How can a whole city compost, is it working, and can we reach zero waste by 2040?

BY LINA FISHER • P.38
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The Grubby Side of Composting

“It’s all very apocalyptic, which is kind of fun.”

That’s how Lina Fisher described to me the seven-month rabbit hole she fell through in reporting this week’s cover story about composting. It began with a seemingly straightforward assignment from Food Editor Jessi Cape – to profile a Central Texas business’ efforts to divert food waste from landfills by using grubs to break down the waste and then feeding the grubs to livestock.

The story got more complicated when more than 300 Buda residents filed complaints about the resultant smell, and then the rabbit hole coalesced into a much broader look into how – and if – the city can reach its zero-waste-by-2040 goal.

In the course of her reporting, Lina – who also works full time in our proofreading department – went on an Austin Resource Recovery truck ride-along, learned about the ruinous effects of a diaper tossed in the wrong bin, and got inspired to start working on a regenerative farming piece for us next. And in the course of editing her story, I was astounded to learn that I’d been composting wrong. Which is all to say, it’s not only an interesting read – it’s a genuinely useful one, too.

Early voting for the March 3 primary continues through Feb. 28; you can vote anywhere you see a “Vote Here/Aquí” sign. Need some guidance?

We’ve got a truncated version of last week’s Chronicle Editorial Board endorsements on p.11 (you can find the unabridged version online at austinchronicle.com/elections), and if you turn this issue upside down and give it a gentle shake, out tumbles a very handy pullout voters’ guide from our friends at the League of Women Voters.
The Texas Public Policy Foundation, the Koch-fueled right-wing think-tank, assures us that, instead of transit, “newer, better options are almost here.”

FOR EVERYONE?
OR FOR THE 1%?

THIS NOVEMBER,
Let’s do something big.
Let’s take on traffic, fight climate change, and save lives.

Ready to wait for flying cars?

TRANSIT FOR AUSTIN ORGANIZATION
BEG TO DIFFER, MR. KING

Dear Editor,

In his column endorsing Margaret Moore over José Garza for D.A. (“Point Austin: About That D.A. Race …,” Feb. 14), Michael King brushes his colleagues’ concerns about Moore’s integrity aside in favor of embracing Moore’s view of herself as a beleaguered victim of political enemies who have created a caricature of Moore and used her “as a punching bag.”

I beg to differ with Mr. King, and believe that if Moore’s public image has become a caricature, no one but Moore herself is responsible for the public perception of her as unethical and self-promoting. My daughter, Emily, was the target of the phone call that was made from the D.A.’s Office over a year ago, in which Moore’s first assistant made false statements about the contents of Emily’s police file in an attempt to make our family disbelieve our daughter and turn our back on her when she needed us most. Had our family believed the D.A.’s Office instead of Emily, there would have been one less voice to help bring about the changes in the system that occurred as a result of the class action lawsuit that brought the plight of sexual assault victims to light in Travis County. Emily and those of us who love her have learned firsthand the power the D.A. has over the life, liberty, and reputation of ordinary citizens. Until the phone call, our family never knew the breathtaking protection that prosecutorial immunity provides the D.A. Mr. King equates the D.A.’s Office to “a high-pressure law firm with more than 200 attorneys and staff members.” Private law firms exist for profit. The D.A.’s Office should be more than that. The D.A. herself should set the tone for the moral leadership of the most powerful public office in the community. In light of our experience, Moore has failed to do so.

Sarah Borchardt
You can AMPLIFY the lives of Austin’s shelter pets!

Nearly 500 pets spend each night at Austin Animal Center. Visit www.AmplifyAAC.org to help them today, or to give on March 5-6 during Amplify Austin.
LCRA’s Water Marketing Ambitions Could Lower the Colorado River Below Austin

Armed with a permit it is seeking from the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) plans to pump an astonishing 25,000 acre-foot of groundwater per year from the Simsboro Aquifer under Bastrop and surrounding counties.

Just a couple of problems with that plan.

One, pumping at that volume could dry up water wells around Bastrop County and two, such pumping could actually lower the level of the Colorado River, especially during times of drought. Such a drastic possible outcome lit a proverbial fire under Environmental Stewardship, the Bastrop-based nonprofit that I work for, as well as numerous Bastrop County well/land owners and the City of Elgin. The landowners and City of Elgin are facing huge costs to redrill or replace existing water wells. They sued (technically protested) the permit in a Contested Case Hearing in October 2019.

The connection between aggressive pumping of aquifers and a lowered water table is well established and documented. What is less well-known is the threat that high volume drawdowns pose to surface water.

George Rice, a hydrologist who has studied the Simsboro Aquifer for years, told me that heavy groundwater withdrawals could turn the Colorado and some contributing waterways, such as Wilbarger Creek, into what are known in hydrology as losing streams instead of gaining streams. That’s because there is an exchange between groundwater and surface water. When the water table is high enough, groundwater flows from the aquifer into streams making them gain water. But when groundwater falls below the level of the streams, surface water flows into the aquifer, turning them into losing streams. Over decades, with the introduction of more people and more wells in Texas, this process has occurred with regularity. Many streams and springs in Texas have declined or stopped flowing altogether because of heavy groundwater extraction. The Rio Grande, San Saba, Colorado, and Brazos Rivers are just a few examples cited by a House Natural Resources Committee Interim Report where groundwater extraction has brought about conflict and lawsuits.

Indeed, there are nearby examples of the consequences of excessive groundwater withdrawals to water wells also.

Rancher L.C. Hobbs in Lee County, which borders Bastrop County, saw his well drop an alarming 400 plus feet in 1999, according to a Texas Observer article about heavy groundwater pumping associated with an ALCOA [Aluminum Company of America] mining operation. Hobbs had to drill a deeper well only to find water fouled by minerals. The mine has now closed, but the water table, and many springs along the Colorado have yet to recover.

Small wonder that Environmental Stewardship and many Bastrop County residents are worried.

All this pumping comes with an absence of reliable knowledge about the aquifer level in the pumping area. Rice said there are currently no monitoring wells to quantify existing surface and groundwater interaction, and adds that an effective monitoring system is needed before heavy pumping begins.

This pumping proposal makes an ironic situation for an agency that is supposed to conserve and protect Colorado River water for downstream users and freshwater inflows needed by Matagorda Bay.

One of Lower Colorado River Authority’s stated missions is “water stewardship.” Stewardship means wise, long-term, integrated management of both surface and groundwater resources.

As a state agency, LCRA should not be acting like a for-profit water marketing corporation with a for-profit mentality and motivation. Its approach threatens the environmental and economic health of the Colorado River, Matagorda Bay, and communities of the lower Colorado River basin.

Administrative Law judges are expected to rule on the Environmental Stewardship permit protest sometime in early-mid 2020.

Rusty Middleton is an editor for Environmental Stewardship, a 14-year-old organization dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the Lost Pines and the Texas Gulf Coast.

The Chronicle welcomes submissions of opinion pieces on any topic from the community.

Find guidelines and tips at www.austinchronicle.com/contact/opinion.
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As the 2018 Democratic Nominee, Julie swung the district from a 21-point GOP advantage to within single digits, turning the Texas 25th into a national battleground. Now let’s finish the job!

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City Council Member Paige Ellis
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EARLY VOTING: FEB 18-28
ELECTION DAY: MARCH 3

MEDICARE FOR ALL
A GREEN NEW DEAL
GET BIG MONEY OUT OF CONGRESS
STRENGTHEN UNIONS
JUSTICE FOR ALL

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Paid by Julie Oliver for Congress

100% PAC-FREE
We endorsed Bernie Sanders in 2016 and would be fine if he wins this time, but we found a candidate we like even more. It’s time to stand for the progressive values this paper has championed since its founding, to shift the paradigms of the federal government, and to eradicate the political and moral pestilence of which Trumpism is but a symptom — right here and right now, by bringing together all the diverse American peoples. Warren’s messages, her experiences, her insights, and yes, her plans suggest to us that she has the best chance to accomplish real change and to leave the country better off than where we started.

The Chronicle Editorial Board offers the following endorsements in the March 3 Democratic primary. We only endorse in contested races, but we urge readers to cast a vote in every race and to vote in favor of the 11 ballot propositions that constitute the Texas Democrats Bill of Rights. Find the full text of these endorsements, and all our coverage from the campaign trail, at austinchronicle.com/elections.

**U.S. PRESIDENT: ELIZABETH WARREN**

We endorsed Bernie Sanders in 2016 and would be fine if he wins this time, but we found a candidate we like even more. It’s time to stand for the progressive values this paper has championed since its founding, to shift the paradigms of the federal government, and to eradicate the political and moral pestilence of which Trumpism is but a symptom — right here and right now, by bringing together all the diverse American peoples. Warren’s messages, her experiences, her insights, and yes, her plans suggest to us that she has the best chance to accomplish real change and to leave the country better off than where we started.

**U.S. CONGRESS**

**U.S. SENATOR:**

**CRISTINA TZINTZÚN RAMíREZ**

Of the dozen Dems who aim to take on John Cornyn, veteran MJ Hegar, state Sen. Royce West, and Latina organizer Tzintzún Ramirez have the best chances to pull off the upset. But as a youthful founder of both the Workers Defense Project and Just Action, Tzintzún Ramirez has demonstrated statewide leadership and activism, and sophistication about the challenges facing Texans in health care, immigration, criminal justice reform, labor rights, and climate change. We urge voters to join us and amplify her voice.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 10:**

**MIKE SIGEEL**

We endorsed Siegel in 2018, when he ran a DIY grassroots campaign that nearly toppled incumbent Michael McCaul in this gerrymandered district. Though both of his challengers in this primary, Shannon Hutcheson and Pritesh Gandhi, are strong candidates, we still have confidence in Siegel’s ability to capture this seat.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 17:**

**RICK KENNEDY**

Kennedy has soldiered on in this difficult, 12-county district for two cycles; he is savvy about what it will take to defeat the survivor of the 12-person GOP cage match to succeed the retiring Bill Flores.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 21:**

**WENDY DAVIS**

Davis’ experience and star power should be devastating in a general campaign against Chip “Sourpuss” Roy, one of the worst GOP freshmen in Congress.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 25:**

**JULIE OLIVER**

This was a tough one: Farmer/organizer Heidi Sloan and attorney/health care consultant Oliver can finish each other’s sentences on progressive issues. Oliver has relentlessly worked the entire 13-county district since her 2018 run against moneyed incumbent Roger Williams; we feel that experience and strategy gives her an edge.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 31:**

**CHRISTINE EADY MANN**

Family practitioner Eady Mann ran a solid second to now-Senate candidate MJ Hegar in 2018; in this crowded Dem primary, her experience gives her the clearest path to finish what Hegar started and taking out feckless incumbent John Carter.

**U.S. REP. DISTRICT 35:**

**LLOYD DOGGETT**

Yes, he has a primary opponent – which means we can enthusiastically endorse Austin’s one true congressman for reelection. Vote!

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

**RAILROAD COMMISSIONER:**

**CHRISTA CASTAÑEDA**

Many Democrats would be worthy opponents to GOP incumbent Ryan Sitton, but Castañeda earns our endorsement because of her real-world experience in the energy industry, which will help her go toe-to-toe with the current commissioners and the RRC bureaucracy.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,**

**DISTRICT 5:**

**REBECCA BELL-METEAREAU**

Bell-Metereau has run three times before against wing nut Ken Mercer, with increasingly close margins. Now that Mercer is stepping down, we’re pulling for her to finally grab this seat and help fill the SBOE.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,**

**DISTRICT 10:**

**MARSHA BURNETT-WEBSTER**

Burnett-Webster’s background, her compassion for students, and her dedication to education serve well on an SBOE whose members (and “experts”) have been known to lack actual educational experience and sensitivity to the needs of a diverse state.

**ENDORSEMENTS**

**March 3 Primary Election • EARLY VOTING FEB. 18-28**

**TRAVIS COUNTY VOTERS** may vote at any “vote center” (where you see a “Vote Here/Aquí” sign).

**VOTER ID:** Texas law requires registered voters to show one of seven photo IDs (current or expired for no more than 4 years) issued by either the Texas Dept. of Public Safety or U.S. government.

**Reasonable Impediment Declaration** and providing a form of supporting documentation. No photo ID is required when voting by mail. If a voter does not have photo ID, they may vote after signing a reasonable impediment declaration and completing the form of supporting documentation. Visit www.traviscountyelections.org for a list of acceptable forms of photo ID and supporting documentation.

**ADDITIONAL ELECTION INFO:**

Website: Travis Co.: https://countyclerk.traviscountytx.gov/elections or 512/238-VOTE (8683)

Williamson Co.: www.wilco.org/elections or 512/943-1630

Hays Co.: https://hayscountytx.com/departments/elections/early-voting

**EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

Open Mon.-Sat., 7am-7pm; Sun., noon-6pm (except as noted).
STATE JUDICIAL

Supreme Court

CHIEF JUSTICE: AMY CLARK MEACHUM
PLACE 6: KATHY CHENG
PLACE 7: BRANDY VOSS
PLACE 8: GISELA TRIANA

Although it remains an uphill fight, Texas politics are changing, and the 2020 election holds the possibility of a return to desperate-ly needed legal and political balance in the state judiciary. Clark Meachum is an impar-tial, powerhouse judge who presides over all the Travis County civil and family courts; lit-i-gator Cheng is both highly qualified and a hardworking campaigner running to broaden the court’s perspectives and its demographic diversity; Voss is an appellate law expert who understands the role of this court in provid-ing standards and guidance for the entire civil court system; and Triana is one of the state’s most experienced judges, who won a tough 3rd Court of Appeals general election in 2018, overcoming slanderous Republican personal attacks.

Court of Criminal Appeals

PLACE 3: DAN WOOD
PLACE 4: TINA CLINTON

In recent decades, the Court of Criminal Appeals — the last resort in Texas for challenges to unjust criminal verdicts — has been stacked with Republicans, with predictably dismal rulings (especially on capital punishment cases). In the two contested primaries, we recommend Dan Wood, a trial and appellate attorney for 32 years, and Dallas District Judge Tina Clinton, a former defense attorney with lengthy experience on and off the bench.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE

HOUSE DISTRICT 45: ERIN ZWIENER
HOUSE DISTRICT 51: EDDIE RODRIGUEZ

Both freshman Zwiener and dean-of-the-delegation Rodriguez have drawn token primary opposition; vote for them, and they’ll be ready to fight for Central Texas next session.

LOCAL JUDICIAL

CHIEF JUSTICE, 3rd COURT OF APPEALS: KEITH HAMPTON

The 3rd Court, after 2018’s Democratic wave, is shifting toward better balance: primary voters have a hard choice between legendary appellate attorney Hampton and deeply experienced District Judge Darlene Byrne. Hampton’s decades of hard-fought victories for justice and exonerations and his strategic focus on the 3rd Court as a counterweight to the newly Trumped federal courts give him the edge.

53rd DISTRICT JUDGE: KENNNON WOOTEN

Both Wooten and Maria Cantú Hexsel are highly qualified to replace retiring stalwart Scott Jenkins; we give Wooten a slight edge for her compassionate awareness of transgender legal issues often handled by civil court judges.

167th DISTRICT JUDGE: DAVID WAHLBERG

Former defense attorney Wahlberg and longtime felony prosecutor Dayna Blazey exemplify the best in their chosen professions; we favor the incumbent for his effectiveness and a balanced mindset that builds confidence in local justice.

200th DISTRICT JUDGE: JESSICA MANGRUM

Mangrum and Maggie Ellis would both make great judges; Ellis has substantial expertise in family law, but we feel Mangrum is better suited for the work facing a judge in this civil court.

353rd DISTRICT JUDGE: TIM SULAK

This one is easy: Thrice-elected incumbent Sulak is a distinguished, fair-minded judge. His opponent is an intermittent GOP candidate who’s been declared a “vexatious litigant” in two different courts and has no business being anywhere near the bench.

390th DISTRICT JUDGE: JULIE KOCUREK

There is no reason for voters to reject an accomplished judge who is a leader in local justice reform.

460th DISTRICT JUDGE: SELENA ALVARENGA

This race to lead a new criminal court highlights strong professional contrasts between two qualified contenders. Alvarenga is a leader of the local criminal defense bar and a prominent LGBTQ and immigrant advocate; Amy Meredith is a 20-year prosecutor who leads the local Public Integrity Unit. We give our nod to Alvarenga, who should provide balanced and broadening perspective to the bench.
DON’T BE FOOLED BY REPUBLICAN MADELEINE CONNOR.

“Judge Tim Sulak is the fair and ethical judge we need.

Who we elect as judge matters. Judge Tim Sulak has always shown respect for women’s rights.”

—Cecile Richards, Former President of Planned Parenthood, Daughter of Former Governor Ann Richards

Chosen “best qualified” by 95.3% of attorneys voting in this race in the Austin Bar poll.

Vote in the Democratic primary early Feb. 18–28 or on Election Day, Mar. 3.

Re-elect Judge

TIM SULAK

Democrat • 353rd District Court (Travis County)

Pol. adv. paid for by Judge Tim Sulak.
ENDORSEMENTS > CONTINUED FROM P.12

TRAVIS COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: JOSÉ GARZA

We were divided on this endorsement – in the most important local race on the ballot – but we simply cannot endorse incumbent D.A. Margaret Moore for reelection, if only because we have heard the tape and seen the transcript of at least one very specific, severe, and documented transgression that should be disqualifying to a public servant. Of her opponents, we feel Garza, current leader of the Workers Defense Project, is better positioned than Erin Martinson to take on the entire range of issues the next D.A. must face, but either would be preferable to an incumbent who we feel is simply too compromised to continue in office.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: LAURIE EISERLOH

Focusing on criminal justice reform is the top priority for whoever succeeds retiring David Escamilla. Delia Garza’s limited experience really is an issue, as it is for Dominic Selvera. Mike Denton is certainly qualified, but we value Eiserloh’s detailed knowledge of the C.A.’s Office, and we think she offers the best combination of experience, commitment to reform, and achievable policy to actually get that work done.

SHERIFF: SALLY HERNANDEZ

Between standing up to Gov. Greg Abbott to defend undocumented immigrants, ending arrests for possessing small amounts of marijuana, and implementing progressive changes at the county jail, Sheriff Hernandez has earned our endorsement. Former APD Sergeant Liz Donegan is a strong candidate but is not as well-rounded as the incumbent on the range of issues facing this office.

JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4: DIMPLE MALHOTRA

This is the county’s misdemeanor family violence court. Malhotra was a specialized domestic violence prosecutor when appointed here last fall (to succeed Mike Denton), and has taken necessary steps to improve the court’s efficiency and facilitate diversion while rebalancing the perceived scales between accusers and accused, and we believe she deserves a full term.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3: ANN HOWARD

Dems have come close to taking the only GOP-held seat on the Travis County Commissioners Court in the past two cycles; with incumbent Gerald Daugherty stepping down, 2020 represents their best shot at claiming it for years to come. Of the four candidates (Howard, Valinda Bolton, Sheri Soltes, and Shiloah Newman), Bolton and Howard have risen to the top – and we feel Howard is best among them.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1: TONYA NIXON

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2: ADAN BALLESTEROS

We’re glad to see young, energetic Nixon wanting to take over the Pct. 1 constable’s shop from retiring Danny Thomas. In Pct. 2, incumbent Ballesteros deserves voters’ continued support.

TENNESSEE PUBLIC

PROPS 1-11: Right to Health Care; a 21st Century Public Education; Clean Air, Safe Water, and a Responsible Climate Policy; Economic Security; Dignity & Respect; Right to Be Free From Violence; Housing; Right to Vote; a Fair Criminal Justice System; Immigrant Rights; Fair Taxation. Yes.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

Real news since 1981.

Austin American-Statesman

"As of May 1, the court had 3,154 pending cases — 981 more than the average caseload in the six county courts that handle other misdemeanor offenses, like drunken driving, marijuana possession and theft."

—Defense attorneys, victims’ advocates agree: Family violence court is too slow, June 6, 2019

VOTE MARGARET FOR JUDGE OF COUNTY COURT AT LAW #4

As Judge, MARGARET CHEN KERCHER will end the backlog by:

- Rehabilitating individuals who suffer from drug and alcohol dependencies or mental health crises by prioritizing treatment-based options instead of jail.
- Creating a new diversion program for first-time offenders who would be better served by treatment and social services in order to break the cycle of abuse and mass incarceration, while protecting survivors of domestic violence.
- Reducing the risk of gun violence by ensuring that people subject to family violence protective orders surrender their guns for safe storage.
- Transferring non-intimate cases (cases involving siblings, roommates, and parents) to other misdemeanor courts in order to ensure justice is served.
“MIKE DENTON WAS PROGRESSIVE BEFORE PROGRESSIVE WAS COOL.”

— Gonzalo Barrientos, Our Former State Senator

“As a judge, Mike focused on helping people instead of hurting them. As County Attorney, he’ll help first-time offenders get a fresh start with a clean record.

“Mike Denton con corazón y está con la gente.”

“I KNOW MIKE DENTON AND I KNOW HE STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY.”

— Nelson Linder, Long-time Austin Civil Rights Leader

“There are people who say they stand with you, then there are those you know are on your side.

“Judge Denton’s values and beliefs arise from genuine conviction, not political convenience. He has dedicated his life to progress and justice — for all people.

“Please join me in voting to make Mike Denton our next County Attorney.”

VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY!
VOTE EARLY BY FEBRUARY 28 OR ELECTION DAY MARCH 3
As a Municipal Court Judge and attorney with over 20 years of experience, Tanisa Jeffers has seen firsthand the way that one-size-fits-all sentencing fuels our mass incarceration crisis and costs taxpayers dearly.

“I’ve seen our criminal justice system at work. I’ve seen the way it treats poor people and minorities. It’s time for a change. I’m running for County Court at Law because we need expanded rehabilitation programs, more access to mental health resources, and a judge who will protect and prioritize victims of domestic violence.

On March 3rd, you can vote for progress or the status quo. It’s time for Travis County to live up to its progressive values.”

Judge Tanisa Jeffers
For County Court at Law No. 4

JUDGEJEFFERS.COM

Early Voting
Feb. 18 thru 28, 2020

Election Day
March 3rd, 2020

Endorsed By

Pol. Adv. Paid for by the Tanisa Jeffers Campaign

JUDGE JEFFERS
for
Progressive JUSTICE

AFSCME
LOCAL 1624

AYD
AUSTIN YOUNG DEMOCRATS

BAD
freedom, justice, equality, opportunity

South
Austin
Democrats

University
Democrats

austinchronicle.com
Mental Illness is not a Crime.

By working together with mental health partners, Sheriff Sally Hernandez is finding alternatives other than incarceration.

Re-elect Democrat Sheriff Sally Hernandez

Early Voting: Feb. 18-28

Election Day: March 3
Let Me Make Things Clear

Yes, we need to move ahead quickly – but not recklessly – with a new land code

I got some constructive feedback on my last column from readers: “His position on the Land Development Code rewrite is unclear” and “He needs to be more specific” and “This does not strike me as his best writing.” (Dude, it never is. My best is always yet to come.) Let me break it down for you.

Yes, I support the LDC Revision; it is long, long overdue. The changes it proposes are ones that 1) are already happening all over Austin, but piecemeal and with much wasted time and energy spent on meaningless conflict and procedural theatre, and 2) more closely align the code with how Austin was built out in the first place. We’ve been talking about the deficiencies of the current Title 25 code since at least the mid-Nineties; if we had been able since then to allow graceful incremental increases in density and more walkable mixed-use development in our urban nodes, centers, and corridors without making every such plan and project into a battle and a spectacle and a slippery slope, we’d be a lot better off now as a city.

MY LONG-AGO FINGERPRINTS

As a writer here back in the day, when the Chronicle helped to shape and empower both of the political camps – urbanists and neighborhoods – now engaged in debate, and then as a consultant and active citizen who worked on multiple plans and projects that inform today’s LDC conversation, and now back here again, my fingerprints are all over this thing, as are those of thousands of other Austinites. And I do think that official Austin has, for a decade, handled this whole thing clumsily, and that the ongoing strong and sustained backlash from both urbanists and preservationists is unsurprising. No one person (e.g., Steve Adler) is responsible for that; it’s been a decade (going back to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan) of missing the mark, of overpromising transparency and more specific and “This does not get the job done” and “He needs to be more clear” and “It is always yet to come.” Let me make.

CONTINUED ON P.20
As a former teacher, judge, foster mom, civil prosecutor working with children, and volunteer working with our homeless and immigrant families, I have been a strong advocate for our diverse community.

As a wife, mother, and grandmother, nothing is more important to me.
LAURA MOYNIHAN—DOING THE WORK
Laura Moynihan joined the Chronicle in July 2019 as the arts and culture editor. She oversees coverage of the arts and culture, as well as the music, food, movies, and books sections. Before coming to the Chronicle, Moynihan covered the arts beat for Mother Jones magazine. Moynihan has also worked as a copy editor and reporter at the Telegraph in Paris and as a regular contributor to The New York Times'艺术/文化 section. She holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. Moynihan is a native of Chicago and is a member of The Society of Professional Journalists. She is also an accomplished musician, playing guitar and bass, and has performed with various bands in Chicago and Los Angeles. Moynihan is currently working on a memoir about her experiences growing up in a religious family and her journey to becoming a journalist. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing music, and exploring the culinary scene in Austin. Contact Moynihan at: laura.moynihan@austinchronicle.com.
LAURIE EISERLOH
The Progressive Choice for Travis County Attorney!

ENDORSED BY
THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
Austin American-Statesman

BRILLIANT RECORD, ATTORNEY & REFORMER

- Key attorney suing Governor Abbott over unfair immigration laws; protected AIDS funding; wrote Anti-Hate Crimes legislation

- 13-Point Criminal Justice Reform Plan; ready to sue corporate polluters for climate change; plan to stop backlog in Family Violence Court

- 27 years as front-line litigator; only candidate experienced in State, County, and City litigation; only candidate admitted to practice in Federal District Courts in Texas and 5th Circuit

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE GROUP ENDORSEMENTS IN THIS RACE!

AFSCME Local 1624
CWA Local 6132
IBEW Local 520
Austin Environmental Democrats
Black Austin Democrats
Capital Area Progressive Democrats
Central Austin Democrats
Liberal Austin Democrats
North by Northwest Democrats
Northeast Travis County Democrats
Pflugerville Democrats
South Austin Democrats
Stonewall Democrats
Victory Fund
West Austin Democrats
Women's Political Caucus, Greater ATX

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Code Compromise?

After second reading, Adler offers an olive branch

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

After three days of debate, City Council advanced its effort to rewrite Austin’s Land Development Code to the third-and-final stage late on Thursday, Feb. 13, on what has become a familiar 7-4 vote during the prolonged land use debate. Council Members Kathie Tovo, Alison Alter, Ann Kitchen, and Leslie Pool were once again in the minority, following a series of defeats on many of the more than 80 amendments proposed to this second draft of the new code and map.

Staff will now take the amendments approved by Council and produce a third draft. Before that is done, they will release “translation tables” which explain how existing zones translate into new zones, expected in late February. The third-reading vote is expected in late March.

Successful second-reading amendments will allow for bigger duplexes; reduce the minimum age of structures eligible for the preservation incentive from 30 years to 15; and create an option for developers, in some cases, to pay into a fund rather than providing dedicated parkland in projects between 1.66 and 6 acres in size. Unsuccessful ones would have prohibited transition zones in areas where localized flooding poses a risk, and halted “missing middle” zoning in some parts of the city until sidewalk or transit improvements were planned.

Mayor Steve Adler said after the vote, “It’s apparent that there are seven people on this Council to pass the code.” He wants a compromise that will bring more votes over to the majority, he said, but, “I recognize it will be hard. … You’re going to have to come up with a reason, or multiple reasons, for the majority to compromise in ways they don’t have to in order to pass a code.”

Adler has offered a straightforward option: limiting transition zones to two lots deep, to the furthest extent possible, in exchange for minority support. His proposal isn’t an opportunity to negotiate further, he says. “I want to reach consensus, and I think we can,” the mayor told us Monday, Feb. 17. “But I’m prepared to pass this code with seven votes if needed.”

Adler’s move has befuddled pro-density code-watchers, but the mayor understands what he wants to achieve the consensus he is known for seeking on what will likely be the signature issue of his tenure. He’s also considering the long game: Austin’s existential land use battles will not end with the adoption of a new LDC. The code and the map will need to be refined, density bonuses will need to be constantly recalibrated to maximize their effectiveness, and zoning requests will continue to provoke conflict at City Hall.

Under that logic, giving ground on transition zones makes sense; while they have received the most negative scrutiny from LDC skeptics, shrinking them might not impact the majority’s goals all that much. Staff has estimated that increasing the buffer between transition zones and nearby single-family zones by 300 feet (an approximation of two lots deep) would reduce citywide housing capacity by a mere 400 units. As currently mapped, the TZs, which account for just 2% of the property in Austin, produce around 11,000 of the 351,000 to 410,000 new units enabled by the staff’s second LDC draft, although where those units are located (near activity centers and transit corridors) is important.

It’s unclear how much interest there really is on the dais for Adler’s plan, from either side. CM Jimmy Flannigan told us he’s open to exploring “every option and olive branch,” but “the path to a nine-vote consensus is not as straightforward as talking to the members who are currently saying no. Some of us supportive of the code are honestly trying to solve specific problems, but if the compromise inhibits that, then I don’t know if we can continue to support it.”

Alter is even more skeptical of the deal. “There is no proposal,” she told us of Adler’s offer, adding that she’s concerned about more than just TZs. “In this draft, the changes that are happening on every residential lot in every neighborhood are enormous. They are going to squeeze into the interior neighborhoods of this city.” She says she needs more details about the on-the-ground impact of Adler’s offer. Though open to compromise, Tovo shared similar concerns, noting that her issues with TZs also include how they are mapped in her central-city District 9: “My constituents are looking at this like a redevelopment plan for Central Austin.”

Achieving a compromise enticing enough to both sides will be difficult. Tovo, Alter, Kitchen, and Pool are working on an “alternate plan” that they hope could create such a compromise. They haven’t revealed specific details of the plan, but intend to in the coming weeks. It will seek to empower neighborhoods to have more input in the zone mapping, however – a process that could resemble small-area planning.

Council will meet today, Thursday, Feb. 20, to take up an 85-item agenda. They’ll consider approving a contract to renovate the former John Henry Faulk Library Downtown, but some CMs are concerned that work could interfere with plans to use part of Faulk to house the Downtown Austin Community Court.

Council will also vote on entering into negotiations with the University of Texas on a month-to-month lease agreement for Lions Municipal Golf Course, which occupies 140 acres of UT’s 500-acre Brackenridge Tract and currently costs the city about $500,000 a year to rent. Any deal is likely to include other factors, like housing and transit options near UT properties.

We’ll have more online on Friday, Feb. 21.

ACTIVISTS, FILM SPOTLIGHT ROSA JIMENEZ CASE

When will Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore make a decision on the fate of Rosa Jimenez? This was the question on everyone’s lips at the screening and panel discussing Mi Vida Dentro, Lucía Gajá’s documentary telling Jimenez’s story, held on Feb. 12 at the Mueller Alamo Drafthouse. Jimenez has served 17 years of a 99-year sentence for the murder of a toddler, but her guilt has long been doubted. Late last year, a federal judge ordered the D.A.’s Office to either retry or release Jimenez by Feb. 25.

Attendance at the screening – organized by Kathy Mitchell of Just Liberty, with help from the Justice Collaborative, Austin Justice Coalition, Workers Defense Action Fund, and Austin Community Law Center – showed that Jimenez’s case is striking a nerve. Attorney Sara Brown, who has represented Jimenez since 2012, urged the audience to contact the D.A. “The public outcry is the reason why these reviews are going on in the District Attorney’s Office,” she said. “All of that support has made a difference.”

Jimenez was a 20-year-old undocumented immigrant when she was accused in 2003 of suffocating 21-month-old Bryan Gutierrez, a child in her care, by cramming a wad of paper towels down his throat. Prosecutors had no witnesses and no clear motive; instead, they presented experts who swore the child could not have swallowed the paper towels on his own. Jimenez’s court-appointed attorney couldn’t raise the money necessary to effectively counter the state’s argument. Jimenez was convicted on the expert testimony and little else. She has protested her innocence ever since.

In 2010 the Innocence Project took the case and brought experts of their own, who testified that children do get large objects stuck in their throats and that the toddler’s death was likely a tragic accident. A judge agreed and ordered a new trial. That order was reversed in 2012, but renewed in 2019 when U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel laid down the Feb. 25 deadline. In the years that her case has traveled through the appeals process, Jimenez has developed stage 4 kidney disease. Her Innocence Project attorney, Vanessa Potkin, says she will need dialysis and, eventually, a kidney transplant to stay alive but will never be able to get on a transplant list while in prison. Nonetheless, in January, representatives of the Texas Attorney General’s office, in consultation with Moore, asked the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to keep Jimenez incarcerated indefinitely. The SCA agreed.

Potkin said Moore’s decision on a retrial will likely determine whether the A.G. tries to keep Jimenez in prison. “What we heard from the Attorney General’s office is they will take their cues from the district attorney,” she said. For her part, Moore recently expressed confidence in Jimenez’s trial jury, telling the online publication The Appeal that Jimenez’s guilt was “resolved by the twelve men and women who actually saw all the evidence and heard opinion testimony. Everything after that is opinion by people who were not in that courtroom.”

Mitchell isn’t impressed by that logic. “Yes, the original jury heard ‘opinion testimony,’” she said. “They just didn’t hear the testimony that led four judges to agree she is probably innocent. So those twelve jurors didn’t consider all the evidence.”

– Brant Bingamon
Veteran reporter Michael King
Austin Chronicle, February 14, 2020:

“National groups with virtually no knowledge of local circumstances have pontificated about the race…”

“Her opponents…going out of their way to ignore or denigrate the progress Margaret Moore has made…”

“Moore moved to REDUCE THOUSANDS OF MINOR DRUG POSSESSION CASES from ‘state jail felonies’ to misdemeanors…”

“She created new Adult SEXUAL ASSAULT AND FAMILY VIOLENCE UNITS while increasing prosecutions…”

“She established a CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL for…public review of all police shooting incidents…”

“Moore personally reviewed…the case history in the notoriously unjust Keller daycare prosecution and took the unprecedented step of OFFICIALLY EXONERATING FRAN AND DAN KELLER, something her predecessor refused to do.”

- from Michael King article,
  Austin Chronicle,  February 14, 2020
  (King disagreed with the Chronicle’s D.A. Endorsement)

“MOORE DESERVES THE CHANCE TO CONTINUE HER GOOD WORK.”
- Michael King, Austin Chronicle news article, February 14, 2020

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Like a Bridge Over Troubled Wastewater

Austin, Dripping Springs, and others convince TCEQ to change its rules for reclaimed water reuse

BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

“If you had said 10 or 15 years ago that Austin and Dripping Springs had allied on an environmental issue, nobody would have believed you.” So says Mayor Steve Adler, who for the last five years (most of his time in office, in fact) has been forging just such an alliance with the little city to our southwest and other stakeholders out in aquifer country. Together, they’ve convinced the state to change its rules for water management in ways that can keep both Austin and its suburbs green.

As you may know because you read the Chronicle, those suburbs – particularly out over the Edwards Aquifer and in the watersheds that supply Austin’s drinking water and recharge Barton Springs – have had some difficulties over the years finding safe ways to dispose of their treated wastewater. Because those surface and groundwater sources are so vulnerable, even the state of Texas, let alone the city of Austin, takes a dim view of using them for wastewater discharge.

