **citizenship** question to the **2020 U.S. Census** as a politicized maneuver designed to "strike fear in the hearts" of the immigrant community. The **Mexican American Legislative Caucus** and **House Border Caucus**, joined by other organizations last week at the Capitol, also cautioned that as one of the most populous states when it comes to immigrants, Texas stands to lose big.

The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years, and counts everyone to determine how to distribute federal funds and how to allocate congressional seats. Leave it to the Trump team to politicize the standard bureaucratic questionnaire: For the next census, the **U.S. Department of Commerce** tacked on a question about citizenship status, ostensibly to help them enforce the Voting Rights Act. But the question – especially amid ICE raids and

Texas' Senate Bill 4 – will deter many from responding and lead to undercounting, jeopardizing billions of dollars. Given the fact that Texas is home to nearly 5 million immigrants, including an estimated 2 million who are undocumented, it would be one of the most affected states in the country.

Texas sees about \$43 billion in census-guided federal funds annually that flow toward health care services, education, natural disaster aid, and roads and infrastructure. Lawmakers pointed to programs like SNAP Head Start, and the school lunch program as examples of what's under threat.

Undercounting also means a potential loss of political power: Texas scooped up four new congressional seats after the last census and could gain three more this time around. "If Texas is undercounted, the bottom line is Texas loses," said MALC Chair Rep. **César Blanco**, D-El Paso. "Our businesses lose, our communities lose, our

families lose. This isn't about politics. This is about getting Texas its fair share of resources."

While the annual American Community Survey does ask about citizenship, the question has not been included in the more detailed census for 70 years. Added this late in the game and untested by the rigorous census question process, it could mean serious repercussions. For every 1% decrease in response, the Census Bureau will have to spend an additional \$55 million to collect info from nonrespondents. By constitutional mandate, the census must count all persons.

The change has already elicited lawsuits from 17 states including New York and California. At the Capitol, Texas lawmakers called on state officials to do the same, though that's a long shot – not only does the state government support the question, First Assistant Attorney General **Jeff Mateer** urged the Census Bureau to include it. But **Celina Moreno** of the **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund** suggested the group is considering a federal lawsuit.

Advocates also worry that if noncitizen respondents do answer, that could mean giving ICE block-level data of where undocumented people live. **Jessica Azua**, a DACA recipient and member of the **Texas Organizing Project**, urged undocumented residents to fill out the census form, but skip the citizenship question.



Demonstrators rally at City Hall during A Day Without Immigrants, Feb. 16, 2017

JANA BIRCHUM

A Delisting for the Birds

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** has taken another step toward removing the **black-capped vireo** from the **Endangered Species List**, which would eliminate the songbird's federally mandated protections. In December of 2016, FWS proposed delisting the vireo, saying "the threats to this species have been eliminated or reduced," and last month published a draft plan outlining how it would monitor the vireo if it were to be delisted.

Although FWS hasn't yet made a final determination on the vireo, which nests in Oklahoma and Central Texas, changing course is rare and doesn't seem likely considering President Trump's recent

appointment of **Susan Combs**, former Texas comptroller and longtime opponent of endangered species, as the Interior Department's acting assistant secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks. In fact, FWS is **already planning a celebration** of what they see as the vireo's recovery. When they published their draft post-delisting monitoring plan on March 14 – at which point a one-month public comment period commenced – FWS also began sending invitations to an event to celebrate "the partnerships that have moved the black-capped vireo from near-extinction to healthy, stable populations across their range." FWS's delisting proposal in 2016 said there was an estimated partial population of more than 14,000 adult males, but also recognized that there were "no available rangewide population estimates" of breeding vireos and noted just 5,244 adult male sightings (up about 18% since the bird was listed in 1987).

While various groups involved with the vireo's conservation agree that its numbers have improved – and most credit federal, local, private, and nonprofit partners – the extent of the population growth, the sustainability of any such progress, and the mood for celebrating remain debatable. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Working Group say they would support a delisting, but other scientists and organizations have urged against such a move, including the National Audubon Society, Audubon Texas, Travis Audubon, and Save Our Springs Alliance – as well as **Austin Water Utility** and **Travis County**, both of which manage vireo and endangered golden-cheeked warbler habitats on the **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**. In fact, a delisting would go further than a petition from farming and ranching interests and FWS's own 2007 review of the species, both of which recommended downlisting the bird's status to threatened.



JASON STOUT/THINKSTOCK

"Sometimes you get the point where it is abundantly clear that [a] species has recovered, but I think in [the vireo's] case, we're not that convinced as biologists," said **Jon White**, Travis County's director of natural resources and environmental quality. White explained that FWS hasn't met the thresholds of its own vireo recovery plan, employed manageable population thresholds that seem to be "made up out of thin air," and inferred larger vireo populations based on rough estimates of land use and vegetation cover, which don't necessarily correspond to actual occupation by the bird. "There are the cities that have been built up over in China, but they have no people in them. Just because there's a city that could hold half a million people doesn't mean there's anybody there."

– *Lindsay Stafford Mader*

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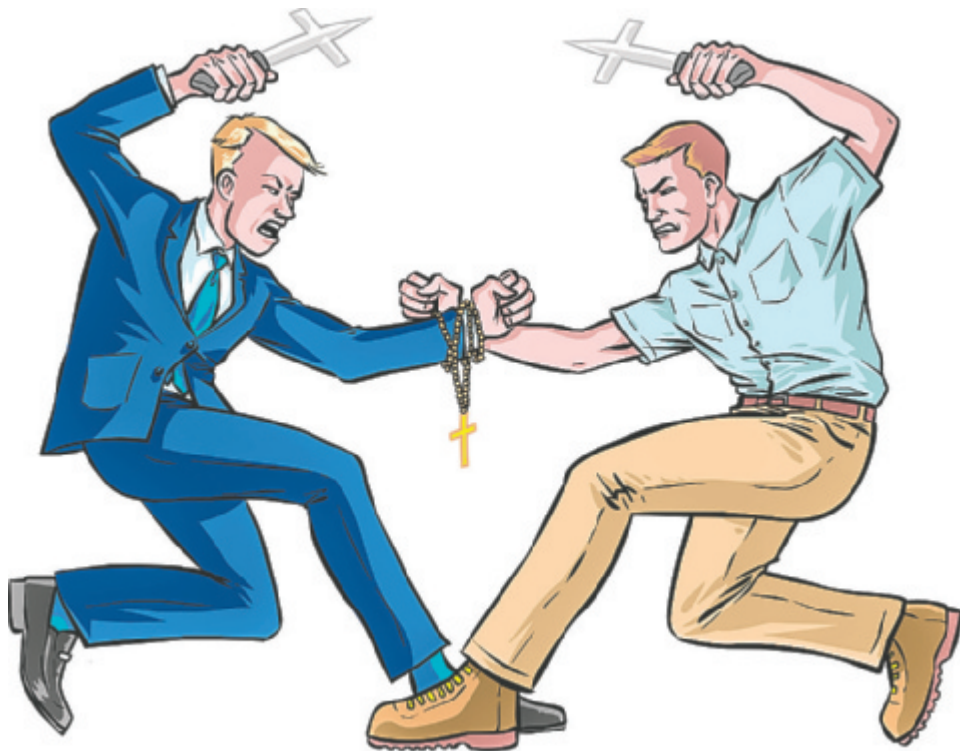
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Family Feud

Why can't all the overzealous and rabidly anti-choice groups in Texas just get along?

BY MARY TUMA

When the state health department debated its latest abortion restriction – a law tucked away in the 2017 legislative session’s Senate Bill 8 that requires women to bury or cremate fetal remains after abortion – the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops attended the hearings, eagerly offering to finance burials for the remains – or as they called them, “children” – at their Catholic cemeteries. During a federal court case that challenged a similar law last year, TCCB Executive Director Jennifer Allmon said, in all earnestness, that women who choose to abort in turn forfeit their right to make the decision about what happens to their fetal tissue, so it should then fall to the state, much like a neglectful mother would be forced to hand over her child to CPS.

The TCCB, which characterizes abortion as a “tragic mistake,” opposes any and all funding for abortion providers, including dollars for contraception, while supporting state funding for crisis pregnancy centers – nonmedical clinics that deter women from abortion – and favoring a ban on research using fetal tissue acquired from abortion. They’re also against same-sex marriage and behind abstinence-only sexual education. In short, the federation for the state’s Roman Catholic dioceses, which lobbies for public policy, is vehemently anti-choice, and in the political sphere is often considered to be as conservative as they come.

But even for the TCCB, the state’s most influential anti-abortion group is too

fanatical. In late February, the bishops issued an advisory letter publicly severing ties with Texas Right to Life, the advocacy and educational organization that bills itself as the “oldest, largest, and only statewide pro-life organization in Texas,” and thus exposed a long-simmering schism between the aggressive anti-choice group and its counterpart organizations.

“We urge parishes not to participate in their activities or allow the organization to use parish sites,” the note advocates. TCCB points to TRL’s implication that bishop-supported end-of-life care legislation allowed “euthanasia and death panels,” and cites TRL’s rejection of “incremental pro-life reform” and the group’s accusation that the bishops are “not faithfully” representing the church’s teachings. The TCCB also took aim at TRL’s strongly influential legislative voter guide and “scorecard” – grades assigned to the most “pro-life” (aka anti-abortion) legislators – for not backing lawmakers who have “consistently voted for pro-life and end of life legislation.” They write that the publication is not based on a fair analysis of a legislator’s work, but “rather upon whether the legislator has followed voting recommendations of Texas Right to Life.” As the most prominent anti-choice group in Texas, TRL often assumes credit for the state’s major laws restricting abortion. A boycott from the TCCB represents a significant slap in the face.

TRL’S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TRL, headed by Jim and Elizabeth Graham, is the Texas affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. And indeed, its political arm opposed several incumbent House Republicans in the March primary, despite the fact they earned perfect scores from the organization for their abortion-related legislative activity, including Reps. Chris Paddie, Giovanni Capriglione, and Wayne Faircloth – all of whom nabbed TRL endorsements in 2016 – as well as Sen. Craig Estes and Rep. Dan Flynn. The day after primary elections, the group issued a statement praising Edgewood Republican Sen. Bob Hall’s win against Rep. Cindy Burkett, R-Sunnyvale, calling her “a moderate from Straus’ leadership circle, who was sent to infiltrate Dan Patrick’s conservative chamber,” and a “RINO with a history of subverting the pro-life movement.”

To categorize Burkett as a “moderate” on the topic of abortion is nothing short of laughable: Burkett was one of the lead authors of 2013’s House Bill 2, the draconian anti-choice package law eventually struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, and she sponsored the sweeping abortion-restrictive omnibus SB 8 in the House this past session. But she’s just one of many ardent anti-choice lawmakers who are seen as too milquetoast for the zealous group.

TRL has since shot back, accusing the TCCB of playing politics in a brazen statement that focused on their own political motives. “One of the goals of this upcoming Republican primary election is to defeat a few more of the liberal House leadership and those with ties to the Austin establishment,” they wrote. “Our staff, our board, and our members are unapologetic in speaking the truth, including during election time, about which elected officials help or hurt the pro-life cause. We are unafraid to forge ahead with focused determination in the wake of political attacks from those who work to keep the Austin establishment and lukewarm incumbents in power.”

This wouldn’t be the first time the two groups have butted heads; the Catholic organization has dinged TRL in the past for

misleading voters with their legislative scorecards. But last month’s advisory marked the first time the TCCB has drawn a public line in the sand, cracking open the many fissures within the powerful anti-choice movement in Texas. The rift isn’t just a disagreement between two like-minded parties; rather it’s emblematic of a wider division between the growing extremism of far-right Republicans in the state Legislature and their comparatively moderate counterparts, and it was a battle on full display during the 2017 session. The intra-movement conflict reflects the power struggle that exploded between House Speaker Joe Straus, his supposed acolytes, and the ultra-right Freedom Caucus, a group hellbent on shifting the Legislature further right.

A WAR WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

It’s not a stretch to imagine Kyleen Wright’s anti-choice organization Texans for Life Coalition relishing the Catholic rebuke: Wright says her group, founded in 1974, has spent years being “maligned and slandered” and “maliciously attacked” by TRL. After facing such pushback following last year’s regular session, she hit TRL for “scamming” voters and making “false and misleading” statements by criticizing anti-choice bills other groups in the movement have supported as ineffective, nonpriority, and detrimental. “It is exceedingly rare for Texans for Life to call out a fellow pro-life group, testify against other group’s pro-life bills or attack them publicly, but enough is enough,” she wrote.

Wright told me she’s historically been reticent to talk to the media about TRL, but that events surrounding the recent election cycle, including the group’s vilification of Republican lawmakers, have pushed her to speak out. “Some of these attacks on legislators are below the belt,” said Wright. “It’s very difficult to have to apologize for another pro-life group. And it’s getting difficult to recruit bill authors when members could be taking friendly fire from our side than from the other side – it’s a real risk to our whole movement.”

CONTINUED ON P.18

If the Texas Alliance for Life is your mild-mannered but staunchly anti-choice Christian radio station catering to one small community, then Texas Right to Life is Rush Limbaugh.



Jim and Elizabeth Graham of Texas Right to Life



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FAMILY FEUD CONTINUED FROM P.16

One of those legislators whom TRL has recently turned against is anti-choice conservative Rep. Paul Workman in District 47, opting instead for far-right candidate (and former Austin City Council hopeful) Jay Wiley, even though the group gave Workman a 90% score in the most recent legislative session, 100% in the 84th and 82nd, and an endorsement in 2016. Hardly a pro-choice stalwart, Workman lent his support to HB 2, the pre-abortion sonogram law, and additional burdens for minors seeking abortion. Workman confided to me last month: “Texas Right to Life has kinda lost their way and it’s unfortunate that they’re not doing what they started out to do.”

Wright’s chasm with TRL started in 2009 when she publicly supported Joe Straus. The rift grew in the 2013 session when TRL invited Wright to an intimate luncheon with former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum as he was preparing to run for president. There was a call for unity between the anti-choice groups, but soon after TRL began aggressively targeting GOP members and Wright got busy defending them, a task she doubled down on during the 2017 session and 2018 primaries. “They want to be large and in charge,” she said of TRL. “I can’t help but believe money and power are drivers.” Through social media and private emails, Wright says TRL and their allies are “waging war” against the Catholic bishops and a third group, the Austin-based Texas Alliance for Life.

Indeed, the most pronounced rivalry in Texas’ anti-choice movement today is likely between TRL and the TAL, who have long butted heads in public places. The two groups could not be more disparate in their messaging or presentation. If TAL is your mild-mannered but staunchly anti-choice Christian radio station catering to one small community, then TRL is Rush Limbaugh – more money, more influence, with any sense of moderation thrown out the window.

Joe Pojman, who heads the TAL, says tensions between the two groups date back years, culminating in a “very bitter disagreement” in 2013 over end-of-life care, a policy both groups spend time focusing on when not lobbying for anti-choice bills. Of course, the groups share a central mission of advancing legislation that limits or ends abortion, but even with that shared anti-choice goal in a deeply red state, they’ve found reason to diverge. The difference largely lies in TRL’s opposition of any exceptions, however narrow, to abortion care, and TAL’s aversion to laws that are likely to be struck down by the courts.

The groups’ divisions grew during the 2017 session: While TRL adamantly supported a ban on dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortion, performed in the second

trimester, TAL labeled the bill “reckless” because it wouldn’t stand constitutional muster. (Indeed, U.S. Federal Judge Lee Yeakel ruled against the law in November, calling it an unconstitutional “undue burden” on Texas women.) An even less humane amendment by Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, attached to package anti-choice law SB 8 would have removed an exception to the state’s 20-week abortion ban that allows the procedure when the fetus has a severe abnormality (which could mean a stillbirth). TRL supported the measure while Pojman’s group didn’t, due again to its low likelihood of passing through the courts. The amendment proved too radical even for conservative politicians and failed to pass. Republican Burkett said the amendment “goes one step too far” while Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, urged colleagues to vote against the proposal, saying it shows we are “willing to play God with people’s lives.” Both candidates were torched by TRL.

“I don’t think [TRL’s] legislative initiatives are well-founded in strategy,” said Pojman. “We think it’s counterproductive to try and pass bills that aren’t likely to survive a court challenge. If we lose, the state is obligated to pay attorney’s fees which can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars or more. Legislators need to be cognizant of those consequences.”

While Pojman refrains from any direct ad hominem attacks, the same can’t be said for Texas Right to Life. In February, Jim Graham slammed both TAL and Wright’s group as “fake” pro-life organizations; alluded to them as “small, poser, wannabe organizations”; and slapped Pojman with the moni-



Kyleen Wright



Joe Pojman

“It is exceedingly rare for Texans for Life to call out a fellow pro-life group ... or attack them publicly, but enough is enough.”

KYLEEN WRIGHT, TEXANS FOR LIFE COALITION

ker “Joe Poison.” (Graham and TRL did not respond to requests for comment.) It wasn’t always name-calling and drama; in fact, Pojman sat on TRL’s board from 1988 to 2002. Coupled with “differences of opinion about strategy,” he left after a board request for financials and an audit went unanswered. Pojman said he hasn’t received an email from TRL in more than a year – the last one in his inbox was a request to be removed from his newsletter list.

EMPOWERED PUPPETS

Both Wright and Pojman connect TRL’s rising petulance to its affiliation with Empower Texans, a well-funded Austin-based tea party group that ostensibly advocates for fiscal conservatism. Historically mired in a battle with the Texas Ethics Commission, the “dark money” group seems to be constantly on either end of an ethics

**THE NAME GAME: WHO’S WHO IN ANTI-CHOICE**

TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE: Houston-based nonprofit led by Jim and Elizabeth Graham. Claims to be the “oldest and largest” anti-abortion organization in Texas, and also nonpartisan. Aligns with conservative group Empower Texans, and likely to support anti-choice bills without exception. Against House Speaker Joe Straus and many moderate Republicans; favors far-right members of Freedom Caucus.

TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR LIFE: Austin-based nonprofit headed by Joe Pojman. More likely to support narrow exceptions for anti-choice bills and less likely to support bills that won’t survive legal challenges. Supportive of House Speaker Joe Straus, less so of Freedom Caucus.

TEXANS FOR LIFE COALITION: Arlington-based nonprofit headed by Kyleen Wright, an anti-choice advocate of more than 30 years. Supportive of Joe Straus.

complaint. The Travis County District Attorney’s Office is currently reviewing an Empower mailer against GOP Rep. Charlie Geren from the “Texas Ethics Disclosure Board” – not an actual state agency – after a complaint accusing the ad of too closely resembling an official government docu-

ment. “The demise of Joe Straus was put above every policy priority Texas Right to Life had,” he said. “And that’s unfortunate because Straus was certainly beneficial to the pro-life cause. [TRL] is supposed to be a nonpartisan pro-life organization but they’ve made a marriage with a non-pro-life economic conservative group. I think that’s where a lot of this problem is coming from.”

It’s not just TRL’s attacks on legislators that echo that of Empower. In return, Empower has gone after groups in the anti-choice movement like Texas Alliance for Life with little restraint. Sullivan has called Pojman’s group the “Fake Alliance for Joe Straus’ Version of Killing Babies” and “Texas Alliance for Lies,” claiming Pojman is a “sellout” to Straus. The group’s blog also targets Wright’s organization, which they say “seems to exist solely to give cover to liberal Republican politicians who are weak on life issues.”

ment, a possible violation of state law.

Headed by power-hungry Michael Quinn Sullivan, Empower ruthlessly targets those whom they consider moderate Republicans, and have aggressively led the fight against House Speaker Joe Straus, along with other lawmakers they perceive as not being radical enough, including State Affairs Committee Chair Byron Cook. Straus and Cook, under heat during the 2017 session from the far-right, announced their resignations last year, which both Empower and TRL publicly celebrated, despite the fact Cook and Straus have happily ushered in several draconian anti-choice bills, including HB 2. In an online radio show reminiscent of Glenn Beck, Graham and Sullivan teamed up to sound off on “RINO” legislators with some scathing words of choice. Graham even went so far as to call the Jewish speaker “Herr Straus.”

Pojman says TRL’s opposition to lawmakers is based on pure politics, “intellectually dishonest,” and a “flagrant” disregard of its

A look into their financials shows that both groups enjoy similar mega-donor funders and, as a result, similar priorities: Empower is largely funded by sizable donations from billionaire brothers Dan and Farris Wilks, who made their fortune from the West Texas fracking boom, and Midland oilman Tim Dunn. The Wilkses donated a combined \$1.25 million to the Empower PAC, while Dunn has given more than a million, according to Texas Ethics Commission reports. The Wilks brothers also gave a combined \$1.25 million to the Texas Right to Life PAC while Dunn chipped in \$100,000, according to the group’s February campaign finance report. “Clearly a lot of

money, a lot of dark money, has entered the picture from people who previously were not concerned about social issues," said Wright, "and so it's been unfortunate to watch [TRL] kind of join up forces and forget their first love, so to speak."

Dunn has made it a mission to unseat Straus, while the Wilks brothers, who made headlines for throwing \$15 million to Sen. Ted Cruz in 2015, similarly support far-right Koch brothers-linked causes and candidates, including TRL enemy Burkett's incumbent primary challenger, and such members of the tea party-linked Freedom Caucus as Reps. Jonathan Stickland, Matt Rinaldi, and of course Tony Tindero, who filed a bill to completely outlaw abortion. Likely not a coincidence, TRL refrained from opposing any challengers to Freedom Caucus members during its \$1.1 million primary election spending and has likened the Caucus' fanatical members to "outspoken heroes."

Using Empower and TRL as vessels for their bidding, the Wilks brothers seem to want the House to function like Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's Senate – akin to a radical theocracy. The media-shy yet powerful Wilkses ascribe to the idea the Bible (correct in every historical and scientific detail) should be taught in public schools; that homosexuality is "a serious crime"; and that abortion is murder, including for pregnancies resulting from rape and incest, according to a 2014 article in the *American Prospect*. At their Texas church founded by their father (of which Farris is a pastor), women are barred from speaking during worship.

A BATTLE OF THE EXTREMES

Make no mistake, TAL, TRL, and TLC are each rabidly anti-choice and would prefer a world in which abortion is no longer accessible. They've each worked successfully to ensure that becomes the reality for Texas women, resulting in a broken and dangerous landscape not just for abortion care, but for women's health care in general. Thanks to their activism and political influence, the number of abortion clinics has been sliced in half and lifesaving and preventive health programs have suffered drastic drops in patient care. Religious freedom watchdogs at the Texas Freedom Network caution that it would be "very misleading" for anyone to suggest that one group is any more moderate than the other. (An important reminder that the enemy of our enemy is not always our friend.)

"The truth is Texas Alliance for Life and Texas Right to Life are both extremist organizations dedicated to the same extreme goal," said TFN's Dan Quinn, "taking away the freedom of individuals to decide for themselves what health care services, including abortion, they want and will get.

"Their fight is over the tactics and politics of reaching that goal. That the fight has evolved into open, scorched-earth warfare says a lot about the state of politics on the right in Texas today. There are few things more fascinating, and depressing, than watching extremists fight over who can be the most dogmatic and cruel." ■

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MOVIES: **Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia** AFS Cinema, 7:30pm
COMEDY: **Shane Torres** Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm

6

FRIDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

HONK!TX Friday-Sunday

OUT OF TOWN: **Waltstock & Barrel Festival**
Fredericksburg, Friday-Saturday
DANCE: **Austin Dance Festival** Friday-Sunday
MUSIC: **Xylouris White** Beerland
MUSIC: **Bruno Furlan** Ethics Music Lounge
MUSIC: **Luna** 3ten ACL Live
GAY PLACE: **The Great Show!** Elysium, 9pm

7

SATURDAY



LILA BIRGISÖTTIR

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON: S.S. HANGOVER

Laguna Gloria Amphitheater, 11am-3pm
MUSIC: **Chingona Fest** Hops & Grain Brewery
FOOD: **Texas VegFest** Fiesta Gardens, 11am-6pm
MUSIC: **Finding Euphoria Block Party**
Empire Control Room, 2pm-2am
SPORTS: **UT Baseball** Disch-Falk Field, 4pm
FOOD: **Texas German Bier & Brezel Fest**
Scholz Garten, 5-11pm
THEATRE: **Con Flama** Dougherty Arts Center,
7:30pm

8

SUNDAY



ONE OUNCE OPERA Museum of Human Achievement, 2pm

SPORTS: **Cap 10K** South Congress, 8am
SPORTS: **UT Softball** McCombs Field, 11am
MOVIES: **In the Realm of the Senses**
AFS Cinema, 2pm
COMMUNITY: **BRAVE Fest** Spider House
Ballroom, 2-6pm
THEATRE: **Our House** Motion Media Arts Center,
2-5pm
MUSIC: **Merle Haggard Birthday Party**
Threadgill's WHQ

9

MONDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

KELLY WILLIS & BRUCE ROBISON St. David's Episcopal Church

BOOKS: **Ryan Holiday: Conspiracy**
BookPeople, 7pm
COMEDY: **Funniest Person in Austin**
Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm
MOVIES: **The Room** Alamo Ritz, 10pm

10

TUESDAY



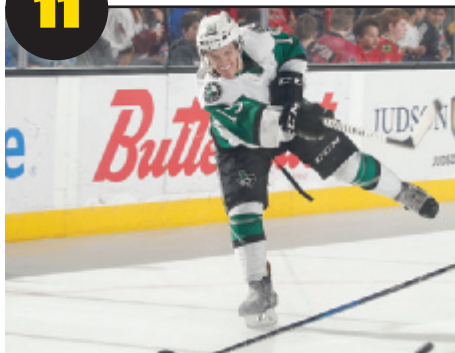
DAVID BRENDAN HALL

BAREFOOT Violet Crown, 7pm

VISUAL ARTS: **Nate DiMeo of The Memory Palace Podcast** Harry Ransom Center, 6pm
MUSIC: **King Krule** Emo's
MUSIC: **Japanese Breakfast, Snail Mail**
Scoot Inn

11

WEDNESDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

TEXAS STARS H-E-B Center, 7:30pm

COMEDY: **Stand Up, Austin! A Civic Comedy Show** Spider House Ballroom, 7pm
BOOKS: **Humans of New York**
Paramount Theatre, 8pm
GAY PLACE: **Kind Clinic Fundraiser** Alamo
Village, 8pm

12

THURSDAY



MATT & KIM Stubb's

MOVIES: **Caged Heat** AFS Cinema, 7:30pm
MUSIC: **Brad Mehldau** Paramount Theatre
MUSIC: **Kevin Morby** Barracuda

CHRON EVENTS EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE IN AUSTIN
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SUBMIT! For FAQs about submitting a listing, contact info, deadlines, and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/submit.

SNAPSHOT BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

While countless others pursued typical Easter weekend activities – egg hunts, family gatherings, church services, and/or drinking an irresponsible(?) number of mimosas at brunch – “Snapshot” explored an overall much more uplifting tradition, one that relatively few get to experience.

“Statistically, I think they say it’s less than one percent of the population that’s ever been around, in, crewed for, or flown in a balloon,” says Martin Philpott, a 30-year hot air balloon pilot with Bixby, Okla.-based Ultramagic Balloons and a fourth-year participant in Horseshoe Bay Resort’s annual Easter weekend balloon festival. The fest celebrated its sixth edition March 30-31 with several thousand participants (the majority from Austin, according to organizers) enjoying food, live music, balloon demos, and other activities at its 7-acre Hill Country ranch. Conversations with festivalgoers revealed a deep-rooted subculture – a fairly uncommon one in Central Texas but gaining momentum each year – that generates impact beyond mere spectacle.



The aerial view during a brief Friday sunrise flight in Ultramagic’s flagship balloon *Auspicious*: “From the time you get around a balloon, you stop thinking about the other things in your life,” muses Philpott. “Probably the simplest thing to say is, it’s like Christmas – you’re giving someone a gift every time you do it and it’s a bright point in your life that you’ll always remember.”

Forty-year balloonist John Cavin of Florida-based Cartoon Balloons, seen here with *Rocket the Flying Squirrel*, adds perspective on balloons’ universal and enduring appeal: “I’ve flown people who get excited about it, ask how they can get involved and come back to help the next week, and before you know it, they’re a balloon pilot,” he says. “I’ve been doing this more than 20 years with some balloons, so I have 25-year-old guys come up to me and go, ‘I saw this balloon when I was 5 years old and now I brought my kids to see it.’”



Due to high winds, balloonists forgo an inflated glow finale for a fiery “candlestick burn,” which still evokes the desired effect. Resort rep Bryan Woodward says: “It’s just escape. We’re literally an hour away from Downtown, but you feel like you’re 300 miles away. We’re not watching TV or consumed by something else – we’re just listening to music, talking to people, our eyes are up, not down on our phones ... and I think it can be just as simple as that: People wanna connect with each other, and this is a conduit to do that.”



See more online at austinchronicle.com/arts. Want to pitch an event, happening, idea, or person for “Snapshot”? Email the author/photog: dhall@austinchronicle.com.



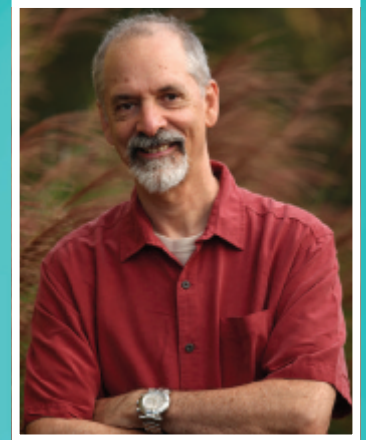
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ARTS & CULTURE

How Courage Moves

For his new dance *Exit Wounds*, Ballet Austin's Stephen Mills turned to moments of inspiration in his own life

BY ROBERT FAIRES

An older woman facing the end of life. Three young men facing AIDS in the days before it even had a name. Thousands of women and men of all ages facing their abusers and saying, "No more." Three points of human experience with no connection except their place in Stephen Mills' life. The older woman was the Ballet Austin artistic director's late mother. The men were friends with whom he danced at Harkness Ballet in the Eighties. The people speaking out against abuse are the #MeToo movement. They are part of his life and points of inspiration for his full-length work *Exit Wounds*, premiering this week at the Long Center. For the choreographer sees in all three potent examples of courage, and he wanted to make that the foundation for this dance. The result is perhaps the most timely and surely the most personal dance that Mills has made in some time. He sat down with the *Chronicle* to share more about it.

Austin Chronicle: Tell me what place courage has had in your life. Is it a quality you associate with a particular person or story?

Stephen Mills: Courage is a quality that we should respect in everyone. Often we think about courage as these grand gestures – the courage of Churchill, you know? But courage in all sorts of increments is important, and examples of courage are happening around us all the time. I think one of the most inspirational symbols of courage happened at the March for Our Lives to stop gun violence. Those young people are showing us the way, and that takes a lot of courage in the face of a political machine that is dismissive – "You're young, what do you know? You don't understand this issue." They understand it completely. It is a life-and-death issue because they suffered the trauma of witnessing murder in their schools, and it feels to them – and it is – true that the leadership only cares about the financial remuneration from the NRA.

AC: How did courage come to be the inspiration for *Exit Wounds*?
SM: It came as a result of my knowing more about Dr. Beverly Dale, who was the funder of this project, and this confluence of understanding her background in science and medicine, her political activism, and what was happening in the country over the past 18 months. There are times when gifts have come our way where the funder said, "Do whatever you want." You know, when a gift like that comes about, you

don't want to squander it. You want to make the most of it. What I wanted at that moment was this kind of project, one that is not situated in fairy tales, one that is situated in reality, that is situated in social justice, that is trying to use art, like we did with *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project*, as a convener of conversation, and helping everyone, including the artists, appreciate the fact that art has more power than we can conceive.

"Often we think about courage as these grand gestures ... but courage in all sorts of increments is important, and examples of courage are happening around us all the time."

I was inspired by the courage that Beverly has exhibited throughout her life and the lack of courage that I see in some pockets around our country. Leadership is about courage, and when there's a lack of leadership, there's a lack of courage. That's unfortunately where we find ourselves. If women and children have to convene the conversations about gun violence and sexual assault, there's a problem. There's a problem.

AC: You've talked about the dances in *Exit Wounds* being rooted in specific moments in your life. How did those instances bubble to the surface for this work?

SM: Are your parents still living?

AC: My mother is. My father passed several years ago.

