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THE AUSTIN

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FREE
BUT NOT CHEAP

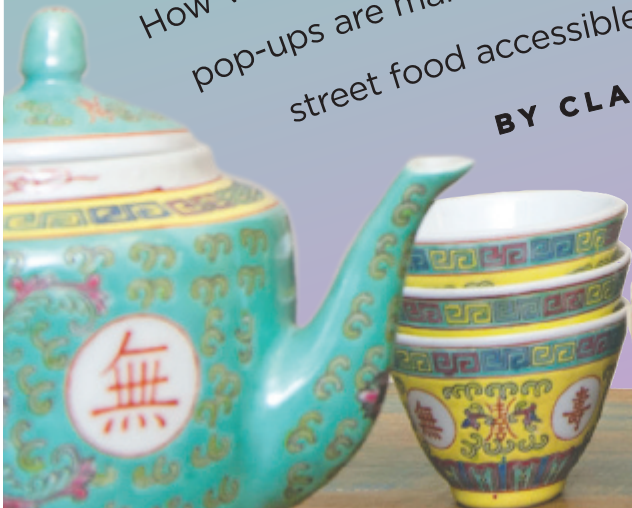
CHRONICLE

Ava Pendleton
of Austin Kuih Co.

Downloading Hawker Culture

How virtual brands, ghost kitchens, and
pop-ups are making Southeast Asian
street food accessible to Austin
BY CLARA WANG

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pop-up book

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Virtual brands, ghost kitchens, and pop-ups are making Southeast Asian street food accessible to Austin

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Always Be Bustling

It's wild now to remember a time when Austin would empty at the end of the semester and turn sleepy over the summer. This city doesn't slow down for anything these days, and you only have to flip through this issue for proof. We've got a preview for a major cultural fest (ATX TV Festival, p.26), a story about a rock god rolling through town to play a show and some sandlot baseball (that'd be Jack White, p.50), a trend piece about the proliferation of South Asian street food (see Clara Wang's cover story, p.44), and Qmmunity Editor James Scott's roundup of Pride Month events, including a burgeoning presence in outlying communities including Lockhart and Marble Falls (p.35).

We also have a news feature that has everything to do with our population boom. News Editor Mike Clark-Madison and staff writer Austin Sanders team up to touch base on Project Connect, the pricey but transformative expansion of Austin public transit. Mike tackles the personnel issue; both Cap Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership are operating under interim directors during what Mike described to me as "a sensitive part of

the process." (Project Connect is close to a third of the way through the design process; at that milestone, planners will work with the Federal Transit Administration to secure federal funding.) And Austin takes a closer look at some of the knottier design challenges, including the Downtown/South Congress Tunnel, the Blue Line Bridge, and campus-area construction that has put a demolition target on the back of greasy burger mecca Dirty Martin's.

Austin told me that what struck him most over the course of his reporting was the sheer complexity of the undertaking. "Each component is its own puzzle, but one that must be solved in a way that works with the other dozens of puzzles that exist throughout the entire system."

A native Austinite, Austin says he's pretty jazzed at the idea of a top-of-the-line transit system that meets the demands of our massive growth. "The example I point to is the Blue Line and how cool it will be to ride south on a light rail train, enter a subway Downtown, and then emerge on to a new signature crossing over Lady Bird Lake." Sounds like a hell of a ride to me. Find that story on p.16. ■

WE HAVE AN ISSUE
BY KIMBERLEY JONES

ONLINE THIS WEEK

DAY TRIPS & BEYOND Gerald McLeod rounds up summer travel opportunities and updates on art around the state, including upcoming Meow Wolf outposts in Texas and an ancient Roman bust found at an Austin Goodwill store, on display in San Antonio.

A UNION WIN After a yearlong campaign, the United Workers of Integral Care succeeded in unionizing the largest mental health care provider in Travis County.



Meow Wolf Santa Fe

GERALD E. MCLEOD



Julia Scotti: Funny That Way

FUNNY THAT WAY Qmmunity Editor James Scott interviews pioneering comedian Julia Scotti ahead of her set in Austin following the screening of a new documentary about her.

FILM FESTIVALS ON THE HORIZON What to look forward to at Cine Las Americas and the Austin Asian American Film Festival.

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19 Children Are Dead. Someone Should Do Something.

I watched as the headlines read two, then 14, and now 19 children and two teachers dead in Uvalde. As a hospital-based pediatrician I know these rising numbers mean the latest victims initially made it to the hospital alive and then later died from their injuries. I do not know what the physicians saw when those children arrived, but I can imagine the horror.

The names of these victims are added to a growing list of dead children. Since January, 647 children and adolescents have been killed by gun violence.

Someone should do something.

This morning as I quietly helped my own children dress for the day, I questioned whether I should send them to school. If I keep them home today, when will it be “safe” to send them back?

Until we elect leaders who prioritize children over guns, the answer is “never.”

There are things in medicine that we cannot prevent. Illnesses and accidents that happen without warning. Firearm violence is not one of these things.

Firearm violence is preventable. We know that strict firearm legislation saves lives, and yet we continue to pass legislation that puts children’s lives at risk.

Someone should do something.

In the Texas primary election, 82% of registered voters did not vote.

I suspect many of these individuals agree with the 86% of Americans who believe gun violence is a moderate to very big problem in our country. I would wager that most of them care about children. But the thing is, it does not actually matter where they stand if the legislators representing them do not have children’s best interests at heart.

We have found ourselves in this place where mass shootings in grocery stores and schools happen, by living under the assumption that “someone” – namely legislators – “should do something.” There are certainly real, systemic problems that have led us to believe that our votes and voices do not matter. Still though, we must appreciate the role that each of us has

played in creating this problem.

As I cut bananas for my son’s breakfast, I thought about the rest of the kids at Robb Elementary School on Tuesday. The “many” who were injured both physically and emotionally.

I know that the suffering from the massacre is not over. I care for children that survive school shootings. The “lucky ones.” For the “lucky ones,” it is only the beginning of a long and painful journey.

As I helped my daughter tie the laces of her pink shoes, I thought about the “lucky ones” who will spend months in the hospital. The kids that, just days ago, were playing tag but now will have to fight to learn to walk again.

Someone should do something.

The days following tragedy are filled with dramatic statements and calls to action. As days pass, though, voices become quieter. For our own mental health we have to create distance between ourselves and the horror. Most of us cannot maintain the level of advocacy that we adopt in the wake of horrific events and still function.

But we do not have to. We can take smaller, intentional steps every day. Just like the “lucky ones” keep doing each day in rehab as they learn to walk again.

We can support organizations built to eliminate firearm violence with our donations and time. We can support elected officials who have proven that they care about children. We can make sure everyone we know understands how important their vote is in every single election.

We do not need to make grand gestures every day, but we cannot let our efforts dwindle in a few weeks and wait until the next tragedy to pick this work back up.

I drove cautiously to my children’s school looking for any excuse to turn around. But I eventually made it to the parking lot and kissed my kids goodbye. As they ran to their classrooms, I promised to be “someone” today, tomorrow, and the day after that.

Because someone should do something. Thankfully we are all “someone.” ■

BY LAUREN GAMBILL

Lauren Gambill is a mother of two young children and a pediatrician in Austin.

An Open Letter to Chip Roy, U.S. Representative, Member of Congress

Dear Representative Roy:

My name is Greg Swimelar. I am an American citizen and a retired Texas school principal in your congressional district. I have a granddaughter who is 5 years old today – who attends pre-kindergarten in your district. I want a safe school for her and for all American children.

I am extremely upset about your continued support of civilian acquisition and use of military semi-automatic weapons, especially in light of the current situation which scares the bejesus out of every youngster in America as they approach their school building every morning. And can you imagine what it is like to teach under these conditions?

You can consider the examples of Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, and other countries that have solved this problem – and solved it rather quickly. But you, Cruz, and other Republicans in Texas hold dear to the talking points that you receive from the monied forces that take care of your lunches and campaign funds. You are all cowards. You put self-gain, party affiliation, cronyism, and dark money interests over the safety of our children. That is despicable. You should be ashamed of yourself. You bring shame on our great country and our great state.

Do you ever reevaluate your positions? Have you no courage to speak up at party caucuses and ask, “Hey, maybe we should reconsider the appropriateness of citizens having legal use of AR-15s ... I mean they were designed for military use – and their only purpose is to kill people.” Oh, but you still think that you and a clique of far-right-wingers will one day have to fight against the Union? Come on man, get serious. The Union won – and thank God they did.

Have you looked at the snapshots of the 7- to 9-year-old youngsters and their teach-

ers who were massacred in Uvalde? Have you looked at their unidentifiable bodies that lay dead or dying in their classroom? You must do that. And if you cannot find within yourself the good will to admit that a change in course is necessary then you should resign your position and make room for someone who is a problem-solver.

I beg you to muster up some courage and become an effective leader. If all you want to do is to raise campaign funds and keep your elected position, then you are not serving in the tradition of Republican representatives who came before you and will come after you. I hope you will go off by yourself and

reflect on your duty to our country and its citizens and our innocent children who don’t need to be subjected to this; who don’t need to be engaging in drills and practicing how to hide from domestic terrorists that you, yes you, support.

I leave you with the statement of Warren Burger, a conservative former chief justice of the Supreme Court appointed by a Republican, Richard Nixon:

“The gun lobby’s interpretation of the Second Amendment is one of the greatest pieces of fraud on the American people by special interest groups that I have seen in my lifetime. The real purpose of the Second Amendment was to ensure that state armies – the militia – would be maintained for the defense of the state. The very language of the Second Amendment refutes any argument that it was intended to guarantee every citizen an unfettered right to any kind of weapon he or she desires.”

I call upon your sense of good will that you will not only revise your position on military weapons in the hands of teenagers and other civilians, but you will also find the courage to influence leaders in your party to make an about-face on this issue. ■

BY GREGORY SWIMELAR

Gregory Swimelar is a retired Austin ISD school principal.

Got something to get off your chest?

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



Feedback

LETTERS + COMMENTS

DIFFERENT CITIES, SAME DISASTERS

Dear Editor,

The article "Hell and High Water" [News, May 27] shows that Austin is facing the same disasters as the rest of the country and the world. Preparing for disaster is not enough. We must begin serious efforts to restore our native ecosystems and rebuild our soils. The growing movement of regenerative agriculture is spreading awareness of the importance of microbial life in maintaining soil that absorbs water and carbon, and sustains robust vegetation. The climate crisis is not just a result of burning fossil fuels, but also the catastrophic depletion of our topsoil. Regenerating soil is something we can accomplish now, at a much lower cost than recovering from the next rounds of fires and floods. I urge our local government to learn about this topic, and act to restore the natural resilience of our landscape.

Michael Polacheck

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or email address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

General email address: mail@austinchronicle.com
Letters online: austinchronicle.com/feedback

Mailing address: *The Austin Chronicle*,
PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765

MAD ABOUT MAV

Dear Editor,

Trace Sauveur's review of *Top Gun: Maverick* is extremely well done. But for one issue: Describing Pete Mitchell as "still a captain" indicates some confusion about military rank.

In the Navy a captain, like Maverick, now in his 50s, is a senior officer, one step away from being an admiral. In the Army and Marine Corps a captain is a junior officer many steps and years away from being a general.

It's like failing to recognize the difference between a proofreader and a publisher. A serious error to one who knows the business.

Fred Bothwell

OOPS! In "The Field Is Set" (News, May 27), the article incorrectly stated that voters cannot vote in the primary run-off if they did not vote in the first round. Those who voted in the Democratic or Republican primary may only vote in that party's primary run-off. Those who did not vote in the primary election may vote on either party's primary run-off ballot. The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

JUST ANOTHER TYPICAL WEEK IN AMERICA

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS A DEATH CULT
GUNS ARE GREAT! WE LOVE GUNS! MORE GUNS FOR EVERYONE!
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING!
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS! NOTHING CAN BE DONE!

MAINTAINING DECORUM
IT'S DISGRACEFUL THE WAY LIBERALS POLITICIZE THESE TRAGEDIES BY WHINING ABOUT WAYS TO PREVENT THEM!
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST REPEAT EMPTY PLATITUDES UNTIL THE WHOLE THING BLOWS OVER, LIKE DECENT PEOPLE?

THINGS WHICH CAN AND CANNOT BE ADDRESSED
WE MUST PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM CRITICAL RACE THEORY, DISCUSSIONS OF GENDER IDENTITY, AND MASK MANDATES!
BUT NOT GUN VIOLENCE, WHICH IS JUST A FACT OF LIFE, LIKE THE WEATHER.

THE MOST SPECIAL RULE OF THEM ALL
I AM HEARTBROKEN AND HORRIFIED--BUT NOT ENOUGH TO ELIMINATE THE FILIBUSTER.
WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT, PEEPLE!

GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS
WE NEED TO GIVE EVERY TEACHER AN AR-15 OF THEIR OWN! AND THE KIDS, TOO! IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE!
YOU CAN'T EXPECT THE COPS TO RUSH IN WHEN THERE'S SOME NUT WITH A GUN SHOOTING EVERYONE!

BEYOND GALAXY BRAIN
THE PROBLEM IS THE DOORS THAT THESE KILLERS ARE ABLE TO WALK THROUGH! WHAT IF WE LOCK CHILDREN IN WINDOWLESS, SEALED CONTAINERS UNTIL THEY ARE 18 YEARS OLD?
WE CAN FEED THEM THROUGH A FUNNEL!
PROBLEM SOLVED!

RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERS SPEAK OUT, RESPONSIBLY
IF ANYONE TRIES TO TAKE MY GUNS AWAY, I WILL SHOOT THEM! WITH MY GUNS!
CHECK-MATE, LIBS!

LUCY AND THE FOOTBALL
SURELY THIS GRUESOME MASSACRE WILL FORCE REPUBLICANS TO RECONSIDER YOUR GUN FETISH?
LOL NOPE! NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME I NEED TO GO BUY MORE GUNS!

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Lecture with Nigerian Master Fiber Artist

Gasali Adeyemo

AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FIBER ARTS

"I have traveled conducting workshops and exhibitions. My recent workshops include the World Batik Conference, Cross Culture Collaborative Inc., Snow Farm, Fiber Arts Center, and the Austin School of Fiber Arts."

LECTURE

George Washington Carver Museum

Saturday, June 4th, 2022

Reception 6:45 pm Lecture 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

WORKSHOP

CRAFT - 916 Springdale Rd

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10 am to 4 pm

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Mr. Adeyemo will be giving a free lecture exploring the past and present art form of Yoruba Batik indigo dyeing. He will present the processes, symbolism, and techniques of creating the cloth, as well as indigo's medicinal properties. Prepare to be illuminated.

George Washington Carver Museum
1165 Angelina St., Austin, Texas





“With regard to a special [legislative] session, let me just say this: All options are on the table.”
— Gov. Greg Abbott, May 27 in Uvalde

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There are thousands of [gun control] laws on the books ... that have not stopped madmen from carrying out evil acts.”
— Gov. Greg Abbott, May 27 in prerecorded NRA convention speech



ART BY ZEKE BARBARO / PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

HEADLINES

WHAT'S GOING ON New footage from **Uvalde** that ABC News shared on Tuesday seems to disprove the prior **Texas Department of Public Safety** claim that officers delayed storming in because they thought the gunman was barricaded alone. The video captures a **911 dispatcher** saying via radio that a child “is advising he is in the room, full of victims.” The dispatcher then says there are “eight to nine children” inside. The call came through at around 12:13pm, about 45 minutes after the shooter arrived.

BALL OF CONFUSION In another Uvalde shooting development, **DPS** said Tuesday, May 31, that the Uvalde school district's **police chief** (who made the decision to wait for more resources rather than storm in) has stopped cooperating with state investigators and hadn't responded to information requests for over two days.

HIGHER GROUND Ahead of the expected **Supreme Court** ruling that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Council Member Chito Vela has proposed a resolution that decriminalizes abortion in Austin. It would direct the **Austin Police Department** to make criminal enforcement, arrest, and investigation of abortions its lowest priority and restrict city funds and staff from being used to investigate or report suspected abortions.

EXPRESS YOURSELF (TO THE COURT) The **Texas Supreme Court** has asked City Council to file a response to former Travis County Judge **Bill Aleshire's** petition, which seeks to put Council Districts 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10 on the **Nov. 8 ballot** due to their boundaries changing during redistricting.

PASS THE PEAS Austin's **Office of Sustainability** is currently putting a team together to develop the city's first-ever food plan, which is intended to address food deserts in the city, according to a presentation at a **Parks & Rec Board** meeting last week. About 40% of Travis County ZIP codes don't have a full-service grocery store.

IT'S YOUR THING (DO WHAT YOU WANNA DO) The **U.S. Supreme Court** in a 5-4 vote on Tuesday, May 31, blocked a Texas law that would prohibit large social media companies from banning or removing users' posts based on political views. It was a win for **NetChoice** and the **Computer & Communications Industry Association**, which had requested the stay imposed by a federal district judge be reinstated.

PAPA'S GOT A BRAND NEW DOG A dog adopted from **Austin Pets Alive!** was honored at a New Jersey event Wednesday, June 1. The dog named **Savannah**, who was adopted as a 3-month-old puppy by **Tom Turclich**, just completed a walk across seven continents with Tom. A proclamation from Council Member **Kathie Tovo** also honored the journey.

Activist, icon, and professor Angela Davis spoke on a panel discussion at Black Art Matters on Sat., May 28, which reflected on the legacy of Black Americans who dreamed of something beyond a violent postcolonial world



JOHN ANDERSON

The Big Fat Blue Lying Line

Nothing about Uvalde should surprise us in Austin about the credibility of police

Two years ago, the last weekend in May saw one of the worst mass shootings in Austin history – perpetrated by the Austin Police Department. The fact that this milestone comes upon us (and two years is an important one – it's the deadline for filing a civil suit) in the wake of the much worse mass murder in Uvalde, and the incompetence of the police response there, is a painful but effective way to be validated in one's beliefs – my beliefs and many of yours – about the thin blue line.

Uvalde is most of all a damnation of our state's gun laws, and of the people in power who have collapsed under pressure from the gun nuts and gunmakers and loosened those laws beyond what their own common sense

tells them is prudent. Greg Abbott's hapless pandering (see “Quote of the Week” above) obscures that he clearly thinks – and said so after the Santa Fe High School massacre in 2018 – that the state should consider red flag laws or a higher age limit for gun purchasers, and that neither he nor Dan Patrick really think permitless cowboy carry was such a hot idea. Sucks to be you, Gov. Loveless! Watch Beto O'Rourke's numbers against you tick up in real time, because everyone knows where he stands on guns, and that he sincerely believes it. The Abbott campaign has been trying for months to nail O'Rourke as a flip-flopper on guns, a line of attack that I can't imagine will survive the events of this week.

BUT ABOUT THE KEYSTONE KOPS

Uvalde is a small town, about the size of Taylor, although it is the seat of its rural county. It's fought well above its weight throughout its history, having produced a vice president and speaker of the U.S. House (John Nance “Cactus Jack” Garner), a governor of Texas (Dolph Briscoe), and perhaps a future politician in Matthew McConaughey. (And Roy Rogers' wife and cowgirl co-star, Dale Evans! But not her horse Buttermilk, who was from Wyoming.) The surrounding countryside includes some of the most beautiful parts of the Texas Hill Country, so lots of people have been to Uvalde, but it is still a small town.

Which makes the mass murder of small children in the heart of town something

CONTINUED ON P.8

AUSTIN AT LARGE
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

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Think Global! **OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT 7 DAYS A WEEK** Shop Local!



Kevin Conner shows where he was hit with a “less-lethal” round on May 30, 2020 after the death of George Floyd

JOHN ANDERSON

AUSTIN AT LARGE CONTINUED FROM P.6

that’s going to hit almost everyone in town where it hurts. They have been deprived of the succor that survivors often turn to in such cases – that the people in charge did all they could, that they were brave, that they were willing to sacrifice themselves if necessary to save the lives of little kids. On Wednesday of last week, they were told that pleasing fable by Abbott himself. It was all a lie, or at the very least a fantasy that people so desperately wanted to believe that it took on a life of its own.

It feels like punching below our weight to expect the Uvalde Consolidated ISD police force, which led the efforts on scene, to respond flawlessly to an active shooter armed with weapons far more powerful than their own. Attention is focusing more closely on the bad decisions of the chief of that force, Pete Arredondo, which complicates the fact that he just got elected to City Council. (He had to take his oath of office in secret, lest trouble break out.) Apparently, he’s stopped cooperating with the Texas Department of Public Safety’s investigation of the massacre. But the point remains – these are small-town cops who were first on the scene, this is traumatic for them too, we should have some compassion.

That’s been made impossible by the exposure of the many, many lies that were told about the police response, not just by Arredondo but by a lot of people who should have known better or who could have seen the different reality with their own eyes. It’s one thing for rumors and disinfo and bullshit to spin out of the socials and get sucked up by the partisan noise machines. It’s another thing when all the official sources are telling lies to one another.

DON’T JUST BELIEVE THE COPS!

The Austin police who fired upon rowdy but nonviolent protests in front of their headquarters at I-35 and Eighth Street two years ago, in the wake of the police killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Mike Ramos here, luckily didn’t kill anybody, though their “less lethal” munitions proved to be plenty injurious to more than a dozen people. The indictment by a special grand jury on assault charges for the APD officers who shot those people is being treated by the copagandists as a sin against all that is holy, but that’s why we have trials! They’re just not used to being exposed to the same potential for injustice by highly powerful prosecutors that they know gets directed at the people they arrest. They know it sucks! (Even if District Attorney José Garza were the radical socialist partisan that they shriek about, who gives a fuck? We *elected* him. That’s how it works.)

The city has already committed tens of millions of your tax dollars to the survivors of Eighth Street violence, which is a more true and telling verdict on the failings of our police force than might actually emerge from the criminal cases against individual officers. According to the police union, we should all be blaming ex-Chief Brian Manley for mismanaging the scene as badly as did Arredondo, which is a point well taken. It was also Manley who tried to feed Austinites a bunch of bullshit about the violent threat to *everyone’s* safety posed by the protesters – canards now being repeated by the copagandist defenders of the indicted officers. Dudes, I was there; some people had rocks and bottles, but only the cops had guns. In Texas, that’s not going to always be the case. ■

Setting an Agenda for Land Use

City Council continues to make progress on its renewed push to improve **land use regulations**, focusing on two proposals that’ll be on the agenda next week (June 9) regarding properties along the city’s priority transit corridors. One is a largely technical fix to the city’s **vertical mixed-use** ordinance, which is the city’s most successful density bonus program – allowing bigger buildings on those corridors in exchange for affordable housing and other public benefits included in the project – but is limited by various factors in the way it’s written.

Hence **VMU2**, a rewrite spearhead-

ed by Council Member **Ann**

Kitchen, which has been in the

works for months and is ready

for adoption as Item 80 on the

draft agenda. The second is a

broader and less defined initia-

tive (Item 66) to **reduce compat-**

ibility limits and parking require-

ments for all properties along the tran-

sit corridors, not just those that are zoned

for VMU. That one’s not an ordinance yet,

but if all goes well, it’ll be a resolution ask-

ing city staff to develop something that

Council can vote on in a few months.

CM **José “Chito” Vela** – last seen urging

colleagues “not to make arbitrary decisions

about how many feet to add or take away”

from regulations without more study (“Council

Recap: Affordability Crisis Challenges

Neighborhood Protections,” News, May 27) –

came back a week later via the Council mes-

sage board with a proposed amendment to

the VMU2 ordinance that would cut the dis-

tance that compatibility is triggered from 540

feet to **100 feet** for properties directly along

the Project Connect rail corridors, and would

reduce parking requirements for those prop-

erties to **25%** of what would otherwise be

required, or in some cases eliminate parking

requirements altogether “if appropriate condi-

tions are met,” with those conditions not yet

defined. Arbitrary or not, VMU2 sponsor Ann

Kitchen promptly replied that she would

accept that amendment, which is a good sign

for broadening Council consensus. In practi-

cal terms, what it means is that if a site is

already zoned VMU, and it’s directly on a rail

line, it can build out to whatever it’s zoned for

unless it’s directly next to (or backs up to) to

a single-family house. Whether that consen-

sus is broad enough to get through the more

wide-ranging Item 66 is an open question.

And as if to emphasize that this is a pro-

cess and not a single action, that **June 9**

agenda is packed with other land use

items, along with some 29 zoning and

neighborhood plan cases, including the pro-

posed development at **200 Academy**, the

**PUBLIC
NOTICE**
BY NICK
BARBARO

old **Austin Opera House**, coming back for its climactic third reading.

In Item 39 from Housing and Planning, the department is recommending against letting a project near **Plaza Saltillo** pay a **fee in lieu** of providing affordable housing on-site.

The developer is claiming that it’s economical-ly unfeasible to provide the housing, but they want the increased height, building cover, etc. that you get for including affordable housing, and city staff is, in this case, saying no to what they describe as “an office project” with

a minimal amount of housing. If the city really wants to have at least a modicum of affordable housing in desir-

able, transit-rich areas, these vol-

untary density bonus programs

are one of the few tools it has to

make that happen, and they

don’t work if you don’t enforce

them. Still, some no doubt feel

that any housing is better than none;

it’ll be interesting to hear the discussion

on this one. In addition, Item 62 will make it

easier to build **accessory dwelling units** by

eliminating the parking requirement within a

quarter-mile of a priority transit corridor or

Imagine Austin Center and loosening some

very arcane current rules on the placement of

the units on the lot. Hooray. And Item 69

would ask the city manager to establish a

“**district level planning process**,” a baby

step toward actual planning that the planning

department has long said it has no time for.

□

Meanwhile, by the time you read this, “mayoral candidate **Cella Israel** will [have] announce[d] her bold plan to address the housing supply shortage and make housing more accessible for all Austin residents, including families, seniors and renters.” That was this morning, Thu., June 2, at 10am, so maybe all that other stuff is moot by now.

Seriously, though, it’ll be interesting to see what her take on this is, and whether there’s actually a plan there or just a heavy dose of aspirational rhetoric. In any case, it’s a bold political move on her part; if she goes up against former Mayor **Kirk Watson** in November (or a December run-off), her strengths as a candidate don’t lie in knowing the nuts and bolts of city government, and there’s nothing nuttier and boltier in city government than the Land Development Code and housing policy.

□

Neighborhood pools open next week – at least 10 of them, with another 19 facilities still awaiting life-guards, whose hiring has been woefully slow (see p.10). Opening on Monday, June 6, are Balcones, Dick Nichols, Dove Springs, Garrison, Govalle, Montopolis, Northwest, Rosewood, Shipe, and Westenfield pools. For hours and other info: austintexas.gov/pools. ■

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



Open Letter to Austin,

Last year, we came together in the No Way on Prop A campaign. We stopped the police association from wrecking the city budget and cutting other city services.

Now, our existing services can't meet the new crises we face: rising **evictions**, stagnant minimum **wages**, understaffed **EMS**, erosion of reproductive **rights**.

This year, our city budget must truly advance equity to help everyone survive and thrive in Austin.

We need a Community Investment Budget: **Housing** & assistance for those in greatest need, support for crime survivors, **higher wages** for the lowest paid city workers and EMS, adequate staffing at our **parks, pools and libraries**, more!

Go to EquityActionATX.org to learn more and add your name or your group to the endorsement list!

Sincerely, Equity Action Team

Community Investment Budget

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Alliance For Safety and Justice
Austin Area Urban League
Austin Community Law Center
Austin Justice Coalition
Austin Pets Alive!
Avow
Crime Survivors for Safety & Justice
District 5 for Black Lives
Equity Action
Friends of Rosewood
Fund Texas Choice
Go Austin / Vamos Austin
Grassroots Leadership
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Texas Fair Defense Project
Texas Harm Reduction Alliance
Undoing White Supremacy Austin
Workers Defense Action Fund
Workers Defense Project

Lifeguards in Limbo

The city needs nearly three times as many lifeguards but has resisted raise to \$22/hour **BY ABE ASHER**

With the city of Austin facing a lifeguard shortage that has prevented it from opening more than half of its city pools at the start of the summer, a group of lifeguards is organizing for the wages and benefits it believes will alleviate the shortage. Citing the examples set by unionizing Starbucks and Amazon workers, **Lifeguards United** is pushing for a **\$22 per hour minimum wage** and a host of other enhanced benefits including holiday pay, paid time off, and reclassification from temporary to full-time city employees.

The current shortage is significant. According to **Aaron Levine**, an aquatic supervisor with the **Austin Parks and Recreation Department**, the city only had 237 lifeguards on its payroll as of late May, with roughly 120 more in training. It needs nearly three times as many lifeguards to fully operate all of its facilities.

“COVID killed our momentum drastically,” Levine said. “We had 850 lifeguards in 2019, for that summer, and most of those were in by June, we operated no problem, it was real easy ... And it was \$15

per hour. The only thing that’s really changed is we stopped training in March of 2020, huge economic depression, labor shortage, people got out of the workforce.” Levine also noted that it’s not just PARD that has struggled to fill job openings, nor is Austin the only major city struggling to fill lifeguarding jobs this summer. Chicago, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia are all also facing shortages, with the American Lifeguard Association warning back in March that a third of U.S. public pools were in danger of not opening for the summer.

Scott Cobb, a Lifeguards United organizer who has lifeguarded at **Barton Springs** since 2018, said that it’s not a mystery how Austin and other cities could solve the shortage. “They could have already implemented a \$22 wage,” he said. “That would have gotten a lot of people to come back to lifeguarding and it would have gotten a lot of new applicants, and the pools would not face being closed. It’s going to be very hard on the people of Austin in June when a lot of the pools are going to stay closed.”

“It’s going to be very hard on the people of Austin in June when a lot of the pools are going to stay closed.”

**LIFEGUARDS UNITED ORGANIZER
SCOTT COBB**



JOHN ANDERSON

Cobb pointed to Massachusetts as an example for Austin to follow. There, the state **Department of Conservation & Recreation** raised lifeguard wages to between \$21 and \$26 per hour. Though Massachusetts is still dealing with shortages in a select number of communities, the department’s commissioner told WCVB in Boston that the commonwealth is “in a much better spot this year than we were last year.”

Already, Austin has bowed to external pressure to raise wages. Earlier this year, the city raised the general starting rate for lifeguards from \$15 to **\$16 per hour**, and has been offering up to \$1,250 in bonuses for

new recruits who sign up promptly and work the entire summer.

It has not, however, committed to the raises that lifeguards believe would end the shortage. Cobb said that his group has received support from the city **Parks and Recreation Board** as well as several members of City Council, but they ultimately need action from the full City Council to further raise wages.

The city has **34 lifeguarded aquatic facilities**, with one closed for renovations. Just **15 of those facilities** will have opened on June 6, while the others remained closed – including a number of free neighborhood pools spread throughout the city.

A SPECIAL SESSION ON GUNS? REFORM ADVOCATES ARE WARY



Hundreds gathered at the Texas state Capitol on May 25 to remember the victims of the Uvalde school shooting

JOHN ANDERSON

Nicole Golden, executive director of nonprofit **Texas Gun Sense**, has dedicated her career to gun reform in the state. And as much as she’d like to see common-sense legislation enacted posthaste, she’s wary of a special session of the **Texas Legislature** that may be called in response to the May 24 slaughter of 19 children and two adults at Uvalde’s **Robb Elementary School**.

Her organization’s relationship with the Legislature reached an all-time low during its 2021 session(s). Bills supported by Texas Gun Sense never left committee (one would have closed loopholes in background checks; another would create an extreme risk protection order allowing a threatening person’s guns to be temporarily taken). At the same time, the passage of permitless carry despite an outpouring of opposition – even from law enforcement – was “a really challenging thing to witness,” Golden said.

Texas Gun Sense’s work for the last decade has focused on the Legislature – offering reliable data and guidance on policy and making sure lawmakers can hear the voices of survivors of gun violence. It’s been an uphill battle, and the group has pivoted to also work with local governments in establishing programs that prevent community violence and offer education on gun safety and storage. “Those are things we can move on outside of the Legislature,” Golden said, noting that state laws would

trump any local gun reform city councils or county commissions could try to enact. “And then redefining what success looks like and playing the long game. Last session was particularly brutal – last session was so rough.”

Gov. **Greg Abbott** gave two contradictory speeches on Friday, May 27 – one in Uvalde before grieving families, and one prerecorded that played at Houston’s NRA convention. In Uvalde, he said, “With regard to a special session, let me just say this: All options are on the table.” In his NRA speech, he said plenty of gun control laws already exist and yet they “have not stopped madmen.”

In terms of a special session, Golden said, “There’s some precedent for that ... But Gov. Abbott’s school safety plan after the Santa Fe shooting ... it seemed like maybe we could move some things forward and those things just didn’t happen. What I wouldn’t want to come out of a special session is more harmful legislation, so I’d be cautious.”

However, she’s not without optimism. “Where my hope lies is in the movement, the gun violence prevention movement,” she said. “It’s been building since Sandy Hook. In Texas we have a strong coalition, it’s diverse, and I have hope and faith in that. We have a strong voice and it won’t stop. Do I think that it’s gonna change legislatively at the state level? I can’t say that. Maybe we can move the needle on some small things.” And one crucial win that Texas Gun Sense secured last session may come back to haunt supporters of lax gun laws: an amendment to the permitless carry bill ensured the state is studying the impacts of the bill. *– Maggie Quinlan*

Lifeguard frustration with the city is not limited to wages, Cobb said. He believes he contracted COVID last winter at a department training conducted in the midst of the first Omicron surge, while the lack of holiday pay, barriers to affordable health insurance, and **unpaid training** have made the job less attractive to prospective applicants. “We work on Juneteenth or Memorial Day, we will not get time-and-a-half – but our managers, who are full-time employees, they will get time-and-a-half on Memorial Day,” Cobb said. “And we are required to make ourselves available on holidays, because it’s a busy day at the pool. So we can’t just say we don’t want to work on holidays ... but we’re not paid time-and-a-half.”

