

OCTOBER 2, 2020

THE AUSTIN

VOL. 40 • NO. 5

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CHRONICLE

THE STRESS ISSUE

P. 22



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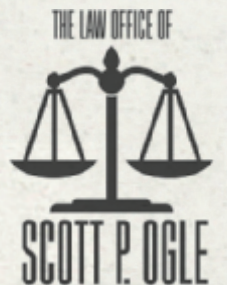
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Welcome to the Stress Issue

A couple months back, I pulled onto I-35 for my weekly trip up north to see family and immediately began leaking tears. Nothing too intense, just a steady drip for a full 40 minutes, and it came out of nowhere. So I asked myself, since there was nobody else to ask: *Why the hell am I crying?*

I sorta already knew the answer – *it's just stress, dummy* – but I wanted to better understand what was going on in my body and what I might do to better cope. And here's the nifty thing about being the editor of a newspaper: When a question occurs to you, one you think may interest your readers too, then you ask some talented reporters to get on the case.

So here we are fashioning a whole issue around the thing that keeps us up at night and jolts us awake in a cold sweat. The *Chronicle* has never done a Stress Issue before, and while it's our habit to stick "first annual" in front of every new special issue, I dearly hope a year from now we'll be publishing the "Isn't It Remarkable How Much Better and More Equitable and Just Plain Chill the World Is Now, Comparatively Speaking?" Issue instead. We shall see. For now, we're focusing our energy on this insane moment in time – one of intense, prolonged, and seemingly universally felt stress. Over the course of a dozen or so stories, we try to explain some of the science behind stress, talk to professionals about what they do to mitigate stress, and offer a host of suggestions for better stress management, some more unconventional than others. (Spoiler alert: werewolf dildos.)

You'd think all this talk about stress would make me grind my teeth even hard-

er, but putting together this issue has been good for my soul. As my colleagues and I have swapped stories about what's working for us – woodworking, running, old-school letter writing, embroidery, *Second Life*, paint-by-number kits, and survivalist reality show binges, to name a few – and had frank conversations about how much we've struggled in our private lives, I know I've felt less alone. I hope our readers find similar solace and solidarity in these pages.

After 13 years in the position, our award-winning Art Director Jason Stout leaves the *Chronicle* this week to devote himself full time to his many artistic pursuits. There's really no overstating the magnitude of Jason's creative contributions to this paper. He's been an absolute wizard at taking tricky concepts and distilling them to their essence, and the work of our editorial staff would not have been as impactful without his inspired art direction. His artistry has set a tone for the paper and a standard of excellence. He's also a wonderful collaborator and a good friend. We're going to miss him terribly. He promises to keep popping up in our pages as a freelancer; his going away party, alas, will have to hold until sometime next year.

The only thing taking the sting out of Jason's departure is that his obvious successor has been sitting a few feet from him for a couple years now. Production Manager/all-around-stellar-human-being Zeke Barbaro's design work has already graced recent Hot Sauce Festival T-shirts, Austin Music Awards posters, and special issues (including this one), and we're all so excited to see him flourish in his new role.



ONLINE THIS WEEK

THE PICTURES DO THE TALKING
Go to austinchronicle.com/photos to check out our latest photo galleries, including David Brendan Hall's tagalong with musician Mobley (and pup Kakashi!) on his curbside concert tour, John Anderson's shots from the Wildflower Center's annual Fortlandia interactive exhibit, and Jana Birchum's images from Sunday's community celebration of Evergreen Cemetery, a historically Black cemetery in East Austin, after the site was vandalized.



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

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TELL THE MAYOR AND AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL TO SAVE THE "LIVE MUSIC" CAPITAL

"IF THERE IS NO MONEY, THERE IS NO MUSIC"

DO NOT WASTE MONEY TO EXPAND THE CONVENTION CENTER

Ask them to reallocate Item 95's dollars & commit that funding to Item 62!

Live music, funky retail shops, art events & hyperlocal restaurants drives Austin's tourism boom and is the main reason there is a \$230 million "convention center reserve" fund to begin with.

6.3 million dollars was approved in a closed door meeting by City Council. Item 95 is the first step of the planned multi-million dollar Convention Center expansion, an unnecessary expansion for a Convention Center that loses, roughly, \$1 million per major event and is responsible for only 2% of Austin tourists & 3% of annual hotel room stays.

**Don't let the bureaucrats waste the \$230 million stockpiled in City Tourism funds.
Put up or Shut up Now!**

Support local businesses that created and sustained the "Live Music" capital of the world!

Call the Mayor and City Council Members!

Mayor	Steve Adler	steve.adler@austintexas.gov	512-978-2100
District 1 Council Member	Natasha Harper-Madison	natasha.madison@austintexas.gov	512-978-2101
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RE: WHITWORTH OP-ED

Dear Editor,

[David] Whitworth's attempt to malign Kathie Tovo, Leslie Pool, and Alison Alter because they support single-family zoning is shameful ["Time to Look in the Mirror on Housing," Opinion, Sept. 11]. Likening them to racist right-wing conservative gun-brandishing suburbanites is offensive and "Trumpian."

Whitworth implies that he's a "card-carrying Democrat" because he supports elimination of single-family zoning in broad areas of the city. According to data from the Texas Ethics Commission, he apparently donated six times to the Texas REALTORS Political Action Committee between 2014 and 2016.

Transparency USA website shows that Texas REALTORS Political Action Committee has apparently donated \$50,000 each to Texans for Dan Patrick and Texans for Greg Abbott! Whitworth's attempt to portray himself as a liberal progres-

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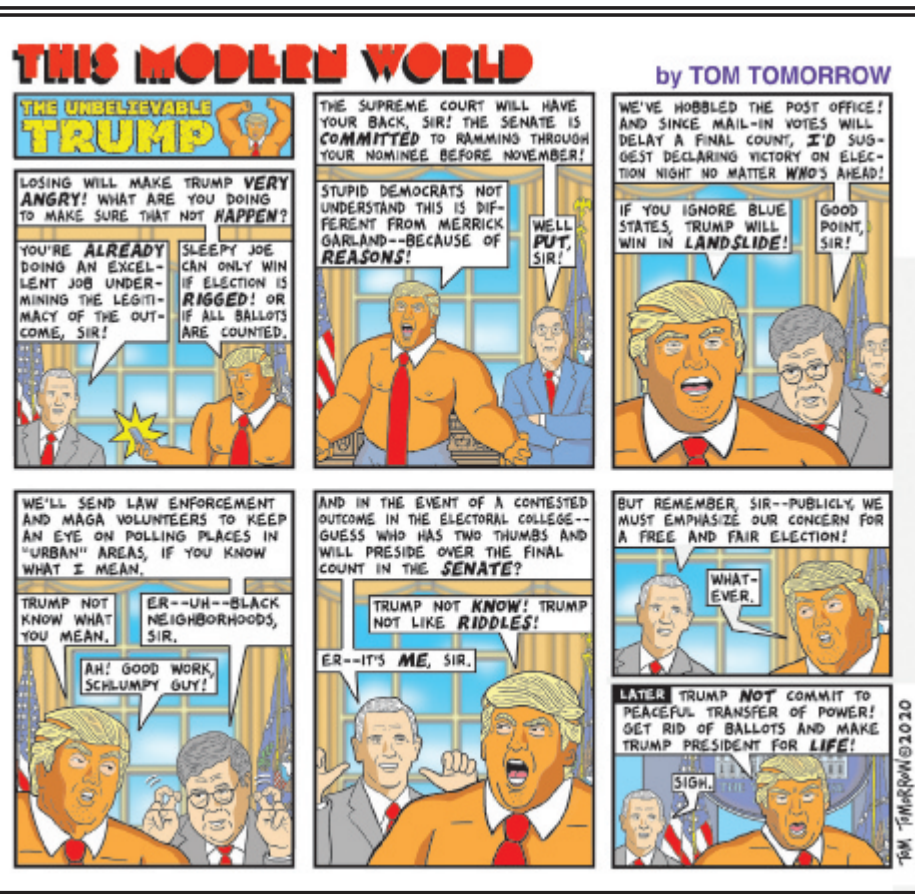
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sive is disingenuous and self-serving.

As a realtor and director and president of the David Whitworth Development Company, Whitworth has direct financial interest in the proposed massive upzoning of single-family neighborhoods in Central Austin.

David King

OOPS! Lake Wood is no longer accessible from Lake Wood Park as stated in last week's "Day Trips." After a spill gate failure in 2016, the lake level dropped to the original river channel. "The lake is just gone," said Patty Gonzales, communications manager for Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. The park area below the dam is still open to the public.



OPINION VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

EVEN POST-COVID, A-F SCHOOL RANKING SYSTEM SHOULD GET AN F

For the last two years, alongside first-day photos and school supplies shopping, a big part of the back-to-school season here in Texas has been the release of the Texas Education Agency's A-F school rankings. Designed by the administration of current Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath, the ostensible purpose of these rankings has been to give parents, taxpayers, and homeowners an easy way to rank and compare the performance of our public schools as we decide where to send our children to school or where to buy a home.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the A-F ranking and evaluation of schools was suspended in 2020, as was the STAAR exam which forms a significant portion of the A-F system's evaluation criteria. If you go on the accountability section of TEA's website today, you will see a one-sentence explanation that "All districts and campuses are labeled Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster for 2020."

As a parent of public school children, a former public school teacher, and a current professor of educational leadership and policy at a public university, I was heartened by this. In the two years that these rankings have been in effect, I have seen them used to make decisions that have had serious and punitive impacts on those schools most in need of support.

Part of what is most dangerous about the A-F system is its simplicity, which can overlook or mask important contextual differences between schools and their communities.

While I have focused my career on studying the policy impacts of accountability structures and grades, the arbitrary and capricious nature of the A-F grading system is pretty recognizable to anyone who has been subjected to it.

When I was between my sophomore and junior years in high school, my family moved to Austin from out of state and my parents and I went through the process of transferring my records into Austin ISD.

My previous high school had used the A-F letter grade system, while AISD graded secondary subjects on a 0-100 scale.

As is still AISD policy today, there was a chart used to convert these grades – that is, all A's transferred in as 96s, all A-minuses as 92s, and so on. In my previous district, there were no pluses or minuses, so anything above a 90 was an A. While I had straight A's, I had hardly gotten a 96 or higher in all of my high school courses. As a result, I experienced some serious grade inflation and automatically jumped pretty high in our class rankings simply by virtue of moving school districts.

While on one level I of course selfishly liked this, as it gave me a big leg up in preparing my college applications, that "big leg up" was not earned in any way. My performance in my previous classes had not changed. My understanding of ninth-grade English or world history had not changed. But my grades had – and as a result I was suddenly perceived as smarter and more competitive to prospective colleges. The simplicity of a system that gauged my learning on a scale of five options (A, B, C, D, F) now seemed overly simplistic and somewhat arbitrary.

An A-F system for grading schools and school systems is just as simplistic and arbitrary as an A-F system for grading students. Just as privileged students (like I was) experience grade inflation, the A-F rankings of privileged schools are inflated by contextual benefits, like richer neighborhoods, which have

larger PTA budgets and produce a higher property tax base. On the other hand, just as minoritized students can have their high school careers derailed by punitively negative grades, so can the schools serving those students be derailed by high-stakes accountability policies when their A-F rankings drop for reasons outside their control.

Of all the policies COVID-19 is causing us to reconsider this year, let's put the A-F school rankings system at the top of the list. ■

BY ROLF STRAUBHAAR

An A-F system for grading schools and school systems is just as simplistic and arbitrary as an A-F system for grading students.

Rolf Straubhaar is an assistant professor of educational leadership and school improvement at Texas State University. He lives in San Marcos with his wife and five children, who attend local San Marcos public schools. The *Chronicle* welcomes submissions of opinion pieces on any topic from the community. Find guidelines and tips at austinchronicle.com/contact/opinion.

VOTE FOR PROPOSITION A

RELAX TRAFFIC! FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE!

PROP A WILL FUND PROJECT CONNECT —

a long-term investment in a transportation system for all parts of the City, to address traffic congestion, expand service for essential workers, reduce climate change emissions, decrease traffic fatalities, create jobs, and provide access to schools, health care, jobs, and the airport.



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November General Election

We're bringing you our recommendations earlier than in the past, since voting – for those of you using mail ballots – has already begun, and early voting starts earlier than ever. We'll still have plenty of election coverage coming your way between now and November; visit austinchronicle.com/elections for more information on the contests and on how – and when – you need to voice your choice, as well as a streamlined version of these endorsements.

Partisan Races: The Democrats

Surprise! No, seriously, this needs to happen. If the court decision reviving straight-ticket voting (as of this writing stayed at the appellate level) becomes unstayed by the time you vote, you can save some time. But you need to do it.

Election results for most of the *Chronicle's* history have told us that most Austinites are prepared to do this without our recommendation. But many of you do carp about it, preferring to think of yourself as independent voters, or (legitimately) feeling the Democratic Party takes your support for granted as it gestures toward the center. In other election cycles, we have entertained the thought that

some GOP incumbents might not be that bad, or Democratic candidates not all that great, and been less adamant about the imperative to vote-blue, no-matter-who.

There aren't such choices on your ballot this year – there are, sadly, some unopposed candidates who should not be. In any event, now is not the time for contemplating a pragmatic bipartisanship, let alone abstaining from the vote, when our house is on fire. The decadent and depraved Republican regime, in D.C. and at our own Capitol, is actively destroying lives and communities and fortunes and futures for no good reason, and elevating juvenile posturing and bullshit to

the place where the party used to have values that one could acknowledge even when not sharing them. It's not even succeeding at its time-tested mission of securing the wealth and power of white America anymore; nothing it does can or should be used as a model for how we should govern ourselves.

With the stakes growing more existential with every passing WTF day, it's not going to get any better. Now is the time to call an end to this tragic travesty; yes, Democratic power does not guarantee an end to the poverty and inequity and mistreatment and suffering and violence and death, but it's the only place to start.

President/Vice President: **Joe Biden/Kamala Harris**

U.S. Senate: **MJ Hegar**

U.S. Congress, District 10: **Mike Slegel**

U.S. Congress, District 17: **Rick Kennedy**

U.S. Congress, District 21: **Wendy Davis**

U.S. Congress, District 25: **Julie Oliver**

U.S. Congress, District 31: **Donna Imam**

U.S. Congress, District 35: **Lloyd Doggett (I)**

Railroad Commissioner: **Chrysta Castaneda**

Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court: **Amy Clark Meachum**

Supreme Court, Place 6 (Unexpired Term): **Kathy Cheng**

Supreme Court, Place 7: **Staci Williams**

Supreme Court, Place 8: **Gisela Triana**

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3: **Elizabeth Davis Fritzell**

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4: **Tina Clinton**

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9: **Brandon Birmingham**

State Board of Education, D. 5: **Rebecca Bell-Metereau**

State Board of Education, D. 10: **Marsha Burnett-Webster**

State Senator, District 21: **Judith Zaffirini**

State Senator, District 24: **Clayton Tucker**

State Rep., District 45: **Erin Zwiener (I)**

State Rep., District 47: **Vikki Goodwin (I)**

State Rep., District 48: **Donna Howard (I)**

State Rep., District 49: **Gina Hinojosa (I)**

State Rep., District 50: **Celia Israel (I)**

State Rep., District 51: **Eddie Rodriguez (I)**

State Rep., District 52: **James Talarico (I)**

State Rep., District 136: **John Bucy III (I)**

Chief Justice, Third Court of Appeals: **Darlene Byrne**

District Judge, 460th Judicial District: **Selena Alvarenga**

District Attorney: **José Garza**

County Judge (Unexpired Term): **Andy Brown**

County Court-at-Law #9: **Kim Williams (I)**

Sheriff: **Sally Hernandez (I)**

Tax Assessor-Collector: **Bruce Elfant (I)**

County Commissioner, Pct. 1: **Jeff Travillion (I)**

County Commissioner, Pct. 3: **Ann Howard**

CITY COUNCIL

District 2: David Chincanchan

When Mayor Pro Tem (soon to be County Attorney) Delia Garza announced last November she was stepping down from Council, David Chincanchan and Vanessa Fuentes soon began their campaigns; they remain the leaders in the four-way race to represent Southeast Austin's D2. (Also on the ballot is community advocate Casey Ramos, who ran unsuccessfully against Garza in 2016; former mayoral candidate Alex Strenger is a hard pass.)

Chincanchan and Fuentes share many of Garza's progressive priorities, and both are focused on similar policy goals to address D2's most pressing issues: food insecurity, flooding, transportation infrastructure, displacement. The question is who would be more effective in achieving those goals. We recognize Fuentes' work as a health policy advocate at the American Heart Association, and she is clearly a strong and credible candidate. But Chincanchan's extensive experience at City Hall, in local politics, and in the Southeast Austin neighborhoods where he was born and raised gives him a clear edge.

A former aide to both U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett and D3 Council Member Pio Renteria, Chincanchan's institutional knowledge offers him a head start as he navigates the city's most vexing concerns and City Hall's most bureaucratic procedures. We believe his proven talent for policy detail will allow him to lead successfully and advocate forcefully on behalf of D2 constituents in the immediate future as well as in the long term, as the promised Tesla "gigafactory" and other major projects spur a Southeast development boom.

District 4: Greg Casar

We endorse incumbent Greg Casar as he seeks a third term representing Northeast Austin. As in his 2016 Council reelection, Casar enjoys a groundswell of well-earned support from across the community in this campaign (once again facing Louis Herrin III).

CONTINUED ON P.10

VOTING BY MAIL • ANSWERS TO YOUR VBM QUESTIONS

Starting the Process

Q: How do I vote by mail?

A: To vote by mail, you must first apply for a ballot. The Travis Co. Elections Division only sends out applications or ballots on specific request from a voter who's eligible due to being over 65 years old or claiming a disability.

Q: How do I apply for a ballot?

A: Download a ballot application at the Travis County Clerk's Office elections VBM webpage: countyclerk.traviscountytx.gov/elections/ballot-by-mail; or an editable PDF version at the Texas secretary of state's website: webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrrequest/bbm.asp. Print the application; fill it out; and then mail, fax, or email it to the Travis County clerk (see below).

Q: How do I apply for a ballot if I don't have access to a printer?

A: The Travis County clerk's website has specific instructions for how to request a mail ballot in a letter. You may also request a ballot application online at the Texas secretary of state's website, and one will be mailed to you. But time is tight.

Q: I've already voted by mail in another election this year. Do I need to apply for a ballot again?

A: If you checked "Annual Application" in box 6a, then you have applied for a ballot for each election in the calendar year, including any run-offs. If you opted to receive a ballot for only a certain election, then you will need to apply for a ballot again. If you're unsure, check your status on the clerk's website. If you're eligible for VBM due to being out of the country or in jail, you must submit an application for each election.

Q: What's the deadline for applying for a ballot? If I've applied for a ballot, when can I expect to receive it?

A: For the November election, the last day to request a ballot by mail is Fri., Oct 23 (received at the clerk's office, not postmarked). According to the clerk's office, ballots were to be mailed out this week.

Q: I've filled out my ballot application – how/where do I send it?

A: You may submit your application by mail, email, or fax, but if you submit it by fax or email, it must also be sent by mail and received in the county clerk's office within four business days of your electronic submission. Email: ebbm@traviscountytx.gov. Fax: 512/854-3969.

Mail: Dana DeBeauvoir
Travis County Clerk – Elections Division
PO Box 149325
Austin, TX 78714-9325

Submitting Your Ballot

Q: I've received my ballot and I've filled it out. What's the deadline for turning it in?

A: The deadline for sending in your actual ballot is Nov. 3, postmarked; and Nov. 4, received. Mail to the address above, or hand-deliver to the Travis County Clerk's Office, 5501 Airport Blvd., or to drive-through locations at the 700 Lavaca St. parking garage and 1010 Lavaca St. parking lot through Election Day, Nov. 3.

Q: If I apply for a ballot, can I still vote in person if I so decide? If so, what steps do I need to take?

A: Yes. If you already received a ballot, you may bring it to an early voting polling location to surrender it to an early voting clerk. There, you'll sign a form requesting cancellation of the ballot by mail and then vote normally at the polls. If you don't bring the mail ballot, you'll have to sign an affidavit saying you didn't mark and mail in the ballot; you'll then vote provisionally.

Q: How do I vote if I don't receive my ballot in time?

A: You'll need to go to a polling location and fill out an affidavit (see above).

FOR MORE INFO, GO TO AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/ELECTIONS

NO INTEREST MAJOR SELLOUT LAST CALL ONCE IN A LIFETIME GOING FAST

FOR SALE

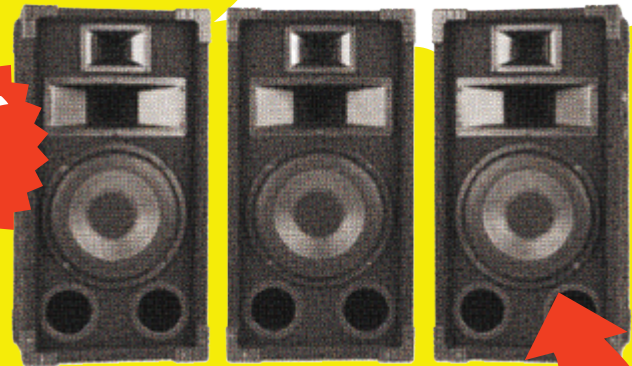
BY AUSTIN

EVERYTHING
MUST GO!

LIVE MUSIC VENUES

BELOVED CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
OUR LOSS IS YOUR...LOSS

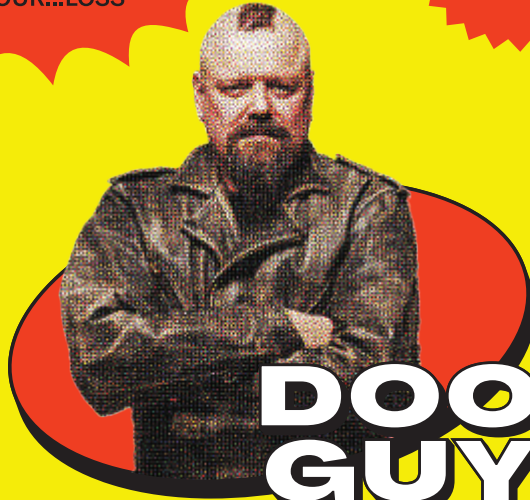
DON'T
WAIT



SOUND SYSTEMS

RELIVE OLD MEMORIES *AT HOME!*

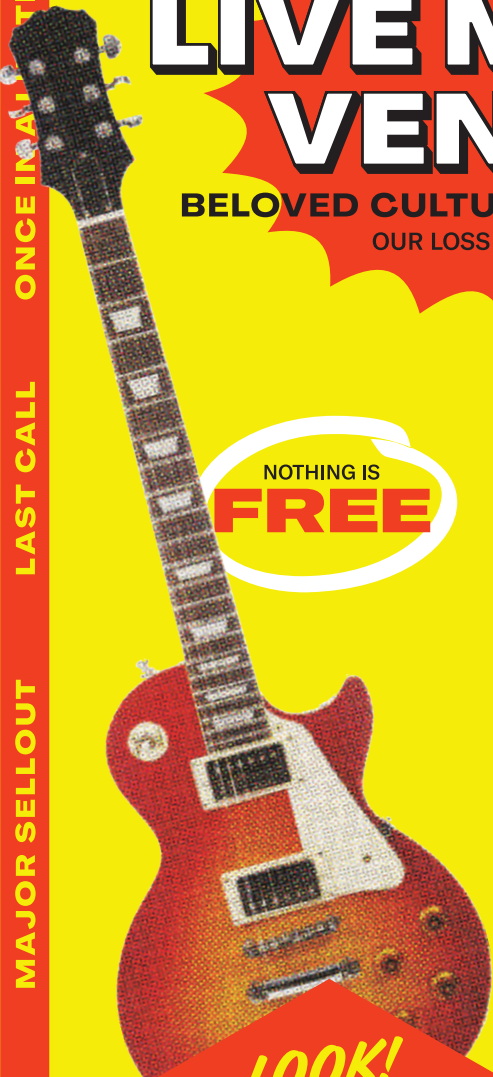
NOTHING IS
FREE



DOOR GUYS

"GRUMPY TEDDY BEARS"

HURRY!
THE CLOCK
IS TICKING!



LOOK!
**SO MANY
GUITARS!**

STRINGS ATTACHED!

**SERVERS!
BARTENDERS!
COOKS!**

*IF SUPPLIES LAST

MICROPHONES
MICROPHONES
MICROPHONES
MICROPHONES
MICROPHONES



LET YOUR
VOICE BE HEARD

FORSALEBYAUSTIN.COM

GOING FAST ONCE IN A LIFETIME LAST CALL MAJOR SELLOUT NO INTEREST

GOING FAST ONCE IN A LIFETIME LAST CALL MAJOR SELLOUT NO INTEREST

NO INTEREST MAJOR SELLOUT LAST CALL ONCE IN A LIFETIME GOING FAST

ENDORSEMENTS CONTINUED FROM P.8

Casas has led the fight on many of Austin's highest-profile political issues since 2014 – mandatory paid sick leave, lifting Austin's camping ban, and “reimagining public safety” by demanding needed revisions to the police contract and authoring the Council plan to reallocate funds from Austin's police force to better and more equitably delivered services.

District 6: Jimmy Flannigan (I)

Jimmy Flannigan is the clear choice for voters in Northwest Austin. Representing the purplest and most suburban Council district, Flannigan has shown his commitment to progressive principles by leading on issues like criminal justice reform. He's taken hard votes that he thinks reflect the true views of many in his misunderstood district; this race is putting that thesis to the test.

In June 2019, Flannigan joined the Council majority and loosened restrictions on sitting, lying, and camping in public. This has made the experience of homelessness less fraught for thousands of Austinites living in extreme poverty, but many of their housed neighbors would rather not have to see those challenges in real time. Those votes, to some degree, inspired all three of Flannigan's challengers to run against him.

As chair of Council's Public Safety Committee, Flannigan has played a key role both publicly and behind the scenes as Austin aims to “reimagine public safety” – another issue that reflects his commitment to principle over political comfort. Now that City Hall has embarked on this path, Flannigan's leadership and attention to detail will be invaluable to ensure a transition to a police department that keeps all of Austin safe and treats all of Austin well.

Of his opponents, Dr. Jennifer Mushtaler has the most to offer, particularly as Austin continues to navigate its way out of a pandemic. That alone is not enough to warrant unseating an incumbent who has been dedicated and successful at his work and enthusiastic about his service. Flannigan's brash, sometimes antagonistic approach on the dais can cross the line into bullying without him always realizing it. But no one can doubt his preparedness and commitment on issues facing D6 and Austin.

District 7: Leslie Pool (I)

We offer our endorsement to incumbent Leslie Pool for another term serving this Central and North Austin district. She's been most identified with her positions on land use, as one of the four members who has opposed proposed revisions to the Land Development Code and supported the right of homeowners to protest rezonings under the new LDC. But she's also been a solid council voice on issues that go hand-in-hand with LDC revision as tools for creating a

more equitable and resilient city – environmental and resource management, public safety, and transportation. (Even though she led Council opposition to Austin FC's deal with the city to build a stadium at McKalla Place in D7, she's also been a champion of Project Connect's plan for a rail station serving the site.)

Lone challenger Morgan Witt, who comes from an education background, is a political newcomer whose campaign focus has been primarily on Pool's land-use record. We agree with Witt that younger Austinites and renters, who make up more than half of city residents, need to be better represented in Council's land-use debates, including by Pool. But the incumbent remains our clear choice.

District 10: Alison Alter, Pooja Sethi (dual endorsement)

D10 in Central and West Austin includes a number of different and important communities of interest and has drawn the most contenders (seven) of the Council races on this year's ballot. Voters have two strong and distinct choices in the incumbent Alison Alter, and Pooja Sethi.

Drawing on her academic background, Alter has proven to be a studious representative, coming to meetings and staff briefings prepared with probing questions. In 2019, she spearheaded an ongoing third-party audit of how the Austin Police Department has (mis)handled sexual assault cases, and in the fiscal year 2021 budget, she secured funding for two new ambulances for Austin-Travis County EMS, along with more medics to staff them. Alter voted against easing the ordinance prohibiting public camping in 2019, out of concern that the city did not have the strategies and services in place to reduce homelessness. She has focused on those efforts since, such as the city's purchasing motels to convert into supportive housing.

Sethi is the strongest challenger in any of the four Council races featuring incumbents, and we believe D10 voters would be well represented by her as well as Alter. An immigration attorney who has spent time during the pandemic organizing and delivering meals to people without homes, Sethi would bring perspective and experience that's currently not found on Council. Her work on the city task forces that examined systemic racism and envisioned the Office of Police Oversight would be an asset as Council “reimagines public safety.” She has also served on the city's Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission since 2015, where she recently helped shape the city's pandemic relief funding efforts. As a South Asian woman and only the second Asian American to serve on Council, Sethi would give voice to one of Austin's fastest-growing and increasingly politically active communities.

CITY PROPOSITIONS**Proposition A (Project Connect): For Proposition B (Active Mobility): For**

For the decades since Capital Metro was formed in 1985, it's been trying to take Austin transit to a next level, and Austin has caddishly refused to commit. We've run out of time and excuses to keep pretending our mobility problems will solve themselves, or that alternatives to a clearly failed roads-first system would not be popular or successful. Many thousands of people who've made Austin their home are aghast that we had the chance 20 years ago to approve a rail system that would be a well-established fixture of urban life right now, and we biffed it. A handful of the exact same people who killed transit then are still trying to kill this much larger and more ambitious plan – one that's scaled to make up that lost 20 years – precisely because it's now So Big. And of course because they'd never use it, because they see driving alone as a civil right, rather than a privilege, let alone as the oppressive burden it actually is to myriad Central Texans. They're, if anything, even more averse to spending money on active mobility – sidewalks, bike infrastructure, trails, as well as important safety and environmental improvements – which they see as recreation rather than transportation. Our city's income segregation, inequitable distribution of infrastructure and access to public services, and still-much-too-large carbon footprint all tell a different story. It's time for us to get going.

AISD BOARD**District 2: John McKiernan-Gonzalez**

Texas State professor McKiernan-Gonzalez is the “newcomer” among the three candidates in Southeast Austin's D2, but he brings a clarity of vision and specific policy ideas that we think will serve the district best. Both he and veteran activist and Austin Interfaith board member Ofelia Zapata would be a big change from unpopular incumbent Jayme Mathias, who's become best known for backing school closures – including two in D2. Zapata hasn't been able to campaign much, but her history of community advocacy and work at D2's Eastside Memorial High School is unparalleled; the third candidate, Adolphus “Andy” Anderson, is also a longtime AISD volunteer and ran against Mathias in 2016. However, we think McKiernan-Gonzalez offers the most compelling vision for specific, radical change at AISD. Inspired to run by his opposition to the “School Changes” process, he has prioritized dual-language and special education in his campaign and spoken to the ways systemic racism has shaped

Austin. His outspoken advocacy for the needs of AISD's most vulnerable students and its most disadvantaged district would be a welcome addition to the board.

District 3: Kevin Foster

A UT-Austin professor and educational anthropologist, Foster is running unopposed for the seat currently held by Ann Teich.

District 5: Lynn Boswell

All three candidates in the race to succeed departing trustee Amber Elenz have similar policy goals – focusing on better communication and more equity in West Austin's District 5. Jennifer Littlefield, who served on the Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee (FABPAC) responsible for 2017's \$1 billion bond package, has an encyclopedic knowledge of AISD's mechanisms and funding processes, including the school consolidation recommendations that started with her committee. Piper Stege Nelson, a communications manager at SAFE, easily rattles off the problems with AISD's messaging and engagement. However, Boswell combines time as an AISD volunteer and president of the Austin Council of PTAs with demonstrated success as an advocate for young people and education in other contexts. Her work to abolish the juvenile curfew, to eliminate Capital Metro fares for K-12 students, and to sway the Legislature with Just Fund It TX show she has the chops to raise AISD's issues – maybe even recapture reform – with those who can help make change happen, in a way that the trustees have been lacking for a while.

District 8: Noelita Lugo

We think all four of the candidates for the open districtwide seat being vacated by Cindy Anderson would be assets to the board and AISD. We're endorsing Lugo's combination of passionate advocacy for AISD families during the controversial School Changes process – which closed her children's school, Pease Elementary – with professional policy expertise and commitment to equity and anti-racism. Leticia Caballero, who served as a tri-chair of FABPAC and leads the philanthropic Austin Ed Fund, is a well-versed district volunteer with an understanding of its financial challenges. Mike Herschenfeld, a policy wonk from Massachusetts, has based his campaign on a radical promise to abolish all school boundaries. And Jared Breckenridge, a 25-year-old AISD graduate and substitute teacher, has emphasized the student voice with an admirable campaign run entirely by current AISD students. While we think Lugo is the best candidate for the job, we encourage her to take on the issues and listen to the insights of her fellow candidates – all of which deserve serious consideration by the board.

RE-ELECT

ALISON
ALTER

CITY COUNCIL ★ 10

“As your representative, I have worked hard every day to improve our neighborhoods and our city. I have led efforts to combat the climate crisis, reform our sexual assault response system, and provide support to those most affected by the pandemic. There is more work to do. Vote for me so that I can continue fighting for you at City Hall.”

Alison B Alter



Pol. adv. paid by Alison Alter Campaign. This campaign has not agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Ordinance.