SM: When my parents passed, particularly when my mother passed, I felt untethered. You're like, "Oh my God, clearly, I'm next. I'm the oldest. I'm next. So how much time do I have, and what am I doing, and what have I done?" – all those sorts of things. My sisters were caretakers for my mother, and you can't help but think about mortality – your own mortality – as you're living through that

Orlando Julius Canova (l) and James Fuller



ANNE MARIE BLOODGOOD

experience. She had spent the whole year leading up to her passing with regrets and fear. And you can't say, "Well yeah, you shouldn't have done that, but you did." And you can't say it's gonna be all right, because you know where it's ultimately going. You know, you can only take them up to the door, you can't go through it, and what kind of courage does it take to face that? So when my mother passed, I started to think about courage just from my mother, and the way these projects come about is [you have] a lot of disparate ideas, and things just start to come together around this theme. I have a quote from Churchill – "Fear is a reaction, but courage is a decision" – that is in my mind all the time. And something would happen in the political arena, and I'd be really pissed off about it. You know when the refugee crisis was happening and boats were ending up in Greece and the immigrant ban and that whole bullshit? I kept thinking that people are so shortsighted. "Why don't they just stay in their country?" Well, who gathers their meager belongings and their infant babies and gets on a raft to go across the Mediterranean unless it's an absolutely desperate situation? What kind of ignoramus doesn't understand that? So I'm thinking about the courage of those refugees. Then the Harvey Weinstein thing with the #MeToo movement and women coming forward was so inspirational, like, "We're done. We're not doing this anymore. We're not covering for you men. We are done." So it was one thing after another in which I was witnessing a lot of courage, and it made me – there are times in your life when you're just living your life, then there are periods when you're so proud of people and you know human capacity is bigger than we imagine in all sorts of spheres. ■

Exit Wounds will be performed April 6-8, Fri. & Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm, in Dell Hall at the Long Center, 701 W. Riverside. For information, visit www.balletaustin.org.

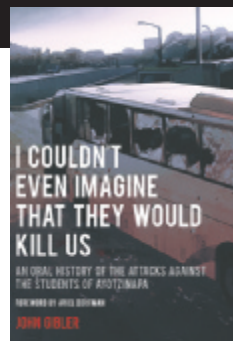
SEEN

IN CON FLAMA, we ride the bus all over Los Angeles and come to know that city intimately. But in Salvage Vanguard Theater's production, we come to know even more intimately our fellow riders on the bus, whose stories are shared in Sharon Bridgforth's vibrant, lyrical words and given rich life by the five performers and SVT co-artistic director Florinda Bryant, who directs. You best get on board. Through April 7, Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. Full review: austinchronicle.com/daily



SOON

AFTER MEXICAN POLICE attacked five busloads of students in Iguala in 2014, journalist John Ghibler went there to get the story directly from the students who survived, witnesses, and the parents of the 43 who disappeared, never to be seen again. Their personal accounts formed the basis of Ghibler's acclaimed book *I Couldn't Even Imagine That They Would Kill Us*, and now he comes to Austin to discuss it. Wed., April 11, 7pm. Resistencia Books, 4926 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. C-1.



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NAVASOTA THEATRE ALLIANCE



contemporary dance, Chicago

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APR 11 | Bass Concert Hall

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APR 14 | Bates Recital Hall

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Photos by Quinn B Wharton, Aboud Dweck

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ARTS EVENTS

Forever Burning

Paper Chairs' *The Repentance of Saint Joan* is less a tale of Joan of Arc's life than a divine meditation on love lost

BY T. LYNN MIKESKA

From beginning to end, *The Repentance of Saint Joan* is an exploration of loss. In this world premiere from Paper Chairs, playwright Patrick Shaw finds himself smoldering in throes of an anachronistic autodrama. Haunted by Joan of Arc in both voice and vision, Patrick, a former page and Joan's most devoted follower, seeks to set right a history that doesn't do her justice. After viewing a documentary that is more fiction than fact, Patrick tracks down Stephen, the historian responsible for besmirching his beloved, with the intent of taking a serious pound of flesh.

But Joan divinely intervenes, and what would have been an act of violence instead becomes an act of faith as two people with connections to the lost saint share their memories, their grievances, and their absence of closure.

Elizabeth Doss (who gives us a no-nonsense, fit-for-the-fight Joan), Judd Farris (as

our forlorn and lovelorn playwright and protagonist), and Jess O'Rear (whose Stephen is an adorable academic with an equal love for history and cat metaphors) compose a formidable acting ensemble, taking us through Shaw's story in a way that feels incredibly genuine and vulnerable. Co-direction by Shaw, Doss, and Lisa Laratta ensures a cohesive production that carries us not toward reso-

lution, but instead leaves questions hanging over the audience's head about their own lives, loves, and battles.

As beautiful as the performances are, one of the standout stars of *The Repentance of Saint Joan* is the space itself. The Center

for Maximum Potential Building Systems is, by day, an experiment in sustainable construction for found and recycled objects. By night, it is a place of mystery and wonder best explored with your favorite saint's hand in yours. The show takes place in an alcove, open to the



THE REPENTANCE OF SAINT JOAN

The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, 8604 FM 969

www.paperchairs.com

Through April 7

Running time: 1 hr., 20 min.



Judd Farris (l) and Elizabeth Doss in *The Repentance of Saint Joan*

PHOTO BY LEON ALES

sky. Wood, air, fire, and water convene in Laratta's spartan-yet-splendid set design, filling the space with crackling natural magick that invokes equal parts witchcraft and Catholicism. Natalie George and Sadie Langenkamp's lighting design complete the spell, their glimmers and washes supernatural surprises, and Lowell Bartholomee's video design creates one hell of an inciting incident with his documentary plug that combines the absolute worst of the History and Learning channels right down to its *Southern Fried Homicide*-serious but radio-smooth female narration.

The Repentance of Saint Joan is less a historical account of Joan of Arc than a meditation on the love we lost, the people that disappeared, the chances we didn't take, the things we didn't say, the truths we never told, and the wars we were too afraid to fight. Come alone, and you'll leave thinking of the one you still burn for. Come with someone you love, and you'll leave thinking of each other. Either way, you'll have a little more insight into the inner workings of your own heart, which makes for a theatrical experience that is truly divine.

THEATRE

OPENING

I AND YOU From Lauren Gunderson, the writer who brought us *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*, comes this quirky and heartwarming ode to life, love, and human connection. Simone Alexander directs Mia King and Kenah Benefield for Capital T Theatre. April 5-14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Extra shows: April 9 & 11, 8pm. Ground Floor Theatre, 979 Springdale, 512/840-1804. \$20-30. www.capitalt.org.

BURLESQUE! The 48 Hour Film Project presents a live showcase of sirens who will captivate you with film-themed burlesque, featuring tribute acts from classic film noir to modern comedies, and everything in between, by some of Texas burlesque's leading ladies. Fri., April 6, 7:30pm. Texas Mist, 1115 Bastrop Hwy., 512/385-3553. \$14.

GROUNDLED Listen: When a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force gets unexpectedly pregnant, her superiors reassign her, post-maternity leave, from flying F-16s to the "chair force," as a reluctant drone pilot. Street Corner Arts presents George Brant's compelling drama, starring Sarah Danko, directed by Benjamin Summers. April 6-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 512/479-7529. \$15-20. www.streetcornerarts.org.

MERLIN WORKS IMPROV: GET UP! The Known Wizards, primo improvisers all, headline this comedy showcase with spontaneous scenes, games, songs, and stories conjured from audience input. And the featured act is that magisterial Merlin-and-McCormick duo known to mortals as Get Up! Sun., April 8, 8pm. Zach Theatre's Whisenhunt Stage, 1510 Toomey. \$10. www.merlin-works.com.

OUR HOUSE Here's a celebration of arts, diversity, and community from Lucky Chaos Theatre, featuring an awakening-the-Chinese-dragon eye-dotting ceremony for that enormous papier-mâché beast, performances from Da'Shade's Cry Havoc action choreography team, the traditional African martial arts of Sefe Dakote, and more amid the tasty snacks and fun. Sun., April 8, 2-5pm. Motion Media Arts Center, 2200 Tillery, 512/236-8877. Free. www.luckychaos.com.

NOISES OFF The Texas School for the Deaf presents a high school production – voice interpreted, for all you hearing folks – of Michael Frayn's hilarious play about a theatre company totally fucking up a production of a play. Directed by Gabi Nuccio and Brian Cheslik. April 12-14. Thu., 7pm; Fri., 10am & 7pm; Sat., 7pm. Davis Auditorium, 1102 S. Congress. \$5-8.

UTNT: LOVERBOY The UT New Theatre program presents this drama by Drew Paryzer, directed by Jess Shoemaker, in which the titular character finally returns home: to his childhood home and to his mother. "His youth is gone, but there are still many things to be raised within the walls of his strangely powerful bedroom." April 12-14; Thu. & Sat., 7:30pm. April 18-21; Wed., 7:30pm; Sat., 2pm. Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, Winship Drama Building, 300 E. 23rd, 512/477-6060. \$15-\$26.

CLOSING

CON FLAMA Salvage Vanguard Theater presents Sharon Bridgforth's lyrical drama, set in Los Angeles in the 1940s-1970s, that offers a glimpse of a black girl's coming-of-age, through ancestral passages and her family history. Directed by Florinda Bryant. Through April 7. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 512/974-4000. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.

THE SECRETARY Theatre En Bloc presents the world premiere of Kyle John Schmidt's offbeat comedy about safety, love, and guns in a world that's up in arms. "Six women. One office. Lots of feelings." With Amber Quick, Babs George, Liz Beckham, Susan Myburgh, Elise Ogden, and Regan Goins. Through April 8. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 512/474-5664. \$15 and up.

ONGOING

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE This is a new adaptation of the beloved Oscar-winning film – and it's one of Austin Playhouse's biggest productions to date, in which a fine cast is directed by Don Toner and Lara Toner Haddock. Through April 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, ACC Highland, 6001 Airport, 512/476-0084. \$20-44.

PERFORMANCE PARK Bonnie Cullum and her diverse army of creatives present this immersive theatrical scavenger hunt that encompasses the entire Vortex compound with thematic games, riddles, music, dance, and mystery, featuring Tarot Major Arcana characters among your guides and gurus and puckish performers. Through May 12. Thu.-Sun., 7:15 (with different entry times until 8:15pm). The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 512/478-5282. \$15-35.

COMEDY

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 512/467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com

FUNNIEST PERSON IN AUSTIN Here it is again, the annual citywide competition (the 33rd year, this time) that brings so many ATX stand-ups to one stage, at least sequentially, in order to determine who's gonna wear that legendary cape and crown – and to make audiences laugh through their aspidistras a new root system. Who's gonna be the winnah? Who's gonna be the champen? Who's gonna snag that three-grand prize? Maybe catch you a few of these wild-card prelim trials, bubba, and make your reservations for the finals while you still can. Through May 1. Sun.-Tue., 8pm.

MIKE E. WINFIELD Winfield? The man's success is rapidly rising and you may have seen him on Showtime's *Comics Without Borders* or Comedy Central's *Live at Gotham*. Or maybe you remember him from such shows as NBC's *The Office*, and – oh, just treat yourself to his show this weekend, hey? Cool. April 11-14. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 & 10pm. \$12-23.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 512/814-8696. www.coldtownetheater.com

TOP COMEDY SPOT ON AIRPORT

Check out what's happening in this right-next-to-that-funky-video-store hotbed of hilarity. This Thursday features **Frankenfriends** – that's Dave Buckman, Michael Jastroch, and Rachel Madorsky – a sort of multipartite modern Prometheus, bringing the fire of improv to a chill and funny stage, and followed by **We'll Pray for You**, with comics and storytellers pitching radical new religions. Friday brings **Movie Riot** and the laugh-inducing ladies of **Loverboy** and that **Live at ColdTOWNE** stand-up showcase hosted by **Carina Magyar** on the same night. And, for your star-studded Mexilicious sci-fi enjoyment, those **Latinauts** boldly go with **The Wrath of Juan** right after **Side Quest** on Saturday – with a potent chaser of **Midnight Society!** And Sunday's got that **Stool Pigeon**, of course, and – see website for more.

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THE REAL APRIL FOOLS! Musical comedy skits, magic, and a political satirical revue with the bustling backdrop of Sixth Street on view through the stagefront window! What does the current POTUS learn when Ivana, Melania, and Marla get together for the **Trump Wives Club**? Plus, **Dating Do's and Oh, No He Didn't!** takes a look at how to meet and match your mate in today's online world, from speed dating, Tinder, OkCupid, and alla that; and dig the action between BFF celebs Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg. Bonus: That sexy magician **Ray Anderson** is going to walk right through a mirror. No? You don't think so? Then you tell me how it's done, bubba. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. \$25-35.

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or email: mendestein@hotmail.com or visit www.BalletEast.org



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PHOTO BY BRET BROOKSHIRE

YANKEE TAVERN

Santa Cruz Theatre, 1805 E. Seventh, 512/926-6747
www.differentstagestheatre.org
 Through April 14
 Running time: 2 hr.

The setting is a dive bar on the ground floor of an abandoned motel, somewhere in New York City in 2006. It's the kind of place that exists only in the past, in season 2 of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, and in plays like Steven Dietz's *Yankee Tavern*. A meeting ground of past and present, it's the right kind of place to stage a play that's about belief and disbelief.

Adam (Will Douglas) is a graduate student who inherited the establishment from his late father. His fiancée Janet (Kelsey Mazak) wants him to be done with the place, but he perseveres in tending the bar in the face of imminent demolition. Partly that's because Yankee Tavern is the second home of his father's friend Ray (Bill Karnovsky), whose first home is upstairs in one of the abandoned rooms.

Ray has a thing for conspiracy theories: the JFK assassination, the moon landing, all the classics up to and including 9/11. He has no trouble believing the police report that Adam's father killed himself, when Adam himself is not so sure, but he refuses to believe any official explanations about what happened in 2001. It aggravates Adam and Janet to no end. Then one day a man named Palmer (Greg Ginther) arrives in the bar and orders two beers, leaving one of them untouched. He claims to have extra information about 9/11.

This isn't a play about 9/11. Yes, the characters talk about the details surrounding

those events at length, but it's really a play about what we choose to believe. Staging the play now is entirely topical, in light of how fragmented America's relationship with objective fact has become. Listening to long minutes of Ray's theories of powerful corporate and governmental forces secretly arrayed against us all might hit some audiences in just the right intellectual spot. For others, like this reviewer, who find themselves exhausted by the realities of confirmation bias and how it's gotten us where we are, the extended discussion of how nobody official can be trusted is fatiguing and feels not unlike something off either an op-ed page or the comments section, depending on where you get your news.

Regardless of where you are emotionally with the subject, it's executed well in the script and in performance. Director Norman Blumensaadt has assembled a good cast for the Different Stages production. As Palmer, Ginther especially strikes the right combination of sympathetic and downright creepy. The design team has very effectively reproduced the feel of the stuck-in-time bar, examples of which I'd list for Austin except they've all been torn down now to build mixed-use condos.

Yankee Tavern is a solid production of a layered script with good actors. For those eager for a deep dive into their relationship with the truth and how they form beliefs, it makes for a stimulating evening of theatre. — Elizabeth Cobbe

Bill Karnovsky (l) and Will Douglas in *Yankee Tavern*

FALLOUT THEATER 616 Lavaca.
www.falloutcomedy.com

DOWNTOWN COMEDY UNDERGROUND

Right, FKA the New Movement, this vibrant basement venue is back under new management and dedicated to — and we believe 'em — “bringing the best in alternative comedy with shows seven nights a week.” That **Carlos LaRotta** and friends have some prime hilarity going on for you, alright, citizen? And — were you looking for improv or sketch classes, too? Like most of the epicenters of comedy in this city, the Fallout's got those as well. Click and ye shall find! See website for details.

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE & COFFEEHOUSE 617 Congress, 512/443-3688.
www.hideouttheatre.com

⊛ **IT'S ... HIDEOUTRAGEOUS!** There's a stage upstairs, there's a stage downstairs, there's coffee all over the place and all sorts of shows and classes here. This Thursday brings you a **Threerfer** and a **Free Fringe** of improv. On Friday, you've got that **Fancy Pants Mashup**, the **Big Bash**, and **TheatreDome** — followed by the award-winning **Parallelogramphonograph** dazzling the late-night stage; and, on Saturday, after the bilingual improvised telenovela of **¡ESCANDALO!**, comes the return of wildly popular **Austin Secrets**. And following that provocative confessional gig? Why, it's the can't-miss competitive improv donnybrook of **Maestro!** See website for more.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 512/766-8358.
www.thevelveetaroom.com

ERIC DASILVA A life flavored by the funky borough of Queens and the seaside megalopolis of Miami ultimately lands this relentless comedy festival warrior DaSilva on the storied boards of the Velv this weekend, with Austin's **Brendan K. O'Grady** opening. (Well, ah, maybe not “ultimately;” we reckon the fellow's got much bigger things in store.) April 6-7. Fri., 9pm; Sat., 9 & 11pm. \$10.

BUT WAIT — THERE'S MORE!

COMEDYSPORTZ Two teams of improvisers compete for points and laughter in this family-friendly show based on audience suggestions. **Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm. Pinballz Arcade Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 512/937-2411. \$8-10. www.comedysportzaustin.com.**

PAULA POUNDSTONE Wait, wait, don't tell me. Poundstone is on Comedy Central's list of “The 100 Best Stand-up Comics of All Time,” right? Yeah, I already knew that. And we can all be reminded of exactly why that's true — at the Paramount tonight. **Fri., April 6, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 512/472-5470. \$27.50 and up.**

⊛ **STAND UP, AUSTIN! A CIVIC COMEDY SHOW** This here's a merging of comedy and local civic life, with “some of Austin's funniest comedians coming together with civic-minded people and orga-

Fallout Theater

LIVE COMEDY  EVERY NIGHT

nizations for an entertaining and engaging evening.” Wait, you mean ... *funny* people actually give a shit, too? We're shocked! But also *laughing*, because **Arielle Norman, Chris Tellez, Ky Krebs, Nikita Redkar**, and host **Jasmine Ellis. Wed., April 11, 7-9pm. Spider House Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 260/786-6008. \$7 (\$5, in advance). www.standupaustin.com.**

SIX SHOOTER Boy howdy, here's you a midweek stand-up showcase hosted by freestyle country & western legends **Knuck Deep** — that's **Aaron Brooks** and **Mac Blake, IRL** — with **Pat Siros, Allison O'Connor, Justin Hicks, the McCuewans, Mike MacRae, and Rob Gagnon. Yee? Haw! Wed., April 11, 8pm. Barrel O' Fun, 1911 Aldrich Ste. 120-B, 512/572-1425. Free. www.barrelfunatx.com.**

DANCE

LOOKING FOR DANCE CLASSES? Swing? Ballet? Tango? Pole-dancing? **We've got myriad classes listed online**, with all manner of schools waiting to get your feet firmly on the floor — or soaring through the air — to joyful moves.

TRANSCENDENCE Here's a kinetic celebration of the career of **Yacov Sharir**, the founder of the American Deaf Dance Company and Sharir Dance Company. Directed by **Charles O. Anderson** and **Andrea Beckham** for UT's Department of Theatre and Dance. **April 5-8. Thu.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, Winship Drama Bldg., 24th & San Jacinto, 512/477-6060. \$15-26.**

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE: SOCIAL DANCING You know that the Syndicate holds one of the longest-running and best-attended weekly swing dances in the country, right? Make note! There's an absolute beginner lesson which starts at 8pm, then social dancing to live music or DJs from 9pm until midnight. All ages are welcome. **Thursdays, 8pm. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 512/476-5845. \$7. www.austinswing syndicate.org.**

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FROM BURLESQUE TO

DRAG, Austin boasts an abundance of talented and titillating performers who rarely grace the same stage. That's why **Alexander the Great** (Boiz of Austin) started producing The Great Show! The quarterly showcase, which returns for its second iteration tomorrow, aims to "bridge the gap between" performer communities, spotlight a variety of artists, and most notably "celebrate all bodies, identities, and genders," Alexander told "Gay Place." Friday's cast – featuring **Chola Magnolia** and **Lady Lola LeStrange** (both of Fat Bottom Cabaret), **Zane Zena** of Die Felicia, Black Widow Burlesque's boylesquer **Sir Berkeley Feltwell**, Boiz of Austin's **Dandy Velour**, and San Antonio drag artist **Paradox Rei** – indeed does it all. Each show features a whole new lineup of talented performers selected by Alexander based on "what I believe the audience needs to see. More than anything, I believe we need POC, trans, and queer folk on stage." While fans won't find Alexander on The Great Show's stage, the audience should expect a beautifully curated event designed to "elevate" the community. Alexander sums it up: "You're guaranteed to have a truly one-of-a-kind experience."

GAYDAR

LGBTQ SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH LISTENING SESSION The LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission is hosting their second health equity listening session. *Thu., April 5, 6-7:30pm. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina.*

LGBTQ SCHOOLS AND YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS Share thoughts and feedback with the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission. *Thu., April 5, 6:30-8:30pm. Out Youth, 909 E. 49th½.*

UNBEARABLE: APRIL (GOLDEN) SHOWERS Reach your laugh quota for the week with Chique Fil-Atio and Bulimianne Rhapsody. *Thu., April 5, 10pm. The Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth. Free.*

LEATHER PRIDE Three days of leather! Complete with drag shows, discussions, workshops, and all kinds of parties to fit your preference. *Fri.-Sun., April 6-8. Wingate Inn, 1209 N. I-35, Round Rock. \$45-85. www.leatherprideintexas.org.*

THE GREAT SHOW! What's so great about it? Well, Miss Fahrenheit hosts a night of variety cabaret with Chola Magnolia, Zane Zena, Sir Berkeley Feltwell, and much more! 18 and up welcome. *Fri., April 6, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River. \$11-\$75.*

BOOGIE BEAR WONDERLAND Join DJ Kelly on the dance floor for a night of disco, bears, and beats. *Fri., April 6, 10pm-2am. The Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth.*

QUEER YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT FUNDRAISER Mama Duke, Julie Nolen, and more are raising funds for queer youth filmmakers. *Sat., April 7, 3-7pm. Bout Time II, 6607 N. I-35. www.agliff.org.*

FBC PRESENTS THE MIDNIGHT MANAGERIE: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE Celebrate spring with a li'l somethin' somethin' from Fat Bottom Cabaret. The nifty and naughty Nikki DaVaughn emcees. *Sat., April 7, 7:30pm. The North Door, 502 Brushy. \$10-75. www.ndvenue.com.*



Lady Lola LeStrange performs twice this weekend with The Great Show & FBC

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHOLA MAGNOLIA

GAY PLACE BY SARAH MARLOFF

BIG GAY DISCO! DJs Lolo, GirlFriend, and disco-DJ goddess Cap'n Tits want you to know: You are a dancing queen. *Sat., April 7, 10pm-2am. Cheer Up Charlies, 900 Red River. Free.*

GEAR NIGHT A safe space to wear whatever turns ya on. All are welcome, but check any salty comments with the clothes check at the door. *First Saturdays, 10pm. The Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth.*

TGQ SOCIAL A gender-diverse space for folks on the genderqueer, trans, and/or nonbinary spectrum plus allies. *Second Sundays, 6-9pm. Butterfly Bar, 2307 Manor Rd. Free.*

LGBTQ WEDDING EXPO Screened and approved LGBTQ-friendly wedding and honeymoon vendors. Sample food and pick up planning tips. All budgets welcome. *Sun., April 8, 12:30-3:30pm. Omni Hotel, 700 San Jacinto. RSVP. www.samelovessamerights.com.*

YUHUA HAMASAKI PERFORMS LIVE Drag Race season 10 star Yuhua does what she does best. *Sun., April 8, 10pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth. www.oilcanharrys.com.*

CONSCIOUS EROTIC TOUCH WITH AMY BALDWIN An experiential workshop that focuses on erotic touch and "delicious intention." Open to all. *Tue., April 10, 6:30-8:30pm. Q Toys, 6800 Burnet Rd. \$20. www.qtoysaustin.com.*

AUDIENCE AWARD SERIES: TRANSFORMER A documentary on Janae Kroczaleski. *Tue., April 10, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse Village, 2700 W. Anderson. \$5.*

BOIZ IN SPACE! Blast off with out-of-this-world kings. *Tue., April 10, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River. \$5.*

KIND CLINIC FUNDRAISER! Catch a screening of *Tom of Finland* thanks to Austin Gears and the Weird City Sisters. *Wed., April 11, 8-11pm. Alamo Drafthouse Village, 2700 W. Anderson. \$11. www.kindclinic.org.*

QWIL - 2018 DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS AWARDS Queer Women in Leadership host their third annual Daughters of Bilitis Awards to recognize three of Austin's most accomplished queer women in leadership. Comedian Kelly Stone emcees. *Thu., April 12, 6-9pm. Sellers Underground, 213 W. Fourth. \$20-\$30. mia.parton@waitexas.org.*

GAYLY AHEAD

OUT YOUTH SECOND CHANCE PROM: STARRY NIGHT Getcher Hollywood glam on and party with Out Youth to raise money for Central Texas' LGBTQ youth. *Sat., April 14, 8-11pm. W Hotel, 200 Lavaca. \$50. www.outyouth.org.*

2018 HILL COUNTRY RIDE FOR AIDS Riders tackle the hills of Hill Country to raise cash for local HIV/AIDS nonprofits. *Sat., April 28, 7:30am-6:30pm. Krause Springs. www.hillcountryride.org.*

TICKETS START AT \$35!

Verdi
La traviata

Sat., April 28 7:30 PM
Thurs., May 3 7:30 PM
Sun., May 6 2:30 PM

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FRI/SAT, APR 13/14

Vadim Gluzman, violin
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Concert at 8:00 p.m.
Pre-concert talk with Bob Buckalew at 7:10 p.m.

Come hear for the first time in Long Center's Dell Hall, Ludwig van Beethoven's famous Fifth Symphony (dit-dit-dit-DAH!), performed by your Austin Symphony Orchestra! The evening will also include the return of violinist Vadim Gluzman as soloist in Leonard Bernstein's *Serenade*... played on his 1690 "ex-Leopold Auer" Stradivari!

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VADIM GLUZMAN

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waves are themselves a part of her personal meditative practice, strokes applied in time with an exhalation, a practice she says an artist showed her to help in creating straight lines and perfect curves. At the Northern-Southern gallery in East Austin, there are no straight lines, but rather a selection of paintings filled with nothing but these nesting S-curves.

The conscious repetition in the grids pulls from a tradition of mindfulness in painting, most prominent in my mind being Agnes Martin, but Marchesseault's use of vibrant color feels remarkable and fresh. There are ripples of cool aqueous tones, earthy and warm ochres, and pops of trendy peachy-pinks. The energy of the show is joyful in its rumination, not somber. Her slivers feel somehow organic, even arranged so formulaically. The curved grids recall a carefully laid tile floor, the print of a bus seat cushion, or a weaving loom, all points of comparison Marchesseault would likely welcome, as she draws from her background in design and cites interior design and textile crafts as points of inspiration.

Occasionally, the notches warp into the resemblance of something else, and the small imperfections up close – bleeding colors, slight misalignments, breaks in the patterns – are an impressive reminder of the painstaking nature such a focused exercise requires. Marchesseault takes the time-passing exercise of repetitively filling the page of a notebook with a doodle and amplifies that impulse, employing thoughtful color combinations in each arrangement and filling often large canvases with her slivers.

Given the frenetic energy of the past two years, the need for an artistic practice that seeks meditative focus is understandable. Marchesseault seems to name some of the distractions she seeks to escape in some of the titles: *Clicks*, a pool of green, blue, and teal sprinkled with dusty pink petals, and *News*, one of the most vibrant pieces, a mix of pastels and Popsicle hues, for example.

The antidote to this or any frenzy, she seems to speculate, is the pursuit of a focus that improves an understanding of what is controllable and what is not. She seeks it in her personal practice, and in showing her work from the past two years, she offers an approachable but similar experience to the viewer in her first solo show. A stop into Northern-Southern to trace the waves of color that fill Marchesseault's canvases serves as a meditative reset.

— Melany Jean

“MICHELLE MARCHESSEAU”

Northern-Southern, 1900-B E. 12th
www.northern-southern.com
Through May 5

In the past two years, Michelle Marchesseault has made the same brush stroke countless times, a slight S-shaped curve, bending like a dying wave. Online, an unaffiliated meditation instructional offers a breaking wave as a helpful visualization for those just starting their meditative practice. It instructs the reader to picture a wave breaking on the shore as they exhale, and then rolling back into the sea as they inhale. “The sound of your breath is the soundtrack to these waves going in and out and will set the pace.” Marchesseault's painted

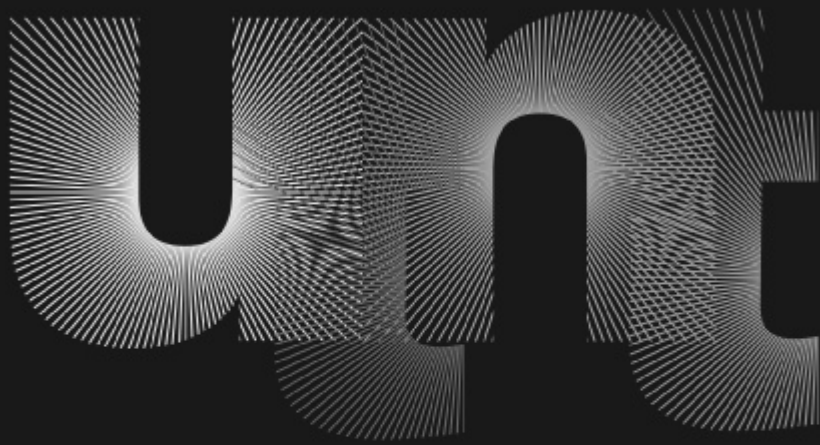
✪ HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

Under the artistic direction of Glenn Edgerton, the company's 18 dancers transcend preconceptions by juxtaposing works inspired by a variety of genres, including jazz, modern, ballet, and theatrical. *Wed., April 11, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman, 512/471-2787. \$10-40.*

✪ AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL Here's a vibrant array of modern dance showcases by professional local, state, national, and international artists in the heart of Austin over one kinetic weekend. During the three-day festival, take a master class, watch dance on film, participate in a community pop-up dance, listen to artist interviews, and check out the next generation of dancers in the Youth Edition Concert. *April 6-8. Fri.-Sun., times vary; see website for details. Locations and prices vary. www.austindancefestival.com.*



The University of Texas at Austin
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DANCE FOR GLOBAL GOALS: HEAR OUR STORIES. SEE US MOVE Austin-based **Anuradha Naimpally** presents an intergenerational performance featuring the compelling stories and movements of Asian teen refugees and seniors. *Sat., April 7, 3pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron, 512/974-1700. \$10-15.*

BOMBA PICNIC SUNDAY Help kick off the **Celebrando 2018** heritage project with this community picnic, featuring **Bomba of Loiza** with the **Hermanos Ayala** and performances by **Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance**. *Sun., April 8, 3-6pm. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Culture Center, 701 Tillery #13.*

BELLY DANCE BENEFIT SHOW Many of Austin's best belly dancers and guests from around Texas stage this belly-dance bonanza to benefit the dancer **Samantha Emanuel**, who was recently injured. *Sun., April 8, 9pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 407/949-1978. \$10. www.valencebellydance.com.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC



ONE OUNCE OPERA: FRESH SQUEEZED OUNCE OF OPERA The progressive vocal powerhouses of OOO present their third annual Fresh Squeezed Ounce concert in the intimate surroundings of the **Museum of Human Achievement**, with **this year's winning crop of micro-operas** performed – *beautifully* – in English, featuring intriguing characters, unexpected stories, varied styles and colors. Recommended: Join director **Julie Fiore** and her company of glory for this showcase of new works. Note: Some of this material is, ah, *definitely not for the kiddos*, capisce? Bonus: beverages from Tito's, Live Oak, and Whitestone. *April 6-8. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Museum of Human Achievement, Springdale & Lyons, 262/880-6982. \$20-25. www.oneounceopera.com.*

ST. DAVID'S MIDDAY MUSIC: AN ORGAN ODYSSEY This week's program features **Chris Oelkers**, organist of the Church of the Good Shepherd. *Thu., April 5, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. Eighth, 512/610-3500. Donations accepted.*

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Ragnar Kjartansson: *S.S. Hangover*

Performance Schedule

April 7, 8, 14, 15, 28 and
May 5, 6: 11A-3P

April 22: Sunset performance in
partnership with Fusebox Festival: 4-8P

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Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson's fantastical sound sculpture on the water at Laguna Gloria suggests both the hazy after-effects of a night of celebration and a romantic and melancholy metaphor for the passage of time.

Score by Kjartan Sveinsson; performed by musicians from Austin's Density512.

IMAGE: Ragnar Kjartansson, *S.S. Hangover*, 2013. Performance for a boat and brass sextet. Music by Kjartan Sveinsson. Originally performed in the Arsenale, Venice, during the 55th Venice Biennale, Italy, June 1 to November 24, 2013, daily for six hours. Artwork © Ragnar Kjartansson. Courtesy the artist; Luhring Augustine, New York; and i8 Gallery, Reykjavik. Photograph by Lilja Birgisdóttir.

