

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

THE AUSTIN

VOL. 43 • NO. 26

FREE  
BUT NOT CHEAP

# CHRONICLE

## AMERICAN MUSICALS

2024

PRESENTED BY: THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE & CAPRETTO

SPECIAL INSERT  
WINNERS  
REVEALED  
SPECIAL INSERT

*It's This Weekend!*

**SUNDAY  
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25TH**

DOORS AT 8:30  
SHOW AT 7:00

**PUSSY  
GILLETTE**

**WALKER  
LUKENS &  
FRIENDS**

FEAT.

BEN KWELLER  
SARRINA ELLIS  
KALU JAMES  
COREY BAUM  
UNCLE ROY & SPICE  
JIM CAMPO  
ZACK WIGGS

LAST CHANCE TO GET TICKETS

*Roll on  
By, Yall!*

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IAN MOORE  
MIKE DUCK

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backstage pass



MARCH 8-16



MARCH 8-16



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Founder of the Algorithmic Justice League



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COLD BEER • LIVE MUSIC • AUSTIN'S LARGEST CARNIVAL • PETTING ZOO • PONY RIDES



## PRORODEO & CONCERT LINEUP

### Kick OPEN THE CHUTES

Join us March 8, to officially Kick Open the Chutes and party on the dirt.

*\*Please note - no ProRodeo performance will take place at this event.*

8\*



Casey Donahew  
with special guest Braxton Keith

9



William  
Clark Green

10

Día del Vaquero



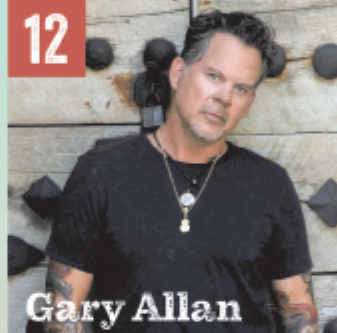
La Fiera  
de Ojinaga

11



Sawyer Brown

12



Gary Allan

13



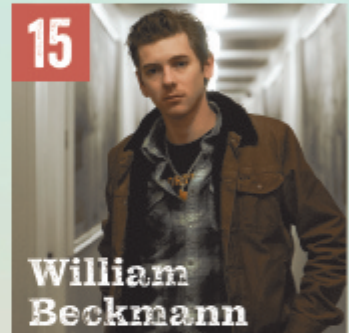
Ashley  
McBryde

14



Lukas Nelson

15



William  
Beckmann

16



Jamey Johnson

17



Los Huracanes  
del Norte

18



Tracy Byrd

19



Wynonna Judd

20



38 SPECIAL

21



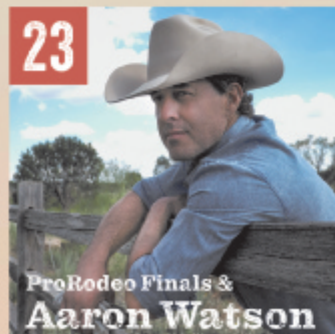
Jake Owen

22



Flatland  
Cavalry

23



ProRodeo Finals &  
Aaron Watson

RODEO  AUSTIN

MARCH 8-23, 2024

TICKETS ON SALE AT [RODEOAUSTIN.COM](http://RODEOAUSTIN.COM)

OUR MISSION IS TO GROW THE NEXT GENERATION...IT'S IN OUR ROOTS!



# **PARTY** **WITH** **Cheechee & Chong** **AND** **PLANET K** **TUESDAY MARCH 12**

**Register for Tickets for 2 to  
 Cheechee & Chong's New Movie  
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**Register at any Austin Planet K - No purchase necessary! - No entries after Sun. March 10**

DISCOVER



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DEMOCRATS  
est. 2007

2024 PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Last Day to Register to Vote: Monday, February 5th, 2024  
Early Voting: Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 – Friday March 1st, 2024  
ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, March 5th, 2024

US CONGRESS

Rep. Lloyd Doggett

WORKS FOR US

US SENATE

ROLAND  
GUTIERREZ  
FOR U.S. SENATE

TRAVIS COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSÉ GARZA  
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3RD  
COURT OF APPEALS

MAGGIE  
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HOUSE

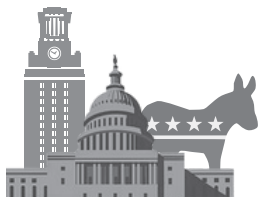
ERIN  
ZWIENER

TEXAS  
HOUSE

Angel  
CARRALL  
State Representative

353RD DISTRICT JUDGE

Sherine  
THOMAS



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STORE



AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/STORE

FEEDBACK  
LETTERS + COMMENTS

SAVE ROY CREEK

Dear Editor,

Plans for a sprawling 1,400-acre luxury resort in West Austin threatens dwindling water supplies in the area; The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality plans to do nothing about it.

Rising average temperatures in the region have led to increasing drought conditions for residents. The development would only make things worse, as they are likely to be approved for over 27 million gallons annually from local groundwater conservations. This is one largest groundwater permit request in Hays County history, at a time when 88% of the county's population suffers from drought conditions.

This symbolizes a larger issue in Texas, where governmental and political agencies not only prioritize short-term profit over long-term sustainability efforts, but leave the average Texan with dwindling freshwater supplies.

I urge you to get involved! As Austin residents it is our responsibility to call on our local representatives and agencies in advocating for the well-being of fellow Austinites and the place we all call home. If you're interested in learning more, please visit [www.roycreek.org](http://www.roycreek.org) where there are thorough resources covering the situation.

Sam Gastwirth

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH?

Dear Editor,

I was concerned to see Attorney General [Ken] Paxton's claim that cannabis can cause psychosis characterized as some sort of ridiculous fear-mongering tactic of the *Reefer Madness* variety ["The Austin Chronicle: How Worried Should Cannabis Users Be Over Paxton Suing Austin?," Feb. 16]. I am not a Paxton supporter, nor do I think marijuana criminalization is a good use of resources. However, cannabis use is a risk factor for psychosis. I don't think it's good to downplay scientific evidence just because it's inconvenient to one's political stance.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Curtright

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.

Email address: [mail@austinchronicle.com](mailto:mail@austinchronicle.com). Letters online: [austinchronicle.com/feedback](http://austinchronicle.com/feedback)  
Mailing address: The Austin Chronicle, 1000 E. 40th, Austin, TX 78751

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

--AND AS ISRAEL'S BOMBARDMENT OF CIVILIANS IN GAZA CONTINUES UNABATED--

EXCUSE ME, WANDA-- WE'RE GETTING SOME URGENT BREAKING NEWS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT!

--ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN IS APPARENTLY AN ELDERLY MAN! AND REPORTEDLY SOMEWHAT FORGETFUL!

JOINING US NOW IS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN TO RESPOND TO THESE CONTROVERSIAL ALLEGATIONS!

WE MUST KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE! IS BIDEN "OLD" IN COMPARISON TO THE LIFESPAN OF THE OCEAN QUAHOG CLAM, WHICH HAS BEEN KNOWN TO LIVE AS LONG AS 507 YEARS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSIGHT, PARTY SPOKESMAN GUY! NOW FOR A LIVE REACTION FROM A RANDOM PASSERBY ON THE STREET!

SIR, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS STUNNING DEVELOPMENT?

I HAD NO IDEA! WHY DIDN'T ANYONE MENTION THIS SOONER? PERHAPS JOE BIDEN FORGOT TO TELL US, WHAT WITH BEING ELDERLY AND ALL!

WE'RE GETTING ANOTHER UPDATE-- IN THE TIME IT HAS TAKEN US TO REPORT THIS NEWS, JOE BIDEN HAS AGED SEVERAL MORE MINUTES!

WE'LL DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS SHOCKING STORY! BUT NOW WE TURN TO ANOTHER BREAKING NEWS FLASH--

--A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT DONALD TRUMP IS ALSO OLD!

BUT--BUT HE HAS LUXURIANT HAIR AND THAT HEALTHY ORANGE SKIN TONE! PLUS, HE'S VERY SHOUTY!

GOOD POINT! COMING UP: WILL BIDEN'S NEXT BIRTHDAY CAKE CONSTITUTE A FIRE HAZARD?

FIRST, THESE MESSAGES!

Keep  
JUDGE RICO

Justice of the Peace Pct 5

EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

Political Ad Paid for by Judge Rick Olivo Campaign, Novert "Mo" Morales, Treasurer.  
In Voluntary Compliance with the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.



## PROUD TO BE ENDORSED BY:

THE AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, AUSTIN AREA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS DEMOCRATS, AUSTIN YOUNG DEMOCRATS, NETCO DEMOCRATS, CODA  
(COALITION OF DEMOCRATIC ALLIES), AUSTIN ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRATS, AUSTIN STONEWALL DEMOCRATS,  
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“As a former teacher, judge, foster mom, and PTA president, I have been a strong advocate for individuals and families in our community. As a wife, mother, and grandmother, nothing is more important to me.”

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**Safety is our number one concern.**  
**Please call for an appointment first! Thank you! Stay safe!**  
**MON-FRI: 7AM-8PM | SAT: 8AM-3PM | SUN: TEMPORARILY CLOSED**



## \$29.95 PET EXAM

Offer valid for dogs & cats only. Not valid for emergencies.  
 Offer expires 3/1/24. Must present coupon at time of arrival.



## \$124.99 ANNUAL VISIT

**Dogs Includes:** Exam, Distemper-Parvo, Rabies, Heart-Worm Test, Intestinal Parasite Check

**Cats Includes:** Exam, Feline Distemper, Rabies, Feline Leukemia and Intestinal Parasite Check

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**Dog Spay/Neuter:** 0-45 lbs. - \$160/ 45.1-100 lbs. - \$200  
**Cat Spay:** \$130

Not redeemable for cash. Applies to routine spays & neuters.  
 Offer valid for each pet. Offer expires 3/1/24. Must present coupon at time of arrival.



## \$95 CAT NEUTERS!

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 Offer expires 3/1/24. Must present coupon at time of arrival.

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## OPINION VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### Dear Israel: I'm Stuck in the Middle With You

We call it *tzedakah*. In churches, it's tithing, or passing the basket. In synagogue, the Hebrew word *tzedakah* means not charity, but justice. Sarah Hurwitz, former speechwriter for Barack and Michelle Obama, discussed this essential distinction. "Charity is given out of the kindness of our hearts. ... *Tzedakah* is considered mandatory under Jewish law."

Foundational Jewish writings, including the Old Testament, emphasize Jews' inescapable obligation to fight for the rights of every human being facing any form of discrimination or bias, including religion, race, gender, sexuality, ableism, socioeconomic status, and reproductive status. To Jews – to me – it is imperative to treat everyone with respect, kindness, and decency.

It's in our religion.

It's in our hearts.

It's in our souls.

But, it is *not* in Israel.

Regardless of differing positions on Israel, not one of us can claim that Israel's policies indicate a commitment to treating everyone with respect, kindness, and equity. Or, even a commitment to following current Israeli law, which requires the protection of the life, body, dignity, and property of all human beings.

Don't misunderstand: To me, it is essential that Jews must have some place to go. The next time a country decides to massacre, deport, or forcibly convert us, it is an incontrovertible fact that we must have a destination that we can count on to take us in. And, for Jews, there is always a next time.

Pop quiz time: Imagine you were one of the 9,500,000 European Jews soon to be disenfranchised, impoverished, deported, starved, or killed by the Nazis. Now, list all of the countries in the world that offered safety and shelter, without restriction, to you and all other Jews fleeing the Nazi regime.

A hint: The U.S. isn't on the list – we required a showing of government documents that no refugees could possibly have. A 1938 poll found that less than 5% of Americans thought we should increase the number of Jewish refugees allowed in the country.

Another hint: England isn't on it either. Like the Netherlands, they accepted almost exclusively children. Palestine and South Africa made the list, until severely limiting the number of Jews allowed. Australia, considering Jews prone to criminality, developed their first limitations on refugees. Switzerland, the only supposedly "neutral" country that shares a border with Germany, turned away at least half of the Jews who made it to there.

Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Panama? Not on the list; they refused to accept "traders or intellectuals" – otherwise known as Jews.

Canada? Accepted only a fraction of Jewish refugees. Their Prime Minister stressed fears of civil unrest and the dilution of bloodlines. When asked how many Jewish refugees Canada should accept, the Minister of Immigration responded "none is too many."

And, the answer to our quiz question is: the Dominican Republic.

That's it. That's the entire list.

That's the list I take personally.

That's the list explaining the imperative of having somewhere to go.

But, that is not equivalent to a free pass to commit human rights atrocities.

Every Sunday morning, my grandchildren, 6 and 9, go to Hebrew school where they have learned all of the most positive aspects of Israel. Because they don't yet understand "taxes," I imagine how I will explain to them that I don't want to send "gifts" to a country that disregards our essential values. I'd say that neither naughty children nor racist states get "allowances." I'd clarify that we would no more disinherit badly behaved children than we abandon Israel, but that we won't reward despicable policies and behavior.

To do so is bad parenting, and poorly thought out international relations.

To do so is, or should be, unethical and abhorrent ...

... to American taxpayers,

... to parents,

... and, especially, to Jews. ■

Cathy K. Brown, of Austin, is a former attorney and professor who focused on the First Amendment rights of public school students. She was the first woman to get an M.S. in fire protection management. Currently, she devotes herself to being a sweet little Jewish grandmother.

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



# MELISSA LORBER

FOR 3RD COURT OF APPEALS

THE AUSTIN  
**CHRONICLE**

Melissa Lorber has "passion and a good variety of experience."

## VOTE DEMOCRAT MELISSA LORBER FOR THIRD COURT OF APPEALS

**PLACE 2**

Melissa Lorber has spent 22 years representing clients in hundreds of appeals, including in the Third Court of Appeals and Texas Supreme Court. She has the respect and support of Texas lawyers who practice before the appellate courts and is Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. She is ready to give back — by serving as Justice and continuing her leadership in the Central Texas legal community.

**PREFERRED  
CANDIDATE**

State Bar of Texas  
Preference Poll



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RECRUIT. TRAIN. ELECT.



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**FEBRUARY 20 -  
MARCH 1, 2024**

ELECTION DAY

**TUESDAY,  
MARCH 5, 2024**

“ Experience and expertise are vital to secure a strong legal system. My experience and expertise will enable me to fairly and equitably answer the complex legal questions that impact all Central Texans. ”

MELISSA LORBER



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POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY THE MELISSA LORBER CAMPAIGN.



# JOSÉ GARZA

THE JOSÉ GARZA RECORD:

UNDOING THE DAMAGE OF  
THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS

CHANGING THE CULTURE OF  
POLICING IN AUSTIN

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO  
GET GUNS OFF THE STREETS

FULFILLING HIS PROMISE TO  
STAND BY SURVIVORS

TRAVIS COUNTY'S PROGRESSIVE DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY IS LEADING THE CHARGE TO  
FIX OUR BROKEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

- Approaching the issue as a public health crisis and prioritizing treatment, prevention, and risk reduction.
- Partnered with the County to create a behavioral health diversion center.
- Efforts to hold police accountable for excessive use of force led APD to ban the use of shotgun propelled, lead-pellet filled bean bags that inflicted serious harm on peaceful protestors.
- Taking guns out of the hands of high-risk individuals, especially in intimate partner relationships involving violence.
- Working with community groups to implement intervention and prevention programs.
- Resolved the lawsuit brought by survivors of sexual assault against the previous administration.
- Increased the number of sexual assault convictions.
- Increased the size of the Victims Services Division.

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THE AUSTIN  
CHRONICLE



"Garza has made strides on all of these community priorities. Advocates for survivors of sexual assault say the landscape around these traumatic crimes has shifted."

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[JoseforDA.com](http://JoseforDA.com)

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JOSÉ GARZA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY March 5  
VOTE EARLY Today - March 1

Pol. Adv. Paid for by the José Garza Campaign



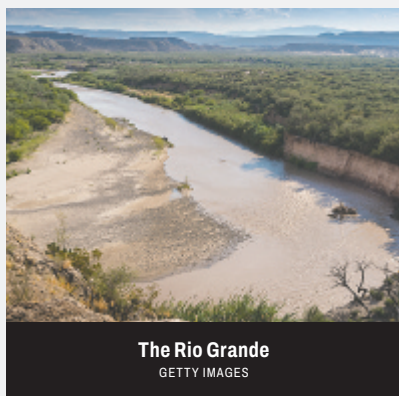
PHOTO BY GAGE SKIDMORE / CC BY-SA 2.0

## HEADLINES

**MORE BORDER “SECURITY”:** Gov. **Greg Abbott** announced the state is building an 80-acre base camp in **Eagle Pass** for Texas **National Guard** troops. The base will hold up to 2,300 soldiers who have been deployed to the border as part of **Operation Lone Star**, which has deployed thousands of Texas state troopers and the National Guard since launching in March 2021, The Texas Tribune reported.

**HALEY VISITS DALLAS:** Fighting for a chance in the Texas Republican primary, presidential candidate **Nikki Haley** visited Dallas last week and spoke with *The Dallas Morning News*. She brought it back to the border with a hard-line immigration stance, but also suggested Texas’ abortion laws are too extreme. She said of undocumented immigrants, “All it takes is one for a 9/11 moment.” She also said Texas’ abortion laws that led **Kate Cox** to leave the state for an abortion need to be revisited. “I had a roommate in college who was raped. I wouldn’t wish on anyone to go through what she went through.”

**BLUES ON THE GREEN BACK ON:** Good ol’ **H-E-B**. As Austin continues to try to nurture what makes the city special amid a punishingly high cost of living, the city passed a resolution last week to revive a cash-strapped **Blues on the Green** and other free concerts with a co-sponsorship and increased financial support from H-E-B. The free concert series will resume at Zilker Park this summer for its third decade, after it was canceled in January due to rising costs. Read more online.



The Rio Grande  
GETTY IMAGES

CONTINUED ON P.14



An oil well in Texas

GETTY IMAGES

## Can a Veteran Oil Man Clean Up the Railroad Commission’s Mess?

Bill Burch is running to raise awareness of groundwater contamination **BY LINA FISHER**

Running for statewide office as a Democrat is never an easy task in Texas, where a Dem hasn’t won since the Nineties. It’s even more difficult for an office with a misleading name, against incumbents who accept campaign donations from the industry they’re meant to regulate. The **Railroad Commission** is in charge of wrangling the oil and gas industry in the largest-producing state in the country, at a time when gas plants are failing to prop up the grid, increasingly severe fracking-related earthquakes are plaguing West Texas, and abandoned “zombie” wells are poisoning Texans’ groundwater. Could a veteran

driller and oil well firefighter with broad support – even from some Republicans – be the one to clean up the mess?

**Bill Burch’s** interest in oil and gas was somewhat inevitable: His father and grandfather were both drillers, and after graduating University of Pittsburgh with a degree in chemical engineering, Burch was immediately hired by oilfield services company Schlumberger to service wells in Saudi Arabia and Oman. He eventually went to work for an oil field equipment supplier in Dubai, Halliburton Sperry-Sun, which took him to Norway, Argentina, Australia,

Azerbaijan – “I really got to see the planet. It was just a natural fit,” says Burch. “Even as a kid, I remember watching *Hellfighters*, the John Wayne movie, on PBS,” where Wayne plays an oil well firefighter.

In 2007, six months into a petroleum engineering master’s at LSU, Burch was hired by an oil well firefighting company, where he spent the next six years. In 2010, he was called to the **Deepwater Horizon spill**, where he was struck by the industry’s negligence: “They waited for the incident to occur before they ever did any prevention.”

CONTINUED ON P.14

THE AUSTIN  
**CHRONICLE**  
ENDORSED!

"Sherine...described promising new ideas to connect vulnerable county residents with resources. We believe Thomas' longer experience in Austin's legal community and her connections to nonprofits make her the best-positioned candidate to create new partnerships that support people who find themselves in her courtroom."

# VOTE SHERINE THOMAS FOR 353RD DISTRICT JUDGE



*Representing Our Values!*

- ✓ PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP
- ✓ PANDEMIC RESPONSE
- ✓ IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
- ✓ LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS
- ✓ PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



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ELECTION DAY  
**TUESDAY,  
MARCH 5, 2024**

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Sherine's proven leadership, expertise, and dedication make her the right choice for 353rd District Judge.

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POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY THE SHERINE THOMAS CAMPAIGN.

## HEADLINES CONTINUED

**SARKISIAN'S BIG RAISE:** UT-Austin football coach **Steve Sarkisian** is expected to make \$10 million a year pending approval from the UT System **Board of Regents**. The pay raise would make Sarkisian one of the highest-paid coaches in the country. Sarkisian was named Big 12 Coach of the Year and has a 25-14 record over three seasons at UT, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

**PAXTON'S POLITICAL PAYBACK:** Attorney General **Ken Paxton** is putting generally low-profile races for the **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals** on the map, in an attempt to oust three incumbents who angered him with a 2021 opinion, *The Texas Tribune* reports. Paxton and his cronies accuse three female incumbents of disempowering the A.G.'s Office by rejecting his bid to unilaterally prosecute voter fraud. But the judges are pushing back. Judge **Barbara Hervey** wonders if Paxton even read the opinion he's angry about, calling his approach "really pathetic."

**MORE PAXTON PETTINESS:** It doesn't end there, though. Paxton has been hard at work campaigning against the Republicans who voted for his **impeachment** last year. He's endorsed primary opponents of 20 of those GOP House incumbents. But he and Abbott aren't on the same page – Abbott is backing at least 17 incumbents Paxton is against, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. They're most divided in **Collin County**, where Paxton wants to remove the GOP's entire five-member delegation to the Legislature.