Thus, the preferred disposal method has been land application, letting the ecosystem provide its own service of purifying wastewater effluent and returning it to nature. This works great if you have a lot of undeveloped land upon which to apply the effluent, which has been the case to Austin’s southwest even as the region has boomed. But now cities like Dripping Springs, master-planned communities like Belterra, and municipal utility districts (MUDs) to Austin’s west and southwest are running into constraints where such land is unavailable or too expensive to use this way.

At this point you may be asking, don’t they use treated effluent to irrigate golf courses and landscaping and such out there? Yes, they do – that’s the kind of “beneficial reuse” that has become part of the overall water management strategy for a semiarid region like ours. Those smaller water systems, as well as Austin’s own water utility, view reclaimed water (or “graywater”) as a valuable commodity. The state, through the Texas Water Development Board, even makes grants and loans available to develop and expand reclaimed water systems.

But the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which has to approve wastewater discharge plans, had not kept up with the increasing adoption of beneficial reuse strategies. That meant cities like Dripping Springs still had to hold lots of empty acres on their books for land application – or get TCEQ approval to discharge into surface waters, over the strenuous objections of the city of Austin – for wastewater that they were not in fact producing.

As Chris Herrington, an environmental officer at the city’s Watershed Protection Department, puts it, Austin was being asked to trust other stakeholders to not discharge wastewater they would be permitted to by TCEQ. “For Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer, our tolerance for risk is low, and so ‘trust us’ is not good enough.”

Thus began a stakeholder process leading to the alliance cited by Adler; where Austin, Dripping Springs, and more than a dozen other entities collectively petitioned TCEQ to create a system of credits for beneficial reuse that could better reflect realities on the ground and create an incentive to take those sound environmental practices even further. “I went to our staff and asked, ‘Look at this as if you were the staff for Dripping Springs: What would you do?’” says the mayor.

While TCEQ is often seen as providing the least resistance possible to environmental pressures, Herrington says state regulators were more rigorous than was expected in developing the credit program – requiring actual, firm commitments that water be reused, not just promises that it would be. “They wanted to make sure that there was a very large margin of safety, [so] it was slightly less flexible than what we had intended it to be” in terms of ways to earn the credit.

However, the final rules TCEQ adopted in January do the job, Herrington says, in solving the conundrum faced by smaller water systems such as the Lakeway MUDs. “They cannot discharge their effluent” into Lake Travis, he says, “but they’re doing such a robust reuse program, which is fantastic for keeping high-quality potable water in the lake. But they’ve also had to have acres of cedar trees set aside for wastewater irrigation,” which is in itself “a ridiculous construct.”

Lakeway’s been doing this for a while, but as growth continues to Austin’s west and southwest, more and more smaller communities with less money and technical expertise will confront similar constraints, and having a pathway to embark on beneficial reuse from the outset will make the region’s growing pains that much easier to bear. “We actually were able to build a broad base of support,” says Herrington of the effort that ultimately convinced TCEQ. “We had development interests and environmental interests there at the table together saying this is not the perfect solution, but it’s a good solution. It’s a step in the right direction.”

Election Ticker: Su Voto Es Su Voz!

Rubber, Meet Road: Early voting began this week for the March 3 primary election; info on where, when, and how to vote can be found on the Travis County Clerk’s website. If you haven’t used the new voting machines yet, you can also see a video tutorial there – including the reminder that you haven’t yet voted until you’ve deposited your ballot in the scanner designed to accept and store it (enabling recounts). It’s not a souvenir: Don’t walk away with your ballot.

All the info that folks still needing to bone up can visit our election page as well as our endorsement links in this issue and online. This issue also includes the extremely nonpartisan League of Women Voters’ guide; more info at www.juvaustin.org. We also welcome back to the endorsement scene (after several years’ deandreasc) our friendly competitors at the Statesman; they’ve got candidate questionnaires and videos of endorsement interviews over at their place...

More Endorse-o-Rama Some late nods worthy of note:

• Sen. Bernie Sanders joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren in endorsing Travis County District Attorney candidate José Garza, who also received campaign help from NYC public defender Tiffany Cabán, who last year narrowly lost a high-profile D.A. race in Queens and is representing the Working Families Party in campaigns here and elsewhere. Incumbent Margaret Moore got the Statesman endorsement.

CONTINUED ON P. 28
This blandly named court is crucial as the misdemeanor "Family Violence Court" ... incumbent Judge Malhotra was a specialized domestic violence prosecutor when she was appointed last fall by the Commissioners Court ... Malhotra has quickly taken necessary steps to reduce the case "backlog" and to include all stakeholders in improving court efficiency and facilitating diversion, while rebalancing the perceived scales between accusers and accused. We believe she deserves a full term to fulfill those programs.”
KIRK WATSON RESIGNS FROM TEXAS SENATE

As he began his transition from partisan player into Elder Statesman, state Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, was reflective with the local press corps at the Texas Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 18, after the news broke of his resignation (effective April 30) to lead the University of Houston’s new Hobby School of Public Affairs this fall.

“I’m not leaving public policy or public service,” Watson reminded reporters as he thanked voters, his colleagues, his staff, family, and even the media for their parts in his 20-plus-year career in Austin and Texas politics. “I anticipate that [with] the things I care deeply about, that I’ll continue to play some role.”

Watson, Austin’s mayor from 1997 to 2001 (when he left to run for attorney general on the 2002 Democratic “Dream Team” ticket) and its senator since 2007, has played “some role” in quite a few things that have shaped today’s city, from the Downtown renaissance to protecting lands over the Edwards Aquifer. These include (successful) forays into health care at UT’s Dell Medical School, the Dell Seton Medical Center, and Austin State Hospital, and (still unresolved) mobility initiatives to rebuild I-35 and deliver a modern transit system to Central Texas.

As Watson put it, before he took over City Hall as leader of the “Green Machine” at-large Council in the Nineties, “Austin had a de facto two-party system” pitting “the environment vs. developers, the Save Our Springs Alliance vs. the Chamber of Commerce, the Real Estate Council of Austin vs. the Sierra Club. It was an all-or-nothing, winner-take-all politics at a time when our city needed us to figure out how we were going to grow. One of the things I’m most proud of is that we brought forward policies that ultimately caused that system to fall and recognize that environmental protection ‘was valuable to all aspects of what we were doing.’

Today’s battles over the Land Development Code are aftershocks of the earthquake brought about by the Watson Councils. Even in his long service in the Texas Senate – a gig that often enables politicians to grow distant from their constituents – Austinites have looked to Watson to take charge on thorny local issues and campaigns, just as his fellow Democrats in the upper chamber have looked to him for strategy and leadership on the budget, education (notably higher ed), the Sunset Commission, and more.

“I’ve always felt really blessed that this community has allowed and asked me to become involved in things,” he said. “As a state senator, that doesn’t always happen.”

So now that he’s not only leaving that role but straight-up leaving town, what advice does he have for Austin as we try to fill those shoes? “The voters, I think, do a pretty good job of figuring out who they want to lead under different circumstances,” he said. “My advice is to listen to everybody and make sure everyone’s voice is heard, but also be open to let people try new things. I think the community allowed me to experiment, and not everything worked out exactly the way we thought. But I’ve always had great confidence in the way that this community makes its decisions, and I wouldn’t second-guess them.”

Watson flatly refused to signal any preference for a potential successor in what’s certain to be a wild special election – “I wouldn’t be surprised if you have multiple really good people running” – and acknowledged that his new role requires a balanced political approach. Saying he’s had “very good conversations” with Gov. Greg Abbott and GOP senators, he feels he’s been successful in his career up until now by “figuring out ways to listen to other people, to hear them, to involve them, to learn from them. I frankly think it’s one of the skills of good leadership and one of the skills that needs to be taught – trying to teach those kinds of skills.”

As tributes and thank-yous poured in throughout the day Tuesday, contenders for Watson’s Senate seat signaled their interest – with more to come, and some bound to change their minds rather quickly. Still on the board as of press time: state Reps. Donna Howard, Gina Hinojosa, Celia Israel, and Eddie Rodriguez (their colleague Sheryl Cole is taking a pass); Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt; Council Member Greg Casar; 2018 House District 46 runner-up Chito Vela; and outspoken attorney/Dem donor Adam Loewy. No GOP names have emerged as of yet, though local party chair Matt Mackowiak promises Republicans will contest the seat. Asked directly about his own interest, Mayor Steve Adler demurred, saying, “The moving on of such a longstanding community champion takes my breath away. It’s hard to imagine Austin without his leadership.”

– Mike Clark-Madison

ELECTION TICKER

CONTINUED FROM P. 26

• The Austin Bar Association and Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association released their “preference poll” of attorneys’ choices in local legal races; Moore garnered 53% (536 votes), with Garza at 14% and Jeffers at 8%. Views on the county attorney race were more closely divided: Laurie Berenato at 30.5%, Mike Denton at 26%, and Delia Garza at 15%. Sheriff Sally Hernandez led her challengers easily, with 59%. Among the district court races, the closest preference poll was in the 167th, where incumbent David Wahlberg (49%) faces Dayna Blazey (23%); And in the hotly contested County Court at Law No. 4 race, appointed incumbent Djimple Malhotra came in at 25.3%, Margaret Chern Kercher at 22%, and Tanja Jeffers at 12%.

• In the race for U.S. Senate, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, has endorsed Austin and Chronicle favorite Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez, saying Tzintzún Ramirez “understands the Texas of today and ___ has a positive vision for our future ___ [and] an extensive track record working on behalf of Texans to secure living wages, protect immigrant communities, and engage our young and diverse electorate.”

Open Mouth, Insert Foot: Houston appellate Judge Jerry Zimmerman, a candidate for chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, undoubtedly has a high opinion of himself – he likes to tell forum audiences he’s the “best educated” judge in Texas. As to his primary opponent, District Judge Amy Clark Meachum of Austin, he told the Texas Tribune he is running for only a “ selfish” reason: to be the first female chief justice. Not content to quit while behind, he denigrated Meachum’s experience (she’s been a judge since 2011; Zimmerman was first elected to the 14th Court of Appeals in 2018), describing her as a “lowly trial judge,” adding that unlike Meachum, “I actually want the best candidate to win.” Meachum responded: “If he chooses to disparage a more qualified and experienced judge because of her gender, he’ll find himself on the wrong side of history. These sorts of sexist comments are straight from the 1950s.”

– Michael King

[Note: The image has been cropped and rescaled for better readability.]

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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

“Garza has a broader and deeper grasp of the range of issues the next D.A. must face..., and he would also bring to the job a demonstrable commitment to equity and the leadership experience he has honed in his current role as executive director of Workers Defense Project.”

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Clipping SBOE’s Wing(nut)s

Central Texas voters can help transform deep-red education panel

BY MARY TUMA

The Texas State Board of Education, a perennial hotbed of right-wing ideology and clowns, could see a major political shift this election cycle, with four Republicans departing and four incumbents facing challenges. Marked by its divisive and downright embarrassing debates over evolution, history, and ethnic studies, the 15-member SBOE — when not mired in debating whether Moses was a Founding Father or if slavery didn’t spark the Civil War — is in charge of managing the $44 billion Permanent School Fund, approving charter schools, and adopting curricula and textbooks for the state’s 5.4 million public school students. (And because Texas is so big, those decisions can cause ripples throughout the nation’s educational materials markets.) This year, the board is set to debate the health curriculum, which includes sex education, and biology, which includes evolution and climate change; the members elected in November will decide how Texas textbooks address these politically charged topics.

The vigor of the board’s ardent right wing has waned since the years of avowed public school foe Cynthia Dunbar, young Earth creationist Don McLeroy, and world-class homophobe Terri Leo, but strong social conservative voices remain on the mostly Republican board. However, their power may dwindle further as other right-wing veterans — including Barbara Cargill, R-The Woodlands, and Ken Mercer, R-San Antonio — head for the exits.

“The conservative influence is still there — that’s why church-and-state separation is still questioned, that’s why textbooks say the root of democracy is founded in the Old Testament. But some members of the religious right old guard — who have been some of the most hardcore members of the board for two decades — decided not to run again,” says Dan Quinn of the Texas Freedom Network, a veteran watchdog of the SBOE’s culture wars. “This election is probably one of the most consequential for the SBOE in probably a couple of decades.”

Central Texas voters will weigh in on two key races in both the March primaries and the November general election. Districts 5 and 10 divide Travis County in half (surprise!) between two GOP incumbents — in the southern D5, Mercer, who’s retiring after 14 contentious years; and in the northern D10, Tom Maynard, R-Florence, in office since 2013. Both races feature contested primaries on the Democratic ballot.

**DISTRICT 5: SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS**

Texas State University English and film professor Rebecca Bell-Metereau is making her fourth bid to fill Mercer’s seat. As the Dem nominee in 2010, 2012, and 2016, her margin of defeat narrowed each time, down to a slim 4% in her last run, granting supporters and onlookers optimism that she could very well turn the seat blue this go-around.

“I have a strong vision of what the SBOE can be, and I’m not going to quit, especially now,” she says. “Because of the district’s shifting demographics and the work I’ve done getting to know all 13 counties over the past decade, I think it’s definitely possible that we can flip the seat this time.”

Bell-Metereau, an author who has volunteered with San Marcos ISD and served on the San Marcos Planning and Zoning Commission, touts her research and curriculum development experience. Among her many priorities if elected, she hopes to ensure that those who travel to Austin to testify before the board are guaranteed time to speak with a more “disciplined” public comment process; that subject-area “experts” appointed by the board have actual academic qualifications; and that the SBOE adopts a more rigorous approval process for charter schools. With climate change in mind, she also wants to see investment of the PSF shift from fossil fuels to renewables over time. So far, she’s scooped up endorsements from the Austin Environmental Democrats, Liberal Austin Dems, San Antonio’s Stonewall Dems, NxNW Dems, and the Texas State Teachers Association.

When it comes to sex ed, Bell-Metereau strongly supports a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum that teaches informed consent, sexual orientation, and gender identity. She believes students in pre-K should begin to learn about human anatomy. “Abstinence-only sex ed not only doesn’t work, it is actually detrimental to kids,” she says. “We need to start educating children about their bodies from early on so they know things aren’t scary or weird.”

With the caveat that she isn’t “trying to be mean,” Bell-Metereau wincers at the fact the incumbent believed the Earth was 10,000 years old. “It was unbelievable,” she says of Mercer’s religious-right views, including evolution denialism. “He was woefully ignorant. We don’t have time to waste anymore wondering if things like global warming are real. We need to equip students with the tools to solve these big problems for the future.”

Bell-Metereau will face off against newcomer Letti Breshanan, who has spent two decades serving public schools. A former PTA president, Breshanan sat on San Antonio’s North East ISD school board for eight years. She’s currently a board member for Education Service Center Region 20 (which oversees 56 school districts and 32 charters) and a UT Health Science Center director of continuing medical education. “I know what it means to work with other board members and know what it means to progress your schools,” she says.

Aside from ensuring curriculum is factually and unbiased, Breshanan stresses making certain the SBOE is maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to the PSF. Breshanan vocalized “concern” about charter school expansion, stressing the need to hold charter operators to the same standards as traditional public schools by heavily scrutinizing applications. She, like her primary opponent, supports an evidence-based sex ed curriculum.

One of the two will face the winner of the sure-to-be-lively D5 Republican primary, which features (Mercer-approved) speech pathologist Inga Cotton, and notorious former Travis County Republican Party Chairman Robert Morrow, ousted in 2016 for his abrasive antics and vocal criticism of the Trump presidency; in January, the Travis GOP took the unusual step of publicly disavowing Morrow via resolution. (County political parties typically do not intervene in contested primaries, they noted.) Adopted by unanimous vote of party leaders, the resolution states Morrow has a “history of misrepresentation and slanderous language” and has made “outrageous and slanderous allegations about President [Donald] Trump, members of the Bush family, and Governor Rick Perry, among others.”

**DISTRICT 10: DISTRacted BY POLITICAL ISSUES**

Incumbent Maynard — former head of the Texas Future Farmers of America Association — will square off against either Marsha...
Burnett-Webster, a retired school teacher and administrator of more than two decades, or Georgetown ISD school bus driver Stephen Wyman.

With a doctoral degree in public education administration, Burnett-Webster prides herself on her experience working on curriculum and textbooks. Her priorities include reviewing history curriculum for factual and cultural accuracy; ensuring standards are aligned with college and work expectations; focusing on student needs when it comes to standardized testing and not on “arbitrary mandates”; and charter school accountability (she opposes the public funding of charters). “I want to use my knowledge base on the board to focus on getting children prepared for college and beyond – not be distracted by political issues,” says Burnett-Webster, who has attracted endorsements from Central Austin Democrats, Liberal Austin Dems, Stonewall Democrats of Austin, Austin Environmental Dems, and NxNW Dems.

Pointing to the state’s high teen birth rate, she supports comprehensive age-appropriate sex ed curriculum including instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation. “Abstinence education isn’t working; it’s not based in reality,” says Burnett-Webster. “We can’t sugarcoat things or ignore them.”

Wyman, who also serves as a substitute teacher, says he supports a closer review of how the board manages the PSF and higher standards for subject-area experts. “I believe in accuracy, and I don’t think the Republican incumbents are doing a service to students of Texas,” he says.
A Dem Sweep in Travis County?

Four Democrats are hoping for the chance to flip the lone GOP-held seat on the Travis County Commissioners Court, as Precinct 3 incumbent Gerald Daugherty steps down after more than a dozen (nonconsecutive) years in office. All the candidates agree much progress needs to be made on issues facing the county, and especially its western portions that make up Pct. 3: better mass transit, more efficient use of water, protection against inevitable wildfires.

As the population within the county shifts, Democrats are hopeful that if they win the seat in 2020, they can keep it for years to come. So the competition in the primary has been intense, with former state Rep. Valinda Bolton and former Ending Community Homelessness Coalition Director Ann Howard pulling ahead as front-runners past contenders Sheri Soltes and Shiloh Newman.

The winner of the primary (or the potential run-off in May) will face Republican Becky Bray in November.

Bolton is familiar to precinct voters, having represented many of them as District 47’s member of the Texas House from 2006-2010, when she narrowly lost to Republican Paul Workman amid the tea party surge. (Workman was in turn unseated by Democrat Vikki Goodwin in 2018.) It’s that experience Bolton is citing to appeal to Pct. 3 voters, saying she can build coalitions among the communities within the county and Pct. 3. “In the [Legislature], there are members you can barely agree on the day of the week with,” she said, “but you agree on a particular issue. You’ve got to be able to build those coalitions by listening to people and providing vision on how policy can become reality.”

Working with the city of Austin to build a regional mass transit system would be among her top priorities, she told us, specifically one including more park-and-ride stations on the suburban periphery. Doing so would not only enable more people to commute into Austin, she says, but also help city dwellers visit their suburban neighbors without having to rely on a car. She’s also been pleased with progress made by diversion programs in the county’s criminal courts; ensuring those remain funded and are expanded would also be a priority.

In the seven years she worked as director of ECHO, Howard helped reshape the way local leaders view homelessness. That work also brought her close to the mechanics of local government, experience she says will help her turn policy ideas into realized programs. “I know how to pull the levers of local government to actually get things done,” Howard told us. “That’s what I did at ECHO, and I am ready to do it at the county, too.”

She pointed to the successful collaboration between ECHO and its service-provider partners on reducing to net-zero veteran homelessness as evidence of her ability to bring groups together to tackle complex problems. Bringing together emergency service districts throughout the county to help prepare the people living in the heavily wooded areas of Pct. 3 for looming urban wildfire would also be another top priority for Howard.

Soltes will also be familiar to Democratic voters, as she ran in the 2018 House District 47 primary against Goodwin. Soltes has spent 30 years running Service Dogs Inc., which trains dogs to assist people living with a range of disabilities. In that time, she has also worked with state and federal policymakers on accessibility policy. She told us that ensuring Travis County voters had access to fair elections would be a top priority — including opening more polling locations at the UT campus, where students can sometimes wait for hours to cast a ballot. She noted that increasing access to the vote was important for anyone who shared progressive values. “When we have more people voting for progressive Democrats, we’ll have more elected leaders enacting progressive policy,” she said. “People all over the precinct, regardless of income level, can benefit from that.”

Improving road safety is another important issue for Soltes — enough so for her to consider asking voters to pay more in property taxes. If voters approved a tax rate higher than that prescribed by the state’s new revenue cap, Soltes told us, she would use the money to pay for more law enforcement along dangerous roadways and to improve conditions of those in poor repair.

Newman is also concerned about roadways and traffic; he’s most likely of the four candidates to pick up Daugherty’s mantle as King of the (Paved) Road. Newman told us that he’ll work to build a “real highway loop” around Austin, with at least six lanes, to cut down on traffic. “How are we the 10th- or 11th-biggest city in the nation and we don’t have a single functional loop?” he wondered. “I want to work on growing our regional mass transit system, but we also need a loop that runs around the whole city.”

Newman has worked in construction for nearly four decades and has owned bars and restaurants in Austin. He currently serves as the president of the Lake Travis Youth Association, and has said he’s not particularly into politics. But from his perspective, that makes him uniquely suited to take on some of the challenges currently facing the county.

That would include the currently somewhat frayed relationship between county and city elected leaders. The City Council and Commissioners Court are currently feuding over a share of Hotel Occupancy Tax that voters last November (overwhelmingly) authorized for renovating the Travis County Expo Center — but city leaders say they need it to pay off outstanding debt from the Austin Convention Center’s 2002 expansion, which they say may not happen for a decade. All four candidates agree the Expo Center project should move forward, paid through HOT revenues. “We’ve got to work together on this,” Newman said. “I feel like America in general is so much focused on hate and negativity, but we’ve got to collaborate.”

— Austin Sanders
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- Dimple Malhotra
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  Texas House District 50

- Darlene Byrne
  Chief Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals

- Maria Cantu Hexsel
  Judge, 53rd District Court

- Dayna Blazey
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Balancing the Scales of Justice on Texas’ Most Important Courts

For the first time in years, Dems are running en masse for statewide judicial seats

BY BRANT BINGAMON

A strange sensation – hope – pervades the Texas Democratic Party this year and has resulted in something not seen since the mid-1990s: contested primaries for nominations to the state’s two high courts. “We’re seeing unprecedented amounts of candidates running,” said Glen Maxey, the party’s primary director. “And this time, we’re doing it without having to twist arms or reach out to unqualified candidates. The candidates we have are qualified, diverse, and ready to take on Republicans.”

It’s been over 20 years since a Democrat has held a seat on either the Texas Supreme Court or the Court of Criminal Appeals. The mantra of many of the judicial candidates in 2020? Let’s bring “balance” to Texas’ high courts. To that end, there are four contested Democratic primaries for Supreme Court seats, and two for the Court of Criminal Appeals.

TEXAS SUPREME COURT

• Chief Justice: “Even the skeptics agree that this is our best opportunity to win statewide in 25 years,” said Amy Clark Meachum, campaigning for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. An Austin-based jurist looking to move up, Meachum has served almost 10 years as judge of Texas’ 201st District Court. She is in the mold that’s beginning to define the 21st century Texas Democratic candidate: young, progressive, and a capable fundraiser. On Jan. 15, Meachum reported raising $139,370 from over 300 donations, a big number and the highest total of any Democratic candidate for the judiciary this year. Her primary opponent is Jerry Zimmerer, first elected to the Harris County 14th Court of Appeals in 2018 after a career as a managing member of Zimmerer & Associates and a senior project manager with AT&T Mobility.

• Place 6: Larry Praeger is traveling the state in his bid for a seat on the Court. Recent Facebook posts show him in Hico and Big Spring. Praeger has practiced law in Dallas since 1988, specializing in family law and criminal law. Kathy Cheng is traveling too, vowing to visit all 254 counties. She ran for this same position in 2018, receiving 46% of the vote in the general election. She’s had a private practice in Houston for the last 18 years doing estate planning, probate litigation, commercial litigation, and other kinds of law.

• Place 7 features Staci Williams and Brandy Voss. Williams has served on the 101st Civil District Court since 2014. Before that she was a trial attorney, an arbitrator, and a municipal court judge. She’s active in the Dallas community, serving on various boards and committees and supporting the North Texas Volunteer Center, the African American Museum, and other causes. Voss has spent the last few years as an appellate attorney in the Rio Grande Valley and has experience as a staff attorney for the 13th Court of Appeals. She’s also raised quite a bit of money: $100,696.

• Place 8: Another experienced Austinite looking to move up is Gisela Triana. She won a seat on the 3rd Court of Appeals over Gov. Greg Abbott’s choice for the position in 2018, part of the Democratic sweep of four court races that year that has contributed to the current optimism. She’s second only to Meachum in donations, with $100,970. If she gets through the primary, she will again challenge an Abbott appointee, this time Brett Busby. Triana’s primary opponent, Peter Kelly, has been a justice on the 1st Court of Appeals since 2018. Prior to that, he was a founding partner of Kelly, Durham & Pittard LLP, a highly regarded firm with offices in Houston, Dallas, and Santa Fe.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

• CCA Place 3 has attracted three Democratic candidates. Dan Wood, a trial and appellate attorney for 32 years, vows to work toward ending the disparity in rates of incarceration for minorities and to conduct fair reviews of death penalty cases (something the Court of Criminal Appeals is not known for). Elizabeth Davis Frizell is a former Dallas County Criminal Court judge who narrowly lost the primary for Dallas district attorney in 2018. William Pieratt...
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WEST AUSTIN DEMOCRATS
Finding Community in Austin’s Homeless Song Circle

The residents at Community First Village, a virtual hamlet of cottages and campers in East Austin, are familiar with not having space, having struggled in the past to find secure housing. Nevertheless, on Monday afternoons a group comes together and trades tunes, it’s Austin’s only song circle specifically for people recovering from living on the streets.

Vanessa Lively, the singer-songwriter who founded Home Street Music in 2017, began last week’s circle, as usual, with a gathering song, followed by introductions from the 13 participants; they weren’t stock images of homelessness. They’re mothers, fathers, grandparents – people with complex histories. Some have easygoing personalities that belie their backstories. Most of them have lost loved ones. They all care about each other.

Several of the residents I met have the souls of artists. One fixture of the group, a funny gray-haired gentleman named Scott, played a new cut from his seemingly endless flow of quality pop songs on a borrowed ukulele – his main instrument being piano. A neighbor named Juan, who played in bands a short lifetime ago, moved us with a power-ballad that repeated, “Lay me down on your bed of nails.” On a job application, these men might not appear as compelling candidates, but give them a song and they’ll blow you away.

Then there’s Jess, who’s recently found housing through Foundation Communities. He performed a fascinating poem backed by Lively and co-leader Jessica Good, and he interspersed his observational prose with a refrain: “Run away/Run away.” That collaboration evidences the input and inspiration that comes specifically with the circle format. When Lively first received a Music to Life award to fund a music-related community activism project, she envisioned simply giving homeless people access to instruments and creative space, but it only took one week for it to evolve into a sphere of sharing.

“That’s when we began seeing more results from the therapeutic side of things,” reflects Lively. “There’d be people coming in who were extremely closed-off, shy, and suspicious. Within a few weeks of coming to the circle and seeing that it’s a safe, organic music space, people came out of their shells quickly and gained so much confidence in their own voices and started sharing their art.”

Nonmusicians populate important realms of Home Street Music’s circle. One resident, Jessica, booted with frustration as she stumbled over disjointed lines of Christian poetry, following a boisterous game of musical chairs where participants played randomly assigned percussion instruments. Jessica found her rhythmic lane. She gave the devotional another shot and found sudden clarity, intensity, and continuity, drawing compliments from her peers.

Meanwhile, the therapeutic qualities of music have never been more obvious than with Joyce, a sweet grandmother with faded hand tattoos and an affinity for George Strait. When someone sings a song, a visible euphoria washes over her, so much so that while Juan sang, she pointed and blurted out, “That sounds so good, that makes me feel good!”

“The song circle is a catalyst,” adds Lively. “For people to realize how important music is to them.”

Home Street Music takes part in the Feel the Collective Vibe Concert, Saturday, Feb. 29, at Austin Central Library. There will be a jamming workshop at 2:30pm, followed by a concert at 7pm that’ll include performances from Erin Ivey and Thor & Friends.

Sex, Death, and Tiny Operas

“We’ve created this network,” says One Ounce Opera’s Julie Flore, speaking of the way she and her crew wrangle such compelling new compositions from all over the country. “It’s almost like a spider that crawls through the Internet or something, and those who’ve submitted before tell their friends about it, and it spreads from there.”

It spreads from there, and each year it winds up, after much deliberation and deciding and rehearsing. In the OOO’s Fresh Squeezed Ounce of Opera showcase of four or five micro-operas, which just concluded two back-to-back weekend performances, The Fresh Squeezed program is now presented annually in the bare-bones arena of creative expression called the Museum of Human Achievement – you know, that former warehouse in the Canopy complex off South First.

“We have an ongoing relationship with MOAH,” says Flore. “They’re our fiscal sponsor, which is awesome, because working with Zac Fraser here for five years has been great, and – she smiles – ‘it’s nice to be official’.”

These micro-operas are shorter than 30 minutes each – sometimes as short as 15 minutes each – and so you can assume that the performances will be, at worst, tolerable for someone who doesn’t like (or doesn’t yet know if they like) opera. But when you’re working with such a classic format, you’re already not engaging with any lowest common denominator crowd-pleasing; so when you’re One Ounce Opera and gathering fresh submissions from everywhere, you’re not likely to be offering something that’s merely tolerable. You’ll be going for the knock-everyone’s-socks-off scenario, right? This was especially evident at last weekend’s Fresh Squeezed concert, with all four of the pieces as enjoyable as anything you’d binge on cable – and performed live, of course, by a company of powerful voices with piano accompaniment.

“The pieces we selected this year fully encompass the styles that are happening in contemporary opera or contemporary music,” says Flore. “We designed a program that touches all of those notes, and hopefully there’s a little bit of a connecting point for everyone who comes to these performances.”

You might like to know, too, that a woman was either the composer or librettist for each of the works, which is great because seriously, fuck the patriarchy. But note that all four works, even the funniest of them (and two were completely, intentionally hilarious), also shared a common theme – death – and that theme, like the concert’s women-centric creation, happened by chance.

Because occasionally, even in these trying times, life will be fun. Hence, The Squeezed program is now presented annually in the two back-to-back weekend performances. The Fresh Squeezed program is now presented annually in the two back-to-back weekend performances.

Powerhouse Animation Assembles Cosmic Stars for Masters of the Universe

For a generation of cartoon fans, there’s only one true Joker, and that’s Mark Hamill. Now the Star Wars star who gave the Clown Prince of Crime a voice in Batman: The Animated Series is lending his boffo to the faceless monster that is Skeletor for the new Austin-made reboot of Masters of the Universe.

Local studs: Powerhouse Animation announced last September that they were working with their old friend and Clerks creator Kevin Smith on an update of He-Man and the Masters of the Universe, the 1983 syndicated cartoon series from Filmation based on the Mattel toy line. The new show, titled Masters of the Universe: Revelation, is being produced for Netflix, for whom Powerhouse already produces the highly successful Castlevania adaptation (about to enter its third season) and their first original show, Mexican kung fu adventure Seis Manos.

However, the show (which is aimed at adults who grew up on the old Filmation show as much as it is at the kids coming in fresh) had to announce any vocal performers. Now fans know that Hamill will be taking on the skull-faced villain’s evil cackles, but who will wield the Power Sword as Prince Adam and his alter ego, the mightiest hero of Eternia, He-Man himself? That will be Clarke Wood, familiar to genre fans as Kai Parker in The Vampire Diaries and Mo in the CW’s Arrowverse of DC Comics shows.

Other voice talent announced this week: Lena Headey (Game of Thrones) as Evil-Lyn, Ian swings Cunningham (Game of Thrones) as Man-at-Arms, Sarah Michelle Gellar (Buffy the Vampire Slayer) as Tea, Stephen Root (Office Space) as Cringer, Griffin Newman (The Tick) as Orko, Tiffany Smith (Supernatural) as Andra, and Henry Rollins (you know – Henry Rollins) as Tri-Klops.

– Richard Whittaker
A Banana Peel, a Diaper, and a Plastic Bag ... 

How can a whole city compost, is it working, and can we reach zero waste by 2040? 

BY LINA FISHER
It’s 9am on a chilly morning in Austin, and a big green truck is at the intersection of 38th and Jefferson, heading into the Bryker Woods neighborhood. Every 10 feet or so, it stops and two men in safety-green jackets hop out, manually tipping residents’ green bins into the truck. It’s a painstakingly slow process, each block taking about five minutes. They’ve been at it since 6am and won’t stop until around 3:30pm. This year, curbside collection of organic waste for composting expands to the entire city of Austin, serving 200,000 homes each week and traveling a different route each day. Between compost, trash, and recycling, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) is the only city department that visits every Austin neighborhood this often.

It’s a gargantuan effort to deal with something that most people never give a second thought. But, just for a moment, consider the banana peel. When you toss one into the garbage, it most likely lands in a bag made of polyethylene plastic, which can take thousands of years to degrade in a landfill. Even still, that banana is perfect fertilizer. Right? Wrong: Because of the lack of oxygen, a banana peel trapped inside a bag cannot break down properly. When rain mixes with waste in a landfill (like banana juice and plastic bag chemicals), a liquid called leachate is produced, which pollutes soil and waterways. Not only do landfills contribute to global warming – they also present a maintenance problem for cities: Once a site is closed, it has to be managed indefinitely.

“Anyone who has ever run a landfill,” explains Ashley Pace, public information specialist for ARR, “knows it’s a maintenance problem for cities. Once a site is closed, it has to be managed indefinitely. Each block takes five minutes, it’s tedious work, it’s labor intensive. But it is better than the alternative.”

The city’s Universal Recycling Ordinance (IRO) governs the nonresidential aspect of Austin’s composting world. Basically it requires Austin businesses to divert at least 50% of their waste from the landfill through composting or other means. They may want someone to haul their food waste off to Organics “By Gosh”, there are many private haulers to choose from. Among the most venerated – established long before the URO’s food-waste provisions took effect in 2018 – are Break It Down and Joe’s Organics. Break It Down services such beloved local food-and-beverage businesses as Kerbey Lane Cafe, Home Slice Pizza, JuiceLand, and Wheatsville Co-op. Joe Diffie of Joe’s Organics (whose clients include Short Stop Bento Picnic) was involved at the inception of the ARR pilot program in 2012 as a data collector and administrator. He says the main issues compost haulers faced back then still remain: the cost of hauling and processing organics on such a large scale, contamination, and the low resale value of compost.

“We spend all this money either burying or composting our food waste, and then we spend all this other money importing our food from other places. I could really see using a city’s food waste stream to raise food in the immediate surrounding counties, kind of bridging the gap between city and country.”

– JOE DIFFIE, JOE’S ORGANICS

From Trash to Compost

If not in a landfill, where should our banana peel end up? You may have noticed green bins, just like the blue recycling bins except for color, popping up in your neighborhoods since last September (or well before that if ARR piloted the program in your area; see p.40). If you toss your banana peel in that bin, Austin Resource Recovery picks it up and brings it to Organics “By Gosh”, a privately owned facility in Hornsby Bend, east of Austin, that repurposes the scraps into compost, soil, and mulch to be resold. ARR does the same for every house in Austin (but not every apartment; only fourplexes and smaller) as it’s expanded curbside collection to the whole city this year. But surprisingly, the contents of those bins only amount to 15% of the entire city’s organic waste. So what happens to the other 85% generated by restaurants, retailers, large apartment complexes, and other commercial users?