THE CHOIR OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD The 30-member choir of men and boys will sing classic works by Baisrow, Martin, Bruckner, Taverner, Stainer, Purcell, Byrd, Vaughan Williams, and many more. *Fri., April 6, 7:30pm. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 3525 Bee Caves Rd., 512/327-3370. Donations accepted. www.shephills.org.*

ACMC: ARDENT ARIES Continuing their "Dal Segno" season, the **Austin Chamber Music Center** exposes the horoscope signs of quintessential chamber music composers, combining stories of their personalities with works that exude their most expressive traits. Ardent Aries features works by **Haydn, J.S. Bach, and Rachmaninov**, performed by **Sandy Yamamoto, Amy Levine-Tsang, and Michelle Schumann**. *Sat., April 7, 7:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 512/454-0026. \$27-42. www.austinchambermusic.org.*

LA FOLLIA: CONCERTOS BY J.S. BACH The company's string ensemble accompanies pianist **Anton Nel** in this fifth and final concert of La Follia's all-Bach season. *April 7-8. Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander, 512/879-6404. \$10-30. www.lafollia.org.*

NOCHE DE TANGO EN VIVO **Luis Angel Ibanez** and his **ProjeTango** perform a selection of tangos from the golden era, bringing the art form alive and setting up the stage for passionate dancers. *Sat., April 7, 8pm. The High Road, 700 Dawson. \$20. luisangelibanez@yahoo.com.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: LEADERS OF THE BAND The Austin Symphony's **Peter Bay** conducts one of his favorite pieces for concert band: **George Washington Bridge** by **William Schuman**. *Sun., April 8, 4pm. AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan. \$8-12 (free, students 18 and younger). www.austinsymphonicband.org.*

ST. DAVID'S MIDDAY MUSIC: A BERNSTEIN BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE Celebrate Lenny's centenary with this program of favorite numbers presented by the **Papovich Family Singers**. *Thu., April 12, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. Eighth, 512/610-3500. Donations accepted.*

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

VOLCOM GARDEN: ME & YOU & YOU & YOU How do we know this is gonna be a good show? Because that **Tim Kerr** has curated this cool display of artwork by himself, **Hi-Dutch, Yusuke Hanai, James McMillan, and Michael Sieben**. *Sat., April 7, 7-11pm. Volcom Garden, 1209 E. Sixth, 512/391-1754.*

WANDER Austin's innovative **Art In Public Places** project has conjured up an excellent choose-your-own-adventure sort of experience that incorporates actual sculpture on display around our urban hub. Roam the streets, roam the art, deep in the heart of Texas. *All the time, any time. www.wanderatx.com.*

LANDMARKS: DOCENT-LED BIKE TOUR Yes, in fact, it is the perfect time for the return of this Landmarks Bike Tour! The **hour-and-a-half, two-mile adventure** begins at the headquarters of UT's Orange Bike Project and meanders through campus with a guide to explore all the incredible **Landmarks public art installations** along the way. *Sun., April 8, 11am. 27th Street Garage, 109 W. 27th. Free, but RSVP by April 6.*

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK Downtown Austin's art galleries team up to give you reasons to stroll and shop, with extended hours, live music, art giveaways, drinks and bites, and more. Check out the creative goodness available from Twyla, OLA Gallery, Den Property Group, and Art.Work Austin right here in your own city's towering heart. See website for details. *Fri., April 6, 6-9pm. Free. www.twyla.com.*

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON: S.S. HANGOVER All the way from Reykjavik to Austin, Kjartansson's artwork consists of a musical performance (composed by **Kjartan Sveinsson**, most recently of Sigur Rós) acted by musicians on a historic fishing boat circling the water. Trumpets! French horns! Tubas! Part sculpture, part performance, part musical endurance test, **S.S. Hangover** will be performed on select weekend dates in the water of Laguna Gloria. *April 7, 8, 14, 15, 28; May 5-6. 11am-3pm. Laguna Gloria Amphitheater, 3809 W. 35th. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.*

THE SUBURBS ARE ARCHITECTURAL Is the shopping mall a sort of modern temple? Can parking-lot navigation be a form of meditation? Sparked by **Julie Libersat's** current "Paved Paradise"

show at W&TW, here's a conversation about suburban architecture – with that same Libersat, **Scott Gleason, R. Eric McMaster, and Adetty Perez de Miles**. *Sat., April 7, 2pm. Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca, 512/477-1064. Free. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

NATE DIMEO, CREATOR OF THE MEMORY PALACE PODCAST He's at the HRC tonight to discuss his methods of research, the production of that podcast, and the role of public scholarship in the American media landscape. *Tue., April 10, 6pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 512/471-8944. Free.*

OPENING

DIMENSION GALLERY: INEVITABLE RECKONING It's the second solo exhibition for the Texas-born-and-bred **Nick Schnitzer** at this excellent gallery, with a new series of work combining **craft, science, and storytelling that appeals to our most basic sense of survival**. Note: A few of the pieces in the show make use of **time-based chemical state changes** to make their point, so it's especially recommended that you stop by during the opening reception. *Reception: Thu., April 5, 6-9pm. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99. www.dimensiongallery.org.*



BALE CREEK ALLEN GALLERY: BACKSLIDING Behold, citizen, these new and vivid works from the graphic duo of **Liz and Maurice Treviño!** *Reception: Fri., April 6, 7-10pm. Bale Creek Allen Gallery, 916 Springdale #2.*

BIG MEDIUM: DIAGONAL And this is an exhibition of work by **AISD art teachers**, featuring a variety of media that includes painting, sculpture, printmaking, and photography. *Reception: Fri., April 6, 7-10pm. Big Medium, 916 Springdale #101, 512/939-6665. www.bigmedium.org.*

LA PEÑA GALLERY: SUPERHEROES AND SECRET IDENTITIES Here's an exhibition of images of superpowered humans, as created by third-graders at **Sanchez Elementary School**. *Reception (with music from the Aztec Choir): Fri., April 6, noon-1:30pm. La Pena Gallery, 227 Congress, 512/477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.*

COLLECTION RERT: OCTO PIECES "What happens when you cede creative control and ownership to a group you are also a part of?" The artists ride a tender balance between ego and surrender – as evidenced in these new collaborations among **Bill Ivey, Wendy Rhode, Vincent Paul Martinez, Jr., Yamin Li, G. Matt Nicholson, Leah Smith, Paul Baker, and Amanda Jones**. *Sat., April 7, 7-10pm. 2608-B Rogers. www.collectionrert.org.*

LINK & PIN GALLERY: DISCOVERY **Dwain Kelley's** sculptural assemblages explore a palette of old wood, metal, gold leaf, cloth, glass, rocks, and other materials toward the unearthing of another time. *Reception: Sat., April 7, 6-8pm. Link & Pin, 2235 E. Sixth #102, 512/900-8952. www.linkpinart.com.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: BLACK AND WHITE The sixth show by **Tom Molloy** in this elegant space is an exhibition of new drawings and found photographs that explore race – the social construct central to much of the injustice and inequality in America. Bonus: **Mariah Robertson** in the Project Room. *Reception: Sat., April 7, 6-9pm. Lora Reynolds Gallery, 360 Nueces #50, 512/215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: WILL KLEMM This is a solo show with the Austin-based painter who's shown nationally since 1993 and is a veteran of more than 50 one-man exhibitions. *Reception: Sat., April 7, 6-8pm. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. www.wallyworkman.com.*

OLD BAKERY GALLERY: SELF-EXPLORATION Artwork by **Donna Starnes, Beverly Deutsch, and Kathi Herrin**. *Reception: Fri., April 6, 5-7pm. Old Bakery & Emporium, 1006 Congress, 512/974-1300.*

HELM BOOTS: A SECRET SPOT AROUND HERE Luckily, this elegant bastion of the cordwainer's craft isn't all that secret and makes a fine showcase for these **revelatory photos of Barton Springs** by **Nils Juul-Hansen**. *Reception: Thu., April 12, 6-8pm. Helm Handmade Boots, 1200 E. 11th #101, 512/609-8150.*

CLOSING

VISUAL ARTS CENTER: IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK Unless, that is, you think it's the 2018 exhibition of work by **young artists graduating from UT's Department of Art and Art History** – because that's precisely what it is. *Through April 6. Visual Arts Center, 2300 Trinity (UT campus), 512/471-3713.*

NOT GALLERY: ANOTHER GROUND Since meeting on Instagram more than two years ago, the artists **Jack Arthur Wood** and **Jessica Cannon** mailed works in process back and forth between Corpus Christi and Brooklyn. This show of collaborative and independent creation is the result. *Through April 7. Bolm Studios, 5305 Bolm. www.notgallery.net.*

AARC: BEYOND BOLLYWOOD "Indian-Americans Shape the Nation," a traveling exhibition created by the **Smithsonian Institution**, makes an artifact-rich stop at the Asian American Resource Center – with a vibrant collection of photographs, art, and interactive learning stations. *Through April 8. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron, 512/974-1700.*

CARVER MUSEUM: JUNTOS/TOGETHER This section of the comprehensive **FotoATX** program features vivid photo-documentation of "Black and Brown Activism in Austin from 1970 to 1983." *Through April 11. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 512/974-4926.*

BOOKS

SISTERS IN CRIME: SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF WRITING **Michael Noll**, author of the recently published *The Writer's Field Guide to the Craft of Fiction*, discusses strategies for solving problems of character, scene, plot, and structure. *Sun., April 8, 2:15pm. Cafe Express, 3418 N. Lamar, 512/452-9888. www.sinc-heartoftexas.com.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL The irrepresible and relentlessly versiform event begins its 26th annual inundation of our rapidly embiggening river city. Poets from all over Texas; from all over the United States; hell, from all over the world: massing in the ATX, regaling one another and passersby and gathered crowds with their crafted harangues and lyrical elegies, hawking multiple copies of their latest broadsheets and chapbooks, drinking too much coffee and chai in so many cafes throughout this vibrant urban conflagration we call home. See website for more. *Thu.-Sun., April 5-8. www.aipf.org.*

JONATHAN EVISON: LAWN BOY The new novel by the author of *All About Lulu* and *West of Here*, presented by the man who wrote it. *Thu., April 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050.*

ADRIAN TODD ZUNIGA: COLLISION THEORY Question: What could be more compelling than readings from this debut novel when the author is the creator and host of **Literary Death Match** and the founding editor of **Opium Magazine**? Answer:

When the man joining Zuniga is original **Salvage Vanguard Theater** founder (and nascent filmmaker) **Jason Neulander**, who knows how to put words through a mic for best impact, tell you what. *Sat., April 7, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th.*

AUSTIN POETRY SLAM OFF You want to be part of a climactic event that sends the vers-libre energy of this weekend's AIPF to its quivering maximum? Then here's your deal, citizen, as the **top 10 slam poets in Austin** take the mic to vie for five spots in **Austin's nationally ranked slam team**. Note: Any exclamation points missing from this blurb will certainly be used at the Paramount tonight. *Sat., April 7, 8pm.*

Stateside at the Paramount, 719 Congress, 512/472-5470. \$15-26. www.aipf.org.

LAUREN HILGERS: PATRIOT NUMBER ONE The author presents her "deeply reported story of one family transplanted from rural China to New York City, forging a life between two worlds." *Sun., April 8, 2pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050.*

TWO-POET NIGHT: ANNA MARIA HONG AND ROGER REEVES The acclaimed authors – former *Michener fellows, no less* – read from their works, right in the middle of the Austin International Poetry Festival. *Sun., April 8, 6:30pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th.*

RYAN HOLIDAY: CONSPIRACY If you care about how the celebrity gossip website Gawker met its doom – or maybe you enjoy this sort of raking-of-the-ashes in general – then this is definitely where you want to be tonight. *Mon., April 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050.*

LONN TAYLOR: MARFA FOR THE PERPLEXED The author presents his book that exposes the **rich mix of cultures that underlies the current Marfa art scene** – the real Marfa, as they say, beyond the buzz. *Tue., April 10, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050.*

MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB: EXIT WEST Man Booker Prize finalist **Mohsin Hamid** discusses his most recent novel and its exploration of global migration, cultural confrontation, and Western reactions to refugees in an era of Islamophobia. *Wed., April 11, 7pm. Austin Public Library, 512/974-7475. Free. www.austinlibrary.org.*

HUMANS OF NEW YORK **Brandon Stanton** shares his journey of personal growth and discovery, uncovering the stories behind the stories featured on his internationally acclaimed street-portrait blog, illustrating the value of shared experience. *Wed., April 11, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 512/472-5470. www.humansofnewyork.com.*

NOVEL NIGHT: JOSÉ SKINNER AND OSCAR CÁSARES. Here's a night of prose-forward celebration in which Skinner reads from his short-story collection *The Tombstone Race* and Cásares reads from his novel *Amigoland*. *Thu., April 12, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th.*

DON GRAHAM: GIANT The author presents his narrative of the making of the classic film, marking "the rise of America as a superpower, the ascent of Hollywood celebrity, and the flowering of Texas culture as mythology." *Thu., April 12, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050.*

BOOKWOMAN POETRY READING: CYRUS CASSELLS The award-winning poet and TSU professor reads from his works, hosted by **Cindy Huyser**; open mic follows. *Thu., April 12, 7:15pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 512/472-2785. Free.*

WRITING WORKSHOP WITH BERNADETTE NOLL In which the popular local author will inspire you with several thought-provoking prompts and get out of that writing slump. *Fri., April 6, 7pm. Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. Free.*

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COMMUNITY



OUR HOUSE Here's a celebration of arts, diversity, and community from **Lucky Chaos Theatre**, featuring an awakening-the-Chinese-dragon eye-dotting ceremony for that enormous papier-mâché beast, performances from **Da Shade's Cry Havoc** action choreography team, the traditional African martial arts of **Seft Dakote**, and more amid the tasty snacks and fun. **Sun., April 8, 2-5pm. Motion Media Arts Center, 2200 Tillery, 512/236-8877. Free. www.luckychaos.com.**

GENEROSI-TEA Join Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area for a high-tea service with sweet and savory treats. Speakers include Jessica Honegger, the founder and co-CEO of Noonday Collection; Marice Brown, head of Central Texas private banks for JP Morgan Chase; and others. Optional happy hour to follow. **Thu., April 5, 3:30-5pm. Hotel Ella, 1900 Rio Grande, 512/444-7199. \$55. www.bgcaustin.org.**

EXPLORE AUSTIN'S QUEST FOR THE SUMMIT Support youth mentorship/outdoor adventure program at ninth annual fundraiser. Ticket price includes catered food, corn hole, and other yard games. Raffle tickets available for Yeti giveaway. **Thu., April 5, 6-9pm. Fair Market, 1100 E. Fifth. \$100. www.exploreaustin.org/quest-for-the-summit.**

BOOKSPRING STORYBOOK HEROES LUNCHEON Support BookSpring's early literacy programs with Carl Stuart of KLB's *Money Talk* and rapper SaulPaul. **Fri., April 6, 11:30am-1pm. Renaissance Austin Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 512/472-1791. \$150 and up. www.bookspring.org.**

THE SMASHELOR Join Blue Owl for the first edition of *The SMASHELOR*, and see if you've got what it takes to win a rose from Maybelle the Italian greyhound. The winner gets a chance at her heart, plus plenty of new release SMAsh IPA. **Fri., April 6, 6-9pm. Blue Owl Brewing, 2400 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/593-1262. Free with beer tasting (\$8-15).**

TROWEL & ERROR GARDENING SYMPOSIUM This is THE fundraiser for Mayfield Park. Show your support with a donation, and enjoy lectures from Jay White, contributing editor for *Texas Gardener*; horticulturalist Daphne Richards; and arborist April Rose. And, of course, say hello to the peacocks. **Sat., April 7, 9:30am-1pm. Mayfield Park & Preserve, 3505 W. 35th, 512/974-6723. \$5 suggested donation.**

GIRLS IMPACT THE WORLD FILM FEST ConnectHer and Eloise DeJoria present a day of panels, films, awards, and speakers calling for social change through storytelling. Doors open at 10am. Evening awards ceremony at 5pm. **Sat., April 7, 11am-8pm. St. Andrew's Fine Arts Theater, 5901 Southwest Pkwy. \$27.59 (\$106.37 VIP). www.rebrand.ly/girlsimpacttheworld.**

SURVIVOR HEARTS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION Honor and celebrate survivors during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month through an interactive community art piece. Speakers, performers, and vendors. Free, but a \$5 donation enters you into the door raffle! **Sat., April 7, noon-4pm. Space 24 Twenty, 2420 Guadalupe, 512/689-7393. Free.**

CEDAR PARK HERITAGE FESTIVAL/ CEDAR FEST Enjoy live music, free inflatables, pony rides, a petting zoo, plus sack races, stick horse rodeo for ages 3-8, and a corn on the cob eating contest. (Fees for face painting, carnival games, and rides.) **Sat., April 7, 1-5pm. Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sunchase Blvd., Cedar Park. Free. www.cedarparkparks.com.**

BANDANA BALL 29th annual fundraiser features live music, signature cocktails, dining under the stars, and an extensive silent and live auction. All proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas. Dress code is Western casual. **Sat., April 7, 6-11pm. Wild Onion Ranch, 12112 Old San Antonio Rd., Manchaca. \$300 (\$550, couple).**

TAILWAGGERS NON-GALA | NEO-GALA *Austin Chronicle* Publisher Nick Barbaro will be rolling up in the Hankmobile (a car fashioned after our very own office dog Hank) to this benefit for Austin Pets Alive! Help keep Austin a no-kill city with vegan bites, vodka bevs by Tito's, and music by DJ Mahealani and Rent Party. **Sat., April 7, 7-10pm. 7Co (formerly LaV), 1501 E. Seventh. \$150-1,000. TRAIL FOUNDATION'S 15TH BIRTHDAY PARTY** Join the Trail Foundation as it celebrates its 15th anniversary with a family-friendly birthday party at Festival Beach, with refreshments, music, a birthday cake, children's activities, a yoga session, games & entertainment, swag giveaways, and more. **Sat., April 7, 10am-2pm. Festival Beach, 2101 Bergman, 855/448-7245. Free. www.thetrailfoundation.org.**

JAMNESTY Free live music event supporting immigrants' mental health in Austin, with all proceeds going to the YWCA Greater Austin. **Sat., April 7, noon-4pm. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½, 512/326-1222. Free.**

BEYOND THE GRADE SPRING CONCERT Third annual student showcase (3-5:30pm), with performance by special guest SaulPaul. **Sat., April 7, 3-7pm. Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 512/472-9304. \$10 suggested donation. www.beyondthegrade.org.**

BRAVE FEST Commemorate Dr. MLK Jr.'s life & death with the inaugural BRAVE (Build Relationships Awareness Voices and Engagement) Fest. Performances by Timberos del Norte, Agni Bollywood Dance, Greater Mt. Zion Praise, as well as children's games and crafts. **Sun., April 8, 2-6pm. Spider House Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 512/480-9562. Free.**

HOPE FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER Help support food distribution to 1,300 individuals each month. Ticket includes dinner, games & prizes, and silent auction. Email info@hopefoodpantryaustin.org for reservations. **Sun., April 8, 5:30-8pm. Trinity Church, 4001 Speedway. \$25. www.hopefoodpantryaustin.org.**

WHAT THE FIT?! Join Dance Waterloo for outdoor fitness class blending resistance band movement, yoga, and Pilates. Adaptable to all ages, levels, and abilities. Stick around before or after for a snack or sips from In.gredients! **First Sundays. In.gredients, 2610 Manor Rd., 512/275-6357. Pay-what-you-can.**

DIASPORA LECTURE SERIES: BLACK RESONANCE IN THE TERRORDOME Special guest Carter Mathes is a professor at Rutgers. His first book, *Imagine the Sound: Experimental African American Literature After Civil Rights*, focuses on the relationship between sound and literary innovation during the Sixties and Seventies. **Mon., April 9, 3-4:30pm. Gordon-White Building, 210 W. 24th. Free.**

SACRED JOURNEY SCHOOL OF HERBALISM OPEN HOUSE Learn more about medicinal plants with a short presentation and Q&A with Ginger Webb. **Mon., April 9, 7-8pm. Soma Vida, 2324 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/628-1580. Free with RSVP. www.gingerwebb.com/sjs.**

UT CLUB ROUNDUP The UT Club is hosting its 20th annual "Roundup" Open House Celebration to educate nonmembers about the benefits of membership while offering complimentary food & drinks, live music, raffles, and more. Validated parking available at the Manor parking garage. **Tue., April 10, 6-8:30pm. UT Club, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. Free. www.utclub.com.**

BREAKTHROUGH CHAMPION CELEBRATION An evening of inspiring stories from the youths of the Breakthrough project. **Tue., April 10. Central Library, 710 W. Cesar Chavez, 512/974-7400. Free. www.breakthroughcctx.org/champions.**

ABLETON + MBPT PRESENT ADAM NEELY NYC music composer and theorist Adam Neely will give a mind-melting presentation at ACC Northridge. Learn how he used Ableton Live to make Smash Mouth's "All Star" sound like "The Rite of Spring." Come early for an AL session with Alberto Chapa (starts at 6:30pm). **Wed., April 11, 7-10pm. ACC Northridge Campus (Room 4136). Free. www.austincc.edu.**

DSACT'S COCKTAIL BASH The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas fundraiser party helps to provide education, support, and resources to its members. Celebrate with food, drinks, games, and a silent auction. Jams by DJ Mel. **Wed., April 11, 7-10pm. 800 Congress, 800 Congress Ave, 512/323-0808. \$85+. www.dsact.org/dsact-cocktail-bash.**

AUSTIN CAREER FAIR Dress for success (biz casual) and bring plenty of résumés to hand out! Companies from many sectors including financial, medical, and communications. **Thu., April 12, 11am-3pm. Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 512/520-4201. Free. www.newbeginningcareerfairst.com.**

PARENT INFO SESSION EAPREP Info sesh on East Austin College Prep, a free public school. A student recruiter will be on-site to answer questions and assist with enrollment (pre-K through 11th grade). Light refreshments will be served. **Thu., April 12, 6-7pm. East Austin College Prep Academy, 5800 E. MLK, 512/287-5005. Free. www.eaprep.org.**

STARLIGHT SOCIAL Emceed by KUTX program director Matt Reilly, the Starlight Social will feature twilight tours of the garden, gourmet bites from Austin's leading restaurants, local craft beer, wine and signature cocktails, a dessert and coffee bar, plus a live auction, and a performance by Tomar & the FCs. **Thu., April 12, 6:30-9:30pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 512/477-8672. \$100.**

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speaking & signing THE FEMALE PERSUASION 7PM

SAT 4/7 6PM
LEAH STEWART - WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT CHARLIE OUTLAW
SUN 4/8 2PM
LAUREN HILGERS - PATRIOT NUMBER ONE
MON 4/9 7PM
RYAN HOLIDAY - CONSPIRACY
TUES 4/10 7PM
LONN TAYLOR - MARFA FOR THE PERPLEXED
THURS 4/12 7PM
DON GRAHAM - GIANT

SAT 4/14 2PM
JESS PRYLES - HARDCORE CARNIVORE
SAT 4/14 6PM
EMMA BERQUIST - DEVILS UNTO DUST
SUN 4/15 2PM
DONNA BOWMAN - ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S DUELING WORDS
MON 4/16 7PM
CHARLES FRAZIER - VARINA
TUES 4/17 7PM
GABRIELLE BIRKNER & REBECCA SOFFER - MODERN LOSS

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SOCCER WATCH BY NICK BARBARO

Major League Soccer drew first blood in their **CONCACAF Champions League** semifinal showdown against Mexico's LigaMX, with **Toronto** thumping **Club America**, 3-1, on a blustery Tuesday night. **New York Red Bulls** are at Guadalajara's Chivas as we go to press; the return legs are in New York and Mexico City on Tue., April 10, 7pm and 9pm on Univision Deportes. Mexico has pretty much owned this rivalry in recent years, so this is a big deal for MLS prestige; already, a couple of Mexican coaches sound like they're looking over their shoulder as they've talked about MLS upping their game in terms of player development and spending.

Cristiano Ronaldo's spectacular side volley/bicycle kick goal against Juventus was the highlight of the **European Champions League** quarterfinals this week (or perhaps any other). Decisive first-leg wins for his Real Madrid, plus Barcelona, Bayern Munich, and Liverpool, may have taken the drama out of next week's return legs, Tue.-Wed., April 10-11, all at 1:45pm on FS1 and FS2.

Austin High and Dripping Springs boys and girls have all advanced to this week's regional semifinals in the **state soccer championships**; along with at least six other area teams (with two more postponed by rain, to be replayed as we go to press).

Crew Watch: Columbus suffered their **first loss** of 2018 on Saturday, a 2-1 decision to the Vancouver Whitecaps, in front of a "dismal" crowd of **8,992**, reports ESPN.com. That's a bit up from last week's record low of 8,443. See the latest stadium news on p.14, and a fanciful mock-up of a multi-use future at the **McKalla site** with this column online.

BOB SOLVES PROBLEMS Having phone or computer problems? Get 'em solved for free over a few beers with Blue Owl's resident tech expert, Bob. And if he can't fix it, he'll tell you who can! *Thu., April 12, 7-9pm. Blue Owl Brewing, 2400 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/593-1262. Free with beer tasting (\$8-15).*

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS The title of the talk is "Bird Conservation in Northeast India: The What, the How and the Why." Plus snacks and kids' activities, a tour of the lab, and a Q&A with the speaker. *Thu., April 12, 7-9pm. Brackenridge Field Laboratory, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd. www.scienceunderthestars.org.*

THINKERY21: LISTEN UP! Thinkery is teaming up with Golden Hornet and Alamo Draughthouse Mueller for a booming block party featuring artists, musicians, scientists and designers who explore sound in innovative ways. Have a jam session with a robot, trace the shape of a wave, or listen to the Sound of Science. *Thu., April 12, 7-10pm. Thinkery, 1830 Simond, 512/469-6201. \$22-25 pre-sale.*

SPORTS

THE MAIN EVENT

STUPORBOWL XIII There is nothing quite like the two best teams of unicyclists squaring off in the gridiron to see who has the best moves. The two teams with the worst records meet the following weekend for Stupidbowl IV. *Sun., April 8, 3-6pm; Sun. April 15, 3-6pm. Activity Center, San Marcos. Free. www.unicycletfootball.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

ROUND ROCK EXPRESS The Express start their season with five against the Memphis Redbirds. Earl Campbell throws out the first pitch on opening night followed by postgame fireworks. After Saturday's game the Spazmatics will perform. *Thu.-Fri., April 5-6, 7:05pm; Sat., April 7, 6:05pm; Sun., April 8, 1:05pm; Mon., April 9, 7:05pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-2255. \$7-16. www.rrepress.com.*

TEXAS ROLLER DERBY Banked-track Roller Derby with the Cherry Bombs facing off against the Rhinestone Cowgirls. *Sat., April 7, 7pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 512/553-2578. \$17-35. www.txrd.com.*

AUSTIN ELITE RUGBY Free movie night for kids, and free admission for those under 14, while the Austin Elite Rugby team has their rematch against NOLA Gold. \$15 for GA, but tickets get pricier if you feelin' fancy. *Sat., April 7, 8pm. Round Rock Multipurpose Complex, 2001 Kenney Fort Blvd., Round Rock, 512/341-3125. \$15-50. www.austineliterugby.com.*

TEXAS STARS Only a few home games left in the regular season. Cheer on your squad while you can. *Vs. Rockford: Fri.-Sat., April 6-7. Vs. Grand Rapids: Wed., April 11. H-E-B Center at Cedar Park, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$22-58. www.texasstarshockey.com.*

UT BASEBALL Vs. Baylor. *Fri.-Sun., April 6-8. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. \$3-20. www.texasports.com.*

UT SOFTBALL Vs. Samford. *Sat., April 7, 11am & 1:30pm; Sun., April 8, 11am. Red & Charline McCombs Field, Comal & MLK. www.texasports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S Baseball vs. Rogers State (double-headers): *Fri., April 6, 1:30pm; Sat., April 7, noon. Lucian-Hamilton Field, 3001 S. Congress. Free. Softball Vs. Lubbock Christian: Fri., April 6, 1pm (DH); Sat., April 7, noon. Vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville: Mon., April 9, noon. Diane Daniels Field, -St. Edward's campus. Free. www.athletics.stedwards.edu.*

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Baseball Vs. Univ.of the Southwest (double-headers). *Fri.-Sat., April 6-7, noon. Downs Field, 2816 E. 12th. Softball Vs. Texas Southern (double-header). Tue., April 10, 3pm. Krieg Field, 517 S. Pleasant Valley Rd. Free. www.htu.edu/athletics.*

CONCORDIA Softball Vs. Louisiana College. *Fri., April 6, 5 & 7pm (DH); Sat., April 7, noon. Baseball Vs. Trinity (Texas). Tue., April 10, 7pm. Tornado Field, Next to the Fieldhouse on Killian Road. athletics.concordia.edu.*

TEXAS STATE Softball Vs. South Alabama: *Sat., April 7, 1 & 3pm; Sun., April 8, noon. Vs. Texas: Wed., April 11, 6pm. Bobcat Softball Stadium, San Marcos. Baseball Vs. UTRGV. Tue., April 10, 6pm. Bobcat Ballpark, 225 Charles Austin Dr., San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN RUNNING ADVENTURES For daring runners seeking Austin landmark running experiences and secret single track trails. *Saturdays and Sundays, 8am. See Facebook for routes. \$25. wardreid@gmail.com.*

ACK SPRING 2018 DEMOS Demo kayaks and stand-up paddleboards from Austin Canoe & Kayak during this 2-day event. *Sat., April 7, 10am-4pm; Sun., April 8, noon-4pm. Hyde Park Quarries, 11400 N. MoPac. Free. ack.com/demo.*

NLAND: YOGA ON THE SHORE A one-hour restorative yoga class plus a chance to surf the friendly, whitewater Bay Wave. *Saturdays, noon. Nland Surf Park, 4836 E. Hwy. 71, Del Valle, 512/806-1900. \$30. www.nlandsurfpark.com/events.*

PINTS & POSES Ticket price includes an hour of hatha yoga and a pint of beer. Bring a mat! *Sundays, 10:45am. Circle Brewing Company, 2340-B W. Braker, 512/722-7636. \$12. www.circlebrewing.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

CAP 10K The Statesman's Cap 10K is the largest 10K in Texas and has been going strong for 40 years. The deadline to register online is April 7, 4pm. *Sun., April 8, 8am. 100 S. Congress. \$40-85. www.cap10k.com.*

KIDS

THE SMARTEST GIRL IN THE WORLD

Leo Martinez and his younger sister Lizzy long to be the smartest in the world and help their family, and learn something about the many ways to be brainy. Recommended for kids in grades 2 through 6. *Sat., April 7 & 14, 11am & 2pm. Austin Playhouse, ACC Highland, 6001 Airport, 512/476-0084. Free.*

CHEETAH FEST Annual event featuring carnival games, food trucks, and demonstrations, as well as a silent auction. Entrance is free, but games require tickets or an all-play wristband. *Sat., April 7, 3-7pm. Sunset Valley Elementary School, 3000 Jones Rd. Free.*

EDIBLE AUSTIN CHILDREN'S PICNIC

The sixth annual food fair features live music, storytelling, and other activities. Plant a mini eco garden or just bask in the sunshine while enjoying local bites. BYOB (bring your own blanket). *Sun., April 8, 1-5pm. Rosewood Park, 2300 Rosewood, 512/441-3971. Free. www.edibleaustin.com.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE: SPRING FEST

Craft items will be provided (while supplies last) for: succulent-making station, paint-your-own wind chime, and kite flying. Plus live music from Josh Klaus. *Wed., April 11, 6pm. Mueller Austin, 1911 Aldrich. Free.*

LITTLE TEXANS: COWBOYS & COWGIRLS

Discover the tools and gear cowboys and cowgirls use in their daily life. Bring your young Texans (ages 2-5). Part of an interactive experience on second Thursdays, with a new theme each month. *Thu., April 12, 10-11am. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 512/936-8746. Free with exhibit admission. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

OUT OF TOWN

TALL SHIPS GALVESTON A fleet of sailing ships comes to the Texas coast for the first time in Tall Ship Challenge series of races, onboard tours, and festival hosted by Galveston's 1877 tall ship ELISSA. *Thu.-Sun., April 5-8. Galveston. www.tallshipsgalveston.com.*

WALTSTOCK & BARREL FESTIVAL Walt Wilkins brings a few friends together for a weekend of music, craft beer, local wine, and food trucks. *Fri.-Sat., April 6-7. Jellystone Park, Fredericksburg. www.waltstockandbarrel.com.*

FIDDLE FEST WEEKEND Enjoy a fiddle tune or two as contestants line up for big prizes and stay for a concert with Warren Hood and Erik Hokkanen. *Fri.-Sun., April 6-8. Llano. www.llanofiddlefest.com.*

WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL See the beautiful handcrafted watercraft, plus demos, a flea market, kids' area, and a rowing competition. *Fri.-Sun., April 6-8. Port Aransas. www.portaransasmuseum.org.*

VIVA HEMISFAIR! Fifty years ago this month San Antonio hosted a world's fair that changed the city, and they'll be looking back to 1968 with special events in the park and at the Institute of Texan Cultures. *Fri.-Sun., April 6-8. San Antonio. www.hemisfair.org.*

JONESTOWN CAJUN COOKOFF Salute our Louisianan brethren with gumbo, étouffée, music, games, and arts & crafts. *Sat., April 7, 11am-7pm. Jones Brothers Park, Jonestown. Free, \$5 parking.*

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD



GERALD E. MCLEOD

AquaBrew Restaurant & Brewery in San Marcos has the agility of a homebrewer and the equipment of a top-of-the-line craft brewer. That gives the 2-year-old brewpub the ability to consistently produce knockout beers while experimenting with styles and flavors. Head brewer David Jones says the 15-barrel brewhouse behind

the bar is so efficient that he can do just about all the brewing by himself. Originally from Southern California, Jones started out as a homebrewer and then worked for several craft brewers in the San Diego area. He eventually became a certified beer judge before relocating to Texas.

