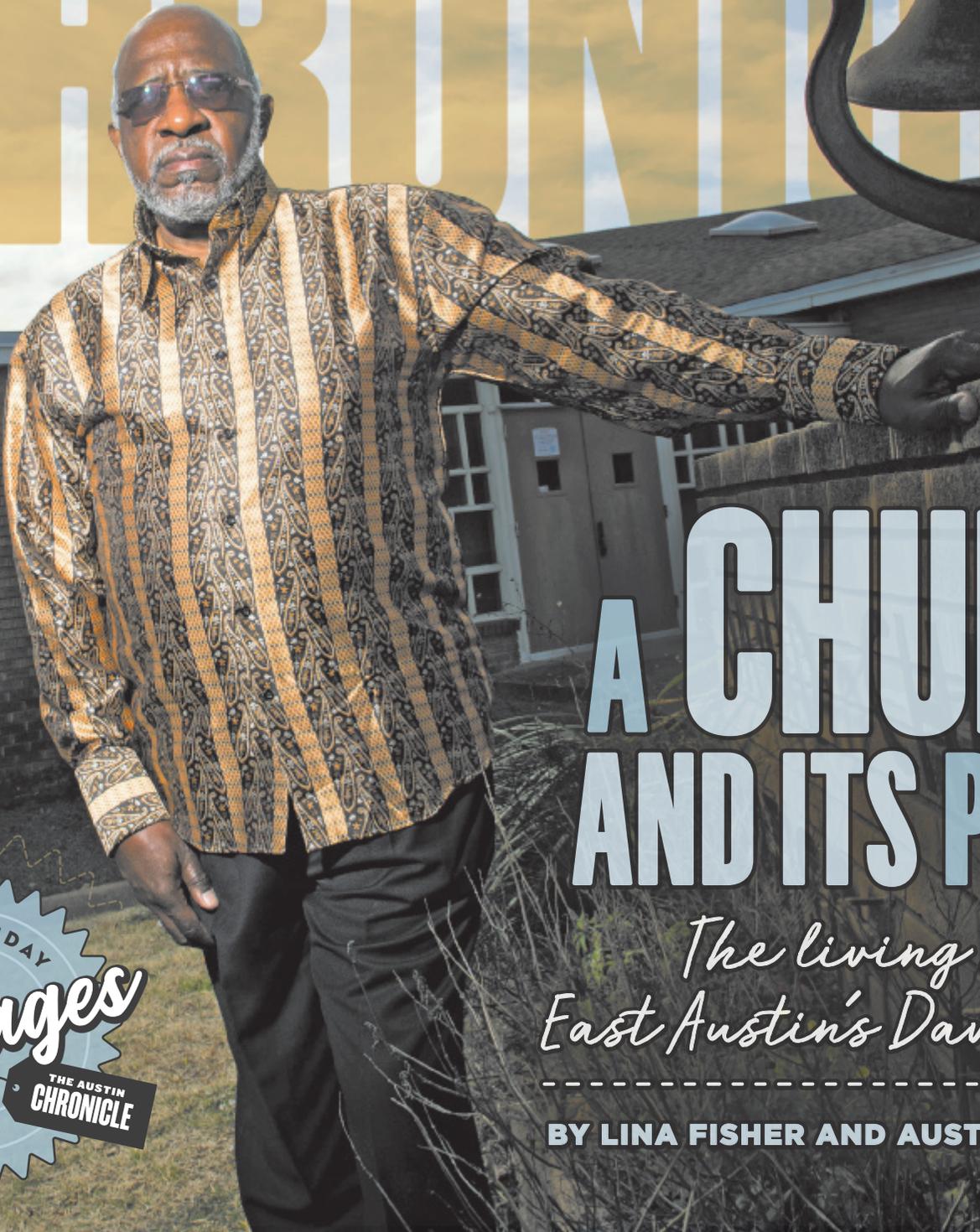


DECEMBER 25, 2020

# THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

VOL. 40 • NO. 7

FREE BUT NOT



## A CHURCH AND ITS PEOPLE

*The living history of East Austin's David Chapel*

BY LINA FISHER AND AUSTIN SANDERS P.20

2020 HOLIDAY  
**Gift Pages**  
 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE  
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Know a Good (Arepa) Dealer? P.34

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sing it, for whom the bell tolls

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**ONLINE THIS WEEK**

**CHECKING IN FOR GOOD** On March 27, Music Editor Raoul Hernandez launched a Q&A series checking in with Austin musicians to see how they were holding up during quarantine. He concluded the series this week – his 100th Q&A – by circling back to the first respondent, Shinyribs' frontman Kevin Russell. Thumb through the entire series at [austinchronicle.com/checking-in](http://austinchronicle.com/checking-in).



Kevin Russell of Shinyribs performing in May at a show put together by Drive-In Concerts ATX in a South Austin field

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**OUR VERY LAST LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEA SUGGESTIONS** Cutting this one pretty close, but Wayne Alan Brenner has five bright ideas for presents you can still procure if you hurry, hurry.

**IMPORTED "HERCULEAN" VINO** Wine Guy Wes Marshall recommends an imported red, white, and rosé produced by a generations-old cooperativo in Monferrato, Italy.

**HOLIDAY EVENTS TO KEEP YOU BUSY AND SAFE** Christmas weekend presents online and drive-in things to do, including a new claymation version of Wild Bill Ogden's annual holiday show, Honky Tonk Holiday, and Bulimianne Rhapsody's Holiday Horrors: *Gremlins*, featuring performances by Louisiana Purchase, Kitty Buick, Chique Fil-Atio, Rosalind Hussell, and Geneva Convention. Both stream on Twitch Dec. 24.

**CLUB FUNDING DEADLINE LOOMS** Since applications opened for the Live Music Venue Preservation Fund, operators of 79 different venues have filed for assistance that could total up to \$160,000 for each business. Applications close Jan. 11.

**TIRED OF THE SAME OLD CHRISTMAS MOVIES?** We round up seven unconventional picks to scratch your holiday itch, all available to stream.

**Got Something to Get Off Your Chest?**

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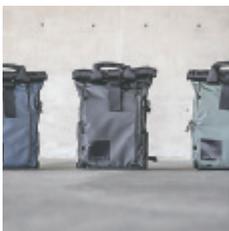
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# Feedback

## LETTERS & COMMENTS

### POLITICAL BLACK HOLE

Dear Editor,

Another politician's career just went up in flames (or down the drain, whichever metaphor you might prefer) because of his role in a very questionable and controversial rezoning.

Last year, Milestone Builders, developers of the Grove in Central Austin, sought to build 60 homes on a 40-acre property in River Place in far West Austin. However, three problems existed with the property: 1) It was only one-third developable because of steep slopes; 2) it was at the end of a very long cul-de-sac (Milky Way Drive) with limited access; and 3) it was in a highly vulnerable wildfire-prone area.

Neighbors were not against development, but because of the site constraints, asked that it be limited to 25 homes. City transportation and fire department reviewers both agreed that the proposed project was too dense for the site. And city planning staff recommended no more than 45 homes. A neighborhood petition protesting the project garnered over 500 signatures.

Zoning and Platting Commissioners expressed

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serious concerns about the density and access and voted 4-3 to recommend denial.

So, what happened when the rezoning got to City Council? Jimmy Flannigan took charge and negotiated a deal with Milestone that allowed up to 100 units, or four times what the neighbors agreed to, twice what staff recommended, and 40 more than even Milestone had asked for. He also waived any payments to the city affordable housing fund. Alter, Pool and Tovo voted "no."

This week, Flannigan sought reelection and was defeated by a 52% to 48% margin. River Place residents turned out in record number and voted almost four to one against him (794 to 230).

The "Milky Way" is a galaxy not so far away and full of black holes, including some political!

*Jim Duncan*

# OPINION VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

## DRUG USE IS THE REALITY FOR MILLIONS. THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE IT SAFER.

Recently, 13 people were arrested in West Campus on drug trafficking and money laundering charges, including a current UT student and several alumni. Something mentioned to the press as a casual aside was that in the course of the investigation, two suspects died of a drug overdose. It's probably most accurate to say that they died of an overdose of a drug they hadn't realized they'd taken. This is now an old and painful pattern: People who experience drug overdose are typically, unbeknownst to them, using a drug contaminated with substances that hit with dizzying and dangerous force, like fentanyl, isotonitazene, and flualprazolam. We're seeing this happen across the country with heroin, meth, cocaine, and counterfeit pills.

Counterfeit Adderall (which was actually meth, dyed blue and pressed to resemble real tablets) was one of the substances seized in the raid. During finals time, when students are more likely to try a medication like Adderall, this concerns me most – that students may unwittingly take a counterfeit pill and be unprepared for what happens next. But this is not an issue contained to university campuses.

The war on drugs will turn 50 next year, with over \$1 trillion in taxpayer funds spent attempting to regulate illegal drugs into nonexistence. And yet, the death toll from overdose has ballooned to historic highs in the era of COVID. Our focus urgently needs to shift to one of harm reduction – people use drugs, so how can we protect them from overdose and other harms? I am not writing to pontificate on the morality of drug use. I am writing so that even one life might be saved. There are resources available in our community.

If you or your friends use drugs, please carry naloxone. Naloxone (aka Narcan) reverses overdoses caused by opioids like fentanyl, heroin, and oxy. It's easy to use – a nasal spray you can keep in your backpack or car. And it's one of the safest medicines in the pharmacy, with no potential for abuse or overdose. It's sold at most pharmacies, and you can get it for free and without a prescription on the UT campus at Forty Acres Pharmacy. You can also have it mailed for free to any address in Texas. Go to [www.more-narcan-please.com](http://www.more-narcan-please.com) to get it.

Once you have your naloxone, learn how to use it. If you get it from a pharmacy, ask the pharmacist to show you. (You can also watch a short video here at [www.more-narcan-please.com](http://www.more-narcan-please.com).) Operation Naloxone, a peer training program led by Pharm.D students, also hosts trainings throughout the school year. Follow us on social media (@OperationNaloxone) to stay informed.

If you use a drug, test it. Locally, you can get fentanyl tests at Texas Harm Reduction Alliance ([www.harmreductiontx.org](http://www.harmreductiontx.org)). They're friendly, anonymous, and supplies are free. Otherwise, check out [www.dancesafe.org](http://www.dancesafe.org) for fentanyl tests and kits that detect less-common contaminants, which are more common in rave drugs like molly.

If you're grappling with substance use and want to explore treatment options, there are folks ready to hear from you. Expanded telehealth in the era of COVID means that more counseling options are available from home. Reach out to Austin

Recovery ([www.austinrecovery.org](http://www.austinrecovery.org)) for affordable options from a compassion-driven local nonprofit.

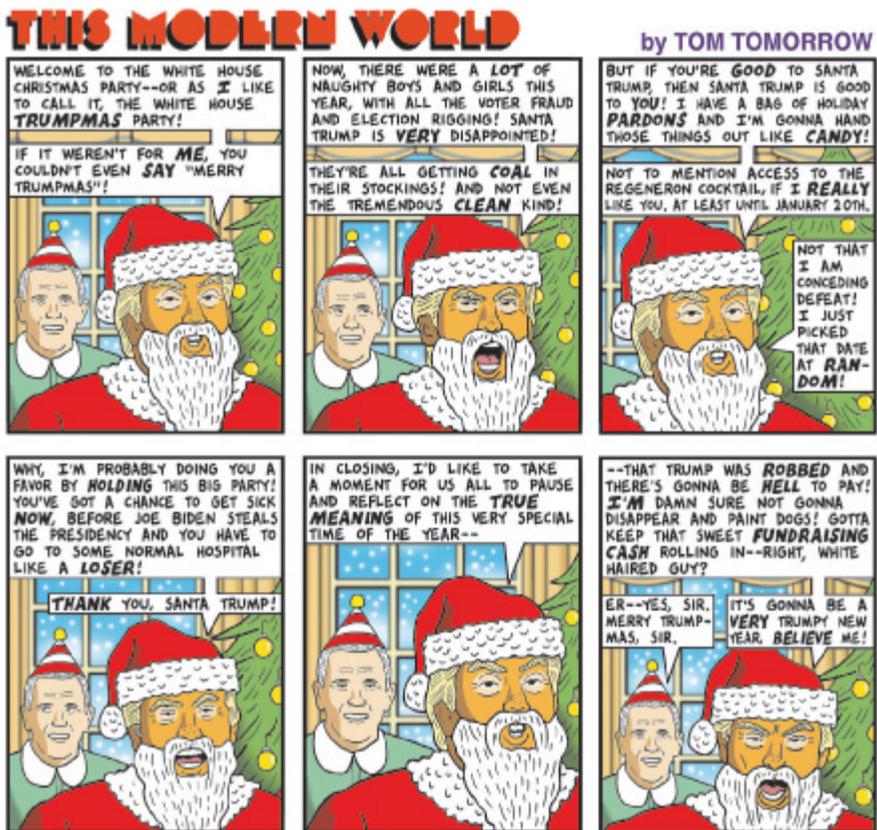
An important step to saving lives is establishing a Good Samaritan law for the state. This means that if you call 911 for a friend who's used drugs and needs EMS, you and your friend, in most cases, will be insulated from criminal prosecution. This encourages people to access emergency medical care when needed most. Contact your elected representative ([www.house.texas.gov/members/find-your-representative](http://www.house.texas.gov/members/find-your-representative)) and let them know you support a Good Samaritan law for drugs.

If you're on the UT campus and want to get involved, reach out to SHIFT ([shift.utexas.edu](http://shift.utexas.edu)). Their mission is to shift the campus culture related to substance use, reducing negative consequences related to misuse and increasing overall student well-being. SHIFT is hoping to destigmatize conversations around substance use to help build a culture of care in which all students will thrive. Student voice is crucial to SHIFT being effective, so please come say hi.

Losing someone you love to a drug overdose is an ugly, life-altering experience. Please take proactive measures to safeguard your life and the lives of your fellow Austinites. ■

BY CLAIRE ZAGORSKI

## UPDATED DAILY AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/POSTMARKS



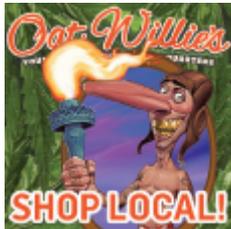
Claire Zagorski is a paramedic and harm reduction instructor at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy with the Pharmacy Addictions Research & Medicine (PhARM) Program. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Science from UNT Health Science Center, and is completing graduate work in public health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The *Chronicle* welcomes submissions of opinion pieces on any topic from the community. Find guidelines and tips at [austinchronicle.com/contact/opinion](http://austinchronicle.com/contact/opinion).



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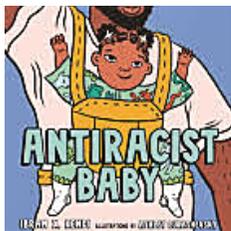
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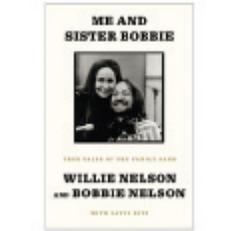
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“One way or another we will pass a law to keep Austin safe.”

— Gov. Greg Abbott in a Dec. 21 fearmongering tweet announcing that a proposal that would put the Austin Police Department under the Texas Department of Public Safety’s control had been drafted “just in time for Christmas”



JOHN ANDERSON

Volunteers with Meals on Wheels Central Texas load frozen holiday dinners into cars for delivery to 1,776 homebound seniors across Austin, Round Rock, and Pflugerville on Friday, Dec. 18. Since the pandemic began, the agency has replaced its daily meal service with bulk deliveries in an effort to minimize contact between clients and volunteers — and in order to continue that service in 2021, the nonprofit needs 200 new volunteers. Central Texans interested in learning more about volunteering may visit [www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org](http://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org) and click on the “Get Involved” tab.



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## HEADLINES

**CHRISTMAS (BABY, PLEASE STAY HOME)** As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise in Austin-Travis County, **Austin Public Health** officials are urging residents to avoid nonessential travel and gatherings outside of their households during the holiday season. At press time, Austin remains in **Stage 4** of APH’s risk-based guidelines, though the seven-day moving average for COVID-related hospitalizations has now reached the qualifying threshold for **Stage 5**. See p.12.

**ALL ABOARD THE ATP BOARD** Last week **City Council** and **Capital Metro** appointed three community experts to the **Austin Transit Partnership Board of Directors**, including transportation financing professional **Tony Elkins**, **Huston-Tillotson University** President **Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette**, and **Veronica Castro de Barrera**, owner of local design consulting practice **VCdB Architecture & Art**. The independent board, the governing body of the agency created to build out Project Connect, will oversee funding, designing, and implementing the \$7.1 billion mass transit overhaul.

**COVID AT AISD** **Education Austin** has filed more than 100 grievances on behalf of teachers who’ve been denied **medical accommodations** requests. See p.12.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS EYE MAYOR PRO TEM** District 4 CM **Greg Casar** and District 10 CM **Allison Alter** have both announced ambitions to be Austin’s next mayor pro tem. Casar said he’s received support from CMs **Pio Renteria**, **Ann Kitchen**, and CM-elect **Vanessa Fuentes**; CM **Leslie Pool**, who previously supported Casar, said she would now support Alter. Council appoints the MPT by majority vote, which would be taken in January. Austin’s current MPT **Della Garza** leaves the dais come January to be Travis County’s next county attorney.

**KEEP AUSTIN BORING** **Elon Musk**’s tunnel construction company, **The Boring Co.**, is seeking permission for a \$130,000 renovation project at an industrial building in **Pflugerville**, according to documents filed with the **Texas Department of Licensing and Registration**. The company hasn’t announced publicly any projects in Texas, but its website has listed Austin-area job openings since early November.

**GET FOOD NOW** The **Central Texas Food Bank** will host two more emergency food distributions before the new year: Tue., Dec. 29, 9am-noon at **Del Valle High School** (5301 Ross Rd., Del Valle), and Wed., Dec. 30, 9am-noon at **Nelson Field** (7105 Berkman). More info at [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now](http://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now).

**DON’T GET PRICKED** The **Austin Police Department** is currently conducting a **No Refusal DWI Initiative** that runs 10pm-5am nightly until Jan. 3, 2021. It allows officers to more easily obtain search warrants for blood samples from suspected drunken drivers who refuse to take a blood test or Breathalyzer test.

# Carnival of the MAGA Animals

Baroque, sugar-soaked fantasies fueled by copaganda litter our streets

The last time I felt genuinely unsafe walking in the street — that is, the last time I ran from a stranger looking to cause me trouble — was some years ago in Port of Spain, right before Carnival. The locals in Trinidad and Tobago, which at the time had roughly as many people as did Travis County (1.3 million), knew they were in the grips of a major and unprecedented crime wave, one that dominated the headlines and halls of their Capitol — well, Parliament — as Greg Abbott would like people to talk about Austin now.

That year, ThT had more than 500 murders — that is, more than 10 times the current Austin homicide rate. Most involved

the drug trade, a hazard of the nation’s location next to Venezuela and Colombia, and were concentrated in the roughest neighborhoods. But people of all communities and ethnicities and stations of life were tense, and armed security was visible all around. And yet everyone still went ahead with the enormous nationwide street party that is Carnival in Trinidad, and a good time was had by all.

Is this a dumb comparison? Austin is also known for its party streets and grand festivals, but if our homicide rate were 10 times its current figure — or even three times the actual rate, like a more typical year in Trinidad, or like Houston right

now — we’d run into some turbulence trying to relaunch that segment of our economy post-pandemic, let alone more bourgeois endeavors like, I dunno, nabbing the relocated HQ of a Fortune 100 company. But that’s not the case! At all! How often must we tell people to ignore Gruesome Greg Abbott and trust their own lived experience? Austin is not an unsafe city.

## DARK, TWISTED, DEEP-FRIED

Yet *here we are*. After last week’s round of syrupy high-octane frozen cop-a-ritas mixed by the lame-duck U.S. attorney appointed by President Apesh\*t, drawling on about The Worst Crime in 20 Years in Austin EEEEEK, we actually saw a salty

CONTINUED ON P.10

**AUSTIN AT LARGE**  
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

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**AUSTIN AT LARGE** CONTINUED FROM P.8

round of pushback from not just us locals but national experts, sharing headlines like “Defund the Crime Beat” and detailed takedowns in what’s left of Texas’ thought-leader press, those outlets Abbott would admit to reading. Then Monday rolled around, and Abbott tweeted with glee that the Legislative Council (which does its best to turn politicians’ wack fancies into viable laws real people could be asked to follow) had drafted a bill to transfer control of the Austin Police Department to the Texas Department of Public Safety, “just in time for Christmas.” Ho-ho-ho!

Said draft bill, which has leaked, bears the signatures of two stale deep-fried nut clusters from Austin’s way-back, former state Reps. Terry Keel and Ron Wilson, the former also once our sheriff, the latter (from Houston) known for pointed efforts to strip Austin of home rule entirely. Both later burrowed in as moles in the House parliamentarian’s office before being ousted in the coup that installed Joe Straus as speaker. Neither man’s track record reflects coherent governing principles, let alone conservative ones. Their bill would move APD whole-hog to DPS, hand-waving away conflict between Austin’s police contract and civil service law, and force the city to reimburse the state. Abbott could decree all on his own that our police budget is insufficient; the bill could apply to other large cities if their police staffing ratios fall below the (wholly arbitrary, but sacred in CopLand) 2.0 officers per 1,000 residents.

**ON PANDER! ON BLITZEN!**

How many different ways can one man, even one with the powers of our governor, be up to bullshit? The list is long. Austin is safe by all metrics, even compared to other also-safe Texas cities. Crime everywhere has increased in the last two years, but from historic lows

achieved under Obama, with wholly unsurprising short-term spikes during the privations of the pandemic.

None of this has f\*ck-all to do with police staffing or funding! Some cities spent more, some less, some the same; there’s no evidence that 2.0 is a magic number that begets low crime. Some of the “data” wielded to slander Austin pre-dates *any* city anywhere doing anything to defund police. That wasn’t a thing until, like, six months ago! (It was a thing activists *wanted*, not a thing that had happened.) Austin hadn’t reduced police funding in over a decade before this year’s budget, which didn’t take effect until October 1.

And it didn’t reduce the size of the APD! Austin postponed cadet classes, so it’s not hiring *more* cops, but we still have more than 1,800 (yes, some are retiring), and Council’s already making moves to reopen the academy. The police union has a huge incentive to muddy this up in the public’s eyes, as it counts on an endless supply of new dues-paying members, accruing mindlessly to maintain that 2.0 ratio, to support its pensions and wield max clout in future salary talks. All of which would no longer be our problem if DPS runs the department!

And none of this swung the elections! Bed-wetting old Dems think cities like Austin destroyed the party’s chances downballot, and the GOP is happy to pretend so, but it’s not so. The progressives elected to the Lege in 2018 all held their seats, including the one who faced the vice president of our police union. Even on Council, the guy who voted his conscience on police reform knowing it could cost him his seat – Jimmy Flannigan – lost by a few hundred votes, mostly from one neighborhood that’s still mad over an unrelated zoning case. If Greg Abbott were half as brave as Jimmy Flannigan, instead of running for reelection, he would run for Council; he lives in District 9. ■

# Two More Years!

What’s the one thing missing from Steve Adler’s résumé?

Mayor **Steve Adler** heads into his fourth biennium as Austin’s top official, about to lead his fourth different City Council, having accomplished a lot. Under his leadership, the city has reworked its budget process and sharpened its focus on social services. His grand Downtown Puzzle initiative centered on a Convention Center expansion is currently stalled by the pandemic, but many pieces are in place anyway, and Downtown is booming. He’s steered a steady course through 2020’s two cataclysmic upheavals – **Mike Ramos** and **COVID-19** – and somehow in the midst of all that got a rail transit plan passed, after prior leaders had failed for decades.

That last one alone is probably enough of a legacy, but there’s one big hole in Adler’s résumé: the failure to pass a revised **Land Development Code**. It’s the issue Council has spent the most time on throughout his tenure, causing the most rancor and split votes, and has been immune to his brand of consensus-building.

Two years ago, Adler hailed **Natasha Harper-Madison** as “the cavalry” arriving to push through a vote on the LDC. That metaphor was not taken lightly; a 7-4 Council majority expected to take no prisoners, make no compromises, and show no mercy to the natives. Two years later, with the resultant plan tossed out in court and two of the most strident pro-development voices gone from Council, that 7-4 majority is gone, and Adler is left to try and forge a new majority and perhaps a kinder, gentler path to a genuine LDC Revision.

The two flipped seats are on opposite ends of town, literally and figuratively – **Delia Garza**’s District 2 in the low-income Southeast, and **Jimmy Flannigan**’s D6 in the upscale Northwest – but both contests turned on a repudiation of Council’s scorched-earth LDC

policy, even though it’s not clear how the two new members will line up on land use cases. **Vanessa Fuentes**, succeeding new County Attorney Garza as the D2 rep, has cited **Pio Renteria** and **Ann Kitchen** as members she’ll likely find common ground with, which is certainly a mixed message. But her decisive upset of Renteria’s popular aide **David Chincanchan** – without even a run-off – would seem to signal a resistance among her constituents to the developer-friendly status quo Renteria represents. **Mackenzie Kelly**, the new Republican on the dais, will likely support single-family zoning, but make no mistake:

This seat was Flannigan’s to lose, and he bullied his way right out of it with his pugnacious attitude on land development issues.

All three of his opponents highlighted his dogmatic and confrontational stances on density, and in the end one zoning case cost him his seat:

He brokered a deal last year to upzone a wildfire-prone canyon off of RM 2222 in the **River Place** neighborhood to a density nearly double what staff recommended or the developer requested, over fierce opposition from residents. In last week’s run-off, Kelly (endorsed by Jennifer Mushtaler, the River Place neighborhood leader who finished third) got 78% of the vote in that one precinct (which voted for Biden), accounting for more than 80% of her overall margin of victory.

That’s the hand Adler has been dealt for his last years in office, with the goal clearly in sight and both wings of Council likely motivated to make concessions. The time seems ripe for Adler to flex his vaunted mediation skills and find that sweet spot that pisses off 10% of the extremists at both ends, but that works for the 80% of residents who aren’t ideologues, but actually do need a more flexible, progressive, and user-friendly LDC. ■

## PUBLIC NOTICE

BY NICK BARBARO

# CIVICS 101

**BULLETIN BOARD**

For the latest info, visit [www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19). Watch [www.austintexas.gov/abn](http://www.austintexas.gov/abn) for livestreamed city meetings. *Uninsured Travis Co. residents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms: Call CommUnityCare’s hotline at 512/978-8775.*

**WEDNESDAY 12/23**

**FREE COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD TESTING** No insurance or doctor’s referral needed. Scheduling an appointment ahead of time is strongly recommended ([covid19.austintexas.gov](http://covid19.austintexas.gov)), but

no one will be turned away. Immigration status is not asked. 3-7pm. Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg; Givens Park, 3811 E. 12th; Southeast Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing; 512/972-5560. [www.austintexas.gov/health](http://www.austintexas.gov/health).

**THURSDAY 12/24**

**HOLIDAY CITY OPERATIONS** City offices and municipal facilities will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If your normal trash, recycling, compost, and yard trimmings collection day falls on Christmas Day, it will “slide” by one day, to Dec. 26. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**FRIDAY 12/25**

**AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH COVID TESTING** All APH COVID-19 testing sites are closed today, to reopen Dec. 26. [www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19).

**SATURDAY 12/26**

**CAT ADOPTION WITH THUNDERING PAWS** Stop by, say hello, and meet adoptable cats. 11am-2pm. Tomlinson’s Feed, 164 Belterra Village Way. [www.thunderingpaws.org](http://www.thunderingpaws.org).

**FREE COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD TESTING** See Wednesday (12/23). 8am-1pm. Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg; Givens Recreation Park, 3811 E. 12th; Southeast Branch Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing.

**MONDAY 12/28**

**FREE COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD TESTING** See Wednesday (12/23). 8am-1pm.

**TUESDAY 12/29**

**CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION** Food will be distributed primarily via a drive-through, but groceries are also available via walk-up. 9am-noon. Del Valle High School, 5301 Ross Rd., Del Valle. Free. [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now](http://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now).

**WEDNESDAY 12/30**

**CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION** See Tuesday. 9am-noon. Nelson Field, 7105 Berkman. **FREE COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD TESTING** See Wednesday (12/23).

**ONGOING**

**DRAFT TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REVIEW** The draft defines the rules, requirements, and technical guidelines for building mobility infrastructure. Provide feedback on transit systems, bike and urban trails, pedestrian zones, and more. *Deadline: Dec. 31.* [www.speakupAustin.org/transportation-criteria-manual](http://www.speakupAustin.org/transportation-criteria-manual).

**RFP: TEMPO 2021** Art in Public Places’ TEMPO program seeks proposals from artists or artist teams for short-term, outdoor art installations. *Deadline: Jan. 26.* [www.publicartist.org](http://www.publicartist.org).

**2021 MOBILITY ANNUAL PLAN** provides an annual “look ahead” at planned work that’s funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond – sidewalks, bike-ways, urban trails, Vision Zero improvements, and more. View the interactive project map, read the plan, and provide feedback through Feb. 7. [www.austintexas.gov/transportation](http://www.austintexas.gov/transportation).

## Whole Earth Provision Co. turns 50!

On December 14th Whole Earth Provision Co. celebrated its 50th birthday. From our first store in the Bluebonnet Plaza near the UT campus to today and our six stores in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, we've won a place in the hearts of generations of Texans.

Inspired by the Whole Earth Catalog, Whole Earth Provision Co. was a place to lay hands on items that before you could only read about in the Catalog. Sales were brisk, so brisk the store was emptied and had to close temporarily to reorder and restock. (The staff may or may not have celebrated by running off to Mexico!)

The Whole Earth Catalog was a compendium of tools and books for creating new ways of living and learning in the 1960s and 70s. Encouraged by the Nomadics section of the Catalog, our customers requested that we add outdoor gear to the mix of merchandise. And so we became an early source for specially designed backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, hiking boots, rugged clothing and other gear being created by new companies like Patagonia and The North Face.

Today our stores are filled with quality clothing and shoes for men, women and children, travel and outdoor gear, toys, books and gifts, both zany and beautiful. For years we've been a one-stop shop for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers, the last stop on the way to a kid's birthday party to find that standout present, and the source of gifts for the whole family that are treasured and used.

Whole Earth has a long history of supporting groups focused on preserving the environment and on outdoor activities. Our largest fundraising effort is for Texas State Parks. Over the past nine years, the proceeds from the Austin shows of the Banff Mountain Film Festival combined with customer in-store donations made during April is Texas State Park Month have raised over \$245,000 for the parks.

One of the great joys of working at Whole Earth is helping people prepare for adventures near and far: finding comfortable shoes for a day hike at Enchanted Rock, the perfect clothing for a day on the lake, travel gear for the trip of a lifetime to visit the great museums of Europe or for an expedition to add new birds to a life list. And best of all, we get to hear the stories and see the photos when the travelers return home.

As we celebrate our 50th birthday, we're also looking toward the future. We'll continue to search for innovative and quality clothing, shoes, gear and goods for outdoor living, travel, work and home for the whole family. We've made wonderful friends in our first 50 years and hope to make even more in the years to come. Here's to 50 more years of friendship, great stories, and a shared commitment to the earth and our communities.



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<b>DEC 26-27</b>	<b>Noon til Midnight</b>
<b>DEC 28-29</b>	<b>4PM til Midnight</b>
<b>DEC 30-31</b>	<b>Noon til Midnight</b>

# A Path Toward Permanent Housing

Council approves funding for Espero at Rutland

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

City Council has approved a combination of state housing tax credits, funding from the 2018 housing bond, and operational funding through a new **Local Housing Voucher program** to bring 171 units of **permanent supportive housing** to a site in North Austin at 1934 Rutland Drive.

Known as **Espero at Rutland**, the project will be a partnership between **Caritas of Austin**, which provides supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in Austin; the **Vecino Group**, a national affordable housing developer that has built similar supportive housing projects in other areas; and the **Austin Housing Finance Corporation**. AHFC will own the land and lease it to Caritas and Vecino Group; Vecino will manage development of the property, while Caritas will provide supportive services to residents living at the site.

The 171 studio apartments will be rented exclusively to people earning no more than 60% of Austin's median family income: 117 units will rent to people earning under 50% of the MFI (\$48,800 for a family of four); 27 units will be for people at 60% MFI; and another 27 units are earmarked for those at 30% MFI (for families of four, that's \$58,550 and \$29,300, respectively). It will be the largest development of its kind in Austin. (Waterloo Terrace, a similar project developed by **Foundation Communities**, broke ground in April 2019 and will bring 132 units of supportive housing to Northwest Austin near The Domain.)

All of the apartments will be rented to people in need of supportive services, but 101 units will be reserved for people coming from the local **Continuum of Care**, led by the **Ending Community Homelessness Coalition**. People who enter the CoC through a coordinated assessment – a social and health exam that determines what level of care and support a person will need to resolve their homelessness – will be referred to the project.

A project like this is the type ECHO has said Austin is in desperate need of: a place where people departing from chronic homelessness can have convenient access to social services and medical care that is often neglected when living on the street or in a shelter. What makes this specific project unique is the mix of funding sources.

Initially, Caritas and Vecino Group sought

to develop the Espero project alongside a similar supportive housing development near West Campus with a 9% tax credit offered through the **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs'** Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. The 9% tax credit is the more valuable of the two LIHTCs offered by TDHCA, but it is also competitive; projects are scored on a points system, similar to the way AHFC scores projects before awarding capital funding. But a change to the program's definition of "supportive housing" disqualified Caritas as the service provider at both projects, so the applications were rejected. Caritas and Vecino appealed the decision at the May 21 meeting of the TDHCA governing board, where Mayor **Steve Adler** and Council Members **Greg Casar** and **Kathie Tovo** spoke in favor of reinstating the two applications. The board voted to deny the appeal.

After the disqualification and failed appeal, Caritas and Vecino formulated a new proposal for a 4% tax credit through TDHCA – but only for the Rutland project. It's unclear why the project on **W. 24th Street** was not pursued after the appeal failed, but the Rutland project was. At 24th Street, there could have been much greater political resistance from West Campus neighbors; no such resistance has thus far been raised against the Rutland project – a reflection, perhaps, of the power that whiter, wealthier neighborhoods have compared to poorer, majority Black and Latinx neighborhoods. But Caritas Executive Director **Jo Kathryn Quinn** tells the *Chronicle* that the partners aren't preoccupied with why the W. 24th Street project didn't work out; they're focused on the Rutland property. "We strategically decided to move forward with the Rutland property," Quinn told us. "We just had more flexibility there."

The state denial of the 9% tax credit created a funding gap that the city had to help

**Espero at Rutland is the type of project Austin is in desperate need of: a place where people departing chronic homelessness can have convenient access to social services and medical care that is often neglected when living on the street or in a shelter.**



The future site of Espero at Rutland, which will be home to 171 units of permanent supportive housing

fill, Casar told us. The city was able to close the gap, but Casar notes that less funding from the state means that the project will be able to help fewer people. "The state denied funding to this project for no good reason," he said, "but I'm proud of how City Council and the Housing and Planning Department stepped up to make sure this would happen. Austin needs to swim upstream to create housing options, but it's really important for federal and state government to step up, too. This is a case where state government could have helped many more people with more funding, but they chose not to do that."

Ultimately, Espero at Rutland will receive about \$3 million in state funding, compared to about \$8.5 million in local funding. The partnership was eventually able to secure the 4% tax credit, but with less capital funding than anticipated, they needed to find a way to make operations more financially viable. Enter the Local Housing Voucher program, which was created with \$3.6 million from the Housing

Trust Fund when Council adopted the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget in August. Typically, financial support from AHFC is for one-time capital expenditures to acquire land and construct the housing on top of it. (Espero has been awarded \$3 million from the Housing Trust Fund and \$5.5 million from the 2018 housing bond.)

But LHV's will operate more like **Housing Choice Vouchers** (formerly known as Section 8) and **project-based vouchers**, which are backed by the federal government (really, more like the latter, since specific projects will be subsidized). Both programs are used to subsidize affordable housing, but both are severely underfunded (in 2014, estimates found that only 24% of people eligible for Section 8 vouchers received them), so the city is going to offer its own operational subsidy.

That operational financing will be critical to opening the development, Quinn said. "The state funding will be a large share, but the city is making a really large investment because they want to see this project happen. ... We are going to target people on the coordinated entry list who are unsheltered, so this will be the first housing-first project that will be open to the general population of people experiencing homelessness."

Under current projections, Espero at Rutland is expected to break ground next summer and begin leasing to tenants in late 2022. ■

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Photo: Chastresced Warbler



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**JANUARY 20: Citywide**

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**JANUARY 28: Citywide**

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# HOUSING ADVOCATES DEMAND RELIEF, PROTECTIONS AS EVICTION CRISIS LOOMS

A network of local housing organizations are calling on state leaders to craft a plan for preventing evictions amid the worst months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday afternoon, Dec. 21, members of the **Austin Housing Coalition**, **Texas Housers**, and the **Coalition of Texans With Disabilities** hosted a press conference to demand an indefinite extension of eviction moratoriums and other protections, as tenants wait for more assistance from the federal government. “It’s unconscionable to push hundreds of thousands of Texans into that uncertain future when we are facing a completely foreseeable and preventable crisis of homelessness due to our state’s inaction,” said **Brittany Baize**, director of development and communications at **Family Eldercare** and vice chair of the AHC.

The press conference came on the heels of

new moratorium extensions that advocates say will provide short-term relief to some struggling tenants. Travis County Judge **Andy Brown** issued an extension of the county’s current moratorium, prohibiting landlords from issuing notices to vacate to tenants who fail to make rent until Feb. 1, 2021. Austin Mayor **Steve Adler** extended a similar order that applies within the city limits. Meanwhile, the federal eviction moratorium issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was set to expire Dec. 31, but the new COVID-19 relief package passed by Congress late Monday night will also extend those provisions nationwide until Jan. 31.