**POOR PAXTON:** Meanwhile, it looks like Paxton's criminal trial will begin in two months, after a judge denied his request to dismiss charges last Friday. Paxton argued his constitutional right to a speedy trial had been violated, but Judge **Andrea Beall** didn't buy it. Beall's decision means Paxton's securities fraud trial is set to kick off on April 15.



ZENE BARBARO / PHOTO BY JANA BIRCHUM

**CALLING ALL COPS:** Amid a nationwide shortage of police officers, Texas awarded **\$125 million** to rural sheriffs and prosecutors across the state to help them attract and retain staff. The pot of money this comes from was created by Senate Bill 22, which passed with bipartisan support and totaled **\$330 million**, *The Texas Tribune* reports.

**HAVE A WILLIE GOOD TIME:** The 12th annual **Luck Reunion** festival lineup boasts over 40 country, roots, and folk stars like John Oates, Tyler Childers, Zella Day, Toadies, and Madi Diaz, as well as local scenesters like Theo Lawrence and Willie Nelson's own progeny, Lukas Nelson. In addition to the regular fest, attendees to the family-style Potluck dinner will be serenaded by Willie himself and treated to the culinary stylings of Rick Bayless and Edgar Rico, among others. Read more online.



Willie Nelson in 2021

JANA BIRCHUM

CONTINUED ON P.16

**BILL BURCH** CONTINUED FROM P.12

A decade later, in 2021, Burch was called out to Antina Ranch in West Texas to study why a **Chevron well** abandoned in 1995 was now spewing toxic wastewater. "I thought, 'Oh, shit, our worst-case scenario in the oil and gas industry is really happening.'" Burch implored the Railroad Commission to do something: "I told them, 'You guys have got to get ahead of this narrative. This scenario that's occurring in West Texas is going to be not only the bane of the existence of the industry, but you guys are gonna lose your ass in reputational hit if you don't get ahead of the narrative.'" Burch says they told him there was no problem. "I gotta tell you that pissed me off. These idiots couldn't realize the impact of what was happening."

Groundwater contamination from abandoned oil wells is a daily reality for people across the state and has become the cornerstone of Burch's campaign. "People are concerned about the future of water in the state of Texas." Last legislative session, the Legislature funneled more than \$2 billion toward new water supply strategies. The commission will play an integral role in securing the future of groundwater, in a state that is projected to grow to 96 million by 2100: "The Railroad Commission needs to be the agency that underpins the ability of the state of Texas to be successful by the turn of the century."

In order to ensure that success, the commission must change, says Burch. Now, it "doesn't enforce a damn thing," says Burch. "Operators will often start projects before they even get their permits. They don't do their due diligence, because they know they don't need to."

In order for that enforcement to happen, the commission needs to hire more inspectors, says Burch. There are currently less than 200 inspectors for a state with 500,000 miles of pipelines. Both Burch and **Hawk Dunlap**, another candidate in the race and a fellow international oil well firefighter, applied and were rejected for a lack of qualifications. "That's intentional," says Burch. "They don't want to hire people with experience. And we pay them \$42,000 a year. What person with 20+ years' experience in oil and gas wants to go work for the Railroad Commission when you can hire on as a brand-new roughneck and make \$130,000 a year?"

The industry is dangerous, to boot: In 2021, the CDC published a study that found Texas led the nation in work-related fatalities from



Bill Burch

COURTESY OF THE BILL BURCH CAMPAIGN

2014-19. "The number of accidents that are not publicly disclosed is enormous," says Burch. When *Inside Climate News* published the first-ever public analysis of produced water spills in Texas last fall, Burch says several engineers called him saying their spill was never reported. "We have to be able to provide for people to have a livable income working in energy, under safe, protective environments."

Even with major newspaper, labor union, and Democratic club endorsements, victory for Burch is a long shot. When **Luke**

**Warford** was running in 2022, **Jason Modglin**, the president of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, told *The Texas Tribune* his party affiliation could not be overlooked, as Democrats are "so anti-oil and gas." But Burch says "energy is a nonpartisan issue. We're not talking about killing the oil and gas industry. We're talking about holding the industry accountable for following the

rules." He says his campaign has "already had success – I've got people talking about issues and realizing the scope of the Railroad Commission. Let's say I lose come November, no big deal. I'm still an engineer. The problem doesn't go away. Back into finding ways to deal with the produced water problem – that has to be fixed first and foremost. If we can't get the earthquakes and the saltwater disposal issues under control, we're on our way to a Superfund site." ■

**"The Railroad Commission needs to be the agency that underpins the ability of the state of Texas to be successful by the turn of the century."**

RAILROAD COMMISSION  
CANDIDATE BILL BURCH

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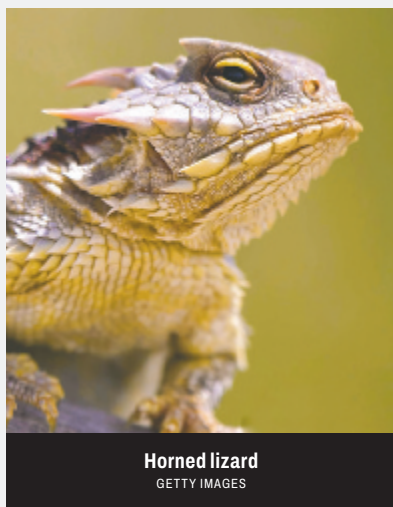
## HEADLINES CONTINUED

**AUSTIN'S AIR PROBLEM:** Under a new **Environmental Protection Agency** rule, Austin no longer meets certain health standards due to dangerously high levels of air pollution. Austin and surrounding areas need to reduce the levels of fine particulate matter in the air by 2032, which could prevent **4,500 premature deaths** and result in 800,000 fewer asthma attacks per year nationwide, the Austin Monitor reported. If we doesn't get those levels under control, the city could receive a "nonattainment" designation, which would mean losing out on federal funding for certain projects.

**FREE SCHOOL:** Austin Community College District (ACC) is looking to expand eligibility for the pilot launch of its proposed **free tuition program**. Since they announced the program last month, the scope has expanded to all local high school seniors.

**KITES ARE FUN:** The **ABC Kite Fest**, Austin's beloved spring festival, announced Wednesday that it's returning for its 96th year. For first-timers, the festival includes a kite contest and family-friendly activities on Sunday, April 14, at **Zilker Park**.

**LIZARD TIME:** **Brian Wright**, 69, is a special kind of Hill Country rancher, because he's decided to create a sanctuary for threatened horned lizards. "They're just unique little critters," he told KUT. "They will squirt blood out of their eyes when you start to handle 'em if they're really fearful." Fun fact – they also flatten like pancakes.



Horned lizard  
GETTY IMAGES

CONTINUED ON P.18



A Cap Metro bus

JOHN ANDERSON

## Safe on the Bus

As transit cops near, Cap Metro's other public safety personnel thrive **BY BENTON GRAHAM**

On a cool fall day last year at a heavily trafficked bus stop in Austin, a person experiencing homelessness appeared unwell. In fact, it was unclear if he was even breathing. Fortunately, this is the scenario that **Cap Metro** envisioned when it launched the public safety ambassador program in October 2021. A nearby ambassador phoned EMS and stayed with the man, who had a faint pulse, until they arrived.

"Had it not been for the intervention of this ambassador, EMS said this person wouldn't be here today," said **Brian Robinson**, Cap Metro's public safety ambassador manager.

Although Cap Metro's board approved hiring a police force, it's not expected to start until the end of the year. Nonetheless, its revamped public safety program is well underway. In addition to the roughly 25 unarmed public safety ambassadors, the public transit agency has three community intervention specialists – a role that looks similar to a social worker. These specialists can connect riders with mental health, substance use, and housing services. With such small teams, Cap Metro officials said they use a mix of data and requests from bus operators and riders to determine where to place ambassadors throughout the network.

Robinson said that his team, which is made up of mostly people with customer service, law enforcement, or security backgrounds, will make referrals to the team of community intervention specialists, which is led by **Holly Winge**. Recently an ambassador noticed a mother and son that seemed to be unhoused. They became two of the 20 unhoused riders that Winge's team has helped secure housing for.

As the public transit agency praises the initial results of the two units, the question becomes: Does Cap Metro need an armed police force? Cap Metro Chief Safety Officer **Gardner Tabon** is unwavering on that front. "I would hope that society would put us out of work, but I don't know that society is honestly going in that direction."

Once it receives Texas Commission on Law Enforcement certification, which Tabon hopes will be by early April, Cap Metro will look to hire around 12 armed police officers for its force this year, with the end goal of a 50-person police department. Funding public safety initiatives will cost \$9.5 million this fiscal year, according to a Cap Metro spokesperson.

Both Robinson and Winge expressed a desire to grow their teams, but they also pointed to some potential benefits of working with a Cap Metro police force. "I feel like it will actually be easier to collaborate, because we'll have dedicated people. Right now, it's just kind of based on who picks up the shift, and it's not always super consistent," Winge said, referring to Cap Metro's current model of contracting with the Austin Police Department.

Conversations about public transit policing are playing out across the country, as agencies try to create safer environments for their customers and employees. Despite the discrepancy in size, Austin and Los Angeles have taken similar approaches.

**Tala Oszkay** is a researcher with ACT-LA, a coalition of over 40 Los Angeles-based organizations that focus on housing and transit justice. Unlike Tabon, Oszkay can envision a world without police on transit. "The culture of policing is, in our opinion, very fundamentally flawed," she said. "We feel like you need to cultivate community and trust that makes people feel safer, not coming into the bus with a heightened sense of, 'Oh, this is an unsafe place where I need a gun or I need the presence of a police officer.'" She added that she is optimistic that the **Los Angeles Metro's** police force will be thwarted, as, unlike Cap Metro's force, it has yet to be approved by its board of directors.

Part of ACT-LA's rationale for not needing a police force is the success of a transit ambassador program similar to Cap Metro's. Survey results found that 63% of Los Angeles Metro riders felt safer after seeing an ambassador and 61% wanted to see more on the system. Cap Metro has yet to conduct such a survey specifically about its ambassadors.

On the other end of the spectrum, Houston's recently elected Mayor **John Whitmire** wants to bring the METRO Police Department under the Houston Police Department roof. Christof Spieler, a lecturer at Rice University who served on the METRO board from 2010-2018, said there are pros and cons to having a public transit police force. He points out that some think we have enough police forces and it would be more efficient to work with city police. On the other hand, a separate transit police force gives the agency more control.

Spierer said that much of the push for public safety on buses and trains is about perception. Riders will feel safer if stations are well lit, have a visible staff presence, and make emergency call boxes accessible. Along those lines, Tabon noted that Cap Metro implemented barriers on buses that would impede a rider from attacking an operator.

Spierer said the reality is that people are less likely to commit crimes on buses and trains. For example, a

study of the Los Angeles Metro found no evidence of a new transit line increasing crime. But Cap Metro is aware of the need to improve the perception of safety throughout its system. A 2023 Cap Metro customer survey found that 81% of riders feel safe on board – a jump from the 75% of riders who said they felt safe in 2022. With data like that in mind, Tabon remains confident in the public transit agency's direction. "Our desire is to create an environment that is welcoming to all, and to do that, you have to have a public safety element." ■

**"I would hope that society would put us out of work, but I don't know that society is honestly going in that direction."**

CAP METRO CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER GARDNER TABON



# NEW EVIDENCE SUGGESTS IVAN CANTU'S INNOCENCE, BUT WILL ANYONE STOP HIS EXECUTION?

85,000 petitioners and celebrities are behind him

BY BRANT BINGAMON

Sister **Helen Prejean** is trying to keep Texas from killing death row inmate **Ivan Cantu**. Prejean, the famed death penalty opponent, joined MoveOn.org in a virtual meeting last week to plead for a delay in Cantu's execution, scheduled for Feb. 28.

"Even if you're for the death penalty, you believe in fairness," Prejean said. "There was no fairness at this trial. All we're asking is to delay the execution of Ivan Cantu long enough to be able to have a hearing and an inquiry into the new evidence that's been presented."

The new evidence unearthed in Cantu's case over the last several years has come from private investigator **Matt Duff**, who has tracked his work in his *Cousins by Blood* podcast. Duff has pieced together information demonstrating that key witnesses against

Cantu – his former girlfriend Amy Boettcher and her brother Jeff – lied under oath at his murder trial. The evidence was persuasive enough that Collin County District Judge **Benjamin Smith** stopped Cantu's execution in April of last year, one week before it was set to be carried out. He ordered the same thing that Prejean is asking for now – a hearing in court to examine the new evidence. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals overturned Smith's ruling last autumn, offering no explanation for its decision. No court has appraised the evidence, according to the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Cantu stood trial in 2001 for the murders of his cousin, **James Mosqueda**, and Mosqueda's girlfriend, **Amy Kitchen**. According to court documents, Boettcher

testified that Cantu left their apartment on the evening of Nov. 3, 2000, vowing to kill Mosqueda, and returned an hour later with blood-spattered pants and socks, which he placed in a kitchen trash can. She also said that Cantu threw a Rolex watch that he said he had taken from Mosqueda out of a car window as the couple drove to a Dallas nightclub after the murders.

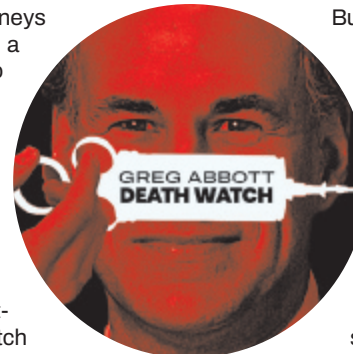
But in 2020, Cantu's attorneys presented testimony from a law enforcement officer who swore that she found no bloody clothes in Cantu's kitchen trash can in a search conducted shortly after the murders, while Cantu and Boettcher were away – suggesting that Cantu may have been framed. They also submitted proof that the Rolex watch Boettcher claimed Cantu had thrown out of the car window had been discovered in Mosqueda's home after the murders and returned to his family.


Jeff Boettcher testified at the murder trial that Cantu had told him in advance of his plan to kill Mosqueda. But after Amy Boettcher died in 2021, Jeff contacted the Collin County district

attorney's office and recanted his story in a videotaped confession, saying he lied on the witness stand. He expressed remorse that his testimony had helped put Cantu on death row.

MoveOn.org has collected 85,000 signatures asking for a halt of Cantu's execution, an investigation into the case by the Collin County District Attorney's Office, and a court hearing on the new evidence. Cantu's attorney, Gena Bunn, has asked the CCA to reconsider its decision not to conduct a hearing. Kim Kardashian, Martin Sheen, Jane Fonda, and Mandy Patinkin have also requested a halt to the execution and Prejean is leading a rally on Feb. 22 at the Collin County courthouse to demand a hearing. She said that if the execution isn't halted she'll be at Cantu's side as he dies.

"He's asked me to be with him if they execute him, and to pray with him," Prejean said. "But there's no way I'm just going to be with this man and pray with him and ease him into eternity without doing everything I know to do to resist this death. Because there's so many wrongs that have been done." ■





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- A distinguished attorney with over 26 years of experience, spanning criminal law, family law, complex civil litigation, and dispute resolution.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

**VOTE EARLY:  
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## HEADLINES CONTINUED

**TEXAS TRIBUNE GETS ITS UNION:** On Friday, employees of The **Texas Tribune** were formally recognized by their employer as a union, the **Texas Tribune Guild**. The union secured support from 90% of eligible staff members and represents more than 40 staff including reporters, photographers, designers, engineers, accountants, editors, and members of the development, product, and revenue teams.

**LET KIDS LIVE:** A February **ACLU** report found that most school districts in Texas implement gender, class, and racial discrimination in their dress code policies. The survey reviewed 1,178 of Texas' 1,207 K-12 public school districts and found that more than 80% of them prohibit head coverings without religious exemptions, and have vague policies on hairstyles that disproportionately target Black students – 7% banned certain textures and styles explicitly protected by the **CROWN Act**.

**MUSIC HISTORY IN THE MUSIC CAPITAL:** An interactive exhibit that includes memorabilia from country legends such as Willie Nelson and Taylor Swift opened Saturday at the **LBJ Presidential Library** on Saturday. The exhibit was curated by the **Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music** in association with the New Orleans Jazz Museum and Hard Rock International. After debuting in Austin, the collection will move to other cities across the country, KUT reported.



**B.B. King** playing his guitar "Lucille," which is on display at the **LBJ Presidential Library**

PUBLIC DOMAIN / PDM 1.0 DEED



Democratic candidates José Garza (l) and Jeremy Sylestine



COURTESY OF CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGNS

## D.A. Decision

José Garza, Jeremy Sylestine vie for Travis County district attorney **BY AUSTIN SANDERS**

José Garza's defeat of District Attorney **Margaret Moore** in 2020 was a landmark moment for the criminal justice reform movement in Austin. Now, he faces a primary challenge from **Jeremy Sylestine** that will test the popularity of the progressive platform Garza won on and has implemented over the past three years.

Moore, who started her career as a prosecutor under legendary Travis County D.A. **Ronnie Earle** before becoming a titan of Travis County politics in her own right, symbolized the establishment wing of the county's courthouse community. Garza had little experience as a prosecutor, but he was deeply enmeshed in the coalition of community organizations that had gained substantial power within local affairs over the previous five years.

Garza won the July run-off against Moore by more than 30 points and then sailed to general election victory in November. But before he was even sworn in, his critics launched attacks aimed at his campaign platform. They homed in on his commitment to pursue prosecutions of police officers accused of on-duty wrongdoing and his approach to bail.

Sylestine, who is a member of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe of Texas, worked in the D.A.'s Office for 15 years before departing in 2021 to work as a criminal defense attorney and chief appellate trial judge of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of East Texas. He has positioned himself as a candidate more in the mold of Moore and her predecessors – a prosecutor who believes the system can be reformed, but also that one of the primary roles of a D.A. is to ensure cases are strong enough to stand before a jury, especially for violent offenses.

But have Travis County voters moved on from that perspective? The March 5 primary will be the first opportunity for the county's liberal, but not always progressive, electorate to provide an answer.

Garza thinks the people are still with him. He points out, accurately, that property and violent crime (including homicide) in Austin have decreased following a spike in 2021. "We know that public safety is stability," Garza told the *Chronicle*, Feb. 19. "There is no doubt in my mind that the policies our office has enacted, in partnership with the city of Austin and Travis County, have increased stability in our community."

Those policies, Garza says, include diversion programs, like one his office launched that seeks to divert juveniles accused of assaulting caregivers from jail and into family counseling; efforts to treat drug offenses as a public health problem; and attempts to hold law enforcement officials accused of dangerous, violent conduct accountable through the courts. Though, on the law enforcement prosecution front, Garza has had mixed results.

Sylestine agrees with much of Garza's philosophy but feels that he has strayed too far from the core responsibility of a D.A. – prosecution. Sylestine said he'd likely continue all of Garza's diversion programs if he won, when talking to the *Chronicle's* Editorial Board on Jan. 25. (Sylestine did not respond to our interview requests for this story.) But he's also criticized Garza's administration for not bringing cases to

trial quickly enough (Travis County's criminal courts were closed for about two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which produced a sizable backlog). He has said that criminal prosecution of people dealing with substance use disorder can be a critical part of connecting them with resources to support their recovery.

The challenger criticizes Garza's approach to prosecution of law enforcement officials – in particular Garza's decision in December to drop 17 of 21 cases brought against Austin police officers for their conduct during the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests. Sylestine characterizes this decision as one of political opportunity (the cases were dismissed days before the filing deadline in the Democratic primary; Garza argues he was simply acting upon new information). But Sylestine, who worked on some of the cases before he left the D.A.'s Office, feels they were weak from the start. "To me, [pursuing these cases] talks about a lack of qualification and ability to evaluate cases," Sylestine told the *Chronicle* Jan. 25.

Sylestine has also criticized Garza for his more lenient approach to bail (judges set bail terms, but prosecutors can advocate for more or less stringent conditions). Keeping people out of jail who might be better served by other resources was a key part of Garza's campaign, but Sylestine says this can have tragic consequences – like one case involving a man let out of jail on a \$1 bond who was later arrested for stabbing another man to death. "I don't know how many of those stories it takes to convince people that this is not the right administration," Sylestine told us.

Garza noted that the man's initial arrest, for a violent offense, "had serious self-defense issues" that warranted more investigation, which his prosecutors were engaged in when the statutory deadline to indict passed, allowing the man to be released from jail. But more broadly, Garza feels that Sylestine's criticisms – both on police prosecution and bail reform – echo national talking points from right-wing forces. Certainly, Sylestine's campaign has been funded primarily by people who have historically funded Republicans.

Sylestine denies that's a conservative choice, saying his supporters see in him a competent, career prosecutor. "There is a complicated mess of problems at the D.A.'s Office that requires an expert's touch," Sylestine told us. "I know what it takes to not just put [cases] together, but to present them in court and make them something that will hold up before a Travis County jury."

But, Garza told us, "the job of D.A. is not just to seek convictions, but to see that justice is done." "Our community decides what justice is, and it's our job to reflect those values." ■

**"The job of D.A. is not just to seek convictions, but to see that justice is done."**

D.A. JOSÉ GARZA

# Controversial \$1M+ McKinsey Homelessness Study Seems to Be a Go

Mayor doesn't "believe anyone has been misled"

City staff expects to sign a contract with **McKinsey & Company**, the disreputable consultant firm known for its high fees and the role it played in accelerating the opioid crisis, to conduct a broad review of the constellation of homelessness services in Austin-Travis County.

The McKinsey contract was initially pitched by interim City Manager **Jesús Garza** and Mayor **Kirk Watson** as a collaborative endeavor between the city, Travis County, Central Health, and Integral Care, with each agency kicking in funding to pay for the \$2 million review. Backup materials for City Council's Jan. 18 meeting indicated that Travis County and **Central Health** would each pay \$400,000, **Integral Care** \$200,000, with the city covering the remaining \$1 million.