At any given time, AquaBrew will have eight of their own beers and two guest beers on tap. The styles will range from porters and IPAs to a Belgian-style weisse and an Irish red ale. Unfortunately, the most popular beers sell out quickly. Last summer, Jones made a seasonal beer from Hill Country peaches that was gone in 31 days. Each batch of seasonals is usually 465 gallons.

Man, and woman, can't live on beer alone, and the brewpub has a top-notch kitchen. Along with pub snacks, the menu grows throughout the day to a well-rounded dinner selection. It's hard to resist the two-fisted burgers with a fresh English pale ale in the outdoor beer garden or the rooftop deck.

AquaBrew Restaurant & Brewery is a block off of the courthouse square in San Marcos at 150 S. LBJ Dr. The taps flow from 11am-11pm, and until midnight on weekends. Jones is happy to give tours of the operation by appointment at 512/353-2739. Or reserve spots on a tour at www.aqua-brew.com.

1,393rd in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a weekly travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

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FOOD

AC Date Night: Phara's Mediterranean Cuisine

SOULFUL "OLD AUSTIN" STILL EXISTS ON NORTH LOOP **by Adrienne Whitehorse**

Full disclosure: I've only lived here for (almost) 8 years, but sometimes certain places remind me of "the old Austin." Am I allowed to have these thoughts? Have I put in enough time here? (For the record, I was born in Austin. I left when I was pretty young. Do I still qualify for the card?) Either way, when I walked into the dimly lit Phara's on North Loop – or more accurately, when I stepped through the back door and onto the expansive patio, where groups of friends huddled around hookahs – I felt a pang of nostalgia and immediately wished I lived in Hyde Park so this place could be my regular hangout.

Let's start with Phara, the owner and namesake of the Mediterranean restaurant. I first walked in and was welcomed with her warm smile that felt like I was arriving at my aunt's house for a home-cooked meal. I asked if my date, who has celiac disease and can't tolerate gluten or any cross-contaminated foods, would be able to eat there. Phara went and consulted with the chef to make sure there wouldn't be any issues. She came back and assured that they

did have gluten-free options and that they would be extra careful. I fetched my date from the parking lot. Then I mentioned it was our first time there, and Phara enthusiastically gave us a tour of all the different areas in which we could dine. Sensing my curiosity, she also showed us Christopher's Casbah, a separate dining space reserved for events,

which is named after her son who battled cystic fibrosis until he passed away in 2004. (Phara holds periodic fundraisers for CF and lung transplant organizations in his memory.)

Upon entering the Sultan Room, a small enclosed area with low tables surrounded by floor cushions and color-

ful Egyptian tapestries, we knew we had found our spot. We pulled out the bottle of Malbec we had brought (Phara's is BYOB) and made ourselves comfortable while Phara fetched our server. A few moments later, Leonard burst into the room with a booming voice and neighborly demeanor. He asked who his gluten-free guest was, and promised to take special care of them. My date let Leonard know that in addition to having celiac

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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

PHARA'S WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO A BYGONE AUSTIN ERA OF FUNKY AMBIENCE AND SOULFUL HOSPITALITY.

disease, they were also vegan. He said he would double-check everything with the kitchen to ensure all bases were covered. He came back shortly with wine glasses and a bottle opener, and took our orders.

My date opted for (chef) Tenzin's Famous Aloo Chana, a dish of potatoes, garbanzos, and coconut milk, sans the couscous, tzatziki, and pita. I ordered the roasted lamb shank ("Phara's signature dish" according to the menu). It was a massive hunk of lamb perched atop couscous and grilled vegetables, and served with a choice of dipping sauces: cilantro-tomato, basil-mint, or habanero-garlic. I asked for a sampler of all three – I'm a bit of a condiment whore – and I'm glad I did. Each added a unique and bold flavor to the tender lamb and veggies. We shared the Aegean Salad – feta on the side – which came dressed in a zippy white balsamic vinaigrette and a generous pile of Kalamata

olives. The fresh and tangy salad was the perfect contrast to our spiced, savory dishes.

I had heard there might be belly dancing and live music, but Phara informed us we came on a slow night; it was a Wednesday and neither were scheduled that evening. Still, the 400-seat venue exuded charm that I imagine is only enhanced by live entertainment. Phara's is not the place you go if you're in a hurry. You'll want to settle in and stay awhile – it's the perfect place for a second date – and you'll probably want to BYOBug repellent, too, if you're hanging out on the patio. The service might be on the slow side, but you won't mind. With a genuine hostess like Phara, a cozy bohemian decor offering lots of photo ops, and a BYOB policy which saves on the overall cost of the experience, Phara's will transport you to a bygone Austin era of funky ambience and soulful hospitality. (Now, just don't ruin it for us please.) ■



VIVO

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www.vivoaustin.com

Sun.-Wed., 11am-9pm;

Thu., 11am-10pm;

Fri.-Sat., 11am-10:30pm

ICYMI BY JESSI CAPE

HAVE A MEXICAN MARTINI AND THEN WALK TO AFS CINEMA

The shopping center formerly known as Lincoln Village has gone by a different name (not a symbol) for several years now: the Linc. I don't think I've heard a single person refer to it that way, but you know the place – it's positioned somewhat between Jerry's Artarama and the Galaxy Highland just off I-35 and 290. Anyway, Vivo moved here from its home on Manor Road in 2014 and now calls one of our favorite venues, AFS Cinema, its neighbor. This unassuming-from-the-outside Tex-Mex spot is highly underrated. Especially if you, like me, love Mexican martinis.

The front wall of windows faces the sun (we're not camping – my compass is in storage) and the thick curtains are often drawn, creating a cozy, vibrant space decorated with bright paint colors and art everywhere. The complimentary salsa is delicious, but pretty spicy, and that only exacerbates the desire for a delicious beverage. The house Meximart features 100% agave tequila, fresh-squeezed lime, simple syrup, a splash of fresh-squeezed OJ, and olive juice, and it's the best one I've had recently. For those of you fortunate enough to

visit that luscious patio at the old digs, yes, they still have margaritas on the menu, with options for cucumber (try it!), hibiscus, mango, and more. Their happy hour menu, by the way, has some really great deals and also features the light and refreshing zanahoria y pepino – julienned jicama, carrot, and cucumbers, topped with olive oil, lime, and chile. It's so very good.

My recent favorite menu item is Cameron's Choice, which comes with your choice of chalupa and one enchilada. My chicken tinga chalupa, cool with lettuce and queso fresco, was enough to fill me up, which meant I lucked out with leftovers – a tangy tomatillo chicken enchilada and remarkably tasty whole grain brown rice and beans – all for under \$12. Other great options include the tortilla soup, vegetarian calabacitas, and puffy tacos.

As if this wasn't enough, Vivo also offers brunch on Sunday and – wait for it – Monday! This is particularly good news for much of the hospitality industry who often have the day off and miss weekend brunch altogether. ■

FOOD EVENTS



Texas German Bier & Brezel Fest

Austin Saengerrunde and Foodways Texas have partnered up for this inaugural event, featuring the tastiest beers from more than a dozen local breweries – and local chefs, bakers, and other pretzel-dough makers serving up their delicious twisted delights alongside. Swig lustily from your commemorative glass boot, citizen, and munch those brezels while listening to the psychedelic polka tunes of that Grammy-winning Brave Combo. *Sat., April 7, 5-11pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 512/666-7464. \$40. www.txgermanbierfestival.com.*

CENTRAL MARKET COOKING CLASSES Check out a full slate of classes covering everything from paella to pork. And, word to the wise, longtime (and way popular) instructor Cindy “Knife Skills” Haenel will be retiring in another 10 months – we’ll be reporting more on this soon – so now is the time to schedule a class and glean some sharp acumen from this hometown guru of gastronomy. *Daily, Central Market North Cooking School, 4001 N. Lamar, 512/206-1014. www.centralmarket.com/cooking-school.aspx.*

CHUY’S NATIONAL BURRITO DAY GIVEBACK On this day, for every “Big as Yo’ Face” burrito sold within their more than 90 locations, the Tex-Mex restaurant will donate \$1 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. We mean, you’re probably gonna wind up in a Chuy’s sometime, at least a few times a year, right? Why not make it today? *Thu., April 5, 11am-10pm. All over town, yo. www.chuys.com/locations.*

HOP ON THE TWISTED TEXAS TOURS BRUNCH BUS Every Saturday, starting Jan. 13, Twisted Texas Tours hosts the “Brunch Bus” which will make stops at Torchy’s for breakfast tacos, Batch for Czech-style kolaches, and Gourdough’s Public House for chicken & waffles – with an adult beverage included at each eatery. A local band also rides aboard this BYOB tour bus, playing live music between stops, easing you into a truly Austintatious weekend. *Saturdays, 11am. Waller Creek Pub House, 603 Sabine, 512/358-1903. \$70. www.twistedtexas.com.*

CEDAR FEST BBQ COOK-OFF Out there in beautiful Cedar Park, this year’s array of cooks will be grilling up ribs, brisket, chicken, and more. And the Heritage Festival portion of the event features live music, pony rides, train rides, petting zoo, carnival games and rides, photos with a longhorn, and more. *Sat., April 7, 1-5pm. Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase, Cedar Park. www.cedarparkchamber.org.*

TEXAS VEG FEST The Wandering Vegan wants you to know that local and national sponsors and vendors, educational lectures, cooking demos, youth activities, fantastic food, craft beer, and live music are just a few of the activities this seventh annual event has to offer. *Sat., April 11, 11am-6pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse E. Segovia St., 512/480-8318. Free. www.texasvegfest.com.*

EASY SUNDAY WITH AUSTIN BEERWORKS No better bakery-forward place than right here to dine this afternoon, we reckon, especially when there’ll be Austin Beerworks’ Flavor Country, Pearl Snap, Bloodwork Orange, and Heisenberg cans for a buck each – not to mention Czech Yourself and Gold Fist on tap, and live screenprinting by Fine Southern Gentlemen, and a raffle that benefits the Austin Zoo & Animal Sanctuary. *Sun., April 8, 2-6pm. Easy Tiger, 709 E. Sixth, 512/614-4972.*

POKE AUSTIN: GRAND OPENING How about some free samples of this new eatery’s wares? Yes, you say? Good, because that – and an array of Hawaiian performers – is part of today’s opening party. *Sun., April 8, 3-4pm. 5601 Brodie #1200-A. www.poke-austin.com.*

GERALDINE’S: TOUR DE TERROIR BURGUNDY DINNER Geraldine’s is the official Texas stop for Jean-Claude Boisset’s national wine tour, featuring a five-course meal curated by chef Stephen Bonin, with each dish paired with the best of Burgundy presented by Boisset and winemaker Gregory Patriat. Bonus: live music by Ray Prim. *Wed., April 11. Geraldine’s, 605 Davis, 512/476-4755. \$125. www.geraldinesaustin.com.*

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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Review: ManinPasta

SOUTH LAMAR IS A LITTLE MORE SICILIAN

“Authenticity has zero utility in determining whether a restaurant is good,” wrote my dear friend and predecessor, Brandon Watson. I wholeheartedly agree, and, quite frankly, wish I could take a page from the *Three Billboards* playbook and make this a very public PSA. Still, this isn’t Ebbing, Mo., and, like Mildred, the word isn’t going away anytime soon. Late last year, ManinPasta’s owner, Davide Careri, who hails from Sicily, opened a new Italian restaurant on South Lamar down the road from Broken Spoke. The food is clearly legit, but that’s not what makes it delicious. It’s that each item – even those that need an edit – is crafted with the love and care of a grandmother whose hands have been making pasta, cutting fresh produce, and kneading bread for decades.

On a Thursday evening, my dining companion and I were pleasantly surprised to find free parking in the nearby garage and no wait inside the restaurant. When I asked, the server was quick to note that the space was formerly aRoma Italian Kitchen & Bar, but that now it’s – here’s that word again – an *authentic* Italian restaurant, and that he was one of only a few who spoke English. (As an aside, we never heard any other language or accent that night, but on the lunch visit, Italian was the predominant language). The layout is similar to aRoma’s, with some added art and adjusted seating, and the bold

wood-fired oven, another Italian immigrant, is still visible from much of the dining room. The kitchen window allows a peek inside and dried pasta hangs nearby. We opted to dine al fresco on the patio, where the ambience is scaled down with wrought iron tables and chairs surrounded by clear plastic tenting and a twinkle-light-adorned giant oak. It’s comfortably tucked away from the busy street.

The cocktail program is solid, and our Old Fashioned and Sazerac (both \$12) were well executed. (It’s worth noting that the time frame between items varied widely, and not always sensibly, despite convivial service.) The Dal Mare (\$16.50) – sautéed mussels and clams in a cherry tomato broth, served with five small pieces of house-made bread – arrived piping hot. The ocean-scented bivalves were fresh, and my only issue with the luscious broth was too few pieces of warm bread for soaking it up. Typically I opt for more interesting salads, but curiosity won, and I went with the Cesare (\$10.50). House-made, the dressing was thick and its sweetness, combined with that of the balsamic drizzle, was a tad overkill, but it was mostly balanced by the plentiful shaved Parmesan and cool crunch of romaine.

A Roman native, spaghetti carbonara is a staple dish. Here, the house-made noodles were excellent, and the pancetta was so perfect – a crispy, oven-baked exterior that retains its meaty bite – that I found myself distracted from the conversation, focusing instead on forking more pieces. The eggs were certainly fresh, though “free range” is another term so overused that it’s lost its effect, and all hail the powerful pecorino. The cheese in this place is on point. My main issue here was the price – \$18.50 seemed quite steep, not only for the portion size (I know, Americans have skewed perspectives on this matter), but also because although it was a wonderful dish, I’m not sure that cost

will be justified in a town with a growing roster of Italian restaurants, whether or not their authenticity matches ManinPasta’s. The majority of executive chef Davide Tonel’s menu

sings that same lovely, but expensive tune – from a \$36 16-oz. T-bone steak special to a porcini mushroom risotto for \$22.50. Perhaps more of a bustling dinner destination, what with the prices and hearty portions of comfort food, it’s a nice little reprieve no matter the hour.

The pizza is labeled Verace (Verace Pizza Napoletana, VPN for short) throughout their limited online presence, though I couldn’t find Manin on the list of certified vendors. That said, who cares? It’s delicious. Again: Just because food is official, or verified, or

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On a weekday lunch, we were the only diners, and though there is an extensive, curated wine list, I once again opted for a cocktail. The Sicilian Gin Spritz, featuring house-made Meyer lemon mix, was just boozy enough to warrant the \$12, but lively enough for lunch; the Italian Mule, with its sprigs of fresh mint, was balanced and effervescent.

I have a thing for cucumber tomato salads. Accompanied by six pieces of house bread, this one, drizzled with their go-to sweet balsamic, did not disappoint, once I added a touch of salt. My Pollo alla Mediterranea (\$18.50) featured breaded chicken, Milanese-style, topped with halved red and yellow cherry tomatoes, fat capers, and Kalamatas served with a side of creamed potatoes. Even half of the dish, albeit a bit oily, had me heavy-lidded, content to soak up the unexpected warmth and charm from an eatery topped with several stories of condos.

On both visits I unknowingly Shazamed the same song – “Alta Marea” by Patrizio Buanne – only to finally recognize it as an Italian cover of 1986 Crowded House hit “Don’t Dream It’s Over.” A woman in the kitchen sang her heart out while I sat hoping more people would come in and stay awhile. And I suspect a price point adjustment would usher them right in.

– Jessi Cape

certified, doesn’t mean it’s good. It’s the care for ingredients, the thoughtful execution, and the creativity that matters most. Does Manin’s food taste good? Yes, it does, and it just so happens to come from an Italian – mostly Sicilian – team. Sticking to simplicity, the Margherita pizza was tasty, though subdued in flavor. I was hoping for a bolder sauce, and fresh basil was replaced with an olive oil-based basil swirl. The crust, although strangely uniform, married thin outside crunch with chewy interior, and the thickness was nice. It seems pizza chef Flavio Miraglia has become so adept at making these pies that we miss some of the unpredictable, character-defining charred bubbles. The sausage and peppers on the Fuoco dell’Etna spiced things up just right.

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SCREENS



The Shattering of Camelot

AUSTIN WRITER EXPLORES THE CONTRADICTIONS OF TED KENNEDY IN *CHAPPAQUIDDICK* by Richard Whittaker

There are few political enigmas more shrouded in speculation than that surrounding a car crash on an island just off the coast of Massachusetts. In 1969, the sleepy beach community of Chappaquiddick became forever welded to American political history when then-Senator Ted Kennedy drove his car off a bridge. He survived, but his passenger – Mary Jo Kopechne, a former staffer to his late brother Bobby – died. The exact events have become fodder for conspiracy talk for almost a half-century, but *Chappaquiddick* does not try to resolve that puzzle.

Instead, according to scriptwriter Andrew Logan, it is about Ted Kennedy himself, and the core question about his actions on that day. Logan said, “How can a man who has so much, who has the entire world handed to him, make such bad decisions?”

In the new film, which debuted at Austin Film Festival last year and opens nationwide this weekend, Jason Clarke (*Mudbound*) plays Ted, the man who was told he would be king,

while Kate Mara is Mary Jo, his doomed passenger whose exact fate has never been definitely settled.

Like the residents of Chappaquiddick, both Logan and his co-writer Taylor Allen know what it's like to grow up with the specter of the Kennedy clan's legacy always in

“How can a man who has so much, who has the entire world handed to him, make such bad decisions?”

SCRIPTWRITER ANDREW LOGAN
ON TED KENNEDY (JASON CLARKE)
IN CHAPPAQUIDDICK

the background. Both grew up in Dallas, and every family vacation, every road trip, even the daily commute, took them through Dealey Plaza. Logan said, “My dad's a lawyer, and the courthouse is right next to the Book Depository. I remember as a kid,

going to see him in the court, [and] there's an actual X on the pavement marking the bullet that killed JFK.”

Logan has long been a ubiquitous part of Austin's Arts+Labor production house, shepherding such noteworthy projects as Alan Berg's SXSW 2015 documentary *The Jones Family Will Make a Way*, and *Hellion* by Kat Candler. However, his *Chappaquiddick* script with Allen made its way onto the prestigious Black List of great unproduced screenplays.

When the pair started considering a Kennedy movie, they quickly realized that just about every member of the clan had been placed under the microscope – except for one. Allen said, “We've seen dozens of JFK stories, we've seen a handful of Bobby stories, but we'd never seen an actor playing Ted.” That seemed like a major omission, so when they started writing three years ago,

they saw a man who had seen history bearing down upon him – swiftly, mercilessly, and tragically. Allen said they conceived of it as a character piece about “this youngest Kennedy brother who had the weight of his entire family legacy placed on his shoulders after he saw his two older brothers assassinated, and his oldest brother die in World War II.”

The script started as a full cradle-to-grave approach – “the Netflix series,” Logan said – but that fell away as they found the story inexorably focused on the crash and its political and personal fallout. Allen said, “It was the seven days that was defining for Ted Kennedy's life, when the expectations for him completely changed.”

The events of the crash are dramatic enough, but they also came at a time of upheaval for Kennedy. It was barely a year since his brother Bobby had been murdered on the presidential campaign trail, and Ted was in the first stages of considering his own run for the White House in 1972. On the night of the accident itself, Apollo 11 was speeding through space, fulfilling JFK's pledge to put humans on the moon. Logan said, “So you've got the highest point of the Kennedy legacy at the same time as the lowest point.”

For Allen, that had to be reflected in how the script portrayed Ted himself. “He's an inherent contradiction, and his greatest strengths are also his greatest weaknesses.”

As director, John Curran knew this was a challenging project. A self-avowed Ted Kennedy fan, he was sent the script by Jason Clarke's manager. “At first,” he said, “I thought, Chappaquiddick, that's a tough one. So while I'm waiting for the script to come through, I'm thinking, ‘Oh, I'm hoping it's not going to be over-apologetic, or this one-dimensional hit piece.’” Instead, he read what he described as “a portrait of Ted as a paradox. It had this great balancing act of pathos and humor, and for me reading it I had this real visceral experience that I was disturbed, and then laughing, and then disturbed that I was laughing, and had all these complicated reactions to it.”

Inevitably, Curran had a dozen major questions for them when they first met, “because I thought there were just too many writerly inventions in this thing, and I wanted to break it down, because the strength of it was that it drew on the authentic details.” However, Allen and Logan had a surprise for him: “Every single [plot point] was drawn from an authentic source. ... All the plot turns are factual.”

Allen said, “It was a character study first, and it was never going to be a conspiracy theory. If it wasn't in the [legal] transcript, or a well-researched journalistic source, we would never include it.”

That included the first person in Ted's orbit to break from the narrative that the family (at the direction of patriarch Joe, played with paralyzed fury by Bruce Dern) and its courtiers had established. In *Chappaquiddick*, that is Ted's cousin and Kennedy clan fixer Joe Gargan (Ed Helms), who fled from the inner circle. His increasing distress that the Kennedys were closing ranks for the worst reasons, balanced


ONLINE // JOHN KRASINSKI AND EMILY BLUNT VISIT A QUIET PLACE | AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SCREENS

against his own loyalty, became apparent in the court transcript from the 1970 criminal inquest. Allen said, "Joe Gargan's testimony was markedly different than everybody else's." Logan concurred: "As a trained attorney who knows how to be a witness, it was clear that he was working through his moral issues up there on the stand."

While the writers worked assiduously to ensure that the script would be as factual and levelheaded as possible, they still knew they could face backlash about even tackling the topic – especially after they decided to shoot in Martha's Vineyard and on Chappaquiddick itself. Curran said, "We thought we'd have to fly really under the radar, and we didn't think we'd get permission. But except for not upsetting local ferry schedules, and traffic, once we cleared that we had nothing but support."


The only people that initially refused to cooperate with the production were the Roman Catholic Church (which declined to allow a real priest to take part), and the owner of the home opposite the infamous bridge. Her concern was not about the story, but rather, having grown up there, she'd lived through days when literally hundreds of tourists, gawkers, and conspiracy theorists clogged the road just to glimpse the bridge. Finally, even she warmed up to the crew. Curran said, "She stood around watching us shoot all day on the bridge, and by the end of the day she went, 'Yeah, you can shoot my house.'"

Chappaquiddick opens nationwide this week.



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War, Over and Over Again

Israeli drama *Foxtrot* finds dark humor and tragedy in conflict's insanity

BY JOSH KUPECKI

A knock on the door of a modernist Tel Aviv apartment is answered by a woman. Immediately realizing the significance of the visitors, she collapses into a seizure in the doorway. Her husband, seen in an adjoining room, stands rigid and shell-shocked. This is the opening shot of Israeli writer/director Samuel Moaz's lyrical and metaphor-heavy second feature *Foxtrot*, after 2009's *Lebanon*. The visitors are soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces, and their presence means that the couple's son has died in service. They immediately, with calm precision, sedate the mother, Daphna (Adler), and cart her off to bed. The father, Michael (Ashkenazi, mesmerizing), is told someone will be by to coordinate the funeral service, and one of the soldiers programs into Michael's phone an hourly reminder to drink a glass of water. It's all done with a depressing routine, just another notification of an untimely and senseless death, and when the soldiers leave, the tragedy of the event takes on a deeper hue, the camera oscillating between close-ups of the devastated Michael and bird's-eye views of him drifting around the apartment, completely unmoored.

The nonlinear *Foxtrot* moves from the apartment to the desolate outpost that Michael's son Jonathan (Shiray) is manning with three

other soldiers. Their days consist of checking IDs of Palestinian motorists, letting errant camels through the checkpoint, and trying to stay sane in a life of boredom in the middle of nowhere. This section of the film is filled with hilariously deadpan humor: think Jarmusch or Kaurismäki. The soldiers live in an ever-sinking freight container and subsist on heated tins of some unidentifiable food. Soon enough, a misguided and unfortunate act of violence occurs, and a cover-up follows.



FOXTROT

D: Samuel Moaz; with Lior Ashkenazi, Sarah Adler, Yonatan Shiray, Dekel Adin, Yehuda Almagor, Gefen Barkai, Shira Haas, Itay Exiroad, Shaul Amir, Danny Isserles, Itamar Rotschild, Roi Miller, Arie Tchner, Karin Ugowski, Yaakov Daniel Zada, Mussa Zhalka, Nimrod Levi, Gony Lidror. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

★★★★

Apologies for the narrative obtuseness, but the film's pleasures and surprises resonate distinctly as they unfold. The title refers to the dance, in which the participant ends in the same place they started. That should give you some idea of the themes the film traffics in. Moaz has crafted a film full of dark whimsy and irony, a multigenerational allegory on the cost of war. Shortlisted as Israel's entry to the Best Foreign-Language Film at this year's Academy Awards, but ultimately not making the cut when the nominees were whittled down from nine to five, *Foxtrot* will surprise and enrage you. Yet there's a spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down. With caustic wit and fantastic performances for all involved, the film is destined to be an anti-war classic. War, war never changes.

ALAMO S. LAMAR, ARBOR

BACK TO BURGUNDY

D: Cédric Klapisch; with Pio Marmaï, Ana Girardot, François Civil, Jean-Marc Roulot, María Valverde, Yamée Couture, Florence Pernel, Jean-Marie Winling, Éric Caravaca. (NR, 113 min., subtitled)

The seductive scenery in this French film will sink its hooks into any hungry soul, and the window into the winemaking process it offers will stimulate the juices of any armchair oenophile. But the dramatic core of Cédric Klapisch's *Back to Burgundy* is pure boilerplate. It is table wine instead of vintage, leading to unremarkable quaffing instead of long-lingering sips. The members of the fictional family of vintners at the heart of this story summon remembrances of things past with nearly every drop of wine, but their recollections seem more like indulgences than insights.

Jean (Marmāi) returns home to his family's estate after a 10-year absence. Ironically, it is his father's impending death that brings the prodigal son home, after leaving as a young man a decade earlier to escape his father's clutches. Jean spends the next year with his sister Juliette (Girardot) and brother Jérémie (Civil) in the wake of their father's death as the siblings try to decide whether to continue the operation or sell the land to pay the hefty inheritance tax on it that's now due. The present often elides with the past in the film as childhood memories poetically come to the fore without ever deepening in meaning. Jérémie has married into a neighboring winemaking family and is cowed by his domineering father-in-law who wants to buy the siblings' acreage. Juliette is the one who has inherited the best nose for the business, and her struggle to come into her own as the estate's grape guru is the most interesting of all the siblings' arcs, yet it is the one that's frustratingly given the least attention.

Klapisch (*When the Cat's Away, Family Resemblances*) is a filmmaker who evinces a special feeling for community connections and family ties. The sentiments, however, outweigh the vision in this film. The siblings

are an attractive bunch, capable of evoking the loving but complicated links among adult offspring. Yet their dialogue can be rife with sodden clichés about fermentation, life, and time's passage. Images of the fecund countryside or the siblings stomping grapes together may be enough to besot the senses, but beware the murky residue that can cloud the mind.

★★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten
ARBOR

BEIRUT

D: Brad Anderson; with Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike, Dean Norris, Shea Whigham, Larry Pine, Mark Pellegrino, Idir Chender, Ben Affan, Leila Bekhti, Alon Abutbul, Kate Fleetwood, Douglas Hodge, Jonny Coyne, Mohamed Zouaoui, Mohamed Attougui. (R, 109 min.)

In 1972, Beirut was the Paris of the Middle East, a bohemian destination on a par with Monaco. By June of 1982, it was a free-fire zone. Mason Skiles (Hamm) knows both ends of that era, first running cocktail parties for the U.S. Embassy, then begrudgingly returning to the formerly great cosmopolitan city, now a crater-riddled internecine battlefield: And that's where *Beirut* has taken a pummeling of its own. Lebanese groups lambasted the trailer for a clichéd depiction of the city as a terrorist-drenched hellhole. That could explain why it's been moved from its original release day – the 43rd anniversary of the first day of the Lebanese Civil War.

But *Beirut* is not a simple USA good/Middle East bad narrative. Instead, Skiles only returns because intelligence officer Cal (Pellegrino) has been kidnapped, and Skiles – who has been pouring himself into every available bottle since his wife's murder during a botched operation – is the only man with whom the militia will deal. The group (clearly based on Abu Nidal) wants him to orchestrate a prisoner swap for their leader; the only wrinkle is that no one knows where he's gone, or who is holding him.

When he's not at his desk as Hollywood's script polisher of choice, Tony Gilroy (*State of Play*) has attempted to establish himself as a neo-John le Carré. *Beirut* is his most successful emulation to date, but it's no *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, rather more a lesser work like *The Little Drummer Girl*. He wants to create a balanced view of a state in collapse, where every player has fault and legitimate complaints, and his script is successfully greasy, and distrusting of an environment where burnouts like Skiles are the only clear-eyed observers. But the issue is not his script; rather, it's *The Machinist* director Anderson's reliance on the hackneyed sepia tone and constant call to prayer that is cinematic shorthand for "somewhere in the Middle East." However, Gilroy's adept hand with a spycraft tale makes this *Argo* with a nihilist streak. He never tries to completely unwrap the region's complicated history, of the Israelis and Syria and the PLO and Druze Militias, of competing interests, and tensions between alleged allies (never better executed than in a febrile subplot involving Whigham's embassy staffer, Norris' CIA station chief, Pike's case officer, and their supposed friends at Mossad). It's about a normalized nightmare: bombing raids in the distance as a point of curiosity; machine-gun fire punctu-

OPENINGS

Back to Burgundy (NR)
Beirut (R)
Blockers (R)
Chappaquiddick (PG-13)
Foxtrot (R)
Gemini (R)
God's Not Dead: A Light in Darkness (PG)
The Miracle Season (PG)
A Quiet Place (PG-13)
Tyler Perry's Acrimony (R)

RATINGS

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
★ Poor, without any saving graces
● La bomba
●★ Recommended

ating but not interrupting a conversation.

What papers over any remaining cracks is the perfect casting of Hamm as the fixer turned business consultant dragged back into the morass. His raw charisma, and near-peerless ability to sweat martinis through a disheveled linen suit and still look stylish, sends the film's moral compass spinning – exactly as it should.

★★★

– Richard Whittaker

ALAMO LAKELINE

★ BLOCKERS

D: Kay Cannon; with Leslie Mann, Ike Barinholtz, John Cena, Kathryn Newton, Geraldine Viswanathan, Gideon Adlon, Ramona Young, Colton Dunn, Hannibal Buress. (R, 102 min.)

Is there any moment more bittersweet than watching kids on their first day of school? Of course, one moment they're falling over their Trapper Keeper, the next they're talking about moving to California for college, and you're left wondering who these people, these other parents, you've stood next to at the school gates really are. With kindergartners becoming high school best friends Julie (Newton), Sam (Adlon), and Kayla (Viswanathan), the adults in their lives are drifting apart. Kayla's dad, overly literal jock Mitchell (Cena), is baffled that Julie's mom Lisa (Mann) doesn't want to be friends anymore, while they've both turned their backs on party animal and adulterer Hunter (Barinholtz), who turned his back on Sam through her growing pains. But a prom night pledge between the girls that they will all lose their virginity at the same time sends all three parentals into a mad tailspin – if for very different reasons.

The latest from the Seth Rogen/Evan Goldberg R-rated comedy machine, *Blockers* has the heart that their tediously sensationalist *Sausage Party* lacked. In her directorial debut, *Pitch Perfect* writer Cannon dances between the gross-out, the pratfalls, and the very resonant story of growing up. Her success is not in making this a simple “kids outwit their parents” narrative, or pushing the teens into supporting roles, but by balancing the story: The kids are worried about growing up, while the adults are working through their own issues, and everyone's story has a little space to breathe.

She also avoids any of the “edgy” (read: ill-considered) sexual antics that so often age these movies so badly. There's no date rape subplot (so often used as a cheap device in high school romps) to add unnecessary tension; instead, Cannon just lets the high stakes of losing your virginity, and how, and when, and with whom, be enough. On top of that, one significant subplot makes as much effort to make LGBTQ relationships as commonplace and regular in a blockbuster as *Love, Simon* did, and the fact that she does not make a big deal of it makes it a big deal.