Levine, noting that many of the city’s lifeguards are high school and college students who are only available for seasonal work to begin with, argued that the job is already well-suited to meet its employees’ needs. “It’s lots of fun, it’s flexible, we’re outdoors, [and] \$16 is great pay for a temporary, seasonal job.”

Indeed, Austin’s payscale for lifeguards is among the highest in the state, but it has nevertheless failed to keep up with inflation and cost-of-living increases since the onset of the pandemic. “We should have a core group of lifeguards who are full-time city employees with full pay and benefits to reflect that,” Council Member **Chito Vela**, a former Barton Springs lifeguard, said at a Council meeting in March. “It’s always been strange to me that we don’t.”

Cobb said that if Lifeguards United and its allies are unsuccessful in their push for a \$22 per hour wage, they’ll consider launching a unionization campaign. He sees the organizing effort as something that will ultimately benefit not just lifeguards, but the entire city.

“We’re going to continue to push for 22, so there is not a lifeguard shortage next spring,” Cobb said. ■

“COVID killed our momentum drastically. ... The only thing that’s really changed is we stopped training in March of 2020, huge economic depression, labor shortage, people got out of the workforce.”

PARD’S AARON LEVINE

NFL Proudly Sends More Funds to Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed, the Austin-based public interest justice center, has once again received a sizable grant from the **National Football League**, part of the NFL’s **Inspire Change** social justice initiative. “The work Texas Appleseed does embodies the true meaning of Inspire Change,” said **Anna Isaacson**, the NFL’s senior VP for social responsibility. “Their continuous efforts to reform policies and practices that disproportionately affect low income residents and minorities, as well as their work with key decision makers, shows their commitment to Texans across the state.”

Twenty-one organizations nationwide are divvying up \$6.5 million in funds as part of this grant renewal. Some of these are well-known national non-profits – Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, National Urban League – but most are groups like Texas Appleseed whose work involves challenging the people in power and fighting for real change in how they treat the poor and marginalized. So the Inspire Change initiative is at least walking the talk it launched with in 2017, amid the **Colin Kaepernick** controversy and the prior year’s police killings of **Alton Sterling** in Baton Rouge and **Philando Castile** outside of St. Paul.

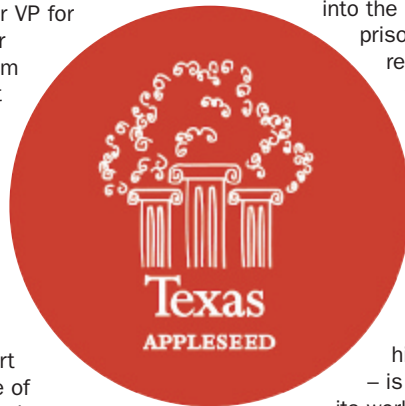
Texas Appleseed’s core mission is to promote justice for all by “leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers, other professionals, and community partners to identify practical solutions to difficult, systemic problems.” **Jennifer Carreon**, director of TA’s Criminal Justice Project, highlights some of those practical solutions that the NFL is helping make happen, such as ending driver license suspensions for failure to pay previous fines (and then incurring new fines if caught driving without a license). “There’s a cycle of debt [incurred by] drivers without a license, who are beholden to a third-party vendor to pay fees and fines for what are basically traffic violations,” Carreon said, noting that this impacts “tens of thousands” of Texans. “And none of that money is going back into the communities. So we are working diligently to end that program statewide.” They’ve already seen success in ending locally incurred fines leading to license suspensions in Harris County, Austin, and Dallas.

Other initiatives the NFL is helping pay for include “reducing the amount of contact with

law enforcement for people with mental health or substance abuse issues”; a Clean Slate initiative making it easier for Texans with low-level criminal records to get those sealed (it’s possible now, but only 1 in 700 eligible Texans has been successful at doing so); and getting higher education offerings into the state’s adult and juvenile prisons, a “rare” criminal justice reform measure that also enjoys substantial support from conservatives.

Much of Texas Appleseed’s support in its 26 years of existence has come from fellow Texans – law firms, foundations, philanthropies. But support from national organizations – particularly high-profile ones like the NFL – is becoming “imperative” to its work, says Carreon. “From a statewide perspective, the political landscape informs the business landscape, and the people who have the money to potentially fund things like this on the state level. We’re in the belly of the beast here; criminal justice reform in Texas impacts the politics of Republicans throughout the Southern states, so what we do here matters.” Support like this sends a message that the official politics of Texas “are not how all Texans feel, and that we need help,” Carreon says. “And that help comes in many forms, including funding.”

– Mike Clark-Madison



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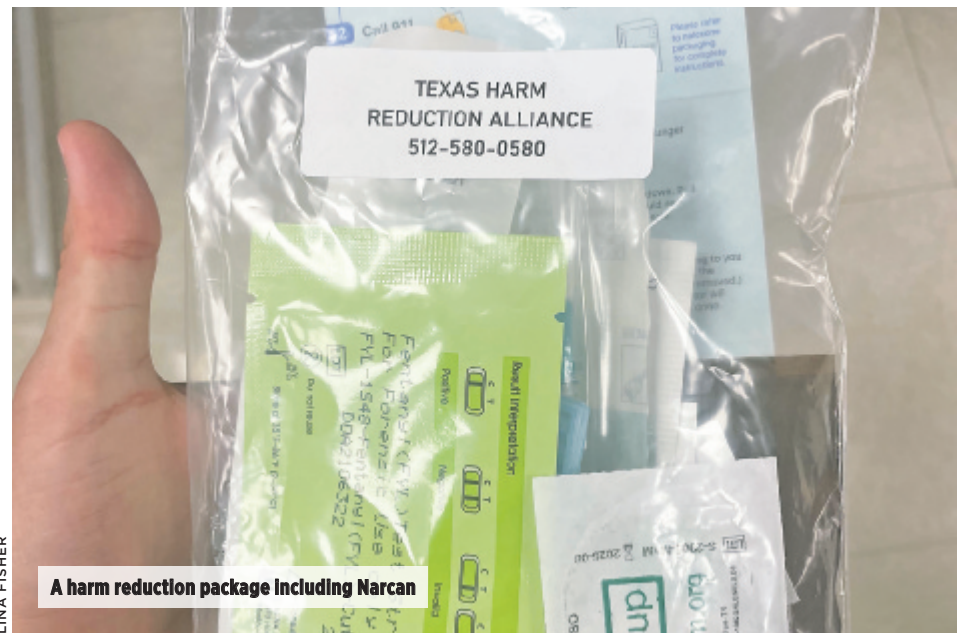
Travis County Declares an Opioid Crisis

After years of organizing by **Texas Harm Reduction Alliance**, including an emotional town hall at the beginning of May, the **Travis County Commissioners Court** unanimously declared the opioid overdose epidemic a public health crisis on May 24. Overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the county, and since 2020, fentanyl-related overdoses have almost tripled. The crisis resolution dedicates \$350,000 to harm reduction organizations for supplies and outreach staff positions, looks into expanding access to overdose-reversal drug **naloxone** throughout the county, increases safe syringe disposal systems, and creates monthly check-in meetings for the next six months between directly impacted community members, outreach workers, and county **Health and Human Services** staff to report progress to the court.

The resolution builds upon prior investments to address the crisis in 2021, including \$100,000 to **Central Health**-contracted providers of methadone treatment (which

reduces opioid craving and withdrawal) and \$150,000 to Integral Care's **Medication Assisted Therapy** program, as well as funds from the \$100 million in American Rescue Plan dollars earmarked by the county for housing and services to help people exit homelessness. The new \$350,000 will likely be offset by an influx of funds from the state of Texas' \$1.9 billion settlements with opioid makers; it's intended to go directly to community organizations such as THRA. The county's HHS staff will work with Health Authority Dr. **Desmar Walkes** to authorize funds for broader naloxone distribution, and commissioners have asked for a report by Oct. 15 with an "asset map" of existing services and resources – though that date could change, as it comes two weeks after the fiscal year 2023 budget is approved.

In addition to the county's resolution, **Integral Care** made a presentation outlining plans to expand access to methadone, an opioid dependence treatment. Central Health has been providing **buprenorphine/naloxone**



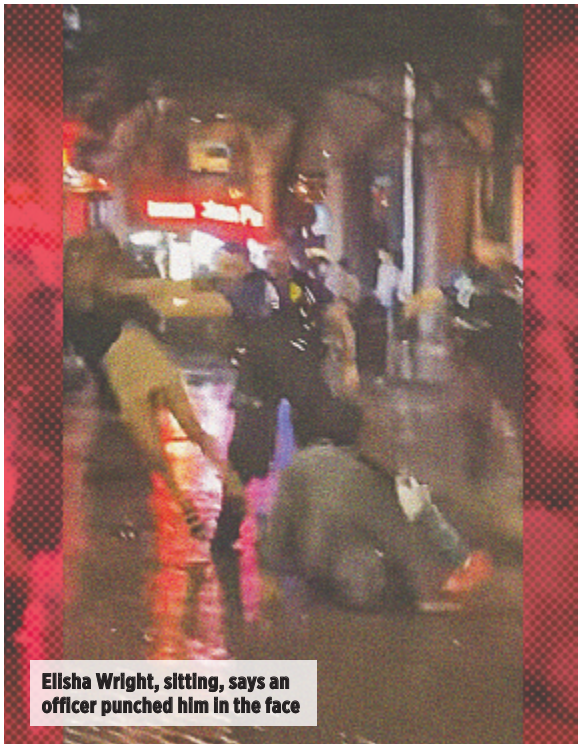
LINA FISHER

(Suboxone) for use in the MAT program, but in response to advocates' calls for expanded methadone access specifically, Integral Care plans to open new access points sometime this summer. IC's rep said they are in talks with two providers at four sites across the county, but that "going live" with services

will likely not happen until after the summer. In the meantime, patients can call **512/472-HELP (4357)**, IC's 24/7 help line.

THRA and other advocates celebrated the crisis declaration: "As overdose deaths continue to surge, we need to meet this crisis by putting resources into communities

Video of APD Officer Throwing Woman to Ground Goes Viral



Elisha Wright, sitting, says an officer punched him in the face

Family members of **Elisha Wright Jr.**, a 22-year-old Black man charged with assaulting police, joined the **Austin Justice Coalition** on Wednesday to call attention to a questionable **use of force** by Austin police officers caught on video.

Taken just before 2am on the morning of May 1, the five-second video opens with Wright having been pushed to the ground by one of three Austin police officers at the intersection of Sixth and Trinity. As an officer stands over Wright, a woman walks purposefully toward a second officer. As she nears him, the officer pushes with both hands against her shoulders, sending her flying backward onto the street. The officer immediately rushes to pull the woman's hands behind her back. Wright simultaneously attempts to stand but is tackled by the other two officers, who punch him in the face.

Dallas attorney **Justin Moore**, who is representing Wright, appeared at Wednesday's rally and said that the video speaks for itself. "What we have here is the best evidence this case will ever have – the video that is circulating online. And that video clearly shows Elisha being victimized, brutalized by police officers."

An APD spokesperson said the department is aware of the video and provided this statement: "This incident began when multiple APD officers in the area responded to a fight between four people, including Mr. Elisha Wright and his companion. The incident is captured more completely by body-worn camera video. Officers attempted to de-escalate the situation, but Mr. Wright and his companion sought to continue the altercation. Officers observed that Mr. Wright and his companion were the

aggressors and took steps to arrest them. Mr. Wright hit an officer in the face with his fist, causing an injury before officers could arrest Mr. Wright and his companion."

"None of that happened, based on what I've heard from witnesses and people that were involved in the altercation," Moore said when asked about a police report containing the same information. He added that his client suffered a concussion from the arrest along with bruises and swelling to his face. But more important is the felony charge Wright received – assault of a public servant – which caused the revocation of his parole and could lead to years in prison. Moore said Wright was arrested on the morning of the rally while meeting with his parole officer and booked into jail as the speakers gave their remarks. He was released on bond the next day.

Near the end of the rally, Elisha Wright Sr., a lifelong Austinite, spoke about his son's arrest, saying that when he was young he accepted the fact that police used violence to make arrests. "But now, with everything that's going on, I can't just accept it, not for my kids," he said. Elisha "gets in trouble because he's a boy growing up, but I just want to be behind him and let the cops know that it's not acceptable."

APD has a policy specifying that body-cam footage of uses of force resulting in serious injury be released within 10 days of an incident, but the spokesperson did not immediately respond when asked whether this applies to the Wright arrest.

The *Chronicle* reached out to the woman whom Wright's attorneys and court documents identified as the thrown woman, but had not received a response as of press time. – *Brant Bingamon*

PROVIDED BY STAFFORD MOORE, PLLC

most at risk. That's exactly what this declaration does," said THRA's **Paulette Soltani**. But as the directives are implemented over the next six months, questions remain. Commissioner **Brigid Shea** pointed out that the county is short-staffed and may not be able to carry out the resolution's directives with the urgency required. "It won't be as quick as you want it," warned **Pilar Sanchez**, the county executive over HHS; she requested a new special project staff position from the commissioners, as her department doesn't have a dedicated position for substance use disorder response.

How the \$350,000 will be divided up is yet to be delineated. Alongside prioritizing urgent Narcan distribution, advocates asked for funding to increase staff at **The Other Ones Foundation** and **Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center**, who have existing relationships with directly affected populations. Many speakers who addressed the court drove home the same message: Harm reduction is about providing medication and supplies, but also about reducing stigma against drug users and building trust – mandates that THRA and other organizations on the ground have been following for years. As **David Johnson** of **Grassroots Leadership** put it, "Leave it to the people who are doing the work." – *Lina Fisher*

After Long Labor, an Integral Care Union Is Born

After a yearlong campaign, the **United Workers of Integral Care** succeeded in their effort to unionize **Integral Care**, the largest mental health care provider in Travis County. **Integral Care's Board of Trustees** at its May 26 meeting unanimously adopted a consultation policy that outlines the union's structure and how it will engage with management at the public-sector "local mental health authority." Both sides will select a neutral third party to verify that UWIC has collected signed pledges to join the union from at least 5% of non-management employees, a threshold organizers say they will clear easily.

The quick vote provided an anticlimactic ending to a union drive that, as the *Chronicle* has reported, has not been smooth and seamless. **Integral Care CEO David Evans** and other executives resisted employees' efforts to organize, then attempted (in organizers' view) to co-opt the emerging UWIC with a management-appointed **Employee Advisory Council**, then made sweeping unilateral changes to the draft consultation policy that UWIC rejected. But a final round of talks involving Evans, Board Chair **Hal Katz**, UWIC organizers, and their sponsors at **Communications Workers of America** District 6 led to an outcome everyone could support. "The [consultation] policy supports **Integral Care's** efforts to keep communication lines open," Evans said in a statement following board authorization of the union. "We're committed to creating an environment where all employees have a voice."

The nascent union has already cited its success in persuading the board, back in December, to increase IC's starting wage from \$15 to \$20 per hour for certain positions and job classes where turnover was rampant. Initially, IC managers wanted to do an eight-month compensation study before considering any raises, but instead opted for the targeted wage increase while deciding how to best provide cost-of-living adjustments to the entire IC workforce. On May 26, trustees also approved \$2.3 million for a 5% pay increase for the rest of IC's personnel. "I am grateful to our board for their investment in and support of our staff," Evans said of the compensation increases. "I am grateful to our team for the quality care they provide adults and children in our community every day." – *Austin Sanders*



The largest mental health provider in Travis County has finally unionized

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Gone to Hog Heaven

Central Texas Pig Rescue is a haven for abandoned pets

BY HANNAH UEBELE

The residents of **Central Texas Pig Rescue** seem right at home on the sanctuary's new 26-acre property in **Bastrop**, dubbed "**The Enchanted Forest.**" And they're happy to give interviews.

Maxwell, a friendly fellow with crinkled, smiley eyes and sleek black hair, is the first pig to welcome me to CTPR. I admire his handsome tusks as he lies down, allowing me the privilege of rubbing his belly. **Pixie**, a big beautiful girl with black-and-pink coloring, is at ease for our interview in her shady wooded nook where she's pulled up a few roots to munch on. Silvery, furry "**Mama**" **Josie** is a wonderful conversationalist who gets her points across in continuous soft grunts. **Agnes**, with her lovely black-and-white coat, jauntily trots over, ears a-flapping, to inquire about snacks (a girl after my own heart). They are a few of the 203 pigs that are in CTPR's care. They've come nationwide from difficult backgrounds – abandonment and abuse to name a few – but have found a new lease on life.

Dan Illescas founded CTPR in 2016 as a way to support pigs and pig parents. The nonprofit has since grown into a sanctuary to improve the lives of pigs and break down misconceptions about them. Pigs are regarded as livestock by federal law, meaning they don't have the same protections against abuse that dogs and cats have, even when kept as pets. CTPR upgraded

from its 3-acre location to the new 26-acre property in 2021 to better serve its residents, Illescas said. But their exact location in Bastrop is private to ensure the safety of residents and prevent animals getting dropped off at their gate. "The numbers tell the tale," he said. "95 to 97% of all pet pigs never stay in their original home." He said locals constantly reach out, hoping to drop off their pigs.

While the rescue hopes to welcome more pigs to the sanctuary in the future, it's not currently feasible, said **Tracey Stabile**, a director of CTPR. "Do we hope to take in more pigs? Yes. Specifically the most urgent cases, situations where pigs don't have any other options," she said. "But right now we don't have the resources to take in more pigs: Human resources are something that we're lacking [and] funds are something that we're lacking."

CTPR does lead a rehoming support group to "safely shepherd unwanted pigs from one home to another," Illescas noted. But as for the current CTPR residents? They're here to stay, Illescas said. "We don't really adopt them out since we've learned how emotionally connected pigs get to their family, it's traumatic for them to go to a new home," he said. "Pigs are extremely complex and much like people." He compares their intellectual and emotional capacity to that of a 2- or 3-year-old human.

The No. 1 thing you can do to help pigs is to stop eating them.

NAACP Blindsided by Condemnation of Longtime Offices

After 57 years at **1717 E. 12th**, Austin's branch of the NAACP had the rug pulled out from under it with a surprise condemnation that will force the branch to relocate, President **Nelson Linder** announced on Facebook.

After Winter Storm Uri damaged the building in February 2021, Linder says the Simpson United Methodist Church, which owns the space, promised its NAACP tenants that it would be repaired. Given that promise, the NAACP renewed its lease in October. In December, the church office told Linder that repairs would be complete by the end of February. Instead, the group paid non-discounted rent for 12 months while working out of a small mobile office trailer which sat outside the main building.

The city of Austin, in conjunction with the church, an insurance company, and a contractor, made "the impromptu decision to condemn this building after promising to repair it," Linder wrote. In his Facebook post, Linder asked the city why it would condemn the property now, given that "conditions in this building have not changed since you assured the Austin NAACP a year ago, it would be repaired ... This is indicative of how African Americans were treated after the Winter storm."

The NAACP branch will move into 1050 E. 11th. The Simpson United Methodist Church had not responded to request for comment as of press time.

— *Maggie Quinlan*



Pigs cuddle in "The Enchanted Forest"

PROVIDED BY CENTRAL TEXAS PIG RESCUE

Behavioral complaints are much of the reason why people try to give up their pig, Stabile noted. Those issues are largely because of the pig's environment, she said. Out here, pigs get to live on their own terms. "Seeing the pigs thriving here, it feels like they're living their best life," Stabile said. "They need a stimulating environment, and we've been able to see their personalities blossom in different ways here and new behaviors we're really excited to see." Those behaviors include cooling off in mud spas, creating their own pathways through the brush, and making nests underneath yaupon groves.

The land was practically untouched before CTPR moved in, but now consists of thoughtfully designed pig neighborhoods. Illescas has worked in construction for over 20 years, which has come quite in handy when building a sanctuary from scratch. Now that the pig residents are settled into their new home, the team can focus on projects that improve the lives of CTPR volunteers, such as installing a well, getting solar panels up and running, and looking at the possibility of putting wind turbines on the property. "We need more power, that's the biggest thing," Stabile said. "We survived the winter without any heat and we aren't connected to the electric grid." As a nonprofit, CTRP has relied on donations to fund its projects; it has no paid staff and is fully run by volunteers. A tiny home will be delivered at the end of this month for their live-in animal caretaker(s) to reside.

Even if you have all the right intentions, Illescas encourages most people not to adopt a pig. "I ultimately tell people just come visit pigs, hang out with pigs, go to sanctuaries, and involve yourself in sanctuaries." That's the best way for people to "see pigs differently," and cultivate meaningful connections.

Stabile said that once both pig and human residents' needs are met, the organization can focus more on advocacy to change legislation around pigs. The No. 1 thing you can do to help pigs is to stop eating them, Stabile said. "There are a lot of people who come here and then tell us that they've stopped eating pig products when they leave." Illescas gestured to the pigs. "We let these people speak for themselves." ■



"The white box" that Austin NAACP President Nelson Linder says the branch has been working out of since Winter Storm Uri

PROVIDED BY NELSON LINDER

“HE SAVED MY LIFE”

Austin resident Linda S. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy. “My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life.” Then she met Dr. Brown.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Linda explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. “How can you live for the next 30 years when you don’t even want to get out of bed to do simple things?”

Linda hasn’t worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would ‘touch’ her feet. She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling, and sharp pains that those suffering from neuropathy often describe. “The way that I would describe it, it’s equivalent to walking on glass.”

Unfortunately Linda’s story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you are unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis, you’re not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping, or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You’re struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to ‘just live with the pain’ and you’re taking medications that aren’t working or have terrible side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago Linda read an article about a new type of clinic in Austin that works with difficult to treat cases such as

Peripheral Neuropathy suffers, without invasive surgeries and medications.

Dr. Lucas Brown DACM, L.Ac, founder of Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing the blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

“Now when I go to bed at night I don’t have those shooting pains. I don’t have that burning sensation. I don’t have pain coming up my legs,” Linda enthusiastically describes life after receiving treatment with Lucas. “I can wear socks and shoes!”

Now Linda and her sister operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

“It’s life altering. As far as I’m concerned, Lucas saved my life!”

Dr. Brown has been helping the senior community for over 10 years using cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed ‘hopeless’ or ‘untreatable’, he consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Austin and the surrounding area. If you missed

too many tee times because of pain or you’ve passed on a hike in the greenbelt because you’re afraid of falling, it is time to call Lucas and his staff at Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness Center.

**It’s time you let your golden years
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Dr. Brown is now accepting a limited amount of new patients. In an effort to protect his patients, both current and future, he has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in his clinic. **Only 10 new neuropathy patients will be accepted before the end of June 2022.**



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Everything Changes

Diving into the iterations of the Project Connect design

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

Project Connect was pitched to voters in 2020 as a complete transformation of public transit in Austin. That doesn't come cheap; those voters needed to approve a permanent tax to fund \$7.1 billion in "initial investment" on what, all told, was a \$10 billion-plus big-bang plan to catch up with decades of failure to invest in transit, during which Austin became the fastest-growing metro area in the country.

But 17 months after 58% of voters approved that tax, the team designing the system overhaul had some bad news to share. That \$7.1 billion price tag was now projected to exceed \$10 billion just for the "initial investment." That's largely because everything in Austin – construction costs, labor costs, property acquisition – now costs about 30% more than it did when the City Council and Capital Metro Board of Directors endorsed the Project Connect system vision in March 2020, days before COVID-19 locked down the entire city.

It also reflects choices that need to be made as Project Connect moves from the 5% complete design that voters considered

in November 2020 to the 30% complete stage that will be reached later this year. That milestone will be submitted for approval by Council and the Cap Metro board, as well as the board of the Austin Transit Partnership – the joint venture created by the city and transit authority to manage Project Connect build-out and the expenditure of that dedicated tax revenue.

At that point, the Project Connect team can begin working in earnest with the Federal Transit Administration to draw down federal funding to offset the cost of the project. Because the local match for that funding is not a finite amount of bond revenue but a tax set-aside that will last forever (and help fund operations once PC goes live), the sticker-shock of the escalating price tag can still be managed with the funds available; it may just take longer, or require more federal money than originally planned. (There is more federal funding available thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the "bipartisan infrastructure law" that Congress managed to pass last year.)



A potential vision for the new Blue Line Bridge, accommodating pedestrians and cyclists, Capital Metro buses, and the Blue Line light rail serving the East Riverside corridor. This vantage point is from the South Central Waterfront near the old *Statesman* building; the northern end of the bridge would connect to Trinity Street near the *Four Seasons*.

COURTESY OF AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

Project Connect planners are beginning to work with a wide range of community stakeholders to figure out what trade-offs need to be made to get to the finish line. Updated cost estimates will be part of the 30% complete stage, allowing for a more informed community discussion. ATP's Peter Mullan, in charge of design, and Courtney Chavez, director of equity and inclusion, agree that designing an equitable transit system is their mandate and that the more expensive system now on offer is essential for achieving that equity.

"I can't view one station or one area over another without understanding the whole system and how they're going to interact

with each other," Chavez told the *Chronicle*. "Each piece is so important that if we start to segment it out" – i.e., choose to invest in one place rather than another for cost reasons – "we're going to miss something really big." Chavez is studying the demographic data provided by people attending Project Connect workshops to understand who's being heard from and who still needs to be brought into the process; she aims to present preliminary findings at the ATP's June board meeting. Until then, the iterative design work continues. Over the next few pages we'll look at five of the more challenging design features in the system.

CONTINUED ON P.18

DRIVERS WANTED

Who will guide Project Connect into the station? BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

Randy Clarke is not irreplaceable, although there was a bit of that vibe on May 23 as he wrapped up his final monthly update to the Capital Metro Board of Directors as the agency's president and CEO. The seven board members (there's one vacancy), in order of seniority, took turns thanking him for accomplishing what the transit authority was created to do 37 years ago – move Austin into the 21st century with a high-capacity, congestion-proof transit system at its foundation. While county commissioner and Board Chair Jeff Travillion teased the encomia as if Clarke was about to get roasted – "Some of us may say nice things, some of us may say other things" – there was much praising and only a bit of teasing. For his part, Clarke closed his highlight reel with a sign he put up on the way to his office a couple months after he started in 2018: "The best way to predict the future is

to create it." "It was one of the first things I wanted to do here, which was not live in the past," he said. "It's all about whatever we want to do." And later: "I will always be appreciative of the opportunity I was given here; this is an incredible agency with incredible people doing incredible work."

Clarke is now on his way to Washington, D.C., to take the reins of the capital city's very troubled Metro, which is itself a validation of what a big deal and success story Project Connect has become. But he will indeed need to be replaced at Cap Metro, and he already needed to be replaced at the helm of the **Austin Transit Partnership**, the joint venture between Cap Metro and the city of Austin that's using the taxes earmarked for PC to build out the system. That's because community stakeholders had raised concerns about Clarke doing both jobs, when they supported the Project Connect tax rate election on the premise that ATP would be a venue for independent community leadership and oversight of the now \$10 billion "initial investment." Or, as the ATP's mission statement reads: "Established as an independent organization, the Austin Transit Partnership will guide the Project Connect investment with transparency and accountability throughout the program."

Clarke helped set up the ATP, so the fact that he chose to serve as its executive director as well as Cap Metro CEO suggests that in his view, the two organizations need to be more integrated rather than separated. That's a place where he and his team, and the stakeholders – including the Project Connect **Community Advisory Committee**, chaired by Planning Commissioner Awais Azhar – may just have to agree to disagree. To resolve the tension, the ATP Board commissioned an analysis by the Eno Center for Transportation, whose final report in late March urged the board to commit to either integrated or independent leadership once and for all: "Our analysis found that the current governance of Project Connect is unsustainable as it is currently structured. Either leadership model can work but must be intentional and supported by a common understanding of organizational roles and responsibilities. Following the leadership decision by the ATP Board, there needs to be a collaborative, transparent, and mutual agreement about the extent of ATP's independence, and a clear decision about how autonomous ATP will be from Capital Metro. Without this clarity, it would be difficult for either leadership model to succeed. Given the current stage of the program, final decisions on the governance and leadership structure should not wait."



I-r: Greg Canally, Dottie Watkins, and Bill McCamley

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP, APITAL METRO, TRANSIT FORWARD

So the ATP Board did not wait; it decided in April to go with an independent leader and elevated **Greg Canally** – who came to ATP after years as an executive in the city’s finance office, with deep involvement in capital projects and especially the \$1 billion-plus in transportation bond spending authorized by Austin voters since 2014 – as interim executive director. However, that was quickly offset by changing the composition of the ATP Board itself, first by adding a City Council member (currently Mayor Steve Adler) and a Cap Metro Board member (currently Williamson County rep Eric Stratton), then adding Clarke’s successor and Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca, who oversees mobility, as ex officio members. Originally the ATP just had a three-member board of “community experts” in planning and sustainability (Huston-Tillotson President Colette Pierce Burnette, herself nearing retirement), engineering and construction (architect Veronica Castro de Barrera), and finance (Tony Elkins, a 35-year veteran at funding infrastructure projects).

Back at Cap Metro, interim CEO **Dottie Watkins**, who has been holding down the operations front while Clarke shepherded Project Connect, is a literal Cap Metro lifer, having started as a UT shuttle driver back in 1994, a dozen-plus promotions ago. She’s certainly a contender for the permanent position, particularly since upon her last promotion (to deputy CEO) she replaced herself as chief operating officer with Andy Skabowski, a New York City transit veteran who came to Cap Metro from Houston Metro, where he had the same role. But the Cap Metro Board has committed to a nationwide search that, according to Travillion, will include ample opportunities for community engagement.

“There needs to be a collaborative, transparent, and mutual agreement about the extent of ATP’s independence, and a clear decision about how autonomous ATP will be from Capital Metro.”

ANALYSIS BY THE ENO CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Watkins and Canally are two pairs of steady hands for now, but presumably only one of them will take on the role of chief PC expeditor. Three acronymic engineering firms (AECOM, HNTB, HDR) are getting the initiative to the 30% completion point at which the PC team can seek federal funding in earnest. They aim to reach that milestone before the end of the year, which will keep the system’s biggest-lift components – the Orange and Blue lines and their bridges and tunnels and stations – on track to meet the time frame promised to the voters. At the May 23 meeting, the board approved \$6 million more to HNTB for the Blue Line and \$7 million more to AECOM for the Orange Line, to cover the cost of the additional design and engineering for the new and enhanced components of PC that we cover in this issue.

Meanwhile, the **Austin Transportation Department** is more focused on near-term improvements to support PC components like the new MetroRapid Expo and Pleasant Valley lines, as well as right-of-way management and corridor improvements along the Drag, North Lamar, and East Riverside. That department is also going to be without a leader soon, as ATD Director **Rob Spillar**, who was the department’s first full-time employee back in 2008 – it now has more than 400 – announced his departure next month to join a national consulting firm as its practice leader for smart cities, which Austin went whole hog on to compete in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Smart City Challenge in 2016. While Columbus, Ohio, ended up with that \$40 million grant, the city has been quietly moving forward with some of the initiatives spawned by that effort, such as roadside sensors. Spillar’s boss Fiandaca, who came to Austin from Boston not long after Randy Clarke did, kinda

has her hands full with the airport as well as being an ex officio ATP Board member; Public Works Director **Richard Mendoza** will become the interim ATD leader beginning June 5. Mendoza, any of Spillar’s four assistant directors, or several other City Hall and One Texas Center veterans could pretty seamlessly step into Spillar’s role.

At the beginning of May, there was yet another important leadership role in the Project Connect ecosystem waiting to be filled. **Transit Forward** is the grass-tops nonprofit formed by stakeholders such as the Downtown Austin Alliance, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and diversity chambers, and the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, as well as the aforementioned engineering firms, to “educate the [region] about the benefits of an effective and accessible public transit system.” This is intended to be the stay-the-course, whatever-it-takes lobby who can push community sentiment forward when things get tough, such as with the ever-growing cost estimates or the not-that-far-fetched possibility that the Texas Legislature or local conservatives will try to undo the Project Connect tax rate election at some point.

After a three-month search, on May 16 Transit Forward announced **Bill McCamley** as its new executive director; most recently chief of staff to state Rep. Mary González, D-Clint, McCamley is a former New Mexico state rep and secretary of its workforce agency and has worked on everything from border infrastructure to the Land of Enchantment’s legalization of cannabis. Upon arriving in Austin about a year ago (after abruptly leaving New Mexico following threats on his life), he also took on strategic engagement for The Other Ones Foundation and its Esperanza Community for those seeking to exit homelessness. “Bill understands what it means to build community in an equitable and sustainable way,” said Transit Forward Board Chair Patrick Rose in a statement. “He understands the critical role that infrastructure plays in economic development, and he has the rare combination of experience, heart, and vision for this role.” ■

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PROJECT CONNECT CONTINUED FROM P.16

The Downtown/South Congress Tunnel

The Downtown/South Congress tunnel planned for Project Connect is both exciting and vexing. Only 11 other U.S. cities have subways, but lots of others with newer light-rail systems wish they had built them when they still could. Going underground solves the potentially deal-killing problem of chronic Downtown gridlock without taking away auto travel lanes and parking, sure to prompt a political battle that transit backers would likely lose. But the tunnel is also very expensive. In the original vision presented to voters in November 2020, it already accounted for \$2 billion of the total “initial investment” package of \$7.1 billion. Now, it’s projected to cost an additional \$2.1 billion in what’s more like an \$10 billion package.



The new 2.5-mile South Congress tunnel would take the Orange Line underground between Second and Third streets and under the river, and bring it back to the surface near Live Oak Street, as shown in the composite rendering (at right) prepared by Capital Metro. In between will be two new underground stations; the cross section below depicts a new SoCo station between Monroe and Elizabeth streets.