**Faced with a difficult choice between paying for housing or refilling vital prescriptions, most opt for “keeping that roof over their head at the risk of their health and their families’ health.”**

For advocates, the recent developments are positive but will not be enough to tackle the crisis, especially given the prevalence of housing insecurity among those who were struggling before the onset of the public health emergency. “The pandemic,” Baize said, “has really laid bare massive structural inequities in our system.”

For many tenants and homeowners, rent and mortgage payments are the first bills to prioritize. But among the elderly and the disabled, crippling unemployment rates and little targeted assistance have left households looking for places to cut costs, often facing a difficult choice between paying for housing or saving up enough to refill vital prescriptions. **Chase Bearden**, deputy director at CTD, says most opt for “keeping that roof over their head at the risk of their health and their families’ health.”

The advocates note that throughout the pandemic, Austin and Travis County tenants facing hardship have found relief through local programs like **Relief in a State of**



Members of the Austin Housing Coalition, Texas Housers, and the Coalition of Texans With Disabilities hosted a press conference on Dec. 21 to demand stronger eviction protections

**Emergency (RISE) and Relief for Emergency Needs of Tenants (RENT)**. Other Texans have not been afforded the same benefits, despite the clear need. In Harris County, for example, little has been done to slow evictions. According to census survey data cited by **Christina Rosales**, deputy director of Texas Housers, one in 10 adults in Texas is either behind on their rent or mortgage payment, or is worried about being able to make the next payment on time.

Rosales criticized the lack of initiative shown at the state level. “State leaders are halfheartedly standing up an eviction diversion and rental assistance program that won’t reach the entire state for months,” she said. “We ask that Gov. Abbott and the Texas Supreme Court implement an eviction moratorium until there is a fully

functioning moratorium that will stave off evictions for the duration of this pandemic and the economic downturn that it has caused.” On Tuesday, Dec. 22, the court extended its emergency eviction relief program through mid-March but not a full moratorium on evictions.

Advocates recognize that no plan will be easy to execute, but one thing is certain: Any effective strategy will require a multi-pronged approach. “It is not just a moratorium that is necessary. It’s a moratorium combined with rental and mortgage assistance, with effective program delivery, with a plan and a timeline that acknowledge the full scope of the crisis,” Baize concluded. And if the plan fails anywhere along that line, “then things still fall apart.”

– Jose Benjamin Montaña

## As Wastewater Plants Fail, TCEQ Fails to Regulate

In October, **Save Barton Creek Association** released a “**Hill Country Sewage Scorecard**” grading local wastewater treatment plants on their pollution contributions to local lakes and streams. They didn’t do so hot: 81% of the 48 plants studied since 2017 exceeded at least one of the pollutant limits in their permits – two of the F grades went to northeast suburbs Pflugerville and Manor. Only 22% received any kind of formal enforcement action from the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**, the agency that’s supposed to regulate these transgressions. Even more ironically, the data in the report was self-reported by the plants themselves to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**.

The bacteria used to treat wastewater is aerobic, meaning it uses oxygen as fuel; when it’s dumped in a stream, it eats up the oxygen fish need to survive. Other bacterial byproducts of insufficient sewage treatment include nitrogen and phosphorus, which fertilize algae and lead to **algae blooms** that make the water unswimmable and potentially dangerous for dogs, as Austin has seen multiple times in

the last year in Lady Bird Lake. “We feel that the informal enforcement actions [from TCEQ] really aren’t having an effect, because the exceedances are still happening,” explains **Brian Zabcik**, wastewater campaign organizer at SBCA, referring to TCEQ’s current policy of calling or emailing to reprimand a misbehaving plant. “Only a formal enforcement action or monetary penalty will really prod plants to literally clean up their act.”

The Scorecard study comes from a group founded in 2017 called **No Dumping Sewage**, which has a set of short- and long-term recommendations for reducing water pollution. In the short term, the coalition wants better enforcement and better standards in wastewater treatment permits. That means fines for offending plants and adding limits for nitrogen and phosphorus to all sewage discharge permits.

Long term, Zabcik says, “the solution is to not dump sewage into streams or lakes at all.” One way to do this is with a **land application permit**, which allows partially treated sewage to be irrigated onto a field to finish treating with aerobic bacteria and then soak into the

ground instead of flowing into waterways. Another way is **beneficial reuse**, says Zabcik, meaning “you use it again within your buildings for lower-priority purposes. The crazy thing is that we’re using our very best water for everything; we don’t need drinking-quality water for flushing toilets and watering our gardens.”

Zabcik says **Austin Water** has already been moving in that direction with a reclaimed water “**purple pipe**” system that allows developers to access nonpotable water for such uses – that’s what the water tower at Mueller helps to support. The Highland Lakes region, where TCEQ banned new discharge permits in 1986, has been using land application permits and purple pipe systems ever since to serve its booming population; the city of Austin led a lengthy stakeholder process to help TCEQ expand its definition of “beneficial reuse” to make that process easier.

Zabcik says that Central Texas has 34 years of proof that better sewage treatment doesn’t have to stop development. “That’s where treated wastewater can become a valuable resource that can help us address the problem of water conservation in Texas before it becomes a crisis.”

– Lina Fisher

Outside the Liberal Arts and Science Academy on the first day AISD reopened classrooms in October



JANA BIRCHUM

## COVID at AISD: Union Lodges Grievances as District Plays Hardball

On the first day of **Austin ISD's** winter break, its staff union **Education Austin** filed 127 grievances on behalf of teachers and other employees whose remote work request accommodations were denied for the spring, claiming that the district's process for weighing staff risks during the **COVID-19** pandemic violates the **Americans With Disabilities Act**. However, the grievances likely won't come before the **board of trustees** until at least April, leaving hundreds of high-risk teachers who've been denied accommodations in a bind for the start of the spring semester, when they must report to campus, take leave, or resign.

For the just-concluded fall semester, AISD was one of the most generous school districts in Texas with accommodations, approving over 900 requests from teachers and employees whose personal health conditions, such as pregnancy, diabetes, or cancer, raised their COVID-19 risks. But for the spring semester, the script has been flipped: AISD has denied more than 1,000 medical accommodations requests from employees, approving fewer than 100.

"I've been around this district 22 years – I've never seen anything like it," Education Austin President **Ken Zarifis** said. "The district is not interested in medical well-being ... They're interested in their agenda, and their agenda is dangerous. It will put people in harm's way, it will shove respirators down people's throats, and it will kill people."

AISD's website states that campus safety protocols, such as wearing masks and washing hands, significantly reduced the risk for COVID, and that therefore "only those at the highest risk who could best ful-

fill their duties remotely would be eligible for remote work." The district is closed for winter break until Jan. 5 and could not be reached for comment.

Teachers denied included **Annie Dragoo**, a musical theatre teacher at Austin High School, who has cancer and a rare heart disease and is currently undergoing weekly chemotherapy. After receiving an accommodation this fall, Dragoo spent time teaching virtually from a hospital and a heart failure clinic. Still, she arranged three virtual musical performances for her classes and watched nine of her students qualify for national competitions. Dragoo said the denial of her spring accommodation came as a shock.

"I started crying. I'm a very emotional being, as I teach theatre," Dragoo said. "And then my second response was to update my will."

Education Austin plans to argue that the district's process violates the ADA by denying medical accommodations to high-risk teachers without proving those requests would cause "undue hardship" to campuses. However, by the time they make the argument in front of the board, the point may be moot, unless their grievances can be fast-tracked.

**Tiger Hanner**, a legal representative of Education Austin, said that although he requested a shorter time frame, AISD is requiring the union to go through its existing four-level grievance process, which won't begin until after winter break.

While the cases may not make it to the board until late in the school year, Dragoo and others will still have to make a hard choice before January 5. "I'm having to choose between my life and my job," Dragoo said, "and that's not fair." – Clara Ence Morse

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# Quiet on Death Row

Pandemic halts the sputtering execution machine

BY BRANT BINGAMON

COVID-19 has skewed the numbers but they're eye-popping nonetheless. In 2020, Texas – the leading practitioner of **capital punishment** in the nation and perhaps the world – executed just three people. Our state's juries sentenced just two people to death.

The numbers are low because the pandemic shut down courtrooms and stopped executions beginning with the March lockdowns. But a recent report from the **Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** shows that, even without **COVID-19**, death sentences and executions are decreasing year after year. Our state is changing.

Still, Texas was one of only two states to conduct an execution during the pandemic. As the coronavirus sickened prisoners and corrections officers throughout the system in July, the **Texas Department of Criminal Justice** decided it was nonetheless safe enough to kill **Billy Joe Wardlow**.

Wardlow was 18 years old when he murdered a man in a botched robbery in 1993. He had argued that his jury's prediction that he would remain dangerous was scientifically impossible, because his brain was still developing when he committed the crime. His 25 years as a peacemaker on death row supported his claim. Two of the jurors from his trial, 60 Texas legislators, and a variety of scientists and child development experts asked that his execution be stopped. State and federal courts refused.

Texas had carried out two other executions, in January and February, before **COVID-19** hit. Since then, eight executions have been delayed – six in the interests of public health during the pandemic, two for case-specific reasons. The **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals** stayed the execution of the profoundly mentally ill **Randall Mays** this spring, concerned that he doesn't understand why he is to be put to death. (He believes his warden is executing him in order to steal a device he has invented that would supply the world with free energy.) And the U.S. Supreme Court stopped **Ruben Gutierrez's** execution in June after he asked that a chaplain be present; Christ-

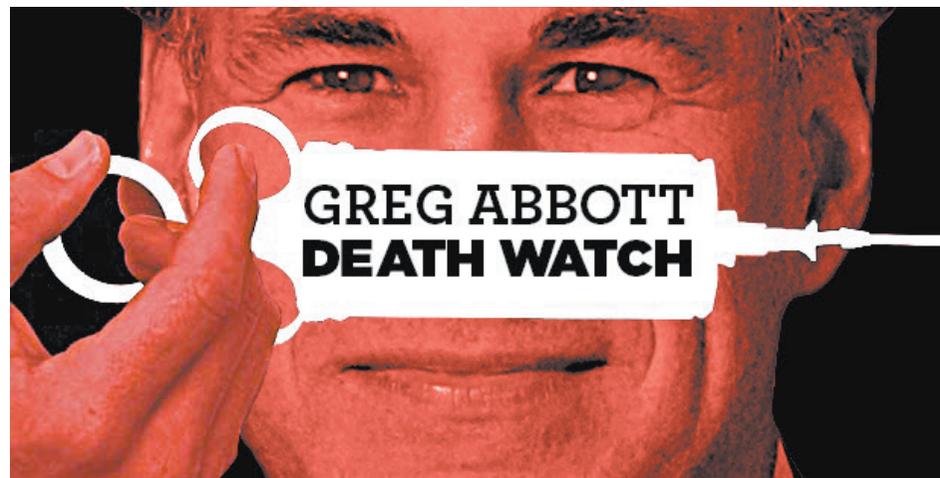
ian chaplains had routinely attended executions in Huntsville until April 2019, when an inmate requested a Buddhist advisor. Flustered, officials abruptly banned all spiritual advisors from the execution chamber.

Even with **COVID-19**-prompted shutdowns of capital murder trials, the two death sentences imposed this year are in line with recent numbers. The TCADP report shows that Texas juries have sent three to seven people to death row in each of the last five years, down from a high of 48 in 1999. This reflects the decline in public support for the death penalty, which is at its lowest level since the 1960s. Rice University released a poll of Houston-area residents in April that showed approval of capital punishment has fallen from 41% in 2000 to 20% today.

Criminal justice reformers have replaced law-and-order prosecutors in Texas' big cities. Since the 1970s, Harris County has sent over 300 men to death row, but since taking office in 2017, District Attorney **Kim Ogg** has sought the death penalty in only two cases. Dallas County has sent only one person to death row in the last seven years, and district attorneys in San Antonio and El Paso have pledged to avoid the death penalty. Here in Austin, D.A.-elect **José Garza** campaigned on a promise never to seek it.

Consequently, the state's death row population has decreased year after year, now down to 210 from a high of 460 in 1999. The general population of the Texas prison system as a whole is falling as well, down from 140,000 to 120,000 in just the last year. One thing has remained constant: African Americans and Hispanic people account for 70% of those on death row now, and of those who've been sentenced to death since 2015.

The CCA and the **Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** have continued to review capital defendants' appeals during the pandemic, and both the state and federal courts are still accused of rubber-stamping prosecutions and sentences and ignoring the needs and rights of mentally ill inmates like Mays. But progress is being made for those with intellectual disabilities; the 2017 SCOTUS ruling in **Moore v. Texas**, which



held that the state used non-medical criteria to determine which inmates are disabled, led to six death sentences being commuted to life in prison this year.

Reformist prosecutors, trial judges, and the CCA all agreed these men are constitutionally barred from execution. **Bobby Moore** himself, the namesake of *Moore v. Texas*, was granted parole and released in August after 40 years of incarceration and many, many appeals. Former CCA Judge **Elsa Alcalá** points out that resentencing these men will save the state a great deal of money. "The state devoted an exorbitant amount of time, energy, and resources to maintaining these unconstitutional death sentences," Alcalá said, "even though evidence of intellectual disability was presented years ago."

Currently, TDCJ has six executions scheduled for 2021; each will face appeals at all levels of the justice system and will likely be delayed. Five of the six have already been delayed at least once before.

## THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Like TCADP, the **Death Penalty Information Center** released its year-end report on Dec. 16, covering the national picture. As in Texas, juries across the nation handed down the fewest death sentences in the modern era this year; executions were the lowest in 37 years. Colorado became the 22nd state to outlaw capital punishment, and other states that once regularly executed prisoners have now gone a decade or more without doing so.

As most of the country has effectively abolished the death penalty, DPIC's report shows that in 2020, for the first time in history, the federal government executed more people than the states. Ten of this year's 17 executions came, effectively, on the orders of Donald Trump, timed for the election season, with seven conducted rapidly from July to late September.

Since the election, Trump and his Department of Justice have conducted the first

lame-duck executions in more than a century, with three longtime federal prisoners executed in the last month. Another three are scheduled to be killed before Trump leaves office, including **Lisa Montgomery**, a mentally ill inmate who would be the first woman executed by the feds in more than 70 years.

The DPIC report looks at the impact to be felt with the death of Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**: "A DPIC analysis of Supreme Court death-penalty decisions since 2014 found that Justice Ginsburg had provided a vote in favor of death-row prisoners in every case in which the court overturned a capital conviction or death sentence and in every instance in which the Court granted a stay of execution." Ginsburg authored the 5-3 decision in *Moore v. Texas*, and also went to bat for mentally ill inmates and those convicted of capital crimes committed as minors. ■



**Billy Joe Wardlow at the Allan B. Polunsky Unit, which houses inmates who are awaiting execution on Texas' death row, in 2019. Wardlow's execution earlier this July was the first execution to proceed in the state since the start of the pandemic.**

COURTESY OF DANIELLE ALLEN



Last week Ascension Seton administered its first COVID-19 vaccines to front-line health care workers at four Austin-area hospitals

COURTESY OF ASCENSION SETON

## A COVID-Cautious Christmas

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise locally, **Austin Public Health** leaders are urging residents to avoid gathering outside of their households this holiday season. Health officials continue to cite the outsized impact of Thanksgiving gatherings on the spread of disease in Central Texas. As of Dec. 21, **cases are up 86%** since the beginning of the month, according to Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott**. While Austin's positivity rate has fluctuated little over the last two weeks – hovering just under 9% – the seven-day moving average for COVID hospitalizations crept up to just above 50 in the data reported Monday, Dec. 22, which is now the threshold of **Stage 5** of APH's revised **Risk-Based Guidelines**. APH officials will continue using that as their primary indicator as they weigh Austin's risk stage. Should they announce a move into Stage 5, officials have floated the possibility of a **curfew** as well as asking schools to eliminate or scale back extracurricular activities where social distancing and mask-wearing may not be feasible.

In the meantime, they're once again asking Austinites to limit nonessential travel, wear face masks, and designate one person per household to run errands. "Regardless of if we're in Stage 5 or Stage 4 this Christmas week, it's important to know that we still have to decrease our risk – decrease our personal risks, decrease the risk of our household, and decrease the risk for our community," said Escott in a Dec. 21 press conference.

Vigilance remains imperative as Austin-Travis County area providers continue to receive more COVID-19 vaccines from both **Pfizer** and **Moderna**. Last week eight Travis

County providers received 13,650 initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine; this week, following the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration's** emergency use authorization of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 18, the Austin area is set to receive 25,425 doses of the two vaccines, according to **Cassandra DeLeon**, interim APH assistant director.

Last week some EMTs and paramedics with **Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services** (including Escott, who remains EMS's medical director), the **Austin Fire Department**, and various Travis County fire departments began receiving vaccines sooner than expected, thanks to UT-Austin's vaccination operation. Still, these 39,075 doses aren't enough to cover all of Austin's health care workers, of whom Escott estimates there are around 80,000. Nor will that number of vaccines have a

substantial impact on the rise in cases and hospitalizations. "What it has the potential to do is help us on the staffing side," Escott explained. "As we have hospital staff, our paramedics, and first

responders increasingly immunized against COVID-19, our hope is that we're going to see less impact in terms of absenteeism associated with COVID-19."

Local health officials have yet to specify what vaccine rollout would look like for the next round, but have cited higher-risk populations, like adults ages 50 and older, as a primary concern; 94% of those who have died from COVID-19 complications locally were over the age of 50, and 82% were 60 and above. This week, COVID-19 will become the third leading cause of death in Travis County, said Escott.

– Beth Sullivan

### Officials urge vigilance as more health workers receive vaccine

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BY THE CHRONICLE  
EDITORIAL STAFF

**Jennifer Whiddon with construction workers in Andijan, Uzbekistan. She bought 190 ice creams for employees of her friend's shoe factory in celebration of the Fourth of July, which she spent in Uzbekistan when COVID-19 restrictions delayed her return home to the U.S. for months.**

PHOTO BY ERKIN JON

## When the Pandemic Closed the Border, Uzbekistan Rolled Out the Welcome Mat

It was supposed to be a two-month visit.

On March 3, Austin resident Jennifer Whiddon deplaned in Uzbekistan, a relatively isolated former Soviet republic, located in Central Asia and home to roughly 33 million people.

A few months earlier, Whiddon had visited the country for the first time. She had longtime friends from the region and had always wanted to see it in person. She loved her initial experience so much that she decided to return for a longer stay in order to take language classes in Russian and Uzbek. She'd intended to stay in the country for two months to participate in a language immersion program in Andijan, an ancient city on the border of Kyrgyzstan, about a five-hour drive away from the capital.

When Whiddon arrived in March, she'd heard of the coronavirus, but like most of us, had no idea how serious it would be. Whiddon's program was scheduled to start in mid-March and her plan was to spend a week or two getting settled and reconnecting with old contacts.

The first few days were a blur of excitement. Trips to the market to buy delicious fresh fruit, ice cream with

old friends, exploring her new neighborhood. Then, about a week into her stay, Whiddon was grocery shopping with a friend when they received an alarming text. "As of tomorrow, the borders will be closed." Just like that, the lockdown had begun.

The Uzbek government moved so swiftly that there was virtually no time for Whiddon to get out of the country. She was five hours away from the airport and didn't have a ticket anyway. Meanwhile, the government was quickly shutting down the highways in an effort to prevent spread. Residents were instructed to stay at home and sit tight.

At first, Whiddon wasn't too worried about the sudden stay-at-home orders. "I'm always Miss Positive and Hopeful," explains Whiddon. "To be honest, I was not believing it was going to be a big deal. [I thought] well, they're going to close the borders for safety reasons and by April, or by May 1, when my ticket is out, I'll be fine."

For once, Whiddon's optimism didn't pan out. As months passed, the pandemic continued to spread around the world and Whiddon found herself stranded indefinitely, with no flights in or out of the country.

The first few months of the lockdown were particularly challenging, she recalls. She didn't speak the language and her classes had been canceled, so she was isolated without much to do.

For the most part, she stayed at home, read books, learned Russian, worked on writing projects, and spent time with the few friends she knew in Andijan. She had one local friend who continued to work, managing a local factory, and she would visit him on the job for his company (and the Wi-Fi connection). She also made friends with the owner of her local grocery store. With the aid of Google translation, she'd share stories about her life back home over a bowl of plov, a traditional Uzbek dish of rice, meat, and vegetables.

Was it hard to stay calm during such an uncertain time? "There were times where I would get anxious and a little sad," admits Whiddon, but she did her best to "hone in and just live today. Tomorrow will bring tomorrow."

Throughout her experience, Whiddon says she relied on prayer to sustain herself. Though her Christian faith made her unique in the Muslim country, she found common ground with her Uzbeki friends through their shared spirituality. "My friends would take breaks to pray to Allah, and I would take breaks to pray to my

God. Although I prayed differently, everyone was very happy to learn about my religion and never made me feel wrong for my beliefs."

As the spring turned into summer, Whiddon's two-month visit stretched out with no end in sight. Her original return home date came and went. Fortunately, by June, some restrictions began to lift. Although she couldn't fly home, travel within the country was permitted, business and activities began to slowly resume, and small gatherings were allowed. Through friends, Whiddon was connected to more local people in Andijan, and her network grew significantly.

For the remainder of her time, Whiddon relied on these warm and generous Uzbeki neighbors who took her in, sharing meals, and touring her around the region. When she fell sick with what she believes was COVID-19, her local friends made sure she had the care she needed to get better. On July 4, they celebrated American Independence Day together.

By August, Whiddon still wasn't certain when she'd be able to get home. The Uzbek foreign minister continued to extend foreign travel visa, and her original ticket home was still getting rescheduled then canceled, rescheduled then canceled.

Then, on Aug. 26, she got word from a friend that a flight out of the capital would be leaving for the United States on Aug. 29. The flight was being chartered to New York City by the Uzbek government in order to pick up stranded Uzbeki nationals. She was able to secure a ticket and then had just a breakneck 72 hours to pack and say goodbye.

The trip home has inspired mixed emotions for Whiddon. During her time in Uzbekistan, Whiddon chose to limit her international news intake. Being stranded was stressful enough and she didn't want to add to her anxiety. However, that meant that she largely missed the coverage of this summer's racial justice uprising, as well as our nation's continuing struggle to contain the coronavirus.

When she returned home, just a few months prior to our presidential election, she immediately felt a deep, pervasive tension and was saddened by what she saw.

"It just didn't feel like the United States of America," reflects Whiddon. "It felt like 51 states. Separated. And it was hard. It was hard to hear all the stories, because I love my country and to see people at such odds, to see people fighting, and being blinded by parties, instead of humanity and spirituality and love of a nation, it's hard to witness."

Now back home in Texas, Whiddon remains grateful for all her experience gave her. She plans to return to Uzbekistan to help connect businesses there with opportunities in the United States. She hopes people will hear her story and be inspired by the generosity of the people she met, who took in a stranger and made sure that she was cared for. She encourages us all to be a little more kind and brave. "Do not fear," says Whiddon, "and if you do: Fight it, beat it into submission, because over that boundary of fear ... you see that there's nothing but beauty." — Sara Hutchinson

Kenta Asazu



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## Balancing High School and a Budding Onigiri Business

Kenta Asazu has been making onigiri for most of his 17-year-old life. Not just while working in the kitchen at his family's restaurant, Sa-Tén, but since he was a kindergartner, in fact. He describes onigiri as sort of a Japanese version of the American peanut butter and jelly – a comfort food that you learn to make very young. “My great-grandmother and my grandparents would make them for me every day as a lunch when I would go to school in Japan every summer,” Asazu says. The New Orleans-born and Austin-raised teen decided to channel that long-developed culinary skill into the small onigiri pickup and delivery service Samurice.

For those unfamiliar with the delicious Japanese snack, onigiri is a rice ball formed around any number of fillings. Asazu says his experience in the Sa-Tén kitchen, as well as polling popular onigiri flavors with the Japanese staff, gave him inspiration for a business centered on the easy and fairly low-cost snack. “I also knew people would like it because it's such a versatile food. Meaning you can eat it anywhere, anytime,” he says. “When I would take it to school for lunch, my friends would always ask for me to bring them some.”

Balancing Samurice and school has been hard but not as impossible as he once thought, thanks to teachers being sympathetic to pandemic-stressed high schoolers. “I thought junior year would kick my ass,” he admits, “but my teachers have been very lenient and accommodating for us students.” Still, managing a business as a teen has been an interesting adventure. He's had a few struggles – maintaining motivation as winter orders slow up, balancing Samurice with his continued work in the family restaurant (Sa-Tén's sibling restau-

rants include Komé and Uroko), and dealing with a fine for not promptly paying his sales tax. Yet the highlights have indeed been high, including a massive catering order for a sumo wrestling tournament and a growing stable of loyal Samurice customers.

Currently, orders from Samurice are limited to Saturdays and can be put in via an Instagram DM, email, or text. Pickups are at Sa-Tén on Airport Boulevard, but Asazu also does deliveries by bike (within a limited radius). Biking is Asazu's main mode of transportation not just for deliveries, but to soccer practice and basically everywhere else since, he bemoans, “I procrastinated taking driver's ed and I have yet to take my driver's test to get my license.” He says he likes the exercise, although he has recently been practicing driving delivery orders with his mom.

Coming up with the Samurice name was a delicate process, including some total misfires. “Originally, my mom suggested Onigiri Boy,” Asazu recalls, “and I was absolutely against that.” Instead, he says that a friend's mom's suggestion of adding the words samurai and rice together really clicked with his vision of the business' logo: an onigiri with a samurai headdress. “I thought, ‘Americans love samurai and Japanese food. That's perfect!’”

Although the Samurice menu rotates a bit, most of the offerings are fairly traditional, with ingredients like salmon, tuna mayo, and ume (a wonderfully sweet-and-sour pickled Japanese plum). There have been more seasonal offerings, like a Thanksgiving-themed turkey miso takana onigiri that Asazu says his mother helped develop. However, he has since enjoyed the turkey takana flavor so much that he plans to make that particular onigiri a permanent menu item. While Samurice will be taking a winter break, the plan is to return in January with some new ideas that Asazu is brainstorming with his mother just in time for a very important holiday in Japan: New Year's.

– James Scott

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JOHN ANDERSON

# A Church and Its People

The living history of East Austin's David Chapel **BY LINA FISHER AND AUSTIN SANDERS**

David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was born, phoenixlike, out of the darkness of Austin's racial history. The congregation originated in 1924, when members of a community then south of Austin, concerned about boys playing marbles on Sundays, established a church in a former blacksmith shop. They've moved two times since: once in 1926 to the corner of 14th and Chestnut streets in East Austin, and again, as the church grew, to its current site at MLK and Chestnut in 1958.

With the second move, the church wanted to build a new sanctuary to accommodate its growing congregation, but white-owned banks refused to lend the money. Instead, David Chapel solicited funding from the St. John Regular Baptist Association (a coalition of churches in East Austin, still in existence) and hired John S. Chase — the first Black graduate of the UT-Austin School of Architecture — to design the sanctuary and Oliver B. Street to build it, making it an all-Black enterprise in the thick of

Fifties Southern segregation. When Chase graduated, no architectural firms would hire him, so David Chapel became his first big project. Throughout his education, he had taken a special interest in Baptist churches; the plans for the chapel originated from his master's thesis, "Progressive Architecture for the Negro Baptist Church." The building was finished in 1959, and the congregation was able to fully pay off the mortgage 10 years later.

This past September, Pastor Joseph C. Parker Jr. celebrated his 28th year leading the congregation at David Chapel. He comes by civic engagement naturally, his father having been a Baptist pastor and civil rights activist in Birmingham, Ala. But Parker didn't immediately accept his religious birthright, opting instead for different flavors of public involvement. He worked in the city manager's office in Dallas, leaving that post in 1979 to attend UT Law School. He began preaching part time while in his last semester there, and

took over full time in 1992 after his predecessor passed away. In the years since, he's led David Chapel in a community-oriented direction, becoming a bastion of leadership for the Chestnut neighborhood, for the Eastside, for Black Austin, and for the city at large. As Parker puts it, David Chapel is "a church with a heart for the community."

## THE NEED FOR CHANGE

In 1997, Parker submitted the Chestnut neighborhood for the city of Austin's pilot neighborhood planning program, a brand-new approach that sought to identify gaps in planning through neighborhood input after the failure of a prior effort to write a citywide comprehensive plan. "What prompted me to do that was that I already saw the neighborhood being gentrified," he said. "And I was concerned about protecting the interests of what I call the 'indigenous residents.' When we started the process, there were literally no sidewalks in the Chestnut neighborhood. And there were

many, many vacant lots." He says developers were already offering to buy up houses, "but when [the owners] would look at where could they go, it might have been a big sum to them, but it wasn't enough to get them a new house elsewhere."

Chestnut ended up being selected, alongside Dawson and East Cesar Chavez, as one of the first three neighborhood plans. (David Chapel member Jeff Travillion, now county commissioner, presented the plan to Council.) As the Chestnut planning team worked through the process for two years, the neighborhood continued to change: "[The input] was only advisory," says Parker. "That was, in my mind, one of the weaknesses of the process — that it only spoke of desire, but didn't really implement anything to control the gentrification issue."

In the intervening years, the church itself began to outgrow its home at the northeast corner of the neighborhood. Like other Black Eastside churches, many of David Chapel's congregants moved out of Austin but continued to drive in for Sunday services from Round Rock, Pflugerville, Buda, and Kyle. They began discussing expansion around 20 years ago, says Parker.

"We don't have a lot of rooms. The building is predominantly [the] sanctuary. ... When it was built in '59 [it] just didn't have many classrooms, so we've outgrown it in terms of what we can do," the pastor said. Adding on to the current property was not an option; any new building would mean more parking spaces required by the Land Development Code. Parker says to accommodate new construction, David Chapel would've had to buy 5-7 more acres, which would mean encroachment on the surrounding neighborhood it had worked so hard to protect.

Instead, in 2009, the church found a new property on Springdale Road, large enough to accommodate an expanded campus. But until it sells its current property on Chestnut and MLK, David Chapel can't afford to move to Springdale.

## THE CASE FOR UPZONING

To maximize the property's value and make a sale viable, the four different tracts that comprise David Chapel's 2.5-acre site need to be rezoned. Three are currently zoned P-NP, the designation the current LDC generally uses for public facilities, including places of worship. The other, which is actually Tract 2, is zoned for both P-NP and SF-3, the predominant single-family zoning category in the older parts of East Austin.

In July 2019, the congregation filed an application to rezone Tracts 1 and 3 as (take a deep breath) CS-MU-V-CO-NP, and Tract 4 as GR-MU-V-CO-NP. (That's "commercial

CONTINUED ON P.22



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David Chapel, at Chestnut and MLK

JOHN ANDERSON

**DAVID CHAPEL** CONTINUED FROM P.20

services-mixed use-vertical-conditional overlay-neighborhood plan” for Tracts 1 and 3, with what used to be “general retail” but is now called “community commercial” taking the lead spot on Tract 4, and this is why people want to revise the Land Development Code.) Basically, this rezoning would allow the site to be rebuilt as a mixed-use development with retail, restaurants, and midrise residential buildings with a maximum height of 40 feet, acknowledging the site’s proximity to the urban core (2 miles from the Capitol) and MLK’s designation as a core transit corridor. The church community negotiated with the Chestnut Neighborhood Plan Contact Team to agree on certain exclusions – uses like automotive repair or sales, outdoor entertainment, and pawn shops will all be prohibited. Those negotiations also led to Tract 2 being omitted from the rezoning request, because of its close proximity to existing single-family homes.

By the time the case made it to the Planning Commission for a vote earlier this month (on Dec. 8), the contact team and church had agreed on zoning for the other three tracts, but the city’s planning staff disagreed with plans for Tract 4 and proposed zoning that would primarily permit office use (LO-MU-CO-NP), with the possibility of some residential use. Nikelle Meade, an attorney with Husch Blackwell representing the church, estimated the zoning proposed by staff would decrease the overall opportunity for housing by half.

At the PC meeting, City Planner Heather Chaffin explained this recommendation was based on surrounding land uses – most of which are single-family residences. Commissioner Greg Anderson, puzzled that

staff would reject an agreement already reached by the church and the neighborhood, noted that staff’s less intense proposed zoning could result in larger single-family homes – like those nearby, valued at more than \$500,000 – instead of the smaller, more affordable units that would likely be in a mixed-use development (like those at MLK Jr. Station, just a few blocks farther east). Chaffin replied that staff “does not weigh in on whether or not units are affordable in zoning.”

Two other neighbors called in to the PC meeting to object. Brenda Malik, president of the newly designated Rogers-Washington Holy Cross Historic District close to Chestnut, asked for a delay to prioritize preserving the church building. Jordan Smith, another neighbor (and a former *Chronicle* staff writer), called to directly support the staff recommendation, saying the site sits between single-family homes of “long-time property owners” and that she supported “intensive single-family” development at the site instead of the taller construction allowed under mixed-use zoning.

Commissioner Carmen Llanes Pulido picked up on this, objecting to Anderson’s reference to surrounding home prices. “We’re not looking at a Zillow list of neighborhood listings; this is planning based on neighborhood use.” Llanes Pulido and Anderson occupy polar opposite ends of the land-use spectrum and often feud at meetings – and on Facebook – and their back-and-forth about the specifics of David Chapel reflected their broader perspectives on how the city should manage growth through zoning.

Llanes Pulido, who ultimately abstained from the PC vote, expressed concern for the surrounding neighbors. “When we’re

talking about centering people who have been most impacted by institutional racism in Austin ... we also have to recognize the people who live with what happens to the property after those landowners have sold their land. And that does include people of color.” After the PC meeting, she told the *Chronicle* that she wasn’t trying to deny this upzoning, but “as a human being and as a native Austinite it breaks my heart ... You’re literally reducing people to the price tag of their homes, and they’re not for sale.”

Anderson countered that perspective: “I get the folks who are like, ‘Hey I live here, I’d rather not see change,’ but that quite literally is the definition of NIMBYism – we have to maximize all of our redevelopment opportunities. The single best way to guarantee displacement in a growing community is to limit your new housing supply.”

The David Chapel case shows how every instance of gentrification can start to look different once you examine it up close. The members of the contact team with whom the church negotiated the zoning agreement are newcomers, according to Parker: “Having been involved in the neighborhood going back at least to ’97 – I don’t think any of them were involved in the planning process for the neighborhood plan.” (The acting director of the contact team, David Carroll, moved to Chestnut in 2008.) But the majority of the neighborhood supports the church’s decision: Carroll told the *Chronicle*, “It is not for us to say whether they should go or not. The church’s legacy is theirs to define.”

Most of the congregation has already left Austin, says Parker, and has wanted the church itself to move for almost two decades. “As a matter of fact, people are eager for us to get [to the new property]. This has actually taken much longer than we expected.” In addition to all that waiting, they’ve been paying taxes on the Springdale property; its religious exemption expired in 2016, as the church has been unable to build on the land and hold worship services.

Even as the church has been engaged in development activity around the move to Springdale this year, the Travis Central Appraisal District would not consider granting a religious exemption for that property, because the congregation is unable to assemble in person due to COVID-19. That means the church owes \$79,000 in taxes for this year at the end of January unless its appeal is granted – making the tax bill for the last four years around \$300,000, an even more urgent incentive for the church to rezone and sell its land on MLK.

**THE CASE FOR PRESERVATION**

At the PC meeting, many drew attention to the historic significance of the Chase-designed building itself, expressing the importance of preserving it in some way. But as Commissioner João Paulo Connolly put it, “It’s completely unfair that, [at] the moment a historic Black community in Austin is going to have an opportunity to choose their own destiny, all of a sudden we come in with concerns about historic preservation.”

Parker explains that of course the congregation wants to preserve the sanctuary, perhaps by relocating the building to a different site. But that process will take time, and right now David Chapel’s main priority is providing a more accommodating space for its thriving church community. Parker speculates that the city or UT-Austin would be more primed to preserve the chapel sanctuary, but he has not received any proposals from anyone.

“There are those in the community who seem to be historic preservationists ... but yet they don’t come to us with a proposal. And what I have to conclude is that they want us to pay for continuing preservation and pay for a new facility.” He laughs. “We’re a church – we’re not a business where we can charge somebody and get our \$79,000 back.”

Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, whose District 1 includes both the MLK and Springdale homes of David Chapel, says there are options the city could consider for preservation but that “we absolutely have to recognize the implications of not allowing the church to go to a place where they actually get to grow. The church is the congregation and not the building. The true, unique aspect of the church is the people.”

Despite the tensions around the case, Parker and the congregation did succeed. PC approved the applicant’s upzoning request unanimously, with Llanes Pulido abstaining, and two days later, on Dec.

10, Council approved the same recommendation unanimously. The second reading vote is currently scheduled for Jan. 27.

As for the fate of Chase’s historic building, Harper-Madison says to “stay engaged. Sometimes when things come before Council, it feels so final, people are scared and offended. [But just] because there was a vote does not mean shovels will hit the dirt tomorrow. Stay a part of the conversation – there will likely be opportunities for the community to weigh in on the appropriate path forward.” ■

## The David Chapel case shows how every instance of gentrification can start to look different once you examine it up close.



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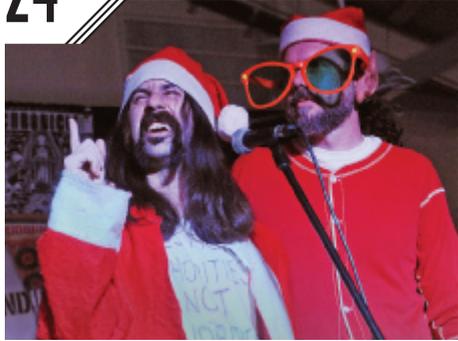
# CALENDAR

DECEMBER 24

DECEMBER 31

AC

24 THURSDAY



JOHN ANDERSON

## HONKY TONK HOLIDAZE: THE MOVIE

Online, 1 & 7pm

It's not Christmas in South Austin until Wild Bill Ogden hosts his annual Honky Tonk Holiday musical. Although the songwriter canceled this year's stage performance, he set to work in his garage creating a claymation version of the show. Wild Bill will be presenting the film live and performing.