But this is first and foremost a broad, lewd comedy, complete with butt chugging, exploding cars, a lot of vomit, and blindfold naked tag. Barinholtz and Mann swim these waters with ease, but it's another revelatory part for pro-wrestler John Cena. After bit parts in *Sisters* and *Trainwreck* proved he has cinema comedy timing, he leaps into the ensemble here as the macho but awkward Mitchell, worried about his baby girl ending up with a boy ... well, a little too much like

In the Realm of the Senses

D: Nagisa Ōshima; with Tatsuya Fuji, Eiko Matsuda. (1976, NC-17, 101 min., subtitled) **Forbidden Colors: The Transgressions of Nagisa Ōshima.** Ōshima's most controversial film explores the outer limits of sexual obsession in this story of an affair that reaches a point of no return. This screening kicks off a new Austin Film Society retrospective of the Japanese master filmmaker's work. @AFS Cinema, Friday, 7:30pm; Sunday, 2pm.



him. Yet if there's a real breakout performance here, it's Geraldine Viswanathan as jock Mitchell's suitably sporty daughter. She doesn't deliver her lines. She slices through them with the easy charm and rat-a-tat delivery of the OG *Saturday Night Live* crew.

If there's one error, it's that there are almost too many laughs. Cannon keeps the pace up, and some of the smart one-liners from the script by Brian and Jim Kehoe get stamped on in the race for the next gag. Still, a laugh lost because the audience is still howling from the last slapstick is no major sin.

★★★

– Richard Whittaker

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM ROUND ROCK, CM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, LAKELINE, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, SKY CINEMAS, WESTGATE

CHAPPAQUIDDICK

D: John Curran; with Jason Clarke, Kate Mara, Ed Helms, Bruce Dern, Jim Gaffigan, Clancy Brown, Olivia Thirlby, Andria Blackman, Taylor Nichols. (PG-13, 101 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Rigorously researched examination of Ted Kennedy's actions before and after the fatal crash that killed Mary Jo Kopechne and changed the course of American political history.

– Richard Whittaker

ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM ROUND ROCK, CM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS, HIGHLAND, IPIC, MOVIEHOUSE, SKY CINEMAS, VIOLET CROWN

★ GEMINI

D: Aaron Katz; with Lola Kirke, Zoë Kravitz, John Cho, Greta Lee, Ricki Lake, Michelle Forbes, Nelson Franklin, Reeve Carney, Jessica Parker Kennedy, James Ransone. (R, 93 min.)

There are 13 million stories in the naked city of angels and most of them involve a gun, a girl, and some mournful, melancholy sax-action at some point in the telling. Director Aaron Katz's *Gemini* is a neon-drenched murder mystery – or is it? – for the selfie generation, set in the hipster hamlet of Silverlake. So it goes with this highly stylized slice of bad, black millennial noir, a post-mumblecore take on the shady underbelly of L.A. in which Los Angeles plays itself, very nearly upstaging the main characters' plight.

Jill LeBeau (Kirke) is the perpetually patient personal assistant and all-around amanuensis to ascending starlet Heather Anderson (Kravitz). Reeling from a recent breakup with her boyfriend Devin (Carney),

Heather's decided to back out of her next movie and sends Jill to break the news to director Greg (Franklin). Since it's a passion project that he's been working on for years, Greg does not take the news well, nor do the project's producer and Heather's agent. All this career chaos leads the pair to a night of La-La-Land debauchery involving smashed K-town karaoke, much existential navel-gazing, and a too-close encounter with an overzealous superfan (Kennedy) until the pair finally crash out at Heather's home. The following morning finds Heather dead by gunshot and Jill's fingerprints on the murder weapon. Enter Detective Ahn (Cho), who unsurprisingly fingers Jill as the chief suspect. He's way off base, of course, so Jill changes her appearance and begins her own search for the real killer, a dedicated PA to and beyond the bitter end.

Writer/director/editor Katz's longtime cinematographer Andrew Reed renders the L.A. nightscape in forbidding blues, purples, and shades of crimson that visually, at least, recall early Italian maestros Bava and Argento. Atmospheric and borderline surreal in places, *Gemini* may not enthrall hardcore noir voyeurs, but its subtle focus on identity, the perils of fame in the age of social media, and indeed its entirely femme-centric storyline more than make up for a relatively flimsy whodunit.

★★★

– Marc Savlov

ALAMO S. LAMAR, ARBOR

GOD'S NOT DEAD: A LIGHT IN DARKNESS

D: Michael Mason; with Jennifer Taylor, John Corbett, Ted McGinley, Tatum O'Neal, Shane Harper, David A.R. White, Gregory Alan Williams, Samantha Boscarino, Shwayze. (PG, 120 min.)

A little over half a century ago, the cover of *Time* magazine famously asked: “Is God Dead?” The question was a rhetorical one, posed during a turbulent decade freshly haunted by the 20th-century horrors of Auschwitz and Hiroshima. The more literal-minded *God's Not Dead* franchise of faith-based films, however, appears to have no interest in a dialogue about God's whereabouts amidst the terrors of the contemporary world. Rather, its agenda is largely informed by our contemporary culture wars – those pitting religious beliefs and secular principles against each other in conflicts (both real and imagined) – and staged as a Punch-and-Judy show on the proscenium of American political theatre.

Like its two predecessors, *God's Not Dead: A Light in Darkness* relies upon a firmly held belief in the persecution of Christians today. Released in 2014, the first film pitted a devout evangelical college student against an atheistic university professor who directed his pupils to sign a declaration of God's demise to pass his course; two years later, the second film pitted a devout evangelical public high school teacher against an educational administration zealously intent upon maintaining the distance between church and state. In this latest chapter, affable pastor Reverend Dave (White) from the initial film (his denominational affiliation is unspecified, but it appears to be old-school Protestantism) reappears here to suffer the requisite crisis in faith during a showdown with public university officials seeking to

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Gym Buddies

remove his 150-year-old church from campus property for financial and other irreligious reasons. The maltreatment narratives in these films are similar: Big Godless Institution versus Little Guy Christian, with the Big Guy in his corner. It's a David and Goliath dynamic as old as the Bible.

To its credit, this third GND installment earnestly attempts to give some degree of lip service to diverging perspectives on the socio-religious-political scale without too much proselytizing, although there's never any question about whose side it's on. Regardless, the absence of the one-dimensional stridency and hostility of its predecessors is more than welcome. As the conflicted reverend and agnostic brother (Corbett) who comes to his legal aid, the leads nail the way that grownup siblings sometimes interact with each other, reverting to little kids playing in adult roles. The way their characters ultimately come to respect the differences in their belief systems is hopeful, and not altogether contrived. It may not portend a reconciliation of the believer and the unbeliever in these charged times, but it's a start.

★★★ — Steve Davis
CINEMARK 20, CM ROUND ROCK, SKY CINEMAS, WESTGATE

Tom of Finland

D: Dome Karukoski; with Jakob Oftebro, Jessica Grabowsky, Pekka Strang. (2017, NR, 116 min.) Biopic dramatizes the life of the artist and gay icon born Touko Valio Laaksonen. Screening benefits Austin's Kind Clinic, which provides sexual health and wellness services to all members of the LGBTQ community and allies. @Alamo Village, Wednesday, 8pm.



THE MIRACLE SEASON

D: Sean McNamara; with Helen Hunt, Tiera Skovbye, Erin Moriarty, Danika Yarosh, Jason Gray-Stanford, William Hurt. (PG, 90 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. McNamara, director of feel-good trauma movie *Soul Surfer*, and *Friday Night Lights* co-writer David Aaron Cohen team up for the true story of the comeback path of the 2011 Iowa City West High School volleyball team.

— Richard Whittaker

BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM ROUND ROCK, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, LAKELINE, SKY CINEMAS

A QUIET PLACE

D: John Krasinski; with Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, Millicent Simmonds, Noah Jupe, Cade Woodward, Leon Russom. (PG-13, 90 min.)

If T.S. Eliot turned up at the Abbott household and trotted out that old line about the end of the world coming not with a bang, but a whimper, the family would shush him and point out that whimpers and whispers are the only way humanity will survive.

Although best known as the pleasantly acerbic Jim in *The Office* (and increasingly for action-packed events like his upcoming *Jack Ryan* series for Amazon), Krasinski is no stranger or slouch behind the camera. So after 2016's morbidly comedic homecoming *The Hollars*, his first stab at horror is, as it is to be expected, a family-centric piece. The Abbotts are a regular nuclear family caught in impossible circumstances: Something is in the woods, and the streets, and everywhere; a mysterious something that hones in on the slightest sound, strikes like lightning, and slaughters without mercy.

It's not a new conceit: In fact, the silent menace is a staple of the home invasion movie, from *Wait Until Dark* to *Don't Breathe*. But scaling it out to a farm in upstate New York, where the beasts roam free by day or night, adds a new layer of fear and opportunity. The family members have at least marginal control over their environment, and have developed innovative survival tools, like sand paths that muffle every shuffling step. The Abbotts have another advantage: Evelyn and Lee (real-life couple Blunt and Krasinski)

When Austin comedy screenwriter Shruti Saran saw fitness culture merging with internet culture, she knew the subject was ripe for satire. Her web series *Gym Buddies* pokes fun at the sometimes-baffling trends that have made getting fit its own subculture, like how trendy diets and "bro science" combine with social media obsession to give rise to the modern Instagram fitness celebrity.

More than just satirizing gym culture, Saran felt a critical aspect of the show would be for viewers to experience the comedy through a woman's perspective. She said, "It was important to me that the show be female-focused."

Gym Buddies centers around Aparna (Nikita Redkar) and her best friend Quinn (Chelsea Lane) as they set out to achieve their fitness goals. Well, kind of — Aparna just broke up with her boyfriend and might be more interested in accidentally tagging him in a gym selfie. Quinn is there because Aparna lured her in with a false promise

of lunch at Thai Kitchen. But before long, Quinn agrees to become Aparna's gym buddy, and the (mis)adventures begin.

Over five episodes, Aparna and Quinn find themselves locked into a protein powder-induced trip; taking a musical detour into a rap about internet-sourced workout plans; and struggling to accept personal training from a man without feeling mansplained to, all the while being followed around by bumbling gym manager Rob (Jason Gallaher). Aparna and Quinn are not expert-level CrossFit types, but they reflect a common experience that many people undergo when making a resolution to get fit — one that can be as overwhelming as it is blundering. Saran said, "We're talking a lot about women's strength and feminism these days, and I liked the idea of telling a story about two women who were literally getting stronger."

Catch the entire series at www.gymbuddies.tv. ■

know American Sign Language because their daughter Regan (Simmonds) is profoundly deaf. It's a rare break in this silent, doomed world that has allowed them to create a safe environment — free of creaking floors, snapping branches, or even heavy footsteps — that allows them to survive.

In many ways, *A Quiet Place* is the film that many expected the tragic, tender, underrated, and horribly misadvertised *It Comes at Night* to be. That's no slight on either film, but *A Quiet Place* is simply a more multiplex-friendly take on the same theme of the emotional toll of the apocalypse. Trey Edward Shults clothed his story of a family at the end of the world in enigma; by contrast, if Krasinski shows you a gun in the first act, you can be damn sure that someone is getting shot in the third. So every incremental turn of the screw — Regan's inability to hear threats (a performance given additional depth by Simmonds' own deafness), or Evelyn's pregnancy, or middle-child Marcus (Jupe) scarcely holding his own fears in check — has meaning.

Not that he lacks artistry. When he delivers on tension, it's not a jump scare, but a jarring sense of inevitability (another kin-

ship to Shults' work). Every time there is a sound above a whisper, there is a payoff, and how Krasinski navigates between those two events is never less than enthralling — and, yes, tragic. Moreover, knowing that Krasinski does not believe in red herrings means that every detail gets a payoff. In a genre that has often been plagued by nudge-nudge, wink-wink storytelling, the simple honesty of a family facing impossible odds and eking through is truly chilling.

★★★ — Richard Whittaker

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, ALAMO VILLAGE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM ROUND ROCK, CM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, LAKELINE, METROPOLITAN MOVIEHOUSE, SKY CINEMAS, VIOLET CROWN, WESTGATE

TYLER PERRY'S ACRIMONY

D: Tyler Perry; with Taraji P. Henson, Lyriq Bent, Crystle Stewart, Jazmyn Simon, Ptosha Storey, Ajiona Alexus, Antonio Madison, Bresha Webb, Danielle Nicolet, Nelson Estevez, Kendrick Cross, Denise Woods. (R, 120 min.)

What is it about strong women that attracts shit dudes? Is it a particularly nurturing nature, a dominant personality, or the fact that they "want" rather than "need" men? According to *Tyler Perry's Acrimony*, the answer is simple: Those bitches be crazy.

The film starts near the end of the story. A wide shot shows Melinda (*Empire's* Henson) sitting in a therapist's office. The therapist (voiced by Woods, a dialect coach) remains offscreen (and doesn't even have a name) while Melinda recounts the events that brought her to this point (court-ordered anger management), starting with meeting her ex-husband Robert (Bent) in college (the younger counterparts played by Alexis & Madison). Despite red flags (namely philandering and manipulation) and the fact her family hates his guts, the two wed and he pisses away the inheritance she received when her mother died (a house plus \$350,000) while he works on an invention, a self-charging battery, that's supposed to make them rich.

After 18 years working day and night to support them, Melinda is more than a little weary and Henson's face carries the dead weight with the gracious air of a lioness.

Barefoot

D: Jan Sverák; with Jan Triska, Oldrich Kaiser, Tereza Voriskova, Alois Grec. (2017, NR, 111 min., subtitled) **Czech That Film**. In this kickoff to the annual Czech That Film touring series, a young boy moves to the country during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. @Violet Crown, Tuesday, 7pm.



When old flame Diana (Stewart) bumps into Robert while working at the company he's been courting for his invention (a questionable choice of character reuse), Melinda goes completely batshit because she's convinced he's cheating on her (again), and she's kinda right. She asks for a divorce and he immediately gets engaged to Diana. Melinda holes up at home with a shitload of booze, whiling away the hours stalking them online and scratching out Diana's face in pictures (because that's definitely not a cliché).

Divided into chapters, precursory visuals of dictionary definitions appear onscreen (a device that isn't nearly as clever as Perry thinks it is), starting with the title of the film – to the ear “acrimony” is not far off from “matrimony” – and moving on to “inexorable” and “deranged.” It was the latter that gave me pause, because I thought “obsession” could just as easily have been used but would have had a more neutral connotation – or even “monomania,” which could be applied to both parties. “Deranged” marks a turning point: Our heroine becomes the villain. It made me wonder, in light of #MeToo: When women tell their stories, aren't we supposed to believe them? Well yes, we should, unless we can categorize them as “crazy” or “psycho” and then their tragic fates become acceptable (a concept that echoes the Victorian-era “madwoman in the attic”). With this latest thriller (comedy? My fellow audience members were laughing at scenes I highly doubt were intended to be funny), Perry implies that not only does she belong there, but she forged every link in her chains.

★ – Danielle White
ALAMO LAKELINE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM ROUND ROCK, CM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, WESTGATE

FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ ISLE OF DOGS

D: Wes Anderson; with the voices of Bryan Cranston, Koyu Rankin, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber, Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson, Jeff Goldblum, Bob Balaban, Kunichi Nomura, Akira Ito, Greta Gerwig, Akira Takayama, Frances McDormand. (PG-13, 101 min., subtitled)

Meet the pack: five dogs, left to fend for themselves. There's Boss (Murray), Duke (Goldblum), and King (Balaban), with tension between resident outsider Chief (Cranston), and their de facto not-leader Rex (Norton). When Atari (Rankin) drops out of the sky in search of his own abducted pet, Spots, Rex proposes they help reunite dog and human, and off they go on a dangerous quest across the most sumptuous and symmetrical trash heap you ever saw. Anderson's stop-motion adventure is beautiful, lyrical, tragic, redemptive, and focused down to the last tick on a dog's nose. His conceits – such as having every dog speak English, but the humans speak in unsubtitled Japanese – never seem like gimmicks, but instead allow him to convey deeper, warmer, simpler emotional truths about loyalty and love. In short, they're all good dogs, Wes. (03/23/2018)

★★★★★ – Richard Whittaker
ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, ALAMO VILLAGE, ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS, IPIC, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, VIOLET CROWN

★ LEANING INTO THE WIND: ANDY GOLDSWORTHY

D: Thomas Riedelheimer; with Andy Goldsworthy. (PG, 98 min.)
Iconoclastic British environmentalist and sculptor Andy Goldsworthy doesn't experience the world in the same way

the rest of us do. Using more than just the conventional five senses, he profoundly intuits his surroundings as if in a meditative trance, mentally and physically absorbing the details of his environment like a forensic scientist in the pursuit of a unique artistry that's brought him worldwide acclaim. For admirers, there's a reverence in this artistry. *Leaning Into the Wind* is Riedelheimer's second documentary about Goldsworthy and his work, and while this follow-up to 2001's *Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working With Time* often feels more like a cinematic coffee-table book than a documentary, the filmmaker and his subject matter clearly make a good team. (03/30/2018)

★★★ – Steve Davis
AFS CINEMA

THE LEISURE SEEKER

D: Paolo Virzi; with Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland, Kirsty Mitchell, Joshua Mikel, Christian McKay, Janel Moloney. (R, 112 min.)

Five decades into their mostly happy marriage, Ella (Mirren) and her dementia-addled husband John (Sutherland) are on the lam from their helicoptering kids (Moloney and McKay) and home in Wellesley, Mass., where John was once a professor of literature, and into their beloved RV for a last trip, destination Key West, to see the house of John's hero, Ernest Hemingway. Their trip is dotted with mishaps both minor and major – a run-in

with the law, an attempted highway robbery – that rarely rise dramatically beyond the level of light shenanigans. Oh, but Mirren and Sutherland are dynamos. Acting together for the first time since 1990's *Bethune: The Making of a Hero*, they convincingly evince the tenderness and exasperation and shorthand communication of a long-married couple. (03/30/2018)

★★ – Kimberley Jones
ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, METROPOLITAN

★ LOVE, SIMON

D: Greg Berlanti; with Nick Robinson, Katherine Langford, Alexandra Shipp, Logan Miller, Jorge Lendeborg Jr., Jennifer Garner, Josh Duhamel, Keiynan Lonsdale, Tony Hale. (PG-13, 109 min.)

“I'm just like you,” the boyishly handsome and sweet-natured high school senior Simon Spier (Robinson) matter-of-factly announces at the outset of this groundbreaking, yet refreshingly ordinary movie about a young man learning to exhale after a lifetime of holding his breath. There's something truly revolutionary about this big-screen Romeo and Romeo romance, as Simon courts an anonymous closeted schoolmate he's met online in the hope of one day meeting him. Like Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan before them, Simon and Mr. Right finally meet, not atop the Empire State Building, but at the apex of a Ferris

CONTINUED ON P.45

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THE VIRGIN SPRING (1960)
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (1972)
Forget chocoholic March hare, secreted psychedelic eggs, and *King of Kings* running on an endless cathode ray loop. My favorite Easter double-bill is Bergman's haunting Christianity vs. Paganism parable, backed by Wes Craven's debut. Bergman and DP Sven Nykvist's art-house classic is the grandfather of all rape-revenge movies, a wonderful, terrible thing to behold. Craven's riff is relentlessly vile yet adheres to its predecessor's core story. To avoid fainting, keep repeating “They're only movies” ad nauseam.
– Marc Savlov

A ROOM WITH A VIEW (1985)
Under the influence of spring and the sheer romance of pastoral Italy, a young man plants on a young woman the kind of kiss that'll buckle your knees. Puccini on top? Pass the smelling salts. – Kimberley Jones

LATE SPRING (1949)
If you're familiar with Yasujiro Ozu's work, and a fan of his quiet style, *Late Spring* is a must-see. The first in his Noriko Trilogy is a portrait of a young woman perfectly content with staying at home to care for her widowed father, but everybody wants her to get married. Despite Allied censorship, it's a peek into post-war Japan. Although the “spring” landscapes are a little dull in black & white, it's a tender story of kinship and loyalty. Make it a twofer with 1956's *Early Spring*.
– Danielle White



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SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

Sex Pistols Go Boom

ICONIC PUNK FINAL TOUR IMPLOSION IN *D.O.A.*

by Tim Stegall

1978: After a stormy two-year career, English punk icons the Sex Pistols imploded on American soil following their abortive U.S. tour. Victims of their own chaotic existence (and Malcolm McLaren's chronic mismanagement), they'd leave an enormous, permanent stain of influence on rock & roll.

New York filmmaker Lech Kowalski, backed by *High Times* publisher Tom Forcade, filmed guerrilla coverage of all seven concerts (including legendary stops in San Antonio and Dallas), plus attendant reportage of the band's wake as they razed Dixie, headed toward their San Francisco denouement. Before resultant tour documentary *D.O.A.: A Right of Passage* premiered at New York's Waverly Theater in 1981 (complete with a hilarious rude running commentary from the attendant Dead Boys, brief *D.O.A.* co-stars themselves), Forcade and Pistols bassist Sid Vicious had both died, and most of the bands featured were long gone. Following the occasional midnight screening on the early Eighties grindhouse circuit, it eventually saw brief home video release, achieving its cult classic reputation through increasingly degenerate, hand-made VHS copies, passed surreptitiously.

Forty years after that catastrophic tour, after a Blu-ray restoration by MVD Entertainment, it finally returns to the big screen.

D.O.A.'s fraught genesis could plot a hilarious indie docucomedy. Kowalski had permission to film from neither the band nor Warner Bros., their U.S. record label. His insistence on a gonzo/pirate production led to hiring dummy film crews to run interference as the real crew snuck cameras and sound equip-

D.O.A.: A RIGHT OF PASSAGE

Fri.-Sat., April 6-7, 10pm; Sun., April 8, 4:30pm, AFS Cinema, 6406 N. I-35. Tickets at www.austinfilm.org.

ment under their coats, but realizing priceless Pistols footage alone wouldn't suffice in communicating punk's impact, he and the crew flew to England. There he lensed a gloomy, highly narcotized interview with Vicious and notorious girlfriend Nancy Spungen; an indignant conversation with Conservative Party politician Bernard Brook Partridge, who seemingly viewed his job as protecting the British public from the Sex Pistols; and a mind-numbing monologue from punk everykid Terry Sylvester, leader of the aptly-named Terry & the Idiots. Sylvester obviously learned to field interviews from Johnny Rotten TV appearances; his impersonation gets an F-minus. Kowalski also captured extraordinary footage of several vintage



Brit-punk bands in full pogo, including original Sex Pistol Glen Matlock's Rich Kids essaying a rather manicured "Pretty Vacant," and Sham 69 ramming "Borstal Breakout" down the frothing maw of the Nazi skinhead audience they never wanted.

Then you have Forcade – the Yippie who publicly antagonized Abbie Hoffman, and made headlines for hurling a cream pie in the face of a pornography commissioner – amping the already paranoia-and-chaos infected atmosphere, his inferences that the FBI were trailing the tour prevailing to the present. The telephone game ultimately resulted in Sex Pistols singer John Lydon's recent memoir *Anger Is an Energy* asserting *High Times* was a front for the CIA.

The results: impeccable. It's not just the stunning Sex Pistols performances (given

hilarious subtitles). There are great cinematic moments, like a long tracking shot of a hand-held camera walking through a rehearsal complex, before entering a room where X-Ray Spex blasts through "Oh Bondage Up Yours!" which seamlessly cuts to the band in full live roar at pivotal London punk pub the Hope and Anchor. The Sid and Nancy footage affirms actress Chloe Webb accurately caught Spungen's shrieking-harpy persona in Alex Cox's biopic *Sid & Nancy*, although Gary Oldman's performance was more coherent than the real Vicious here. ("Um, what was the question?") Seeing Generation X recording "Kiss Me Deadly" is alone worth the admission price. Ultimately, *D.O.A.*'s the perfect punk movie, its production values the cinematic equivalent of the best punk records: raw, loud, crude, and basic. ■

THURSDAY 4/5

The Big Lebowski (1998) D: Joel Coen. (R, 117 min.) 20th Anniversary. (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 8:15pm.

Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974) D: Sam Peckinpah. (R, 112 min.) CinemaTexas Rewind. Former CinemaTexas member Louis Black hosts the April 5 screening. In these very pages, Black once described the film as "a profound existential adventure, twistedly comic and openly bitter, brought to life by those two maniacs: Sam Peckinpah and Warren Oates." @AFS Cinema, 7:30pm.

Eating You Alive (2018) D: Paul David Kennamer Jr. (NR, 108 min.) Nutritional doc includes testimonials from James Cameron, Samuel L. Jackson, and Penn Jillette. @Arbor, Metropolitan, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Hill Country Galleria, Cinemark 20, EVO Entertainment, 7pm.

Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009) D: Wes Anderson. (PG, 87 min.) Cider Dinner. Menu paired with drinks from Shacksbury Cider. (*) @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 7:15pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the April 20 issue is Monday, April 9. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 512/458-6910; or email.

Contact Danielle White (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com.

THE SYMBOL (*) INDICATES FULL-LENGTH REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FILM

Hits of 1998 Video Dance Party

@Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Man in the Can (2014) D: Noessa Higa. (NR, 38 min.) Gear up for the Bullock's upcoming "Rodeo! The Exhibition" with this short documentary about the ups and downs of a Texas rodeo clown. The director and star Ronald Burton will be in attendance for a post-screening conversation. @Texas Spirit Theater, 7pm.

Spirited Away (2001) D: Hayao Miyazaki. (PG, 125 min., subtitled) Studio Ghibli: Dispatches From the Dream Factory. A young girl is trapped between the real and the ghost worlds in this classic animated Japanese film. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 6:45pm.

SPACES

The Lion King (1994) Movies in the Park. (*) @Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park, 8:15pm.

Zero Days (2016) D: Alex Gibney. (PG-13, 116 min.) Controversy & Conversation: A Difficult Dialogues Program. Chilling cyber warfare doc explores the Stuxnet virus. (*) @Terrazas Branch Library, 7pm.

FRIDAY 4/6

Braveheart (1995) D: Mel Gibson; with Gibson. (R, 177 min.) Master Pancake. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm.

Captain America: Civil War & Spider-Man: Homecoming Double Feature. @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 8:30pm.

D.O.A.: A Right of Passage (1981) D: Lech Kowalski. (90 min.) Lates. Newly restored doc chronicles the Sex Pistols on their disastrous 1978 U.S. tour. @AFS Cinema, 10pm.

In the Realm of the Senses (1976) See p.41.
Personal Shopper (2017) D: Olivier Assayas; with Kristen Stewart. (R, 105 min., subtitled) Artist Spotlight: Olivier Assayas. Paris-set ghost story sucks you into its orbit with its sensual pleasures that defy satisfaction. (*) @AFS Cinema, 9:30pm.

SPACES

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017) D: Jake Kasdan; with Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson. (PG-13, 119 min.) Community Cinema. (*) @Community First! Village, 7:30pm.

SATURDAY 4/7

Back to the Future & E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial Double feature. @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 8:15pm.

Braveheart (1995) Master Pancake. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

D.O.A.: A Right of Passage (1981) Lates. @AFS Cinema, 10pm. (See Friday.)

Fecha de Caducidad (2012) D: Kenya Márquez; with Damián Alcázar, Marisol Centeno, Ana Ofelia Murguía. (NR, 111 min., subtitled) Viva Cinema. Black comedy tracks three intersecting lives in Mexico. Filmmaker Q&A follows screening. @Texas Spirit Theater, 7pm.

My Neighbor Totoro (1988) D: Hayao Miyazaki. (G, 86 min., subtitled) Studio Ghibli: Dispatches From the Dream Factory. Japanese children's tale about magical forest creatures. @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 1:10, 7:15pm; Alamo Lakeline, 4pm.

Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (1984) D: Hayao Miyazaki. (PG, 127 min., subtitled) Studio Ghibli: Dispatches From the Dream Factory. This early Miyazaki is an epic story of war and peace. @Alamo Village, 12:30pm.

Personal Shopper (2017) Artist Spotlight: Olivier Assayas. @AFS Cinema, 9:30pm. (See Friday.)

Princess Mononoke (1997) D: Hayao Miyazaki. (PG-13, 135 min., subtitled) Studio Ghibli: Dispatches From the Dream Factory. Japanese animated feature is packed with an environmentally aware storyline and breathtaking animation. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 3:05pm.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) @Alamo Village, 11:45pm.

Ultimate Nineties Dance Party @Alamo Lakeline, 9:40pm; Alamo Slaughter Lane, 9:45pm. (See above.)

What We Started (2018) D: Bert Marcus and Cyrus Saidi. (NR, 94 min.) Doc traces the cultural history of EDM. @Alamo Ritz, 12:30pm.

SPACES

Coco (2017) Saturday Family Movie. (*) @St. John Branch Library, 1pm.

SUNDAY 4/8

The Breakfast Club (1985) Flashback Brunch. @Alamo Ritz, 3:30pm.

D.O.A.: A Right of Passage (1981) Lates. @AFS Cinema, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

Giselle (2015) (NR, 140 min.) Fathom Events. The Bolshoi performs this iconic ballet of the brokenhearted. Captured live on Oct. 11, 2015. @Arbor, Metropolitan, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, 12:55pm.

Grease (1978) TCM Big Screen Classics. @Arbor, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Hill Country Galleria, Cinemark 20, CM Stone Hill Town Center, CM Cedar Park, 2, 7pm.

In the Realm of the Senses (1976) See p.41.

John Tucker Must Die (2006) D: Betty Thomas. (PG-13, 87 min.) In Brunch We Trust. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12:30pm.

My Neighbor Totoro (1988) Studio Ghibli: Dispatches From the Dream Factory. @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 3:45pm; Alamo Lakeline, 4pm. (See Saturday.)

MUSIC

Spatula City Limits

There's a secret tradition amongst a certain sect of Austin musicians and venue workers. In late March, after the manic week of **South by Southwest**, about 120 of us pile into our vans and drive eight hours to the most remote part of West Texas. There, we run wild playing music and buying and selling spatulas.

There's no electricity or running water inside **Spatula City Limits**. Cell phone service ceases 45 minutes before you turn onto a nameless dirt road leading you to a broken-down school bus and an improbably professional stage outfitted with a spectacular sound system. Naturally, the latter runs off a gasoline generator.

Stunning and unforgiving, acres of caliche soil dotted with creosote bush rise into the distant mountains. The dehydrated landscape recalls the brutal desolation of a **Cormac McCarthy** Western. Even so, in this middle of nowhere, Austin music colonizes.



Blake Van Buren

Friday

"We've got everything you need, A retail opportunity, Factory direct spatula superiority. So come buy one, two, or more. See some bands you ain't seen before. Hey girl, you sure are pretty. Wanna go with me to Spatula City?"

So sang **Blake Bernstein** in a clever custom tune opening the invite-only party last Friday evening. The vocalist, guitarist, and trombonist of defunct ATX proletariat orchestra **East Cameron Folkcore**, the unofficial SCL convocator faced the scorching desert sun with inspired material from his new solo project **Blake Van Buren**, logging an early high-light on a night focused on singer-songwriters.

That ilk's hero is onetime Austinite **Country Willie Edwards**, a cult honky-tonker and farmer who's released copious records that can't be found on the internet. Appearing in bug-eyed ladies' sunglasses, cowboy hat, and cactus jacket, Edwards transformed into the coupling rod on a locomotive via his right arm, which strummed with unrelenting momentum on "Riverboat Gambler" and "Rollin' Down the Highway." His voice, meanwhile, rang as big and dusty as the nearby **Chisos Mountains**.

While he mostly sings in standard country vernacular – trains, bars, women – Edwards' mind occupies territory among Earth's

exosphere, blaming "wind shear" for a detuned guitar string and slipping spaceship references into his lyrics. True story: In 2003, authorities confiscated a drum set he'd constructed out of pieces from the **space shuttle Columbia**, which exploded over his hometown of Nacogdoches.

Given the zipped lips surrounding SCL, it's difficult to trace the event's history. "Playback" can only confirm it happened last year based on an archaeological discovery. Upon arrival, we noticed a familiar pile of rocks, prompting **Cunto!** drummer **Chris Hall** to pull out a shovel and dig up a care package our past selves had left for our future personae 372 days prior. The metal tin, full of items we'd been nervous to drive home with, proved useful in the ensuing revelry.

In the tent city crescent around the stage, particularly between 2 and 6am, exists the greatest Austin music hang ever to occur outside Central Texas. Multitudes amble from camp to camp drinking, smoking, howling, laughing, singing, and telling stories. The music never stops. There's always a guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and something to bang on.

Cass Brostad, who swings a wrecking ball of emotionally naked poetry with her raging voice, remains the queen of Spatula City's late-night song circles. A moonlit rendition of



Cunto! drummer Chris Hall (l) and Ben Ballinger

PLAYBACK BY KEVIN CURTIN



Bridge Farmers live at Spatula City Limits

her "Nature of the Beast" devastated all. Later, **Mike "Dub" Wainwright** of **Clyde & Clem's**

Whiskey Business rang in Easter with a biblical original that questioned "How did they move the immovable rock? Who put it there?"

The most interesting character to encounter during the desert party's witching hours is **Steve Gambler**, a wiry and wide-eyed Renaissance man who serves as the event's stage manager, security, spiritual leader, tour guide, and mad scientist. A longtime behind-the-scenes linchpin in Austin's music scene, his elbow grease is Spatula City's infrastructure – and proof that anything is possible.