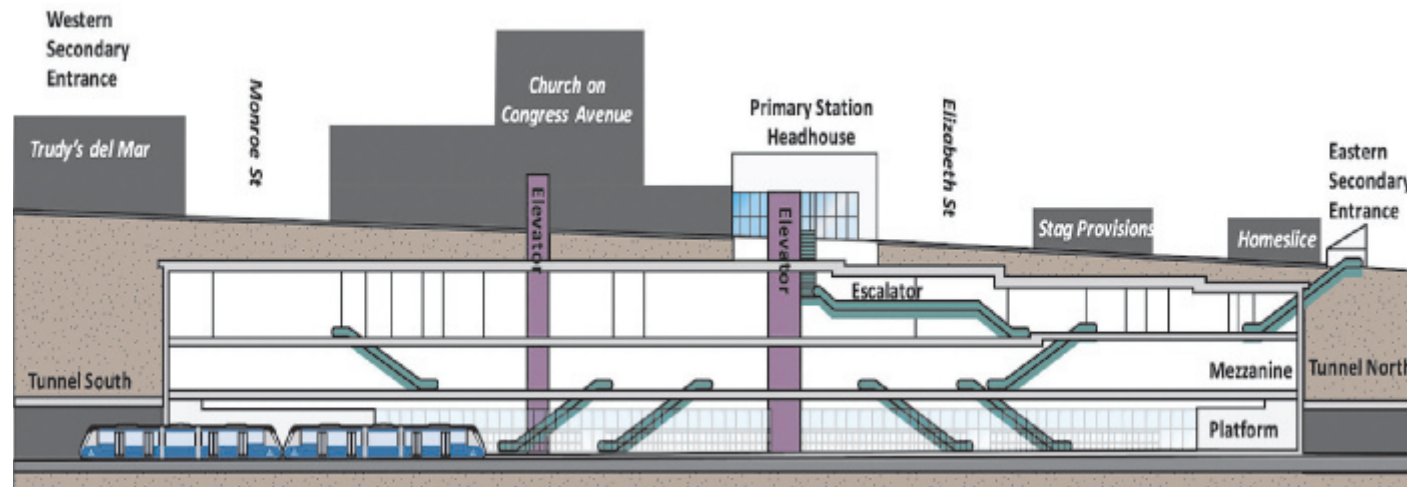


Everything is more expensive now, like Austin real estate and construction wages and materials costs, but the tunnel has also been extended about 2.5 miles, south from Third Street, under the lake, and down South Congress as far as Live Oak Street. That is because of a state Capitol view corridor, which protects vistas of the beloved home of our unbeloved Texas state government. How does a train running down the middle of South Congress do that? The poles that will carry the overhead wire that powers the Orange Line will break the view corridor plane. (The up-and-down slopes of South Congress don’t help here.) The city already had to rebuild the Waller Creek Tunnel intake at Waterloo Park for extending a few feet into the defined view corridor over it, at a projected cost of \$5.6 million.

Peter Mullan, who at that time led Waterloo Greenway (which worked on the park design but not the intake), says that currently, Project

Connect staff are “not doing any engineering work on a shorter tunnel,” but that could change next year. Planners hope the 88th Texas Legislature in early 2023 can provide regulatory relief from the Capitol view corridors at least in this one case, but also have worked out a contingency plan. “We’ve been acting based on the feedback we’ve gotten on the plan that the voters approved,” Mullan said. “So we’ve been trying to execute on that now and then, depending on where we end up in the future, we may have to go back and reevaluate.”

The slopes of South Congress also make it challenging to design the tunnel, the entrances to what are now two planned south side underground stations, and the portal where it will emerge at street level near Live Oak. But SoCo is also a prime transit destination with heavy pedestrian traffic, and Mullan said, “The places that are most challenging are the places where transit can have the most impact.”





An overhead view of the multimodal concept for the Blue Line Bridge shown on p.16. Project Connect planners originally envisioned a bridge that included the snaking ped/bike path but not bus lanes, but have changed course in response to feedback from both the community and Cap Metro.

The Blue Line Bridge

If the thought of an Austin subway excites you, wait until you emerge from that subway on a brand-new “signature” bridge crossing Lady Bird Lake between Trinity Street and the South Central Waterfront, near the old *Statesman* site. This is the Blue Line Bridge, which will carry trains to and from East Riverside and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport as they enter and leave the city center. (Some Blue Line trains will start and end Downtown; others will “inter-line” north along the Orange Line.) A lake crossing at Trinity, by whatever mode, has been a fantasy of Downtown stakeholders for nearly 40 years.

The Blue Line Bridge will also carry pedestrians and cyclists in some fashion; most recently, community voices have urged that it also accommodate Capital Metro bus service. That would improve Cap Metro frequency and coverage on bus routes serving East and Southeast Austin, thus meeting Project Connect’s broad goal of creating equity in mobility. It would add about \$60 million to the current \$150 million estimate for the bridge.

That’s small change compared to the South Congress tunnel, but the community is approaching the point where it will be asked to accept trade-offs in scope or sequencing (i.e., making it smaller or taking longer) to absorb the escalating costs. The Austin Transportation Department is also looking at extending transit priority lanes on Guadalupe and Lavaca streets across the Drake Bridge that connects that two-way pairing to South First Street, in conjunction with other planned work at that lake crossing.

ATD and Cap Metro are working together to “enhance bus operations” on the Drake bridge, ATD spokesperson Jack Flagler told us, to benefit the transit agency’s local, express, and MetroRapid bus services in the area. “The preliminary design concept would include transit priority treatments over the bridge,” Flagler continued, adding that “further engineering efforts and public involvement will take place this year.” Construction of the Drake Bridge improvements could take place “during or after a planned intersection safety project at S. First and Barton Springs Road, which is anticipated to be complete in spring of 2023.”

The call for buses on the Blue Line Bridge originated with equity advocates, but Chavez says that she doesn’t think of an equitable system as emerging from specific design choices. “It’s a given that I want more access,” Chavez said; she’s more focused on ensuring that bus and rail rates remain the same, and that Cap Metro’s “underlying service network” remains accessible to “the communities that need that access” the most.

Peter Mullan adds that he and other Project Connect planners are taking a longer view when it comes to these design decisions. Austin may not need two sets of bus lanes crossing the lake today, but what about 20 years from now? “Will we wish we had a route for buses to cross the river at both locations?” Mullan said. Maybe the community and political leaders will decide that’s worth spending \$60 million on. Either way, Mullan identified decisions like these as critical to understanding the message voters sent in 2020 when they approved Prop A and the indefinite tax that came along with it: “Do it right.”

CONTINUED ON P.20

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Down on the Drag

In multiple ways, bringing the Orange and Blue lines through the Drag is the toughest challenge faced by Project Connect planners. Though the corridor that hinges UT to West Campus is already a rich multimodal hub, heavily trafficked by buses, pedestrians, cyclists, and automobiles, there is just not a lot of physical space on Guadalupe Street to work with due to the preexisting built environment (including the stations built for MetroRapid). So designing safe, fast, and efficient lines and stations is precise work, which is also why the Drag design has

EXISTING



PROPOSED



Spot the difference! between these two different street concepts for the Drag (near the proposed West Mall station). Did you say “the car”? Project Connect planners – and the political forces that ultimately control them – may try to preserve one lane of auto traffic, or they may end up diverting cars through this stretch (to San Antonio) to create a “transit mall” on Guadalupe.

There’s a lot of people, vehicles, and businesses crowded into (and also crossing) a not-that-wide stretch of Guadalupe Street as it curves toward the west from 27th toward 29th Street and then snaps back. Rail lines (and especially station platforms) can’t be that flexible, and the engineering of the Orange Line through one of its prospectively busiest sections calls for smoothing the curve, taking right-of-way – and a number of businesses, including Dirty Martin’s – in the process.



spawned the fiercest political battle of Project Connect’s post-election existence.

Guadalupe between 27th and 29th streets (where it curves and shifts several blocks to the west) is expected to undergo heavy transformation to accommodate the rail lines while also trying to make room for cars. That includes plans to demolish about 12 businesses, including the Dirty Martin’s burger joint, which has stood where Guadalupe meets Nueces Street since 1926. Just south of there, Dean Keeton (the former 26th Street) is to be extended one block west to San Antonio Street, knocking down buildings right next to legendary Austin dive bar and music venue Hole in the Wall. Project Connect planners anticipate needing to divert auto traffic to San Antonio Street through this stretch because there’s not enough room on Guadalupe.

Is the pending demolition of Dirty Martin’s part of the inevitable march of progress in the nation’s fastest-growing metro area, or is it yet another example of Austin losing a piece of its unique character? Peter Mullan sees an enticing challenge: “Again, this area is a huge opportunity, because the Drag is punching below its weight right now,” the architect told us. “It could be so much more than what it is right now.”

Project Connect planners will present updated Drag designs at a community workshop planned for June 14. Mullan says the latest design reflects the iterative process that planners are using throughout Project Connect – present a design, take in community feedback, incorporate that feedback into an updated design. The June 14 workshop will also include traffic modeling to show how planned multimodal design changes to the Drag could impact automobile traffic.

CONTINUED ON P.22



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Riverside and Pleasant Valley

Designing the Riverside Station transit hub at the intersection of East Riverside and Pleasant Valley has proven a great challenge for Project Connect engineers, primarily because of topographical difficulties. In its current form, the intersection is dominated by cars. The roadway on Riverside is wide, allowing for high-speed automobile traffic, which can make the experience of crossing the road on bike or on foot to hop on transit a daunting experience. (The ample right-of-way was assembled after Riverside was planned to be “upgraded” to an expressway about 60 years ago; that never happened.)

The intersection slopes in both directions, more so from south to north (along Pleasant Valley), presenting further challenges. Flat terrain is most suitable for transit facilities; traversing level ground puts less strain on transit vehicles, which in turn require less intensive maintenance, and it also makes transit more accessible to those with limited mobility, such as seniors and those living with disabilities.

But planners also hope for Riverside Station to be a true transit hub, serving the Blue Line, the new MetroRapid Pleasant Valley Line, and local bus routes; right now, two 15-minute MetroBus routes, two local routes, and three UT Shuttle routes go through the intersection, with several more within a few blocks. Ideally, transit riders will be provided a simple, clear way to move between each type of service. Transit planners know that requiring transfers or connecting services can discourage ridership, so Project Connect designers are trying to streamline the process as much as possible.



This aerial view (from the west) of the planned Riverside and Pleasant Valley station shows how the terrain slopes in both directions – including through the extra-wide right-of-way of East Riverside – which is a challenge when planning a transit hub that needs to be accessible to riders of all abilities.



Seven Capital Metro bus lines currently run through the Riverside/Pleasant Valley intersection, with the new Pleasant Valley MetroRapid slated to join them in 2023. The Project Connect planners want the station to be a true intermodal transit hub, where users can walk, bike (including MetroBike), take the bus, or be dropped off by auto at, to, and from the Blue Line.

In September, Project Connect staff presented two design options for Riverside Station at a community design workshop focused on the intersection. The first option would require tunneling under Pleasant Valley to allow Blue Line light rail and riders to avoid the slope; a better option for auto traffic, but less accessible to transit riders because it would require use of an elevator, and cost about \$50 million to build. The second option would require completely regrading the slope to construct a transit plaza for rail and buses, which would allow for smoother connections between service types, but likely less convenient for cars and could result in more cars crashing into pedestrians.

Based on the feedback staff got at the September meeting, designers presented a new, third option that’s a hybrid of staff and community ideas at a workshop on May 18. Option three will require realignment of the eastbound portion of Riverside and regrading of the slope to construct a transit plaza. The benefit of this design is it will keep the rail at grade, which will allow for easier transfers to and from buses, and it will mostly keep existing traffic patterns in take. The hybrid plan is expected to cost about \$20 million, so in between the “baseline” second option and more expensive first option.

Mullan pointed to the design process at Riverside Station as an example of community and staff working together to produce the best options for Project Connect. “The key right now is making sure that we are having the right conversations with the right people,” Mullan said. “That sets ourselves up for success as the project continues to move forward, recognizing that there’s a lot more work to do and a lot more opportunities for the community to get engaged and to have impact on design.”

Crestview Station and North Lamar Transit Center

The capacity of the existing MetroRail Red Line, which began service in 2010, is limited to a fraction of the ridership expected to be carried by the Orange and Blue lines, but it connects the city's first true transit-oriented developments (TODs) – a preview of the Equitable TOD planning intended to create destinations and housing along Project Connect's corridors. One of these, at Crestview Station, is the only place outside Downtown where the Red, Orange, and Blue lines will meet; it's already home to both single- and multifamily housing and retail anchored by the Black Star Co-op brewpub.

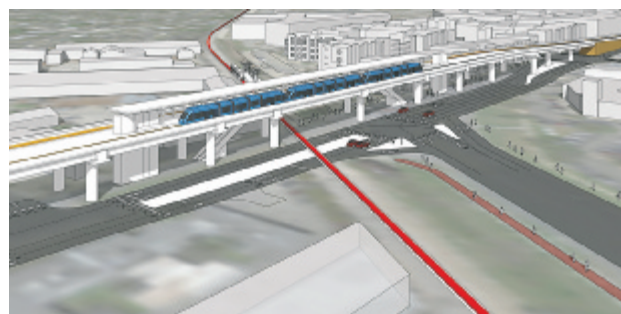
That existing development, along with more planned at a city-owned lot on Ryan Drive that was also part of the old Huntsman chemical plant site, presents its own challenges and opportunities to Project Connect. The Red Line runs on preexisting freight rail tracks on its way to and from Leander, and the rules regulating its service are different from those that will govern the Orange and Blue lines. Currently, the Crestview Station area is also served by the 801 MetroRapid and three MetroBus routes.

Project Connect planners are also exploring the possibility of extending the planned Gold Line, which would serve the east side of Downtown and the UT campus (Dell Medical School, the stadium, and Moody Center) on its way up to Highland Station, one stop on the Red Line from Crestview. The extension would take the Gold Line to Crestview and then to the North Lamar Transit Center, which for now will be the northern terminus of the

Orange and Blue lines; someday, they'll extend to Tech Ridge, which in the interim will be connected with "enhanced" MetroRapid service. Cap Metro estimates that Gold Line expansion could cost \$3 million in up-front capital and about \$2.5 million annually to operate the extended line.

Back at Crestview, the city is negotiating with 3423 Holdings, whose proposal it selected for redeveloping the tract at 6909 Ryan Dr. Those talks could last up to 15 months but will lead to a deal on community benefits like affordable housing, open space, and the best possible transit connectivity. The 3423 proposal for the 5.5-acre tract includes a transit plaza to serve the Orange, Blue, and Red lines. Planners hope to also connect proposed parks and a cultural center at the site to transit.

Because the Red and Orange/Blue lines aren't the same kind of rail lines, they can't cross each other at grade (in the Lamar/Airport intersection) or use the same station platform at Crestview. So either one goes up or one goes down, both of which designers are considering. The former would involve elevating the Orange/Blue lines above Crestview Station on a flyover siding connected at both ends to North Lamar; this is what's already in the Project Connect plan as presented to voters. The latter would build a new depressed (though not fully underground) Red Line station at Lamar and Airport, at a cost of \$175 million to \$225 million (not included in the PC scope presented to voters) and repurpose Crestview Station for the Orange and Blue lines. ■



The Orange/Blue Line (at this point sharing the same route) and the Red Line can't cross each other at grade, because they're not the same kind of rail. So something has to change at Crestview Station. One option is to build a flyover for the Orange/Blue Line, with an elevated station, that connects at both ends to North Lamar ...

... or (the more expensive option) depress the Red Line, move its station south along Airport Boulevard, and repurpose the existing Crestview Station for the Orange/Blue Line.



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CALENDAR

JUNE 2 >> JUNE 9



2 >> THURSDAY



ATX TV FESTIVAL Paramount Theatre & Driskill Hotel, Thursday-Sunday

They call it "TV camp for grownups," and any fan of the boob tube will find plenty to see and do, with screenings, panels, social events, and more at various locations all weekend.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.38.

3 >> FRIDAY



JOHN ANDERSON

ROCK THE PARK: SIR WOMAN Mueller Lake Park Outdoor Amphitheater

As essential as spring showers, Austin jukebox KUTX 98.9 quenched our town's thirst for communal commingling with free family concerts beginning in March. Fourth and final micro Woodstock nets the über headliner: Sir Woman.

See more music recommendations on p.52.

4 >> SATURDAY



JANA BIRCHUM

JAKE LLOYD Soundspace at Captain Quack's

Bar, bakery, music venue, Quackenbush's latest location demonstrates its booking acumen in staging ATX vocalist Jake Lloyd. Supported by homegrown locals Big Kee and Nubia Emmon, the 2021 Geto Gala breakout looks to break the venue in.

See more music recommendations on p.52.

5 >> SUNDAY



A WAR OF THE WORLDS Ground Floor Theatre, 5pm

In Jarret King's reimagining of a multimedia classic, Orson Welles and his radio troupe are a group of Black artists fighting to hold their place at the CBS radio studio. Penfold Theatre's world premiere production will answer that question as sensationally as possible.

See more arts events on p.30.

6 >> MONDAY



QUEER SKATE NIGHT Playland Skate Center, 7-10pm

See ya at the rink, skater-babes, for a night of drag from Louisiana Purchase and Leia Sakura Dior, a photobooth from Sean Peters, pop-ups from The Little Gay Shop, Pride Socks, and Double Scorpio, and on-site testing from Kind Clinic.

See more LGBTQ+ events on p.35.

7 >> TUESDAY



ALYSSA EDWARDS Paramount Theatre, 8pm

From Mesquite, Texas, to the global stage, Alyssa Edwards is unstoppable. From the fifth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, to her web series, and her own Netflix series; and now the hit show comes to America direct from London's West End.

See more arts events on p.30.

8 >> WEDNESDAY



GARY MILLER

MACHINE GUN KELLY Moody Center

Pop punk's self-anointed savior, the aforementioned MGK, headlines what one could potentially call the new arena's first hip-hop show. Emo rap wailer Iann Dior of Corpus Christi opens.

See more music recommendations on p.52.

9 >> THURSDAY



JOHN ANDERSON

ROT MOTORCYCLE RALLY Bastrop, June 9-12

For its first year at a new home, find 150 acres dedicated to live music, vendor booths, food trucks, libations from local and national brands, a vintage motorcycle display, stunt shows, a hot rod and custom car display, and more.

See more community events on p.34.

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Culture

Same Time, Same Channel, New ATX TV Festival

After two years online, founders Emily Gipson and Caitlin McFarland are scheduling a weekend of must-see TV **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

In TV, shows get preempted all the time. *American Idol* skipped a week because of the Oscars. *AEW Dynamite* moved from Wednesday to Friday last June for the NBA playoffs. So when the ATX TV Festival had to shift online in 2020 because of COVID, it was kind of in keeping with the medium. Of course, no one expected the in-person event would be on hold for two years, but now the celebration of all things broadcast and streaming is back in a theatre near you, with much of the delayed programming back on the schedule for the return to in-person programming for 2022.

So, that means all the pressure's off for the festival bookers, right?

"One would think that that would help," said Emily Gipson.

"Although," Caitlin McFarland added, "hilariously, some of the people who were confirmed then aren't coming, and some of the people who weren't confirmed then are coming."

As festival founders and co-executive directors, Gipson and McFarland saw the event through two online years, and now are marshalling it back into a

physical space for season 11. The remit of the festival remains the same: a place of discovery of TV mixing panels, retrospectives, and new shows. However, when it started in 2012, the TV landscape was completely different: The networks still ruled the ratings, sweeps week was still a big deal, and Netflix only had one original series (anyone remember *Lilyhammer*?). The duo deliberately picked June for the festival because TV was effectively on hiatus, making ATX what they still call "a summer camp for TV fans and professionals." Not that everyone

approved. McFarland said, "People would get mad at Emily and I that we were in June. They were like, 'TV's over in June. Nothing's on, it's just USA new shows.' And now look at the number of shows that premiere a wild week in April, maybe late May."

However, that's only opened up programming opportunities. This year the festival gets a panel preview of season 4 of HBO's *Westworld*, as well as the world premiere of AMC's new Navajo Nation crime drama, *Dark Wings*. There's still an element of reruns, with special retrospectives and reunions for fan favorites like *Scrubs*, *Parenthood*, and *Justified*. Gipson said, "We talk about balance all the time, of past, present, and premiere when it comes to screenings, and in conversations between industry and consumer." Not that it's a clear line. "We find that the industry that comes are consumers, and the consumers that come are interested in the industry."

In 2020, the festival had barely nine weeks to shift to virtual programming after South by Southwest was canceled. McFarland said, "Looking back there was something very cool

about the first year, because people were willing to try anything. ... There was no downside, because if we tried and failed people would be, 'Well, at least you tried.'"

The first decision was what to do with all the big anniversary retrospectives: 20 years of *Scrubs*, and a decade each of *Justified* and *Parenthood*. The answer was to give the panelists the option of being online or waiting for the next in-person event. McFarland recalled, "They all said, 'We want to be together in Austin.'" The delays mean that the festival missed the big anniversaries,

"I think it's going to be very emotional."

CAITLIN MCFARLAND



ATX TV Festival founders Emily Gipson and Caitlin McFarland

JOHN ANDERSON

but in some ways it's made the events more timely. In the case of the *Scrubs* reunion, if the festival had gone ahead as planned, then showrunner and ATX year-one veteran Bill Lawrence would have been deep in development on a new series and would be missing the festival. That show? Oh, only *Ted Lasso*. "That was a very COVID-discovered show," McFarland said. On the *Parenthood* side, "Dax Shepard is a bigger deal than he was three years ago when we were first trying – and weirdly, he wasn't coming to the reunion before, and he is now, which is great." Add on the fact that this will be the first time many of the stars and panelists will have seen each other since the pandemic started. "I think it's going to be very emotional," McFarland said, "and it's already very emotional."

Virtual year one was all on YouTube, with no screenings but a lot of live and prerecorded conversations. Year two, the festival went behind a virtual paywall, allowing them to host premiere screenings as well as panels. However, it was also a time for the team to plan ahead for what they wanted the festival to be going forward: a year-round project, with the launch membership program, as well as hosting virtual screenings, "and we've started doing happy hours in person," said McFarland.

2022 means bringing all those loyal fans, who have only grown in number over the pandemic, back together for in-person

screenings, and that's where McFarland sees the real purpose of the festival. "It's about discovery and community," she said. "It's standing in line and talking to a stranger about your favorite show, or saddling up to the bar, seeing who's there, talking about what you've seen."

Of course, not everything got better over the pandemic, with the loss of the Alamo Ritz as one of their core venues. However, the pair also saw this as an opportunity to really think about the schedule. They weren't pulling back, but instead viewing it all through the growing realization that, in earlier years, they'd sometimes overbooked and ended up splitting the audience. "We'd have a full theatre and then 30 people in all the other things," McFarland said, "and that wasn't fair to some of the programming."

But this year, they're confident that it's the right size, and presenting the right eclectic mix of shows that people love already or are eager to start bingeing. Gipson said, "When you hear somebody say, 'I'm so excited about [Euphoria star and ATX TV Breakthrough Award honoree] Sydney Sweeney and *Baron and Toluca*,' which is an independent pilot, I'm like, 'Huh? That's great!' We're all TV fans. Don't try to guess anyone's shows, ever." ■

ATX TV Festival, June 2-5. Tickets and info at atxfestival.com.

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ATX TELEVISION FESTIVAL CONTINUED FROM P.26

I Can't Do This All on My Own

Before the ATX TV reunion, *Scrubs* star Judy Reyes looks back on a supportive set **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

October 2, 2001. Medical comedy *Scrubs* debuts on NBC, mere weeks after 9/11, and over nine seasons its mixture of surreal comedy and sensitive drama, pratfalls and pain, leave an indelible mark on television. “I can’t even get over the fact that it’s been 20 years,” said star Judy Reyes.

A reunion of the *Scrubs* cast was originally scheduled for the 2020 ATX TV Festival, and when that was canceled due to COVID it was transferred to be part of the ATX TV ... From the Couch! online event. However, then the crew decided to delay the event in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. Two years on, with the festival returning as an in-person event and the *Scrubs* panel finally re-scheduled, Reyes said, “I think we’re all really ready and excited to reunite.”

It also feels like the reunion is more timely than ever. After all, *Scrubs* was a comedy about life and death, its lead

“There were four couples, male and female, all nurses, who saw me and were just losing their shit... ‘That show got me through med school.’”

JUDY REYES

characters either doctors or medical students at Sacred Heart teaching hospital. Every lead character, that is, except Carla Espinosa, the young nurse who becomes a friend to the fledgling medics. Reading the pilot script for the first time, Reyes recalled, “[Carla] felt like me. She felt like somewhere I came from.” She also turned the TV trope of the wise old nurse on its head by being a contemporary to the student docs. While they’d been learning, she’d been doing, and in her Reyes saw “this bored kindness. This, ‘I’ve done it, I get it.’” There’s also a trace of cynicism that she saw as “a self-protective kind of thing, where I can’t care too much, but I care.”

Over time Carla became an important figure for nurses who finally saw themselves, and the vital work they do, represented in a rounded way on television. Reyes was recently working in Cincinnati on new HBO adaptation of John Green’s novel *Turtles All*



the Way Down. “There were four couples, male and female, all nurses, who saw me and were just losing their shit. They said, ‘You don’t understand,’ and that’s usually what I get. ‘That show got me through med school.’ ‘That show did this for me.’ ‘If it wasn’t for that show ...’” There was an idea in the writers room to have Carla become a doctor, and Reyes pushed back hard. “I was like, ‘Why? What’s wrong with being a nurse?’ I got very protective and defensive.”

However, there was a risk of Carla becoming too serious. When series creator Bill Lawrence talked to the *Chronicle* when the panel was originally scheduled (see “Laughs, Deaths, and *Scrubs*,” Screens, June 5, 2020), he recalled that Reyes was concerned that Carla was becoming a killjoy, the straight-laced character who delivers that episode’s

moral, and only existed to service the story of the doctors. “She’s there to remind them, ‘You’re human, you’re normal, you’re just like me,’” Reyes said, and sometimes that started to overshadow everything else about her. “[Lawrence] would say, ‘She has the gravitas,’ and I go, ‘Can I be funny? Can I wear a costume? Can I fall from the sky?’”

Being able to bring such issues to Lawrence and the creative team was part of what made *Scrubs* so important for Reyes, in no small part because Carla was also a landmark character in terms of representation. At a time when Latina characters were “Mexican or Cuban, maybe Puerto Rican,” Carla, like Reyes, was the child of Dominican migrants, and that became a significant issue both onscreen and behind the camera. In one script, Carla was described



COURTESY OF AMC

Five Must-Sees at ATX TV Festival

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

◀ DARK WINDS Paramount, Thu., June 2, 7pm

Robert Redford has spent over three decades trying to bring Tony Hillerman’s Navajo Mysteries books to the screen, starting with the commercial and critical failure of 1991’s *The Dark Wind*, and his more lauded 2002 PBS *Mystery!* version of the seventh of the 18-book series, *Skinwalkers*. Third time may be the charm as Redford executive produces AMC Network’s new six-episode take on the crime-solving adventures of Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn (Zahn McClarnon, *The Son*) and Deputy Jim Chee (Kiowa Gordon, *The Red Road*) – one of the first broadcast series ever with an all-Native American writers room. Catch episode 1 with the cast and crew ahead of its June 12 broadcast premiere.

PARENTHOOD REUNION Paramount, Fri., June 3, 7pm

Get ready for tears of joy as the Bravermans gather for a family reunion. In attendance: creator/showrunner Jason Katims, Peter Krause (eldest son Adam Braverman), Monica Potter (Adam’s wife, Kristina Braverman), Dax Shepard (second son Crosby Braverman), Erika Christensen (youngest adult child Julia Braverman-Graham), Joy Bryant (Crosby’s on-again, off-again love interest Jasmine Trussell), and, of course, Craig T. Nelson (patriarch Zeek Braverman).

QUEER FOR FEAR State Theatre, Fri., June 3, 9pm

From the sapphic subtext of *Carmilla* to the bloody camp of *The Vampire Diaries*, horror stories and homosexuality have always gone hand in claw. Join *Pushing Daisies* and *Hannibal* creator Bryan Fuller and *Attack of the Queerwolf* podcast host Nay Bever for a preview of *Queer for Fear*, the new docuseries from horror streaming platform Shudder, exploring the queer text and subtext of the films that terrify us.



as Mexican, so she went to Lawrence and told him, "If I'm going to speak Spanish, I'm going to have to do a certain accent. I don't want the entire Latino community giving me shit because I did it wrong." He was like, "Oh, no, you're right, I'm sorry."

Those conversations fed into one of Reyes' most memorable moments in the series, the season 6 episode "My Musical," in which she and her husband, surgeon Chris Turk (Donald Faison), sing the duet "For the Last Time, I'm Dominican," in which she sings her frustration about his inability to remember her heritage. It was also an in-joke at the writers' own expense. "There was a self-awareness, and a sense of humor that just brought me an enormous amount of joy," Reyes said.

It's also a moment that almost didn't happen, due to – of course – a medical

SCRUBS REUNION PRESENTED BY HULU

ATX TV Festival, Paramount Theatre,
Sun. June 5, 10am

mishap. Reyes recalled, "I'm obsessed with musical theatre, and I just couldn't wait. So I get this song and I go, 'Oh my god!'" Then performance day came, and she fell out of the shower and fractured her hip so badly that she needed surgery and a steel rod implanted. "The first thing that I said was, 'My tango!' And I just cried. Bill was amazing. He went, 'Don't worry. We'll do it when you're recovered, we'll move it later, don't worry, it's OK.' And that was the vibe on the show. If there was anything that got in your way, that interfered or that messed you up, it was always so supportive." ■



JUSTIFIED CREATIVES REUNION

Paramount, Sat., June 4, 2:30pm

Take a trip back to Harlan County, the crime-riddled version of rural Kentucky brought to the page by Elmore Leonard, and then to the screen by producer Graham Yost (now riding high on *Slow Horses*) for six seasons on FX. Join Yost and the writers of some of your favorite episodes to examine the process and legacy of this hard-boiled Southern noir.



FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC: THE ORIGIN

State Theatre, Sun., June 5, 11:30am

Before the *Twilight* books and their human-vampire-werewolf love triangle, the weirdest love stories in literature may well have been V.C. Andrews' notorious *Flowers in the Attic* series. Replete with Gothic nastiness, incest, murder, and lost family fortunes, Lifetime has already adapted the original four-book series about the deranged Dollanganger family. Now they bring their TV movie version of equally sordid prequel novel *Garden of Shadows* by Andrew Neiderman (Andrews' longtime ghost-writer) to the small screen and to the ATX Festival.

FORBIDDEN FRUIT



PHOTO BY BOBBIEMANART

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Review: Trouble Puppet Theater Company's *Undark: A Radioactive Puppet Play*

Henson-backed world premiere recounts a workers' rights fight

BY BOB ABELMAN

Norma Rae's Crystal Lee Sutton. *Hidden Figures's* Mary Jackson. *North Country's* Lois Jenson. These groundbreaking women and their inspiring David vs. Goliath battles with the Man over workers' rights, segregation, and sexual harassment didn't become common knowledge until their stories were turned into books, then major motion pictures.

The same is true for the Radium Girls, a corps of female factory workers in the 1920s who were poisoned from painting watch dials with a newly invented radium-based luminescent paint. Corporate executives looked at the illness as collateral damage and conspiratorial company doctors diagnosed it as syphilis or diphtheria. The workers' attempts to receive compensation for medical expenses from U.S. Radium were futile and met with blatant acts of intimidation. But by 1927, after more than 50 women had died, Grace Fryer filed a lawsuit along with four other dial painters for damages of \$250,000. They received significantly less, and none would survive more than two years after the settlement due to their sickness.

The film *Radium Girls* was released in 2018, preceded by several biographical and historical fiction novels, a few documentaries,



PHOTO BY JELENA STOJILJKOVIC RHYNE

stage plays, published poems, and the song "Radium Girl" by the Scottish band Idlewild. So, the question to ask while attending the Trouble Puppet Theater Company's staging of *Undark: A Radioactive Puppet Play* – an original workshop production crafted by Connor Hopkins and funded by a 2021 grant from the Jim Henson Foundation – is, what does a single tabletop puppet, set against a backdrop of projected shadow puppetry, bring to the story and the storytelling that these other efforts don't?

The answer: lots.

The mere novelty of a person with radiation poisoning being played by a puppet – particularly one as detailed and seemingly fragile as Hopkins' creation – manages to draw and then hold your attention even when the horrific story being told makes you want to look away. And her curtailed and understated movements, along

with the manually manipulated shadow imagery of other factory workers behind her – courtesy of puppeteers Tam King, Catherine Collett, Aileen Adler, and Melissa Vogt – form a subtle yet expressive shorthand that says so much more than an actor's performance in a conventional "meat theatre" production ever could.

Sound designer K. Eliot Haynes supplements the puppetry with a flowing soundtrack and supplies a voiceover narrative (recorded by Vogt) that was inspired by Grace Fryer's court testimony. The disembodied voice of a victim dramatically heightens the words and emphasizes their significance. And the period-appropriate ads promoting the health benefits of radium, which are part of Chris Owen's projections, add a bit of irony to the evening.

According to artistic director and puppet master Hopkins during the opening night after-show discussion, the act of puppetry itself is an operational metaphor for the manipulation of one being by another. This adds weight to every one of his productions, which tend to address social and economic injustice. With this play's exploration of a faceless corporation's shocking criminal negligence and the misogynistic system that protected it, the medium is very much the message.

In addition to workshop grants, the Jim Henson Foundation offers funding for full productions of new works. *Undark: A Radioactive Puppet Play* will most certainly be a viable and worthy candidate when it gets (pardon the expression) more fully fleshed out. Those attending this workshop staging will be offered 2-for-1 tickets for the full production. ■

THEATRE

OPENING

A WAR OF THE WORLDS In Jarret King's comic and thrilling reimagining of a multimedia classic, Orson Welles and his radio troupe, the Mercury Theatre, are a group of Black artists fighting to hold their place at the CBS radio studio. "In the hope of securing a critical corporate sponsorship, Welles orchestrates a last-ditch ratings stunt that causes national panic and secures their undeniable – if infamous – place in media history." Damn, acclaimed playwright, just how many genres and tropes are you disrupting simultaneously with this ambitious project? Penfold Theatre's world premiere production – directed by Marcus McQuirter and featuring actors Marc Pouché, John R. Christopher, Kenah Benefield, Yunina Barbour Payne, Dane Parker, Judd Farris, Zac Carr, and Sarah Byington – will answer that question as sensationally as possible. June 2-18. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 5pm. Ground Floor Theatre, 979 Springdale #122, 512/850-4849. \$16 and up. penfoldtheatre.org.