But none of the partner funding had actually been committed as of that meeting, sources told the Chronicle and documents show. In fact, the city had good reason to believe most outside contributions wouldn't materialize. In a Jan. 2 email, Integral Care Chief Operating Officer **Dawn Handley** wrote to **David Gray**, the city's newly appointed homeless strategy officer, to ask that Integral Care be excluded from the

reimbursement scheme due to the large expense. The next day Gray forwarded the email to two of Garza's top aides, **Susana Carbajal** and **Laura Huffman**.

Then, Jan. 16, Travis County commissioners publicly indicated concern about the \$400,000 cost of participation. Meanwhile, Central Health officials didn't learn they would be asked to contribute \$400,000 to the study until the backup materials for Council's Jan. 18 meeting went up.

It does not appear many Council members knew that most of the partner funding for the study was uncertain when they authorized staff to negotiate the contract. But, after learning of commissioners' public hesitancy, CM Alison Alter asked at the Jan. 18 meeting if Council could reconsider the contract if partner agencies wouldn't chip in. "If we get jammed up," Garza responded, "we'll get further direction if that's necessary."

Alter's hesitation proved wise. The next week, Jan. 24, Central Health's board of managers authorized the health care district to spend \$150,000 on the study, not \$400,000. Jan. 30, Travis County commissioners voted to participate in the study – but to contribute zero

dollars to it. Meanwhile, Integral Care's board of trustees authorized the agency to kick in \$200,000 only if they had extra money leftover through an existing contract with the city, paid for with city funds.

The next day, Jan. 25, Integral Care's board of trustees authorized the agency to negotiate an agreement to kick in \$200,000 in funds the city would have paid to Integral Care through an existing contract, if those funds are available at the end of the contract term. If that happens, the city would be using their own money to cover Integral Care's portion of the contract.

At Council's Feb. 7 Public Health Committee meeting, CM Ryan Alter asked Garza to commit to his promise to bring the contract back to Council if the city "got jammed up." Garza declined. Instead, Garza issued a memo, Feb. 14, outlining the months of behind-the-scenes conversations that preceded the city's decision to award the contract to McKinsey in what staff called an "informal competitive process."

"The review will yield the same quality deliverables as envisioned in the initial scope," Garza wrote in the memo. But now the total cost of the contract would be \$1.35 million (with the city still throwing in \$1 million).

We contacted every Council office with our findings, but most declined to comment. CMs **Alison Alter**, **Vanessa Fuentes**, **Ryan Alter**, and **Zo Qadri** all said they agreed with the idea of comprehensively reviewing homeless services. But they are concerned by this contract, especially given McKinsey's troubling history and worsening performance, and want a



Camp Esperanza in 2021

JANA BIRCHUM

chance to reconsider it. "I not only support an agenda item to reconsider the contract," Qadri wrote in a statement, "but our office is currently exploring leading on sponsoring this item."

The mayor, however, thinks staff should proceed. "This contract review is essential to examine how to better coordinate efforts for the long term so that we as a community provide the best services and aren't squandering resources," Watson said through a spokesperson. "I don't believe anyone has been misled and believe the contract should move forward." – **AUSTIN SANDERS**



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# The Dillo Lives

Armadillo World Headquarters plots Austin FC partnership, documentary

Over 40 years since closing its doors, the Armadillo World Headquarters returns – not as a music venue, but as a lifestyle brand. Last week, co-founder Eddie Wilson announced Armadillo World, a revamp set to include a documentary about the storied space, a merchandise line, and, most surprisingly, a collaboration with Austin FC.

A trailer for the in-development documentary pulls archival footage of the Armadillo, which from 1970 to 1980 turned a onetime National Guard armory into a music hall suitable for Bruce Springsteen, Van Morrison, Count Basie, and Ray Charles to perform. As Wilson and Armadillo poster artist Jim Franklin recall in the clip, shows of all genres drew fans of all kinds: “The cowboys started growing their hair out, and the hippies started wearing hats.” (Find a Q&A with Music Industry Hall of Fame inductee Franklin in today’s special insert.)

Armadillo World revealed its Austin FC partnership – featuring the hard-shelled mascot and the venue’s original address, 525 ½ Barton Springs Road, on the soccer team’s new jerseys – at an ACL Live unveiling on Thursday, Feb. 15. The unlikely collaboration is part of the 2021-launched team’s plans to “pay homage to the people and places who helped build Austin’s creative and vibrant spirit,” Austin FC President Andy Loughane said in a press release. According to Wilson, the Armadillo was No. 1 on their list.

The company “showed up on my door one day and said, ‘We’ve been studying Austin for several months and it looks like your fingerprints are all over everything that we would like to be,’” the owner told the *Chronicle*.

Thursday’s unveiling was a full-circle celebration for the OG Armadillo crew. Austin country mainstays Asleep at the Wheel were among the acts who played the venue’s final show on New Year’s Eve 1980, which extended until four in the morning. Alongside rising singer William Beckmann, the band christened Armadillo World with another performance.

“It’s nice that the current town recognizes that this was an important cultural institution that helped shape the city,” singer Ray Benson told the *Chronicle* of the relaunch. Recalling his unique experiences seeing Bootsy Collins, the Runaways, and Van Morrison at the same place, the artist remarked: “Texas was a dangerous place

for kids with long hair and dope-smoking kids. [The Armadillo] was a magnet. It was a safe place. You could go, probably find somebody who had some pot, some acid, or whatever the hell you were doing. And it was safe. Whereas you travel 50 miles out of town and you go to jail, get beat up, get your hair cut, et cetera.”

Benson is happy to see the Armadillo, once again, symbolize community within Austin, even in a new, sportier form. “The armadillo is this creature that is prehistoric, doesn’t hurt anybody, and when somebody tries to attack it, it curls up in its little shell and protects itself,” he said, likening the mascot to the venue. “It was an incredible time where people of disparate beliefs got together because of music. And that is something that we could use a whole lot more of these days.”

## Mikki Itzigsohn’s Ode to “Songwriters”

Mikki Itzigsohn has always fraternized with musicians, but “Songwriters” signifies her first time painting them. On display through March at Yard Dog Art Gallery, the bassist’s debut solo art show pays tribute to the composers who inspired her own creative expression.

“Telling your story through the creative process is just so magical to me,” Itzigsohn, who plays in garage group Small Wigs and lounge act Mikki & Elvis, tells the *Chronicle*. As a teenager in Los Angeles, she played in an all-girl punk band and worked at a record store, but says she grew “entranced” with songwriters like Connie Converse, Patti Smith, and Karen Dalton after working at McCabe’s Guitar Shop, which doubled as a folk music venue. Once she started painting more seriously during the pandemic, that interest bled over into her visual art.

Itzigsohn relocated to Austin in 2022 after years of visiting – including on tour with blues rocker Benjamin Booker, who she backed up during a 2017 *Austin City Limits* taping. Yard Dog’s original South Congress location was always on her list of stops, prompting her to “cold email” owner Randy Franklin with two samples of her “Songwriters” series after the move. “It was very organic,” she says of the partnership.



L-r: Ray Benson, Gary P. Nunn, and William Beckmann perform “London Homesick Blues” at ACL Live on Feb. 15

COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES FOR ARMADILLO WORLD

The subjects in “Songwriters” are all women – an unintentional but understandable outcome, considering her inspirations. Hoping to depict those figures’ “wisdom, forgiveness, strength, creativity, storytelling, perseverance, and badassery,” the artist incorporates owls and tigers as symbols of strength that, in some pieces, watch over the women, while in others, curl up at their feet like pets.

Itzigsohn’s paintings suspend her composers in an unreachable, almost unreal time and place; in some rooms, the walls are painted bright fuchsia or light lavender, while in another, the walls are swapped for a field of wildflowers. “I have an obsession with timelessness,” Itzigsohn admits. “I really love the Sixties and Seventies, and that’s a root in my style, but I really just like things that are classic and timeless, [where] you can’t really tell what era they’re from.”

One piece trades more conventional songwriters for nuns, who play in a circle accompanied by birds and smiling bowling pins. “I grew up Jewish in L.A. [where] nuns were this untouchable, mystical, mythical presence,” Itzigsohn explains. “I just loved the style and the dress.” She traces the painting to Jeannine Deckers, “The Singing Nun,” and religious Ethiopian composer Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou.

Like the songwriters who first captivated her at McCabe’s, Itzigsohn hopes her series inspires others to create. “The show is all about speaking up, telling your story and using your voice,” she says. “I hope it helps people do just that.” ■

## CROSTALK

**Die Spitz** will tape a music video Friday, Feb. 23, at Hotel Vegas. Doors open at 5pm for the free show, which also features performances by TC Superstar, TV’s Daniel, and DJ BB Ding. Teasing new music, the band wrote on Instagram, “Mosh, stage dive, pick your nose and go crazy cause it will be on VIDEO.”

**Chalk**, the experimental psychedelic rock collective, have officially broken up. The band stopped playing shows last year, but have long teased final album *The Frailty of Everything*, *Revealed at Last*, released earlier this month. In a Feb. 12 Instagram post, leader Connor Spencer Gryder pointed fans to his bandmates’ other projects, including Rocking Chair Reality Room, Neon Lemon, and the Holy Temple.

**Kelly Willis, Melissa Carper, and Brennen Leigh** have formed a new supergroup called Wonder Women of Country. After touring as a trio, Austin-based Willis and Carper and Nashville artist Leigh decamped to local Bismieux Studios to cut a six-song EP, due out March 15. Debut single “Another Broken Heart” dropped last week.

**Big Sugar**, the blues rock outfit of Canadian-born, Austin-based musician Gordie Johnson, gets the reissue treatment thanks to Jack White’s Third Man Records. White’s label reprints 1995’s *500 Pounds* – “the best blues-based record to ever come out of Canada,” the artist declared.

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## Book People EVENTS

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1 Amanda Churchill	2 Liesl Schuh Storytime Tomás Q. Morín
3	4 Book Club: The New Renaissance	5 Miss Staci	6 Dr. Seuss' Birthday	7	8	9 Amber Bleu
10 Book Club: ATX SciRead	11	SXSW Edu		Book Club: The Seven Per-Cent Solution	SXSW	
12 Book Club: Celebrate Ramadan	13 Book Club: Jane Yalce's Birthday	14	15	16 Mrs. Purple Urple		
17 Book Club: Required Reading Revisited	18 Book Club: The Book Club Was Better	SXSW		21 Book Club: Y'all Means All	22 Book Club: Happy Hour	23 Austin Camerata & Esteban the Green Crayon visits Storytime Kazu Kibuishi Book Club: Kids Book Club with Austin Allies
24 Barbara McQuade	25 Cynthia Pelayo Book Club: Ludicrous Speed	26 Storytime Sarah Rose Etter	27 Storytime Scott Walker	28 Scott Semegran Book Club: New & Noteworthy	29 Philip Hoelzel & Candy Wellins	30 Meg Jerit Storytime
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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## Austin Rubber Roundup

COMMUNITY QUEER

FRIDAY 23 - SUNDAY 25, HOTEL INDIGO

The Rubber Roundup's mission is "to bring together everyone to our blossoming city of kink and weird to make it shine for a weekend," and we're for that 100%. But let's stretch it rubberwise to 110% for the capital of this legislatively repressive Lone Star State. You don't have to come in rubber gear – vanilla to vinyl, Lycra to leather, it's all welcome – and you needn't be LGBTQIA+ – just bring your authentic self to see and learn and celebrate rubber as fashion, fetish, sensuality, and aesthetic. Bonus: a vendor market with Package Menswear, Sir Rat Leather & Gear, Glanzig, Vilain Garçon, and more. – **WAYNE ALAN BRENNER**

## A Year With Frog and Toad

THEATRE

THROUGH MAY 12, THE ZACH THEATRE

For generations of children, Arnold Lobel's stories of amphibian best buds Frog and Toad have been a charming guide to the complexities and joys of friendship. Now the pair take to the stage for this delightful Tony-nominated musical. It's truly a family affair, adapted by Lobel's son-in-law Mark Linn-Baker with music by Robert Reale and book & lyrics by his brother, Willie. This new production, directed by Best of Austin winner Sara Burke, features Jillian Sainz and Victoria Brown donning the signature jackets and trousers of Frog and Toad, respectively. – **RICHARD WHITTAKER**

CONTINUED ON P.26



COURTESY OF ZACH THEATRE

FILM



Married filmmakers Nick Toti and Rachel Kempf

PHOTO BY DERECK DASCHKE

# LIVE SCREENING SCREAMS AROUND IN IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS

There's this movie you should see, and, for one specific scene especially, you really should see it live. In fact, you have to see it live because that's the only way filmmakers Nick Toti and Rachel Kempf are releasing it. We can't say too much about *It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This* for fear of spoiling the experience, except that it's a found footage horror that builds on the filmmakers' real lives in such a way that you're never really sure how much of it really happened. Intrigued? Same here.

Other than the folks in the media pre-screening for articles like this, the only way audiences can see the Queer Fear Film Festival Audience Award winner is at a live screening; it'll never be streaming, just like Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Memoria* (2022). Toti and Kempf say that was a choice made from the beginning of the project, and they've been taking the film around to screen anywhere they can. Lucky for ATX, that includes their old stomping grounds. Though they now reside in the film's setting of rural Kirksville, Missouri, pop. 17,500, filmmaking and life partners Toti and Kempf learned the trade here in Austin: Toti through years of DIY indie film shoots and Kempf via UT-Austin's stellar RTF graduate program.

*It Doesn't Get Any Better* uses two decades' worth of archival footage from Kempf, Toti, and co-star/true life bestie Christian's lives together to build a narrative framework centered around the purchase of a dilapidated duplex they buy to use as a horror movie set, which really did happen. There are seances, creepy people transfixed by the house, eerie discoveries – things get weird. But

how much footage was improvised, and how much wasn't? "I don't even think of this as being fiction," Toti says. "I think of it as being a documentary about an alternate dimension version of us."

Kempf says that they used "actual footage of our lives, and we've known each other forever, been filming ourselves for decades." She also says that close friends admitted they had "no idea what was real and what wasn't." As a viewer without much knowledge of the couple, it was fun to try to guess where the line between fact and fiction is drawn. Knowing that close friends couldn't pinpoint that line either is a testament to the filmmakers' skill. *New York Times* bestselling author David Shields, whose book *Reality Hunger* is a manifesto about that

very topic, is a fan and called *It Doesn't Get Any Better* "utterly great."

The movie undoubtedly has a different feel when streaming it at home alone as opposed to watching it live in an audience with the filmmakers. Kempf says that past attendees have said things like, "I went through so many cycles: being scared, annoyed, anxious" – which the filmmakers laughingly say "is basically what we wanted!" You'll want to put your phone away, pay attention, and be immersed in this world. It's hard to say much without spoiling it, but there are some unnerving moments reminiscent of *The Leftovers* and *The Strangers* that will have you crawling out of your skin.

So let's give them a warm welcome as they bring their latest project to their old home, and, if you need more of Toti and Kempf's specific scares, check out their horror printing press, DieDieBooks, at [diediebooks.com](http://diediebooks.com).

– **KAT McNEVINS**

### *It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This*

Saturday 24, Fallout Theater  
[falloutcomedy.com](http://falloutcomedy.com)



*The Austin Chronicle*

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# DAY TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD



GERALD E. MCLEOD

**Mother Neff State Park** outside of **Moody** started one of Texas' best ideas. The **state park system** that encompasses more than 640,000 acres and 89 properties began with 6 acres donated by Mother Neff.

**Isabella Neff** gave part of her family's farm along the **Leon River** for a public park in 1921. Her son, **Gov. Pat Neff**, enlarged the gift and proclaimed it the first state park when it opened in 1937.

The **Civilian Conservation Corps** constructed the basic infrastructure of the park from 1934 to 1938. The former superintendent's residence is now a cabin for rent by the park that can sleep up to eight.

At 400 acres, what Mother Neff lacks in size it more than makes up in diversity and a mixture of old and new. A portion of the park along the Leon River has been closed since 2015 to due flood damage.

With almost 3.5 miles of trails, the park is a hiker's paradise. The footpaths cover three geographic zones, from grassland prairie to escarpment canyons and dropping into river bottoms. The trails lead to hidden ponds, a cave used by **Tonkawa Indians**, and structures built by the CCC like the rock observation tower.

After a series of floods, the parks department opened a new headquarters building closer to the entrance to the park. Among the other improvements completed in 2015 was a campground with 20 campsites with full hookups, modern restrooms, and day-use areas with playgrounds.

Among the unintended features of the campground is the occasional blast-furnace roar of rocket engine testing at the **SpaceX** factory six miles away in **McGregor**. Less frequent are artillery explosions from **Fort Cavazos** in **Killeen**.

Mother Neff State Park is 13 miles west of I-35 through **Moody** and 32 miles southwest of **Waco**. The prairie often bursts with color during spring wildflower season. Reservations can be obtained at 512/389-8900 or [texasstateparks.org/reservations](http://texasstateparks.org/reservations).

**1,691st in a series. Everywhere is a day trip from somewhere: Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at [austinchronicle.com/daily/travel](http://austinchronicle.com/daily/travel).**

## Your Favorite Cuzins Comedy Show

COMEDY

FRIDAY 23, COLDTOWNE THEATER

Host Jose Da'Hype has been coordinating comedy shows for a while now, so attendees of this Black History Month show can be assured of many, MANY laughs. But if you checked out the lineup, you'd already know that: Genivive Clinton, Adrienne Brown, Zsaknor Powe, Mike T., Charlie Mac, Daniel West, Joy Melan, Charles Adams Jr., Bernard White, Will Williams, and Aaron Cheatham, all punching pure comedy K.O.s from dusk 'til dawn. Nab your ticket early for a cheaper price, or wait to snag one at the door for a cool \$15. Whatever you do, don't miss this concentration of Black Austin's immense comic talent.

— JAMES SCOTT

## Bratty

MUSIC

FRIDAY 23, EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM

A week after debuting at Coachella, Bratty bandleader Jenny Juárez brought her dreamy-then-spiky bedroom pop to last year's Austin Psych Fest ahead of Cuco (who she'd previously worked with on lovesick psychedelic wash "Fin Del Mundo"). A notable breakout from Mexico to the stateside alternative music scene, the Culiacán, Sinaloa singer-songwriter cut back on features to return to her swoony pop bona fides on latest album *TRES*. Also playing with Spanish-language folk influences — through from a more somber, strummy perch — Dallas solo act Paula Prieto joins ahead of her own upcoming Lollapalooza Argentina stop.

— RACHEL RASCOE

## One From the Heart: Reprise

FILM

FRIDAY 23 - THURSDAY 29, ALAMO SOUTH LAMAR

There aren't many films that killed a studio and a major musical pairing, but that's the double infamy of Francis Ford Coppola's troubled but entrancing 1982 musical. Not only did the runaway budget help take down his American Zoetrope shingle, but it also saw the dissolution of the creative relationship between soundtrack composer Tom Waits and his longtime producer Bones Howe. But oh, the cost was worth it for this wild fantasy telling of the tortured romance between too-contented Hank (Frederic Forrest) and yearning Frannie (Teri Garr) in a magical re-creation of Las Vegas. After a sumptuous restoration of his equally overlooked *The Cotton Club*, now Coppola has gone back to the original negatives for this 4K restoration and re-edit.

— RICHARD WHITTAKER

## The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari with Live Score

FILM

MUSIC

FRIDAY 23, WE LUV VIDEO

Multi-instrumentalist David DiDonato may be most famous for holding the world record for the longest guitar solo (24 hours and 55 minutes), but the Funeralizer axeman is becoming best known locally for his original soundtracks to classic silent movies such as groundbreaking vampiric horror *Nosferatu* and pioneering hybrid docudrama *Häxan*. Now he'll be filling the screening room at North Loop's physical media heaven We Luv Video for Robert Wiene's 1920 German expressionist masterpiece of murder and mesmerism.

— RICHARD WHITTAKER



The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

COURTESY OF MOMA FILM STILLS ARCHIVE



Alex Maas

PHOTO BY BARBARA FG

## Alex Maas, Christian Bland

MUSIC

FRIDAY 23, LUXEART HANGAR

Fission occurs when a heavy atom splits into multiple lighter ones. Such a reaction occurs Friday, when the nucleus of psychedelic favorites the Black Angels divides into separate solo performances from singer/multi-instrumentalist Alex Maas (8:30pm) and guitarist Christian Bland (7:30pm). The intimate show, live at the LuxeArt Hangar atop the SoCo hill, also welcomes Gran Moreno (9:30pm) – a heavy guitar-n-drums rock duo that formed in Mexico City and now hangs their hat in Austin. Hit it early for Gus Baldwin (6:30pm) who injects songwriting earworms into frantic garage stylings.

– KEVIN CURTIN

## Verde Verde Verde Festival

MUSIC FOOD SPORTS

FRIDAY 23, MEANWHILE BREWING CO.

If you've been to an Austin FC match, then you know La Murga de Austin – the supporters section band – is the life of the party. On Friday, they're bringing that party to Southeast Austin's Meanwhile Brewing for the Verde Verde Verde Festival, a 6-11pm concert featuring DJ Stitch, Aviator, Danger Roosevelt, Yacht Dogs, Relegated, Movimiento Cumbia, and – big finish – La Murga de Austin themselves. Can't make it out? Meanwhile lager will be on tap at Q2 when the new season kicks off Saturday.