See more music recommendations on p.48.

25 FRIDAY



## ELF

Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7pm

Sure, you've seen it a million times, and you laugh every time Will Ferrell screams, "Santa!" but why not get out of the house and into the safety of your car? Drive in, laugh out loud, and look forward to a new year.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.42.

26 SATURDAY



## SAD SONG HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Online, 8pm

Indie rock firebrand Lolita Carroll (aka Lolita Lynne) and synth-pop peer Dena Hope raise funds for Free Lunch by matching local ladies of sound with blue holiday cheer. Jackie Venson, Caroline Rose, and Sabrina Ellis headline, but the entire lineup is dripping with charitable talent.

See more music recommendations on p.48.

27 SUNDAY



## SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

Doc's Drive In, 6pm

Miles Morales takes up the arachnid/human mantle in this eye-fel of an animated feature. And it offers a few more spider-folk than you might be used to.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.42.

28 MONDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Zilker Park, through Jan. 3

As you drive through the trail illuminated by more than 2 million lights, tune in via your car radio for holiday music, highlights, and history. Choose from a variety of ticket types, including the "Dash Pass" that comes with early entry and festive refreshments.

See more community events on p.30.

29 TUESDAY



## LUMINATIONS

LBJ Wildflower Center, through Jan. 10

Thousands of luminarias light the way through the Texas Arboretum among glowing oaks and the light-splashed forts of Fortlandia, a collection of forts custom-designed and built by local architects, designers, and artists.

See more community events on p.30.

30 WEDNESDAY



## STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE

Blue Starlite Downtown, 7:15pm

You know, the first one. Er, the fourth one. Whatever, it's pretty good and predates the fandom. Hooray!

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.42.

31 THURSDAY



## BLACK LIVE MUSIC FUND PRESENTS "THANKFUL"

Empire Control Room, 7:30pm

One-half of Riders Against the Storm, Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone teams up with Empire to wrap 2020 with an unexpected bang. "Thankful" will feature a diverse mix of premier Black Austin musicians performing live for over five hours.

See more music recommendations on p.48.

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# COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

## AS A FRIEND OF DOROTHY,

it's only a little fitting that one of my most played Xmas songs this season is "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." But seriously, Ms. Judy's lyrical longing for "Someday soon we all will be together/ If the fates allow" is spot on for how many of us might be feeling. Though we don't celebrate the same traditions, this time of year feels especially fitting for time with lots of loved ones and time to decompress, but right now, that's not the case so much. I, for one, am pretty deflated in the cheer department (and that's not just because I wasted the better part of a Saturday night cringe-LOLing my way through *A New York Christmas Wedding* on Netflix). But any nostalgia for happy golden days of yore has got me feeling extra thankful in the here and now – for Q readers, for Austin's queer and trans fam, and for the QTs like **Bulimianne Rhapsody** and **p1nkstar** bringing the queer cheer this holligay weekend (see below). I hope you can find a moment to let your heart be light, and that this time next year, the heaviest of our troubles will, in fact, be out of sight. Until then, we'll have to muddle through. Someway, somehow ...

**Erica Nix Needs Our Support:** A GoFundMe has been started to help support Austin's queer workout guru, **Erica Nix**, who's been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Austin's qmmunity truly would not be as bright without Nix (and we don't just mean her signature neon gear), a much-loved LGBTQIA-inclusive body positive personal trainer, performance artist, and activist. So if you're able to donate, please consider supporting the GoFundMe (see online for link). Also, at this time, Nix continues to teach remote workout classes a few times a week, which you can support through her Patreon at [www.patreon.com/workoutwithericanix](http://www.patreon.com/workoutwithericanix); payment tiers start at \$1 per month ...

**Thank You, D6 Crew:** Austin is losing its only openly gay representative on City Council, District 6 Council Member **Jimmy Flannigan**, after last week's run-off. I could ramble and rage about what Flannigan's successor signifies, but here's what I'll say: From the public stage to behind the scenes, Flannigan, alongside staff – **Marti Bier**, **Nathan Jones-Meyer**, **Lizzy Carol**, former *Chronicle* senior editor and "**Gay Place**" founder **Kate Messer**, and the late **Ceci Gratias** – did much to leverage civil service as a platform for affecting positive change for Austin's qmmunity, from establishing the city's **LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission** to shutting down homo- and transphobic bigots left and right. And for that, we thank y'all ...



Celebrate the holligays like a scream queen with **Bulimianne (l) and Loulsianna**

PHOTO BY CORIN SMITH

## 2 TO DO

### Bulimianne Rhapsody's Holiday Horrors: Gremlins

A teenager's furry little pet of mysterious origins spawns a whole town full of snaggletoothed killer gremlins ... with a side of digital drag. Performances by Louisiana Purchase, Kitty Buick, Chique Fil-Atio, Rosalind Hussell, and Geneva Convention. *Thu., Dec. 24, 10pm-12mid. Online. \$10 suggested donation. [www.twitch.tv/poopooatx](http://www.twitch.tv/poopooatx)*

### Transfuturism and Collaboration

Austin's qwueeah pop chanteuse p1nkstar joins Myf Mars and Jordan Kolevach from Hotel Free TV to unveil their latest collaboration, "Girls Like Us" – a live music video celebrating Central Texas trans artists – scheduled to premiere Jan. 28. The trio chats trans futurities, the importance of local music scenes, and artist resiliency. *Sun., Dec. 27, 2-4pm. Online. Free (RSVP required). [www.fb.com/p1nkstar.icon](http://www.fb.com/p1nkstar.icon)*

For all Qmmunity listings see [austinchronicle.com/qmmunity](http://austinchronicle.com/qmmunity) and send yer queer'd events to [qmmunity@austinchronicle.com](mailto:qmmunity@austinchronicle.com).

# CHRONEVENTS

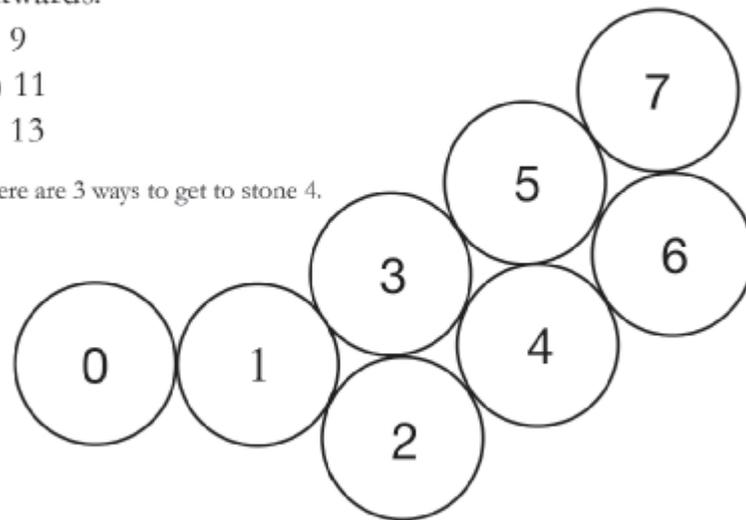
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- (b) 11
- (c) 13

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# Arts & Culture

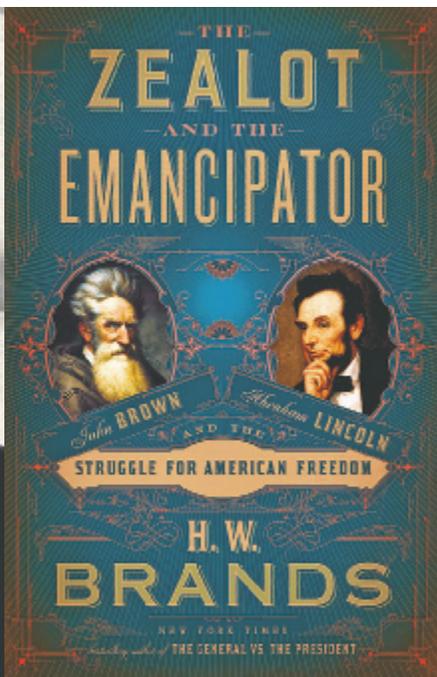
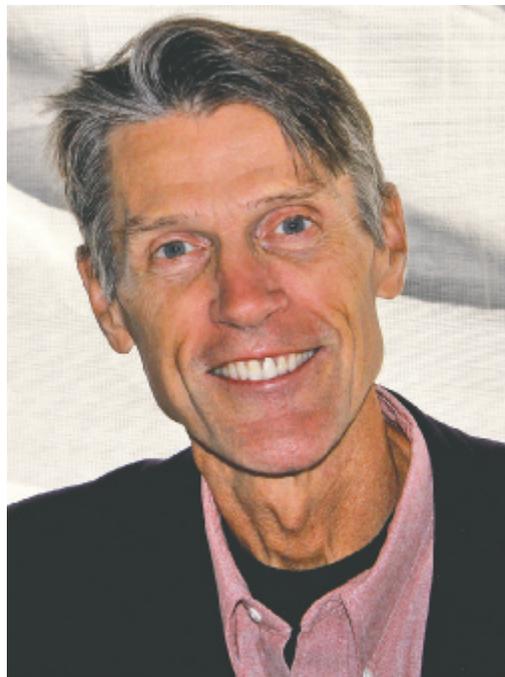


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## THE ZEALOT AND THE EMANCIPATOR: JOHN BROWN, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICAN FREEDOM

by H.W. Brands, Doubleday, 464 pp., \$30

## Different Roads to Freedom

H.W. Brands' *The Zealot and the Emancipator* offers a new look at John Brown and Abe Lincoln: side by side

BY ROBERT FAIRES

When you see a book is called *The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom*, you might reasonably expect it to be an Account of Great Men. The title puts history's stamp on its subjects, characterizing each in a single word aligned with the act for which he is remembered: Brown, the militant abolitionist who led an armed raid on Harpers Ferry; Lincoln, the Civil War president who freed enslaved Black people with the Emancipation Proclamation. Regarded as such, they're not so much men as figures of bronze and marble.

But you know that old saw regarding books and covers? Well, it applies here literally, for from the moment that H.W. Brands begins to tell their stories, interweaving the lives of Lincoln and Brown through their shared opposition to slavery, he presents them as complicated men of flesh and blood. The University of Texas history professor and prolific author opens two weeks after Brown's debacle of a raid, with the abolitionist in a jail cell, wounded

and in pain, a husband writing to his wife to inform her that one of their sons died in his assault – one he'd never told her he was planning. Meanwhile, across what was then the country in Springfield, Ill., Lincoln is in his lawyer's office, dismayed by news of the raid, an aspiring politician of no small ambition worried about the impact it might have on his run for the presidency the following year. In this moment, both men appear vulnerable, their grand plans threatened.

These are the Lincoln and Brown that Brands wants us to know, the ones who don't have it all worked out. He takes us to their earliest days so we can see them as rather unpromising young men: Brown as the peripatetic farmer hopscotching across the country from one failed farm to another, Lincoln as the small-time attorney hankering after a career in Congress but sent back home after just one term. Both have had a hatred of slavery since youth, but in those days neither knew quite how to act on it. Brands leads us through their evolution into men of purpose and action, using alternating chapters to take us down their

very different paths toward abolition, one by violent resistance and liberation, the other by political moderation and compromise. His approach also walks us through the slow boil of the country over the issue of slavery, from the Missouri Compromise of 1820 to the Compromise of 1850 to the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott decision that followed. With each event, divisions among Americans become more entrenched – Northerner against Southerner, free state against slave state – and the Union inches closer to war. The progression of this history, so artfully laid out by Brands, takes on the heat and inevitability of a classical tragedy, with Brown and Lincoln brothers in the same cause but driven to fight for it by conflicting means, each with its own terrible cost.

The "zealot" is the first to pay, and Brands provides a riveting account of the assault on Harpers Ferry, placing us at Brown's side for what feels like every minute of its 36 hours. In the end, the scheme to seize the federal arsenal, abscond with its weapons, and incite a sweeping slave revolt wound up, as one Republican then put it, "a wretched fiasco," with most of the raiders killed and Brown himself arrested, tried, and hanged. But even so, the act took hold in the public imagination of North and South, with Brown becoming an Old Testament prophet and holy warrior – a figure to inspire the former and incense the latter. That suggests how Brown, whose execution happens two-thirds of the way through the book, remains a presence even through Brands' shift to Lincoln and his canny maneuvering into the White House, his efforts to appease the South, his management of the war, and the move that makes him the "Emancipator."

Brands, following history, keeps his subjects apart, on parallel paths, but he gives prominent place to a third figure – a major figure of the day – whose path crossed Brown's and Lincoln's in significant ways:

Frederick Douglass. The abolitionist, author, intellectual, and former slave knew both men and well enough to be the truth-teller to them. He was friendly with Brown for a dozen years and was actually invited to join Brown on the Harpers Ferry raid. Douglass told Brown to his face that it was a mad undertaking doomed to fail, a suicide mission. He publicly assailed Lincoln for his plodding efforts to free the enslaved, and Lincoln still sought out his counsel in private, where Douglass was no less candid about the president's halting efforts toward emancipation. The perspective that Douglass provides reinforces the sense of both Lincoln and Brown as men of vision, but limited vision, too much in the midst of what's happening to see where their actions would lead.

Perhaps that's why Brands gives Douglass the last word. He closes by quoting from a speech Douglass gave about Brown in 1881 and one he gave about Lincoln in 1876. Although both took place on commemorative occasions – the former on the establishment of a John Brown Professorship at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, the latter on the dedication of the Freedmen's Memorial Monument in Washington, D.C. – Douglass doesn't spare either man from criticism. He notes Brown's failure to achieve his goal of freeing enslaved Black people and leading "a liberating army into the mountains of Virginia," or even to escape from the raid alive. He characterizes Lincoln as "preeminently the white man's president" who was "willing to deny, postpone, and sacrifice the rights and humanity of the colored people to promote the welfare of the white people of this country." In both speeches, he notes his subject's faults and shortcomings before granting each man his accomplishments,

**These are the  
Lincoln and Brown  
that Brands wants  
us to know, the ones  
who don't have it all  
worked out.**

his historic due: Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was the blow that brought the long conflict of "words, votes, and compromises" to a close and began "the war that ended American slavery and made this a free republic"; Lincoln's Emancipation

Proclamation was "the achievement of a great and beneficent measure of liberty and progress." Ending in this way, with the assessment of someone who was personally acquainted with both men, their good and ill, and who was himself raised in bondage, chained by the very system that Brown and Lincoln detested and fought to destroy, Brands relieves the zealot and the emancipator of their iconic status and leaves them as men who made indelible marks upon their time, who changed the course of this country, and for all that were still men. ■

Ballet Austin's *The Nutcracker*, 2019

PHOTO BY ANNE MARIE BLOODGOOD

## A Part of the Party

Ballet Austin's *The Nutcracker: Home for the Holidays* dances you closer to the magic than ever before

BY ROBERT FAIRES

When it came to Ballet Austin's *The Nutcracker: Home for the Holidays*, my family took the title at its word. No dressing up the way we would have for the company's annual live production. No bustling to our seats the way we would have at the Long Center. Certainly no craning our necks to see who else was in attendance at Dell Hall. No, it was just the three of us, plopping down on the sofa together, dressed pretty much like we are all the time these days, especially for watching something on TV. To view the virtual version of the seasonal staple, we were home. Casual. Comfy. Laid-back.

You might imagine that in such an environment and such a mood — *The Nutcracker* on a flat-screen, without the energy of live performers dancing in front of you and the electricity that generates in you and everyone around you — you would miss some of the magic of the show in person. But that wasn't the case here. *The Nutcracker* we saw had been filmed during BA's 2019 run (a stroke of good fortune, it turned out), and the cameras captured the vitality and freshness of the performance before an audience. Moreover, the cameras got so close to the dancers —

closer than any patron could — that we could see and appreciate details of Artistic Director Stephen Mills' exquisite choreography and the artistry of his company members that we hadn't been able to in past visits. Even having seen BA's *Nutcracker* two years ago with many of the same dancers, there was something original and entrancing to this one. It drew you into it.

Never before have I felt so much a part of the Silberhaus' Christmas party. For once, instead of observing it from a distance like a neighbor spying from the house across the street, I was in the room with Clara and Fritz, their parents, and all the guests, able to pick up on every expression and move they made. When good old Herr Drosselmeyer

(Edward Carr, who long ago mastered the gentleman's grand gestures) wound up the Dresden doll, we could see how beautifully Leanna Rinaldi gave the mechanical maid not only stiffness of motion but also weight, each footstep landing as heavily as an anvil. By contrast, Elise Pekarek's Snow Queen, whose radiant joy made her appear as delighted to dance as we were to watch her, looked to lack any weight whatsoever; lifted by her Snow King (Orlando Julius

Canova), she rose like a leaf on a breeze. The Rat King's minions have always been unsavory, but in the proximity allowed by the film, they were downright nasty — disconcertingly lean, with painted bodysuits that under Tony Tucci's lights looked like slimy fur, as if they'd just slithered out of a sewer pipe. Conversely, the Sugar Plum Fairy may have never been more regal and elegant than she was here. We could see the flowing grace in everything that Jaime Lynn Witts did: her rise en pointe, her lift of a leg to a perfect right angle, her arc of an arm like a fountain of water, her gentle turn of a wrist, even her lift of an eyebrow. As my daughter noted, in every movement, Witts was like the Platonic ideal of what a ballerina should be. What a treasure to witness that — and to have it recorded for anyone to enjoy.

No, it wasn't live, but this virtual version of *The Nutcracker* was like a snow globe: a small winter wonderland behind a shell of glass, and no less transfixing for that. You know how being contained in a world of its own makes a snow globe even more captivating? So it was with *The Nutcracker: Home for the Holidays*. It succeeded in creating this enchanted space that we yearned to be part of. Of course, we can't wait to be free to experience *The Nutcracker* in person again, but we're pleased to have had this substitute. How else would we have gotten so near to these visions of sugarplum dancing?

**Ballet Austin's *The Nutcracker: Home for the Holidays* is still available to stream through Jan. 1 for a donation of \$100, made by Dec. 30. For more information, visit [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org).**

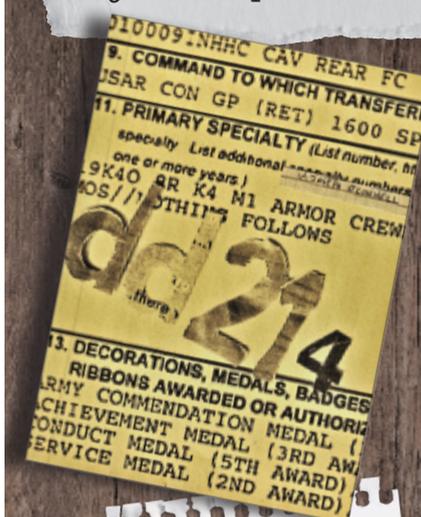
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Portrait of Jordan Tice by Howard Rains



## Texas Folklife: The Brush Is a Bow

**Howard Rains** is a watercolor artist and a master fiddler. Now, the abandonment of touring and the quiet hours in his studio during this pandemic have begun to shift his **portraits of fellow musicians** and others into the realm of the surreal. *Ongoing online.* [www.texasfolklife.org](http://www.texasfolklife.org).

## THEATRE

### AUSTIN ACTS! VIRTUAL STAGE TALENT COMPETITION

The eight actors here, competing since July, are vying for the grand prize in this end-of-year online event from Austin's **City Theatre**, which features the performances that got them to the finals via embodiment of works by Tom Stoppard, Edward Albee, Paula Vogel, Neil Simon, Terrence McNally, Tennessee Williams, Anna Devereaux Smith, and more. *Dec. 24-Jan. 10. Donations accepted.* [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

★ **XMAS UNWRAPPED: A HOLIDAY CABARET** **Shrewd Productions**, one of Austin's most vibrant, independent theatre companies, brings back the classic holiday cabaret with a cast of performers engaging in song, dance, burlesque, aerials, and storytelling, all for your virtual viewing pleasure – and hosted by none other than **Jesus Valles**. *Streaming through Dec. 26. \$15-25.* [www.shrewdproductions.com](http://www.shrewdproductions.com).

★ **THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL** This is an online community, as playwright and unstoppable force of creative nature **Nick Green** informs us, and it's been activated to "celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by the need for social distancing that has come about due to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)." It's not Austin-based, this virtual and ongoing festival of all kinds of performance arts, but damned if there aren't a few talented Austinites among the eclectic (and ever-growing) mix. [www.socialdistancingfestival.com](http://www.socialdistancingfestival.com).

★ **ZACH'S ROCKIN' HOLIDAY CONCERT** Celebrate the season with the singers from **Zach's A Christmas Carol** performing a merry mix of **traditional favorites and classic rock & soul hits** at a joyous new **outdoor concert**, perfect fun for all

ages, starring **CHANEL**, **Kenny Williams**, **Roderick Sanford**, **Leslie McDonel**, and **Daniel Rowan**. *Through Jan. 3. Thu.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 2:30 & 7:30pm. \$77 and up (per group).* [www.zachtheatre.org](http://www.zachtheatre.org).

## COMEDY

**ColdTowne Theater** [www.coldtownetheater.com](http://www.coldtownetheater.com)

**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS LIVE** The former stage on Airport might be defunct, citizen, but the stars of that laugh factory are shining bright every weekend on ColdTowne TV! Tune in for this variety show format and drop a few bucks in the virtual tip jar to keep local comedy alive. *Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

**VICTROLA** ColdTowne's sketch comedy podcast goes online with guests from all over. You wanna see these bright local zanies working the virtual thing for all it's worth, citizen, you'll catch every episode. *Mondays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

**YEAH, BUT ARE YOU HAPPY?** Austin comedians **Katie Stone** and **Lane Ingram** invite you to an ongoing podcast that explores the intersection between creativity and mental health. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

**Hideout Theatre** [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com)

**PGRAPH** The fantastic foursome of improv fabulators returns for another week, bringing their arch spontaneity through Zoom and onto Twitch to make your minds zoom and your hearts twitch at what a talented local quartet can do, off-the-cuff, at the intersection of goofy and brilliant. *Sat., 7:30pm; Wed., 5pm. \$5-15.*

## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

**ESTHER'S FOLLIES** You don't have to slog your way through Dirty Sixth anymore, citizen – you can catch the **arch antics and musical mayhem** of the Esther's crew on video as they unleash **fresh new sketches and songs** and more about the hottest topics of the day. And there's all sorts of **behind-the-scenes extras** now, too, and it's all available via their Patreon page. You need to laugh right about now, so this is a good idea, right? Answer: *Hell yes.* [www.esthersfollies.com](http://www.esthersfollies.com).

## DANCE

**METAMORPHOSIS DANCE: THE NUTCRACKER** The **Metamorphosis Dance** company presents this annual and unique telling of the beloved holiday classic – coming to you virtually this year, via video of the ballet's performance at the Carver Museum. *Through Dec. 24. \$10-50.* [www.metamorphosisdance.org](http://www.metamorphosisdance.org).

**BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER** Local luminaries enliven the stage with **holiday splendor and wintery exuberance** in this *Nutcracker* digital film, featuring Ballet Austin's 2019 stage production by **Stephen Mills**, now streaming on-demand and including a **plethora of bonus material**, cast and crew interviews, and behind-the-scenes featurettes. Note: You can get access with a tax-deductible donation to Ballet Austin and view the kinetic wonderment until the new year dawns. *Through Jan. 1.* [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org).

**TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: LOOKING FORWARD/LOOKING BACK – NEW PERSPECTIVES** This series is a **video tribute to Tapestry's history, legacy and future**, in which alumni dancers returned to the company as choreographers and created new works for Tapestry's current company – dance artists from Australia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Mexico, and Texas. It's "an exciting and thought-provoking tap dance series that premieres works of some of the company's brightest stars: the tap headliners who started their professional career with Tapestry!" Note: Each episode will be livestreamed on Sunday evenings. *Through Jan. 3. Sundays, 7:30pm. Donations accepted.* [www.tapestry.org](http://www.tapestry.org).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

★ **BEERTHOVEN GOGGLES** Wait, what? Yes, **Daniel Swayze** and his Beethoven cabal are plunging into the world of virtual reality! That is, they've made **360-degree films** of more than an hour of music from two Beethoven programs – *Sacred and Profane*, featuring a **brass quintet** performance, and those golden-throated **Tinsel Singers** sharing favorite songs for the holidays, and both shows captured on the steps of the historic **Neill-Cochran House** – and now they're presenting this seasonal extravaganza to you **with a VR headset (Pico G2 4K) delivered direct to your home for complete immersion.** Bonus: scenes from the **Austin Trail of Lights**. See details online. *Through Jan. 10. \$30.* [www.beethoven.com](http://www.beethoven.com).

## VISUAL ARTS

### EVENTS

★ **LANDMARKS: SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR** Well, it's always an event, isn't it? When you can take your smartphone to access self-guided tours of the outdoor public art sited by **UT's award-winning Landmarks program**? The answer is a hearty, full-throated YES. *Ongoing. Free.* [www.landmarks.utexas.edu](http://www.landmarks.utexas.edu).

### OPENING

**DIMENSION GALLERY: POLARITY** This latest installation by **Colin McIntyre** balances **subtle extremes of light and sound**, featuring a constructed setting that's a rhomboid chamber, painted with extreme matte black "that eats light like a two-dimensional black hole." Into this Stygian vault the sculptor has engineered **neon light and sound that plays through cymatic devices** to oscillate fluids at the frequency of a specific tone – and those cymatic displays are the only element in the space reflecting light from the minimal neon installation. Note: This is

an in-person event inside the gallery, for one to two people at a time, with a strict face mask and social distancing policy. The installation will be accessible for a while, but we reckon it would be a *perfect marker* for the last outing you'll make in 2020. *Opening reception: Thu., Dec. 31, 4-8pm. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99.* [www.dimensiongallery.org](http://www.dimensiongallery.org).

## CLOSING

★ **CAMIBA ART: PERSPECTIVES ON 2020** If anyone can make sense out of this dumpster fire of a year, it's probably the artists of Camiba. **Valerie Fowler, Edward Lane McCartney, Kate Bradshaw, Lee Albert Hill, Orna Feinstein, Adreone Henry, Zoe Schulman**, and more – these bright talents will provide **much food for thought and images to conjure with** as we slide into what we can only hope isn't the out-of-the-frying-pan-and-into-the-fire situation of 2021. See website to make an appointment for viewing. *Through Dec. 26. Camiba Art, 6448 Hwy. 290 E. Ste. A-102.* [www.camibaart.com](http://www.camibaart.com).

★ **STEPHEN L. CLARK GALLERY: LANCE LETSCHER** This exhibition of new collage works by Austin's own **Lance Letscher** offers a reassuring sense of patterns and meaning to our eyes, disoriented as they've been by the noxious tire-fire blaze of 2020. *Through Dec. 26. Tue.-Sat., 11am-4pm. Stephen L. Clark Gallery, 1101 W. Sixth, 512/477-0828.* [www.stephenclarkgallery.com](http://www.stephenclarkgallery.com).

★ **WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: AS ABOVE, SO BELOW** Here's a two-person show, with California-based **Julia Lucy** and Colorado's **Julie Maren**. Both artists take inspiration from nature, Maren working directly with **natural materials** like burr acorn shells and mica to create **organically shaped wall installations**, Lucy creating meticulous **etching collages** that depict **local flora and fauna**. *Through Dec. 30. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428.* [www.wallyworkmangallery.com](http://www.wallyworkmangallery.com).

★ **YARD DOG: COMMIT TO SOMETHING DRASTIC** That Welsh rabble-rouser, painter extraordinaire, and punk rock pioneer **Jon Langford** sinks his teeth into the world with **new paintings and prints**. See what grisly graphic brilliance he's bitten off – via the Yard Dog website or by making an appointment for an in-person visit. *Through Dec. 30. Yard Dog, 916 Springdale, 512/912-1613. Free.* [www.yarddog.com](http://www.yarddog.com).

## ONGOING

★ **SUFFRAGE NOW: A 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION** This is the show for which **women photographers nationwide were invited to share photos** that comment on the Centennial of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment. *Through Jan. 31. Free.* [www.elisabetneymuseum.org](http://www.elisabetneymuseum.org).

★ **WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY: CONCRETE TO CANVAS** The gallery formerly known as the **Russell Collection** rebrands itself as **West Chelsea Contemporary** and boasts an inaugural show featuring some of the biggest names in street art – from **Banksy** and **Basquiat** to **KAWS** and **Keith Haring**, among others. *1009 W. Sixth.* [www.wcc.art](http://www.wcc.art).

★ **BALE CREEK ALLEN GALLERY: PROMISED LAND** This collaboration between musician **John Doe** and visual artist **Michael Mogavero** is a **celebration of melding poetry with visual images and a testament to the artists' longtime friendship**. *Through Jan. 4. Bale Creek Allen Gallery, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #103.* [www.balecreekallengallery.com](http://www.balecreekallengallery.com).

**THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: EXPANDING ABSTRACTION** The Blanton's permanent collection of abstract art is particularly strong in such paintings of the 1960s and Seventies, and you'll want to get an eyeful of this major new show, subtitled "Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas," organized by the venue's own **Carter E. Foster**. *Through Jan. 10. The Blanton Museum of Art, 200 E. MLK, 512/471-7324.* [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

**DAVIS GALLERY: TOGETHER APART** This group exhibit is focused on the experience of sharing holidays apart from loved ones, with artists addressing **the importance of family, life and death, our connection to nature, and spirituality**, including work by **Chun Hui Pak, David Everett, Faustinus Deraet, David Leonard, Dana Younger, Fallon Bartos**, and more. *Through Jan. 16. Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th, 512/477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

★ **FLATBED PRESS: 2020 HINDSIGHT** This is a new exhibition of works from each of the 14 artists who worked at the press this year – along with the “Every Head Is a World, Every World Is a Head” portfolio of prints by **Michael Ray Charles**. *Through Jan. 9. Wed.-Fri., 10am-5pm, and by appointment. Flatbed Press, 3701 Drossett #190, 512/477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.*

★ **ICOSA: TRANSMISSIONS** Terra Goolsby and **Tammie Rubin** asked **Urethra Burns, Veronica Ceci, Antonio Cueto, Chloe Curiel, Michael Anthony Garcia, Jay Roff-Garcia, Ryan Hollaway, Delilah Rose Knuckley, Yuliya Lanina**, and others, “What’s performance without the expectations of the traditional shared experiences?” The answers are a mix of Zoom livestreaming and pre-recorded works, ICOSA window performances, and limited-contact open exhibition hours. See website for details. *Through Jan. 3. Gallery hours: Fri.-Sat., noon-6pm. ICOSA, 916 Springdale, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.*

★ **IVESTER CONTEMPORARY: ABSOLUTE RELATIVISM** This is a solo exhibition by Austin-based artist **Dave McClinton**, representing a continuation of his **Black Life** series, an ongoing project that aims to **illustrate the inner lifecycle of Black people in America**. Bold, illuminating, confrontational, and aesthetically superlative. Bonus: Ivester’s **Project Space** presents “Olas de Perturbación,” new works by **Michael Anthony Garcia**. *Through Jan. 9. Ivester Contemporary, 916 Springdale. www.iverstercontemporary.com.*

**LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: UPWELLING** Meghann Riepenhoff makes her images with an antiquated photographic printing process and thinks of her work as a collaboration with the ocean, the landscape, and precipitation, **her dynamic cyanotypes** taking on varying shades of blue to give the impression of water in motion. *Through Jan. 16. Lora Reynolds Gallery, 360 Nueces #50, 512/215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

★ **MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MEXICO, THE BORDER, AND BEYOND** Mexic-Arte Museum presents an exhibition of selections

from the **Juan Antonio Sandoval Jr.** collection, an array of work that is considered one of the most important Latinx art collections in the United States. *Through May 30. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 512/480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: BATON** The N-S gallery space has been turned into an ever-evolving installation called **Baton** by a series of artists working in turn, and here comes the end of the year and who *knows* what it’s become at this point. We say: Check it out! *Northern-Southern, 1900-B E. 12th. www.northern-southern.com.*

★ **PRIZER ARTS & LETTERS: PEOPLE THE WE** This is a collaborative exhibition by **Adrian Aguilera** and **Betelhem Makonnen**, conceived in the wake and continuing aftermath of the Black Lives Matter uprisings that were reignited in May 2020. *Through Jan. 3. Prizer Gallery, 2023 E. Cesar Chavez. www.prizerartsandletters.org.*

**UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN** The Umlauf’s famed Garden remains open, yes, featuring all those expertly wrought sculptures, the bronze or stone cynosures from **Charles Umlauf** and others anchoring sight among the bright foliage and tree-towered paths. *Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-4pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Azie Morton, 512/445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

**WYLD GALLERY** This is **Ray Donley’s** gallery of art by Native Americans, located Downtown and resplendent with creations from the original people of our struggling country. *Call for appointment. Wyld Gallery, 805 Brazos. www.wyld.gallery.*

## BOOKS

**BOOKS: PICK ‘EM UP CURBSIDE!** Don’t forget, citizen: The best place to get your reading material is from Austin’s own **Malvern Books** or **Half Price Books** or **BookPeople** or **BookWoman** stores online. (And for the ultimate in vintage collectors’ editions and unique works on paper, we recommend the excellent **South Congress Books** – right there on, well, South Congress.) Or try **Bookshop.org** in general – because Bookshop, unlike the internetted behemoth named after a certain South American river, **Bookshop shares the profits among all its independent-bookstore members**. And that Bezos fellow is already making enough goddamn money, n’est-ce pas? *www.bookshop.org.*

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**Maestro** This is an all-improvised battle royal, featuring the most ornery cusses in the scene doing their damndest to emerge victorious from a mindwarping multiplayer fray. Imagine: a screen crowded with Zoomers, competing in short improv games and wild-ass gambits to be crowned the one and only Maestro for the week. Sound good? Yeah – we like it, too. *Wed., 8pm; Sat., 10pm. \$5.*

# COMMUNITY AC

## CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The holidays will be tougher for everyone this year. The food bank has put together a list of 10 ways to make a difference to someone in need, from an online matched donation to donating your change at participating stores. Check out the list online. [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org](http://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org).

**ANOMALY ARCHIVES STREAMATHON** A variety of speakers, musicians, filmmakers, and artists explore the exciting world of UFOs, Bigfoot, synchronicities, and other high strangeness for an ongoing fundraising event for the nonprofit Anomaly Archives. *Saturdays. Online. Donations accepted.* [www.anomalyarchives.org](http://www.anomalyarchives.org).

**DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY STROLL** Visit the 45-foot-tall holiday tree by the Capitol, catch a movie at the new Blue Starlite, and download or pick up a holiday passport to guide your way and collect stamps as you experience all that Downtown Austin has to offer. *Through Dec. 31. Downtown Austin.* [www.downtownholidaystroll.com](http://www.downtownholidaystroll.com).

**#TSOGIVING HOLIDAY INITIATIVE** Tso Chinese Delivery has partnered with seven local organizations with the goal to provide \$100,000 in meals to Austinites in need. Make a direct donation online, or add a donation to any food order placed at Tso Chinese Delivery. For every \$1 raised, #TsoGiving can donate \$3 worth of meals. *Through Dec. 31. Remote.* [www.tso.com/company/tsogiving](http://www.tso.com/company/tsogiving).

**DONATE BLOOD, GET FREE WHATABURGER** All month long, when you donate with We Are Blood, get a free honey butter chicken biscuit from Whataburger. Donors between Dec. 24 and 31 also get a free sweatshirt. Appointments are mandatory; schedule online or call 512/206-1266. *Through Dec. 31. We Are Blood donor centers & mobile drives.* [www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment](http://www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment).

**GIBSON WONDERLAND** Sip a festive holiday cocktail and snap a photo at the Gibson Sleigh, then tag @gibsonstreetbar

for a chance at a prize. *Through Dec. 31. Gibson Street Bar, 1109 S. Lamar.* [www.gibsonstreetbar.com/bar-events](http://www.gibsonstreetbar.com/bar-events).

**WINTER WANDERLAND** Snow close, yet snow far out! Austin Motel is decked out for the holidays with a neon rainbow, and they're serving up hot seasonal drinks, Reindeer Chow, and hot pretzels. *Through Jan. 3. Austin Motel, 1220 S. Congress. Free, but RSVP.* [www.austinmotel.com](http://www.austinmotel.com).

**LOST PINES CHRISTMAS** Plenty of holiday happenings in Bastrop, just a hop, skip, and a jump from Austin: Take in the sights at the River of Lights, head downtown to shop the Holiday Sidewalk Stroll, take in *Elf! The Musical* at Bastrop Opera House, or visit Krampus at Scream Hollow's Twisted Christmas. *Through Jan. 1. Bastrop.* [www.visitbastrop.com](http://www.visitbastrop.com).

**WINTER WELL-BEING TOOLKIT** Pandemic-related stressors could make this winter and holiday season tougher than usual. Integral Care recently launched a Winter Well-Being Toolkit, a compilation of ideas to boost mental health, fight the winter blues, stay safely connected, and celebrate the season in new ways. Self-care is paramount this year: Stay healthy so you can be strong enough to help others in need. *Ongoing. Online.* [www.integralcare.org/en/winter2020](http://www.integralcare.org/en/winter2020).

**HOLIDAY PARTIES WITH URBAN AXES** Celebrate the holiday season at Urban Axes with add-ons like drink packages, catering from local partners, party decorations to make your celebration special, or an axe trophy for the tournament winner. You can even book the entire facility for your own private party. *Ongoing. Urban Axes, 812 Airport.* [www.urbanaxes.com/holiday-buyouts](http://www.urbanaxes.com/holiday-buyouts).