THE AUSTIN SÉANCE AT THE GLASS COFFIN Albert Lucio and Jake Cordero will conduct séance sessions over two nights at Austin's Glass Coffin. Welcome them back, y'all – it's one of

the first public sessions for the veteran séance facilitators since the pandemic began. Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 7 & 9:30pm. The Glass Coffin, 3009 N. I-35. \$40. austinseance.com.

TEXAS BURLESQUE FESTIVAL Featuring the legendary Grand Beaver of Canadian Burlesque, Judith Stein, with local legends and festival founders Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, and Salem from San Antonio, with more than 30 tassel twirlers and queens and kings of the tease from across Texas and the U.S. The audience is encouraged to hoot, holler, and spur these ecstasians on in tantalizing performances that range from classic glove-and-garter peels to crazy comedic takes on pop culture icons. Bonus: Mr. David Lampe, that local pop culture icon himself, will be this night's ebullient host. Sat., June 4, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 512/461-2355. \$30-50. texasburlesquefestival.com.

SCRATCH CHAPEL Here's an open mic situation every first Monday of the month, basically, where the Sahara Lounge "converts into a sanctuary (with a bar) for performative creatives," as hosted by Purdy Mischief. Show up to sign up. Mon., June 6, 9pm. Sahara Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd., 512/927-0700. Donations accepted. saharalounge.com.

ALYSSA EDWARDS: LIFE, LOVE & LASHES TOUR From Mesquite, Texas, to the global stage, Alyssa Edwards is unstoppable. From the fifth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*

(2013) to her webseries *Alyssa's Secret*, her own Netflix series *Dancing Queen* (2018), and *America's Got Talent* (2021); and now the hit show comes to America direct from London's West End. Tue., June 7, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 512/472-5470. \$38-78. austintheatre.org.

CLOSING

AUDITIONS: SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE: MR. BURNS The Vortex seeks students ages 13-17 to participate in Summer Youth Theatre 2022. Now in its 30th year, this award-winning, tuition-free program rehearses and performs evenings and weekends (June 8-Aug. 6), culminating in a full production, this year of Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* under the direction of Jennifer Jennings. See the website for details and appointments. Auditions: June 5-7. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 512/478-5282. vortexrep.org.

COMEDY

THE HIDEOUT Live improvisation is back at the Hideout! Yes, the diverse lineup of sometimes hilarious, always surprising yes-and shows has returned, with *Pgraph* and *Maestro* and more, for the most unexpected delights of in-person

entertainment. For instance, this weekend: **American Brass**, which makes *Succession* look tame, and **Hoot Night**, which riffs on skiffy tropes like there's no tomorrow. See the website for details. Hideout Theatre & Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 512/476-1313. hideouttheatre.com.

COLDTOWNE "Set your dial to CTTV for at-home entertainment on ColdTowns's Twitch channel, featuring experimental improv, live podcasts, scripted readings, guest characters, and more." And they've got in-person shows popping up around town, too – see website for details. coldtownetheater.com.

ESTHER'S FOLLIES *Esther's Follies* – Austin's not-so-secret weapon in the fight against ennui – the comedy gem that still dazzles this growing urban hub – returns to the weekly live and in-person stage of their club on Dirty Sixth, the whole troupe bringing back old favorites and debuting a new program of hilarity with topical, ripped-from-the-headlines sketches and musical numbers. Also: the mind-boggling illusions presented by magician Ray Anderson. Thursdays, 8pm; Fridays-Saturdays, 8 & 10pm. *Esther's Follies*, 525 E. Sixth, 512/320-0198. \$30-40. esthersfollies.com.

FALLOUT COMEDY This hotbed of local performance is carrying on even more than usual, with an eclectic mix of live, mind-rocking comedy from some of Austin's best, all week long. Pro tip: The *Sure Thing* showcase on Friday night is, as



ASO: Swing Is the Thing

Join what'll likely be the whole **Austin Swing Syndicate** and their friends at the Palmer Events Center as **Peter Bay** and the **Austin Symphony** present a concert featuring **the biggest dance hits from the 1930s and 1940s** – with singers **David Bennett** and **Miche Braden** and **four world-champion swing dancers** strutting their stuff with irrepressible pizzazz. *Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. \$35-55. austinsymphony.org.*

ever, a don't-miss event. Check the website for details. *Fallout Theater, 616 Lavaca, 616/676-7209. falloutcomedy.com.*

JAY LARSON This **Jay Larson** is known for his storytelling and his co-hosting of the popular *Crabfeast* podcast. He's in town to record his second hourlong comedy special, live, at the Creek and the Cave – and you're invited. *Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 7 & 9pm. The Creek and the Cave, 611 E. Seventh, 737/222-0852. \$20-30. creekandcave.com.*

BUZZ MILL COMEDY We told you, didn't we, that this newest Buzz Mill has a full slate of funny supercharging their

sweet and welcoming lounge, night after night after night? Check their website, see what's on, and treat yourself to some mighty tasty noms while you're there. *Buzz Mill Eastside, 1209 E. Seventh. buzzmillcoffee.com.*

PAULY SHORE: LIVE IN AUSTIN Yes, this is the one and only **Pauly Shore**. Right in the middle of your week. FTW, right? *Tue.-Wed., June 7-8, 7:30pm. Vulcan Gas Co., 418 E. Sixth, 512/817-9535. \$25. blcomedy.com.*

CONTINUED ON P.32

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Saturday, June 11 @ 2pm
Saturday, June 11 @ 7:30pm
Sunday, June 12 @ 2pm
Thursday, June 16 @ 7:30pm
Friday, June 17 @ 7:30pm
Saturday, June 18 @ 2pm
Saturday, June 18 @ 7:30pm
Sunday, June 19 @ 2pm

Performances are held at the
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To purchase tickets visit
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Cultural Arts
Texas Commission on the Arts

This project is funded and supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department and in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Visit Austin at NowPlayingAustin.com.



People's Gallery: Opening Reception

The City of Austin presents the **17th People's Gallery exhibition** at City Hall, featuring a wide array of painting, sculpture, drawing, and other media by artists from across the Austin area. Tonight, come meet the artists and catch some live music. *Fri., June 3, 6-9pm. City Hall, 301 W. Second. Free. austintexas.gov.*

ARTS EVENTS CONTINUED FROM P.31

DANCE

VENTANA BALLET: BEAUTIFUL WORLD Here's a celebration of music, dance, visual art, and earth-themed refreshments, where **Ventana Ballet** and **Austin Camerata** premiere *A Million Alien Gospels*, as composed by **Michael Alec Rose** and choreographed by **AJ Garcia-Rameau** and **Dorothy O'Shea Overbey**. Bonus: **Capital Area Master Naturalists** present the winners of the nature photography contest and **Tree Folks** lead a tree ID activity. *June 2-4. Thu., 6:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 6:30 & 9:30pm. Draylen Mason Studio, 41 Navasota, 512/522-1655. \$30. ventanaballet.com.*

METAMORPHOSIS DANCE: BALLET UNDER THE STARS **Metamorphosis Dance** brings its *Ballet Under the Stars* back to **live performance** after two pandemic years when the performance was presented virtually. This **new showcase** features "Grand Pas d'Action" from *La Bayadere*, an excerpt from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and "Dance of the Hours" from *La Gioconda*, along with original contemporary ballet works, tap, and jazz. *Fri., June 3, 8pm. Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr., 512/246-6047. Free. metamorphosisdance.org.*

TAPESTRY DANCE: SOUL TO SOLE TAP FESTIVAL **Tapestry Dance Company** presents its 22nd **annual celebration of rhythm** as this unique and "Austin-tatious" festival brings **renowned tap artists from around the world** for a soulful live reunion. Nine performers will join together in a rhythmic reunion of "Friends in Time," a 21-year legacy of Tapestry's international friendships, with two live performances featuring the **Soul Jazz Trio**. *Fri.-Sat., June 10-11, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 512/474-5664. \$39 and up. tapestry.org.*

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

GROW: CELEBRATING ALL THE AUSTINITES **Fisterra's** project *The XYZ Atlas* asks where we feel a sense of belonging. **Denver Gonzalez** is the Mexican American art activist who has curated this **three-part party**, "exploring our most vulnerable and resilient experiences. His transitory collaborators challenge stigmas and invite every guest to explore and express wholehearted stories of survival." With much **art and music and dance and film** and a dinner catered by **Free Lunch**. *Fri.-Sun., June 3-5, 7pm. Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 512/974-3772. Donations accepted. xyzatlas.com/grow.*

FILM PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW **Precision Camera & Video** displays the top submissions to this year's **film-based photography contest** in their store on Anderson Lane. *Reception: Sat., June 4, 4-6pm. Precision Camera & Video, 2438 W. Anderson*

St. B-4, 512/467-7676. Free. precision-camera.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: MEASURING DEVICE Here's the opening celebration of **Ana Esteve Llorens' Measuring Device** in the courtyard at **Women & Their Work**. The structure - fabricated mainly of steel and combined with other materials - was designed by introducing and relating measurements taken from inhabited spaces, body proportions, and scaled dimensions of the artist's studio. *Sat., June 4, 6-8pm. Women & Their Work, 1311 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/477-1064. wome-nandtheirwork.org.*

THE GALLERY ATX: PRIDE EDITION The Gallery ATX shines with **Pride** during this celebration, presenting **more than 20 queer artists and allies** offering hand-crafted goods, art, food, and unique gifts - with music from **ATM & the Jules, Caelin, and DJ Javuu**. *Sat., June 4, 4-9pm. Moontower Cider Co., 1916 Tillery, 832/857-3433. thegal-eryatx.org.*

REALLY SMALL MUSEUM: JENNIFER GALEK Watch as interdisciplinary artist **Jennifer Galek** creates a **continuous line mural** covering the inside and outside of the Banton's museum box. Also, this is a **glow party** - with drinks and snacks and face-painting and "30-second dance parties." *Hey, yeah! Sat., June 4, 8-9:30pm. 3509 Banton. Free. insta-gram.com/reallysmallmuseum_atx.*

LANDMARKS: SIGHTS ALONG SPEEDWAY Join UT's **Landmarks** public art tour for a revelatory view of works along Speedway. The tour begins at **Mark di Suvero's Clock Knot** (corner of Speedway & Dean Keeton) and includes **Nancy Rubins' Monochrome for Austin, Sol LeWitt's Circle With Towers, Joel Perlman's Square Tilt**, and more. *Sun., June 5, 10-11am. Free. landmarks.utexas.edu.*

OPENING

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: BLOW-UP **Bing Wright's** new pictures are **enlargements of uncommonly tight crops** from **images of children at play on a seashore** - an out-stretched hand splashing water or carrying a beach bucket, liberal smears of sunscreen, fluorescent plastic hair clips, a foot dragging through burbling waves. *Through July 16. Lora Reynolds Gallery, 360 Nueces #50, 512/215-4965. lorareynolds.com.*

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE: THE HOPE SUITE **Mark Smith's The Hope Suite** is a series of **44 collages** inspired by the theme of global unity. Each **24-by-18-inch work on paper** consists of a background monoprint or a digital photoprint, overlaid with collage, calligraphy, and mixed media. Note: The originals are part of the permanent collection of the Obama Presidential Center Museum in Chicago; the works on display here are limited-edition prints of those originals. *Artist reception: Thu., June 2, 4-7pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel, 512/478-2335. Free. nchmuseum.org.*

DAVID FLYNN: THE WORLD AT WORK The **Austin-based photographer** presents this new exhibition of **images**

that represent local culture - especially people at work - captured during Flynn's six years of traveling throughout the Americas, Africa, and Europe. The man's got amazing skill; stop by and say hi and see some of what he's seen. *Reception: Sat., June 4, 10am-noon. Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 316 W. 12th. theculturalphotographer.net.*

IVESTER CONTEMPORARY: FULL BLEED This is a solo exhibition of **works on paper** by Austin-based artist **Brian Daly**, featuring carefully measured angles, arcs, and linework filled with seamless gradients of color that cascade down the page, accompanied by neatly scattered marginalia about "his craft, his color choices, and intimate details of his personal life." Bonus: The gallery's project space reveals the new *Ipinya* installation by **Akirash**. *Opening reception: Sat., June 4, 7-9pm. Ivester Contemporary, 916 Springdale #107. ivestercontemporary.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: JEN GARRIDO The power of color is **Jen Garrido's** central focus for this new body of work, her shapes forming **emotive vessels of pigment** that communicate an ever-changing internal and external growth. *June 4-July 3. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. wallyworkmangallery.com.*

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL: THE DANCE IN VISUAL ART Dancers continue to inspire **Eve Larson's** work, as she draws upon her dance background for subject matter and a source of understanding movement and gesture. Portraiture, still life, and landscape are included among the artist's subjects. *Opening reception: Mon., June 6, 5-7pm. Hyde Park Bar & Grill, 4206 Duval St., 512/300-7313. hpbng.com.*

CLOSING

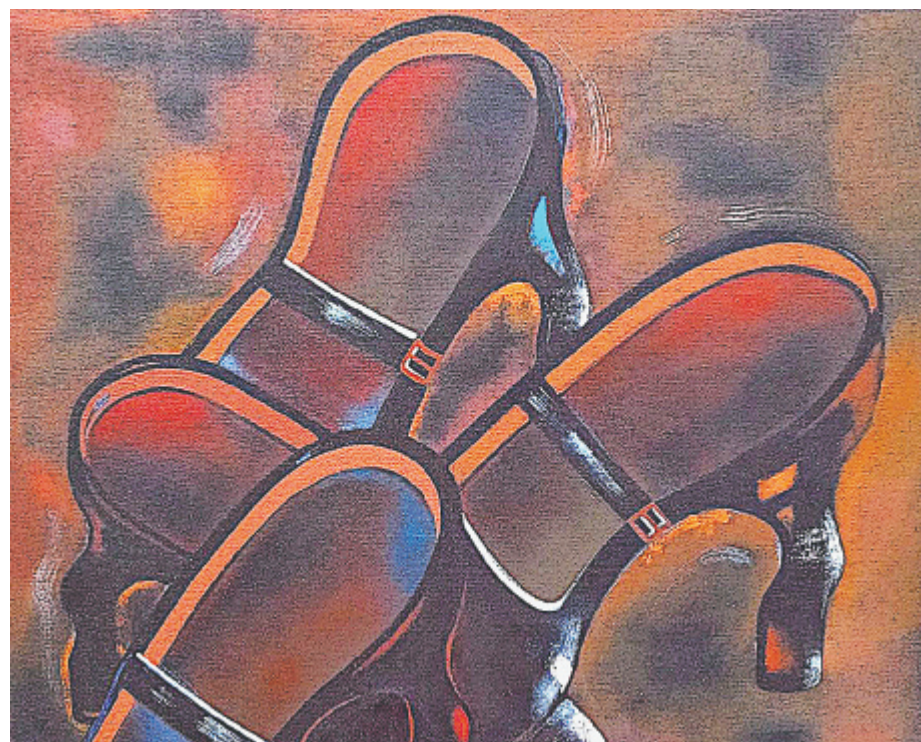
BIG MEDIUM: THE CONSTRUCTED SELF **Karen Navarro** transforms **traditional prints** into **three-dimensional objects** by cutting and incorporating tactile elements - wood, paint, and resin. This **series of portraits** uses collage to represent the intersections of identity, self-representation, race, gender, and belonging within first-, second-, and third-generation American immigrants. *Through June 4. Thu.-Sat., noon-6pm. Big Medium, 916 Springdale Bldg. 2 #101, 512/939-6665. bigmedium.org.*

LINK & PIN GALLERY: ME AND MOM Never-before-exhibited drawings and watercolors by **Melanie Hickerson** will be included in this show, alongside artwork from her mother, **Geraldine Clark Hickerson**. *Through June 4. Link & Pin, 2235 E. Sixth #102, 512/900-8952. linkpinart.com.*

WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY: ICONS & VANDALS The artists featured in this new show at Austin's WCC - **Banksy, Alex Katz, Robert Indiana, Takashi Murakami**, and many others - have subverted the contemporary art world throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. *Through June 5. West Chelsea Contemporary, 1009 W. Sixth, 512/478-4440. wcc.art.*

ONGOING

A05 GALLERY: BURNER This new show features works from globally renowned street artists **Banksy, Zero Gradient, Harry Bunce, KEF!, Dalek, Pure Evil**, and other famous imagemakers. *Through June 10. A05 Gallery, 10000 Research #118, 512/481-1111. a05gallery.com.*



Cloud Tree Gallery: A Postcard from Austin, Texas

This here's a **retrospective of paintings** by that locally legendary multimedia artist **Ethan Azarian** (of **Orange Mothers** fame and more), revealing a wondrously odd world of **cows, shoes, ladder-back chairs, and cityscapes** in one polychrome display of relentless creative industry. *Opening reception: Sat., June 4, 6-10pm. Cloud Tree, 3411 E. Fifth, 512/797-8852. cloudtreestudiosandgallery.com.*

CAMIBA GALLERY: AUSPICIOUS PREMONITION The maestro of labor-intensive, screenprinted, hand-braided, multilayered graphic brilliance – yes, we're talking about that **Adreon Henry** – returns to the Camiba Gallery with a new show. *Through July 16. Camiba Gallery, 6448 Hwy. 290 E. Ste. A-102, 512/937-5921. camibagallery.com.*

CO-LAB PROJECTS: DOOM AND BLOOM Here's an exhibition of prints, sculptures, and sound by **Alex Boeschenstein**, **Anthony Rundblade**, and **Emma Rossoff**, who ask: *How does one make art about and within this in-real-life apocalyptic stream?* "With a mixture of hope, humor, and horror, their vision invokes the absurdity of being suspended within the bog-water monotony of an unevenly collapsing system, of dangling helplessly by a string, watching on as the outmoded refuse to die." *Through June 25. Co-Lab Projects, 5419 Glissman, 512/300-8217. co-labprojects.org.*

THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN: THE WHISPERERS Tarek Atoui is a Paris-based artist and composer whose work explores the medium of sound through a highly collaborative process that generates networks of community involvement. The **dynamic installations** on view in this exhibition are both **sound environments and spaces for activation** through occasional live performances. *Through Aug. 14. The Contemporary Austin, 700 Congress, 512/453-5312. thecontemporaryaustin.org.*

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: CIRCLES AND CYCLES In this new body of work, the artist **Jules Buck Jones** presents **imagery of extinct and extant animals** via drawings, paintings, prints, cutouts, and videos, weaving together thoughts on evolution, extinction, and the immensity of the geologic time scale. *Through June 19. grayDUCK Gallery, 2213 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/826-5334. grayduckgallery.com.*

ICOSA: I BELIEVE IN THINGS I CANNOT SEE An exhibition that features collaborative work from **Tammie Rubin** and **Darcie Book**? The answer is yes, and our recommendation is high for this show in which the artists investigate how to turn their collective space into an object – where awareness

of body and movement become essential – with **large, sculptural forms of paper** creating a spatial dichotomy, providing the opportunity to travel between two distinct realms. *Through June 25. ICOSA, 916 Springdale #102, 512/920-2062. icosacollective.com.*

NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: UN-VERB And here **Matthew Steinke**, local master of audiotech deconstruction and disruptive methods of music appreciation (via robotics, sculpture, animation, instrument building, puppetry, and computer programming), reveals **his newest project** in Downtown's coolest gallery. Bonus: **Tyeschea West's** "Drawing Conclusions" show of new photographic and multimedia portraits in the gallery's annex. *Through June 12. Northern-Southern, on Fifth between Brazos & San Jacinto. northern-southern.com.*

BOOKS

PEN AMERICA AUSTIN: WHO IS AFRAID OF BLACK BOOKS Moderated by **Jennifer M. Wilks** and featuring contributors to the **1619 Project**, acclaimed author **ZZ Packer** and award-winning poet **Danez Smith**, this conversation will reflect on the recent book bans and the power of literature to spur important cultural conversations. *Thu., June 2, 7pm. Central Library, 710 W. Cesar Chavez, 512/974-7400. Free, but RSVP. austinlibrary.org.*

BOOKWOMAN VIRTUAL POETRY READING: LETICIA URIETA **Leticia Urieta** – the regional program manager at **Austin Bat Cave** and co-director of **Barrio Writers Austin and Pflugerville** – is the author of a collection, *Las Criaturas*, and a chapbook, *The Monster*. **Cindy Huyser** hosts; an open mic follows. *Thu., June 9, 7-15pm. Free. ebookwoman.com.*

For more, see austinchronicle.com.



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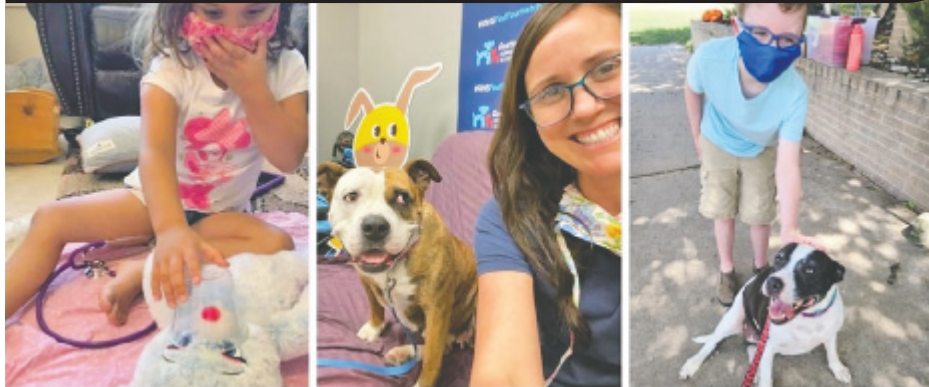
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Austin Humane Society's Summer Kids Series

Summer sessions will take **Humane Heroes** on an epic adventure to learn what it means to care for a pet of their own and explore ways to **help animals in need**. The beloved **Teddy Bear surgery** is back for two sessions, and an **outdoor movie night** screens **June 23**. It all culminates in graduation Aug. 3. *June 7-Aug. 3. Austin Humane Society, 124 W. Anderson, 512/646-7387. Free. austinhumanesociety.org/sks2022.*

THE DROP-IN A free outdoor concert series with select nights programmed by Black Fret. *Thursdays through Aug. 11, 8pm. Long Center, 701 W. Riverside. Free. thelongcenter.org.*

HAAM CORPORATE BATTLE OF THE BANDS Health Alliance for Austin Musicians gives local stuffed-shirts the chance to live their rock star dreams for a good cause with this contest to crown the best corporate band and raise funds for musicians' health care. See which corporations have the coolest employees at the showdown judged by a panel of celebrities and music industry experts. *Thu., June 2, 6pm. ACL Live at the Moody Theater, 310 W. Willie Nelson. Free; donations encouraged. myhaam.org.*

TEXAS 4000 DAY ZERO Join in to send off a group of students who'll be cycling to Anchorage (4,000 miles) to raise awareness, hope, and funds for cancer research. *Fri., June 3, 8am. UT-Austin EER building, 24th & San Jacinto. Free, but RSVP. texas4000.org.*

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ Dust off your formalwear for an adult prom supporting Summer Break Theatre, which gives teachers a creative outlet after they give so much of themselves all year. *Fri., June 3, 6-10pm. Baker School, 3908 Avenue B. summerbreaktheatre.com.*

STRAWBERRY LUNA MARKET A market showcasing female artisans and makers, local food, and entertainment, with a bit of theatre and whimsy. *Fri., June 3, 6-9pm. Memorial Park, 1127 N. Main St., Elgin. Free. shecreatesunion.org.*

TWO-STEP NIGHT Learn how to two-step for the first time or brush up on your skills with a lesson from Dancin' Austin (7pm), then show off your moves at the dance with live music (7:30-9pm). *Fri., June 3, 7-9pm. Jester King Craft Brewery, 13187 Fitzhugh Rd. jesterkingbrewery.com.*

GRIMNASTY MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER A memorial fundraiser for local hip-hop musician and visual artist Solomon "Grimnasty" Perry, who recently passed. *Fri., June 3, 9pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth. \$5. flamingocantina.com.*

GROW: HOMEGROWN FOOD & ART An evening of homegrown food and homegrown art by emerging and established artists, curated by Mexican American art activist Denver Gonzalez. *June 3-5. Fri.-Sat., 7-10pm; Sun., 5-8pm.*

ESB-MACC, 600 River St. Free, but donations and RSVP appreciated. xyzatlas.com/grow.

FREE PET MICROCHIP & VACCINE CLINIC Travis County residents are invited to a drive-through clinic to receive free microchips and rabies vaccines for pets. Please have dogs leashed and cats in crates. *Sat., June 4, 8-11am. Austin Animal Center, 7201 Levander Loop. austintexas.gov.*

RACIAL HEALING CIRCLE YMCA partners with Austin Health Commons to facilitate conversations that bridge racial divides in the community. *Sat., June 4, 9-11am. YMCA TownLake, 1100 W. Cesar Chavez. Free, but RSVP. austinyymca.org.*

APL'S TWIN OAKS BRANCH SUMMER BOOK SALE A great opportunity to support the library and stock up on books for your collection for super-low prices, plus get free refreshments and info on summer program Austin Completely Booked. *Sat., June 4, 10am-4pm. Twin Oaks Branch Library, 1800 S. Fifth. library.austintexas.gov.*

ART-O-RAMA Learn about the DAC at a fam-friendly event with activities, carnival-style booths, food, exhibits, and live music. *Sat., June 4, 11am-1pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. Free. austintexas.gov/dac.*

COMMUNITY MEETUP: PRIDE EDITION Come through for coffee, convos, and inspiring community stories with Future Front Texas. Women and LGBTQ+ creatives, leaders, and founders of all kinds are welcome. *Sat., June 4, 11am-1pm. Canopy, 916 Springdale. futurefronttexas.org.*

SWEET RIDE: A CLASSIC CAR SHOW See classic cars on display to win cash prizes and jam to live music from the Tiarras, the Del Vipers, and MJ KingSnake, plus a vendor market, free drinks, and food by Burt's Meat Market. All ages; dog-friendly. *Sat., June 4, 2-7pm. Fine Southern Gentlemen, 211 E. Alpine. Free. finesoutherngentlemen.com.*

TO FIKA: SWEDISH TOMTE Collector Amy Evenson shares her love of trolls and tomte (gnomes) through storytelling with an afternoon of folklore that explores the playful cultural heritage of Swedes. *Sat., June 4, 2-4pm. Oakwood Cemetery, 1601 Navasota. Free. eventbrite.com.*

ST. ELMO'S FIRE FEST PARTY With live music by the Discount Pills, Being Dead, and Lady Chops & the God Damn Jam; artwork by Greta Goo of Nashville Neverland; and baked goods by Honey B's Sweets. *Sat., June 4, 3-8pm. Cathedral of Junk, 4422 Lareina. \$10 suggested donation. fb.com/cathedralofjunk.*

FAMILY SUMMER FEST Enjoy open swimming, food trucks, music, lawn games, and more on the 10-acre campus. *Sat., June 4, 5-8pm. Springs YMCA, 27216 RR 12, Dripping Springs. Free. austinyymca.org.*

H-E-B FREE FIRST SUNDAY Enjoy free admission and explore the story of Texas told through three floors of exhibitions. *First Sundays, 10am-5pm. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress. thestoryoftexas.com.*

MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT Check out the Bullock's exhibit "Mental Health: Mind Matters," and drop in for a mental health toolkit activity in the gallery with volunteers from NAMI Central Texas. *Sun., June 5, 10am-2pm. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress. thestoryoftexas.com.*

KITCHEN COMPOST COLLECTOR GIVEAWAY Austin Resource Recovery customers can get a free compost collector bin while supplies last. Look for the tent by the Havins Field parking lot. *Sun., June 5, 10am-noon. Walnut Creek Park, 12138 N. Lamar. Free. austintexas.gov.*

"CUTE AF" HANDCRAFTED + VINTAGE MARKET Get your shop on with Eastside Pop Up. Plant-based brunch, libations, and coffee come from Buzz Mill and Brunch Bird. A portion of vendor fees will go to Out Youth. *Sun., June 5, 11am-3pm. Cute Nail Studio, 1211 E. Seventh. Free. fb.com/eastsidepopup.*

FRIDA FRIDAY MARKET + JEFA BRUNCH A market and panel conversation about identifying and stepping into your power, hosted by Frida Friday's tk tunchez and the Jefa Brunch Committee. *Sun., June 5, noon-6pm. Lustre Pearl South, 10400 Menchaca Rd. Market, free; brunch, \$45. fb.com/fridafridayatx.*

BEAUTIFULLY LOVED FASHION SHOW A magical day of celebrating 40 beautiful models who are all patients from local children's hospitals, with a fashion show emceed by Mix 94.7 morning show hosts and activities for all ages. *Sun., June 5, 4-8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. beautifullyloved.org/fashion-show.*

FIX-IT CLINIC Sewing machine not working? Hole in your favorite jeans? Bracelet with a broken clasp? Bring it to the Fix-It Clinic to give your item new life. *Sun., June 5, 6-8pm. Austin Creative Reuse, 2005 Wheless. Free. austintexas.gov.*

AJC GENERAL BODY MEETING Learn about the work Austin Justice Coalition is doing and how you can get involved. *First Tuesdays, 6:30pm. Online. austinjustice.org.*

WATER CONSERVATION SEMINAR As part of its Waterwise educational series, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County hosts a free webinar with Austin Water's Kevin Kluge, titled "Water Conservation for Austin Home Landscapes, Today and Tomorrow." *Wed., June 8, 10am-noon. Online. Free. traviscountytx.go.*

ARCHITALKS PRESENTS "TAILORED GEOMETRIES" A presentation by Nicole Blair, AIA, discussing the design process behind award-winning projects the Perch, the Hive, and Lincoln Chapel. *Wed., June 8, 7:30pm. Articulture Designs, 6405 Menchaca Rd. \$3. austinfa.org.*

SENSUS 2022 A celebration of all things crypto and blockchain, with panels, parties, networking, and more for metaverse mavens. *June 9-12. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. coindesk.com/sensus2022.*

CIVICS 101

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING The commission has a full schedule of presentations from the Office of Sustainability, Office of Police Oversight, and more. See agenda for details. *Tue., June 7, 5:30pm. Permitting & Development Center, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco. austintexas.gov.*

AISD BOARD INFO SESSION See agenda for details. *Thu., June 9, 5:30pm. Broadcast on aisd.tv and Facebook. austinisd.org.*

REDISRICTING COMMUNITY CONVERSATION The Austin ISD redistricting process is underway, meaning redrawing the boundaries of the seven single-member school board districts. Join to learn more about this process, ask questions, and share feedback about the proposed new maps. A recording will be available online. *Sat., June 4, 10:30am. Eastside Early College HS, 900 Thompson. austinisd.org/redistricting.*

AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING See agenda for details. *Tue., June 7, 1:30pm. City Hall, 301 W. Second. austintexas.gov.*

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Council has a hefty agenda as it prepares for summer break. See agenda for details, and tune in on ATXN to watch it live. *Thu., June 9, 10am. City Hall, 301 W. Second. austintexas.gov.*

CONTINUED ON P.36



Republic of Texas Motorcycle Rally

For its first year at a new home at **Mere's Reserve** in **Bastrop**, find **150 acres** dedicated to **live music**, RV and tent **camping**, the **Derwood Invitational Builder Show**, vendor booths, food trucks, libations from local and national brands, a vintage motorcycle display from **Hill Country Motorheads**, stunt shows from the **Ives Brothers** and **Mexican Acrobats**, **Demon City** mini-bike racing, a hot rod and custom car display from the **Austin Speed Shop**, demo rides, the **Peace*Love*Happiness Charity** and **Veteran's rides**, and more. *June 9-12. Bastrop. republicoftexasmotorcyclerrally.com.*

QMMUNITY

BY JAMES SCOTT

WELL, WELL: PRIDE MONTH IS HERE, Y'ALL. While it's true that being proud of your LGBTQIA community is a year-round activity, having a nationally recognized month reserved for the Big Celebrations is a lotta fun. Plus, it gives your Qmmunity editor leverage to get more space in the *Chron* – which is nice for my loquacious ass.

This year marks many first- and second-ever **Central Texas Pride** events happening **outside those Austin city limits**. First up is **Round Rock Pride**, the first-ever festival and parade for the town, on **Sat., June 4**, at Centennial Plaza. Next is **Tyler's** second annual **Pride March** through their downtown on Sun., June 5, which will have all proceeds go toward **Tyler Transgender Support Group** and **Incite! Women, Gender Non-Conforming, and Trans People of Color Against Violence**. **Pflugerville** has their **Pfifestival** for Pride on **Sat., June 18**, with comedy from comedians **Ky Krebs & Ava Smartt** as well as headlining drag act **Tammie Brown** from **RuPaul's**. Same day, different city: **Marble Falls** has its second **Pride Fest**, hosted by **Highland Lakes Equality Center** at **Johnson Park Amphitheater**, with daytime delights like food trucks and live entertainment as well the evening excitements of **Haus of Fatale's** drag show. **Lockhart's** first-ever Pride festival comes on **Sun., June 19**, after a full week of fun queer-focused events leading up to a festival at **Luna Gardens** bursting with talents like drag artists **Kara Foxx Paris, Emerald Foxx Paris, Natalie Monaé Hole, Nathan C. Paris**, multi-instrumentalist/songwriter **Chazz Emile Bessette**, and, on a stop on her first tour, Austin electronica empress **p1nkstar**. Galloping in on **Sun., June 25**, is the **Pride of Dripping Springs 2022 Festival** featuring the **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** – with food and drinks, vendor booths, and *ahem* lots of horses. Stay past nightfall for their **Pride After Dark**, an event boasting a DJ, dancing, drag, and more.