– KIMBERLEY JONES

## The Infinites Album Release

MUSIC

FRIDAY 23, RADIO/EAST

Five years after the release of their self-titled debut album, the Infinites have yet to dim their sun-soaked sound and imaginative lyricism. The band's penchant for storytelling persists on sophomore effort *Archetypes*, where each song explores the depth of different characters ranging from "The Ghost" to the "Secret Agent." Subdued electric currents flow throughout the record, jolted by a tag team of rumbling bass notes and grounding drum patterns. Supporting the sophomore release will be the Stacks' alternative, guitar-heavy antics, Dorothy's jangle-pop ambience, and Gummy Fang's static twee melodies.

– MIRANDA GARZA

## Twin Peaks Day Party

MUSIC COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 24, HOTEL VEGAS

Diane, 8pm, February 24. Entering the town of Twin Peaks. On the fateful day that Special Agent Dale Cooper began his investigation into the death of Laura Palmer, indulge in cocktails, coffee, and donuts, then catch performances by Lauren Lakis, Middle Mass, members of Queen Serene and Fading Yellow (dubbed here, naturally, the Bookhouse Boys), and Caleb Landry Jones – who played Becky Briggs' shithead husband Steven Burnett in *The Return*. Feels So Good pops up with Lynch-worshipping merch, and Raphael Umscheid, EL DRIPCUTS, and TV EYE provide appropriately spooky visuals. Isn't it too dreamy?

– CARYS ANDERSON

CONTINUED ON P.28



JANA BIRCHUM

## Austin FC vs. Minnesota United

SPORTS

SATURDAY 24, Q2 STADIUM

Missing the expanded MLS playoffs altogether in 2023 after only eventual league champion LAFC stopped them from a MLS Cup berth in 2022 rounded out a disappointing third year for Austin FC. Sporting director Rodolfo Borrell looks to incorporate a long-term vision for the club as the Verde and Black start its fourth league campaign against another team that missed last year's postseason after qualifying in 2022: Minnesota. Luckily, this city has proven that its fervor for El Tree is legitimate regardless of results. Tickets on SeatGeek currently start at \$58. ¿Estás listo?

— DEREK UDENSI



PHOTO BY JAY YBARRA

## Alesia Lani

MUSIC

SATURDAY 24, CENTRAL LIBRARY

Among the Austin Public Library's storytelling segments and spoken-word workshops, this year's Black History Month celebration spotlights the melodic R&B cohesion of Alesia Lani. Velvet vocals ebb and flow between thudding basslines on her 2023 sophomore album *Self-Titled*, where Lani's neo-soul meets heartfelt lyricism. A funk-fueled force to be reckoned with, "I Don't Mind" piles stark harmonies against infectious grooves. The nine-track project also features notable collaborations, like the electric-addled "Breaking Me Down" with Jackie Venson and the beat-driven, piano-accented "Big Shot" with Magna Carda. Lani's library performance is free and open to the public.

— MIRANDA GARZA

## We Take Care of Our Own: A Benefit for Our Friend, Markus

MUSIC COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 24, ELYSIUM

If you've ever been to Austin's original goth club, you've probably spent your night under the watchful eye of Markus, the venue's head of security. Tragically, he has been diagnosed with cancer, and now the community he's guarded is coming together to look after him with a special, star-filled fundraiser of Elysium regulars, including Jurgen Engler of industrilegends Die Krupps, Chant's driving force Bradley Bills, Austin's own godfather of darkwave, Curse Mackey, and the Majical Power, the new collaboration between Black Angels guitarist Jake Garcia and his business partner/drummer for the Ripe, Nick Yaklin.

— RICHARD WHITTAKER

## Amplify Black Voices: Celebrating Black Trailblazers

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

SATURDAY 24, MENCHACA BRANCH LIBRARY

Queer Black Women Alliance hosts a Saturday afternoon symposium on the different intersections of Black life, including community health, identity, and economic equity. The event schedules three conversations — "Black, Trans, and Published," "DeSTigmatizing HIV," and "Economic and Racial Equity" — between writer KB Brookins, Austin Justice Coalition founder Chas Moore, health educator Jimmy Baker, and Queer Black Women Alliance founder Arijah Rashid. Free to the public and complete with a Q+A session, organizers promise, "This is a space to learn, be vulnerable, brave, and ask questions."

— CARYS ANDERSON



Masterworks Series

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## Cupid's Undie Run

COMMUNITY SPORTS

**SATURDAY 24, KUNG FU SALOON**

We're not your mom, OK. We're not telling you "Don't run with scissors!" But we are telling you to run in your undies, in public, for a good cause. (Running in your undies is, itself, a good cause – but do read on.) Every February, thousands of undie runners in cities across the U.S. come together to support folks affected by neurofibromatosis. They do this by drinking and dancing, then legging it through Downtown in their small-and-lacies for about a mile, and finishing with an epic dance party. Sound like fun? You bet your sweet Underoos it's fun!

– WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

## Byte Night

COMEDY

**SATURDAY 24, COLDTOWNE THEATER**

You know the legendary O. Henry Pun-Off, where lexophilic individuals compete with well-wrought wordplay for braggin' rights in the realm of linguistic legerdemain? Imagine that sort of action in a comedy-club setting, except it's not human against human – it's human versus AI! Watch as local warm-blooded wordsmiths wreak whatever havoc they can against the cold and cunning skills of ChatGPT, with prepared pieces and impromptu punmongering, in a series of prize-strewn games featuring humans Alison P. Tugwell, Blake Blauserman, Dav Wallace, Lisa Sperry, and Steve Lovelace. Bonus: live music from Henry Invisible.

– WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

## Black History Month Kids' Day

FAMILY COMMUNITY

**SATURDAY 24, CARVER MUSEUM**

Black History Month was originated in the U.S. in 1970 by students and educators at Kent State University, with the precursor being Negro History Week, started by historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. This year's BHM theme is African Americans and the Arts, so the Carver is highlighting Black poets, musicians, visual artists, and more with storytelling, crafts, and lots of other fun and educational activities to bring history to life.

– KAT McNEVINS

## Bevis M. Griffin: Texas Black Rock Maverick

MUSIC BOOKS

**SATURDAY 24, TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM**

"Grown men playing with adult weapons and sophistication galvanized Franklin's Mast's young Black singer/drummer Bevis Griffin," led off the second chapter of Tim Stegall's "Austin Punk Chronicles." Published in these pages on the precipice of the pandemic, January 2020, "Glam Punks of 70s Austin Get Up to Their Gypsy Tricks" dusted off the Texas state capital's barely documented transition between classic rock to punk and beyond. Pivotal to that moment, our town's seminal constant, Griffin, continues pinpointing a singular moment in music evolution. Author Gene Fowler elicits stories, history, and inspiration starting at 2pm.

– RAOUL HERNANDEZ

CONTINUED ON P.30



Bevis Griffin

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOXF / COURTESY OF THE TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM

LUXEART GALLERY PRESENTS  
a solo exhibition of the "vibrant" and "all so strange"  
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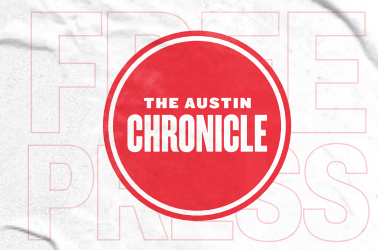


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**CHOREOMANIAC 1518**

By Malena Pennycook  
Directed by Caley Chase

**PRETEND IT'S PRETEND**

By Emma Watkins  
Directed by Jenny Laver

READINGS

TASTE BUDS:  
THE ADVENTURES OF  
CAKE AND BROCCOLI  
By Claire Derriennic

SPAYCE BOYS  
By Mateo Hernandez



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS

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FULL SEASON AT  
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## Cassette Roulette MUSIC THEATRE

SATURDAY 24, THE LONG CENTER

Beloved of Aughts theatre kids both queer and ally-identifying, El Paso-born John Cameron Mitchell takes to the Long Center stage with longtime collaborator, musician, and cabaret artist Amber Martin. Their game? Cassette roulette, where the songs, stories, and characters performed will be chosen by “the hand of fate” as well as you, the lucky audience member. Enjoy a tuneful evening featuring Mitchell and Martin’s musical mayhem, backed by *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*’s Broadway Music Director Justin Craig and his band. — JAMES SCOTT

## Hops for Houses FOOD COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 24, WILLIAMSON COUNTY EXPO CENTER

A plethora of local brewskis will be flowing pure and true, but this isn’t just any suds-forward craft beer festival: Hops for Houses supports WilCo’s Habitat for Humanity, so you’ll be helping provide strength, stability, and self-reliance for families in need of an affordable home. Good reason to slake your thirst with the brewmasters of Austin Beerworks, Shiner, Meridian Hive, Barking Armadillo, Red Horn, Twisted X, Big Country Organic, and many more in a full afternoon of sampling and sipping among food trucks, live music, and silent auctions under the big Texas sky. — WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

## Austin Modern Home Tour COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 24, ALL OVER TOWN

Gimme (fancy) shelter! This annual tour presented by the Modern Architecture + Design Society returns all post-pandemic and offers you the chance to see some of our burgeoning city’s coolest residences inside and out – and to meet the architects, designers, and builders who took them from inspiration to incarnation in stone, brick, wood, steel, and glass. These contemporary homes – more than a dozen dazzlers scattered throughout Austin – can be visited in any order you like, at your own leisurely pace, and we’re thinking you’ll be especially impressed by the green-forward beauty from Moontower Design + Build. — WAYNE ALAN BRENNER



Amber Martin and John Cameron Mitchell at Cassette Roulette

PHOTO BY BETTYCANSNAP

## ATX Open SPORTS

SATURDAY 24 - SUNDAY 3, WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Though inaugural ATX Open singles champion Marta Kostyuk won’t return to defend her crown, some notable names have entered the field. Two-time major champion and former world No. 1 Victoria Azarenka (No. 27 in the WTA Tour rankings as of Feb. 19) looks set to play as the draw’s No. 1 seed. 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens, 2022 Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins, and former Longhorn Peyton Stearns are some of the American women returning for the tournament’s second edition. Stearns won the 2022 NCAA Division I Women’s Singles Championship while attending UT-Austin and made the quarterfinals of last year’s ATX Open. Free entry to the event’s qualifying has “sold out” for both Feb. 24 and 25, but paid tickets are still on offer for the remaining days. — DEREK UDENSI

## Bitchcraft: Thembolution

THEATRE QUEER

SUNDAY 25, BUTTERFLY BAR

“The future is expansive! It’s black and it’s queer!” so says Gothess Jasmine, returning in full splendor as host of this vibrant night of live performances – Provoked Emotions! KB Brookins! An open-stage variety show of music, spoken word, and all manner of unfettered expression! – that will transform the Vortex’s popular Butterfly Bar into both a local craft vendors’ market and a revolutionary spectacle of power and passion in honor of Black History Month. — WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

## Shake It Up THEATRE COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 25, CAPTAIN QUACKENBUSH’S COFFEEHOUSE

The mission statement of Off-The-Grid Missions, fundraising recipients for Deaf Austin Theatre’s upcoming variety show, is to fill a noticeable gap in disaster response, therefore “providing Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people with critical life-saving resources.” That goal mirrors DAT’s originating idea: to provide an inclusive theatre space for Deaf artists free from the audism experienced by founder Russell Harvard on mainstream stages. Talented Deaf artists such as Harvard and *New Amsterdam*’s Sandra Mae Frank, among many others, will perform songs, poetry, and more at this fundraiser, all of which serve to highlight the importance of OTG’s work. — JAMES SCOTT

## Family Day with Totally Cool, Totally Art

VISUALARTS FAMILY COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 25, MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM

Since 1996, art educators with Totally Cool Totally Art have provided free classes that offer teenagers multimedia art know-how from professional artists. From sculpture to digital media, painting to papier-mâché, TCTA has a class on offer for whatever the adolescent artist desires. Case in point: This Sunday’s session with New York-raised painter Jonas Petkus and mixed media artist Rachel Ditzig, where teens and family can make paper puppets and crowns. Admission’s no charge thanks to the H-E-B-funded Domingos Gratis en Familia grant. — JAMES SCOTT

CONTINUED ON P.34

Ever since he can remember, Akasha wanted to be a Juicy. The legendary House of Juicy Couture, started in the late Aughts by icon Courtney ToPanga Washington, has chapters all across the nation spreading its reputation for outstanding talent. In 2022, after representing it since 2019 in clubs and onscreen in Max's competition show *Legendary*, Akasha brought Juicy to Central Texas as its Father.

"I've known about ballroom since 2009," Akasha recalls in our phone interview. "Since like 2013, I would watch videos on YouTube and you would hear that chanting, the House chant like 'Jui-cay!' It would just get me up."

His recollection mirrors that of many ballroom hopefuls, as Central Texas Juicy princess BabiBoi, aka Dorian Delafuente, says when describing the folks flocking to *Vogue Nights* both in ATX and San Antonio – now joint-run between Juicy and House of Lepore. "Every Vogue Nights, there's new people that I've never seen before," he says. "They're showing up and they're, like, turning it. Then like you ask them where they learned this from, and they just practice in their bedroom by themselves. They watch the ballroom clips on YouTube, and they study it."

As February nears its close, the CTX Juicys count two anniversaries: two years of *Vogue Nights* in Austin, and a year of *Vogue Nights* in San Antonio. Those goalposts are exciting, but they're nowhere near the final score the Juicys want to make. "Just one year, two years is nothing," BabiBoi says. "Those are like baby years for what might eventually turn into a decade or two decades. By the decade mark, like, ballroom in Texas should be a huge thing where it's televised type thing, or people fly in from other states [or countries] to compete." They also want to see a great diversity of houses represented and acknowledged in Central Texas. "There should be like 10 houses that come to mind when you think of ballroom in Texas," BabiBoi says, "like, even as a spectator, as someone who's not competing."

On the horizon in March will be several opportunities for ballroom curious and committed folks to check out Juicy. For example, March 14 will bring the *Bestie Ball*, an unofficial South by Southwest event with categories themed around pop-culture couples. Being unofficial calls to mind the main goal of ballroom – providing a place outside of often white-centric



House of Juicy Couture, Central Texas chapter  
PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ

spaces for Black and brown queer people, which BabiBoi explains came from needing an alternative to the white-focused drag pageants of the past. Of course, he adds that in the tumultuous state of Texas, that issue still rears its ugly head. "Ballroom, you know, it's a place for Black and brown queer people, especially Black and brown youth, to come and find their support systems," they say. "In these times we should be leaning into it more, providing these spaces."

Read Qmmunity's full interview with Akasha and BabiBoi online at [austinchronicle.com/qmmunity](http://austinchronicle.com/qmmunity).

### Stoplight Party

Friday 23, *Cheer Up Charlies*

Whether you're green, yellow, blue, or red, Local Queer ATX's color coordination party will find you a cutie to boogie down with.

### Drag Me to the Tavern

Saturday 24, *the Tiny Minotaur*

Hail and well met, traveler, and join host Sir TRT (Travis Randy Travis) at this drag show featuring the talents of Sinful Purchase, Jenna Talia, Solovino, and Tangelo.

### Chiqq Presents: Burlesque

Sunday 25, *the Cathedral*

Find chocolate-dipped strawberries, body painting, and a color-coded system for love at this sensual affair, plus tons more.

Send yer queer events and stories to [jscott@austinchronicle.com](mailto:jscott@austinchronicle.com). Find more at [austinchronicle.com/qmmunity](http://austinchronicle.com/qmmunity).

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Catch Pussy Gillette at the Austin Music Awards this weekend

ISABELLA MARTINEZ

## The City We Built Pre-Launch Party

BOOKS

SUNDAY 25, AFS CINEMA

There's an African American history in Austin that many people don't know exists, and here's a chance for the younger generation to learn about it. On Sunday, the Austin Film Society hosts a pre-launch celebration of the upcoming children's book *The City We Built: Black Leaders of Austin* by Terry P. Mitchell and Carre Adams. *The City We Built* features full-page biographies of African Americans who led the East Side's Black community for decades, including Ada Anderson, Charles Akins, Berl Handcox, Johnny Holmes, Azie Taylor Morton, Velma Roberts, Dorothy Turner, Willie Wells, and more.

— BRANT BINGAMON

## Texas Performing Arts Trivia

COMMUNITY

MONDAY 26, BARREL O' FUN

Trivia nights abound in our fair city filled with smarties, but this one has an extra-special twist. It's hosted by UT-Austin's Texas Performing Arts, who'll challenge the teams of up to six brainiacs to prove their knowledge of arts and entertainment. Not only will the top three teams go home with the glory, they'll score prizes from Alamo Drafthouse and TPA, such as tickets to upcoming shows like Steve Treviño, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, or *Girl From the North Country*.

— KAT McNEVINS

## The Austin Music Awards

MUSIC

SUNDAY 25, ANTONE'S NIGHTCLUB

For 42 years, the AMAs have celebrated the creatives that make our city the Live Music Capital of the World – from singers and guitarists to sound engineers, bookers, and instrument repair shops. As voted by the public, this year's Austin Music Poll winners are announced in this week's *Chronicle* (grab a paper now!), priming Sunday's shindig for pure celebration. Tickets benefit the SIMS Foundation and get you in to see performances by DAIISTAR, Pussy Gillette, S.L. Houser, Walker Lukens, Ben Kwellner, Sabrina Ellis, Kalu James, Eve Monsees, Kevin Russell, and many more.

— CARYS ANDERSON

## fish narc

MUSIC

MONDAY 26, MOHAWK

Anyone with a place in their heart for SoundCloud-era emo rap owes a lot to fish narc. After pivoting to the genre following the dissolution of his band, he joined hip-hop collective GothBoiClique and rose to prominence by producing tracks for late greats Lil Peep and Juice WRLD. Now fresh off bedroom-pop-meets-post-punk album *fruiting body* and a stint touring with Lil Tracy, he's focusing on his own sound. With opening sets from frequent collaborators – L.A. rapper Horse Head, Philadelphia emo artist Zubin, and San Antonio's very own JPDREAMTHUG – this lineup showcases some of GBC & Co.'s finest.

— ELIZABETH BRAATEN

## A.L. West, McMercy Family Band

MUSIC

MONDAY 26, SAGEBRUSH

Daniel Bryson's quartet, A.L. West, melts warm, drowsy guitar jams like late-Nineties indie bands before they had to fill a bigger-stage sound, a bedroom Built to Spill. Last November's underrated debut LP, *The Store*, gently mellows behind Bryson's reedy hum and cradling melodies. The lead-up plays equally impressive with the McMercy Family Band (Dan Grissom, Lindsey Verrill, et al.) stomping their new old-time folk, Wilson Marks drawing his playfully poetic Harry Nilsson vibes from last year's *Won't Fit in a Song*, and the Deer's Grace Rowland stepping solo.

— DOUG FREEMAN

## "Two Births and the Afterlife"

VISUALARTS

TUESDAY 27, CARVER MUSEUM

You think it's easy, being somebody's mother? You think giving birth to another human being doesn't put your own humanity and purpose under some fierce self-scrutiny? Milwaukee-based artist Aimée M. Everett, in her solo show at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, uses abstraction, minimalist line-making, saturated colors, and melodic compositions to explore "the profound transformations experienced during childbirth and the subsequent journey of self-discovery into motherhood." Word – or, more appropriately, image – to your mother.

— WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

## Songwriters Open Mic

MUSIC

TUESDAY 27, CACTUS CAFE

Intimate music venue Cactus Cafe is snugly nestled into the UT Tower, so it's pretty easy to find, but it might not be on your radar. Local musicians may know it for its weekly open mic for songwriters – no covers here, folks! Stop in to hear some original music by up-and-coming artists, who may be selected for one of the venue's seasonal showcases. Those ready to hit the stage, email Jake Farr: [jake-farrmusic@gmail.com](mailto:jake-farrmusic@gmail.com). Speaking as someone who used to haul equipment on the bus over to play this mic, it comes highly recommended.

— KAT McNEVINS

CONTINUED ON P.36



COURTESY OF FISH NARC

## THE VERDE REPORT BY ERIC GOODMAN

### The Biggest Questions Surrounding Austin FC's 2024 Season

Austin FC kicks off its fourth season Saturday when the Verde and Black take on **Minnesota United** at Q2 Stadium. Coming off a disappointing 12th-place finish in 2023 followed by an offseason of significant roster turnover, the club enters the season with plenty of questions to answer. These are the ones we'll be paying the closest attention to.

#### CAN EL TREE GET OFF TO A WINNING START?

I don't care what any coach says: Momentum exists in sports, and winning most certainly is contagious. Take **Austin FC's** three prior season-opening matches, for example. Each not only foreshadowed how the ensuing season would unfold, but also set an early tone that permeated through the entire club.

The 2021 season opened with a hard-fought loss at LAFC exposing the then-expansion team's lack of top-level talent. 2022, on the other hand, kicked off with a 5-0 fireworks display at Q2 Stadium that set the club off and running toward a top-four finish. Then, last season, **Kipp Keller's** infamous "own assist" headlined a 3-2 collapse against St. Louis City, putting Austin FC in a hole it never dug itself out of.

Will **Josh Wolff's** squad start the year off strong against the Loons on Saturday? History suggests the answer will color the rest of the season.

#### WILL ANOTHER DOUBLE-DIGIT GOALSCORER EMERGE?

Only one player has ever eclipsed the 10-goal mark over an entire season in Austin FC's history: **Sebastián Driussi**, who did so in 2022 and 2023. Driussi is a safe bet to lead the team in goals again this season, but the Verde captain needs help if the club is going to seriously compete for a return to the MLS Cup Playoffs.

Driussi's Argentine countryman and fellow designated player **Emiliano Rigoni** scored just five goals in his first full MLS season a year ago. It wasn't enough then, and it certainly won't be enough this time around. Rigoni will be a featured player in Wolff's attack once again and needs to prove he can score at a level that justifies his DP wages.