"I like a challenge," affirmed Gambler, clutching a somewhat terrifying Native American war club. "I'm at my best when I need to do something badass."

Saturday

I had dismissed **T.J. Hill** as a hallucination when we crossed paths at 4am. He spoke in an twangy accent reminiscent of late wrestler **Dusty Rhodes** and told us about a recipe where he "cored a real nice bologna, stuffed it with bison jalapeño mac & cheese, and crisscrossed it with some bacon." In the ensuing daylight, I discovered he was real when he popped up onstage as the immensely talented bassist/vocalist for genuine Texas country act **Armadillo Road**.

Soon, Austin-to-Oregon songwriter **Ben Ballinger's** set climaxed with a brilliant couplet ("Stick it to the man, Stan. We will be the shit that hits the fan"), but the steamy second day largely showcased acts distinctly loud and heavy. **Prison Eater**, a trio anchored by **Shut Ups** guitarist **Michael Lewis Frazier** and **Eagle Claw** bassist **Luther Smalls**, warped ears with experimental, stun-gun rock before **Sabbath Crow** unleashed a perfect barrage of snarling swamp metal.

No house plays music between acts at Spatula City. Instead, **Hard Luck Lounge** co-owner **Denis O'Donnell** occasionally gets up and hawks spatulas with all the tact and charisma of a Buick dealer, promising incredible retail opportunities on left-handed models and new technology that can be used underwater. In reality, all the spatulas are of the same basic variety and they're taped to the side of the bus for \$25 a pop.

A full moon risen over eastern peaks arrived as an ideal companion for the expansive, desert psych-folk drone of **Lord Buffalo**, who cast a palpable ambience over the scene. It proved a potent precursor for Spatula City's shoo-in headliners **Bridge Farmers**, whose heavy hypnotism transfixes the lysergic lunar missions of **Hawkwind** and occult rituals of **Black Sabbath** into a deafening catharsis.

Nothing has ever sounded as holy as said Austin trio vibrating the desert at 120 decibels, with every sound, color, and texture emitting from **Tyler Hautala's** full stack amp all at once. "Frater Achad," driven by the pulverizing rhythm section of **Kyle Rice** and **Garett Carr**, proved they could plow the earth. Their metallic sandstorm reached higher ground at 2am when Bridge Farmers began exploring the cosmos via epic improvisations in the wake of Hautala adapting **Pink Floyd** rarity "The Nile Song" into a desert detonated nuclear test.

Thankfully, a multiverse of spatulas was available to scrape us off the floor.

Spatula Sales Report

Market trends indicate that Americans are eating more food that requires being flipped over, which contributed to strong early spring numbers for the flattest of all kitchen utensils. Spatula sales at SCL grossed over \$1,200 – half of which was donated to a nearby charity that helps families going through financial hardships. The other half was donated to the local EMS.

Friday, April 6th

LIVE MUSIC AT THE EXPO CENTER

THE BLUEBONNETS 11AM



DAVE GONZALES *And*
SUSANNA VAN TASSEL 12:45 PM



THE DERAILERS 2:30 PM



THE BOOZE WEASELS 4:30 PM



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Saturday, April 7th

LIVE MUSIC AT THE EXPO CENTER

HIGH SCHOOL CAESAR 11AM



THE PETERSON BROTHERS 12:45 PM



DALE WATSON *And*
THE LONE STARS 2:30 PM



BIG SANDY *And*
THE FLYRITE BOYS 4:30 PM



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BLUES SPECIALISTS 8:30 PM

Sat. 4/7 12 MID SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS
BIG SANDY AND THE FLYRITE BOYS 10PM

THE PETERSON BROTHERS 8:30 PM

Sun. 4/8 10:30 PM WILLIE PIPKIN AND FRIENDS

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Th. 4/5 12 MID LOS COAST

BLACK PUMAS 10PM

PAUL OSCHER - BLUES LEGEND! 6:30 PM

Fri. 4/6 10PM: "CAGE MATCH - THE TYRANT VS. TOMAR" FEATURING BARFIELD *And* TOMAR THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK AND THE FC'S

Sat. 4/7 12 MID THE UGLY BEATS

THE SOULPHONICS 9PM

THE JADE IDOL 10:30 PM

Sun. 4/8 10PM HILARY YORK IMPERIAL STARLIGHTERS 7PM

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TRAVIS GREEN 8PM

Sat. 4/7 8PM THE PHANTOM SHAKERS

THE TAILGATORS 7PM

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Sat. 4/7 7-10PM SHAUN YOUNG AND THE 3 RINGERS

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Fri. 4/6 11:30PM BROKEN TEETH
ERIC TESSMER 10PM
ROCKINGHAM 8:30PM
ARROWS TO FIRE 7PM

Sat. 4/7 1:30AM THE GO GETTERS
THE MARLARS 11:30PM
JOLIE & THE JACKALOPES 10PM

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Sun. 4/8 10AM-3PM SLOW RIDE TO THE OASIS TEXAS BREWING CO. FEATURING DYLAN BISHOP



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Be Good to Yourself

How Heartless Bastards crier Erika Wennerstrom arrived at her solo debut

AS TOLD TO DOUG FREEMAN

In some ways, I feel like I get to start over. I'm 40 years old and this is a new project.

When everyone in Heartless Bastards mentioned taking a break, it brought on a lot of inspiration. Before, I felt like if I took a break, then I'd be putting folks out of work. This was a huge opening to me, because it was guilt-free. They wanted the break. Had I done it, I maybe would have felt guilty.

There's that saying that life begins at the edge of your comfort zone, and I love that. When this break was brought upon me, a whole new territory of what's next opened up for me. Part of that is frightening, but then there's this other part of me that felt I was living in a way I hadn't lived in a long time. Just living in the moment and being more present. It's the *Sweet Unknown* and who knows what's next?

ERIKA WENNERSTROM *Sweet Unknown* (Partisan)

Beginning in 2003 and over the course of five full-lengths beginning two years later, Dayton's Erika Wennerstrom shepherded the Heartless Bastards, who relocated from Ohio to Austin in 2007, through mountainous peaks of titanium rock, her mighty vocals surging to Seventies classic rock proportions. Following 2015's *Restless Ones*, the quartet's second for Partisan after three LPs for Fat Possum – the latter imprint famously nudged by the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach after a show Wennerstrom recalls as “two drunk rednecks and him” – the Bastards called a hiatus, which here allows the frontwoman a full range of creative uplift.

Cruise I-35 on “Twisted Highway,” where the lead-off amp feedback and climactic distortion drop into an expansive stretch of rumbling percussion and reverb-laden fretwork that recalls 2005 HB debut *Stairs and Elevators*. Likewise, “Letting Go” and “Time” whiff the subdued

instrumentation of 2009's *The Mountain*, entwining plumes of wistful twang. Wennerstrom's new transcendence finds her voice stretching to a widescreen panoramic not fully realized in the raucous Heartless Bastards discography.

On “Like a Bird,” her voice ripples soft and gentle, while interstellar standout “Extraordinary Love” launches her gritty, blues-rock register to the unexplored final frontier as melodic guitar lines soar above an atmospheric bed of echoing chord slabs and buzzing solos. Previously, her soulful bass tenor soaked up heartbreak and desperation. Now, it voices contentment on 10-minute opus “Good to Be Alone,” which attests, “I'll rest my bones, sitting here at home. It feels good.”

It feels great.

★★★★

—Alejandra Ramirez

There's something exciting about that, taking those leaps, taking those chances. I've realized that in life it's really important to put yourself first. Even if you have kids, if you're not being kind and good to yourself and taking care of yourself, that's not a good model for them to see. Putting yourself first and foremost allows you to bring your best self to the people you're around.

I've always wanted to grow. I think that's something we all want in life. There's outward growth – monetary wealth and things like that – but then there's inward growth, and I've really been focusing on that the past few years. Maybe I have been my whole life. Maybe what's drawn me to be an artist and a songwriter is therapeutic – creatively trying to understand myself.

When I first started writing, maybe I didn't really have intention and wasn't sure what I was trying to say. With this album, I knew what I wanted to say. Sometimes I'll overthink how I'm trying to say it, so I had very clear intentions on each song's message. Then I just let it go and flow.

I've had a lot of personal epiphanies. Some of it I'd attribute to my ayahuasca retreats [revisit “Restless One,” June 12, 2015], but a lot of it is the changes in my life. Life's too short to worry about what anyone thinks. As much as I've felt that I've been very true to myself in my art, it's always been a struggle to get to that point. I was averaging an album every three years, and I think part of that is that it would take me a long time to let go of certain emotions because of the idea that it would later be judged.

With this album, I realized that the things that make us feel vulnerable are actually a way to our strengths, and what can be relatable. I've always been pretty open in my songs, but the struggle to get to the point where I feel brave enough to put it out was always a thing. Life is short, so what do I want to say and how do I want to say it?

I'm doing things with a lot more intention these days, but I'm also not trying to be meticulous. I'm letting the ego down and not guarding anything. When you give every bit of yourself, you're not going to regret being yourself. People are going to take me as I am or not, and that's OK.

Another personal realization I had is that when people come at me really negatively, that's more of a reflection of how they feel inside. I can't believe it took me until I was about 40 to realize that, but it's given me huge compassion for whenever people do approach me negatively – for what they're going through inside.

In a way, a lot of the albums leading up to this one was a searching, and I do feel like I've found a lot of myself. When I wrote “Be Good to Yourself,” I remember sitting in my living room wanting to write a message to others. A lot of time when I'm writing, it's self-exploration, and at times when I've had struggles, I can get wrapped up in myself and it feels self-involved. So I wanted to write a song to others directly, but as I wrote it, I realized I was writing to myself, too.

It's a mirror, a self-reflection back. “Staring Out the Window,” it's self-reflection, but we're always projecting to others. So it's like, what do you want to project? Who do I want to be, what do I want to project?

I've thought a lot about success and what is success. And I think it's being true to yourself and finding that inner peace more than what society might deem as successful. Money, album sales, none of that is really what success is. You have to ask yourself what that means to you. To me, it means living my life as my true self and not trying to fit into any sort of mold. I realize I've always been trying to find that.

Life's not easy for anybody. Some people have said parts of this album are sad, but I think it's uplifting because I've found strength in my vulnerability. I used to struggle with writing, that struggle to be open, but then I started listening to people coming up to me and saying I affected them in a positive way. I had a hard time taking compliments because I was struggling internally. Part of me didn't want to believe.

Then I started listening, and it gave me this revitalized sense of purpose with what I do. I realized that as honest as I could be with myself and just creatively, even if I'm just saying these things to myself, maybe some other people will understand and relate to it and it will help somebody. Then it didn't feel so self-involved. Sometimes it's hard to step outside of yourself. ■



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**LOMA (Sub Pop)**

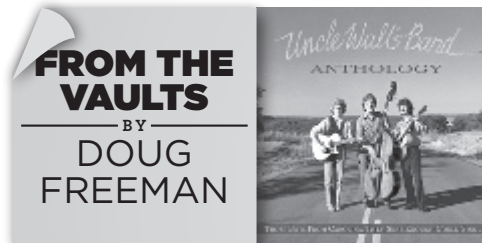
Loma fills the air around you less like music and more like water, as if being submerged in an unfamiliar, cooling darkness. Haunting and peculiar, Loma stacks a homegrown supergroup of sorts by pairing Shearwater majordomo Jonathan Meiburg with Austin duo Cross Record: singer Emily Cross and audio engineer/multi-instrumentalist Dan Duszynski. The trio's self-titled debut of experimental nightmare folk throbs with a supernatural presence, even if the sounds of commonplace nature – rain, chirping birds, the landscape of Dripping Springs – serve as bedrock for the sound, most explicitly on the cinematic “White Glass.” Needling “Relay Runner” skitters a nerviness, the closest thing to a pop song on *Loma*, but even then its obsessive, frenetic energy skews dark. The sparse, crystalline “I Don’t Want Children” quivers with a deep-seated melancholy, Cross’ lithe vocals forlorn, a sigh of pre-emptive regret: “I don’t want children, even though if I did, I would want them from you.” By contrast, “Shadow Relief” spins sweet and nearly hymnlike, while the imposing “Jornada” plods with a near-industrial sound. Loma implores one to look – and listen – closer.

★★★★ – Libby Webster

UNCLE WALT’S BAND

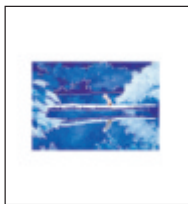
Anthology: Those Boys From Carolina, They Sure Enough Could Sing ... (Omnivore)

When Uncle Walt’s Band recorded for Warner Bros. in 1974, the sessions were scrapped by label personnel with no idea what to do with the popular Austin trio of Walter Hyatt, Champ Hood, and David Ball. The eclectic sweep of *Anthology*, the best collection of the group’s material yet assembled, demonstrates why. Originally formed in Spartanburg, S.C., the adventurous, virtuoso string band defied categorization. Timeless or anachronistic depending on your point of view, the trio rallied plenty of fans arguing the former, like Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith, and Jimmie Dale Gilmore, all of whom gleaned from the group’s heyday at the turn of the Eighties. The precision with which the three songwriters shift through jazz, folk, blues, and elegant, harmony-rich pop shines from the collection’s outset. “Seat of Logic” swings with sharp vocal interplay, and Ball’s fingerpicking and keening croon marvels on “Dish Wiped Clean.” Though featuring five unissued tunes, the best of the 21 tracks still culls from their long out-of-print recordings: Hood’s plaintive “High Hill,” Ball’s yearning “Don’t You Think I Feel It Too,” Hyatt’s evocative “As the Crow Flies.” Not everything’s aged well, some tunes Kingston Trio campy (the tropical “Aloha” and playful live cut “Gimme Some Skin”), but sophisticated turns surprise throughout, particularly Hood’s exquisite “So Long Baby” and Ball’s R&B-tinged “Holding On.” Live editions of “One Meatball” and “Sitting on Top of the World” showcase the trio’s looser, freewheeling appeal. Few bands have left a more idiosyncratic influence than Uncle Walt, with Hood, Hyatt, and Ball combining immense individual talents in a fleeting moment that receives definitive rejuvenation on *Anthology*. ★★★★★

**WHY BONNIE**

In Water (Sports Day)

Initially the bedroom recording project of Blair Howerton, local fourpiece Why Bonnie now pulls back the covers and squints into the outside world. *In Water* floats a sleek, dream-pop EP tinged by lingering melancholy, which quivers around the glaze of its bright, glittering sound. The honeyed “Made of Paper” opens by conjuring the pastel palette of Toronto’s Alvvays. “Practice” undulates slowly, and the uneasy guitar lines piled with dizzying keys that wind through “Bright Boy” propel the disc to a shadowy place, Howerton pleading,



“Bright boy, come to me.” Her voice shimmers with easy effervescence, but on the latter halves of both “Bright Boy” and the closer, “Walking Like This,” it blossoms into colossal and consuming, both an anchor and elevator for Why Bonnie’s sound.

★★★★

– Libby Webster

DAPHNE TUNES

Volume 1 (Two Moons Tapes)

Santiago Dietche’s warm, winsome voice still tops the shreddy power-pop of Growl, but under the moni-



ker Daphne Tunes, the local singer debuts a smooth cascade of sunny compositions walking the path of simplistic, muffled folk rockers like Girls and Whitney. Assembled with seasoned crew Josh Halpern, Peter Shults, and Andrew Stevens, the six tracks of “Sunday pop” channel the introspective pleasantness of an idle day off. Resonant riffs nudge along “All My Life,” a sweet, personal offering to someone significant. Perkier deconstruction “In Your Eyes” and “Austin, Notx” solidify a sense of yearning, where emotions designate specific locations and miles measure missing someone. The collection soundtracks a native’s mental map, worn and marked up with memories.

★★★★

– Rachel Rascoe

JAREBEAR

The Journey for the Giant Jelly Bean (Burger Records)

Jared Leibowich, prolific solo artist and leader of the Zoltars and the Infinites, spent the last eight years working on his most ambitious project yet: a concept album for children. Leibowich, whose gentle, humble sincerity yields a musical Jonathan Richman/Mr. Rogers hybrid, proves the ideal candidate for the indie genre. His debut under the Jarebear moniker, *The Journey for the Giant Jelly Bean* follows young protagonist Otis in search of the titular confection rumored to solve the world’s problems, all the while extolling teamwork, trying new food, making hard decisions, and, of course, recognizing your parents as your best friends. Sonically, Jarebear is somewhere between the garage urgency of the Zoltars and Leibowich’s honeyed, understated solo work: guitar-driven rock awash in a hazy Sixties sound with sweet, layered vocals. The energy’s cranked up, too, a gleeful, punching absurdity winding through the 12 tracks of vivid whimsy.

★★★★

– Libby Webster

**THE SWEETHEARTS**

Traces of Time (Eccentric Pop Records)

On the surface, the Sweethearts are the most upbeat, cheerful punk combo in Austin. Three LPs notched since forming in 1998 Brownsville, their outer layer’s still sugary enough to induce toothaches such that *Traces of Time* should have been released by Topps, with a trading card inside each record. Yet peel back the candy-coated sheen veteran producer Mass Giorgini has buffed over these 11 hot-pink, pogo-party anthems and you see that singer Linette Hernandez is draping epic tales of anger (“What’d You Say”), heartbreak (“One Hit Wonder”), and resignation (“Over It”) atop husband Ren’s chunky guitar chords. There’s definitely razor blades hidden in this stash of candy. Once the puro Mexicano “Eres un Hater” rolls in, the couple’s Valley-bred Latino heritage comes screaming through with the gang chorus “Órale!” *Traces of Time* is the record the Go-Go’s would’ve made had they remained a punk band.

★★★★

– Tim Stegall

**SIX STRINGS** by Michael Toland**MITCH CHANDLER**

Seasons
Honing his chops on reggae, funk, and blues, Austin guitarist Mitch Chandler com-



mits to jazz on debut EP *Seasons*. Joined by pianist Sean Giddings, bassist Chris Maresh, and drummer Wayne Salzmann, the Virginia native pays homage to the Sixties. Not its psychedelia, but the moody, melodic improv found behind the monotone photos of jazz geniuses. “Autumn” treads too close to easy listening, but the bluesy strut of “Summer” and the easy swing of “Spring” show Chandler to be a contender, as both player and composer. ★★

JON LUNDBOM QUARTET

Live at Monks (MonksLive)

On the first in a series of digital concert recordings from pianist Collin Shook’s jazz umbrella Monks, guitarist Jon Lundbom sidesteps his avant free-bop band Big Five Chord for a blowing session. Blazing through postmodern bop (“These Changes”), free improv (“Tick Dog”), and face melt (“People Be Talking”), Lundbom sticks to bassist Sam Pankey and drummer Jeff Olson, staying as close to the pocket as his car keys no matter how furious the solo. Saxist Russell Haight proves an able foil for the axeman’s compressed chaos. Despite plenty of six-string thrills ‘n’ chills, Lundbom never loosens his grip on groove. ★★★★★

**AARON RUSSELL**

Red Guitar (Sedimental)

Aaron Russell recorded all seven songs on solo debut *Red Guitar* with the same instrument, amplifier, and tuning. Bearing a folklike fingerpicking style, the ex-Weird Weeds/current Moonsicles guitarist utilizes space, feel, and repetition to flesh out his minimalist compositions. It may seem like not much is happening in “Breathing, Head Turning,” but that’s the point. There’s a pure quality to these pieces, as any excess falls away – no ripping solos, digit-twisting licks, or complicated chord structures. As such, *Red Guitar* finds the essence of each strum and every note played. ★★



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ERIKA WENNERSTROM
Sweet Unknown

Wennerstrom is learning to accept whatever comes her way with an open mind, and more importantly, an open heart... the album pulsates with the thrilling electricity that comes from that openness. -No Depression
\$11.99 CD • LP Available



Sub Pop

LOMA
Loma

In final form, *Does What He Wants*, is like a hall of mirrors, each capturing a different image of one self-aware and restlessly creative individual.
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Stoney Plain Records

SUE FOLEY
Ice Queen

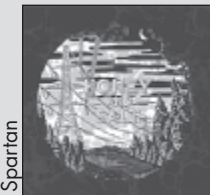
Features a trio of legendary Texas guitarlingers - Jimmie Vaughan, Z.Z. Top's Billy F Gibbons and Charlie Sexton - as well as a host of other Lone Star State all-stars.
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GHOSTWRITER
String Noise and Dust

American road music and feedback soaked lo-fi blues, Ghostwriter's eighth album on LP and CD from End of the West.
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Spartan

HONEY & SALT
Honey & Salt

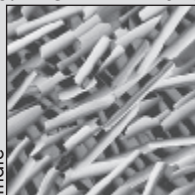
The self-titled album deftly utilizes everything from Kinsella-esque guitar lines, to post-rock dynamics, to hardcore ferocity.
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Shrimper

TRES OUI
Poised to Flourish

This is the rare debut record by a band fully in control of their faculties without losing any of the fire and passion of discovery of being in a new band.
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Indie

PALO DURO
Ryu Cannon

Surrounded by an ethereal haze of guitars and billowing bass lines, Michael J. Winingham's bittersweet vocals simmer as he croons over an '80s-era snare - SPIN
LP Available



Don Williams Music

DON WILLIAMS
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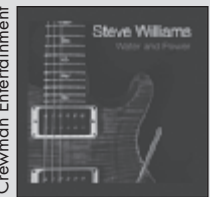
Live release from the country legend. If anyone ever needed proof that music is an international language, then they need to look no further than Don Williams.
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Mike & The Moonpies

MIKE & THE MOONPIES
Steak Night At The Prairie Rose

Their 5th album is not only their most ambitious effort to date, but showcases the Austin-based band's display of irresistible, good-time spark and spirit of traditional country, classic rock sensibilities and sublime songwriting.
\$12.99 CD • LP Available



Indie

CULTURE WARS
Culture Wars

Leather clad Austin rockers Culture Wars hate wasting time. The trio's first Alan Moulder-blessed single Money (Gimmie, Gimmie) has "come blazing out of the gate with an addictive electro-rock sound and swagger" according to PopMatters.
\$4.99 CD



Indie

ZACK VARNER
Blues In The Nude

Featuring an all-star cast of Austin musicians, these eleven original tracks deliver honest blues expression and raw improvisational energy.
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EDITED BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ



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HONK!TX MUELLER LAKE PARK/ADAMS-HEMPHILL PARK/ PAN AM PARK, FRIDAY 6 - SUNDAY 8

Banda Rim Bam Bum

Now in its eighth year, this gathering of community brass bands exudes the affirmative brio of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in the cinematic adaptation to Thirties Broadway musical *Babes in Arms*. For three days, a grassroots collective of musicians and volunteers turns the streets and parks of Austin into a show everyone can attend. That easy accessibility and openness makes Honk!TX an ideal post-South by Southwest palate cleanser.

Some 24 bands perform starting Friday night in Mueller Lake Park. The party continues all day Saturday on multiple stages in the area surrounding Adams-Hemphill Park before concluding Sunday with an all-band revue at Pan Am Park. 2018's lineup includes favorites like local black-and-yellow noise-makers **Minor Mishap Marching Band**, camouflage funk from Fort Sam Houston's **Biohazard Brass Band**, and Somerville, Mass., standard-bearers **Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society**, which started the world's first Honk festival in 2006. This year's full schedule can be found at honktx.org.

Santiago, Chile's **Banda Rim Bam Bum** is the farthest-flung of this year's bands. Founded in 2009, the multidextrous group numbering into the 20s plays covers and originals spanning the gamut from jazz and cumbia to Andean rhythms like Tinku and San Juanito. Founding trombonist Alexis Cornejo says there are bands with a similar formation in Santiago, but the others typically play to dancers in religious settings.

"Playing on the street is an artistic and political action," Cornejo says. "We take the music of this private context and make it public."

Banda Rim Bam Bum's skills in composition and arrangement make for a remarkably intricate sound. Cornejo notes that all members study music at some level, with many serving as teachers.

"We put our energy into the sound," explains Cornejo. "We try to give well-played music to the people where the harmony builds in a collective way, as if each of us were a finger of a pianist."

— Greg Beets

SOUNDCHECK

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

WAGONEERS

Broken Spoke, Friday 6
First responders - APD, AFD, EMS - get in free to "Stout & High" home-grown country kick.

LEON RUSSELL TRIBUTE

ABGB, Friday 6
Doug Strahan, Lucas Hudgins, Sarah Sharp, Christy Hays, Josh Buckley, Wild Bill, and more celebrate genius Okie.

MARY FAHL

Cactus Cafe, Friday 6
October Project siren.

ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES IN THE DARK

Emo's, Friday 6
British New Wave synth breakouts are still led by co-founders Andy McCluskey and Paul Humphreys.

TITUS ANDRONICUS

Barracuda, Saturday 7
Jersey art punks released fifth LP *A Productive Cough* last month.

TANK & THE BANGAS

Scout Inn, Saturday 7
Sold out.

SIRENS OF SOUTH AUSTIN

Cactus Cafe, Saturday 7
All-ATX supergroup Grace Pettis, Rebecca Loeb, and BettySoo.

FINDING EUPHORIA BLOCK PARTY

Empire Control Room, Saturday 7
A dozen electro acts including Manic Focus, SoDown, and Montu. 2pm-2am.

JAMES HUNTER SIX

Antone's, Tuesday 10
Fifties R&B by contemporary Brit.

SIRENIA

Come & Take It Live, Tuesday 10
Norwegian symphonic goth metal from Emmanuelle Zoldan and Morten Veland (Tristania).

RADNEY FOSTER

Saxon Pub, Wednesday 11
Del Rio Americana.

PHOEBE HUNT VIDEO RELEASE

One-2-One Bar, Thursday 12
World fiddle muse.

DIXIE CHICKS

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Thursday 12
Sold out.

IN-STORES:

SUNDAY: Nakia & the Blues Grifters, Breakaway Records, 3pm; **Mike Nicolai**, End of an Ear, 4pm
WEDNESDAY: James Hunter Six, Waterloo Records, 5pm

LONESTAR ROUND-UP

Continental Club/Travis County Expo Center, Thursday 5 - Sunday 8

Beginning Thursday, almost three dozen acts soundtrack a cruise through 12 venues hosting the 17th annual Lonestar Round-Up. Even so, the heart of this parade resides in acres of preening hot rods at the Travis County Expo Center on Saturday and Sunday, which stacks the all-star talent. Friday sandwiches local country veterans **Dave Gonzalez & Susanna Van Tassel** and the **Derailers** between Go-Go's bounce from the **Bluebonnets** and closing bar rock by the **Booze Weasels**. Saturday corals **Peterson Brothers** blues and **Dale Watson's** outlaw twang as book-ended by rockabilly in **High School Caesar** and headliners **Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys**. Chicken shack fryers **Southern Culture on the Skids** man the Continental Club. Full schedule of events: www.lonestarroundup.com/schedule.
— Raoul Hernandez

LUNA

3ten ACL Live, Friday 6

Demonstrating to acolytes like Real Estate how it's done, Nineties college radio staple Luna reunited in 2014 after a decade of dissolution. 2017's *A Sentimental Education* still orbits the jangle psych of founding guitarist Dean Wareham's seminal *Galaxie 500* through a batch of carefully chosen covers from the Cure, Velvet Underground, Yes, and more. Flaural's latest EP *Over Imaginary Cigarettes* travels a similar route out of Denver.
— Michael Toland

BRUNO FURLAN

Ethics Music Lounge, Friday 6

Bruno Furlan's tech-house productions converted French hip-house disciples Amine Edge & Dance, and Dirtybird Records' Barclay Crenshaw followed suit. The Brazilian producer arrives at Ethics in the wake of the venue's management changeover and announcement of Dirtybird's BBQ in May.
— Christina Garcia

XYLOURIS WHITE

Beerland, Friday 6

During SXSW last month, Greek lutist George Xylouris and Australian drummer Jim White thrilled a modest but disproportionately rapturous crowd at the Parish with unmitigated shred. The stringer blurred his strum with speed folk, while the Dirty Three beat-keeper strafed jazz percussion across his kit. Only a mosh went missing. Houston avant-gardists Charalambides and local psych outfit Soft Healer support.
— Raoul Hernandez

CHINGONA FEST

Hops & Grain Brewery, Saturday 7

Local acts aptly suit this bad bitch festival. Chulita Vinyl Club open by spinning everything from Latino punk to New Wave. Mariachi Las Coronelas follow with Vanessa Del Fierro spearheading new weight into the boisterous, Pedro Infante-led genre. Cecilia + the Broken Hearts follow suit meshing their Afro/Chicanx sound with tinges of folk, and Selena tribute band, Bidi Bidi Banda, close by paying homage to the queen of Tejano. — Isabella Castro-Cota

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON'S S.S. HANGOVER

Laguna Gloria, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8

Less a concert than an outlandish performance sculpture, Austin's contemporary chamber ensemble Density512 don formal wear, board an Icelandic fishing boat, and spend hours floating around a lagoon before a crowd of onlookers. *S.S. Hangover*, a musical marathon of irony and exhaustion, was devised by Reykjavik artist Ragnar Kjartansson. His countryman and collaborator Kjartan Sveinsson, famous for a 15-year tenure in Sigur Rós, presents his accompanying score opening weekend.
— Kevin Curtin

MERLE HAGGARD BIRTHDAY

Threadgill's WHQ, Sunday 8

Bakersfield country fundamentalist, folk poet, and singer beyond compare, Merle Haggard would've blown out 81 candles April 6. For 13 years, Austin Songwriters Group has thrown him a party, this free blowout soliciting donations to the Ted Branson Medical Fund. Austin luminaries celebrate, including former Haggard sideman Redd Volkaert and obvious contenders like Dale Watson, Floyd Domino, Bobby Earl Smith, and Stephen Doster. — Tim Stegall

KELLY WILLIS & BRUCE ROBISON

St. David's Episcopal Church, Monday 9

Last year brought Bruce Robison's

first solo album in over a decade, and next month follows up with Kelly Willis' seventh solo LP *Back Being Blue* after an 11-year gap. Both mark welcome returns, but Austin's premier country music couple still shines via duets delivered in the interlude. The preschool program at St. David's Day School receives the benefit of their revived harmonies alongside Monte Warden and Dave Insley.
— Doug Freeman

JAPANESE BREAKFAST, SNAIL MAIL

Scout Inn, Tuesday 10

Michelle Zauner pop-influenced her bandmates in indie rockers Little Big League before releasing her first solo album as Japanese Breakfast in 2016. *Psychopomp* was written while the Korean-American singer-songwriter cared for her late mother, and last year's *Soft Sounds From Another Planet* changed her mind about quitting music entirely, shoe-gaze in Zauner's lilting voice. Maryland's Lindsey Jordan is a teenage singer-songwriter fronting Snail Mail, a favored indie pick at this year's SXSW.
— Christina Garcia

KING KRULE

Emo's, Tuesday 10

Archy Marshall remains dark, murky, feverish. Since his debut EP as King Krule in 2011, the South Londoner, 23, has prompted comparisons to both Chet Baker and Gang Starr. Last October's *The Ooz* continued the trend, jazzy instrumentals dripping over Marshall's raw snarl with

sounds ranging from grunge ("Dum Surfer") and faded trip-hop ("Biscuit Town") to piano broods ("Cadet Limbo").
— Isabella Castro-Cota

MATT & KIM

Stubb's, Thursday 12

A decade since their debut *Grand*, Matt & Kim stick to their roots - pop aesthetics offering dance-punk twists. Forthcoming album *Almost Everyday* offers skittering electronics and galvanizing choruses ("Forever") and extravagant production ("Like I Used to Be"). It's a departure from the spazzy Brooklyn duo, but not Matt's pop-punk nasal inflections.
— Alejandra Ramirez

BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO

Paramount Theatre, Thursday 12

Brad Mehldau has dominated jazz piano since his emergence a quarter of a century ago. Exploring improvisation outside his usual outfit, including an LP with mandolinist Chris Thile and a disc dedicated to Bach, the Florida native reconvenes his revered trio for *Seymour Reads the Constitution!*, originals and covers of Paul McCartney, Sam Rivers, and Brian Wilson.
— Michael Toland

KEVIN MORBY

Barracuda, Thursday 12

Kevin Morby's languid croon rode the steady drive of Velvet Underground rhythms on last year's excellent fourth LP *City Music*. As such, the L.A.-based singer-songwriter captured the charm of loneliness in a crowd, magical possibility in the ranging psych of a world in constant motion. Morby guitarist Meg Duffy opens with her February 2017 debut as Hand Habits. — Doug Freeman

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APRIL 25 **IN THIS MOMENT**
W/THE WORD ALIVE AND DED

APRIL 26 **THE LONE BELLOW**

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FINITE FIDELITY
11PM
DENNY FREEMAN
6PM FREE

• Saturday, April 7 •
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
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JOE JOHNSON
12AM
SHELLEY KING
8PM
BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL
6PM
BELLE SOUNDS
3PM - \$5/\$7

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7:30
SAM MORROW
10:30PM
JOHN GARR
5:30PM - \$5
DENIM
3PM