For us Bat City babies, Pride starts with a bang – the in-person return of **Queerbomb** on **Sat., June 4**, at **Native Hostel**. This'll be the same wonderfully wild and radically inclusive QB of pre-pandemic years, with an all-ages rally and march through Downtown to declare our queer pride at the top of our lungs. We're also starting June with a little lights! camera! **aGLIFF!** as the queer film festival hosts their **Pride Mini Film-a-Thon** from **June 3-5**. This tiny taste of aGLIFF's larger fest has four feature films, a host of short films, and a screening of the documentary **Julia Scotti: Funny That Way** with a post-film comedy set from the comedian herself.



Sentiments from Queerbomb 2019 JANA BIRCHUM

2 TO DO

Pride Month at Mama Merlot's Drag Show

Celebrate Pride Month at Doc's underground bar, Mama Merlot's, with two nights of live drag shows featuring Dee Gee Rey Whitney, Cheeki Khant, Alysha Pretty, and more. Friday's show is hosted by Celia Light, and Saturday's host is Jamie Perry. **Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 6-8 & 9-11pm.** *Doc's Drive In Theatre, 1540 Satterwhite Rd., Buda.* \$13. fb.com/docsdriveintheatre.

Queer Skate Night

See ya at the rink, skater-babes, for a night of drag from Louisiana Purchase and Leia Sakura Dior, a photo booth from Sean Peters, pop-ups from the Little Gay Shop, Pride Socks, and Double Scorpio, and on-site testing from Kind Clinic. **Mon., June 6, 7-10pm.** *Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann.* Free but donations suggested. instagram.com/thelittlegayshop.

For more Qmmunity listings see austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and send yer queer events to jscott@austinchronicle.com.

Q'D UP

TONGUE IN CHEEK Gaily giggle at this queer comedy open mic hosted by the hilarious Aira Juliet and Ivy Le. **First Thursdays, 8pm.** *Swan Dive, 615 Red River.* instagram.com/swandiveaustin.

AUSTIN VOGUE NIGHTS Attention queers: It's House of Lepore's monthly Vogue Night, with seven categories and seven chances to serve. **First Thursdays, 10pm.** *Swan Dive, 615 Red River.* \$5. instagram.com/houseoflepire.

AGLIFF PRIDE MINI FILM-A-THON See left. **June 3-5.** *Galaxy Highland 10, 6700 Middle Fiskville.* aglifff.org/pride.

"FOND OF EACH OTHER" Sip some cider as DJ Boi Orbison spins rare queer country vinyl as well as some familiar ol' LPs. **Fri., June 3, 8-11pm.** *Fairweather Cider Co., 10609 Metric #108.* instagram.com/boiorbison.

BABY LIKE US: PRIDE EDITION The premier lesbian-centric party returns with a femme-tastic DJ lineup: local fave Supermcstasy, and Houston heartthrobs Marz and Drea. **Fri., June 3, 9pm.** *Cheer Up Charlies, 900 Red River.* instagram.com/cheerupcharlies.

PRIDE MUSIC SERIES: THE GREEN JAY Queer Musicians + Allies ATX's Pride Music Series kicks off with Vertarias, Lord Friday the 13th, Naga Brujo, and Red & the Rebels. **Fri., June 3, 9pm.** *The Green Jay, 711 Red River.* \$10. instagram.com/queer_musicians_atx_satx.

QUEUE'D UP! Get your ears ready for some new queer jams at this live music showcase of queer and femme artists hosted by the iconic BabiBoi. This week's performers are BabiBoi, Ayo Tamz, and Theo Love. **First Fridays, 10pm.** *Swan Dive, 615 Red River.* \$5. instagram.com/babiboibitch.

SERVING FACE Support yer trans fam at this fundraising party hosted by pop queen p1nkstar for the gender affirming surgeries of Ezra, aka DJ BoyFriend ATX, and Tilly, aka Directress. **Sat., June 4.** *Cheer Up Charlies, 900 Red River.* instagram.com/p1nkstar.

BEER FOR ALL PRIDE KICKOFF Raise your rainbow can at this hoppy celebration as Circle Brewing teams up with Equality Texas for their annual Fanny Pack kolsch release party. **Sat., June 4, 1-4pm.** *Circle Brewing Co., 2340-B W. Braker.* fb.com/circlebrew.

ROUND ROCK PRIDE See left. **Sat., June 4, 2-6pm.** *Centennial Plaza, 301 W. Bagdad Ave., Round Rock.* roundrockpride.com.

QUEERBOMB See left. **Sat., June 4, 6pm.** *Native Hostel, 807 E. Fourth, 512/551-9947.* queerbomb.org.

A VIRTUAL YA PRIDE EVENT Join young adult authors Jason June, Brian D. Kennedy, and Lyla Lee as they celebrate their new queer YA novels. **Sat., June 4, 7pm.** *Virtual.* Free but RSVP: bookpeople.com.

SLAY! WERK! BEWTS! Lavender Thug hosts an extra-camp drag show with a new cast every week that will, she says, "make you think, laugh, cry, and possibly throw up." **Saturdays, 7pm.** *Cheer Up Charlies, 900 Red River.* instagram.com/lavenderthug.

CHUNK This international queer party returns with sick beats from Vicki Powell, DJ Thckrtanker, and Dr. Beard. **Sat., June 4, 9pm.** *Neon Grotto, 318 Colorado.* \$20. fb.com/chunkparty.

FRIDA FRIDAY MARKET + JEFA BRUNCH Jefa Brunch is a panel conversation all about identifying and stepping into your power. For Pride Month, the FFATX market will have a Pride photo booth by Mel Navarro Photo. **Sun., June 5, noon-6pm.** *Lustre Pearl South, 10400 Menchaca Rd.* Market, free; brunch, \$45. fb.com/fridafridayatx.

THE BEST LITTLE DRAG BRUNCH IN TEXAS Get dolled up for this drag brunch and market hosted by the "Dolly of ATX" Brigitte Bandit. **Sun., June 5, 2pm.** *Sagebrush, 5500 S. Congress.* \$10. instagram.com/sagebrushtexas.

2022 TREK PRIDE RIDE A casual, no-drop Pride ride with Trek Bicycle Parmer, plus free snacks, drinks, and swag. **Sun., June 5, 6:30pm.** *Trek Bicycle Parmer, 9900-B W. Parmer.* Free but RSVP: trekbikes.com.

ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP

A half day experience (1 to 5pm) for campers age 10-14. Play games, design games, paint miniatures, craft terrain and more!

Facilitated by 2022 Best of Austin GM Mike Nystul.



more info on www.wanderingwizard.guru

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RADIO

COFFEE ⚡ BEER

Mondays – Bluegrass Night

Wednesdays – Trivia night

Austin Flea – 3rd Sunday of every month

THURSDAY JUNE 2

Themed Trivia : The Simpsons

FRIDAY JUNE 3

Jordan Tice / Sophia Johnson

TUESDAY JUNE 7

Art Reception Happy Hour : oil paintings by Alla Matroy-Love 7-9pm

SUNDAY JUNE 12 – STARTING AT 4PM

Radio 8th Birthday

Twain, Mazel Tov Cocktail Hour, Rushad Eggeston + surprise guests!



4204 Menchaca Road,
Austin, TX 78704
Mon-Sat: 7am-12am
Sun: 7:30am-11pm
radiocoffeeandbeer.com

COMMUNITY CONTINUED FROM P.34

PAN AM PARK RENAMING The community is invited to provide feedback on a proposal to change the name of Pan American Neighborhood Park to Tony Castillo Pan American Neighborhood Park. An online survey is now open, and meetings will be held online and at the park. *Survey open through June 4. Virtual meetings: Thu., June 2, 7pm. In-person meeting: Sat., June 4, 10:30am, 2100 E. Third. austintexas.gov/panampark-proposal.*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CITY DRAFT

ALLOCATION PLAN Each year, the city prepares a plan detailing the amount of federal funding to be allocated to various housing and public service programs. Give your feedback online or at a public hearing Thu., June 9, 10am, with City Council. *Through June 10. Online. austintexas.gov.*

PUBLIC INPUT ON ARP FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS

The public is invited to provide input on the city's plan to allocate federal funds dedicated to homelessness and housing instability, either online or on June 9 with City Council. *Through June 10. Online. austintexas.gov.*

TOWN HALL ON PUBLIC SAFETY: PEOPLE WITH

DISABILITIES AND POLICING Join virtually or in person for a conversation with various city groups to amplify the voices of people with disabilities and their unique experiences with policing in Austin. *Sat., June 25, 10am-12:30pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron. austintexas.gov.*

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT VOTING

SESSION See agenda for details, and watch the meeting live on TCTV. *Tuesdays, 9am. Commissioners Court, 700 Lavaca. traviscountytx.gov.*

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

🐾 **ROUND ROCK EXPRESS** Vs. Oklahoma City. Thursday it's dog-friendly for Pints & Pups, and Sunday is Kids' Day. Attendees get a chance to win a used car Saturday courtesy of Nyle Maxwell. *June 2-5. Thu.-Fri., 7:05pm; Sat., 6:05pm; Sun., 1:05pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. rrexpress.com.*

AUSTIN TORCH The Ultimate Frisbee team plays Indianapolis Red. *Sat., June 4, 5pm. Lewis-Chen Family Field, 3001 S. Congress. abtorch.com.*

AUSTIN SOL The semi-pro Ultimate Frisbee team takes on the Carolina Flyers. *Sat., June 4, 7pm. Westlake High School, 4100 Westbank. theaudl.com/sol.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

GROUNDNED DANCE CARDIO Pop in for an upbeat, high-energy dance cardio session with Austin's best instructors, featuring Erica Nix on the first Saturdays of the month. *Saturdays through July 30. Fareground, 111 Congress. Free. faregroundaustin.com.*

VINO VINYASA Learn fun wine facts through creative yoga poses, then enjoy a tasting and discounted bottles. *Sun., June 5, noon. Fall Creek Vineyards, 1820 CR 222, Tow. \$30. vinovinyasayoga.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

👉 **MAUDIE'S MOONLIGHT MARGARITA RUN** A fun run that brings two Austin faves together: running and margaritas! Funds raised go toward keeping the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail in tiptop shape thanks to the Trail Foundation. *Thu., June 2, 8pm. Sand Beach Park, 111 Sandra Muraida Way. \$50. thetrailfoundation.org/mmr.*

👉 **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY FUN RUN** Join the Hill Country Conservancy for its fourth annual fun run, either a 5K or 1-mile route, then celebrate with tacos, coffee, and live music. *Sat., June 4, 8am. Violet Crown Trail, Dick Nichols Park, 8011 Beckett. \$0-40. hillcountryconservancy.org.*

👉 **BIKIN' BETTIES** Join the Betties for a special ride with a halfway-point stop at Yellow Bike Project's WTF (women/trans/femme) workshop to work on flat-changing skills. *Mon., June 6, 6:45pm. The Front Page, 1023 Springdale, Bldg. 1 Ste. F. fb.com/groups/bikinbetties.*

KIDS

GIFTED & TALENTED SHOWCASE AISD's GT students were invited to submit a virtual student project that connected with the 2022 theme, "Pathways and Passions." See a selection of chosen projects online. *Through June 3. Online. austinisd.org.*

👉 **KUTX ROCK THE PARK** Bring blankets or stadium cushions and settle in for a family-friendly concert. *Fri., June 3,*



Major League Pickleball

All teams compete for **three action-packed days** of group play, followed by single-elimination matches, culminating in **the finals** broadcast on CBS Sports Network. *Fri.-Sun., June 3-5. Dreamland Dripping Springs, 2770 Hwy. 290 W, Dripping Springs, 512/827-1279. dreamlanddstx.com.*

6:30pm. Mueller Lake Amphitheater, 4550 Mueller Blvd. Free. *kutx.org/live-events/kutx-events/rock-the-park.*

DISCOVERY DAYS An exciting celebration of the International Year of Caves & Karst and International Cave Day (June 6), with live demos, caving experiences, educational presentations, and more. *Sat.-Sun., June 4-5, 10am-4pm. Natural Bridge Caverns, 26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd., New Braunfels. naturalbridgecaverns.com.*

DROP IN & CREATE The Contemporary brings out special art activities so the whole family can dig into the art, ideas, and materials seen in the exhibits. *Select Sundays, 1-3pm. The Contemporary Austin at the Jones Center, 700 Congress. thecontemporaryaustin.org.*

ORPHEUS ACADEMY OF MUSIC OPEN

HOUSE Take a free lesson, meet the director, take a tour, and ask questions to see if the music school is a good fit for your little Beethoven. *Sun., June 5, 2-4pm. Orpheus Academy of Music, 3918 Far West. Free. orpheusacademy.com.*

MOVIE MONDAYS AT DEL VALLE LIBRARIES Del Valle libraries show aquatic-themed movies all summer for their "Oceans of Possibilities" series. *Mondays through July 25,*

11am. Elroy Library, 13512 FM 812; Garfield Library, 5121 Albert Brown Rd., Del Valle. Free. *etgld.org.*

DEL VALLE LIBRARIES SUMMER STORYTIMES Stories, snacks, and activities with an ocean theme for kids ages 3 and up. *Tuesdays through July 26, 11am. Elroy Library, 13512 FM 812. Wednesdays through July 27, 11am. Garfield Public Library, 5121 Albert Brown Dr. Free. etgld.org.*



BUFORD THE BOOK BUS Austin ISD aims to keep kids reading over the break by providing free books at several locations this summer. *Tue., June 7, 10am-noon. Cook Elementary, 1511 Cripple Creek. austinisd.org.*

OCEANS OF STORIES WITH AUSTIN BAT CAVE

Kids will explore books, write stories, and visit the Austin Bat Cave Batmobile to choose books for themselves. Students will get the chance to be published in the ABC anthology as well. *Tue., June 7, 11am. Garfield Public Library, 5121 Albert Brown Dr., Del Valle. Thu., June 9, 11am. Elroy Library, 13512 FM 812, Del Valle. Free. etgld.org.*

LITTLE TEXANS: CALM Kick off the summer with calming activities to keep the peace during the hot summer days. *Thu., June 9, 10:30-11:15am. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress. thestoryoftexas.com.*

OUT OF TOWN

HILL COUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL The 13th annual HCFE screens short and feature-length independent films, Q&A sessions, panels, parties, and more. *Thu.-Sun., June 2-5. Fredericksburg. hillcountryff.com.*

👉 **KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL** The 50th edition of the annual music festival runs for 18 days of peace and love at the Quiet Valley Ranch featuring legacy acts and up-and-coming stars. *Through June 12. Kerrville. kerrvillefolkfestival.org.*

VAUDEVILLE VARIETY SHOW There'll be lots of singing, dancing, comedy, and some surprises at this annual tradition at the Gaslight Baker Theatre. *Thu.-Sun., June 2-5. Lockhart. mygbt.org.*

TOM-TOM FESTIVAL Coby Hubbard headlines a weekend of barbecue cook-offs, a carnival, arts & crafts, and music. *Thu.-Sat., June 2-4. Yoakum. yoakumareachamber.com.*

👉 **MOO-LA FEST** Watch the colorful hot air balloons, enjoy the carnival, and catch the music at this salute to the local dairy industry. *Fri.-Sat., June 3-4. Stephenville. visitstephenville.com.*

TEXAS HERITAGE DAY Stagecoach rides, three-legged races, gunfights, and more happening around the courthouse lawn. *Sat., June 4, 9am-6:30pm. Llano. llanochamber.org.*

ROUND TOP MUSIC FESTIVAL More than 80 young artists present orchestra, chamber, and solo work with concerts on Saturdays over six weeks. Weekday rehearsals in the concert hall are free and open to the public. *June 5-July 17. Round Top. festivalhill.org.*

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The Traveling Man does his part to **keep Dallas weird**. The city has its share of quirky public art, and the trio of shiny, robot-like sculptures are among the most unusual and fun.

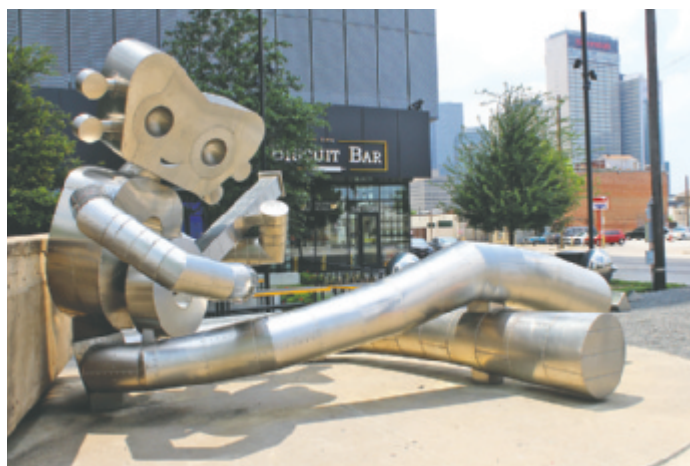
The art appears in three installations along **North Good Latimer Expressway**, which is more of a busy city street than a freeway, with the light rail tracks dividing the north and south lanes.

The backstory for *The Traveling Man* goes that he was conceived when a splash of gin hit a buried locomotive and the transformer emerged as the ambassador for **Deep Ellum's** future.

At Good Latimer and Elm Street, the gateway to Deep Ellum, Dallas' art and entertainment district east of downtown, is *Awakening*, *The Traveling Man's* birth. His head peeks out of the gravel-covered ground surrounded by three plump songbirds.

Across the street, *Waiting on a Train* comes to rest near the commuter rail station at the corner of the southbound lane of Good Latimer and Pacific Avenue. Here, he sits with his long, spindly legs crossed as he plays a guitar for the three chubby chicks.

Two streets up, on the northbound side of Good Latimer at Miranda Street, *Walking Tall* stands 40 feet tall in all his gleaming glory. Framed by the city's skyscrapers in the background, he's in motion, accompanied, again, by the three chrome birds.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Created by Dallas artists **Brad Oldham** and **Brandon Oldenburg**, it is all in good fun. The figures are made of polished metal held together with rivets. Unveiled on August 9, 2009, the art replaced several murals that were destroyed by the construction of the commuter rail system through the historic district.

1,603rd in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

THE VERDE REPORT BY ERIC GOODMAN



Austin FC midfielder Diego Fagúndez leads the club with seven assists through the first 14 games of 2022

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

After May Struggles, Austin FC Remains Confident

Welcome aboard the sliding scale of expectations, Austin FC.

After a dynamite start to the season through the end of April, Verde and Black closed out a treacherous month of May with a 4-1 loss to the LA Galaxy over Memorial Day weekend, dropping its record for the month to one win, one draw, and three losses. It's not unfamiliar territory for ATXFC. The club posted the same record in May 2021, when it was deep in the throes of an eight-game road trip to start its MLS existence and holding on for dear life. Expectations were tempered, if they existed at all.

It's a different context this time around. A fabulous early run saw Austin FC close out the month of April as the first team in MLS to reach the 20-point mark. Even now, after a relatively difficult month, Austin FC is entrenched in the Western Conference playoff picture, currently sitting in fourth place with seven wins, three draws, and four losses. They're also just 1 point shy of a tie for second place with FC Dallas and Real Salt Lake. But, again, it's been a struggle lately.

"At the end of the day, we need to know what we've done," ATX midfielder Diego Fagúndez said following the latest loss to the Galaxy. "The way that we came out this year we showed that we're a strong team, and that's what we want."

It would be lazy to insinuate that Austin FC in the month of May is the "real" Austin FC and that the team of the prior nine weeks was anything else. But it is fair to wonder if the second-year franchise is yet able to go head-to-head against the league's established contenders and win with consistency. All four teams the Oaks took on in May (they

played the Galaxy twice, losing both) are in playoff position in their respective conferences. Austin FC handled the hardest test of them all – beating league leaders LAFC on the road – but eventually the strength of the opposition caught up with them.

"I think we've left some points out there," coach Josh Wolff said. "It's been a solid start to the season, but we have goals that we still need to push forward to achieve. I think there's plenty to be pleased about from a progress standpoint, but there's plenty of progress still to make."

The Verde and Black will also have the opportunity to bolster its roster in the coming weeks. The club's next MLS match (away against Montréal CF) is not until June 18 due to the FIFA international break, and by then, you'd have to imagine that Austin FC's original Designated Player, Cecilio Domínguez, will be back to full fitness after sitting out while the league investigated him for off-field misconduct. Domínguez was reinstated on May 4, but has yet to reappear on a match day roster.

The club's front office also has the summer transfer window, which opens in early July, to look forward to. Last year, the midseason acquisition window yielded star player Sebastián Driussi, among others. Don't count on another Driussi this time around, but added depth on the wings or at fullback could make a sizable difference. And for the players already in Verde, some much needed rest is in order.

"Everybody needs to take a nice break off soccer and make sure we're focusing on ourselves and taking care of our bodies," Fagúndez said. "When we go back, it's going to be a hard time ... This is the time to push."

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AFTER BLUE

D: Bertrand Mandico; with Paula Luna, Elina Löwensohn, Agata Buzek, Vimala Pons, Michaël Erpelding, Cläina Clavaron, Mara Taquin, Claire Duburcq. (NR, 127 min., subtitled)

Forget Arrakis (so last year), or Tatooine (très gauche), and don't even mention Solaris (ugh, way too complicated); the cognoscenti know the fictional planet this season is *After Blue*. Fleeing a dying Earth has never been easier! Come for the sandy beaches, gorgeous sunsets, and unique wildlife, stay for the anti-technology agrarian lifestyle and arbitrary codes of justice. One important caveat, though: The atmosphere produces unrestricted body hair growth, and in men, unfortunately, these hairs grow inward, causing death. So, "ovarian bearers" only, please, aka no boys allowed.

A sapphic blending of Westerns and mythology (Boorman via Cocteau?) shot through a filter of Seventies sci-fi paperback covers, *After Blue* is the second proper feature from French experimental filmmaker Bertrand Mandico – although his output of shorts is abundant – following 2017's *The Wild Boys*. Both exhibit what is clearly emerging as his recipe for cinema: loosing a handful of female actors into an Edenlike environment (this film is suitably alternately titled *Dirty Paradise*) to play out their dramas while the viewer is seduced by an endless succession of aural, visual, and tactile reveries. I'm certain no other contemporary filmmaker has pushed the inherent eroticism of nature to its most grotesque conclusions as Mandico likes to do, and he has an extraordinary knack for inducing ephemeral states of synesthesia.

Still unsure if a trip to *After Blue* is right for you? Well, the plot centers on Roxy (Luna), a restless teenager living in a small beachside village with her hairdresser mom, Zora (longtime Mandico collaborator and Hal Hartley royalty Löwensohn). One day, Roxy frees a woman buried to her neck in the sand. The woman, Kate Bush (Buzek), grants Roxy three wishes before going on a killing spree and fleeing the area. The village elders task Roxy and Zora to track down Kate Bush to her mountain lair for some frontier justice. Armed with a Gucci rifle (weapons are designated by iconic fashion houses), the pair sets off on their quest, Roxy assailed by visions not only of Kate Bush but of her victims, who taunt her relentlessly from the land of the dead. As they lie in wait in Kate Bush's cave(!), they pal around with Veronika Sternberg (Pons), a local artist sporting the latest in designer witch couture. Sternberg owns a male android named Olgar-2 (Erpelding) with genitalia that is a bundle of tentacles, and whose nipples expel small ball bearings when he's aroused. Also, at one point Zora and Veronika take a sensuous bath together in what appears to be the head of a giant creature they just killed. Make no mistake, these folks are horny, and the world of *After Blue* is more than



The Wilder Side of Texas

The Lone Star State's diverse fauna in glowing color in *Deep in the Heart* **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

One of the most obnoxious elements of Texas culture is the arrogance of exceptionalism, based around the idea that people have made Texas better. The truth is that the land and wildlife that exists within border confines drawn by human hands are remarkable in their own right, as remarkable as anywhere else on the planet. Thus, they are deserving of a documentary that unifies the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of the Lone Star State's multiplicity of environments and ecosystems. That's what *Deep in the Heart* does: It gives the animals and wild places of Texas a shining place on the big screen.

Director Ben Masters touched on this topic in his last film, border documentary *The River and the Wall*, within the boundaries of the banks of the Rio Grande. He subtly debunked the idea of the Texas border as just dust and tumble weeds, traveling instead from streams on high peaks, via lazy drifts through shady canyons, to lush rain forests, and finally to the beaches of South Padre Island. But *Deep in the Heart* goes so much further, from the frozen ranges of Caprock Canyons State Park in the Panhandle, where snow-custed Bison are coming back from near-extinction, to Flower Garden Banks, out in

the Gulf of Mexico, whose coral reefs bask in the nutrient-rich waters that flow from rivers that began as creeks in the Hill Country.

The extraordinary diversity of Texas' habitats and their residents is captured down to the individual scale, feather, and whisker by natural history expert cinematographer Skip Hobbie and his entire team. It's clear that Masters was inspired by David Attenborough's genre-defining work in his *Life* series of documentary films and series, and, to their absolute credit, the team emulate the quality of work in those shows. The patience required to obtain footage of the elusive and endangered ocelot in its natural and shringing range, or the unpredictable mating habits of the alligator gar, results in a unique record of the state's fauna. However, credit must also go to one of the often overlooked desks in production: colorist Alex Winker. The way the sunsets glow, the dust shimmers, the flesh of translucent cave life passes, ghostlike, in front of the viewer, is given extra vivid life.

But this isn't just a lot of pretty pictures of pretty critturs. Masters, like all truly committed

nature documentarians, has a point to make: that these environments are fragile. The opening has more of Ken Burns than David Attenborough about it, a stark warning from history that Texas's track record on protecting its wildlife has been less than stellar, with a few extinctions along the way. The warm timbre in Matthew McConaughey's voice as he talks about the plains and Black Prairie develops a sadder edge when talking about the two real calls to action: water preservation and the hideous treatment of the Mountain Lion population, in which Texas lags behind just about every

other state. The consequences of traps and snares left in the wild to mangle and mutilate any animal unfortunate enough to be caught in them is shown in one especially tragic sequence. *Deep in the Heart* will captivate you, but it will also break your heart, and such

moments may make you recoil from the odd mentions of "conservation-minded hunters."

But Masters isn't trying to pick sides. Instead, *Deep in the Heart* is a reminder to everyone, whether they're raising cattle, walking through a state park, or just turning on a tap, that their actions have consequences for the state's beautiful biodiversity. It's an extraordinary document of the Lone Star State's wildlife, and a remarkable call to action.

AFS CINEMA, ALAMO LAKELINE, ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, FLIX BREWHOUSE, METROPOLITAN

DEEP IN THE HEART

D: Ben Masters; narrated by Matthew McConaughey. (NR, 90 min.)

★★★★

willing to accommodate them. But will *After Blue* accommodate you? Well, you've made it this far, haven't you?

★★★

— Josh Kupecki
ALAMO S. LAMAR

☛ BENEDICTION

D: Terence Davies; with Jack Lowden, Jeremy Irvine, Simon Russell Beale, Peter Capaldi, Calam Lynch, Gemma Jones, Ben Daniels, Kate Phillips, Harry Lawley, Lia Williams, Julian Sands, Anton Lesser. (PG-13, 137 min.)

Siegfried who? For American audiences, the life of modernist anti-war poet Siegfried Sassoon is the relatively obscure subject matter of gay British auteur Terence Davies' *Benediction*, a biographical choice made more challenging by the central character's elusive desire for meaning. The film is the eighth full-length narrative feature in an uncompromising career spanning three and a half decades, one that gloriously came to prominence in 1988 with the cinematic equivalent of the high Mass, the autobiographically rich *Distant Voices, Still Lives*, a dreamy diptych about a working-class Catholic family in 1940s and 1950s Liverpool. Except for the equally evocative *The Long Day Closes* that followed, Davies no longer crafts movies directly from the pages of his memories, but they nevertheless remain personal in some way. So, is there something more to Sassoon's melancholy pursuit of peace of mind in *Benediction*? With apologies to Bono, is this esteemed filmmaker, now in his 70s, telling us he still hasn't found what he's looking for?

Less adventurous in structure than many in Davies' oeuvre, *Benediction* is both expressionistic and vivid in recounting selected particulars of an outwardly fascinating life, though something feels missing in the totality of things. After enthusiastically enlisting to serve in the British Army at the outbreak of World War I, the 30-ish Sassoon (Lowden) quickly proves to be an exemplary soldier, earning the Military Cross for exceptional bravery on the Western Front. But as the War to End All Wars drags on, he becomes increasingly disillusioned by his country's failure to end the conflict. The horrors of the battlefield haunt him (recollections visually represented through actual black-and-white archival film footage) and he commences to publicly protest its continuation. Rather than court-martial its decorated hero for a conscientious objection many consider treasonous, the government sends him to a psychiatric hospital for treatment of his "nervous debility." According to the film, there he confesses the shame of his inner passions – that is, his unexplored feelings of homosexual attraction – in therapy sessions conducted by a sympathetic doctor (a nicely modulated Daniels). Having experienced a modicum of popular and critical acclaim for his virulently pacifist poems in the waning days of the war and the years thereafter, Sassoon begins to explore a closeted life in the shadows in a series of unfulfilling affairs with various young men, including the Welsh musical theatre dandy Ivor Novello (an eyelinered Irvine, having a bitchily great time). Eventually, he marries and sires a

OPENINGS

After Blue (NR)
Benediction (PG-13)
Crimes of the Future (R)
Deep in the Heart (NR)
Eiffel (R)
Frank and Penelope (R)
Jazz Fest: A New Orleans Story (PG-13)
Watcher (R)
We Are the Thousand (NR)

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

son in midlife, but never finds the peace of mind he asserts to crave, discontent and lonely near the end of his life (Capaldi, as the older – and much less sympathetic – version of Sassoon).

The Merchant Ivory decorum stifles the movie a bit, though its gay-centric section offers catty dialogue that's more Mart Crowley than Noël Coward. Davies remains lyrical in his visual sensibilities, and he executes certain scenes, such as a revolving 360-degree shot in which the younger Sassoon morphs into the older one, like a maestro. But some of the greatest blessings offered in *Benediction* are Lowden's on- and offscreen recitations of some of Sassoon's most notable poems, powerful in their sobering observations about the inhumanity and hypocrisy of war. The most memorable of those recitations is the one ending the film, "Disabled," which was not written by Sassoon but by his platonic first love Wilfred Owen, a fellow poet he met in the war hospital during his convalescence and who was tragically killed in battle a week before the signing of the armistice. The poem may be somewhat dated today in its conceptualism, but still: Listen, and weep.

★★★★

— Steve Davis
ARBOR, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA

☛ CRIMES OF THE FUTURE

D: David Cronenberg; with Viggo Mortensen, Léa Seydoux, Kristen Stewart, Don McKellar, Scott Speedman, Welket Bungué, Yorgos Pirpassopoulos, Tanaya Beatty, Nadia Litz. (R, 107 min.)

It's been said that it's impossible for a David Cronenberg film to be boring. That position can only be taken if you've never endured the tedium of his ponderous 1970 sophomore release,

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Ben Masters in South Texas, filming *Deep in the Heart*



Fur, Fin, Feather, and Wonder

New nature documentary *Deep in the Heart* explores the diversity of Texas wildlife **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

Ben Masters knows his way around the animals of Texas. A graduate in wildlife biology from Texas A&M, he's made a quintet of short films about species as diverse as pronghorns and mountain lions. But his new film, *Deep in the Heart*, was not just a leap in scale for him: It's unprecedented, the first-ever documentary looking at habitats and their inhabitants, statewide.

He first thought of the idea of a *Planet Earth*-style documentary about Texas five years ago when he was wrapping on his border documentary, *The River and the Wall*. "I was kind of surprised nobody had done it in the past," said Masters. However, after four years of filming in every wild place imaginable in the Lone Star State, Masters pondered, "If I knew then what I know now, I'm not certain I would have done it." For starters, animals don't read call sheets, "and a lot of the shoots we went on were extremely risky. Maybe it was luck, maybe it was the animals wanting their stories to be told, I don't know, but we got really lucky."

There was also a lot of hard work, and a lot of assistance, "from research organizations, biologists, scientists, landowners ... We'd reach out to our network that we'd been working with for years and ask them, 'How do you shoot ocelots?'"

Most nature documentaries of this scale are episodic and designed for television, but he wanted to make *Deep in the Heart* a theatrical experience, and so sought to make a feature "where nature is the main character." That meant creating a narrative centered around a menagerie of Texas wildlife. First, the selection would represent the whole state, from the Panhandle to the Gulf, the heights of Big Bend to the subterranean depths of the Edwards Aquifer; secondly, each animal would represent something larger about themselves. Take the state's living fossil, the gigantic alligator gar: "It

has this amazing strategy of reproduction where they just wait in the river until conditions are perfect to spawn, which coincide with floods. ... That's been working for gar for 70 million years, it's related to the health of Texas rivers [and] we've altered that with all of the dams and our water use."

The end result is a uniquely cinematic experience that immerses the audience in the Bracken Cave Preserve as 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats take flight, as well as footage of some of Texas' rarest species. Masters said, "I was told early on, by someone who studies ocelots, that we'd never get footage of one in the daytime." After several months, they put together the first high-quality footage of an ocelot ever captured in the USA, including six hours in daylight and the endangered predator with her kittens.

He also hunted down a truly unique part of the Texas biome: Matthew McConaughey. Getting the iconic Texas actor to narrate was "shockingly easy," according to Masters. He simply reached out to his agent, made the pitch, and got a simple response: "Matthew loves Texas, Matthew loves wildlife." The filmmaker sent over a rough cut, and McConaughey signed on the next day. "That was the moment I went, 'We may have something special here.'"

Of course, four years of climbing, clambering, crouching, and swimming with cameras meant a lot of unused footage. Masters said, "We filmed a sequence of a bobcat with some kittens, and we also filmed a really beautiful sandhill crane courtship dancing display ... I'm glad that we left them out, because they don't fit the storyline that we laid out, but I'll hopefully find a use for them somewhere down the line."

Deep in the Heart opens in Texas cinemas this weekend. Find our review on p.38.

Crimes of the Future, which plays like a humorless early John Waters film. Five decades later, it seems he's decided to overwrite its snail-paced apocalypse with a completely new story with the same name.