Austin FC players huddle before a preseason matchup against NYCFC at Q2 Stadium

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

At the striker position, **Gyasi Zardes** and new signing **Diego Rubio** have combined for 163 goals in their MLS careers, but both are over 30 and questions linger over how dangerous each can still be in front of goal. Rubio scored 16 goals as recently as 2022 with Colorado, and got on the scoresheet multiple times during the preseason, so there's particular optimism surrounding the Chilean.

#### WILL EMPHASIS ON DEFENSE PAY OFF?

According to Wolff, Austin FC emphasized defense more during this year's preseason camp than in any prior year, and for good reason. Only three clubs in the entire league gave up more goals last season than the 55 Austin allowed. Any dent ATXFC can put into that total this season will go a long way in reversing the club's fortunes.

A huge factor will be health and consistency, the absence of which plagued the club throughout 2023. A whopping eight different players lined up at center back during the season due to injuries and roster turnover (if you can name all eight, you're a certified ATXFC expert) in what Wolff referred to as a "nightmare."

The return of **Žan Kolmanič**, plus the late addition of veteran Brendan Hines-Ike to the back line, should help with stability. Another key will be minimizing bad giveaways, which frequently led to opposing scoring chances last season.

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l-r: Adrian Lipscombe, Amy March, and Julie Ratzesberger prepare last year's Texas Table fundraiser

COURTESY OF PLANET 9 / THE COOK'S NOOK

## Texas Table: A Feast for a Cause

FOOD

TUESDAY 27, LENOIR

Mostly we feast because we're hungry, or stressed, or bored, but the Cook's Nook is offering a much better reason with Texas Table: A Feast for a Cause. Two causes, in fact: The chef-driven, four-course dinner will raise funds for Black Mamas ATX, a nonprofit providing education and training to combat maternal mortality among Black women, and Partners for Education, Agriculture & Sustainability (PEAS), a nonprofit dedicated to fostering connections with the natural world. The evening will feature a silent auction and the culinary talents of Cook's Nook founder Joi Chevalier, Todd Duplechan, Uyen Pham, Robert Hale, and Pavla Van Bibber. — KIMBERLEY JONES

## Pokémon Day

COMMUNITY FAMILY

TUESDAY 27, PINBALLZ LAKE CREEK

Pika-pika! Or, as Pikachu might say were he to have human vocal cords, happy Pokémon Day! Trainers of all ages are invited to partake of Pinballz's celebration featuring cards, games, and giveaways. Put in for raffle prizes like a 6-foot Snorlax plush or Jumbo Pikachu Mega Construx; refuel your *Pokémon Go* fever via free lures running all day and quest completion rewards; and sip on themed drinks such as Charizard's Fire Punch – or the mysterious Guess That Pokémon drink. Sorry: no jelly donuts. — JAMES SCOTT

## Rainbow Skate

SPORTS QUEER

WEDNESDAY 28, PLAYLAND SKATE CENTER

In "The Queer History of Roller Skating," *Vice* writer Lisa Lotens interviewed trans woman Jayliah Jada van Gorkum about why she felt roller skating attracted so many queer folks: "You see all kinds of people defying social norms in skates," van Gorkum said. "It's a very freeing hobby." Austin Pride gets in on the free-wheeling with a night at Playland featuring tunes spun by DJ Chorizo Funk. While this ain't their first roller rodeo, this is their Broken Hearts Club edition, so Austin Pride encourages all to "[share] the love and skate with a sweetie or just come and roll out with your friends." See ya on the rink, lovers. — JAMES SCOTT

## Queer Trivia

QUEER

WEDNESDAY 28, WANDERLUST WINE SHADY

According to Eater Austin in 2021, Wanderlust Wine's Shady Lane location has about 80 wines on tap. While obviously you'll not be getting through all 80 during the Little Gay Shop and host Aira Juliet's monthly queer trivia throwdown, several sips a' vino might spark a random memory that wins you the night. This month's theme is Love on Tops (and Bottoms), so study up and be prepared to lip-sync for your Lambrusco if you make it to the final round. — JAMES SCOTT



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Author Jasmine Skye



COURTESY OF BOOKPEOPLE

## Rock ID Hike

COMMUNITY LEARNING

WEDNESDAY 28,  
LOCKHART STATE PARK

What's a geologist's favorite Police song? "Roxanne." And what's a geologist's favorite way to spend a Wednesday afternoon in gorgeous Central Texas? A rock identification hike! Join the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to tour Lockhart State Park and learn about rocks common to the area on a ¾-mile hike over moderate terrain. Free with park admission (\$3 for adults and free for kids 12 and under); find your guide at the Creekview Trailhead. A stop for some of Lockhart's famous barbecue on the way there or back is a gem of an idea.

— KAT McNEVINS



PHOTO BY LILARTSY VIA UNSPLASH

## Daughter of the Bone Forest Booksigning

BOOKS QUEER

WEDNESDAY 28, BOOKPEOPLE

Author C.L. Clark in her Goodreads review of Jasmine Skye's new YA romantasy novel said, quote, "Ahhh! Okay! What! Ahhhh! Wait!" How else should one react to a spellbinding sapphic story featuring bone familiars – you know, folks who shift into animals marked by exposed bone? – a witch school called Witch Hall, and feral grandmas? Attend queer-romantic and bigender author Skye's signing at local lit slingers BookPeople, and I predict you, too, will be going "Ahhh! Okay! What! Ahhhh! Wait!" or something to that effect.

— JAMES SCOTT

## Vader, Origin MUSIC

WEDNESDAY 28, COME & TAKE IT LIVE

In the before times, a certain Hispanic headbanger bought Vader bandleader Piotr Wiwczarek Mexican beers and a blue-collar feast at Taco More, an incognito lip-smacker between Emo's and Come & Take It Live. He recounted Iron Maiden opening its World Slavery tour in Poland, which mimicked the Beatles on *Ed Sullivan*: a national music movement 24 hours later. His death metal pioneers remain the first shot across the bow of the Polska metal scene and splintered gates for extremists Batushka, Behemoth, Decapitated, and Hate. Vader's 40th anniversary victory lap ignites with brutal support from Kansan tech death dealers Origin.

— RAOUL HERNANDEZ

CONTINUED ON P.38

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COURTESY OF GLAMP GLAMP

## Glamp Glamp QUEER

THURSDAY 29, LYNNY'S

In 2006, artists Silky Shoemaker and Rayna Matthews constructed Camp Camp: a celebratory queer experimental performance space where, according to local workout queen/movie star Erica Nix, homespun hero Paul Soileau, aka Christeene, worked out his characters and Dynasty Handbag, the zany alter ego of performer Jibz Cameron, guested often. Resurrecting this fallen freakshow are queer champions Lynn Metcalf, Aira Juliet, and Nix, with a big ol' performance night in MASS Gallery's backyard. Theme's Leap Year, because we're all taking big-ass leaps, ain't we?

— JAMES SCOTT

## Mad Men Sixties Retro Experience COMMUNITY

THURSDAY 29, MARLOW

If only real life were like AMC drama *Mad Men*: the fashions, the interior design, the music, the misogyny ... well, we can enjoy the aesthetic and leave behind the antiquated boys' club mentality. This night presented by Wonderlust promises classy cocktails, a pro cigar-roller, stellar soul music from Brian Scartocci, and a glamorous Sixties chic ambience in new Sixth Street spot Marlow. Taking over for Edwin's Sports Bar, the Waller Creek-adjacent lounge offers the sultry type of atmosphere you could picture Peggy and Don sparring in over a cocktail. Dust off your fitted suits, fedoras, and sheath dresses to act the part.

— KAT McNEVINS

## KVRX's Remixed & Reimagined MUSIC

THURSDAY 29, CHESS CLUB

With new showcase Remixed & Reimagined, UT-Austin's tastemaking student radio station celebrates Black History Month with four phenomenal local talents. Shapeshifting opener Alesia Lani swings between lo-fi vibrations and guitar-driven R&B with ease, while vocalist Égaux Sells' heaven-sent soprano guides the meditative moods of jazz fusion group BluMoon. When not spinning records on KVRX under alias DJ BOOTYSHORTS, solo artist Vonne devises dreamy bedroom pop melodies that draw from jazz composition. Riding the high of recently released EP *Enough*, musical polymath Daniel Fears cites crooners Masego and Dijon as inspirations for his distinctive brand of contemporary R&B.

— GENEVIEVE WOOD

## We Are Blood x Girl Scouts of Central Texas COMMUNITY

THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, WE ARE BLOOD DONOR CENTERS

Although giving blood is its own reward, and your donation will save a neighbor's life, it sure doesn't hurt to get something in return. And you know how they give you a cookie with some juice after you donate blood? Well this time, you can get a whole box. The Girl Scouts of Central Texas bring four fan faves to We Are Blood to reward donors with a sweet treat: Choose from Thin Mints, Caramel DeLites, Peanut Butter Patties, or Adventurefuls to replenish your nutrients after your contribution. (Those peanut butter ones are just packed with protein, and mint is a leafy green, right?) Schedule an appointment online or by calling 512/206-1266.

— KAT McNEVINS



## Music Notes

BY DEREK UDENSI



PHOTO BY JANK DENNIE

### Diana Ross

Tuesday 27, ACL Live at the Moody Theater

Select seats starting at \$99 remain for those enduring a "Love Hangover" from Valentine's Day.

### RMR

Tuesday 27, Antone's

The once-anonymous singer-rapper first gained attention for "Rascal," a post-"Old Town Road" track featuring a chorus about vengefully scamming due to heartbreak that heavily incorporates elements of Rascal Flatts' "Bless the Broken Road." He followed with the June 2020 EP *DRUG DEALING IS A LOST ART* before starkly cutting back his output. RMR (pronounced "rumor") reemerged in the past year, sans both his major label and trademark black ski mask, to offer an expanded take on piano-heavy pop ("Rings on Saturn"). Kid Bloom headlines.

### Ric Wilson

Wednesday 28, Emo's

This proud Chicagoan combines his penchant for groovy, disco-laced hip-hop with activist beliefs on 2023 extended play *CLUSTERFUNK*. Why infuse messaging on topics such as mass incarceration and police brutality into the dance-floor-primed collaboration with producers Chromeo and A-Trak? He answers on "I'm Not a Leader I'm a Mouthpiece": "I stopped tweeting Tweets and put it on beats/ Because n\*\*\*\*s only listen when they movin' they feet." Fellow Chicago natives DRAMA close.



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MAR 3

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**LANY** A BEAUTIFUL BLUR:  
THE WORLD TOUR

MAR 5

**Killer Queen** A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

FRI MAR 1

**JENNY LEWIS** THE JOYALL TOUR  
WITH HAYDEN PEDIGO

MAR 6

**SLEATER-KINNEY** LITTLE ROPE TOUR  
WITH BLAC KBELT EAGLE SCOUT

SAT MAR 2

**GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV** WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
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MAR 7

**Guster**

at STEN

» On Sale This Week

re: brown



FRI MAY 3

» Coming Soon

FEB 22

**KATHASTY** WITH MASON LIVELY

FEB 25

**JOHNNY MANCHILD & THE POOR BASTARDS** WITH HOLDFAST

FRI FEB 23

**SKYROCKET!**

FEB 29

**Josiah & The Bonnevilles** WITH MON ROVIA

SAT FEB 24

EARLY: A DANCE PARTY AT DUSK  
**DJ Mel**

FRI MAR 1

**Church of Cash** WITH MARTI BROM







# SXSW® MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

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## MONDAY, MARCH 11

### BRITISH MUSIC EMBASSY AT SHERATON BACKYARD

#### Fierce Panda 30 x Xtra Mile 21

7:30PM **China Bears** (Bridgewater UK)  
8:50PM **Neon Waltz** (John O'groats UK)  
10:10PM **Ash** (Belfast UK)  
10:50PM **The Manatees** (Southampton UK)  
11:30PM **Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls** (London UK)

### COOPER'S BBQ

8:00PM **Redbud** (Austin TX)  
9:00PM **Neptune's Core** (Chicago IL)  
10:00PM **Laney Tripp** (New Smyrna Beach CA)  
11:00PM **Shallow Alcove** (New York NY)  
12:00AM **Eleni Drake** (London UK)  
1:00AM **Usted Señalemelo** (Mendoza ARGENTINA)

### ELYSIUM

**Tokyo Calling**  
8:00PM **GOKUMON**  
(UchikubiGokumonDoukoukai)  
(Tokyo JAPAN)  
9:00PM **HALLEY** (Waseda JAPAN)  
10:00PM **Chiaki Mayumura** (Tokyo JAPAN)  
11:00PM **CHAMELEON LIME WHOOPIEPIE**  
(Tokyo JAPAN)  
12:00AM **Tokyo Syoki Syodo** (Shimokitazawa JAPAN)  
1:00AM **BackDrop Cinderella** (Tokyo JAPAN)

### PALM DOOR ON SIXTH

**Ristband: Future x Music**  
TBA **Zheani** (Brisbane AUSTRALIA)  
TBA **Minimal Schlager** (Berlin GERMANY)  
TBA **Kikuo** (Tokyo JAPAN)

### PARKSIDE

**European Union**  
TBA **Plastic Palms** (Turin ITALY)  
TBA **Willow Parlo** (Hamburg GERMANY)  
TBA **OSKA** (Vienna AUSTRIA)

### SWAN DIVE

**Canada House**  
8:00PM **MAUVEY** (Vancouver BC)  
9:00PM **Shaina Hayes** (Montreal QC)  
10:00PM **ZADA** (Whistler BC)  
11:00PM **Ila Barker** (Winnipeg MB)  
12:00AM **His His** (Toronto ON)  
1:00AM **So Sus** (Vancouver BC)

### SWAN DIVE PATIO

**Canada House**  
8:15PM **zouz** (Montreal QC)  
9:15PM **Peach Luffe** (Toronto ON)  
10:15PM **Living Hour** (Winnipeg MB)  
11:15PM **Kris Ulrich** (Winnipeg MB)  
12:15AM **boy wonder** (Toronto ON)  
1:15AM **DVTR** (Montreal QC)

### CHESSE CLUB

8:00PM **Gummy Fang** (Austin TX)  
9:00PM **Rusty Dusty** (Austin TX)  
10:00PM **Cast Of Thousands** (Austin TX)  
11:00PM **DANA** (Columbus OH)  
12:00AM **Good Looks** (Austin TX)  
1:00AM **Bee Bee Sea** (Castel Goffredo ITALY)

### CONTINENTAL CLUB

8:00PM **Wonderly** (Portland OR)  
9:00PM **Lindsay & Brad** (Austin TX)  
9:20PM **West Texas Exiles** (Austin TX)  
11:00PM **Restos** (Austin TX)  
12:00AM **Harvest Thieves** (Austin TX)  
1:00AM **San Saba County** (Austin TX)

### COOPER'S BBQ

8:00PM **Logan Crosby** (Milledgeville GA)  
9:00PM **Pendulum Hearts** (Austin TX)  
10:00PM **Logan Halstead** (Powell County KY)  
11:00PM **Cactus Lee** (Austin TX)  
12:00AM **Embla and the Karidotters**  
(Bergen NORWAY)

### CUATRO GATO

TBA **San Gabriel** (Austin TX)  
TBA **Jhama** (Vidigal BRAZIL)  
TBA **Una Canción Bonita** (Tuxtla Gutiérrez MEXICO)  
TBA **Super Duty Tough Work** (Winnipeg MB)

### ELYSIUM

**Inspired By Tokyo**  
8:00PM **Iuvis** (Tokyo JAPAN)  
9:00PM **Wez Atlas** (Tokyo JAPAN)  
10:00PM **The fin.** (Kobe JAPAN)  
11:00PM **Helsinki Lambda Club** (Tokyo JAPAN)  
12:00AM **kudaranaiNichi** (Tokyo JAPAN)  
1:00AM **DOMICO** (Tokyo JAPAN)

### FLAMINGO CANTINA

TBA **Los Choclok** (Cosoleacaque MEXICO)  
TBA **The Tiarras** (Austin TX)  
TBA **The Cumbia Movement** (Austin TX)  
TBA **DENDÉ & BAND** (Salvador BRAZIL)  
TBA **SON BAYOÚ** (Houston TX)  
TBA **Los Gran Reyes** (Dallas TX)

### THE IRON BEAR

TBA **Creekbcd Carter Hogan** (Austin TX)  
TBA **Paisley Fields** (Brooklyn NY)  
TBA **Seán Barna** (Nashville TN)  
TBA **Brennan Wedl** (Nashville TN)  
TBA **Melissa Ferrick** (Boston MA)

### LAS PERLAS

**DistroDirect Selects**  
8:00PM **William Singe** (Sydney AUSTRALIA)  
9:00PM **Keenan Te** (Melbourne AUSTRALIA)  
10:00PM **Yb.** (Brisbane AUSTRALIA)  
11:00PM **Miss Kaninna** (Bruny Island AUSTRALIA)  
12:00AM **breathe.** (Sydney AUSTRALIA)  
1:00AM **ORION** (Providence RI)

### LOW DOWN LOUNGE

7:00PM **Rain on Fridays** (San Diego CA)  
8:00PM **Mel Bryant & the Mercy Makers**  
(Nashville TN)

9:00PM **The Oxy's** (Austin TX)  
10:00PM **Miranda and the Beat** (Brooklyn NY)  
11:00PM **Lord Friday The 13th** (Austin TX)  
12:00AM **Library Card** (Rotterdam NETHERLANDS)

### PALM DOOR ON SIXTH

**Taiwan Beats**  
TBA **Mong Tong** (Taipei TAIWAN)  
TBA **Fire EX.** (Kaohsiung TAIWAN)  
TBA **Gummy B** (Taipei TAIWAN)

### PALM DOOR ON SIXTH PATIO

**Taiwan Beats**  
9:00PM **The Dinosaur's Skin** (Taipei TAIWAN)  
10:20PM **Majin** (Taipei TAIWAN)  
12:20PM **Chih Siou** (Taipei TAIWAN)

### ROZCO'S

**Violet House & COASTCITY**  
TBA **Bebo Dumont** (San Juan PUERTO RICO)  
TBA **COASTCITY** (Miami FL)

### SAXON PUB

**3Sixty Inc.**  
11:00PM **Brad Byrd** (Los Angeles CA)  
12:00AM **Dusty Bo** (Louisville KY)

### SEVEN GRAND

**Beyond The Music Manchester**  
8:00PM **Vulva Voce** (Manchester UK)  
9:00PM **Dream Nails** (London UK)  
10:00PM **Cosmo Pyke** (London UK)  
11:00PM **Slow Fiction** (Brooklyn NY)  
1:00AM **Lottery Winners** (Leigh UK)

### SHANGRI-LA

**Budapest Showcase Hub x HOTS**  
7:15PM **HIEN** (Budapest HUNGARY)  
8:10PM **ZÓRA** (Budapest HUNGARY)  
9:10PM **Karin Ann** (Čadca SLOVAKIA)  
10:10PM **Carpetman** (Kyiv UKRAINE)  
11:00PM **Jazzbois** (Budapest HUNGARY)

### SPEAKEASY

**Tropiclub by Let's Gig Brazil and Latinx**  
TBA **Venesti** (Cali COLOMBIA)  
TBA **Marcelo D2** (Rio De Janeiro BRAZIL)  
TBA **Bia Ferreira** (São Paulo BRAZIL)  
TBA **RUBIO** (Mexico City MEXICO)  
TBA **Cabeza de Chivo** (Chicago IL)

### SWAN DIVE

**Mothland & Fair Enough**  
8:00PM **N Nao** (Montreal QC)  
9:00PM **Alix Fernz** (Montreal QC)  
10:00PM **Hot Garbage** (Toronto ON)  
11:00PM **Population II** (Montreal QC)  
12:00AM **Crabe** (Montreal QC)  
1:00AM **Luge** (Toronto ON)

### SWAN DIVE PATIO

**Canada House**  
8:15PM **Doohickey Cubicle** (Vancouver BC)  
9:15PM **Hotel Mira** (Vancouver BC)  
10:15PM **maxime.** (Montreal QC)  
11:15PM **Babe Corner** (Vancouver BC)  
12:15AM **Le Couleur** (Montreal QC)  
1:15AM **Housewife** (Toronto ON)

### THE 13TH FLOOR

**Post Electric & Friends**  
8:00PM **Do Nothing** (Nottingham UK)  
9:00PM **Humour** (Glasgow UK)  
10:00PM **Iona Zajac** (Glasgow UK)  
11:00PM **Chartreuse** (The Black Country UK)  
12:00AM **Wildest** (London UK)  
1:00AM **China Bears** (Bridgewater UK)

### VALHALLA

8:00PM **Salsa Windfall** (New York NY)  
9:00PM **JOSEON** (Los Angeles CA)  
10:00PM **Shelf Lives** (London UK)  
11:00PM **Stuck in the Sound** (Paris FRANCE)  
12:00AM **West 22nd** (Austin TX)  
1:00AM **The Vices** (Groningen NETHERLANDS)

### VICTORIAN ROOM AT THE DRISKILL

**The Broadside Hacks Folk Club**  
8:00PM **Daisy Rickman** (Penzance UK)  
9:00PM **Arielle Soucy** (Montreal QC)  
10:00PM **Folk Bitch Trio** (Melbourne AUSTRALIA)  
11:00PM **The New Eves** (Brighton UK)  
12:00AM **Lady Apple Tree** (Los Angeles CA)

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

### ANTONES

**C3 Management**  
7:45PM **Worry Club** (Chicago IL)  
8:30PM **Tigercub** (Brighton UK)  
9:15PM **Nico Vega** (Los Angeles CA)  
10:00PM **Michigander** (Nashville TN)  
11:00PM **David Shaw** (New Orleans LA)