— Proudly —
ENDORSED BY

CLUBS & ORGS

Austin Environmental Democrats
West Austin Democrats
Central Austin Democrats
NXNW Democrats
Capital Area Progressive Democrats
Austin Tejano Democrats
Liberal Austin Democrats
AFSCME Local 1624
Austin Central Labor Council
Austin EMS Association
Education Austin
Unite Here! Local 23

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Congressman Lloyd Doggett
Commissioner Brigid Shea
Commissioner Jeff Travillion
Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Kathie Tovo

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rep. Sheryl Cole
Rep. Donna Howard
Rep. Eddie Rodriguez
Hon. Nora Comstock
Hon. Cindy Anderson
Hon. Kristin Ashy
Hon. Ann Teich
Hon. Velva Price

FORMER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hon. Cecilia Burke
Hon. Frank Cooksey
Hon. Jackie Goodman
Hon. Sherri Greenberg
Hon. Beverly Griffith
Hon. Laura Morrison
Hon. Paul Saldaña
Hon. Max Sherman
Hon. Bill Spelman

VOTE EARLY OCT. 13 - 30

ALISONALTER.COM

ELECTION DAY NOV. 3, 2020

“Will you shut up, man?”

— Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, in his retort to President Donald Trump’s interruptions during the first presidential debate Sept. 29



HEADLINES

INDICTMENT IN AMBLER CASE A **Williamson County** grand jury has indicted Sheriff **Robert Chody** on an evidence tampering charge in the destruction of video and audio recordings in connection to the 2019 death of **Javler Ambler**. Ambler, who was pulled over for not dimming his headlights, died after WilCo sheriff’s deputies repeatedly shot him with a stun gun despite Ambler’s cries that he had congestive heart failure and couldn’t breathe. A camera crew from A&E reality show **Live PD** rode along with deputies that night, but show reps claim they destroyed the footage. Former WilCo general counsel **Jason Nassour** was also indicted on an evidence tampering charge in relation to the case.

WILL SAVES SAVE? City staffers have proposed \$15 million in funds for the **Save Austin’s Vital Economic Sectors (SAVES)** resolution, which seeks to provide financial aid to local child care providers, music and arts venues, restaurants, and bars impacted by the coronavirus crisis. **City Council** is expected to vote on the proposals today (Oct. 1). See more on p.20.

YOU’RE SO GONNA VOTE The deadline to register to vote in the November election is **Mon., Oct. 5** (early voting runs Oct. 13-30). Need an already printed application? See p.21. Applications must be postmarked or received by Oct. 5.

COUNTY APPROVES BUDGETS Earlier this week the **Travis County Commissioners Court** approved the county’s \$1.3 billion budget for fiscal year 2021. Commissioners also approved **Central Health’s** \$367 million budget, which includes a \$20 million increase from the current fiscal year to pay for health care services for low-income Travis County residents.

DOJ LRMV SETTLEMENTS On Monday, the **U.S. Department of Justice** announced more than \$16.5 million in settlements in legal actions against the bankrupt former **Lakeway Regional Medical Center LLC** and several of the private hospital’s initial investors. See more online.

CYCLE OF CHANGE Nonprofit **Bike Share of Austin’s** bike-share system, **B-Cycle**, is being rebranded to **“MetroBike”** under a new management partnership between the nonprofit, the city, and **Capital Metro**. When purchasing tickets through Cap Metro’s mobile app, residents are now able to purchase passes to use public transit and the bicycles together.

SPLISH-SPLASH As of Sept. 26, **Barton Springs** and **Deep Eddy** pools have reopened on modified schedules after being closed for months due to the pandemic. **Big Stacy**, **Bartholomew**, and **Springwoods** pools have also resumed modified operations. No reservations are required, but capacity limits are enforced.



Black community leaders and organizations gathered Sunday, Sept. 27, to celebrate Evergreen Cemetery, a historically Black cemetery at the corner of East 12th and Airport Boulevard, after the site was vandalized. More than a dozen headstones were spray-painted with graffiti in Austin’s first major municipal cemetery for Black residents. The Austin Police Department is investigating the vandalism.

JANA BIRCHUM

If We Make It 'Til November

How noisy, chaotic, incoherent, and unpleasant can this election cycle get?

At the beginning of August, I used this space to encourage y’all to chill out and not freak out about the prospect of Trumpageddon and instead be buoyed by the good and improving chances of a cleansing Bluenami. Two WTF months later, that advice no longer seems so comforting, even to me. Not that next month’s contests have shifted that much — Democratic odds from Biden on down have, if anything, improved. But the prospect of four more weeks, let alone four more years, of President Apesh*t and his scat-flinging fans and stans is enough to make one convulse, especially when those four weeks include the tragic travesty of

saying farewell to not just one of the icons of American jurisprudence, but to a disturbingly large part of her legacy.

Yes, our lives and rights and planet are all on the line, and you are right to be disgusted by our current circumstance. I hope that makes it easier for most of us to do what’s necessary to change the regime, but anxiety, depression, trauma — it’s all real. Take care of yourselves so we can take care of business. (Lots of good advice here in the Stress Issue!)

DROP IT LIKE IT’S HOT

This is the earliest we’ve run our endorsements that I can remember; we usually

time them for the beginning of early voting, which is itself a week earlier than normal this year under Gov. Greg Abbott’s COVID-related election orders. But with tens of thousands of mail ballots being requested, many of you may have yours already, and the earlier you return them, the better. We’ll keep you informed on the latest election shenanigans in case things change, which they might.

But to be honest, you probably didn’t need to wait for us anyway, because our endorsements are in line with others this cycle and with our long-standing priorities. We want City Hall to stay the course, because we support the work it’s doing. We want Austin ISD to completely change

CONTINUED ON P.14

AUSTIN AT LARGE
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON



TEACHERS, FORMER AISD TRUSTEES, AND DEMOCRATS AGREE:

JENNIFER LITTLEFIELD IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR DISTRICT 5 TRUSTEE

“I am a consensus builder and problem solver who welcomes a challenge. I have the knowledge of the district, the policy experience, and the proven record of community-led decision making that is needed to be an effective leader on the AISD Board of Trustees.”

Jennifer Littlefield

ENDORSED BY

FORMER AISD OFFICIALS

- **Amber Elenz**
AUSTIN ISD TRUSTEE D5
- **Kendall Pace**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD BOARD PRESIDENT
- **Kathy Rider**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD BOARD PRESIDENT
- **Vince Torres**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD BOARD PRESIDENT
- **Mark Williams**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD BOARD PRESIDENT
- **John Fitzpatrick**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD TRUSTEE
- **Nicole Conley**
FORMER AUSTIN ISD CFO

ORGANIZATIONS & CLUBS

- Austin Association of Texas Professional Educators
- Austin Environmental Democrats
- Austin Tejano Democrats
- South Austin Democrats

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- **Sheryl Cole**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
- **Greg Casar**
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
- **Paige Ellis**
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
- **Ann Kitchen**
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
- **Stacy Suits**
TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE
- **Hon. Ben Barnes**
- **Hon. Lee Leffingwell**
- **Hon. Glen Maxey**
- **Hon. Garry Mauro**
- **Hon. Mike Martinez**
- **Hon. Ken Oden**
- **Hon. Chris Riley**

Jennifer Littlefield

FOR AISD DISTRICT 5

- ✦ **Experience to Lead**
- ✦ **AISD Parent**
- ✦ **AISD Boundary Advisory Committee**
- ✦ **AISD Facility and Bond Planning Advisory Committee**
- ✦ **Texas Legislative Experience**
- ✦ **Elementary, Middle and High School Volunteer**
- ✦ **Experienced Attorney**

WWW.JENNIFERFORAISD.COM

Pd. pol. adv. by the Jennifer Littlefield Campaign, Elizabeth Kalbacher, Treasurer.

Vote Early **OCT. 13 - OCT. 30**
Election Day **NOV. 3, 2020**

AUSTIN AT LARGE CONTINUED FROM P.12
direction, because it is at a historic low point of credibility, trust, and influence, and our young people deserve better. We have always wanted the region to invest more in mobility alternatives to driving alone. And we think voting Democratic in partisan races is the only real option, given the scope of GOP failure and perfidy, although we fully intend to hold our new blue leaders accountable.

This all seems inevitable to me, given the intense pressure the body politic is under from all sides. The status quo is a hot mess and the future it augurs is a nightmare. The City Council has stretched itself toward big structural change because they are currently the only exponent of Austinites' aspirations and energies, and thus incumbents who've taken positions that were radioactive back in 2014, when we debuted the 10-1 council, are now running for reelection with not much sweat. The likelihood of major Democratic gains at the state level is near 100% – it's just a question of how far they go – because other Texans want some of that change for themselves. None of this is all that speculative.

But we still need to get across the finish line in November, and the only thing passing as "strategy" from those who oppose us is to make these last four weeks as noisy, chaotic, incoherent, and unpleasant as possible. That's not a bad strategic position to take when you're the *challenger* – harassment, asymmetrical warfare, guerrilla action, whatever you want to call it, are classically the province of the Rebel Alliance, not the evil Empire. For it to be the de facto campaign plan of the people in power is very unusual and instructive.

WHY ARE YOU YELLING?

I mean more here than the usual disinformation and clumsiness, though sadly often effective, deployment of the weapons of voter suppression. Those are old news, and none of it is taking anybody by surprise. And our president is, well, apesh*t, so him

acting as he did in this week's "debate" is also unsurprising. His goal is to project dominance and force everyone to pay attention to him, and it worked.

Or it would have worked, if the race were closer and he hadn't overcooked everyone's grits about three years ago. The striking thing about anti-progressive messaging in this cycle is how completely over-the-top it has become. Sure, we know how it evolved that way – Fox News, talk radio, Trump's Twitter, closed Facebook loops, and other machines that generate lots of heat and not much light. The tenor of political dialogue has been set on "fulminate" and cranked up to 11 for a while.

But that all evolved when the MAGAs and their kin were in *opposition* to the Black President, and the Democrat before him, and their Nasty Women friends and relations. They're in charge now! Why are they yelling? Do they not have anything they can say about their tenure in office, or their plans for the future, that isn't saturated in performative anger? I thought it was the left that, in their view, was unreasonable and made people uncomfortable. If Donald Trump or Sid Miller or Allan West sat next to you on the bus, you would change seats.

By contrast, the Texas Democrats who gathered at their annual (now virtual, of course) Johnson-Jordan Dinner were anything but somber and fearful, even amid the frightening and heartbreaking news of every day. That news tells its own story; nobody needs to be educated on why 2020 is terrible, and things can only get better. So the speakers – including Hillary Clinton and Pete Buttigieg, along with Hasan Minhaj (ironically, the comedian was the most downbeat of all who spoke) – didn't need to linger on the disaster porn. Instead, they got to talk about all the improvements on the way if we keep up the hard work and make it through November. It worked to cheer me up, at least; I guess that means my advice from August still holds true. We can do this. ■

Free Lunch: Yes or No?

A potpourri of virtual events and programs

There's No Such Thing as a Free Lunch is **People's Community Clinic's** major annual fundraiser luncheon, this year commemorating 50 years of providing health care for those in need, at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 6. It's virtual, of course, so you're on your own for the lunch itself, but there's a U.S. rep. and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Donna Shalala** talking with Evan Smith, a film telling some of the stories from People's five decades of service to the community, plus a star-studded cast of appearances by **Kirk Watson, Sarah Bird, Marcia Ball, Ray Benson, and Alejandro Escovedo**. Tickets are \$150, but you know it's a good cause; see www.austinpcc.org/2020luncheon for more info.

On the other hand: Beginning the week of Oct. 5, **Austin ISD** will be transitioning their **free curbside meal service** from daily to weekly, distributing meal packs with the components for seven breakfast and seven lunch meals at some 49 campus locations each Thursday to anyone under the age of 19; no ID required. It's 10am-1:30pm at most locations, but 7-9am or 3:30-5:30pm at some; learn more at www.austinisd.org/openforlearning/meals.

Inspire the Future is **Austin Ed Fund's** sixth annual event, this year transitioned to a series of virtual events, starting this week with welcoming and introducing AISD's new superintendent, **Dr. Stephanie Elizalde**, and kicking off the group's fall fundraising and service campaign. In particular, they're showcasing the work of and hoping to raise money

for the **AISD Crisis Support Fund**, which was set up in March when COVID-19 hit, to support school communities by supplementing access to food services, health programs, remote and in-person learning needs, and more. The live event was Tuesday, but you can watch it this Fri.-Sat., Oct. 2-3, on AISD Channel 22. English: noon & 6pm Friday, 10am Saturday; Spanish: 1 & 7pm Friday, 11am Saturday. Or cut to the chase and donate at www.austinedfund.org.

The Texas Environmental Awards are hosted by the **Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter**, which promises "an exciting evening of music, raffle prizes, and inspiring stories of environmental heroes from across our great state," in a virtual event at 6pm on Sat., Oct. 3, on Zoom. Live music from **Patricia Vonne, Aubrey Hays, Ben Balmer, and Tony & Camille**; \$20 tickets include a raffle entry and are available at www.sierraclub.org/texas.

The inimitable and invaluable **Paul Robbins** wanted me to remind y'all that the **2020 Austin Environmental Directory** is out – the 10th edition since it began in 1995, and the first since 2017. A "sourcebook of green issues, products, services, and organizations in Central Texas," it's distributed free in the Austin area at locations including Half Price Books, Central Market North, and Wheatville Co-op, and online at www.environmentaldirectory.info.

Final reminder: The last day to **register to vote** is Monday, Oct. 5. The county clerk must have your registration form by that date. The first day to actually vote is ... well, as soon as you receive your mail-in ballot, perhaps. **Early voting starts Oct. 13**; more info with our endorsements, p.8. ■

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

CIVICS 101

BULLETIN BOARD

For the latest info, visit www.austintexas.gov/covid19. Watch Austin's government access channel at www.austintexas.gov/atxn for live-streamed city meetings. Uninsured Travis Co. residents experiencing COVID symptoms: call CommUnityCare's hotline at 512/978-8775.

THURSDAY 10/1

CITY COUNCIL See p.16. 10am. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

PPE DISTRIBUTION Hand sanitizer, masks. 4-6pm. Northeast Metro Park, 15500 Sun Light Near Way, Pflugerville. Free. austintexas.gov/ppes.

AISD BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM Hear from candidates for At-Large Position 8. 7-8:30pm. FB Live. www.aisdforall.org.

FRIDAY 10/2

AUSTIN ED FUND'S INSPIRE THE FUTURE Celebrating the AISD Crisis Support Fund. In English: noon & 6pm. En español: 1pm & 7pm. Ch. 22. austinedfund.org/inspire-the-future.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION See agenda for details. 1pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov/hrc.

SATURDAY 10/3

DRIVE-THRU VOTER REGISTRATION KOOP and the League of Women Voters Austin Area have you covered! 10am-4pm. KOOP Radio parking lot, 3823 Airport Blvd. www.koop.org.

AUSTIN ED FUND'S INSPIRE THE FUTURE See above. English: 10am. Español: 11am.

CARVERMUSEUMATX COMMUNITY MEETING PARD seeks input for the CarverMuseumATX facility expansion planning process. 1-3pm. Online. www.austintexas.gov/carveratxplanning.

SUNDAY 10/4

DRIVE-THRU VOTER REGISTRATION See Saturday. 10am-4pm. KOOP Radio parking lot, 3823 Airport Blvd.

GRAB A BEER, REGISTER TO VOTE With Jolt Initiative. 1:30-3:30pm. Jester King Craft Brewery, 13005 Fitzhugh Rd., Bldg. B. www.joltinitiative.org.

BLUE ACTION DEMS SWATX VBM and Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals candidates. 2-4pm. Online. www.fb.com/blueactionswatx.

MONDAY 10/5

COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM: D10 Hosted

by KUT and the Austin Monitor. Mon., Oct. 5, 7pm. Online. www.kut.org.

REGISTER TO VOTE Need an already printed application? See p.21. Applications must be postmarked or received by Oct. 5. tax-office. traviscountytx.gov/voters.

TUESDAY 10/6

PPE DISTRIBUTION See Thu. (10/1). 9-11am. Roy G. Guerrero Park, 400 Grove.

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT See agenda for details. 9am. Online. www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court.

SAVE HISTORIC MUNY DISTRICT 2-4pm. Online. www.austintexas.gov.

LEGALLINE Call 512/472-8303 for free legal advice. 5:30-7:30pm. www.austinlrs.org.

WEDNESDAY 10/7

HR BASICS WEBINAR Before hiring that first

employee or independent contractor. 9am-noon. Online. Free. www.austintexas.gov/smallbiz.

PPE DISTRIBUTION See Thu. (10/1). 9-11am. Turner-Roberts Rec Ctr., 7201 Colony Loop Dr.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM: D7 Between incumbent Leslie Pool and challenger Morgan Witt. 6pm. ATXN; cable channel six; AT&T U-Verse channel 99. www.austintexas.gov.

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL works with AISD to help support health and academic achievement. 6:30-8pm. Online. www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/shac.

THURSDAY 10/8

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT Work session. 9am. Online. www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court.

MOBILITY COMMITTEE Members will discuss the street impact fee ordinance and program. 1pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.



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Better Than Nothing

City finds \$15 million to help struggling businesses

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

City Council is prepared to approve at its meeting today, Oct. 1, \$15 million in funding to help music venues, legacy businesses, and child care centers. The three \$5 million programs are designed to assist economic sectors forced to close early in the pandemic as they continue to struggle to bounce back, even as the state relaxes its regulations and allows them to serve increasing numbers of customers.

The plan being presented today follows the unanimous passage of the **Save Austin's Vital Economic Sectors (SAVES)** resolution on Sept. 17. Council gave city staff just under two weeks to find the money and create a framework to ensure the funding is distributed equitably – without depriving other programs or services of needed resources. The **Austin Music Venue Preservation Fund** will provide grants to help live music venues; the **Austin Legacy Business Relief Grant** program will also help venues, along with established local restaurants and arts organizations; while the **Austin Childcare Provider Relief Grants** will help child care providers offering both in-home and center-based programs.

The COVID-related hardships these businesses have experienced came on top of the challenges many were already facing in Austin's booming real estate market – especially Downtown, where rents were already becoming unsustainable for small businesses. It was just one year ago that Council established the **Live Music Fund**, allocating a portion of **hotel occupancy taxes** to help prop up struggling creatives and the venues where they exhibit and perform their work. By the end of the year, staff expects that fund to have accumulated \$2.5 million.

To provide more immediate relief to these sectors without hampering other important projects, Deputy Chief Financial Officer **Ed Van Eenoo** explained at Council's Tuesday work session, staff will modify its spending plans in four areas of the **fiscal year 2021 budget**, which also goes into effect Oct. 1. First, instead of paying \$6 million upfront to replace the city's Human Capital Management System, the city can pay for the new information platform incrementally in future years and divert the money now to SAVES priorities.

Similarly, the Budget Office recommends Council redirect \$4.8 million it had prepaid to fund five years of the **Pay for Success** program, a collaboration between city and county government, nonprofits, and private businesses that aims to help people experiencing homelessness who frequently utilize emergency rooms or who interact with the criminal justice system. The program has struggled to get off the ground, but staff feels they can continue funding it in the future – though a memo outlining the funding plan cautions that **property tax revenue caps** imposed by the Texas Legislature make funding for the initiatives more difficult to find.

The Austin Transportation Department found \$3.7 million of \$6.6 million in revenues generated from right-of-way fees that could be transferred to the SAVES funds. That would leave a \$2.9 million hole in its

budget; ATD Assistant Director **Jim Dale** said the **Transportation User Fee** paid by Austinites through utility bills would have to increase by 55 cents to cover the department's revenue loss. Council Member **Kathie Tovo** expressed concerns about raising the fee, but Dale

claimed the alternative would be to consider layoffs (on top of the citywide hiring freeze that's already in place). Finally, another \$500,000 could be sent to the SAVES funds by delaying some less critical capital rehabilitation projects.

While the \$15 million in SAVES funding will help, Council continues to warn advocates that it won't be enough. Without federal and state funding, the local relief will fall short of saving these prized institutions. "The scale of the challenge we have in our community is huge," Mayor Steve Adler said Tuesday. "The need is just so great. We have so many businesses that are suffering and face the prospect of closing, we really do need federal help to deal with the scale of this challenge." He urged commercial landlords to proactively work with the city and their tenants to leverage the scant funding offered by the city into solutions that can sustain vulnerable businesses. He also called on local arts advocates – who have waged a campaign for the city to provide funding to preserve music during the pandemic – to direct some of that energy toward state and national leaders. For

"We really do need federal help to deal with the scale of this challenge."

MAYOR STEVE ADLER



Members of the live music industry gathered at City Hall on Wed., Sept. 16, for the "Come & Save It" rally in support of the SAVES resolution

instance, they could tap into the nearly \$6 billion in federal **CARES Act** funding that Gov. **Greg Abbott** has not yet spent, which will expire on Dec. 30.

Staff is looking at other funding sources to grow the SAVES funds that need more time for development. One idea, currently under review by the city **law department**, would be a temporary modification to the **Chapter 380** economic incentive program. These agreements were initially used to support big projects like **Samsung Austin Semiconductor** and the **Domain**, but in 2018, Council modified the program to target smaller businesses. After revenue caps were lowered in the last legislative session, Council members considered doing away with the program altogether; staff now proposes a modification to further extend fee waivers and property tax abatements to businesses targeted for relief through the SAVES resolution.

That resolution also tasked staff with creating a new way to distribute funds, responding to frustrations in the creative sector over how the **Better Business Bureau** administered money allocated for business relief through the CARES Act. "We had a big chunk of money and put a contract out to a company with no roots in our community," CM **Leslie Pool** said of the BBB, "and no surprise, we had problems."

On top of charging a 5% administrative fee – further reducing a bucket of money that was already too small – BBB distribut-

ed some of the funds in a way that has puzzled CMs. According to a staff report, for example, **Kick Butt Coffee** received \$29.94, while other venues like **Stay Gold** and **Cheer Up Charlies** received \$40,000 grants from one funding source.

Council is set to (finally, after literally decades of consideration) approve the creation of an **Austin Economic Development Corporation** to handle public-private partnerships and programs like SAVES, but Pool said that entity would not be stood up quickly enough to help businesses immediately. "The challenge is in the timing," she said. "We can't wait for the [AEDC] to be set up, we have to nimbly distribute resources; we need the help now." In another agenda item, Council is set to approve the BBB as administrator of the SAVES dollars.

Sylvia Holt-Rabb, acting director of the **Economic Development Department**, said that of the seven applicants interviewed as possible administrators of CARES funds, BBB most clearly had the resources in place to handle the task. Holt-Rabb said that EDD staff outlined qualities required for an administrator, such as ability to conduct outreach, capacity to handle a massive volume of requests, case management experience, ability to quickly disperse funds, and delivery of data to the city that could be posted to the ATX Recovers dashboard. She also said the BBB's 5% admin fee was lower than that of any of the other applicants. ■

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Career vs. COVID?

AISD forces reluctant teachers to return to campus

BY CLARA ENCE MORSE

As thousands of **Austin ISD** students prepare to return to their campuses on Monday, almost all AISD teachers will be doing the same – even those with immunocompromised family members or young children – and many of them still lack a clear idea of what the return will look like. That's unless they refuse to come back, as the teacher union suggests might happen.

Texas schools are required to return in person at some point in the fall semester or face a loss of state funding. AISD has received permission from the state to return to campus in phases, and will be operating at up to 25% capacity in the first week of in-person instruction, beginning Monday, Oct. 5. The district is prioritizing specific groups of students to be part of this first phase, and many are eager to be going back to school. Campus access means a better learning environment for many students, especially those with little or no broadband internet access at home. Other priority groups include Austin's youngest students, recent immigrants, and special education students.

But for many teachers, the return to campus has been plagued with miscommunications and shifting plans. Teachers interviewed by the *Chronicle* said they had not been consulted or contacted about returning to campus since the spring, when a survey was distributed asking about their comfort level with in-person teaching; none ever heard any results or followup. Many

teachers, and even some principals, say they first learned of the district's plans from news reports, less than three weeks before reopening. Superintendent **Stephanie Elizalde** opened the **board of trustees'** Sept. 28 meeting by promising to assemble and consult with a 40-member teacher advisory committee about reopening plans. She did not mention any teacher input she'd gathered prior to this week.

In an emailed statement to the *Chronicle*, a district spokesperson said an early reopening advisory group, which met in late spring, included teachers, and that staff could attend three “**conversation circles**” used to gather input in early June. In addition, teachers received “further surveys” through the summer that, according to the statement, have been considered in return-to-campus plans. The district's reopening task force, which includes no teachers, has “been invited to share information and receive feedback” with the **District Advisory Council**, which several teachers serve on.

Hundreds of teachers and supporters with **Education Austin** gathered for a caravan on Saturday, driving by the district's headquarters at I-35 and Ben White to cover the building's windows with signs and questions about the return to campus. Teachers at the event posted questions about how to handle students' technical issues, how to manage their in-person pods while teaching virtually, how social distanc-

ing would be possible at crowded school entrance doors, and how air filtration would be boosted. A dozen teachers interviewed by the *Chronicle* last week said that they had not received detailed information about their return to school, or any training on how to manage in-person and virtual learners simultaneously.



AISD families deliver questions outside district headquarters during Education Austin's Sept. 26 community car caravan

ing would be possible at crowded school entrance doors, and how air filtration would be boosted. A dozen teachers interviewed by the *Chronicle* last week said that they had not received detailed information about their return to school, or any training on how to manage in-person and virtual learners simultaneously.

In addition to these logistics, many teachers have fought back against being required to return to campus at all. Currently, teachers are only permitted to continue remote instruction if they are *personally* at high risk for COVID-19 – pregnant, over 65, or immunocompromised – and if their campus

can spare them. Elizalde said at the Sept. 28 board meeting that even the immunocompromised may be required to return physically if, say, they are the only calculus teacher at a certain campus.

Those with higher-risk children, partners, or other adults in the home must still come back to campus. Even those whose own children need to continue virtual school must either return to their classrooms, take leave, or resign. “The district does not have a Work from Home policy,” states one email from AISD Human Resources to a teacher who requested accommodations. In another email shared with the *Chronicle*, another HR staffer writes, “I am required to follow the Americans with Disabilities Act in providing workplace accommodations to employees, and unfortunately, the law does not allow me to provide a reasonable accommodation to a third party, including family members of the individual with the disability.” EA President **Ken Zarifis** told the *Chronicle* on Wednesday, Sept. 30, that hundreds of teachers have committed to “teaching from home” come next week, regardless of what the district says. “We are not refusing to work. The teachers are committing ... to ensure the safety and well-being of all kids, teachers and families.” The action – Zarifis declines to term it a “strike” – is, he



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

says, consistent with the district's code of ethics for teachers, which says they should not knowingly lead their students into harm's way. "And we believe the district requiring us to come back, requiring kids in the classroom, forces us to break our code of ethics. And we are against that." More talks between the district and union are slated before Monday.

As of Sept. 28, the district had approved 905 of the 1553 requests for accommodations (from all employees, not just teachers) it has received, although Elizalde said at the Sept. 28 board meeting that the district reserved the right to revoke any accommodations if campus needs arose, as neighboring school districts such as Eanes ISD have done. As of last week, 23 teachers had resigned, up from 10 at this time last year.

The district has more than 5,500 classroom teachers; others may have chosen to take leave. (Elizalde said she knew of one instance where someone who wasn't immunocompromised was granted accommodations due to special circumstances, but that the district would not make it a policy.)

AISD currently has over 460 open positions listed on a job search website (not including substitutes), including 81 for classroom teachers and 118 for teachers' assistants. If more teachers take leave or resign because of the policy, Elizalde said she would have central administration staff return to campuses to support teachers in person there.

Although the return to in-person school is mandated by the state, the physical presence of all teachers is not. The **Texas Edu-**

cation Agency's updated COVID guidelines, released Sept. 24, state: "School systems should work with teachers and other staff to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and staff. This could include allowing those staff, including teachers, who may fulfill their work duties remotely to do so."

The strict policy has been devastating for many teachers, many of whom feel forced to choose between their jobs and their families' health. Several teachers told us they considered leaving the profession, and that teacher morale was low. "This is the first time where I've really just felt like, 'Wow, they just don't care,'" one veteran AISD teacher said. "It makes me sad and it makes me angry, because I've given my teaching career to this district, and I love it, and I don't want to leave." ■

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Red Team Comeback?

Races south, west of town too close for Democrats' comfort

BY LINA FISHER

The ultimate goal for Texas Democrats is to flip the Texas House in November – only nine seats to go – but those south and west of Austin must first fight just to keep their blueberry in the tomato soup. The races for **House Districts 45 and 47**, both of which went Democratic in the 2018 election for the first time since 2010, each feature strong challengers aiming for a GOP comeback.

Meanwhile, **Precinct 3** on the **Travis County Commissioners Court**, which largely overlaps with HD 47, is open with the retirement of the county's last GOP elected official, **Gerald Daugherty**, and his party would dearly like to hold on to that seat.

With redistricting on the agenda for 2021, “Texas Democrats’ only hope ... is to take control of the Texas House,” says Mark Jones of Rice

University’s Baker Institute of Public Policy. But “if the Texas GOP can retain its House majority, it will be able to draw tailor-made legislative districts that will increase its prospects of retaining control of the Texas Senate and House during the next decade as well as increase the odds of the GOP retaking control of the U.S. House.”

In HD 45, which covers Hays and Blanco counties, Rep. **Erin Zwiener**, D-Driftwood,

has made waves in her first term, serving on the House’s main environmental committee and passing legislation to protect groundwater, reduce night-sky light pollution, and mitigate flooding, all major issues in her district. Hays County, which includes San Marcos, Buda, and Dripping Springs, is among the top 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, so population growth and its impacts on traffic and affordability, as well as the environment, are always top of mind.

Zwiener was also part of the coalition to pass House Bill 3, last session’s historic \$11.6 billion **public school finance bill** that increased teacher pay while cutting property taxes. She says, “That was just a first step – we have a lot of work to do to rebalance the public school funding formula so that the state is paying its full share, instead

of passing the buck to property taxpayers.”

Challenger **Carrie Isaac**, wife of Zwiener’s predecessor **Jason Isaac** (he stepped down to run, unsuccessfully, for Congress), runs a nonprofit that helps disabled veterans find work (though a February *Austin American-Statesman* investigation raised questions about its effectiveness and ethics). She’s endorsed by Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas Right to Life, and the National Rifle

The ultimate goal for Texas Democrats is to flip the Texas House in November – only nine seats to go – but those south and west of Austin must first fight just to keep their blueberry in the tomato soup.



State Rep. Vikki Goodwin at the Texas Democrats election night party in 2018

JOHN ANDERSON

Association. On top of the standard GOP agenda of cutting taxes and “protect[ing] the unborn,” she’s big into “security”; her website says she’s “committed to fully funding local police departments,” “increas[ing] border security,” and “increasing the number of security personnel” in schools.

In HD 47, which covers most of western Travis County, including Lago Vista and Lakeway, Rep. **Vikki Goodwin**, D-Austin, unseated GOP incumbent **Paul Workman** in 2018; she introduced environmental and gun control measures in her freshman year, in addition to co-authoring HB 3. In addition to public education, her priorities include raising pay for state employees, mitigating attacks on cities’ and counties’ local control, and “mak[ing] sure we don’t make cuts to

any of the important safety net services the state provides.” She’s endorsed by Sierra Club, Texas AFL-CIO, the Texas State Teachers Association, and abortion rights advocates NARAL Pro-Choice Texas. Her GOP opponent **Justin Berry**, vice president of the **Austin Police Association**, seeks police “reform, NOT defunding,” lower property taxes, “more roads to keep up with our growing population,” and increased mental health services, according to his website.

The same terrain in western Travis County will also have a new voice at the Commissioners Court come January, as 14-year incumbent (elected in 2002, defeated in 2008, reelected in 2012) Gerald Daugherty takes his leave. Democratic nominee **Ann Howard** is the former leader of the End

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Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), who prevailed in a four-way primary contest; her GOP opponent, **Becky Bray**, is a transportation engineer who ran for the District 8 Austin City Council seat in 2014. Daugherty endorsed her in the *Statesman* a couple weeks ago, saying, "The Commissioners Court needs at least one person with a sometimes-opposite view from the rest of the court members."

Both Howard and Bray stress the importance of wildfire prevention and water conservation in a precinct that shares many underlying conditions with the fire-prone areas of the West Coast. They differ notably on public safety and criminal justice reform. Howard plans to "shrink the Travis County Correctional Complex" and "end mass incarceration"; Bray points to public safety issues ostensibly created by the homeless population.

They both agree on the need for decongesting roadways, Daugherty's main focus during his tenure, but Bray follows more closely in his footsteps and is vehemently opposed to **Project Connect**: "The taxes being imposed are just tone-deaf given where we are in this economic crisis."