• Monday, April 9 •
LONELYLAND
8:30PM
HOODYGOODE
6PM

• Tuesday, April 10 •
PATERSON BARRETT CD RELEASE
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SCOTT COLLINS
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DAVID GRISSOM
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FRIDAY, APRIL 6



TOMAR 11:30PM *And* **THE FC'S**



BARFIELD 10PM
THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK
JITTERBUG VIPERS 6:30PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 7



THE UGLY BEATS 12AM
THE JADE IDOL 10:30 PM
THE SOULPHONICS 9PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 8



HILARY YORK 10PM
3:30PM *Chicken \$#!+ Sunday*
DALE WATSON
AND HIS LONE STARS

MONDAY, APRIL 9

JONESIN 10PM **PRESTO CHANGO** 6:30PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

NIGHT OF THE CADILLACS 11:30PM
DYLAN BISHOP 10PM, 8 1/2 SOUVENIRS 6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11



TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZZ 11PM
MATT HUBBARD TRIO 9:30PM
6:30PM **CHEATIN' HEARTS** With
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THURSDAY, APRIL 12

JAI MALANO 11:30PM **LOS COAST** 10PM
PAUL OSCHER 6:30PM **DJ KidsuirA** *Jade Room* 9:30PM

TWO NIGHTS! FRIDAY, APRIL 13 *And* SATURDAY, APRIL 14



MIKE FLANIGIN TRIO 10PM
With
JIMMIE VAUGHAN & GEORGE RAINS

Fri.: **BLUES SPECIALISTS** 6:30PM
Sat.: **SOUL MAN SAM EVANS** 8PM

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6

THE BLUES SPECIALISTS HH 6:30PM
12AM **SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS**



10:15PM **JAI MALANO**
LINDSAY BEAVER & THE 24TH STREET WAILERS 9PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

REDD VOLKAERT MATINEE 3:30PM
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS 12AM



BIG SANDY & HIS FLY-RITE BOYS 10:15PM
PETERSON BROTHERS BAND 8:30PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

CAJUN DANCE WITH
JESSE LEGE & BAYOU BREW
MATINEE 3:30PM



WILLIE PIPKIN
W/ZAPATA 10:30PM
7PM **HEYBALE**
WITH **REDD & EARL & DALLAS**

MONDAY, APRIL 9

HH 6:30PM **PETERSON BROTHERS BAND**
10:15PM **DALE WATSON & HIS LONE STARS**

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

HH 6:30PM **BEAT BOOT REVIVAL**
MIKE STINSON 10PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

TOM BEN LINDLEY WITH **ALVIN CROW** HH 6:30PM
THE DRAKES 12AM

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10:30PM **THE LOST COUNTS**
FRI, 8:30PM **ROBERT KRAFT TRIO**
SAT, 8:30PM **JAMES BULLARD**

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

10:30PM **DAVE BILLER TRIO**
8:30PM **THE LOJINX ORCHESTRA**

MONDAY, APRIL 9

10:30PM **MICHAEL HALE ORGAN TRIO** WITH **MAC McINTOSH**
8:30PM **CHURCH ON MONDAY**
WITH **ELIAS HASLANGER** FEAT. **DR. JAMES POLK**

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

10:30PM **DAVID YOUNG**
8:30PM **CURTIS McMURTRY**

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BARRACUDA Timber Timbre, Jana Horn (9:00) Ⓜ

B.D. RILEY'S Kristen Gibbs (8:00)

BEERLAND Leche, Riot Punch, Landshark, DJ Cruel Whip (8:00)

THE BLACKHEART Armadillo All Stars (10:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Derailers (9:00), Tony Harrison (6:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Los Coast (11:45), Black Pumas (10:00), DJ Kidsuir A (in the Jade Room) (9:00), Paul Oscher (6:30)

CACTUS CAFE Lew Card, Johnny Dango (8:00) Ⓜ

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Grupo Massa (6:30) Ⓜ

CHEER UP CHARLIES Why Bonnie, Midnight Opera, Emme, Bliss Motel (8:45) Ⓜ

COME & TAKE IT LIVE The Convalescence, Your Chance to Die, Autumn Stay, Athanatos, Novacrotic (7:00) Ⓜ

CONTINENTAL CLUB Southern Culture on the Skids (11:59) Ⓜ, Barfield (10:00), Casper Rawls (6:00)

ROAD SHOWS

THU 4/5

Rostam, Sam Buck, 3ten ACL Live

Bermuda Triangle, Antone's

Timber Timbre, Barracuda

Midnight Opera, Cheer Up Charlies

The Convalescence, Your Chance to Die, Autumn Stay, Novacrotic, Come & Take It Live

Southern Culture on the Skids, Continental Club

Black Tiger Sex Machine, Ryan Caraveo, Adrian Stresow, Empire Control Room

Earthkry, Flamingo Cantina

Turnover, Mannequin Pussy, Mohawk

Penguin Prison, Parish

Chris Welch & the Cicada Killers, Sahara Lounge

Neighbor Lady, Cowboy Crisis, Sidewinder

Mat Kearney, Andrew Belle, Stubb's

Mylets, Swan Dive

FRI 4/6

Luna, Flaural, 3ten ACL Live

Mothership, Juantanamos, Antone's

Xylouris White, Charalambides, Beerland

Mary Fahl, Cactus Cafe

Vockah Redu, Cheer Up Charlies

Dueto Bertin y Lalo, Coliseum

Death Therapy, Relent, Come & Take It Live

Southern Culture on the Skids, Continental Club

Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, GGOULLDD, Emo's

Bruno Furlan, Ethics Music Lounge

Wynonna, Gruene Hall

Housewarming, Hand Me Down Adventure, Hole in the Wall

Elephante, Kingdom

Hunny, Made Violent, Mohawk

The Hunna Coasts, Courtship, Parish

Neil Trammell, Poodies

Miguel, SiR, Nonchalant Savant, Stubb's

Alouette, Haze County, Swan Dive

SAT 4/7

Tinsley Ellis, Antone's

Titus Andronicus, Barracuda

Secret Keeper, the Othello Syndrome, Town Destroyer, the Optimist, Come & Take It Live

Southern Culture on the Skids, Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys, Continental Club

From Tribes, Recreating Eden, Dirty Dog Bar

Manic Focus, Sodown, Montu, Dirty Mouth, Zero Hour, Craetion, Corbin Cary, Passed Time, Empire Control Room

Christian Barbuto, Petty, Shane Anthony, Ethics Music Lounge

Ole Creepy, Kick Butt Coffee

Dom Dolla, Kingdom

Ragnar Kjartansson, Laguna

Jim Jamm Jimmy Band, Little Longhorn

Blockhead, Mohawk

Nina Nesbitt, Parish

Ruby Dice, Poodies

Dallas Moore, Riley's Tavern

Tank & the Bangas, Maggie Koerner, the Scoot Inn

Cryptic Void, Knife Cult, Kaliya, Dagma, Mothman, Knowsuffer, Cross Builder, Sidewinder

Wilderness, Jaylon Ashaun, Stubb's

Oliver Penn, Swan Dive

Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys, Travis County Expo Center

SUN 4/8

Hayley Orrantia, Brenneley Brown, 3ten ACL Live

Yacht Rock Revue, 3ten ACL Live

Drumadics Beat-n-Brass Band, Antone's

Whores., Barracuda

Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats, Cap City Comedy Club

A Farewell to Nothing, And the Hero Prevails, Earth Again, Even in Death, Jessikill, Lore, Oddfellas, the Orphic, Resist Control, Semper Acerbus, Target 7, Terrorform, Wulfholt, X.I.L., Come & Take It Live

MON 4/9

Icarus the Owl, Megosh, Memories in Broken Glass, Come & Take It Live

Ry Warner, Hotel Vegas

Dumbfounded, Stubb's

TUE 4/10

Brandi Carille, ACL Live

The James Hunter Six, Antone's

Night of the Cadillacs, C-Boy's Heart & Soul

Elizabeth Cook, Cactus Cafe

Sirenia, Threat Signal, Valinor Excelsior, Niviane, Come & Take It Live

King Krule, Emo's

Nathan Bonnes, Gruene Hall

Thelma & the Sleaze, Craig Brown Band, Hotel Vegas

Cosmic Chaos, Clever Heads Prevail, Mohawk

Japanese Breakfast, Snail Mail, Football Etc., the Scoot Inn

James Steinle, the White Horse

WED 4/11

Hotel Blondie, Latchkey Kid, Beerland

Powerman 5000, Mammothor, Pigweed, Come & Take It Live

The Funeral Portrait, Oh, Weatherly, Dirty Dog Bar

SoMo, Caye, Kid Quill, Emo's

Noah & the Megafauna, Long Center

The Brass, the Lost Well

Mike Frazier, Nathan Perry, Sidewinder

The James Hunter Six, Waterloo Records

DUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!
 See austinchronicle.com/events for Thursday, 4/12, and beyond.

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 Mark Chesnutt
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SATURDAY
 Josh Abbott Band
 Wade Bowen
 Koe Wetzel
 Chris Colston
 more to be announced!

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SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY, 9AM, FOR THAT WEEK'S ISSUE, PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SEND VENUE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES TO [CLUBS@AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM](mailto:clubs@austinchronicle.com).



Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater

acl-live.com ≥ 877-4-FLYTIK ≥ Box Office, 310 Willie Nelson Blvd, Monday-Friday 10-3pm

ON SALE FRIDAY.....>



ACL LIVE and C3 PRESENTS bring you
LAKE STREET DIVE
SAT
JUL 21



JEFF BECK
A SINE SPANOS WINNER



Dr. Dog
WITH SON LITTLE
JUL 26



BRIAN WILSON PRESENTS THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM LIVE!
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS AL JARDINE & BLONDIE CHAPLIN
IN ITS ENTIRETY.
SAT
DEC 15

COMING UP.....>

APR 19.....>
GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PRESENTS

COLBIE CAILLAT

FRI APR 27.....>

LEWIS BLACK

THE JOKE'S ON US TOUR

APR 29.....>

TONY BENNETT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ANTONIA BENNETT

MAY 8.....>

Gordon Lightfoot

LIVE IN CONCERT

MAY 10.....>

BABYMETAL

SAT MAY 12.....>

ACL LIVE AND C3 PRESENTS BRING YOU

Dr. Dog

WITH SON LITTLE

MAY 17.....>

BUDDY GUY & JONNY LANG

SAT MAY 19.....>

KAT EDMONSON

FRI JUN 1.....>

Dennis DeYoung

and the Music of Styx +

Night Ranger



3TEN Austin City Limits Live

A NEW INTIMATE VENUE DOWNSTAIRS FROM ACL LIVE
TICKETS AND CALENDAR AT 3TENAUSTIN.COM

ON SALE FRIDAY.....>



Plaine White T's
MAY 8



SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
MAY 9



THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND
SAT
JUN 16



THE DANDY WARHOLS
FRI-SAT
SEP 28-29

2ND BIRTHDAY!.....>

APR 5.....>

SOLD OUT!

ROSTAM

WITH SAM BUCK

FRI APR 6.....>

LUNA

WITH FLAURAL

SAT APR 7.....>

ROCK THE CASBAH 61:

THE ULTIMATE 80s

DANCE PARTY w/

DJ MEL

APR 8.....>

(EARLY SHOW)

HAYLEY ORRANTIA

WITH BRENNLEY BROWN

APR 8.....>

(LATE SHOW)

YACHT ROCK REVUE

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LIVE MUSIC EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK

FRIDAY APRIL 6
SOUTHERN DRAWL BAND

SATURDAY APRIL 7
JOHNNY NICHOLAS
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FRIDAY APRIL 13
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THU, APR. 5 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON** 8PM DANCE LESSONS
DERAILERS 9PM

FRI, APR. 6 6-8PM **BEN RODGERS** 8PM DANCE LESSONS *With MONTE WARDEN*
THE WAGONEERS 9PM

SAT, APR. 7 6-8PM **BAND IN RESTAURANT** 8PM DANCE LESSONS
ALVIN CROW 9PM

TUE, APR. 10 6-8PM **BAND IN RESTAURANT**
WELDON HENSON 8:15PM

WED, APR. 11 6-8PM **BAND IN RESTAURANT** 8PM DANCE LESSONS *With CELLA BLUE*
SADDLE SORES 9PM

OLD SETTLER'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

31ST ANNUAL

THURS-SUN
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SPACIOUS NEW LOCATION

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I'M WITH HER – SARA WATKINS, SARAH JAROSZ, AOIFE O'DONOVAN
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THE TRAVELIN' MCCOURYS & JEFF AUSTIN BAND • RAY WYLIE HUBBARD
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STEVE POLTZ* • THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS • JEFF AUSTIN BAND
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A LATE NIGHT SHOW FOR CAMPERS ONLY, PRESENTED BY TEAM GOODTIMES & OLD SETTLER'S

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Daisy O'Connor
And Sean Devine

Friday, April 6 • 8pm • \$15 adv/\$20 door
Pulkingham Layne *Stingology*

Saturday, April 7 • 7:30pm • \$15 adv
San Saba County

Tuesday, April 10 • 7:30pm • \$8 adv/\$10 door
Donut Musik

Wednesday, April 11 • 8pm • \$10
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 EST. 1979

THURS. APRIL 5
LEW GARD
With
JOHNNY DANGO

FRIDAY APR. 6
MARY FAHL
(Ex-October Project)

SAT. APR. 7
SIRENS OF SOUTH AUSTIN
 (BETTY SOO, GRACE PETTIS, & REBECCA LOEBE)

MONDAY APRIL 9
Open Mic With
KACY CROWLEY

TUES. APRIL 10
ELIZABETH COOK *with*
DAN DYER

SAT. JUNE 2
JOE ELY & TERRY ALLEN
(Hogg Auditorium)

*** VOTED #1 ACOUSTIC MUSIC VENUE 2001-2011! ***
COMING SOON TO A CAFE NEAR YOU

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FROM SATURDAY

- THE BLACKHEART** Flavor Raid, Fuss Ricket, Elevated, Lady Fang (9:00)
- BRENTWOOD SOCIAL HOUSE** Cha! The Police tribute band (8:00)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Alvin Crow (9:00), Ben Rodgers (noon)
- BUCK'S BACKYARD** Whitney Rose (10:30)
- C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL** Ugly Beats (11:59), the Jade Idol (10:30), Soulphonics (9:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Sirens of South Austin (8:00) ⓂⓅ
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** White Ghost Shivers (6:30) Ⓜ
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Golden Lights (6:30) Ⓜ
- COME & TAKE IT LIVE** Secret Keeper, the Othello Syndrome, Kings of the Air, Town Destroyer, the Optimist (6:00) Ⓜ
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Southern Culture on the Skids (11:59) ⓂⓅ, Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys (10:00) ⓂⓅ, the Peterson Brothers (8:30), Redd Volkaert (3:30)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY** The Lost Counts (10:30)
- DIRTY DOG BAR** The Followthrough, Madmartigan, From Tribes, Recreating Eden (8:00) Ⓜ
- DONN'S DEPOT** Nash Hernandez Orchestra
- DRISKILL BAR** Lissa Hattersley & the Trip Trio (9:00)
- EL MERCADO** Ruben V (7:00) Ⓜ
- THE ELECTRIC CHURCH** Tamarron, Paul Cherry, US Weekly, the Nymphs, Loafer (tour kickoff) (9:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)
- EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM** Manic Focus, Sodown, Montu, Brede, Dirty Mouth, DJ Casual T, Zero Hour, Craetion, Audyssey, Corbin Cary, Passed Time, Willgood (2:00) ⓂⓅ
- ETHICS MUSIC LOUNGE** Christian Barbuto, Chris Nelson, Petty, Shane Anthony (9:00) Ⓜ
- EXPLODED RECORDS** Hip Hop Lounge (8:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** The Contrabandits, Music4Life (9:00)
- GERALDINE'S KP & the Boom Boom** (10:30), Geraldine's Super Soul Saturday Brunch feat. Royal Velvetee (11:00am)
- GIDDY UPS** Pearl Snaps (8:30)
- GRUENE HALL** Shinyribs, Beat Root Revival (9:00) Ⓜ, Tomar & the FCs (1:00) Ⓜ
- GÜERO'S** El Tule (6:30), the Brew (2:30)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Shadow Ministry, Darkness Ending, Kids From Nowhere, the Bottomless
- HOPS & GRAIN BREWERY** Chingona Fest ATX w/ Bidi Bidi Banda, Cecilia & the Broken Hearts, Mariachi Las Coronelas, Chulita Vinyl Club (3:30) Ⓜ
- HOTEL VEGAS** The Rotten Mangos, Jared & Dan, DJ Tweedy, DJ Slimey Steve, DJ Desi B, & more (7:00)
- JO'S (S. CONGRESS)** Lonestar Round-Up presents Shaun Young & the 3 Ringers (7:00) Ⓜ
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** Ole Creepy, All Monsters Attack, Sabbath Crow, Funeral K&B (9:00) ⓂⓅ
- KINGDOM** Dom Dolla (10:00) Ⓜ
- LAGUNA GLORIA AMPHITHEATER** Ragnar Kjartansson's S.S. Hangover (11:00am) ⓂⓅ
- LAMBERTS** D-Soul Davis (10:00)
- LITTLE LONGHORN** Shotguns Ready, Jim Jamm Jimmy Band (6:00) Ⓜ
- LONE STAR COURT HOTEL** Kevin Taylor
- THE LOST WELL** Gary Lindsey & the Pleasure Tide (5:00)
- MOHAWK** Blockhead, Vapor Caves (9:00) ⓂⓅ
- MOONTOWER SALOON** Jamie Kreuger Group (8:00)

- NATE'S AT BUDA MILL & GRAIN** Eastside Kings (8:00)
- NEWORLDELI** Byrd & Street (7:00)
- NOMAD** Karaoke Underground (11:12)
- THE OASIS** The Eggmen (7:00) Ⓜ
- ONE-2-ONE BAR** Frederico7 (11:45), Atash (9:30), Latin at Heart (7:30)
- OSKAR BLUES BREWERY** The Tennessee Stiffs
- PARISH** Jake Bugg, Nina Nesbitt (8:30) Ⓜ
- POODIES** Ruby Dice (8:00), Johnny Nicholas (8:00) Ⓜ
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Dallas Moore (9:00) Ⓜ, Crawfish boil w/ Charles Thibodeaux & the Cajun Aces (4:00)
- RIVER ROAD ICE HOUSE** Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers, Fastball (8:00) Ⓜ
- ROSS' OLD AUSTIN** Jesse Ellis (6:30)
- RUMI'S TAVERN** Cajun Fest after-party w/ Heavy Waters (9:00)
- SAHARA LOUNGE** Zoomountchi (11:59), Grupo Massa (10:00), Afro Jazz feat. Ibrahim Aminou (8:30), *Moan Them Blues* Bessie Smith musical (2:30 & 6:30)
- SAM'S TOWN POINT** Lonestar Round-Up: Colton Turner, Modern Don Juans, rockabilly DJs (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** Joe Johnson (11:59), Carolyn Wonderland (10:00), Shelley King (8:00), Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel (6:00), the Belle Sounds (3:00)
- THE SCOOT INN** Tank & the Bangas, Maggie Koerner (8:00) ⓂⓅ
- SIDEWINDER** The Best Little Grindhouse in Texas w/ Cryptic Void, Knife Cult, Kalya, Daggra, Death Motif [outside stage]; Mothman, Knowsuffer, Cross Builder, Taverner, Black Mercy [inside stage] (8:00) ⓂⓅ
- THE SKYLARK** Miss Lavelle White (10:00), Blues Boy Hubbard & the East Side Kings (7:30)
- SPEAKEASY** Trick Shot (9:45)
- SPIDER HOUSE BALLROOM** HONK!TX 2018 (11:00am)
- STAY GOLD** Beat Bodega (3:00)
- STUBB'S** The Cover Letter (10:00), the Oh Hellos, Wildermis, Jaylon Ashaun (7:00) Ⓜ
- SWAN DIVE** Guilla, the Influence, Oliver Penn (9:30) Ⓜ
- TAVERN ON MAIN** Bobby Duncan (8:30)
- THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Beyond the Grade rising concert (3:00) Ⓜ
- TOP NOTCH HAMBURGERS** Lonestar Round-Up presents the Phantom Shakers, the Tailgators (7:00)
- THE TOWNSEND** San Saba County (7:30)
- TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER** Lonestar Round-Up presents the Go Getters, the Marlars, Jolie & the Jackalopes (10:00) ⓂⓅ, Lonestar Round-Up w/ Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys (4:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (2:30), the Peterson Brothers (12:45), High School Caesar (11:00am) ⓂⓅ
- WHIP IN** Susanna Sharpe, Marco Antonio Santos, & guests (9:00) Ⓜ

SUNDAY 4/8

- 3TEN ACL LIVE** Yacht Rock Revue (8:00) Ⓜ, Hayley Orrantia, Brenney Brown (5:00) Ⓜ
- THE ABGB** Gritones (4:00)
- ANTONE'S** Drumadics Beat-n-Brass Band (9:30) Ⓜ, Miss Lavelle's Dance Party & Potluck w/ Nate Boff, Aaron Stephens (6:30)
- BACKYARD AT WALLER CREEK** David Touchton (11:30am)
- BARRACUDA** Whores., Bummer, Easy Prey, Unmothered (8:00) Ⓜ
- B.D. RILEY'S** Irish Tune Session (9:00), Joe Gee (1:00)
- BEERLAND** Curse, Deep Cross, More Eaze, How I Quit Crack, Private Service, Filthy, Wolf Party, Fierce Diety vs Boyz4Men, Body Tape (8:30)
- THE BLACKHEART** Big Britches' Funky Sunday (9:00)

- C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL** Hilary York (10:00), Imperial Starlighters (7:00), Chicken \$#!+ Sunday w/ Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (3:30)
- CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats (2:00) Ⓜ
- CEDAR STREET** Rochelle & the Sidewinders (3:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Wilson Marks (6:30) Ⓜ
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Tommy Howard (6:30) Ⓜ
- COME & TAKE IT LIVE** A Farewell to Nothing, A Good Rogering, And the Hero Prevails, Earth Again, Even in Death, Jessikill, Lore, Oddfellas, the Orphic, Resist Control, Semper Acerbus, Target 7, Terrorform, Wulfholt, X.L.L. (4:00) Ⓜ
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Willie Pipkin (10:30), Heybale! (7:00), Cajun dance party w/ Jesse Lege & Bayou Brew (3:15) Ⓜ
- CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY** Dave Biller Trio (10:30), the Lolinx Orchestra (8:30)
- EL MERCADO** Gospel-ish brunch w/ the Purgatory Players feat. Jeff Plankenhorn (10:00am) Ⓜ
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Alex Weitz Quartet (9:30) Ⓜ
- GERALDINE'S** Jazz brunch (11:00am)
- GRUENE HALL** South Austin Moonlighters (5:00) Ⓜ, Bret Graham (12:30) Ⓜ, Gospel brunch w/ A Texas Twist (10:30am) Ⓜ
- GÜERO'S** Blue Mist (3:00), RDO (noon)
- H-E-B CENTER AT CEDAR PARK** NOLA, Texas Food & Music Festival (11:00am)
- HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN** Derek O'Brien
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Ginny Marie, Haydon Hoodoo, Raph Shapiro
- HOTEL VEGAS** Sam Pace, Hard Riffs, Hippo (9:00)
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** Madaline, Some Kind of Nightmare, Hans Gruber & the Die Hards (8:45) ⓂⓅ
- LAGUNA GLORIA AMPHITHEATER** Ragnar Kjartansson's S.S. Hangover (11:00am) ⓂⓅ
- LAMBERTS** Kevin Lovejoy & friends (7:00)
- LITTLE LONGHORN** Original Home of Chicken Shit Bingo w/ Weldon Henson (4:00)
- THE LOST WELL** Impiety, Gravehill, Divine Eve, Serpentine (8:30) Ⓜ
- MOHAWK** Polarizado, Ex-Romantika, Chief Perch (9:00) ⓂⓅ
- MOONTOWER SALOON** Robert Wagner (3:00)
- NEWORLDELI** North Austin Sing Club (2:00)
- THE NORTH DOOR** HONK!TX Wake, Funeral, & Afterparty (8:30)
- THE OASIS** The Brew (7:00) Ⓜ
- ONE-2-ONE BAR** Salsa Sundays w/ Timberos del Norte (8:30), the Big Fix (6:00)
- OSKAR BLUES BREWERY** Stone Wheels Ⓜ
- POODIES** B.B. Morse friends & family (10:00), Tessa Lou & the Shotgun Stars (4:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Matt Harlan (4:00)
- SAHARA LOUNGE** *Moan Them Blues* Bessie Smith musical (2:30 & 6:30)
- SAXON PUB** Sam Morrow (10:30), the Resentments (7:30), John Gaar (5:30), Denim (3:00)
- THE SKYLARK** Soul Man Sam (8:00)
- SPIDER HOUSE BALLROOM** Alexalone, Astragal, Why Bonnie, Marie et la Toilet, Ollie (7:00), Inaugural Brave Fest w/ Timberos del Norte, SaulPaul, CoMeTriY (2:00)
- STAY GOLD** Interrobang Brass Band (9:00) Ⓜ
- STUBB'S** Gospel brunch w/ Bells of Joy (10:30am)

THREADGILL'S NORTH Soul of a Musician Series w/ Reed Turner (6:30) **A** Sunday brunch w/ Randy Collier & Grassland (11:00am) **A**

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Merle Haggard birthday party (4:00) **A**, Gospel brunch w/ Jon Emery's Hillbilly Revival (11:00am) **A**

WHIP IN Jazz brunch w/ Kevin Witt Jazz Collective (noon) **A**

WHISLER'S The Merles (7:00)

THE WHITE HORSE Armadillo Road, Silo Road (9:00), Jesse Ebaugh & the Tender Things (6:30)

MONDAY 4/9

ANTONE'S Brad Stivers (10:00), Blue Monday Band (6:30)

THE BLACKHEART Ginny Marie (10:30)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Jonesin' (10:00), Presto Chango (6:30)

CACTUS CAFE Open mic w/ Kacy Crowley (7:30) **A**

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Good Tiger, Icarus the Owl, Megosh, Memories in Broken Glass, the Ansible (7:00) **A**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:15), the Peterson Brothers (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Michael Hale Organ Trio w/ Mac McIntosh (10:30), Elias Haslanger feat. Dr. James Polk (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

DRISKILL BAR Mary Fagan (6:00)

EL MERCADO Christine Albert & Bill Kirchen Mystery Monday (5:30) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30), Jon Blondell Trio (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) **A**

GERALDINE'S The Watters (9:30)

GIDDY UPS Tommy Moore (7:00)

GRUENE HALL Mark Jungers Band (6:00) **A**

HARD LUCK LOUNGE Alison Self (8:00)

HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN Redd Volkaert

HOLE IN THE WALL Little Big Man, Nick Swift, Craig Marshall

HOTEL VEGAS Warm Sugar, Ry Warner, Jana Horn (9:00) **A**

NEWORLDEL Open mic hosted by Heather Miller (7:00)

ONE-2-ONE BAR Arnold & the Hitmen (9:30), Cari Hutson & Good Company (7:30), Forlini & Cross (5:30)

POODIES Songwriters' showcase w/ WC Jameson, Wake Eastman (6:30)

RADIO COFFEE & BEER Bluegrass night (8:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN John Driver (6:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Cale & the 45's, steel Monday w/ Geoff Queen (7:00)

SAXON PUB Lonelyland (8:30), Hoodygoode (6:00)

THE SKYLARK Skylark Social Club w/ Brian Scartocci (10:30), Nakia & the Blues Grifters (8:00)

SPEAKEASY Open mic night w/ Ronnie Hall (9:30)

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH St. David's Day School Benefit w/ Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison, Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few, Dave Insley (6:00) **A**

STAY GOLD Cold Jackets (10:00)

STUBB'S Dumbfounded (8:00) **A**

TEXAS MIST Classic metal jam night w/ Rob Barrett (of Cannibal Corpse) (8:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Me Mer Mo Monday w/ Joey, Ju4n, Marauder, Innerquiet, Douglas Laustsen & Sarah Brown (6:00)

WHIP IN Ben Balmer (8:00) **A**

THE WHITE HORSE Chuck Fleming & the Sadlands, John Mutchler & the Golden Roses, Texas Tycoons (8:00)

TUESDAY 4/10

ACL LIVE Austin City Limits TV taping: Brandi Carlile **A**

ANTONE'S The James Hunter Six, Eve & the Exiles (8:00) **A**

AUSTIN EASTCIDERS COLLABORATORY Songwriter open mic (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Weldon Henson (8:15)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Night of the Cadillacs (11:30) **A**, Dylan Bishop (10:00), 8½ Souvenirs (6:30)

CACTUS CAFE Elizabeth Cook, Dan Dyer (7:30) **A**

CHEER UP CHARLIES Buhu (single release), Solid State Dream Suit, BAIJ (9:00)

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Sirenia, Threat Signal, Valinor Excelsior, Niviana (7:00) **A**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Mike Stinson (10:00), Beat Root Revival (6:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

DOZEN STREET Upright bass night w/ the Austin Smith Trio, Colton Turner & the Rockin' Roses, Micah Motenko (10:00) **A**

DRISKILL BAR Brian Kremer (8:00), Tracie Lynn (6:00)

EL MERCADO Durawa w/ Skunk Manhattan (6:30) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Seth Carper Quartet (9:30), Sarah Sharp (6:00)

EMO'S King Krule (7:00) **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE Grouchy Like Riley (7:00) **A**

GERALDINE'S Sydney Wright (9:30)

GIDDY UPS Blues jam (7:45)

GRUENE HALL Nathan Bonnes & friends (6:00) **A**

HALF STEP The Michael Hale Trio (9:00)

HARD LUCK LOUNGE Tater Tuesdays (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Will Maxwell, Spencer Garland, Jim Campo, Brendan Bond

HOTEL VEGAS Thelma & the Sleaze, Craig Brown Band, Nick Allison (9:00) **A**

LAMBERTS Jacob Jaeger & friends (7:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Fingerpistol (8:00)

MOHAWK Ugly Side Up, Cosmic Chaos, Clever Heads Prevail (8:00) **A**

NEWORLDEL Beatle Bash w/ the Eggmen (6:30)

ONE-2-ONE BAR SoulXchange (10:00), the Gladiators feat. George Devore (7:30), Emily Shirley (6:00)

POODIES Kurt, Bracken & Cody (7:30), Louis Long (5:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Troy Stone (8:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN Chip Sneed (6:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Bob Wills night w/ Al Dressen's Super Swing Revue (7:00)

SAXON PUB Scott Collins (10:00), Patterson Barrett (CD release) (8:00), David Grissom (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Japanese Breakfast, Snail Mail, Football Etc. (7:00) **A**

THE SKYLARK Dickie Lee Erwin (8:30)

SPEAKEASY Trent Minter (9:30)

STAY GOLD Jazz jam night w/ Daniel Dufour's Trio (10:00)

THE TOWNSEND Alice Spencer (7:30)

THE WATER TANK Open mic hosted by Ernie Welter (8:00)

THE WHITE HORSE James Steinle, Devin Jake, Chansons et Souïlards (7:00) **A**

WEDNESDAY 4/11

THE ABGB Warren Hood (6:30)

ANDERSON MILL PUB Open mic (8:00)

ANTONE'S Mike Buck, Dave Gonzalez, Don Leady, & Eric Przygocki (10:00), Tommy Shannon Blues Band, Bill Carter (6:30)

AUSTIN EASTCIDERS COLLABORATORY Pierson Saxon (7:00)

BEERLAND Hotel Blondie, Modular Sun, Latchkey Kid, Gumma (8:00) **A**

THE BLACKHEART The Peterson Brothers (10:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Saddle Sores w/ Cella Blue (9:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Trube, Farrell & Snizz (11:00), Matt Hubbard Trio (9:30), Cheatn' Hearts (6:30)

CHEER UP CHARLIES Lolita Lynne, Summer Swells, Sun June, Royal Forest

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Powerman 5000, Mammoth, Lug, PigWeed, D-Reil (7:00) **A**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Jon Dee Graham (10:30), William Harries Graham (9:45), Tom Ben Lindley w/ Alvin Crow (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY The Brannen & Red Show (10:30), Blue Moon Jazz Quartet feat. Rosie Flores (8:30)

DIRTY DOG BAR The Funeral Portrait; Oh, Weatherly; Bad Head, Good Heart; Commons; Call Me King (7:00) **A**

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Honky-Tonk Doctors

DRISKILL BAR Bruce Smith (8:00), Tracie Lynn (6:00)

EL MERCADO Chris Gage & friends (6:30) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Tonic Big Band (9:30), Violet Crown Revue w/ Liz Morphis (6:00)

EMO'S SoMo, Caye, Kid Quill (7:00) **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE The Peacemakers (10:00), Paul Glasse (7:00) **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)

GERALDINE'S Ray Prim (9:30)

GIDDY UPS The Rewinders (7:00)

GRUENE HALL Tom Gillam & the Cosmic Messengers (6:00) **A**

GÜERO'S Sun Radio Presents Texas Radio Live (6:00)