### AUSTIN CITY LIMITS LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER

**Rolling Stone Future of Music**  
TBA **DJ Gabby Got It** (Austin TX)  
TBA **Bebo Pablo** (San Juan PUERTO RICO)  
TBA **J Noa** (Santo Domingo DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)  
TBA **Kevin Kaarl** (Chihuahua MEXICO)  
TBA **Young Miko** (Añasco PUERTO RICO)  
TBA **Peso Pluma** (Zapopan, MEXICO)

### BRITISH MUSIC EMBASSY AT SHERATON BACKYARD

**BBC Introducing**  
7:30PM **Coach Party** (Newport UK)  
8:10PM **Noah And The Loners** (Brighton UK)  
8:50PM **Do Nothing** (Nottingham UK)  
9:30PM **Viji** (London UK)  
10:10PM **porij** (Manchester UK)  
10:50PM **Shelf Lives** (London UK)  
11:30PM **Fat Dog** (London UK)

### CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7:00PM **Enji** (Munich GERMANY)  
8:00PM **TENGER** (Seoul SOUTH KOREA)  
9:00PM **Dasom Baek** (Seoul SOUTH KOREA)  
10:00PM **Yogetsu Akasaka** (Tokyo JAPAN)

### CHESSE CLUB

8:00PM **Shred Flintstone** (Jersey City NJ)  
9:00PM **Luge** (Toronto ON)  
10:00PM **fantasy of a broken heart** (Brooklyn NY)  
11:00PM **Library Card** (Rotterdam NETHERLANDS)  
12:00AM **Omni** (Atlanta GA)  
1:00AM **Tramhaus** (Rotterdam NETHERLANDS)

### COCONUT CLUB

TBA **Ben Aqua** (Austin TX)  
TBA **Kikuo** (Tokyo JAPAN)

### COCONUT CLUB ROOFTOP

TBA **Malugi** (Berlin GERMANY)  
TBA **Sofia Kourtesis** (Berlin GERMANY)  
TBA **Niis Hoffmann** (Berlin GERMANY)

### CONTINENTAL CLUB

**Traffic Music Group**  
8:00PM **Hattie Webb** (London UK)  
9:00PM **Jack Barksdale** (Fort Worth TX)  
10:00PM **Jon Muq** (Austin TX)  
11:00PM **Lisa Morales** (Austin TX)  
12:00AM **Open 2.0** (Austin TX)  
1:00AM **The Past Lives** (Austin TX)

### COOPER'S BBQ

8:30PM **Jon Vinyl** (Toronto ON)  
9:30PM **Brittany Davis** (Seattle WA)  
10:30PM **Lauren Housley & The Northern Cowboys** (Sheffield UK)  
11:30PM **Acantha Lang** (London UK)  
12:30AM **The Sully Band** (San Diego CA)

### THE CREEK AND THE CAVE BACKYARD

**FOCUS Wales**  
8:00PM **Islet** (Cardiff UK)  
8:50PM **Otto Aday** (Ferdale UK)  
9:40PM **L E M F R E C K** (Newport UK)  
10:30PM **Minas** (Cardiff UK)  
11:20PM **HMS Morris** (Cardiff UK)  
12:10AM **Gruff Rhys** (Cardiff UK)  
1:00AM **Aleghcia Scott** (Cardiff UK)

### THE CREEK AND THE CAVE

**Wide Days Scotland**  
8:20PM **Mama Terra** (Glasgow UK)  
9:10PM **Iona Zajac** (Glasgow UK)  
10:00PM **Neon Waltz** (John O'groats UK)  
10:50PM **Humour** (Glasgow UK)  
11:40PM **Spyres** (Glasgow UK)  
12:30AM **VLURE** (Glasgow UK)  
1:20AM **Rory James** (Edinburgh UK)

### CUATRO GATO

8:00PM **Cloudchord** (Austin TX)  
9:00PM **Dyce** (Leuven BELGIUM)  
10:00PM **ÁTNA** (Berlin GERMANY)  
11:00PM **Medusa** (New York NY)  
12:00AM **Emma Aibara** (Yokohama JAPAN)  
1:00AM **Zheani** (Brisbane AUSTRALIA)

### ELYSIUM

**Italians Do It Better**  
8:00PM **Cameron Romance** (Los Angeles CA)  
8:45PM **Minimal Schlager** (Berlin GERMANY)  
9:35PM **Madeline Goldstein** (Los Angeles CA)  
10:20PM **ORION** (Providence RI)  
11:10PM **Tempers** (New York NY)  
12:00AM **Johnny Jewel** (Los Angeles CA)  
1:00AM **Desire** (Los Angeles CA)







# REVIEWS



Lamb Stone Pot Noodle Soup (l) and Steamed Soup Dumplings at Si Jie Special Noodle



Greatest Touch Customs

## The Strip Club: Lake Creek Festival Shopping Center

FOOD

On noodles, shoes, silencers, and salsa **BY TAYLOR HOLLAND**

Welcome to “The Strip Club,” an ongoing series highlighting Austin’s destination strip malls. Where else can you race go-karts at a whiskey bar? Head to church, then Church’s? Buy a silencer and a Hawaiian shirt in the same shop? ■

Austin loves to fête. SXSW, ACL, Pecan Street, Hot Sauce, Food & Wine, Frontera, you name it. But Lake Creek Festival in Northwest Austin isn’t a lake, creek, or festival – it’s the perfect place for doing donuts, and since there are already several dozen on the pavement, I rip a few at Dad speed.

Still dizzy, I can’t believe my eyes as **Silencer Shop** comes into focus. I thought silencers were just for murder, but apparently if you’re 21 and can pass an ATF background

check, you too can rationalize suppressor ownership by saying you’re “protecting your hearing.” As I’m perusing their Hawaiian shirt with machine guns baked into the floral pattern, and chatting with their employee, a customer chimes in that silencers are also “great for introducing children to firearms.” I decide to grief-eat.

It’s still morning, but there’s already a long line at **Si Jie Special Noodle**, a new-to-Austin Northern Chinese mini-chain from the Bay Area. Tinfoil Duck Blood, Griddle Pig Intestines, Pork Blood Chop Suey, and Fried Pork Kidney might sound offal to some, but I curb my enthusiasm for entrails and opt instead for Steamed Soup Dumplings with Pork and Pork Soup Pan Fried Dumplings – the latter coming in a crispy-bottomed, bao-type

bun. Both are perfectly prepared but slightly sweet, so the chili oil on the table saves the day.

What’s so special about these noodles? Well, they’re cooked at your table in a scalding hot tub full of broth. Lamb Stone Pot Noodle Soup with Sichuan Numbing Pepper is what happens when lamb carpaccio, fried tofu, a fish ball, noodles, greens, and cilantro are dumped into a cauldron of liquid green peppercorn at your table. Once it’s served, I’m not sure what to do with it, because they’ve provided small spoons and chopsticks, but no ladle. Maybe the soup is mostly there to cook the noodles? Regardless, it’s an aromatic and delightful winter warmer that hits the spot.

The Pickle Green Beans Minced Pork Mixed Noodles is a hearty, interesting coda, as briny haricots verts mingle harmoniously

with fatty pork, chili, green onions, and a hard-boiled soy egg. It’s served with a small bowl of mushroom broth that completes the experience.

For dessert, I pick low-hanging fruit at **Dollar Tree**. They have socks in all flavors: Reese’s, Cheez-It cracker, A.1. Steak Sauce, Ritz, Froot Loops, Oreo, and Kraft Mac & Cheese. Grabbing a pair of Old Bay for old bae, I notice everything at Dollar Tree now costs \$1.25, and pray for democracy.

**Vazquez #3** says “Come Try Our World Famous Salsa.” Famous in which countries? “Mexico” – specifically Guanajuato, where the owners are from. I tell them I’m a first-timer, and a sampler of carne guisada, adobado, and barbacoa appears. The three amigos are in character and the menu is deep with Mexican classics, but I can’t keep my eyes off the Crispy Taco Plate, which comes correct – so fatty that if you wait a few minutes, the shell will soak through and collapse. The menudo, advertised as a hangover cure, salves my craving for innards, and their gorditas remind of the old country – fluffy and spongy, but not too dense. For Mall-Mex, *estupendo*.



Crispy Taco Plate at Vazquez #3



Behind the bar at Mikki's Tavern

PHOTOS BY JOHN ADNERSON

My only beef with Vazquez is that there's too much of it – no seafood and no real vegetarian options. Plus, no margs?

NOW OPEN: AXE THROWING AT PINBALLZ!

But once I'm inside, I'm less interested in lumberjacking than **Mikki's Tavern**, a snack bar named after the owner, serving made-from-scratch pizza rolls and weekend brunch. Their full bar's bottles sit inside vintage arcade games, making an odd couple out of *Q\*Bert* and Frangelico. Back by the restrooms, I notice there's another bar – whiskey only – adjacent to a go-kart track. I'm tempted to practice drunk driving and carve more brodies, but I resist, and take in the *Godzilla* flick at **Lake Creek 7**, whose concessionaire offers four hot dogs and two large soft drinks for \$15.

Back in the light at **Juicy Claws Restaurant**, owner Han Tran is serving up the Viet-Cajun cuisine I recently read about in the *Chronicle*. This jazz fusion of Asian foodstuffs is in full effect here with Saigon Butter Juicy Wings, Lotus Salad, and Grilled Jumbo Squid jumping out. The squid comes

Instagram-ready with house green sauce and kitchen scissors. The sauce, which I imagined as nam jim, is more like whipped mayonnaise with mint and cilantro, and though the creature is nicely charred in Cajun spices, cooking squid requires timing, and today this one recalls *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe*.

After sticking my head in the Marine Corps recruitment office and being turned away because I'm a 52-year-old liberal, I'm chatting up the owner of **Greatest Touch Customs** sneaker shop about vintage Air Jordans, when I notice animation stills from *The Simpsons* hanging on the wall – and he's in them. I ask if he made the prints online, and he weaves a tale about how he guest-starred on the series. I'm bemused, but the sight of Homer has me thinking about donuts again, and I peel out. ■

## Lake Creek Festival Shopping Center

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## DRIVE-AWAY DOLLS IS SCREWBALL WITHOUT THE COMEDY FILM

Ethan Coen's latest solo effort lacks the brothers' magic **BY MATTHEW MONAGLE**

With a reunion in the works, the solo careers of Joel and Ethan Coen might end up being more of a speed bump than a permanent breakup. If so, that makes their individual projects a fascinating insight into the perspective each sibling brings to the alchemy of the Coen brothers. And that makes *Drive-Away Dolls* – the second film by Ethan Coen, following 2022 documentary *Jerry Lee Lewis: Trouble in Mind*, and one co-written by wife and regular editor Tricia Cooke – a fascinating insight into his stylings, all the more so because of how little it seems to work.

Marian (*Blockers* breakout Geraldine Viswanathan) needs a break. Still reeling from a bad breakup, she sets her sights on a trip to Florida and a relaxing time away from work. But Jamie (Margaret Qualley) needs a break too; after getting kicked out of her apartment by ex-girlfriend Sukie (Beanie Feldstein), Jamie convinces Marian to join her on a cross-country road trip for a local drive-away service. As they continue south, Jamie tries to get Marian to loosen up sexually and embrace more casual relationships, but their plans for

a life-changing vacation are upended when they discover a mysterious briefcase in the trunk of their car.

From the opening scene, we recognize that *Drive-Away Dolls* is meant to follow in the footsteps of some of the iconic Coen brothers screwball comedies. A character is murdered with a corkscrew to the neck; characters rush onscreen with a handsaw extended comically above their heads. The purpose of *Drive-Away Dolls* seems to be to craft a story of sexual liberation against the backdrop of the 1990s, but while that idea may sound fun on paper, the film is surprisingly devoid of humor. In fact, it's kind of a slog.

Granted, neither actor gives anything less than their full effort in the film. Viswanathan – coming off the heels of several delightful seasons of *Miracle Workers* with Daniel Radcliffe – remains one of Hollywood's best-kept comedic secrets. Meanwhile, Qualley does her best to find a real human being underneath the Southern drawl and oversexed dialogue. The results may not be there, but we never doubt the talent for a second, and there

are worse detours for an actor in Hollywood than working with a Coen brother.

But so much of the film feels internally at odds with itself. At times both sexually exploitative and progressive, shocking and surprisingly neutered, *Drive-Away Dolls* seems unsure of its own energy. There are times when it seems to build to the screwball comedy vibes of films like *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, but the relatively narrow scope of the hypersexualized story fights silliness at every turn. Only Bill Camp – who steals each of his few scenes as the bedraggled owner of a rental car company – offers us any kind of consistent tone or fine-tuned performance.

Then again, maybe the 1990s are still the uncanny valley for comedies. Caught somewhere between the modern and the historic, the setting of *Drive-Away Dolls* never affords the film a kind of period specificity that might've elevated the comedy. Instead of providing the script with a kind of shared cultural shorthand – fashion, language, and customs that audiences could rally around – the Nineties setting leaves the whole affair feeling a bit muted and nonspecific.

## ALSO OPENING

### Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – To the Hashira Training (R, 130 min.)

This film expansion of the popular manga and TV series explores the quest of a young man to restore the humanity of his sister after a demon turns her.

### Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity (NR, 105 min.)

Documentary uses reenactments to dramatize the five apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

### Hundreds of Beavers

(PG-13, 107 min.)

Richard Whittaker calls this loony live-action cartoon about a 19th-century fur trader who goes to war with the titular rodents “hilarious and ridiculous.”

### Stopmotion (R, 103 min.)

An animator starts to lose her mind in a live-action/animated horror hybrid Richard Whittaker calls “chilling and tragic in equal measures.”

### 2024 Oscar Nominated Short Films (NR)

Catch up with the nominees in three different programs – Animation, Documentary, and Live-Action – before the March 10 ceremony.

Scan here to find showtimes and more reviews online

INDICATES WE HAVE A FULL-LENGTH REVIEW



Perhaps time will be kind to *Drive-Away Dolls*; the cast of rising stars seems destined for greatness, and the setting will sharpen into focus the farther we move away from the decade. But it's hard not to feel that *Drive-Away Dolls* is the sum of its production history: a decades-old concept that missed its window for relevance. Let's hope that the Coen brothers are not the competitive sort – if rumors of a reunion are true, then Joel's production of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* certainly gives him the solo bragging rights at family dinners. ■

## Drive-Away Dolls

DIRECTED BY ETHAN COEN. STARRING MARGARET QUALLEY, GERALDINE VISWANATHAN, BEANIE FELDSTEIN, COLMAN DOMINGO, AND PEDRO PASCAL. (R, 84 MIN.)

★★



# Celebrating Black History

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Dale Watson



Les Greene

PHOTOS BY KYLE "TRIGGER" CORONEOS / COURTESY OF SAVING COUNTRY MUSIC

# Back in Austin, the Ameripolitan Awards Define a Musical Spirit

MUSIC

Show's 10th anniversary return uplifts largely outsider roots sounds **BY DOUG FREEMAN**

A decade into the Ameripolitan Music Awards, the event's namesake genre remains a somewhat nebulous catchall. Dale Watson coined the term to describe his own brand of hard honky-tonk, but it's expanded to embrace a broad sweep loosely umbrellaed by Western swing, rockabilly, and outlaw. Although the category sometimes leads to incongruous boxing – like this year's nominations dubbing NOLA folk stompers the Deslondes as honky-tonk – the end result lifts up music that's often still

underrecognized, even within the widening reach of Americana.

For the 10th anniversary of the Ameripolitan Music Awards, Watson returned the show to Austin for the first time since he left Texas for Memphis in 2018. On Sunday night, the Moody Theater's gala found much of the crowd decked in high rockabilly and honky-tonk fashion, even as the show kept a loose and raucous feel. Most apparent, though, was the sense of community spearheaded by Watson, who generated gratitude from the

fans and especially the nominees. Whether rising stars or hardened lifers, many were being recognized for the first time.

Turk Pipkin played co-host alongside Watson, allowing the Ameripolitan patriarch to roam the stage, keeping the three-and-a-half-hour show on pace. Gary P. Nunn aptly kicked off the performances with a sing-along of "London Homesick Blues," supported by a stellar Jason Roberts-led house band that, as Ray Benson quipped, featured almost entirely (and inevitably) Asleep at the Wheel alumni.

After accepting his Ameripolitan Master Award, Benson gave a rallying rendition of "Miles and Miles of Texas." Still, Kelly Willis, Melissa Carper, and Western Swing Female award winner Brennen Leigh provided the early highlight with new single "Another Broken Heart" from the upcoming debut of their supergroup, Wonder Women of Country. Junior Brown countered with "Too Many Nights in a Roadhouse," swerving through the real-time tuning of his "guit-steel" and blistering baritone twang, while Wayne Hancock

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Augie Meyers and Flaco Jiménez

PHOTOS BY KYLE "TRIGGER" CORONEOS / COURTESY OF SAVING COUNTRY MUSIC

**The night's biggest moment was reserved to honor Tex-Mex accordion pioneers Flaco Jiménez and Augie Meyers with "Founders of the Sound" recognition.**

provided a surprise appearance, hard-strumming "Thunderstorms and Neon Signs" alongside Jake Fenrod and Rachel Brooke.

Charlie Robison and James White both received moving tributes, the former led by Monte Warden doing "My Hometown" and the latter posthumously serenaded by Watson, Roberts, and Alvin Crow with "Never Mend the Broken Spoke" as they rolled the venue's iconic wagon wheel out onstage. The recent passing of Mojo Nixon likewise weighed heavy in the room, though as Watson interrupted at one point: "We don't do a moment of silence for Mojo, we give a hell yeah!" As Jason D. Williams wryly noted in accepting Musician of the Year, "I'd thank a lot more people but they're dead now."

While honoring the influence of the roots genres' legacies, the awards equally focused on cultivating the next generation of talent. Kaitlin Butts gave a heartfelt and tearful speech for Honky Tonk Female, bolstered by Kelsey Waldon's defiant acceptance of Outlaw Female. Last year's Rockabilly Female winner Tammi Savoy smoked her own "I Want Your Good Lovin'," and Les Greene was genuinely shocked to win Rockabilly Male – before blazing across the stage and into the audience while performing "Airbound," backed by the Televisionaries.

Greene's energy was matched only by the Reverend Horton Heat ripping his trademark

psychobilly freakout through "Big Little Baby," a blur of a performance nearly upstaged by Lance Lipinsky's unhinged pounding on the keys.

The night's biggest moment was reserved to honor Tex-Mex accordion pioneers Flaco Jiménez and Augie Meyers with "Founders of the Sound" recognition. Rhythm section Speedy Sparks and Ernie Durawa joined the pair to reunite the surviving members of Texas Tornados – with Big Sandy delivering Freddy Fender's "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights," and Max Baca joining to run through "Soy de San Luis" and the Meyers-led "(Hey Baby) Que Paso."

Ameripolitan may still be an awkwardly defined genre, more of a musical spirit than a specific sound. But the evening proved a definitive Ameripolitan community as presenters, performers, and winners continuously acknowledged their appreciation for Watson and his wife Celine, who've created a space to recognize both the past and future of largely outsider roots sounds. ■

## 2024 Ameripolitan Music Awards

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER  
FEBRUARY 18

# Central Market H·E·B LIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

**WESTGATE** 4477 S. LAMAR

**FRI. FEB 23 6:30 - 9 PM**

**SADDLE SORES** | Country/ Western Swing

**SAT. FEB 24, 6:30 - 9 PM**

**CIENFUEGOS** | Latin/Salsa

**SUN. FEB 25, 12 - 2:30 PM**

**AUSTIN JAZZ WORKSHOP YOUTH JAM**

| Sponsored by City of Austin  
Cultural Arts Division

**N. LAMAR** 4001 N. LAMAR

**THURS. FEB 22, 5:30-8 PM**

★ **DOPPEL** | Jazz

**FRI. FEB 23, 5:30-8 PM**

**WILSON MARKS** | Jazz

**SAT. FEB 24, 5:30-8 PM**

**MICAH SHALOM** | Reggae

**SUN. FEB 25, 5:30-8 PM**

**TEMPLE, MALONE, AND YOUNG** | Jazz

**THURS. FEB 29, 5:30-8 PM**

**LETI GARZA QUARTET** | Latin

★ **CENTRALMARKET.COM**



Laura Leo Kelly and Trace Turner in *Always a Boy*

STEVE ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

# *Always a Boy* Is Never a Bore

THEATRE

Ground Floor Theatre production offers a tender trans portrayal **BY CAT MCCARREY**

It's going to be OK.

This is obvious from the opening moments of *Always a Boy*, where Joshua, an adult trans man, is embraced by his mother. Above them, Young Joshua and College Joshua form a Greek chorus of do's and don'ts regarding trans family interactions. And the audience never worries. The trans kid makes it. His family is there. Everything is OK.

That intense warmth radiates through *Always a Boy*, softening even the most dramatic moments of conflict. If you're looking for a hopeless indictment of the trans experience in America, well, don't look here. There's not an ounce of bleakness in this play.

Rather, this production oozes comfort from its very core, displaying a sweet sensitivity beneath fear and doubt. Everything can be solved with communication. Just be honest with others and, importantly, with yourself.

Mother/son playwrights Jo and Jeremy Ivester tackle adapting Jo's 2020 memoir into a script. The play follows their fictionalized family, opening in the present with adult Joshua (Jeremy Ivester, pulling double duty) and his mother Rachel (Molly Fonseca), using them to ground the play as it jumps through time.

Director Lisa Scheps juggles the looping time circles deftly, helped along by CB Feller's set design. Feller cleverly divides the stage into

three distinct sections. There's an open central area flanked by cozy domestic nooks. It helps streamline the show, simplifying movement so the audience can focus on actor emotion instead of clunky scene transitions.