The city’s Universal Recycling Ordinance (IRO) governs the nonresidential aspect of Austin’s composting world. Basically it requires Austin businesses to divert at least 50% of their waste from the landfill through composting or other means. If they want to pay someone to haul their food waste off to Organics “By Gosh”, there are many private haulers to choose from. Among the most venerated – established long before the URO’s food-waste provisions took effect in 2018 – are Break It Down and Joe’s Organics. Break It Down services such beloved local food-and-beverage businesses as Kerbey Lane Cafe, Home Slice Pizza, JuiceLand, and Wheatsville Co-op. Joe Diffie of Joe’s Organics (whose clients include Short Stop Bento Picnic) was involved at the inception of the ARR pilot program in 2012 as a data collector and administrator. He says the main issues compost haulers faced back then still remain: the cost of hauling and processing organics on such a large scale, contamination, and the low resale value of compost.

CONTINUED ON P.40
GETTING TO SCALE

Both Joe’s Organics and Break It Down have been around for a while, since 2012 and 2009 respectively. In 2018, however, the scale of the organic waste supply increased exponentially due to the URO, making it hard for commercial haulers to continue processing the waste themselves. (If one measly banana peel can do damage, imagine JuiceLand’s output.) “It’s in the process of rotting, so it has to be dealt with regularly. You have to have a lot of expensive equipment to process it efficiently,” says Diffie. When the ordinance passed, Joe’s Organics shut down its own composting operation: “It was getting to be too much to manage. I would’ve had to upgrade equipment. It really took off right after the ordinance was enacted; all of a sudden I had three times as much volume as I was used to. I said, ‘I think it’s time to let the pros handle the compost’.”

The pros are at Organics “By Gosh”, which processes both residential and commercial food waste. OBG has been around since 1989 and was recently acquired by a private equity firm called Q2Earth. They have scaled up their operations considerably since the 2018 URO, both processing the city’s increased curbside collections and taking more waste from the private haulers serving commercial users.

CONTAMINATION

One of the biggest issues with composting on such a large scale, for both ARR and commercial haulers alike, is something relatively out of their control: contamination. Ray Armstrong, a supervisor at ARR, has one word when it comes to this: “Pampers.” Due to greenwashing (advertising that makes a product seem more environmentally friendly than it is), many people think that certain types of diapers are compostable, but “biodegradable” and “compostable” mean different things. In order to control contamination, Armstrong’s team conducts frequent audits.

As part of one such audit this morning in Bryker Woods, those workers in safety vests will collect organic waste from 60 households, bring the contents back to ARR’s own facility, spread out the waste, and inspect. If ARR collectors note contamination or improper sorting, they will place a tag on the door of that resident. Even if it means picking through dirty diapers, “not picking it up is not an option,” says Armstrong. “Customer service is more important. We’ll pick it up even if it’s wrong, but we’ll leave literature to try to educate that customer.” On the commercial side, in busy restaurants it’s easy for a stray plastic wrapper to end up in the compost bin, so most private haulers also provide education for businesses on how to separate different materials correctly.

END OF EXTRACT
THIS SPACE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK
kinds of waste and avoid contamination. This year’s city budget funds two new enforcement positions for the URO.

Though enforcement may help, education is paramount in preventing contamination. ARR holds information sessions in neighborhoods before each rollout of the composting program and follow-up Q&A sessions after, but not everyone attends. Part of Pace’s role is to field questions from the public in these sessions. “It can get very confusing. There are a lot of rules,” she says. The most important thing to remember is, “If you aren’t sure, just keep it out.” In an effort to address the confusion, the city has a search tool on the ARR website (app version forthcoming) called “What Do I Do With …?” where residents can type in any item and be told how to dispose of it. See www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do.

Pace says another common theme of her Q&As is the smell created by compostables and the ways to mitigate odors: by using a BPA-certified bag in the small, green, in-home bin provided by ARR (or wherever you collect scraps) on your kitchen counter; or by putting those scraps in the freezer until the day of collection. But there’s only so much lipstick you can put on the pig. “The bigger picture is that composting is not as easy as throwing everything in the trash,” she explains. “I think that’s one of the hardest cultural barriers for people to get over. You’re being asked to separate things, put them in specific bags, and we understand that’s not the easy way, but it’s the way that’s going to help us reach our zero-waste goal and extend the life of our landfills.”

A VALUABLE RESOURCE?

The city is not alone in thinking about the bigger picture. Those on the other end of the chain – compost processors – have innovative ideas of their own about the possibilities of compost as a resource. Joe Diffie says the future of food waste management is a kind of closed loop, where the food we eat is grown using the city’s repurposed waste.

“We spend all this money either burying or composting our food waste, and then we spend all this other money importing our food from other places,” says Diffie. “I could really see using a city’s food waste stream to raise food in the immediate surrounding counties, kind of bridging the gap between city and country. The city could benefit the country with some feed stock for building up local agriculture. Local agriculture could in turn lower its prices a little bit and help the city afford healthier food.”

Some haulers and processors already practice small versions of this model. Break It Down partners with a local pig farm

Continued on p.44

“I think that’s one of the hardest cultural barriers for people to get over. You’re being asked to separate things, put them in specific bags, and we understand that’s not the easy way, but it’s the way that’s going to help us reach our zero-waste goal and extend the life of our landfills.”

- Ashley Pace, Austin Resource Recovery
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where animals consume all of its food waste except putrescibles (i.e., animal products) which they drop off at OBG. Joe’s Organics (Diffie’s biz) now drops off waste at OBG, buys the soil products OBG produces, and uses them to grow microgreens, edible flowers, and other specially produce to be sold at farmers’ markets in Austin.

Raising farm animals, nature’s built-in composters, is an especially lucrative option. “Pigs love this stuff,” says Diffie. They quickly eat up all the food waste and subsequently turn a profit for the farmers in the form of bacon. This model also solves an existential problem for haulers and processors: the low resale value of compost. As Diffie points out, “Chicken poop is worth more than food waste. Basically they created this commodity that somebody has to process, but there’s no end market for it. Compost is the most expensive waste stream to recycle because it has such a low value. Anybody that can find a way to increase the value that you can generate off the back end of a compost-hauling operation is going to be able to beat the competition on the hauling rates.” And nothing increases value like bacon.

**BUT ABOUT THAT SMELL ...**

GrubTubs, a local startup with a lot of recent media attention and WeWork funding, provides perhaps the most succinct example of this closed-food-loop ideal: its model uses black soldier fly larvae, a protein-rich grub, to break down food waste (including putrescibles), and then feeds the grubs to pigs and chickens that, in theory, end up on the menus of the restaurants whose food waste raised their feed.

Unfortunately, businesses can run into trouble processing without special equipment like that of OBG. Compost can generate a rank smell, especially when improperly processed, and if the facility lies too close to a residential neighborhood, it could create an environmental justice issue. Austin saw that issue arise in 2013, when HausBar Farms’ insect-assisted compost pile started to generate noxious odors that wafted into the surrounding Govalle neighborhood. In 2019, urban farm history repeated itself as the Buda neighborhood of Whispersing Hollow, along with the city of Buda itself, brought a lawsuit against GrubTubs for an offensive odor that was allegedly lowering residents’ quality of life and making a mockery of the city slogan (“Breathe easy here”). GrubTubs, whose facility lies just outside the Buda city limits, prevailed in that legal action, although the city has enacted an ordinance that it hopes will prevent such issues from reoccurring with other urban-ag operations.

In the end, the problem was the inclusion of animal products in the compost pile, as well as the use of (different) animals to break down the waste into compost. The residents of Whispersing Hollow reported unfamiliar fly infestations allegedly related to the grubs on GrubTubs’ nearby farm. Chicken carcasses smell worse than veggies and take longer to decompose. Another concern is feeding animals their own end products (i.e., pigs eating bacon); not only does that sound disgusting to many, it also enables disease transmission — most notoriously, mad cow disease. Animals that eat humans’ food scraps likewise run a risk of contracting human-borne illnesses like tuberculosis; for this reason, the European Union does not approve of the use of black soldier fly larvae for animal feed. Composting animal products remains one of the most mysterious and confounding issues of this business — though ARR now collects them as part of the city compost program. When OBG was asked about their putrescible processing specifically, they declined to comment — secrets of the trade, apparently.

**Chickens, Flies, and Grubs**

The agrarian community has been abuzz about the black soldier fly for a while, hailing it as the hot new sustainable fuel. The fly’s larvae — grubs — provide chickens and pigs with food that they are naturally adapted to eat and are so rich in protein that they don’t need to eat as much, which further cuts costs. Using insects as feed also allows corn and soy, the most common ingredients in poultry feed, to be used for other purposes, such as human food or clean energy sources. Black soldier fly larvae (or BSFL) was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2018 to be used for poultry feed, and since then national companies such as EnviroFlight have started caching bsfl on the grub. However, the European Union has concerns about using the BSFL as feed; according to a “General Food Law” regulatory package, there are restrictions on what is fed to animals that “are kept for the production of food,” and these apply to insects intended for animal feed use as well. “Such insects may only be fed with materials of vegetable origin,” some exceptions are however admitted for materials of animal origin such as milk, eggs and their products, honey, rendered fat or blood products from non-ruminant animals. The feeding of farmed animals with other slaughterhouse or rendering derived products, manure, or catering waste is however prohibited."

One local vendor using BSFL, GrubTubs, has been entangled with the city of Buda and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality due to “over 300 resident complaints, 58 alleging criminal nuisance” received last year, according to David Markho, the city of Buda’s communications director. In May 2019, the Buda City Council updated its odor-nuisance ordinance, in response to complaints about GrubTubs’ operation, to apply up to 5,000 feet outside the city limits. One criminal complaint went to trial in municipal court, where a jury found GrubTubs not guilty of violating the ordinance. GrubTubs is still operational and sold out of the Weiss of McGuire Moorman Hospitality, one of the giants of the hospitality industry in Austin.

The GrubTubs issues recall earlier odor complaints against HausBar Farms, which prompted a 2013 update to Austin’s urban farm code. The odor cited by Govalle neighbors and community activists came two years after HausBar’s raising, slaughtering, and composting the remains of chickens without incident, which was at the time all legal under city code; the city of Austin now prohibits the composting of animals in residential areas to avoid environmental injustice concerns.

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**“There are a lot of rules,” says Ashley Pace of ARR. The most important thing to remember is, “If you aren’t sure, just keep it out.”**

**OTHER CITIES, OTHER MODELS**

Because Austin’s citywide composting program is new, it’s a challenge to define and track metrics that will help us know for certain if the plan is working or if it will work going forward. But ours is not the first city to attempt citywide composting. San Francisco was the first U.S. city to commit to a zero-waste goal, back in 2003, and in 2012 it was able to divert 80% of its waste from landfills. San Francisco’s composting and recycling programs are similar to ours, but with one key difference: mandatory participation. Despite that, it did not reach its zero-waste goal by 2020; the new goal is to divert 97% of waste from the landfill by 2030. That’s even more ambitious than it sounds because San Francisco defines “zero waste” literally — no landfill trash at all.

Copenhagen uses data to motivate its citizens to sort properly. “Feedback about sorting shows that what you do has effect and importance,” says a report from C40, an international network of 96 cities (including Austin) committed to climate leadership and sustainability, including zero waste. “For example, a feedback could be: ‘You have sorted xx kg of plastic and thereby saved xx kg of CO_2.’” Sweden is famous for powering its cities by burning trash in low-carbon incinerators and turning food waste into biogas (methylene gas that isn’t emitted but instead captured for use as a fuel interchangeable with natural gas).

New York City is aiming for a 90% diversion rate by 2030 but has hit roadblocks in its composting program. According to a 2018 New York Times article, “Residents put only about 10 percent of their food scraps in the brown bins, throwing the rest in the garbage.” They think the issue stems from “a lack of advertising and education, and the fact that the program is voluntary.” In Texas, San Antonio and Austin remain the only cities with a composting program as part of their residential waste management. Fort Worth is currently piloting one, where bins are provided for a fee of $20 and residents must drop off at a processing site themselves.

In all of these cities, changing people’s behavior is one of the most difficult challenges. Even with a mandatory system, San...
**What Goes in Your Compost Bin**

The city of Austin's residential composting program collects organic material – food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper – and converts them into nutrient-rich compost at a processing facility. Austin Resource Recovery offers a handy tool online, "What Do I Do With...?" that allows you to type in a specific item to determine its proper destination: composting, recycling, or trash. Here, we've gathered a few general guidelines, but a good rule of thumb is if you're not sure if something can be composted, better to leave it out and not risk contamination. (Source: Austin Resource Recovery)

### FOOD SCRAPS
**YES:** cooked or raw meat, poultry and seafood (including bones), cheese, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta, eggs, bread, coffee grounds, tea bags, tea leaves, baked goods, nuts, jelly candy, snack foods, leftovers, spoiled food

**NO:** liquids, fats, grease, plastic, glass, metals, Styrofoam

### FOOD-SOILED PAPER
**YES:** paper bags, paper napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper cups, paper take-out containers and take-out boxes (with no plastic or wax coating, and with metal removed), pizza boxes, coffee filters, microwavable popcorn bags, newspaper, tissues

**NO:** glossy paper or window envelopes

### YARD TRIMMINGS
**YES:** grass clippings, small branches, small tree limbs, tree roots, flowers, leaves, plants, straw

**NO:** rocks, soil, tree stumps

### NATURAL FIBERS
**YES:** Popsicle sticks, sawdust (in paper bags), shredded paper, toothpicks, wooden chopsticks, untreated wood

**NO:** glossy paper or window envelopes

**NEVER!** aluminum, animal carcasses, ceramics, cigarette butts and ashes, clothing, diapers, fats, oils, grease, glass, glossy paper, hazardous waste, kitty litter, landscape timbers, plastic, medical waste, metal, pet waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, plastic straws, rocks, Styrofoam, trash, treated or painted lumber, tree stumps, treated or painted wood, wine corks

Francisco, the poster city for environmental achievement, is having trouble reaching its zero-waste goals. Increasing education and advertising is the most common response to this challenge, but considerable change in the products we buy (and their packaging) will have to come into play as well, with an end goal of a circular economy where products are designed to be reused. There's only so much that can be recycled or composted; many products are still just trash.

To address the multitude of apartment dwellers in a city where more than half of residents are renters, Austin is set to begin another six-month pilot program, with 10 to 20 participating multifamily properties, that operates like the residential curbside pickup program. Currently apartment complexes are considered commercial users, creating their own waste-diversion plans with private haulers. Scaling up a collection plan for multifamily residents could prove difficult if current conditions persist – the lack of incentive for private haulers and the low value of compost. More innovative ways of reusing waste may change that, but those must be carefully managed so as not to create uncomfortable living situations for those nearby. No one likes living next to a landfill, but no one likes living next to a compost pile either.

Austin Resource Recovery will conduct a "waste characterization study" this year to determine how much waste we are currently diverting from the landfill, whether we have reached the 75% diversion goal for 2020, and how much still needs to be done to reach the 2040 zero-waste goal. That's not as far off as we might think.

In 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported and predicted much more rapid warming of the planet than previously thought (see www.ipcc.ch/sr15). The Earth is now projected to warm 2.7 degrees by 2040, making our zero-waste goal all the more relevant. After 20 more SXSWs, Austin's population may have tripled. The composting program is as much a call to action as it is a service. If individual residents don't participate, if we don't make a habit of keeping diapers out of our green bins, or if we don't start making products that are compostable, this thing won't work. We, as a city, approved the zero-waste plan way back in 2005. Now it's up to us to see it through.

ATI is a Montessori-inspired, inclusive high school for ambitious teens who want to take charge of their education. Our innovative approach will re-ignite your student’s love of learning without sacrificing big dreams.

**Academy of Thought and Industry**

ATI is a Montessori-inspired, inclusive high school for ambitious teens who want to take charge of their education. Our innovative approach will re-ignite your student’s love of learning without sacrificing big dreams.
**EARLY VOTING OPEN**
austinchronicle.com/elections, through Feb. 28

**COMMUNITY:** GUERRILLA QUEER BAR: LET’S NOT CALL IT GOODBYE Violet Crown Social Club, 6-10pm
**COMMUNITY:** METSI CARE OFFICIAL LAUNCH PARTY Empire Control Room, 6:30pm
**MUSIC:** NO IDEA FESTIVAL Thursday-Sunday
**COMMUNITY:** JOINERÍAS PRESENTS: TELENÓVELA Elysium, 10pm-1am

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**FRIDAY**

**MARY WILSON**
One World Theatre, 7 & 9:30pm

**COMMUNITY:** TOYBOX: DENIM DADDY DREAMZ Scissor Sisters Hair Show, 8pm-12mid
**MUSIC:** RICK MAGUIRE Open Invite
**MUSIC:** OM, WOVENHAND Mohawk
**COMEDY:** BRYSON BROWN Velveta Room, 9pm

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**SATURDAY**

**CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO**
Emo’s, 9pm

**FOOD:** CHILI COOK-OFF Scholz Garten, 2-6pm
**COMMUNITY:** DRAG OUT THE VOTE Highland Lounge, 6-8pm
**COMMUNITY:** BLACK ART MATTERS Big Medium, 7-10pm
**MUSIC:** DISTORTED PONY Last Well

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**MONDAY**

**THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES**
AFS Cinema, 4:45pm

**SPORTS:** UT MEN’S BASKETBALL Erwin Center, 6pm

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**TUESDAY**

**FAT TUESDAY DRAG SHOW**
The Venue ATX, 7-11:45pm

**COMEDY:** THE HAUNTING OF THE TAVERN The Tavern, 7-10pm
**BOOKS:** JERRY MITCHELL: RACE AGAINST TIME BookPeople, 7pm
**MOVIES:** ORLANDO AFS Cinema, 7:30pm

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**WEDNESDAY**

**METRONOMY**
Scoot Inn

**KIDS:** DIRT DIVAS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM Camacho Activity Center, 4-6pm
**COMMUNITY:** SXSW LGBTQ COMMUNITY MEETUP Austin LGBT/QIA) Chamber of Commerce, 6-8pm
**COMEDY:** MARY LYNN RAJSKUB Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm

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**THURSDAY**

**“HOW A HOUSE WORKS”**
Testsite, 3-6pm

**CLASSICAL MUSIC:** TEMP: SHE LOVES AND SHE CONFESSIONS First Presbyterian Church, 3pm
**CLASSICAL MUSIC:** CONSPIRARE: CONTEMPORARY & CLASSIC St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, 4pm
**COMMUNITY:** LESBIAN WEDDING: OUTSIDER FEST CLOSING PARTY Sahara Lounge, 4-10pm
**MOVIES:** TRANS PECOS Stateside at the Paramount, 5pm
**MUSIC:** VALE OF PNATH Come & Take It Live
**MUSIC:** WISHBONE ASH One World Theatre
**MUSIC:** ILÉ Antone’s

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For FAQs about submitting a listing, contact info, deadlines, and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/submit.
The Harry Ransom Center presents

Jane Raisch, Ph.D.
The University of York, United Kingdom

ORIGINAL COPIES:
The Facsimile Before Photography
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
4:30 P.M.

Delve into the pre-history of digital reproductions and discover technical innovations from the 16th through 18th centuries that helped printers copy documents from the past. This talk is free and open to the public and followed by a reception.

21st and Guadalupe Streets
hrc.utexas.edu/events
Party in the Dark

At No Lights No Lycra, you really can dance like no one’s watching – because no one can

BY ERICA LIES

Entering No Lights No Lycra – Austin’s weekly sober dance party in the dark – feels at first like you’re in a sensory deprivation chamber. Walking into the community room at Guan Yin Tea House, NLNL’s home for the last year, you feel a sense of the space’s expansiveness, but until your eyes adjust, it’s hard to tell how many people are in the room.

No Lights No Lycra is a DJ night that’s sonically loud but visually quiet. As the name suggests, there are no lights allowed (though I spied plenty of workout clothes). Talking is highly discouraged, as are phones. There’s only music and moving. And without eyes to judge, how you dance is entirely up to – and for – you.

As an event, NLNL is hard to categorize. It offers a workout minus the gym membership and a dance party without all the things that can make going out exhausting: no club, no alcohol, and no creeps. With just enough light to keep from bumping into others or walking into a wall, the dance floor has a meditative feel. It’s even held at the reason

clock

for the world’s most famous party: the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade. And you know that McCraney name, right? The man who

Testify series! Come find mutual attraction among these true tales of picking up the pieces, picking up past feelings, picking up Lyft riders, picking up and taking off, and meeting nice girls in coffee shops. Thu., Feb. 27, 8pm. Spider House Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 512/490-9562. $5-$6. www.testifyats.com.

COMING SOON

CLOSING

COME FROM AWAY This Broadway blockbuster of a musical – written by Irene Sankoff and David Hein, helmed by this year’s Tony-winning Christopher Ashley – takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Through Feb. 23. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 1 & 7pm. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman, 512/471-2787. $30-$145. www.texasperformingarts.org.

© MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET Tarell Alvin McCraney’s “provocative, poignant, and fiercely humorous coming-of-age story of a young gay man in the South” is directed by Charles O. Anderson and Robert Ramirez for UT Theatre and Dance. And you know that McCraney name, right? The man who

The Marvelous Wonderettes: Dream On at Texas performs the sequel to the 2017 smash hit The Marvelous Wonderettes, with a solid cast rocking those hits made famous by Annette Funicello, Sister Sledge, Captain & Tennille, Nat King Cole, and more, and directed and choreographed by Kimberly Schafer, with musical direction by Lyn Koening, Feb. 20-March 1. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Texas Performing Arts, 2300 Lohman’s Spur, 512/852-9079. $43 and up. www.tex-arts.org.

DECAPITATIONS The latest in Salvage Vanguard’s Works Progress Austin series, this staged reading presents Megan Tabaque’s ghost story that explores multicultural Filipino identity in the swamps of central Florida. Directed by Alexandra Bassiakow Shaw, featuring music by Henna Cho, Fri., Feb. 21, 7pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron, 512/974-1700. $5. www.austinatx.org/aarc.

The Mountaintop This award-winning drama by Katori Hall is a fictional depiction of Martin Luther King Jr.’s last night, on the eve of his assassination in 1968. Directed by Rachelle Chery and Chelsea Manasseri for the Paradox Players, featuring John R. Christopher and Jasmin Garlic, Feb. 21-March 8. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. First UNITarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 512/744-1495. $5-$20. www.paradoxplayers.org.

Ibsen’s Hedda Austin Shakespeare presents this new adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s classic, as directed by Ann Ciccolella. The famous domestic contentions and subterfuges are now set during the 1950s and – oh, excellent choice – Gwendolyn Kebo stars as Hedda. Feb. 22-March 8. Wed.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 512/474-5664. $18 and up. www.austinshakespeare.org.

House This is the fourth time in approximately 20 years that Ken Webster is staging David MacIvor’s “dark and furiously funny piece that takes you on a whirlwind tour of the offices, circus tents, supermarkets, Ramada Inns, sewers, dreams, and houses that compose the hallucinatory landscape of his life,” and we, for one among hundreds, are glad to welcome its return to the stage. Because it is – as most things at the intersection of Webster x MacIvor, to be honest – deeply relevant and revelatory and perfectly performed and, most important for many of us, absolutely fucking hilarious. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 27-March 8, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 512/479-7529. $24-$28 (pay what you can, Thursdays). www.hydeparktheatre.org.

Chron Listing Artwork - image 48
Ongoing

Single Black Female This is the premiere of Lisa B. Thompson's two-act play of short, fast-paced comic monologues exploring the lives of thirty something middle-class African American women in urban America as they search for love, clothes, and a dignity in a world that fails to recognize them among a parade of stereotypes. Directed by Matrex Kilgore for Ground Floor Theatre, starring Michelle Alexander and Valonecia Tolbert in multiple roles. Through Feb. 29. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Ground Floor Theatre, 979 Springdale #122, 512/840-1804. $5-40. www.groundfloortheatre.org.

Anna Catherine Iff Here's the Austin premiere of a play about longing, love, and loss, as a man begins restoring an old abandoned house, and his worldview is shaken by the arrival of the ghost of Anna Catherine. Written and directed by Rod Mochenski for City Theatre. Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Picture Box Studio, 701 Tillery Ste. A-9, 512/627-9700. $15-25 ($10, Thursdays). www.citytheatreaustin.org.

Gliders In Rita Anderson's Gliders, three generations of seemingly ordinary women begin to uncover secrets about themselves, even as the extraordinary events of the Apollo 11 mission unfold overhead in the summer of 1969. This premier production is directed by Karen Jambon for Different Stages. Through Feb. 29. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Trinity Street Theatre, 901 Trinity, 512/926-6747. $15-30. www.differentstagestheatre.org.

Arden of Faversham Hidden Room Theatre presents the lamentable and true tale of Master Arden, his wicked wife, her insatiable lover, and the bumbling ruffians the illicit wife, her insatiable lover, and the bumbling ruffians. Written and directed by Randy Johnson and starring Mary Bridget Davies, the legendary queen of rock & roll explodes onto the stage in a concert experience that celebrates the Texas musical marvel and shines a spotlight on the trailblazing female blues and soul vocalists who influenced her. Through March 8. Wed., Fri. & Sat., 7:30pm; Sat., 2:30 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Centre Theatre, 202 S. Lamar. $30 and up. www.hiddenroomtheatre.com.

A Night with Janis Joplin In this show, written and originally directed by Randy Johnson and starring Mary Bridget Davies, the legendary queen of rock & roll explodes onto the stage in a concert experience that celebrates the Texas musical marvel and shines a spotlight on the trailblazing female blues and soul vocalists who influenced her. Through March 8. Wed., Fri. & Sat., 7:30pm; Sat., 2:30 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. ZACH Theatre, 202 S. Lamar. $30 and up. www.hiddenroomtheatre.com.

Every Brilliant Thing A boy sets out to count his blessings one-by-one and list every single special, ordinary thing about living to lift his mom's spirits in this interactive, improvisational play about life, loss, and the lengths we'll go to for the ones we love. Directed by Nat Miller for Zach Theatre. Through March 29. Wed.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 2:30 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. ZACH Theatre, 202 S. Lamar. $30 and up. www.zachtheatre.org.

March Madness doesn't only happen on the basketball court! Composers Elgar, Chopin and Tchaikovsky, to name a few, wrote bracket-worthy marches from various locations throughout the world. Now hear them live in Austin along with Brahms' Double Concerto, featuring violinist Vadim Gluzman and cellist Wendy Warner as soloists.

Still want more? How about enjoying activities like playing on instruments provided by our friends at Strait Music, Concert Conversations with Bob Bucklew, and capturing a memory in front of our new photo wall? Feeling peckish? Our friends at Spectrum Catering are now offering meal options! #aso109

In the Clubs

Cap City Comedy Club 8120 Research #100, 512/487-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com

Rachel Feinstein This nationally touring comedian and actress has been everywhere your eyes are mediated, right? Now catch her live onstage at Cap City, Feb. 20-22. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 & 10pm. $14-23.

Mary Lynn Rajskub You may know Rajskub as Chloe on the Fox drama 24 and also as Gail the Snail from It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia, but have you seen how damned funny she is as a stand-up? Do, won’t you? Feb. 26-29. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 & 10pm. $18-23.

ColdTowne Theater 4803-B Airport, 512/814-8696. www.coldtownetheater.com

Best Comedy on Airport There's Sugar Water Purple on Wednesday nights, of course. And this Thursday features improv supergroup Friends for Now showcasing their character-based brilliance, Friday presents, and not by Occident, Y'all We Asian, followed by the laser-sharp ladies of Loveboy and the Live at ColdTowne stand-up showcase. Saturday night's one of a kind with Anomaly and thatseed-up Weiners and Boobs, after which Midnight Society's indomitable Cult Comedy takes the stage and oh, see website for more!

Esther's Follies 225 E. Sixth, 512/320-0553. www.estherstfollies.com

Pop Culture & Political Pandemonium Ah, the fun seldom pauses, with musical comedy skits, magic, and a political satirical revue where the bustling backdrop of Sixth Street is on view through the stagefront window! Esther's Follies has been entertaining sold-out audiences with its unique blend of entertainment for more than 40 years, using the absurd in politics and pop culture as a foundation for outrageous sketches. Bonus: That sexy magician Ray Anderson is going to wow you with illusions your mind won't believe your eyes have seen! Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. $25 and up.

Fallout Theater 616 Lavaca, 616/676-7209. www.falloutcomedy.com

Underground Comedy This basement venue brings the funny seven nights a week. Mondays start things off with that sprightly revue of optimism called Fuck This Week, there's the unpredictable Playmen on Tuesdays, the all-women comedy showcase called Garage on Wednesdays, and Thursday's Call Your Lawyer is chock full of criminal

Harry and the Thief

Listen: “Mimi’s cousin has a Ph.D. in physics, a brand-new time machine, and a plan. Send Mimi, a professional thief, back to 1865 to help Harriet Tubman change the course of history.” Whoa, yes – now we’re excited to see Sigrid Gilmer’s new play, directed by Marcus McQuirter for the ACC Drama Department. Feb. 27-March 8. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Austin Playhouse, ACC Highland, 6001 Airport, 512/223-7176. $8. www.austinplayhouse.com.
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Mary Moody Northen Theatre at St. Edward’s University, 3001 S. Congress
www.stedwards.edu/theatre
Through Feb. 23
Running time: 2 hr., 20 min.

The Mary Moody Northen Theatre, where St. Edward’s University is currently producing The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, is a theatre in the round. On elevated risers above the playing space hang tilted metal cages in front of flashing images. These cages are an apt metaphor for the mind of the show’s main character, Christopher, an autistic boy who struggles to crack the mystery of his neighborhood dog, dead via pitchfork through the side. Christopher finds him pinned in the yard, and loving him in death as he did in life, throws his arms around the body. It isn’t odd then that, when Christopher is discovered, he’s fingered as the dog’s murderer. This misunderstanding, and the trouble that ensues, draws him deeper into the “curious incident,” and like his hero Sherlock Holmes, he is determined to unravel it. Christopher doesn’t know at the time, but the dog is just an entry point to an even deeper mystery that involves his own life.

Autistic people and their portrayal are of particular interest to me. I’ve mentioned before in this paper that my 13-year-old daughter is autistic, and I am always struck by her uniqueness. In Simon Stephens’ play, based on the novel by Mark Haddon, Christopher is more of an archetype, one we’ve come to recognize – a quirky and brilliant Sheldon from The Big Bang Theory, able to decipher indecipherable math problems yet unable to interpret metaphors or navigate common relationship issues. Unfortunately, Christopher is interpreted here with great tenderness and exuberance by young Emile Sivero, and his hard work pays off in giving us more than just a stereotype. His Christopher has a deep and engaging humanity.

Sivero is supported by a tight ensemble that literally serve as Christopher’s limbs at times, his voice at others. Teacher Siobhan (the appealing Annie Eldridge) is his narrator, reading from the book he is “writing” about the curious incident, which is simultaneously being turned into a play that we are watching. These types of metatextual bends are played for laughs rather than drama, which works to keep the mood light among Christopher’s heartbreaking confusion.

Throughout the play, he must contend with betrayal, fear, and the fact that his brain works differently than everyone else’s.

Kudos to the staging by Robert Tolaro and high production values, which includes a blend of multimedia, lighting, sound, and effective props, like a small toy railroad that Christopher builds around himself in one poignant scene. I particularly enjoyed the beautiful renderings of outer space, where Christopher longs to live. He’s sure he can become an astronaut because of all those machines and, better yet, no people to contend with. As he sits in his makeshift rocketship or spins beneath the light-effect stars held up by the ensemble’s hands, he appears genuinely joyful, released from the prison of his mind and the curious incidents that surround him. Up there, there is only space and freedom. I want him to be able to stay there, but I know we desperately need him down here with us. We learn from people like Christopher and can all take away something from this moving and transformative show. – Laura Jones


DANCE

A’LANTE FLAMENCO: PROCESION A’lanite Flamenco gives you a chance to connect with your fellow humans, singing, chanting, and marching along with the dancers and musicians as they take you on a sensory experience that goes beyond flamenco, evoking Semana Santa in Sevilla, the Arabic culture of Granada, and the universal appeal of Mardi Gras in New Orleans. (Or, yes, you can also just sit back and take in the spectacle.) Bonus: guest artists Julie Slim Nassif and Oliver Steck. Through Feb. 23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 512/942-7892. www.aalanteflamenco.com.

AUSTIN BLUES PARTY 13 Hey, happy hoofer – wanna take classes with internationally renowned blues dance teachers during the day and get down to live blues music at night? Here’s where, with some of Austin’s best musicians, featuring live bands that will bring you a mix of soulful, sassy, gritty, and downhome blues. And, hell, a whole squad of DJs after that. Feb. 27-March 1. Go Dance, 2525 W. Anderson, 512/330-3900, $10-20.

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

Raw Pear: Winter Dance
This is an evening of 11 modern dance performances from the Raw Pear Dance company, including the works of 10 Austin choreographers and one Houston-based choreographer. Bonus: live music. Feb. 21-23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock, 512/636-8104. $10-20.
**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**OPENING**


**CHORUS AUSTIN: Songs of the Earth** This concert celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day (two months early, even!) with a performance of Randall Thompson’s Frostiana, a world premiere by the company’s composer-in-residence Carlos Cordero, and more. Note: Ryan Heller’s got the baton, and these works will blow you away. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 512/345-1743. $15-20. www.chorusaustin.org.

**CONSPIRARe: Contemporary & Classic** Frank Martin’s masterwork Mass for Double Choir is the centerpiece of this concert that also includes Paul Ayres’ “I Would Rather Die Than Hate You,” a setting of Martin Luther King’s words, William Harris’ “Faire is the Heaven,” and Jonathan Dove’s “The Passing of the Year.” Sun., Feb. 23, 4pm. St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 512/476-6757. $10-65. www.conspirare.org.

**TEMP: She Loves and She Confesses** Texas Early Music Project’s 21st season continues with a bevy of beautiful and often bittersweet love songs from the 17th century in Italy (Strozzi, Monteverdi, Cavalli, Frescobaldi, and Rossi), France (airs de cour by Lambert, Gudinon, Boësset, and Moulinié), and England (Purcell, Johnson, Dowland[!], and Lanier). The concert’s soloists – accompanied by a small band of lutes, harp, and strings – are Jennifer Thyssen, Meredith Ruduski, Jenny Houghton, Cayla Cardiff, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, David Lopez, Brett Barnes, and special guest Ryland Angel. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30pm. Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander. Sun., Feb. 23, 3pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 512/377-6961. $25-30 ($5, students). www.early-music.org.

Ranch Chicken, anyone?) And then toasts will commence and there’ll be docent-led tours of small groups donning booties to view the second-floor rooms and the yellow-tiled guest bathroom. So maybe don’t miss the reception, we’re saying. Reception: Sun., Feb. 23, 3-6pm. Testrite, 502 W. 33rd.

CREATIVE STANDARD: EQUITY WORKSHOP Join those movers and shakers of Big Medium for a workshop focused on equity in Austin and the arts. “We believe empowering artists and arts administrators to be allies and advocates for equity will strengthen our community as a whole and create positive outcomes for all” Tue., Feb. 25, 6-8pm, Big Medium, 916 Springdale #101, 512/939-6665. Free. www.bigmedium.org.

OPENING

ICOSA: WINDOW DRESSING V Window Dressing is a project space located in the front window of ICOSA at the Canopy complex, used to highlight the work of artists with short-run shows on view while the main gallery is closed for installation. This Window Dressing is by Stephen Hal Fishman, an Austin-based video artist creating experimental animated films, software-based art, print media, sculpture, installations, and live visual accompaniment for music and dance. Reception: Fri., Feb. 21, 7-9pm. ICOSA, 916 Springdale, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.