**HOME FOR THE "HOWL"IDAYS** If you're ready to make the commitment and have extra love to give this season, now's the perfect time to add a new furry friend to the family. Austin Humane Society is offering discounted adoption fees: only \$20 through Dec. 24. *Austin Humane Society, 124 W. Anderson.* [www.austinhumanesociety.org](http://www.austinhumanesociety.org).

**WE ARE BLOOD MALL DRIVES** Blood donations are especially needed right now, and it's easy to donate while you shop for the holidays. Make an appointment online or by calling 512/206-1266. *Through Jan. 3 (except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1) at Barton Creek Square and Lakeline Mall. Dec. 29-30, 9am-3pm at the Arboretum #103 (between Gap & Zoe's Kitchen).* [www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment](http://www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment).

**YWCA WARMLINE** YWCA of Greater Austin has officially launched a "Warmline" to support people in need of connection amidst the isolation of COVID-19, those experiencing loneliness, isolation, anxiety, confusion, stress, or other challenges. *Mon.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., noon-4pm. Via phone: 512/548-9922.* [www.ywcaustin.org](http://www.ywcaustin.org).

**GHOST TOUR** Tour the very haunted historic location with local paranormal experts. *Sat., Dec. 26, 8-9:30pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr.* [www.pioneerfarms.org](http://www.pioneerfarms.org).

**TRAVIS COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING** After the holidays, give your natural Christmas tree another life by dropping it off at a Travis County recycling location. *Austin: West Service Center, 4501 FM 620; East Service Center, 6011 Blue Bluff. Del Valle: Adult Softball Complex, 3614 FM 973. Leander: Collection Center, 2625 Woodall Dr. Remove decorations, and trees taller than six feet must be cut in half.* *Dec. 26-Jan. 10, 7am-5pm.* [www.traviscountytexas.gov](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov).

**ACRYLIC FLORALS PAINTING CLASS** Learn how to turn flowers into realistic, yet stylized, botanical art paintings. In this workshop, you'll learn all the tips and tricks to paint a collage of images with Morgan Greer. Either provide your own materials or purchase a supply kit. *Sun., Dec. 27, 11am. Online.* \$55-99. [www.creativeboxstudios.com](http://www.creativeboxstudios.com).

**FULL MOON BLESSING** Receive the bright and nourishing energies of the December full moon through this remote ceremony, clearing, and blessing. *Tue., Dec. 29, 7:30pm. Online. Free.* [www.theawokenchild.com/full-moon-blessing](http://www.theawokenchild.com/full-moon-blessing).

**VIRTUAL KWANZAA** George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center partner with Six Square to present a virtual celebration of the fifth principle of Kwanzaa, "Nia," meaning "purpose." *Wed., Dec. 30, 6:30pm. Online.* [www.fb.com/events/2877151705835507](http://www.fb.com/events/2877151705835507).

## DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

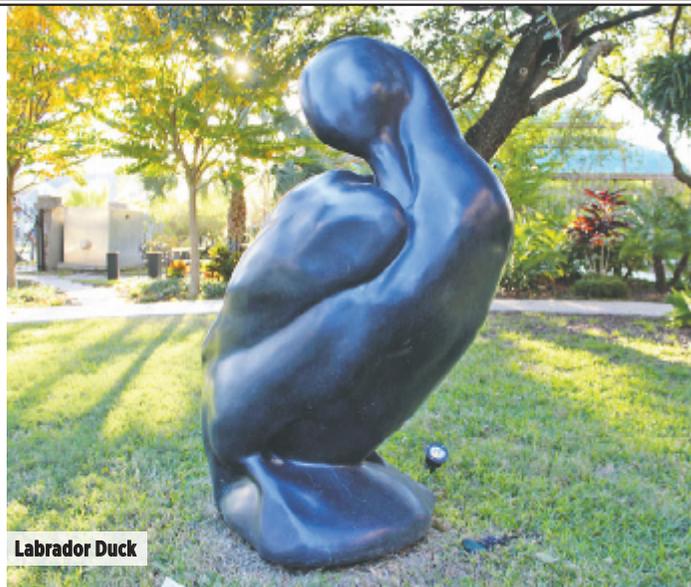
The **Lost Bird Project** has landed in the garden surrounding the **Bryan Museum** in **Galveston**. The outdoor exhibit features five sculptures representing birds that have gone extinct. A sixth monument stands in **Galveston Island State Park**.

The project is the brainchild of sculptor **Todd McGrain**. Copies of the memorials have toured the country since 2008. "Forgetting is another kind of extinction," he says in the feature length documentary made about his two-year struggle to permanently place the person-size bronze memorials near where the birds were last seen.

- The **Great Auk** monument stands on Fogo Island, Newfoundland, looking toward Iceland where the bird disappeared in 1844.
- Martha's Vineyard, Mass., has the monument to the **Heath Hen**, a subspecies of the greater prairie chicken, last spotted in 1932.
- The **Labrador Duck** monument stands in Elmira, N.Y., near where the last confirmed sighting was in 1878.
- The memorial to the **Passenger Pigeon** stands in Columbus, Ohio, honoring the last passenger pigeon, who died in 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoo.
- Near Okeechobee, Fla., is the memorial to the last wild **Carolina Parakeet**, killed in 1904.

The sixth permanent sculpture, the **Eskimo Curlew**, was installed in Galveston Island State Park in April 2020. The six-foot bronze statue with the long curved beak looks out over the flat marsh near where the last documented sighting of the bird happened in 1962.

The Lost Bird Project sculptures will be on the grounds of the Bryan Museum in Galveston through Feb. 28, 2021. The outdoor



Labrador Duck

exhibit is free. For information about the Eskimo curlew statue go to [www.galvestonnaturetourism.org](http://www.galvestonnaturetourism.org). For information about Todd McGrain, the Lost Bird Project, and to watch the documentary, go to [www.lostbird.org](http://www.lostbird.org).

1,531st in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at [austinchronicle.com/daily/travel](http://austinchronicle.com/daily/travel).

## SPORTS

### THE HOME TEAMS

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball** Vs. Lamar. *Tue., Dec. 29, 1pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. *Tue., Dec. 29, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* [www.texasports.com](http://www.texasports.com).

### RECREATION & FITNESS

**SATURDAY POOLSIDE YOGA AT AUSTIN PROPER HOTEL** Revitalize your mind, body, and soul with Liz Davis. Yoga mats, towels, Richard's Rainwater, Supergoop sunscreen, and fresh pressed juices will be provided, and class reservation includes morning access to the pool deck and gym. *Saturdays through Jan. 30, 10am. Austin Proper Hotel & Residences, 600 W. Second.* \$25. [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**YOGA IN THE DARK** Bring a candle to the mat for this beginner-friendly yoga class with Sarah Beames, themed around the gorgeous and masterfully moody *Pier & Loft* album by Hiroshi Yoshimura. *Wed., Dec. 30, 6:30pm. Virtual.* \$5 donation encouraged. [austinfilmsschool.org/play-at-home](http://austinfilmsschool.org/play-at-home).

### RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

**MADD VIRTUAL JINGLE BELL 5K** Run, walk, or jog where you are to benefit Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The first 250 registrants get a swag bag, so sign up ASAP! All participants get a participant medal. *Through Jan. 6. Virtual.* \$35, adults; \$10, kids. [www.austinjinglebell.com](http://www.austinjinglebell.com).

## KIDS

**PEPPERMINT PARKWAY** Join Pepper and Mint on their journey down COTA's Tunnel Road with this drive-through holiday experience. Plus enjoy go-karts, amusements, and a zipline. *Various dates through Jan. 3. Circuit of the Americas.* \$35-90. [www.peppermintparkway.com](http://www.peppermintparkway.com).



**WINTER BREAK MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP** Kids age 5-14 can join Carlos, Jay, Evie, and Mal at Auradon Preparatory to learn and perform songs from the *Descendants* films. You'll learn simple dance combinations, make crafts, and more! *Dec. 28-31, 9am-5pm. TexARTS, 2300 Lohmans Spur.* \$300. [www.tex-arts.org/academy/holidaycamps](http://www.tex-arts.org/academy/holidaycamps).

**ALL-AGES VIRTUAL STORYTIME** Featuring stories, songs, finger plays, rhymes, and other extension activities. Registration required. *Mon. Dec. 28, 10:30am; Tue., Dec. 29, 10am. Virtual. library.austintexas.gov/events.*

## OUT OF TOWN

**HISTORY IN LIGHTS** The pathway of lights illuminates Mission Espiritu Santo in a way that is suggestive of the early days of the Spanish frontier outpost. *Through Dec. 31, 6-10pm. Goliad State Park.* \$4. [www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/goliad](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/goliad).

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** It's happening at the zoo decorated with thousands of lights, an ice skating rink, ice sculptures, a live nativity scene, and three new giraffe calves. *Fri.-Tue., Dec. 18-23, 4-10pm. Abilene.* \$15. [www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org).

**CHRISTMAS TRAIL OF LIGHTS** Follow the driving tour around the courthouse, and through Hamilton Creek and Wallace Riddell parks. *Sat.-Fri., Dec. 26-Jan. 1. Burnet.* [www.burnetchamber.org/event/burnet-trail-of-lights](http://www.burnetchamber.org/event/burnet-trail-of-lights).

**EISBAHN, ICE SKATING IN THE HILL COUNTY** Safety protocols are in place in the outdoor skating rink at Marktplatz. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 26-Jan. 3. Fredericksburg.* \$15. [www.heritageschool.org/eisbahn](http://www.heritageschool.org/eisbahn).

# SOCCER WATCH

BY NICK BARBARO



COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

## Game On!

It's official: There's now competition for playing time at **Austin FC**. When we went to press last week, AFC had just added nine players to their roster – five in cash trades, then four in the MLS Expansion Draft – to go with the two they signed over the summer. Since then, the press releases have been coming fast and furious. The team acquired midfielder and NYCFC Captain Alex Ring in another cash trade on Thursday, announced their first free agent signing Monday in midfielder Hector Jiménez, who just won the MLS Cup with the Columbus Crew, and as we go to press Tuesday, Dec. 22, they've just added Colombian defender Jhohan Romaña, who's been playing in Paraguay at Club Guaraní with those two summer signings, Rodney Redes and Cecilio "Cecigol" Domínguez. By the time you read this there may be more, but as of now, AFC has 14 men on the roster – if they play the expected 3-4-3 formation, that's enough to have a defender, midfielder, and forward on the bench.

Here's the roster as it stands now, with age, nationality, and former team. Check for updates at [www.austinfc.com/rostertracker](http://www.austinfc.com/rostertracker).

### Goalkeeper:

**Brady Scott** (21, USA, Nashville SC)

### Defenders:

**Julio Cascante** (27, Costa Rica, Portland Timbers)

**Nick Lima** (26, USA, San Jose Earthquakes)

**Jhohan Romaña** (22, Colombia, Guaraní)

**Ben Sweat** (29, USA, Inter Miami CF)

### Midfielders:

**Joe Corona** (30, USA, LA Galaxy)

**Hector Jiménez** (32, USA, Columbus Crew)

**Alex Ring** (29, Finland, NYCFC)

**Ulises Segura** (27, Costa Rica, D.C. United)

**Jared Stroud** (24, USA, New York Red Bulls)

### Forwards:

**Cecilio Domínguez** (26, Paraguay, Guaraní)

**Jon Gallagher** (24, Ireland, Atlanta United FC)

**Danny Hoesen** (29, Netherlands, San Jose Earthquakes)

**Rodney Redes** (20, Paraguay, Guaraní)

# Holiday Events!

## NEW YEAR'S GUIDE

### MUSIC

**BLACK LIVE MUSIC FUND PRESENTS THANKFUL w/ Jake Lloyd, Eimaral Sol, Nook Turner, Deezie Brown, Riders Against the Storm, Torre Blake, Nnedi, J Soulja, & more** 7:30pm. Empire Control Room & Garage, 606 E. Seventh. [www.empireatx.com](http://www.empireatx.com).



Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone and Qi Dada of Riders Against the Storm

**DESERT HEARTS NYE w/ Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Marbs, Porky** 9pm. The Venue ATX, 516 E. Sixth. [www.thevenueatx.com](http://www.thevenueatx.com).

**TWENTY TWENTY DONE w/ Paul Val** 10:30pm. Geraldine's, 605 Davis. [www.geraldinesaustin.com](http://www.geraldinesaustin.com).

**BROKEN ARROW** 6pm. Buck's Backyard, 1750 FM 1626 S., Buda. [www.bucksbackyard.com](http://www.bucksbackyard.com).

**DREW MORELAND & THE NEON HUSTLE** 9pm. Lone Star Court Hotel, 10901 Domain Dr. [www.lonestarcourt.com](http://www.lonestarcourt.com).

**FLATLAND CAVALRY** 8pm. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels. [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com).

**GARRETT T. CAPPS, MAYEUX & BROUSSARD, KATHRYN LEGENDRE** The White Horse, 500 Comal. [www.thewhitehorseaustin.com](http://www.thewhitehorseaustin.com).

**HEARTBYRNE** 9pm. ACL Live at the Moody Theater, 310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd. [www.acl-live.com](http://www.acl-live.com).

**LOS ANGELES LEAKERS, LAMAR** 9pm. Summit Rooftop Lounge, 120 W. Fifth. [www.summitaustin.com](http://www.summitaustin.com).

**MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR, TALLULA** 8pm. River Road Ice House, 1791 Hueco Springs Loop Rd., New Braunfels. [www.riverroadicehouse.com](http://www.riverroadicehouse.com).

**PDA** 8pm. Speakeasy, 412-D Congress. [www.speakeasyaustin.com](http://www.speakeasyaustin.com).

**SAHARA ALLSTARS** 10pm. Sahara Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd. [www.saharalounge.com](http://www.saharalounge.com).

**WELDON HENSON** 8:30pm. Mercer Dancehall, 23490 RR 12, Driftwood. [www.mercerdancehall.com](http://www.mercerdancehall.com).

## 2020 UNCAGED NEW YEAR'S BASH

New Year's Eve at the HighBall has evolved for the times. The Alamo virtual team has re-created the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, HighBall, karaoke rooms, and theatres into a virtual 8-bit experience. On NYE, you'll be transformed into an 8-bit avatar, enter the virtual party space, and explore rooms full of entertainment and surprises. The party is also a tribute to all-time fave cinematic hero Nicolas Cage and includes a screening of *Mandy*, and the interactive quest, photo booths, and video installations will all pay tribute to the king. There's so much more in store: magicians, game rooms, tarot, even personalized poems from Typewriter Rodeo. *Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. Online. \$25 and up. [shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye](http://shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye).*



### OTHER

**AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR** The city of Austin's official New Year's Eve celebration will be virtual in 2020. Presented by the Austin Convention Center, the special will feature pre-recorded performances from eight local bands recorded at iconic local venues across the city, including Saxon Pub, the Continental Club, Cheer Up Charlies, Antone's, and Mohawk. *Thu., Dec. 31. Virtual. [www.austintexas.gov/any](http://www.austintexas.gov/any).*

**BACK TO THE FUTURE MARATHON** All three *Back to the Future* movies, starting at 5pm with 30-minute breaks in between. Admission will be by donation only; pay what you can to help support the Palace. Wear your best Marty McFly, Doc, or Eighties garb to win a prize, and Eighties music and trivia questions liven things up between shows. *Thu., Dec. 31, 5pm. Georgetown Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown. [www.georgetownpalace.com](http://www.georgetownpalace.com).*

**HIGH 5 LAKEWAY NYE FAMILY PARTY** Family package includes an hour of bowling, shoe rental, a large pizza, and bottomless soda, plus face-paint and balloon art from Silly Sparkles and an NYE countdown champagne/cider toast. *Thu., Dec. 31, 4-11pm. High 5, 1502 RR 620 S., Lakeway. \$115/family. [www.bowlhighfive.com](http://www.bowlhighfive.com).*

**ROARING TWENTIES NYE** Do it up fancy this year with Roosevelt Room, last year's "Best of Austin" winner for Best Cocktail Bar. They're prepped to be COVID-cautious and will offer tunes by DJ Beatsmode, Twenties-inspired cocktails, and a primo Champagne selection. *Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. Roosevelt Room, 307-B W. Fifth. \$50-500. [www.fb.com/events/2731196213864178](http://www.fb.com/events/2731196213864178).*

**SPEAKEASY'S LEGENDARY NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH** Ring in 2021 at this seated, socially distanced celebration with DJs, live music, bottle service, and a complimentary champagne toast. *Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. Speakeasy, 412-D Congress. \$91-150. [www.eventbrite.com/e/speakeasy-legendary-new-years-eve-bash-2021-tickets-127941796357](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/speakeasy-legendary-new-years-eve-bash-2021-tickets-127941796357).*

## HOLIDAY BAZAARS

**ARMADILLO ART CONCIERGE** An online, curated shopping guide pointing visitors to collections by content, process, medium, or artist location. [www.artconciierge.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.artconciierge.armadillobazaar.com).

**AUSTIN CREATIVE REUSE** Earth-friendly gifts, wrapping, craft supplies and notions, and even fun mystery packs. *Ongoing. Online or in store at 2005 Wheless. [www.shopacr.org](http://www.shopacr.org).*

**BLOOD BAZAAR** Evil wares for fans of goth and horror. *Through Dec. 24. Online. [www.bloodovertexas.com](http://www.bloodovertexas.com).*

**BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR** One-of-a-kind, handcrafted jewelry, artwork, home goods, and gifts for everyone on your shopping list. *Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm daily (10am-6pm on Dec. 24). Blue Genie Art Bazaar, 6100 Airport. [www.bluegenieartbazaar.com](http://www.bluegenieartbazaar.com).*



GETTY IMAGES

### CITY ENCOURAGES SAFE CELEBRATIONS

Austin Public Health would like to remind everyone to spread kindness, not COVID, this season. Keep the health of your family, friends, and neighbors in mind when planning your holiday celebrations, and consider virtual and low-risk activities. Get ideas and COVID-19 info at [www.austintexas.gov/holidaysafety](http://www.austintexas.gov/holidaysafety).

### COMING OF AGE ONLINE HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

A unique online estate sale for electronics, collectibles, kitchenware, and lots more, and all proceeds benefit Travis County's Coming of Age program, which supports individuals age 50 and up. [www.coaustin.org](http://www.coaustin.org).

**LETTERPRESS PLAY HOLIDAY GIFTS** The local letterpress studio has a unique selection of paper toys, gifts, cheeky holiday cards, and more. *Letterpress PLAY, 2300 S. Lamar #108. [www.letterpressplay.com](http://www.letterpressplay.com).*

**WINTER HOLIDAY MYSTIC MARKET** Partners local women-owned health and wellness shops with local cosmic practitioners, hosted by Rituals Rising and Joy Organics. *Through Jan. 15. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., noon-5pm. Joy Organics, 902 N. Lamar. [www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-holiday-mystic-market-tickets-130120717569](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-holiday-mystic-market-tickets-130120717569).*

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

**AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS** As you drive through the trail illuminated by more than 2 million lights, tune in via your car radio for holiday music, highlights, and history. *Through Jan. 3 (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day). Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. \$25-60 per vehicle. [www.austintrailoflights.org](http://www.austintrailoflights.org).*

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN GEORGETOWN'S HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE** Enjoy the lights and local flavor throughout the holiday season. *Through Jan. 2. Historic Town Square, E. Seventh, Georgetown. Free. [visit.georgetown.org](http://visit.georgetown.org).*

### LUMINATIONS AT LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER

Thousands of luminarias light the way through the Texas Arboretum among glowing oaks and the light-splashed forts of Fortlandia. *Through Jan. 3. Members only on Mondays; closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse. [www.wildflower.org/event/luminations/2020-11-27](http://www.wildflower.org/event/luminations/2020-11-27).*

### MOZART'S 2020 COVID-CAUTIOUS CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

Sip a delicious hot bevvie and see the beautiful light show by the lake. Reservations required. *Through Jan. 6, 6pm-12mid (closed on Christmas Day). Mozart's Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 512/477-2900. \$10 per table for one-hour show. [www.mozartcoffee.com](http://www.mozartcoffee.com).*

**NORTHERN LIGHTS HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR** This drive-through light show has a special bonus of a different holiday movie screening each night. *Through Dec. 31. Light show opens at 5pm; films screen at 7 & 10pm. Haute Spot, 1501 E. New Hope Dr., Cedar Park, 512/986-7411. [www.cedarparklights.com](http://www.cedarparklights.com).*

**SANTA'S SLEIGH SELFIES** Visit anytime after dark to see the tree lit with thousands of twinkly lights and take photos with Santa's sleigh. *Through Jan. 3. Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway, Cedar Park. [www.cedarparktexas.gov/departments/parks-recreation](http://www.cedarparktexas.gov/departments/parks-recreation).*

# Food

## Shakeup at Downtown Austin's Comedor

Philip Speer speaks about national search for new chef after high-profile chef out **BY JESSI CAPE**

Last Tuesday, Dec. 15, co-owner of Comedor and Assembly Kitchen Philip Speer, along with co-owner William Ball, announced via email that Gabe Erales, executive chef of their acclaimed Downtown restaurant Comedor, is no longer with the restaurant due to his misconduct.

"Effective immediately, Comedor Executive Chef Gabe Erales is no longer with the restaurant due to repeated violation of our policies and for behavior in conflict with our values. In his absence, Chef and Comedor partner Philip Speer will be helming the kitchen. After the New Year, we will begin the search for a permanent replacement."

Erales has been a fixture in the Austin hospitality scene for a number of years before his Comedor appointment. Hailing from El Paso, Erales worked with René Redzepi of Noma (in both Copenhagen and Tulum) and Jesse Griffiths of Dai Due (Erales eventually opened Dai Due Taqueria as executive chef). He won Cochon555 in 2018 and 2019, and has been focused on upscale Mexican

cuisine at Comedor since 2019. We reached out to Erales via Instagram and email, but did not receive a response.

We spoke with Speer over the phone and confirmed that Erales was terminated. Speer said it's been difficult in the time leading up to the decision but acknowledged the guidance of their third-party HR department (and hotline) in making a decision: "Through the process with the HR we had implemented, we knew what we had to do, the process, the direction, was clear."

Speer continued, "Myself and William are advocates for change in the restaurant community and things have to be identified and acted upon."

The current statement to the press is where they are leaving the story currently, but the bottom line is there was alleged misconduct. "There were behaviors that went against our company policy that was clearly stated, [and] a major conflict of our core values," he said. "I believe that radical change starts with radical action."



JOHN ANDERSON

Comedor

As for financial stakes in Comedor, or adjacent businesses Assembly and Garage, Erales is not a financial partner. "There was no real partnership. He did have the opportunity to have partnership in Assembly, but Assembly hasn't even been fully formed. But he is not a stakeholder in our company. Period," stated Speer. "He had opportunities to go into partnership through employment after a certain amount of time et cetera et cetera, but as of where today [Tuesday, Dec. 15] stands, there is no termination of any sort of partnership agreement because no partnership agreement existed."

When asked to speak in terms of employees of Comedor, past and present, and what they may be feeling about the situation, Speer said, "I can tell you about my range of emotions – everything from sadness to

anger to disappointment to fear, and I am sure that everybody in the company feels the same way. There's some feeling of relief, there's some feelings of sadness, there's a whole gamut of emotions."

Moving forward, Speer said he is conducting a national search for a new chef. "Comedor is a sum of all its parts, and Gabe's contribution was amazing, there's no doubt about that, there's no discrediting that. Gabe made up Comedor, but Gabe does not make up Comedor, right? We have a strong team that will continue to execute in his absence. And we have myself, who is a tenured professional with lots of experience who will continue to help lead the team while we do a nationwide search for a new chef and whenever we find *her*, I'm going to be so happy about that."

## FOOD EVENTS

BY WAYNE  
ALAN BRENNER



**RED BEANS AND RICELY YOURS, AUSTIN** Chris Cubas and Maris Clegg and friends continue their mission of providing free meals (of red beans and rice, andouille sausage, cornbread, fruit, dessert, and a drink) to Austinites in need. "On Tuesdays, we will provide a link to sign up for a free meal delivered to you with safety in mind. There is no judgment and the form is anonymous. If you've been affected by the impact of COVID-19 or are having a hard time, we would like to make a small portion of your day a little bit better." Or, if you'd like to donate your time in driving, baking treats, or providing cases of non-alcoholic beverages, send them an email and volunteer. [redbeansaustin@gmail.com](mailto:redbeansaustin@gmail.com).

**KITTY COHEN'S: GET LIT** The annual Hanukkah Bar pop-up returns to Kitty's with Chanukah-inspired cocktails like **Manischewitz Spritzers**, **Slivotinis**, and **Latke Punch**, but the regular drink menu will still be available. Did we say latke ... punch? Yes, it's a play on the traditional potato pancake dish, made with potato vodka, apple cider, lemon, ginger liquor, cinnamon, and bitters – available as a single drink or you can get a whole punch bowl for your group. Bonus: A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to **JCC of Austin**. Through Dec. 30. [KittyCohen.com](http://KittyCohen.com), 2211 Webberville Rd. [www.kittycohen.com](http://www.kittycohen.com).

## FOOD NEWS BUFFET

Here's some of what's happening foodwise in town as the virus-riddled shitshow of 2020 comes to a close.

**Sweetgreen**, the L.A.-based fast-casual restaurant chain, has opened the newest outpost of its **salad-centric succulence** on the Drag within the busy UT campus – an appropriate place, we reckon, to feature such popular **plant-based provender** and to include a local nod with interior wallpapers by Austin's own **Will Bryant**. Also: "The restaurant opens in compliance with the Texas government's social distancing guidelines for eateries, and will also follow sweetgreen's new safety standards, including

mandatory face masks, elevated sanitation schedules, dedicated concierges to ensure safety compliance, and more." Which, yeah, we'll see how all that works out – as with all eateries in These Unprecedented Times™.

So we made it out to **Smithville** this past weekend, to the new **Carne Lenta** barbecue joint and butcher shop (with its adjacent full-service bar) in the **Vasek Garage** building, to check out their grand opening shindig. And are those slow-cooked vittles worthy of sounding a foodie cheer about? Long story short, *definitely* – and, in fact, we'll have more reportage about it soon.

OMG, what is this, some kind of culinary *polygamy* going on? \*clutches pearls\* We mean, chef **Davis Turner's** acclaimed **Huckleberry** food truck is permanently stationed at **Circle Brewing** over where the **Austin FC** stadium's going up, right? But now we hear that the seafood maestro's going to be doing a pop-up dinner at **Vista Brewing** out in **Driftwood** on New Year's

Day, from noon to 6pm! And the Vista folks will be offering \$1 off draft pours of their **Hensel Helles Lager**. And, you know, citizen: Gasoline is *real* inexpensive right now...

Speaking of New Year's Day and food trucks, the **Far Out Lounge's** resident **Fowl Mouth** nom-mobile will not be featuring its regular menu on that day. Which is something almost worth weeping about ... except that what Fowl Mouth will be offering *instead* is **herbed porchetta served with black-eyed peas, collard greens, caramelized onions, and cornbread muffins**, at \$15 a plate – and now our tears are tears of joy.

And now we go to gather with our extended family (via Zoom, of course, because it's *kind of* funny if Grandma gets run over by a reindeer, sure, but not so much if she dies because we inadvertently gave her the 'ronas) and we wish you and yours the best of eating, and health, and less bad craziness in general in 2021. Huzzah!

# Delicious Wishes for a New Year

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Honey, it's cold outside!

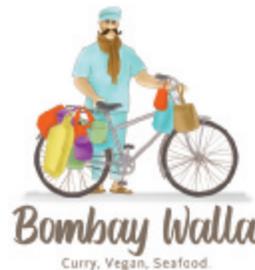
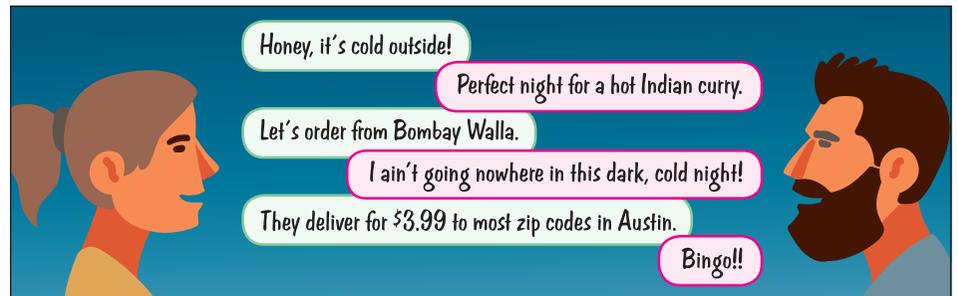
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# “My Heart Is an Arepa”

Arepa Dealers sling Venezuelan snacks and fair-trade coffee at Coconut Club’s all-day cafe, Cuatro Gato

BY ALEXANDRA DETMAR

Arepas are not a mere livelihood to Anissa del Rosario Schiek and José Tomás García. They are South America; they are their grandmothers; they are community, evolution, and brightness in a dark time. Now, they are Austin, and Arepas Dealers are bringing their Venezuelan snacks to pair with fine coffee and a friendly DIY spirit to the Downtown area at Cuatro Gato Cafe. García says, “This is our everyday food.”

Arepa Dealers originated in 2016 by García, a Venezuelan asylum seeker trying to find a hustle in Madrid’s Lavapiés neighborhood. As the diaspora is relatively young and still spreading globally, he seized his chance to market his national food to late-night snackers. Applying his photography degree and aesthetic eye to create a tangible catalog of his goods, and marketing his early transactions like a drug deal (a spot of dark humor to cope with life’s upheavals), he gained a following – the most important of whom was Anissa, now his wife. A few years later, utilizing influence from del Rosario Schiek’s Filipino heritage, a green card, and several pop-up iterations, Arepa Dealers now has a permanent home in the former Papadom space at 310-A Colorado St. in Downtown Austin, next door to Coconut Club.

Cuatro Gato Cafe (a nod to the sad-looking tigers of the Coco Club brand) is the creative partnership between Brian Almaraz and Cole Evans, owners of Coconut Club; Sussie Ramírez, general manager and coffee connect; and the Arepa Dealers, including Elmer Ferro, main “dealer.” This collaboration came about organically for the club owners, who always planned to expand next door with a food concept. Ferro was brought into the fold due to a shared Venezuelan heritage and global chef experience. Ramírez, aka DJ Sussy Pussy, had a standing relationship with Coconut Club, tied it all together, and headed up the coffee program. Ramírez and Alvaras took a road trip to Monterrey this summer to collect furnishings and flair, and to solidify a deal with Ramírez’s cousin Marcelo, importer of specialty coffee beans from Mexico. The result is a modest yet lively

cafeteria-style space with front-and-center personal touches from all partners, and the exclusive Folka coffee on display alongside a chalkboard menu.

Guests at Cuatro Gato have four arepas to pick from (often festively colored with vegetable juices), as well as sides, baked goods, and an occasional wild card offering. On their concept, García comments, “We have a motto that we use as a guideline – ‘everything fits in the arepa’ – to show the world how the arepa is a vessel to bring flavors together.” Local chefs, get in touch: These folks mean to collaborate.

Ferro, whose exuberance for food and friendship is well-known locally, explains the background of a menu staple: “The inspiration is traditional Peruvian stew – aji de gallina – spiced and finished with cream, and our take for a dairy-free crowd features coconut milk to round out the flavors of caramelized garlic, aji amarillo pepper, and toasted masa.” This arepa comes sprinkled with fried shallots, and the juiciness works well with the fluffy, chewy arepa.

The basis for their pork arepa is del Rosario Schiek’s grandmother’s carnitas recipe. Marinated in soy sauce, ginger, garlic, and vinegar, the finished arepa is garnished with pickled green papaya, carrot, and scallion sauce. Her Filipino influence is also seen in the “Putos” that glue the menu together – adorable, chewy rice-flour cakes great for any time of day.

García’s birria-style preparation of a brisket cut of beef results in a lower-fat arepa filling that delivers on flavor but remains accessible, and you can’t go wrong with a grid-dled corn cake and tender beef. He said, “In Latin America, corn is king. You know there’s something familiar, when you try an arepa for the first time and you recognize that it is close to what a taco can be, but the bread is soft and friendly. In Venezuela, our version of masa (corn dough) is fresh, so we grind the corn without doing the nixtamalization like Mexicans would. This results in a mild corn flavor and allows the filling to speak for itself.” Arepa Dealers makes their dough, rather than buying a preserved corn flour product.

**“We have a motto that we use as a guideline – ‘everything fits in the arepa’ – to show the world how the arepa is a vessel to bring flavors together.”**

JOSÉ TOMÁS GARCÍA,  
AREPA DEALERS



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

(l-r) Elmer Ferro, Anissa del Rosario Schiek, José Tomás (JT) García, Sussy Ramirez, Cole Evans, and Brian Alvaras

The menu also features a baked Venezuelan roll in savory, cheesy, or sweet profiles as a no-brainer partner with coffee drinks like the Dirty Abuelita (mocha coffee), or a dairy-free horchata adapted from Ramírez’s grandmother. Rotating finger foods fill in the gaps – tequeños, mozzarella sticks in dough, or tostones, twice-fried Caribbean green plantain. The two house sauces, Wasakaka!, a take on chimichurri with avocado, and an aji pepper-based pink sauce, go well with every item and are now available in 8-oz. retail jars.

The special nature of the house coffee brand, Folka, comes down to a progressive approach to farmer relationships. “Mexican coffee has traditionally been inconsistent, harder than other markets to maintain relationships with small farmers,” Alvaras explains. “Marcelo is creating a system where he gets similar beans from a lot of farmers in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Veracruz, maintaining a consistent product. He keeps farmers paid well, regardless of market fluctuations.”

Ramírez notes, “In Chiapas, a few farmers have been willing to experiment, allowing the roasting to be done in Monterrey. Our three roasts are suited to cold brew, drip, and espresso. We are proud that these beans are beyond fair trade.” Every item on her menu aims to cover every type of guest, from the hungover to the office-dweller: House coconut syrup tempers the cold brew, while a custom spice blend touches the Café de Olla. Topo Preparado offers a touch of lime and healing bubbles, and a scratch Golden Mylk and matcha latte warm guests in cold weather.

The resilience and adaptability of Arepa Dealers is clear when talking to García and del Rosario Schiek, who have traversed the

globe to be together and now share a vision of a food-based community. As a young business, they’ve interspersed pop-ups with catering gigs and rolled out arepa assembly “survival kits” for devotees. Now as a brick-and-mortar, they aren’t set on any one menu or business model. “We’ve been through a lot already, but one advantage to our team is that we are young, flexible, and will do whatever it takes to get arepas to people,” says García. The team has high hopes for the local market. They’re working on plans for independent curbside and delivery operations, and have used tactics like virtual classes to stay connected with patrons.

Resourcefulness is at the center of García and del Rosario Schiek’s gritty, comic-styled alter egos, who deal arepas on dark street corners out of trench coat pockets and remind you that snitches get stitches. From the team’s Instagram: “From a 6ft table to a cafe in Downtown Austin. So much to be grateful for in this weird ass year. From Venezuela to Austin, from a couple to a family, from a dictatorship to a democracy, from taco to arepa, from cooking from home to a full restaurant, from social to distant, from nothing to something, from being broke to... just kidding, we’re still broke, but not alone, not anymore.”

For now, Cuatro Gato remains an all-day cafe (Tue.-Thu. 11am-8pm; Fri.-Sun. 11am-11pm) with service to Coconut Club’s vibe-seekers by night. Thanks to the Arepa Dealers at Cuatro Gato, Downtown Austin can enjoy the murals of cheeky Peruvian street artist INSU, connect with the Venezuelan diaspora, and relish in a juicy \$7 snack. As Ferro put it, “My heart is an arepa.” Maybe you’ll find a little heart there, too.