Young Joshua (Kaden Ono) and College Joshua (Laura Leo Kelly) trade off vignettes. They illuminate family dynamics as Joshua grapples to understand who he is and why society is trying to pigeonhole him into a neat, gender-assigned box. There's a lot of openly acknowledged "talking around" things, as characters try to hold Joshua's well-being with their own hopes and understanding of the world. Rachel just wants her child to be all right, and feels lost when she can't connect with what they need. Joshua's father Richard (Nathan Jerkins, in a tenderly paternal state) gets to show a full range of acceptance that Joshua needs more, while mourning what that means for the family he's known. Between scenes, adult Joshua and Rachel reflect on what's been witnessed and introduce what's coming. At times it's repetitive, but it ultimately serves as yet another reminder that Joshua gets through these trials.

**An intense warmth radiates through *Always a Boy*. There's not an ounce of bleakness in this play.**

The younger Joshuas infuse this understandably talky script with lightness. Whenever the script starts to drag, mired in sentimental drama, a Joshua will interject with a comment or a quirk of phrase to spice things up. Ono plays Young Joshua with shocking maturity and understanding. It's unbelievable this kid's in middle school – I was convinced he was an adult playing younger.

But Laura Leo Kelly's College Joshua shines. They're sparkly, effervescent, and a thousand percent believable. Tasked with exhibiting the outwardly transitioning Joshua, a frustrated young adult trying to share truths with his family, Kelly plays angry and exploratory and loving with bracing sincerity. It's mesmerizing. Whatever they portray – fighting with brother Seth, balking at girly outings with sister Rebecca, or taking part in emotionally-charged snowball fights with old friend Tucker – is *real*. Even their body seems to morph, subtle shifts in posture and presentation as Joshua gets closer to his real self. How does Kelly do it? Somehow, their ridiculously natural performance boosts the show into the stratosphere.

Jeremy Ivester as adult Joshua gets less emotional work to do, but it still works. The way he smiles throughout the role is exactly the kind of relieved joy that seeps through the bones of *Always a Boy*. There are multiple references to his family's concerns that life will be more difficult as a trans man. Seeing Ivester's dimpled grin banishes any worries. He's so happy. He's so himself. What could be better?

Even with Joshua, a best-case scenario of open family and acceptance, there's anxiety and shame. Family members keep asking Joshua to be honest, that they would have known how to behave if he only told them, but how could he tell when he was still figuring it out? Society didn't have a road map for him. So now, with *Always a Boy*, the Ivesters create one for others to come. ■

**Always a Boy**  
GROUND FLOOR THEATRE  
THROUGH MARCH 2  
(STREAMING TICKETS AVAILABLE  
FEB. 29-MARCH 1)

# Austin Light Rail is Moving Forward

Austin is growing, and so is the need for more transit options. Implementation of Austin Light Rail has begun, including the effort to secure federal funds. ATP is advancing environmental studies to support the federal process. Please join us to provide input on station location and other design options.

## VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON FEEDBACK EVENTS

**In-person: Feb. 1, 10, 12, 27 and 29**  
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# FUN + GAMES

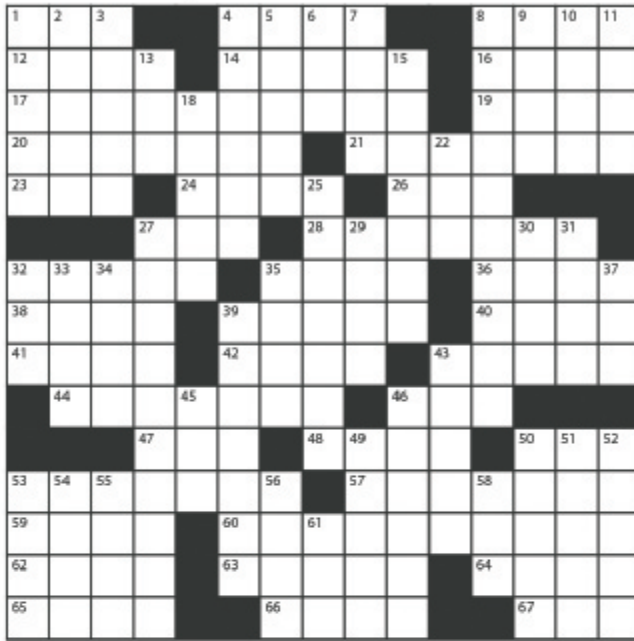
## PARK & HOMER puzzles

### An inflated puzzle?

Puzzle by J. Reynolds No. 829

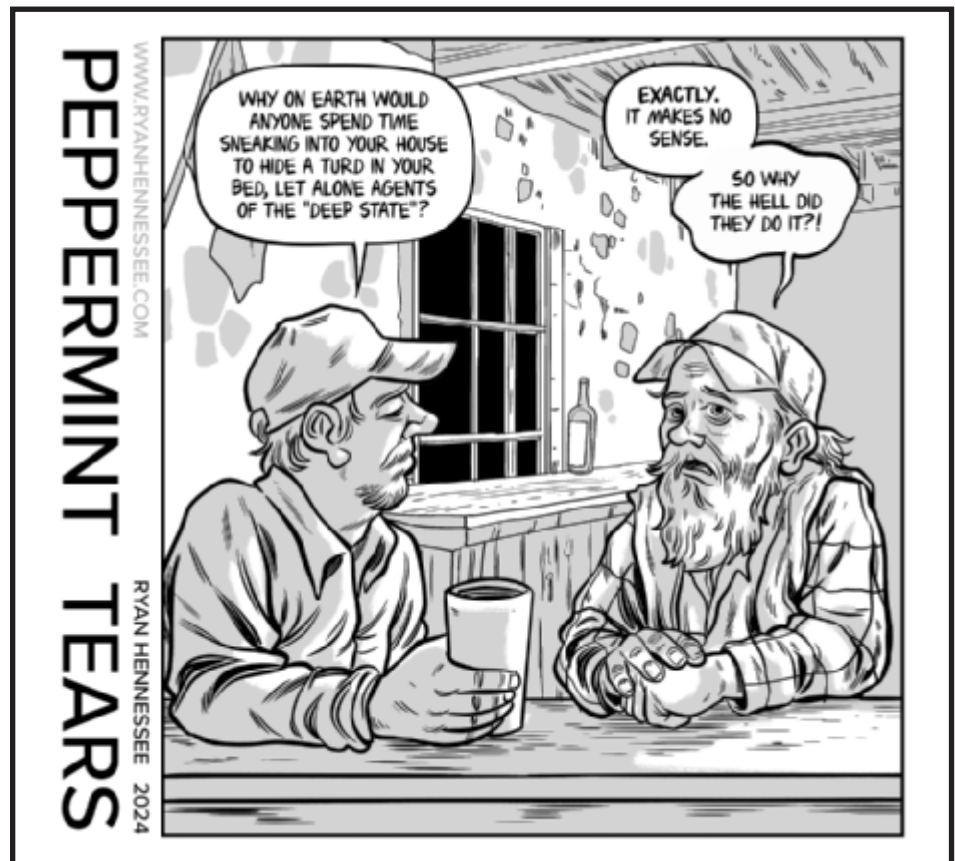
#### Across

1. PC linkup  
 4. Legis. meeting  
 8. Breakfast staple  
 12. "This is not \_\_\_"  
 (warning label)  
 14. Figure of speech  
 16. Italia's capital  
 17. \*\*\* Traveling-  
 light luggage  
 19. Two fives for \_\_\_  
 20. Pencil ends  
 21. Wrestling holds  
 23. Bro's sib  
 24. Jared of  
 "American  
 Psycho"  
 26. NNW's opposite  
 27. Stats for Jeter and  
 Tejada  
 28. Not man-made  
 32. Barely beats  
 35. Kitchen suffix  
 36. Managed care  
 gps.  
 38. \_\_\_ of Sandwich  
 39. Oohed and \_\_\_  
 40. Counting-out  
 word  
 41. Make a sweater  
 42. "Amazing Grace"  
 ending  
 43. Bison features  
 44. Had the lead  
 46. "Holy cow!"  
 47. Ear or eye ending  
 48. Pirate's take  
 50. Fed. fiscal agency  
 53. Like Shriners  
 57. Mozart's  
 homeland  
 59. Sonny's partner  
 60. \*\*\* What Woodie  
 Guthrie played  
 62. Course after trig  
 63. "It's \_\_\_ for"  
 64. Attention-getting  
 cry
65. Bermuda, e.g.  
 66. Downhill racer  
 67. Word that  
 precedes the last  
 word of each  
 starred answer
- Down**  
 1. Shoestrings  
 2. Electronic game  
 pioneer  
 3. Dunn and Ephron  
 4. Mall units  
 5. German painter  
 Max  
 6. Have a bawl  
 7. Attention \_\_\_  
 8. \*\*\* 1978 cult film  
 by David Lynch  
 9. Attend  
 10. "The X-Files"  
 extras
11. Without: Fr.  
 13. Jr. and sr.  
 15. Expelled  
 18. Kennel cries  
 22. Shaq's alma mater  
 25. Injured, in  
 baseball lingo  
 27. \*\*\* 1986 Chuck  
 Norris film  
 29. Suit to \_\_\_  
 30. "I'll second that"  
 31. "The \_\_\_ Ranger"  
 32. Comics cry  
 33. Rather and Reeves  
 34. Willingness to get  
 dirty  
 35. Simplicity  
 37. Part of TBS:  
 Abbr.  
 39. Emergency  
 helicopter  
 delivery, say
43. Taiwanese island  
 45. Seek office  
 46. Overcharged  
 49. Jack of "The  
 Great Dictator"  
 50. "Coffee \_\_\_?"  
 51. Dolphins' home  
 52. Showing more  
 skin  
 53. 1201, to Tiberius  
 54. Cries of discovery  
 55. Unload, as stock  
 56. Whispers sweet  
 nothings  
 58. Tiny \_\_\_  
 61. "Bad" cholesterol,  
 for short



## EYEBEAM

by Sam Hurd



How'd you do? See this week's puzzle solution here:  
[AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD)





# HE GAVE ME MY LIFE BACK

Local clinic has a modern, medical solution to treat your **Peripheral Neuropathy** and is seeing incredible results!

**"It started out as a normal outing. My wife and I had to run to the grocery store. We were driving down the road casually going over our shopping list when the car ahead of me started to slow down anticipating the yellow light. I started to move my foot from the gas to the brake as any normal person would do when they see brake lights in front of them but I couldn't. I couldn't feel my foot. The car kept moving forward and I just couldn't get my foot on the brake. And CRUNCH! I finally came to a stop when I hit the car in front of me."**

This tragic story was shared with us by Fred S., an Austin resident who has peripheral neuropathy. And while no one was hurt in this accident, Fred S. had suffered almost everyday of his life with tingling and burning in his feet until numbness set in, and he could no longer feel even the brake pedal beneath his foot.

"The first stage is pain." Shares Dr. Lucas Brown of Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness Center. "You feel burning, tingling, sharp pains, or you feel like you're walking on tacks or marbles. This pain eventually subsides and the numbness sets in. Unfortunately the numbness brings with it a whole other host of problems."

This was the case with Fred. "I said I wasn't going to drive again. What if that had been a pedestrian?"

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person's ability to live their life. Fred was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising the Hill Country or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities. And even more common, Fred's general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

**That's where Dr. Brown and his staff at Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness come in. "About 80% of our current patients come to us suffering from the same condition as Fred," tells Dr. Brown.**

"They're in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it. Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment. I like to say we're in the business of making your golden years golden."

**"I can't lie," confides Fred. "I was skeptical at first. The folks at the neurological clinic told me there was nothing that could be done and then there's a doctor right here in Austin who tells me he can help. Turns out he was right! About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments! My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It's hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Dr. Brown] gave me my life back."**

Dr. Lucas Brown, DAOM at Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness, will perform a Neuropathy Severity Examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage, which consists of detailed sensory and vascular testing along with an analysis of neurological findings.

We will be offering this \$40 examination from now until February 29th, 2024. To ensure quality of care Dr. Brown will only accept 10 new Peripheral Neuropathy patients a month.

Call **512-623-1996** to find out if you are a candidate for our program and get your life back.

Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness now accepts Care Credit.

Visit [www.RosedaleAcuWell.com](http://www.RosedaleAcuWell.com) to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer

# The Luv Doc

Dear Luv Doc,

I had to go to the post office on Wednesday. My post office is always very busy and seemingly understaffed. The workers there try their best, but they are on their feet all day, so they go about their work at a measured pace. There is always a line and for the most part, people are patient and understanding, but on Wednesday, there was a middle-aged man in "patriotic wear" standing behind me in line who kept making overly dramatic, exasperated noises each time he felt someone in line in front of us was taking too long. When I finally got to the counter, this man decided to lean against the counter next to me as if to intimidate me and the postal employee into hastening our transaction. As I expected, the postal employee went about her business at her usual pace which elicited another round of exasperated exhalations from the man, who by now was really starting to encroach on my personal space, so the postal worker very politely asked him to please back away from the counter until it was his turn. This sent the man into a temper tantrum. He accused the postal worker of being slow and lazy. I finally had enough so I asked him, "Have you ever worked in a post office?" He spat back, "No, I have a job where I'm actually expected to work," to which I replied, "Just not today I suppose?" He then said I was lucky I was a woman or he would "slap that sass right out of my mouth" and stormed out, presumably to mistreat some other postal employee. My question to you is: Why do certain men think their needs are more important than everyone else's – to the extent that they get angry when other people's needs are put first? These men always seem to be "of a type," but I am not exactly sure what that type is, other than middle-aged, Caucasian, and cranky. This isn't just a Texas thing, either. I've seen it in other places too. What happened to men with manners and civility? Are those traits now unpatriotic?



"Post Office Patriot"

CLEARLY you have NO IDEA how HARD it is to be a middle-aged white male in Texas. Imagine that man's frustration having to take precious time off from his important WORK – perhaps masturbating bald eagles, stringing razor wire on the Rio Grande, or making deepfake Taylor Swift porn – whatever it is patriots are doing these days – so he could go to the post office to mail some ivermectin to his Discord incel buddy in Idaho. Imagine his consternation when he realizes he's in a real post office and not some freakishly clean, fantasy FedEx office with chirpy, unctuous, overly subservient employees. That would ruin a patriot's day every bit as much as Taylor Swift winning the Super Bowl. Question: How many times have you not been called "sir" this week? I'll bet you it's the same as that guy and he really believes he deserves it. After all, milking bald eagles for semen is surely a man's job. You won't see Taylor Swift masturbating bald eagles ... well ... unless it's one of those AI porn deepfakes because with AI, pretty much anything goes. Its daddy didn't raise it right.

And you're correct, middle-aged white guys have it tough all over, not just in Texas. They're always having to put the toilet seat down, remember to use plural pronouns, or allow for the possibility that someone else knows more than them about some useless, esoteric topic, indie band, or sportsball statistic. I ask you: When did middle-aged white males stop being the absolute authority on everything? If you can pinpoint that exact moment, maybe Michael J. Fox and the Nutty Professor can hop in their souped-up DeLorean and go back in time to set things straight. Otherwise, we're left with the highly frustrating possibility that the last few thousand years of Caucasian male hegemony in the Western Hemisphere has been based on violence and oppression and not natural intellectual superiority. That can't be right, can it? If it is, we should definitely keep it out of textbooks. We can just use the Bible instead. Jesus always favored white males – otherwise he wouldn't have let them write his biography. You can surely imagine then, that given this guy's enormous superiority complex, interacting with his inferiors would be highly frustrating. His delusion doesn't excuse his behavior, however, so fuck him. You did the right thing. In the words of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, "If you see something, say something."

**Need some advice from the Luv Doc?** Send your questions to [luvdoc@austinchronicle.com](mailto:luvdoc@austinchronicle.com).



## Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

Leonardo Da Vinci frequently painted on wood. The *Mona Lisa* is in oil painted on a panel of white Lombardy poplar.

Researchers say a breakup has physical effects on our bodies. In takotsubo syndrome, first described in 1990, the stress of heartbreak or loss can change the shape of your heart and mimic the symptoms of a heart attack.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos are almost all left-handed, or more precisely, left-footed.

Indonesia is considered the world's third-largest democracy.

It takes about 450 years for a plastic water bottle to biodegrade. Rather than being broken down by bacteria, it decomposes through photodegradation, in which the sun's UV radiation breaks down the plastic into smaller pieces.

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

## FREE WILL ASTROLOGY FEB. 23 - FEB. 29

by Rob Breznsky

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Unlike the Pope's decrees, my proclamations are not infallible. As opposed to Nostradamus and many modern soothsayers, I never imagine I have the power to definitely decipher what's ahead. One of my main mottoes is "The future is undecided. Our destinies are always mutable." Please keep these caveats in mind whenever you commune with my horoscopes. Furthermore, consider adopting my approach as you navigate through the world – especially in the coming weeks, when your course will be extra responsive to your creative acts of willpower. Decide right now what you want the next chapter of your life story to be about. You can make it what you want.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries filmmaker Akira Kurosawa was one of the greats. In his 30 films, he crafted a reputation as a masterful storyteller. A key moment in his development as an emotionally intelligent artist came when he was 13 years old. His older brother Heigo took him to view the aftermath of the Great Kantō earthquake. Akira wanted to avert his gaze from the devastation, but Heigo compelled him to look. Why? He wished for Akira to learn to deal with fear by facing it directly. I think you Aries people are more skilled at this challenging exercise than all the other signs. I hope you will call on it with aplomb in the coming weeks. You may be amazed at the courage it arouses in you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** "When a mountain doesn't listen, say a prayer to the sea," said Taurus painter Cy Twombly. "If God doesn't respond, direct your entreaties to Goddess," I tell my Taurus friend Audrey. "If your mind doesn't provide you with useful solutions, make an appeal to your heart instead," my Taurus mentor advises me. This counsel should be useful for you in the coming weeks, Taurus. It's time to be diligent, relentless, ingenious, and indefatigable in going after what you want. Keep asking until you find a source that will provide it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gemini philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson offered advice that's perfect for you right now. He said, "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not." Here's what I will add. First, you very much need to commune with extra doses of beauty in the coming weeks. Doing so will expedite your healing and further your education – two activities that are especially important. Second, one way to accomplish your assignment is to put yourself in the presence of all the beautiful people, places, and things you can find. Third, be imaginative as you cultivate beauty within yourself. How? That's your homework.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** I bet that sometime soon, you will dream of flying through the sky on a magic carpet. In fact, this may be a recurring dream for you in the coming months. By June, you may have soared along on a floating rug over 10 times. Why? What's this all about? I suspect it's one aspect of a project that life is encouraging you to undertake. It's an invitation to indulge in more flights of the imagination; to open your soul to mysterious potencies; to give your fantasy life permission to be wilder and freer. You know that old platitude "shit happens"? You're ready to experiment with a variation on that: "Magic happens."

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** On Feb. 22, ancient Romans celebrated the holiday of Caristia. It was a time for reconciliation. People strove to heal estrangements and settle longstanding disagreements. Apologies were offered, and truces were negotiated. In alignment with current astrological omens, Leo, I recommend you revive this tradition. Now is an excellent time to embark on a crusade to unify, harmonize, restore, mend, and assuage. I dare you to put a higher priority on love than on ego!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** My poet friend Jafna likes to say that only two types of love are available to us: too little and too much. We are either deprived of the precise amount and quality of the love we want, or else we have to deal with an excess of love that doesn't match the kind we want. But I predict that this will at most be a mild problem for you in the coming weeks – and perhaps not a problem at all. You will have a knack for giving and receiving just the right amount of love, neither too little nor too much. And the love flowing toward you and from you will be gracefully appropriate.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** If the devil card or scared for me in a divinatory tarot reading, I don't get worried or scared that something bad might happen. On the contrary, I interpret it favorably. It means that an interesting problem or riddle has arrived or will soon arrive in my life – and that this twist can potentially make me wiser, kinder, and wilder. The appearance of the devil card suggests that I need to be challenged so as to grow a new capacity or understanding. It's a good omen, telling me that life is conspiring to give me what I need to outgrow my limitations and ignorance. Now apply these principles, Libra, as you respond to the devil card I just drew for you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A taproot is a thick, central, and primary root from which a plant's many roots branch out laterally. Typically, a taproot grows downward and is pretty straight. It may extend to a depth greater than the height of the plant sprouting above ground. Now let's imagine that we humans have metaphorical taproots. They connect us with our sources of inner nourishment. They are lifelines to secret or hidden treasures we may be only partly conscious of. Let's further imagine that in the coming months, Scorpio, your taproot will flourish, burgeon, and spread deeper to draw in new nutrients. Got all that? Now I invite you to infuse this beautiful vision with an outpouring of love for yourself and for the wondrous vitality you will be absorbing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Behavioral ecologist professor Dan Charbonneau has observed the habits of ants, bees, and other social insects. He says that a lot of the time, many of them just lounge around doing nothing. In fact, most animals do the same. The creatures of the natural world are just not very busy. Psychologist Dr. Sandi Mann urges us to learn from their lassitude. "We've created a society where we fear boredom, and we're afraid of doing nothing," she says. But that addiction to frenzy may limit our inclination to daydream, which in turn inhibits our creativity. I bring these facts to your attention, Sagittarius, because I suspect you're in a phase when lolling around doing nothing much will be extra healthy for you. Liberate and nurture your daydreams, please!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** "Education is an admirable thing," wrote Oscar Wilde, "but it is well to remember that nothing worth knowing can be taught." As I ponder your future in the coming weeks, I vociferously disagree with him. I am sure you can learn many things worth knowing from teachers of all kinds. It's true that some of the lessons may be accidental or unofficial – and not delivered by traditional teachers. But that won't diminish their value. I invite you to act as if you will in effect be enrolled in school 24/7 until the equinox.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The planets Mars and Venus are both cruising through Aquarius. Do they signify that synchronicities will weave magic into your destiny? Yes! Here are a few possibilities I foresee: 1) smoldering flirtations that finally ignite; 2) arguments assuaged by love-making; 3) mix-ups about the interplay between love and lust or else wonderful synergies between love and lust; 4) lots of labyrinthine love talk, romantic sparring, and intricate exchange about the nature of desire; 5) adventures in the sexual frontiers; 6) opportunities to cultivate interesting new varieties of intimacy.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.