FLATBED PRESS: REDUX Flatbed is celebrating its rich history of working with stylistically diverse artists to create fine art prints, the celebration now manifesting as a show of rarely seen prints by Flatbed artists Miguel Aragon, John Cobb, Ann Conner, Jack Craft, Suzi Davidoff, David Everett, Denny McCoy, Sharon Koprina, Linda Ridgway, Dan Rizzie, Darden Smith, and Julie Speed. You want to see a wide range of printmaking styles and techniques? “Redux” will provide that range. You just want to be impressed by deep craft and talent and visual power and what those can communicate via print? Here’s the place. Reception: Sat., Feb. 22, 6-8pm. Flatbed Press, 3701 Drossett #190, 512/477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.

As someone who loves bringing friends along to theatrical productions, I’ve noticed my prospective plus-ones are often less receptive to attending classic works (e.g., Ibsen, Shaw, Shakespeare) than they are to, say, a musical. Ostensibly, this unwillingness stems from fear of “just not getting” the play. It’s for this reason that I’m grateful for groups such as Archive Theater Company that seek to stage such works in fresh, engaging ways. In 2019, theatre artists Jennifer Rose Davis and Garrison Martt founded Archive with the mission of staging classic works for contemporary audiences. That doesn’t mean recasting Romeo and Juliet as punk-rock teens; rather, Archive creates accessible translations and adaptations, and delivers them with solid humor and direction. Being thoroughly impressed with Archive’s maiden voyage, a sprawling three-hour adaptation of Cyrano de Bergerac (translated and directed by Davis), I was eager to see how it would approach a more intimate script like George Bernard Shaw’s The Man of Destiny.

Without a sense of nobility. It’s these traits that unfounded. As with Cyrano, The Man of Destiny succeeds primarily through its larger-than-life characters, who (thanks to Archive’s pitch-perfect casting) are portrayed with humanity and depth. In the leading role, Michael Rodriguez delivers Napoleon’s lines with conviction and strength, portraying the young general as arrogant, yet not without a sense of nobility. It’s these traits that actor Maggie Thompson gleefully picks apart as Napoleon’s adversary, the Mysterious Lady. Playing the fatale with an endearing irreverence, Thompson continuously ignores Rodriguez’s fiery temper. With both leads played with such earnestness, I found myself shamelessly jumping between the two, rooting for whoever happened to have the upper hand at the moment.

Rodriguez simultaneously fights another duel with the play’s many comedic foils. Scenes penned specifically for this production introduce bumbling tavern employee Luca (energetic stage manager John Michael Hoke) and his increasingly frustrated sister Maria (Svetlana Koutseridhi), who bicker and banter as they avoid the ire of innkeeper Giuseppe (Stephen Cook).

These original, outlandish scenes of primarily physical comedy serve as the warm-up before acts and are rife with crowd interaction.

Personally, I’m all for the addition of these comedic moments. The direction by Martt and Davis keeps them moving at a quick, jaunty pace, and they feel earned when you consider Archive’s meticulous adherence to the text’s historical context. From the impressive French and Italian accents to the stunning, period-appropriate costumes (designed by Davis and Star Maddox), it’s clear the extra mile has been taken to ensure that The Man of Destiny belongs in this 17th-century tavern.

With a strong cast and inspired direction, Archive’s latest is a uniquely entertaining night of theatre. Ultimately, this show’s greatest accomplishment is how Archive’s many additions never overwhelm The Man of Destiny’s beating heart. When Rodriguez and Thompson’s banter grows increasingly heated, audiences can easily forget all the bells and whistles – the games, the wine, the music – and simply get lost in Shaw’s fiery tango of wits. For that reason, I’d call The Man of Destiny a success.

– Trey Gutierrez
**QMMUNITY**

BY BETH SULLIVAN

IT’S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN, QTS.* That’s right, OUTsider Festival returns to the Vortex for year six.

Curran Nault, founder of the queer transmedia festival, has curated a grand coterie of LGBTQIA “outsider” artists – with both international and local reach – including self-described “radical indigenous queer feminist” musician Black Belt Eagle Scout, aka KP, who will play a solo set Saturday night (see below for fest deets). For the Portland, Ore.-based multi-instrumentalist, who grew up on the Swinomish Indian Reservation in Washington, holding and making space for her communities has been a central tenet of her work – with 2018 debut Mother of My Children and last year’s followup At the Party With My Brown Friends – and by extension, her live shows. As KP sees it, performing at a queer festival like OUTsider speaks to the need for dedicated spaces for marginalized communities, especially with a presidential administration that’s “telling us we’re pretty much not human beings” as LGBTQIA rights are rolled back. “Having a community that you can be a part of that’s gonna be like, ‘Fuck that shit. We’re going to support you. We’re going to be your family. We’re going to be here for you.’ Those are really important things,” she explains. “There needs to be a community where you can go and you can feel like people get you.” KP says she’d like to see better representation of both indigeneous and queer indigenous identities, though she acknowledges there are people doing the work so that “people don’t think Native Americans are a thing of the past.” It’s a legacy KP herself has joined. “It makes me happy to be able to say, this is who I am, and there are tons of people that are like me who have similar voices that can be inspired to talk about it and be inspired to live their lives.”

*It’s also time for early voting, which kicked off Tue., Feb. 18, and runs through Fri., Feb. 28. You can vote at any polling location with a “Vote Here/Vote Aquí” sign. See austinchronicle.com/elections for more info.

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**2 TO DO**

**Guerrilla Queer Bar**

We’re not crying, there’s just glitter in our eyes. After all, former Q editor Sarah Marloff tends to leave that in her wake, and if you haven’t heard, she’s returning with her wife to their D.C. roots pretty dang soon. So come out for one last queer AF takeover to end all takeovers and let’s send these bbs off with lots of big queer ATX love, m’kay? Thu., Feb. 20, 6-10pm. Violet Crown Social Club, 1111 E. Sixth. [www.fb.com/wherethegirlsgoatx](http://www.fb.com/wherethegirlsgoatx).

**OUTsider Festival: Nasty Fruits**


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**Q’D UP**

JOTERIAS Tatiana Cholula is back. Thu., Feb. 20, 10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River. $6-8 cover. [www.fb.com/joteriasatx](http://www.fb.com/joteriasatx).

FAT FEMME CLOTHING SWAP Swap old for new. Fri., Feb. 21, 7:15-9:15pm. Autonomy Movement, 601 Farley Dr.

TOYBOX Papi and Chique live their daddy denim dreamz. Fri., Feb. 21, 8pm. Scissor Sisters Hair Show, 6535 N. Lamar. $5-7.


CYBERFOCUS 4.0 Can you feel the change? Sat., Feb. 22, 10pm. Coconut Club, 310-B Colorado. $5 after 1am.

LESBIAN WEDDING The queerest, sweetest, extra-est Sunday. Sun., Feb. 23, 4-10pm. Sahara Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd. Free with OUTsider badge. $5-10.

FAT TUESDAY MARDI PARTY DRAG SHOW Say “balcony boobie bead toss” three times fast. Tue., Feb. 25, 7pm. The Venue ATX, 516 E. Sixth. Free.

SXSW LGBTQIA AND ALLIES COMMUNITY MEETUP Hosted by Austin LGBTQIA Chamber of Commerce. Wed., Feb. 26, 6-8pm. 600 Congress. Free (but RSVP).

RAP CHICKS Dance yer a$$ off to the women of hip-hop and rap. Thu., Feb. 27, 9:30pm. Elysium, 705 Red River. $5-10.

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For all Qmmunity listings see austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and send yer queer’d events to qmmunity@austinchronicle.com.
Elsabet Ney Museum: Rewylding

Barbara Attwell’s work in wool felt explores, the press release tells us, the inner and outer lives of humans and nature. Yeah, and it looks like something you might see in the gift shop of The Wave, too – if that 1066-era novel by Paul Kingsnorth were also, somehow, a museum. (Note: That’s a big compliment, yo.) See for yourself at the much-closer Ney. Reception: Thu., Feb. 27, 6-8pm, Elisabet Ney Museum, 304 E. 44th, 512/974-1625, www.austintexas.gov/elisabetney.

AARCO: 2020 VISIONS Welcome four new art, and history shows to the Asian American Resource Center. *Courage to Be: The Sahel Story,* in which archives from the Austin History Center reveal the origins of the Sahel support group for South Asian women in Austin; *Shen’s Precious Clocks and Watches,* featuring scientist and photographer Peter Shen’s collection of clocks and watches representing distinct moments in the advancement of measuring time; “A Ginkgo Walk,” wherein Sneha Sundaram uses nature photography and haku to create visual and literary sensations; and “Kingdom Arts,” which is geared toward teen anime, manga, and video game fans. Through March 28, Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron, 512/974-1700, www.austintexas.gov/aac.

ATELIER 1205: A LORY & AN EAGLET This new exhibition is Julia Hart’s personal attempt to make sense of a world that makes very little sense to the artist, inspired by what we cannot immediately see – those dreamlike spaces that exist just beyond vision, now rendered via a diversity of media. Through March 6, Atelier 1205, 1205 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/434-9046, www.atelier1205.com.


AKIRASH: MAJELE (VENOMOUS) This exhibition of big, bold new works (mixed media sculpture, installation, performance, and sound) by Olanji Rasheed Akindiya (also known by his brush name, AKIRASH) looks deep into the immigration issues that plague our society. Through June 27. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 512/693-1698, www.artwithakirash.com.


CO-LAB PROJECTS: CIRCULAR SCORE This is a collaborative exhibition with video and performance works by CC Calloway, Mala Snow, Hannah Specter, and Anika Todd. This show centers upon a rotating stage, with each artist trans-lating the stage through the lens of their own practice. The culmination of these explorations is a multichannel sound and video piece within Co-Lab Projects, with that stage at the center. Through Feb. 29, Co-Lab Projects, 1023 Springdale Ste. 1-B, 512/300-8217. www.co-labprojects.org.

DIMENSION GALLERY: IN THE ARC OF YOUR MALLET This is the final installment of a two-part exhibition by Jade Walker, focusing on disease, healing, and the inherently close union we have with our own bodies. Inspired by the Rumi poem of the same title and including borrowed mal-lets from more than 40 members of the artist’s community. Through Feb. 29. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99. www.dimensiongallery.org.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: BEYOND THE WALL This is an exhibition of large abstract oil painting by Austin artist Jess KB. Through March 7. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 512/779-4585. www.jesskb.com.

LINK & PIN GALLERY: ATTACHMENTS The paintings and mixed media works of Lawrence Jolly explore the innate emotional, spiritual, and physical connections we have with each other and the things we cherish. Through March 29. Link & Pin, 2225 E. Sath #102, 512/900-8952. www.linkpinart.com.


PIECING IT TOGETHER: AUSTIN GRAFFITI 1984-2004 This vivid and vibrant exhibition focuses on the first three generations of Austin graffiti art, organized by each decade that helped shape Austin’s current street-based culture. You want to see letterforms gone troppo and spraypaint pushed to its most eye-dazzling limits? This is the show for you, citizen. Through March 28. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 512/974-3772, www.austintexas.gov/esbmaccc.


OLD BAKERY GALLERY: EVOLUTIONS February’s fea-tured artists – who, we reckon, make this place a good place to visit before SXSW comes a-roaring into Austin again – are Valerie Chaussonnet, Rebecca Bennett, Lauryl Eddlemon, and Sylvia Crossland. Through March 4. Old Bakery & Emporium, 1006 Congress, 512/974-1317.

RECSPEC GALLERY: THROUGH THE DUSK, A LIGHT This show of new works by Annalise Gratovich includes woodcuts, etchings, and collage – with the matrices they’ve come from. And yes, citizen, it is part of PrintAustin: can’t have a real conversation going on about ink in this town, we reckon, unless that Gratovich is somewhere in the mix. Through March 7. Recspec Gallery, 4825 Weidema #700, 512/306-6116. www.recspec.co.

J GALLERY: LET IT FLOW Group show of works by artists Greta Olivas, Marilyn Rodriguez, and Donna Starnes. Through March 8. Shalom Austin, 7300 Hart Ln.

VAULT STONE SHOP: I PICKED YOU A FLOWER This is a group exhibition of paintings, a mural, photographs, and sculptural works that explore the thin line between the romantic and sinister, featuring art by Allison Sagebiel, Carlos Carballo, Emmy Laursen, Jaime Reynolds, Josh Row, Navasota Serin, Rohitash Rao, and Scott David Gordon. Through March 14. Vault Stone Shop, 4361 S. Congress #101 from, And yes, citizen.”

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: JUAN LUIS JARDI The painter’s figures and themes, mixing magical realism with influences of pop art and surrealism, illustrate the contrast in our lives and the doubts we are faced with as humans. Through March 1. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

Fancy Fancy Studios: Audiobiography

Swayed by this Eastside venue for a postapocalyptic cup of coffee and a self-guided tour through “a surreal house of memory, grief, and floating bubbles” as author and multimedia artist Jamaica Cole presents her first book, The Endlessly Forking Snake Tongue, in audio and installation form. Local, lovely, and recommended. Feb. 21-23, Fri., 7-10pm; Sat., noon-10pm; Sun., noon-7pm. Bolm Studios, 5305 Bolm. www.jamaicacole.com.
YARD DOG: MIKE EGAN The arts community’s favorite Dog, having ditched Congress Avenue with the rest of last decade’s memories, re-opens in Canopy (right behind Bale Creek Allen Gallery), inaugurating its fresh digs with a knock-out show of new skull and skeleton paintings by former funeral director Mike Egan. Yard Dog, 916 Springdale, 512/912-1613 www.yarddog.com.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

WEST 2020: CALL FOR ARTISTS This is an open call for artists, business partners, and advertisers for Big Medium’s West Austin Studio Tour (WEST), a free, annual, self-guided art event spanning two weekends in May. Suggestion: Click over to the website and get involved, you art-loving citizen! Through Feb. 26. Big Medium, 916 Springdale #101, 512/939-6665. www.bigmedium.org.

BOOKS


OCOTILLO REVIEW: RELEASE CELEBRATION The Ocotillo Review celebrates its fourth year of publication with the winner of the Julia Darling Memorial Poetry Prize, John Blair, and the contest judge, Natalia Treviño. Other poets and writers from around the country will also read. Fri., Feb. 21, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th, 254/654-7205. www.malvernbooks.com.

Daina Ramey Berry: A Black Women’s History of the United States The co-author of this new volume presents the empowering history emphasizing the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are – and have always been – instrumental in shaping our country. Fri., Feb. 21, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.


Jerry Mitchell: Race Against Time The author presents his book about uncovering the secret documents, long-lost suspects, and witnesses necessary to build evidence strong enough to take on the Klan – thus helping bring killers to justice for the assassination of Medgar Evers, the fire-bombing of Vernon Dahmer, the 16th Street Church bombing in Birmingham, and the Mississippi Burning case. Tue., Feb. 25, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.


COMING SOON to BookPeople

AUSTIN’S COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE SINCE 1970

2/22 MEG GARDINER discussing The Dark Corners of the Night at 5PM

3/5 ISAAC FITZGERALD discussing HOW TO BE A PIRATE! at 6PM

Spring Stampede
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10AM-2PM
SPRING BREAK FAMILY FUN!

see how the pioneers worked: meet blacksmiths, clean clothes with a washtub, survey land, and lots more.

live music by celtaire, cowboy balladeer jesse white and banjo maestro thom mcneil
details at pioneerfarms.org

Austin Ghost Tours
TOURS FEBRUARY 29 & MARCH 28

BEST NIGHTTIME
GHOST TOUR IN
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PIONEER FARMS IS A VOLUNTEER-_RUN, 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.

www.austinchronicle.com FEBRUARY 21, 2020 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 55
Carnaval Brasileiro

Austin's Brazil-style Mardi Gras since 1978 offers five hours of nonstop live music that compels revelers to stay on the dance floor all night. Outrageous costumes provide an outlet for Austin's creative juices to flow, not to mention abundant eye candy. Grab your glitter, sequins, feathers, etc. and get ready to dance the night away! Sat., Feb. 22, 9pm. Emo's, 2012 E. Riverside, 888/512-7469, $35 online; $45 at the door. www.carnavalaustin.com.
SOCCER WATCH

**Champions League** knockout games started this week, on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, **Atlético Madrid** handed **Liverpool** a rare loss (they’re unbeaten and once-tied in 26 EPL matches this year) in the opening game; action in the home-and-away round of 16 continues next Tue.-Wed., 2pm on TNT. Here in CONCACAF, **Atlanta** drew in Honduras and **LAFC** lost 2-0 at León, Mexico, Tuesday night; the quarter-finals continue tonight, Thursday, with **NYCFC** at San Carlos in Costa Rica (7pm), and **Seattle Sounders** at Olimpia in Honduras (9pm), and return legs next Tue.-Thu. evenings, Feb. 25-27, on FS1 and FS2.

Countdown: Just three weeks until the **Austin Bold’s** March 7 home opener against New Mexico United, and their continue to build out their roster with familiar faces from last year. FWIW, FiveThirtyEight.com (projects.fivethirtyeight.com/soccer-predictions/usi) projects the Bold to finish fifth in the USL West, with a 75% chance of making the playoffs.

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**HUSTON-TILLTISON Women’s Basketball**

**Vs. Wiley:** Thu., Feb. 20, 5:30pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Texarkana: Sat., Feb. 22, 2pm. **Men’s Basketball**

**Vs. Wiley:** Thu., Feb. 20, 7:30pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Texarkana: Sat., Feb. 22, 4pm. **Branch Gym, Seventh & Chalmers.** **Softball**


**TEXAS STATE Men’s Basketball**

**Vs. Georgia Southern:** Thu., Feb. 20, 2pm. **Women’s Basketball**

**Vs. Georgia Southern:** Thu., Feb. 20, 7-11:30am. **Stafan Arena:** 106 Charles Austin Dr., San Antonio. **Baseball**

**Vs. Lamar:** Sat., Feb. 22, 1pm; Sun., Feb. 23, 11:30am. **Strahan Arena, 106 Charles Austin Dr., San Antonio.** **Softball**

**Vs. Lamar:** Tue., Feb. 25, 6pm. **Softball Field, 517 S. Pleasant Valley Rd.** www.htramsathletics.com.

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**RECREATION & FITNESS**

**AUSTIN BASEBALL LEAGUE OPEN TRYOUTS**

All men and women interested in playing fast-pitch baseball in an adult recreation league are invited to the spring season open practice and tryouts. **Sun., Feb. 23, 10am.** SE Metro Park, 4511 Hwy. 71 E., Del Valle. Free. www.aubbaseball.com.

**HOPS & GRAIN BREWERY 5K**

Beer and running coalesce seamlessly into an entertaining 3.1 mile running tour that ends appropriately at the local brewery where each registrant gets a beer on the house. **Sat., Feb. 22, noon. The Loop Running Supply, 115 Sandra Muraida Way Ste. 105-B.** $30.

**THE ABC SALE**

Looking for high-quality, gently used children’s clothing, toys, and gear, but don’t want to spend retail prices? Find them at the **ABC Sale.** **Fri.-Sat., Feb. 21-22. Austin Oaks Church, 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd.** Free. www.austinoakschurch.org.

**KIDS’ SHOW W/ STACI GRAY**


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**DIRT DIVAS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

This program for kids (third-fifth grade) emphasizes women’s leadership roles in the outdoor recreation and environmental fields. **Wednesdays, 4-6pm. Camacho Activity Center, 34 Robert T. Martinez Jr. Free.** www.austintexas.gov/camacho.

**MARDI GRAS GALVESTON**


**TWELFTH NIGHT**

The Overtime Theater company presents a contemporary and “metatheatrical” version of Shakespeare’s comedy. Feb. 14-March 7, 8pm; extra shows Feb. 23 & March 1. **San Antonio.** www.theovertimetheater.org.

**WHOOPING CRANE FESTIVAL**

Experience one of the world’s most endangered birds in its natural habitat on a boat tour, attend a seminar, or shop at the conservation expo. **Thu.-Sun., Feb. 20-23.** Port Aransas. www.whoopingcranefestival.org.

**HA COMEDY FESTIVAL**


**TROUTFEST**

Head to the Guadalupe River for all things fishing, with classes, guest speakers, exhibits for the kids, and a free trade show. **Sat.-Sun., Feb. 22-23. New Braunfels.** www.gruu.org/troutfest.

**STORYTELLING FEST**

Everyone loves a good tale, and yarn-spinners from around the state bring their best material for a day of laughs and tears. **Sat., Feb. 22, 10am-5pm. Wimberley.** www.wimberleyarts.org.

**AUSTIN TOWN**

Take a step back in time to the days of the Republic of Texas with demonstrations, reenactors, and period games. **Sat., Feb. 22, 10am-4pm. Angleton.** www.bchm.org.

**COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO**

The monument holds special tours and events to commemorate the 13-day siege at the Alamo. **Feb. 23-March 6. San Antonio.** www.thealamo.org.

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**OUT OF TOWN**

**The Austin Chronicle Pet Issue Party at Still Austin Whiskey Co.** **Feb. 13**

**The Austin Chronicle** Pet Issue Party at Still Austin Whiskey Co., 2001 Brazos St., 512/199-8999. Tickets: $35-$75. 21+. 6pm. **Photo by David Brendan Hall.**

**The Rotten Mangoes at Electric Church.** **Feb. 15**

**The Rotten Mangoes** at Electric Church, 3204 Guadalupe St. 3pm. **Price: $5.** **See more at: austinchronicle.com/photos**

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**SECRETS OF THE WEST:**

**The Authentic 1836 Alamo Siege Experience**

Join us for a special tour of the Alamo in the year leading up to the 1836 Battle of the Alamo! **Fri.-Sun., Feb. 21-23.** **San Antonio.** www.thealamo.org.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**An Afternoon of Nature Week:** **Feb. 21-22.** **See more at: austinchronicle.com/photos**

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Food

Barbecue Smokers of the Stars

Appreciating the artistry in steel – and smoked meats – is part of the Mill Scale Metalworks business model

BY ROD MACHEN

For Texas barbecue lovers who take matters into their own hands, cooking a brisket that’s up to par with the current masters of the craft is serious business – and the right smoker is key. Enter Mill Scale Metalworks.

In Central Texas, Mill Scale creates custom smokers worthy of heirloom status. Co-owners and brothers Matt and Caleb Johnson are producing work so far beyond the thin tin jobs at Home Depot that it’s almost a travesty to mention them in the same sentence. Whether it’s a 94-gallon backyard model, a smaller yakitori grill, or a thousand-gallon monster meant for the largest of commercial operations, the steel coming out of Mill Scale is on a whole ‘nother level.

The brothers are joined by Matt’s wife Annie as operations manager and kindred soul Matt Seeker as the third welder. This quartet processes tons of metal each year, in and out of their Lockhart shop. But before food ever gets involved, the business at its heart is a simple welding operation.

“Welding is almost a lost art in my generation,” Matt Johnson said. “That’s really our background. We grew up blue-collar. I think that some of these trades have been lost. My dad and his generation could fix anything.”

But of all the things they could be working on, the Mill Scale crew has dedicated themselves to cooking devices that use live fire. The heartbeat of their business is building off-set barbecue smokers fabricated and salvaged from decommissioned propane tanks. That overlap with the culinary world imbues the work they do with something special.

“The cool thing about welding and fabrication is that, because of what we do, there’s a very tangible monument of art that will last longer than us,” Matt said. “If we were welding handrails or structural stuff, a lot of people appreciate it, and it has a function, but food has its own power. You remember that time when you were grilling with your dad and you smelled that smoke – it triggers memories.

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“So what’s up to par with the current masters of the craft?”

“Because of the fast-paced world that we live in, we’re trying to move things back to cooking with fire, slowing down that process, thinking about the food, taking notes from other chefs, kind of reconnecting people to food.”

MATT JOHNSON

“Take a cast-iron skillet that your grandmother gave you, that you remember cooking biscuits on, or something like that. We take a lot of responsibility in understanding what food does for people, what it does for families, what it does for people’s interests, and all of that,” he added.

With home versions of their smokers going for multiple thousands of dollars, the existence of a market for their products says a lot about what this type of customer values. Matt explained, “I think now there’s a growing appreciation for craftsmanship. I love Amazon. That’s a convenient thing that’s hit our generation. Our kids are going to grow up expecting things in two days, right? Because of the fast-paced world that we live in, we’re trying to move things back to cooking with fire, slowing down that process, thinking about the food, taking notes from other chefs, kind of reconnecting people to food.”

While Caleb now lives in Lockhart, Matt and Annie still live in East Austin, and that connection to the ever-booming Austin food scene informs a lot of what they do: “There are so many talented chefs coming from all over the country, coming to Austin and really elevating the menu and the expectations of this market. We’re seeing it in barbecue, too.

“Because we were starting to hang out with chefs and pit-masters and barbecue guys, we were like, ‘Let’s start building barbecue pits.’ So we were able to take that perspective of design, clean lines, drawing people in closer to look at details, having multiple functioning components, and trying to keep it simple.”

Because of their dedication to their own craft, the level of quality in these pits comes in sharp contrast to smokers from days past: “Barbecue in the Nineties and Aughts got really gadget-y; candy paint jobs, infrared elements. Now there’s apps on your phone. You almost can’t screw it up.”

And this superficiality flies in the face of old-school Texas barbecue. “You come out to Lockhart, you go in that smokehouse, these guys are cooking for 16 hours. They’re spending the night on a cot next to the smoker. There’s so much intention and dedication to that craft that we were just drawn to it. All of those things, we’ve been able to apply to the design of our smokers.”

The work Mill Scale does is very much of a piece with the contemporary crafts movement. In Austin, seeing someone spend more for a piece that’s American-made – or even better, Austin-made – is not a rare occurrence. Matt thinks this has to do with modern life and its distance from manual labor.

“A lot of people work in cubicle, and there’s a disconnect [from] working with your hands and seeing something in front of you,” Matt said. “A lot of people are using their dollar to buy that one hat that’ll last twice as long and has a story behind it. Maybe you meet the maker who made it and there’s more of a connection to it.”

In Austin, Mill Scale smokers can be found at Lamberts, Banger’s, and JNL Barbecue at Buzz Mill Shady. Smokers are also shipped around the world, with one happy customer receiving his all the way in Sweden. And with a waitlist of almost two years, Matt and Caleb recognize just how much their products mean to the people that end up with them, and that quality over speed is a necessary part of how they work.

“There’s a saying in barbecue: ‘Nothing happens fast.’ You can’t cook brisket fast: If you rush the process and mess it up, there’s a consequence – or higher reward – to every action. Nothing happens fast with what we do.”

www.millscale.co
Scholz Garten Chili Cook-Off

When those German-inflected vittlemeisters at Scholz invite you to “come on down for a chili-tastin’, live music-listenin’, cold beer-drinkin’, whiskey-slingin’ good time,” we’re inclined to do just that. And when we know that local amateurs and professional culinary teams are going to chili up their best recipes and offer samples all around (starting at 2pm), why, we’re already staking out the best table. ‘Course, if you miss this second annual shindig, then maybe we’ll see you at Scholz’s second annual crawfish boil on Tuesday instead? So much going on here, it’s almost, how you say, unglaublich.


Lick x Easy TigEr: Mardi gras ICE cream

This just in: Lick Honest Ice Creams and Easy Tiger Bake Shop team up for a limited-time King Cake ice cream flavor benefiting Austin Food & Wine Alliance. “This just in,” did we say? We mean, this just IN YOUR MOUTH: Lick’s cinnamon ice cream enhanced with bits of Easy Tiger’s famous King Cake – a pain au lait dough with cinnamon sugar filling, festooned with swirls of purple, green, and yellow cream cheese icing. Available at the Tiger’s Linc location and all the Lick venues. Through Feb. 25. Easy Tiger, The Linc, 6406 N. I-35 #1100, 512/494-4151. www.easytigerusa.com.

WHERE “MARGARITAVILLE” WAS BORN? That local bowl-o-centric and boozy bastion of good times, High 5? Is the actual physical location of the former Lung’s Cocina del Sur restaurant on Anderson Lane – where Jimmy Buffet had his first margarita and was inspired to write that “Margaritaville” song – so of course they’re celebrating this day right, with drink specials and more than the usual abundance of fun among the games and revelry. And if you’re not there, citizen, well ... it’s your own damn fault.


INTERO’S ITALIAN WINE DINNER

This is the first – the first! – of Interò’s monthly wine dinner series showcasing different Italian wines paired with the acclaimed Eastside restaurant’s locally sourced Italian cuisine. Winemakers from the Cesari family of Brigaldara Winery are jetting in to share their experiences with Valpolicella wine over a four-course pairing menu. Not the sort of event any true oenophile wants to miss out on, hey? Sat., Feb. 22, 6:30-9pm. Interò, 2612 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/599-4052. $120. www.interorestaurant.com.

WHISLER’S FAT TUESDAY

This popular Eastside cocktail bar kicks off the Fat Tuesday celebration with their first crawfish boil of the season, with catering by Louisiana Wild and free king cake from New Orleans’ legendary Haydel’s among all the beads and baubles. Mardi Gras-inspired libations will be served up all night and that Boss Street Brass Band joins in the music-making at 7pm.

Tue., Feb. 25, 4-11:30pm. Whisler’s, 1816 E. Sixth, 512/480-0781. www.whislersatx.com.
Austin’s chapter of Women in Film and Television International is creating equity and opportunity

BY JENNY NULF

The divide between men and women in the film and television industry is stark. Just look at this year’s Academy Awards, where a majority of the nominations that weren’t in women-specific categories primarily went to men, from Best Director to Best Editing. Director Lulu Wang, who recently won at the Independent Spirit Awards for her film The Farewell, said it best: “There has been a lot of conversation this year about how to encourage more women to be in film or get more women into the conversation. I just have to say, you don’t have to encourage women, there are lots of women making films and who want to make films and who are in film school. ... What women need is just the job. Give them the freaking job.”

Women in Television and Film International is a global organization whose core goal is to remove this glaring gap between opportunities for men and women and make the industry more equitable. Established as a professional support group for women in media, WIFTI is over 40 years old, with over 60 chapters across the world, and it’s continuously growing.

Specifically, it’s growing in Austin. The local chapter had its first meeting back in November 2018 and has steadily been expanding with membership and support ever since. The Austin chapter encourages all women within the industry, from film critics to production assistants to directors, to join and create a group that can help others navigate our city’s complex media landscape. “Our motto is to connect, support, and empower,” chapter Vice President Kristin Benitez said.

Unlike the film and television mecca that is Los Angeles, the media industry in Austin is oddly scattered. It makes finding a media-related job here daunting, which is why the city so desperately needs an organization like WIFTI that can give direction to those who already struggle to break into the industry.

Founding president Alicia Eastes, a writer and editor, brought up that many women feel they have to choose between starting a family or progressing their career. In fact, it was a decision she thought she was going to have to make herself. “I was having a hard time balancing and figuring out how I would juggle this independent filmmaking career and my new personal investment in motherhood,” she said. “When I had my daughter, I realized, ‘Wait a minute, there’s this film organization called Women in Film [and Television] and we don’t have that here.’ So, I started asking everyone in town, ‘Why not?’” No one had a good answer, she added, “except that being a freelance independent film professional takes up most of your time if that’s what you do. Nobody really had the time to found it.”

So Eastes not only co-founded Austin’s WIFTI chapter, but has worked incredibly hard with her fellow board members to expand the organization since that first meeting. Her co-president, Elizabeth V. Newman, said, “It’s been an incredible forum for us to make this [organization] larger than any one of us. I feel like that’s the key to creating an institution here in Austin.”

While there have long been significant women in the Austin film industry, like producer Elizabeth Avellan and editor Sandra Adair, its most recognizable figures have historically been men, from blockbuster champ Robert Rodriguez to independent film pioneer Richard Linklater. Within the past decade, women filmmakers have found their way into the zeitgeist, like Hellion director and Queen Sugar showrunner Kat Candler, who is an incredible advocate for diverse filmmaking. However, there’s a palpable disconnect within the film and television scene, and it’s tough to break into, like any niche industry. It’s an issue that Benitez, Eastes, Newman, and the rest of WIFT Austin are working hard to overcome.

“Austin has this amazing pool of talent and creative professionals, and we’re all so disconnected,” Eastes said. “Especially as women, we have a very different path into the creative business. I think, coming out of grad school, I needed mentorship. We didn’t have any kind of system to guide people from one stage to the next, from young women finishing their degrees to those starting out in the industry. That’s why these organizations exist.”

Benitez added that the diversity of experience was reflected in both the membership and the board itself: “Newbies who just are starting out in screenwriting [and] people like Alicia and myself who have been in the industry for a long time. ... I like that.”

WIFTI’s Austin chapter offers both public events and members-only programs – currently offered quarterly – designed to connect its members with mentors, no matter what age or experience level, as well as workshops conducted by industry-leading professionals. Eastes said she is “excited about what we’re offering so far. ... We want to be able to provide some education, and keep people updated with industry trends. Give them access to certain kinds of guidance that they wouldn’t otherwise get outside Women in Film [and Television].”

Newman agreed. “One of the conversations that we’ve had is being mindful [about] being a woman in film, television, and media – that means a lot of different things to a lot of different people. It doesn’t just mean being a director or a producer or a writer, or even full time... [We want] to try to find programs that will appeal to a wider swath.”

For more information about Women in Film and Television Austin, visit www.wiftaustin.org.
What It Is to Burn

Repressed romance inflames the screen in Portrait of a Lady on Fire

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

In Portrait of a Lady on Fire, French filmmaker Céline Sciamma gives the Gothic romance a feminist workout. Set in the late 18th century, the story unfolds primarily in an isolated and windswept estate on the coast of Brittany where mystery lurks and forbidden passions churn. The drafty old mansion’s household comprises three women, to which a fourth is added shortly after the film begins. She is Marianne (Merlant), a painter whose remembrance of things past forms the basis of the movie.

Marianne arrives by sea. The choppy waves rock the boat and eventually toss her painter’s canvases into the sea.

Before a word has been spoken, we receive instant insight into Marianne’s character when she dives in, fully clothed, to rescue her “work tools.” After climbing the craggy cliffs that stand between the shore and the estate, she arrives and is greeted by the servant Sophie (Bajrami). The next morning she meets the countess (Golina), who has hired Marianne to paint her daughter’s portrait. It is only then that Marianne learns the strange stipulation of the countess: she must pretend to be the daughter’s portrait. It is this act of deception that drives the story.

The subject, Héloïse (Haenel), refuses to pose. The countess requests that Marianne pretend to be Héloïse’s daily walking companion and paint her impressions in secret. The canvas is to be a wedding portrait sent to a suitor in Milan, and if he likes it, a match will be made.

Thus begins Marianne’s observation by subterfuge. Gradually, we learn that Héloïse has recently arrived at her family home from the convent where she had previously resided. Her recently deceased sister was to have married the Milanese gentleman before falling fatally and mysteriously on those foreboding cliffs.

Héloïse shows no interest in serving as her sister’s replacement. She notices Marianne’s attentive looks while they walk on the beach and begins to look back. Eventually, she discovers the painting Marianne has been working on in secret, and rebukes the painter for not rendering an honest likeness and instead catering to the demands of the male gaze. Marianne starts the painting again as the countess goes away and leaves them alone for five days.

During this time, Héloïse poses for Marianne in an effort to mutually create a portrait satisfying to both of them. Gazing at each other, the topics of agency and authenticity are implicit. Héloïse clearly wishes that she weren’t a pawn in her mother’s arrangement to maintain their nobility; Marianne is frustrated by society’s constraints on female painters. Sophie, meanwhile, struggles for solutions to the biological dictates that have overtaken her reproductive system. It is during this time of intense observation and freedom from the demands of the outside world that Héloïse and Marianne’s looks smolder into desire fulfilled.