[www.arepadealers.com](http://www.arepadealers.com)



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## New Year's Eve Dining **BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER**

*For you, dear reader: A brief roundup of fine dining gambits with which to bid the shambolic shitshow of 2020 adieu.*

**NYE WITH SUPPER FRIENDS** The culinary savants of Stephen Shallcross' 2 Dine 4 want to pamper your 2020-weary palate with a five-course meal of foie gras torchon, tuna tartare, butternut squash bisque, osso buco with creamy polenta and grilled broccolini(!), and, for dessert, chocolate truffles with winter berries and cream. And if you don't want to join the socially distanced few on the lovely Swoop House grounds (or if they've sold out reservations), you can still get all this goodness right in your own urban cocoon via pickup or delivery. [www.2dine4.com](http://www.2dine4.com)

**HOPFIELDS: NYE FEAST AT HOME** Enjoy your very own five-course dinner at home with detailed instructions from Head Chef James Flowers on how to best enjoy it. The Hopfields kitchen will do all the work; all you have to do is order online and pick up the noms at curbside. The festive package brings you a cheese & fruit plate, an array of house-made charcuterie, paddlefish caviar, half a harissa-roasted dewberry chicken, and a peanut butter s'mores cup for dessert. But that's just the food! Also: choice of bottled wine, beer, sake, or cider, plus NYE hats and flair and a Hopfields snifter glass for each person. \$200 for two, \$320 for four. [www.hopfieldsaustin.com](http://www.hopfieldsaustin.com)

**REBEL CHEESE: VIRTUAL WINE & CHEESE TASTING** Could be a hundred places making vegan cheese in Austin (hint: There isn't), and this company would still be the tops. Join cheesemakers Kirsten Maitland and Fred Zwar for an exclusive Zoomed event featuring four house-made cheeses and a bottle of sparkling wine. (And yes, of course it also comes with bread and crackers and olive and fruit; these folks aren't, you know, philistines.) Warning:

There are a lot of obsessive cheese lovers in this town and a lot of vegans; we recommend reserving your spot ASAP. *Event: Thu., Dec. 31, 7-8pm. Price varies. [www.rebelcheese.com](http://www.rebelcheese.com)*

**DEVIL MAY CARE: POP ART NYE** This posh Mediterranean venue will kick off 2021 with a pop art-inspired, Warhol-channeling pop-up, featuring live performers, a special menu, DJ entertainment, and "all of the Instagrammable moments you crave." Yeah, glamhounds will especially appreciate the glitz, but everybody loves the sumptuous food at this West Sixth hot spot. Tickets (\$45) include table seating, a welcome cocktail, and one platter of hors d'oeuvres. [www.devilmaycareatx.com](http://www.devilmaycareatx.com)

**DAI DUE NYE** Join Chef Jesse Griffiths and his crew of accomplished locavores to celebrate 2020's finale with two multicourse menus featuring the region's finest vegetables (brown butter carrot spread, potato soup with chickpeas, mushroom bourguignon, roasted winter veggies) and game meats (rabbit rillettes, wild boar meatballs, antelope paprikash, duck egg custard). You can dine on the outdoor patio (with heaters at every table) or pick up your meal for takeout in advance. (Takeout meals will, of course, include detailed instructions on how best to reheat and serve.) \$69 (veggie menu), \$79 (wild game menu). [www.daidue.com](http://www.daidue.com)

**TLC AUSTIN: NYE SURF & TURF** This local bastion of hearty Texas cuisine offers a tasty sort of throwback to fancy NYE dinners of yore – dinners for two, to be precise, with two 8-oz. tenderloin fillets, crab-stuffed lobster halves, rosemary fingerling potatoes, asparagus, and a chocolate brownie with winter-spiced strawberry compote. And a bottle of Taittinger Brut Champagne comes with, naturally. Note: Add-ons include hot black-eyed peas, Texas caviar, and Bloody Mary and mimosa kits. \$250. [www.tlcaustin.com](http://www.tlcaustin.com)

**L'OCA D'ORO NYE TAKEOUT** L'Oca d'Oro will help you celebrate with folks at home this year, featuring a dinner with the sort of luxe items you'd expect while dining at this excellent House of Tedesco on the last holiday of the year – details coming soon to their social media. Note: Subscription deadline of Dec. 26 at 12mid to pick up on Dec. 30 for New Year's Eve. Both holiday subscriptions are available as meals for two or four people (with optional wine add-ons) through Table22. [www.table22.com/loca-doro](http://www.table22.com/loca-doro)

**KEMURI TATSU-YA** This acclaimed eatery's new Omakase Club features three different styles to choose from, including "o-niku omakase," a smoked meat-focused menu; "o-sakana omakase," a pescatarian-friendly menu; or the "o-yasai omakase," a vegetarian menu, with all of these delectable arrays previewing the redefined, elevated dishes from Kemuri's upcoming kitchen program. (They've also revamped the venue to operate only on their covered patio space, with tables at a minimum of six feet apart.) Bonus: a curated menu of cocktails, sake, whiskey, and shochu. [www.kemuri-tatsuya.com](http://www.kemuri-tatsuya.com)

Check out our holiday events listings on p.31 for a rundown of (non-edible) New Year's Eve happenings, both physical and virtual.

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# Screens

Robert Rodriguez on the set of *We Can Be Heroes*



PHOTO BY RYAN GREEN / NETFLIX © 2020

## Father Figure

Robert Rodriguez brings big dad energy to *We Can Be Heroes* **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

Robert Rodriguez makes kids' films. Sure, the first instinct of the grindhouse enthusiast is to call him the king of Tex-Mex carnage for neo-exploitation titles like *Machete Kills* and *Desperado*. But he's spent more time in the world of the *Spy Kids* than he has in *Sin City*.

It's not that other filmmakers don't want to make kids' movies; it's that they rarely get the chance (for example, it took 16 years for Rodriguez's old friend Eli Roth to make his first family-friendly movie, 2018's *The House With a Clock in Its Walls*). But out of 20 features directed by Rodriguez, seven of them have been kids' movies. Rodriguez credited that to having made the first *Spy Kids* movie early enough in his career that he hadn't been pigeonholed yet. "Not many people have the privilege that I have to be known for two different things like that, to have that duality that happens in your life naturally. When you're out with your friends, you're *Machete*, you're *Sin City*. But when you get home, you're *Spy Kids* dad."

His latest, *We Can Be Heroes*, revisits the superpowered world of 2005's *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D*. Time has passed, so the daring duo are now adults and parents, as are all the superheroes. But

not all heroes are super, or even grownup, and when all the adults are kidnapped by aliens, it's up to the next generation – led by YaYa Gosselin's powerless Missy Moreno – to save the day. Not that the film started as a quasi-sequel. Rodriguez was approached by Netflix to create a family-friendly, live-action franchise. In recent years, those films have had a tough time at the box office, and Rodriguez knew why. "Kids can't drive themselves to the theatre, but they can watch it on Netflix as much as they want, and that got me excited." As he developed the story of an adult superhero team needing to be rescued by the next generation, he realized that he could add in characters from the first film, and he got the old producers to allow him to use them "the way they borrow Spider-Man and put him in an *Avengers* movie."

Time has passed in the real world as well, and in the intervening years, Rodriguez's own perspective has changed. "*Spy Kids* was based on my life as a sibling rather than a parent," he said, whereas *We Can Be Heroes* "is much more about my experiences as a father now that my kids have grown."

However, he had to bring out his parenting skills again when dealing with younger

cast members like Gosselin, who was only 10 during filming. While auditioning, she said, "I definitely flubbed during the director session. I went, 'Oh, my gosh, right in front of a big-time director,' but he definitely made me feel more comfortable. ... He's this incredible director who's also a cameraman and a producer and a writer, but on the other hand he's this really fun guy that has little toys in his pocket and is making funny voices."

The only Rodriguez film she'd seen before was the fourth *Spy Kids*, so she watched *Sharkboy and Lavagirl*. The next day, Rodriguez surprised her by introducing her to actress Taylor Dooley in her full, signature Lavagirl purple hairdo. "I was so shocked that I walked back into a wall," said Gosselin. That was her introduction to Rodriguez's fantastical world, and she soon had to adapt to life in effects-driven cinema. "Reacting to a green pool noodle that's an alien tentacle, it takes a while to get used to that."

Yet another learning curve for Gosselin came from not being the only child actor on set. One real rarity about *We Can Be Heroes* is that it's not just a kids' film – it's a kids' ensemble film. That was a shock for Gosselin, who is usually the only preteen in the room for shows like *FBI*. She said, "I was used to talking with adults, and then walking into this big room of kids, I was [like], 'Hey, want to talk about the weather?'"

Ensemble kids' films are a rarity: Even rarer is when they're onscreen or on set

together. The *Spy Kids* films and *Sharkboy and Lavagirl* both really center around two young actors, while even Rodriguez's episodic comedy *Shorts* kept its big cast separate for much of the film. But *We Can Be Heroes* centers on a team of 11 heroes in training, who were on set together for most of their scenes. That meant learning to wrangle a lot of youthful energy, but, Rodriguez laughed, "I grew up in a family of 10, so that turned out really handy." However, the ensemble aspect created one new conundrum. Child actors are only allowed to work six hours a day, and normally a production could stagger their time on set. But with so many group scenes, when one was done they were all done, and that meant the shoot was done, and even Rodriguez was done – at least in the studio. "We'd go home and work on pages for the next day, and with what happened that day we'd be coming up [with] the new stuff."

The "we" there is his children. Being a father is at the heart of so much of Rodriguez's recent work, and that extends to the set. The original story for *Sharkboy and Lavagirl* came from his son, Racer,

and his children have become working fixtures on his sets. "When you're mentoring a child, you learn more from them than they do from you. You can become actual partners and stay in a longer relationship than if you were just their parent and being a worrying Geppetto."

With Rodriguez's family on set every day, Gosselin got to know them all. "I really got to bond with his daughter, Rhiannon, and some of his sons. It was honestly so incredible to see them all together, with him, working together as a family. He really is a father figure, and he cares about the cast, and he protected us in a father-figure kind of way."

Rodriguez himself is on the other side of the equation – the parent who sees their kids growing up. "I brought my son [Rebel] on to compose with me so I could mentor him, but he ended up schooling me. I just became his assistant, because he was writing at such a level that I couldn't write with him. It was beyond my talents with music, and I went, 'Oh my god, the story of this movie is happening to me right now.' The kids don't just become your equal, they surpass you, and that's the way it should be."

That's why both the set and the story are places where kids come into their own – Rodriguez's family, his cast, and the characters. Gosselin said, "It's so important, especially for young girls that are my age, to see this figure and go, 'I can be a leader. I can be confident in myself.' It's so special for kids to see themselves in that way – as heroes." ■

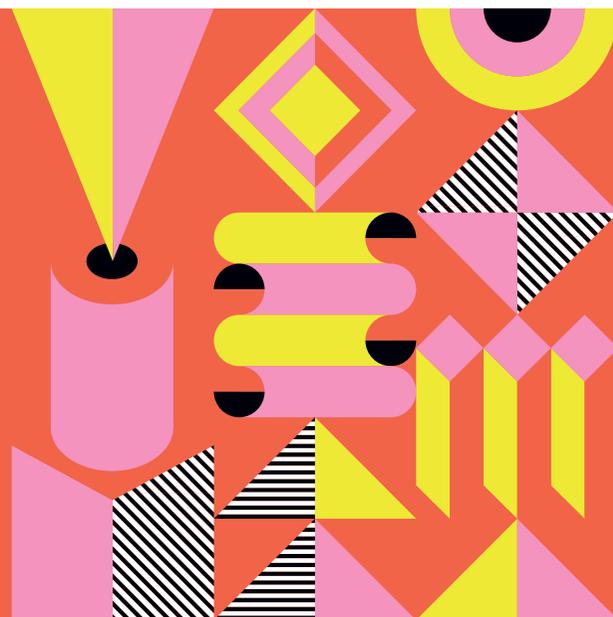
**We Can Be Heroes zooms onto Netflix on Dec. 25.**

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# MOVIE LISTINGS **AC**



## The Rhythm of Life

Disney's jazz-tinged *Soul* asks us what it is to really live

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

The title, with its built-in weightiness ... well, it's a tall order, one this latest Pixar animated feature falls just short of. The dominant mood here is not so much soulful as spirited, which is still better than most – and a most welcome gift, that, as it launches Christmas Day on Disney+ after COVID-19 derailed plans for a theatrical release. *Soul* is not the best Pixar has ever produced, nor the worst. Like its hero, Joe (voiced by Foxx), whose misstep into a New York City manhole sends him bouncing from life to afterlife to something like pre-life, *Soul* is an in-between.

Anything Pete Docter did was liable to be a drop-off after 2015's brilliant *Inside Out*; certainly, *Soul*'s clever but frenetic world-building lacks the neighborhood-plan neatness of *Inside Out*'s mind-scape. (Docter co-wrote *Soul* with Kemp Powers and Mike Jones.) After jazz musician and middle

school band leader Joe Gardner's fatal date with that manhole, he finds himself on an extraplanetary escalator to the so-called Great Beyond (hat tip Powell and Pressburger's *Stairway to Heaven*). But Joe is not about going gently into that good night. In a scratchy, existential freakout that reminded me of one of Don Hertzfeldt's stick-fig-

### SOUL

**D:** Pete Docter, Kemp Powers; with the voices of Jamie Foxx, Tina Fey, Angela Bassett, Graham Norton, Rachel House, Questlove, Alice Braga, Richard Ayoade, Daveed Diggs, Wes Studi. (PG, 100 min.)

★★★★

ure *cris de coeur*, Joe flees the Great Beyond and lands instead in the Great Before, a cotton-candy-colored departure lounge for brand-new souls readying for their journey to Earth. There, he crosses paths with a cranky old soul numbered 22 (30 Rock's Fey, also credited with dialogue contributions), who has so far resisted her ascension to corporeal form, and together they forge a tetchy alliance to get Joe back to his body.

That summary covers barely 20 minutes of a busy two hours, which hop between dimensions, emotional shades, and musical scores. (Jon

Batiste is behind the jazz compositions, while Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross steal looks from Tangerine Dream's synth-doom vision board for the metaphysical action.) *Soul* celebrates more than one overdue first: In addition to his script work, Powers is the first credited Black co-director in Pixar history, and Joe marks the animation house's first Black protagonist. That makes it doubly frustrating that Joe spends so much of the film not in his own skin, stuck instead in either his lava-lamp-shaped soul form or in an accidental body swap that I imagine appeals more to younger viewers. (Not that they don't deserve a bone – *Soul* earns its PG rating with an awful lot of "I don't want to die" teeth gnashings and a spooky dominion where lost souls wander abjectly.) Still, it's a treat to see an African American family depicted; a diverse community represented in earthbound scenes at Joe's school, a barbershop, a jazz club; and a multicultural roster of talent tapped for the vocal performances. Foxx and Fey have a nicely bickering rapport, but my favorite performance – of the year? – goes to the throaty New Zealander Rachel House (*Hunt for the Wilderpeople*), playing a cosmic bean counter named Terry. In the absence of transcendence, Terry tickled me into giggles. That'll do just fine.

*Soul* is available on Disney+ starting Dec. 25.

## NEW REVIEWS

### ★ THE DISSIDENT

**D:** Bryan Fogel. (PG-13, 119 min.)

When Bryan Fogel stumbled across the dicey world of doping in sports, it was luck of the draw. His Oscar-winning documentary *Icarus* spun a web of thrilling documentary investigation, made even more exciting because Fogel seemingly had no idea what he was uncovering at the time.

Now, after *The Dissident*, it seems like *Icarus* was just an extremely lucky find. His latest film covers the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, the *Washington Post* journalist who disappeared after he visited Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul. A well-documented case against the Saudi government, *The Dissident* is a thick documentary that lays out everything leading up to the event, a thorough investigation for those unfamiliar with the late Khashoggi but a stiff sit-through for those who keep up with the news.

Middle Eastern politics are the bread and butter of the documentary world. It seems like eventually every modern documentarian looks there at some point in their career. The topic is constantly in public interest, therefore making it an easy monetary sell. It's not a surprise that after Fogel's takedown of Russian Olympians, he decided to tackle another country that earns extremely divisive reactions from U.S. citizens.

The issue is not that *The Dissident* doesn't cover a vital topic, or that it's poorly made. It's that Fogel didn't have lightning strike twice: Where *Icarus* was a thrill ride, *The Dissident* is a long two hours. Mistakenly utilizing the same format he used in his previous film, Fogel sucks all the energy out of his political thriller of a documentary.

This isn't to discount *The Dissident*'s powerful moments, or the very real people who are mourning Khashoggi's death. Hatice Cengiz, the woman who was engaged to Khashoggi before he went missing, is a harrowing presence. In a scene where she walks through their apartment that's covered in volcanic ash from fingerprinting, she's melancholy but poised. Fogel and his team never push Cengiz to break down on camera as a cheap way to gain sympathy, because that's not the kind of person Cengiz seems to be.

Thorough and competent, *The Dissident* works as an essential political documentary. It covers Khashoggi's assassination in detail and very clearly makes it known that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is the one behind it. However, it's certainly a step down for Fogel, and while its production is glossy and polished, the lack of inertia keeps *The Dissident* from reaching its full potential.

★★★

– Jenny Nulf

EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, IPIG

### FATALE

**D:** Deon Taylor; with Hilary Swank, Michael Ealy, Mike Colter, Danny Pino, Tyrin Turner. (R, 102 min.)

Starting with its Frenchified title, this modern-day film *gris* of infidelity, blackmail, and murder has the potboiler smudgeprints of *Fatal*

Attraction all over it. Successful Los Angeles sports agency executive Derrick Tyler (Ealy) slips off his wedding ring during a bachelor party weekend in Las Vegas, temporarily rechristens himself "Darrin," and hooks up with a sexually forward Valerie (Swank) after she insists he mop up the cocktail he accidentally spills down her cleavage. Once back at his Hollywood Hills home and in the arms of his wife, Tracie (Lewis), their shaky marriage momentarily rekindled, Derrick is viciously attacked downstairs one night by a masked gunman. When the LAPD officer assigned to the case arrives to investigate, it turns out that what happens in Vegas doesn't always stay there. As a slightly tense Detective Quinlan (yes, Swank) surveys the couple's upstairs bedroom for an altogether different set of clues, her eyes lock on Tracie's lacy underwear casually strewn on the marital bed and you can instantly imagine her boiling a bunny.

If only *Fatale* were so blithely straightforward. In addition to the aforementioned one-night stand, there's a lot going on in David Loughery's overworked screenplay: a bitter child custody fight, a beach house love nest, a philandering spouse (another one!), a business partner anxious to sell, a cousin just out of prison, a succession of homicides. These plot elements stack one on top of the other, like so many wooden blocks. (The foghorn soundtrack by Geoff Zanelli threatens to topple them at any minute.) While *Fatale* shamelessly cribs from Adrian Lyne's 1987 film about an extramarital fling gone wrong, Valerie is nothing like the emotionally unhinged Alex Forrest played by Glenn Close. Although she initially calls Derrick out for his dishonesty and seethes a little about it, Valerie has no illusions about continuing any kind of relationship with him. Even so, she's still up for a spontaneous fuck on the kitchen countertop in her warehouse loft, not unlike Alex's erotic dip in her loft's kitchen sink with Michael Douglas's Dan. More pointedly, as improbable as Valerie's endgame seems once revealed, it plainly demonstrates she's nobody's chump. It's not exactly a feminist reading, but it's one that gives *Fatale* a little backbone.

You're never really sure how crazy Valerie is supposed to be, if at all. Is she a functioning psychotic? Or just a strong-minded personality willing to kill for good reason? As played by Swank, it's hard to tell. Her idea of Valerie's internalized rage is subtle, and you can read almost anything into those hard stares. Swank's strength as an actor is her hard-scrabble pragmatism, which doesn't come much into play here. At the end (spoiler alert!), the movie requires her to go full-on crazyass slasher bitch, much like the character at the end of another movie previously mentioned here. What else would you expect from something like this? After all that glowering, at least it must have felt cathartic.

★★★ — Steve Davis  
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## ★ THE MIDNIGHT SKY

D: George Clooney; with Clooney, Felicity Jones, David Oyelowo, Demián Bichir, Kyle Chandler, Caoilinn Springall. (PG-13, 122 min.)

Every era of humanity has been convinced, at some point, that it represents the end times — either as the peak of experience, evolution, and development, or due to some mumbo-jumbo apocalyptic superstition. So it would be hubristic for our modern convictions to be seen as extraordinary. The differencemaker now is that we have more than enough stats indicating ecological collapse that our doourest forecasts have a greater likelihood than, say, a wolf eating the sun or the dead rising from their interment.

So while people have always considered and contemplated their own mortality, apocalyptic fiction, especially depicting any kind of eco-Armageddon, inevitably must face the very real possibility that we may be gone, as individuals and as a species. How do we face that ending?

*The Midnight Sky*, George Clooney's adaptation of Lily Brooks-Dalton's 2016 novel *Good Morning, Midnight*, resonates with his earlier cosmic meditation on isolation, his 2002 collaboration with Steven Soderbergh on channeling Stanislaw Lem's opaque *Solaris* for the cinema. Another literary adaptation, another story of a scientist facing the implacable universe, and the unexpected intervention of a small child. In this case, researcher Augustine Lofthouse (Clooney, who both acts and directs) is facing the very real possibility that he will be the last person alive. A mistake has been made: Humanity has made Earth uninhabitable, and he's the last crew member at a polar base. Everyone else left because they have someone back home with whom they

## OPENINGS

*The Dissident* (PG-13)  
*Fatale* (R)  
*The Midnight Sky* (PG-13)  
*News of the World* (PG-13)  
*Pinocchio* (PG-13)  
*Promising Young Woman* (R)  
*Soul* (PG)  
*Wonder Woman 1984* (PG-13)

## RATINGS

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

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wish to die. Lofthouse left all that behind years ago, as shown through a series of flashbacks to his self-destruction of any personal life. Instead, he became an Earthbound exoplanetary researcher looking for humanity's next home, one that he will never see. Yet he has two last missions. The first is to care for a young girl, Iris (Springall), who has mysteriously been left behind by another resident of the base. The other is get to a nearby antenna array and warn the crew on the incoming research vessel *Æther* that they must return to the stars and never look back.

Clooney breaks the story into parallel and eventually intersecting narratives, as Lofthouse and Iris cross the frozen plains while the astronauts aboard the *Æther* (and most especially Jones as pregnant mission specialist Sully) are trying to work out why all contact with Earth has disappeared. In these strands, sentimentality and science combine as Clooney celebrates two parts of human experience that too often seem in short supply or even contradictory. In their interplay, Clooney places *The Midnight Sky* into a deep tradition of science fiction, in which the most humane of traits may outlast us. He touches on a sense of kind warning that reaches back to *This Island Earth* and *Forbidden Planet* – only this time, we are the Metalunans and the Krell, the doomed species whose fate may hold a message for us all.

There's one core, strange decision that might have worked if it didn't involve Clooney: having Ethan Peck play the younger Augustine, still voiced by Clooney himself. The younger actor is around the same age that Clooney was when he debuted on *ER* in 1994, and that familiarity makes the melding of the two performances feel incongruous. In the same way, the wilderness adventure of Lofthouse carries much higher stakes than the *Æther*'s meteor-pummeled journey back to Earth, leaving the story a little lopsided.

Yet *The Midnight Sky* shines with Clooney's deep and abiding belief in the human condition, in compassion, in ... "redemption" is the wrong word, too Catholic. Rather, in connection, even if it is brief, even if it is seemingly one-sided. Even at the end of the world, he suggests, a

kind word will resonate across the universe. His Earth may be a cold, dead place, but that does not mean it lacks any warmth.

**The *Midnight Sky* arrives on Netflix on Dec. 23.**  
★★★ – Richard Whittaker

## NEWS OF THE WORLD

**D: Paul Greengrass; with Tom Hanks, Helena Zengel, Elizabeth Marvel, Ray McKinnon, Mare Winningham, Neil Sandilands, Chukwudi Iwuji. (PG-13, 118 min.)**

To understand the present, one must understand the past. To understand the past, one must understand what was different there, and that's the path to understanding the connections. So when you see Captain Jefferson Kidd (Hanks) reading extracts from the daily papers in candlelit rooms to residents of towns and cities in post-Civil War Texas, it seems alien. At the same time, he has the gravitas of an evening news anchor. He's somewhere between a respected man of letters and a traveling sideshow act, and he's fully aware of his tenuous situation in life. "It's not a rich man's occupation," he explains, which is why he finds himself in the unexpected position of taking a lost child to her family.

Lives are in limbo in *News of the World*, Paul Greengrass and Luke Davies' adaptation of Paulette Jiles' 2016 novel of the same name. Johanna (Zengel) has been raised by the Kiowa so long that she barely remembers her German birth family from whom she was taken. (Comparisons to *The Searchers* are inevitable, but also historically accurate, as Jiles based her book in part on real cases of child abduction during raids.) Now her adoptive family is dead, butchered by white men in a cycle of violence, and she has no idea where this strange man is taking her.

With New Mexico filling in suitably for a pre-metropolis North Texas and the Hill Country before urban sprawl, it would be easy to imagine the captain and Johanna crossing wagon trails with the pioneering women of Kelly Reichardt's *Meeek's Cutoff* or sharing quiet communion with Ethan Hawke's PTSD-riddled gunslinger in Ti West's lamentably underseen *In a Valley of*

*Violence*. She is borderline feral, carrying so many levels of grief that it's hard to tell who she even is. Hanks' captain, however, is easier to grasp because he is part of Hanks' grand pantheon of good men who live in both shadow and light. Yet that doesn't mean there is no nuance, and Kidd feels like an ancestor of *Saving Private Ryan*'s Captain Miller – a man who is adept at violence but will only use it as a last, mournful resort.

Unfortunately, he is surrounded by men for whom violence – or at least its implicit threat – is muscle memory. Of course, this being a neo-Western, a gunfight is inevitable, but Greengrass' version is slow, inaccurate, tragic. This is where Greengrass' real purpose gently unfurls, in a complicated depiction of an America of divisions and strife, of Southerners resentful of what they see as unfair occupation by Northern forces, of petty local dictators that believe that only their news is fit to be repeated. It's not hard to see the metaphor, but it's also not heavy-handed.

While Greengrass' Texas is a place where naivete can get you killed, he still finds a place for trust and healing, expressed through the growing interdependence of Kidd and the kid. Our trauma, *News of the World* tells us, is not something we can box away. We cannot simply turn the page and pretend it never happened. But we can decide which stories we continue to tell.

★★★ – Richard Whittaker

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## PINOCCHIO

**D: Matteo Garrone; with Federico Ielapi, Roberto Benigni, Massimo Ceccherini, Rocco Papaleo, Marine Vacth, Davide Marotta, Alessio Di Domenicantonio. (PG-13, 124 min.)**

Fables are wonderful teaching instruments for the young, as they involve talking animals and potential death to impart a moral. Whether it's the shortsighted destruction of a valuable resource, the difference between clever expediency and a master stratagem, or using observational methods to expose deception in the identity of one's grandmother, these satiric stories are evocative lessons in human folly. *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, written in 1883 by Italian writer Carlo Collodi, has proven to be one of the more popular stories, having been adapted and reimagined countless times (along with this film, Netflix has an animated version directed by Guillermo del Toro due in 2021). The beloved tale of a wooden puppet longing to be human and his epic journey to fulfill that wish, Pinocchio's saga imparts all the key wisdoms to indoctrinate a child into society. Do the right thing, stay in school, and work hard, and you too will have everything of which you ever dreamed.

Italian director Matteo Garrone (*Gomorra*) helms this lavish live-action adaptation. And I do mean lavish, from breathtaking shots of the Tuscan countryside dotted with picturesque villages and meticulous production design that sees every bit of broken crockery artfully placed, to the

costume and makeup effects that are startling and, honestly, a bit unnerving (the Talking Cricket, played by Marotta, is especially alarming in both his voice and visage, and appears out of nowhere often enough that it seems like he's in his own horror film). As the title character, Federico Ielapi embodies Pinocchio with the requisite manic energy of the id gone wild, bouncing around episodic adventures involving skipping school, joining a traveling puppet troupe, being continuously taken advantage of by the tricksters Cat (Papaleo) and Fox (Ceccherini), and, of course, spinning falsehoods that cause the enlargement of his nose. He's a free spirit, this marionette without strings, pursued by his poor creator, Geppetto (Benigni), who just wants his son to behave. Lessons are learned, often the hard way, about gluttony, peer pressure, and ungratefulness, culminating in Pinocchio's journey to the Land of Toys, where boys lazily frolic all day, only to be transformed into donkeys and used as manual labor as punishment for their idleness.

Garrone is no stranger to grotesque tableaux. His 2015 film, *Tale of Tales*, mined similar fairytale material with uneven results. And whether it's the episodic nature of the film or the broad manner in which the players behave, *Pinocchio* suffers a similar fate. There is no cumulative emotional resonance to be had here, just a succession of incidents to navigate. Pinocchio's ultimate transformation from puppet to human boy lacks much of the transcendence inherent in the parable, and thus the film never moves beyond its wooden machinations.

★★★ – Josh Kupecki

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## PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

**D: Emerald Fennell; with Carey Mulligan, Adam Brody, Ray Nicholson, Sam Richardson, Timothy E. Goodwin, Clancy Brown. (R, 113 min.)**

The same day I screened *Promising Young Woman*, I went for a run. I usually go running in the early evening, in a safe neighborhood a short drive away. This time, while waiting at a stop sign for a few cars to drive by, a man catcalled me from his car. This had never happened to me before in this particular neighborhood, and suddenly I started brainstorming new areas in which to run.

It's this kind of misogyny that *Promising Young Woman* wants to take down. When Cassandra (Mulligan) smashes the headlights of another man's truck (who just yelled at her about her driving), I was reminded of my run-in a few hours prior. There are raw, relatable scenes dispersed throughout Fennell's directorial debut that cut this deep, but the heavy weight is nearly shattered by Fennell's stubborn determination to give *Promising Young Woman* the same edgy flair as *Killing Eve*, the TV series that Fennell hails from as a showrunner.

In fact, it's almost as if *Promising Young Woman* was an elevator pitch written backward: "What if *Killing Eve*'s Villanelle was out to get the patriarchy?" The final act is one of the worst



The *Midnight Sky*

Alexandre the Fool



## Pushing Virtual Boundaries at the Austin Arthouse Film Festival

Celebration of experimentation does some experimenting of its own **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

What do you do when the pandemic makes it impossible to host an in-person festival? Do more, and sooner. That was the response from the Austin Arthouse Film Festival, the local celebration of experimental cinema.

"While people were at home, we had opened up the festival to include film contests," said Giselle Marie Muñoz, who founded the festival in 2018 with Elizabeth Tabish. Back in the spring, filmmakers were issued prompts and guidelines, and the first experiment was so successful that they held three more 48-hour challenges across the summer. Muñoz called the competitions "an opportunity to bring some creativity out of filmmakers, especially if they weren't feeling it on their own."

One consequence of the competitions was that the booking team had a selection of brand-new titles all ready to include in the 2020 festival. That just left one question: What would the 2020 fest even look like? There have been three basic stages of festival responses to the pandemic. Those in the first wave were just forced to cancel. The second wave worked out how to transfer their regular festivals over to a virtual format. Now is the era of innovation. Festivals are changing the equation, adding dates, even running in two cities simultaneously.

Muñoz explained that this year, AAFF is going from one long night of shorts at AFS Cinema to a week of streaming events and access. They'd already become experienced at virtual screenings, as they'd hosted titles from previous festivals on their Vimeo page. As a result, she said, "We'd started to exercise these muscles of receiving films, and uploading films, and sharing films online."

Every festival has a specific role to play in the fate of films, and Tabish explained that AAFF is no different. "So many of these larger festivals are an opportunity for filmmakers

to get films in front of distributors, or people who may help with the future of their film, whereas our festival, because it's so intimate and we have a really specifically curated selection, our whole goal is about exposure for these films, for people to really appreciate the artistry that goes into them." Going online for a virtual edition, she added, "gives us an opportunity to share these films that we love so much with an even bigger audience that doesn't just have to be in Austin."

However, a pandemic-era festival means pandemic-era booking. "When we were in a live theatre," Tabish said, "so much of our programming was dependent on knowing how long people could sit in a chair." Since everyone is on their own couch, watching the 55 titles at their own leisure across the six days of the fest, that stricture does not apply. This year sees AAFF adding in features, with two titles – Pedro Pires' *Alexandre the Fool* and painter-turned-director Stavits Allweis' *Execution* – breaking the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' magical 40-minute mark. "This time, we don't have the time constraints."

The virtual format is also interactive. Even within the curated list broken down into six subgenres, it can be hard for audiences to navigate the lineup, so the team created a 10-question quiz to ease the selection process. Tabish said, "Based off your answers, we recommend a handful of films that you may like."

Muñoz said, "More than anything, we've been building on this celebration to create community ... We find what feels good, and we find what's bringing people together. I don't see us not doing any of the things we've done this year."

**Austin Arthouse Film Virtual Festival runs Dec. 26-31. Festival passes \$25. More info at [www.austinarthousefilmfestival.com](http://www.austinarthousefilmfestival.com).**

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offenders of this tongue-in-cheek hip edge, and with punchy title cards and glittery pop songs scattered throughout this candy-coated film, there's a tonal clash that doesn't quite connect with the film's heavier themes.

As a subversion to rape revenge films, it's only halfway there. Mulligan's Cassie is decorated in her best smudged lipstick, prowling clubs and pretending to be blackout drunk to find men she can trick into a lecture. She never harms them, though – just scares them with her sudden sobriety. There's something here in this setup that's intriguing, but the lack of physical violence in this punchy drama is a bit of a letdown and makes the setup for the final act feel that much more hollow.

Furthermore, *Promising Young Woman* feels clouded with its messaging. For one, Cassie is not a survivor of sexual assault – it's her late friend, Nina, who remains just a name throughout the film. For Cassie, Nina's sexual trauma stunted her life, forcing her to drop out of school and lose her dream of becoming a doctor (and she would have been a great one, we're told multiple times, because she's the titular *Promising Young Woman*). Cassie taking on Nina's trauma is a mixed bag of white feminism and dilutes the power of what Fennell is really trying to achieve with her film: the dismantling of the "nice guy" trope.

Fennell's best writing here revolves around Bo Burnham's character, Ryan. From his first date with Cassie where they "accidentally" find themselves outside his apartment to his reaction to running into Cassie when she stumbles out of a bar with another man, Ryan always puts on the good-guy grin as he gaslights and manipulates. It's a sublime performance from Burnham. The gross fact is, there will be a lot of men championing *Promising Young Woman* when it comes out, and what's troubling is that it will be hard to see who out of the bunch are Ryans who are convinced they are still the nice guy. In this way, Fennell's film feels so rewarding, repulsive, and relatable. But in others, it unfortunately slings its punches hard and misses.

★★★ — Jenny Nulf

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## WONDER WOMAN 1984

**D:** Patty Jenkins; with Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Kristen Wiig, Pedro Pascal, Robin Wright. (PG-13, 151 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. DC's immortal warrior queen (Gadot) returns, having ended World War I, and now finally crosses paths with her oldest nemesis, the Cheetah (Wiig). Fortunately, she has her sidekick, Steve Trevor (Pine), to help. Wait, wasn't he dead?

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, BULLOCK MUSEUM, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, HIGHLAND, IPIC, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS



Gremlins

## VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

**Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas (2017)** *D:* Larry Weinstein. (NR, 51 min.) Austin Jewish Film Festival presents a musical doc, set in a Chinese restaurant, about the Jewish songwriters who soundtracked Christianity's most musical holiday. Dec. 24-Jan. 1. [www.austinjff.org](http://www.austinjff.org).

**Gremlins (1984)** *D:* Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. (PG, 106 min.) **Bulimianne Rhapsody's Holiday Horrors.** A teenager's furry little pet of mysterious origins spawns a whole town full of snaggletoothed killer gremlins ... with a side of digital drag. Performances by Louisiana Purchase, Kitty Buick, Chique Fil-Atio, Rosalind Hussell, and Geneva Convention. Thu., Dec. 24, 10pm. [www.twitch.tv/poopooatx](http://www.twitch.tv/poopooatx).

**Mandy (2018)** *D:* Panos Cosmatos; with Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough. (NR, 121 min.) For the 2020 Uncaged New Year's Eve Bash, a screening of *Mandy* is just part of the virtual adventure presented by Alamo Drafthouse and Legion M. The South Lamar Drafthouse will become an 8-bit experience, and your avatar will explore karaoke rooms, photo booths, and more, with Nicolas Cage being somewhat of a motif. Cheddar Goblin will even be on hand, and VIP tickets include a box of CG mac & cheese. (\*) Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm. [shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye](http://shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye).

## SPACES

**Elf (2003)** *D:* Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell, James Caan, Zoëy Deschanel. (PG, 95 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) There's a drive-through light show that opens at 5pm prior to the film screenings each night. @Haute Spot: Wed., Dec. 23, 7pm.

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)** *D:* Kizo Nagashima and Larry Roemer; narrated by Burl Ives. (48 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Thu., Dec. 24, 7pm.

**Arthur Christmas (2011)** *D:* Sarah Smith; with the voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy. (PG, 100 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Fri., Dec. 25, 7pm.

**Love Actually (2003)** *D:* Richard Curtis; with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson. (R, 135 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Fri., Dec. 25, 10pm.

**Edward Scissorhands (1990)** *D:* Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder, Conchata Ferrell. (PG-13, 100 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Sat., Dec. 26, 7pm.

**The Night Before (2015)** *D:* Jonathan Levine; with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Michael Shannon, Nathan Fielder. (R, 101 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Sat., Dec. 26, 10pm.

**The Santa Clause (1994)** *D:* John Pasquin; with Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson, Eric Lloyd, David Krumholtz. (PG, 97 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Sun., Dec. 27, 7pm.

**Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984)** *D:* Charles E. Sellier Jr.; with Robert Brian Wilson, Lilyan Chauvin, Gilmer McCormick. (R, 82 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Sun., Dec. 27, 10pm.

**Arthur Christmas (2011)** **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Mon., Dec. 28, 7pm.

**Better Watch Out (2016)** (R, 85 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Mon., Dec. 28, 10pm.

**Scrooged (1988)** *D:* Richard Donner; with Bill Murray. (PG-13, 101 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Tue., Dec. 29, 7pm.

**A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (2011)** *D:* Todd Strauss-Schulson; with Kal Penn, John Cho, Neil Patrick Harris. (R, 89 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Tue., Dec. 29, 10pm.

**Gremlins (1984)** *D:* Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. (PG, 106 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Wed., Dec. 30, 7pm.

**Office Christmas Party (2016)** *D:* Josh Gordon and Will Speck; with Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston, Kate McKinnon. (R, 105 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (\*) @Haute Spot: Wed., Dec. 30, 10pm.

**Back to the Future Marathon** (PG, 387 min.) All three *Back to the Future* movies, starting at 5pm with 30-minute breaks in between. Admission will be by donation only; pay what you can to help support the Palace. Wear your best Marty McFly, Doc, or Eighties garb to win a prize, and Eighties music and trivia questions liven things up between shows. @Palace: Thu., Dec. 31, 5pm.

**Die Hard (1988)** *D:* John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Thu., Dec. 31, 10pm.

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

**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 Jan. 8 issue is Monday, Dec. 28.** 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): [specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com](mailto:specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com).

**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)** *D:* Jeremiah S. Chechik; with Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid. (PG-13, 97 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot: Thu., Dec. 31, 7pm.

## FEATURED SCREENINGS

**Die Hard (1988)** *D:* John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) Still a few more chances to see what some believe is the ultimate Christmas movie, including a rooftop screening on Christmas Day! @Blue Starlite Downtown: Wed., Dec. 23, 7:15, 10:05pm; Fri., Dec. 25, 7:15pm. @Blue Starlite Round Rock: Wed., Dec. 23, 9:40pm. @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Wed., Dec. 23 & Fri., Dec. 25, 10:25pm.

**It's a Wonderful Life (1946)** *D:* Frank Capra; with James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. (NR, 129 min.) @iPic: Thu., Dec. 24, 6:15pm.