Howard says her nonprofit experience has proven her fiscal responsibility: "I'm gonna look for ways to save money, and I'm gonna look for smart ways to spend money." ■

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 5

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- Review the application carefully, fill it out, sign and date it and mail it to the voter registrar in your county or drop it by the voter registrar's office.
- All voters who register to vote in Texas must provide a Texas driver's license number or personal identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you don't have such a number, simply provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you don't have a social security number, you need to state that fact.
- Your voter registration will become effective 30 days after it is received or on your 18th birthday, whichever is later. Your registration must be effective on or before an election day in order to vote in that election.
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1 These Questions Must Be Completed Before Proceeding (Check one)

- New Application Change of Address, Name, or Other Information Request for a Replacement Card

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes No

If you checked 'No' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker? Yes No

2 Last Name Include Suffix if any (Jr, Sr, III) First Name Middle Name (If any) Former Name (if any)

3 Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box, Rural Rt. or Business Address) City TEXAS

County Zip Code

4 Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. (If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.) City State Zip Code

5 City and County of Former Residence in Texas

6 Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy) **7** Gender (Optional) Male Female **8** Telephone Number (Optional) Include Area Code () - -

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- You must not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

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Let Your Freak-Out Flag Fly

If you're stressed, you've come to the right place **BY NORA ANKRUM**

Seven months ago, we fell off a cliff into a collective freak-out, and here we are today, still falling. The stress triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has been surreal, overwhelming, impossible. As we're falling, many of us are looking at our screens, which is good for pollsters, since it means they can still survey us online about our daily emotional experiences. In the wake of the March shutdowns, Gallup reported “unprecedented increases” in worry and stress, which in the Before Times were always “highly stable metrics,” but of course stability is not a hallmark of 2020.

The American Psychological Association, having taken up a monthly analysis of our mental demise, has so far produced volumes one, two, and three of its “Stress in America 2020” report. The most recent volume finds that stress has actually decreased slightly since the earlier months of the pandemic but that feelings of frustration, fear, and anger are on the rise. Stress-induced tooth fractures, too, are on the rise, according to some dentists in Virginia, so that nightmare where the thing you're chewing turns out to be your

tooth, and now all your teeth are falling out – that's not just a dream.

It does feel somehow comforting that in our hyperpolarized political climate, neither party is immune to the emotional toll of the pandemic. Both Democrats and Republicans are super stressed out, say the APA data. We've entered a total stress eclipse.

Stress has profound physiological impacts, says obstetrician-gynecologist Michelle Chouteau, who works at St. David's Medical Center. Stress can manifest in the body as what commonly is known as the fight-or-flight reaction, in which a variety of hormones mobilize in anticipation of fighting, or fleeing from, a threat. “If that [reaction] is always turned on – which it tends to be, when we're in chronic stress – then we get into a state where our body is always trying to fight off that saber-toothed tiger,” says Chouteau. “That means our adrenaline is turned on, our heart rate is up, our blood pressure is up, our mental acuity is higher. But the bad thing about that is it stresses our heart. It causes damage to the blood vessels, leading to heart disease.” This process also can lead to weight gain and diabetes, says Chouteau, because it

prompts the adrenal gland to release the stress hormone cortisol, which triggers food cravings and elevates blood sugar. “It has terrible effects on the body,” she says.

Although the pandemic is affecting everyone, our experiences are not the same. People of color are experiencing illness and loss of loved ones in disproportionate numbers, a disparity rooted in factors such as racism, state violence and overpolicing, segregation, poverty, and unequal access to health care – what public health professionals call social determinants of health. These factors paired with the body's stress response can, for example, contribute to high rates of chronic stress, hypertension, and diabetes in Black communities. In turn, these conditions can increase vulnerability to the effects of COVID-19. People of color are more likely to work in high-risk frontline environments as well, increasing opportunities for infection, and they're more likely to experience other stressors triggered by the health crisis, such as unemployment and economic uncertainty.

Racial disparities in vulnerability to health and economic crises are more

conspicuous perhaps now than before, but they aren't new, certainly not in Austin, where segregation has created geographical divisions that continue to shape people's lives today. “Austin has the unfortunately not-unique condition of your ZIP code being able to determine your health outcomes,” says City Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison. “We happen to be one of the Republic's most segregated cities. ... Stress, financial disparities, education disparities, lack of access to healthy foods – all of those things sort of combine into one.”

Other disparities are surfacing as well. Women have been hit particularly hard by job losses, a reversal of the trend in previous recessions, in which men bore the brunt of employment declines. Caregivers, too – who are more likely to be women – are struggling due to the collapse of both the formal and informal support networks that previously allowed them to maintain the casual illusion that full-time working and full-time caregiving are compatible.

For working parents of young children, keeping up with the demands of quarantine life has been brutal. Austin-based life coach Sarah Sherwood, whose practice is devoted to helping people deal with stress, says that these demands typically squeeze self-care off the to-do list. “I predominantly work with women, and they predominantly offload themselves,” says Sherwood. “So they end up not having a moment of quiet or a moment where another small human is not touching them – just ongoing, unrelenting stress.”

But even people with opportunities for self-care, who have job security and access to health care, and who are able to work safely from home aren't necessarily finding it easy right now to cope with stress and worry. Ample news coverage of the mental health tolls of social isolation, doomscrolling, Zoom fatigue, and endless meetings (along with reports of bosses overworking remote employees “because really where else can they go in a lockdown,” as one *Business Insider* story put it) suggests that the seismic shifts wrought by the pandemic are not only creating new problems but exposing and aggravating problems that have been here all along, as well as our flawed approaches toward dealing with them.

This notion tracks with Sherwood's observations. For a lot of her clients, the pandemic is proving to be an uncomfortable and sometimes unwelcome opportunity for facing long-neglected problems. “What I have found very consistently is that what people have been able [previously] to numb and ignore through busyness, all their activities – going out, meeting up with friends, celebrating big birthdays, etcetera – they've had to sit with it at home ... by themselves or inside of imperfect family

CONTINUED ON P.24

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FREAK-OUT CONTINUED FROM P.22

relationships that they can't escape for 10 hours at the office."

Sherwood says she has found two key patterns in her clients' behaviors as they grapple with this situation. "If I were to generalize, I think people respond in two primary ways. They go into hyperdrive and can't stop, so they're spinning their wheels – kind of like cleaning out the garage and [saying] 'I can't sit down and focus on something because I need to get up and do that and do this and do that and do this.' But they're not really feeling productive on anything in particular. Or people go into shutdown, and they're finding themselves six months into this like, 'Huh, I was going to write a book and reorganize my pantry, and I have literally just sat on the couch and watched Netflix.'"

A central theme of pandemic life is that the situation causing our stress is also limiting our conventional repertoire of strategies for dealing with it. Traditionally, says Chouteau, when her patients seek advice on coping with stress, she recommends that they first try to "solve the thing that's causing the stress." But that's not always possible, especially right now. So the backup option, she says, is to take actions – such as meditation, exercise, or yoga – that mitigate the adverse effects. "Quiet your mind from all the outside noise," she recommends.

But a cruel irony of our predicament is that the mental risk-benefit analysis required for many of the simplest stress-mitigating actions we might take – socializing, going to the gym or coffee shop, getting a massage – can re-engineer these release valves into yet new sources of stress. So, too, can the interpersonal disagreements that inevitably arise as we negotiate disparate levels of risk tolerance among friends and family. For people whose go-to coping methods aren't working, the situation can be overwhelming. The pandemic, says Sherwood, is like the vision quest that nobody asked for: We've been blindfolded in



ZEKE BARBARO / GETTY IMAGES

the dead of night, dropped off in the wilderness, and left there alone to contend with all the stuff we've been ignoring. "Here's your knapsack, bye!" jokes Sherwood.

So here we are. It's October, there's no vaccine, and we're still deep in the wilderness, alone with our knapsack that is presumably not packed with lavender essential oils and definitely not coins (because we're in a shortage) or Lysol wipes. Bereft of our grocery staples and creature comforts, the one thing we have in abundance is stress. Lots of it. If it were pennies, we'd be rich, though unable to carry it all out of the woods

with us. If it were palm fronds, there would be enough of it to build an impressive lean-to or even a whole village of wilderness huts.

This idea – that stress itself can be a resource – is physiologically accurate, in that the purpose of the stress response is to help the body cope. But a conventional understanding of this concept does not conjure a mental image of safety. The notion that stress could and even should be understood as a friend rather than foe has emerged from research in recent years demonstrating that a person's beliefs about stress can influence how stress affects their health and behaviors.

For example, findings from mindset research – which examines how beliefs and attitudes shape behavior – show that even a brief introduction to a new way of thinking can lead to measurable changes in how people perform in stressful situations. Studies by David Yeager, an associate professor at UT-Austin, have found that such interventions can improve student outcomes. For example, he found improved academic performance and reductions in reported stress and physical illness among students introduced to testimonials and research supporting the idea that "people

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have the potential to change.” In other studies, student GPAs improved after doing exercises in which they reflected on “the kind of person” they wanted to be and how school would help them be that person.

These interventions encourage people to reframe stressful situations as positive forces in their lives and to remember, even in the midst of distress, that they are doing something meaningful. This outlook is consistent with the work that Sherwood does with her clients. “I think people are trying to dig in their nails and hang on ... the equivalent of just kind of holding your breath,” says Sherwood. “Most adults are in a chronic pattern of ignoring, overriding, and shutting down their natural nervous system reaction to stress, and that’s why they drink wine every night or feel simultaneously very revved up, like stressed and agitated and unable to sleep, while also feeling kind of shut down, blasé, that life is not lived in full color.” To help her clients move out of this state, she helps them focus on their values. “I think that the most resilient thing to do is to start to reconnect to your absolute, deepest core values and then slowly build in activities or outputs or expressions in alignment with those. The smaller the better.”

Importantly, such interventions can potentially have physiologically beneficial effects, but not necessarily because they are less physiologically stressful. In her book *The Upside of Stress*, Stanford lecturer Kelly McGonigal chronicles the scientific research in this area. (Her TED Talk, “How to Make Stress Your Friend,” covers similar ground.) She reports that studies priming people with positive information about stress and resilience before subjecting them to stressful situations can change the stress response by, for example, boosting the release of stress hormones like DHEA, which helps the brain learn from stressful experiences. Higher levels of DHEA in relation to cortisol can act as a buffer to post-traumatic stress and help create meaning out of stressful experiences. Other stress hormones, like oxytocin, can strengthen the heart.

McGonigal proposes that the traditional understanding of stress that laypeople are often familiar with – accompanied by its intuitively resonant narrative about the physical perils of too much tilting at saber-toothed tigers – represents only half of the story. The rest of the story says that although stress can be bad for the body, it can also be good for it. Her most compelling assertion, drawing from research in behavioral psy-

chology and neuroscience, is that this story itself, by shaping a person’s beliefs about stress, can influence these physical outcomes. The stories we tell ourselves about the stressors we face appear to be altering the chemical cocktail of stress hormones so that the body can draw strength from stress. A key reason is that these stories help us more viscerally understand whether we’re facing a true threat that requires fighting or running away, or whether we’re facing a “challenge” that requires a different course of action.

A Rethinking Stress toolkit is available on Stanford’s website to allow anyone to try out a stress mindset intervention on themselves, just to see if it works. I tried it, in hopes it would help me manage the stress of writing this story while my 4-year-old son bounced around on the bed behind me, eating cookies

and watching cartoons, because that is pandemic parenting. I can’t say how it has affected my DHEA levels, but I can say that I did a lot of things I don’t normally do while in crisis writing mode, such as reaching out to friends for help (leaning into the tend-and-befriend stress response, wherein the release of oxytocin encourages bonding, which in turn helps you marshal support from your community). Those friends helped feed my delusion that finishing this article would be possible. And here we are – the delusion has become reality, which is on brand for 2020.

I hope it’s possible that the stories we tell ourselves as a community can prompt similarly meaningful change, at a systemic level. “Oftentimes, I imagine what would Austin look like if everybody had access to the [same] kind of medical health care – not just physical but mental,” says Harper-Madison. “That’s such an important component, to be able to have a therapist to help you work on coping mechanisms and develop healthy habits.”

Rethinking stress won’t necessarily make the source of stress go away. It won’t end the health crisis or erase the injustices that can chip away, day by day, at our health and our ability to make meaning of the world. But maybe it can be a source of strength in our search for solutions and policy changes that can address the big stuff. Our current crisis, says Harper-Madison, does present an opportunity to address broader health inequities. “COVID has really shone a light on our disparities with access to clinics and medical treatment,” she says. “I definitely am optimistic about changes in access to medical care. ... I think everyone’s recognizing now how all the dots are directly connected.” ■

We’ve been blindfolded in the dead of night, dropped off in the wilderness, and left there alone to contend with all the stuff we’ve been ignoring.



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Why Am I Crying?

Spontaneous tears help the brain release stress

BY SARAH MARLOFF

Crying has become an unwanted habit of mine. Over the last 177 days in coronavirus-induced quarantine, I've burst, unprompted, into tears so often I've lost count. It goes like this: One moment I'm fine – checking my email, binge-watching my umpteenth Netflix series, washing the never-ending pile of dishes – and BAM. Tears, sometimes in brief spurts, sometimes hysterical sobs. I've lost hours trying to get my emotions in check.

These spontaneous crying jags leave me feeling out of sorts and wondering if I'm losing my mind. I'm not alone. A colleague recently confessed she was dealing with a similar reaction to stress. One of my favorite writers, Lyz Lenz, opened an NBC Think piece with a story about crying out of nowhere during a work meeting because all her other coping methods were gone. A friend, a local activist, told me he, too, is experiencing unprompted crying, spurred by feelings of empathy, the stress of COVID-19 isolation, and anxiety over the impending election.

It appears this “unprompted” crying isn't really unprompted at all. As Rachel Saffer, director of Children's Services at Austin Center for Grief & Loss, explained, “I wouldn't say all this crying is spontaneous. Maybe it comes out at random times, but there may be other things leading up to it.” Those “other things,” she said, include the realities of 2020: social isolation, learning new ways to accomplish everyday tasks like grocery shopping, poor sleep, the drastic change in how we celebrate. Those lucky enough to be employed are struggling with work/home separation, and working from home has many feeling pressured to work harder to keep their jobs. In short, the pandemic has drastically altered our daily lives. These stressors, coupled with fear of the virus, getting sick, or infecting a loved one, have most of us feeling “stressed out and overwhelmed,” Saffer summarized. “We're in the middle of an unknown time.”

Spontaneous crying happens when grief, overwhelming feelings, and anxiety get bottled up, Saffer explained. With the added



Rachel Saffer of Austin Center for Grief & Loss

pressure of major social unrest and economic crisis gripping the country, it's no wonder we're not allowing ourselves time and space to process. Impromptu crying, according to Saffer, is “the brain saying, ‘I need to release a little bit.’” And while a cathartic cry-fest won't provide a long-term solution to the problems posed by the pan-

dem, it is therapeutic and “something our brain does purposefully,” said Saffer.

Though research on crying is surprisingly limited, a 2017 article from online health information site Medical News Today suggests crying has additional benefits – from potentially alleviating stress to easing physical and emotional pain through the chemi-



GETTY IMAGES

WHY CAN'T I SLEEP?

A coronasomniac explores the link between stress and insomnia, and how to catch more restful ZZZs

BY BETH SULLIVAN

Standing in front of my bathroom mirror after another night of never falling asleep, I prayed to the Zoom gods that my laptop camera resolution be just shitty enough that my Chronpatriots couldn't distinguish my undereye circles from my blossoming under-undereye circles.

I'd become a card-carrying, chronically cranky member of the insomniac club – and I had the Google search history to prove it: “How much is too much melatonin,”

“how long can you go without sleep,” or the frustratingly fruitless, “how to fall asleep.”

But it wasn't until a citywide drugstore pillage for more melatonin gummies where I'd come across one shelf after another cleaned out of sleep aids that I figured I might be in good, if bleary-eyed, company. Is anybody actually sleeping right now? How can anybody sleep right now?

In a poll on COVID's impact on mental wellbeing by the American Psychiatric Association, more than one-third of Americans say coronavirus is having a severe impact on their mental health, with 19% of respondents reporting having trouble sleeping. Though that 19% might not illustrate a significant impact, there's emerging anecdotal evidence that more people are experiencing insomnia from pandemic-specific stressors. In fact, physicians have even coined this COVID-induced insomnia: “coronasomnia.”

People can experience insomnia for lots of reasons. But in relation to stress, Dr. Sasha Jaquez, a pediatric psychologist in UT Health Austin Pediatric Psychiatry at Dell Children's

Medical Center, points to what happens to our bodies when we experience stress. “Our body is in fight-or-flight mode, and it's that survival mode – like you have to be alert, you have to keep going – that's what stress causes,” explains Jaquez, who established a behavioral sleep medicine clinic at Akron Children's Hospital before her current role at Dell Children's. While that means you might be able to function and get

through the day, come bedtime it's a different story. “When you lay down at night, and your body is still in that hyperarousal mode, it's not letting your brain relax; it's not letting your body relax.”

It's no surprise then that not getting enough sleep, or good quality sleep, has a huge impact on our mental health. Poor sleep can mean we're more likely to be short-tempered, frustrated, and irritated, said Jaquez. It can also have a significant impact on cognitive function. When I asked Dr. William Schwartz about the effects of insomnia or poor quality sleep on the brain, Schwartz, a neurologist at Dell Medical who studies the circadian rhythm, told me, “If we knew what the functions of

sleep were, then we'd be able to answer that question more to your satisfaction. And, of course, that's still somewhat mysterious.” Schwartz explained that it's unclear whether cognitive problems resulting from sleep deprivation occur because the brain has been unable to accomplish something vital that happens during sleep. It's also uncertain if these cognitive problems stem from us being literally half asleep as our

“Our body is in fight-or-flight mode, and it's that survival mode – like you have to be alert, you have to keep going – that's what stress causes.”

DR. SASHA JAQUEZ

FACT Humans are the only animal to produce emotional tears, i.e., tears that fall in response to our emotions. These tears, unlike basal (which keep the eye from drying out) and reflex (which flush out irritants), are thicker and fall slowly – hello, tear-stained cheeks – because they have a higher protein level than the other types. Scientists, however, still don't really understand “why” we cry.

TIP Be gentle with yourself. The Austin Center for Grief & Loss' Rachel Saffer emphasized the importance of having self-compassion in these strange times. Unprompted crying can be a sign that your brain and body need a break, so listen to it. Take a walk, sit down with a hobby, reach out to a friend or loved one to check in – whatever form of self-care helps you reach a better headspace.

cal release of oxytocin and endorphins. Noting that crying has “always” been stigmatized, Saffer insisted it's “never bad for us.” Instead, a good cry “gives us room, internally, to move forward.” Katy Koonce, another local therapist, agreed, telling me: “I think this time requires some tears.”

Koonce and Saffer both said frequent crying and other signs of depression – sleeping more, struggling to get out of bed – are likely just results of the pandemic, not depression. Still, this time is taking a toll on Austin's mental health. Austin Grief, which serves children and adults dealing with loss via individual therapy and support groups, has expanded to virtually serve people struggling with COVID-related anxiety. Since the pandemic began, their client load has nearly doubled. Koonce has also experienced an influx of clients. She described pandemic emotions – coupled with ongoing

protests for racial equality – as “mass trauma” and “collective grief.”

Keeping in line with 2020, the good news is also the bad news: On this emotional roller coaster, crying is a helpful, albeit temporary, fix to a problem with no solution in sight. “Our brains are in fight or flight, but we can't really flee and fighting isn't necessarily productive, so a lot of people are freezing,” said Saffer. “That's okay. That's where we're at right now.”

Accepting this – and spontaneous tears – requires self-compassion (and limited news consumption, according to both therapists). “We need to understand that it's okay to cry and have these moments,” said Saffer. So if you find yourself sobbing mid-email, consider it a sign that a break and some self-care are needed. “It's not great to be on this emotional roller coaster,” said Safer, “but it is something we can manage.” ■

brains slip into micro sleeps when we're sleep deprived. What is clear, however, is “that the lack of sleep does lead to a whole list of cognitive difficulties.” And as Jaquez pointed out, such impairment in our efficiency and efficacy can in turn fuel frustration over why we're not able to function.

But there are ways to help you break out of this seemingly never-ending cycle of insomnia. First, sticking to sleep-wake cycles by waking up and going to sleep at set times is important, said Jaquez. You'll also want to minimize anything that's going to impact your sleep before going to bed, which means putting away any screens at least 30-45 minutes before bed. Not only can screens' blue light mimic the sun and signal to your brain that it's time to wake up, explains Jaquez, but that late-night Facebook doomscroll isn't any good for you either. “You might be on social media trying to relax and see what your friends are doing, but then a news article pops up or somebody posts something that then makes you anxious,” says Jaquez. “That can also dysregulate you and impact your sleep.” Practicing good sleep hygiene also means creating your own nightly routine that helps you relax, and, if you find yourself in bed and unable to sleep – however counterintuitive it might sound – you should hop out of bed and get back in once tired again.

“I know sleep hygiene sounds so basic, but it's really important to do and to focus on sleep if you're feeling like your stress is out of control,” says Jaquez. “We always recommend finding what is within your control, and I think sleep hygiene is something that is within your control and that can help you start to grasp this problem and get better under your own control, because the pandemic is out of our control.” ■

FACT

Our quest for a good night's sleep is big business: According to industry analysts at PS Market Research, the global sleeping-aids market – anything from mattresses and pillows to prescription sleeping pills and wearable sleep trackers – was worth \$78.7 billion in 2019, and is expected to generate \$162.5 billion in revenue by 2030.

TIP

Even if we're spending more time at home these days, we shouldn't be working, eating, or doing homework in our beds. If you find yourself in bed and unable to sleep after 15-20 minutes, Jaquez says get up, engage in some relaxation skills, and get back in bed once tired again.



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Powering Down

How three digital media professionals manage stress in a chaotic online environment **BY SYDNEY GREENE**

Let's face it – in the year 2020, a lot of the stressors we're facing come from that tiny device that fits oh-so-comfortably in our hands. At our fingertips, stressful push alerts, Twitter trolls, and political spats in the Facebook comments all come at us full-speed to our screens. For those who have the control, putting your phone down for a day or two and doing that digital detox can lift a weight off of you. But for digital media professionals – social media managers, digital organizers, content creators, writers – that detox is much harder to come by. We spoke with three digital media professionals about what it's like to make your living engaging with online communities, and best practices for getting offline.

SADIE HERNANDEZ

Content coordinator for a national nonprofit for immigrant rights

The stressors of Sadie's job: "Because I work in immigrant rights, it's a nonstop cycle of political attacks, news articles about violence, and stories of people being failed by the state. It's very emotionally taxing, especially living in a border community where we are directly impacted online and offline. It's stressful to keep up with the rapid response of the administration who purposefully concoct media frenzies on a 24-hour cycle – it's hard to detox from this, and planned rest usually gets canceled at the last minute. This has been worsened by the pandemic, as the digital workload has more than doubled since nonprofits had to completely move their organizing, education, and actions to the digital space."

How Sadie unplugs: "I have become more firm on my boundaries in my personal life. I purposefully do not discuss the news or politics to enjoy my off days. I consume art and entertainment that is unrelated, like YouTube drama channels. I try to pick up hobbies that don't require a screen, so I like to do hands-on DIY projects."

A' NYSHA AILEEN

Digital marketing strategist at a local nonprofit

The stressors of A'nysha's job: "A major stressor for me is that a lot of people don't entirely understand what goes into managing a digital presence for a brand. Many people have personal social media accounts where they post what they want when they want with no strategy, which makes people think social media management is 'easy' or that I can just throw things up at random. I also deal with platform exhaustion. If I've been on a platform for work all day, I'm usually annoyed with it in my personal time."

How A'nysha unplugs: "I'm really big on deleting the apps altogether. My thumb definitely knows the exact place where Instagram is on my phone, which causes muscle memory and mindless scrolling, so I make it a point to delete the app when I'm done using it. Even during the workday, I try to be diligent about posting and keeping it moving so that I can give the rest of my work my full attention. At the end of the day, I still have to re-download the apps to post the next day or post something else. But gaining those couple of hours back is always really nice."

Especially when I pick up my phone and the app isn't there. That moment of staring at the empty spot where the app(s) were makes me mindful of why I deleted them in the first place."

FACT People spend nearly two hours on social media every day – and the time the average person actually spends on social media in a lifetime equals five years and four months.

TIP If you're trying to limit your social media usage, try disabling notifications from apps that you use the most.



Sarah Walker of Planned Parenthood Texas Votes

SARAH WALKER

Digital organizer for Planned Parenthood Texas Votes

The stressors of Sarah's job: "I work on a fast-paced communications team and love that my job is never boring or repetitive, but that comes with sacrificing the normal 9-to-5 workday. I think there is an expectation in digital advocacy work in particular of always being 'on,' especially in a state like Texas, with a fast-paced legislature that is hostile toward reproductive care. Almost immediately after the state shut down in March, Governor Abbott exploited the pandemic to temporarily block access to abortion care in Texas. Obviously, abortion is time-sensitive health care, and PPTV fought back by mobilizing its supporters online to take action. My workload tripled, all while I was trying to mentally grapple with the sudden significant changes COVID-19 presented in my personal life. It was rough."

"At the beginning of the pandemic I was suffering from migraines on an almost daily

basis. When I saw that my average screen time was clocked at 16 hours a day, I realized I wouldn't make it through COVID-19 if I wasn't very intentional about how I developed new routines and set firm boundaries with my work and personal time."

How Sarah unplugs: "I'm a morning person and love waking up with the sunrise. I go for an hourlong walk around 6am and listen to an audiobook. I won't touch a computer or social media before I've completed my morning routine and try to get my news from the radio first when I make breakfast."

"My daily walks keep me grounded when the world feels so out of balance. While many things may be out of our control, we still have a responsibility to ourselves to give our bodies and spirits what they need while also practicing care for our communities through social distancing. I'm also currently restoring an old used bicycle, so I'm excited to hit the road when that's done!"



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HOW ERIKA THOMPSON KEEPS HER COOL WHILE SCOOPING UP BEES

TikTok hit and Texas Beeworks owner stays meditative in viral videos **BY RACHEL RASCOE**

In August, a video of beekeeper Erika Thompson quickly amassed over 20 million views on TikTok. The clip featured the Austinite in a potentially terrifying situation, scooping gobs of buzzing honey bees with her bare hands from an invaded Cedar Park compost bin. As the owner of Texas Beeworks, she rescues unwanted hives from Austin-area backyards – commonly compost or water meter boxes – to thrive at her own apiary east of the city.

The intoxicating contrast of Thompson's viral shorts is her absolute calm amid the buzz. Rather than a ballooning white suit, she casually wears leggings and a button-down. Without an overhead veil or gloves, bees

crawl on her fingers and engagement ring.

“People assume it's completely chaotic inside a beehive, but it's incredibly meditative,” she explains. “It forces you into a Zenlike state, thinking deeply about how every action is going to affect the colony. You tune out everything around you.”

Thompson's narration is equally meditative, the practiced cool of someone who taught classes on bees pre-COVID-19.

In videos across YouTube and Instagram, she explains how puffs of smoke help mask the alarm pheromone bees communicate with. It's perfect pandemic content – soothing, visually engaging, and educational.

“Bees, like any other animal, pick up on

“This is what I should be doing on this planet, and when you find that purpose, there's a natural calming effect.”

ERIKA THOMPSON

the energy you're bringing,” she says. “It's a privilege to go into their hive to view this amazing structure they've created. Approaching with a sense of calm and gratitude is really important, but not all bee removers probably scoop bees like I do.”

The most common comment on Thompson's videos is about her lack of protective

gear. Put simply, the bee pro finds her regular ensembles are more attuned to the Texas heat than a cumbersome suit. She also says working without gloves lets her know if the insects are distressed and stinging – not ideal, considering they die afterward.

“I suit up when I need to, but I would rather read what's going on in the colony



Erika Thompson of Texas Beeworks

PHOTO BY AMANDA JEWELL SAUNDERS

What the Opposite of Anxiety Sounds Like

Seeking stress relief at Austin's Center for Music Therapy **BY KEVIN CURTIN**



Hope Young of Austin's Center for Music Therapy

JOHN ANDERSON

Humans have been making music for at least 40,000 years. Hope Young contends that, throughout that time, controlling stress and anxiety has been one of its most globally pervasive functions.

“It's been essential to the survival of humanity,” says Young, founder and president of Austin's Center for Music Therapy. “There are times when our bodies produce stress in order to get us to survive and music can drive that up. We mate to music, we sound a musical alert for fight or flight, and in wartime, music's been used to coordinate and to drill. When soldiers march, they have the chants – like, ‘I don't know what I've been told ...’ Those are things to bring stress down or handle ramping up and going faster while keeping you calm, focused, and attentive. For healing, the doctors would have them sing to fellow soldiers.”

“It's all about your adrenal system,” she adds in regards to how music can mitigate stress. “Getting your cortisol levels coming down.”

Given the widespread emotional distress associated with a global pandemic that's put

distance between social circles and brought economic devastation, Young says the stress-relieving properties of music have become a hot topic. In one week in early September, she took calls from music therapy practitioners and researchers in India, Australia, and Scotland.

“Right now the whole globe is really heavily turning to music to get through the anxiety and social isolation of this pandemic,” Young says.

Locally too, increased interest has energized the Center for Music Therapy to expand their offerings of group sessions that focus on anxiety relief and quality of life. Young notes that these virtual classes are for helping and healing as opposed to clinical treatments – which involve more personalized therapy that can go deep into the individual's past.

“For all these people whose souls are heavy right now and they're having weird dreams, it's not quite enough that the music's there to listen to. Everybody's wanting more,” she says, differentiating them from clinical cases. “They're not suicidal, they're not clinically depressed, they need more specific tools to address, ‘How do I get through this today to get to the other side?’”

The 30-year-old practice now offers a membership-based Strength Through Music

FACT “The truth is, most honey bees aren’t that defensive,” says Thompson. “That’s a big misconception. I love showing people that while, yes, we should all have a healthy fear of these creatures, they don’t necessarily want to sting you.”

TIP “I always say, ‘Creatures before content,’” adds Thompson on managing her popular social media. “That’s what’s important. All of that online stuff is so secondary to the work I do every day. People are like, ‘Why haven’t you posted more?’ I’m not going to share everything, because that’s just not who I am.”

firsthand, if you will,” she adds. “As a bug lover, I just love holding bees. This is what I should be doing on this planet, and when you find that purpose, there’s a natural calming effect.”

Thompson’s comfort handling insects dates back to her Houston childhood, when her mom wouldn’t grant requests for a puppy. She remembers bringing a dragonfly bedspread to her dorm at University of Texas at Austin, whereas other girls had trendier designs from Anthropologie. After college, while working as the communications director for the Austin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, she took a beekeeping course.

She soon set up a hive in her small Central Austin backyard, checking in during lunch breaks. The former hobbyist only left her office job a year ago, and now manages millions of bees on 5 acres off the Colorado River. Unlike many beekeepers, she doesn’t sell honey.

At Texas Beeworks, she finds many Austinites are attuned to the global decline of bee populations and choose not to kill unexpected colonies on their property. “The Austin community is so environmentally friendly,” she details. “I get a lot of calls from folks just wanting to do the right thing.”

With her popular status as a virtual communications director, of sorts, for Texas bees, Thompson is actually hesitant to post more videos. Most days, she rises early, checks her hives with morning coffee, and doesn’t come home from bee work until dark – purposefully limiting screen time. A September TikTok takes place at dusk; Thompson carefully unloads a rescue mission, with bees clinging magnetically to the box.

“We’re around them every day and rely on them so much, but people don’t know a lot about the inner workings of a colony,” she says. “People love the content because of the bees, I’m so secondary. The bees are the real stars here.” ■

Program, which includes group classes oriented around exercise, mental health, and multi-generational family collaboration.

Young explains that the sessions include relaxation practices in which participants learn breathing techniques that sync up with live music played by the therapists. Those musical exercises focus on tension relief and progressive muscle relaxation and include some light imagery – for example: “Imagine your favorite color in a ball of light, let it go into different parts of your body” – and guided imagery to a nature scene.

Improvisation also factors in, with the group expressing themselves through musical phrases that build atop each other. Additionally, Young says songwriting serves as an important tool for stress relief in a class setting – and they make it easy for non-musicians.

“We have tricks to help them fill in blanks – different chordal systems to let them get across what they’re feeling,” she explains. “We’ll ask, ‘What’s the right rhythmic tempo? What are we trying to express? What’s the main theme?’ We have ways to do this as a group and everybody has their own part. In the end, we’ll create an affirmation of what we want to leave with.”

Young admits the songs aren’t always joyful at the onset – and that’s okay.

“You can’t always just make a song happy. It doesn’t work. If people are pissed, if they’re angry, you need to start there and don’t pretend your way out of it. Then we move through that and let the song build to the place where you want to go. It’s a shared experience and it makes you believe you can create the world you want.” ■

FACT

A 2013 study titled “The Effect of Music on the Human Stress Response” found that, among a test group of healthy female participants, listening to the choral piece “Miserere” by Italian composer Gregorio Allegri prior to a stressful task made their body’s return to baseline cortisol levels faster compared to the same experiment without music.

TIP

Don’t do breathing exercises to music that you might have a prior and potentially negative association with – for example, a classical piece that’s been used in war movies. The Center for Music Therapy uses live, original music for classes – breathing in on an arpeggiated scale and out when the music goes down.

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Living in the Present Moment

Meditation isn't just for monks; center yourself and relieve stress **BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON**

Many of us first learned to meditate when we were small children, though we didn't know it – when a loved one in our lives told us to take a deep breath or count to 10 when we were upset. If we were asked to write something on the chalkboard over and over, as Bart Simpson does, that can also be meditation. Or to stop what we're doing and take a walk around the block. The concepts of how to meditate are pretty simple.

The more complex question is why. For centuries, meditation has been a spiritual practice – done every day by billions of faiths but also the stuff of monasteries and the isolated wilderness, of silence and solitude, mysticism and contemplation. It's entwined with prayer but is also different – as an old maxim goes, “Prayer is when you talk to God; meditation is when you listen to God.” You can define “God” in that sentence quite liberally, as do nontheistic Buddhists or nonbelievers in recovery, for whom prayer-and-meditation is the 11th of the 12 Steps – seeking “conscious contact” with one's Higher Power, the “god of one's understanding.”