In previous films (Water Lilies, Tomboy, Girlhood), Sciamma revealed herself to be a keen observer of women, particularly in regard to tiny physical actions and words unsaid. (The film received the award for Best Screenplay at Cannes.) The lesbian activity, which does not occur until the latter part of the film, is relatively chaste as far as what is seen. What the film excels at, however, is the anticipatory desire. It builds slowly, concluding with a stunning sequence that is all breathless remembrance and self-satisfaction that is both wordless and impalpable. The film will seem the height of romantic desire to some, but will be a slow burn for others. The sparks set off by Portrait of a Lady on Fire are less a red-hot configuration than the provocative tossing of an eloquent and visually beautiful log onto the eternal blaze that demands women serve as the subjects of their own paintings and films.
NEW REVIEWS

10 THINGS WE SHOULD DO BEFORE WE BREAK UP
D: Galt Niederhoffer; with Christina Ricci, Hamish Linklater, Lindsey Broad, Mia Sinclair Jenness, Brady Jeness. (NR, 74 min.)
Not reviewed at press time. Meet-cute gets wacky when a couple on a date (Linklater and Ricci) commit to a bucket list and find they may have to fulfill it after a one-night stand gets serious.

AND THEN WE DANCED
D: Levan Akin; with Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili, Ana Javakishvili. (NR, 112 min., subtitled)
The essence of the coming-out drama is the questioning of who you are against whom you think you are supposed to be. In Swedish-Georgian drama And Then We Danced, that’s the conundrum vexing Mareb (Gelbakhiani), a young performer-in-training at the National Georgian Ensemble. Wistful and wan, he’s always being told off for not being forceful enough for Georgian folk dancing (“You should be like a nail,” his instructor curses at him), so the arrival of the charismatic and tempestuous rival male lead Irakli (Valishvili) throws his world into something like turmoil. Of course, it’s not much better for his lifelong dance partner Mary (Javakishvili), who must contend with the loss of what she thought would be a constant. A queer spin on the opening act of Pawel Pawlikowski’s Cold War (minus the Soviet menace and stellar cinematography), And Then We Danced is a slice of Eastern European life rarely seen by American audiences, even if it is not completely recognizable. Gelbakhiani has an undoubted tousle-haired and broken-hearted charisma as the slender steppe, which is fortunate for a part that is very familiar. There’s even a sliver of the definitive struggling young performer drama, Alan Parker’s original Fame, in its depiction of the day-to-day stresses and strains of day-to-day life for a fairly talented young performer. Mareb may have been set on the path of a professional dancer, but maybe it’s the wrong dance. It’s not exactly a complicated metaphor, and the second act, of Mareb’s sexual and cultural awakening as an out gay man, falls into cliche pretty quickly (that Mareb also faces a career-threatening injury as all this transpires is somewhere between soap opera and Lars von Trier-level on-the-nose storytelling). So it’s the cultural specificities that make it most interesting: the specific pushes in post-Cold War Georgia to make folk dance more masculine (whatever that means), the specific nature of cultural conservatism in Georgia. At the same time, there’s something a little tired androte about a coming-out drama set against the world of dance. In the wake of Francis Lee’s God’s Own Country, which found fresh fields for this subgenre in the sheep farms of England, this latest trip to the dance studio never feels like it’s truly forging its own path.★★★★ – Richard Whittaker

BRAHMS: THE BOY II
D: William Brent Bell; with Katie Holmes, Christopher Convery, Owain Yeoman. (PG-13, 86 min.)
Not reviewed at press time. Kids, eh? The sinister doll from 2016’s The Boy (the doll one about the child hiding in the walls of a mansion house, not the superior, Elijah Wood-produced tale of the youth of a serial killer) is back, and looking to possess a new young man as his murderous avatar. Wait, when did this become a Chucky franchise?

THE CALL OF THE WILD
D: Chris Sanders; with Harrison Ford, Omar Sy, Cara Gee, Dan Stevens, Bradley Whitford, Karen Gillan, Colin Woodell, Stephanie Cajkowska. (PG, 110 min.)
This domesticated adaptation of Jack London’s 1903 novella tempers the brutality of the book’s Darwinist narrative, one in which a St. Bernard/Scotch Shepherd mix named Buck begins as the pampered pet of a well-to-do family in Santa Clara County, Calif., and ends up a wolfish creature running with the pack in the uncharted wilds of the Yukon Territory. It’s a Disneyfied version of a literary work that’s unsettling by today’s standards, foregoing the worst of its canine protagonist’s rite of passage on the written page for a more palatable storyline sensitive to the ethical and humane treatment of animals. This tack is largely a welcome one, as most moviegoers likely have no desire to witness the physical and mental suffering that Buck and his sled-team comrades endure in London’s short novel, once a staple in high school American literature classes. In the book’s savage setting, i.e., the Klondike Gold Rush at the turn of the 19th century, only the fittest are destined to survive, regardless of whether they walk on two or four feet. Under this natural law, mercy is rarely meted out to man or beast.

Though the movie tames much of London’s harshness, its intimations of animal cruelty, precipitated by the swing of a club or the snap of a whip, will still upset many adults and youngsters in the audience, particularly given the extent to which The Call of the Wild anthropomorphizes Buck and the other dogs. A scene in which he and the other exhausted sled team members collapse in the snow, beaten down (literally and figuratively) by their ruthless new owner (a bizarrely rabid Stevens, almost foaming at the mouth) is difficult to watch, their facial expressions sad and miserable enough to arouse pity in the hardest of hearts. A 100% computer-generated hound slightly this side of the uncanny valley, Buck exhibits a full spectrum of human traits and emotions in a way that London, who broke literary ground by writing from the dog’s perspective, never dreamed possible. He’s trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, obedient, brave, and kind, a veritable Boy Scout in mutt’s clothing. (He doesn’t speak or think out loud, thank God.) For those of us who tend to anthropomorphize their household pets (or infantilize them, as others contend), this idealized Buck makes perfect face-licking sense, although when he deduces that his final companion, the sorrowful and kindly John Thornton (Ford), has a drinking problem and convinces him to get sober, an “awwww” moment of whether they walk on two or four feet. Under this natural law, mercy is rarely meted out to man or beast.

Fantasy Island
D: Jeff Wadlow; with Michael Peña, Lucy Hale, Maggie Q, Jimmy O. Yang, Ryan Hansen, Austin Stowell, Portia Doubleday. (PG-13, 109 min.)
When it was announced that Blumhouse – commonly and incorrectly seen as a horror studio – was doing a reboot of 1970s internationalsuccess Fantasy Island, the immediate response was that they were adding a level of gore, terror, and suspense. This was generally because people somehow confused the seven season magical mystery show with The Love Boat. Instead, it was “The Monkey’s Paw” on a Pacific island, with ordinary people making extraordinary wishes and living – for good or ill – with the consequences.

The island is under the management of the enigmatic Mr. Roarke – a character given life and charm by Ricardo Montalbán in the original series, and a sharper tongue in the often-overlooked 1998 reboot by Malcolm McDowell. Now it’s Michael Peña’s turn in the famous white suit as the host with the most, welcoming a ragtag selection of irksome guests to have their deepest desires fulfilled. Pretty Little Liars star Lucy Hale (who previously appeared in director Jeff Wadlow’s last Blumhouse project, Truth or Dare) is an acid-tongued party girl who never got over being bullied at school; Maggie Q plays Gable and feisty Loretta Young fall in love as Buck diminishes into the supporting role of man’s best friend. Just another Hollywood example of the tale wagging the dog.

★★★★ – Steve Davis
ALAND LAKELINE, ALAMO MUDELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLEX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPC, LAKELINE, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, SKY CINEMAS, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

FANTASY ISLAND
D: Don Hertzfeldt. (2000, NR, 9 min.)
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Join thousands of Central Texas students and educators on Wednesday, March 11 from 9am–4pm. RSVP to attend the Community Day, this free and open to the public, fun-filled day of interactive learning opportunities.

This unique, high-energy experience features a discovery-based learning playground, curated session programming, and networking, alongside hundreds of interactive exhibits.

RSVP to attend for free: sxswedu.com/communityday
**WHAT’CHA WATCHIN’?**

**SCREENGRABS FROM THE CHRONICLE STAFF**

**Our Planet (Netflix)**
The streaming version of the BBC’s Planet Earth, and honestly … just as good, if not better! The segment on the Siberian tiger is probably the greatest piece of nature documentary ever to exist. David Attenborough is here because his voice is how we think, and he delivers more urgently than ever the message that we really do have a responsibility to protect animals, rather than just watch them for their crazy colors on shows like this after smoking weed.

**Everybody’s Everything (Amazon Prime)**
A beautiful portrait of late rapper Lil Peep’s life that is as in-touch with the inner workings of the heart as his music was. Maybe it came out too soon after his death, but delicate hands keep the film from falling toward a pit of cash-grabbiness. An explanation to older generations of the passions stoked by an angel on earth that they couldn’t recognize, and a plea to everyone who laughed at something they thought was silly to take earnest cries more seriously – or at least cherish them for the trying. Comfort exists in the expression of turmoil.

**Weathering With You (In theatres now)**
The gorgeous new film from Makoto Shinkai (director of insanely massive 2016 international blockbuster hit Your Name) tells the tale of Hina, a fabled “sunshine girl” whose prayers can pause the unceasing rainfall that’s drowning Tokyo, and Hodaka, the boy who befriends her. Each frame animated perfectly, the film feels as I imagine it does to watch the northern lights; neon but gentle, a searing watercolor. The climactic fall through the clouds is the happiest I’ve been watching anything in so long. A pure smile like a pop song, staring at love drawn on screen. — Editorial intern Asa Canty

the morose Elena, who never got over the one that got away; Jimmy Q. Yang and Ryan Hansen are annoyed joining-at-the-hip siblings Brax and Ryan; and Austin Stowell frowns a lot as a cop who always wanted to be a soldier. The island makes all those dreams come true in reality-warping ways, and everyone gets something like what they wanted, or really needed.

However, everything that made the original series so memorable and successful – its heart, its weird wit, its adherence to the morality play model – is completely lacking. Moreover, this Fantasy Island’s biggest blunder is that the script by Wadlow and his Trash or Dare cowriter Jillian Jacobs and Christopher Roach has no clear sense of direction. The original series, because it was episodic, had the space to be everything from broad slapstick to a full-blown supernatural thriller (not kidding: the literal Devil turns up twice). The film tries to cram all those elements in, plus a sub-Saw torture sequence, leaving it overstuffed and tonally chaotic. To make matters worse, they add an origin story for Roarke that removes any sense of mystery, then add a MacGuffin explaining the power of the island, and finally try to tie the guests together through a fundamentally uninteresting piece of backstory shenanigans. Then they tie them together again, and again, leaving the audience to wonder whether the trio wrot the final act a few times but forgot to delete the old scenes. The cast try their best, but all end up acting in different films. Redemption arcs falter and fail, plots are rehashed, and everyone is drowned in an unsatisfying mush of a mythology. Meanwhile Peña – completely wasted in an underwritten part – just glowers and pouts, making it impossible to believe him as the welcoming master of ceremonies.

The original show is such a simple, robust conceit that there was plenty of space and opportunity to do a contemporary reboot, but this Fantasy Island is no narrative dream destination. Instead, it fills in the parts of the story that were best left ambiguous, and the one memento that it’s supposed to gift you – the idea of a lesson learned – is completely missing. If you’re supposed to be traveling to this island, you’re best rebooking your trip.

**FREE BURMA RANGERS**
D: Brent Gudgel, Chris Sinclair. (NR, 105 min.)
Not reviewed at press time. New documentary following former U.S. Special Forces soldier Dave Eubank and his wife Karen on their mission into combat zones as they bring succor and relief to those under the direct and most life-threatening need.

**MY BOYFRIEND’S MEDS**
D: Diego Kaplan; with Jaime Camil, Sandra Echeverría, Marco Antonio Aguirre, Jason Alexander, Pamela Almanza, Luis Arrieta, Brian Baumgartner, Ana Belena. (R, 100 min., subtitled)
Not reviewed at press time. Mexican comedy about a marketing executive (Echeverría) who finds the ideal man (Camil) and plans the ideal getaway – only for chaos to be unleashed when he forgets his assorted medications for his panoply of disorders. Because mental health issues are clearly hi-la-ri-ous.

**THE PHOTOGRAPH**
D: Stella Meghie; with Issa Rae, Lakeith Stanfield, Chelsea Peretti, Chanté Adams, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Jasmine Cephas Jones, Teyonah Parris, Rob Morgan, Courtney B. Vance, Lil Reil Howery. (PG-13, 106 min.)
Past, present, and future loves and losses collide and combust in this well crafted but very wildly real.

Meghie flashes back and forth between the younger versions of Christina and Isaac, circa 1984, and the present and pleasantly uncertain connection growing between Mae and Michael. Both have their fair share of emotion baggage they’ve been lugging around. He’s been a player with commitment issues and she’s worried that her driven, unsentimental mother’s influence – or the lack thereof, since Christina rarely had time for acting a real mother/daughter relationship of any great merit. Luckily, since both are upwardly mobile New Yorkers, there’s Champagne on ice and Hurricane Irene pounding the city, so, you know, lust or something like it is very much in the air. It’s not for nothing that Meghie’s script is bookended by apocalyptically uncertain weather patterns. The CNN feed glimpsed in the background could not have been more spot-on if it was broadcasting Billie Holiday’s “Stormy Weather.” No worries: Marvin Gaye and a jazzy yet unobtrusive score by composer Robert Glasper weave their own kind of spell over this potentially – no spoilers here – doomed romance. Besides, Rae and Stanfield have an undeniable chemistry onscreen that renders their characters’ wary circling pas de deux bracingly real.

The Photograph is not The Notebook despite the inclusion of handwritten letters and ephemera from long-ago lives lived to their fullest. Meghie’s film is a paean to the push and pull between enhancing possibilities and chimerical probabilities. You don’t need to bring a handkerchief into the theatre for fear of ocular leakage, but The Photograph’s modestly hopeful denouement is, truly, picture perfect.

**Miss Congeniality**
D: Donald Petrie; with Sandra Bullock, Benjamin Bratt, Michael Caine, Candice Bergen, William Shatner. (2000, PG-13, 110 min.) 20th Anniversary of Austin Studios. Celebrate the hundreds of local cast and crew members that made the smash hit happen. Austin’s sweethearts Sandy B. stars, and locals should keep their eyes peeled for locations like Bass, Stephen F. Austin Hotel, and the original Dog & Duck Pub. (*) @AFS Cinema, Saturday, 7pm.

— Richard Whittaker
AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, CINEMARK 20, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, SKY CINEMAS, WESTGATE
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

D: Jeff Fowler; with James Marsden, Jim Carrey, Tika Sumpter, Neal McDonough, Adam Pally; with the voice of Ben Schwartz. (PG, 98 min.)

Nostalgia, it is often said, works on a 30-year cycle. This, then, might help explain why Paramount would choose to combine Sonic the Hedgehog and Jim Carrey, two faded Nineties institutions. Your 8-year-old won’t care that you saw Ace Ventura: Pet Detective in theatres three times in 1994, or that you once spent an entire sleepover trying to beat the Labyrinth Zone in the original Sonic the Hedgehog game. You, however, will care deeply, and probably pay full admission price – plus concessions – in the hope of rekindling your adolescent spark.

After escaping his home world, Sonic (voiced by Schwartz) has spent the past few years hiding in the woods outside a small Montana town. As his loneliness grows, Sonic begins to envy the rural happiness of the local sheriff, Tom (Marsden), and his veterinarian wife, Maddie (Sumpter). Then, in a moment of self-pity, Sonic creates a shockwave that drains power from the entire state. It is then that government contractor Dr. Robotnik (Carrey) is called in to research the cause of the blast – and question Tom as to the whereabouts of a certain intergalactic fugitive.

Even if you know nothing about this character, you’re probably still aware that Sonic the Hedgehog was delayed after audience reactions to the first trailer were, ah, less than charitable. The finalized version of Sonic feels much more like a cartoon character than the original Disney-esque “photorealistic” creation. These changes prove to be a very, very good decision. There’s a reason that movies like Who Framed Roger Rabbit? and Space Jam are so memorable; creating adorable characters generates empathy, and empathy ensures that we’ll never tumble too far into the valley of the uncanny. There’s more than enough cute here to sell the handful of X-Men: Days of Future Past-influenced chase scenes peppered through the movie.

In fact, almost everything about Sonic the Hedgehog comes together as a surprising success. Marsden may not be a household name, but he gives the kind of performance that would make Brendan Fraser proud. Without his knack for taking the material – and never himself – seriously, Sonic might’ve been almost unbearable in its buddy comedy segments. Meanwhile, Carrey presents just the right mix of mugging and menace as the misanthropic Dr. Robotnik. Even as he indulges in some of the broad physical comedy that made him a household name – a little bit of Carrey can still go a long way – there’s a mean streak to Robotnik that betrays the well-rounded actor he’s become in his middle age. It’s his most fun character in more than a decade (and two thumbs up to all of his costume choices).

The highest praise one could offer Sonic the Hedgehog is that it shares all of the qualities of the best Nineties blockbusters. Sonic isn’t being asked to save the world; Paramount isn’t metering out character development as part of some seven-film franchise push. This is simply a film with a bunch of gags and a central character looking for a place to fit in. It may not be particularly memorable, but in an era where family-friendly movies like Paddington can be a hit across all audiences, Sonic more than manages to hold its own.

***

– Matthew Monagle

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUeller, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO 5, LAMAR, ALAMO VILLAGE, AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, CINEMARK 20, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLEX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, SKY CINEMAS, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

STANDING UP, FALLING DOWN

D: Matt Ratner; with Ben Schwartz, Billy Crystal, Grace Gummer, Nate Corddry, Jill Hennessy, Kevin Dunn, Caitlin McGee. (NR, 91 min.)

There are particular conceits that often fall into cliche in film, and one of them is the main protagonist failing and failing at the outset, but eventually course-correcting in some way. It is Joseph Campbell’s hero’s journey writ large or small, but one that we connect with because we see ourselves in these characters as they traverse their highs and lows. Standing Up, Falling Down may seem like a slight entry into this storied tradition, but make no mistake, this is a whip-smart film that, while consistently clever and hilarious, deals with themes of loss and grief in ways that circumvent the maudlin.

The highest praise one could offer Sonic the Hedgehog is that it shares all of the qualities of the best Nineties blockbusters. Sonic isn’t being asked to save the world; Paramount isn’t metering out character development as part of some seven-film franchise push. This is simply a film with a bunch of gags and a central character looking for a place to fit in. It may not be particularly memorable, but in an era where family-friendly movies like Paddington can be a hit across all audiences, Sonic more than manages to hold its own.

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artifice of this genre (I’m looking at you, all the Little Miss Sunshine of the past decade or so). Scott Rollins (Schwartz) has returned to his Long Island home after an unsuccessful grab at the brass ring in the L.A. comedy scene. Moving back in with his parents, he is despondent and the daily grind of office life. The first sign that something is wrong is when she dons gloves to disinfect her boss’ couch, and then finds a bracelet on the floor. One thing we have learned in these times of #ToughLove and #MeToo is that earners are, indeed, part of the problem. As The Assistant points out, earners, too, must take active parts in solving the problems of our times. (02/14/2020)

Bad Boys for Life
D: Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah; with Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Alexander Ludwig, Vanessa Hudgens, Joe Pantoliano, Paola Nuñez, Charles Melton, Kate del Castillo, Nicky Jam, Theresa Randle. (R, 123 min.)

It’s been 25 years since Michael Bay’s original Bad Boys, and 17 years since the sequel. So is this an actual franchise, or merely a series of conjoined action-comedy one-offs that just keep popping off whenever stars Smith and Lawrence don’t have scheduling conflicts? And is Bad Boys for Life worth your time and money, fan or otherwise? The answers are maybe and yes, so long as you’re cool with the same old, same old. The two actors’ chemistry is undeniable, unchangeable, forged by Michael Bay and company, and it holds up under new directors El Arbi and Fallah. While not as combustibly fun as the second installment, it’s fine, cheesy, Saturday afternoon mayhem, smoothly served with a heaping helping of “We’re all getting older.” (01/17/2020)

Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)
D: Cathy Yan; with Margot Robbie, Ewan McGregor, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jennifer Smolett-Bell, Rosie Perez, Chris Messina, Ella Jay Basco. (R, 109 min.)

Batwoman villains fix people on the head with giant wooden mallets; they also peel off faces with a carving knife and cut tallow marks into their flesh. Harley Quinn has always served as a bridge between the goofy and the grotesque. After a terrible breakup with the Joker (Quinn (Robbie) finds herself in the crosshairs of every murderer she once mocked – including ambitious gangster Roman Sionis (McGregor). To survive, she will need the help of a few friends, including singer-with-a-secret Dinah Lance (Smolett-Bell) and vigilante Helena Bertinelli (Winstead). With all due respect to Robert Downey Jr., there may be no better bit of superhero casting than Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn. In Birds of Prey, she is allowed to double-down on the best qualities of her lovable antihero. (02/14/2020)

Color Out of Space
D: Richard Stanley; with Nicolas Cage, Joely Richardson, Madeleine Arthur, Brendan Meyer, Julian Hilliard, Elliot Knight, Tommy Chong. (R, 111 min.)

Dickensian, Shakespearean, Brechtian, Orwellian. Pintresque. Kafkaesque. There aren’t many authors whose names have made the leap to being a term for a whole school of literature, and Lovecraft makes that cut. His name evokes eldritch dread, a sense of powerlessness against things in the dark and the void. In this case, it’s the Gardners in their New England home – Nathan (Cage), Theresa (Richardson), their stoner son Benny (Meyer), witchy daughter Lavinia (Arthur), and youngest boy, Jack (Hilliard). A strange metallic object lands in their yard, and the rules of reality start to collapse in horrifying ways. For fans of Lovecraft, this may well be the most successful attempt to bring his warped vision to the screen. But for audiences who don’t know the books, this is a bracing, blasphemous horror that pulls you in and twists your nerves. (01/24/2020)

Come to Daddy
D: Ant Timpson; with Elijah Wood, Stephen McHattie, Garfield Wilson, Madeleine Sami, Martin Donovan, Michael Smiley, Simon Chino,寡ora Oliver, William Balfour. (R, 93 min.)

In this surreal familial homecoming-cum-comic nightmare, Elijah Wood plays Norval, a wannabe hipster-mustachioed man-child summoned to the looming Pacific Ocean beach home of his dear old Dad (McHattie). Old, yes, but dear? Oh, no. Who is this crazed Daddy Deearest, and why did he call for Norval to visit after a veritable lifetime of self-imposed absence? To answer those questions fully would enter into the territory of major spoilers; suffice to say there’s oh so much more going on here than meets Norval’s eyes and ears. Given the minimal – albeit excellent – cast and the film’s maximal rollercoaster of shifty mood swings and its increasingly paranoid atmosphere of disorienting dread, it’s no wonder Come to Daddy lingers in the mind long after the emotionally revelatory denouement. Head to austinchronicle.com/screens to read our interview with director Ant Timpson. (02/07/2020)

Downhill

Families may not always succeed, but it sure can work a spiritual nerve in this lesser remake of the terrific 2014 Swedish film Force Majeure. Minor squabbles about texting and meal schedules snowball into marriage-threatening discord after husband Pete (Ferrell) temporarily abandons his wife Billie (Louis-Dreyfus) and their two preteen sons when a controlled avalanche goes away and nearly buries them beneath the cascading snow as they sit outside in the ski resort’s dining area overlooking the mountains. To its credit, Downhill strives to remain character-driven rather than devolve into a jokey take on a delicate premise. Given Hollywood’s rehashed bastardizations of reputable films from abroad, that plaudit amounts to something more than faint praise. (02/14/2020)

The Gentlemen
D: Guy Ritchie; with Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam, Hugh Grant, Jeremy Strong, Colin Farrell, Michelle Dockery, Henry Golding, Christopher Evangelou. (R, 113 min.)

British filmmaker Guy Ritchie gangsters up again in this crime comedy where the underworld is a literal one of subterranean farms harvesting illicit weed beneath England’s centuries-old mansions. Oxford-educated American expatate Mickey Pearson (McConaughey) has decided to sell his lucrative cannabis empire for $400 million and enjoy early retirement with his equally enterprising wife (a very un-Downton Abbey sardonic younger sister who continuously calls him out on his shit (and also a preponderance of Jägerbombs, for some reason), and you have a recipe for a trite story of the sad little white boy who has lost his dream and struggles to find what his next move might be, while succumbing to the usual vices one uses to numb the pain of regret. But as always, the tale is in the telling, and Standing Up tells it well. Peter Hober’s script runs through the numbers at times, but often subverts expectations in Scott’s journey. Yet it is Billy Crystal who steals the show. Forget Adam Sandler’s Uncut Gems (please do), this is the wonderful comeback of a comedic actor whose grace and timing, whose humanity is the core of the story. The film can be a little too quirky at times, with jokes about aspects of social media, for instance (can we maybe stop with that for a moment?), but the film has a big heart, and the performances are authentic. These are not the cut-out characters of some half-baked film festival darling one will forget an hour later, like so much takeout food. This film rings true and has a resonant that is, frankly, often lacking in this realm. That there are no easy answers or wrapped-up-in-a-ribbon conclusions makes it all the more special.

Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)
D: Christian Haas; with the voices of Josh Keaton, Willem Dafoe, Kate Winslet. (NR, 88 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Nature versus nurture in this animated feature about a young bird (Keaton) who grows up believing he’s a seagull but has a big surprise coming. But aren’t we all really just birds under the feathers?

The Assistant
D: Kitty Green; with Julia Garner, Matthew Macfadyen, Jon Orsini, Noah Robbins, Makeleine Leigh. (R, 87 min.)

The release of sexual harassment film The Assistant during the Harvey Weinstein trial only enhances its film’s visibility and impact. The story, which is primarily set in a Tribeca film production office, features an unseen Weinstein-esque boss. He is not the subject of the film, however, but instead it’s his newest assistant Jane (Garner), who we follow through the daily grind of office life. The first sign that something is wrong is when she dons gloves to disinfect her boss’ couch, and then finds a bracelet on the floor. One thing we have learned in these times of #ToughLove and #MeToo is that earners are, indeed, part of the problem. As The Assistant points out, earners, too, must take active parts in solving the problems of our times. (02/14/2020)

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Dockery), but the deal hits a few snags as the complicated plot zigzags. With its dependence on racial stereotypes and lazy homophobia, The Gentlemen already feels dated and offensive. Movies shouldn’t have to meet a PC checklist so they won’t offend - who wants that kind of cinema? – but when they poke you in the eye too many times, it’s fair game to poke back. (01/24/2020)

★★★
Steve Davis
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The Lodge
D: Severin Fiala, Veronika Franz; with Riley Keough, Jaeden Martell, Lia McHugh, Richard Armitage, Alicia Silverstone, Lola Reid. (R, 108 min.)

The essence of drama will always have a thread of cruelty woven into it, and in icebound psychological horror The Lodge they are inflicted on Grace (Keogh), suddenly the surrogate mother to two children (Martell and McHugh) when their father (Armitage) leaves them alone in a cabin over Christmas, ostensibly to bond. Much like the director’s last film, Goodnight Mommy, themes of claustrophobia, delusion, unwilling mothers, and antagonistic children all recur here, but they add strands of faith and religion, meshing cult beliefs with cabin fever, and the interplay of innocence and unwilling mothers, and antagonistic children all recur here, but they add strands of faith and religion, meshing cult beliefs with cabin fever, and the interplay of innocence and

Gretel & Hansel
D: Osgood Perkins; with Sophia Lillis, Alice Krige, Sammy Leakey, Charles Babalola, Ian Kenny. (PG-13, 87 min.)

With only two directing credits to his name (The Blackcoat’s Daughter, I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House), Osgood Perkins is already one of horror’s most excit

Parasite

The latest from South Korean social commentator and genre fusion artist Bong Joon-ho follows the hard luck Kims as they insinuate themselves into the lives of the aristocratic Parks. Hired as servants, the Kims’ machinations get more ambitious. The audience quickly wonders, can the host survive the infestation? A simpler, clumsier script would have the Parks as cardboard spoiled villains and the Kims as some kind of Robin Hoods. But Bong takes a more three-dimen

Pride & Prejudice
D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen, Brenda Blethyn, Donald Sutherland, Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Tom Hollander, Judi Dench. (PG, 127 min.)

This fresh adaptation shakes the dust off Jane Austen’s novel and gives it a good airing out. The result is a witty and lovelornish skirmish of the sexes that exceeds all expectations. The prickly courtship between the headstrong Lizzie Bennett (Knightley) and the sullen Mr. Darcy (Macfadyen) is one of English literature’s great romantic entanglements, and this screen version of Pride & Prejudice imbues their rocky relationship with a vitality that’s missing from most paint-by-number love stories. While the class and gender stratificat

1917
D: Sam Mendes; with George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman, Mark Strong, Benedict Cumberbatch, Andrew Scott, Colin Firth, Claire Duburcq, Nabhaan Rizwan. (R, 119 min.)

Sam Mendes’ 1917, a grueling and reverential depiction of one run across no-man’s-land in World War I, is both a vivid re-creation of a time and a film that could only have been made now. It is, in many ways, a small story. Two British lance corporals – Schofield (MacKay) and Blake (Chapman) – are sent on an urgent mission to call off a doomed attack. They have only their feet to carry them across this blasted, muddy landscape. Basing the story on family history, Mendes’ terrifying view of conflict is poetic and tragic, dreamlike without the forced stoner surrealism that too often afflicts war dramas. It is instead impressionistic, most especially in its highly structured cinematography by Roger Deakins. A story of good men trying to prevent a dangerous attack made by ill-informed leaders, based on bad information and bloody intentions? This is no perfect piece, but a warning. (01/10/2020)

★★★★
Richard Whittaker
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Little Women
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★★
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67
Location, Location, Location

Lake Travis Film Festival brings the fest experience to Lakeway and Bee Cave  BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

If there’s one thing we’re not short of in the 512, it’s film festivals. “It’s not that unique in Austin,” said Kat Albert, who has just added another to the calendar as founder and festival director for the first ever Lake Travis Film Festival. It’s a celebration of local and international cinema, yet what makes her festival different is that old real estate saying: location, location, location. Most of the big and small festivals in Austin stick to the same handful of central venues, and that’s why Albert saw an opportunity to bring indie cinema to the huge and growing populations in Lakeway and Bee Cave.

Next weekend’s inaugural festival is the result of two years of groundwork-laying, of special screenings and introductory events, “just to educate people on what to expect from independent cinema,” said Albert. However, even seasoned Austin cineastes may be pleasantly surprised by the nature of LTFF. “Every film festival has its own personality,” said Albert, and she hopes this will be unique in the local scene while still amplifying the Austin dedication to bringing quality indie and international cinema to eager audiences. Many of Austin’s festivals are defined by their niche booking – films from a certain geographic region or genre – but Albert and her team wanted to define this first outing by the experience. So they looked to gatherings like the Austin Food + Wine Festival and destination film festivals. “I wanted to take some of the things that I loved about other film festivals and bring them here,” said Albert. “We’re a little bit like the Hamptons because we move around, and we’re a little bit like Napa because of the food and drink opportunities for our attendees.” That’s why they’re not selling individual tickets, but instead only memberships for the entire weekend. “We want it to be an experiential festival. We want people to stay in our hotels; we’ve got a shuttle van running between the hotels and the venues, and we want to have an immersive experience.”

But, of course, it all comes down to the films and programming. Aside from the parties, there will be script table reads and a day of behind-the-scenes education with experts in set design and stunts, plus a guide to practical special effects by Meredith Johns of local FX house Hawgfly. On the film side, part of the schedule involves spotlighting Austin films that have already played other Austin festivals but may be new to this audience, like Bud Force and John Langmore’s Cowboys and Elena Weinberg and Duncan Coo’s A Room Full of Nothing, both of which played at Austin Film Festival last year. “Not everything we’re showing is a premiere,” Albert said, “but it’s a premiere for our people.” That said, there will also be brand-new titles like The Poster Boys, Bob Simmons’ tribute to the local artists of the 1970s and 1980s who designed all that memorable gig art. However, it’s not just about local cinema, and Albert is particularly proud of hosting the U.S. debut of Family in the Bubble. She described the Korean documentary as a real-life Parasite, dealing with the same themes of class. “It’s this incredible cinema verité piece about social strata in Korea, just told through beautiful storytelling.”

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS

THURSDAY 2/20
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (2019) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
COLOR OUT OF SPACE (2020) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND (2004) Bad Romance. Screening in 35mm. (**) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.
LIGHT FROM LIGHT (2019) D: Paul Harrill. (NR, 82 min.) Actor Josh Wiggins and producer Kelly Williams will participate in a Q&A following the screening. (**) @Esquina Tango, 8pm.
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: CYRANO DE BERGERAC (2020) Fathom Events. James McAvenney (Atonement) returns to the stage in an inventive new adaptation of Cyrano de Bergerac, captured live from London’s West End. @Metropolitan, CM Southpark Meadows, Arbor, 7pm.
SPACES
THE EXPRESS (2008) D: Gary Fleder. (PG, 129 min.) Black History Month. (***) @Terrazas Branch Library, 1pm.
FRIDAY 2/21
AMÉLIE (2001) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
SATURDAY 2/22
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (2019) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
THE GOONIES (1985) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
SUNDAY 2/23
AN AMERICAN IN PARIS (1951) Sunday Sings. There will be props and singing along with Gershwin’s classic tunes. @Alamo Mueller, 3:45pm.
BOLSHOI BALLET: SWAN LAKE (2020) (NR, 165 min.) Fathom Events. Tchaikovsky’s essential masterpiece returns with a new cast for the most beloved ballet in the classical canon. @Arbor, Metropolitan, Cinemark 20, 11:55am.
CHOOSE YOUR OWN PANCAKE Master Pancake. Bring a DVD or Blu-ray and a URL for the trailer of the movie you’d like to see MP lampoon. “The audience votes, and improvised hijinks ensue.” @Alamo Ritz, 3:30pm.
COLOR OUT OF SPACE (2020) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.
THE COLOR PURPLE (1985) Fathom Events. 35th anniversary screening. @Arbor, Cinemark 20, CM Southpark Meadows, 1pm.

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 March 6 issue is Monday, Feb. 24. 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 Kat McNevins (special screenings): specialscreens@austinchronicle.com.
THE GODFATHER (1972) @Highland, 1, 6pm.

THE GOLD DIGGERs (1985) D: Sally Potter. (NR, 89 min.) Newly Restored. Made with an all-women crew, it counterpoints a woman’s journey to understand the value of money with an aging film star’s realizations about male ideas of beauty. Starring Colette LaFont and Julie Christie in the two key roles. Sunday screening will be introduced by Nancy Schiesari, who was first assistant camera for the film.

@AFS Cinema, 6, 9pm.

LEs INNIVISIBLEs (2019) D: Louis-Julien Petit. (NR, 102 min.) AFA Cine-Club. Writer/director Petit’s second feature is a touching true chronicle of France’s female underclass, mixing a veteran cast with several nonprofessional actresses. @AFS Cinema, 1pm.

MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000 LIVE Join creator and original host Joel Hodgson in his final tour, and the world’s greatest – and only – movie-riffing robots, Tom Servo, Crow, and Gypsy, as they take you on an exhilarating roller-coaster ride through some of the cheesiest films ever made. @Paramount Theatre, 7pm.

ODD SQUAD PBS Kids at the Alamo. @Alamo Mueller, 10am. (See Saturday.)