# SHERWOOD FOREST FAIRE



Weekends  
Mar. 2nd - Apr. 21st  
(Plus Friday, March 15th)

15 Miles North of Bastrop

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# EMPLOYMENT

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

## COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

### MTS TAPEOUT ENGINEERING

GlobalFoundries Inc. is seeking a MTS Tapeout Engineering, in Austin, TX to dvlp core sftwr solutns involvg data engrng, advncd analytics, & machine learnng apps to advance automatn, analytics insights, & predictv modelg effort. Master's or foreign equiv in Electrcl Engrng, Comp Engrng, Applied Math or reltd, plus 4 yrs of exp. Salary Range: \$134,472 – \$158,600. Apply online at [www.gf.com/careers/#JR-2400356](http://www.gf.com/careers/#JR-2400356), no calls, principals only.

### MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Electronic Arts, Inc. has job openings in Austin, TX:  
• Sr. Analyst, Pricing & Promotion (55431): Formulate and apply modeling methods to

develop and interpret information that assists management with decision making -Telecommuting Permitted; Associate Development Manager (44759): Plan, initiate, and manage information technology (IT) projects-Telecommuting Permitted; Dev Ops Software Engineer (36159): Install, configure, and maintain operating systems and servers-Telecommuting permitted; VFX Artist (67063): Create and implement visual effects in a real-time environment - Telecommuting permitted; Network Engineer (85877): Build new routed networks. Create, modify and remove VIP configurations on Citrix Netscalers -Telecommuting permitted; Data Scientist (87264): Develop and implement a set of techniques or analytics applications to transform raw data into meaningful information using data-oriented programming languages and visualization

software- Telecommuting permitted; Data Scientist (87264): Develop and implement a set of techniques or analytics applications to transform raw data into meaningful information using data-oriented programming languages and visualization software- Telecommuting permitted; Software Engineer (96309): Architect and design software and tools for game teams-telecommuting permitted; IT Central Operations Manager (49734): Create and maintain IT processes, delivery execution, and adherence to the process for ITIL Processes -Telecommuting permitted. To apply, submit resume to <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/> and reference respective ID#.

### MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Whole Foods Market Services, Inc. has multi job opps in Austin, TX. Supply Chain Analyst (SCA133) to maintain sites rtd to data intake & manipulation. Marketing Analytics Partner (multi openings)(MAP147) to translate strat business questions into analyses that inform business decisions. Category Merchant (CM145) to dvlp financ'l & marketing strats for category & prod assortments thru lens of core customers. May req up to 10% of domestic travel. Product Analyst (PA142) to translate strat business questions into analyses that inform business decisions. Software Development Engineer (SDE169) to support & maintain SaaS & enterprise-wide apps across company. Principal Software Development Engineer (Packaged) (SDE168) to eval new reqmnts for SW dvlpmnt & configure new functionality w/in point of sale & payments systems to support changing business needs. Software QA Engineer (SQA45) to dvlp, mod & exec SW test plans & manual & automated scripts for testing. Partial remote work allowed for all positions but must live w/in commuting distance of Austin, TX. Send resume to Human Resources – GM, Whole Foods Market Services, Inc., 550 Bowie St, Austin, TX 78703. Refer job code in response.

### NEWTRON TECH INC HAS MULTIPLE OPENINGS FOR

the following positions to work in Austin, TX and/or various unanticipated client sites throughout the U.S. Must be willing to travel and/or relocate. (1) DevOps Engineer: Build systems on Kubernetes. Implement, manage CI/CD pipelines. Install, config apps. Create Kibana dashboards of Dell Boomi envs & apps running on AWS & Azure Cloud. Maintain setup & management of Azure DevOps topology. (2) Software Engineer: Develop complex business apps using React JS, Angular JS, Node JS, CSS, DOJO. Use controlled version tools including SVN & GIT to maintain versions. Develop front-end by coding using HTML5, CSS3, DOJO. Develop Restful Web Services. Follow TDD. (3) Data Scientist: Implement data science algorithms underpinning statistical & machine learning models. Work with complex programming languages including Python, Scala, Java & provide solutions using cloud providers Azure, AWS, GCP. (4) Software Developer in Test: Develop automation frameworks with Selenium Design Patterns & Java programming using Eclipse IDE by integrating various plugins TestNG & Maven. Develop build scripts for Jenkins automated jobs. Integrate TestNG. Design automated test code with Java object-oriented programming concepts. Implement Jenkins Docker containers. Apply to: Newtron Tech Inc, Attn: HR, 13706 Research Blvd, Ste 314, Austin, TX 78750 512-676-1001

### PRODUCT DATA ANALYST

Cloudflare, Inc. has job opp. in Austin, TX: Product Data Analyst. Support data analytics prjcts. Salary: \$135,000 to \$155,000 per year. To apply email resumes referencing Req. #PDL35 to [careers@cloudflare.com](mailto:careers@cloudflare.com)

### PRODUCT DESIGNER

InMarket Media LLC. Austin, TX. \*Work can be from anywhere in US. Co. HQ is Austin, TX. Devising & designing clean & effective user experience across multiple products. Apply human-centered & user experience design skills to IT solutions. Transform manual processes into single-step user operations. Design & deliver web & mobile experiences from napkin to prototype. Conduct user research studies & maintain product department's user personas. Conduct creative discussions across teams. M.S. (or foreign equivalent) in Architecture, Design or related field focused on design. Need 5 yrs. exp. as UX Designer or related design role. Need 5 yrs. leading and supporting user-centered design projects; working in cross-functional teams with PM, designers, and engineers; designing and shipping digital products (plugins, applications, websites, etc.). Need UX research and design certificate or 1 yr. exp. with UX research and design. Email [Talent@inmarket.com](mailto:Talent@inmarket.com) to apply.

### SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

InMarket Media LLC. Austin, TX. Residence & remote work permitted from anywhere in US. Work on AWS platform & with R&D projects influencing company technology & products. Program for high scalability database, high scalability data processing, & bridging the gap b/w multiple systems. M.S. (or foreign equiv) in Cmptr. Science, Data Science, Statistics or related field focused on analyzing data sets. Need 3 yrs. exp. as Software Dvlpr. or Software Engineer or related IT role. Need 3 yrs. architecting AWS; leading development teams & projects; working w/ integration w/ payment processing systems; working w/ A/B testing tools; working w/ analytical tools; working w/ languages such as Python, Ruby on rails, Javascript; establishing coding standards; working w/ SQL Servers Email [Talent@inmarket.com](mailto:Talent@inmarket.com) to apply.

### SENIOR SUPPORT ENGINEER II

Pitney Bowes, Austin, TX (2 days/ week in office & as needed). Support Shipping & Warehouse mgmnt solutions w/Ops & Egrng. Research & incorp. new technol. into frmwrks & sols. Coord.w/ teams for pro-active sols to issues that affect productivity/availab. of techn. sols needed by WH shipping bus. Occasional travel. Bachelor's or equiv. in CS, MIS or rel., & at least 6 yrs progr. exp. as Techn./Supp./SW/Egr. or rel. role. At least 4 yrs exp. wrking w/MS-SQL DB & complex queries; at least 3 yrs exp. w/ using data analysis tools such as Excel &/or Power BI; using Python/Power Shell or another scripting language; specific exp. in WH shipping environ.; at least 2 yrs exp. w/using monitoring tools like Sumo Logic, Site 24\*7 &/or New Relic; testing & troubleshooting API's using open-source tools like PostMan; using TCP/IP networking concepts incl. troubleshooting & debugging; Data Science exp. using various SaaS based logistics prod. incl. Tableau and PowerBI. Apply online <https://careers.pitneybowes.com/> In "Job Search" box, enter Job Title or R16547

### TECHNICAL

Cisco Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for multiple positions in Austin, TX: Security Engineer (Ref#: AUS128A): Responsible for on-going project and program management of information security risk management activities. Telecommuting permitted. Please email resumes including position's reference number in subject line to Cisco Systems, Inc. at [amsjobs@cisco.com](mailto:amsjobs@cisco.com). No phone calls please. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. EOE. [www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)

### TECHNOLOGY

Apple Inc. has the following positions available in Austin, Texas. Submit resume at the below web address: **Software Development Engineer - Applications** (<https://jobs.apple.com/en-us/details/200537924>) Design,

develop, and maintain software systems and solutions, new services, tools, or software for testing and automation. **Retail Online UAT Project Manager** (<https://jobs.apple.com/en-us/details/200538048>) Responsible for project managing simultaneous medium-to-large worldwide and deliver them in line with major release milestones. **Business Intelligence Analyst** (<https://jobs.apple.com/en-us/details/200538056>) Develop data engineering and data analytics solutions for critical projects in online retail. Apple is an **EOE/AA m/f/disability/vets.**

## GENERAL

### LIVE IN CAREGIVER

I am in need of a person to help with daily needs. Call at 737-701-3288 for more information.

## SALES/ MARKETING

### GROWTH & MARKETING OPERATIONS MANAGER

Lead & dvlp growth mktg initiatives. Implmnt strats for customer acquisition, retention, & revenue growth. Create & oversee high-perf'g mktg team. Foster collabor culture to achieve objectives. Dvlp & enhance mktg syst. Streamline processes, implmnt automation tools, & optim workflows. Optim mktg campaigns to max ROI. Utilize data-driven insights & experimentation to improve conversion rates, customer engagement, & overall perf. Req Bachelor's in any field & min 4 yrs exp in growth mktg, mktg ops, digital mktg, or similar role. Knowl of mktg automation, & other mktg techs. \$147,000/yr. Send resume to: CitizenShipper LLC, 701 Tillery St. #12-1249, Austin, TX 78702.

**WEBSITE** Browse our classifieds section online! [austinchronicle.com/classifieds](http://austinchronicle.com/classifieds)

## LEGAL NOTICES CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

**2nd PUBLIC NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES** - Public notice is hereby given that MJVMJ Inc., Rocha's Towing Service, Special Automotive, (TDLR VSF license number #0655814VSP) to the owners of the following vehicles that charges are due, and a storage lien applies. 2018 Mercedes-Benz GLC Plate: 18F202A VIN: WDC0J4KB9JF338928. If left unclaimed 31 days after the date of this notice, they will be declared abandoned and constitutes a waiver of all liens, title, and interest, and consent for disposal at public sale. The vehicle can be claimed with proof of ownership and payment of accrued charges at 5700 Burleson Rd, Austin, TX 78744, (512)280-2642.

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY, TEXAS**  
General Notice

The City of Sunset Valley (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:  
**Country White Lane 8" Water Main Project**  
Bids for the construction of the Project will be received online at [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com) only until **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:00 PM** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read at the Selma City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas, 78745. The Project includes the following Work:  
**Construction of 1,500' of 8" water main, a meter vault, a turnaround, and other miscellaneous improvements.** Bids are requested for the following Contract:  
**Country White Lane 8" Water Main Project**  
The Project has an expected duration of:  
**Base Bid (Country White**

**Lane 8" Water Main Project) – Substantial Completion = 90 days plus 30 days for final acceptance.**  
**Alternate Bid No. 1 (Botanical Garden Café and Eatery) – Base Bid duration plus 30 days for substantial completion (if selected).**  
**Obtaining the Bidding Documents**  
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website: [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com)  
Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered

plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. Please submit all questions for this project in writing no later than 7 days prior to bid opening to: **Thomas N. Turk, P.E.** [tnturk@freelandturk.com](mailto:tnturk@freelandturk.com)  
**Pre-bid conference will be held: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 2pm** at the zoom link provided on civcast. **Instructions to Bidders.** For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are

included in the Bidding Documents. Bidders shall submit bids online only at [civcastusa.com](http://civcastusa.com)  
This Advertisement is issued by:  
Owner: City of Sunset Valley, Texas  
By: Matt Lingafelter  
Title: City Administrator

**APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A PACKAGE STORE PERMIT (P) AND A LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR'S PERMIT (LP) ON BEHALF OF JAI**

**HANUMAN MK, LLC DBA SPIRIT SIX, LOCATED AT 2110 W SLAUGHTER LANE., STE 108, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS 78748. KINJAL PATEL AND MAYUR PATEL, MANAGERS.**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Brewer's License

and Winery Permit by St. Elmo Brewing LLC d/b/a St. Elmo Brewing Company, to be located at 8110 Springdale Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78724. The Manager of Applicant is Bryan Winslow.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

for a **MIXED BEVERAGE Permit (MB)** by **MULTIMEX INVESTMENTS LLC dba MIAMI LOUNGE**, to be located at **15505 N INTERSTATE HWY 35, BLDG C, PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660-6456**, Travis County. Principals of said Company are **REHAN KADIWALA, MANAGING MEMBER; IMRAN KAREDA, MANAGING MEMBER; TOSIF DAUVA, MANAGING MEMBER; and BRIANA ROCHA, MANAGING MEMBER.**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Certificate** by **GWP Services LLC d/b/a XO Nightclub**, to be located at **900 E. Braker Lane, Ste. 125, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78753**. The Manager of Applicant is **Gary Perkins**.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **mixed beverage permit** by **The Meteor South Congress, LLC d/b/a The Meteor** located at **2110 S Congress Ave, Suite A, including 2114 S Congress Ave., Austin, Travis County, Texas 78704**. Manager/Member of said company is **F3 Velo, LLC** with **Douglas Zell and Christopher St. Peter** - managers.

Application has been

made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **Mixed Beverage permit with Late Hours certificate** by **KSW Milestone, LLC dba The Terrace** at **Highland Lakes** located at **20552 Highland Lake Drive, Lago Vista, Travis County, Texas 78645**. Manager is **KRP B&B LLC** with **Rusty Keith Walters and Sarah Walters** as managing members of **KRP B&B, LLC**.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **Wine and Beer Retailer's ON Premises (BG) permit** by **JPak BUSINESS, LLC dba GROVE BASKET**, to be located at **3607 South Lamar Blvd, Suite 103, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78704**. Officers of said corporation are **MOIZ ALI - MANAGING MEMBER SHARIF PRASLA - MANAGING MEMBER SHARIF KAROWADIA - MANAGING MEMBER**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a **Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off Premise Permit** by **Aliza Investment LLC dba Courtesy Shell #2, 3906 S. Congress Ave., Austin, Travis County, Texas**. **Moazzam Tank, Managing Member.**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

**Commission for an MB Mixed Beverage Permit and an FB Food and Beverage Certificate** by **99 JADE LLC dba Jade Restaurant, 3801 N Capital of Texas Hwy Suite C200, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78746**. **Darren Yang** is managing member of **99 JADE LLC**.

**BMK SUSHI LLC, Mun K. Bae, Manager/Member** has applied for a **Mixed Beverage Permit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission d/b/a Sushi Hi, 8557 Research Blvd. Ste. 146, Austin, Travis, TX**

**BRTH ANNOUNCEMENT** Danny Kay Polk Jr common law copyright, born 14th of August 1979, alive in the republic of Texas to Mr and Mrs Danny K Polk Sr

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: **D-1-FM-23-007126** To: **SERGIO CORRALES VASQUEZ** and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s): **GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.texaslawhelp.org). YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, **345TH DISTRICT COURT**, Travis County, Texas, at the Civil Family Court Facility of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of Twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the **ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND MOTION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**, filed by: **SELENE YAZMIN REYES BANDA** filed in said court of Travis County, on **SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**, against, **SERGIO VASQUEZ CORRALES** and said suit being number **D-1-FM-23-007126** on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF Y. C. CHILD(REN)".

The nature of said suit is a request to **ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND MOTION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT** of the parties, appoint managing and possessory

conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right. The date and place of birth of the child (children) who is (are) the subject of the suit: **YAZMIN GUADALUPE CORRALES REYES, DOB 01/03/2012**

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, **JANUARY 19, 2024**.

REQUESTED BY: **IRIS A ALBIZU-RIVERA 111 W ANDERSON LN STE D-207 AUSTIN, TX 78752-1143** Velva L. Price  
Travis County District Clerk  
Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF)  
1700 Guadalupe Street, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)  
Austin TX 78701  
**Jimmy Kieke, Deputy**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: **D-1-GN-23-004175** To: **THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF LILLIE H HARDEMAN**

Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: **YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the April 01, 2024, and answer the **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION** of Plaintiff(s), filed in the **455th District Court** of Travis County, Texas, on **August 02, 2023**, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.texaslawhelp.org). Said suit being number **D-1-GN-23-004175**, in which **JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.** Plaintiff(s), **VS. ANDRE HARDEMAN; CEDRIC HARDEMAN; PATRICK HARDEMAN; BYRON HARDEMAN; Defendant(s), ALEX HARDEMAN** and the nature of which said suit is as follows: **Plaintiff is seeking a judicial declaration that, as recourse for default under that one certain voluntary security instrument, it may proceed in accordance with the terms of such security instrument and the Texas Property Code with the non-judicial foreclosure of that certain real property to Wit: LOT N. FOURTEEN 14 BLOCK "B" A. N. MCQUOWN SUBDIVISION, OF THE OUTLOTS THIRTY-TWO (32), THIRTY-THREE (33) AND THIRTY-FOUR (34), DIVISION "C", IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK 4 PAGE 298 PLAT RECORDS**

**OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. TO WHICH MAP OR PLAT REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL PERTINENT PURPOSES."**

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM: PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 15, 2024.

REQUESTED BY: **DONNELLY RACHEL 14841 DALLAS PARKWAY #350 DALLAS, TX 75254** Velva L. Price  
Travis County District Clerk  
Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF)  
1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767)  
Austin, TX 78701  
**Daniel Smith, Deputy**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: **D-1-GN-23-005540**

To: **RYAN LYKE** Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: **YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the April 08, 2024, and answer the **PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION WITH REQUIRED DISCLOSURES** of Plaintiff(s), filed in the **455th District Court** of Travis County, Texas, on **September 13, 2023**, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.texaslawhelp.org). Said suit being number **D-1-GN-23-005540**, in which **STEPHANIE SCHNIZLEIN; DAVE SCHNIZLEIN** Plaintiff(s), **vs. LYKE INDUSTRIES INC; RYAN LYKE** Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: **REQUEST THAT THE COURT DETERMINE DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH A BREACH OF CONTRACT AND VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT.** ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM: **PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION WITH REQUIRED DISCLOSURES** ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 20, 2024.

Velva L. Price  
Travis County District Clerk  
Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF)  
1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767)  
Austin TX 78701  
REQUESTED BY: **PUGH, ADAM 4301 WESTBANK DRIVE, BLDG A, SUITE 150 AUSTIN, TX 78746** Jose Garcia, Deputy

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **BRAD EVERETT NICHOLS, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #2, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-24-000334** **DARRELL NICHOLS** filed an **APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **February 12, 2024**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Brad Everett Nichols**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the **Probate Court #2**, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-24-000334**, styled in **THE ESTATE OF BRAD EVERETT NICHOLS, DECEASED** on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on **this the 14th day of February, 2024**,

**DYANA LIMON-MERCADO** County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas  
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140 Austin, TX 78701  
P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By: **J. JAIMES**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **DONNA WRIGHT ELLISON, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #1, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-24-000323** **Damecka Wright** filed an **APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **February 09, 2024**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Donna Wright Ellison**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the **Probate Court #1**, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-24-000323**, styled in **THE ESTATE OF DONNA WRIGHT ELLISON, DECEASED** on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued,

it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on **this the 14th day of February, 2024**,  
**DYANA LIMON-MERCADO** County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas  
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140 Austin, TX 78701  
P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By: **V. LIMON**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **ESEKIEL URRUTIA, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #1, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-19-002343** **LUCIA URRUTIA AND PAUL A. URRUTIA** filed a **FOURTH AMENDED APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 20, 2023**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **ESEKIEL URRUTIA**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the **Probate Court #1**, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-19-002343**, styled **ESEKIEL URRUTIA** on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on **this the 15th day of February, 2024**,

**DYANA LIMON-MERCADO** County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas  
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140 Austin, TX 78701  
P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By: **S. Munoz**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **HUMBERTO RUBEN TREVINO, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #1, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-23-001750** **YADIRA FUENTES** filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **August 28, 2023**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Humberto Ruben Trevino**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the **Probate Court #1**, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first

Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-23-001750**, styled in **THE ESTATE OF Humberto Ruben Trevino, DECEASED** on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on **this the 18th day of January, 2024**,  
**DYANA LIMON-MERCADO** County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas  
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140 Austin, TX 78701  
P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By: **V. LIMON**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **MARGO ELIZABETH GEORGE AKA MARGO GEORGE, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #1, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-24-000327** **Bakari Jefferson** filed an **Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Dependent Administration-Intestate** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **February 09, 2024**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Margo Elizabeth George aka Margo George**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the **Probate Court #1**, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-24-000327**, styled in **THE ESTATE OF MARGO ELIZABETH GEORGE AKA MARGO GEORGE, DECEASED** on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on **this the 14th day of February, 2024**,

**DYANA LIMON-MERCADO** County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas  
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140 Austin, TX 78701  
P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By: **V. LIMON**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF TEXAS TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF **REEVES JOSEPH GAUTHREUX, DECEASED**

**IN PROBATE COURT #2, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-24-000336** **KYLE JAMES GAUTHREUX** filed an **APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND ISSUANCE**

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