But what if you just want to relax, or relieve your stress, or get better sleep? Meditation has become a common tool in the “wellness” and “self-care” toolbox, for seculars as well as those seeking enlightenment.

That's created some tensions, much as one sees around yoga, about the original spiritual traditions being devalued. It's also prompted skepticism of some more exuberant, less evidence-based claims of meditation's benefits.

Is “mindfulness” (a label often given to meditation as mental health care) really as or more effective than antidepressants? Can a meditation practice boost your immune system and combat COVID? Does a yoga nidra body scan actually take the place of sleep? As with most consumer health claims, there's a lot of noise. As for some more exotic New Age-y fruits of meditation – like tuning into “high vibrations” through “the law of attraction” to “manifest power and abundance” – your mileage may vary, just as with your horoscope. But you shouldn't seek to reimagine your reality through your practice as an alternative to asking for worldly help you need and deserve.

That all said, most secular-friendly meditation practices (not the strenuous and ascetic ones of the monks and saints) are completely safe, and with consistency can produce empirical results, like better sleep, that will make you feel better. It is, after all, a practice. For many novices, the first forays into sitting meditation, or breathwork, or body scanning can be uncomfortable and stressful – am I doing this right? Is



GETTY IMAGES

FACT Taking a few slow, deep breaths reduces carbon dioxide levels in the brain, which controls levels of the stress hormone noradrenaline. It's more effective if you breathe as meditators often recommend – in through the nose, out through the mouth, exhale longer than you inhale.

TIP The app Breathe has released a series of guided “Election Stress Relief” practices, with titles such as “News-Induced High Blood Pressure,” “Not Losing Your Sh*t on Social Media,” and “Mindful Mail-in Ballot Opening.” Breathe is a subscription service, but the election collection is free to all app users. If you're an election worker or volunteer, you can claim a free subscription.

something supposed to happen? Why can't I quiet my mind? (Because you're human.)

Sitting, focusing on the breath, or on a repeated mantra or sacred word, or scanning for sensations in different parts of the body, are all ways to locate yourself in the present moment. That's the important step from

which others follow – learning how to be here, just as you are, however that is, right now. If you become depressed about the past or anxious about the future, compassionately give yourself permission to return to that present moment. That's the calmest, safest place to be in trying times. ■

Low-Cost Mental Health Services in Austin

From individual to group counseling, there are several low-cost mental health service providers in the Austin area. Some entities accept many forms of insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, while others don't accept any insurance. As always, do your own due diligence, and call for the most up-to-date information. – *Beth Sullivan*

CAPITAL AREA COUNSELING

512/302-1000, www.cacaustin.org

Services: Individual, group, and couples and family counseling. Provided in Spanish and English.

Costs: New clients, \$20 intake fee; sliding scale, \$15-60 per session

There are no limits on the number of sessions at CAC. Pricing is based on self-reported income, but CAC's group therapy classes – including mindfulness skills, grief support, and healthy coping mechanisms – carry a \$5-per-session fee. All CAC services are delivered by volunteer post-graduate counselors acquiring hours toward licensure, pre-graduate counselors, or licensed professionals. Clients who require medication in addition to counseling are referred to a prescribing physician. Insurance not accepted.

WATERLOO COUNSELING CENTER

512/444-9922, www.waterloocounseling.org

Services: Individual, group, and couples and family counseling

Costs: Sliding scale for clients who are uninsured

Soon to be a program of Texas Health Action – the same nonprofit that runs sexual health services provider Kind Clinic – Waterloo Counseling Center has expertise in serving the LGBTQIA community and those living with HIV/AIDS. In addition to individual counseling, Waterloo offers weekly psychotherapy groups for trans and nonbinary folks. Many major forms of insurance accepted.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

512/478-4939, www.austinpcc.org

Services: Counseling, primary care support

Costs: Sliding scale for clients who are uninsured

People's Community Clinic is a primary care facility for Central Texas' uninsured and medically underserved, but it provides behavioral health services through its Integrated Behavioral Health Program. Clients must meet eligibility requirements for IBH Program enrollment.

INTEGRAL CARE

512/472-4357, www.integralcare.org

Services: Counseling

Costs: Varies

Integral Care clients should be prepared to show proof of insurance, and monthly fees for services are based on a client's income and family

size. In addition to providing one-on-one mental health support for people experiencing a mental health crisis, Integral Care also has programs for helping people recover from drug and alcohol use.



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WELL-SEASONED CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO MARIJUANA EDIBLES

Destress with Winnie the Pooh and cannabis **BY ALICE B. TOKER**

About a month ago, Fredzia the young African elephant lady living in the Warsaw zoo made international news. Not because of her inherent majesty, but because the death of her friend and elder, Erna, wrecked her world to such a degree that zoological scientists felt compelled to prescribe a cannabis compound to help alleviate her stress.

"This year has been a difficult time for Fredzia," wrote a BBC reporter in late August. Worrisome behavioral changes that stemmed from her grief inspired zoo veterinarian Dr. Agnieszka Czujkowska to begin administering small doses (relative to the voluptuous beauty's size) of cannabidiol, also known as CBD oil, to Fredzia's daily regimen. "Elephants might have behavioural problems when the structure of a group changes," Dr. Czujkowska told the reporter. We know something about grief and difficult structural changes, don't we, fellow inhabitants of Earth?

A brief aside: In the Polish translation of A.A. Milne's timeless classic, *Winnie the Pooh*, the beloved bear from childhood who, like many of us in 2020, refused to wear pants, is called Fredzia Phi-Phi. Back to the silly old bear shortly.

Czujkowska's project is aimed at determining whether the compound can help reduce Fredzia's anxiety. If successful, they hope to extend the courtesy to bears and rhinos. To be clear, the elephant is not expected to experience any serious side effects and there most certainly will not be a "high" *Loxodonta* lumbering around, because CBD oil does not contain any THC, the psychoactive component of cannabis. But she might very well feel better and please can't the elephants be happy? Can't we?

The point is, as we stress over horrific headlines, as justice seems a far-fetched concept, as the five stages of collective grief seem caught in an endless loop, there is, at least for me, a small amount of solace in evidence that relief grows in the dirt. There is a plant that, whether or not you like to teleport to a faraway dream land, or just survive virtual classrooms and meetings, contains a series of much-needed *joie de vivre* molecules.

As for me, I like to get really THC-high. I am *high functioning*. So in this third installment guide to marijuana edibles, one aimed at the well-seasoned among us, I offer suggestions aimed at reducing stress that extend beyond rewatching medical dramas and stockpiling cheese. And sure, some suggest that marijuana doesn't reduce stress and anxiety, but scientists also cannot determine whether the space object approaching Earth is a new "mini-moon" or an asteroid or part of a robotic spacecraft launched in 1966. So I'm telling you that marijuana, when consumed correctly for my brain, does in fact temporarily reduce the weight of the world, and you just might find the same to be true for you.

Once you've acclimated to cannabis consumption, determine whether you prefer sativa, indica, or hybrid (stoner adage: "indica = in the couch") by learning about dosage and strain. If during this pandemic you're struggling to acquire weed, a substance still unfortunately illegal in Texas, activate your whisper network. If we learn one thing this year, it ought to be the value of the village. I guarantee you that no matter how teetotaling you may be, someone on

your Instagram feed can help you. If you're part of the marijuana multiverse, experiment with a new strain. TOPS Cannabis out of Los Angeles suggests six fairly accessible strains that work wonders for stress and anxiety. Grand Daddy Purple, an indica strain, encourages restfulness, provides reliable relief from physical pain and insomnia, and has a sweet grape flavor. Sour Diesel, a sativa-dominant strain with about 26% THC, offers intense mental stimulation that can help counteract exhaustion with "energy-boosting potential" and citrusy flavor. The OG Kush strain is considered a hybrid as it helps create a euphoric and relaxed state through mild mental stimulation and also some body heaviness (like a weighted blanket) with a pine-lemon-earthly profile.

While you're upping your cannabis game, read. For more background information, *National Geographic's* predictive January 2020 "Marijuana Medicine" issue is stacked with info about the medicinal future and history of the plant. In it, one family seeks help in Colorado for their epileptic young daughter and finds relief from Charlotte's Web, a cannabis oil with a low-THC, high-CBD makeup. CBD can, or arguably should, be a huge part of the THC journey, bridging the gaps and sometimes acting as a counter to psychoactive effects accidentally rendered too intense. The cannabis website Leafly (which has an Austin office) offers a dosage chart (it's 15-30mg doses for "well-seasoned consumers") but makes clear that "unique internal physiologic environments" definitely affect reactions. In the case of mild THC overconsumption, "a large 50-200mg dose of CBD (without significant amounts of THC) can act as a partial antidote." They also suggest lemon rind and juice do the same. Just go slow and easy with any edibles – the goal here is reducing stress, not increasing it.

So take small steps and have fun as you heal and cope. Try a 1:1 ratio of THC and CBD in your tea or up your capsule dosage on a chill Saturday. Play in the kitchen – check out *Bong Appetit's* "high-end weed, high-end cuisine" recipes like spinach and artichoke dip risotto or raspberry peach pie. And because we're collectively relearning this year that Mother Nature knows best, get a little high and go on a walk. As we wait for updates on Fredzia the elephant, try to think like Fredzia Phi-Phi and consider the delicious ways you can adjust your honey (cannabis) consumption to work for your body and mind, not against them. Like Milne told us, "Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering." ■

Find links to previous guides to marijuana edibles with this story online.

FACT Cannabis contains more than 480 chemical compounds, with THC and CBD as two of the most present in most strains. Archeological evidence suggests human consumption as early as 10,000 years ago, but thanks to the United States federal ban in 1937, scientists are only beginning to scratch the untapped potential of cannabinoids.

TIP As a way to relax, try incorporating cannabis into your already vetted and beloved comfort foods like cannabutter in your mac & cheese or a 1:1 CBD and THC tincture in your morning protein smoothie. If you're going full-tilt THC and get too big for your britches, try some fresh lemon zest or juice to counteract the psychoactive effects.



Amy Winters (I) of Krav Maga ATX

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Fighting Stress

Calming down by punching out **BY JOSH ROSENBLATT**

Ten years ago I turned my back on life as a coward and a layabout to learn how to fight. That I began my education with the self-defense system Krav Maga felt both arbitrary and written in the stars. I just happened to have a friend whom I'd learned was an instructor at a Krav gym in South Austin at the very moment I was contemplating signing up for a martial arts class, but surely it was no accident that the martial art that made itself so available to me was developed by an Eastern European Jew to beat back Nazi street thugs in the 1930s. My lifelong feelings of ambivalence toward fighting were inextricably tied up in my being a Jew raised with the knowledge of his people's near-extinction by forces of incomprehensible cruelty and my lingering, blood-borne dread of those forces, and were given fuel by the battle between my concern (long taught) that violent responses to that cruelty would mean my people were no better than the monsters arrayed against them and my forever fantasies about crushing those monsters to death with my hands, regardless of its meaning.

Whatever the reasons for my fascination, Krav Maga and fighting quickly became addictions. But while my other addictions have weathered the COVID-19 storm without issue,

the only one that actually means something to me has been largely sidelined. Fighting demands the kind of physical intimacy only fighters and lovers know, and this often with strangers, whose histories you aren't familiar with and whose assurances about proper social-distancing habits you have no reason to trust. Which makes fighting the worst possible hobby in a pandemic.

But it's also the best. Because the benefits of fighting go beyond romantic delusions about

The neurological paradox at the heart of fighting remains the same: Putting yourself under stress relieves stress.

remedying historical catastrophes – they're cures for the anxiety brought on by them. Punch a bag enough times – punch another person, or, even better, get punched by them, even one time – and the stresses of the world drift away, ceding to more urgent anxieties that only appear when you give outlet to

your aggression and put your body at risk.

Last year, one of my earliest fighting partners, Amy Winters, started her own gym with friends in a warehouse in South Austin, and since Krav Maga ATX reemerged out of lockdown a few months ago Winters has seen fighting's stress-alleviating power work magic on her pandemic-weary students. That exercise increases the production of endorphins in the brain is well-known to scientists, and hitting bags has been shown to reduce the

muscle tension that can accumulate when you experience stress. But the additional emotional benefits of actually squaring off with another person and staring down ancient terrors are more mysterious. Just the idea that you can calm yourself down by being more aggressive sounds counterintuitive, even paradoxical.

"I know it's strange for people to hear, but fighting is meditative," Winters says. "When you're fighting you can't worry about anything else. You can't think about plagues and social unrest. You have to pay attention or you get punched in the face. It's a very active form of mindfulness."

All fighting styles offer this active mindfulness, but unlike boxing or Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Krav Maga was created with the stresses of the world in mind. Many of the exercises found in class are designed to simulate what students might go through in a street fight and accustom them to the flood of adrenaline and cortisol that swamp the brain and freeze the body in life-or-death situations.

"In 'stress drills,' we turn the lights out and the music up and try to create the chaotic feeling of a confrontation on the street," Winters says. "You may have to pull yourself out from under a group of people or try to escape as they're trying to hit you or kick you or choke you." Or, these days, instructors will just have students close their eyes and wait for an attack from a single dedicated quarantine partner. Such is the stress drill in the era of plague.

But no matter what concessions have to be made to COVID-19, the neurological paradox at the heart of fighting remains the same: Putting yourself under stress relieves stress. Which is why Krav Maga ATX and other Austin fighting gyms believe they need to be open now: Without the release of fighting, the anxiety of our malignant era would be too much to bear. ■

FACT Looking for relief from his sorrow, the 19th century Romantic poet Lord Byron – a notorious aficionado of all physical diversions, including boxing – sparred on the morning of his mother's funeral.

TIP A first fighting class can be a strange and exhausting experience, physically and emotionally. Winters says the best way to get over any initial awkwardness or fear is to pay close attention to the new movements you're introducing to your body, the way you would with a more peaceful practice like yoga. "Look at your hand hitting the pad and notice how it feels," she says. "If you're overwhelmed physically or psychologically or just embarrassed because you feel stupid compared to the other students, find the joy that comes from hitting something really hard."



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VINYL & TEQUILA

How I won the war against stress

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

Newly ambulatory, Lazlo leveled up to the turntable – perfectly positioned for someone two-and-a-half feet tall.

“Watch, okay,” I leaned down. “When I press this button, the tone arm will go up, swing over, and touch the needle down on the record. Then, out of the speakers, comes the music.”

“Sooseck!”

Sooseck’s paramount at our house, so weeks later when I arrived home and inquired about the mothership and satellite, everything ran down in order until the final item:

“We tried to play a record, but I couldn’t find anything in your stack on the floor.”

People talk about out-of-body experiences, and indeed, once EMTs jolted me back to life, I woke a changed man. Nothing returned to “normal.” Starting that night and consuming every waking moment of the next five years, my soul blazed with a born-again, missionary zeal – raged inside a burning ring of fire.

A spirit pledged to one lone God and quenched by the Holy Spirit herself: vinyl.

I Told the Witch Doctor

My mother bent down and pulled the tiny turntable out of the suitcase stereo. *Androcles and the Lion*, a record reliving the Oakland A’s 1972 championship season, and Alvin & the Chipmunks wisecrack David Seville’s *The Witch Doctor* – my kindergarten equivalent to Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the*

Moon logging 917 weeks on the charts – all followed (explore “Greener Pastures,” Summer Fun, May 10, 2002).

“Ooo eee, ooo ah ah, ting tang, walla walla, bing bang.”

None rivaled my Texan lifegiver’s Harry Belafonte *Calypso* record, Supremes comps, or her 8-track tape of *Woodstock*, with Joan Baez seething antidisestablishmentarianism alongside Country Joe & the Fish F-bombing Vietnam. The Sony Walkman appeared in high school, so New Wave cassettes (Clash, Elvis Costello, Joan Jett, Pretenders, Ramones) fed the portability paradigm. In college, a roommate bought *The Breakfast Club* soundtrack on CD and leveled our cottage with opener “Don’t You Forget About Me.”

Sold! Adios, *Witch Doctor*.

Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers’ sublimely broken *Southern Accents* and Iron Maiden’s radioactive *Live After Death* arrived in record mailers at the school newsmagazine, but they were carted off to market as well during a post-grad *High Fidelity* stint that yielded the entire Thin Lizzy catalog. Happily, vinyl grew in abundance in and around the foothills of Nineties Austin. DIY pressings of Butch Hancock populated Antone’s Records, while a future \$400 Johnny Hodges box set sold for \$40 at Sound Exchange on the Drag. Charlie Parker melted the alto sax, but Hodges poured the brass.

Even so, I knew naught of The Most Fabulous Object in the World™.

Are You Ready for the Country

Waylon Jennings hogtied me to the vinyl renaissance faster than you can say Neil Young.

Neither as groundbreaking as his Billy Joe Shaver songbook *Honky Tonk Heroes*, nor as undervalued as its Willie Nelson-heavy follow-up *This Time*, 1976’s *Are You Ready for the Country* took its title from Young’s *Harvest* and leads with an outlaw appropriation for the ages. Turns out that while cool kids obsessed over Record Store Day variations, classic country platters sold for a song: Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Wanda Jackson, Dolly Parton.

Naturally, once inside any vinyl den, product literally flew off the walls into my canvas SXSW sack, including Muddy Waters’ silky *Folk Singer* and *Fear of God II: Let Us Pray* from one the blues sovereign’s best hip-hop inheritors, Pusha T, at Waterloo Records, and a Mobile Fidelity master recording of *Dark Side of the Moon* at End of an Ear. (Grab that Beyoncé *B’Day* and \$5 Kool Moe Dee too while in the 78704.) And so it went, round and round and around the bend – over, under, sideways, down – from 2015 until Oct. 2, 2020.

Pandemic, no problem. The day Austin schools closed, Friday, March 13, I stocked up on provisions at Breakaway Records (revisit “Vinyl Saved My Life Tonight: Record Stores Deliver in a Crisis,” Music, March 24). When Austin reopened on April 27, Half Price Books proved a distanced goldmine of \$1-3 understock, panning out a gorgeous *Animals* from Pink Floyd (North Lamar), some Trini Lopez in Round Rock and Georgetown after the Dallas crooner passed August 11, and folk slayer Kate Wolf (South Lamar).

At Goodwill next door appeared John Coltrane consort McCoy Tyner and a mint *Fly Like an Eagle*, Steve Miller’s *Dark Side of the Moon*. Curbside service from End of an Ear reaped a Sara Watkins solo pop effort and Fitz & the Tantrums electro clapper for my spouse. Bastop’s Astro Records staged summer tent sales, which unearthed Earth, Wind & Fire, Linda Ronstadt, Lou Reed, Judas Priest, and Neil Young’s ’74 Caddy, *On the Beach*.

And on Labor Day, I became Waterloo Records’ first beta buyer for future appointment-only shopping. Van Morrison’s *Moondance*, Johnny Cash at *Folsom Prison*, the Pogues’ *Peace and Love: My Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* fantasy finally came true.

Tequila

Wes Montgomery’s triple-shot guitar, 80-proof bass from Ron Carter, and chill percussion by conguero Ray Barretto spikes their 1966 cover of the No. 1 instrumental smash that we once spun at our old house. Tequila Friday originated there with a cache of \$4 Jimmy Buffet records from bygone Encore Records. Nowadays, tequila Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday all franchise forward.

When a fiscal Sword of Damocles descended on me and the missus in March, we tripled our happy hours. One salary wouldn’t cover the spread. Shot, beer – repeat.

Summer-loving hindsight now, vinyl harmonies ruled the roost: Beach Boys, Beatles, Byrds, Everly Brothers, Simon & Garfunkel. Immortal soul-baring (Sam Cooke, Teddy Pendergrass, Jackie Wilson) met its match locally: Black Pumas, Charley Crockett, Greyhounds, Tomar & the FCs. During a flash thunderstorm, we moshed to *Grease*.

Discogs’ online marketplace provided crucial saves out of the bullpen: *Wish You Were Here*, Madonna sleeper *I’m Breathless*, Tangerine Dream synth possession *Sorcerer*, Aussie thrash demon Rebel Wizard (*Triumph of Gloom*), and a Spanish 12-inch at the bottom of my vinyl bucket list. Not precisely The Most Fabulous Object in the World™ – ultimately revealed as my own composite collection of all the records I’d bought and sold and had stolen throughout my life – but close enough.

Disposable income evaporated, my third eye snapped shut.

El Matador

Flying down Manor toward our Eastside sanctuary, Lazlo pounds a pair of splintered drumsticks from a Spirit Adrift/Skeleton immolation at Hotel Vegas against the headrest. Argentinian punks Los Fabulosos Cadillacs beat a New Orleans drumline into ploughshares. I sing every word in Spanish at top volume and the kindergartener nails its tribalism like the time the band turned Liberty Lunch into a human whirlpool with the same song.

“Si hablamos de matar, mis palabras matan/ If we talk about killing, my words kill.”

Palabras don’t kill, viruses do. And maybe vinyl really did save my vegan bacon daily since March 13. If so, every record I scrimped, saved, and sweat blood for since that day Agnes couldn’t find a needle in the haystack boils down to a 12-inch single of “El Matador.”

That’s the conversation I hope to have with Lazlo long after I can’t do it in person. ■

5 HOLY SPIRITS

Tanteo Jalapeño, \$30 No. 1 with a bullet for nearly as long as Pink Floyd’s *DSOTM*.

Jarama Reposado, \$12.50 Shockingly smooth at bargain bin cut-out prices and they just added a \$1.75 little jug.

Don Abraham Organic Reposado, \$47 Music business executive class special, so expect to finish the bottle during the first set.

Cantera Negra Reposado, \$53 Classically balladic and best served with Sade or Emmylou Harris.

Clase Azul Reposado, \$125 Platinum VIP only with a bottle that looks like a Peruvian Grammy.

There Be Monsters ... and Therein Lies the Fun

Fantasy sex toy shop Strange Bedfellas knows how to relieve your stress **BY JAMES SCOTT**

Stress can be a savage beast – think: ruined sleep schedules, constant brain static, and finger-in-an-electrical-socket anxiety – but a local shop is making some silicone beasts of their own who just might help combat that stress in a particularly pleasurable way. Strange Bedfellas, the ATX fantasy sex toy shop helmed by designer Meesh Oglesby Cunningham and a small production team, showcases colorful creatures made to spark the erotic imagination. Their product-drops on their virtual storefront feature the multicolored silicone nether regions of dragons, demons, and werewolves, as well as toppers and sleeves for wand and bullet vibrators to give them a little supernatural flair.

“In this day and age when you can’t leave the house hardly ever,” Oglesby Cunningham says, “it’s good to have some friends in your drawer who can spice things up a little bit.”

While fantasy sex toys are a relatively recent development in the market, they’ve skyrocketed in popularity thanks to the internet’s amplifying powers. During the pandemic restrictions on person-to-person contact, Oglesby Cunningham says that demand for her creations has ramped up, with all sorts of customers both new and old wanting to orgasm away real-world stressors with a silicone werewolf penis or two. (Werewolves, she reveals, are extremely good sellers for Strange Bedfellas – specifically their Tyv model. “We sell more

Tyvs than we sell anything else,” she says. “It’s ridiculous how much we sell that guy.”)

But how does an orgasm help to exorcise the stress monster? Multiple studies have pointed to biological reasons for climaxing as an effective stress reliever. When the body climaxes, it releases neurochemicals such as oxytocin, dopamine, and endorphins, which give you a natural sense of euphoria. This in turn helps to relax tense muscles – releasing them from the jaws of stress and making restful sleep easier ... and perhaps even paving the way for some exciting dreams. Orgasms can also help with the little demons of stress headaches: Recent research found that following an orgasm, many subjects showed elevated blood flow to all parts of the brain, which brings oxygenation as well as nutrients.

Fantasy sex toys can add an extra layer of erotic satisfaction by bringing a little escapism to the table. Oglesby Cunningham traces her own love of monsters back to the creature features of her youth – including *Alien* and the Nineties cartoon *Gargoyles* – and the worlds they transported her to. By combining that supernatural inspiration with her artist’s understanding of anatomy, she develops toy designs that are fun to use and also unique – a big selling point for a collector’s business like sex toys. “We have people who buy the same toys over and over again,” Oglesby Cunningham says. “Same toy, same model, same size, over

and over again. This is not a business that is niche in a way that you would think.” (From personal experience, this writer tried to buy a Strange Bedfellas’ product about five minutes after the initial drop time, and by the time I entered my credit card info and pressed “Purchase,” the product had sold out.)

But Oglesby Cunningham also points out that for a lot of her customers, some of whom might have body dysmorphia or issues dealing with humans in sexual situations, being able to go into a shimmering monster fantasy can be their best way of reaching climax. “[For them] it’s definitely like, ‘I can go into this other headspace. I don’t have to think about these things that make me nervous. I can just have fun up here.’” ■

Shop the Strange Bedfellas line of “fantasy dildos and monster sex toys” at www.strangebedfellas.com. Read more about the team’s design process with this story online.

FACT In some cases, frequent orgasms have been shown to increase one’s pain threshold.

TIP Make sure to sanitize sex toys after use with hot water and soap. If your toy has mechanical parts, wipe it with isopropyl alcohol and then a slightly damp towel.



Meesh Oglesby Cunningham of Strange Bedfellas

JANA BIRCHUM



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CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1 > OCTOBER 8



1 > THURSDAY



THE VORTEX: ODYSSEY Thursday-Saturday, 6-10pm

Follow in the footsteps of that Greek hero Odysseus – follow in your actual car – and witness the living tableaux of the ancient *Odyssey*, now updated to confront societal challenges of our modern times, as live performers take over an array of urban spaces and transform them into theatrical phantasmagoria.

See more arts events on p.40.

2 > FRIDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

ACL LIVE LOUNGE SERIES Friday-Saturday

Last month, ACL Live adapted into a chapel, marrying 14 couples under lights typically shining on bands. This weekend, they baby-step back into live entertainment with local, socially distanced double bills raising money for Austin music nonprofit Black Fret.

See more music recommendations on p.54.

3 > SATURDAY



AUSTIN CORN LOVERS FIESTA Online, Saturday-Sunday, 2-6pm

Limited scientific research exists as to whether COVID-19 can be transmitted through crotch sweat. To err on the side of caution, Hickoids frontman Jeff Smith, who uses the front of his Jockeys as a microphone holster, throws his annual ACL Fest alternative digitally this year.

See more music recommendations on p.54.

4 > SUNDAY



JESTER KING X JOLT: REGISTER TO VOTE Jester King Brewery, 1:30-3:30pm

The kind of brews and noms offered at Jester King Brewery on the regular, no one needs an excuse to make a reservation and partake of the excellent beery goodness out there. But here's one anyway: Get registered to vote, among the suds and sunshine, courtesy of Jolt Initiative.

See more food events on p.45.

5 > MONDAY



JANA BIRCHUM

EASTSIDE KINGS FESTIVAL Online, 7pm

The Eastside Kings Foundation has supported the local music community with over \$20,000 in donations during the pandemic. Celebrate the cultural heritage of African American blues, jazz, and gospel music by tuning in to the virtual music festival, featuring the legendary Miss Lavelle White, Birdleg, Soul Man Sam, and many more.

See more music recommendations on p.54.

6 > TUESDAY



CRAFTHER MARKET WEEK Online, through Oct. 11

For nine days, you'll be able to shop online from more than 90 businesses across Texas who have been impacted by COVID-19. On top of that, participate in digital workshops and panel events as well as two weekends of craftHER curbside, where you can pick up small business guides and more from the craftHER Market team.

See more community events on p.42.

7 > WEDNESDAY



JANA BIRCHUM

IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT POLICE Online, 6pm

Austin Justice Coalition's weekly community conversation invites participants to challenge their assumptions about public safety and the public good.

See more community events on p.42.

8 > THURSDAY



BOOKWOMAN: JILL ALEXANDER ESSBAUM BookWoman, 7:15-9pm

Cindy Huyser hosts this reading by the award-winning Texas-born poet (perhaps best known for her debut novel, *Hausfrau*); an open mic follows.

See more arts events on p.40.

CHRONEVENTS EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE IN AUSTIN
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SUBMIT!

For FAQs about submitting a listing, contact info, deadlines, and an online submission form, go to [austinchronicle.com/submit](https://www.austinchronicle.com/submit).

COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

GAP IS BACK! After postponing its events earlier in the spring because of the pandemic, **Texas Law's Gender Affirmation Project** has resumed its free, now-virtual clinics for the academic year. For readers unfamiliar with its work, GAP (formerly known as the Trans Name and Gender Marker Project) is a pro bono project where **UT-Austin** law students help Texans seeking assistance with obtaining name and gender marker changes on their Texas driver's license/state ID and Texas birth certificate. Clinic volunteers walk both adults and minors (who generally need a parent or guardian to file on their behalf) through preparing a petition and order, which applicants then file themselves in court. GAP's services are free – there's no eligibility screening, btw – but applicants will have to pay court costs of about \$300; still, the org assists folks with filing for a fee waiver. Student leaders with GAP tell me, "The pandemic has slowed just about every function of the courts." Travis County is hearing name and gender marker cases, which GAP suggests e-filing, and there's a four-to-six-week turnaround that's "a little longer than usual." Following clinics in August and September, GAP says they plan to offer another one this month and one more in November. October's date is still TBD – and clinics fill up fast – so we recommend giving 'em a follow on their Facebook or Instagram ASAP if you're interested in updates on upcoming clinics. Scheduling conflicts? Lead student counselors on the project can meet with applicants one-on-one outside of clinics, too. If you've got any Q's about GAP's services, send 'em an email at genderintegrity@law.utexas.edu.



IMAGE VIA EVENTBRITE

2 TO DO

Register to Vote

Find out if you're already registered to vote at www.votetravis.com. Download a voter registration form online, print it, and then either mail it to the county voter registrar or drop it off at the Travis County Tax Office. Need an already printed application? See p.21. *Applications must be postmarked or received by Mon., Oct. 5. countyclerk.traviscountytx.gov/elections.*

Virtual LGBTQIA Book Club

Read the rainbow with Austin Public Library's new virtual queer book club, happening the first Wednesday of every month. October's queer read is *Freshwater* by Akwaeke Emezi. *Wed., Oct. 7, 7-8pm. Online. Free. library.austintexas.gov.*

Q'D UP

CONTRACEPTION AND PREGNANCY TEST KITS Text 866/999-5263. *Delivery: 8am-11pm. Free. www.janesdueprocess.org.*

QUEER AND TRANS COMMUNITY CLOSET Bus passes, groceries, and more. Hours vary. *Out Youth, 909 E. 49th 1/2, 512/419-1233. Free. www.outyouth.org.*

CLASS TRANSITIONS Build yer strength-training skills with Erica Nix and Rocky Lane. *Thursdays, 6pm. Online. Price varies. www.patreon.com/workoutwithericnix.*

COMMUNITY HEALING SERIES Irma, a sex educator and client services manager at Jane's Due Process, breaks down stigma and shame surrounding masturbation and sex. *Fri., Oct. 2, 1-3pm. Online. Free. www.fb.com/allgoqopoc.*

YOGA FOR AN OPEN HEART Kelly M. Marshall's beginner-friendly class. *Fridays, 7-8pm. Online. \$7-20. www.austinbodycollective.com/openheart.*

FAT BOTTOM CABARET: BROWN SOUTH Nikki DaVaughn hosts a "curvageous" evening celebrating BIPOC drag and burlesque performers. Chola Magnolia, Lady Lola LeStrange, and guests. *Sat., Oct. 3, 7-8:30pm. Online. \$5-20. www.fb.com/fatbottomcabaretatx.*

VIRTUAL TRANS WELLNESS PEER SUPPORT GROUPS For ages 18+. *Tuesdays, 5:30-6:20pm & 7-7:50pm. Free. www.outyouth.org/govirtual.*

SECOND THURSDAY OPEN MIC Poet Jill Alexander Essbaum reads from her book *Would-Land*, followed by an open mic. *Thu., Oct. 8, 7:15-9pm. Online. www.fb.com/bookwomanaustin.*

For all Qmmunity listings see austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and send yer queer'd events to qmmunity@austinchronicle.com.

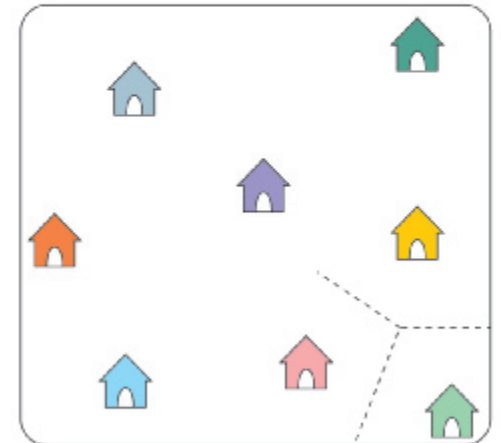
Math Happens

Land Grab!

One of the houses below has a fence around it. Your job is to fence the rest! Each homeowner wants the largest yard so the fences need to be on the middle line between houses.



Congrats!
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Created by Josephine Sheng at MathHappens Foundation. For more information, visit www.mathhappens.org

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Arts & Culture

FORTLANDIA

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center,
4801 La Crosse, 512/232-0100
www.wildflower.org
Oct. 3-Jan. 31

Hail Fortlandia!