HALF STEP Canned Beats (10:00)

HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN Shelley King

HOLE IN THE WALL Alex Riegelman & friends, Horti, Anna Roenigk, That Summer

HOTEL VEGAS Magic Rockers of Texas, Socha, the Naked Tungs, the Teddys (7:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Dave Insley Band

LONE STAR COURT HOTEL Eric Hisaw

LONG CENTER Noah & the Megafauna (7:30) **A**

THE LOST WELL The Brass, Concrete Elite, Cheap Fur (9:00) **A**

MOHAWK Samantha Lee & the Family Tree, Corbella, Color Candy (8:00) **A**

NEWORLDEL David Pulkingham (7:00)

ONE-2-ONE BAR La Moña Loca Salsa (8:00), Giulia Millanta, Mandy Rowden (6:00)

POODIES No Bad Days open mic (8:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Daniel Thomas Phipps (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Marghi Allen (7:00)

SAXON PUB Zac Wilkerson (10:00), Radney Foster (8:00), Wagoners (6:00) **A**

SIDEWINDER Mike Frazier, Nathan Perry (8:00) **A**

THE SKYLARK Paul Klemperer presents Skylark Jazz Wednesdays (8:00)

SPEAKEASY Geno Gottschall (9:30)

SPIDER HOUSE BALLROOM Songwriter night w/ Mike Nicolai, Colin Swietek, Jess Ledbetter (9:00)

STAY GOLD Micah Motenko (9:00)

THREADGILL'S NORTH Sittin' Singin' & Supper w/ Ben Stafford Rogers (7:00) **A**

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4/7 **WHITE GHOST SHIVERS**
Jazz, Swing, Folk

4/8 **WILSON MARKS**
Jazz Singer-songwriter

WESTGATE 4477 S. LAMAR

4/6 **CHALKBOARD POETS**
Folk Rock

4/7 **GOLDEN LIGHTS**
Americana

4/8 **TOMMY HOWARD**
Jazz

6:30 - 9 PM (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED)

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FROM WEDNESDAY

THE TOWNSEND Shannon Brackett & guests (8:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS The James Hunter Six (5:00) ⓂⓂ

WHIP IN South Austin jazz jam (8:00) Ⓜ

WHISLER'S Hogan Sullivan & the West Texas Teardrops (9:00)

THE WHITE HORSE Croy & the Boys, Rosie & the Ramblers, Rock Step Elevators (8:00)

THURSDAY 4/12

ACL LIVE The Dixie Chicks (9:00) ⓂⓂ

ANTONE'S Soul Man Sam & the S.M.S. Band (10:00), Red Young & His Hot Horns (6:30)

BARRACUDA Kevin Morby, Hand Habits (9:00) ⓂⓂ

B.D. RILEY'S Kristen Gibbs (8:00)

BEERLAND The Mutineers, JD Clark, Will Courtney & the Wild Bunch (8:00) Ⓜ

THE BLACKHEART Armadillo All Stars (10:30)

BROKEN SPOKE The Derailers (9:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL DJ Kidsuir A (in the Jade Room) (9:00), Paul Oscher (6:30)

CACTUS CAFE John Neilson, Kacy Crowley (8:00) Ⓜ

CHEER UP CHARLIES Nite School w/ Kro, Verhalten, JT Whitfield, Breathing Problem, DJ Kriseliot, DJ Scorpio (9:00) Ⓜ

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Closure in Moscow (7:00) Ⓜ

CONTINENTAL CLUB Rattlesnake Milk (11:59), Sideshow Tragedy (CD release) (11:00), Jack & the Hacks (10:00) Ⓜ, Casper Rawls (6:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Bonnie Whitmore (10:30), Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

DRISKILL BAR Big John Mills (8:00), Tracie Lynn (6:00)

THE ELECTRIC CHURCH Amplified Heat (tour kickoff), Crypt Trip, White Dog (9:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Matt Maldonado Experience (9:30), Tres Musicos (6:00)

EMO'S Circa Survive, Foxing, Hail the Sun (6:30) ⓂⓂ

EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Moonwalks, Soda Lilies, Lord Buffalo (8:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Lissa Hattersley's Trip Trio (7:00) Ⓜ

FLAMINGO CANTINA Reggae jam-down (11:00)

GIDDY UPS Open mic w/ Dewey Lyon (7:00)

GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros (6:00) Ⓜ

GÜERO'S Blues in the Night (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL SoulxChange

HOTEL VEGAS The Zoltars, Sleeping Bag, Leche, Dollar Generals (9:00)

KICK BUTT COFFEE Meat Hook & the Vital Organs, Ixteria Korrisiva, the Elected Officials, the 13th Victim, Helfury (9:00) Ⓜ

LAMBERTS Missy Beth & the Morning Afters (10:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Alvin Crow (9:00), Them Duquines (6:00)

LONE STAR COURT HOTEL Frenchie Ⓜ

MOHAWK Marshall Anderson, Carson McHone, Steel Betty (8:00) ⓂⓂ

NEWORDEL Bluegrass open mic w/ Eddie Collins (7:00)

THE NORTH DOOR The Memory Palace (7:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE California Guitar Trio (8:00) ⓂⓂ

ONE-2-ONE BAR Cassandra Elose & the Outside Dogs (single release), Samuel Howden, Bat City Rhythm (9:00), Phoebe Hunt (video release) (6:00) Ⓜ

PARAMOUNT Brad Mehldau Trio (8:00) ⓂⓂ

POODIES Nick & Paige (8:00), George Devore (6:00) Ⓜ

RADIO COFFEE & BEER Erik Hokkanen (9:00)

REALE'S Richard Patnaude (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jake Pyeatt (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Jimmie Dreams & the Crescent Soul Revue (11:00), Leo Rondeau (9:00), Speedy Sparks & the Koolerators (7:00)

SAXON PUB Raph Odell Shapiro (10:00), Patrick Pike (8:00), Love & Chaos (6:00)

SEWINDER Softcore Villain (7:00) Ⓜ

THE SKYLARK D-Soul Davis feat. Art of Soul (9:00), Margaret Wright (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Ninety Degree Turn (9:30)

STAY GOLD The Brian Kremer Quintet (9:00)

STUBB'S Star Parks, Booher (10:00), Matt & Kim, CRUISR, Twinkids (7:00) ⓂⓂ

SWAN DIVE XI, Cosms, Chase Frank Music w/ Joseph Woullard (10:00)

TAVERN ON MAIN Thom Shepherd & Coley McCabe (7:30)

WHIP IN Woody Russell Trio + One (8:00) Ⓜ

THE WHITE HORSE Jonathan Terrell, Garrett T Capps, Jerry Redd (8:00)

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN Starlight Social w/ Tomar & the FCs (6:30)

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THE AUSTIN **CHRONICLE**



The LUV DOC

"Egyptology!"

Dear Luv Doc,

My boyfriend of 2.5 years and I have a great relationship; he is very loving, and we can discuss anything, any-time. However, lately I have started to feel very lonely in our relationship. He lives in his own apartment, and I live in mine, and I have enjoyed that. However, I have noticed

that he has started to show less interest in coming over lately. I feel like he is taking our relationship for granted. I know his work schedule and mine are different, and our sleep schedules are opposites. He sleeps super late, and I sleep early and wake up around 3pm, and doesn't seem willing to change this in order to spend more time with me. We seem to be drifting apart. When I brought this up to him, he got defensive and said why should he change his schedule when I don't change mine? I see his point, but because his schedule is so extreme, I find it so hard to stay up late to meet him after work on weekends. I also think it is just a cop-out to not make an effort on his part. I don't want to look for someone new, and it would be a shame to give up on this relationship, but I feel he is not making my needs for more time together important to him. What should I do?

— Early Riser

So it appears that morning sex with your boyfriend is actually more like afternoon delight. Skyrockets in flight! OK, for now it sounds like your skyrockets are grounded. That is a bit of a predicament, isn't it? Your missive contains a hopelessness similar to the current gun control debate. It seems as if you both want the same thing, but are unable to do what it takes to make it happen. There is nothing that can be done. We mere mortals are just feathers being blown about in the tempest of the gods, slaves to our immutable fates. It is impossible to change our minds or our destinies, so the best course of action is to do nothing and wait around and see what transpires.

Literally from well before the time the pyramids magically fell into place – and I think we both know that "magic" was slave labor and unquenchable hubris – people have been marveling at the impossibility of all kinds of things. Now granted, those pessimists lacked three very important qualities: desire, resources, and creativity. The first one is absolutely essential. There were probably at least a few Egyptians in 2500BC who had the resources and creativity to build a tomb that could be seen from outer space, but they didn't have the desire. They probably thought: "That's a really stupid fucking idea."

But there was one asshole who said, "Fuck it. My slaves don't have anything on their calendars for the next few centuries; why don't I have them build a really boss-ass tomb that glorifies me?" Now, there is a good chance that everyone else in the world thought, "This mother-fucker is sniffing bath salts or something." But lo, in a few hundred years he's got a tomb that makes everyone else's look like a fucking dirt pile and, well, there goes the neighborhood.

Now, before this spins off into an even more grossly inaccurate Egyptology lecture, what I was getting at is that while on the surface it may seem like you have an insurmountable scheduling conflict, what you really have is a deficit of desire – and I am referring to both sides of the equation. If you really desire to be with this guy, you will do what it takes to get to spend time with him – and that includes realigning your circadian rhythms to closer sync with his.

It sounds to me like you want this fellow to put forth a little effort to show that he still has desire for you. Unfortunately that is a problem that you alone can't solve. What you can do is show him how very important he is to you by doing things for him. If he doesn't reciprocate, you know what to do. Walk ... like an Egyptian.

**NEED SOME
ADVICE FROM
THE LUV DOC?**

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO
luvdoc@austinchronicle.com

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Not all insects are bugs, properly speaking. Some insects chew their foods. A bug is an insect that uses its mouth to pierce and suck its foods.

For a 2000 performance art piece, the artist Pope.L ate copies of *The Wall Street Journal* while sitting on a toilet atop a 10-foot tower.

A 1925 article in Australia's *The Age* said a Greek salad consisted of boiled squash dressed with sour milk. A 1934 article in the Rochester, Pa., *Daily Times* said a Greek salad was made with one diced raw carrot, half a head of cabbage, five stalks of celery, and two green peppers, mixed with one teaspoon of salt and three-quarters of a cup of mayonnaise.

The word "jazz" used to be spelled "jass," as in the Original Dixieland Jass Band.

Home runs spiked by about 46% from 2014 to 2017. Comparing balls used in 2015 to 2017, the newer balls' cores weigh about half a gram less than the older balls, which might be enough for a ball hit on a typical home run trajectory to fly about six inches farther. Half a gram is about the weight of a paper clip.

Above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the *Chronicle*, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.



COMICS

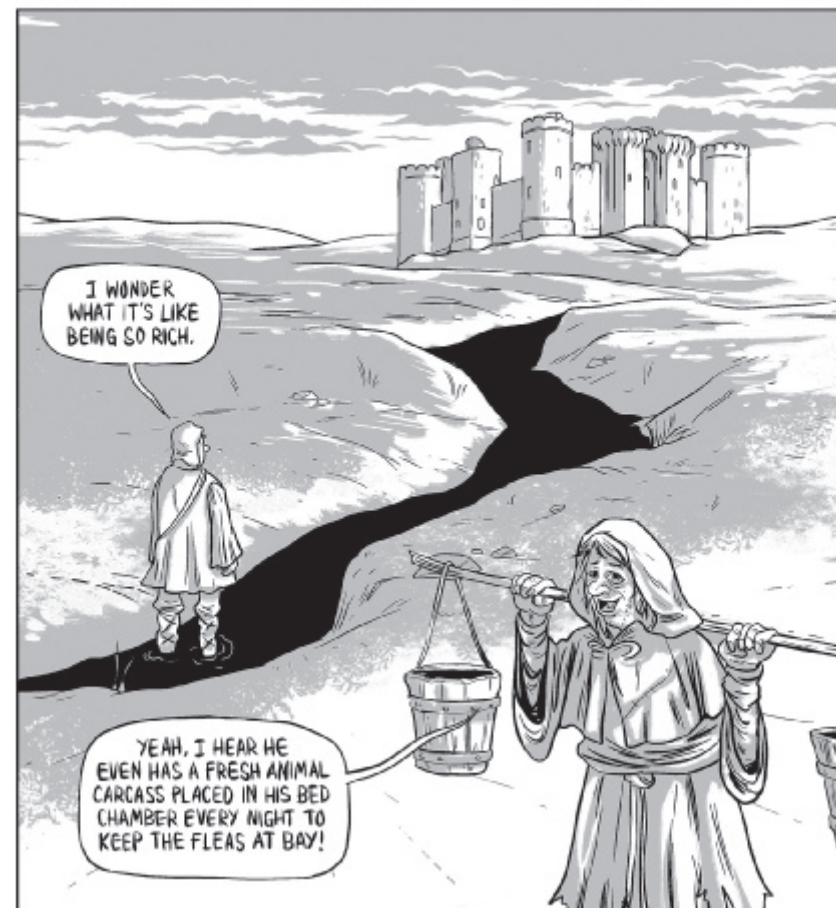
EYEBEAM

by Sam Hurt



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RYAN HENNESSEE 2018



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ENGINEERING
Lifesize, Inc. has an opening in Austin, TX: Senior Software Engineer, Responsible for protocol stack, media handling and call management for Lifesize's next generation video conferencing endpoints. Please mail resumes to Lifesize, Inc., Attn: HR, 1601 S. Mopac Expy, Suite 100 Austin, TX, 78756. Please reference ref# (AU-SP)

ENGINEERING
Various levels of experience. SunPower Corporation has the following position available in Austin, TX: Senior Integration Developer (VA-TX): Support overall integration needs for the Distributed Generation Digital Platform. Submit resume by mail to: SunPower Corporation, Attn: Global Mobility, 2900 Esperanza Crossing, Floor 3, Austin, TX 78758. Must reference job title and job code: VA-TX.

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER - IT
Dell USA, LP is seeking a Principal Software Engineer - IT at our Round Rock, TX facility to analyze business requirements/processes and system integration considerations to determine appropriate technology solutions. Serve as technical consultant to leaders in the IT organization and functional user groups. Req.006537. To be considered for the opening, please send resume with requisition number to: jobs_dell@dell.com. No phone calls please. Workforce diversity is an essential part of Dell's commitment to quality and to the future. We encourage you to apply, whatever your race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status.

INTEGRATION PROFESSIONAL
Nokia of America Corporation has a position in Austin, TX. Integration Professional [ALU-ATX18-JSTL]: Design & implement web application, enterprise application & web services in clustered & single server environment; work with Java/J2EE. Resume to ALU Nokia, Attn: HR, 600 Mountain Avenue, 6D-401E, Murray Hill, NJ 07974. Specify Job Code# in reply. EOE

LEAD SOFTWARE TEST ENGINEER
@ Autotrader.com, Inc. (Austin, TX) - Enhance automated test cvrge for web applics. Dsgn & implmnt test autmtn for iOS & Android, using Java, Appium & TestNG. Reqs: Master's deg (or foreign equiv) in CS, MIS, Engg (any) or rel & 1 yr exp in job offd, or as QA Autmtn Mngr, IT Softw Test Engg or rel. Alt., Emp will accept Bach's deg in a stated fld + 6 yrs prog resp exp. Must have 1 yr exp in each of follwng skills: OO prgrmmg, incl., Java, C++, Objective-C & C#; Web applic testing & test autmtn frmwrk; Using ASP.NET, PL SQL & VS; HTML, CSS locators & XPath; & Using srce cntrl tools, incl Git, TFS & Subversion. Emp will accept any suitable combo of edu, training or exp. To apply, send res & cvr ltr to A. Davis & S. Chokshi; Autotrader.com, Inc. - 6205 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30328. Indicate job title & ref code: GS-TX. EOE

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MULTIPLE OPENINGS
NXP USA, Inc. has multiple openings for positions in Austin, TX. Design Engineer; Product Marketing Engineer; Technology Solutions Analyst; Principal Design Engineer; Packaging Engineer. Related degree and/or experience and/or skills required for all positions. EEO/M/F/D/V. For more information and to apply online, visit http://www.nxp.com and click on "Careers."

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Amazon.com Services, Inc. - Austin, TX. Network Engineer - Design & build multi-vendor data connectivity solutions. Multiple job openings. Send resume, referencing AMZ2459 to: Amazon.com, P.O. Box 81226, Seattle, WA 98108. EOE.

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QUALITY ENGINEER
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SOFTWARE PRINCIPAL ENGINEER
Dell USA L.P. is seeking a Software Principal Engineer at our Round Rock, TX facility to be responsible for the design and development activities associated with software using a range of applicable technologies (e.g., programming languages, compilers, assemblers, debuggers, other tools) for products used in local, networked or Internet-related computer programs. Responsible for the design and development of ecommerce initiatives for Channel Engineering. Req. 006727. Job eligible for Mobile (Telework) pursuant to Dell's Flexible Work Solutions Program. To be considered for the opening, please send resume with requisition number to: jobs_dell@dell.com. No phone calls please. Workforce diversity is an essential part of Dell's commitment to quality and to the future. We encourage you to apply, whatever your race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status.

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SR. DATA ANALYST
position with uShip, Inc. in Austin, TX. Duties include to discover, analyze and quantify trends and correlations; make strategic recommendations backed up by quantifiable data; developing custom algorithms to produce price estimates using regression models; use statistical modeling techniques/cluster analysis to produce fraud prediction tools. To apply for this position, please send resume to hr@uship.com, and reference job title and code 2251.uShip, Inc. is an EOE.

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automate software dvlpmt process. Use SonarQube to perform automatic reviews with static anlysis of code to detect bugs, code smells, & security vulnerabilities. Bachelor, Computer Science, Information Technology, or Computer Engrg. 12 mos exp as Systems Analyst, Information Technology, Software Engineer, or related, dvlpng & test mfg execution systems using Java, Cimplicity, & Kepware, in vehicle assembly, powertrain & stamping plants inclgd Production Monitoring & Control, Production Routing & Tracking, & Material Management systems, or related. Mail resume to Ref#3311-2301, GM Global Mobility, 300 Renaissance Center, MC:482-C32-C66, Detroit, MI 48265.

TECHNOLOGY
Technical Expert II (DCS ULN Build Engineer) - Austin, TX. Duties: Install & config Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.x, 7.x, SuSe Enterprise Linux 11.x, 12.x & Solaris 11 servers as per req't. Config & maintain Red Hat Network Satellite Server 5.x, 6.x & automate Server patching. Must have Bachelor's or equiv in Eng'g (any), CS or rel. plus 3 yrs exp in UNIX System Administration/Build. Employer will accept any amt of exp w/ req'd skills. For specific job duties, educ, exp & skills req'ts & to apply visit http://www.atos.net/careers, select "Job Openings," & apply to Req ID: 69406. Atos IT Solutions and Services, Inc. is an EOE, AAE.

TECHNOLOGY
Apple Inc. has multiple openings for the following in Austin, TX: **Supply Demand Planner (REQ# ACEP5)** Forecast demand, inventory, and multi-channel sell through. Refer REQ# & mail resume to: Apple Inc., ATTN: D.W., 1 Infinite Loop 104-1GM, Cupertino, CA 95014. Apple is an EOE/AA m/f/ disability/vets.

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LEGAL NOTICES CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Add Late Hours Only Permit by Michael A. Carter, dba Central Star Lodge #1631, I.B.R.O.E. OF W., to be located at 7237 U.S. Hwy 290 East, Austin, Travis, Texas, Officers of said corporation are, William Calloway, Exalted Ruler, Robert Alexander, Esteemed Leading Knight, James Talbert, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Dwayne Robinson, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Michael A. Carter Sr., Treasurer, Frank Brown, Financial Secretary, Weldon Mc

Iver, Esquire, Larzell Cummings, Tiler, Lonnie Taylor, Inner Guard, Joe Brown, Trustee 1 Year, Roger Bowen, Trustee 2 Year, Darrell Francis, Trustee 3 Year.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a beer and wine license by C&MM LLC dba El Huarache Restaurant, to be located at 2113 Wells Branch Parkway, #1000, Austin, TX, Travis County. Officers of said corporation are Juan C Santizo, Mario Rodriguez and Lucas M Diaz.

Application has been

made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by PRVZ LLC dba Chago's Caribbean Cuisine, to be located at 7301 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Travis County, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Santiago Aponte.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Morningstar Texas Beverage, L.L.C. dba Courtyard By Marriott Austin-University Area, 5660 IH 35 North, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Robert S. Cole,

Manager; David M. Levine, Manager/Pres/Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wholesaler's Permit by Austin Specialty Foods, L.L.C. dba Austin Specialty Foods to be located at 2010 Centimeter Circle, Suite 2012, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Ben Erwin, Managing Member and Joel Trammell, Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a

Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit (BG) by Inka Chicken located at 1707 Wells Branch Parkway, Austin, Texas 78728. Owner of said corporation is Claudia Jordan.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by S & D Ventures dba Wine Down to be located at 2901 South Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 14, Austin Travis County Texas. Partners of said corporation are David Aguirre Celleri and Sherazad Lokhandwala.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-17-002558 TO: IAN CLARK, the Presumed Father of the subject child, Lillypearl Beezley, and to all whom it may concern, Respondents; GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. **YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED** to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250th Judicial District, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship filed in said Court on the 21st day of April, 2017 and the Affidavit of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 26th day of April, 2017, against the Presumed Father, IAN CLARK, and said suit being number D-1-FM-17-002558, on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Interest of Lillypearl Beezley, Child," the nature of which suit is a request to terminate

the parent-child relationship and/or name the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or a suitable, competent adult recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, or an authorized agency recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as Managing Conservator of the child, whose name, date and place of birth are as follows: Lillypearl Beezley April 12, 2017 Place of Birth: Austin, Travis County, Texas The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Child's interest, which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a managing conservator with the authority to consent to the Child's adoption. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this 27th day of March, 2018. REQUESTED BY: JULIE BOHRER ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY P.O. BOX 1748 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767 (512) 851-9404 State Bar No. 24058468 FOR TRAVIS COUNTY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES ATTN: Sonya Leathers (512) 854-3296

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for April 6-12

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Eighty-three-year-old author Harlan Ellison has had a long and successful career. In the course of publishing hundreds of literary works in seven different genres, he has won numerous awards. But when he was in his 30s, there was an interruption in the upward arc of his career. The film production company Walt Disney Studios hired him as a writer. During his first day on the job, Roy Disney overheard Ellison joking with a co-worker about using Disney characters in an animated pornographic movie. Ellison was fired on the spot. I am by no means predicting a comparable event in your life, Aries. On the contrary. By giving you this heads-up, I'm hoping you'll be scrupulous and adroit in how you act in the early stages of a new project - so scrupulous and adroit that you will sail on to the next stages.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Are you an evolving Taurus or an unevolving Taurus? Are you an aspiring master of gradual, incremental progress or a complacent excuse maker who secretly welcomes inertia? Will the theme of your next social media post be "The Smart Art of Compromise" or "The Stingy Glory of Stubbornness"? I'm hoping you will opt for the former rather than the latter in each of the three choices I just offered. Your behavior in the coming weeks will be pivotal in your long-term ability to animate your highest self and avoid lapsing into your mediocre self.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you fly in a passenger jet from New York to London, the trip usually takes more than six hours. But on Jan. 8, 2015, a powerful jet stream surging across the North Atlantic reduced that time significantly. With the wind's extra push, several flights completed the trip in five hours and 20 minutes. I suspect you'll have comparable assistance in the course of your upcoming journeys and projects, Gemini. You'll feel like the wind is at your back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Actor Keanu Reeves' career ascended to a higher level when he appeared as a lead character in the film *Speed*. It was the first time he had been a headliner in a big-budget production. But he turned down an offer to reprise his starring role in the sequel, *Speed 2*. Instead he toured with his grunge band Dogstar and played the role of Hamlet in a production staged by a local theatre company in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I admire him for being motivated more by love and passion than by fame and fortune. In my estimation, Cancerian, you face a choice that in some ways resembles Keanu's, but in other ways doesn't. You shouldn't automatically assume that what your ego craves is opposed to what your heart yearns for and your soul needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A Leo sculptor I know is working on a 40-foot-long statue of a lion. Another Leo friend borrowed \$30,000 to build a recording studio in her garage so she can pursue her quixotic dream of a music career. Of my other Leo acquaintances, one is writing a memoir of her time as a black-market orchid smuggler, another just did four sky dives in three days, and another embarked on a long-postponed pilgrimage to Slovenia, land of her ancestors. What about you? Are there any breathtaking challenges or smart gambles you're considering? I trust you can surf the same astrological wave.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): How sexy is it possible for you to be? I'm referring to authentic soul-stirring sexiness, not the contrived, glitzy, counterfeit version. I'm alluding to the irresistible magnetism that wells up in you when you tap into your core self and summon a reverent devotion to your life's mission. However sexy it is possible for you to be, Virgo, I suggest you unleash that magic in the coming weeks. It's the most reliable strategy for attracting the spiritual experiences and material resources and psychological support you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): According to my analysis of the cosmic omens, your impact is rising. You're gaining influence. More people are tuning in to what you have to offer. And yet your stress levels also seem to be increasing. Why is that? Do you assume that having more power requires you to endure higher tension? Do you unconsciously believe that being more worried is the price of being more responsible? If so, banish that nonsense. The truth is this: The best way to manage your growing clout is to relax into it. The best way to express your growing clout is to relax into it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The immediate future will challenge you to revisit several fundamental Scorpio struggles. For best results, welcome these seeming intrusions as blessings and opportunities, and follow these guidelines: 1) Your control over external circumstances will increase in direct proportion to your control over your inner demons; 2) Your ability to do what you want will thrive to the degree that you stop focusing on what you don't want; 3) Your skill at regulating and triumphing over chaos will be invincible if you're not engrossed in blaming others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I'm about to say things that sound extraordinary. And it's possible that they are in fact a bit overblown. But even if that's the case, I trust that there is a core of truth in them. So rejoice in their oracular radiance. First, if you have been hoping for a miracle cure, the next four weeks will be a time when you're more likely than usual to find it or generate it. Second, if you have fantasized about getting help to address a seemingly irremediable problem, asking aggressively for that help now will lead to at least a partial fix. Third, if you have wondered whether you could ever retrieve a lost or missing part of your soul, the odds are more in your favor than they've been in a long time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The French government defines books as an "essential good," along with water, bread, and electricity. Would you add anything to that list of life's basics? Companionship? Stories? Deep sleep? Pleasurable exercise and movement? Once you identify your "essential goods," I invite you to raise the level of reverence and care you give them. Take an oath to treat them as holy treasures. Boost your determination and ability to get all you need of their blessings. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to enhance your appreciation of the fundamentals you sometimes take for granted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Buckingham Palace is the home and office of the Queen of England. It has been the main royal residence since Queen Victoria took the throne in 1837. But in earlier times, the site served other purposes. The 17th century English lawyer Clement Walker described the building occupying that land as a brothel, a hotbed of "debauchery." Before that the space was a mulberry garden where silkworms turned mulberry leaves into raw material for silk fabrics. I see the potential for an almost equally dramatic transformation of a certain place in your life, Aquarius. Start dreaming and scheming about the possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Poet Carolyn Forché is a role model for how to leave one's comfort zone. In her early career, she earned writing degrees at placid universities near her childhood home in the American Midwest. Her first book mined material about her family; its first poem is addressed to her grandmother. But then she relocated to El Salvador, where she served as a human rights advocate during that country's civil war. Later she lived and wrote in Lebanon at the height of its political strife. Her drive to expand her range of experience invigorated her poetry and widened her audience. Would you consider drawing inspiration from Forché in the coming weeks and months, Pisces? I don't necessarily recommend quite so dramatic a departure for you, but even a mild version will be well rewarded.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

PARK & HOMER puzzles

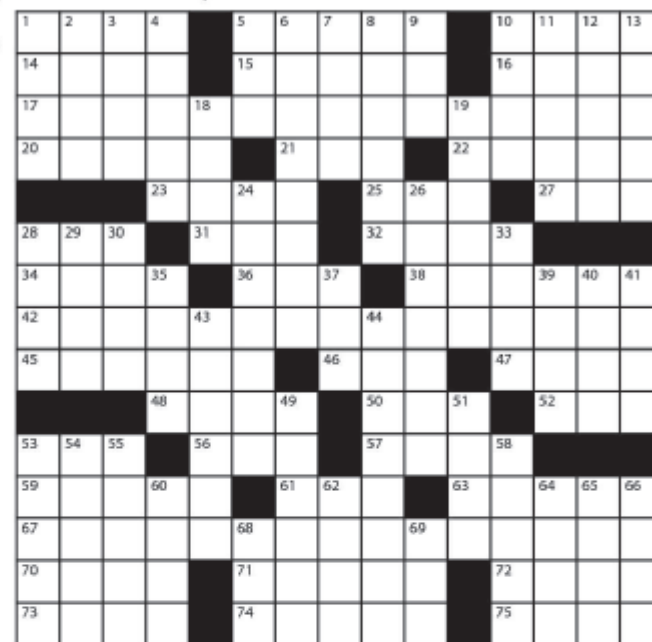
Something bound to sell?

puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 526

Across

1. Chemical endings
5. Lug
10. Soccer icon Mia
14. The "C" in U.P.C.
15. Shades of blue
16. Jai
17. *** Benefit of a steady job
20. ___ hammer on (pound)
21. AOL, e.g.
22. Sandwich order
23. Parking place
25. Walmart's Walton
27. CIA forerunner
28. Invoice fig.
31. Kind of fingerprint
32. Annual athletic award
34. Swabs
36. Freudian topic
38. Piled up
42. *** Store something away, in a way
45. Boxing combo
46. Resistance unit
47. Bingo relative
48. Gather on a surface
50. Sales pro
52. "Gee whiz!"
53. Meadow
56. Mauna ___ (Hawaiian volcano)
57. Cut, maybe
59. "Well, ___!"
61. Casual attire
63. Rhino relative
67. *** "Bye Bye Birdie" song



70. "Am ___ early?"
71. Electrical pioneer Nikola
72. Disaster
73. Work station
74. Emulates raptors
75. Cravings

Down

1. Brown shade
2. Some votes
3. Barely beat
4. Children's doctor?
5. Amtrak stop: Abbr.
6. Birthright
7. Pool exercise
8. Pass, as time
9. Freud subj.
10. Chemistry Nobelist Otto
11. Recent Olds

12. Big Parade organizer
13. Karaoke equipment
18. "Dragnet" org.
19. Drive
24. "Encore!"
26. Red-faced
28. Bullets, e.g.
29. Complaint
30. Toll rd.
33. A-Rod, for one
35. Tennis units
37. Lennon's lady
39. Ode or haiku
40. It's active in Sicily
41. "The Cosby Show" actor Richard
43. Gotten up

44. Like some facial tissue
49. One in a pool
51. Feel sorry for
53. Fat compound
54. Remove by dissolving
55. Choir voices
58. It may be pulled
60. Word that can follow the last word of the starred clues
62. Lighten
64. Not too bright
65. Computer image
66. Gym set
68. Muscle contraction chem.
69. Faux ___

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LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.69

Independent Administrator
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Alvin Frank Cook, Deceased, were issued on March 27, 2018, to Douglas Cook, Independent Administrator. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered under Cause No. C-1-PB-17-000301 in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented to the Independent Administrator and should be addressed as follows:
 Estate of Alvin Frank Cook
 c/o Law Office of Cameron Graber PC
 1300 West Lynn Street Suite 211
 Austin, TX 78703
 Dated: March 27, 2018.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of

Mary Pickett Young, Deceased, were issued on March 15, 2018 in Cause No. C-PB-18-000318, now pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Gary J. Skidmore. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:
 Patricia Kelly, Estate Attorney
 PMB 592
 8650 Spicewood Springs Rd.
 #145
 Austin, Texas 78759
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 DATED the 1st day of April, 2018.
 By: /s/ Patricia Kelly
 Attorney(s) for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on March 27, 2018, for the Estate of CLAUDIA JACKSON HEATON, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-18-000351,

pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to THOMAS CLYDE HEATON, as Independent Executor. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, and his mailing address is 8802 Bull Hollow Dr., Austin, TX 78750. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated: April 2, 2018. STUMP & STUMP
 BY: Randall C. Stump
 State Bar No. 19445900
 803 Main Street
 Georgetown, Texas 78626
 Phone: (512) 863-5594
 Fax: (512) 863-9350
 Email: stumpalaw@aol.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Betty F. Anderson a/k/a Elizabeth Anderson, Deceased, were issued on March 29, 2018, in

Cause No. C-1-PB-18-000440, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: John Forbes Anderson. The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb Stewart & Ott PLLC
 Attorneys at Law
 2500 Bee Cave Road
 Bldg Two, Suite 150
 Austin, Texas 78746
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 29th day of March, 2018.
 /s/ John R. Ott
 John R. Ott
 Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Benjamin D. Webb, Deceased, were issued on March 29, 2018, in Docket



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