**The Cabin in the Woods (2012)** *D:* Drew Goddard; with Kristen Connolly, Chris Hemsworth, Anna Hutchison. (R, 105 min.) What better way is there to see this one than in the woods with lots of spooky fog? (\*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Fri.-Sat., Dec. 25-26, 10pm; Mon.-Tue., Dec. 28-29, 6pm; Wed., Dec. 30, 6, 10pm.

**The Big Lebowski (1998)** *D:* Joel Coen and Ethan Coen; with Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Julianne Moore, Steve Buscemi. (R, 117 min.) Luv Video presents one of the top 10 rentals of all time. (\*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Sat., Dec. 26, 10:25pm.

**The Drive-In Comedy Tour** @Blue Starlite Downtown: Sat., Dec. 26, 4:45pm.

**Krampus (2015)** *D:* Michael Dougherty; with Adam Scott, Toni Collette, David Koechner, Allison Tolman, Conchata Ferrell, Emjay Anthony, Stefania LaVie Owen, Krista Stadler. (R, 98 min.) **Drag at the Drive-In.** A special half-hour drag show precedes the camp horror. (\*) @Blue Starlite Downtown: Sat., Dec. 26, 10:30pm.

**Clueless (1995)** *D:* Amy Heckerling; with Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash, Brittany Murphy, Paul Rudd. (PG-13, 97 min.)

**Fathom Events.** Revisit Cher and the gang on the 25th anniversary. (\*) @Cinemark 20, CM Hill Country Galleria, CM Southpark Meadows: Sun., Dec. 27, 1, 5pm; Mon., Dec. 28, 4, 7pm.

**The Hunt (2020)** *D:* Craig Zobel; with Betty Gilpin, Ike Barinholtz, Hilary Swank. (R, 89 min.) If you missed this one the first time around this year, here's your chance to see what *Chronicle* Screens Editor Richard Whittaker called the "political throat punch/rallying cry we all need." (\*) @Doc's Drive In: Sun., Dec. 27, 8:45pm; Tue., Dec. 29, 9:15pm.

## FESTIVALS

**Austin Polish Film Festival** This year, APFF has taken most of the screenings to the virtual realm, offering two months of Polish features and documentaries online, as well three films co-presented with Austin Jewish Film Festival and a few screenings at Galaxy Highland, *Through Dec. 31.* [www.austinpolishfilm.com](http://www.austinpolishfilm.com).

**Wild Texas Film Tour** In ordinary times, filmmaker and conservationist Ben Masters would be traveling the state sharing wildlife, adventure, and conservation stories, but this year the film festival has gone online. The short and feature films showcase the Scottish Highlands, the Texas ocelot, Buffalo Bayou, paddlefish, swift foxes, and several other topics that will appeal to a wide variety of audiences. *Through Dec. 31.* [www.wildfilmtour.com](http://www.wildfilmtour.com).



Back to the Future

# SHOWTIMES

An asterisk (\*) before a title means that **no passes** or special admission discounts will be accepted. **Changes may sometimes occur**; viewers are encouraged to **call theatres to confirm showtimes**.

For events and info, plus updated Showtimes including theatres in **Bastrop, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Kyle, Lockhart, Marble Falls, Round Rock, and San Marcos**, see [austinchronicle.com/events](http://austinchronicle.com/events).

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKELINE

14028 HWY. 183 N., BLDG. F,  
512/861-7070.

**NEWS OF THE WORLD:** Fri, 11:40am, 3:10, 6:25pm; Sat, 11:40am, 3:00, 6:35pm; Sun, 11:40am, 3:00pm; Mon-Wed, 5:40; Thu (12/31), 5:25  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Fri, 12:20, 3:35, 7:10; Sat, 12:25, 3:35, 7:10; Sun, 12:20, 3:35, 7:10; Mon, 7:15; Wed, 7:10; Thu (12/31), 5:45

**WONDER WOMAN 1984:** Fri, 11:00am, 11:20, noon, 1:00, 1:35, 2:00, 2:50, 3:25, 3:55, 5:00, 5:25, 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 7:45pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 2:50, 3:55, 5:00, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/31), 5:00, 6:00

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER, 512/861-7060.

**NEWS OF THE WORLD:** Fri, 11:20am, 2:35, 6:15pm; Sat, 11:25am, 2:30, 6:00pm; Sun, 11:20am, 2:30, 6:00pm; Mon-Wed, 5:40; Thu (12/31), 5:30

**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Fri, 12:55, 4:20, 7:35; Sat, 12:25, 3:40, 7:15; Sun, 11:45am, 3:20, 6:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/31), 6:25  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984:** Fri, 11:00am, 11:40, noon, 2:55, 3:20, 3:35, 3:55, 6:50, 7:15, 7:30, 7:50pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, noon, 2:55, 3:55, 6:50, 7:50pm; Mon-Wed, 5:00, 6:00; Thu (12/31), 5:00, 5:50

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

**NEWS OF THE WORLD:** Fri, 11:20am, 2:35, 5:55pm; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:35, 6:00pm; Mon-Tue, 6:20; Wed, 5:40; Thu (12/31), 5:25  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Fri-Sun, 12:20, 3:30, 7:00; Mon-Wed, 6:40; Thu (12/31), 7:00  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984:** Fri, 11:00am, noon, 1:35, 2:15, 2:50, 3:50, 5:35, 6:10, 6:40, 7:40pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:50, 6:40, 7:40pm; Mon-Tue, 6:00, 7:00; Wed, 5:00; Thu (12/31), 5:00, 6:00

## AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

12625 N. I-35, 512/640-1533.

**COME PLAY (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 5:20, 8:10  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 4:30, 7:20; Fri, 12:30, 1:10, 6:30; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40; Mon-Thu (12/31), 12:50, 3:40, 6:40  
**FATALE (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 3:50, 6:50; Fri, 12:40, 3:40, 7:40; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50; Mon, 2:00, 5:05, 8:00; Tue-Thu (12/31), 2:00, 5:00, 8:00  
**FREAKY (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 3:20  
**HALF BROTHERS (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 4:50, 7:50  
**MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS):** Wed, 5:10, 8:20; Thu, 4:10, 7:10; Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10; Sat, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10; Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:40; Mon-Thu (12/31), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/DVS):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 1:50, 5:10, 8:20  
**PINOCCHIO:** Fri-Thu (12/31), 1:20, 4:30, 8:00  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Wed, 7:00  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/DVS):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 1:30, 4:40, 7:50  
**WONDER WOMAN (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 6:20

**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS):** Fri, 1:00, 2:10, 3:20, 4:50, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40; Sat, 1:00, 2:10, 3:20, 4:50, 7:20, 8:40; Sun, 1:00, 2:10, 4:50, 6:00, 7:10, 8:40; Mon-Thu (12/31), 1:00, 3:20, 4:50, 7:20, 8:40

## BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

BARTON CREEK SQUARE MALL,  
MOPAC & HWY. 360, 512/306-1991.

**ALL MY LIFE (CC/DVS):** Wed, 6:45; Thu, 1:05, 3:45, 6:45  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC):** Wed, 7:00; Thu, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00; Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35; Tue, 5:10, 7:35; Wed, 11:45am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35pm; Thu (12/31), 10:40am, 1:30, 4:20, 6:50pm  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC/DVS):** Wed, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10; Fri, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10pm; Sat, 10:40am, 12:40, 3:20, 6:10pm  
**FATALE (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45; Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25; Sat, 2:20, 5:10, 8:10; Sun, 11:20am, 2:20, 5:20, 8:10pm; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50pm; Thu (12/31), 2:05, 4:50, 7:35

**FREAKY (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 4:05  
**HALF BROTHERS (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 1:40, 4:20, 7:50  
**MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS):** Wed, 1:30, 3:30, 4:10, 6:15; Thu, 1:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:15; Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 8:15, 10:00; Sat, 3:40, 8:30, 9:40; Sun, 3:00, 5:45, 8:25; Mon-Wed, 2:30, 5:20, 8:15; Thu (12/31), 2:25, 5:00, 7:35  
**MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS, IMAX):** Wed, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00; Thu, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/DVS):** Fri, 10:35am, 11:40, 2:50, 5:15, 6:20, 7:20, 9:30pm; Sat, 11:40am, 1:50, 2:50, 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 9:30pm; Sun, 10:45am, 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:40, 7:40pm; Mon-Wed, 11:35am, 1:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45pm; Thu (12/31), 11:25am, 1:25, 4:45, 3:45, 5:45, 6:45pm  
**PINOCCHIO:** Fri, 10:40am, 2:40, 6:00, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:30am, 2:40, 6:00, 9:00pm; Sun, 10:50am, 2:00, 5:20, 8:30pm; Mon-Wed, 11:40am, 3:00, 6:20pm; Thu (12/31), 11:40am, 3:00, 6:00pm

**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/DVS):** Wed, 7:00; Fri, 10:50am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20pm; Sat, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30; Sun, 11:50am, 2:45, 5:45, 8:45pm; Mon, 1:30, 4:30, 7:25; Tue-Wed, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20; Thu (12/31), 10:30am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20pm  
**TENET (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 1:00, 4:20, 6:50  
**THE WAR WITH GRANDPA (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 1:35  
**WONDER WOMAN (CC/DVS):** Wed-Thu, 3:40, 7:05  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS):** Fri, 10:30am, 12:15, 1:40, 2:10, 4:10, 6:00, 8:00, 9:45pm; Sat, 10:30am, 12:15, 2:10, 4:10, 6:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:45pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:15, 2:10, 4:10, 6:00, 8:00pm; Mon, 11:30am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00pm; Tue, 11:30am, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00pm; Wed, 11:30am, noon, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00pm; Thu (12/31), 11:30am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:00, 7:00pm  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS, IMAX):** Fri, 11:50am, 3:10, 7:00, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 3:10, 7:00pm; Mon-Wed, 12:30, 4:15, 8:00; Thu (12/31), 10:30am, 2:15, 6:00pm

## BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN

300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

**DIE HARD:** Wed, 7:15, 10:05; Fri, 7:15  
**THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY TOUR:** Sat, 4:45  
**GREMLINS:** Fri, 10:05

**HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE:** Sat, 7:00  
**HOME ALONE:** Fri, 7:15  
**DRAG AT THE DRIVE-IN: KRAMPUS:** Sat, 10:30  
**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION:** Wed, 7:15, 10:00  
**STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE:** Wed, 7:15

## BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

2103 E. M. FRANKLIN AVE.,  
512/850-6127.

**ARCHENEMY:** Sat, 10:35  
**THE BIG LEBOWSKI:** Sat, 10:25  
**THE CABIN IN THE WOODS:** Fri-Sat, 10:00; Mon-Tue, 6:00; Wed, 6:00, 10:00  
**DIE HARD:** Wed, Fri, 10:25  
**DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS:** Fri, 7:15  
**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS:** Sun, 6:00  
**ELF:** Wed, 7:20, 7:25; Fri-Sat, 7:00  
**THE FIFTH ELEMENT:** Wed, 10:25  
**GREMLINS:** Wed, 10:00  
**HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE:** Fri-Sat, 6:00  
**HOME ALONE:** Wed, 7:15  
**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION:** Wed, 7:00, 7:15, 10:25  
**SCROOGED:** Wed, 10:00  
**STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE:** Mon-Tue, 7:00; Wed, 7:15  
**TENET:** Fri-Tue, 6:35  
**TRADING PLACES:** Wed, 10:25  
**TRUE LIES:** Sun, 7:15  
**WHEN HARRY MET SALLY ...:** Tue-Wed, 7:15

## BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRELL PKWY.,  
832/915-0332.

**DIE HARD:** Wed, 9:40  
**DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS:** Fri, 7:30  
**ELF:** Wed, 7:30  
**HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE:** Sat, 7:00  
**STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE:** Wed, 7:00

## BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

**LASER IMAX 2D: "INTO AMERICA'S WILD":** 2:00  
**LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE ODYSSEY":** Wed, noon, 4:00; Sat-Thu (12/31), noon  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (IMAX):** Sat-Thu (12/31), 4:00, 8:00

## CINEMARK 2D AND XD

N. I-35 & FM 1825, 512/989-8535.

**ALL MY LIFE (DIGITAL):** Wed, 4:20, 7:05; Thu, 7:05  
**FATHOM EVENTS: CLUELESS:** Sun, 1:00, 5:00; Mon, 4:00, 7:00  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:35, 2:55, 4:15, 6:55, 8:05; Fri-Thu (12/31), 11:35am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50pm  
**FATALE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45; Fri-Sat, 10:35am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sun, 10:10am, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon, 10:10am, 1:10, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu (12/31), 10:35am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm  
**FREAKY (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25; Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:55  
**HALF BROTHERS (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45; Fri-Thu (12/31), 12:05  
**HONEST THIEF (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:15, 5:30  
**THE MIDNIGHT SKY (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30  
**MONSTER HUNTER:** Wed-Thu, 1:10, 4:00, 6:40  
**MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:10, 4:00, 6:40; Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:50am, 1:35, 2:55, 4:25, 5:50, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10pm

**MONSTER HUNTER (XD):** Wed-Thu, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:00am, 11:00, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:55, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:05pm  
**PINOCCHIO (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), noon, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:40am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45pm  
**TENET (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 2:45, 6:30  
**THE WAR WITH GRANDPA (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, noon, 2:45, 5:25, 8:00  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984:** Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:45am, 12:25, 2:25, 4:35, 6:05, 8:15, 9:45pm  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 10:00am, 10:45, 12:10, 12:55, 1:40, 2:25, 3:50, 4:35, 5:20, 6:05, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45, 11:00pm  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (XD):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 11:25am, 3:05, 6:45, 10:15pm

## CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. WHITESTONE,  
800/326-3264.

**ALL MY LIFE (DIGITAL):** Wed, 2:45, 5:15; Thu, 6:50  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:05, 1:20, 2:40, 4:05, 5:20, 6:45, 7:50  
**FATALE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:50, 3:40, 6:30; Fri, 4:30, 7:15  
**FREAKY (DIGITAL):** Wed, 8:00  
**HALF BROTHERS (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45pm  
**MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40; Fri, 1:45, 10:00  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):** Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/31), 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL):** Fri-Sun, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/31), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL):** Fri, 9:45am, 10:00, 10:15, 11:25, 12:25, 1:25, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15pm; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 10:00, 11:25, 12:25, 1:25, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/31), 12:25, 1:25, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15

## CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 HILL COUNTRY BLVD.,  
800/326-3264.

**ALL MY LIFE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 3:10  
**FATHOM EVENTS: CLUELESS:** Sun, 1:00, 5:00; Mon, 4:00, 7:00  
**COME PLAY (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:05, 3:00, 6:00  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:15, 1:25, 4:40, 5:55, 7:45  
**FATALE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:00, 3:55, 6:50  
**FREAKY (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 3:35, 6:30  
**HALF BROTHERS (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15  
**LET HIM GO (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 3:20, 6:40  
**MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:20, 4:30, 7:35  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 12:35, 3:40, 6:55, 10:05

**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL):** Fri, 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15; Sat-Thu (12/31), 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:55, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15

## CINEMARK STONE HILL TOWN CENTER

18820 HILLTOP COMMERCIAL DR.  
(SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HWYS. 130 & 45), 512/251-0938.

**COME PLAY (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 4:10, 7:15  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:00, 3:45, 5:00, 7:00  
**FATALE (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10  
**FREAKY (DIGITAL):** Wed, 2:00, 8:00; Thu, 2:00, 7:40  
**MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:40, 4:00, 7:15  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):** Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:10, 6:35, 9:50pm  
**THE WAR WITH GRANDPA (DIGITAL):** Wed-Thu, 12:10, 7:20  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL):** Fri-Thu (12/31), 11:30am, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30pm  
**BOOGIE NIGHTS:** Sat, 9:00; Thu (12/31), 9:20  
**THE BREAKFAST CLUB:** Sun, 6:00; Wed, 9:00  
**DESPICABLE ME 3:** Wed, 6:45  
**THE GREAT GATSBY:** Thu (12/31), 9:30  
**THE HUNT:** Sun, 8:45; Tue, 9:15  
**LABYRINTH:** Sat, 7:00; Tue, 6:45  
**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE:** Tue, 7:30  
**SING:** Sat-Thu (12/31), 6:00  
**SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE:** Sun, 7:00; Wed, 7:30; Thu (12/31), 6:00

## DOC'S DRIVE IN THEATRE

1540 SATTERWHITE RD.,  
512/960-4460.

**BOOGIE NIGHTS:** Sat, 9:00; Thu (12/31), 9:20  
**THE BREAKFAST CLUB:** Sun, 6:00; Wed, 9:00  
**DESPICABLE ME 3:** Wed, 6:45  
**THE GREAT GATSBY:** Thu (12/31), 9:30  
**THE HUNT:** Sun, 8:45; Tue, 9:15  
**LABYRINTH:** Sat, 7:00; Tue, 6:45  
**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE:** Tue, 7:30  
**SING:** Sat-Thu (12/31), 6:00  
**SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE:** Sun, 7:00; Wed, 7:30; Thu (12/31), 6:00

## EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA

166 HARGRAVES STE. A-100,  
512/457-0700.

**ALL MY LIFE:** Wed, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00; Thu, 11:50am, 2:00pm  
**ARCHENEMY:** Wed, 6:00, 8:30; Thu, 3:15  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE:** Wed, noon, 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00; Thu, 11:00am, 1:45pm; Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30pm; Sun, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/31), 1:30, 4:00, 6:45  
**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (EVO):** Wed, noon, 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00; Thu, 11:00am, 1:45pm  
**THE DISSIDENT:** Fri, 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Sat, 11:50am, 5:15, 8:15pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; Mon-Wed, 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Thu (12/31), 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15pm  
**ELF:** Wed, 12:15, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30; Thu, 12:15, 3:00  
**FATALE:** Wed, noon, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15; Thu, noon, 2:45; Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; Mon-Wed, 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Thu (12/31), 11:50am, 2:15, 5:15pm  
**HALF BROTHERS:** Wed, 11:45am, 4:30, 7:30pm; Thu, 11:30am, 2:15pm  
**LET HIM GO:** Wed, 1:45, 4:00, 7:30; Thu, 11:30am, 2:15pm  
**MONSTER HUNTER:** Wed, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00; Thu, 12:30, 3:15; Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45; Mon-Thu (12/31), 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45pm  
**MONSTER HUNTER (EVO):** Wed, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00pm; Thu, 11:45am, 2:30pm

**NEWS OF THE WORLD:** Fri, 10:30am, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:15, 7:30, 9:15pm; Sat, 10:30am, 12:15, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:15, 7:30, 9:15pm; Sun, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:15, 7:30, 9:15; Mon-Thu (12/31), 12:15, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:15, 7:30  
**PINOCCHIO:** Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00pm; Sun, 4:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu (12/31), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/31), 1:45, 4:30, 7:45  
**SKYLINES:** Wed, 2:00, 5:00, 7:45; Thu, 11:45am, 2:45pm  
**WILD MOUNTAIN THYME:** Wed, 12:30, 3:15; Thu, 12:15  
**WONDER WOMAN 1984:** Fri, 10:15am, 11:30, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30pm; Sat, 10:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30; Sun, 11:45am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:00

# Music

## Growing Up Margin Walker

During my teenage years in San Antonio, I had a much cooler best friend with a punk dad. As such, his children annually attended **Fun Fun Fun Fest**, the cultish music and comedy festival held at Austin's **Auditorium Shores**. I joined in at age 16, just months after returning from a 2012 summer mission trip with my church choir.

Upon entry, the singer of Chicago shock act the **Dwarves** dislodged my sunglasses and told me to let my hair down as I bobbed nervously (and happily) before the heavy-genre Black Stage. I got properly high for the first time waiting for **Hannibal Buress** in the tented Yellow Stage, dropping a stranger's joint because I didn't want to burn my fingers. I'd journeyed to Austin for a few shows, but I'd never been to a music festival.

The next year, I upset my high school boyfriend by fanatically lunging to touch a stage-diving **Mac Demarco** in **Thee Oh Sees** crowd. When my best friend ditched me to hang out with hardcore kids from **McCallum High**, I sat in the big field in front of the Orange Stage and cried into my Doc Martens. Seems that the most vivid moments of my youth happened at events curated by promoter **Graham Williams**, where indie rock, hip-hop, pop, punk, and everything else co-headlined ahead of their time.

I didn't know how lucky I was.

Last week, Williams and his team announced the closure of concert company

**Margin Walker Presents**. After a venue extinction year, cessation of the state's largest independent promoter sounded an ominous death knell for live music as we know it for the foreseeable future. Their social media statement called it a decision "that essentially made itself."

Williams and co-founder **Ian Orth** launched Margin Walker in 2016 after **ACL Live** developers **Stratus Properties** absorbed the former's previous promotions company, **Transmission Events**, and its festival offshoot Fun Fun Fun Fest. Local scene vet **Rosa Madriz** headed talent buying at Margin Walker, its moniker borrowed from a **Fugazi** EP. Their new event, **Sound on Sound**, took its name from a song by **Big Boys** just like Fun Fun Fun pulled from an EP by the seminal Austin skate punks.

As a junior at UT, I wrote to then-Digital Media Manager **Bianca Flores** asking for an internship. My overenthusiastic letter reveals longtime use of music events to measure time and personal happiness – a habit that's left me completely untethered this year. Referencing Margin Walker's oversight of around half the **Mohawk** calendar, I gushed:

"Growing up in San Antonio, my favorite thing ever was going to shows at the Mohawk. As soon as I got my driver's license, I remember buying tickets on the Transmission site and feeling so excited that I had something outside of my town to look forward to. I can already tell that Margin Walker and Sound on Sound Fest are the best parts of Transmission with even more creative freedom and independence."

As unresourceful marketing interns, we mostly made Facebook events and social media posts. I remember a particular incident in the office kitchen when I couldn't uncup a **Topo Chico**, and Booking Coordinator **Mariah Stevens-Ross** had to show me how to use a bottle opener. Knowing her as one of the cool girls from **Sailor Poon**, I was mortified.

The bosses knew how to find fun from the endless email chains behind concert-making. When our response to a 15-year-old fan's adorable message asking about Sound on Sound set times bounced back, Flores turned it into a social campaign, "#FindEric." The company shook out similar fairy dust to launch "We Can Do Magic!"



Explosions in the Sky at Sound on Sound Fest In 2016

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

in the nebulous days following the March cancellation of **South by Southwest 2020**. Rescheduled gigs held for some 48 hours before state COVID-19 guidelines quashed gatherings, but Margin Walker nevertheless managed an upbeat concept complete with art by Creative Director Orth.

Back in the fest-planning mania of the inaugural Sound on Sound in 2016, I learned to stay calm, wear black, and call dibs on a golf cart. Visiting the Renaissance fair site in McDade and witnessing a medieval-themed music festival grow under towering trees felt like being backstage at indie **Disney World**. The lineup – working in **Beach House**, **Run the Jewels**, **Courtney Barnett**,

**Descendents**, **Big Boi**, **Dead Milkmen**, and a reunion of post-hardcore gods **Thursday** – continued the genre-divergent spirit of Fun Fun Fun.

I also learned the difficulties of weather-permitting events during storm delays that initial Sunday.

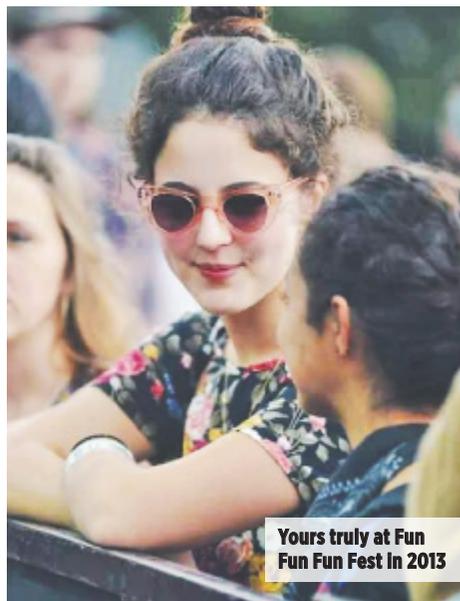
Angry fans flooded Facebook comments we interns were supposed to respond to. As skies cleared, the team managed to reschedule **Young Thug**, a major source of worried DMs, before **Explosions in the Sky** closed out the night.

We didn't know that would prove the only year of Sound on Sound.

Investors pulled out weeks prior to the 2017 edition, whose remnant partially rerouted to Austin venues. Other Texas festivals at remote sites ended around that time; **Levitation** pivoted to a multi-venue model after its own last-minute cancellation the previous year, and downtown Houston's **Day for Night** also closed out in 2017.

Before COVID-19, Margin Walker booked more than ever before. Their trademark

**FASTER  
THAN  
SOUND**  
BY RACHEL  
RASCOE



Yours truly at Fun Fun Fun Fest In 2013

COURTESY OF RACHEL RASCOE



# Leon Russell & the Bob Dylan Rumor

Following our excerpt of *Me and Sister Bobbie*, outlaw era radio deejay Woody Roberts returns to the scene of the time with a chapter from new memoir *Horse Racing and Rock 'N' Roll*, in which he helps produce Willie Nelson's first Fourth of July picnic, 1973

By the time I arrived at Tower Drive in the quiet Tarrytown neighborhood of Austin, several cars were parked on both sides of the street. I rang the front doorbell and Eddie Wilson's wife, Genie, opened it with a welcoming smile.

I walked into a living room where every chair was filled and several men were sitting on the floor. Eddie, who was standing, waved his arms, gave out a hearty greeting, and called out, "Everyone... this is Woody Roberts from San Antonio, and I've asked him to come up here and tell us what to do."

Willie Nelson rose from his chair and shook my hand. Glancing around, I recognized Hank Alrich from his bluegrass picking days in San Antonio. He now operated the recording studio inside the Armadillo and had financed the beer garden.

Beside him were the facility manager, Bob Hedderman, and the resident 'Dillo artist, Jim Franklin. CPA Randy McCall with his wife Diane sat on the couch. Legal counsel Mike Tolleson was there. And I recognized Larry Trader and his running buddy from San Antonio, a fellow used car salesman, Billy Cooper.

A joint was passed my way.

"Anybody need a cold beer?" Genie said.

I listened to Eddie going over the plans. He called on 'Dillo department heads to give their overview: sound, fencing, porta-cans, lighting, the cost of a roof, security and finally... ticket sales.

The room got quiet.

Larry said, "Well, it's still a little early, but we're not really selling any outside of Austin. And, ah..."

"How many in Austin?" Willie said.

"A few hundred."

"Dallas?"

"Less than a hundred."

"What about Houston and San Antonio?"

Larry had a slackened look. "I'm afraid they ain't sellin' yet, Will."

Eddie handed me the Jim Franklin poster. It was great: fireworks burst along the top of a banner-sized American flag stretched across a two-lane highway, and

sneaking underneath was a lone armadillo nonchalantly carrying the Texas flag in its mouth. A perfect Fourth of July poster.

I looked at the performer list. Except for Doug Sahm, it had the same kind of lineup as the Dripping Springs Reunion the year before without its biggest stars. Another country music event.

I remembered Pat O'Day of Concerts West saying: "A show with many small acts doesn't add up to a big show. It's still just a show with many small acts."

I looked at Willie. "How was the Reunion's turnout?"

"A few thousand each day, didn't make expenses."

"Hmm."

Just last month, promoter Rod Kennedy had presented Willie Nelson, Michael Murphey, Jerry Jeff Walker - known for writing the Top 10 hit "Mr. Bojangles" - plus 18 other fine musicians, such as Peter Yarrow and Townes Van Zandt - in the Kerrville Auditorium. That concert's turnout was good enough, but its audience was not even close to festival size. And just like Willie's upcoming Fourth of July Picnic, that Kerrville show was on an extended holiday weekend, Memorial Day.

Not a good sign.

"How are you guys promoting this event?"

Larry Trader spoke up. "Joe Jamail is doing Houston. Geno McCoslin has Dallas covered. Armadillo is doing Austin. We've been running commercials on every country station. Getting good extra promotion with ticket giveaways. I'm handling San Antonio tickets and working the album."

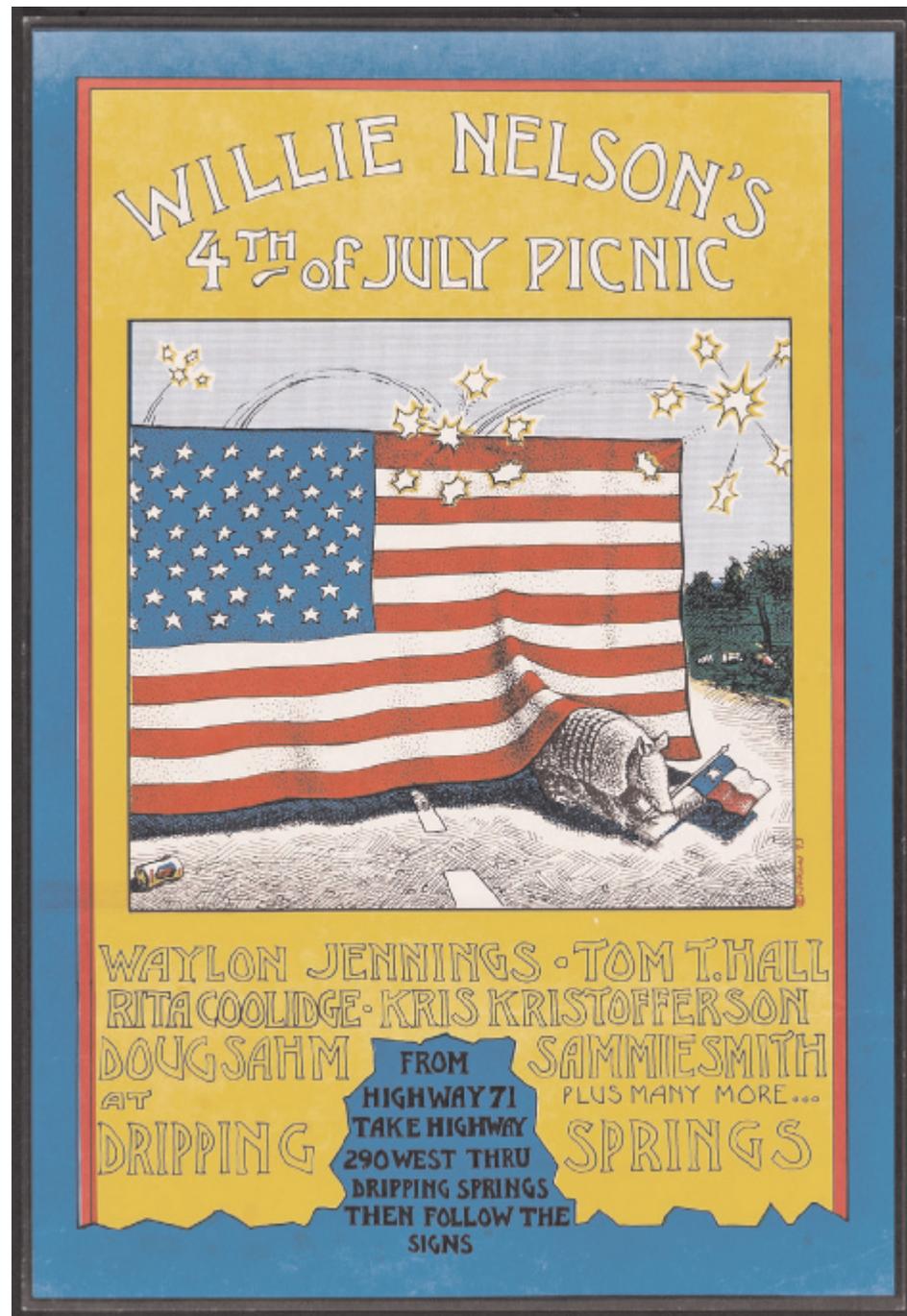
"What album?"

"Hold on, just released." Larry strode out to his car and returned with a copy of *Shotgun Willie*.

"Atlantic label," I said. "I know guys at Atlantic. Doug's latest is on Atlantic. Bob Dylan plays on it."

"[Jerry] Wexler's started a country division," Tolleson said.

I looked at the Picnic's lineup again.



Nada. No big draw on this show. No one who could pack an arena. Still, a Fourth of July festival might...

"What do you think, Wood?" Eddie looked at me. He watched me staring deep in thought at the names on Franklin's poster. He said, "Not listed on the poster, but Willie added Leon Russell."

"Leon Russell!" My eyebrows shot up. "You've got Leon Russell?"

"We can't advertise him," Willie said in a firm tone. "Leon's going to sing a song or two and help me emcee. He's trying to reach country music fans."

At this good news, I sucked in my breath. Leon Russell meant all the difference in the world! Now we had a show with a major draw.

Stardom comes fast in the hit music business. In the fall of 1971, the Allman Brothers and Leon Russell were not yet superstars and, with two other bands, had played an outdoor Austin concert at UT's baseball park, Clark Field. Now there wasn't a facility in town big enough for those acts.

There was no doubt in my mind that Leon would legitimize Willie Nelson's Picnic for

the rock audience. Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge were semi-known artists getting a tad of national FM airplay, but they weren't rock stars like Leon Russell. I could build a word-of-mouth promotion around that name.

"Well, guys, this is a fine music event. How many tickets do you need to sell?"

Randy spoke up first. "If we sold 10,000, I think we'd pay our bills. Twenty's a home run."

"Problem is," I said, "Counting today, it's only 12 days away. I'd say promote the rock festival aspect and go for walk-up sales. You need a radio ad blast on Top 40 and rock FM."

"But those stations don't play Willie," Larry said.

"I can get rock stations to promote the Picnic," I said. "It's a festival. They'll come."

"There's not enough money for extra stations," Randy said.

I shook my head. "Hate to tell you guys, but this is not a major country music event. The hardcore country audience isn't about to drive from Dallas or Houston for this show."

People mumbled to each other. Willie had a slight frown. Eddie stood up, in his coveralls, looking somewhat like Jerry Garcia ready to play banjo with bluegrass group Old and in the Way. He waved a joint to quiet the meeting. "I recommend we turn this problem over to Woody Roberts."

Willie stared hard at me. "What do you say, Woody?"

"If I do it, I'm going to pull the ad money from Dallas and Houston and spend it in San Antonio and Austin."

Larry was concerned. "What about my Dallas and Houston radio stations?"

"Double their giveaway tickets. Promise VIP passes and interviews. But cut the ads."

He nodded.

"I'll need a temporary office and wall space to put up a promo timeline. Plus an assistant."

"There's a vacant room next to my office," Tolleson said.

Diane raised a hand. "I volunteer. Just tell me what to do."

With a cigarette smoldering between his fingers, Randy McCall chimed in. "Armadillo can't afford to lose on this. We need to make money."

When the meeting was over and folks headed into the night, everyone seemed enthusiastic. Larry Trader pulled me aside and spoke low. "I hope you won't pull the Waco ads."

"Waco?"

"Will's hometown is Abbott. He'd like the folks to hear about his Picnic. The station gets into Abbott."

"Done. And I'll run some ads in Hillsboro

where he used to deejay. I think it was on KHBR 1560-AM. Is *Shotgun Willie* getting airplay?"

"Not much." Larry tugged his beard. "Some folks don't like the cover photo."

"They liked the short-haired Willie."

"Yup, they want the man they grew up listenin' to."

Billy Cooper called out, "Come on, Larry."

Willie was ready to leave. We shook hands again. "Calling it a picnic is a great idea, Willie. The Fourth of July weekend is perfect."

"Thank you, Woody."

"Your poster should say: 'First Annual.'"

Willie laughed. "I hope it is."

The man was worried, his big event was in the hands of a half-dozen latent hippies. His investment was on the line.

Back inside... a gift, two sparkling lines [of cocaine] left on a mirror and two fat joints nearby. Genie said goodnight, leaving Eddie and me to talk into the wee hours. *Shotgun Willie* was on the turntable. It sounded great, his best studio capture since the Monument session.

Later, Eddie turned on KOKE 95.5-FM so we could hear the world's only progressive country radio station. The KOKE call letters had replaced KAZZ in 1967 when new owners upped the station's power to 3,000 watts. Now manager Ken Moyers and programmer Rusty Bell were using 95.5 to once again introduce a new format to listeners. The all-night deejay was sick and music director Joe Gracey was filling in. His set was a mix

**People mumbled to each other. Willie had a slight frown. Eddie stood up, in his coveralls, looking somewhat like Jerry Garcia ready to play banjo with bluegrass group Old and in the Way. He waved a joint to quiet the meeting. "I recommend we turn this problem over to Woody Roberts."**

of Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks, a Leo Kottke instrumental, Lightnin' Hopkins, Maybelle Carter, Tom Waits, Steve Fromholz, and the Rolling Stones.

Eddie lit an unfiltered Camel as we popped open the last two cans of Lone Star. "What are you thinking of doing with the Picnic ads?"

"We'll cut 'em crossover so they can play on three formats. I'm going to build the show around San Antonio and Austin rock FM and Top 40 listeners. For radio mentions, we'll give away a ton of Leon Russell albums, each with a pair of Picnic tickets. Deejays will be able to say Leon is flying in to be with Willie. Makes the rumor that Dylan might show up for Doug's set more believable."

"There's a Dylan rumor?"

"Why not? Could happen. He plays on Doug's new Atlantic album, same label as Willie. Gives our Picnic a rock star mystique for word-of-mouth, and gets some FM play for Doug. Folks are ready for Central Texas to have a rock festival. With Leon there, it won't matter if no other rock musicians show up. In fact, it won't even matter as to whose picnic it is, just where and when. It could be Jerry Jeff's Picnic, or Michael Murphey's."

Eddie laughed. "Actually, Jerry Jeff Walker outdraws Willie."

"Willie draws best in small Texas towns."