New story, but not a completely new idea. In the 1970 film, there is a brief subplot about a character growing new organs, with a question about whether these growths are cancers or evolution in action. Extending that concept for his first intrusion back into the realm of body horror since 1999, Cronenberg picks up where he left off – for better or worse – with *eXistenZ*. What he spawns is inevitably fascinating, but also disjointed; disturbing, but at the same time somehow glacial.

"Cronenbergian" has become shorthand for a certain kind of gooey horror, an aesthetic of soft bone and taut sinew, of the body in rebellion. There's often the tragedy of the loss of humanity, but that's less dominant in his tale of two radical artists, Saul Tenser (Cronenberg regular Mortensen) and his lover and surgeon-turned-stage technician, Caprice (Seydoux). In a near future that looks like a rusting Adriatic port, the duo has achieved a strange cult status from Tenser's innards conspiring against him by producing new organs that Caprice removes through surgeries in front of an audience.

So far, so suitably grisly, and *Crimes of the Future* is not afraid to churn (or even surgically remove) a few stomachs. But after the narrative subtlety and psychological trauma of his post-millennium works like *Eastern Promises* and *Cosmopolis*, it almost feels like a step back. Take the bizarre furniture that's supposed to aid digestion, or the former automated autopsy bed that's now become their stage: It all looks cool, but it also looks so much like how you'd think a Cronenberg prop should look that it's almost a spoof of itself. That's a sensation not helped at all by the performances: not all, of course, as Seydoux brings the same kind of stylized panache as Deborah Kara Unger in *Crash*, while Mortensen yields a dark harvest as Tenser, an enigmatic figure in a hipster/monk habit who crouches in shadows. But Cronenberg's later work, his dark thrillers and psychodramas, were built around character, and *Crimes* uses the assembly of weirdos and transhumanists as props to make points. Speedman at least brings a degree of painted gravity as a cultist who welcomes the biological great leap forward, while Beatty and Litz bring wry fun as a pair of (bio)mechanics. Yet Stewart, as an obsessive bureaucrat, relies on a baffling bundle of tics and mannerisms in place of a clear character, which is a sin of which *Crimes* itself seems guilty at times: All the wound sex and bio-conspiracies and "X is the new Y" seems very Cronenbergian, but it also feels lacking.

Crimes is at its most intriguing when it focuses on its discussion of transgressive art and body modification (à la *The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye*) and its underlying questioning of authorial ownership and intent. There's something surpris-

ingly playful in those moments, like the bored yawn at one avant-garde body modifier whose work is fine for the norms, but not those seeking true inner beauty. *Crimes* may lack the incisive wittiness of *eXistenZ* or the suppurating nightmares of *The Fly*, but even lesser Cronenbergian body horror is something to behold.

★★★

– Richard Whittaker

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EFFEL

D: Martin Bourboulon; with Romain Duris, Emma Mackey, Pierre Deladonchamps, Armande Boulanger, Bruno Raffaelli, Alexandre Steiger, Andranic Manet. (R, 108 min., subtitled)

"Freely inspired by a true story." That's the filmmakers' cunningly phrased hand-wave acknowledging the gap between actual history and the moony-eyed imagined romance proffered here. Still, it's a curious deployment of the creative license: You'd think the construction of one of man's greatest monuments would supply sufficient drama on its own.

Apparently not, which is why the scriptwriters have contorted a real-life early love affair of the engineer Gustave Eiffel into a star-crossed something that, in this film's supposition, spans decades and inspires the Eiffel Tower itself. (There's no proof Eiffel and his paramour Adrienne Bourges ever met again after their initial romance.) The filmmakers' flight of fancy thus renders the building of the tower – branded "useless and monstrous" by such luminaries as Guy de Maupassant and Alexandre Dumas *filis* – as mere backdrop, giving short shrift to a fascinating topic.

That doesn't mean Gustave and Adrienne's love story is un compelling. The casting works, even if the math doesn't: The reliably charismatic, luxuriously bushy-haired Romain Duris (perhaps best known stateside for 2005's *The Beat That My Heart Skipped*) and Emma Mackey, continuing the promise of her breakout roles in *Sex Education* and the misbegotten *Death on the Nile*, have exquisite chemistry despite their 22-year age gap and the chortling idea that 26 years elapse in between Gustave and Adrienne's assignments. (Mackey is 27 years old.) Their connection feels honest, intimate, and human-scaled, in contrast to the overall picture, which strains for epicness but comes off unfashionably awards-baiting instead.

★★★

– Kimberley Jones

ARBOR

FRANK AND PENELOPE

D: Sean Patrick Flanery; with Flanery, Caylee Cowan, Billy Budinich, Kevin Dillon, Johnathon Schaech, Donna D'Errico, Lin Shaye, Sonya Eddy, Brian Maillard. (R, 112 min.)

If it was the Nineties and Sean Patrick Flanery had made *Frank and Penelope*, the first thought would be, "Well, he's trying to make his own version of *True Romance*." After all, he'll always be synonymous with breakout hit-turned-unlikely cult fave *The Boondock Saints* (currently heading for a second sequel). His crime drama that was swept up in the Tarantino



Crimes of the Future

Witch Trials, where every film with black humor, gunplay, and morally ambiguous heroes was seen as a *Pulp Fiction* rip-off.

Texas-shot *Frank and Penelope* definitely has those Clarence and Alabama vibes, as wide-eyed, innocent Frank (Budnich) comes home mid-cuckolding and sulks off to the nearby strip joint, where shift-closer Penelope (Cowan) gets that \$25 drink out of him, and unlikely love blossoms. The kind of love that ends up with someone in a hospital, where a nurse (Eddy) recounts the trail of passion and blood in the journal of the mysterious bed-bound and bandage-swathed writer.

Even if *Frank and Penelope* just devolved into the standard schmuck-and-the-stripper road trip, then the clear spark between Cowan and Budnich, and the surprisingly bitter-tender dialogue that Flanery and co-writer John Thaddeus give them, could get over its dated, dusty, noir nature. Instead, it's the radical left turn into not one but two Texas horror tropes: the mysterious hotel and the backwater cult, both run by sun-blinded messiah Chisos (Schaech).

It's an intriguing attempt to smash together a bunch of genres, and the deeper it gets, the more fun it becomes. A coterie of characters spiral around each other in looping subplots (again, very post-Tarantino) with just enough idiocy and horror to keep the audience on its toes, hoping that these two crazy kids can make it work, or at least make it out alive. If there's one element of Nineties cinema that you'll really wish *Frank and Penelope* had kept around, it would be shooting on film, since celluloid adds a layer of grit and grime that just works so well with this kind of story, a layer that the kind of modern digital cinematography available to exploitation-level cinema just can't emulate.

And yet, somehow, there's more than a little bit of fun to be had in this oddball little throwback, filled with mischievous glee and a sullied heart of gold.

★★★

— Richard Whittaker
EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA

★ JAZZ FEST: A NEW ORLEANS STORY

D: Frank Marshall, Ryan Suffern. (PG-13, 94 min.)

"A great festival experience that can't be matched." That's the judgment of the late, legendary George Wein, who died last September, before the New Orleans music festival he helped found returned from pandemic hiatus. Wein, producer of the Newport Jazz Festival, had first been consulted in the early Sixties, when Jim Crow made an integrated event impossible. After a decade of false starts, the first New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival opened in 1970, and in 2019 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

That occasion is the subject of *Jazz Fest: A New Orleans Story*, a vivid documentary that earns its subtitle as a story of its host city. Early on, Ellis Marsalis Jr. (another pandemic casualty) helped recruit local musicians, and he notes that the eclectic festival was never "only" about jazz. An effective portrait might consist simply of a selected 50-year lineup: New Orleans natives Mahalia Jackson and Irma "Soul Queen" Thomas, Marsalis and his four musician sons (in what might have been their last group performance), Herbie Hancock, Rockin' Dopsie, Al Green, Aaron Neville, Trombone Shorty ... and on, and on, and on ...

Jazz Fest 2019 featured 7,000 musicians on 14 stages over eight days, so the generous selection here is just a sample. One moving sequence recounts the 2006 festival, a few battered months after Hurricane Katrina. Ben Jaffe of Preservation Hall recalls the "rebuild from below zero," and the film memorializes Bruce Springsteen's inspirational repurposing of his hymn for Asbury Park, "My City of Ruins."

Longtime festival producer Quint Davis (executive producer of the film along with Jimmy Buffett) provides contextual commentary, and film directors Frank Marshall and Ryan Suffern select generously from archival footage. Buffett credits New Orleans with his own maturation ("I'm a child of the Mardi Gras") and delivers a stirring, scene-specific rendition of "You Can't

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Mad Max: Fury Road (7:30pm) (P)

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Paris is Burning (7:30pm) (P)

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Majestic Cabaret Ball (Live Event) (8:00pm) (P)

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

How to Steal a Million (1:00pm) (S)

Reservoir Dogs (30th Anniversary) (4:15pm) (S)

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The Sting (7:30pm) (P)

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SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS



Near Dark

BACK TO THE EIGHTIES

Back to the Future: Part II (1989) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson. (PG, 108 min.) @Moviehouse, Wed., June 8, 7:30pm.

@Moviehouse & Eatery Lantana Place, Wed., June 8, 6:45pm.

Beetlejuice (1988) D: Tim Burton; with Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis. (PG, 92 min.) @Doc's Drive In, Thu., June 2, 8:50pm.

🐕 Dogs in Space (1986) D: Richard Lowenstein; with Michael Hutchence, Saskia Post, Nique Needles, Deanna Bond. (R, 113 min.) **Lates.** An Australian punk work of art that features a stellar soundtrack and stars INXS frontman Michael Hutchence. @AFS Cinema, Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 9:45pm.

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982) D: Amy Heckerling; with Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Judge Reinhold, Phoebe Cates. (R, 92 min.) @Doc's Drive In, Sun., June 5, 8:50pm.

The Goonies (1985) D: Richard Donner; with Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Corey Feldman, Martha Plimpton. (PG, 114 min.) @Pic, Sun., June 5, 2:55pm; Wed., June 8, 6pm.

@Blue Starlite Mueller II, multiple dates/times; find showtimes online. @Blue Starlite Downtown, Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, 8:45pm.

The Last Starfighter (1984) D: Nick Castle; with Lance Guest, Dan O'Herlihy, Robert Preston. (PG, 101 min.) @Doc's Drive In, Sun., June 5, 11pm.

Near Dark (1987) D: Kathryn Bigelow; with Adrian Pasdar, Jenny Wright, Lance Henriksen, Bill Paxton. (R, 95 min.)

Terror Tuesday. In this unique neo-Western, a traveling troupe of vampires terrorizes all in their path as they travel in an RV with blacked-out windows. @Alamo S. Lamar, Tue., June 7, 9:30pm.

The Princess Bride (1987) D: Rob Reiner; with Cary Elwes, Robin Wright. (PG, 98 min.) @Doc's Drive In, Sat., June 4, 8:50pm.

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) D: Steven Spielberg; with Harrison Ford. (PG, 115 min.) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu.-Fri. & Sun., June 2-3 & 5, 8:40pm; Wed., June 8, 8:45pm.

FEATURED SCREENINGS

🐕 The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994) D: Stephan Elliott; with Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce. (R, 102 min.) Celebrate Pride with the adventure comedy about drag queens traversing the Outback. (*) @Highland, Thu., June 2, 7:15pm.

Back to the Drive-in (2022) D: April Wright. (NR, 105 min.) What better place to watch a documentary about the revival and survival of drive-in theatres? @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Mon., June 6, 8:45pm.

🐕 The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) D: William Wyler; with Myrna Loy, Fredric March, Dana Andrews. (NR, 168 min.) **Special Event.** A masterpiece about soldiers reintegrating into society after war. Author Alison Macor will introduce the screening. @AFS Cinema, Sat., June 4, 3pm.

Boom! (1968) D: Joseph Losey; with Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton. (PG, 110 min.) Taylor and Burton collide in what John Waters called "a perfect movie." @AFS Cinema, Sat., June 4, 7pm; Sun., June 5, 3pm.

🐕 Bottle Rocket (1996) D: Wes Anderson; with Owen Wilson, Luke Wilson, Robert Musgrave. (R, 95 min.) **Paramount Summer Classic Film Series.** Anderson's early work about a band of bumbling burglars is a lovely example of the charming and colorful style he honed over the ensuing decades. Screening as part of a theme spotlighting films about thieves, con artists, and heists. (*) @Paramount Theatre, Wed., June 8, 7:30pm.

Forever Golden! A Celebration of The Golden Girls Fathom Events. Screening six classic episodes of the beloved series. @Metropolitan, Cinemark 20, CM Southpark Meadows, Tue., June 7, 7pm.

Halloween (1978) D: John Carpenter; with Donald Pleasence, Jamie Lee Curtis. (R, 93 min.) **Summer of Darkness.** As part of a summerlong Carpenter retrospective, Alamo offers free posters while supplies last. @Alamo Lakeline, Slaughter Lane, Village; find showtimes online.

The Italian Job (1969) D: Peter Collinson; with Michael Caine, Noël Coward, Maggie Blye. (G, 99 min.) **Paramount Summer Classic Film Series.** Screening as part of a

theme spotlighting films about thieves, con artists, and heists. @Paramount Theatre, Mon., June 6, 7:30pm.

🐕 Kids in the Hall: Brain Candy (1996) D: Kelly Makin. (R, 90 min.) The Kids are having a revival at the moment with a new documentary and a fresh batch of sketches on Amazon Prime, one of which pokes fun at the failures of this film that was not a box-office success and had wildly mixed reviews. (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Sat., June 4, 8:45pm.

Lingua Franca (2019) D: Isabel Sandoval; with Sandoval, Eamon Farren, Lynn Cohen. (NR, 89 min.) In a breakthrough feature, Sandoval directs and stars as an undocumented trans woman who falls in love with the son of an elderly woman she cares for. @Alamo S. Lamar, Sun., June 5, 3:30pm; Mon., June 6, 7pm.

Mad Max: Fury Road (2015) D: George Miller; with Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult. (R, 120 min.) **Paramount Summer Classic Film Series.** Screening as part of a collab with Hyperreal Film Club, spotlighting cult classics and underseen cinema, all paired with local short films. (*) @Paramount Theatre, Thu., June 9, 7:30pm.

The Met Live in HD: Hamlet Fathom Events. The contemporary opera by Brett Dean is performed live Saturday, with encores Wednesday. @Arbor, Metropolitan, Cinemark 20, Sat., June 4, 11:55am; Wed., June 8, 1, 6:30pm.

🐕 Mississippi Masala (1992) D: Mira Nair; with Denzel Washington, Sarita Choudhury. **Newly Restored.** A moving tale of a love affair between a young woman of Indian Ugandan descent (Choudhury) and a Black Southerner (Washington). (*) @AFS Cinema, Sun., June 5, 5:30pm; Tue., June 7, 7pm; Wed., June 8, 4pm.

Pitch Perfect (2012) D: Jason Moore; with Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson. (PG-13, 112 min.) **Movie Party.** An aca-mazing interactive screening with themed props, a riff-off, and plenty of singing along with the Bellas. (*) @Alamo Slaughter, Lakeline; find showtimes online.

Riffifi (1954) D: Jules Dassin. (NR, 115 min., subtitled) **Paramount Summer Classic Film Series.** Screening as part of a theme spotlighting films about thieves, con artists, and heists. @Paramount Theatre, Tue., June 7, 7:30pm.

🐕 Satanageddon! Special Event. American Genre Film Archive's head archivist is taking Bat City Cinema to the West Coast, kicking off the tour with an explosion of evil at AFS. Screening includes two Seventies rarities, *Satan War* and *Spectre*, plus a malevolent medley of trailers, cartoons, and shorts. @AFS Cinema, Fri., June 3, 8pm.

Saturday Fiction (2019) D: Lou Ye; with Gong Li, Mark Chao, Pascal Greggory. (NR, 126 min., subtitled) **Modern Masters.** A black-and-white historical drama about an actress in Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War II who appears in a play by her former flame. @AFS Cinema, Thu., June 2, 7:30pm; Mon., June 6, 7pm.

Space Jam (1996) D: Joe Pytka; with Michael Jordan. (PG, 87 min.) **Kids Camp.** (*) @Alamo Lakeline, S. Lamar, Slaughter Lane; find showtimes online.

Space Jam: A New Legacy (2021) D: Malcolm D. Lee; with LeBron James, Don Cheadle, Cedric Joe. (PG, 115 min.) **KidFLIX Summer Movie Clubhouse.** Beat the heat with \$1 movies all summer. (*) @Evo Entertainment, Evo Cinemas Belterra, Wed., June 8, 10am.

To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar (1995) D: Beeban Kidron; with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, John Leguizamo. (PG-13, 109 min.) **Brunch.** Enjoy brunch, cocktails, and a cross-country road trip with a trio of drag queens. (*) @Alamo Slaughter Lane, Lakeline, Sat., June 4, 11am.

🐕 The Wizard of Oz (1939) D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland. (G, 101 min.) **Fathom Events.** In honor of what would have been Garland's 100th birthday, revisit the iconic film, featuring a rarely seen extended musical number. @Arbor, Metropolitan, Cinemark 20, Sun.-Mon., June 5-6, 3, 7pm.

SPACES

WALL-E (2008) D: Andrew Stanton. (G, 97 min.) **Green Screen Film Series.** They'll be screening sci-fi classics all summer, inspired by Tom Friedman's alienlike sculpture *Looking Up*, on view at Laguna Gloria. (*) @Laguna Gloria Amphitheater, Thu., June 2, 7:30pm.

The Parent Trap (1998) D: Nancy Meyers; with Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson, Lindsay Lohan. (PG, 128 min.) **Screen on the Green.** Bring a blanket for the outdoor screening, and they'll bring summer fun with drinks, popcorn, and cotton candy. Come early for dinner at one of the many vendors. (*) @Fareground, Sat., June 4, 8:30pm.

Vegas in Space (1991) D: Phillip R. Ford; with Doris Fish, Miss X, Ginger Quest. (R, 85 min.) **Hyperreal Hotel.** A sci-fi wonder with an all-drag cast courtesy of San Francisco's Sluts A-Go-Go, screening with a local short film. @Hotel Vegas, Mon., June 6, 8pm.

On Story Premiere Party & Live Taping Join Austin Film Festival for a sneak peek of the series' upcoming season, with special guest Elgin James, co-creator of FX show *Mayans M.C.* @KMFA 89.5FM, Tue., June 7, 6pm.

Face/Off (1997) D: John Woo; with John Travolta, Nicolas Cage. (R, 140 min.) **Nicolas Cage Appreciation Month.** Cage and Travolta somehow pull off one of the most ludicrous plots ever written, and it's magical. (*) @Central Machine Works, Wed., June 8, 9pm.

FESTIVALS

🐕 aGLIFF Pride Mini Film-a-Thon To celebrate Pride Month, aGLIFF presents a weekend of films and programming including four features; a shorts program; a live comedy show with *America's Got Talent* finalist Julia Scotti and a screening of Susan Sandler's award-winning documentary portrait *Julia Scotti: Funny That Way*; and live Q&As with directors, along with parties and more. *Fri.-Sun., June 3-5.* agliff.org/pride.

ATX Television Festival They call it "TV camp for grownups," and any fan of the boob tube will find plenty to see and do, with screenings, panels, and more at various Downtown locations all weekend. *Thu.-Sun., June 2-5.* atxfestival.com.

Cine Las Americas International Film Festival Badges are now available for the 24th annual CLAIFF, returning to in-theatre screenings of films made by and/or about Latinos or Indigenous peoples of the Americas, as well as Spain and Portugal. *Wed.-Sun., June 8-12.* cinelasamericas.org.

OFFSCREEN

Saturdazed and Confused Celebrate summer L-I-V-I-N with DJs, a classic VW Bus selfie station, and more. As *Dazed* and *Confused* screens, a live muralist will paint classic scenes to be auctioned, with proceeds benefiting the Just Keep Livin' Foundation. *Sat., June 4, 3-6pm.* *Domain NORTHSIDE.* domainnorthside.com.



Bottle Rocket



Looking for showtimes?

To find up-to-date times searchable by movie title, theatre, and date, scan this QR code or go to austinchronicle.com/film.

THE SYMBOL (*) INDICATES FULL-LENGTH REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: 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 June 17 issue is Monday, June 6.** 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.

We Are the Thousand



NEW REVIEWS CONTINUED FROM P.41

Always Get What You Want.” Another celebrant, Katy Perry, accompanies the Gospel Soul Children on “Oh Happy Day” (the choir in their church robes, Perry in a skimpy spacesuit), merging seamlessly into Perry’s “Firework.” Festivals, Austin visitors can testify, create magical juxtapositions, and the leaps from New Orleans, nationwide across the cornucopia of Louisiana foods, and inevitably to Africa (“roots of the roots”) meld a gumbo of cultural flavors. “You can’t do it but you have to do it,” says Davis of that year’s festival. Filmgoers can pay personal homage to the revival ... as they plan their own visit to the Birthplace of Jazz.

★★★★ – Michael King
ARBOR

WATCHER

D: Chloe Okuno; with Maika Monroe, Burn Gorman, Karl Glusman, Madalina Anea, Flaviu Crisan. (R, 96 min.)

For decades, American films have used the cheap filming locations of Eastern Europe as a stand-in for the U.S., removing any sense of local identity. There’s an element of the American abroad in Chloe Okuno’s feature directorial debut, voyeuristic thriller *Watcher*, that both redresses the balance and addresses the sense of otherness that some filmmakers must have felt in a foreign nation.

Julia (Monroe) is clearly not local. Platinum blonde, pale as moonlight, she stands out everywhere she goes in Bucharest. Her husband, Francis (Glusman), has been relocated by his company to Romania, and she’s left to her own devices, hanging out in coffee shops, walking the historic streets, stumbling through with her fractured Romanian, with nothing to fill her time. Maybe that’s why she becomes convinced that her neighbor (Gorman, fresh off his success as Paramount Chairman Charles Bluhdorn in *The Offer*), is watching her, following her, that he may even be the serial killer nicknamed “The Spider” by the Bucharest press.

It would be easy to regard *Watcher* as part of the procession of post-#MeToo gaslighting thrillers, but that’s not quite what’s at play here. It’s not that it is trying to fool Julia, but rather

that even she’s unsure whether she’s just feeling out of her element and filling in gaps that aren’t even there. What’s more crushing is the loneliness of being in a foreign country, which explains why she falls in so fast with her neighbor, Irina (Anea): It’s not just that she speaks English, but that she’s been in the same situation, the only person at the table who doesn’t understand what’s being said.

Zack Ford’s original script for *Watcher* was set in New York, but the decision – inspired by Okuno – to move both filming and the story to Bucharest adds richness and a sense of alienation that would have been absent if it was just another Big Apple thriller. The audience is firmly in Julia’s shoes and seat, and that means experiencing the frustration of not knowing what anyone is talking about. Nothing is subtitled, so, like Julia, viewers are dependent on whatever fragments are translated by her husband, or the cops, or whatever interested parties are around. (*Watcher* must be a fascinating experience for anyone who speaks Romanian and English, who will have that sense of otherness channeled in a completely different manner.)

Ultimately, Okuno crafts a superior, stylish thriller, rich with nods to the 1960s and the golden era of paranoia dramas. Monroe proved her deftness with dark material with her career-launching double-volley of *It Follows* and *The Guest*, but now her teen trauma skills have an added maturity and grace, a neo-Hitchcockian blonde. It’s a performance equaled, mirrored, and reversed by Gorman, who picks up the baton of schlubby menace laid down by Peter Lorre. Between them, they make the title increasingly enigmatic, as Julia’s rising obsession turns into the stalkerish behavior she says she sees. Coldly gorgeous and never less than enthralling, *Watcher* is undoubtedly worth watching.

★★★★ – Richard Whittaker
ALAMO LAKELINE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20

WE ARE THE THOUSAND

D: Anita Rivaroli. (NR, 82 min., subtitled)

No band infuriates musos like the Foo Fighters. But no band other than the Foo Fighters could inspire a thousand amateur musicians to gather in a field in Italy to play “Learn to Fly”

in the desperate hope that they could convince Dave Grohl and his pals to play a gig there.

As the saying goes, never hurts to ask. Or, in the case of wide-eyed dreamer Fabio Zaffagnini, to assemble the Rockin’ 1,000, the (lineup-wise) biggest band in the history of rock & roll, to do the asking for him. It’s the absurd, heartwarming story of feel-great music documentary *We Are the Thousand*, the kind of story that, once upon a time, Hollywood would have mangled as a subpar vehicle for a young Adam Sandler, then moved it to Duluth and changed the band to Foreigner because they’re cheaper. Instead, Rivaroli keeps what is already an incredibly pure story as sweet and charming as it needs to be, and in the process reasserts why the Fools are biggest rock band (saleswise) in the world today. More than that, it’s a film about rock as communion and community. Rivaroli doesn’t pick out a few sample players to follow, but instead bounces around the crowd, getting snippets and moments from the incredible diversity of Foo fans in the thousand. The bassists and plumbers, the drummers and IT consultants, the indie kids on guitar and the office worker granddads singing along.

It’s not a story that needs hiccups or traumas. It’s a film that inspires, that will make you want to try the silly, impossible, wonderful thing. It’s the movie that left smiles on the faces of the thousand, on the faces of the surprising number of people for whom they performed online (in a wonderful coda) in concert. It’s a story about how easy it is to fix what’s not working if everyone pulls together. And it’s a story about how the Foo Fighters can bring the world together.

★★★★ – Richard Whittaker
HIGHLAND

FIRST RUNS

Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com/events/film.

The Bad Guys ★★★

D: Pierre Perifel. (PG, 100 min.) DreamWorks’ latest puts animal crooks on the right path.

BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, FLIX BREWHOUSE, GATEWAY, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

The Bob’s Burgers Movie ★★★★★

D: Loren Bouchard. (PG-13, 102 min.) The Belchers make the big-screen jump beautifully.

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness ★★★★★

D: Sam Raimi. (PG-13, 126 min.) Sam Raimi makes the most Sam Raimi Marvel film imaginable.

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO VILLAGE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

Downton Abbey: A New Era ★★★

D: Simon Curtis. (PG, 124 min.) The small-screen stately manor somehow still can’t fill the big screen.

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, FLIX BREWHOUSE, GATEWAY, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7, WESTGATE

The Duke ★★★

D: Roger Michell. (R, 96 min.) Jim Broadbent is charming in this socially minded true-crime comedy. ARBOR

Everything Everywhere All at Once ★★★★★

D: Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert. (R, 140 min.) Michelle Yeoh leaps into the multiverse in this incredible, inventive comedy. ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO VILLAGE, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN, BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, VIOLET CROWN, WESTGATE

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore ★★★

D: Dan Yates. (PG-13, 142 min.) Sloppy scripting is the least of this franchise’s problems, but it’s still a huge one. BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER

The Lost City ★★★

D: Aaron Nee, Adam Nee. (PG-13, 112 min.) Bullock and Tatum find unlikely romance in this raucous slapstick adventure. CM CEDAR PARK, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA

Men ★★

D: Alex Garland. (R, 100 min.) Alex Garland’s grab bag of gender politics and myth is just a rattling pile of nothing. ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, LAKE CREEK 7

Morbius ★★

D: Daniel Espinosa. (PG-13, 104 min.) Marvel’s living vampire gets his own Sony Spidey-verse spinoff, with Jared Leto as the doctor who turns himself into a bloodsucker. ALAMO LAKELINE

The Northman ★★★★★

D: Robert Eggers. (R, 136 min.) An epic, bloody, vengeance-fueled odyssey across Viking culture and myth. ARBOR

RRR ★★★★★

D: S.S. Rajamouli. (PG-13, 186 min., subtitled) Tollywood historical epic is bromantic action nirvana. ALAMO MUELLER

Sonic the Hedgehog 2 ★★★

D: Jeff Fowler. (PG, 122 min.) The supersonic hedgehog zips through a distracting two hours, but doesn’t he deserve more than that?

BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, HIGHLAND, LAKELINE

Top Gun: Maverick ★★★★★

D: Joseph Kosinski. (PG-13, 131 min.) Tom Cruise proves he’s the last of his kind in this legacy sequel to his 1986 recruitment poster movie.

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO VILLAGE, AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN, BULLOCK MUSEUM, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, GATEWAY, IPIC, LAKELINE, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7, VIOLET CROWN, WESTGATE

The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent ★★★★★

D: Tom Gormican. (R, 105 min.) Metacomedy proves Nicolas Cage may be the last true movie star. FLIX BREWHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE

Food

DOWNLOADING HAWKER CULTURE

Virtual brands, ghost kitchens, and pop-ups are making Southeast Asian street food accessible to Austin

BY CLARA WANG

Southeast Asia is synonymous with street food. Around Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, hawker stalls are the ultimate democratizer: Young urban professionals, government workers, schoolchildren, and apron-clad grandmas alike can be found shouting orders over noisy markets and squatting on plastic stools hunched over a steaming bowl of something absolutely delicious that costs less than \$3.

Today, flavors from these countries are arriving in Austin's developing Asian food scene via the modern-day hawker stall: internet-driven pop-ups and virtual brands.

For those who aren't up on the latest restaurant technology lingo, a virtual brand restaurant is one that exists purely for online orders. Chefs cook out of a rented commercial kitchen, or "ghost kitchen," and customers order for pickup or delivery through apps like Uber Eats and DoorDash. Pop-up restaurants are temporary events where cooks can showcase their offerings at any location that allows them to set up, and mostly promote and announce events through social media like Instagram or Twitter. By cutting out the significant financial and time investments required for a physical restaurant location, virtual brands and pop-ups allow aspiring chefs and food lovers to experiment and share their wares at a low cost and on their own schedule.

While virtual brands and pop-ups have increased in prominence among urban food scenes since the pandemic struck, a new generation of home chefs and pop-up founders are taking advantage of newly lowered barriers to entry and showcasing nuanced takes on Southeast Asian cuisine, charging the Austin Asian food scene with international flavors that would've been extremely difficult to market a decade ago.

"People like me don't have the funds or the time to start a full-time restaurant, but I like cooking street foods," says Nicolai McCrary, founder of Malaysian pop-up Penang Shack and full-time food photographer and writer. "We can only do that now because of pop-ups and the low barrier to entry."

Southeast Asian street foods especially lend themselves to informal markets due to their low ingredient costs and communal nature. Plus, as McCrary notes, they're not commonly found around Austin.

"I was craving my mom's food and I was stuck at home," says McCrary. "So I decided to just start making it. If there had been restaurants serving some of these dishes, it's hard to say if I would've made the same choice."

As with the democratizing power of a bowl of steaming noodles from a street vendor, Southeast Asian street food sellers like Chicken Rice Joe, Austin Kuih Co., and Penang Shack are able to use the internet economy to bring nostalgic tastes of Singapore and Malaysia to the Austin community at an affordable cost for both sellers and customers.



Above: Lily Tjie of Chicken Rice Joe; below: chicken satay from Penang Shack

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

CHICKEN RICE JOE

Chicken Rice Joe (5610 N. I-35, chicken-ricejoe.com) is a virtual brand founded and run by Singaporean Malaysian friends and partners Joe Tah and Lily Tjie, available for delivery or pickup on their website as well as Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub, Lunchdrop, ezCater, and ChowNow out of their Club Kitchen facility by I-35. Singapore-born-and-bred Tah is a full-time IT professional who originally came to Austin 11 years ago after being hired by Electronic Arts as an architect, and found himself missing the hawker foods his homeland is famous for: fatty, aromatic nasi lemak (rice steamed with coconut milk in a pandan leaf); fried chicken wings coated with sambal sauce; and Hainanese chicken rice – the king of Singaporean street food – unassuming-looking but bursting with savory, slow-cooked flavors (best paired with achar, a spicy pickle popular all over Southeast Asia).

After years of re-creating such dishes at home for his family, Tah decided to start the virtual brand Chicken Rice Joe in June 2021 with longtime friend, Malaysian immigrant Tjie, due to a mutual love of Southeast Asian food and her decades of professional cooking experience in cafeterias and at her own restaurant in Dobie Mall, Japanese Oishi Sushi, which closed in 2016. Thanks

to the virtual brand model, they were in business within weeks of him conceptualizing the idea and bringing Tjie on board.

"I opened a restaurant because I want to eat Singaporean food," says Tah. "We cook based on memory of the taste, the street food we grew up with."

"I opened a restaurant because I want to eat Singaporean food. We cook based on memory of the taste, the street food we grew up with."

JOE TAH, CHICKEN RICE JOE

"I just like to cook and eat," laughs Tjie. "This business, you need to love your job. It takes long hours and it's not easy but if you have someone who has the same idea to help you grow your business, nothing feels hard."

Along with the Singaporean and Malaysian street foods mentioned above, they also offer an ever-changing rotation of classic Southeast Asian snacks inspired by their childhoods (Yeo's canned drinks are responsible for many sugar-high Asian kids), Tjie's concoctions (toffeelike coconut milk dessert gula melaka sago), and Tah's travels (Taiwanese fried chicken).

Their clientele is mostly from the Asian diaspora – India, Vietnam, China – with a few sentimental Singaporean and Malaysian regulars.

"I have people from Singapore who are like, 'This taste immediately brings me back home,'" says Tah. "This is what real chicken rice tastes like in Singapore. This is not Americanized."

CONTINUED ON P.46



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ATASH | World Music

SUN. JUNE 5, 12 - 2:30 PM

**ZACH VARNER
QUARTET** | Jazz

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THURS. JUNE 2, 5:30-8 PM

MOTENKO | Soul/R&B

FRI. JUNE 3, 5:30-8 PM

JONAS ALVAREZ | Latin

SAT. JUNE 4, 5:30-8 PM

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POP-UPS CONTINUED FROM P.44

AUSTIN KUIH CO.

Ava Pendleton, founder and sole proprietor of Austin Kuih Co. (austinkuihco.com), spent childhood summers selling kuih from a stall by the side of the road with her aunt in Malaysia. Kuih is a sticky rice flour dessert enjoyed throughout Southeast Asia derived from Chinese gao, but with ingredients like coconut, pandan, and palm sugar that make it uniquely Malaysian.