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center brings back its delightful designer forts right when we need them

BY ROBERT FAIRES

If the wildflowers can still spring up in a year like this, so can the forts. That means you can look forward to a new crop of the latter this week when Fortlandia returns to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Yes, for a third autumn, the center's arbo-retum trail will be home to an assortment of playful structures they call "forts," but they're forts of the kind that exist only in the imagination of a child – or maybe not even there since these are conceived and constructed by working designers who bring their professional creativity and skill to the delightful challenge of making a kid-style secret hideout. What's more, they're made by designers who have to really want to make a fort, want it bad enough to work up a formal proposal and submit it to the Wildflower Center, which has a panel of judges – local experts in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, nature play, and child behavior – who review them and approve just a select few.

The ones that make the cut? They come together in a display that's something like Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank Gehry at play in Neverland: joyful, ingenious, and utterly irresistible – for wee ones and grownups alike. Kids can't help climbing on them and in them, running through them and around them. Their parents take photos and Instagram them – lots of them. (Just check out #fortlandia.) And they do this in droves. Last year's Fortlandia drew 85,000 visitors over its four-month run.

As for the folks making the forts, they have as much fun with them as everyone else. Planning them, they're able to let their imaginations run free in a way they rarely can, to be goofy and impish and whimsical – what about a house where the outside walls are all mirrors so it's like it's invisible? What about a big fence of wooden poles around a tree with a tunnel you can walk through and it's like you're invisible? What about two ships with sails like teepees and a hidden pipe between them so people can talk to each other? – and then they get to see their fanciful creations actually built. Tanya Zastrow, the Wildflower Center's director of programs and you might say prime minister of Fortlandia, has noted the feelings the forts' creators experience during the construction phase. "Watching the designers see their creations come to life," she says, "you can see the joy in

their eyes as they realize their dream is becoming a reality."

The realized dream can be short-lived, though, since Fortlandia only runs from October through January. But with designers having shown an increasing interest in sustainability – building forts with materials that could be reused or composted, for example – the Fortlandia team decided this year to ask designers what they intended to do with the forts after the end of the exhibition. According to Zastrow, "We were looking for forts that could have a second life at another location, be recycled or composted, or broken down and reused for other purposes. We wanted to avoid having forts end up in the landfill. The fort by Texas Parks and Wildlife is likely to have a permanent home at one of the state parks, which is a wonderful ending to Fortlandia."

But let's not put the ending before the beginning. Fortlandia 2020 opens this weekend, first for members of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Oct. 3 and 4, then to the public at large starting Oct. 5. Of course, this being the pandemic year, adjustments are being made for the Fortlandia experience. The number of visitors will be limited by the hour and day with set entry times, but hours are being extended to 7pm throughout October to allow more people in. Masks are required for children and



JOHN ANDERSON

adults at all forts, and every fort will have hand sanitizer available for visitors to use before and after they enter. Also available will be virtual Fortlandia options, such as virtual field trips for elementary school groups and monthly "meet the designer" events, one of which will be especially for kids so they can ask the designers questions about their forts and maybe learn some secrets about their secret hideouts.

Those designers, by the by, are as illustrious a bunch as ever:

- Fourth Workshop
- Letterpress PLAY

- Mark Odom Studio
- Perkins and Will
- Point B Design Group
- Pollen Architecture & Design
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Thalweg LLC and Blue Sky Design & Build
- Webber + Studio, Architects

Zastrow agrees. "This year's designers have really gone above and beyond with their designs," she says. Which sounds to us like Fortlandia will be more joyful, more ingenious, more irresistible than ever. And in a year like this, who doesn't need all of that? ■

ARTS LISTINGS

AC

THEATRE

OPENING

🌀 **THE VORTEX: ODYSSEY** This here's the main, above-ground, *right-there-in-real-life* manifestation of the **Vortex fundraising show** we've been telling you about. Follow in the footsteps of that Greek hero **Odysseus** – follow *in your actual car, packed with your closest friends*, guided by the voice of Athena through the Manor Road neighborhood – and witness **the living tableaux of the ancient Odyssey**, now updated to confront societal challenges of our modern times, as **live performers** take over an array of **familiar urban spaces** and transform them into **theatrical phantasmagoria** for your fuck-this-pandemic pleasure. Ah, those seductive sirens ... the cyclops ... the island of Calypso ... the aquatic treacheries of Scylla and Charybdis! It's like one of those motorized safaris, right, except the animals are (more or less) people and the

reality is mythic? It's like ... going to Hades in a Toyota handbasket? Bon voyage, traveler, and watch out for those naiads. Oct. 1-10. Thu.-Sat., 6-9pm. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 512/478-5282. \$125 per car. www.vortexrep.org.

AMERICAN DREAMS You, yes, you are invited into the live online studio audience of *American Dreams*, a **game show** where the audience decides which contestant will receive the ultimate prize: **instant citizenship** to "the greatest nation on earth." This playful participatory performance heists the tropes of America's favorite game shows and uses voting, polling, trivia, and more to explore who and what we choose to believe. Fri.-Sat., Oct. 2-3, 7pm. \$15 (UT students, free). www.texasperformingarts.org.

THE GAMING OF THE SHREW Rosedale Shakespeare presents **Amber Elby's** new play, inspired by **tabletop gaming** and that William Shakespeare comedy (you know the one), with an intrepid squad off on a quest to explore the boundaries and overlappings between the game, the play, and real life. This livestreamed show features **five characters** – friends, siblings, and partners – who have come together to enjoy a role-playing game called *Prisons & Princes* one last time. But, oh, they each have much bigger battles ahead of them ... Sat., Oct. 3, 1pm. Donations accepted. www.ko-fi.com/rosedaleshakespeare.

ONGOING

🌀 **THE VORTEX ODYSSEY: UNDERGROUND** This *Underground* section – a **virtual, livestreamed evocation of the underworld of gods and such that the ancient Greek hero Odysseus had to deal with but updated with**

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modern concerns - is an accompaniment to the main Vortex *Odyssey* spectacle that you'll actually drive your car through. This online-only portion is riddled with can-you-solve-it puzzles, animations, and interactive performances - featuring appearances by the likes of sexologist **Annie Sprinkle**, commedia dell'arte troupe **La Fenice**, the improv savants **Parallelogramophonograph**, and more. *Through Oct. 10. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. \$33-1,000. www.vortexrep.org.*

COMEDY

ColdTowne Theater www.coldtownetheater.com

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS LIVE The stage on Airport Boulevard might be dark, citizen, but the stars of that laugh factory near Mrs. Johnson's Doughnuts are shining bright every Friday and Saturday night on ColdTowne TV! Tune in for this variety show format and drop a few bucks in the virtual tip jar to keep local comedy alive. *Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

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

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

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

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

COMEDY WHAM: ISOLATION COMEDY SHOWCASE In which **Valerie Lopez**, who runs that fierce online resource of stand-up-focused podcasts and profiles, presents a weekly live-streamed lineup of local stand-ups, hosted by **Colton Dowling**. *Fridays, 8pm. Donations accepted. www.comedywham.com.*

VIRTUAL HIDEOUT: MAESTRO This is an all-improvised battle royal, featuring the most ornery cusses in the scene doing their damndest to emerge victorious from a mind-warping multiplayer fray. Imagine: a screen crowded with Zoomers competing in short improv games and wildass gambits to be crowned the one and only Maestro for the week. Sound good? Yeah - we like it, too. *Wednesdays, 8pm; Saturdays, 10pm. \$5. www.hideouttheatre.com.*

DANCE

BALLET AUSTIN: CLASSES ONLINE While you're home, wherever you are across the world, you can still take a dance, fitness, or Pilates class with Ballet Austin. Ballet, barre, contemporary dance, hip-hop, tap, cardio dance fitness, and Pilates out the wazoo, so to speak, because there are so many varieties to choose among, and all taught by professional instructors - and it's all available 24/7, just like the internets. *Ongoing. \$3-7 per class. www.balletaustin.org.*

BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: DANCE CLASSES, VIDEO CLASSES Weekly modern dance classes with **Jun Shen**, video-creation classes with **Nicole Whiteside**, and more from this acclaimed company of aerialists. *Ongoing. www.bluelapislight.org.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: EDUCATING BEETHOVEN Three works by Ludwig Van himself glorify this vibrant virtual offering from **Peter Bay** and the indefatigable ASO, as do *Sinfonia concertante* by **Joseph Haydn** and **Antonio Salieri's Sinfonia in D major**, with all of it brought to sonic fruition by **Jessica Mathaes** (violin), **Douglas Harvey** (cello), **Julianne Webner** (oboe), and **William Lewis** (bassoon). *Fri., Oct. 2, 7pm. \$50. www.austinsymphony.org.*

DIDO AND AENEAS: ENCORE BROADCAST Love, sorcery, and tragic opera: Is there a better way to spend a Saturday evening? Join **Local Opera Local Artists** and **Panoramic Voices** for this encore presentation of the first collaboration from these two Austin art institutions, their February 2020 performance of **Henry Purcell's** 17th century baroque masterpiece. Bonus: **Liz Cass** of LOLA will lead a panel discussion by the creative team behind the show - **Brent Baldwin**, **Rebecca Herman**, and **ARCOS Dance's Erica Gionfriddo**. *Sat., Oct. 3, 7pm. Free. www.panoramicvoices.org.*

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

BIG MEDIUM: COFFEE CHATS In addition to their regular artist features, the Big Medium folks offer virtual coffee-time convo, too - with leaders in the creative community sharing their personal and professional experiences to inspire others pursuing careers in art. Up next: **Jaime Castillo** (Thu., Oct. 1, 10-11am); **John Mulvany** (Thu., Oct. 8, 11am-noon); **Manik Raj Nakra** (Thu., Oct. 16, 11am-noon). *Free. www.bigmedium.org.*

LANDMARKS: SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR Well, it's *always* an event, isn't it? When you can take your smartphone to access self-guided tours of the outdoor public art sited by **UT's award-winning Landmarks program?** That's an affirmative, so do enjoy some sunshine along with **modern and contemporary art** that celebrates diverse perspectives and features commissioned projects in addition to sculptures from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Ongoing. Free. www.landmarks.utexas.edu.*

SUPER STUFF SATURDAY SURPRISE The good people of **Collection Rert** host another "art and fun junk harvest, fueled by donations from awesome people like yourself." It's a self-service buffet of **art and comics and music and toys and books**, conveniently located in the Rert driveway for cyclists, joggers, dog-walkers, skateboarders, and, oh, *anybody* - with tables spaced out and full of spaced-out stuff for happy and safe rummaging. *Sat., Oct. 3, 10am-3pm. 2608-B Rogers. Free. www.collectionrert.org.*

VIEWPOINT: A CONVERSATION ON KARA WALKER UT's excellent public art program offers this online discussion of "The Fact of Fiction: Four Works by Kara Walker," one of the exhibitions currently on view in the Visual Arts Center's Fieldworks Gallery. *Wed., Oct. 7, 4:30pm. Free. www.landmarks.utexas.edu.*

OPENING



GRAYDUCK GALLERY: CAPIROTADA Capirotada is a delicious Mexican bread pudding concocted from a wide variety of nuts and fruits embedded within syrup-soaked bread. In a similar vein, this new show - curated by **Los Outsiders** - collects a group of artists revealing dialogues about **self-reflection, meditation, and communing with nature through art.** A fine array of works by **Rachel Comminos, Julie DeVries, Soomin Jung, Paloma Mayorga, and Ryan Runcie** bridge the ideas of the individual in search of solace in a natural world. *Open by appointment only, Oct. 2-Nov. 1. grayDUCK Gallery, 2213 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.*

Harvest of Fall Fun!

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- Barrel Train
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The Blanton Museum of Art: Expanding Abstraction

In the early 20th century, Western artists began exploring **abstract, nonrepresentational forms** for the first time. Several decades later, abstraction's practitioners experimented with **new materials and techniques**: Dripping, pouring, staining, and even slinging paint became common, as did the use of nontraditional media such as acrylic and industrial paints. Artists also ditched the flat, rectangular format to create sculptural texture and dimensionality.

Now, can you guess whose corporate collection is particularly strong in such paintings of the 1960s and Seventies? If you guessed "the Blanton Museum of Art," then you'll especially want to get an eyeful of this major new show, subtitled "Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas," organized by the venue's own Carter E. Foster. *Oct. 4, 2020-Jan. 10, 2021.*

The Blanton Museum of Art, 200 E. MLK, 512/471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

ICOSA: COMITY OF GHOSTS New work by **Darcie Book** and **Shawn Camp**? In the main ICOSA space? *Thank you* is what we say as we prepare to visit this collection of "disparate objects and images," a show that "oscillates between visceral physicality and ethereal immateriality, tip-toeing back and forth between realms of the living and the dead." Note: There's an **in-person reception** on Saturday, for four guests at a time; make a reservation and wear your finest mask. *Reception: Sat., Oct. 3, 5-11pm. ICOSA, 916 Springdale, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.*

PRIZER ARTS & LETTERS: THE PATH OF LIGHT Who's chosen this path of light? It's Austin artist **Carl Smith**, his abstract landscapes exploring composition and texture through the use of **heavy impastos and aggressive brushwork**, spontaneously creating "personal paintings with a strong emphasis on form and emotion." And you can make a reservation to view the exhibition up close and personal, or, listen: "Our front room will be lit up from 8pm-midnight each night to allow you to view the installation from outside the gallery." *Oct. 3-11. Prizer Gallery, 2023 E. Cesar Chavez. www.prizerartsandletters.org.*

WESTERN GALLERY: TEXAS WOMEN This virtual art gallery curates **distinct perspectives of the American West** - abstract to photorealistic, classic to contemporary - and now reveals its new show that features work by **Felice House, Arielle Austin, Alice Leese, Debbie Carroll, Anna-Sophia Lagos, Elizabeth Dryden, Dana Falconberry, Vic Gilmore, Chanel Kreuzer, Katelyn Betsill, Sirena LaBurn**, and more. *Oct. 2-25. www.western.gallery.*

CLOSING

COLLECTION RERT: ANTHROPOMORPHIC Feast your eyes on the **digital collages** of **Andrea Alfaro** and the **ink drawings** of **Chris Martino**, showcasing images of horses riding cats, cats riding horses, imaginary wilderness, cats talking on landlines, myth, tarot, anatomy, and more. (More cats and horses, especially.) Make an appointment via the website of these relentless community artmongers, and note: Each 30-minute appointment slot can accommodate up to six people, who will view the exhibit from two different windows outside the gallery. *Sat., Oct. 3, 3-8pm. 2608-B Rogers. www.collectionrert.org.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: CAROL DAWSON Any birder with a "life list" - they'll want to see this show. Anybody who likes 1) **birds** or 2) **brilliantly wielded watercolors** or especially 3) **both** - they'll want to see this show, too. Because Dawson's work is, in its accuracy and composition, responding to the 18th and 19th century traditions of natural science illustration - it's **as astonishingly beautiful as the creatures she depicts**. *Through Oct. 4. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

BOOKS

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

SCOTT SEMEGRAN: THE BENEVOLENT LORDS OF SOMETIMES ISLAND The Austin-based author celebrates the release of his eighth book, with bonus readings from **Charlotte Gullick**. *Sat., Oct. 3, 7pm. www.malvernbooks.com.*

YAMILE SAIED MÉNDEZ: FURIA **BookPeople** presents the author, in conversation with **Nova Ren Suma**, with her debut YA novel about a rising soccer star who must put everything on the line to follow her dreams. *Mon., Oct. 5, 6pm. Free. www.bookpeople.com.*

CAMILLE DUNGY POETRY WORKSHOP **Concordia University** presents the acclaimed nature poet and author with a virtual poetry writing workshop with writing prompts, a poetry reading, and a Q&A moderated by Concordia students - and the general public (that's you, citizen) is invited. *Wed., Oct. 7, 6pm. Free. www.concordia.edu.*

BOOKWOMAN POETRY: JILL ALEXANDER ESSBAUM **Cindy Huyser** hosts this reading by the award-winning Texas-born poet (perhaps best known for her debut novel, *Hausfrau*); an open mic follows. *Thu., Oct. 8, 7-15pm. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.*

COMMUNITY AC

GREAT CONVERSATIONS 2020: FIXING AMERICAN POLITICS All are welcome to join UT-Austin's Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life for a discussion on civic values and an awards presentation to Admiral B.R. Inman and Kirk Watson. *Thu., Oct. 1, 6-7:30pm. Virtual. \$50. www.moody.utexas.edu/centers/strauss/great-conversations-2020.*

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS: SUPER HUMANKIND What if humans could have superpowers like Spider-Man or Wonder Woman? In fact, they already do! Learn about superpowers due to genetic adaptation by natural selection and through cultural innovations with Science Under the Stars. Links to the lecture, a video tour of Brackenridge Field Lab, kids' activities, and more will be posted online on Oct. 1 to prepare viewers for the live Q&A with speaker Christina Balentine on Oct. 8. *Materials available Thu., Oct. 1; live Q&A Thu., Oct. 8, 7pm. Virtual. Free. www.scienceunderthestars.org.*

SHOCK THE VOTE ATX A new nonpartisan community-building campaign aiming to energize the city of Austin. Funds raised through partner events support Austin Creative Alliance, Austin Justice Coalition, Between the Pages, Out Youth, the SAFE Alliance, and Texas Appleseed. This week's events include improv with Y'all We Asian (Oct. 1), sketches and music with Hot Pot Comedy (Oct. 2), and a clothing collection preview party with Flavors Creative Group (Oct. 8). Sign up for the newsletter to get updates, and join in on one of the partner events to support the cause. *Thu.-Fri., Oct. 1-2 & Thu., Oct. 8. Online. www.shockthevoteatx.com.*

AUSTIN ED FUND'S INSPIRE THE FUTURE EVENT

Austin Ed Fund's sixth annual Inspire the Future fundraiser will celebrate the work of the AISD Crisis Support Fund and give a special welcome to AISD's new superintendent, Dr. Stephanie Elizalde. Learn more about the Austin Ed Fund and how you can support the district's 80,000 students and 5,500 teachers by tuning in via AISD.TV or the Austin Ed Fund's YouTube channel. *In English: Fri., Oct. 2, noon & 6pm; Sat., Oct. 3, 10am. En español: Vi., Oct. 2, 1pm & 7pm; Sá., Oct. 3, 11am. Televised on AISD's channel 22. Free. www.austinedfund.org/inspire-the-future.*

PLANET ROCK DISTILLERY This beautiful outdoor venue offers plenty of room to social distance and a variety of mixed drinks using locally distilled vodka. Book some time at their "glampground" or just check out some live music: This weekend features the Ole Coots on Friday and the Leanne Band on Saturday, and every Saturday there's karaoke from

1-4pm. *Fri.-Sat., Oct. 2-3. Planet Rock Vodka Distillery, 5401 Hudson Bend. www.planetrockvodkadistillery.com.*

DRIVE-THROUGH VOTER REGISTRATION Need to register to vote before the Oct. 5 deadline? Moved recently? Just want to make sure your information is up to date? KOOP and the League of Women Voters Austin Area have you covered! And local creative studio Good Snake will be stopping by on Sunday with posters, stickers, and other surprises in tow. *Sat.-Sun., Oct. 3-4, 10am-4pm. KOOP Radio parking lot, 3823 Airport. www.koop.org.*

DOUBLETAKE ATX DoubleTake ATX, a resale and gift shop benefiting the Center for Child Protection, is now open to the public at 25% capacity on Saturdays. You can also shop by appointment Wed.-Fri. and on Sundays. *Saturdays, noon-6pm. 6318 Burnet (in Old Lightbulb Shop building). www.doubletakeatx.org.*

CARVER MUSEUM SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT The Austin Parks and Recreation Dept. invites you to continue the journey of planning for the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural, and Genealogy Center to guide future development in alignment with the community's values, needs, and priorities. *Sat., Oct. 3, 1pm. Online. www.publicinput.com/0456.*

SCOTTY MESCALL MEMORIAL The beloved "mayor of House Park" and Far Out Lounge mascot has passed, and this celebration of his life features a charitable auction, storytelling, music, skating, and epic tacos in his honor. *Sat., Oct. 3, 3pm. The Far Out Lounge & Stage, 8504 S. Congress, 512/351-9909. www.fb.com/thefaroutlounge.*

DESDE LA SALA VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center's biweekly series presents four streaming performances, this time including Carrie Rodriguez, Shelly Lares, Irene Diaz, and Marinero. *Sat., Oct. 3, 6-9pm. Online. Free. www.fb.com/events/1195015250870177.*

GEORGETOWN GHOST TOURS Join costumed tour guides at the Williamson Museum as they tell the stories of the ghosts who have haunted local establishments for more than 100 years. *Sat., Oct. 3; Fri.-Sat., Oct. 9-10; Fri., Oct. 30. Times: 7:30, 8, 9pm. Williamson Museum, 716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown. \$15-20. www.williamsonmuseum.org.*

CRAFTHER MARKET WEEK For nine days, you'll be able to shop online from more than 90 businesses across

"Dream Like a Teen" Young Entrepreneur Virtual Roundtable

Whole Kids Foundation presents business sensation Mikaila Ulmer, 16-year-old founder and CEO of Me & the Bees Lemonade and author of the new book *Bee Fearless: Dream Like a Kid*, hosting a virtual discussion with top youth entrepreneurs from across the country with the aim of helping other kids start or grow their businesses. Attendees will receive a digital copy of "The Kidpreneur's Guide to Building Your Own Buzziness Plan," a key excerpt from Ulmer's new book, and ten randomly selected participants will receive a gift bag. *Sat., Oct. 3, 3-4pm. Virtual. Free. www.bit.ly/DreamLikeaTeen.*



Texas who have been impacted by COVID-19. On top of that, participate in daily digital workshops and panel events as well as two weekends of craftHER curbside, where you can pick up curated small business guides, boxes, meals, and cocktails from the craftHER Market team. Oct. 3-11. *Online and at various locations.* www.crafthermarket.com.

BREAST CANCER CAN STICK IT! VIRTUAL DRUMMATHON This year's Drummathon, presented by Love Life Foundation, has gone virtual. Enjoy live music, auctions, celebrity guest appearances, breast cancer survivors, and top fundraisers streamed straight to the comfort of your home. Sun., Oct. 4, 1-9pm. *Online via Zoom.* www.drummathon.org.

VIRTUAL DIY: MAKE A MINI LIVING WALL CLASS These mini living walls are a signature Articulture creation, and you can learn to make your own from founder and "artpreneur" Monique Capanelli. Get the materials via curbside pickup or delivery, then sign in to the class to get design instruction, longevity tips, care instructions, and more. Sun., Oct. 4, 1-2pm. *Virtual.* \$95 and up. www.articulturedesigns.com.

UT HEALTH & HUMANITIES RESEARCH SEMINAR Dr. Izetta Autumn Mobley will speak on "Optical Illusions & the Anatomy of Looking: Race, Disability, Slavery, and Medicine in the Nineteenth Century," examining how race, gender, disability, and visual culture interact to produce notions of sovereign bodies in the U.S. Mon., Oct. 5, 4pm. *Online.* www.liberalarts.utexas.edu/humanitiesinstitute.

RAISE THE ROOF WITH IACT Interfaith Action of Central Texas Hands on Housing's fall repair event, Raise the Roof, needs teams to help with painting and minor home repairs for low-income, elderly, and/or disabled citizens in need. If you, your congregation, or your organization want to participate, reach out to iACT for more info. *Team leader Q&A: Mon., Oct. 5, 6pm; event: Oct. 17-31. Citywide.* www.interfaithtexas.org/hands-on-housing.

EASTSIDE KINGS FESTIVAL The Eastside Kings Foundation has supported the local music community with over \$20,000 in donations during the pandemic. Keep the mission alive and celebrate the cultural heritage of African American blues, jazz, and gospel music by tuning in to the virtual music festival, featuring the legendary Miss Lavelle White, Birdleg, Soul Man Sam, and many more. Mon., Oct. 5, 7pm. *Online.* www.fb.com/eastsidekingsfestival.

LEGALLINE On the first Tuesday of every month, obtaining good, simple legal advice is easy. Just call 512/472-8303 for LegalLine, the free legal advice hotline sponsored by Austin Lawyer Referral Service. Attorney volunteers can answer questions and give brief legal advice concerning many areas of law. *First Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm.* www.austinlrs.com.

11TH ANNUAL NONPROFIT FAIR PRESENTED BY UFCU

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to give back, you're invited to join the fair and virtually hop tables to learn about ways to get involved in the community. Tue., Oct. 6, 6-7:30pm. *Online. Free.* www.bit.ly/2020-nonprofit-fair.

CONNECT OVER COCKTAILS Mix a cocktail (or mocktail) and join Women Communicators of Austin's virtual happy hour to connect, converse, and say, "Cheers!" to the community. Members and nonmembers welcome. Wed., Oct. 7, 5:30pm. *Online via Zoom.* www.wcaustin.org/events.

POLITICIANS & MUSICIANS: GET OUT THE VOTE LETTER-WRITING PARTIES Join Swing Left Austin and Vote Forward for an entertaining night of music, community action, and getting out the vote! Volunteers will send heartfelt, handwritten letters to unregistered and low-propensity voters to help boost voter turnout. *Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Virtual. Free.* www.swinglefttab.org.

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN BOLD FC Vs. San Antonio FC. Sun., Oct. 4, 5pm. \$16 adult; \$10 kids; under 2 free. *Bold Stadium, 9201 Circuit of the Americas Blvd.* www.austinboldfc.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Volleyball vs. Kansas: Thu.-Fri., Oct. 1-2, 7pm. Vs. Iowa State: Thu.-Fri., Oct. 8-9, 7pm. *Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* **Football** vs. TCU. Sat., Oct. 3, 11am. *Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, 2100 San Jacinto.* www.texasports.com.

TEXAS STATE Women's Volleyball vs. UT-Arlington. Fri., Oct. 2, 6pm; Sat., Oct. 3, 1pm. *Strahan Arena, 106 Charles Austin Dr., San Marcos.* www.txstatebobcats.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

KEEP AUSTIN WEIRD'S 5.12K RUN TO BRUNCH Keep Austin Weird with scenic run courses throughout the city, unique restaurants, and local entertainment. Presented by Karbach Brewing Co. in partnership with Southern Smoke Foundation to help raise money and awareness for their Austin Relief Fund, helping people in the local food and beverage industry impacted by COVID-19. *Through Oct. 18. Virtual.* \$45. www.runto brunch.com.

OPEN SESSIONS WITH SWIFT FIT EVENTS Virtually join free instructor-led streaming classes with activities like yoga, kickboxing, dancing, boot camp, and more. *Mondays, noon-1pm. Free.* www.fb.com/swifitfevents.

SOCCER WATCH BY NICK BARBARO

It's **Fan Appreciation Night** at **Bold Stadium** this Sunday, and there will be, believe it or not, a lot of loyal fans there, and probably a goodly contingent from the Alamo City as well, as local rivals San Antonio FC look to cap off their own remarkable season – currently the best record in the 35-team league – by knocking the **Austin Bold** out of the playoffs.

The Bold go into the finale almost certainly needing a win to finish ahead of FC Tulsa; they're virtually tied in the standings as we go to press Wednesday evening, and Tulsa still has a makeup game to be rescheduled. And, who knows, this could be the last appearance at Bold Stadium for a lot of Bold veterans – the guys who created and have been the faces of this franchise: **Javi Baez, Kléber, Amobi Okugo, Andre Lima, Diego Restrepo, Jermaine Taylor, Sean McFarlane, and of course hometown hero Sonny Guadarrama.** The game is at 5pm, but gates open at 3pm for \$3 beers until kickoff, free rides for kids under 8 at the new COTALAND Amusement Park, and 40% off Bold merch; tickets at AustinBoldFC.com. There's a pretty rigorous safety protocol – masks, temperature checks, 25% capacity, etc. But if that's not enough, it's also being shown live on ESPN+.

The **UT Longhorns** have only scored once all season, but they made it count, as freshman forward **Presley Echols** got the only goal in a 1-0 win over Oklahoma in the Red River shootout. It was the Dallas native's first college game, and it earned her an honorable mention on the TopDrawerSoccer National Team of the Week. **Haley Berg**, who set up the goal, was named to the national first team, a first for the senior leader. UT travels to **West Virginia** this Friday, taking on the seventh-ranked Mountaineers at 6pm; watch live on Big 12 Now on ESPN+.



COURTESY OF AUSTIN BOLD FC

KIDS

STARRY NIGHTS AT HOME Girlstart's Mini-Planetarium is a unique space to explore astronomy. Each month features a virtual star show and hands-on STEM activities. Materials lists are posted the Monday before each Starry Night; RSVP and access all the resources online. *First Thursdays in Oct., Nov., and Jan. Online. Free.* www.girlstart.org.

HSEM CALENDAR CONTEST The city's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management invites students in grades 2-5 to submit artwork for an Emergency Preparedness Calendar. Get details and inspiration online. *Deadline: Oct. 18, 11:59pm. Online.* www.austintexas.gov/hsemcalendar.

ART SCARED The San Marcos Art League is seeking elementary to high school students for a temporary public art installation designed for windows of participating establishments on the historic downtown square. *Registration deadline: Oct. 10. Apply online.* www.fb.com/events/317907196296090.

¡VAMOS! A CAMINOS TALK SHOW Emma S. Barrantes Mexican American Cultural Center's Caminos program has created ¡VAMOS!, an arts and variety show by teens, for teens. Tune in via Facebook Live or Instagram TV. *Every other Friday, 6pm. Online.* www.fb.com/austinesbmac.

ANIMAL DANCE PARTIES Kindergartners to third-graders are invited to join the Girl Scouts of Central Texas to learn about all kinds of animals and explore how these animals might dance. *Sat., Oct. 3, 10:30-11:15am; Tue., Oct. 6, 6pm. Online.* www.gsctx.org/en/join/animal-dance-party.html.

OUT OF TOWN

CELEBRATING ASIA Spend the day among the flowers watching cooking demonstrations, lion dances, and discussions on Asian plants. *Fri.-Sun., Oct. 2-4. Houston Botanic Garden.* \$15. www.hbg.org.

50 MILES BY WIRE, 1875 The fort was one of the first telegraph stations in West Texas, and the days of dots and dashes come alive as portrayed by reenactors. *Fri.-Sun., Oct. 2-4. Fort McKavett State Historic Site, Menard.* www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/fort-mckavett-state-historic-site.

HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL There's no better place to gather outdoors and enjoy the season than at Natural Bridge Caverns. Enjoy the daily attractions or one of the special events happening every weekend, from live music to animal shows. *Weekends through Nov. 1. Natural Bridge Caverns, 26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd., New Braunfels.* www.naturalbridgecaverns.com.

TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL Wear your face-covering to win prizes while watching the jousting, playing games, and buying food from Merry Olde England. *Oct. 3-Nov. 29. Todd Mission.* www.texrenfest.com.

OLD JAIL EXHIBIT Take a tour of the building that served as the town's lockup until 1939, with cells on the second floor, living quarters on the first floor. *First Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Pioneer Museum, Fredericksburg.* \$2. www.pioneermuseum.net.

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Millican Pecan Company's roots go deep in the history of the state nut of Texas. The **San Saba** orchard and the modern pecan industry were started by **E.E. Risien** in 1888 when he popularized the paper-shell pecan.

Kristen and Winston Millican are fifth-generation pecan farmers that trace their lineage to Risien and the development of improved varieties of the native nut. Risien's home still stands on a bluff overlooking his original orchard. In the back of the orchard stands the "Mother Tree." From that tree Risien grafted and budded more thin-shelled pecan varieties.

Because the pecan is native to North America, Kristen says, they have hundreds of varieties, each a little different than the other.

"The oil content will be different," Kristen says. "The more oil the nut has, you'll have a little more buttery, sweet taste."

The Millicans raise 10 varieties on 1,000 acres east of San Saba. Kristen says the **Pawnee** and **Cheyenne** pecans are two of her favorites, but the small, hard-shell native pecan has the best flavor.

Pecan trees produce nuts every year, but have a "bumper crop" every other year. This year is shaping up to be a good year because the spring rains came at the right time. Harvest is expected to start



GERALD E. MCLEOD

the second week of October and go through the end of December.

Millican Pecan Company has a retail outlet east of San Saba where they sell raw pecans, pies, candies, and a creamy pecan butter. The store opens Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm with special Saturday hours during harvest season. All of the pecan treats can also be ordered online at www.millicanpecan.com.

1,519th in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

Food

FOOD NEWS BUFFET

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Here's your weekly Food News Buffet, culled from numerous PR releases, official posts, words on the digital street, and even the occasional (verified) IRL eavesdroppings.

So, **JuiceLand** is closing ... all its shops early on Election Day.

That's right, the juicery known for promoting healthy lifestyles by creating organic juices, smoothies, and meals wants to remind you: Hey, go and exercise your right to help decide the 2020 United States presidential election! Thus, all 33 JuiceLand locations across Austin, Houston, and Dallas will close early on Tue., Nov. 3, ending the business day at 1:30pm instead of 9pm. Owner **Matt Shook**, we salute you, and we are so gonna vote.

Way before that happens, though, a purveyor of more, ah, *recreational* juice – we mean the esteemed beermongers of **Jester King** – will be hosting nonprofit **Jolt Initiative** at their popular brewery this Sun., Oct. 4, to get people *registered* to vote in the first place.

Civic duty aside, we're glad to note that Chicago's acclaimed **Aba**, a Mediterranean-style restaurant that's been raved about throughout the Windy City, is opening its second location ever – right here in Austin, on South Congress ... meanwhile, Rainey Street's got itself a new eatery, too: **Idle Hands**, a Cuban-inspired joint ready to serve up all manner of tasty noms among the liquid

intoxicants ... and **Easy Tiger**, having shuttered its Downtown location, is preparing to open a new, huge venue (15,000 square feet, baby!) in the former **Red's Porch** location on South Lamar; of course, that **Easy Tiger at the Linc** is still rocking the drinks-enhanced, dough-forward gastrobrilliance as their Oktoberfest celebration kicks into fuller gear.