I took my time flipping through Eddie's collection of 12-inch albums. Tasty assortment, heavy on folk. I noticed the lack of English rock bands, no Pink Floyd or Zeppelin, but here was Loudon Wainwright, Jimmie Rodgers, Flatt & Scruggs, Mance Lipscomb, John Prine, Freddie King, Joan Baez, Delbert & Glen, Grateful Dead, Leon Redbone and...

"Wow, you have Willie's Panther Hall album."

Eddie nodded and turned off the radio. With slow and cautious hands, he removed the 12-inch platter from its paper sleeve, placed the hi-fi tone arm's needle in the opening groove, and reached for our last joint.

Today some consider Waylon Jennings' *Honky Tonk Heroes* to be the first "outlaw" album. Not so. A month earlier Atlantic had released *Shotgun Willie* recorded in

eight-foot-long strip of butcher paper and marked out 11 days.

"Okay, Diane, these are the elements. Quick as possible, we start commercials on every FM rock station in Austin and San Antonio. Five days out start the more expensive AM Top 40's. Larry's already bought the country stations. We need to mail press releases and special deliver Willie interview tapes all over Texas, from Port Arthur to El Paso. We need to secure live Willie phone interviews with big stations, especially all-night deejay Bill Mack at 50,000-watt WBAP 820-AM in Fort Worth. We'll set up contests using tickets and albums for prizes."

Diane took notes, then looked up. "What else?"

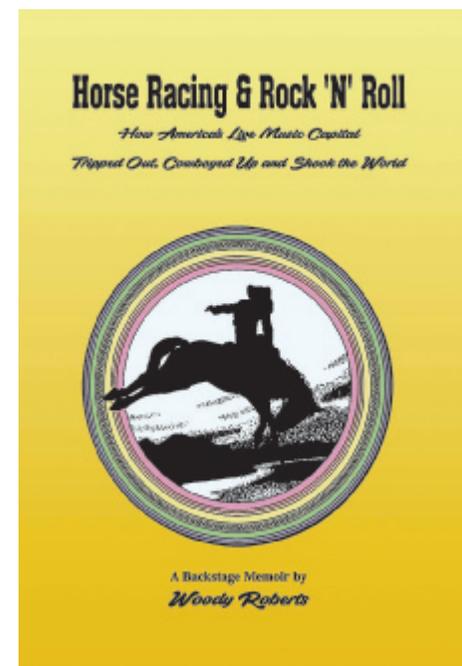
"I'll see to recording the ads and then set up Willie interviews. What you could do is get station ad rates, along with the program, music, and news directors' names. The names of national music magazine reviewers will be handy if you come across them. We'll need three dozen manila envelopes."

Diane took more notes. Very professional. "I'm heading back to San Antonio this afternoon. I'll write the spots and set up production time at KEXL."

She looked up again. "Anything else?"

"No... Oh yeah, first time we talk to someone at a radio station, let's say, 'To the best of our knowledge, there's no truth to the rumor Bob Dylan will be there. That he'll be hanging out with Doug Sahn.'"

"There's a Bob Dylan rumor?" ■



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# Sad Songs Holiday Special

FACEBOOK LIVE  
SATURDAY 26, 8PM

Ten months of social distancing hardly lends itself to hands-on community volunteerism, but even after the last four years of narcissism and division – and especially in 2020 – Austin recognizes a musical milestone. Meal program and publication from Jazz Mills, Carrie Fussell Bickley, and Jade Skye Hammer, Free Lunch outreaches into Austin to those experiencing homelessness via maximum nourishment. Indie rock firebrand Lolita Carroll (aka Lolita Lynne) and synth-pop peer Dena Hope now take up the standard in a fundraiser matching local ladies of sound with blue holiday cheer.

“Basically, it’s an all lady/nonbinary bill of covers chosen by the artist and written by women!” explains Carroll. “Our goal is to raise money for Free Lunch and promote their ‘lunch monitor’ program of regular monthly donations. Free Lunch is very small, but making a big impact on a local level! Jazz is sort of a superstar in the music scene. She’s an amazing musician and also began this amazing org out of her own home!

“We are working on a raffle with some cool sponsors, Desert Door [Distillery]. Kinda Tropical is putting together

a discounted meal package for the 26th. And obviously the lineup is nuts!

“It should be a great time. We are beyond excited and grateful!”

2020 local music hero Jackie Venson, word sorceress Caroline Rose, Sweet Spirit/A Giant Dog leader Sabrina Ellis, and Texan roots scion/keyboardist Emily Gimble lead the deep bill. Meanwhile, mashups including modern funksters the Vapor Caves covering Portishead (“Sou Times”), indie rockers Annabelle Chairlegs attending the “End of the World” (Skeeter Davis), and Löwin cooking up Joni Mitchell’s “River” tease a righteous hootenanny. Says Mills via Carroll’s press release for the event:

“Three girls, who have no prior professional experience working with the homeless or doing large scale food production, are now running a meal service program that produces 2,500 meals a month. I want people to know that they don’t have to change who they are to have a profound impact on their community. They can make an impact now.”

Donate: [www.freelunchatx.com/contribute](http://www.freelunchatx.com/contribute).

– Raoul Hernandez

## KUT AND KUTX VIRTUAL HOLIDAY SING-ALONG 2020

YouTube

In the Eighties, renaissance radio host John Aielli and friends began caroling at the Capitol. Since then, the tradition expanded into an official KUTX event co-hosted by Elizabeth McQueen. This year, a 30-minute YouTube special substitutes with yuletide covers by local standards. Shinyribs enlivens “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” with a ukulele and purple suit. Gina Chavez brightens “Silent Night” with Spanish verses, while Eimaral Sol’s timeless voice pinpoints holiday glow. Molly Burch has plenty of practice off her 2019 LP of underrecognized Christmas anthems. Watch anytime before Jan. 1 for a special performance by Aielli himself, who retired earlier this year from *Eklektikos*. – Rachel Rascoe

## BLACK PUMAS, “CHRISTMAS WILL REALLY BE CHRISTMAS”

Exclusively on Spotify

Ah, Christmas! That time of year now starting in mid-November when anything with a rhythmic pulse contains jingling bells and overly synchronized singing. Led by Eric Burton and Adrian Quesada, Austin’s Black Pumas joins in on the jolly cheer with its cover of Lou Rawls’ 1967 holiday track “Christmas Will Really Be Christmas.” Unlike most saturated holiday songs, this gem warns that Christmas can’t proceed merrily if everyone’s not enjoying warmth and peace: “When hearts are filled with joy, instead of worry and fear/ That’s when the words ‘Merry Christmas!’ will be so much more sincere.” Quesada replaces the grand, punctuating horns of the original with choral ad-libs and an array of elegant, joyous sounds. The production, coupled with Burton’s well-timed high notes, create a dazzling, bewitching take on the late Chicago native’s message. The locals’ Christmas debut is featured in the “Spotify Singles: Holiday Collection” playlist and exclusive to the service. – Derek Udensi

## KYLE SHUTT, “CHRISTMAS JUST AIN’T GONNA BE THE SAME THIS YEAR (WITHOUT YOU)”

Bandcamp, YouTube

Guitarist for the Sword and purveyor of Doom Side of the Moon, Kyle Shutt turns solo attention away from his self-titled LP and toward this week with “Christmas Just Ain’t Gonna Be the Same (Without You).” Dedicated to everything the novel coronavirus so rudely shut down in Austin, the clip switches between a poignant tour of empty streets and shuttered buildings, and scenes of the auteur joyfully performing next to a Christmas tree. Alternating a nifty synth riff with warm ‘n’ crunchy axework straight from the oven, the devilishly catchy pop/punk tune may well lodge itself in your head for the duration of your seasonal vacation. Premiered Dec. 22 via Detroit act Electric Six’s online special *It’s the Most Wonderful Time... of the Least Wonderful Year*, the video now streams and you can download the track. – Michael Toland

## CRAWFORD SMITH, “SANTA GOT FURLOUGHED”

Bandcamp

Recently, “furlough” came in as a runner-up to “unprecedented” in *Collins English Dictionary’s* annual Word of the Year selection. In fact, few of us were familiar with the term, meaning a temporary layoff from work, until April when all our jobs stopped jobbin’. Austin’s Crawford Smith may be the first to have inserted the expression into a holiday song with his recent “Santa Got Furloughed,” in which he wackily portrays Christmas as a small business getting slammed by the pandemic economy. Sounding like a scrappy Jonathan Richman, the deep-singing Smith recounts Saint Nick getting his sleigh repossessed, accepting paycheck protection loans, and considering a future in Bitcoin mining. – Kevin Curtin

## DAVE MADDEN & THE STOCKING STUFFERS: “COVID CHRISTMAS”

YouTube

Some of the most iconic holiday songs were written in times of crisis, such as the yearning of World War II’s “I’ll Be Home Home for Christmas” or “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” Dave Madden’s “COVID Christmas” is not one of those songs. The songwriter and über-producer makes a preemptive strike on bad pandemic holiday takes with his hilariously self-conscious (and dangerously earworming) swinging rock throwback, regretting the reality that someone will write this song so he might as well get on with it. BettySoo, Akina Adderley, and Erin Ivey cast judgment as background chorus, while Madden upends holiday tropes to meet our moment. – Doug Freeman

## HALF DREAM, “CHRISTMAS ALL ALONE”

Bandcamp

If you’ve ever watched those movies the Hallmark Channel churns out every December, you know Christmas exists as a day of romantic destiny where only a holiday miracle can bring together the overworked career woman in the red blouse and hunky dog-dad in a green sweater to snog beneath the mistletoe. Half Dream presents the counterpoint with new seasonal single “Christmas All Alone.” Over minor-key acoustic dream-folk, Paige Berry uses her candlelit vocals to emotely lyrically vivid misery of a post-breakup holiday: “I wrote your name on every package underneath the tree/ Every pen stroke like a prayer to bring you home to me.” A yule log of burning loneliness. – Kevin Curtin

## HONKY TONK HOLIDAZE: THE MOVIE

Twitch.com/wildbillatx, Thursday 24, 1pm & 7pm

It’s not Christmas in South Austin until Wild Bill Ogden hosts his annual Honky Tonk Holiday musical and charity benefit at Sam’s Town Point. Although the songwriter and manic music promoter canceled this year’s ninth annual stage performance, which normally features a slew of notable artists taking up the homespun tale of Santa, Krampus, and Swervin’ Irvin the Elf, he immediately set to work in his garage creating a claymation version of the show. The result unveils Christmas Eve, with Wild Bill presenting the film live and performing on Twitch. Because you’re a responsible human and won’t be visiting with friends and family, spark up the yule log and enter into Wild Bill’s winter wonderland instead. – Doug Freeman

## BLACK LIVE MUSIC FUND PRESENTS “THANKFUL”

Empire Control Room, Thursday 31

One-half of husband/wife duo Riders Against the Storm, Jonathan “Chaka” Mahone teams up with Empire to wrap 2020 with an unexpected bang. “Thankful,” set for New Year’s Eve at 7:30pm, will feature a diverse mix of premier Black Austin musicians performing live for over five hours. The Black Live Music Fund, which received heavy pushing by Mahone as early as June, received private funding last month with the goal of soon raising \$50,000 for Black Austin musicians. Artists on the bill include Bastrop spitter Deezie Brown, spiritual soulstress Eimaral Sol, East Austin torch raiser J Soulja, R&B soul Jake Lloyd, and RAS themselves. Tickets for the event will be sold in pods to enforce social distancing. Entrants get their temperature checked before receiving entrance into the venue. – Derek Udensi

## THE JUNGLE SHOW

Jungleshow.tv, Thursday 31

Blues Mafia? Probably not, but the photograph of the *The Jungle Show’s* five principals – ZZ Top guitar pick and throat Billy Gibbons, Strat tamer Jimmie Vaughan, axe murderer Sue Foley, Double Trouble drum constant Chris “Whipper” Layton, and organ grinder Mike Flanigan – looks like it got snapped at the wedding of Don Corleone’s daughter! Must be the shades and Southwestern formal duds. Indeed, when these five (four of them local) begin burning up the stage at Antone’s, a Fifties-era razor’s edge of R&B glows neon red: long, loose, and grooving. A virtual pivot five years into the annual shred fest, no problem: “We took inspiration for calling what we do The Jungle Show from B.B. King’s song ‘The Jungle,’” explains Vaughan in a press release. “There’s a lyric in there that truly relates to what’s going on these days: ‘I think I’ll move to the jungle, people, move way out in the woods/ Yes, because the way things are here now, well, I ain’t doin’ myself no good.”

– Raoul Hernandez

# LIVE MUSIC

## THURSDAY 12/24

**Geraldine's** Birds Bubbles & Blues w/ Jo James (8:00)  
**Sagebrush** Mrs. Glass (10:00), Ben Ballinger (8:00)  
**Speakeasy** The Genders (9:00)  
**The White Horse** David Touchton's Songwriter Special (7:00)

## FRIDAY 12/25

**Coliseum** Banda Kañón, La Tambora Rielera (9:00)  
**Geraldine's** Holiday performance w/ Hale, McIntosh & Walton Trio (9:00)  
**Hole in the Wall** Emily Whetstone, Harrison Anderson, Ben Ballinger [patio] (8:00)  
**Victory Grill** D-Soul Davis Experience (7:00)

## SATURDAY 12/26

**Armadillo Den** Logan Timberlake (7:00)  
**Desert Door** David Touchton (5:30)  
**The Far Out** Holy Death Trio, Jason Kane & the Jive, Naga Brujo (8:00)  
**Geraldine's** Cowboy Diplomacy (acoustic) (9:30), Jazz brunch w/ Daniel Dufour (11:30am)  
**Gruene Hall** Stoney LaRue (acoustic), William Beckmann (8:00), Flat Top Jones (noon)  
**Lamberts** Dinner & Show series w/ Eagle Eye Williamson (7:00)

**Sagebrush** Jake Penrod (12mid), David Touchton (9:00pm), Danny B. Harvey Hot Rod Happy Hour (7:00)  
**Speakeasy** Roommates in Rehab (9:00)

**The White Horse** Brian Scartocci (11:30), Jordan Matthew Young (9:00)

## SUNDAY 12/27

**Armadillo Den** Paul Val, Justin Langston & Ruel Thomas (4:00)  
**Buzz Mill Riverside** Viktor Scot benefit w/ Conrad Keely, Tonk Honkers, Rileyann, Heavy Stars (7:00)  
**Come & Take It Live** A Raw Farewell to 2020 w/ Pigweed, Killing Ritual, Under My Knife, Mute, XIII (6:00)  
**Desert Door** Ruby Dice (5:30)  
**The Far Out** Deadeye (5:00)  
**Geraldine's** Jazz brunch w/ Kenny Williams (10:00am)  
**Gruene Hall** Slim Bawb (album release) (4:30), Rob Roy Parnell (noon)  
**Mercer Dancehall** Monte Good (3:00)  
**Riley's Tavern** Picker's Circle w/ Kayla Jane Shepherd (4:00)  
**Sagebrush** Colton Turner & the Mellows (9:00), Texas Blues Party w/ Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)  
**Speakeasy** Sunday Soul w/ Distinguished Soundz (7:30)

**The White Horse** Armadillo Road (10:30), Jordan Matthew Young (8:00)

## MONDAY 12/28

**Armadillo Den** Ruby Dice Duo (6:30)  
**Gruene Hall** Bret Graham Band (5:00), Slim Bawb (album release) (noon)  
**Radio Coffee & Beer** Bluegrass Night (7:00)  
**Sagebrush** Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00), Choctaw Wildfire (7:00)  
**The White Horse** Adam Johnson (10:30), Texas Tycoons (8:00)

## TUESDAY 12/29

**Armadillo Den** Wyatt Weaver, Eric Hoovestol (6:30)  
**Empire Control Room** Rebirth Brass Band [garage] (7:00)  
**Gruene Hall** Matt Kirk & the Güeyfarers (6:00)  
**Hotel Vegas** Comfort Mood w/ DJ Mad Whit [patio] (5:00)  
**Sagebrush** The Golden Roses (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Caldwell (7:00)  
**The White Horse** Devin Jake (8:00)

## WEDNESDAY 12/30

**Armadillo Den** Billy Boswell & Friends (6:30)

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

**Gruene Hall** Jake Penrod & His Million-Dollar Cowboys (6:00), Henri Herbert (12:30)  
**Lamberts** Dinner & Show series w/ Ramsay Midwood (7:00)  
**Sagebrush** God Damn Good Time Band (12mid), Barfield the Tyrant (10:00), Warm Sugar (8:00)  
**Speakeasy** Island Mind (8:00)  
**The Venue ATX** Gorgon City, Adam Auburn (9:00)  
**The White Horse** Sophia Johnson (11:30), Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (8:00)  
**Wild West** Kevin Fowler (10:00)

## THURSDAY 12/31

**ACL Live** New Year's Eve w/ HeartByrne (9:00)  
**Antone's** New Year's Eve w/ Tomar & the FCs (10:00)  
**Armadillo Den** Southern Angels (6:30)  
**Buck's Backyard** New Year's Eve w/ Broken Arrow (6:00)  
**Empire Control Room** Black Live Music Fund presents Thankful w/ Jake Lloyd, Eimaral Sol, Nook Turner, Deezie Brown, Riders Against the Storm, Torre Blake, Nnedi, J Soulja, & more [garage] (7:30)  
**Geraldine's** Twenty Twenty Done w/ Paul Val (10:30)  
**Gruene Hall** New Year's Eve w/ Flatland Cavalry, Mason Lively (8:00), Josh Baca & the Hot Tamales (noon)  
**Lone Star Court** New Year's Eve w/ Drew Moreland & the Neon Hustle (9:00)  
**Mercer Dancehall** New Year's Eve w/ Weldon Henson (8:30)  
**River Road Ice House** New Year's Eve w/ Midnight River Choir, Tallula (8:00)  
**Sagebrush** Armadillo Road (12mid), Rattlesnake Milk (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00)  
**Sahara Lounge** New Year's Eve w/ Sahara Allstars (10:00)  
**San Jac Saloon** Country New Year's Eve w/ Nine-Pound Hammers, Chris Ray (acoustic) (3:00)  
**Speakeasy** New Year's Eve w/ PDA (8:00)  
**Summit Rooftop** New Year's Eve w/ Los Angeles Leakers, Lamar (9:00)  
**The Venue ATX** Desert Hearts NYE w/ Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Marbs, Porky (9:00)  
**Vulcan Gas Co.** NYE w/ Lost Kings (9:00)  
**The White Horse** New Year's Eve w/ Garrett T. Capps (11:59), Mayeux & Broussard (10:00), Kathryn Legendre (8:00)

## Be safe out there, y'all!

Please support local music responsibly.  
 For a complete list of upcoming shows, see [austinchronicle.com/events/music](http://austinchronicle.com/events/music).



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# LIVE STREAMING

## THURSDAY 12/24

**Eve Monsees & Mike Buck** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Graham Wilkinson** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**I Always Cry on Thursdays w/ Jean Caffeine** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Patrice Pike** 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Bonnie Whitmore & Her Virtual Gallery** 8:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Party Wolfe** 9pm [TWITCH](#)  
**The Harms Hang w/ guests** 10pm [INSTAGRAM](#)

## FRIDAY 12/25

**Crooner Coffee Hour w/ Lex Land** 10:30am [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Feel Good Hour w/ Monte Warden** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Anne's Freaky 15 w/ Anne Heller & MC Terroristic** 10:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

## SATURDAY 12/26

**Kris Schultz Live From the Corner (of Her Apartment)** 1pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**DJ Mel's Living Room Dance Party** 6pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Sad Song Holiday Special w/ Jackie Venson, Sabrina Ellis, Caroline Rose, Paige Renée Berry, Carrie Bickley, Yadiria Brown, Lizzy Buckley, Emme, Emily Gimble, Aubrey Hays, Lili Hickman, Sara Houser, Kendra Sells, Lizzy Lehman, Lolita Lynne, & more** 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater** 9pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Kevin Russell** 9pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**DJ Chorizo Funk** 10pm [INSTAGRAM](#)  
**Synthy & Chatty w/ Todd V. Wolfson** 10pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

## SUNDAY 12/27

**Corey Baum** 11am [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Leeann Atherton's Sunday Sing-Along** 12:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Shelley King's Soul-O Sundays** 2pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Pamela Hart** 5pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Ülla** 5:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Sydney Wright** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#), [INSTAGRAM](#)  
**Monks Jazz presents Brandon Guerra Quartet** 7:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

## MONDAY 12/28

**Bob Appel** 6pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Blue Monday w/ Oscar Ornelas** 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Cari Hutson & Hunter St. Marie** 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

**No Lights No Lycra w/ DJ Brian Blackout** 8pm [TWITCH](#)  
**Not at Donn's Depot w/ Chris Gage** 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Line of Fire: Live From Living Room** 8:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

## TUESDAY 12/29

**Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya** 5:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**At 7 w/ Frederico7 & guests** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Eric Bettencourt** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Front Porch Sessions w/ Kevin Russell** 7pm [RSVP ONLINE](#)  
**Miles Zuniga** 7pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Good Time Supper Club w/ Band of Heathens** 7:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#), [YOUTUBE](#)

## WEDNESDAY 12/30

**Pat Byrne** 5pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Bruce Smith** 6pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

**Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains** 8:30pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Sonya Jevette** 8:30pm [YOUTUBE](#)

## THURSDAY 12/31

**Lu's Jukebox w/ Lucinda Williams** 7pm [TICKETS ON MANDOLIN.COM](#)  
**The Jungle Show w/ Billy F. Gibbons, Jimmie Vaughan, Chris Layton, Sue Foley & Mike Flanigin** 7pm [TICKETS VIA ANTONE'S](#)

## ONGOING

**Jeff Plankenhorn** Mondays, 7pm and Tuesdays, 8pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)  
**Karen Mal & Will Taylor** Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm [FACEBOOK LIVE](#)

## Looking for more?

See [austinchronicle.com/events/music](http://austinchronicle.com/events/music).

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Check out our holiday events listings on p.31 for a rundown of New Year's Eve happenings, both physical and virtual.

# THE Luv Doc



"MAD DAD"

Dear Luv Doc,

The holidays snuck up on me this year and I just realized I haven't told my wife's parents to stand down. I don't hate them or anything, but they are a little nuts about everyone in the family being together on New Year's Eve and have always demanded that they spend it with my wife and their grandchildren. This year is different for obvious reasons, but I just talked with my wife last night and she said her parents are still planning on coming to Austin and staying with [us] for New Year's, as is the established tradition. I am angry at my wife and my in-laws for not even consulting me about this. I am not a party pooper, I just don't think it's smart to have them stay with us in our house - especially with COVID at its peak. My wife and I still both go into work. We take precautions, but we are still in a riskier situation than her parents, who are both in their 70s. My wife says it's their choice, but I think she's just scared to stand up to them. This is not a good idea. Should I put my foot down, or am I being too paranoid?

- Mad (Doesn't Necessarily Mean Crazy) Dad

I think the solution to your dilemma is obvious. You need to go swap some hot, dank, virus-heavy air with an overly clingy group of rat lickers. You know the type: People who can't spend a minute alone with their thoughts because their thoughts are a tedious mash-up of reality television, B-list celebrity Instagrams, fad diets, and overpriced craft cocktails. Rest assured, they are currently in a corner-table rugby scrum in some West Sixth bar swapping COVID like it's college freshman dorm-sex chlamydia.

Yes, you're absolutely going to hate yourself for not choosing the less humiliating option of standing mouth agape under the Congress Avenue Bridge, staring up at the mesmerizing sunset emergence of Mexican freetail bats, but a mouthful of bat shit is a low-percentage COVID vector, at best. Plus, you stand the chance of being mistaken for some Midwestern hayseed who had too many margaritas at the Hyatt and mistakenly wandered into the drop zone.

So why should you be chasing virus instead of fluffing the dust ruffle on your guest room bed? Here's why: Nobody is going to accuse you of murdering your overbearing in-laws with coronavirus. It's kinda the perfect crime, except for maybe stabbing someone to death with an icicle - and let's face it, Austin is always short on icicles at this time of year, but we're currently swimming in a river of 'ronas! Also, it's really hard to stab someone to death with an icicle - even a thin-skinned septuagenarian. It takes a tight grip and insanely brutal tenacity, I'm sure. Plus, I think we can both agree that stabbing your in-laws to death is a real dick move.

Short of attempted murder by virus, your options are limited. Probably the most difficult option would be honest, forthright communication. There is a small chance that it will get rid of your in-laws permanently, but most likely the best possible outcome is that they understand your position and agree with it. They might also disagree with your position but acquiesce to your preference out of respect for your concern. Lastly, they might disagree with your position and still insist on staying with you, at which point you're in a real pickle. The same scenarios listed above might play out with your wife as well, but these are the ugly, awkward conversations that will strengthen your relationship in the long run - or euthanize it like a lame horse.

Don't worry, though, worthwhile relationships are hard to kill. They take brutal tenacity as well, so feel free to test your wife and in-laws' resolve about maintaining their tradition. I wouldn't tell you this if you didn't have a good point. Last I checked, there's a new year every year. The party can wait.

**NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC?** Send your questions to [luvdoc@austinchronicle.com](mailto:luvdoc@austinchronicle.com).



## Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

The *Titanic* originally had more lifeboats onboard, but they were removed because the ship looked better without them.

**Wolf Brand Chili** was invented in 1895 in Corsicana, Texas, by ranch cook Lyman T. Davis, who had a pet wolf named Kaiser Bill (thus the name "Wolf Brand").

Lyman drove around Texas in a chili-can-shaped car with a cage for Bill attached to the back.

Heinrich Himmler, head of the Gestapo for the Nazis, was once a chicken farmer.

**American paramedics' average yearly salaries range from about \$33,000 to \$46,000, according to Zip Recruiter. In Canada, paramedics earn an average of about \$57,000 per year.**

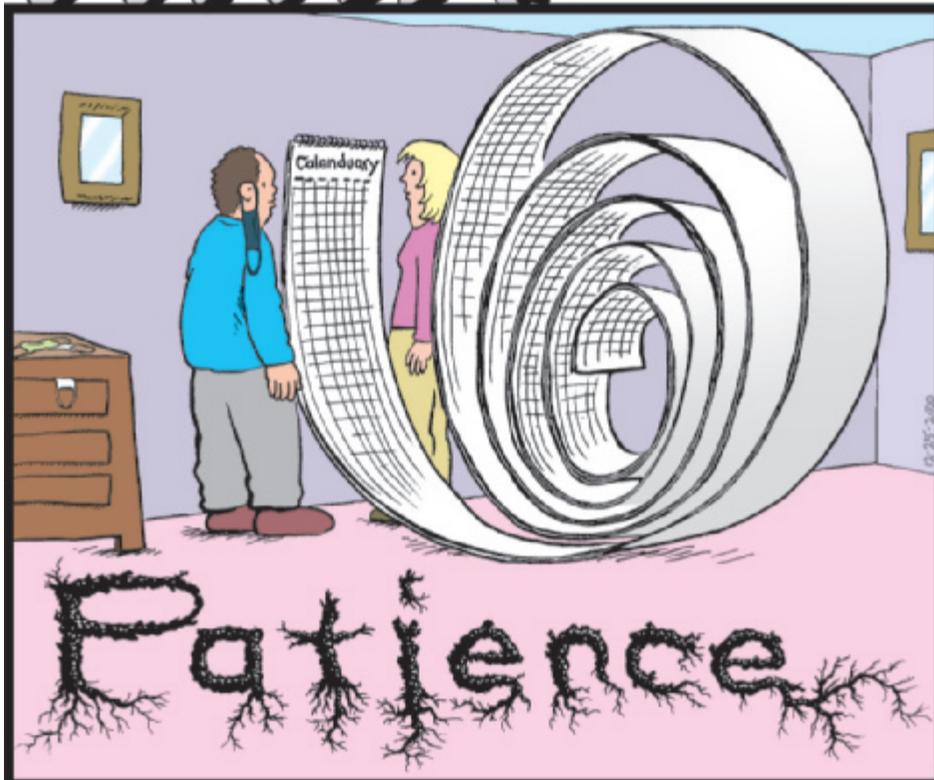
In 1820, Sarah Bartley became the first woman to star in the role of Hamlet in the U.S. A 12th century Danish legend says that Hamlet may have been a woman.

Above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the *Chronicle*, or email [mrpants@austinchronicle.com](mailto:mrpants@austinchronicle.com).

## COMICS

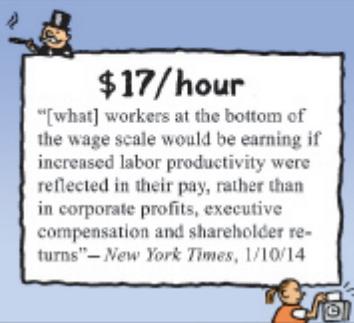
ELDERBEAM

by Sam Hurt



JEN SORENSEN

### NATION OF MOOCHERS



### SADLY, WE LIVE IN A NATION OF TAKERS WHO PREFER TO SIPHON MONEY FROM PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.



### TIME TO TEACH THESE PARASITES THERE'S NO FREE LUNCH!



### UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with a Food and Beverage Certificate by Zeds Real Fruit Ice Cream-Austin, LLC . dba Zeds Real Fruit Ice Cream to be located at 1814 Harvey St., Austin , Travis County, TX 78702, officers are Matthew Potter-manager, Charles Schmidt- manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG Wine and Beer Retail Permit by Karla Karina Acevedo Alvarez dba La Koronita Quick Stop, to be located at 5401 Wolf Lane, Del Valley, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation Karla Karina Acevedo Alvarez are Individual Owner.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

for a BQ Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premises Permit by Pearce Lane Partners INC , dba BREADBASKET, to be located at 12201 Pearce Lane, Unit 100, Del Valle, Travis County, Texas 78617. Baslan S Omar -president Adnan N Awad -secretary Sufian Emmar-treasurer

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Texas Outer Heaven, LLC dba Outer Heaven, 1808 E. 12th Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Michael G. Lavigne, Manager; Sean P. Daigle, Manager; James B. Chauncy, Manager

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed

Beverage Late Hours Permit by San Antonio Riverwalk PHG FB LLC d/b/a AC Austin Hill Country located at 7415 Southwest Parkway, Bldg 8, Ste. 100, Austin, Travis County, TX 78735. Managers of said limited liability company are Mitul K. Patel, Jatin Desai and Gregory M. Friedman.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with a Food and Beverage Certificate by CBOCS Texas LLC d/b/a Cracker Barrel Old Country Store #173 located at 2350 N IH 35, Round Rock, Williamson County, TX 78681. Officers and Manager of said limited liability company are Jeffrey M. Wilson, President/Treasurer/Manager and Richard M. Wolfson, Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Chaparral Café LLC d/b/a Chaparral Café LLC located at 1717 Scottsdale Drive, Suite 100, Cedar Park, Williamson County, TX 78641. Manager of said limited liability company is Ryan J Raya.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A WINE AND BEER RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT BY WLS BEVERAGE COMPANY D/B/A WLS BEVERAGE COMPANY LOCATED AT 12536 NORTH IH 35, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78753. OFFICERS OF SAID CORPORATION ARE JOHN K. BARRETT, PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR AND MARIA R. SPADA, SECRETARY/DIRECTOR

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer

Retailer's Permit by Lake Travis Waterloo Adventures LLC dba Lake Travis Waterloo Adventures to be located at Waterpark 14531 Pochontas Trail across Lake Travis on Kirby/Miller Tracts, Travis County, Texas. Brian George, Manager. Wade McNeil, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by BMK Sushi LLC DBA Sushi Hi, to be located at 8557 Research Blvd Ste 146, Austin 78758. Officer of said corporation is Mun Kyong Bae/Manager.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT WITH A MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS PERMIT AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE CERTIFICATE BY QUESO DELICIOSO BEVERAGES HODLINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY'S TEXAS STAR

LOCATED AT 409 W 30th STREET., AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78705. MANAGERS OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE SAM KAUFMAN AND DANIEL SMITH.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food & Beverage Certificate by Bendito, LLC dba Asadas Grill & Cocktails located at 501 W. Canyon Ridge Drive, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Guadalupe Barragan, Manager.

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-006490  
TO: LYDIA NOEMI GUARDADO, the Respondent Mother of the subject child, Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado, and to all whom it may concern, Respondents: GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53rd Judicial District, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service

of this citation, then and there to answer the Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent Child-Relationship-TERM. filed in said Court on the 23rd day of November, 2020 and the Affidavit of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 23rd day of November, 2020, against the Respondent Mother, LYDIA NOEMI GUARDADO, and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-006490, on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Interest of Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado, Child," the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship and/or name the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or a suitable, competent adult recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, or an authorized agency recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as Managing Conservator of the child, whose name, date and place of birth are as follows: Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado Date of Birth: November 10, 2005

Place of Birth: Honduras  
The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Child's interest, which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a managing conservator with the authority to consent to the Child's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this 18th day of December 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE  
Travis County District Clerk  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003  
Austin, Texas 78767  
PREPARED BY: Ashley Brown  
REQUESTED BY:  
Cristina Gonzalez  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
P.O. BOX 1748  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767  
(512) 854-9447  
State Bar No. 24086057  
FOR TRAVIS COUNTY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
ATTN: Sherrre Howell (512) 854-3296

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-006490

CONTINUED ON P.52

TO: NAIN LOPEZ-DIAZ, the Alleged Father of the subject child, Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado, and to all whom it may concern, Respondents; GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53rd Judicial District, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent Child-Relationship-TERM. filed in said Court on the 23rd day of November, 2020 and the Affidavit of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 23rd day of November, 2020, against the Alleged Father, NAIN LOPEZ-DIAZ, and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-006490, on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Interest of Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado, Child," the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship and/or name the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or a suitable, competent adult recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, or an authorized agency recommended by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as Managing Conservator of the child, whose name, date and place of birth are as follows: Maria Cindy Lopez-Guardado Date of Birth: November 10, 2005 Place of Birth: Honduras The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Child's interest, which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a managing conservator with the authority to consent to the Child's adoption. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this 18th day of December 2020. VELVA L. PRICE Travis County District Clerk 1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 Austin, Texas 78767 PREPARED BY: Ashley Brown REQUESTED BY: Cristina Gonzalez ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY P.O. BOX 1748 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767 (512) 854-9447 State Bar No. 24086057 FOR TRAVIS COUNTY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES ATTN: Sherre Howell (512) 854-3296

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
CAUSE NO.: D-1-GN-20-002538  
- To: TIFFANY SAENZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS:

- YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND ATTACH DISCOVERY Petitioner(s) filed in said court on October 21, 2020 against TIFFANY SAENZ Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-GN-20-002538 the docket of said Court.