"It goes back to the spice trade; we do have a lot of shared history and flavors as Southeast Asian people, and those flavors are inflected by colonizers," says Pendleton. "Sometimes I'm at a pop-up, and I'll be like, 'Have you tried Malaysian kuih?' I compare it to tapas – little bites. Some are sweet, some are savory, some are fried."

Born in Ohio to a Malaysian mother who came to the United States on a national scholarship (where she met Pendleton's American father), Pendleton bounced between Malaysia and the States during her early childhood and moved to Austin a few years ago. She started the Austin Kuih Co. in 2021 as a home baking project that turned into a cottage food business with multiple pop-ups and local acclaim, and she recently quit her job in education to be a full-time pastry chef. She currently makes everything herself and operates as

a cottage food operator, batch-cooking for online orders and pickups along with pop-up events.

"What I want to do is honor traditional methods. And then what can we add, as Texans?" Pendleton says. "What ingredients don't have to come so far from us, and are sustainable?"

PENANG SHACK

Austin pop-up Penang Shack (penangshack.com) – currently consisting of founder "Nasi" Nicolai McCrary, "Durian" Don Smolik, "Milo" Mike Moore, and "Sambal" Sarah Kayfus – initially began as a fundraiser for the Austin Justice Coalition in 2020. McCrary had so much fun cooking and selling food he grew up with from his mother's hometown of Penang, Malaysia, he never stopped. They serve Malaysian classics like nasi lemak, satay (skewers marinated in spices), beef rendang (coconut beef stew), and laksa (curried noodle soup), along with whatever inspiration strikes up.

"I don't think this could've existed 10 years ago," says McCrary, who moved to Austin in 2008 for college. "Austin's always had a decent scene for Vietnamese food and somewhat for Chinese. But we're finally starting to get more Filipino, Malaysian, Indonesian, and Laotian and things like that, which I think [has] been really exciting."



Above: Ava Pendleton of Austin Kuih Co.; at left: Nicolai McCrary of Penang Shack PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

"People like me don't have the funds or the time to start a full-time restaurant, but I like cooking street foods. We can only do that now because of pop-ups and the low barrier to entry."

NICOLAI MCCRARY, PENANG SHACK

AUSTIN IS READY FOR AN ASIAN MARKET

Chicken Rice Joe, Austin Kuih Co., and Penang Shack are just the tip of the iceberg; many local virtual brands and pop-ups, like Kat's Hand-Baked, Mr. Noodle-San, and Gan Bei Gals, have found success and a following. The next step may be a more organized, co-op-style marketplace that charges a nominal fee to vendors and customers to cover maintenance costs, much like the 812 Outdoor Market that opens every weekend and charges \$2 a car.

McCrary hopes the future of Southeast Asian vendors in Austin will be similar to

the communal markets of their origin countries: collaborative efforts that work together as established, regular marketplaces.

"These pop-ups are the perfect platform to set up night markets," says McCrary, who is working on setting up regular night markets in a sustainable manner for home chefs who may not be accustomed to serving large-scale events. "I want to have these more than once a year. Just having more of these collaborative events where multiple pop-ups can come together, it'll create a really cool Austin. It'll create something really exciting." ■

FOOD EVENTS

BY WAYNE
ALAN BRENNER

AC

DE NADA CANTINA: ANNIVERSARY ALL-DAY HAPPY HOUR Well, sure, when we turned 1 year old, we also celebrated with an all-day happy hour. But we were more about naps and strained carrots back then, tbh, whereas De Nada Cantina, that **Eastside bastion of taco-forward deliciousness**, will be featuring their usual **happy hour food-and-drink specials nonstop – from 11am to 10pm**. And if you know how good those specials are, reckon you'll be stopping by to wish 'em a happy anniversary sometime that day, too. **Thu., June 2, 11am-10pm**. De Nada Cantina, 4715 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/615-3555. denadacantina.com.

STILL AUSTIN WHISKEY: HUCKLEBERRY POP-UP We've noted how Still Austin is trying out different culinary concepts for their lovely courtyard, to maybe eventually settle on one to stick with for a while? Don't know if this *indicates* anything, but **Davis Turner's Huckleberry** crew will be at the Still *this weekend*, serving up their popular crab quesadillas, pimento cheese sandwiches, smash burgers, ceviche, and other favorites. Perfect foods to complement an expertly mixed whiskey cocktail, we say. **Fri.-Sat., June 3-4, noon-7pm**. Still Austin, 440 E. St. Elmo, 512/276-2700. stillaustin.com.

LA CONDESA: DRAG BRUNCH La Condesa's heralding this as "All Tequila, All Shade," but you just know there's gonna be some **incredibly Mexilicious noms** served up alongside the **cocktails and queenly exuberance** this coming Sunday, too. As sure as we almost made ourselves cringe by using the term "Mexilicious," this'll be a fine gustatory gig hosted by Austin's own **Ritz Bitz**, presented by **Tequila Tromba** and **Alkchemist Gin**, with music from **DJ Eriq Stylez** – and a portion of the proceeds going to **the Trevor Project**. **Sun., June 5, 11am**. La Condesa, 400-A W. Second, 512/499-0300. \$25. lacondesa.com.

WFF: TOAST OF TEXAS The Wine & Food Foundation's **Toast of Texas** is back and showcasing more wineries than ever, the popular sip-and-stroll-style event featuring three (air-conditioned!) tasting rooms with **30 different wineries represented**, catering from **Slab BBQ** and **Mi Paella**, and one hell of a posh silent auction. **Sun., June 5, 2-4:30pm**. Star Hill Ranch, 15000 Hamilton Pool Rd. \$85. winefoodfoundation.org.



The Huckleberry food truck brings its oceanic treasures and more to Still Austin Distillery
COURTESY OF HUCKLEBERRY

Food News Buffet

Here's some of what's happening in Austin's culinary scene, as wrangled from numerous PR releases, words on the digital street, and even the occasional (verified) IRL eavesdroppings.

Reckon it's quite an honor that **Forbes Travel Guide**, the "only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, and spas," which recently announced its **2022 Star Awards**, has included our own **Fairmont Austin** (101 Red River) among those lauded this year. The Fairmont itself earned a Four-Star Hotel award, while the hotel's **Garrison** restaurant, expertly helmed by chef **Jakub Czynszczon**, was named a Four-Star Restaurant winner – with both showcased on that guide's website: forbestravelguide.com. You might already know how strong the hotel/dining game is in this town; maybe add the Garrison to your roster of greats, if it's not there already...

Not to mention the *farm-to-table* game in this town, too – although, after just one flex of that metaphor, the term "game" is already growing stale. But what won't be stale at all is a sort of farm-to-farm event at **Sonya Cote's Eden East** out Bastrop way: **La Tomatina**. It's a dinner that features "tomatoes from Eden East Farm presented in creative ways and paired with wines for a perfect evening." This will take place on **Sun., June 12**, and we're telling you in advance because 1) people really love tomatoes, and 2) the culinary savants presenting them are from **Dos Olivos, Hunter Gatherer, Hestia, Store House, and Foreign & Domestic**. Right? *Whoa*. Put your eyes on edeneastaustin.com/farm for details...

It hasn't escaped our attention that a new **Rosen's Bagels** is now thriving where the **Salt & Time** outpost at **Republic Square Park** used to be (422 W. Fifth), and, in addition to Rosen's core menu of bagels, schmears, lox, and egg sandwiches, the breadly powerhouse is also offering popular Salt & Time ingredients (think: wagyu roast beef) with bagel components. (Also, those bagels and more will be paired with rosé as part of a "Brunch With the Winemaker" in the **C.L. Butaud** tasting room on **Sat., June 11**. Look to texasava.com for deets.) Ah now, **Present Tense Hospitality**, we do like the cut of your synergy's jib...

WUXTRY! **Turnstile** – the coffee and espresso shop that's also a craft beer and cocktail bar with a full kitchen, at 10025 Burnet Rd. – has (finally!) **expanded their kitchen hours** to include **lunch service**, serving up gourmet burgers, chicken sandwiches, and salads at, well, at *lunchtime*. Note: The drive-through remains open for coffee and espresso drinks and tacos, 7:30-11:30am...

Now eat as well as you can, tip like it's going out of style, and remember we're all in this together. ■



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Music

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RASCOE

Nine Records That Inspired Austin Author Fernando A. Flores' *Valleyesque*

The epigraph of Austin author **Fernando A. Flores**' new book pairs a quote from canonical outsider **William S. Burroughs** with a supremely lesser-known figure. A lyric from Marc Hardcore, leader of Nineties-launched Texas border punks the **Malcontent Party**: "Shut up – get the fuck away from me!"

At a **BookPeople** event last month, celebrating new short story collection *Valleyesque*, Flores said his younger self would enjoy seeing the two quotes settled next to each other in print. The writer also compared selecting the book's delightfully surreal 14 stories to putting together an album – cutting some and adding others, over many years, for just the right tracklist. Since the May 3 release with **MCD x FSG Originals**, the author recently earned *New York Times* acclaim for "[floating] into and out of bizarre dreamscapes as if passing through a police checkpoint."

Sonic sensibilities of the Rio Grande Valley have long saturated the work of Flores, born in Reynosa, Mexico, and raised in South Texas. Alongside the punk voyages of 2018 debut *Death to the Bullshit Artists of South Texas*, area psychedelia snakes its way into the strange, funny familiarity of

Valleyesque. One story imagines Romantic-era composer **Frédéric Chopin**'s kidnapping in a dream sequence set in Ciudad Juárez. With such sonically minded literary chops, the *Chronicle* polled the employee of Austin's **Malvern Books** on his new collection's musical fuel.

Flores says he's put together the nine most "Valleyesque" albums he could think of.

FANTASIA DEL BARRIO BY EL GUSANO

"The psychedelic, instrumental creation of Vietnam veteran **Eugenio 'Gene' Jaimez**, from Cotulla, Texas, recorded in 1975 and originally released in a private pressing of 300 copies – this record deserves the red-carpet treatment as a sui generis classic."

TO VALERIE SOLANAS AND MARILYN MONROE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DESPERATION BY PAULINE OLIVEROS

"If the title isn't devastating enough, the music itself is. I play it as loud as I can at least once every eight months or so, and by the end I always feel compacted into a cube of useless metal."



JOHN ANDERSON

EXCERPTS FROM THE HOLY SCUMBRELLA BY MOIRA SCAR

"I witnessed this gothy, noise-pop, bluesy duo perform at a backyard show during **South by Southwest** 2010 with only about eight other people, and I've yet to recover. This was the record they were touring at the time, and it's the hardest to find, unfortunately. Takes me on a futuristic silent film, trans-Atlantic journey like nothing else."

LEFTOVER BLUE FUR: SOUNDS FROM PALFLOAT 1992-2006

"**Chad Hopper** is still one of the most prolific underground musicians and artists in town. Out of all the mind-bending material he's constantly putting out, this out-of-print anthology from **Green Cherry Records** is the one I revisit most often."

TOUCH OF EVIL (SOUNDTRACK) BY HENRY MANCINI

"My favorite of Mancini's soundtracks, from my favorite **Orson Welles** film. It pops and fizzes and lights up like a neon beerlight in a smoky, rowdy, tequila-soaked room."

DUH BY FOREIGN MOTHERS

"I lived in the duplex next door from where this band practiced, and whenever they started up I'd try to siphon some of that creative energy and use it to write. At least two stories in *Valleyesque* were partly drafted this way."

BACH: THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS BY GLENN GOULD

"Every now and then, when I feel out of balance, I'll sit alone in a room doing nothing but listening to these recordings all the way through. The silence afterwards reminds me anything is possible."

GRAPHIC AS A STAR BY JOSEPHINE FOSTER

"With her own lyrics, Foster's exuberant, imaginary, folksy landscapes make her one of the most original talents of our time, but here she takes **Emily Dickinson** poems and arranges them into sublime, dreamy melodies."

THE SKINNY ELVIS BY BIG BOYS

"**Randy 'Biscuit' Turner** just happened to grace the cover of this publication the week he passed away in 2005. It was my second week living in Austin, and I stood by the stacks of *Chronicles* at the **H-E-B** on Congress & Oltorf with Randy's face, when a strange woman walked up to me, nearly in tears, and told me Randy had given her a place to live during a rough patch in her life. One of the stories in *Valleyesque* is dedicated to him."

CROSSTALK

GRIMNASTY, aka visual and musical artist **Solomon Perry**, died May 11. According to a **GoFundMe** set up to support Perry's wife and three daughters, he "passed away in a tragic and unexpected manner." At the age of 13, the Nashville native's artistic work earned him a set design opportunity on an **Emmy**-winning television show, mentored by **James R. Threlkill**. Specializing in Trompe-l'œil, or 3D optical illusions, the prolific artist competed on the 2015 **Oxygen** show *Street Art Throwdown*. Remembering the multihyphenate hip-hop producer, friends plan a benefit concert Friday, June 3, at 9pm at **Flamingo Cantina**, with a \$10 suggested donation.

GARY CLARK JR. joins a star-studded list of artists announced to soundtrack **Baz Luhrmann's** *Elvis* biopic, alongside the likes of **Stevie Nicks**, **Jazmine Sullivan**, **Tame Impala**, and more. The four-time local **Grammy**-winner's inclusion comes as no surprise, as Clark plays American blues giant **Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup** in the film, alongside a few other real-life musician castings, including **Yola** as **Sister Rosetta Tharpe**. Following previous silver screen experience like 2007 film *Honeydripper*, catch the Austinite in *Elvis* in theatres June 24.

C3 PRESENTS, concert promoter behind **ACL Fest**, expands its reach to a major light installation at Austin's **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**. British artist **Bruce Munro's** *Field of Light*, open September 9 through December, will illuminate 16 acres with stemmed spheres lit by solar-powered fiber optics. C3, local subsidiary of Live Nation, also announced a new September music festival called **Format** in Bentonville, Arkansas – spitballed by **Bloomberg** to be "the next Austin."

SWITCHED ON RELOCATED to 5013 Duval St., between Hyde Park's **Flightpath Coffeehouse** and the **Peddler Bicycle Shop**, in March. The electronic instrument repair shop and showroom was based on East Cesar Chavez since 2014, following its launch on 11th Street. On Instagram, the shop teased eventual events and more room for "restored vintage gear, synthesizers, electric pianos, tape machines, gadgets, pro-audio, mics and a few records too."

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HAND-SCREENED BY REBOPRINTS

Jack White

SWINGS FOR THE FENCES AT AUSTIN SANDLOT

BY KEVIN CURTIN

Out there at the Long Time, the bats are wood, the home team wears cotton, and the scoreboard has no wires – the runs for each inning being tallied by hand-numbered cards hung on a nail. It's a field of dreams, not forgotten by time, but created in reverence to one – or several – bygone American eras.

The sandlot's fence is a rustic masterpiece. The right field wall is constructed of conjoined pallets, center field's wood planks, and left field is a row of hay bales. This is where home runs fly all afternoon. Unfortunately for resident squad the Texas Playboys, those dingers were being belted off the bats of the visiting Warstic team.

On his third at bat, Jack White was deep in the count. He'd discerningly let the first two pitches crash into the catcher's mitt un-swung-upon. Then, seeing a fastball he liked, the singer, guitarist, and ever-willing bandmate gave himself the green light and wielded the lumber.

Whiff.

Surprised at the lack of a crack, White smiled self-consciously, then wiggled his head cockily like a boxer after the next pitch came in low, skipping off the clay in front of the catcher.

Three balls. One strike.

When the Playboys relief pitcher, Long Time founder Jack Sanders, sent the next fateful ball stomach-high over the plate, the left-handed Detroit's bat came around to the unmistakable sound of ash wood smacking stretched leather. High, deep, gone. As the ball flew over the left-center fence, even the Playboys held their arms aloft in celebration. Warstic members, meanwhile, assembled along the third base line to high-five White as he jogged by and gave home plate a triumphant stomp.

If Warstic, a Dallas-headquartered bat company that White is co-owner of, could have, at times, been confused for the home team, it was only because one of the most respected rock-oriented musicians of this century played for them. Austin's sandlot saints are, of course, the Texas Playboys: loveable, scrappy, full of characters, and – on Thursday afternoon – totally outmatched.

Superior pitching, hot bats, and a knack for pulling doubles out of singles and triples out of doubles gave the visiting squad a big early lead. It was 11-1 in the top of the third when yet another homer sailed over the wall just as the Tender Things were striking the last note of their song "Sister Elizabeth."



Above: Jack White at bat; below: the crowd at the Long Time with Croy & the Boys playing in the background

"Ohhhh so far ... so good," singer and strummer Jesse Ebaugh cleverly double-entendre'd before the ball had even landed. The upbeat hippie-twang country band – comprised of Ebaugh, bassist Z Lynch, Telecasterist Gary Newcomb, and drummer Matt Strmiska – has served as something of a house act at the Long Time, where the stage stands 25 feet from the diamond and bands play during the game.

The Playboys, full of heart (and playing against increasingly reserve opponents), rallied respectfully in the eighth inning to bring the score up to 18-9 – which ended up being the final.

The night before the game, White had been at a different sporting domain, Austin's new Moody Center, playing a crowd-pleasing show that included a rare version of "Gasoline" (a Dead Weather song that Alison Mosshart, not White, sang) and a section of Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Scuttle Buttin'," which earned him 5,000 Austin points. All three members of his stripped-down backing band – Dominic Davis, Daru Jones, and Quincy McCrary – also played baseball the next day.

But none of them batted third on a team that clearly had players with at least college baseball experience. "Jock" White did, impressively too: His first at bat resulted in a line drive single to center that gave an RBI, and he stayed in the action defensively, manning first base error free, with his cyan-colored hair screaming out from under a Seventies-style Warstic ballcap.

Amongst the couple hundred people populating the Long Time's crowd, which included many children and dogs chasing foul balls that could be returned for 25

cents, was Austin's Brett Orrison. The studio owner and engineer also founded indie label Spaceflight Records, which represents a great deal of the local musical middle class and counts Thursday's game-time performers the Tender Things and Croy & the Boys on its roster. Orrison, long serving as White's front-of-house sound engineer, told the *Chronicle* he believes the current tour has been Jack's finest and also that the Moody Center is one of the better-sounding arenas on the circuit, comparing it to the Barclays Center. For him, Wednesday's show contained an all-time life moment: having his young daughter on his lap in the booth, fist pumping to the enormous riff of "Seven Nation Army."

Thursday's top musical moment, meanwhile, occurred when Corey Baum preceded his Croy & the Boys set with a solo version of his 2020 song "I Gave Greg Abbott the Coronavirus," which had a hundred people – young and old – singing the hook about the imagined COVID death of Texas' NRA-sponsored governor. Later, alongside pianist/accordionist Joe Cornetti, bassist Amy Hawthorne, and drummer Casey Seymour, the honky-tonk band seemed to have caught the attention of White, now out of the dugout, with a cover of essential Detroit hardcore punk act Negative Approach's "Ready to Fight."

Baum also took time to shout-out his son, revealing that young Johnny had just completed his first season of T-ball with his father as the coach.

"So I'd like to offer my coaching services to the Texas Playboys," he joked. "I think they could use it." ■



PHOTOS BY KEVIN CURTIN

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CHRONOPHAGE EXPLORES "A PLACE WHERE I AM IN LOVE AND THE WORLD IS ENDING"

The bicoastal band on their salty-sweet, self-titled third LP

The bright red tomato on Chronophage's self-titled record is totally compelling, but placeless. The high-contrast fundamental fruit matches the music – splashing down between the romantic, brash iconography of Seventies power-pop and dark, structural quirks of Eighties post-punk. After two past records incubated locally, the band's latest sticks a rare alloy of genuinely inviting alternative.

The 10-song *Chronophage* emerges this Friday – the group's first on Post Present Medium, started by Dean Allen Spunt of No Age, and UK label Bruit Direct Disques. The record, packed with poetic lyrics fit for medieval scrolls, came together at Austin's Wire Recording last June. The quartet worked with producer Craig Ross, known for studio collaboration with Texas giants like Patty Griffin and Daniel Johnston.

The connection of offbeat melodic purveyors was made by Chronophage drummer Adam Jones, also of Deep Time and recent touring with Juan Wauters. The *Chronicle* emailed over quick inquiries for the rest of the group: bassist Sarah Beames and guitarist Parker Allen, who share salty-sweet vocal cascades, and keyboardist Casey Allen.

The remaining Austin-based Chronophage-r, Allen also participates in sonic projects Heaven (Googleable by latest EP *Starless Midnight*) and Flower City – with debut songs on the way via homegrown label Esos Malditos Punks. The burgeoning producer recently worked with caustic garage troupe Hotmom, and hopes to record more Austin acts.

– Rachel Rascoe

Austin Chronicle: What was the recording experience like?

Sarah Beames: Super pro ... mildly intimidating for me! There was a lot of mutual excitement in the room. [Engineer Stuart Sullivan] and Craig were both very guiding, letting us do our thing too. Craig worked with us quite a bit at his home studio as well.

Parker Allen: [It] always feels like a privilege to be in a proper studio, cuz we usually record at home or with friends. However, I think we were there [for] three days, and two



COURTESY OF CHRONOPHAGE

out of the three we didn't eat for some reason??? Sort of a basic mistake, like, we got the no drinking or drugs in the studio thing fine, but no eating?

AC: The album balances dejected/apocalyptic feelings with passion/hopefulness. How do you approach writing about present realities?

PA: Personally, I tend to spend a lot of mental time in a place where I am in love and the world is ending. The world ending is funny, because it's a real thing that's also fictionalized and mythologized so much. It gets hard to tell dreams from reality, but everyone's world ends with death. I don't believe in any special significance in the persistence of matter or survival of the consciousness after death, [but] I do believe in the existence and supernatural abilities of love.

AC: Since last LP Th'pig'kiss'd, a few of you have moved?

PA: I moved to New York [for] the Sonic Arts MFA program at Brooklyn College ... and playing in bands up here and going to shows and just drinking lots of wine and cookin' food and listening to records.

SB: I'm living in South Florida and working towards a degree in nursing. I've been frequenting a venue in [Miami], Center for Subtropical Affairs, and was delighted when Leya played there a couple months back. I swim a lot in the ocean and miss band practice!

AC: Casey, what inspired your keyboard parts? I like the more delicate moments like "Spirit Armor."

Casey Allen: Definitely the Cure. Having a sound that weaves in and out with the guitar is something we've always strived for, and with this record we've finally been able to see that through, with the keyboards supporting the other aspects of the band [to] provide a more atmospheric and full sound.

EMILY WELLS

Parish, Friday 3

Regards to the End was stirred up by an existential prompt: What inspiration can we take from the AIDS activists at the end of the 20th century to confront climate change? Dramatic, patient, and powerful, the resulting 45-minute contemplation by classically trained composer Emily Wells provokes feelings of love and pain, bravery and fear. Like much of the Amarillo-born singer and multi-instrumentalist's varied discography, February's LP is catchy, operatic, and atmospherically focused, but it finds Wells inhabiting a particularly dire essence.

"Don't go easy on me," she sings with crumbling emotional resonance on "All Burn No Bridge," a song that could slot on a modern *Pure Moods* comp if it weren't ostensibly about self-immolation.

– Kevin Curtin



KERSTI JAN WERDAL

DWIGHT YOAKAM

Round Rock Amp, Friday 3

Dwight Yoakam is no stranger to the Nutty Brown family: The country radio outlaw has ventured out to the Hill Country to play the now-shuttered Nutty Brown Amphitheatre several times, including just months before the venue closed to make way for an H-E-B last November. So when Round Rock Amp, the new Nutty venue that opened this spring, announced its debut season billing, Yoakam made the list. Round Rock is the second stop on a summer tour for the Californian cowpunk, bringing over 35 years of genre-bending hits to a stage just north of Austin.

– Abby Johnston

ROCK THE PARK: SIR WOMAN

Mueller Lake Park Outdoor Amphitheater, Friday 3

As essential as spring showers, Austin jukebox KUTX 98.9 quenched our town's thirst for communal commingling with free family concerts beginning in March. Fourth and final micro Woodstock nets its über headliner: Sir Woman. Garnering three local Grammys, aka Austin Music Awards, the local powerhouse took home Song of the Year for "Blame It on the Water," Music Video in "Party City," and Kelsey Wilson tied for Best Vocalist with roots channeler Ruthie Foster. Deeply emotive, earthy, Wilson's intonation swells into a "Seventies-drenched soul sound," opined Doug Freeman here last month on Sir Woman's expansive eponymous debut.

– Raoul Hernandez

TONY KAMEL, CALDER ALLEN

Antone's Nightclub, Friday 3

Wood & Wire anchor Tony Kamel tossed a solo strike last year with *Back Down Home*. The LP, recorded with Bruce Robison at the Bunker and released via his Next Waltz label, stretches Kamel's musical muscles beyond string band bends with dives into Gulf Coast Cajun rhythms and East Texas blues, but the songwriter's gift for deep storytelling and scene-setting narrative still leads. Up first, Calder Allen continues the immense Texas artistic legacy of the Allen family (Terry, Jo Harvey, Bale Creek, Bukka, et al.) as the young local releases his Charlie Sexton-produced debut bow, and Pierson Saxon dishes fresh soulful country.

– Doug Freeman

JAKE LLOYD

Soundspace at Captain Quack's, Saturday 4

Bar, bakery, music venue, Quackenbush's latest location in South Austin demonstrates legitimate booking acumen in staging ATX vocalist Jake Lloyd. Supported by homegrown locals in rapper Big Kee and hip-hop crooner Nubia Emmon, the 2021 Geto Gala breakout alongside Deezie Brown checked in on Memorial Day: "We're gonna walk you the listener through a few genres," he emailed of his Quack's bow. "Give you a couple covers you would not expect, with all the Jake Lloyd you can handle." Recent singles "Purple Pen Passage" and "Cold Summer" verify his genre fusion: "I've settled on genre-fluidity, with a focus on alternative R&B and rap-soul."

– Raoul Hernandez

WHORES

Parish, Saturday 4

It's been six long years since Atlanta's Whores – the best of the post-Unsane noise & roll revivalists – unleashed their full-length debut *Gold*, leading some of us to think they'd met an early demise, pandemic or no. Fortunately, a pair of blasting, beautifully ugly singles, "Imposter Syndrome" and "Have a Drink on Me," and hints of a forthcoming record signal that the intense trio isn't finished popping its neck veins and spitting bile just yet. Kansas City noise metallers Bummer and Lafayette hardcore outfit Capra also abuse eardrums.

– Michael Toland

CHECK OUT CHESS CLUB

Friday 3 - Sunday 5

Since opening in March, Chess Club – with its nondescript exterior and bantam capacity – has already emerged as a proving ground for new bands (catch those masked punks Muggers?) and an "underplay" for established acts (...Trail of Dead blew the roof off). This weekend's got some good action: Expect a dance party Friday as local synth-pop empath TC Superstar cram in with Louisiana's LeTrainiump, possessing an inviting mixture of mainstream pop, indie, and Y2K R&B. Sunday blackens with the appealingly disillusioned gothic post-punk of Single Lash, whose bold lyrics and musical density thrived Nick Cave-esque on 2020 single "To Laugh." Likeminded El Pasoans Lesser Care and dark synth-poppers Don't Get Lemon coincide.

– Kevin Curtin

LIVE MUSIC

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ☆ RECOMMENDED

THURSDAY 6/2

3ten ACL Live Jack Ingram, Tanner Usrey (8:30) **R**

The ABGB Dayeater, Rival Waves (8:00)

Antone's Ron Artis II & the Truth, Brian Scartocci (8:00) **R**

Armadillo Den Jesse Stratton (7:00)

Baker Street Karaoke w/ Texas Love Band (9:00)

The Ballroom Indigo, Max Leonard, Frank Sativa, Rental Space, Vinny Masino (7:00) **R**

Broken Spoke Tylor Brandon (9:00), Tracie Lynn (6:00)

Buck's Backyard W.C. Clark (6:00)

Buddy's Place Glen Collins & Friends (7:00)

C-Boy's Mel & James [jade room] (10:00), John Branch & Friends, TheBrosFresh (10:00), Matt Hubbard & Adam Ahrens (6:30)

Carousel Lounge Upright Animals (11:00), Alex Wolfe (9:00), Jimmy Gil Band (7:00)

The Cathedral Keep On w/ Daniel Fears, Kalu James, Thereheis (7:00)

Celis Brewery Sap & Claw Elixir (6:00) **R**

Central Market North Motenko (5:30) **A**

Cheatham St. Palmer Anthony & Keller Cox (8:00) **R**

Cherrywood Coffeehouse Lee Redfield (8:00) **A**

Chess Club Obnosticon, Snakes of Babylon, Azathoth the Blind, Take Us to Tomorrow (9:00)

Come & Take It Live The Screamalongs (8:00)

Continental Club Barfield the Tyrant (10:30), Casper Rawls (6:30)

Continental Club Gallery Western Union Man (10:30), Barbara Nesbitt (8:30)

Devil May Care Eli Arbor (8:00)

Donn's Depot Murphy's Inlaws (9:00)

Driskill Bar Sam Pace (8:00)

Easy Tiger Blake Whitmire (7:00)

Elephant Room Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:00), Mitch Watkins Trio (6:00)

Empire Control Room Ahee, Pure Static, Pillager [control room] (10:00) **R**

The Far Out Andrew Cashen, Blue Jean Queen, Pelvis Wrestling (8:00)

Feels So Good Records Harry & Emmy, Madison Baker (7:00)

Friends Paul Val (11:00), Sonny Wolf (7:30), Jac Carson (11:30am)

Geraldine's Birds, Bubbles, & Blues w/ Jo James (9:00)

Giddy Ups Open mic w/ Dewey Lyon (7:00)

The Green Jay Blynd Birds (album release), Pretty Little Thieves, Michael Hays (10:00)

Guene Hall Shawn Pittman (6:00) **A**

Guero's Besteiro (6:00)

H-E-B Center at Cedar Park Nelly, Stoney LaRue, Harper Grace, Dusty Black (7:00) **R**

Hays City Store Amber Lucille (6:00)

Hole in the Wall The Calendars, Scuff Up (9:00)

Hotel Vegas Altamesa, JeTexas, Mahagonie (10:15) **R**

Hudson's on Mercer All Star Jam w/ Natasha Hudson, Chad Hudson, Joey Resendiz (8:00)

Lamberts Alex Williams & Tennessee Jet (9:00) **R**

Little Longhorn Ian Stewart Band (9:00), Libby & the Loveless (6:00)

Lone Star Court Tyler Cannon (7:00)

Long Center Lawn ACL Radio & Long Center present the Drop-In w/ Ray Prim ft. Natalie Price (8:00)

Long Play Lounge East Candler Wilkinson (9:00)

Maggie Mae's Leander Ben Harrison (7:00)

Meanwhile Brewing Co. Black Taffy, Plume Girl (7:00) **R**

Monks Jazz Club Daniel Dufour Quartet (7:30)

Moontower Saloon The Rowdies (8:00)

NeWorlDeli Gregg Miller & Jim Heckroth (7:00)

Parish Keep Flying, BFF, Lament (9:00) **R**

Parker Jazz Club Marcos Varela Textet (8:00)

Parmer Lane Tavern David Scott King (9:00)

Planet Rock Havins (7:30)

Poodies Alan Haynes (8:00), Jimmie Dreams (6:00)

Riley's Tavern Manzy Lowry (7:00)

Rock House Bar Andrea Marie (8:00)

Sagebrush Danny B. Harvey, Wayne Hancock, Gin Racers (7:00)

Sahara Lounge Crush Bouquet, Sugar Purr, the Unlimited Stars, Wisdom Cat (8:00)

Sam's Town Point JD3 (10:00), Riley Downing (8:00), two-step dance lessons (7:00) **R**

San Jac Saloon James Delgado (5:00)

Saxon Pub Cari Hutson & Good Company (10:00), Patrice Pike (8:00), PAACK (6:00)

Shore Raw Bar Honeybee Jazz Quartet (6:30)

South Congress Hotel Rob Baird & the Hardlucks, ulovei, joaqu.n, Stefon & DJ King Louie (7:00)

Speakeasy Lonestar Souvenirs (9:00)

Valhalla Dog Island, the Naps, Pretty Bird (9:00)

The White Horse Croy & the Boys, South Texas Tweek, Fingerpistol (8:00) **R**

Willie's Joint John Dempsey (7:00)

Zoi Market Roots & Jazz w/ Bryan Pardo & Lynn Ray (7:00)

FRIDAY 6/3

3ten ACL Live Jackopierce, the Watters (8:30) **R**

The ABGB Joe "King" Carrasco (9:00) **R**

ACL Live The Mavericks, Maggie Rose (8:00) **R**

The Alcove Cantina Stella (8:30)

Antone's Tony Kamel, Calder Allen, Pierson Saxon (8:00)

Armadillo Den Ryan Ross Band (9:30), Ben Zuniga Band (7:30)

Baker Street The Austin Nines (9:00)

Bar 620 Glen Collins & the Alibis (9:00)

Beerbург Brewing Jolly Jankin String Band (6:00)

Brass Tap Round Rock Stray Dawg & the Wolves (9:00), Round Rock Pride afterparty w/ silent disco (9:30), DJ Casey Spinz (6:00), Brooke Ashley Eden (3:00)

Brauntex Theatre Jim Messina (7:30) **R**

Brentwood Social House Michael Gailinas (9:00am)

Broken Spoke Johnny McGowan (9:00), Ian Stewart (6:00)

Buck's Backyard Sundance Head (9:30)

Buddy's Place Western JustOla (8:00)

Bugle Boy Slim Bawb (8:00)

Carousel Lounge Straight Ahead (9:00), Mad Cowboys (7:00)

Central Machine Works Prince tribute party w/ DJ Mahealani (10:00), Honey Made (6:00)

Central Market North Jonas Alvarez (5:30) **A**

Cheatham St. Lucas Jagneaux & the Roadshow, Jacob Charles, Randy Hoyet (8:00)

Cheer Up Charlies Baby Like Us: Pride Edition w/ DJ Marz, SuperMcN4sty, DJ Drea (9:00) **R**

Cherrywood Coffeehouse Ellie Green (8:30) **A**

Chess Club TC Superstar, LeTrainump, DJ GC Kid (10:00) **R**

Cigar Vault Sid Grimes (7:30)

Coliseum Chon Arauz y la Furia Colombiana, La Tropa Vallenata (10:00) **R**

Continental Club Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band, Donovan Keith (10:00), The Blues Specialists (6:30)

Continental Club Gallery Josh Perdue (10:30), the Last Jimenez (8:30)

Copper Shot Distillery Marcus Morales Band (7:00)

CONTINUED ON P.54



Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater

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UP NEXT



COMING SOON

JUN 14

BRIT FLOYD

JUN 19

ANJELAH JOHNSON-REYES

"WHO DO I THINK I AM?" TOUR

JUN 27

KRAFTWERK 3-D

FRI-SUN JUL 1-3

TOM SEGURA

I'M COMING EVERYWHERE - WORLD TOUR

JUL 11

BANKS

SERPENTINA TOUR - SPECIAL GUEST LAUREN JAUREGUI

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SAT JUL 16

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TROUBLE IS... 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR PERFORMED IN ITS ENTIRETY

JUL 19

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WERO THE WORLD TOUR 2022

SAT JUL 23

KILLER QUEEN



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All dates, acts & ticket prices subject to change without notice. All tickets subject to applicable service charges.