Over at the **Swoop House** – home to **2Dine4 Catering** – the new **Happy Foods** daily take-out program is resplendent with salads and noodle bowls that are as tasty as they are healthy, not to mention specials like adobo-braised beef short rib with salsa macha, Spanish rice, and grilled fall vegetables, and – ah, hell, we'll make a reservation for their refreshing weekend brunch-in-the-garden, too, and *try* not to smuggle some of the surrounding foliage out after we're done eating.

Speaking of brunch, you know that **Chef Nic Yanes'** kitchen at **Verbena** in the **Hilton Hotel's Canopy** on West Sixth is also serving up the Sunday goodness again, right? With dishes like brioche French toast and pita-accompanied shakshuka and potato mille-feuille, the culinary maestro of **Juniper** and **Uncle Nicky's** continues to impress.

Wheatsville Food Co-op has just launched a new online platform for curbside service. Shoppers can place an order online for pickup at the South Lamar or Guadalupe stores, where – for no extra fee – one of the co-op's "picky picker outers" will shop, bag, and bring out groceries to customers in designated parking areas. Hey, it works well at H-E-B; it'll work well here, too.

Hummus with lamb ragu, at the new **Aba** on South Congress



H-E-B, btw, is currently featuring **This Saves Lives**, a collection of nutrition bars and krispy treats that helps kids suffering from acute malnutrition – by sending life-saving food to those in need around the world. We mean, you're gonna be snacking like a fiend, anyway, citizen, might as well do some good while you're at it. Along those lines, we're glad to report that sales of **Lazarus Brewing's Life Together**, an American pale ale, recently brought in \$7,833 to help local kids by supporting the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Austin**. (And you know that Lazarus outdoor patio is open and now bigger than ever, right?)

But sometimes altruism begins at home, isn't that true? Like, *if mama ain't happy, then ain't nobody happy* sort of thing? Probably everybody will be happy with the news that **Perry's Steakhouse**, pivoting along with the rest of the industry, has

launched an online market wherein you can purchase their **Famous Pork Chop** and have that sweet, smoky, sizzling portion of porcine perfection delivered to your own home. Isn't it a bit pricey, though? Listen: When you get that Chop in-store, on those special Fridays, they never charge you *enough*, do they? Here, we'll suggest, the price is just finally *commensurate* with the actual, mouthwatering meal.

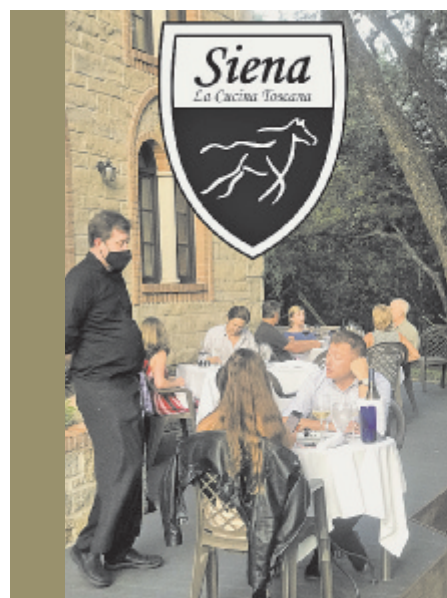
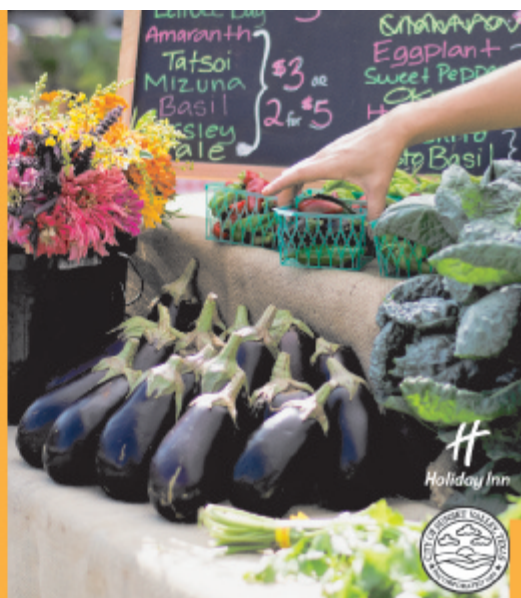
Now that we've all got meat on the brain, so to speak, check this out: The annual **Texas Monthly BBQ Fest** is going virtual this year. The Oct. 24-Nov. 1 event, dubbed "**BBQ Fest: Backyard Edition**," will feature livestreams (like free grilling tips and tricks from **TM's Daniel Vaughn**, and other compelling treats) and take-out from more than 50 of the state's top barbecue joints. Pro tip: Better register early, this thing's gonna be sold out fast. ■

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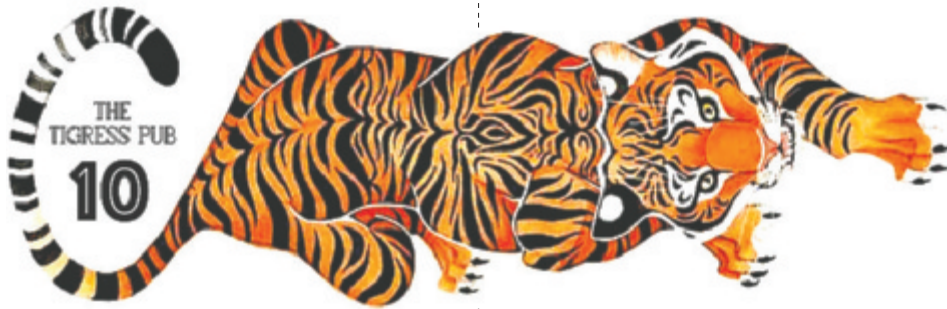
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FOOD EVENTS AC



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THE TIGRESS: 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY They can't really throw a party, as such, no. But Pam Pritchard and company can celebrate their decade of booze biz like gangbusters, and so the Tigress is ramping up the weekend's takeout action with a Tigress zine for purchase (which includes original recipes, an interview with Pam, cocktail tips, a Tigress-themed crossword puzzle, and other goodies), a special cocktail menu with old-school throwbacks, cupcakes by Mama Cat's Bakery, and a curated playlist to rock your own party-along-at-home celebration. Oct. 1-4. Thu.-Sat., 4-9pm; Sun., noon-5pm. *The Tigress Pub and Cocktails*, 100 W. North Loop, 512/600-3232. www.thetigresspub.com.

MEDITERRANEAN ABA OPENS ON OCTOBER 1 They've done so well in Chicago that Marc Jacobs and CJ Jacobson's Mediterranean-inflected ABA is opening its second location right here in the ATX - and stoking local expectations with signature dishes including crispy short rib hummus, muhammara, tamarind-braised short rib, shawarma-spiced skirt steak, and orange blossom crème brûlée pie. Their weekend brunch brings Jerusalem bagel with smoked salmon spread and labneh, khachapuri with cremini mushroom, and bougatsa with blueberry compote. All that, and Liz Pearce designed the bar program. (Whoa, maybe this ABA can even match the taste and swank of Devil May Care? Is it, like, cage match time in Bosphorus-adjacent foodtown, friends & neighbors? Reckon we might all be winners with this sort of thing going on.) Thu., Oct. 1, 4pm. *Aba*, 1011 S. Congress, Bldg. 2 #180. www.abarestaurants.com/austin.

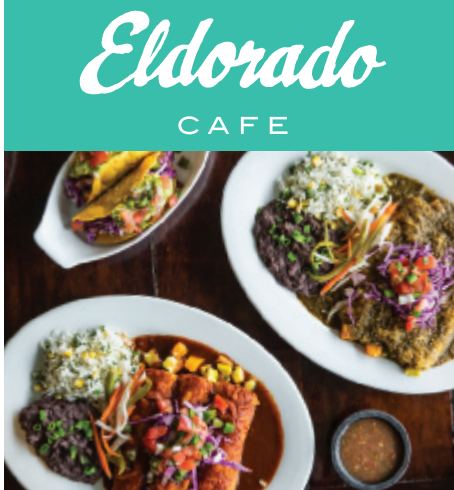
FAT CITY POP-UP AT YARD BAR Like, what, we're gonna tell you every time the Peached Tortilla does a Fat City pop-up at Yard Bar or wherever? Actually, yes, we probably will. Like, right now - here it comes again, with hand-dipped chicken fingers and Fat Stacks (classic beef sliders) and crinkle-cut fries and so on. And for dessert, if'n you've got room: Fatties - cream-filled sponge cakes (available in chocolate or marshmallow). Note: Yard Bar's regular drink menu of cocktails, beers, and wine will also be available, and Fat City will be offering root beer and Dreamsicle floats. Sat., Oct. 3, noon-10pm (or until they're sold out). *Yard Bar*, 6700 Burnet Rd., 512/900-3773. www.yardbar.com.

IDLE HANDS: GRAND OPENING This new joint on Rainey Street offers a "Havana-influenced meets boho-chic atmosphere," along with "ample patio seating, airy lounge spaces, and touches like a hand-painted ceiling from the talented Sprax artists." Foodwise, you can look forward to "Cuban-spiced bites like golden beet ceviche, a chorizo cheeseburger, crispy beef tacos, a Cubano sandwich," and more. (Bonus: cheesecakes from Austintatious Cheesecakes.) Of course it's got a full bar, and the whole place debuts with a brunch launch featuring a live Cuban jazz band and DJ OG Sprocket. Sun., Oct. 4, noon-12mid. *Idle Hands*, 87 Rainey. www.idlehandsaustin.com.

🍺 **JESTER KING X JOLT: REGISTER TO VOTE** The kind of brews and noms offered at Jester King Brewery on the regular, no one needs an excuse to make a reservation and partake of the excellent beery goodness out there. But here's one anyway: Get registered to vote, among the suds and sunshine, courtesy of Jolt Initiative, a nonprofit that increases civic participation of Latinos in Texas to build a stronger democracy and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Sun., Oct. 4, 1:30-3:30pm. *Jester King Craft Brewery*, 13005 Fitzhugh Rd., Bldg. B, 512/537-5100. www.jesterkingbrewery.com.

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Quality Father-Daughter Bonding Time

Rashida Jones finds her apple didn't fall from Bill Murray's twisted tree in *On the Rocks*

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

Writer/director Sofia Coppola shifts into a comfortable narrative register with this light romantic comedy that stars Rashida Jones and Bill Murray (both terrific). Unlike her period-set films *The Beguiled* and *Marie Antoinette* or her L.A.-centric works *The Bling Ring* and *Somewhere*, *On the Rocks* seems more of a piece with Coppola's sophomore film *Lost in Translation*, in which two protagonists share an unconventional bond. The bond this time is between Laura (Jones), an NYC mother of two who confides in her bon vivant father Felix (Murray) when she worries that her marriage to her workaholic husband Dean (Wayans, surprising in a dramatic role) is going down the tubes.

The film's succinct opening provides the setup for Laura's newfound fears. A father's cautionary words to his daughter about never giving her heart to any boys but him forms the film's preamble. That memory is followed by scenes of a happily-ever-after wedding and après-ceremony skinny dip. That quickly fades to the present, in which Laura and Dean are living comfortable lives in a Soho apartment with their two young, adorable girls. Dean works tirelessly at some unspecified venture for which he is constantly traveling, while Laura stays home parenting their children

and unsuccessfully writing a book for which she already has a contract. We can tell by her demeanor that she is slightly bored with the routine and is drifting further away from Dean's more glamorous world of startups and go-getters. One night, Dean comes home from a business trip in the middle of the night, still groggy from the Xanax he swallowed on the plane, and crawls into bed and then clutches his wife but recoils when he hears her voice. That moment is the catalyst for Laura's doubts about her husband's fidelity, a concern that she brings to her father, Felix.

A world-traipsing former art gallerist who still finds handsome women in dark corners who might want to sell him a Hockney, Felix is a role custom-made for Bill Murray. The character is an unrepentant Don Juan, unable to resist flirting with every woman with whom he comes into contact, and strongly believes that there is a natural imperative that causes men to be nonmonogamous – just as he was with Laura's mom. Yet Felix can charm men, too, as demonstrated in a madcap sequence during which he sweet-talks a patrol officer who wants to take him into custody. Because of his philosophical

position, Felix is convinced Dean is cheating and entreats Laura to join him in tailing Dean. Escapades ensue.

The story is slight, but in Coppola's hands the film is infused with small moments that provide gateways to deeper emotions: e.g., while Laura lies face-down on her bed, a nearby Roomba busily clanks into walls; the daily encounters at her daughter's school with another mother (Slate)

who prattles on about an affair that started during Hurricane Sandy. Barbara Bain and Kelly Lynch delightfully pop up in small roles, and a pertinent riff from a Chris Rock special adds reso-

nance. *On the Rocks* is partly a love letter to New York, which is often pictured in its nighttime glory, and in that way the film reminds me of Martin Scorsese's *After Hours*. A more recent comparison, however, might be last year's *Marriage Story*, which also takes matrimony as its topic, although in a completely different tenor. *On the Rocks* is lighthearted and, ultimately, more a story about a girl and her father. The good and the bad of that parental legacy and the task of disentangling from it form the subtext of *On the Rocks*.

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR

ON THE ROCKS

D: Sofia Coppola; with Rashida Jones, Bill Murray, Marlon Wayans, Jenny Slate, Jessica Henwick, Jules Willcox, Alexandra Mary Reimer, Anna Chanel Reimer, Liyanna Muscat. (R, 96 min.)

★★★★

NEW REVIEWS

A CALL TO SPY

D: Lydia Dean Pilcher; with Sarah Megan Thomas, Stana Katic, Radhika Apte, Linus Roache, Rossif Sutherland. (PG-13, 123 min.)

Desperate times make for unlikely heroes, which is why the Special Operations Executive (Britain's spy agency during World War II) scrambled to get anyone with the slightest applicable skills into the field as spies. Thus was born F-Section, placing civilians into France with the aim of building a network of resistance that would disrupt the Reich and its agencies and finally become a behind-the-lines support system for D-Day.

Four period piece *A Call to Spy* dramatizes the exploits of three of the women in the operation: Vera Atkins (Katic), who recruited and trained many of the operatives; Virginia Hall (Thomas), the one-footed consular clerk who became the bane of the SS; and Noor Inayat Khan (Apte), the pacifist who volunteered as a radio operator. Their heroism is not really unknown (Khan alone has been the subject of books, plays, and even an episode of *Doctor Who*, while all three were given honors by Britain, France, or the U.S. – in Hall's case, all three). If their stories have faded, it is in part because spies of the era, most especially British intelligence officers covered by the Official Secrets Act, just didn't talk about it after the war.

A Call to Spy sets out to give new context to these three women who risked everything to help their adopted homeland (Khan was from India, Hall was American, and Atkins Romanian).

OPENINGS

12 Hour Shift (NR)

A Call to Spy (PG-13)

Herb Alpert Is ... (NR)

Jiang Ziya (NR)

Possessor Uncut (R)

Ready or Not (NR)

Saul & Ruby's Holocaust Survivor Band (NR)

Save Yourselves! (R)

On the Rocks (R)

RATINGS

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

● La bomba

★ Recommended

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Jim Cummings
(r) in *The Wolf
of Snow Hollow*



Back in Blue (and Red All Over)

Jim Cummings pits cops against a werewolf in *The Wolf of Snow Hollow* **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

Talk about a shocking transformation: As the bumbling and heartbroken hero of indie smash *Thunder Road*, Jim Cummings is no stranger to playing a cop. For his follow-up, law enforcement versus lycanthrope comedy-horror *The Wolf of Snow Hollow*, he's back in the blue, just this time with a lot of red on him.

Cummings (who shot his prior film, the 2018 SXSW Grand Jury award-winning *Thunder Road*, in Austin) has his latest film play as the closing night title for this year's Fantastic Fest redux. Yet before then, he premieres his werewolf horror at Beyond Fest under the strangest circumstances – at the Mission Tiki Drive-In in Los Angeles. “Q&As are really weird, because I have to pull up in my car and shout out of the sun roof. It's a new age, 2020.”

Thunder Road was an unconventional dramedy that managed to reach out to broader audiences. For his first studio film, he's gone big, with a story he called “*Zodiac* as a comedy.” The writer/director plays John Marshall, a small-town cop with anger management issues who's trying to shore up his failing relationship with his daughter (Chloe East) while hiding the ailing mental and physical health of his dad, the local sheriff (neo-noir legend and beloved character actor Robert Forster in his final performance), from the local community. If that wasn't enough, now his quiet little snowbound town is plagued by someone or something that is ripping people apart. But it can't be a werewolf, can it?

Snow Hollow has only one real point of connection to *Thunder Road*, and that's Cummings playing a cop again. Oddly, he noted, that may have been key in getting the movie made. “It's a product of the way that Hollywood works,” Cummings said. “I remember hearing the story of a guy that's trying to get a car commercial, and they say, ‘Oh, we shot a red Lexus on this crazy mountain road.’ They go, ‘Well, we're shooting with a white Lexus. Have you shot a white Lexus on this road before?’ He

said no, and he lost the job because of that. People won't hire you unless you've done that before, so the easiest way to get it greenlit was for me to go, ‘OK, I'll play a cop.’”

However, there's a big gap between John Marshall and Jim Arnaud, the well-meaning and slightly doltish protagonist of *Thunder Road*. “Jim's a kindhearted person” said Cummings. By comparison,

“John is such a nightmare. He's angry all the time and thinks he's right.” At the same time, both parts allow him to explore a favorite topic – the ridiculousness of people in power. “It's just so funny to watch a police officer struggle, because it feels a bit like *The Great Dictator*. Chaplin had this amazing ability to humiliate this guy, but also seed the stresses and the breaking point. It helps people realize that the powers that be are more concerned about their lunch than what they're supposed to be concerned about – justice.” ■

***The Wolf of Snow Hollow* opens Oct. 9, and there will be a special Fantastic Fest screening at the Alamo Drafthouse Slaughter Lane.**

For more of our Fantastic Fest coverage, plus a longer Q&A with Cummings about monsters and myths, visit austinchronicle.com/fantastic-fest.

Yet that's one of many themes that feel underdeveloped. Disappointingly, it is far more interesting than it is engaging, and the inevitable simplifications of all three fascinating, complicated women make the characters less intriguing than their real-life counterparts. There's also little new in the cinematic language of the resistance film; moreover, Thomas (who also wrote the script and produced) places Hall at the center of what is set up as a tribute to all three women. That's the real disservice: If Thomas wanted to tell Hall's story in depth, then she should have done so, rather than introducing both Atkins and Khan only to turn them into supporting characters in their own story. Any time that a historical drama makes choices that make the derived story less engrossing than the truth, that's a frustrating mistake – especially in a story like this, when the whole point is to get that truth out to more and more people.

Yet even with all the confluences and simplifications and a middle act that verges on an extended montage of guerrilla warfare and undercover intrigue, *A Call to Spy* is undeniably a heartfelt take on a fascinating and heartbreaking true tale of heroism.

★★★

– Richard Whittaker
IPIC

★ HERB ALPERT IS ... *

D: John Scheinfeld. (NR, 113 min.)

“What might look good to me might look terrible to the other person,” acknowledges painter, sculptor, and trumpet clarion Herb Alpert, 83, at the outset of a two-hour lens into the question posed in the film's title and that a clutch of music industry all-stars and family attempt to tease out about the pazz/jop icon and A&M Records label co-founder.

“Butter,” purses Billy Bob Thornton early on. “Herb Alpert is ... butter!”

(Billy, right this way – we have you over here.) The man himself offers a humble enough assessment late in the game, but he's self-aware enough to know that his production of a large canvas over the opening sequence to *Herb Alpert Is ...* might not come to reside in the gallery bearing the brunt of his paintings and sculptures. His alien statues large and small would've benefited from another lingering glimpse here, in fact.

Wisely, writer/producer/director John Scheinfeld mostly keeps to the sound capture of his subject and a little soundtracking on Alpert's storied imprint with Jerry Moss. Whereas the latter gave musickind Cat Stevens, Carole King, R.E.M., the Police, the Go-Go's, Soundgarden, Sérgio Mendes, Janet Jackson, etc., its brass-wielding performer famously outsold the Beatles in the mid-Sixties despite a kitschy retro feel both then and now, which history actually records as an initial wave into what was later branded as “world music.” The south-of-the-border insouciance of Alpert's still ubiquitous Tijuana Brass exists in our collective auditory canal.

Ask Questlove! He's here! He'll tell you.

By the end of the aforementioned decade, however, Alpert – the son of a Russian immi-

grant whose scholastic shaming turned an introvert into a virtual “mute” who found voice on a table full of instruments in music class – hits the proverbial rock star wall: depression, divorce, child neglect. One television clip of the L.A. native with movie star looks comes off like the start of a nervous breakdown.

“I'm famous, I'm rich, but I'm miserable,” he says now, looking back.

Redemption ensues – hardly a spoiler – and that one funk smash (“Rise”), a rare instrumental chart-topper, will ring bells quicker than St. Mary's. The love interest demonstrates a palpable chemistry with the leading man, particularly in a contemporary live duet. That doesn't stop the narrative from running at least 30 minutes too long. Like many an Eighties blockbuster album, *Herb Alpert Is ...* all A-side and no backend.

And about that painting at the beginning ... “I just use my instincts, and my instincts are painting for me,” shrugs Alpert.

Herb Alpert Is ... is available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★★

– Raoul Hernandez
VIOLET CROWN

JIANG ZIYA

D: Teng Cheng, Li Wei; with Zheng Xi, Yang Ning, Yan Meme, Yang Wei, Ji Guanlin, Jiang Guangtao. (NR, 110 min.)

Jiang Ziya (aka *Legend of Deification*) is an epic. Chinese animation studio Beijing Enlight went full Marvel and planned out their own franchise loosely based on the classic 16th century novel *Investiture of the Gods*: the Fengshen Cinematic Universe. Last year, the first film in the FCU, *Ne Zha*, hit theatres and was a booming success, coming out on top as the second highest grossing film of all time in China, leaving audiences hungry for more, and the franchise's second installment, *Jiang Ziya*, has dreams of not only hitting those numbers but stamping out a series so monumental that audiences will be hooked for years to come.

Jiang Ziya folds in one of East Asia's most prominent mythical entities, the nine-tailed fox – a mischievous villain whose trickery is feared by mortals and despised by the gods. The titular Jiang Ziya (Zheng) is tasked with vanquishing this demon who threatens the mortal realm, but ultimately fails when he discovers that by killing the fox demon, he would also end the life of an innocent young girl. The celestial leader is then banished to the mortal realm, but after a decade is given a second chance when he meets a young girl with fox ears who is searching for her father.

Jiang Ziya tackles an age-old philosophical question: Should one save an innocent, or should they destroy a life for the greater overall good? The problem here is that the film then gives all the agency to Ziya, and when we run into the spunky, sly young woman (who remains nameless throughout the film), even though she is seemingly self-sufficient and skilled in combat, she's a passive character, constantly needing to be rescued from danger by her immortal father figure.

The scriptwriting itself is a bit clunky, starting with an intense fast-paced backstory for Ziya, then immediately introducing said girl, and then throwing obstacle after obstacle in the way of Ziya and the girl's mission to find her father at Mount Youdu. The warrior never rests, and the film never gives its characters a moment to reflect, connect, and relax. When a companion of their journey ultimately sacrifices their life for their safety, it's hard-ly felt and deeply difficult to connect with. *Jiang Ziya* is a big story, an incredibly complex mythos not unlike that of Hercules, and unfortunately it never finds its beat. Like many films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the story of *Jiang Ziya* is far more concerned with big, epic punches rather than complex character weaving and earned paths.

★★★
— Jenny Nulf
GATEWAY

POSSOR UNCU

D: Brandon Cronenberg; with Andrea Riseborough, Christopher Abbott, Tuppence Middleton, Sean Bean, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tiio Horn, Rossif Sutherland. (R, 102 min.)

If nothing else, director Brandon Cronenberg is very much his father's son, and that's a decidedly enthusiastic compliment. Following up on his Fantastic Fest 2012 debut *Antiviral*, *Possessor Uncut* seamlessly blends the unsettling body horror that permeated the elder Cronenberg's early- to midcareer work in such genre-bending classics as *Dead Ringers*, *Videodrome*, and *The Fly* with the trippy technophobics of *eXistenZ* while carving out his own borderline psychedelic niche in an already crowded and newly resurgent genre — thanks in large part to our current cultural chaos — of the hybrid highbrow sci-fi/horror show. *Possessor's* hallucinatory tone and breath-taking ultraviolence will make even the most jaded genre fan squirm in their seats. The film's ever-escalating, fever-dreamlike imagery is truly the stuff of nightmares and lingers in the mind as though it were an actual traumatic event.

This is a movie that should come with a crimson trigger warning on its marketing materials: "Post-viewing PTSD may occur and sensitive viewers may choose to watch something less existentially disturbing, such as the Zapruder film accompanied by the Butthole Surfers on an endless loop."

There's brutally visceral and punitively realistic gore galore on display here, but Cronenberg's sophomore effort also deals in strikingly contemporary issues. Personal privacy and the paranoia arising from the dwindling availability of it via faceless, corporate data-scrapers; technology-enabled mind control and assassination in the pursuit of unknowable reasons by shadowy, pseudo-governmental organizations; and the erosion of personal identity and the accompanying mental decay all thread throughout the film like live wires throwing off giddily lethal sparks.

Set in Toronto in the near future (because it always looks like the near future in Toronto for some reason), a pale skeleton of a woman named Tasya Vos (the magnificent Riseborough of *Mandy* infamy) is employed by a mysterious

corporation that uses brain implants to take over the bodies of other people and then uses these literally possessed persons to terminate, with ferociously extreme prejudice, strategically picked victims. Like a virus, Vos enters her unwilling host's mind and body and seizes the reins of reason. Mayhem ensues. There's a toll, however, in the form of some sticky, lingering memories from the people she briefly inhabits. Her superior, Girder (Leigh, also excellent), debriefs Vos after every assignment by showing her random objects and asking if they're actually her own, ahem, possessions. It's a cunning way of determining the strength of the assassin's psychological underpinnings. Have they come unmoored? Eventually Vos, who has an estranged husband (Sutherland) and a precocious young son who are seemingly unaware of the grisly specifics of her true occupation, is assigned to inhabit Colin (Abbott), a former cokehead and dealer now married to a wealthy former client. Somebody in his family, apparently, wants him six feet under. Vos, however, discovers that Colin's mind isn't as pliant as expected, and a literal battle between two wills trapped within one body commences.

Untangling that hazy, convoluted storyline amidst all the heavily stylized carnage and outright nihilism may be the film's biggest drawback, but presumably that's exactly what Cronenberg intended. All is surreal, illusory, and forbidding. Superbly lensed by cinematographer Karim Hussain (*We Are Still Here*) and backed by a haunting, chilly score by composer and frequent Ben Wheatley collaborator Jim Williams, *Possessor* is a queasy-smart near-masterpiece of psychotronic slippage. Like its protagonist's risky psychogenic recollections, it'll stick with you whether you'd like it to or not.

★★★
— Marc Savlov
ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, HIGHLAND, IPIC, LAKE CREEK 7

READY OR NOT*

D: David Modigliani, Paloma Martinez. (NR, 82 min.)

"You're very young." It's the unsurprising response that high school senior and political candidate Marcel McClinton gets from a potential voter when he turns up at her house, asking her to put the X in his box for Houston City Council.

McClinton may be familiar to political docs junkies as one of the enthusiastic volunteers in David Modigliani's on-the-ground account of the 2018 U.S. Senate election in Texas, *Running With Beto*. Most of that film's activists shrank back into the political background, but McClinton took Beto O'Rourke's message to heart: Run, even if you can't win, and change the conversation. Of course he wants to win and reshape the political landscape of H-Town's city dais by knocking out two-time Republican incumbent Michael Kubosh. He admits that the game plan is to force Kubosh under 50% and force a run-off with either McClinton or Janaeya Carmouche, the other Black candidate running for the seat (Jose Carlos Gonzalez, the fourth name in the race, is left without mention).

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SHOWTIMES

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

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

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKELINE

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

AKIRA: Fri, 9:50; Sat, 9:05
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION: Sat-Sun, 11:00am
KAJILLIONAIRE: Fri, 2:40, 7:15, 10:15; Sat, 11:55am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:40am, 3:00, 6:30pm
ON THE ROCKS: Fri, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40; Sat, 12:45, 3:50, 6:45, 9:45; Sun, 12:20, 3:25, 6:30
POSSESSOR UNCUT: Fri, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sat, 1:05, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sun, 12:50, 4:00, 7:15
SAVE YOURSELVES! Fri, 3:35, 6:30, 9:20; Sat, 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20; Sun, noon, 3:00, 6:00
TENET: Fri, 3:20, 5:45, 9:30; Sat, 2:00, 5:45, 9:30; Sun, 2:00, 5:45

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER,
512/861-7060.

AKIRA: Fri, 9:00; Sat, 10:25
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Sun, 11:55am
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION: Sat, 11:35am, 11:35; Sun, 10:45am, 10:45
KAJILLIONAIRE: Fri, 3:55, 6:30, 10:00; Sat, 3:55, 7:30, 10:35; Sun, 4:40, 7:00
ON THE ROCKS: Fri, 3:05, 7:30, 10:25; Sat, 12:45, 3:00, 6:00, 9:25; Sun, 3:15, 6:15
POSSESSOR UNCUT: Fri, 4:05, 7:15, 10:10; Sat, 1:00, 4:05, 7:15, 10:20; Sun, 12:15, 3:35, 6:45
SAVE YOURSELVES! Fri, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40; Sat, 12:25, 3:20, 6:15, 9:10; Sun, noon, 3:00, 6:00
TENET: Fri, 3:40, 6:00, 9:50; Sat, 6:30; Sun, 6:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

THE FORTY-YEAR-OLD VERSION: Fri, 3:40, 7:20, 11:00; Sat, 11:45am, 3:40, 7:20, 11:00pm; Sun, 11:40am, 3:40, 7:20pm
KAJILLIONAIRE: Fri, 6:50; Sat, 3:35; Sun, 6:50
ON THE ROCKS: Fri, 3:00, 3:50, 6:10, 7:00, 9:15, 10:05; Sat, 11:55am, 11:55, 3:00, 3:50, 6:10, 7:00, 9:15, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:55am, 11:55, 3:00, 3:50, 6:10, 7:00pm
POSSESSOR UNCUT: Fri, 2:15, 7:40, 10:40; Sat, 11:00am, 12:15, 2:15, 7:40, 10:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 2:15, 3:35, 7:40pm
SAVE YOURSELVES! Fri, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40; Sat, 12:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40; Sun, 12:30, 4:30, 7:35
TENET: Fri, 2:30, 3:30, 5:30, 9:35, 10:30; Sat, 11:00am, 11:30, 3:30, 5:30, 9:35, 10:30pm; Sun, 11:00am, 11:45, 2:30, 3:30, 5:30pm
TENET (35MM): Fri, 6:30; Sat, 2:30, 6:30; Sun, 6:30
THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7: Fri, 3:10; Sat, 6:50; Sun, 11:50am

AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

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

THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:30, 7:40; Mon-Wed, 6:50
COCO (CC/DVS): Thu (10/8), 6:00
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:40; Tue, 6:30
INFIDEL (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:00, 7:00; Mon-Wed, 7:00

THE NEW MUTANTS (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 5:10, 8:10; Mon-Wed, 8:00
SHORTCUT: Fri-Sun, 7:30; Mon-Wed, 6:30
TENET: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 7:50; Mon-Wed, 7:10
TENET (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 6:30; Mon-Wed, 6:00
UNHINGED (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 5:20, 8:20; Mon-Wed, 7:40

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 GREAT HILLS TRAIL (AT JOLLYVILLE), 512/291-9742.

THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:40, 7:40; Mon-Wed, 7:40
CRAZY RICH ASIANS (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:00, 7:30; Mon-Thu (10/8), 7:30
FATHOM EVENTS: FRIDAY THE 13TH: Sun-Tue, 7:00; Wed, 7:00, 10:00
THE LAST SHIFT (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 5:00, 8:00; Mon-Thu (10/8), 8:00
FATHOM EVENTS: LOVE AND MERCY: Mon, 7:00
THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD (CC/DVS): Fri-Sat, 4:10, 7:00; Sun, 4:10; Mon-Wed, 7:00
TENET (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 3:50, 7:10; Mon-Thu (10/8), 7:10
TRAINWRECK (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 4:20, 7:20; Mon-Thu (10/8), 7:20
THE TRUMP PROPHECY: Thu (10/8), 7:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

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

ANNABELLE: CREATION (CC/DVS): Fri, 5:15; Sat, 5:15, 8:00; Sun, 5:15; Mon-Wed, 5:05
BREAK THE SILENCE: THE MOVIE: Fri, 5:05, 7:50; Sat, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35; Sun-Wed, 5:05, 7:50
THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 5:20, 8:10; Mon-Wed, 5:10, 7:50
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (CC/DVS): Fri, 4:20; Sat, 4:20, 6:10; Sun, 4:20, 6:50; Mon-Tue, 4:30, 6:55; Wed, 4:30
INFIDEL (CC/DVS): Fri-Wed, 4:35, 7:35
KAJILLIONAIRE (CC/DVS): Fri, 4:40, 7:40; Sat, 4:20, 7:20, 8:20; Sun-Wed, 4:40, 7:40
THE LAST SHIFT (CC/DVS): Fri-Wed, 4:45, 7:30
MADAGASCAR (CC/DVS): Fri, 4:15; Sat, 3:30; Sun, 4:15; Mon-Wed, 4:25
THE NEW MUTANTS (CC/DVS): Fri, 5:10, 8:05; Sat, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25; Sun, 5:10, 8:05; Mon-Wed, 4:50, 7:25
THE NUN (CC/DVS): Fri, 8:20; Sat, 8:30; Sun, 8:20; Mon-Wed, 7:55
TENET (CC/DVS): Fri, 6:45; Sat, 3:15, 6:45; Sun, 6:45; Mon-Wed, 6:10
TENET (CC/DVS, IMAX): Fri-Sun, 4:15, 7:45; Mon-Wed, 4:25, 7:50
UNHINGED (CC/DVS): Fri, 5:40, 8:15; Sat, 3:20, 6:00; Sun, 5:40, 8:15; Mon-Wed, 5:35, 7:55

BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN

300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

BEETLEJUICE: Wed, 8:00
THE CRAFT: Fri-Sat, 11:00
THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY TOUR: Fri, 5:30
GHOSTBUSTERS: Sat-Wed, 8:00
THE GOONIES: Sat, 8:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN: Fri-Thu (10/8), 8:15
SCREAM: Fri, 11:00
SHAUN OF THE DEAD: Sat, 11:00

BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

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

ALIENS: Fri, 10:50; Tue, 8:00; Thu (10/8), 10:30
BEETLEJUICE: Thu (10/8), 7:45
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS: Sat, 10:50
CORPSE BRIDE: Thu (10/8), 7:45
GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN: Sat, 7:45; Mon, 8:00
THE CRAFT: Mon, 7:50; Wed, 7:45
THE EVIL DEAD: Fri, 10:50
THE FOG: Fri-Tue, 8:15; Thu (10/8), 10:50
THE FRIGHTENERS: Wed, 8:15
GHOSTBUSTERS: Sat-Tue, 7:45; Thu (10/8), 8:15
THE GOONIES: Fri-Sun, 8:15
HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN: Sat-Sun, 7:45, 8:15
THE LOST BOYS: Sat, 10:50
LOU BARLOW HOME LIVESTREAM CONCERT: Mon, 8:20
POSSESSOR UNCUT: Fri, 10:50; Tue, 7:45; Wed, 8:15; Thu (10/8), 7:45
SCREAM: Fri, 10:50; Thu (10/8), 7:45
SHAUN OF THE DEAD: Sat, 10:50
THE SHINING: Wed, 7:45
THE THING: Thu (10/8), 10:50
YELLOW SUBMARINE: Sat, 11:00
YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN: Tue, 8:15

BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRELL PKWY.,
832/915-0332.

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES: Sat, 7:45
THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY TOUR: Sat, 5:45
THE LOST BOYS: Thu (10/8), 7:45
SCREAM: Sat, 11:00

BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

LASER IMAX 2D: "INTO AMERICA'S WILD": Fri-Thu (10/8), 2:00
LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE ODYSSEY": Fri-Thu (10/8), noon

CINEMARK 2D AND XD

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

AKIRA (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30; Sat, 1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30; Sun, 1:05, 4:10, 7:20; Mon-Wed, 4:10, 7:20
BREAK THE SILENCE: THE MOVIE (DIGITAL): Fri, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15; Sat, 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15; Sun, 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55; Mon-Wed, 5:35, 7:55
THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45; Sat, 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:45; Sun, 1:00, 3:55, 6:50; Mon-Wed, 4:00, 7:10
FATHOM EVENTS: FRIDAY THE 13TH: Sun-Tue, 7:00; Wed, 7:00, 10:00
INFIDEL (DIGITAL): Fri-Sat, 4:05, 10:05; Sun-Wed, 4:05
THE LAST SHIFT (DIGITAL): Fri, 7:05; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 7:05; Mon-Wed, 7:05
FATHOM EVENTS: LOVE AND MERCY: Mon, 7:00
THE NEW MUTANTS (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sat, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sun, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40; Mon-Wed, 4:55, 7:40
TENET: Fri, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00, 9:15; Sat, 12:30, 1:45, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00, 9:15; Sun, 12:30, 1:45, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00; Mon-Wed, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00
TENET (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00, 9:15, 9:50; Sat, 12:30, 1:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00; Mon-Wed, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00

TENET (XD): Fri, 6:45, 10:25; Sat, 3:00, 6:45, 10:25; Sun, 3:00, 6:45; Mon-Wed, 6:45
FATHOM EVENTS: THE TRUMP PROPHECY: Thu (10/8), 7:00
UNHINGED (DIGITAL): Fri, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; Sat, noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; Sun, noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50; Mon-Wed, 5:10, 7:50
WORDS ON BATHROOM WALLS (DIGITAL): Fri, 7:10; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 7:10; Mon-Wed, 7:10

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. WHITESTONE,
800/326-3264.

Contact theatre or visit austinchronicle.com/showtimes.

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERY 14

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

THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:25; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 7:50; Mon-Wed, 7:50
INFIDEL (DIGITAL): Fri, 5:00, 8:10; Sat, 1:50, 5:00, 8:10; Sun, 1:35, 4:40, 7:45; Mon-Wed, 4:40, 7:45
THE LAST SHIFT (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35; Sat, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35; Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45; Mon-Wed, 4:00, 6:45
THE NEW MUTANTS (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55; Sat, 1:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55; Sun, 1:05, 4:15, 7:05; Mon-Wed, 4:15, 8:00
TENET (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 8:25, 9:25; Sat, 1:00, 1:55, 2:50, 4:45, 5:40, 6:40, 8:30, 9:25; Sun, 1:55, 2:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:30; Mon-Wed, 4:05, 5:35, 7:05
FATHOM EVENTS: THE TRUMP PROPHECY (DIGITAL): Thu (10/8), 7:00
UNHINGED (DIGITAL): Fri, 7:30; Sat-Wed, 5:05
WORDS ON BATHROOM WALLS (DIGITAL): Fri, 7:55; Sat, 5:30; Sun-Tue, 4:50; Wed, 7:55

CINEMARK STONE HILL TOWN CENTER

18820 HILLTOP COMMERCIAL DR. (SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HIGHWAYS 130 & 45), 512/291-0938.

INFIDEL (DIGITAL): Fri, 6:05, 9:10; Sat, 2:00, 6:05, 9:10; Sun, 2:00, 6:05
THE NEW MUTANTS (DIGITAL): Fri-Sat, 6:10, 9:20; Sun, 6:10
TENET (DIGITAL): Fri, 6:45, 8:30; Sat, 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:45, 9:15; Sun, 1:45, 2:40, 5:35, 6:45
UNHINGED (DIGITAL): Fri, 7:00, 9:35; Sat, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45; Sun, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10

DOC'S DRIVE IN THEATRE

1540 SATTERWHITE RD., 512/960-4460.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY: Wed, 7:30
BEETLEJUICE: Tue, 7:30
THE CRAFT: Wed, 8:00
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS: Fri, 8:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE: Sat-Sun, 8:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN: Sat, 7:40
HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE: Fri-Sun, 7:40
**IT: Thu (10/8), 7:30
POLTERRAISE:** Thu (10/8), 8:00
PRACTICAL MAGIC: Tue, 8:00

EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA

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

THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; Mon-Wed, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20; Thu (10/8), 10:45am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10pm
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00pm; Sun, 2:45; Mon-Wed, 1:45, 4:30; Thu (10/8), noon, 2:45
INFIDEL: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; Mon-Wed, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20; Thu (10/8), 10:45am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10pm
KAJILLIONAIRE: Fri, 10:00am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00pm; Sun, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45; Mon-Wed, 1:00, 3:45, 6:40; Thu (10/8), 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30pm
THE NEW MUTANTS: Fri, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30pm; Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:00, 10:30pm; Sun, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:30; Mon-Wed, 1:30, 4:15, 7:20; Thu (10/8), 11:00am, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15pm
POSSESSOR UNCUT: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; Mon-Wed, 2:00, 5:00, 7:40; Thu (10/8), 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm
SHORTCUT: Fri, 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45pm; Sun, 3:30, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30; Mon-Wed, 12:15, 2:30, 8:00; Thu (10/8), 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
TENET: Fri, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30pm; Sat, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:00, 8:30, 9:30pm; Sun, 1:45, 5:15, 8:45; Mon-Wed, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00; Thu (10/8), 12:15, 1:15, 4:45, 8:30
TENET (EVX): Fri-Sat, 7:20; Sun, 6:00, 9:30; Mon-Wed, 7:00; Thu (10/8), 6:00, 9:30
UNHINGED: Fri, 10:15am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:35, 10:00pm; Sat, 10:15am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:30, 10:15am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:30; Sun, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Mon-Wed, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00; Thu (10/8), 11:55am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45pm

FLIX BREWHOUSE

2200 S. I-35, ROUND ROCK,
512/244-3549.

***AVA:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:00, 8:00; Thu (10/8), 3:00, 8:30
***THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY:** Fri, 11:50am; Sat, 11:45am; Sun, 10:05
***INFIDEL:** Fri, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:30pm; Thu (10/8), 2:30, 5:30
***KAJILLIONAIRE:** Fri-Sun, 5:30; Thu (10/8), 5:00
***THE LAST SHIFT:** Fri-Sat, 2:45; Sun, 11:00am; Thu (10/8), 2:15
***THE NEW MUTANTS:** Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00; Thu (10/8), 3:30, 6:15, 9:00
***SHAUN OF THE DEAD:** Thu (10/8), 7:00
TENET: Fri, 12:45, 2:45, 3:45, 6:30; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:45, 3:45, 6:30pm; Thu (10/8), 2:45, 3:45, 6:30, 8:00
THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7: Fri-Sun, 12:25, 4:30, 6:00, 9:20; Thu (10/8), 4:30, 6:00, 9:20
***UNHINGED:** Fri, 12:20; Sat-Sun, 1:45; Thu (10/8), 3:00

FLIX BREWHOUSE

2200 S. I-35, ROUND ROCK,
512/244-3549.

***AVA:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:00, 8:00; Thu (10/8), 3:00, 8:30
***THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY:** Fri, 11:50am; Sat, 11:45am; Sun, 10:05
***INFIDEL:** Fri, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:30pm; Thu (10/8), 2:30, 5:30
***KAJILLIONAIRE:** Fri-Sun, 5:30; Thu (10/8), 5:00
***THE LAST SHIFT:** Fri-Sat, 2:45; Sun, 11:00am; Thu (10/8), 2:15
***THE NEW MUTANTS:** Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00; Thu (10/8), 3:30, 6:15, 9:00
***SHAUN OF THE DEAD:** Thu (10/8), 7:00
TENET: Fri, 12:45, 2:45, 3:45, 6:30; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:45, 3:45, 6:30pm; Thu (10/8), 2:45, 3:45, 6:30, 8:00
THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7: Fri-Sun, 12:25, 4:30, 6:00, 9:20; Thu (10/8), 4:30, 6:00, 9:20
***UNHINGED:** Fri, 12:20; Sat-Sun, 1:45; Thu (10/8), 3:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10

N. I-35 & MIDDLE FISKVILLE,
512/467-7305.

***THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY:** Fri, 6:10, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
***THE CALL:** Fri, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35
***THE NEW MUTANTS:** Fri, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
***POSSESSOR UNCUT:** Fri, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:35, 7:00, 10:00
***SHORTCUT:** Fri, 6:00; Sat-Sun, 2:55, 5:15
***TENET:** Fri, 6:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 2:25, 6:00, 9:40

GATEWAY THEATRE

9700 STONELAKE, 512/416-5700.

BREAK THE SILENCE: THE MOVIE (SUBTITLES): Fri-Sat, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Sun, 1:15, 4:40, 7:10; Mon-Thu (10/8), 4:00, 7:10
JIANG ZIYA: Fri-Thu (10/8), 4:15, 7:30
IPIC THEATERS AUSTIN
3225 AMY DONOVAN PLAZA (AT THE DOMAIN), 512/568-3400.
***AVA:** Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:15, 5:30, 8:00pm
***THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY:** Fri-Sun, 3:15
***A CALL TO SPY:** Fri-Sun, noon, 3:00, 6:30
***THE CALL:** Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 4:45, 8:30pm
***INFIDEL:** Fri,

Modigliani and Martinez balance how easy and worthwhile it is to admire McClinton's youthful enthusiasm with the raw fact that he is fundamentally out of his depth. He attracts heavy-hitters like former Bloomberg and O'Rourke campaign pro David Lee to his team; but, as is often the way with inexperienced candidates, he ignores their advice (you can hear Lee's inevitable ulcer simmering as he runs over the campaign finance reports). Enthusiasm is one thing, but as the last four years in the White House show, knowing what you're doing should be the ultimate metric for running for office.

Much as with *Running With Beto*, *Ready or Not* is mainly shown from the passenger seat of the campaign car that McClinton has just learned to drive. The most telling moments aren't on the campaign trail, but seen as McClinton puts his life, school, and late teen years on hold as he assembles a clearly doomed campaign (just ask that nice old lady who had the surprise knock on her door). Modigliani and Martinez weave in details of modern campaigning, like the need to purge your social media accounts of anything questionable, crude, or just simply dumb, and it's all leading to one unresolved question: Would McClinton have done more good as a campaign worker than as a candidate? Who knows. They shy away from overtly tackling their brutal underlying question about whether 18 is just too young to run for elected office, not due to maturity but simply because of depth and breadth of experience (that question is implicit in one quietly vital scene, with McClinton's dad teaching the essential life skill of changing his own oil). But, *Ready or Not* suggests, if one person is encouraged by his energy to get out, get active, and help rewrite America's fate, well, maybe that's the biggest win.

As for the race itself? Well, politics, as they say, be hard.

Ready or Not premieres on Fuse on Sat., Oct. 3, at 9pm via www.fuse.tv and will be available for rent or purchase via Alamo on Demand from 9:30pm.

★★★ — Richard Whittaker
ALAMO VILLAGE

SAUL & RUBY'S HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR BAND*

D: Tod Lending. (NR, 81 min.)

See review online.

★★ — Richard Whittaker
AFS CINEMA

☪ SAVE YOURSELVES!

D: Alex Huston Fischer, Eleanor Wilson; with Sunita Mani, John Reynolds. (R, 93 min.)

Are you ready for the end of the world? If you're the skill-free and easily baffled couple who find themselves screaming, "Save yourselves!" in this amiable alien invasion comedy, the quick answer is "no." The long answer is more, "Oh, definitely not."

Su (Mani, *GLOW*) is the assistant to some unseen Very Important Person, while Jack

(Reynolds, *Search Party*) does ... something in tech, maybe. He bleats something about his sourdough starter, she frets about flight trackers. When they decide to leave their Brooklyn apartment to reconnect with nature and each other, they're immediately on different pages. He thinks that it's about some pre-electronic Avett Brothers outdoorsy adventure (probably involving splitting wood), while she wants to run through the online relationship guides she transcribed into her new journal. They are, quite honestly, useless. Even the baby they meet gives them a dismissive glower. So when tiny fuzzy aliens that they dub "pouffes" invade while they're on a weeklong retreat in a friend's cabin to find themselves, they're inevitably absolutely no use at all.

Save Yourself! may sound like a hipster *Critters*, but as the scale of the global catastrophe becomes clearer, it reveals itself to be a sillier *Skyline*. Su and Jack are (to quote *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*) mostly harmless, and if the rest of the world is being dismantled by small balls of fluff with a penchant for ethanol and a nasty tentacle-sucker device, they're not going to be much use. The script takes a light, sardonic pleasure in their ineptitude, with plenty of potshots at how ill-prepared the latest wave of NYC transplants is to face any kind of challenge, but that doesn't stop the story from being unironically entertaining.

Much of that depends on Mani and Reynolds, who gift these two babes in the woods with a charming guilelessness. Reynolds evokes rom-com era Kevin Kline in his hapless and frantic efforts to keep at least one finger on the precipitous cliff of globe-spanning fuzzy disaster that threatens them all, while Mani imbues Su with a well-meaning belief that a good listicle will solve all your problems. Together, they're a plausible pair of doofuses, and the audience gets to laugh at their mild idiocy. Their self-deprecation never wears, which is fortunate as most of the film is a two-hander in a single location.

Save Yourself! isn't completely toothless, although its softball targets are only lightly lambasted for their silliness. It's a comedy of manners, of sorts, in which puffball personalities are outwitted by barely sentient spheres of fur. The ending may waft away, but at least it stays true to the story of two people with no tools to make an impact.

★★★ — Richard Whittaker
ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, IPIC, LAKE CREEK 7

☪ 12 HOUR SHIFT

D: Brea Grant; with Angela Bettis, Chloe Farnworth, Nikea Gamby-Turner, David Arquette, Kit Williamson, Mick Foley, Tara Perry. (NR, 86 min.)

See review online.

★★★ — Josh Kupecki

* = VIRTUAL RELEASE

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

THE 24TH (2020) D: Kevin Willmott; with Trai Byers, Bashir Salahuddin, Aja Naomi King. (NR, 101 min.) Join the Bullock Museum for a virtual screening and conversation about the powerful and timely true story of the all-Black 24th United States Infantry Regiment and the Houston Riot of 1917. Thu., Oct. 8, 7pm. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

AFS CINEMA The quality programming you've come to expect is available virtually. www.austinfilm.org/afs-cinema.

ALAMO ON DEMAND Alamo Draughthouse-curated picks. www.draughthouse.com.

THE SALISBURY POISONINGS ATX TV Festival partnered with AMC to present this special premiere of the limited series, along with a cast and crew discussion about their roles in bringing this fascinating true story to the screen. Thu., Oct. 1, 7pm. www.atxfestival.com.

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? (2018) D: Astra Taylor. (NR, 107 min.) Austin Public Library presents "Controversy & Conversation," a discussion moderated by Dr. Jeremi Suri of UT-Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs and Department of History. Thu., Oct. 1, 7:30pm. library.austintexas.gov.

THE GOOD LORD BIRD SNEAK PREVIEW Austin Film Society members can access a free sneak preview of two episodes of the new Showtime series, with introductions by star and executive producer Ethan Hawke and executive producer Ryan Hawke. Fri.-Thu., Oct. 2-8. www.austinfilm.org.

THE NEW BAUHAUS (2019) D: Alysa Nahmias. (NR, 85 min.) A portrait of radical Hungarian artist László Moholy-Nagy, presented by the Contemporary Austin. (Also screening at Laguna Gloria Oct. 3, but it is sold out.) Fri.-Mon., Oct. 2-5. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.

VIOLET CROWN The arthouse cinema they're known for offered virtually, and ticket purchases benefit the theatre. austin.violetcrown.com.

SPACES

BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd. (PG, 111 min.) A paddle-in screening on the water with Carried Away ATX. @Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point; Wed., Oct. 7, 6pm.

The Good Lord Bird



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

DRIVE-IN FEATURED

BATTLE OF THE SKETCHES FINALS The top sketches that have advanced in this comedy competition will go head-to-head to see who has the funniest film of 2020. @Blue Starlite Mueller II; Thu., Oct. 1, 8 & 8:30pm.

THE FOG (1980) D: John Carpenter; with Adrienne Barbeau, Jamie Lee Curtis, Janet Leigh, John Houseman. (R, 89 min.) A spooky showing in the woods with lots of fog. @Blue Starlite Mueller II; Thu., Oct. 1, 8:15pm.

LOU BARLOW HOME LIVESTREAM CONCERT An encore showing of a very special evening with Lou Barlow (Sebadoh, Dinosaur Jr., Folk Implosion) who livestreamed from his home just for Blue Starlite. @Blue Starlite Mueller II; Mon., Oct. 5, 8:20pm.

FESTIVALS

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE For its 27th annual iteration, AFF is totally virtual, and is packed with film screenings and events. There will be five days of panels and intimate roundtables with the world's biggest names in film and eight days of film premieres, screenings, and Q&As. Badges are available now, and exciting programming announcements are made regularly leading up to the fest, so sign up for the newsletter to stay updated. Oct. 22-29. www.austinfilmfestival.com.

FANTASTIC FEST While Fantastic Fest may be taking a year off, they're still celebrating with a week of virtual screenings and more fun, including plenty of world premieres, and it's all free. Read all about it at austinchronicle.com/screens. Through Oct. 1. www.fantasticfest.com.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL FILM FESTIVAL International DOTG is Oct. 11, but locally based nonprofit ConnectHER plans to celebrate and host virtual film screenings throughout October. The ConnectHER scholarship program has awarded over \$150,000 in funds as part of the annual film festival. Oct. 1-31. www.connecther.org/dotg.

OFFSCREEN

AFS GRANT WEBINAR A workshop about applying for an Austin Film Society short film grant. Applications are due Oct. 8. Fri., Oct. 2, noon. www.austinfilm.org.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION: *The Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Oct. 16 issue is Monday, Oct. 5.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 512/458-6910; or email. Contact Kat McNeVins (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com.

Music

Select Live Music Reemerges

As large gatherings ceased in the spring, **ACL Live at the Moody Theater** General Manager **Colleen Fischer** challenged her team to come up with 10 ideas each. Out of the brainstorm, the venue debuted sold-out wedding packages, a musical haunted house upcoming for Halloween, and open-air acts at downstairs **Trace** restaurant. The **Lounge Series**, beginning Oct. 2, marks the first music audience at the Downtown flagship since March, sectioned into floor-level mini lounges with group tickets and spaced across mezzanine seats.

Like all Texas venues tiptoeing back into in-person programming, ACL Live received approval for a Food & Beverage designation under loosened state rules, utilizing the **W Austin Hotel's** kitchen. This allows for 75% capacity, but like most other resurfacing music hubs, they're not stepping anywhere near that. The series allows around 10% of the theatre's regular fill, with temperature checks, health questionnaires, and masks required unless seated and consuming food and drink.

"We consider ourselves a leader, so we have very high standards," says Fischer. "We want to have all of our procedures and safety down pat before we try to do anything bigger. Like, we purposely didn't include seating on the balcony. We're hoping to evolve, and after this series, we're going to put up more shows."

Alongside outcry from the local music industry over the lack of city aid for largely shuttered venues, last week marked the reopening of **Hotel Vegas'** patio and the kickoff to a monthlong "Last Call Music Series" at **Threadgill's** ahead of the restaurant's upcoming permanent closure. Folk-rock group the **Watters** hosted the first corporeal audience at ACL Live's smaller **3ten** venue on Saturday. **Jenna Watters**, who leads the septet with husband **Daniel Watters**, says the show was lightly attended with both local fans and tourists.

The Watters' packed previous week tracks the resurgence of select IRL events: **Sun Radio's Texas Radio Live** at **Guero's Taco Bar** last Wednesday, the multiday New Braunfels campout **River Retreat** on Thursday, 3ten on Saturday, and finally the band's weekly Sunday Jazz Brunch at the **Far Out Lounge**.

"We've also done a lot of corporate virtual stuff," reveals Jenna. "Because of the booking requests we're getting, I know people are really wanting music right now, even if it's just 10 people in a backyard having dinner."

Steady bookings at expansive South Austin venues the **Sagebrush** and the **Far Out Lounge** lead the city's limited music calendar, both venues reporting occasional weekend lines at the door. The latter applied for restaurant designation ahead of the pandemic and hosts five food trucks. Staying below 10% of the Lounge's total capacity, the currently outdoor-only venue requires up to 150 guests to undergo temperature checks and wear masks unless seated.

Lawrence Boone books music six nights a week and admits the pandemic raised the profile of the **Far Out**, which opened last year.

"There's a lot of people who are ready to play," says Boone. "When we reopened, people that would usually play the **Continental Club**, **Skylark Lounge**, and **Sam's Town Point** reached out like, 'Do you have music?' They've brought their own crowds."

R&B artist **Torre Blake** performed at the **Far Out** in June to benefit the **Austin Justice Coalition**, as well as on a three-band bill in September.

"I was very skeptical about performing again, but I love that there's so much space out there," says Blake. "It felt very respectful. People were enjoying each other's company in small groups, but they were also

White Ghost Shivers performing at Sagebrush, Sept. 26



JOHN ANDERSON

more attentive to the actual art going on, because they weren't out there to party."

Boone says the venue's mellow balance is carefully achieved with \$5 door charges and food to keep regulars hanging for hours. He also hired extra event staff to lead guests to tables and approach anyone who gets up without a mask on. For now, he doesn't desire larger, pre-ticketed events.

"I don't want to mess up the formula, because it's working," adds Boone. "People are happy and the crowds are manageable.

This capacity will stay until something really changes, and we don't expect that to happen anytime soon."

Denis O'Donnell echoes Boone's sentiments at new South Congress honky-tonk the **Sagebrush**, which debuted in June and reopened three weeks ago with eatery **Baton Creole** out front.

He's turned down larger-name booking requests but let buddy **Shakey Graves** strum an unannounced set to a near-empty happy hour. The historic dance hall offers two stages in the 6,000-square-foot interior and another one on an acre of picnic tables out back, booking at least three acts daily.

"The pandemic has now stretched on for a long enough time for our clientele in South Austin to act and behave responsibly, and I'm really proud of them," says O'Donnell, who similarly charges \$5 entry. "Whereas on Friday and Saturday your crowd widens, we've been lucky to receive the bohemian, the working person, the musician – and everybody's been cool like **the Fonz**."

"It's like the **Hard Luck [Lounge]** on steroids," quips O'Donnell, referencing his past venture on East Seventh. As for Eastside country dance hub the **White Horse**, the co-owner plans to reopen in the coming months. The team considers turning the parking lot into an outdoor patio, working on the math for seating arrangements.

**FASTER
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BY RACHEL
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ACL Live seating similar to the Lounge Series



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The Spot, 7pm

10/3/2020

3 OF 5 (RIVER RATS)

The Stage, 7pm

10/4/2020

ALLAN RAY & JO REED SUNRISE GOSPEL

The Spot, 10am

10/9/2020

DJ BILLY SCOTT

The Spot, 7pm

10/11/2020

ALLAN RAY & JO REED SUNRISE GOSPEL

The Spot, 10am

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Eastside Kings Festival

WWW.FB.COM/EASTSIDEKINGSFESTIVAL, MONDAY 5, 7PM

Exquisitely charismatic blues showman whose career extends seven decades, Bobby Rush recalls a 1951 gig in suburban Illinois with friends Howlin' Wolf and J.B. Lenoir.

"We played behind a curtain because they wanted to hear our music but didn't want to see our faces as Black men," scoffs the 86-year-old singer. "I'm about the only guy who talks about what went on, because I've always been independent."

Racism notwithstanding, the Louisianan says both autonomy and ambition led him to be crowned the King of the Chitlin Circuit. His relentless touring of Black and Black-friendly clubs brought him to Austin in the late Fifties and early Sixties.

"I remember the Victory Grill, yes," he affirms of the historic venue still standing at 11th Street. "I played there. It wasn't nothing but a local tavern, man. We also had another little place in Austin, a recreation center for teenagers because they couldn't come to the juke joint at 9pm.

"So we had two audiences: played earlier for the teenagers, then at night for the adults."

Underrepresented history also anchors the eight-year-running Eastside Kings Festival, which features veteran and emergent Black blues, R&B, and soul talent. For this year's virtual adaptation, Dialtone Records prime mover Eddie Stout united two blue-chip backing bands, the Eastside Kings and Texas Horns, set them up at Stuart Sullivan's Wire Recording, and ushered in a

cavalcade of showstopping performers, most of them local: Soul Man Sam, Orange Jefferson, Lavelle White, Classic Ballou, Birdleg, Tutu Jones, Andrea Dawson, and Mr. Bobby Rush himself, who drove all night from Mississippi to be there.

Rush, whose phenomenal new acoustic LP *Rawer Than Raw* focuses on the blues Delta's deep song pool, performs on the broadcast both as a featured artist and alongside Crystal Thomas' rich vocalizing. For a musician who made his name playing 200 shows a year, Monday's ESK appearance marks a rare opportunity for live performance during the pandemic. So what does Bobby Rush do when he gets bored?

"What I do is grab my guitar and go in my bathroom or some room and set myself up," he outlines. "I play and escape through my music – write and read and study. I've always done that. When times get hard, I pick my guitar up, soothe myself, and uplift from the down valleys of whatever I'm going through."

– Kevin Curtin



Bobby Rush taping an ESK set at Austin's Wire Recording

COURTESY OF EDDIE STOUT

ACL LIVE LOUNGE SERIES

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Friday 2 & Saturday 3

Downtown's largest venue isn't too big to pivot. Last month, ACL Live adapted into a chapel, marrying 14 couples under lights typically shining on bands. This weekend they baby step back into live entertainment with local, socially distanced double bills raising money for Austin music nonprofit Black Fret. Violin and ukulele-anchored indie folk combo Wild Child, whose new Song Confessional-inspired track "Going In" proved a popular Spotify addition, link with Beau Bedford's country, funk, and blues wrecking crew Texas Gentlemen. Melodically vibrant multi-instrumentalist Jackie Venson plays Saturday after explosive rappers Blackillac.

– Kevin Curtin

HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Hardlystrictlybluegrass.com, Saturday 3, 4pm

For the first time in 20 years, multitudes of music fans won't crash San Francisco's Golden Gate Park for the best free fest in the nation. Per 2020 custom, Hardly Strictly's gone virtual with its *Let the Music Play On* broadcast, featuring pre-recorded segments from 37 acts including copious Austinites: deep soul/funk/indie/psych movers Los Coast, bilingual Americana violinist/vocalist Carrie Rodriguez, rock/punk/folk troubadour John Doe of X, potent songwriter Patty Griffin, and moonlit poet Shakey Graves. Townies emeritus holding place on the bill include: blue-eyed soul/soft-rocker Boz Scaggs, Flatlanders Jimmie Dale Gilmore & Butch Hancock, and Steve Earle.

– Kevin Curtin

AUSTIN CORN LOVERS FIESTA

Facebook Live, Saturday 3 & Sunday 4

Limited scientific research exists as to whether COVID-19 can be transmitted through croch sweat. To err on the side of caution, Hickoids frontman Jeff Smith, who uses the front of his Jockeys as a microphone holster, throws his annual ACL Fest alternative digitally this year. The Saustex Records blow-out runs 2-6pm all weekend, with Saturday's multi-city broadcast growing increasingly heavy via Harvey McLaughlin, Stefan Murphy, Churchwood, DiNOLA, and orbiting freak rock conglomerate We Are the Astroid. Sunday's service shucks ears with Mitch Webb & the Swindles, the Me-Thinks, Frontier Dan with the Hickoids, gutter poet Hamell on Trial, and the anti-church, prop-pill honky-tonkers the Beaumonts.

– Kevin Curtin

SUZANNE VEGA LIVESTREAM

www.oneworldtheatre.org, Wednesday 7, 8pm

When Suzanne Vega sat down at my dark, empty table at the Austin Music Awards last year, our look at one another read simply ... "Pay no attention to the entertainer in front of the curtain." Onstage, she lit up like any NYC street poet. Livestreaming from Manhattan's famed Blue Note Jazz Club, the singer partners on the show with independent venues and promoters in the U.S. and Europe to feed a comatose live music infrastructure, including her Austin host villa the One World Theatre. *An Evening of New York Songs and Stories*, her new album, also serves as the evening's agenda with her trio. "Luka" and "Tom's Diner" cohabit with a Big Apple repertoire featuring "New York Is My Destination" from *Lover, Beloved: Songs From an Evening With Carson McCullers*, Vega's one-woman play. \$20.

– Raoul Hernandez

KENDRA SELLS, "ALL IN YOUR HEAD"

Bandcamp

The solo debut of Austin native Kendra Sells, "All in Your Head" soundtracks an artist stretching their boundaries. The fluid, exploratory track follows years of the singer leading San Marcos neo-soul project BluMoon, which put out last year's lively *Slow Burn*. Sells' latest single journeys soulful vocals in a playful intro, before shifting entirely through pulsating, ooey-goey beats to a jazz-influenced indie center. The charismatic performer rides a hypnotic refrain: "Was it all in your head?" The unmastered track sits on Quiet Year Records' *Quiet Year Comp Vol. 1*, previewing Sells' upcoming EP with the Virginian DIY label.

– Rachel Rascoe

GHOSTBOY JAYSEE'S "LUST"

Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube

Jean Meema follows introspective May release, "Pray to God," by letting his adult-rated desires run wild on "Lust," which makes clear that whatever debauchery transpires will fall under forgettable "entanglement" rather than Shakespearean love. The Austin-based MC melodically lists the benefits that come with associating oneself with him. Lawofthewest, an instrumentalist from Houston, uses a simple guitar loop mixed with pronounced snares to produce a rock-and-hip-hop backdrop befit for an artist that's already demonstrated an ability to dabble into other genres such as R&B ("Radar"). An accompanying video for "Lust" finds a confident Jaysee entertaining multiple women joyfully twerking inside his hotel room. The former Texas State track athlete continues to leap into Austin's upper echelons of rap.

– Derek Udensi

NANÉ, "CLEMENTINE TREE"

Apple Music, Spotify, SoundCloud, YouTube

Delicate and tender, Daniel Sahad's falsetto rides the wind of an evening breeze on Nané's newest single, "Clementine Tree." Acoustic chords and keyboard embellishments ripple as the now-local Dominican Republic native's vox drifts weightlessly until it sinks to a corporeal boom or rises like smoke. This song follows the Austinites' slew of 2020 singles: the mai tai funk of "Blue Velvet," hooded lust burner "Wolverine," and interstellar psychedelic cruise "Pink Jag." Lushly arranged thanks to producer John Spiece IV (Brownout, Grupo Fantasma), engineer Adrian Quesada (Black Pumas), and mastering engineer Erik Wofford (Explosions in the Sky), the quintet's self-titled debut arrives November 13. Prior to the album's release, the band plays with Brownout for ACL Live's Lounge Series on October 16.