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925) Movie Party. Interact with the film with lighters, earplugs, roses, and of course, your very own Phantom mask. @Alamo Lakeline, 7pm.


UNCUT GEMS (2019) Last Chance. (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller, 7:30pm.

WEEKEND (2011) Love Stories. @AFS Cinema, 3:30pm.

THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES (2019) D: Alison Reid. (NR, 83 min.) A documentary profile of giraffe researcher Anne Dagg, one of the first people to ever observe and photograph giraffes. @North Village Library, 6:30pm.

@AFS Cinema, 4pm.

MONDAY 2/24

HIRED TO KILL (1990) D: Rico Mastorakis. (R, 91 min.) @Fist City. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (1986) Movie Party. @Alamo Mueller, 7pm.

MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO (1988) @Moviehouse. 7pm.

PRINCESS MONONOKÉ (1997) @Highland, 8pm.

THE ROOM (2003) Movie Party. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES (2019) @AFS Cinema, 4:15pm. (See Sunday.)

ZOMBIELAND (2009) Murray Mondays. (*) @Fist City, 6:30pm.

SPACES

BACHELOR MONDAYS Watch Party. Gather to heckle the contestants (or root for ur faves). Free tasting of Ethyl Ambrosia’s boozy vegan gel shots during the screening, because wine not. @Irene’s, Mondays until season finale, 6pm.

BACHELOR WATCH PARTY Watch the show on the big screen at the East Austin Hotel, plus specials on bottles o’ wine. @The Upside Rooftop Bar, 6pm.


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

CHRON EVENTS EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE IN AUSTIN AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/EVENTS

TUESDAY 2/25

HOWLS MOVING CASTLE (2005) FanFest. Featuring free souvenir glassware and a special menu. (*) @Fix Brewhouse, 6:30, 7:15pm.

LOVE LIVE FEST Fathom Events. Captured live from Saitama Super Arena in Saitama, Japan, on Jan. 18. @Gateway, Cinemark 20, Westgate, 7pm.

ORLANDO (1993) D: Sally Potter (PG-13, 94 min.) Homo Arigato. Freely adapted by writer/director Potter from Virginia Woolf’s 1928 novel, the movie attempts nothing less than the deconstruction of Western civilization’s patriarchal underpinnings, with Tilda Swinton as the title character who appears in nearly every shot. (*) @AFS Cinema, 7:30pm.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE (2005) Champagne Cinema. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo Lakeline, 7pm.

RUBY (1977) D: Curtis Harrington. (R, 85 min.) @Alamo S. Lamar, 9:30pm.

SPARTACUS (1960) Signature Program. @AFS Cinema, 6:30pm. (See Saturday.)

WEDNESDAY 2/26


A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (2019) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB (1985) @Moviehouse, Moviehouse & Eatery Lantana Place, 7pm.

AN EVENING OF AWARD-WINNING SHORTS AFF Audience Award Series. Screening of the four winning short films from the 2019 Austin Film Festival. @Alamo Village, 7pm.

THE GODFATHER (1972) @Highland, 1, 6pm.

THE GOLD DIGGERs (1983) Newly Restored. @AFS Cinema, 6pm. (See Sunday.)

KNIVES OUT (2019) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.

NATIONAL LAMPOON’S ANIMAL HOUSE (1978) @Fix Brewhouse, 6:30pm.

NOWHERE (1997) D: Gregg Araki. (R, 85 min.) Weird Wednesday. (*) @Alamo S. Lamar, 9:30pm.


SPACES

JOKER (2019) Weeknight Cinema. Here’s your chance to see one of the top films of 2019 for free! (*) @North Village Library, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 2/27

COLOR OUT OF SPACE (2020) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:30pm.

GIRLFRIEND, BOYFRIEND (2012) D: Yang Ya-che. (NR, 106 min.) Partner Events. When three rebellious students leave their hometown to pursue their lifelong dreams in the big city, their relationships start to face the pressures of real life as the 1980s Taiwanese sociopolitical reformation movement unfolds in the background. @AFS Cinema, 3:30pm.


PRIDE & PREJUDICE (2005) Champagne Cinema. @Alamo Mueller, 7pm.

SPACES

BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985) 35th Anniversary. Join the new Blue Starlite Drive-In for their soft opening day. @Blue Starlite Round Rock, 7pm.

GOOK (2017) D: Justin Chon. (NR, 94 min.) AARC Film Series. In honor of Black History Month, AARC presents this heartfelt film exploring families and relationships between Korean and African American communities, set during the L.A. riots. Complimentary tea, popcorn, and gimbap (Korean seaweed rice rolls) provided. (*) @Asian American Resource Center, 7pm.

INVICTUS (2009) D: Clint Eastwood. (PG, 134 min.) Black History Month. (*) @Terrazas Branch Library, 1pm.

PARTNERS: Denny Horestein. A feature-length documentary about relationships both wild and conventional. @gryDUCK Gallery, 7:30pm.

THE RIVER AND THE WALL (2019) D: Ben Masters. (NR, 97 min.) A Wide Lens on Our Southern Border. Screening of the U.S.-Mexico border wall documentary followed by a discussion with the cast and crew. (*) @Southwestern University, 5pm.

TALES FROM THE HOOD (1995) (*) @Ruiz Branch Library, 6:30pm.

OFFSCREEN

CONVERSATIONS IN FILM: STORYTELLING THROUGH MUSIC Austin Film Festival presents this panel for composers and music supervisors to discuss their roles in the film world and their processes for telling stories through music. Sun, Feb. 23, 2-4pm. The Clay Pit, 1601 Guadalupe, 512/322-5131. $5. www.austinfilmfestival.com.

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SHOWTIMES

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE INTZ
320 E. SIXTH, 512/961-7020.

MASTER PANCAKE: AMÉLIE.
MASTER PANCAKE: CHOOSE YOUR OWN PANCAKE.
MASTER PANCAKE: CHOOSE YOUR OWN PANCAKE.

MOVIE PARTY: THE KING.
MOVIE PARTY: THE KING.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKEHILLS
14032 U.S. HWY. 183 N., BLVD. F, 512/257-2707.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: Fri, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30.
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: Fri, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30.

AFS CINEMA
6406 N. 1ST., 512/479-0343.

INDIE HEME: ARNO (ARNO).

BECOMING LESLIE: Fri, 4:00; Tue, 4:15; Thu (2/27), 4:30; Sat, 1:30, 10:00; Sun, 8:45; Wed, 4:00; Thu (2/27), 10:15.

PANTRAY ENGLISH LITTLE GIRLFRIEND, BOYFRIEND (Thu (2/27), 3:30). NEWLY RESTORED: THE GOLD DIGGERS: Sun-Wed, 6:00.

AFA CINE-CLUB: LES INVISIBLES: Sun, 1:30, 5:30.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTIN STUDIOS: MISS CONGENIALITY: Sat, 7:00.

HOMO ARIGATO: ORLANDO: Tue, 7:30.

ESSENTIAL CINEMA: SIDNEY POITIER: THE MEASURE OF A MAN. PARKS: (Thu (2/27), 7:30).

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE: Fri, 4:35, 6:15, 9:30; Sun, 4:35, 6:15, 9:30; Thu (2/27), 4:30, 9:30.

THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFE: Sun, 4:00, Mon, 4:45.

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MUSIC FESTIVAL WRISTBANDS ON SALE FOR $169
GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST

SXSW MUSIC FESTIVAL WRISTBANDS GRANT ACCESS TO THE GAMING EXPO MARCH 19-21, PLUS SECONDARY ACCESS TO SXSW COMEDY SHOWCASES MARCH 16-21, WRISTBAND HOLDERS CAN CATCH A RIDE ON THE SXSW FESTIVAL SHUTTLE - A FREE CIRCULATING BUSTOON BETWEEN THE AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER AND MOST FESTIVAL VENUES.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
18TH OVER AUSTIN AT HILTON GARDEN INN
1:00pm Joaquin (Austin TX)
2:00pm Deejay (Austin TX)
3:00pm The Wonder (Austin TX)
4:00pm Daddy (Austin TX)
5:00pm Kids (Austin TX)

CONTINENTAL CLUB
1:00pm Moons (Austin TX)
2:00pm Clouds (Austin TX)
3:00pm The White Stripes (Austin TX)
4:00pm The Black Keys (Austin TX)
5:00pm Queens of the Stone Age (Austin TX)

LATITUDE 30
8:00pm The Whiskey Toes (Austin TX)
9:00pm The Midnight Specials (Austin TX)
10:00pm The Black Keys (Austin TX)
11:00pm The Black Keys (Austin TX)

VIKTÖR ÖSTROM @ DRINK'S MARKET
11:00am Mountains (Austin TX)
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**PARKER JAZZ CLUB**

**9:00pm**
- The Skatalites (Jamaica)
- Kamasi Washington (Los Angeles, CA)

**10:00pm**
- Lonnie Liston Smith (Boston, MA)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**11:00pm**
- Michael Kiwanuka (London, UK)
- Donnie Avila (Los Angeles, CA)

**12:00am**
- The Next Generation (Boston, MA)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**LUGOIL**

**9:00pm**
- Daisy May (Montreal, QC)
- The Lemon Twigs (Delaware, USA)

**10:00pm**
- Sam Amidon (Maine, USA)
- The Indigo Girls (Georgia, USA)

**11:00pm**
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**12:00am**
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**SAXON PUB**

**9:00pm**
- The Skatalites (Jamaica)
- Kamasi Washington (Los Angeles, CA)

**10:00pm**
- Lonnie Liston Smith (Boston, MA)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**11:00pm**
- Michael Kiwanuka (London, UK)
- Donnie Avila (Los Angeles, CA)

**12:00am**
- The Next Generation (Boston, MA)
- The Comet is Coming (London, UK)

**12:30am**
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**ELEPHANT ROOM**

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<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>Roll Brown (San Diego CA)</td>
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<td>Tom Keifer (San Francisco CA)</td>
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**FLAMINGO CANTINA**

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<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>TR莲 (Shanghai)</td>
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<td>Marcus Rectors (Melbourne AU)</td>
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**FLATSTOCK STAGE AT AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER**

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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Nathan Morris (Austin TX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Old Crow Medicine Show (Nashville TN)</td>
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**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

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**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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<td>SPARTAN (San Antonio TX)</td>
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**ENGLAND**

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**REFERENCES**

Check out Capital Metro service at CapMetro.org/ride. MetroRapid and MetroRail take you into the heart of downtown Austin for SXSW, and High-Frequency & Late-Night service runs throughout the CapMetro App, seven days a week. Plan your trip, get real-time departures and buy passes with the CapMetro App.
### PARKER JAZZ CLUB

- **Address**: 422 E 8th Ave (Denver CO)
- **Events:**
  - **12:00am**: Monika Paulsen (Austria)
  - **8:00pm**: E.L. McHargue
  - **9:00pm**: Landis Lane
  - **10:00pm**: Will按摩

### PALM DOG BAR

- **Address**: 112 E 16th Ave (Denver CO)
- **Events:**
  - **7:00pm**: The Borden Gang
  - **8:00pm**: The High Water Mark
  - **9:00pm**: Paul Simon & The Band
  - **10:00pm**: Bigfoot Betty

### HANDLEDROP ROOFTOP

- **Address**: 112 E 16th Ave (Denver CO)
- **Events:**
  - **6:00pm**: The Handmade
  - **7:00pm**: The High Water Mark
  - **8:00pm**: The Borden Gang
  - **9:00pm**: Paul Simon & The Band

### VICTORIAN ROOM AT THE DRISKILL

- **Address**: 112 E 16th Ave (Denver CO)
- **Events:**
  - **7:00pm**: The Handmade
  - **8:00pm**: The Borden Gang
  - **9:00pm**: Paul Simon & The Band
Black History Month Boogie

Beginning in the late Nineties, local DJ Shani Hebert broadcast deep house cuts as Chicago radio program The Grove Temple. Illinois presence Dee Jay Alicia, emphasizing the soulful sounds of house, frequently stopped by as a guest. The two pros, plus local funk expressionist DJ I Wanna Be Her (aka Ericka Herod), load in on Saturday at Empire Control Room for the fifth annual United, a “Black History Month Boogie”.

“It was a party in the beginning, with all different genres of bands,” explains Hebert, a Chicago native. “I was like, ‘Well, people in Austin like to dance and drink to house music, they just don’t know what’s it’s called.’ First I changed it to all black DJs, and this time it’s all black women.”

Presented with urban beautification nonprofit Raasin in the Sun and local artist Miriam Conner, the party expands from Sahara Lounge to Empire Control Room. Hebert hopes for the roomier locale to better accommodate club enthusiasts with walking aides, like herself. She grooves with a cane after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

BossBabes hosts a “Chill & Chat” panel with all three DJs on Friday, 7-9pm, at the Line Hotel. Singer Ndidi Agharaj of Trouble in the Streets moderates. Hebert says the trio represents cross-generational talent.

“It’s basically us telling our individual stories, and what it means to be a black woman in a sea of white men playing house music,” explains Hebert.

As for her advice to newbies, the DJ urges crate digging.

“Cambodian folk songs, Polish hip-hop, Brazilian jazz ... Listen to it all,” she says. “To maintain longevity, you need a solid foundation.”

Sound Enforcement Snafus

Following years of slinging cocktails on Rainey Street, Half Step stopped broadcasting music outside over the PA. in January after multiple businesses on the nightlife strip received sound citations for outdoor sounds after 10:30pm. Although no decibel level is written into city code for post-curfew hours (after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays), patio playlists running ‘til close has long been accepted practice in the area.

“It’s hurting business,” explains Doug Leveton, events coordinator at Half Step’s indoor stage. “We’ve seen $500 to $1,000 a night missing on sales. And the bands are missing out on listenership, because we use music to pull people in.”

Also a music commissioner, Leveton expressed concerns at the Feb. 4 meeting. His venue’s experience matches multiple accounts of stepped-up sound enforcement on Sixth Street and Red River throughout January 2020. After conferring with City Entertainment Services manager Brian Block, Leveton restarted music over the patio speakers at Half Step – only to be cited again for the same issue again last Monday.

Four violations within 45 days could lead to the suspension of Half Step’s Outdoor Music Venue permit, required for upcoming Sunday daytime concerts throughout the spring.

“We’ve done everything we can to comply, and we’re still getting citations,” adds Leveton. Music Venue Alliance Austin head Rebecca Reynolds says Austin Police Department officers received special training in sound enforcement, resulting in uptick citations. The venue advocate would like to see enforcement transferred to Music Office staff, as well as use of sound meters for real-time readings. These recommendations and more were laid out in a June study commissioned by the Economic Development Department.

“We would rather APD focus on safety issues, and let someone in the Music Office handle sound,” says Reynolds. “We need someone who understands the nuances of venues’ different permits and can work with them toward compliance.”

The Music Commission requested representatives from APD at the upcoming March 2 meeting, and Reynolds hopes for updates from city staff on last year’s Amplified Sound Compatibility Recommendations.

CROSSTALK

THE NEW YORK TIMES' popular popcast questioned local son Gary Clark Jr.’s deservedness of prominent slot at the Grammys, naturally leading to outcry from a local citizen, who wrote: “In Austin, Gary Clark Jr. is the most famous musician – to the point where the Dixie Chicks are opening for him.” The inquiry prompted on-air Googling of the Voices for Justice Benefit at ACL Live, with the Chicks booked for a special appearance. To settle the score, the Dallas trio came out halfway through Clark’s Feb. 6 set to collab on just three songs, beginning with “Not Ready to Make Nice.” I totally agree with NY Times culture reporter Joe Coscarelli’s assessment: “That sounds like a warm-up gig for the return of the queens.”

A DAY IN THE VINES inaugurates with a star-studded lineup for Mother’s Day weekend in Spicewood. After the Revivalists lead Saturday, Texas superstar Norah Jones tops a picture-perfect lineup of Patty Griffin, Mavis Staples, and Sir Woman for Sunday, May 10. Also on the C3 Presents boutique fest bracket, growing EDM annual Camp Nowhere returns to Circuit of the Americas with heavyweights Bassnectar, Rezz, and Jai Wolf. The touring party quickly rose to larger locales after a launch at Stubb’s in 2018.

Bring Home Brenden Foster

On Feb. 5, Brenden “Chameleon King” Foster arrived at Austin’s Hippie Hollow Park, one of the 25-year-old’s favorite places to meditate. Video shows the local musician, known as ChmInKng, returning with snacks from 7-Eleven around noon. Car abandoned, he’s not been seen since.

Foster’s sister Fadedelah Muhyee, aka local musician Queen Deelah, shared an update via Facebook Live last Sunday, Feb. 16.

“We are sending love to Chameleon, and just wanting to bring him home,” she said. “A lot of this stuff still isn’t making sense, but we are pushing to find our brother.”

Over the past two weeks, boats, dogs, divers, and drones have searched the area. The 5-foot-10-inch musician, with a slender build, may be wearing a nose ring. When last seen entering the park, Foster had on a black coat and black jeans.

Siblings Foster and Muhyee, originally from Oakland, relocated to Austin five years ago. A GoFundMe supports resources for the search, alongside a Foster’s charismatic rendition of Al Green’s “Let’s Stay Together” at a local concert.

Austin label Keyzstreet Music, supporters of Alesia Lani, helped uplift Foster’s music with production by Gary Clark Jr. keyboardist Jon Deas. Breezy, buoyant R&B like “LoveYaSelf” uphold Foster’s talent as a vocalist and knack for inspirational messaging. On latest track “Lost (Don’t Get),” he croons, “You’re worth so much more, and God has so much in store/ When your life feels like it’s hit the floor/ You gotta get back up.”

“He is a beautiful spirit, who has been on this journey of healing,” adds Muhyee. “You can hear it in his music. He puts out beautiful intentions, so I’m just asking you all to please help in any way that you can.”
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Walking in L.A.

And then writing about it locally, according to new Austinite Caroline Rose

BY RACHEL RASCOE

On Superstar, Caroline Rose follows a protagonist fueled by blind ambition en route to Los Angeles. Not coincidentally, after garnering acclaim for third album Loner in 2018, the singer planned her own California migration. Instead, she moved to Austin.

Here, drawn in by her girlfriend, Rose quietly crafted the bulk of Superstar.

“"The stuff I'm talking about in the album was happening in real time when I was making it," the energetic 30-year-old explains. "As funny as it is — because it's about this character moving to L.A. — it's such an Austin record."

Due March 6, Superstar continues work with Nashville’s New West Records, which at one point boasted an Austin office in its role as past and current arbiter of local talent spanning Alejandro Escovedo to Los Coast. Setting up the concept on opener “Nothing's Impossible,” the LP’s semiautobiographical lead receives a call to stardom from the Chateau Marmont hotel lobby. That begins an odyssey of inspirational choruses and buoyant synth-pop.

“The character in the album is a person that you can’t tell if you love or hate,” explains Rose. “I like that about them, because I waver between extremes.”

Under Rose’s celebrity scheme, lyrics tease at paranoia and fame’s fleeting nature, but outside its thematic binding, the new material sounds like real-life documentation of moving cross-country and converting a long-distance relationship into cohabitation. In fact, its author now counts herself a resident of Austin’s Bouldin Creek neighborhood – in a home shared by a veterinary technician and her two pit bulls. True to her monochromatic reputation, Rose pulls up to Elizabeth Street Café on a red bike, her face framed by chunky red glasses and a novelty red chili pepper necklace.

The staff knows her well enough to bring over pro bono macarons.

“The other day I was here, and my song came on,” she laughs, “It’s still really exciting to hear when you’re not expecting it. Like, ‘Whoa, this is so cool.’”

Bouncing with thoughts on how to configure her expanded five-piece band for upcoming tours, she’s spent the last few days cooped up figuring out a MIDI guitar to trigger sleek studio sounds onstage. Rose would like to scale herself back to just one instrument for more active frontwoman theatrics. In past iterations, she dutifully slung her guitar diagonally over her back while playing keys.

Superstar marks her first largely self-recorded effort, helmed by Rose with a small cast of players in her 10-by-12-foot home studio. A friend of the Shakey Graves crew, the project manager at one point tasked engineer/Graves player Chris Boosahda with capturing drums in his Buda studio. The resulting instruments at times reach the dramatic heights of Tame Impala or St. Vincent.

Meanwhile, their benefactor notes Flaming Lips producer Dave Fridmann’s ability to “make things sound like they explode.”

“If I’m not steering the ship, I feel like it’s being taken out of my hands,” declares Rose. “Every time I’ve tried to do that, it hasn’t worked out. On my own, I’ve walked

CAROLINE ROSE

Superstar (New West)

By Rachel Rascoe

It now seems like another life: the moonlit alternative Americana of Caroline Rose’s promising 2014 debut, I Will Not Be Afraid. Her plunge into pop with 2018’s Loner only goes deeper with Superstar, where synthesizer melodies gleam over basslines that wouldn’t feel out of place on a Michael Jackson album, and deluxe hooks hit all the right neurons in your brain. Then there are the lyrics ... which identify LP No. 4 as a close cousin of feel-good pop: feel-weird pop. Communicated through one character with parallel existences and carried by Rose’s sardonic wit and delightful detailing, Superstar serves up a tale of big-headed ambitions and the snipe hunt for true love. It begins with a phone call from Los Angeles promptering a relocation, a breakup, and presumed Hollywood stardom. “Remain humble, not like all these fakers/ Always get bleacher seats sitting at the L.A. Lakers,” sings Rose on “Got to Go My Own Way.”

In a plot playing out over 11 tracks, the protagonist finds new adoration, becomes self-obsessed, co-conspires unhealthy relationships, gets replaced by her lover, and makes multiple brand new starts. In most of them, amour remains the seemingly unattainable goal. Amid echoy groove “Back at the Beginning,” the multi-instrumentalist espouses existential regret: “If I could do this again, I’d come back as a white flag and pacify my existence.” Conceptual grower, Superstar evolves stylistically as the playlist progresses. The front half, with “Nothing’s Impossible” and “Feel the Way I Want To,” gives the impression of candied beat pop, while side B ventures into dreamlike indie territory via “Pipe Dreams” and “I Took a Ride.” All together, a mischievous lyricist captures the new West.

“I’m poking fun at things about my personality I find to be really embarrassing and shameful,” reveals Rose. “It’s about ambition and wanting to build something big.”

“Every time I’ve tried to do that, it hasn’t worked out. On my own, I’ve walked...”

— Kevin Curtin
around this entire city listening to mixes and editing work.”

Walking, meaning multihour journeys around Austin, is a big thing for Rose. She strolls and dances across the country in her video for “Feel the Way I Want,” filmed on a 13-day road trip from California to Florida. Locally, the clip includes Rose spinning along South Congress in front of Güero’s Taco Bar.

A breakup anthem with a former self, the song rings with smooth defiance amid waves of keys as its author intones, “I took a pill and I hopped on a plane/ And I’m never ever looking back again.” On visits to L.A., Rose says her strolls have revealed a much-loved “seedy underbelly,” not to mention Scientology and alien conspiracists in tin foil hats. These lengthy foot travels also prompted the album’s cheeky exploration of pill-popping, Paris weekends, and extreme luxuriance.

“I’m poking fun at things about my personality I find to be really embarrassing and shameful,” reveals Rose. “It’s about ambition and wanting to build something big. On paper, that sounds great, but in practice, you have to be a dick a lot.

“You have to leave people who love you and make sacrifices that can look really ugly.”

She recounts being largely depressed during high school on Long Island, viewing her intense work ethic as a way out. After studying architecture at Wellesley College, the musician in her launched a career of twangy Americana while based in Burlington, Vt. Her more forthright, but still spunky, former self is preserved in a 2015 NPR Tiny Desk concert.

Most recently living in New York, Rose finds respite in Austin’s similarities to Burlington’s homegrown artistic community. Also, we uphold her all-important walk-and-bike-ability.

“Wherever the weirdos go is where I’ll probably always feel most comfortable,” she says. “There’s something special about artistic scenes that aren’t about just getting rich and famous. People need to stay connected to why we make art in the first place.”

Under its outlandish Hollywood concept, Rose’s new album levies a genuine argument for artistic expression. Littered with funny turns of phrase, it’s not as outwardly kooky as synth-pop lead-up Loner, widely regarded for clever satire woven into cinematic pop. For Rose, Superstar presents another grand experiment.

“I’m on this weird journey with the character in the album, which is 100 percent based on my life,” she decides. “It ends, and you don’t really know if this person has gone crazy or had some kind of realization. I still don’t know how it’s going to turn out.”

Following the March 6 release of Superstar, Caroline Rose plays the New West Records showcase March 20 at Mohawk during SXSW. The singer also plays Antone’s on Sunday, April 26.
Texas Platters

... AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
X: The Godless Void and Other Stories (Dine Alone Records)

"That’s to say, The Openings and Closings" rings in Trail of Dead’s return after six long years. Creeping Tibetan chant hypnosis, it births a grievous European symphony of electricity fading toward chamber silence. “All Who Wonder” picks right up with slabs of distortion grinding against swashes of serpentine wah-wah and magma-dripped solos. Two tunes into 10th platter X: The Godless Void and Other Stories, the veteran Austin institution achieves full circle career transcendence behind core co-leaders Conrad Keely and Jason Reece. Summation of their best recorded moments, X echoes the pulverizing claustrophobia of Source Tags & Codes (2002) and sheer aggression of bone-crushing 1999 debut Madonna, erecting walls of drill-bit noise and floating ennui codas. Although the local quartet’s legacy teeters between alternative metal and indie rock, fleeting moments of pop gleam on “Something Like This” and “Don’t Look Down.” The former rides an acoustic swash of serpentine wah-wah and silence. “All Who Wonder” picks right up of electricity fading toward chamber Trail of Dead’s return after six long (Dine Alone Records)

ME & MR. CIGAR
by Gibby Haynes
SoHo Teen, 256 pp., $15.99

Nothing better than the coming-of-age story of a boy and his dog. Unless, of course, the pup is immortal, telepathic, and supernatural in every sense of the word. In fact, it may not be a canine at all. From the sunset soul of Butthole Surfers frontman Gibby Haynes stems a young adult tale of wonder, peculiarity, and adventure of the highest degree: Me & Mr. Cigar. Enter Oscar Lester, a 17-year-old trying to make amends with his sister Rachel who fled after his beloved pooch Mr. Cigar bit off her hand. Since his sibling and pet are all that’s left of the family pictures, Oscar’s only wish is to sew back the trust the mutt betrayed. Naturally, evil forces must be reckoned with lest one or both of the dynamic duo meet their demise. Comprised of extremely short chapters paired with illustrations meant to crawl through the cracks of your sleeping mind, the singer’s debut novel chips away reality and time suddenly loses meaning. Much like Surfers’ tunes, each scene drops an acid trip variant that’s either pure bliss or downright nerve-wracking – and includes a climax no one saw coming. Between the bindings of Me & Mr. Cigar dwells a strange chain of events indeed, but profligate, tangible fantasy is what indie nation has come to expect from the wild heart of this Native Texan.

VINYL BIN
BY RAOUl HERNANDEZ

DANIEL JOHNSTON
Chicago 2017 (dBpm Records)

Drop the needle on this blue-star-dappled clear vinyl and out warbles a voice like bag of marbles just waking up. If you’re experiencing it for the first time, be prepared, because wax witchcrafts last forever. Petroleum-only limited edition, Chicago 2017 documents a rehearsal (the Loft) and show (the Vic) from the Texan (1961-2019) song savant’s final roadtrip. Backed by Tweedy – Wilco helmsman Jeff Tweedy, son Spencer Tweedy (d), Darin Gray (b), Jim Elkinson (g), and MVP keyman/auxiliary strummer Liam Cunningham – this audio recovery rolls maudlin opener “The Story of an Artist” behind exquisitely pointillist backing. “Like a Monkey in a Zoo” then gets up a head of steam with a six-string hook as instantly recognizable as the moment Wilco began adapting Woody Guthrie on Mermaid Avenue. Hail another such union fusion – and neither Tweedy needs to sing a note! Vulnerability specter “Casper the Friendly Ghost” caps the moment, whereas Loft extract “Hey Joe” misses the crackle of a live audience. No joke this sixpiece, whose second knockout seals side A: beatific tap, tap, tapping on “Wronged Shoes” warms up head-snapping fraternal twin “Cold Hard World” (“of no”), whose “Imagine”-like pace and poise (“I met a fireman who said you never forget burning flesh”) flows dopamine. Johnston’s childlike lack of emotional filters stagers until the end. Side two holds that line atop two iterations of “Funeral Home,” prescient pop acting as harbinger: “Got me a coffin, shiny and black/ Going to the funeral home and I’m never coming back,” to which its author adds, “Billions and billions of people have already died. You too will die. Sing along with us, won’t you.” Between the casual Revolver crackle in “Girl of My Dreams,” Lennon & McCartney lullaby “I’m So Tired,” and Sgt. Pepper’s shoe-in “Speeding Motorcycle,” DJ nation will lift their voices all right. “Ready to go to the comic book store?” asks Johnston at the last, after the “Funeral Home” prep jolts a nervy lifeforce. “I think that was a good one to end on,” agrees Tweedy Sr.
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Big Bill, Go Fever, Fastball, Bright Light Social Hour, Megafauna, Jordan Moser, Como Los Movies, Croy & the Boys, Grace Rowland, Van Mary, and many more begin at 4pm both days.

A fundraiser stacking more than 30 local acts stumps for independent thinker and political adherent Bernie Sanders, 78, who remains in hot pursuit of the presidency. Transparent singer-guitarist Christelle Bofale performs on day one. The 22-year-old confirms that she jumped at the opportunity to join the bill organized by Tim Regan from Nine Mile Records.

“Bernie is the only candidate I feel is really trying to benefit all people and not just one specific group,” the Congolese American offers. “It’s cool I can play my songs and have funds from that show benefit that campaign.”

Bofale said the junior U.S. senator from Vermont will receive her vote come election time. Outside of five-song EP Swim Team, the San Antonio-born, Austin-based artist hasn’t posted much music online. Released this week, “Miles” begins a trail of Easter eggs from Bofale in 2020. The new track carries on the multi-layered acoustic guitar and loose song structure approach prevalent on last May’s extended play. According to Bofale, she picks every note of a chord rather than strumming it to create an atmospheric soundscape that’s soothing in spite of occasional trips into a mental absy.

“I like to kind of create a weightless, boundless environment for the listener. A world that you can navigate,” says the genre-fluid vocalist.

Work continues on a debut album, but a 2020 release may not occur. Still, the obscure circumstances that inspired the creation of Swim Team seem miles and miles ago on Bofale’s itinerary. Thanks to friends and therapy, things continue to improve as she looks back at her first project fondly.

“I think I’m heading toward complete and total honesty with who I am,” she reveals.

— Derek Udensi

NO IDEA FESTIVAL

Dadalab/Ana Lark Center/Cloud Tree Studios, Thursday 20 – Saturday 22

No surprise queercore punks Pansy Division buoy up against their 30th anniversary this year. Think back to 1991 and the industrywide punk rock rebound that famously spawned queer-centric pioneers the Dead Kennedys. Jon Ginoli and Chris Freeman still play their 12th LP under the Destroyer moniker, which writhes under Reece Deeter’s witchy vocal hollering and concussive drumming. Originally Califomian Emma Ruth Rundle reiterated a known fact: her literate, post-indie guitar rock can fill a room. Now factor in two decades of Swedish progressive hardcore and ambient sludgy from headliners Cult of Luna. September’s seventh LP A Dawn to Fear, the Scandinavians’ first in six years, landed the tortured sextet’s most acclaimed face-peeler.

— Raoul Hernandez

MARY WILSON

One World Theatre, Friday 21

Founder and longest-running member of Motown flagship the Supremes, Michigan-born Mary Wilson, 75, embodies the post-war migration of Southern blacks into urban centers of industry like Detroit. When she helped christen the LBJ Library’s anniversary exhibit on the Motor City imprint last year, Wilson’s regal charisma and girlish showbiz smarts dazzled without ever singing a note of Supremes No. 1s including “Where Did Our Love Go,” “Baby Love,” and “You Can’t Hurry Love.”

Two shows: 7 & 9:30pm.

— Raoul Hernandez

DISTORTED PONY

Lost Well, Saturday 22

Steve Albini-produced LPs Punishment Room and Instant Winner remain crème de la crème of early-Nineties noise. Behind nihilistic throats, oil drum percussion, and sparkling guitar, the L.A. crew cross paths with Austin’s noisy groove diggers Suckling, whose organ-wielding frontman Efras Reynolds lends distinct drama to their sound.

Lazer Fire opens.

— Kevin Curtin

ILE, LESLY REYNAGA

Antone’s, Sunday 23

GLEAMING WITH the political bedlam of her home Puerto Rico, Ileana Cabra Jolger outputs an Afro-Caribbean maelstrom of congas and horns while wielding historical wordsmithing on album Amadura. Meanwhile, as her lite Latin rhythms coalesce with Shakira transcendence, local Lesly Reynaga traverses a cultural fusion on sophomore EP Dual Passport.

— Alejandro Ramirez

DESTROYER

Mohawk, Wednesday 26

Two weeks after fellow Canadians the New Pornographers posted up at Emo’s, the Neil Young to their Mamas & the Papas – Dan Bejar - pimps his 12th LP under the Destroyer moniker, Have We Met. Synthesized pop for the 21st century, its New Wave bounce and digital sheen commingle another Merge Records one of a kind. In the Neko Case role, ex-local Eleanor Friedberger supports with always contemporary beats and wit.

— Raoul Hernandez

PANSY DIVISION

Mohawk, Thursday 27

No surprise queercore punks Pansy Division bump up against their 30th anniversary this year. Think back to 1991 and the industriwyde mushroom cloud of indie rock, hip-hop, and punk – especially in the band’s origin city of San Francisco, which famously spawned queer-centric pioneers the Dead Kennedys. Jon Ginoli and Chris Freeman still lead the Panzer division spin-off, seven LPs strong and a seminal legacy act for the free hearts of modern rainbow culture.