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **KATHRYN LOUISE GRAVES, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002485, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **ASHLEY E. GRAVES** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on December 16, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **KATHRYN LOUISE GRAVES, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-002485**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **KATHRYN LOUISE GRAVES, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 17, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**DALE WINCHELL** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **December 11, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **SUZANNA LEE CARLSON WINCHELL, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-002476**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **KATHRYN LOUISE GRAVES, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 17, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **LEROY J. ENDER, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002126, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **TIMOTHY J. ENDER** filed an FIRST AMENDED APPLICATION FOR PROBATE OF ATTESTED BUT NOT SELF-PROVED WILL, AUTHORIZING LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH

**WILL ANNEXED AND DECLARATION OF HEIRSHIP** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **DECEMBER 14, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **LEROY J. ENDER, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-002126**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **LEROY J. ENDER, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 16, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**V. LIMON**  
By Deputy: **V. LIMON**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **SUZANNA LEE CARLSON WINCHELL, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002476, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **DALE WINCHELL** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **December 11, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **SUZANNA LEE CARLSON WINCHELL, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-002476**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **SUZANNA LEE CARLSON WINCHELL, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 16, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001655, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **JUDITH BERNSTEIN** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **August 20, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001655**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 15, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

To unknown heirs of **WILLIAM FORBES BENJAMIN, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002463, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **JON C. AUNE** filed an Application for Appointment for Independent Administrator, Determination of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **December 11, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **WILLIAM FORBES BENJAMIN, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-002463**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **WILLIAM FORBES BENJAMIN, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 15, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, Deceased**  
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001655, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **JUDITH BERNSTEIN** and **GARY BERNSTEIN** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **August 20, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001655**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **BYRON DANIEL BERNSTEIN, DECEASED**, on or before the above-noted 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 **December 15, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

on or before the above-noted 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 **DECEMBER 21, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

**S DELACROIX**  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

**NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS**  
KIPP Texas Public Schools, Inc. is seeking Request for Proposal from qualified vendors for Telecommunications and Internet Access for E-rate Year 24 eligible Category 1 products and services for all district's schools. Proposals are due January 19, 2021 on or before 11:00 AM CST to cymel.abdul@kipp texas.org. All bid documents will be available at [www.KIPPTexas.org/current-bids](http://www.KIPPTexas.org/current-bids). Late proposals will not be evaluated. KIPP reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any or all irregularities.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN APPLICATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION BY PFLUGER BARS LLC, FOR MIXED BEVERAGE PERMITS AND MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS PERMITS DOING BUSINESS AS CITY LIMITS SALOON TO BE LOCATED AT 15601 VISION DRIVE, PFLUGERVILLE, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78660 AND AS PLAYER'S LOUNGE TO BE LOCATED AT 113 E PECAN STREET, PFLUGERVILLE, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78660. MANAGER IS WILLIAM BRANNAM.**

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
PURSUANT TO TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, www.tdkr.texas.gov THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS. GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 0655976V5F, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX, 78742. (512)441-7094. 2020 TOYOTA CAMRY 8L0Z409 CA 4T1G11AK7 LU918001 HONDA SCOOTER WHITE NO PLATE NO VIN MOPED OTHER NO PLATE NO VIN 2020 FREIGHTLINER BOX TRUCK NO PLATE 3ALAC-WDTT EDF55145 2019 INTERNATIONAL BLUE RH613 2576669 IN 3HSDWTZRO KN752687

**NOTICE OF CONSTABLE SALE REAL PROPERTY**  
BY VIRTUE of a certain First Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419 District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 5th day of April, 2017, in a certain cause numbered D1DN14004747 wherein Lexington Park Homeowners Association Inc. is Plaintiff and Alfonso Martinez and Valarie Selvera AKA Valarie Martinez is/are Defendant to me, as Deputy Constable of Pct. 4 Travis County, Texas, directed and delivered, I have levied upon this property 16th day of November, 2020 at 1000am and will, between the hours of 10:00A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00 A.M. on the first Tuesday in January, 2021 A.D., it being the 5th day of said month, at the County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Austin, Texas 78701 of said Travis County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, and to the following described property to wit: LOT 40, BLOCK B, OF LEXINGTON PARKE, SECTION ONE, AND ADDITION IN TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, UNDER DOCUMENT NO. 200400121, AS MODIFIED BY ANY SUPPLEMENTS THERETO REPLATS THEREOF commonly known as: 5041 IRVINE LN DEL VALLE, TX 78617

**NOTE:** ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BUYERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS CONSTABLE SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTEREST ON THE PROPERTY. YOU HAVE PURCHASED WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEFENDANT HAD IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE. THE PURCHASER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE AN UNEXPIRED WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE TAX-ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR OF THIS COUNTY IN WHICH THE SALE IS CONDUCTED THAT THERE ARE NO AD VALOREM TAXES OWED TO THE COUNTY, SCHOOL, DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY **Texas Tax Code: 34.015(b)**

The above sale to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$9,052.86 in favor of plaintiff, together with the cost of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof. POSTED THIS 11th day of December, 2020. George Morales III, Constable Pct. 4, Travis County, Texas By/s/

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
PURSUANT TO TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, www.tdkr.texas.gov THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS. GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 0655976V5F, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX, 78742. (512)441-7094. 2020 TOYOTA CAMRY 8L0Z409 CA 4T1G11AK7 LU918001 HONDA SCOOTER WHITE NO PLATE NO VIN MOPED OTHER NO PLATE NO VIN 2020 FREIGHTLINER BOX TRUCK NO PLATE 3ALAC-WDTT EDF55145 2019 INTERNATIONAL BLUE RH613 2576669 IN 3HSDWTZRO KN752687

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Store It All Storage-In accordance with Texas Property Code, Chapter 59, Store It All Storage, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at LockerFox. A \$100 cash clean-up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at the time of sale. Sale will be held online at [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com) starting on or after December 15, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 at 10:00am. Store It All-Del Valle 5280 HWY 71 East Del Valle TX 78617 Elsa Erazo 00C38 Mary Ornelas 16G44

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Lockerfox.com  
In accordance with the Texas property code, Chapter 59, RightSpace Storage, 8956 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Lockerfox.com. A \$100 cash clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. Sale will be held online at Lockerfox.com starting on or before 12/24/20 and bidding will close on or after 01/07/21 at 10:00am. General description of contents: general household/ personal goods/ other contents. Names of tenants as they appear on the lease: Tonya Carr, Soni Daniel, Barbara Cantu & Nicholas Zikos. Tenants may redeem their goods for full payment in cash or money order only up to time of auction. Call RightSpace Storage at 512-380-9111.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
At Devon Self Storage, 8008 S Congress Ave Austin, TX 78745 Property contained in the units will be sold to satisfy the Landlord's lien for rent and other charges in accordance with Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. Cecilia Moore - Scooter, electric chair, Totes, Suite cases, bookshelves, fan, vacuum cleaner, Playhouse, wall art, toolbox. Frank Dominguez - Ladder, Totes, Box, chairs, Work bench, weights. Property contained in the units will be sold to the highest bidder via an online auction at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Online bidding will begin on 12/17/ 2020 10:00 AM and will continue until 01/04/2021 at 10:00 AM at which time a high bidder will be determined. Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. Please refer to [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**Move It Self Storage-Austin 620**  
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **Move It Self Storage** located at **9311 N FM 620, Austin, TX 78726**, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held online at <http://www.storage-treasures.com>. Competitive bids for the unit(s) will be accepted until January 5th, 2021 at 10:00am. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw item(s) from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: Maria E Mora: misc. items. Casey Lilley: misc. items. Susie M Pugh: misc. items. Norma Duran: misc. items. **Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 12:00 pm. My Attic Self Storage @ 1602 W. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX 78660.** [www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Appliances, Car Parts. **NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Store It All Storage-In accordance with Texas Property Code, Chapter 59, Store It All Storage, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at LockerFox. A \$100 cash clean-up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at the time of sale. Sale will be held online at [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com) starting on or after December 15, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 at 10:00am. Store It All-Del Valle 5280 HWY 71 East Del Valle TX 78617 Elsa Erazo 00C38 Mary Ornelas 16G44

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Lockerfox.com  
In accordance with the Texas property code, Chapter 59, RightSpace Storage, 8956 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Lockerfox.com. A \$100 cash clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. Sale will be held online at Lockerfox.com starting on or before 12/24/20 and bidding will close on or after 01/07/21 at 10:00am. General description of contents: general household/ personal goods/ other contents. Names of tenants as they appear on the lease: Tonya Carr, Soni Daniel, Barbara Cantu & Nicholas Zikos. Tenants may redeem their goods for full payment in cash or money order only up to time of auction. Call RightSpace Storage at 512-380-9111.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
of property to satisfy landlord's lien. The sale will be conducted on <https://storageauctions.com/> and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on Jan 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces at A Mini Storage of Texas, 2381 Hwy 71 East, Del Valle, TX 78617; Household and other goods-construction equipment, furniture, and office furniture. Any questions the property manager @ 512-582-0300. Leslie, Ganous Sara, Loera

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, of property to Satisfy a Landlord's lien. A public Auction to be held at My Attic Self Storage via [www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com) on January 13, 2021 at 12:00 pm. A cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: Maria E Mora: misc. items. Casey Lilley: misc. items. Susie M Pugh: misc. items. Norma Duran: misc. items. **Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 12:00 pm. My Attic Self Storage @ 1602 W. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX 78660.** [www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **TJO 10 X 10 Management, Ltd** Managing properties listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin on or about the time indicated at [www.selfstorageauction.com](http://www.selfstorageauction.com). Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:00 pm SpringWood Self Storage @ 9206 Anderson Mill Rd, Austin, TX 78729**  
[www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Charles Dykes: misc. items. William Parker: misc. items. Cody Michael Fox: misc. items. 12:00 pm Oak Hill Storage @ 7901 W. Hwy 71, Austin, TX 78735  
[www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Sergio Mendiola: misc. items. 12:00 pm Northgate Storage @ 8833 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758  
[www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Timothy Rogers: misc. items. David Nutt: misc. items. Ellen Whalley: misc. items. Ursule Kazadi: misc. items. Andrea Roman Montes: misc. items. Stephanie Roman: misc. items. Jonathan Tresenritter: misc. items. Marcus Lyons Jr.: misc. items. Rachel Richter: misc. items. Elizabeth Delrio: misc. items. Jesse Trevino: misc. items.

12:00 pm Lakeline Storage @ 11000 Lakeline Blvd, Austin, TX 78717  
[www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Laurie P. Ryan: misc. items. 12:00 pm ATX Self Storage @ 6901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78752  
[www.SelfStorageAuction.com](http://www.SelfStorageAuction.com)

Jason McGinnis: misc. items. Roland Garza: misc. items. David Jernigan: misc. items. Reynaldo Funez: misc. items.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 12:00 PM at [www.storagecenters.com](http://www.storagecenters.com): **CubeSmart 10707 N IH35 Austin TX 78753**: Christine Maffei, Michel Chaveco Noa **CubeSmart 400 N HWY 183 Liberty Hill TX 78642**: James Frank Dudley Jr **CubeSmart 3706 N Main St Taylor TX 76574**: Jeffrey Lauts, Classy Henderson, Angel Kirk, Gerald Wright, Debra Trejo **CubeSmart 2701 FM 1460 Georgetown TX 78626**: Cynthia Martinez, Melissa Reveles **CubeSmart 14509 Owen Tech Blvd Austin TX 78728**: Kenneth Waddell, Fidelia Francisca, Fidelia M, Roylee Floyd, Timothy Jones **CubeSmart 2400 N Austin Ave Georgetown TX 78626**: Jeremy Vidaura, James Ochoa, Paula Rainey, Natasha Harris **CubeSmart 646 W Front St Hutto TX 78634**: Rohshun Lee-Turner

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 12:30 PM at [www.storagecenters.com](http://www.storagecenters.com): **CubeSmart 2220 E Howard Ln Pflugerville TX 78660**: Jacinda Powell **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 1:00 PM at [www.storagecenters.com](http://www.storagecenters.com): **CubeSmart 244 Benelli Dr Hutto TX 78634**: Amber Vargas **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 2:15 PM at [www.storagecenters.com](http://www.storagecenters.com): **CubeSmart 3901 Shell Rd Georgetown TX 78628**: Miguel Gomez, Anubhab Sukul **NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY** Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: **3009 Dawn Dr., Georgetown 78628, 512.364.7202, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am** Linda Kaye Peach 2005 Tan Chevy Malibu Chris Anthony Steen king, ent center, 3 dressers, couch, chairs, boxes **5431 Williams Dr., Georgetown 78633, 512.688.9711, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am** James Jefferson Church alter The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storagecenters.com](http://www.storagecenters.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is hereby given that a public sale will be held at Mini U Storage (formerly Wells Branch Self Storage), 1763 Wells Branch Parkway, Austin, TX 78728 on January 27, 2021 at 11:00 AM to satisfy a landlord's lien on the property stored at the address above in the units listed pursuant to Texas Property Code, Chapter 59. Tenants notated the inventories listed at the time of rental. Landlord makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. KUGH0, NKANG B334 Misc. Household LOPEZ, MIKAYLA B358 Misc. Household, Personal Effects KEY, KIERSTEN B411 Misc. Household, Personal Effects SLOANE, MARAIO C214 Misc. Household, Personal Effects DUKES, TAMRA C231 Misc. Household, Personal Effects VOLLERTSEN, DANE C235 Misc. Household MALEY, GENEVIE C302 Misc. Household BEDFORD, KRISTIAN C406 Personal Effects BRADLEY, AARON MICHAEL

C648 Misc. Household, Personal Effects JOHNSON, LOVELY D220 Misc. Household POLK, NAJEE D301 Misc. Household, Personal Effects GREEN, DUJUAN D316 Misc. Household POWELL, GREGORY D605 dressers, beds, boxes TORRES, LOUIS D609 Misc. Household, Personal Effects, Business Records, Business Furniture/Equipment VILLANUEVA, ANDRES D652 Misc. Household, Personal Effects All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party.

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Stassney located at 201 W. Stassney Lane, Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions](http://www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions) on 1/12/2021 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Maray Garcia Rodriguez; Nicolas Rangel Trujillo; Lisa Harris; Frank Orosco; Shane James (2 units); Adam Barrientes; Ivan Soltero/USCC AST MANAGER (2 units); Ronny Gauthier; Raul Garcia Aka Raul Laurel Garcia. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Wasson located at 5405 Wasson Rd., Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions](http://www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions) on 1/12/2021 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Dora Castaneda; Calvin Heine. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BENJAMIN ANCIL SWEAT** Notice is given that original Letters of Independent Admin-

istration for the Estate of BENJAMIN ANCIL SWEAT were issued on December 16, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001932 pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Sarah Ann Pyun. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned at the address below within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED: December 16, 2020. Sarah Ann Pyun Independent Administrator 1301 Water Spaniel Way Round Rock, Texas 78664

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GLORIA ANN EBARR, DECEASED** Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001663, styled Estate of Gloria Ann Ebar, deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, of Travis County, Texas, Letters Testamentary were granted by said Court on October 13, 2020, to Doyle Edward Ebar, and he qualified as Independent Executor on October 14, 2020. Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of his attorneys at the following address: COWAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 1403 West 6th Street Austin, TX 78703

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 21st day of October, 2020. COWAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 1403 West 6th Street Austin, Texas 78703 Tel.:(512) 476-8591 Fax: (512) 697-2829 By: /s/ Claiborne L. Cowan State Bar No.: 00793558 Attorneys For Independent Executor

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE** Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001971, styled Estate of Mary Evelyn Kelly Radford, deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 7, 2020, to Lynda B. Radford. Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of the attorneys at the address below.

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Signed on December 18, 2020. MCGINNIS LOCHRIDGE LLP 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100 Austin, TX 78701 512-495-6079 Telephone 512-505-6379 Fax Alenner@mcginnislaw.com By: /s/ Alison S. Lenner State Bar No. 24102081 Attorneys for Independent Executor

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LINDA DAVIS, DECEASED:** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Linda Davis,

Deceased, were issued on December 10, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002129 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Aaron Patrick Davis. The residence of such Independent Executor is Travis County, Texas. The office address is: Aaron Patrick Davis, Independent Executor c/o Susan G. Sprouse, Esq., Attorney at Law, 901 Mopac Expressway South, Building 1, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78746. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 19th day of December, 2020.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LINDA JO HANES HAYES, A.K.A. LINDA J. HAYES**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LINDA JO HANES HAYES, a.k.a. LINDA J. HAYES, Deceased, were issued to KATHERINE HAYES LUKE, a.k.a. KATHERINE ANNE HAYES on November 12, 2020, in Cause No. 20-0839-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate that is currently being administered are required to present them within the time prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the representative's attorney addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of LINDA JO HANES HAYES, Deceased, c/o THE GREENING LAW FIRM, PC., 506 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TEMPLE ANNE SPENCER, DECEASED**

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001592, styled Estate of Temple Anne Spencer, deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Letters of Independent Administration were granted by said Court on November 24, 2020, to Thomas Mark Spencer, and he qualified as Independent Administrator on December 2, 2020. Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of his attorneys at the following address: COWAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 1403 West 6th Street Austin, TX 78703

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 17th day of December, 2020. COWAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 1403 West 6th Street Austin, Texas 78703 Tel.:(512) 476-8591 Fax: (512) 697-2829 By: /s/ Claiborne L. Cowan State Bar No.: 00793558 Attorneys For Independent Administrator

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed in the Estate of Hazel K. Marshall, A/K/A Hilda Hazel Marshall, was granted December 3, 2020 to J. Henry Klingemann as Independent Administrator with Will Annexed in Cause No. C-

1-PB-20-001809, Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. Persons with claims against the estate must present them within the time prescribed by law to Steven Hake, 8705 Shoal Creek Blvd #103, Austin TX 78757, attorney for the Independent Administrator.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of LUPE JUAREZ JR. were issued on December 17, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002044 in the Probate Court, in Travis County, Texas to MARIE E. JUAREZ AKA MARIE E. DOMINGUEZ. Claims may be presented in care of the Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: The Estate of record for MARIE E. JUAREZ AKA MARIE E. DOMINGUEZ is 12509 La Paz, Del Valle, Texas 78671.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 21st day of December, 2020.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Michelle Rae Dekay, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001460, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to the following Independent Administrator: Taylor Rae Cohen, 5511 Longview St., Dallas, Texas 75206

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law in care of the administrator's attorney at his address stated below. DATED the 17th day of December 2020.

Respectfully submitted, LAW OFFICE OF WILSON CALHOUN 719 So. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 304 Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 (361) 882-3300/ Fax: (361) 888-5404 E-Mail: wilson@wcalhoun.com E-Mail: michael@wcalhoun.com BY: WILSON CALHOUN, Attorney in Charge State Bar No. 03645500 MICHAEL W. SHAFFER State Bar No. 2408942

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Gary Edward Myatt, Deceased, were issued on 11/24/2020, under Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001648, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis Co., TX, to James Marion Myatt. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present those claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law in care of: Snodgrass Law, 1621 E 6 St, Ste 1123, Austin, TX 78702. Dated 12/15/2020 /s/ Michael Snodgrass, Attorney for Independent Administrator

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the

Estate of Stephanie Keeth, Deceased, were issued on 11/10/2020, under Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001765, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis Co., TX, to Darren Keeth. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present those claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law in care of: Snodgrass Law, 1621 E 6 St, Ste 1123, Austin, TX 78702. Dated 12/15/2020 /s/ Michael Snodgrass, Attorney for Independent Administrator

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Irene Catherine Griffin, Deceased, were issued on November 20, in Docket No. **C-1-PB-20-001197** pending in the County Court at Law, Number 1, Travis County, TX, Texas, to: Galen Griffin, Executor of the Estate of Irene Catherine Griffin, in care of MICHAEL SPINKS, ATTORNEY 2025 Guadalupe St., #260, Austin, TX, 78705. 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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Buckley Wiley, Deceased, were issued on November 20, in Docket No. **C-1-PB-20-001268** pending in the County Court at Law, Number 1, Travis County, TX, Texas, to: Galen Griffin, Executor of the Estate of John Buckley Wiley, in care of MICHAEL SPINKS, ATTORNEY 2025 Guadalupe St., #260, Austin, TX, 78705. 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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BERKLEY B. BETTIS, Deceased, were issued to DOROTHY BETTIS as Independent Executor of said Estate, on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001988, pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Dorothy Bettis, Independent Executor of said Estate, in care of her attorney Carolyn Collins Ostrom within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Carolyn Collins Ostrom PLLC 816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701 DATED the 25th day of December, 2020.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Manuel Donley, Deceased, were issued on November 23, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001624, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Herminia Donley. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Matthew Murray Hull were issued on December 15, 2020, under Docket No. C-1-PB-20-000807, pending in the Travis County Probate Court No. One, to DONALD SCOTT HULL. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Estate of MATTHEW MURRAY HULL c/o Jonathan S. Connor Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC. 3410 Far West Blvd., Suite 385 Austin, Texas 78731 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 15th day of December, 2020. Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC. Jonathan S. Connor Attorney for the Estate

undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o Virginia Sampson **Attorney at Law 5701 W. Slaughter Lane A130-466 Austin, TX 78749 DATED the 18th day of December, 2020.** /s/ Virginia H. Sampson Virginia H. Sampson, State Bar # 24058204 Attorney for Herminia Donley 5701 W Slaughter Lane A130-466 Austin, TX 78749 Telephone: (512) 980-4610 Facsimile: (512) 729-0213 E-mail: virginiasampsonlaw@gmail.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MATTHEW MURRAY HULL were issued on December 15, 2020, under Docket No. C-1-PB-20-000807, pending in the Travis County Probate Court No. One, to DONALD SCOTT HULL. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Estate of MATTHEW MURRAY HULL c/o Jonathan S. Connor Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC. 3410 Far West Blvd., Suite 385 Austin, Texas 78731 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 15th day of December, 2020. Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC. Jonathan S. Connor Attorney for the Estate

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Manuela S. Nellie Dominguez, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2020, in the Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001599, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Nellie D. Cadena. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law: Nellie D. Cadena, Independent Executor, of the Estate of Manuela S. Nellie Dominguez, c/o legal counsel for the Estate, DeBorah Sonnenschein, P O Box 672, Leander, TX 78641.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Steven E. Kornguth (a/k/a Steven Edward Kornguth), Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002056 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Ingrid Kornguth Taylor of 2505 Inwood Place, Austin, Texas 78703 and David Gregory Kornguth of 455 Kingsford Drive, Moraga, California 94556. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Steven E. Kornguth (a/k/a Steven Edward Kornguth), Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002056 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Ingrid Kornguth Taylor of 2505 Inwood Place, Austin, Texas 78703 and David Gregory Kornguth of 455 Kingsford Drive, Moraga, California 94556. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All

**CONTINUED ON P.54**

# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for December 25-31

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The birds known as red knots breed every year in the Arctic regions. Then they fly south - way south - down to the southern edge of South America, more than 9,000 miles away. A few months later they make the return trip to the far north. In 1995, ornithologists managed to put a monitoring band on one red knot's leg, making it possible to periodically get a read on his adventures over the subsequent years. The bird's nickname is Moonbird, because he has traveled so many miles in the course of his life that it's equivalent to a jaunt to the moon. He's known as "the toughest four ounces on the planet." I nominate him to be your magical creature in 2021. I suspect you will have stamina, hardiness, persistence, and determination like his.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** An Aquarian park ranger named Roy Sullivan was struck by lightning seven times in the course of his 71 years on the planet. (That's a world record.) None of the electrostatic surges killed him, although they did leave a few burns. After studying your astrological potentials for 2021, I've concluded that you may be the recipient, on a regular basis, of a much more pleasurable and rewarding kind of lightning strike: the metaphorical kind. I advise you to prepare yourself to be alert for more epiphanies than usual: exciting insights, inspiring revelations, and useful ideas.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Coral reefs are in danger all over the world. These "rainforests of the sea" are being decimated by ocean acidification, toxic runoff from rivers, rising temperatures, and careless tourists. Why should we care? Because they're beautiful! And also because they're hotbeds of biodiversity, providing homes for 25 percent of all marine species. They also furnish protection for shorelines from erosion and storm damage, and are prime spots to harvest seafood. So I'm pleased people are finding ways to help reefs survive and recover. For example, a group in Thailand is having success using superglue to re-attach broken-off pieces to the main reefs. I hope this vignette inspires you to engage in metaphorically similar restorative and rejuvenating activities, Pisces. In 2021, you will have an enhanced power to heal.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your capacity for pioneering feats and impressive accomplishments will be at a peak in 2021. So you could become the best human ever at balancing a ladder on your chin or typing with your nose or running long-distance while holding an egg on a spoon with your mouth. But I'd prefer it if you channeled your triumphal energy into more useful innovations and victories. How about making dramatic strides in fulfilling your most important goal? Or ascending to an unprecedented new level of inspiring people with your passionate idealism? Or setting a record for most illusions shed?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Ark Encounter is a fundamentalist Christian theme park in Kentucky. Its main attraction is a giant replica of Noah's Ark. Constructed mostly from spruce and pine trees, it's one of the world's largest wooden structures. Even though I don't believe that there was in fact such a boat in ancient times, I do admire how its builder, Ken Ham, has been so fiercely devoted to making his fantasies real. I encourage you to cultivate an equally zealous commitment to manifesting your own visions and dreams in 2021.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** From 1961 until 1989, a concrete barrier divided the city of Berlin. Communist East Berlin lay on the east side of the Berlin Wall, and capitalist West Berlin on the west. It was an iconic symbol of the Cold War between the U.S. and Soviet Union. More than 100,000 people tried to escape from east to west, but just 5,000 succeeded. The standoff ended in 1989, during the peaceful revolutions that swept through Eastern Europe. In subsequent months, the Berlin Wall was slowly demolished. Today, tiny fragments of the wall are marketed as medicines for asthma, headaches, narcolepsy, and ulcers. Now I will propose that in 2021, you adopt the demolished Berlin Wall as your metaphor of power. May it inspire you to be gleeful and forceful as you dismantle psychological obstacles and impediments.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** The year 2021 will contain 525,600 minutes. But I suspect you might enjoy the subjective sensation of having far more than 525,600 minutes at your disposal. That's because I think you'll be living a fuller life than usual, with greater intensity and more focus. It may sometimes seem to you as if you are drawing greater riches out of the daily rhythm - accomplishing more, seeing further, diving down deeper to capitalize on the privilege of being here on planet earth. Be grateful for this blessing - which is also a big responsibility!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Our lives are filled with puzzles and enigmas and riddles. We all harbor aspects of ourselves that we don't understand. I hope that in 2021, you will be on a mission to learn more about these parts of yourself. One of your superpowers will be a capacity to uncover secrets and solve mysteries. Bonus: I suspect you'll be able to make exceptional progress in getting to the root of confusing quandaries that have undermined you - and then fixing the problems so they no longer undermine you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** When actor Gene Wilder was eight years old, his mother began to have heart-related health issues. The doctor that treated her suggested he could help her out if he would try to make her laugh. From then on, Wilder cultivated an ability to tell jokes and got interested in becoming an actor. Ultimately he appeared in 22 films and was nominated for two Oscars and two Golden Globe Awards. I foresee a comparable development in your life in 2021: A challenging situation will inspire you in ways that generate a major blessing.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** In my astrological opinion, love won't be predictable in 2021. It won't be easily definable or comparable to what you're experienced before. But I also suspect that love will be delightfully enigmatic. It will be unexpectedly educational and fervently fertile and oddly comfortable. Your assignment, as I understand it, will be to shed your certainties about what love is and is not so that the wild, fresh challenges and opportunities of love can stream into your life in their wildest, freshest state.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Until 1893, Hawaii was a sovereign nation. In January of that year, a group of wealthy foreigners, mostly Americans, overthrew the existing government with the help of the U.S. military. They established a fake temporary "republic" that excluded native Hawaiians from positions of power. Their goal, which was to be annexed by the United States, was fulfilled in July 1898. I propose that you use this sad series of events as a motivational story in 2021. Make it your goal to resist all efforts to be colonized and occupied. Commit yourself passionately to preserving your sovereignty and independence. Be a tower of power that can't be owned.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** In 2021, you may be smarter than you have ever been. Not necessarily wiser, too, although I have reason to hope that you will leverage your smartness to also deepen your wisdom. But as I was saying, your intelligence could very well soar beyond its previous heights. Your ability to speak articulately, stir up original thoughts, and solve knotty riddles should be at a peak. Is there any potential downside to this outbreak of brilliance? Only one that I can imagine: It's possible that your brain will be working with such dominant efficiency that it will drown out messages from your heart. And that would be a shame. In order to do what I referred to earlier - leverage your smartness to deepen your wisdom - you'll need to be receptive to your heart's messages

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

## PARK & HOMER puzzles

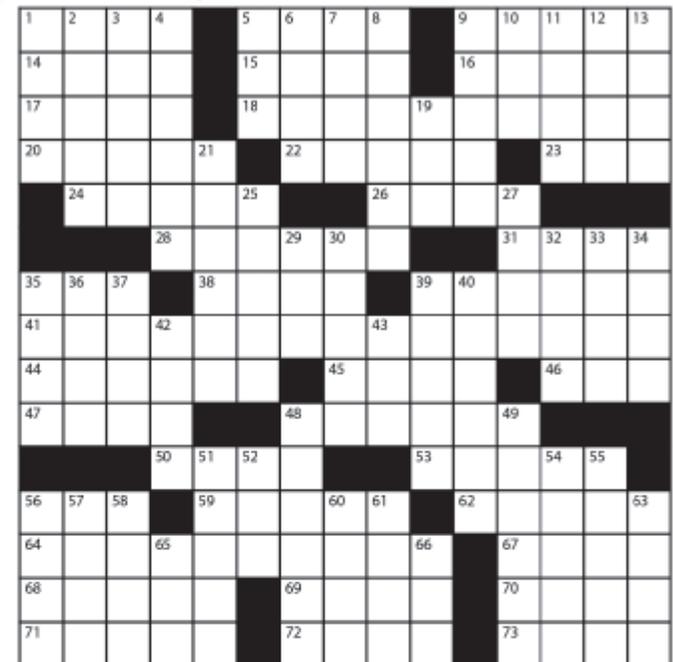
### Unwanted pressure

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 668

#### Across

1. Word that could follow the first word of each starred clue  
5. Taxis  
9. Stair parts  
14. Jessica of "Dark Angel"  
15. Comply with  
16. San Diego baseballer  
17. Like a sad sack  
18. \*\*\* Person who looks exactly like another  
20. Rope fiber  
22. Like some eclipses  
23. Cataract site  
24. Promotes  
26. Gave the once-over  
28. Diner  
31. Spice holder  
35. Badge wearer  
38. Short skirt  
39. Lack of vitality  
41. \*\*\* In the past  
44. "I couldn't \_\_\_"  
45. Jets or Sharks, e.g.  
46. Family room  
47. Univ. lecturer  
48. Kind of number  
50. They take the bait  
53. Musical exercise  
56. Infomercials, e.g.  
59. Some college students  
62. Author Zola  
64. Popular vacation destination



67. Get-out-of-jail money  
68. Idiot  
69. Celeb  
70. Carbon compound  
71. Rocket gasket  
72. His and \_\_\_  
73. "Phooey!"  
8. 2000 Olympics city  
9. Cathedral topper  
10. Beachgoer's goal  
11. Barely beat  
12. The hunted  
13. Bone-dry  
19. Beam of light  
21. Andean animals  
25. Time on the job  
27. Sketched  
29. Conclude  
30. Chip feature  
32. In the thick of  
33. Give as an example  
34. Songwriter Gus  
35. Nasdaq listing: Abbr.  
36. Completed  
37. 100 centavos  
39. "Tomorrow" musical  
40. Cancel  
42. Jazz phrase  
43. Crew need  
48. "I can't believe it!"  
49. Timber  
51. Cake topper  
52. Have a bawl  
54. Paul Anka #1 hit  
55. "Silas Marner" novelist  
56. Bullets, e.g.  
57. Last name in fashion  
58. Draped dress  
60. Go out with  
61. Lasting impression  
63. Building additions  
65. Sun follower?  
66. Mins. and mins.

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT [WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD](http://WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD)

## LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.53

claims should be addressed in care of the Independent Co-Executors' attorney, Martha V. Swanger of Swanger Prickett LLP, 505-B West Lynn St., Austin, TX 78703. DATED this 21st day of December, 2020. SWANGER PRICKETT LLP By: /s/ Martha V. Swanger ATTORNEYS FOR INGRID TAYLOR KORNGUTH and DAVID

GREGORY KORNGUTH, INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN E. KORNGUTH (A/K/A STEVEN EDWARD KORNGUTH), DECEASED.

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of XENIA TERESA O'DWYER, AKA XENIA TERESA SIBAUSTE, Deceased, were

issued on November 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001700, pending in the PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: Inez Dwyer Ramon.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Brad Wiewel Attorney at Law** 1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550 Austin, TX 78701 DATED the 18th day of December, 2020.

/s/ Ann Lumley Attorney for Inez Dwyer Ramon

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Velia Perez

MARKETPLACE

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DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. Call 855-978-0215 (AAN CAN)

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them to such address in the manner and time required by law. Richard P. Brown Independent Executor of the Estate of Gerald L. Brown, Jr.

**OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:  
1. Aviation Fuel (Jet A), IFB no. B2011-001-LD  
Opens: January 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.  
2. Water Treatment System Services, IFB #2009-011-GC  
Opens: January 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

**Pre-Bid date: 12/23/2020 @ 10 AM CST**  
Dec 23, 2020 10:00:00 AM CST Attendance is optional Location: The Optional Virtual Pre-Bid Conference will be held via Microsoft Teams. Please use the Dial-In Information below:  
DIAL-IN: +1 512-854-8326 CONFERENCE ID: 418385624#  
3. Deployment Services for SAP Ariba Strategic Sourcing and Risk Models, RFP # 1909-012-LC  
Opens: January 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.  
4. Child Support Enforcement System, RFP 2010-010-LR  
Opens: December 14, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Bonnie Floyd, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/solicitation>

**OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:  
Purchase of Surplus Property: Executive Chair, ErgoGenesis # J3507, Request For Bid # 2012-007  
Opens: January 6, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.  
This bid is open to the public. The Surplus Property is located at the following location(s): Travis County Purchasing Warehouse, 6011 Blue Bluff Road, Austin TX 78724. All items will be sold "as is" to the highest and best bid. A minimum bid of \$250.00 is required. The Awarded Bidder is responsible for item immediately after payment has been completed and the Surplus Property must be removed from the above-mentioned

location within one (1) week. No warranties, either expressed or implied, are made. Payment, which must be in the form of a Cashier's Check, Money Order and/or Check, will be due upon conclusion of sale. Cash is not acceptable.

Bids should be submitted to: Bonnie S. Floyd, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: [www.traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/solicitation](http://www.traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/solicitation).

**PUBLIC STORAGE NOTICE Lockerfox.com**  
In accordance with the Texas property code, Chapter 59, Right Space Storage 3000 East Highway 290, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Lockerfox.com. A \$100 cash clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. Sale will be held online at Lockerfox.com starting on or before December 31, 2021 and bidding will close on or after January 7, 2021 at 10:00am. General description of contents: general household/personal goods/ other contents. Names of tenants as they appear on the lease: Ames Tiedeman, may redeem their goods for full payment in cash or money order only up to time of auction. Call RightSpace Storage at 512-894-3303.

**PUBLIC STORAGE NOTICE Lockerfox.com**  
In accordance with the Texas property code, Chapter 59, RightSpace Storage 9023 W Hwy 71 Austin, Texas 78735 will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Lockerfox.com. A \$100 cash clean up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at time of sale. Sale will be held online at Lockerfox.com starting on or after December 24, 2020 and bidding will close on or after January 7, 2021 at 10 A.M. General description of contents – art work, mix boxes, adult clothing, stereo, bedroom and living room furniture, luggage, memorabilia, speakers. Names of tenants as they appear on the lease – Martin Portilla. Tenants may redeem their goods for full payment in cash or money order only up to time of auction. Call RightSpace Storage at 512-301-5070.

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES FIRST NOTICE**  
1998 Dodge Stratus Red, #651.40, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**  
FIRST NOTICE  
1998 Dodge Stratus Red, #651.40, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**FIRST NOTICE**  
2000 Land Rover Discovery, #546.40, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES FIRST NOTICE**  
Big Tex 14' Flatbed Trailer, #646.35, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES FIRST NOTICE**  
Flatbed Tilt Trailer, #581.40, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES FIRST NOTICE**  
Homemade 16' Flatbed Trailer w/gate, #581.40, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF NANCY STRIPLING MERRITT**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Stripling Merritt were issued on December 22, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002059 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to the estate's independent executor Amanda Merritt Beck. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be addressed to the independent executor care of Ronald Habitzreiter, Attorney at Law, 1208 West Ave., Austin, Texas 78701. Dated this 22nd day of December, 2020. Amanda Merritt Beck Independent Executor Ronald Habitzreiter Attorney at Law 1208 West Avenue Austin, Texas 78701 State Bar No. 08665700 (512) 474-2315 Telefax: (512) 476-4930 Email: [ronhabitz@aol.com](mailto:ronhabitz@aol.com) Attorney for Independent Executor

**NOTICE OF ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES WILLIAM KASTNER, DECEASED**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles William Kastner, Deceased, were issued on the 21st day of December, 2020 and Mark William Kastner qualified as Independent Executor on December 21, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001911, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The mailing address for the Independent Executor is: Mark William Kastner, Independent Executor Estate of Charles William Kastner, Deceased Attention: Brooke Hardie

**NOTICE OF ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES WILLIAM KASTNER, DECEASED**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DAVID T. ABRAHAM were issued on December 18, 2020 in Docket Number C-1-PB-20-002125, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to DAVID ABRAHAM, Jr., Independent Executor. The address of record for DAVID ABRAHAM, Jr., is 4211 Red Cloud Drive, Austin, Texas, 78749. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

LEGAL NOTICES

**c/o HARDIE LAW, PLLC**  
1100 West Avenue Austin, Texas 78701 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 25th day of December, 2020.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate Charles Osborne Walker, Deceased, were granted on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002134 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Judith Lovejoy Walker, who qualified as Independent Executor on December 18, 2020. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**c/o: Gabriel G. Gallas Gallas Law PLLC**  
1403 West 6th Street Austin, TX 78703 DATED the 22nd day of December, 2020. /s/ Gabriel G. Gallas Gabriel G. Gallas State Bar No.: 24069750 Attorney for Judith Lovejoy Walker

**CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-20-002094 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERT EUGENE DAVIS, DECEASED**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Independent Administration for the Estate of Robert Eugene Davis, Deceased were issued on December 22, 2020, in Cause Number C-1-PB-20-002094, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Joyce Davis All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time prescribed by law to Joyce Davis, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Robert Eugene Davis, c/o Joel B. Bennett, P.C., P.O. Box 267, Austin, TX 78767. Dated the 22nd day of December, 2020. By: /s/ Joel Bennett Attorney for Applicant

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DAVID T. ABRAHAM were issued on December 18, 2020 in Docket Number C-1-PB-20-002125, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to DAVID ABRAHAM, Jr., Independent Executor. The address of record for DAVID ABRAHAM, Jr., is 4211 Red Cloud Drive, Austin, Texas, 78749. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Urrutia, Deceased, were issued to Johnny J. Urrutia, whose residence and mailing address is 2101 South I-35, Suite 209, Austin, TX 78741, on July 17, 2020, by the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No C-1-PB-19-000953, which is still pending, and that the Executor now holds such Letters Testamentary. All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the claims to Johnny J. Urrutia, 2101 South I-35, Suite 209, Austin, TX 78741, within the time prescribe by law. /s/ Johnny J. Urrutia La Office of Johnny J. Urrutia [jurrutialaw@gmail.com](mailto:jurrutialaw@gmail.com) 2101 South IH 35, Suite 209 AUSTIN, TX 78741 DATED the 21st day of December, 2020.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
On December 14, 2020, David Tavin qualified as Independent

Executor without bond of the Estate of Frank Tavin, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002068 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Independent Executor is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 509 W. 18th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. David Tavin Independent Executor of the Estate of Frank Tavin

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
On December 17, 2020, Brenda Rose Standifer qualified as Independent Executor in the Estate of Raymond Frank, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002144 pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. The address of Brenda Rose Standifer, Independent Executor without bond, is c/o

Claire D. East, Hopper Mikeska, PLLC, Barton Oaks Plaza II, Suite 570, 901 South MoPac Expressway, Austin, Texas 78746, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. Brenda Rose Standifer, Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Raymond Frank, Deceased By: Claire D. East, Attorney for the Independent Executor without bond, Brenda Rose Standifer

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
On December 17, 2020, Jay V. Johnson was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Kay Johnson, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002189, pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. The address of Jay V. Johnson, Independent Executor, is c/o Craig Hopper, Hopper Mikeska,

PLLC, Barton Oaks Plaza II, Suite 570, 901 South MoPac Expressway, Austin, Texas 78746, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. Jay V. Johnson, Independent Executor of the Estate of Patsy Kay Johnson, Deceased By: Craig Hopper, Attorney for the Independent Executor, Jay V. Johnson

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
On December 2, 2020, Richard P. Brown qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Gerald L. Brown, Jr., Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001984 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Independent Executor is 509 W. 18th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present

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