FROM FRIDAY

Coupland Dancehall Rocky King Band (8:30) **R**

Devil May Care DJ Reckshop (9:00)

Donn's Depot Donn & the Station Masters (8:30)

Driskill Bar Danny Britt & Marvin Dykhuis (8:00)

Elephant Room Dr. James Polk & Centerpeace (9:00), Beat Soup (6:00)

Empire Control Room Jarreau Vandal [control room] (10:00) **R**

The Far Out Night Drive, Urban Heat, Lords of Synth (8:00)

Friends Bercy (noon), John Core (4:00)

Geraldine's Elijah Zane (10:00)

Giddy Ups Robert Johnson's Soul (8:30)

The Green Jay Vertarias, Blue Heaven, Naga Brujo, Red & the Rebels (9:00)

Gruene Hall Old Crow Medicine Show (8:00) **R**

Guero's Bruce Smith (6:00)

Hanovers Groove Monkey (9:00)

The Happy Cow Undercover Killas (8:30)

Hole in the Wall Font, Photokem, More Eaze (9:00)

Hotel Vegas The Warlocks, Christian Bland & the Revelators, Strange Lot (8:00) **R**

Hudson's on Mercer Nate Harlin (8:30)

Kick Butt Coffee Horse Rider, Bottom Bracket, Parachute Day, Foreign Eye, Party Ghost (9:00) **R**

Lamberts Brian Wolff (EP release), Britny Lobas (9:00)

Little Longhorn The Rockabilly's (9:00), the Big Gun Show (6:00)

Lone Star Court Michael Ingalls (8:00)

Long Play Lounge East Bluesqueezebox (7:00)

The Lost Well Eighties new wave dance party w/ DJ Devilwoman (9:00)

Maggie Mae's Leander Ty Grubb (7:00)

Manchaca Springs Saloon Larry Harris Band (7:00)

Metcalfe BBQ Kings Lovely (6:00)

Mohawk Blank Hellscape, Johnnascus, Laffer, Scathing [inside] (9:00) **R**

Monks Jazz Club Gene Centeno Quartet (7:30)

Moontower Saloon Brother Brother (9:00)

Mueller Lake Park Outdoor Amphitheater Rock the Park w/ Sir Woman (7:30), Joe McDermott (6:30)

Neighbor's Natalie Metcalf (7:30)

NeWorDeli Young & Rusty (7:00)

Parish Emily Wells (9:00) **R**

Parker Jazz Club Great American Songbook Selections (9:30, 7:00)

Parmer Lane Tavern The Genders (9:00)

Planet Rock 3 Pc. & a Biskit (8:00)

Plaza Colombian Coffee Los Compadres (7:00)

Poodies Carl Hutchens (8:00)

Radio Coffee & Beer Jordan Tice, Sophia Johnson (8:00) **R**

The Railhouse Knuckle Sammich (9:00)

Riley's Tavern Wayne Hancock (9:00), Prairie Rattlers (6:00) **R**

Rock House Bar Chemradery (8:00)

Round Rock Amp Dwight Yoakam (6:00) **R**

Sagebrush Ellis Bullard, South Texas Tweek, Colt Wayne Keeney (7:00) **R**

Sahara Lounge Indigo Alligators, Shades of Oleander, Mr. Breakfast, Claude9, Lost Cat Magnet (7:30)

Sam's Town Point Bill Kirchen (8:00)

San Jac Saloon Chris Ray (6:00), Joe Vega (3:00)

Saxon Pub Jason Eady (10:00), Johnny Nicholas Band (8:00), TG BAD (6:00) **R**

Scholz Garten The Sideshow Tragedy (5:30) **R**

Seareinas Los Cuates de Sinaloa (8:00) **R**

Shooters North LC Rocks (9:00)

Shore Raw Bar Bill Carter w/ Gabe Rhodes (7:30)

Sidocar Tasting Room Mitchell Davis (6:00)

Skylark Lounge Goldie Pipes (9:00)

Smokin Beauty Selmer's Arch (7:30)

Soundspace at Captain Quack's Beth//James, Natalie Price, Katrina Cain (8:00)

Speakeasy Type A (9:30)

Suds Mike Valliere (6:30)

Treaty Oak Distilling Dillon Havins (6:00)

The Union, 7604 Solari Music in the Park w/ Swimming With Bears (7:00)

Valhalla Grandma Mousey, Transy Warhol, the Hormones (10:00)

The Venue ATX Crystal Skies (9:00) **R**

Vista Brewing Sam Pace (6:00) **R**

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

Vuka (North Loop), 5540 N. Lamar TheFlyly (album release), DJ Chorizo Funk (7:00)

The Water Tank Crow Town (6:00)

The White Horse Johnny Falstaff, Saddle Sores, Chaparral (8:00), Jacob Jaeger (5:30)

Whitewater Amphitheater Whiskey Myers, Brent Cobb, the Weathered Souls (7:00) **R**

Wild West Colby Keeling, Rich O'Toole (9:00)

Zoi Market Supertonic (6:00)

SATURDAY 6/4

The ABGB The Ruins (9:00)

ACL Live The Mavericks, Maggie Rose (8:00) **R**

Anderson Mill Pub The Numbers (9:00)

Antone's Vallejo, Quentin & the Past Lives, Tinted Vision (8:00)

Armadillo Den Darrell Goldman (9:00)

Baker Street Widgeon Holland (9:00)

Banger's Evan Charles Band (7:00), Michael Milligan & Texiana Bluez (3:00)

Beerburg Brewing Shawn Pander (2:00)

Bell Springs Winery Dylan Tanner (2:00)

Black Sparrow Arch Ego, Forever for Now, Skum, Queen of Casualties (8:00) **R**

Brautext Theatre Texas Tenors (7:30)

Broken Spoke Alvin Crow (9:00), Paula Russell (6:00)

Bugle Boy Adam & Chris Carroll (8:00)

Butterfly Bar AZXO (5:00)

C-Boy's SugaRee (10:00), Kathy & the Kilowatts (8:00)

Carousel Lounge The Say Sos (9:00), Rich Restaino & Tex Offenders (7:00)

Celis Brewery Them That Know (6:00)

Central Machine Works Lewis Christian, Dave Orr Band (6:00)

Central Market North Saddle Sores (5:30) **R**

Chess Club Private Service, Deep Cross, Nocturnal Prose, Heaven, Gedá (9:00) **R**

Come & Take It Live Serpentine, Stabbing, Flesh Hoarder, Inherent Death, Death File Red, Cocaine Titans (8:00) **R**

The Concourse Project Nala (10:00) **R**

Continental Club Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (10:00), Earl Poole Ball (3:30)

Continental Club Gallery Josh Perdue (10:30), Beaver Nelson (8:30)

Coupland Dancehall Jesse Daniel, Dallas Burrow (8:30)

Devil May Care Robert Talking & Soleiman (9:00)

Donn's Depot Hotcakes (9:00)

Driskill Bar Mrs. Glass (8:00)

Easy Tiger Anna Larson Duo (8:00)

Elephant Room Michael Malone Quintet (9:00)

Elysium unitcode:machine, Finite Automata (9:30) **R**

Empire Control Room Infected Rain, Gone in April, Deoculted [garage] (9:00) **R**, Symphony X, Haken, Trope [control room] (8:00) **R**

The Far Out ATX Tribute Fest day one w/ the Battle of ATX (Rage Against the Machine tribute; 11:00), Reanimation (Linkin Park tribute; 9:30), Red (Taylor Swift tribute; 8:00), Hey Hey Baby (No Doubt tribute; 6:30), Las Chicas en 512 (Selena Quintanilla tribute; 5:00) **R**

Fat Cat Lounge & Cafe Briana Adams (7:00) **R**

Feels So Good Records Sweet Ride car show w/ the Tiarras, Del-Vipers, MJ King Snake, DJ Fajita Flats (2:00)

Flamingo Cantina Hail Marley, the Contrabandits (9:00)

Friends Drake Hilliard (noon)

Garey Park, 6450 Ranch to Market Rd., Georgetown Troubadour Festival w/ the Panhandlers (11:15), Josh Abbott Band (9:45), Flatland Cavalry (7:45), William Clark Green (6:00), John Baumann (4:15) [main stage]; Jacob Stelly, Slade Coulter, Parker Ryan, Jordan Nix [Tumbleweed Textyles stage] (4:00) **R**

Geraldine's Alesia Lani (10:00), Jazz brunch w/ Jeff Lofton (11:30am)

Giddy Ups The Pearl Snaps (8:30)

The Green Jay Tough on Fridays, Ratchet Dolls, Neapolitan (10:00) **R**

Gruene Hall William Beckmann, Tyler McCollum (9:00) **R**, Bill Hearne Trio (1:00) **R**

Hanovers Defenders of the Faith ATX, Naked Kiss (9:00)

The Happy Cow 3 Man Front (8:30) **R**

Hays City Store Clayton Gardner (7:00)

Hole in the Wall Akaw, the Swift Drag (EP release), My Mistress (9:00)

Hotel Vegas Shooks (music video release), Hall Johnson, Futon Blonde, Annabelle Chairlegs (solo) (9:30), Being Dead, Wet Dip (7:30)

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

Independence Brewing The Dead Coats, They Watch Us From the Moon, Naga Brujo (8:00) **R**

Indian Roller The Way Down, Stac3y Bell & the Wretched Ex's, Jac with No K (9:00)

Iron Wolf Ranch Garrett J. Brown (2:00)

Kick Butt Coffee Capitalist Kids, the Lockdowns, Breaklights (album release), Fakemaker, Letterboy (9:00) **R**

Knomad Bar Side Saddles (9:00)

Last Chance Clay Gibson (9:00) **R**

Little Longhorn Shotgun Ready (9:00), ATX Pearl (6:00)

Lone Star Court The Point (8:00)

Long Play Lounge East Mamahawk, Astro James (9:00) **R**

Longhorn Daiquiris Pirscription, Knrdx, Al-B, Big-R, Sum Natives, Tae Fontane, Wreckin (8:00) **R**

The Lost Well Gary Lindsey & the Pleasure Tide (5:00)

Madrone Coffee Dan Foz (10:00am)

Maggie Mae's Leander Tully (7:00)

Mala Santa Javier Rosas y Su Artillería Pesada, La Décima Banda (9:00) **R**

Meanwhile Brewing Co. Bottlecap Mountain, Thanks Light (9:00)

Mercer Dancehall Dale Watson (8:00)

Metcalfe BBQ Woot Talley (6:00)

Mohawk Diane Coffee, Quiet Light, Lainey Gonzales [inside] (9:00) **R**, The Suffers, Fat Tony [outside] (8:00) **R**

Monks Jazz Club Courtney Santana Quintet ft. JT Thomas, Ephraim Owens (7:30)

Mozart's Max Abrams, Red Young, & Tom Brechtlein (noon) **R**

Neighbor's Hanna Barakat Trio (7:30)

NeWorDeli Melancholy Rammers (7:00)

Oakwood BBQ Crawfish, Blues, Brews, & BBQ w/ Joey Kipfer (4:00), the Larry Harris Band (1:00)

Oasis Brewing Brandon Rosage (4:00), the Brothers Wayfare (1:00)

Parish Whores., Bummer, Capra (9:00) **R**

Parker Jazz Club Great American Songbook Selections (9:30, 7:00)

The Parlor Born Twins, Richard, Inks Lake (4:00)

Parmer Lane Tavern Crystal Image (9:00)

Planet Rock Marc Eric (8:00), Nathan Harlan (2:00), Hour Glass (11:00am)

Poodies Brandon Rosage (10:30), Tennessee Stiffs (8:00)

The Railhouse Haywire (8:00)

Riley's Tavern Linda Gail Lewis (4:00)

Rock House Bar Shawn Austin (8:00)

MUSIC NOTES BY DEREK UDENSI

More recommended shows on p.52



Vallejo Saturday 4, Antone's
Longtime local Latin rock band headlines while Tinted Vision opens.

Alesia Lani Saturday 4, Geraldine's
Indulge in some delectable Brussels sprouts as the R&B singer lights up the intimate Hotel Van Zandt restaurant.

ATX Tribute Fest

Saturday 4, the Far Out
Sunday 5, the Ballroom

Did you watch MGK perform Paramore's "Misery Business" in the scorching heat at ACL Fest last fall and think to yourself, "Man, this is the closest I'm going to get to seeing Hayley Williams perform live"? Take that sentiment, multiply it by 15, subtract that product by 5, and you've got this two-day festival composed solely of cover acts.

Machine Gun Kelly

Wednesday 8, Moody Center

Pop punk's self-anointed savior, the aforementioned MGK, headlines what one could potentially call the new arena's first hip-hop show. Emo rap wailer Iann Dior of Corpus Christi opens.

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WINSTON'S KITCHEN + DJ DNGR - \$5

FRI. 6-10 RAT KING COLE
FEATURING: BIG MON - FREE

SAT. 6-11 LOS SKARNALES
FEATURING: ROCKIN' LLOYD TRIPP - \$15

6-17 - KEVIN BATCHELOR & MICAHA SHALOM
6-18 - MAD PROFESSOR, DR. DUBBIST, EDICA+
6-24 - THE TIARRAS, LAS CHICAS EN 512

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THE Luv Doc



Dear Luv Doc,

A few days ago I was up after midnight working on some projects and realized that I had agreed to help a friend with some accounting on the same night as my book club. It's not a big deal to miss book club but it's sort of an unwritten rule that when someone can't make it, they let everyone know in advance. So, I dashed off a quick group text to let everyone know I couldn't make it this month, and a few minutes later I got an angry reply from one of the women in my book club that said, "It's nearly 1am. I have to be at work early tomorrow. Why are you sending this now? Book club isn't til Friday." I very politely texted her back and asked her why she didn't have her phone on silent. She texted back, "OMG! I don't have to explain my f*&%ing life to you! Don't text me again." I didn't, but I still think she was being overly dramatic and she could have texted me privately instead of to the whole group. No one else had a problem with it BECAUSE NORMAL PEOPLE TURN OFF THEIR PHONES WHEN THEY GO TO SLEEP. Now I don't want to go to book club anymore because why would I want to spend my time with someone who would try to shame me in front of the rest of the group? Should I quit, or should I go next month and confront her?

"LATE-NIGHT TEXTS"

— Testy Texter

You should absolutely go to your book club next month and sincerely apologize to this woman and the group in general for your inconsiderate behavior. It probably wouldn't hurt to bring something as a sign of your contrition – maybe a few bottles of wine ... or some flowers ... or some pot brownies. Regardless, the important thing is that you let your book club know that you really fucked up and that you won't let it happen again.

Look, I'm a bit of a night owl myself. I find it easier to focus late at night when the rest of the world is sawing Zs. Why? Because I know that NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T CALL OR TEXT AFTER MIDNIGHT UNLESS THEY NEED ME TO POST BAIL OR HELP THEM BURY A CORPSE. People aren't popping by my house to see what's popping at 2am because I am not a meth dealer ... and also I don't live on that corner anymore. The point is that I can focus in the wee hours because people leave me alone like they're supposed to ... and probably because they're a little bit afraid I will meet them at the doorstep with crazy hair, a saggy pair of tighty-whities, and an aluminum baseball bat. I know your head is probably spinning with a multitude of questions right now, but your fellow book clubber said it best: "I don't have to explain my fucking life to you!"

Nonetheless, because I am a charitable and benevolent co-inhabitant of this disturbingly wet rock hurtling through the cosmic void, I will share with you just a few of my strategies for not being an inconsiderate asshole in the hopes that someday you might share them with others as well – though ideally not via a group text in the middle of the goddamned night. And look, I am not perfect or without sin, which is exactly why I have come up with a communications checklist to help smack down the asshole in me whenever it pops up – like a game of etiquette whack-a-mole, if you will. So, when I am really itching to send a group of people a message in the middle of the night, I ask the following:

1) Does this really need to be said? Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, this is a hard no, because most of my thoughts are straight garbage. 2) Does this really need to be said right now? This usually whittles the preceding percentage down to something like a 10th of a percent. And, if I absolutely have to unburden myself of a thought, I go to 3) Can this be an email? Or better yet, a scheduled email. If that term is unfamiliar to you, Google it. And lastly, if I have no choice but to communicate with someone between the hours of 10pm and 10am, I ask 4) Is this person awake and do they have enough cash to post bail or enough strength to shovel 30-odd cubic feet of dirt? If the answer is no, then I schedule that shit. You heard me. Yes, texts can be scheduled. If for some reason you don't know how to do that yourself, learn how to work your goddamned phone. Donuts would be a good gift of contrition as well. For the book club I mean. Everyone loves donuts.

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

If you looked at butterfly wings from the genus *Morpho*, they would appear to be a deep blue color. But what you'd be seeing wouldn't be blue pigment, but nanoscopic structures called "lamellae" that diffract visible light and only show blue.

There are more Lebanese in Brazil than there are in Lebanon.

Bram Stoker, author of the novel *Dracula*, never visited Transylvania or Eastern Europe.

The most common explanation of the phrase "and Bob's your uncle" is that it refers to Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, Lord Salisbury, who, when prime minister of Britain, appointed his nephew Arthur Balfour to the post of chief secretary for Ireland.

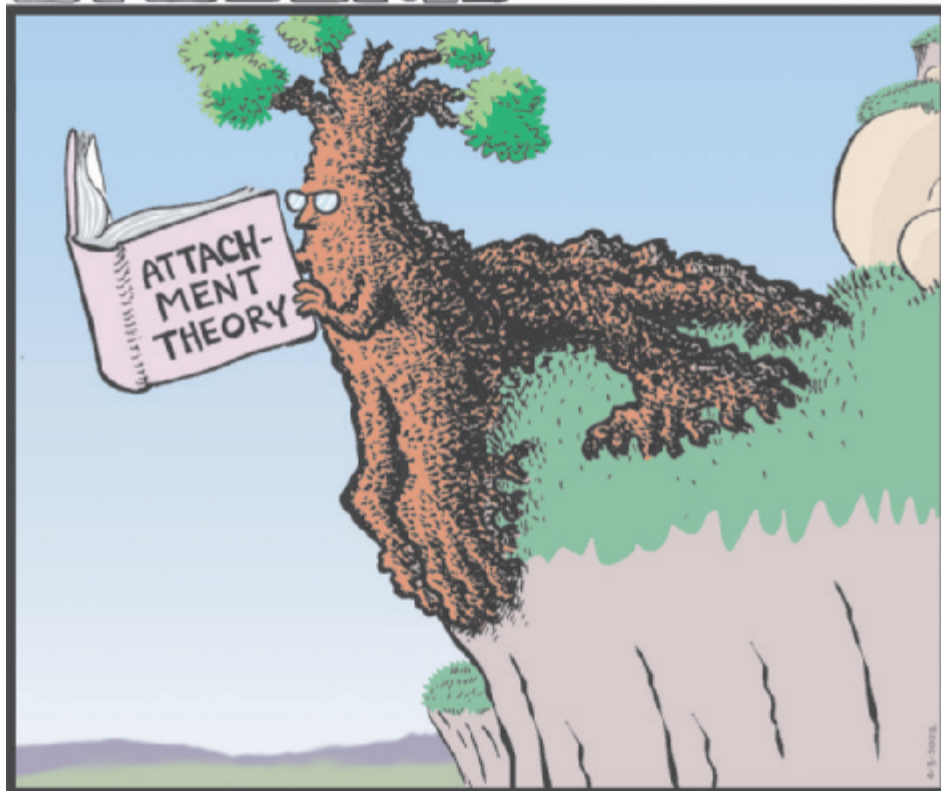
Getting a vaccine in the morning is more effective than other times of the day.

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

COMICS

EYE BEAM

by Sam Hone



PEPPERMINT TEARS

RYAN HENNESSEE 2022

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SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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Adobe Inc. is accepting resumes for the following position in AUSTIN, TX: Software Development Engineer (REF#AUARRSDE) (REF#AUVEVSD) Design, develop and test user experience applications developed in a variety of programming languages and using multiple frameworks. Telecommuting up to 50% permitted. Send resume to Adobe Inc. at usmailresume@adobe.com. Must include REF code. No phone calls please. EOE. www.adobe.com/

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and the validation execution of Server Memory Subsystem. Utilize customized-scripts, lab equipment such as oscilloscopes or logic analyzer to analyze & debug electrical and functional test data in supporting of production risk-call decisions. Execute electrical, functional, and system test plans to verify system functionality and product specification using hardware and software validation tools. Participate and interlock with leadership team for execution optimization and on-going process improvements. Collaborate with

Software Development community in driving best-practice and continuous improvement in software infrastructures and development methodology for System Memory Software Engineering team. Implement and improve Unit-Test development template and methodologies to improve quality of HWP and other SW tools. Utilize Coding C++, Scripting Python and Perl, Computer Architecture, Embedded Systems, SDLC – Software Development Life Cycle, Configuration Management – GitHub, and Linux OS. Required: Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering or related and two (2) years of experience as a Software Design Engineer, Senior Software Engineer or related. Two (2) years of experience must include utilizing Coding C++, Scripting Python and Perl, Computer Architecture, Embedded Systems, SDLC – Software Development Life Cycle, Configuration Management – GitHub, and Linux OS. Send resumes to recruited@us.ibm.com. Applicants must reference Z261

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Application has been

made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off Premise Permit by 38 Express LLC DBA 38 Express to be located at 1402 E 38 1/2 Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Members of said LLC are Nizar D. Dhukka - Member & Sairoz A. Prasla - Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and a Late Hours Certificate by

Manage InnCahoots LLC d/b/a Inn Cahoots located at 1205-1221 E. 6th St, Austin, Travis County, TX 78702. Managers of said limited liability company are Kristen J. Carson and Brian Alford.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Permit by G Lodging Management, LLC dba Holiday Inn Austin Airport, to be located at 6711 E. Ben White Blvd., Austin,

Travis County, Texas. Brendan Gilyan, GL OPS, LLC, Managers.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food & Beverage Certificate by Corazon de Mar, LLC dba Corazon de Mexico to be located at 3620 RR 620 S, Suite #350, Bee Cave, Travis County, Texas. Roland M. Fagerberg, Manager.

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

Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Permit by G Lodging Management, LLC dba Cambria Hotel Austin Uptown, to be located at 13205 Burnet Road, Bldg. 1, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Brendan Gilyan, GL OPS, LLC, Managers.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit and Late Hours certificate by BCR Overlook, LLC dba BCR Overlook, LLC located at 7701 Bee Caves Road, Austin, Travis

County, Texas 78746. Mitchell Johnson - Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit by BCR Overlook, LLC dba BCR Overlook, LLC located at 7701 Bee Caves Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78746. Mitchell Johnson - Manager.

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

Clubs, Inc. dba World of Tennis Sports Complex, located at 1 World of Tennis Square, Lakeway, Travis County, Texas 78734. Officers of said company are CCA Golf Course Holdco, LLC - Sole Stockholder, David Pillsbury - Director/President, Emily Decker - Director/Secretary, Andrew Lacko - Treasurer.

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

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for June 3-9

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A blogger named Sweetlikeacherry reminds us, "Some epiphanies are only possible when you put away your phone and go completely offline for a while." She adds that sometimes you also need to at least partially avoid your phone and the internet if you hope to incubate new visions of the future and unlock important discoveries in your creative work and summon your untamed genius. According to my astrological analysis, all these possibilities are especially likely and necessary for you in the coming weeks. I trust you will carry out the necessary liberations to take full advantage.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Poet Carolyn Kizer (1925-2014) won a Pulitzer Prize for her poetry. She was smart! But when she was young and still studying her craft in college, a professor objected to one of her poems. He said, "You have pigs in this poem; pigs are not poetic." Kizer was incensed at such ignorance. She testified, "I got up and walked out of that class and never went back." Judging from the astrological omens, I suspect you may have comparable showdowns headed your way. I advise you to be like Kizer. You are the only one who truly knows the proper subjects of your quest. No one else has the right or the insight to tell you what your work (or play) should be about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo author James Baldwin said it wasn't often "that two people can laugh and make love, too - make love because they are laughing and laugh because they're making love. The love and the laughter come from the same place: but not many people go there." Your assignment, Leo, is to be the exception to Baldwin's rule during the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, there's a high possibility that interesting eros can converge with humorous fun in a glorious synergy. You will have a knack for conjuring up ribald encounters and jovial orgasms. Your intuition will guide you to shed the solemnity from your bliss and replace it with sunny, carefree cheer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I'm worried you will over-indulge in your pursuit of perfection during the coming weeks. It's fine to be exquisitely skillful and masterful; I hope you do that. But if you get obsessed with flawlessness, you will risk undoing your good intentions. As an antidote, I offer you two pieces of advice. The first is from actor and activist Jane Fonda. She said, "We are not meant to be perfect; we are meant to be whole." The second counsel is from philosopher and psychologist William James, who wrote, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Author Mustafa Mahmoud described the signs of love between two people: 1. Feeling a comfortable familiarity; 2. Having no urge or need to lie; 3. Being natural, not trying to be different from who one is; 4. Having little or no possibility of being embarrassed in front of the other person; 5. Experiencing silence as delicious, not alienating; 6. Enjoying the act of listening to the other person. I bring these pointers to your attention, Libra, because the coming months will be a favorable time to define and redefine your understandings about the signs of love. How do you feel about Mahmoud's ideas? Are there any more you would like to add?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "We do not love each other without changing each other," wrote author Madeleine L'Engle. Meditate on that gem, Scorpio. Now is a perfect time for you and your loved ones to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the ways your love has changed each other. It may be true that some transformations have been less than ideal. If that's the case, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to correct those trends. As for the positive changes that you and your allies have stimulated in each other: I hope you will name them and pledge to keep doing more of that good work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "I always deserve the best treatment, because I never put up with any other," wrote Sagittarian novelist Jane Austen. Sagittarian politician Stacey Abrams said, "From the moment I enter a room, I am clear about how I intend to be treated and how I intend to engage." You'll be wise to cultivate those attitudes in the next seven weeks, Sagittarius. It's high time for you to raise your self-respect in ways that inspire others to elevate their appreciation and regard for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 1963, Jim Munro and Alice Munro founded Munro's Books, a store in Victoria, British Columbia. After being on the job for a few months, Alice found she was not impressed with many of the products they sold. "I can write better books than this," she told Jim. Five years later, she published her first collection of short stories, *Dance of the Happy Shades*. Fourteen books later, she won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Will the coming months bring your equivalent of Alice Munro's pivotal resolution? I suspect they could.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "True love for whatever you are doing is the answer to everything," proclaimed performance artist Marina Abramovic. Amen to that righteous attitude! I hope you will embrace it in the coming weeks. I hope your heart and imagination will reveal all you need to know to bring tender fresh streams of true love to the essential activities of your life. Now is an excellent time to redefine the meaning of the word "love" so it applies to all your relationships and pursuits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A homeless woman in a wheelchair stopped where I was sitting outside a café. She was pushing her belongings in a small shopping cart. "Would you like to go dancing?" she said to me. "There's a nearby park that has a great grassy dance floor." "Maybe another day," I told her. "My energy is low. I've had a lot of personal challenges lately." I'm sure the expression on my face was less-than-ebullient. "Cheer up, mister," she told me. "I'm psychic, and I can tell you for sure that you will live a long life and have many more fine adventures. I'll be in the park if you change your mind." My mood instantly brightened. "Thanks!" I yelled toward her as she rolled away. Now I predict that you, Pisces, will have comparable experiences in the coming days. Are you willing to welcome uplifting surprises?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Who loves the truth better than you Aries people? Who has the greatest potential to speak the real story in every situation, even when it requires extra courage? Who has more fun than you in discovering and defining and expressing the raw facts? In my Book of Life, you Rams are radiant beacons of candor - the people I go to when I need accuracy and honesty. And all I'm saying here will be especially crucial in the coming weeks. The whole world needs concentrated doses of your authenticity. Now read this pep talk from Aries philosopher St. Catherine of Siena: "Let the truth be your delight; let it always be in your mouth, and proclaim it when it is needed. Proclaim it lovingly and to everyone, especially those you love with a special love - but with a certain congeniality."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Before the 20th century, you couldn't buy a loaf of bread that was already sliced into thin pieces. Then in 1912, the American inventor Otto Frederick Rohwedder developed a slicing machine. But all his work, including the blueprints and the machine prototypes, was destroyed in a fire. He had to seek new funding and begin again. Sixteen years later, his innovation was finally ready for broad public use. Within five years, most of the bread in the U.S. was sold sliced. What does this have to do with you? I am picking up an Otto Frederick Rohwedder vibe when I turn my visions to you, Taurus. I suspect that in the coming months, you, too, will fulfill a postponed dream.

PARK & HOMER
puzzles

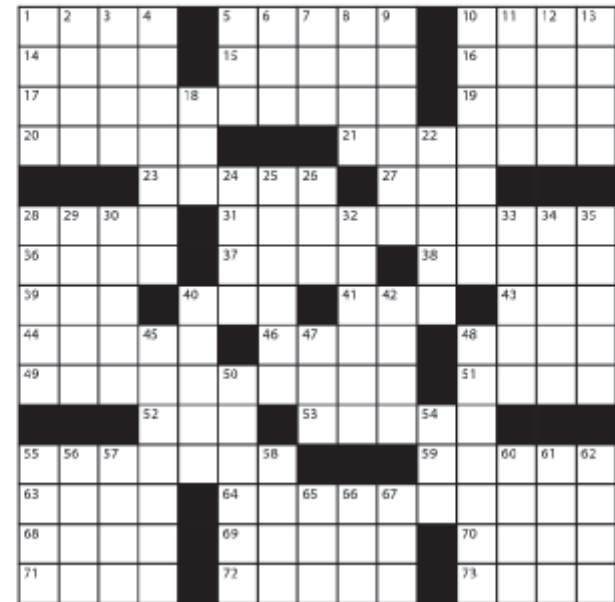
A big band

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 733

Across

1. Sunday service
5. Singer Jones
10. "This ___ joke!"
14. Epithet of Athena
15. ___ hammer on (pounds)
16. Backboard attachment
17. Providers of life lessons
19. Icele site
20. Neighbor of an Afghani
21. Dry
23. Rewrites
27. Neighbor of Aus.
28. Gym equipment
31. Bygone time
36. Biblical word endings
37. Lanchester of film
38. Country singer Tucker
39. ___-tzu
40. Poison ___
41. San Francisco/Oakland separator
43. Upper limit
44. "Ready ___ ..."
46. In that case
48. Conan replacement
49. Popular 80's-90's TV sitcom
51. Leisure
52. That girl
53. "Hey, you!"
55. Kodaks, e.g.
59. Scales seen at night
63. Neighbor of Pakistan
64. Band whose album is the first word of the themed clues



68. Bleacher feature
69. Consumed
70. Chums
71. "No problem!"
72. Outbuildings
73. Formerly, formerly

13. Ready for business
18. Tease
22. Substantial
24. Brain wave
25. Converse with
26. Part of CBS: Abbr.

47. Quarterback's call
48. Another song by 64-across
50. Boxes
54. Patty Hearst kidnap grp.
55. Refer to

Down

1. When repeated, a fish
2. Banned orchard spray
3. Word repeated after "Que"
4. Melancholy
5. Convent dweller
6. Spanish bear
7. Kind of hall
8. Inquires
9. Attempts, with "at"
10. "Right on, brother!"
11. Fly like an eagle
12. ___ Scotia

28. Honeydew, e.g.
29. Arcade name
30. Flip-flop
32. Light weapons?
33. ___ year (annually)
34. Clancy hero Jack and pitcher Nolan
35. "The Tell-Tale Heart" teller, briefly
40. Playful water animal
42. Colony members
45. Candy bar whose name is an exclamation

56. Soprano's song, maybe
57. Fannie ___ (securities)
58. Exile of 1979
60. Cloud
61. Cincinnati team
62. ___ prof.
65. Quebec's Festival d'___
66. Hospital unit
67. Coast Guard rank: Abbr.

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LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P. 61

100, Austin, Texas, 78701. Telephone: (512) 476-2212. Fax: (512) 476-2202. DATED the 26th day of May, 2022. - Caitlin Haney Johnston, State Bar No. 24087661, Attorney for Deborah M. Hayes.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RICHARD A.

SMALL, JR., a/k/a RICHARD ALLEN SMALL, JR., Deceased, were issued on May 12, 2022, in Cause No. C-1-PB-22-000724 pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: MARTHA ELLEN SMALL, a/k/a MARTHA SMALL. 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. MARTHA ELLEN SMALL, a/k/a MARTHA SMALL, Independent Executor, Estate of RICHARD A. SMALL, JR., a/k/a RICHARD ALLEN SMALL, JR., c/o Kyle Robbins, Attorney Dated the 25th day of May,

2022. /s/ KYLE ROBBINS Attorney for Martha Ellen Small, a/k/a Martha Small State Bar No. 24105719 3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78756 Telephone: (512) 851-1248 Facsimile: (512) 361-1806 Email: kyle@kylerobbinslaw.com

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