— Raoul Hernandez
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MAY 3
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PATRIE PIKE
9PM

JO JAMES
10PM

BRODIE LANE
6PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

DALTON DOMINO
9PM

JACK BARKSDALE
11PM

DENNY FREEMAN
6PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

NAKIA’S BIRTHDAY PARTY
8PM

SETH WALKER
10PM

BOBBY WHITLOCK
& COCO CARMEL
9PM

GOODE SPRINGS
11:45PM

THE BELLE SOUNDS
3PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

THE RESENTMENTS
7:30PM

MISSION 2 MARS
10:30PM

Ulla Night of the Irish Invasion
5:00PM

JOHNNY NICHOLAS W/ DUKE ROBILLARD
3PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

LONELLYLAND
8:30PM

BOB FM PRESENTS: TEX-ZEP
6PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SUE FOLEY
8PM

JEREMY NAIL
10PM

DAVID GERISSON
4PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

WALT WILKINS & FRIENDS
10PM

PARKER CHAPIN
10PM

CORNELL HURD
6PM

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3TEN ACL LIVE Rhett Miller, Grady Spencer (8:30) • ANTONIO’S Reverend Horton Heat, the Buttertones, Piñata Protest, Deke Dickerson (8:00) • BANGER’S Teddy Long (7:00) • THE BARN Johnny Doise & the Ghost Rock Radio (8:00) • BARRACUDA The Blowies (single release), Zettajoule, Saint Lo Gun, Unpopular (10:00) • BATCH CRAFT BEER • KOLACHES Sup Batch? w/ DJ Holodeck (7:00) •

B.D. RILEY’S Daniel Doak (8:00) • BRASS TAP DOMAIN Candler Wilkinson (6:00) • BROKEN SPOKE The Deraliers (9:00), Western Express (6:00) • C-BOY’S JustMeIl (Jade Room) (10:00), Carson McHone, Berkshire Hounds, Sabrina Ellis & Graham Lowe (10:00), Suzanna Choffel (6:30) • CACTUS CAFE Izak Opazt, Austin Leonard Jones, Marijuana Sweet Tooth (8:30) • THE CAPITAL GRILLE Ange Kogutz (6:30)

THURSDAY 2/20
JAMES MCMURTRY • STEVE POLTZ • CEDRIC BURNSIDE • DELLA MAE • SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS • PO’ RAMBLIN’ BOYS • FOLK FAMILY REUNION • SOFIA MOCK

FRIDAY
ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES • TANYA TUCKER • JADE BIRD • RUSTON KELLY • STEEP CANYON RANGERS • DEVON GILFILLIAN • STEVE POLTZ • DELLA MAE • SIERRA FERRELL • URBAN PIONEERS • ROCK BOTTOM STRING BAND

SATURDAY
THE HEAD AND THE HEART • J.J. GREY & MOFO • SAM BUSH • SHINYRIBS • THE TRAVELIN’ MCCOURYS • JOSEPH • THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS • HIS GOLDEN MESSENGER • MOLLY TUTLE • CHARLEY CROCKETT • AMERICAN AQUARIUM • THE DEER KELSEY WALDON • HOGSLOP STRING BAND • JEREMIE ALBINO • DEVIN BAIZE • ELIJAH DELGADO

SUNDAY
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THU 2/20

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IZAAK OPATZ, CACTUS CAFE
WINONA WILDE, CAROUSEL LOUNGE
GIOVANNI & THE HIRED GUNS, CHEATHAM ST.
INGESTED, VISCERAL DISGORE, THE LAST TEN SECONDS OF LIFE, CABAL, I AM DESTRUCTION, COME & TAKE IT LIVE
THE DIRTY RAIN REVELERS, DRISKILL BAR
THREE, MEWITHOUTYOU, DRUG CHURCH, HOLY FAW, EMØ’S
BRAINORCHESTRA, EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM
DROP DEAD DANGEROUS, THE LOCAL OUTPOST
CLAYTON GARDNER, LONE STAR COURT
TELL RUNYUN, RUSTIC TAP
BBY KODIE, TRIPZY LEARY, SCRATCHHOUSE
JEFF BLACK, THE TOWNSEND
PLAQUE MARKS, BBIGGG, UNIT 108

FRI 2/21

SCARFACE, ANTONIO’S
LOWER DENS, AMI DANG, BARRACUDA

CHELY WRIGHT, CACTUS CAFE
NOIZU, CEDAR STREET COURTYARD
GRANT GILBERT, CHEATHAM ST.
BANDA LOS COSTENOS, LOS REMIS, TACO Y SU TRIANGULO CALENTO, COLISEUM
SPIRE, VARIALS, ORTHODOX, UNITY-TX, COME & TAKE IT LIVE
MAX STALLING, THE BROKEN SPOKE, COUPLAND DANCEHALL
ORENDA, DIRTY DOG BAR
SCIENCE COUNTRY, THE ELECTRIC CHURCH
VOICECOIL, UNICODE, MACHINE
ELVISAM
PINEGROVE, WHITNEY BALLEN, EMØ’S
AUTOGRAF, EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM
THE AGGROLITES, KUNG FU SOUND SYSTEM, FLAMINGO CANTINA
DAVID ADAM BRYNES, GRUENE HALL
PROBLEM WITH DRAGONS, NONCONFORMIST, HOLE IN THE WALL
ANDRIA ROSE, HOTEL VEGAS
LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY TRIO, LIVE OAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH (CEDAR PARK)
TOBY LOVE, BACHATA HEIGHTZ, KEWIN COSMOS, MALA VIDA
CBDB, KENDALL STREET COMPANY, OM, WOVENHAND, MOHawk
ALICIA STOCKMAN, NEWORDI, MARY WILSON, ONE WORLD THEATRE
CHRIS BERARDO, ONE-2-ONE BAR

SAT 2/22

RICHT MAGUIRE, OPEN INVITE
TONES & I, PHIL GOOD, PARISH
JOSEPH NEVILLE, RED HORN COFFEE
JACK BARKSDALE, SAXON PUB
DACK JANIELS, SCRATCHHOUSE
MADDIE MEDLEY, STATESIDE AT THE PARAMOUNT
Palm Ghosts, Valhalla

MARISELA, ACL LIVE
WALTER “WOLFMAN” WASHINGTON & IKE STUBBLEFIELD, ANTONIO’S
HAVE MERCY, FREDDY DISCO, SELFISH THINGS, YOUNG CULTURE, BARRACUDA
QUEEN OF CARNIVALS, BLACK SPARROW
JASON ROSS, SUNNY LAX, CEDAR STREET COURTYARD
MAX FLINN, CHEATHAM ST.
LLORA, CHEER UP CHARLIES
TREESHOUSE, BUBBA LOVE, FLAMINGO CANTINA
BO PHILLIPS BAND, JAKE WORTHINGTON, GRUENE HALL
MARCO SANTOS TRIO, HIGHBALL
MYTANT, HOTEL VEGAS
KELSI MUSIC, HOUSE WINE
JULIA HATFIELD, LONE STAR COURT
DISTORTED PONY, THE LOST WELL
FLACO ELIZALDE, MALA VIDA
HATCH, ONE-2-ONE BAR

CONTINUED ON P.86

CHRON EVENTS

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE IN AUSTIN

Austinchronicle.com/Events

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. ACTS ARE LISTED HEADLINER TO OPENER. SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SO PLEASE CALL CLUBS TO CONFIRM UNLESS START TIMES ARE PROVIDED WHERE KNOWN AND ARE PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. 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.
**THE CONTINENTAL CLUB**

![Image of the Continental Club logo]

**Web:** continentalclub.com

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**Thursday, February 20**
- Return to Planet Casper feat. Pat Byrne, Stephen Carolan, & Rich Brotherston
- Barfield the Tyrant of Texas Funk

**Friday, February 21**
- The Blues Specialists
- Holy Water
- The Selfless Lovers

**Saturday, February 22**
- Satin Moon feat. Ely Monkes, Thierry Legue, & Mike Rock
- Soulman Sam & the SMS Band

**Sunday, February 23**
- Crystal Finger
- Andean Magee's Girl Jam

**Monday, February 24**
- Einherfer
- Imperial Starlighters

**Tuesday, February 25**
- Bonnie Montgomery
- Mike Stinson

**Wednesday, February 26**
- Tom Ben Lindley
- James McMurtry
- Jon Dee Graham
- William Harries Graham

**Thursday, February 27**
- Casper Rawls & His Amazing Friends
- Barfield the Tyrant of Texas Funk

**Friday, February 28**
- Medicine Man Revival
- Kalu & the Electric Joint
- ThinkNoThink

**Saturday, February 29**
- Matinee 3pm John X Reed
- Tameca Jones
- Torino Black

**Sunday, March 1**
- Marshall Hood
- Willie Pipkin & Friends
- Heybale

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**In the Gallery**

- Doors at 8pm

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**C'Boy's Heart & Soul**

Happy Hour Specials!

**Monday, February 24**
- Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jimmie Vaughan
  - Fri.: Marshall Hood
  - Sat.: Strand of Oak

**Tuesday, February 25**
- Henri Herbert
  - 8:30pm

**Wednesday, February 26**
- Trube, Farrell, & Snizz
  - Matt Hubbard
  - John X Reed & Mighty Heerman
  - Speedy Sparks
  - Ross Gran & Bobbi Earl Smith

**Thursday, February 27**
- Dr. Job
  - 11:30pm
  - Berkshires Hounds
  - 6:30pm

**Friday, February 28**
- Soulman Sam and the S.M.S. Band
  - 10:30pm
  - Robert A. Kraft

**Saturday, February 29**
- "Guitar Grad" Pinkerton
  - 12am

**Sunday, March 1**
- B. Rock
  - 10:30pm
  - 3:30pm Chicken

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**Contact:**
- 1315 South Congress • 512-441-2444
- Open: Mon 6pm • Tue-Fri 4pm • Sat & Sun 3pm

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**Online:**
- www.cboys.com
- austinchronicle.com

**February 21, 2020**
- THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
FROM THURSDAY

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Ten Ass City (6:00)
COME & TAKE IT LIVE Ingested, Visceral Disgorge, the Last Ten Seconds of Life, Cabal, I Am Destruction, Athanatos (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Barfield the Tyrant (10:00), Return to Planet Casper feat. Pat Byrne, Stephen Carolan, Rich Brotherton (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Bonnie Whitmore (10:30), Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few (8:30)
DADALAB No Idea Festival day one (8:00)
DIRTY DOG BAR Lumberjack Mafia, the Band Bordertown, Andrew Stone (9:00)
DONN’S DEPOT Murphy’s Inlaws (9:00)
DRISKILL BAR The Dirty Rain Revelers (8:00), Anthony Garcia (6:00)
EDDIE V’S Blue Mint (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Adrian Ruiz Quintet (9:30), Mitch Watkins Trio (6:00)
EMO’S Thrice, Mewthoutyou, Drug Church, Holy Faw (7:00)
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Brainorchestra, Fushou, I’e Neuro, Oojjé, Bubs Rubino, Vrmn, Yo Daddy Doe, thebaldone, Zackery Golden & Friends, 3y-Pistfornt [control room] (9:00)
METSI Care launch party w/ Los Coast, Selfless Lovers, Furoso, Lord Menkai, Matt Ford [garage] (6:30)
EVANGELINE CAFE Grego Anderson’s Down & Out (7:00)
THE FAR OUT The Rubitors, the Octanes (7:30)
FEELS SO GOOD RECORDS Nick Fong (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Jamdown Thursday (9:00)
FRIENDS The Genders (11:00), Darius Jackson (7:30), the Southsiders (4:00)
GERALDINE’S Locally Grown Music w/ Big Wy’s Brass Band (9:30)
GIDDY UPS Open mic w/ Dewey Lyon (7:00)
GUERO’S The Johnathans (6:00)
HALCYON Hip-Hop Smoothie (10:00)
HALF STEP Frontin’ (9:30)
HIGHBALL Fingerpistol (8:00)
HIGHLAND LOUNGE The Brew (9:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Thr3s Away (album release), Deepen, Puppetoy, acoustic song swap w/ Dylan Disaster, Christophr Klink, Dave Armstrong, Mike Terry (8:00)
HOTEL SAN JOSE Cubby Sessions w/ Christelle Bofale (8:00)
HOTEL VEGAS Fools, UTV, the Freakout (10:00)
HUSON’S ON MERCER Alyssa Paige (9:00)
ICENHAUER’S DJ Eye Q (11:00), PDA (9:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE The Boleys (video release), Holy Death Trio, the Dead Coats, the Irons, Peach Almanac, Peppermint Kiss, MugDog, Sticky Nickel, Sci-Fi Country (7:00)
LAST CHANCE Janie Balderas Band (9:00)
LITTLE LONGHORN Alvin Crow & the Pleasant Valley Boys (8:30)
THE LOCAL OUTPOST Crawfish boil w/ Drop Dead Dangerous, Jonas Lorence Band (5:00)
LONE STAR COURT Clayton Gardner (9:00)
MERCER STREET DANCEHALL Joel Hofmann Band (8:00)

ROAD SHOWS CONTINUED FROM P.84

070 SHAKE, Paris
CHRIS BERARDO & THE DESBERARDO, Poodles
PROPHETS & OUTLAWS, Rustic Tap
SETH WALKER, Saxon Pub
JAZZ, HABSTRAKT, TYMAN, Stubb’s
SPIRAL EYE, OVERTHROW, Texas Mist
FRANK MARTIN GILLIGAN & JOE GAVITO, Threagirls
THE SHORTLIST, CALEB MABREY, COLE COLLINS, the Townsend
LAUREN ANDERSON, the Townsend
BLACK BELT EAGLE SCOUT, the Vortex
MONXX, JAGS, Vulcan Gas Co.
VINCENT NEIL EMERSON, the White Horse

SUN 2/23
ILE, Antoine’s
DRIVIN’ N CRYIN’, CONAN NEUTRON & THE SECRET FRIENDS, TONGUE PARTY, Barracuda
BUTTE, Cheer Up Charlie’s
LOS RENOVES, INNOVACION, LOS GAMMA DE MICHOACAN, Club Carnava
VALE OF PNATH, GOROD, WOLF KING, WARHEAD WREX, Come & Take It Live
IN SEARCH OF SOLACE, CALL IT HOME, Dirty Dog Bar
PITBULL, H-E-B Center at Cedar Park
PONCÉ, Hotel Vegas

JAKE PENROD & THE MILLION-DOLLAR COWBOYS, Little Longhorn
RANDY BROWN, RANDY PALMER, NeWorlDeLi
WISHBONE ASH, One World Theatre
KRISTY KRÜGER, One-2-One Bar
GANDHI’S GUN, REASON DEFINE, Parish
DUKE ROBILLARD, Saxon Pub
IFYA, YAS! Stubb’s
BENI BROSH, Vista Brewing
DAVEONXJAMES, Vulcan Gas Co.

MON 2/24
ILLITERATE LIGHT, SHANE T, Barracuda
PULLOVER, Cheer Up Charlie’s
MAC LETHAL, CRYPT, Come & Take It Live
MAD RANT, Hotel Vegas
AMELIA PRESLEY, Love Goat
TUATHA DEA, One-2-One Bar
RJEX ORANGE COUNTY, Stubb’s

TUE 2/25
HOWARD JONES ACOUTIC TRIO, 3ten ACL Live
ABBA MANIA, ACL Live
SIR J ASLING, Antoine’s
CROBOT, AEGES, LIKE MACHINES, THE JAB, Come & Take It Live

ROB MOIR, Kick Butt Coffee
BROCK ZEMAN, Riley’s Tavern
PEPPER, KASHD’ OUT, THE ELOWATERS, the Scoot Inn
REX ORANGE COUNTY, Stubb’s

WED 2/26
BROTHER ALI, OPEN MIKE EAGLE, DJ LAST WORD, Antoine’s
TRANSVIOLET, ARMORS, Barracuda
JOSH T. PEARSON, FIELD DIVISION
D. SMITH, Cheer Up Charlie’s
CULT OF LUNA, EMMA RUTH RUNDLE, INTRONAUT, Come & Take It Live
THE HOME FIRES, Evangeline Cafe
BROCK ZEMAN, Giddy Ups
DESTROYER, ELEANOR FRIEDBERGER, CESCHI & DAVID RAMOS, GREGORY PEPPER & HIS PROBLEMS, Mohawk
THE STEELDRIVERS, One World Theatre
DWEEZIL ZAPPA, Paramount Theatre
CHRIS RENZEMA, ROY COX, Parish
MONKEY TRYOUTS, Sahara Lounge
METRONOMY, FAUX REAL, the Scoot Inn
THE FAMILY CREST, Stubb’s
THE STEELDRIVERS, Waterloo Records

WAIT – THERE’S MORE
See austinchronicle.com/events for Thursday, 2/27, and beyond.
FRIDAY 2/21

04 CENTER Brandon Ryherd, Damon Curtis (7:00)
512 BREWING Cellar Sessions w/ Rusty Dusty (8:00)
THE ABGB Ben Ballinger (9:00)
ANA LARK CENTER No Idea Festival day two (8:00)
ANDERSON MILL PUB Shelly Knight, Room Full of Doors (9:00)
ANGEL’S ICHEOUS Lucas Johnson (6:00)
ANTONE’S Scarface w/ live band, Peterson Brothers, Blackchyl, DJ Kurupt (9:00)
AZUL TEQUILA Marlachi Relâmpago (8:00)
BANGER’S Sasha K.A & Friends (7:00)
THE BARN Buffalo Sons (8:00)
BARRACUDA Lower Dens, Ami Dang, Slideshow (10:00)
B.D. RILEY’S Sean Orr Band (10:00), the Chancers (7:00), Daithi Arnwine (6:00)
BLACK SPARROW Eighties tribute night (8:00)
BOOMERZ Prime Meridian (8:00)
THE BRASS TAP Kristen Gibbs Band (9:00)
BRENTWOOD SOCIAL HOUSE Woot Talley (5:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Billy Mata (9:00), Ben Rodriguez (6:00)
BUCK’S BACKYARD Los Spark Notes (9:00)
BUZZ MILL RIVERSIDE Ghostwriter (8:00)
BUZZ MILL SHADY Cass Brostad closed mic (8:00)
C-BOY’S Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jimmie Vaughan (10:30), Rosie Flores Revue (6:30)
CACTUS CAFE Chely Wright (8:30)
THE CAPITAL GRILLE Tara Williamson (6:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Exercise, UtnUtun (9:00), Never for Ever, Rumor Mill (7:00), Al Go Rhythm (5:00)
CEDAR STREET COURTYARD Noize (Le Tigre tribute), & more (7:00)
EMO’S Pinegrove, Whitney Ballen (8:00)
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Autograf, Bronze Whale, Nico, Kilgo Beats [garage] (9:00), Sade vs. Bud tribute night [control room] (9:00)
FAMILY BUSINESS BEER CO. Samantha Lee & the Family Tree (5:00)
THE FAR OUT Stretch Panic, El Tigre (Le Tigre tribute), & more (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Aggrolites, Los Kudamos, Kung Fu Sound System (9:00)
FRED’S SEAFOOD GRILLE Eddy Maine (6:00)
FRIENDS The Genders (11:00), Darius Jackson (7:30), Jonathan Matthews (4:00)

MUSIC INSTRUCTION
Keyboard/Guitars/Flutes/Vocals
tagort977@att.net
713-478-4492

WILD WEST Drew Fish Band (album release) (10:00)
WRIGHT BROS. BREW & BREW Eastside Music School presents Jamey Cmimins & the City Hands, Caelin, Sammy G (6:30)

CENOTE Funk, Bo & Chris (7:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Clenflagus (6:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Darrell Goldman (6:30)
CHEATHAM ST. Mason Lively, Grant Gilbert (8:00)
CHEER UP CHARLIES Space Tan (album release), Marmalakes, Buffy Jr., Large Brush Collection (9:00)
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Exit Wonderland (7:30) Phil Greer (5:00)
COLISEUM Banda Los Costeños, Los Remis, Tacho y Su Tríángulo Calentao (9:00)
COME & TAKE IT LIVE Spite, Varials, Orthodoxy, Unity-TX, Dealer (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB The Selfless Lovers, Carolyn Wonderland, the Blues Specialists (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY The Last Counts (10:30), Emily Gimble (8:30)
COPPLAND DANCEHALL Max Stalling, the Broken Spokes (9:00)
CRAFT PRIDE Ruby Dice (7:00)
DADALAB Listening Room w/ Heavy Stans, Man Woman Friend Computer, With Great Care, Charles Russell (7:00)
DESSERT DOOR The Merles (5:30)
DIRTY DOG BAR Orenda, the Ansible, Beneath the Fallen, Chasing After Alice, Psychocell, Baby Bleu (7:00)
DONN’S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters (9:00)
DRISKILL BAR Emily Herring & the Farm to Market Band (9:00), David Touchton (6:00)
EDDIE V’S Blue Mist (8:30)
THE ELECTRIC CIRCUS Modular Electronic Bazaar w/ Travis Austin, Sunbeamer, Uncle Beekeeper, Six Missing (10:00), Sci-Fi Country, Peach Almanac (8:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Cpt. Kirk & the Devil Horns (9:30), Sharon Bourbonnais (6:00)
ELYSIUM Voicecoil, unitcode:machine, Koutner Machtred, DJ AsuraSunil (10:00)
EMO’S Pinegrove, Whitney Ballen (8:00)

MOATWICK Holiday Music (album release), Spirit Ghost, Half Dream, the Stacks [inside] (9:00)
MOONTOWER SALOON Michael Ingalls (7:00)
NEWWORLDLI Jenny Reynolds Trio (7:00)
ONE-2-ONE BAR Malia Nota (10:15), Barbara Nesbitt (8:00), Joanna Ramirez (6:00)
PARISH Wild Tinderbox, Bronetosaurus, Bart Hartley Jarvis, Jason & the ArgosScotts, Fontknow (9:00)
PARKER JAZZ CLUB Jazzbonez (10:00), Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)
PLUSU Midwest Sessions w/ Supernova, Knos, BlendE, Q (10:00)
POODIES The AGT Project (8:00), Alex Winters (6:00)
RADIO COFFEE & BEER KUTX 98.9 Horizontes presents RadioX w/ Como Las Movies (8:00)
REALE’S Richard Patnaude (6:00)
RILEY’S TAVERN Jackie Darlene (7:00)
ROCK HOUSE BAR Neon Bridges (8:00)
RUSTIC TAP Tell Runyun (8:00)
SAHARA LOUNGE Shashamani Sound (8:00)
SAM’S TOWN POINT Crecent Soul Revue (10:00), Guitar Grady (8:00), Western Fidelity performs Ray Price’s Love Life (7:00)
SAN JAC SALOON JB Parker (10:00) [upstairs]; the Nine-Pound Hammers (10:00), Chris Ray (6:00), Joey Waters (3:00) [downstairs]
SAXON PUB Jo James (10:00), Patricia Pike (8:00), Brodie Lane (6:00)
SCRATCHHOUSE BBY Kodie, the Pinky Rings (7:00), Alien Abduction Party w/ Trippy Leary (7:00)
SKYLARK LOUNGE Shimri (Hiroki Shimizu) send-off show (9:00), Happy Hour w/ the Legendary Margaret Wright (6:00)
SPEAKEASY DJ Cynco [upstairs]; Mark Chandler [downstairs] (9:45)
ST. ELMO BREWING CO. Grassyp Thursday (7:00)
STAY GOLD Atlas Major (10:00)
TAMALE HOUSE EAST the Brew (8:00)
THE TOWNSEND Jeff Black (7:30)
UNIT 108 Plaque Marks, Bhiiggig, Left Limbs (8:00)
VOLSTEAD Créma hip-hop & cumbia night w/ u/lovi (10:00)
VOODOO ROOM Leg Day (10:00)
VULCAN GAS CO. Lefty, Mr. & Mrs., John Reyes, Brezahz (10:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS A. Sinclair (5:30)
WHIP IN Curtis McMurry, Much 2 Much Duo (7:00)
THE WHITE HORSE Jesse Jay Harris Band, Pearl Snapboyz, Blake Whitnire Band (8:00)
From Friday

Geraldine's
Eliah Zane (10:30)

Giddy UPS
Johnny McGowan (8:30), W.C. Clark (5:30)

Gruene Hall
Jon Wolfe (live album release), David Adam Bynes (8:00)

Guero's
The Bob Fuentes Show (6:30)

Hanovers Tribute night w/ X Factory, the Other Brothers (9:00)

The Happy Cow
Dallas Burrow Band (8:00)

Highball
Mirage Marauders (11:30), the Copa Kings (8:00)

Hole in the Wall
Problem with Dragons, Abjekt Terror, Mortales, Non-Conformist (8:00)

Hotel Vegas
Annabelle Chairlegs, White Dog, Andria Rose, Montaz (10:00)

Hudson's on Mercer
Rochelle & the Sidewinders (8:30)

Independence Brewing
Minor Mitch Marching Band, Huerta Culture (7:00)

Jester King Brewery
Friday Night Bluegrass (8:00)

Kick Butt Coffee
Runscared (album release), Meyon, Brewtality Inc., Dancyr (8:00)

Last Chance
Bob Appel Band (9:00)

Lazarus Brewing
Sol Chase (8:00)

Little Longhorn
Grouchy Like Riley (9:00), Beth Lee & the Breakups (6:00)

Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church (Cedar Park)
Lucie Blue Tremblay & Kya Heartwood & Anna Joy Harris (7:00)

The Local Outpost
Jero Wagonner (6:00)

Lone Star Court
Mercury 3 (9:00)

Maggie Mae's
The Balls (9:30)

Mala Vida
Xtreame, Toby Love, Bachata Height, Kewin Cosmos (10:00)

Mercer Street Dancehall
Josh Ward, Raccoon Brothers (8:30)

Mohawk
CSOB, Kendell Randall Company [inside] (9:00)

Neighborhood Nick & Paige (7:30)

Newworld
Nichole Wagner, Alicia Stockman (7:00)

Office Lounge
Six Sons of a Gun (8:00)

Omni Barton Creek
Bartons Unplugged w/ Dan Rhodes (4:00)

Oskar Blues Brewery
Jordan Matthew Young (7:30)

Parish Tones & I, Phil Good (9:00)

Parker Jazz Club
Parker Jazz Club Band House (10:00), Dr L & the All-Star Chaps (8:00)

Pershing Gallery
The Eleventh House w/ Quiet Company, Harvest Thieves, All Holder (8:00)

Plaza Colombian Coffee
The Brew (8:00)

Poodies
Sharon's birthday w/ the Gladiators, Tessy Lou & the Shotgun Stars, Jeremy Vasquez, Andre Marie & Magnolia Band (4:00)

Red Horn Coffee
Joseph Neville (8:00)

Riley's Tavern
The Homebodies (6:00)

Roadhouse Bar
Keep on Truckin' (9:00)

Rock House Bar
Axis 51 (8:00)

Ross' Old Austin
Jerry Horn & the Drift'n Pickers (6:30)

Rustic Tap
Teddy Long (9:00)

Sahara Lounge
James Byron Band (7:30)

Sam's Town Point
Cactus Lee & Friends (8:00)

San Jac Saloon
Will Southern (10:00) [upstairs]; the Nine-Pound Hammers (10:00), Chris Ray (6:00), Aaron Navarro (3:00) [downstairs]

Saxon Pub
Jack Barksdale (11:00), Dalton Domino (9:00), Denny Freeman (6:00)

Scratchy
Dough Boy & Gang, Dack Janiels, Lazy K, NVGS, Chris Smooth Fuzz, Xwire, Psilocybin, Driz (9:00)

Shenanigans
Fusion (9:30)

Skull Mechanix Brewing
Jade Vine, Bay Stewart, Lucky Badger (9:00)

Skylark Lounge
Soulmate Sam & the SMS Band (9:00), Happy Hour w/ the Legendary Margaret Wright (6:00)

Spokesman
Lofci Kickback w/ Vrmr, Long Tongue, Rob Form Garden Street, Pursuive, Lofi Moshpit, Coleman (8:00)

Stateside at the Paramount
Storm Cobb, Maddie Medley (8:00)

Stay Gold
Cornerstone (10:00), Rent Party (7:00)

Swan Dive
Secret Soup 7-inch release party w/ My Mistress, the Swift Drag, Sci-Fi Country, Cosmic Chaos (10:00)

Sweet Chive
Young & Rusty (7:00)

Tavern on Main
Strahan & the Good Neighbors (8:00)

Threadgill's
The Wageoners (8:00)

The Townsend
Decovery, the Lucky Stars (10:00), Kait Whitlock (7:30)

Twin Creeks Icehouse
Ella Reid (8:00)

Valhalla
Palm Ghosts, Shooko, Coattails (10:00)

Vista Brewing
Driftwood Nights w/ JM Stevens (6:00)

Volstead
Crashing In w/ King Louie (10:00)

Whip In
Los Alcos, Cecilia & the Broken Hearts (7:00)

The White Horse
James Hand, Roger Wallace, the Golden Roses (8:00)

Whitestone Brewery
Sam Lee Grona & Kylil Piland (6:00)

The Wolf House
Mother Falcon Music Lab presents Create & Celebrate scholarship fundraiser w/ Suzanne Choffel, Mother Falcon, & more (6:30)

Woody's Tavern & Grill
Andrea Marie (7:00)

Broken Spoke
Alvin Cow (9:00), Paula Russell (6:00), Ben Rodgers (noon)

Buzz Mill Riverside
Mcijah (8:00)

Buzz Mill Shady
HAAM benefit w/ Hiss, Parastic Violence, Lipsick (7:00)

C-Boy's
Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jimmie Vaughan (10:30), DJ Kidsurik (Jade Room) (10:00), Strand of Oaks (8:00)

The Capital Grille
Matt Creation (6:30)

Carousel Lounge
B-Side Vandalis, Heftilly, Luxe (9:00), Ron Nottenbaum Trio (7:00), Professor Rafe & the Fabes (5:00)

Cedar Street Courtyard
Jason Ross, Sunny Lax (9:00)

Cenote
Flavor Raid, Perspectives on Energy (7:00)

Central Market North
Mardis Gras w/ Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

Central Market South
Floyd Dominio's All Stars (6:30)

Cheatham St.
Max Finn, Forrest Weiss (8:00)

Cheer Up Charlie's
Nite School w/ LORA, Single Lash, Soft Vision, Ex Prest, DJ Kristiello, DJ Scorpion, DJ Freaky (9:00)

Cherrywood Coffeehouse
Jon Mуг (5:30), Dark Kards (New Order tribute) (3:30), Brunch w/ Vin Mott (noon)

Continental Club
Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band, Imperial Starlighters (10:00), John X Reed (3:30)

Continental Club Gallery
The Lost Courts (10-30), Beaver Nelson (8:30)

Coupland Dancehall
Bob Schneider (9:00)

Craft Pride
Michael Milligan & Tesana Blues (7:00)

Dirt Road
Dweezle Zipp (5:30)

Dinah Shore
Naked & Fearless (Tool tribute), In the Umbra (9:00)

Donn's Depot
Dannys Beach Band (9:30)

Driskill Bar
Rolfstam Rammers (9:00)

Drew Butler
Blue Stray (8:00)

El Mercado
The Eggmen (Beattles tribute) (7:00)

The Electric Church
Militant Babies, Split Pistols, Marco & the Human, A Dark Glow, First Names (9:00)

Elephant Room
Henry Brun & the Latin Player (9:30)

Emo's
Carnaval Brasileiro w/ Gisele & Brazilian Express, Austin Samba (9:00)

EMC CONTROL ROOM
United w/ Dee Jay Alicia, DJ I Wanna Be Her, DJ Shani [control room] (8:00), Austin Bands for Bernie w/ Fastball, Hikes, the Halwayys, Big Bill, Uranus Eclectic, Go Fever, Scott Collins, Christelle Bobele, Serenn, Jason C Morris, Van Mary, Darwood (7:00)

Family Business Co.
Matt Raines (6:00), Sasha K & Friends (2:00)

The Far Out
Sir Woman (single release), Buffalo Hunt, Luna Rare, Davey Jenkins (8:00)

Flamingo Cantina
Treehouse!, Audic Empire, Bubba Love, Sunrise Police (9:00)

Friends
Eliah Zane (11:00), Sonny Wolf (7:30), Lara Price (5:30)

Geraldine's
Super Soul Saturday Brunch w/ Holly Halloway (11:00am)

Giddy UPS
Ruben V (8:30)

Gruene Hall
Jon Wolfe (live album release), Jake Worthington (9:00)

Hog Heaven's Bo Phillips Band (1:00)

Guero's
Glen Collins (6:30), Sonny Wolf (2:30)

Hanovers
Eclipse (Journey tribute) (9:30)

The Happy Cow
Austin Gilliam Band (8:00)

Hardtails Bar & Grill
Six Nine (9:00)

Highball
Marco Santos Trio (10:30)

Hog Auditorium
Pop-Up Magazine Winter 2020 w/ Magik*Magik Orchestra (7:30)

Hole in the Wall
Harvest Thieves, the Haberdashers (album release), Milkhead Millie & the Scabby Knees (9:00)

Hops & Grain Brewery
Austin Nights (5:00)

Hotel Vegas
Deep Cross, Mvant, Sail'Yah (tape release), Blank Hellscape (9:00)

House Wine
Meg Sheehy, Kelsi Music (8:00)

Hudson's on Mercer
People's Choice (9:00)

Ichenhauer's
DJ Ey E (10:00)

Independence Brewing
Rats Rats, Blue Tongue, the Big Fat, 2069 (7:00), Blues in the Night (3:00)

Kick Butt Coffee
Some Kind of Nightmare, Knockout Stiffs, the Dead Coats, All Opposed, Lezuzla, Stuck on 54, Makeout Fight, Article 15 (9:00)

Last Chance
Southside Sheiks (9:30)

Little Longhorn
Johnny McGowan (9:00), Old Five & Dimers (6:00)
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MARCH 13–22 • AUSTIN

Get on the SXSW Free Events newsletter list today and get an insiders look at the latest free events updates, special opportunities, and daily prize giveaways leading up to and through SXSW 2020.

SXSW offers dozens of free events, including:

- SXSW Wellness Expo
  March 14-15, 11am-6pm

- Flatstock 73
  March 19-21, 11am-6pm

- SXSW Marketplace
  March 19-21, 11am-6pm

- SXSW Outdoor Stage at Lady Bird Lake
  March 19-21

- Plus Music Festival Showcases, Community Film Screenings, and more free events announced exclusively in the Free Events newsletter!

sxsw.com/free
**From Saturday**

**Lone Star Court** Julia Hatfield (9:00)

**The Lost Well** Distorted Pony, Suckling, Lazer Fire (9:00)

**Maggie Mae's** The Mother Covers (9:30)

**Mala Vida** Flaco Elizalde (10:00)

**Mercey Street Dancehall** Windy Vernon (8:30)

**Mohawk** Mamahawk & Midcentury split 7-inch release party w/ Caelin [inside] (9:00) – O. James Byron Band, Agave Ghost, Sahara Smith [inside] (3:00)

**Moontower Saloon** Chuck Couldo (8:30)

**Neighborhood's** Bob Rose (7:30)

**New World** Mark Vizut & Susan Masey (7:00)

**Omni Barton Creek** Late Night Unplugged w/ Dean Peters (10:00)

**One-2-One Bar** Honey Made, Boogalo (live album recording), Hatch (7:45)

**Opal Divine's Austin Grill** Paula Held Quintet (8:00)

**Oskar Blues Brewery** Girls Pint Out w/ DJ Chas Na Na (7:00)

**Paramount Theatre** Saudia Hall of Fame Show w/ Ronnie Dunn, Jimmie Vaughan, Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell, Thompson Square, Jeff Hanna, Matracca Beng, Jack Ingram, Ruthie Foster, Wade Bowen, Todd Snider, Duke Robillard, W.C. Clark, Johnny Nicholas, Jim Collins, Mignot (7:30)

**Parish** 070 Shake (9:00)

**Parker Jazz Club** Dr. Rose birthday party w/ Jon Blondell (10:00), Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)

**The Parlor** Room Suicide, Scorpio Rising, Stuck on 45 (4:20)

**Pearl Street Co-OP** Mutual Friends presents Bernie Man w/ Borzoi, Post Modern Girls, Jolly Rancher, Gtr, High Cost of Playing God, Minuano, Face Turn, Drunk Uncle, Paradigm, Breathwork, Dylan Pacheco, Uncle Rodger (3:00)

**Poodles** Julie Nolen (10:30), Chris Berardo & the Desberadors (8:00)

**Radio Coffee & Beer** Magna Carda (9:00)

**Red Horn Coffee** Jeremy Fowler (8:00)

**Riley's Tavern** Josh Grider (9:00)

**Rockhouse Bar** Mark Chandler (8:00)

**Ross' Old Austin** Devin Gutierrez (6:30)

**Rustic Tap** Prophets & Outlaws (8:00)

**Saengerrunde Hall** Koblenz Karneval fundraiser w/ the Walburg Boys (6:00)

**Sahara Lounge** Abou & the Crew, Ex Romantika, Joshua Thomson Quartet (8:30)

**San's Town Point** Ramsay Midwood (11:00), Bill Kirchen (9:00), Kullen Fox (7:00), Chili Cold Blood Chili Cook-Off w/ Cold Jackets, Red on Yellow, Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (noon)

**San Jac Saloon** Will Southern (10:00) [upstairs], Aaron Navarro Band (10:00), Bron Burbank (6:00), Sean Mullin (3:00) [downstairs]

**Saxon Pub** Goode Springs (11:45), Seth Walker (10:00) – Nakia's birthday party (8:00), Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel (6:00), the Belle Sounds (3:00)

**Scratchouse** Nolfiter w/ Octave One, Reue [inside]; Baked Up show-case w/ Gratum, Jadip, Ron Austin, Toast, Zoosta [outside] (9:00)

**Seven Grand** Oscar Omeles Quartet (9:30)

**Sidecar Tasting Room** J Wagner (5:00)

**Skull Mechanix Brewing** Teen Pope, Math Pastor, the Reeks (9:00)

**Skylark Lounge** Brian Scartocci's Soul Shakedown (10:00), Bustamoomalitas (8:00)

**Soma Vida** The Secret Song of Plants album release w/ special guest Henna Chou (7:30)

**Speakeasy** DJ Hexum [upstairs]; Mardas Gris w/ Boss Street Brass Band [downstairs] (9:00)

**Stay Gold** Will Courtney, Lo Country, Rattlesnake Milk (10:00), John Branch (7:00)

**Stubb's** Sarnisw [inside] (11:00), Jaz, Hatstried, Tynan [outside] (8:00)

**Swan Dive** Not Happy, Bummertown, MUNN, Lizzie Karr (10:00)

**Tavern on Main** Graham Wilkinson (8:00)

**Texas Keepers Cider** Much 2 Much (3:00)

**Texas Mist** Spiral Eye, HateWaker, Psychocell, Stitched Up, Overthrow, Manifest Insanity (8:00)

**Thread Gill's** Frank Martin Gilligan, Joe Gavito (8:00)

**The Townsend** The Shortlist, Caleb Mabrey, Cole Collins (10:00), Lauren Anderson (7:30)

**Twin Creeks Icehouse** Three Shots (8:00)

**Two Wheel Brewing** Madisons (8:00)

**Valhalla** Kinetic Discord, Fuck Work, Hell fury (9:00)

**Volksteady** Orinó Garcia (9:00)

**The Vortex** Outlaw Fest w/ Black Belt Eagle Scout (4:00)

**Vulcan Gas Co.** Monjo, Jigga, Jigs (10:00)

**West Pecan** London Bailey (7:00)

**Whip In** My Education, A.M. Feelgood (7:00)

**The White Horse** Vincent Neil Emerson, Aaron McDonnell, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (8:00)

**Willie's Joint** Wyatt Weaver (9:00)

** Woody's Tavern & Grill** Sixth anniversary party w/ Hair Metal Giants (7:00)

**Sunday 2/23**

**Antone's** Ile, Lesly Reynaga (8:00)

**Antone's Records** Larry Seaman (3:00)

**Banger's Big Band Brunch** (10:00am)

**The Barn** Birds on a Wire (4:00)

**Barracuda** Drivin' N Cryin', Shingles (8:00) – Betty Goop, Conan Neutron & the Secret Friends, Tongue Party (8:00)

**Barrel O Fun** Tommy Howard's Jazz Jam (7:00)

**B.D. Riley's** Traditional Irish tune session (7:30)

**Brentwood Social House** Brunch w/ Manifest Mustache (10:00am)

**Butterfly Bar** Saccharine Sundays w/ Honey Son (6:00)

**C-Boys' R-Rock Moving Company** (10:00), Imperial Starlighters (7:00), Chicken $#!+ Sunday w/ the Details (3:30)

**Celis Brewery** Blues jam w/ Ted Hall (7:00)

**Cenote** Jazz brunch w/ Dexter Zabinski's Trio

**Central Market North** Alex Browne Trio (6:30)

**Central Market South Austin Jazz Workshop (noon)**

**Cheer Up Charlie** Tyler Jordan & the Negative Space, Butte, Delicate Boys, Matthew Joye (9:00)

**Cherrywood Coffeehouse** Kids' show w/ Staci Gray (10:30am)

**Club Carnaval** Los Rehenes, Innovation, Los Gamma de Michoacan (8:00)

**Come & Take It Live** Vale of Pnath, Gorod, Wolf King, the Virtuous, Warhead Wrex (7:00)

**Continental Club** Willie Pipkin & Friends (10:30), Heybale! (7:00), Marshall Hood (3:30)

**Cosmic Coffee** Brett Coats & Roots Music Marathon (7:00)

**Craford Pride** Blues in the Night (6:30)

**Deep Eddy Vodka** Danger Cakes (2:00)

**Desert Door** Christopher Cody Meacham (6:30)

**Dirty Dog Bar** In Search of Solace, Call It Home, Psychocell (7:00)

**Driskill Bar** Sunday Blues with Antone's (4:00)

**Eddie V's** Nick Connolly Trio (7:00)

**El Mercado** Gospel-ish brunch w/ the Purgatory Players (10:00am)

**Elephant Room** Kevin Lovejoy Trio (9:30)
SPTM & THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE PRESENT THE 38TH ANNUAL

AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS

HOSTED BY
JACKIE VENSON
CHRIS CUBAS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
MICHAEL RAMOS

11 MARCH 2020
6PM
ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER

PERFORMANCES BY
BIG WY’S HORNS  BILL CARTER  BLACKILLAC  CHARLIE SEXTON  DJ CHORIZO FUNK
GRUPO FANTASMA  HARD PROOF  HARRY & EMMY  JACK INGRAM  J.J. JOHNSON
JON DEE GRAHAM  KATHY MCCARTY  LOLITA LYNNE  RICH BROTHERTON  SIR WOMAN
TAMECA JONES  WALKER LUKE  THE WELL  & MORE

APPEARANCES BY
MIKE JUDGE  BILL CARTER  RUTH ELLSWORTH CARTER  TAMARA SAVIANO  & MORE

austinchronicle.com  FEBRUARY 21, 2020  THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE  91
FROM SUNDAY

EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Austin Bands for Bernie w/ Bright Light Social Hour, Jordan Moser, Megafauna, Grace Rowland, Big W's Brass Band, Ben Ballinger, Como Los Movies, Croy & the Boys, the Motts, Pat C, Josh Pearson, Blue Tongue, Pataphysics, Brick Waller, Half Man & the Whole Band, Erica Michelle Band, March & Beauty, Blackbook Family Band, the Somebody's (4:00) Family Business Beer Co. Branko Jr. (2:00)
THE FAR OUT Far Out Bluegrass w/ Grass Half Full (2:00)
FRIENDS Blues jam (9:30), Jonesin’ (6:30), Jonathon Matthews (4:00)
GERALDINE'S Jazz brunch w/ Michael Hale Trio (11:00am)
GIDDY UPS Wolf McCann benefit w/ David Touchton, Charlie & Melodie, Ted & Roy, Bull Diego, & more (noon)
GRUENE HALL Raised by Wolves, Bound for Glory: A Texas Tribute to Hal Ketchum w/ Wade Bowen, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Lee Roy Parnell, Roy Roy Parnell, Jamie Lin Wilson, Jesse Dayton, Staid Cleaves, Gabe Rhodes, Kenny Grimes, Waylon Payne, & more (4:00)
GUERO'S Chicken Strut (3:00), Sol Chase (1:45), El Tio Musical (noon)
H-E-B CENTER AT CEDAR PARK Pitbull (8:00)
HALF STEP The Blue Vinyl Crates feat. Terell Shahid (8:00), Joe Cain Day w/ Boss Street Brass Band (3:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Candler Wilkinson, Hayden Hoodo (9:00)
HOTEL VEGAS The Naked Tungs, Ponc, Frosty Palms (10:00)
ICENHAUSER’S DJ Eye Q (7:00), Super Soul Sunday w/ the Nightowls (4:00)
INDEPENDENCE BREWING (The Family Jam (1:00)
JO'S (S. CONGRESS) Sinner’s Brunch w/ Bubba McCoy & the Jo’s House Band (12:30)
KING BEE Michael Hale Trio feat. McMcIntosh (9:00)
LITTLE LONGHORN Original Home of Chicken Shit Bingo w/ Jake Penrod & the Million-Dollar Cowboys (4:00)
MARIA’S TACO XPRESS Hippie Church (noon)
MERCER STREET DANCEHALL Bob Appel (3:00)
MOONTOWER SALOON James Buffaloe Duo (4:00)
NEIGHBOR’S Soul Sunday w/ Kites (6:00)
NEWORLDELI Randy Brown, Randy Palmer (2:00)
OAKWOOD BBQ Crawfish, Blues & Brews w/ the Larry Harris Band (noon)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Wishbone Ash (6:00)
ONE-2-ONE BAR The Ketronics (10:00), K Flatt & Friends (8:00), Songwriters in the round w/ Sarah Sharp, Kristy Krüger, Wilson Marks (6:00)
OSKAR BLUES BREWERY CITRA bluegrass jam (3:00)
PARISH Gandhi’s Gun, Reason Define, Andy Starbeast, Hanna Barakat (8:00)
POODIES Lucas Johnson (10:00), Jeremy Vasquez (7:30), Tassy Lou & The Shotgun Stars (4:00)
RILEY’S TAVERN Blues jam & gear swap w/ Ace (4:00)
SAHARA LOUNGE Lesbian Wedding w/ Knudas Cubensis, Lembra Rivera Gonzalez, Pêdra Costa Solange, Siri Gurudev, Pleasure Guide, Shaboom, Dust Bunny, & more (4:00)
SAM’S TOWN POINT Chansons et Souliers (6:30), Conunto los Pinkys (3:00)
SAN JAC SALOON JD Casper (9:00) [downstairs]
SAXON PUB The Resentments (7:30), Ulla Night of the Irish Invasion (5:30), Johnny Johnson, Duke Robillard (3:00)
SCRATCHHOUSE Sundaze Fundaze w/ Sonya Alvarez, Zootta b2b Jadin, Gympho b2b Samwise (4:00)
SKYLARK LOUNGE Soul Sunday w/ Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (8:00)
SOMA VIDA Ecstatic Dance (4:00)
SPEAKEASY DJ Cyco (9:45)
STAY GOLD All Skate (9:00)
STUBB’S Ilya, Yasł, V2 [inside] (9:00), Gospel brunch w/ the Gospel Stars [inside] (10:30am)
TEXAS KEEPER CIDERY The Merles (3:00)
THREADGILL’S Sunday brunch w/ Jon Emery (11:00am)
UNCLE GARY’S BAR Open Mike Sundays (4:00)
VALHALLA Ruth’s birthday w/ Ungrieved, Sabbath Crow, Aamaru (9:00)
VISTA BREWING Beni Brosh (3:00)
VOLSTEAD DJs No Kid$ & Diggz Dutch (9:00)
VOODOO ROOM Tulum Nights w/ Charles Moor, Donavin Velze, Andy Kalt (10:00)
VULCAN GAS CO. DaveonJames, Lil Chiraqooq, Rmm Lu$h, Btrjake, Foolish Ty (8:00)
WISHLER’S Al Frescos (6:00)
THE WHITE HORSE Silo Road (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Jordan Matthew Young (7:00)

MONDAY 2/24

ANTONE’S Red on Yellow (10:00), Blue Monday w/ Carl Weathersby & James Bullard (6:30)
BARRACUDA Ilitterate Light, Shane T (8:00)
B.D. RILEY’S Monday open mic (7:00)

BUZZ MILL RIVERSIDE Mazel Tov Keyboard Hour (8:00)
C-BOYS Crystal Finger (10:00), Andrea Magee’s Girl Jam (6:30)
CACTUS CAFE Open mic w/ Kacy Crowley (7:30)
CHEER UP CHARLIES Alexalone, Pullover, Hex Boyfriend, Chilivil (9:00)
COME & TAKE IT LEO Mac Lethal, Crypt, Fenal the Earthworm, Ben Buck, Super Smash Bros., Infadcd (8:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Jackson Jones (10:00), Peterson Brothers Band (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Michael Hale Trio (10:30), Church on Monday w/ Elias Haslanger feat. Dr. James Polk (8:30)
CRAFT PRIDE Monday Night Folk Revival w/ Ben Balmer (6:30)
DONN’S DEPOT Chris Gage (9:00)
DRISKILL BAR Rob Mahoney (6:00)
Eddie V’S Tony Taboada Trio (7:00)
EL MERCADO Mystery Monday w/ Christine Albert, Bill Kirchen, & guests (5:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai’s Jazz Jam (9:30), Austin Jazz Band (6:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Tribodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)
THE FAR OUT Lolita Lynne, Young June, Hugh Vu (8:00)
FIELD’S DJ Paul Vail (10:30), Dave Scher Trio (8:00), the Southsiders (5:30)
GERALDINE’S Alan Eckert Trio (9:30)
GIDDY UPS David Touchton & Friends (7:00)
GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)
HALCYON World music jam (11:00)
HALF STEP Wes Haynes Band (9:00)
HAYS CITY STORE W.C. Clark (7:00)
HIGHBALL Motown Monday w/ the Matchmaker Band (9:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Cory Cross, Wild Fitz (9:00)
HOTEL VEGAS Sadie & the Ladies, Lord Friday the 13th, Mad Rant (10:00)
KING BEE Little Elmore Reed Blues Band (10:00)
LOVE GOAT Amelia Presley (8:00)
MOHAWK Coffin Fits, Cheep Wave, Sleeve Cannon, Strange Rituals [inside] (9:00)
NEWORLDELI Open mic hosted by Heather Miller (7:00)
THE NORTH DOOR Musicares Sober Jam presented by Good Wolf Entertainment (6:30)
ONE-2-ONE BAR Thuda Dea (10:00), Hector Ward & the Big Time (8:00)
POODIES Songwriters’ Showcase: WC Jameson hosts Walt Wilkins (6:30)
RADIO COFFEE & BEER Bluegrass night (8:00)
RUSTIC TAP Alden & Julie have Talented Friends (7:00)
Austin Welcomes SXSW | Downtown Open for Business!

**Street Closures March 13–22**
(Sixth Street will be closed from 12pm-6am daily on March 13-22 unless APD needs to close 6th St. for public safety at earlier times.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Congress Avenue</th>
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<th>Congress Ave</th>
<th>18th Ave</th>
<th>Red River</th>
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| 6th St. Street Closure during SXSW are from 3am on March 13 to 8am on March 22

Street closures during SXSW, from 3am on March 13 to 8am on March 22

- **San Jacinto, Trinity & Neches**, from 5th to 6th St., will be closed Friday 3/13, 3am till Sunday 3/22, 8am. **Sabine**, from 5th to 7th St., will be closed Friday 3/13, 3am till Sunday 3/22, 8am. **San Jacinto and Trinity**, from 6th to 7th St., will be closed Tuesday 3/17, 8am till Sunday 3/22, 8am.
- **Neches**, from 6th to 7th St., will be closed Friday 3/13, 12pm till Sunday 3/22, 6am. Daily closure.
- **Red River**, blocks between intersections, from 7th to 10th Street will be closed Friday 3/13 till Sunday 3/22, 12pm to 2am daily. Or as deemed necessary by APD for public safety (3/13-3/22).
- **6th Street**, from Brazos to IH-35, and **Red River**, from 5th to 7th St., will be closed Friday 3/13 till Sunday 3/23, 12pm to 6am daily. Or as deemed necessary by APD for public safety (3/13-3/22).
- **Electric Dr. closure**, from Sandra Murado Way to Walter Seaholm Dr., Thursday 3/12 till Wednesday 3/18. Will be closed daily from 7am to 5pm.
- **Trinity Street**, from Cesar Chavez to 4th Street, will be closed 3/13-3/21 from 8am-8pm daily. **E. 2nd & E. 3rd Streets**, from 3rd to 5th St., will also be closed during this time.
- **Red River Southbound lane closure**, from E. 4th St. to Cesar Chavez, Friday 3/13 till Saturday 3/21, will be closed during 12pm to 3:30pm.
- **Rainey Street Neighborhood** will be closed to through traffic 3/13 till 3/22, 5pm to 7am each day or as deemed necessary by APD for public safety (3/13-3/22). Local business and residential access only.
- **Riverside Drive**, from S. 1st Street to Lee Barton Drive, will be closed Monday 3/16, 6am till Sunday 3/22, 4pm.
- **Safety closures at APD’s discretion**: **Brazos St.** from 5th St. to 7th St.; **E. 5th St. to 7th St.; 6th St. from Congress Ave. to Brazos St.**, **2nd St. from Guadalupe St. to Lava St.**, **4th St. from Red River St. to IH-35; E. 5th St. from IH-35 to Wacker; E. 5th St. from Neches to Red River St.**
- **Fire Station right-hand lane closure**: E. 5th St., from Trinity to Neches, and **Trinity**, from E. 4th St. to E. 5th St., Friday 3/13, 3am till Sunday 3/22, 8am.
- **EMS left-hand lane closure**: E. 5th St., from Congress to Brazos, Monday 3/16, 12:30am till Sunday 3/22, 8am.
- **Bouldin Neighborhood closure**: Dawson Ave. and Bouldin Ave. from Barton Springs to Gibson St. And Christopher St. from Bouldin Ave. to Gibson St. Closed Thursday 3/19 & Friday 3/20 from 8pm till 6am. Also closed Saturday 3/21 from 10am till 11pm. Local residents only.
- **Onion Street**, from E. 6th St. to E. 7th St., will be closed Monday 3/16, 9am till Sunday 3/22, 3am.
- **9th St.**, from Red River to IH-35, will be closed Thursday 3/17, 6am till Sunday 3/22, 3am.
- **East Ave.**, from Red River to Onion St., will be closed Thursday 3/17, 6am till Sunday 3/22, 3am.
- **CapMetro**. Or if driving, use area parking garages. Check out Capital Metro’s bus and rail service at CapMetro.org/specialevents. MetroRapid and MetroRail take you into the heart of the festival, and High-Frequency & Late-Night service runs throughout Austin, 7 days a week. Plan your trip, get real-time departures and buy passes on the free CapMetro App. Or if driving, use area parking garages.

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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
Dear Luv Doc,

I am sitting in my car after another disappointing Tinder date wondering if it’s even worth the effort. I just sat at a table for nearly two hours looking at a pair of nostrils packed with more nose hair than I ever thought was possible and gums that clearly have never met a strand of floss. Where do these men come from? Oh wait. I know. Tinder. Is it even reasonable to meet a normal person online? I am not asking for an Adonis, just someone who can hold a decent conversation, doesn’t have yesterday’s spinach(?) in his teeth, and isn’t wearing my father’s class ring. – And don’t say Bumble either.

The internet is a weird and wonderful place, for sure. There are adorable pictures of baby pigs wearing tiny red rubber galoshes, baby eagle cams, and videos of toddlers throwing hair to Metallica songs, but there are also burn fights, zit-popping porn, and psychopaths like that dude in Don’t F**k With Cats. In other words, the internet is every bit as bizarre and disturbing and beautiful and awesome as the real world, it’s just that most of us don’t get the real world firehosed at us through a lightpipe at gigabit speed. The real world is huge and messy, and hard to get around – especially if you live in Austin and aren’t traveling between 10-11am, 3-4pm, or anytime between 2 and 5am.

My point is that the internet is just too goddamn easy and therefore we should be deeply suspicious of it. (It might be helpful here to picture an old man standing on his porch shaking his fist at a bunch of fun-loving teenagers.) Merely the fact that pretty much anyone with the ability to one-finger type “Pornhub” can have access to a treasure trove of masturbation material the likes of which has never been available to anyone in the history of mankind until a few decades ago should be a good indication that we should proceed with a certain amount of caution. We’re just gape-jawed babes at the dawn of a brand-new era. We frankly don’t know how to handle all this shit even though we try to act like we do.

So … Tinder for instance: Is anyone teaching an entry-level class on how to sort through all the bullshit profiles and find someone at least decent enough to introduce to your friends? I’m sure someone probably is, and I am equally sure that someone is exactly the type of dishonest charlatan who would post a deceptive profile on Tinder – probably featuring a shirtless bathroom mirror selfie and a heartfelt paragraph on how much he respects his mom.

I know it sounds like I am pissing on online dating, but I’m not. All I am saying is that it’s a real pain in the ass trying to ferret out dateable people in meatspace. Not only do you meet just a fraction of the people you could meet online in the real world, you still have to have the same tedious conversations with them. The biggest difference (and perhaps the most comforting one) is that when you meet potential partners in the real world, you haven’t necessarily advertised that you’re DTF. That takes a lot of the pressure out of meeting people.

What you do get in the real world, however, is a much better visceral sense of people that an online profile just can’t convey. In other words, not only can you tell whether or not they floss, you get a pretty decent idea how full their crawlspace is. You might get it wrong, but at least the mass murderer who kills you will have clean gums, so there’s a feather in your blood-soaked cap.

But to answer your question: Yes, there are normal people online. I am assuming you’re probably normal yourself, so it only follows that there must be at least one more of you out there buzzing around the lightpipe looking for an honest meatspace connection. So buck up and get back on that internet pony – and next time maybe get a seat at the bar so you don’t have to look at that spinach?

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.

Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

At age 70, Donald Trump became the oldest person to ever be inaugurated as U.S. president. Ronald Reagan was 69 when he was inaugurated.

Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. president to screen an X-rated movie at the White House. It was Midnight Cowboy.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution wasn’t always first. The Bill of Rights approved by Congress in 1789 had 12 amendments, which were then sent to the states for ratification. The first two were never ratified, and therefore what we now call the First Amendment was next in line.

“Lame duck” was first applied to the presidency when Calvin Coolidge was waiting out the end of his term in the winter of 1928-29. However, Abraham Lincoln is thought to have coined the term, in referring to “a senator or representative out of business.”

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 mspants@austinchronicle.com.
Tired of the daily grind?  
Well, we can’t help you with that…  
But we can help you find a job where they have Fridays.  

The Austin Chronicle Employment section.  
It’s a start.
TECHNOLOGY
Visa USA, Inc., a Visa Inc. company, currently has openings in our Austin, TX location for:

- Sr. SW Engineers (Job# REF25717V) Automate DMPD’s security operations and aid government in the development of all stages of development from design through implementation.
- Directors (Job# REF25903F):To drive development effort End-to-End for on-time delivery of high quality solutions that conform to requirements, conform to the architectural vision and comply with all applicable standards.
- To apply, please reference Job# above and submit your resume to: Lj. Visa Inc., MS: M-112 SW 1st Ave., 2nd Floor Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404.

LEGAL NOTICES
CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

LEGAL NOTICES
CALL TODAY 512/454-5767
February 21, 2020

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of ARTHUR IRVING MUSSON, Deceased.

And time. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PA-0002238, styled FRANCISCO MERCADO, or on the above-mentioned date and time.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on February 19, 2020.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DALESSIO

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of RICHARD AXEL ROGERS, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of ROBERT DAVIS, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of GEORGE WALTER BOWIE, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JAMES E MCDANIEL, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JAY LEE BUSH, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of RALPH CORSOE, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of THOMAS DOUGLAS CUMMINGS, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of ARTHUR IRVING MUSSON, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of WILLIAM J MCGUIRE, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of GEORGE FAIRBANKS, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of LEWIS ABERHART, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JAMES SCHRADER, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of WILLIAM MCCLURE, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of CHARLES W CAMPBELL, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JACOB SCHERER, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JOHN J MCDONOUGH, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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To unknown heirs of RALPH CORSOE, Deceased.


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By Deputy / s/ DANCE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of THOMAS DOUGLAS CUMMINGS, Deceased.


Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy / s/ DANCE
**El Centenario Pizzeria, Inc., Ariel Alvarado, Pres/Sec has applied for a Wine & Beer Retailer’s Permit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.**

**El Farolito, 730 W. Stassney Lane, Ste. 165, Austin, Travis, TX 78745**

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 501, the City of Austin hereby gives notice to the owner of the following abandoned vehicles that the City of Austin is about to dispose of at a public auction to be held on March 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The public auction will be held at the Life Storage #276, 200 Farley Drive, Austin, Texas 78753.

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 501, the City of Austin is about to dispose of the following abandoned vehicles that the City of Austin is about to dispose of at a public auction to be held on March 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The public auction will be held at the Life Storage #276, 200 Farley Drive, Austin, Texas 78753.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, property to satisfy a landlord’s lien, of the following customers will hold a public auction to be held in accordance with the Texas Property Code, of the following customers will hold a public auction to be held at 12:00 PM, March 11th, 2020, at approx. 12:00 PM at www.SelfStorageAuctions.com.

The property to be sold will include personal goods, furniture, appliances, and other items. The sale will be held online at Lockerfox.com starting on or after March 5, 2020, at 10:00 am.

Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.lockerfox.com. All items sold will be sold for cash to the highest bidder online at www.lockerfox.com.

The sale will be held at 12:00 PM, March 11th, 2020, at approx. 12:00 PM at www.SelfStorageAuctions.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

STORAGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ANY UNIT OR NOT ACCEPT ANY BID AT TIME OF SALE. Unit sold is subject to the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. Unit sold is subject to the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. All bidders are required to read all terms and conditions of sale prior to bidding.

Thursday, 3/12/2020 10:00 AM
NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Effective March 1, 2020, Emily Bowen, MD will move from Westlake to Wells Branch.

NOTICE TO PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY KRETBEN SMITH,
DECEDENT

On March 12, 2020, letters testamentary as an Independent Executor for the Estate were issued to Dorothy Kretny Smith by the Probate Court No. One (1) of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. 19-19-00219, pending in Probate Court No. One (1) of Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2020.

Melissa L. Harvey, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joseph D. Metz, Deceased, were issued on January 23, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-19-002348, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to: Charles Carl Corbin, Esq., 1601 Pfennig Lane, Suite 225 Austin, Texas 78741.

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 13th day of February, 2020.

By: [signature]

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Matthew T. Murray, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-19-002007, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to: Charles Carl Corbin, Esq., 1601 Pfennig Lane, Suite 225 Austin, Texas 78741.

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 13th day of February, 2020.

By: [signature]
FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
by Rob Brezsny for February 21-27

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1908, British playwright W. Somerset Maugham reached the height of success. Four of his plays were being performed concurrently in four different London theatres. If you were ever in your life to achieve something near this level of overwhelming popularity or attention, I suspect it would be this year. And if that’s a development you would enjoy and thrive on, I think the coming weeks will be an excellent time to set your intention and take audacious measures.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do you feel ready to change your mind about an idea or belief or theory that has been losing its usefulness? Would you consider changing your relationship with a once powerful influence that is becoming less crucial to your lifelong goals? Is it possible you have outgrown one of your heroes or teachers? Do you wonder if maybe it’s time for you to put less faith in a certain sacred cow or overvalued idol? According to my analysis of your astrological omens, you’ll benefit from meditating on these questions during the coming weeks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When she was alive more than 2,500 years ago, the Greek poet Sappho was so famous for her lyrical creations that people referred to her as “The Poet-ess” and the “Tenth Muse.” (In Greek mythology, there were nine muses, all goddesses.) She was a prolific writer who produced over 10,000 lines of verse, and even today she remains one of the world’s most celebrated poets. I propose that we make her your inspirational role model for the coming months. In my view, you’ve poised to generate a wealth of enduring beauty in your own chosen sphere. Proposed experiment: Regard your daily life as an art project.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Have you ever dropped out of the daily grind for a few hours or even a few days so as to compose a master plan for your life? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to give yourself that necessary luxury. According to my analysis, you’re entering a phase when you’ll generate good fortune for yourself if you think deep thoughts about how to create your future. What would you like the story of your life to be on March 1, 2025? How about March 1, 2030? And March 1, 2035? I encourage you to consult your soul’s code and formulate an inspired, invigorating blueprint for the coming years. Write it down!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian novelist William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863) is famous for Vanity Fair, a satirical panorama of 19th-century British society. The phrase “Vanity Fair” had been previously used, though with different meanings, in the Bible’s book of Ecclesiastes, as well as in works by John Bunyan and St. Augustine. Thackeray was lying in bed near sleep one night when the idea flew into his head to use it for his own story. He was so thrilled that he leaped up and ran around his room chanting “Vanity Fair! Vanity Fair!” I’m foreseeing at least one epiphany like this for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. What area of your life needs a burst of delicious inspiration?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Who loves you best, Leo? Which of your allies and loved ones come closest to seeing you and appreciating you for who you really are? Of all the people in your life, which one has most help you become the soulful star you want to be? Are there gemlike characters on the peripheries of your world that you would like to draw nearer? Are there energy drains that you’ve allowed to play too prominent a role? I hope you’ll meditate on questions like these in the coming weeks. You’re in a phase where you can access a wealth of useful insights and revelations about how to skillfully manage your relationships. It’s also a good time to reward and nurture those allies who have given you so much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Doom and gloom dominate the forecasts made by many prophets. They experience pervasive glee in predicting, for example, that all the rain forests and rivers will be owned by greedy corporations by 2050, or that extraterrestrial invaders who resemble crocodiles will take control of the U.S. government “for the good of the American people,” or that climate change will eventually render chocolate and bananas obsolete. That’s not how I operate. I deplore the idea that it’s only the nasty prognostications that are interesting. In that spirit, I make the following forecasts: The number of homeless Virgos will decrease dramatically in the near future, as will the number of dream-homeless Virgos. In fact, I expect you folks will experience extra amounts of domestic bliss in the coming months. You may feel more at home in the world than ever before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don’t require everyone I learn from to be an impeccable saint. If I vowed to draw inspiration only from those people who flawlessly embody every one of my ethical principles, there’d be no one to be inspired by. Even one of my greatest heroes Martin Luther King, Jr. cheated on his wife and plagiarized parts of his doctoral dissertation. Where do you stand on this issue, Libra? I bet you will soon be tested. How much imperfection is acceptable to you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio comedian John Cleese co-founded the troupe Monty Python more than 50 years ago, and he has been generating imaginative humor ever since. I suggest we call on his counsel as you enter the most creative phase of your astrological cycle. “This is the extraordinary thing about creativity,” he says. “If you just keep your mind resting against the subject in a friendly but persistent way, sooner or later you will get a reward from your unconscious.” Here’s another one of Cleese’s insights that will serve you well: “The most creative people have learned to tolerate the slight discomfort of indecision for much longer, and so, just because they put in more pondering time, their solutions are more creative.”

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) developed a vigorous and expansive vision. That’s why he became a leading intellectual influence in the era known as the Enlightenment. But because of his inventive, sometimes controversial ideas, he was shunned by his Jewish community and had his books listed on the Catholic Church’s Index of Forbidden Books. Understandably, he sometimes felt isolated. To compensate, he spent lots of time alone taking wide-ranging journeys in his imagination. Even if you have all the friends and social stimulation you need, I hope you will follow his lead in the coming weeks by taking wide-ranging journeys in your imagination. It’s time to roam and ramble in inner realms.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): “Absolute reason expired at 11 o’clock last night,” one character tells another in Henrik Ibsen’s play Peer Gynt. I’m happy to report that a different development is on the verge of occurring for you, Capricorn. In recent days, there may have been less than an ideal amount of reason and logic circulating in your world. But that situation will soon change. The imminent outbreak of good sense, rigorous sanity, and practical wisdom will be quite tonic. Take advantage of this upcoming grace period. Initiate bold actions that are well grounded in objective rather than subjective truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Renowned Aquarian composer Franz Schubert (1797-1828) created more than 300 compositions, some of which are still played by modern musicians. Many of his works were written on and for the piano — and yet he was so poor that he never owned a piano. If there has been a similar situation in your life, Aquarius — a lack of some crucial tool or support due to financial issues — I see the coming weeks as being an excellent time to set in motion the plans that will enable you to overcome and cure that problem.

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM P.101

PARK & HOME PUZZLES
Flat stuff
Puzzle by J. Reynolds
No. 624

Across
1. Tavern
2. Call on, again
9. Moves, briefly
14. Poetic palindrome
19. Author Zola
20. Beauty pageant word
21. Missile’s path
22. Farm machine
23. James of jazz and others
24. High School infatuation
25. Chaps
26. Dutch cheese
27. Builds
28. Motionless
29. Debate
30. Red dye
Big name in news
31. Backyard border
32. Wait on
33. Flinches, say
34. Pieces (candy in “E.T.”)
35. Nunnest Korbut
36. Powerful D.C. lobby
37. "Karolina"
38. Side dish
39. Moving about
40. So far
41. Stephen of “V for Vendetta”
42. Red
43. Model Campbell
44. Canal locale
45. Baseball’s Musial and Hockey’s Mikita
46. Bacon bit
47. RR stop
48. Down
1. Fab Four member
2. Unpaid debt
3. Ebb
4. Country’s McEntire
5. Online pub
6. Scrabble pieces
7. Smart
8. Designer Ellis
9. A.A.A.
10. "Take your pick"
11. Back muscle, for short
12. “… man ___ mouse?”
13. Carrier to Oslo
14. Foreign policy grp.
21. Today
25. Not those, in Brooklyn
26. Garage sale
27. Warning
28. High pts.
29. Be silent, in music
30. Lanka
31. Crown’s how
32. Exxon product
33. Colorado native
34. Always, in verse
35. 60’s hairo
36. Sew shut, as a falcon’s eyes
37. Catch
38. Special time
39. TiVo, for one
40. Friend of Frodo
41. de Cologne
42. Gets game
43. Put on a throne
44. 1943 Bogart film
55. “It’s ___ world”
56. Convened anew
57. Comedian Richard
58. Coffee dispensers
59. 18-wheeler
60. Medicine cabinet item
61. Stomach muscles, briefly
62. Took a load off
63. ___ la la

FLAT STUFF
Puzzle by J. Reynolds
No. 624

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsny’s EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPE and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPEs.

The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-8888 or 900/800-7700.
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Cactus and succulent plants and books of plants and nature. March 7th 9am-Noon. 3404 Ambleside Drive, Austin, Rain Shine.

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AUSTIN HARMONICA LESSONS Austin-based harmonica teacher, Michael Rubin michaeldr@cox.net 512-619-0761

SUNSCREENS
FREE Author's Submission Kit: distribute your work internationally. BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR! (AAN CAN)

ATTORNEY ADVICE NEEDED
3/3 Top 5th Floor view of UT to downtown skyline from corner West Ave & MLK. Unique custom combo of 2 premier units in Park West Residences. Over 3000 sf of live/work or home/ guest condo. To be sold as one. 4 parking spaces in secure garage. Eclectic one-of-a-kind custom remodel. $1,150,000 for private showing call condo Joe at (512)203-4100

CENTRAL 1812 West Ave #501/$502
Top 5th floor view of UT to downtown skyline from corner West Ave & MLK. Unique custom combo of 2 premier units in Park West Residences. Over 3000 sf of live/work or home/ guest condo. To be sold as one. 4 parking spaces in secure garage. Eclectic one-of-a-kind custom remodel. $1,150,000 for private showing call condo Joe at (512)203-4100

WEST 321 E 12TH ST #207 (LEASE)
Cool modern urban 1/1 condo on the east side on 12th St. Wide open floorplan with 10’ ceilings. Recent construction so all appliances, everything relatively new. Very low bills. Gated secure parking and gated pedestrian entrance. Now for lease at $1150. Popular location. Call condo Joe at (512)203-4100

ROOMMATES
Need a roommate? Roommates can help you find your Perfect Match today! (AAN CAN)

Public Notice to Creditors
Notice is hereby given that the Estate of Marilyn Ruth Kaase, deceased, were issued Letters Testamentary by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, having been granted Letters Testamentary by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, in Probate Cause C-1-PB-20-00049 on February 11, 2020, hereby notify all persons interested of the Estate to make payment, and those having legal claims against said Estate to present said Estate to make payment, and those having legal claims against said Estate to present

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**ATTORNEY ADVICE NEEDED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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