– Alejandra Ramirez

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND

Bandcamp

A heaping helping of mostly CenTex artists unify to raise legal funds for the Esto'k Gna, a Rio Grande Valley tribe with ancestral lands stretching the border and Southwest. Without increased awareness and assistance, they face relocation and eradication in the face of environmental devastation caused by gas terminals, pipelines, and border wall expansions. Curated by musician Jordan Moser and local imprint Keeled Scales, the digital compilation culls the unreleased tracks and demos of 31 performers, from Black Belt Eagle Scout and Big Thief to Molly Burch and Christelle Bofale. Much of the active Keeled Scales roster represents, while Jess Williamson and Jackie Venson offer live cuts. Available online for only 30 days starting October 2 – that's the monthly "Bandcamp Friday," during which the online music hub waives artist fees – all revenue goes to the fund. More info: www.carrizocomecruceadonation.com.

– Greg Stitt

"WALK WITH ME AUSTIN"

Apple, Music, Bandcamp, Spotify, YouTube

Austin Mayor Steve Adler ushered in the Sept. 24 digital premiere of "Walk With Me Austin" by describing the large-scale collaboration as a "reflection of this moment, an anthem to bring our community together." The track is part of a national, mayor-backed movement that started with April's "Lift Up Louisville." Originally a response to the coronavirus pandemic's mandate of quarantining, the initiative moved to also include calls for racial justice after the murder of George Floyd. Over 45 local musicians from a multitude of genres contributed to the diverse, galvanizing plea for unity as produced and mixed by Adrian Quesada of Black Pumas. Figures such as Abhi the Nomad, Gina Chavez, Shakey Graves, Ruben Ramos, and Jackie Venson virtually assemble for a star-studded affair more 1985 than 2010 on the "We Are the World" measuring stick. All royalties from the song will be donated to HAAM. A simple request prevails throughout the near six-minute fusion of contrasting artists, visuals, and sounds: to proactively "walk" with one another to establish steps toward building a brighter, more inclusive Austin for all.

– Derek Udensi

LIVE STREAMING

THURSDAY 10/1

Eve Monsees & Mike Buck 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Graham Wilkinson 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

I Always Cry on Thursdays w/ Jean Caffeine 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents Sean Orr & Texas Gold 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

3ten ACL Live presents Stream Come True w/ Tomar & the FCs 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Monks Jazz presents Jerry Espinoza Quartet 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE

Curtis McMurtry 8pm
INSTAGRAM

Patrice Pike 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

First Thursdays Bossa Nova w/ Paula Maya 9pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Party Wolfe 9pm
TWITCH

The Harms Hang w/ guests 10pm
INSTAGRAM

FRIDAY 10/2

More Love Music Lunch Hour w/ Joanna Howerton & Michael Cross 12:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents the Big Gun Show 6pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Feel Good Hour w/ Monte Warden 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Bud's presents Stiletto Feels 7:05pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

AJ Vallejo 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Anne's Freaky 15 w/ Anne Heller & MC Terroristic 10:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

SATURDAY 10/3

Kris Schultz Live From the Corner (of Her Apartment) 1pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Austin Corn Lovers Fiesta day one w/ We Are the Asteroid, All Monsters Attack, DiNOLA, Churchwood, Stefan Murphy, Harvey McLaughlin 2pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass presents Let the Music Play On w/ Carrie Rodriguez, Jimmie Dale Gilmore & Butch Hancock, John Doe, Los Coast, Patty Griffin, Robert Earl

Keen, Shakey Graves, Aaron Lee Tasjan, Emmylou Harris, Sierra Ferrell, Steve Earle, & more 4pm
WWW.HARDLYSTRICTLYBLUEGRASS.COM

The Society Today presents Full Recovery Lounge w/ Mélat, Sugar Joiko, Mobley 5:30pm
TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE

DJ Mel's Living Room Dance Party 6pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Desde La Sala w/ Carrie Rodriguez, Shelly Lares, Sunbuzzed, Marinero 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents ATX Pearl 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Afro Jazz w/ Ibrahim Aminou & Aboubacar Sylla 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Monks Jazz presents Pete Rodriguez & Carlos Averhoff Quintet 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE

Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater 9pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Kevin Russell 9pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

DJ Chorizo Funk 10pm
INSTAGRAM

Synthy & Chatty w/ Todd V. Wolfson 10pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

SUNDAY 10/4

Corey Baum 11am
FACEBOOK LIVE

Leeann Atherton's Sunday Sing-Along 12:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Austin Corn Lovers Fiesta day two w/ the Beaumonts, Hamell on Trial, Frontier Dan & the Hickdicks, the Me-Thinks, Mitch Webb & the Swindles 2pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Shelley King's Soul-O Sundays 2pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

First Sunday Songwriters w/ Claudia Gibson 3pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents Chicken Shit Bingo w/ Johnny McGowan & Todd Wulfmeyer 4pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Pamela Hart 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Women in Jazz & Parker Jazz Club present Julie Slim & Rendezvous 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Úlla 5:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Sydney Wright 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE, INSTAGRAM

MONDAY 10/5

Bonnie Whitmore 3pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Stephen Carolan 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Bob Appel 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Eastside Kings Festival w/ Crystal Thomas, Soul Man Sam Evans, Orange Jefferson, Bobby Rush, Miss Lavelle White, Classie Ballou, Birdlegg, Tutu Jones, Andrea Dawson, Eastside Kings & the Texas Horns 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Jeff Plankenhorn 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Blue Monday w/ Oscar Ornelas 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Cari Hutson & Hunter St. Marie 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

No Lights No Lycra dance party in the dark w/ DJ Brian Blackout 8pm
TWITCH

Not at Donn's Depot w/ Chris Gage 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Line of Fire: Live From Living Room 8:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

TUESDAY 10/6

Ingebrigt Håker Flaten album release & solo performance w/ Sonic Transmissions Records label launch 1pm
TICKET LINK ON FACEBOOK

Mario Matteoli & Family 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya 5:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents Jim Bryant & Hilary Haney 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

At 7 w/ Frederico7 & guests 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Eric Bettencourt 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Tuesday With Todd (of the Merles) 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Good Time Supper Club w/ Band of Heathens 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE, TWITCH, PERISCOPE

Sarah Sharp, Mitch Watkins & Christopher Lee Wade 7:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

WEDNESDAY 10/7

Hanna Barakat 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Pat Byrne 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Bruce Smith 6pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Micah Motenko 6pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Little Longhorn presents Texas Swing Authority 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Matt Hubbard's "Grandpa's Piano" Livestream 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Scholz Garten presents Old World Wednesdays w/ Terry Cavanagh & His Alpine Express Band 7pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Carolyn Wonderland w/ A. Whitney Brown's Little Big Picture 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Mobley 8pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

One World Theatre presents Suzanne Vega 8pm
TICKETS ON SEATED.COM

Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains 8:30pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Sonya Jevette 8:30pm
YOUTUBE

ONGOING

Lex Land Fridays, 10:30am and Mondays, 5pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Karen Mal & Will Taylor Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Miles Zuniga Tuesdays, 7pm and Fridays, 9pm
FACEBOOK LIVE

Isolation Congregation w/ Dave Madden Wednesdays, 7pm and Sundays, 10:30am
FACEBOOK LIVE

LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY 10/1

Emerald Point Bar & Grill Zach Carney (6:00)

The Far Out Cactus Lee, Shinglers (7:00)

Geraldine's Oscar Ornelas (8:00)

Gruene Hall Kevin Fox Band (6:00)

H-E-B Center at Cedar Park Tailgate Series w/ Kody West, Giovannie & the Hired Guns, Grady Spencer & the Work (7:30)

Hays City Store Jesse Stratton (6:00)

Sagebrush Doug Strahan & the Good Neighbors (12mid), Western Express (10:00), Ben Ballinger (7:00)

St. Elmo Brewing Co. Grassy Thursdays (7:00)

Speakeasy The Weak Knights (9:00)

Victory Grill Ethics Events presents Electro Sounds (10:00)

Vista Brewing Driftwood Nights w/ David Touchton (7:00)

SATURDAY 10/3

ACL Live The Lounge Series w/ Jackie Venson, Blackillac (7:00)

Brushy Creek Amphitheater Tailgates & Tunes w/ Shane Smith & the Saints, John Baumann (7:00)

Buck's Backyard AJ Castillo, Ricky Naranjo y los Gamblers, Los Garcia Brothers, Broken Arrow (6:00)

Cheatham St. Ty Dillon (8:00)

Coupland Dancehall Randall King, Wynn Williams (9:00)

Emerald Point Bar & Grill Suede Austin (9:00)

Gruene Hall Landry & Company (1:00)

H-E-B Center at Cedar Park Tailgate Series w/ Everclear, Sister Hazel (6:00)

The Happy Cow Zak & Nem (8:30)

Hays City Store Heybale! (7:00)

Neighbor's Adam & the Crow Daddies (7:30)

Nutty Brown Cafe Bun B, Slim Thug, Lil' Flip (6:00)

River Road Ice House Hill Country Revival, JR Herrera Band (8:00)

RoadRunners Beth Lee & the Breakups, Chris Duarte (8:00)

Sagebrush Devin Jake (11:00), David Touchton (9:00), Danny B. Harvey (7:00)

Summit Rooftop DJ Five (9:00)

Vulcan Gas Co. Bandlez, Madhatter, Drizz, Jigga (9:00)

SUNDAY 10/4

Emerald Point Bar & Grill Public Disturbance (2:00)

The Far Out Beatles Brunch w/ the Eggmen (noon)

Gruene Hall Austin Gilliam Band (6:00), Henri Herbert Band (12:30)

Hays City Store Lisa Litman (5:00)

Neighbor's Fallon Franklin (5:00)

Sagebrush Colton Turner & the Mellows (9:00), Buffalo Gals (7:00), Texas Blues Party w/ Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)

MONDAY 10/5

Gruene Hall Bret Graham (6:00)

Sagebrush Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00)

TUESDAY 10/6

Gruene Hall Tony Taylor & Friends (6:00)

Sagebrush The Golden Roses (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Caldwell (7:00)

WEDNESDAY 10/7

Guero's Texas Radio Live w/ Sophia Johnson (7:00)

Sagebrush Candler Wilkinson (10:00), Shae Stuart (7:00)



Catch Carrie Rodriguez streaming live on Saturday

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

LOOKING FOR MORE?

Check out the full list at austinchronicle.com/events/music.

The Doll House

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183

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

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

THE Luv Doc



"UNDERDRESSED"

— A Frumpy Fan

Dear Luv Doc,

With the world going to hell in a handbasket, I have been finding it hard to get motivated to do even the simplest things — like getting dressed, or combing my hair, or feeding my cat. I don't want to watch the news — too scary — and I have seen everything worth watching on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, and HBO Max. I find myself staring blankly at those crackling log fireplace videos. I am not even sure what day it is. Arbor? The only thing I can really count on these days is the Amber Alert going off on my cell phone shortly before the rooster crows. Do people only snatch children in the early morning, or is the DPS just filled with sadists? Anyways, do you have any advice on staying motivated? I want to look forward to something other than the coming apocalypse. Oh, and don't worry about the cat. If she gets too hungry, she jumps on me and meows until I feed her.

A guy in a tuxedo once told me, "You can never be overdressed." We were standing in line at the Taco Bell on Airport Boulevard at the time. Apropos of nothing other than the obvious absurdity of his attire, he ejaculated with that bon mot unambiguously to ease the dramatic tension. Keep in mind, this was right around the time that Don Cheadle's white-suit-in-a-donut-shop scene in *Boogie Nights* was freshly seared into the public consciousness, so wearing a tuxedo into a Taco Bell probably seemed like a cosmic invitation for some heavy shit to go down. It did not — well, at least not until the following morning, but that's just the price you pay for a booze-inspired late night Taco Bell run. There has to be a morning after.

I am always amazed at how the little, seemingly uneventful moments in life manage to gain such a strong foothold in my memory, but they do. By the way, that guy was dead fucking wrong. At the very least, he surely never had to suit up for Okie noodlin', Turkish oil wrestling, or the 100-meter freestyle. That said, there is generally nothing wrong with looking sharp as long as it doesn't make you or those around you uncomfortable. For instance, if I ever walk into a donut shop and there's a guy wearing a white suit, my first inclination will be to get the fuck up on out of there — especially with all the open-carry knuckleheads walking around these days thinking they're "protecting" people.

As far as daily attire goes though, you do you. Wear whatever makes you feel good. When the sadists at the DPS wake you up at 5:30am to tell you somebody's grandpa is off his meds and tooling around Bexar County in a maroon Crown Vic, start your day off right by putting on something that makes you feel good when you look in the mirror — even if it's a white suit. And while you're standing in front of the mirror, fix your hair — not for the grossly undertipped Favor driver you see once a week, but for you. Treat yourself.

Yes, the world is definitely going to end, but it certainly won't end because of some egotistical, belligerently ignorant, orange-haired turd blossom and his moronic minions. It will end because good, decent people — even people with cats — just stop giving a fuck. My advice to you is to start caring ... deeply. Start living your best life right now, every day, no excuses. Believe me, no one else is going to do it for you. They're too busy getting their own shit together. Speaking of, I need to go steam my tux, because I have a taco to eat.

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

Teddy Roosevelt had a pet snake named Emily Spinach.

The 2% of Scotch that naturally evaporates in any given barrel of Scotch whisky is referred to as the "angel's share."

If you dance the Apache Dance, it has nothing to do with a Native American tribe. The Apache (pronounced a-pash) is a dramatic dance associated with Parisian street culture in the early 20th century.

In the third century BC, King Devanampiya Tissa in Sri Lanka created the first officially protected nature reserve. It took until 1821 for a European to get a similar idea, when Charles Waterton created a preserve in West Yorkshire.

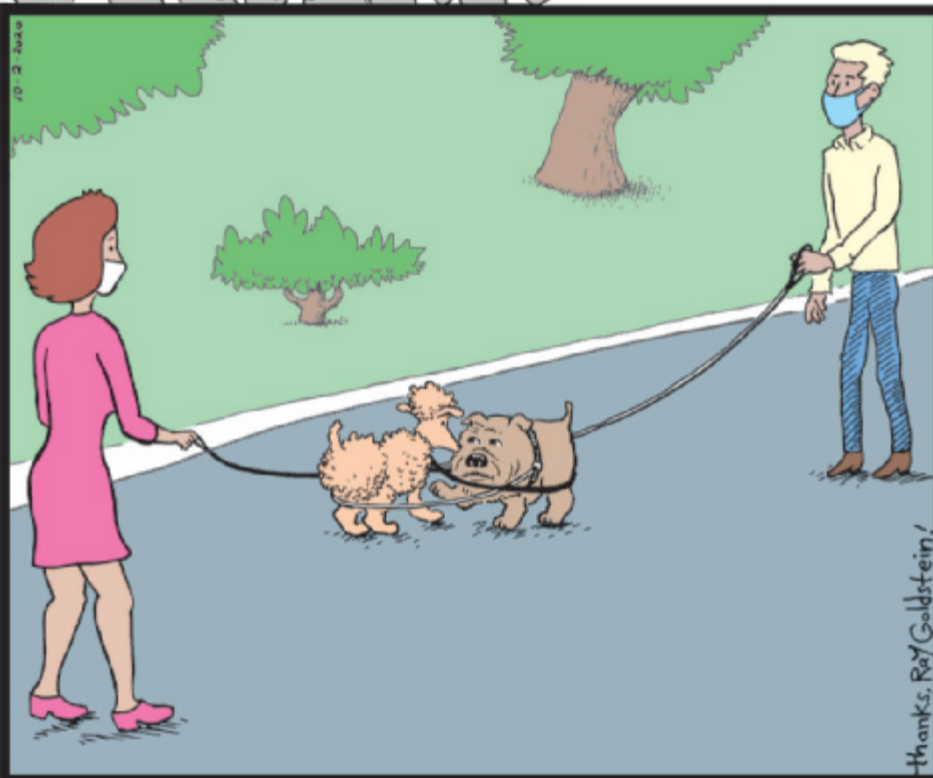
The toggle light switch was invented by William J. Newton in 1916. In the U.S., Canada, and European countries, up is on; but in commonwealth countries, up is off.

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

COMICS

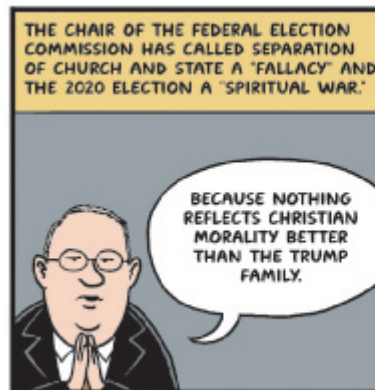
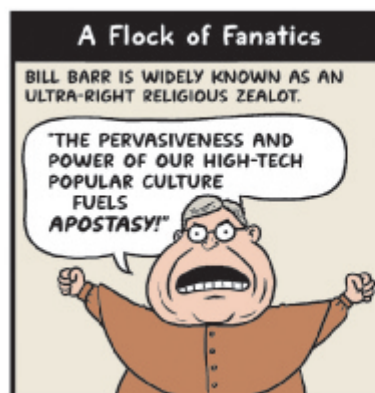
EVEREAM

by Sam Hurt



Thanks, Ray Goldstein!

JEN SORENSEN



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ART/DESIGN

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Job Description
The Austin Chronicle is looking for a graphic designer to join our Production Department, with a focus on web-based work. One of the oldest and most-respected independently-owned alternative news-weeklies in the country, the Chronicle is a unique and engaging workplace full of creative people who love telling the story of Austin. We are looking for a candidate with experience in web-based design, as well as graphic design in general. Examples of duties include processing photo galleries, exporting print issue content to the web, creating web and print ads, and building WordPress pages for our Sales and Marketing team. This is a full-time position.

Qualifications

Graphic design experience and/or education; Web design experience and/or education

Desired Skills

- Adobe Creative Suite: particularly InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator
- Experience with HTML, CSS, WordPress, and content management systems
- After Effects or other web animation experience a plus

Salary Level

\$14/hour

Contact Information
zeke@austinchronicle.com

WEBSITE

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COMPUTER/TECHNICAL

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE & ANALYTICS

Technicolor USA, Inc. has a position in Austin, TX. *Director, Business Intelligence & Analytics [TECH-ATX20-DIRA2] - Develop & implement business intelligence strategy & implement BI roadmaps; & design, create & implement BI solution from business requirements; manage offshore and onshore teams. May work from home office anywhere in the U.S. Resume to Wilson Lau, Immigration Specialist, Technicolor USA, Inc., 2255 N. Ontario Street, Suite 250, Burbank, CA 91504. Specify Job Code# in reply. EOE

ENGINEERING

Mirantis, Inc. has an opening in Austin, TX for Advanced Engineer to support the biggest OpenStack Cloud in the world by delivering world class support for T4 Operations team. Ref job code C#5315086 & mail resume to: Mirantis, Inc. Attn: HR, 900 E. Hamilton Avenue, #650, Campbell, CA 95008

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AGILE DEVELOPER I

sought by Experian Health, Inc. in Austin, TX (Job Code: SKS1218). Review and analyze software requirements. Req: BS + 1. Apply by email at recruitment@experian.com (Reference Job Code)

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Q2 Software, Inc. seeks Software Engineer to work in Austin, TX to build cutting edge, next generation electronic banking software and hybrid mobile applications with JavaScript, CSS3 and HTML 5. Will accept Master's in Computer Science, Computer Systems Analysis or closely related computer field of study PLUS 2 years related experience OR Bachelor's in Computer Science, Computer Systems Analysis or closely related computer field of study PLUS 5 years experience. Submit resume through <https://www.q2.com/careers>. Must include "REQ-4396" on resume.

TECHNICAL

Adobe Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions in AUSTIN, TX: Software Development Engineer (REF#AUVPSE): Design, test and deploy micro-services which form the core of the Order Management software product. Software Development Engineer (REF#AURTSDE): Produce clear, well-structured, cross-browser, testable, scalable, critical bugs free code. 5% domestic travel required. Mail resume to Adobe Inc., Mailstop W8-435, 345 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95110. Must include REF code. No phone calls please. EOE. www.adobe.com/

WEBSITE

Like me, and all you want is a 1973 turquoise Mustang Convertible? Try looking through our MARKETPLACE section at austinchronicle.com/classifieds. If you find it, let me know...I'll buy it from you.

TECHNICAL

Cisco Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following position in Austin, TX: Software Consulting Engineer (Ref# AUS025C): Understand customer requirements in order to design, build, test and integrate company solutions. Software Engineer (Ref# AUS003C): Responsible for the definition, design, development, test, debugging, release, enhancement or maintenance of software. Software/QA Engineer (Ref# AUS004C): Debug software products through the use of systematic tests to develop, apply, and maintain quality standards for company products. Please mail resumes with reference number to Cisco Systems, Inc., Attn: G51G, 170 W. Tasman Drive, Mail Stop: SJC 5/1/4, San Jose, CA 95134. No phone calls please. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. EOE. www.cisco.com

GENERAL

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NON-PROFIT

GENERAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The position performs general maintenance work. Call 5124404057 or email darlene.hale@integralcare.org to apply.

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OFFICE/CLERICAL

MEDICAL BILLING

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ACURIAN HEALTH

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD for accuracy the first time it runs. The Austin Chronicle is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. The Austin Chronicle's liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 3pm.

LEGAL NOTICES CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG-Wine and Food & Beverage permit by Kasian Boil 2 LLC to be located at 11416 Ranch Road 620 North, Austin, Travis, TX, 78726. Officers of said LLC are Anh Tran (Managing Member) and Glenn Williams (Managing Member).

Application has been made in accordance with the Texas

Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit (BG) by Willow & Co LLC. dba Willow & Co to be located at 908 E 5th St Unit 107, Austin, Travis County, TX. Owner Valerie Williamson & Richard Kooris.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for A Beer Retail Dealer's Off-Premise License, Package Store Permit & Package Store

Tasting Permit by Ferry Business LLC DBA Captain Liquor to be located at 716 S. Pace Bend Rd, Ste. B, Spicewood, Travis Co., Texas. Managing Member of said LLC is Sultan K. Kadiwal - Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Uncle Nicky's 2 LLC dba Uncle Nicky's, 1123 E. 11th Street, Austin, Travis

County, Texas. Luca AY Restaurants LLC, Manager; Nicholas A. Yanes, its Managing Member; Savannah J. Mobley, its Managing Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by One Taco, LLC dba One Taco, 12233 RR 620 North, Building D, Suite 500, Austin, Williamson County, Texas. Axel G. Beverido, Managing

Member; Antonio Avila, III, Managing Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit by Chili's Beverage Company, Inc. d/b/a Chili's Grill & Bar located at 7710 N FM 620 Road, Bldg 2, Austin, Travis County, Texas, 78726. Officers of said company are Christopher Green, President, Secretary, Treasurer; Daniel

Fuller, Vice President and Assistant Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with FB (RM) by Fairways Cantina, LLC dba Fairways Cantina, to be located at 3851 Manor Rd, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Member of said LLC is Aman Jain.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

Commission for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit by Frank Zeolla dba Dog Haus Biergarten, To be located at 7710 NFM 620 Bldg 7 Suite 750, Austin Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation Frank Zeolla and Cathleen Zeolla.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by MOOREBLANTON,

L.L.C. dba Crave Hot Dogs and Barbeque, 21315 N. SH 130 NB SVC Road, Suite 150, Pflugerville, Travis County, Texas. Carl L. Moore, Jr., Managing Member; Shirley L. Arnold-Moore, Managing Member

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by Texas Hills Culinary Imports, LLC dba Shorties Pizza, 7858 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite C, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Fardin Saiidi, Manager; Ali Hajimaleki, Manager; Amir Hajimaleki, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Winery Permit by C.L. Butaud Wines, LLC, to be located at 12345 Pauls Valley Road, Bldgs. A-1, A-2, and E, Austin, Hays County, Texas 78620. The managing member of applicant is Randall Hester and the CEO is Brooke Hester.

CAUSE NO. 20-0814-CP4 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTHA ANN BASS, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Martha Ann Bass, Deceased were issued on September 24, 2020, in Cause Number 20-0814-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Williamson County, Texas, to: Pamela B. Ortiz
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time prescribed by law to Pamela B. Ortiz, Independent Executor of the

Estate of Martha Ann Bass, c/o Joel B. Bennett, P.C., P.O. Box 267, Austin, TX 78767.
Dated the 28th day of September, 2020.
By: /s/ Joel Bennett
Attorney for Independent Executor

CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-19-000379
To: ALLISON CHURCHILL
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 NOVEMBER 2, 2020, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JANUARY 22, 2019, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-19-000379, in which ALEXANDER WILLIAM KEATING Plaintiff(s), and ALLISON CHURCHILL Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 ON THE 600 BLOCK OF WEST NORTH LOOP IN TRAVIS COUNTY INVOLVING ALEXANDER WILLIAM KEATING. THIS CASE IS PRESENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF TRAVIS COUNTY SITTING IN AUSTIN, TEXAS AND WAS FILED ON JANUARY 22, 2020 BEARING CAUSE NUMBER D-1-GN-19-000379 AND IS STYLED: ALEXANDER WILLIAM KEATING VERSUS ALLISON CHURCHILL THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF OR PETITIONER IS: OMAR R. CHAWDHARY THE WEBSTER LAW FIRM 6200 SAVOY, SUITE 150 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77036 713-581-3900. ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE 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, September 21, 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
OMAR RASCHID CHAWDHARY
6200 SAVOY DR STE 150
HOUSTON, TX 77036-3320
BUSINESS PHONE: (713) 581-3900
FAX: (713) 581-3907
PREPARED BY: JIMENEZ
CHLOE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-AG-17-000771
To: STEPHANIE ANN BAILEY and to all who may be concerned, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If

you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the THIRD AMENDED PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND MOTION TO TRANSFER VENUE AND REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER OF JEFFREY EDWARD OWEN Petitioner(s), filed in said court on SEPTEMBER 4, 2020, against STEPHANIE ANN BAILEY Respondent (s), and said suit being number D-1-AG-17-000771 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF Z.O.O. A CHILD", the nature of which suit is a request SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND MOTION TO TRANSFER.

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, September 24, 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
GEORGE E. CARROLL
785 LOOP 337
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130
BUSINESS PHONE: (830) 301-6813
FAX: (210) 650-3291
PREPARED BY: CANTU
SUZANNE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL CARSTENS, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001894, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.

KATHLEEN FORD BAY filed an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 21, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL CARSTENS**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse,

1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001894**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL CARSTENS, 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 **September 23, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **L. HERNANDEZ**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of HERMAN VINCENT WEISE, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001910, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
MARY MANZ filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND REQUEST ADMINISTRATOR AFTER FOUR YEARS AND/OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 24, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **HERMAN VINCENT WEISE**, 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 at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001910**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **HERMAN VINCENT WEISE, 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 **September 24, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **B. HICKS**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JOE DAVID PARKS, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001838, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
LOUIS B PARKS filed an **Application to Declare Heirship** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 17, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **JOE DAVID PARKS**, Deceased,

and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001838**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **JOE DAVID PARKS, 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 **September 17, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **B. HICKS**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of JOHN ROBERT HIGGINS, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001822, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
CHARLES HIGGINS filed an **Application for Determination of Heirship and Letters of Independent Administration** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 16, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **JOHN ROBERT HIGGINS**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001822**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **JOHN ROBERT HIGGINS, 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 **September 17, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **B. HICKS**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of MARTHA JO THOMPSON, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001815, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
MONIQUE THOMPSON

filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 15, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **MARTHA JO THOMPSON**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001815**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **MARTHA JO THOMPSON, 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 **September 16, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **V. LIMON**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of RICHARD HENRY HOWARD, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001792, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
TIFFANY M HOWARD filed an **Application to Declare Heirship and Suit for Declaratory Judgment** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 10, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **RICHARD HENRY HOWARD**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so.

The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001792**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **RICHARD HENRY HOWARD, 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 **September 10, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ **B. HICKS**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of VIRGINIA KEISLER HILL, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001881, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
KERENSA HILL filed an **Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estates Code** in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **September 22, 2020**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **VIRGINIA KEISLER HILL**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-20-001881**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **VIRGINIA KEISLER HILL, 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 **September 22, 2020**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
PO. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: **B. HICKS**

NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS

Teal Construction, Design Builder, is soliciting proposals for Deferred Maintenance projects at multiple DPS locations. Plans will be issued via Isqft, Building Connected, and Virtual Builders, contact Teal Office for access 713.465.8306. There will be HUB opportunities for the project. Proposals must be received no later than 2pm on 10/14/20. Proposals will be received via email estimating@tealcon.com or fax 713.465.5810. A preproposal meeting will be held via Zoom. Contact Sheree Agee, shereeagee@tealcon.com for access. Subcontracts will only be awarded to successful proposers possessing the ability to perform it scope of work as required per the terms and conditions of the contract documents.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

FIRST NOTICE
PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION UNLESS CLAIMED. GARAGE KEEPER: Tommy's Towing, First Notice: Year/Make 1970 Triumph UNKNOWN License Plate # AFR533 VIN # 78123KD Date Towed 9/21/2020 4538 Doss Rd, Austin, TX 78734. Daily Storage \$20.00 Per Day

The above vehicle is currently being stored at 1400 O'Reilly Ct, Austin TX, 78734
This vehicle will be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws of the State of Texas, if it not reclaimed within 45 days. Vehicle Storage Facility Charges. DAILY STORAGE RATE: \$20.00 PER DAY @ 1 DAYS: \$20.00 NOTIFICATION FEE: \$50.00 IMPOUNDMENT FEE: \$0.00 SUBTOTAL: \$70.00 Tow Charges TOWING: \$275.00 OTHER CHARGES: \$50.00 SALES TAX: \$1.65 TOTAL: \$396.65

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE: IF THE VEHICLE IS NOT CLAIMED 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE IS SENT GIVES THIS VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF THE VEHICLE. ADDITIONALLY FAILURE TO CLAIM THE VEHICLE IS A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CONSENT TO SELL THE VEHICLE AT A PUBLIC SALE - GARAGE KEEPER: AUS-TEC TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC 205 FARLEY DRIVE AUSTIN, TX 78753 512-836-7443 0650246VSVF WWW.TDLR.TEXAS.GOV - 237350 14' FLATBED TRAILER NO LP NO VIN TOWED FROM 2710 MEISTER PL. ROUND ROCK, TX 78664 9/25/20 8316.71

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, www.tdkr.texas.gov THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS. GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,0655976VSE, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX. 78742. (512)441-7094. 2005 FORD FREESTAR RYY456 HI 2FMZA51605BA03501 2013 NISSAN VERANO 180988C TX 3N1CN7AP1DL864313 TRAILER OTHER BLACK NO PLATE NO VIN 2001 HONDA ODYSSEY 6HHS817 CA 2HKRL187X1H577242

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

"In accordance with the provisions of **State Law**, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner and/or manager's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Life Storage location(s) listed below. And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment for such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated location(s) to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com, which will end on Oct. 27, 2020 at 10:00 am.
Life Storage #276 2830 S. A.W. Grimes, Round Rock, TX 78664 512-310-0279
Kary Williams - Hsld Gds/Furn;

CONTINUED ON P.60

Patricia Wilson - Hsld Gds/Furn; Maria Romero - Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip; Mijiza Parker - Hsld Gds/Furn; Melissa Vasquez - Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip; Alicia Davis - Hsld Gds/Furn, Boxes; Benjamin Scott - Hsld Gds/Furn; Artavious Lang - Hsld Gds/Furn; Joshua Derington - Actng Rcrds/Sales Sampls; Joshua Earl - Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces; Martin Vela - Hsld Gds/Furn; Timothy Ross - Hsld Gds/Furn; Gisela Bonola - Hsld Gds/Furn; Ronald Dupas - Hsld Gds/Furn; **Life Storage #390**
12835 Pond Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78729
512-250-5152
 Taylor Cross-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces Heather Reasor-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
 Manuella Cabillo-Hsld Gds/Furn
 Debbianna Patterson-Hsld Gds/Furn
 Erika Alvarez-Hsld Gds/Furn
 Robert Kendrick-Hsld Gds/Furn
 Oscar Lomas-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
 Glenda Gormany-Hsld Gds/Furn, Boxes
 Randall Holahan-Hsld Gds/Furn, Tools/Applnces
Life Storage #429
2715 Sam Bass Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-3724
 Patricia Abshagen-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
 Erica Costenbader-Hsld Gds/Furn
Life Storage #430
2101 Double Creek Dr. Round Rock, TX 78681
512-733-1203
 Robert Maney-Hsld Gds/Furn
 Anthony Nash-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tool/Applncesw
Life Storage #7109
3997 FM 1431 Round Rock,

TX 78681
512-255-5017
 Scott Woodworth - Hsld/Furn
 Angelia Bowman-Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
 Chris Smith - Hsld gds/Furn, Tools/Applnces, Christmas Trees
 Dora Gonzales -Hsld/Furn, Tools/Applnces, Boxes
 Marcellina Arellano-Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

*Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property code, Life Storage locations listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Self-storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.storagecenters.com which will end on Thursday 10/22/2020 at 10:00am
Life Storage #8030
1714 E Parmer Ln. Austin, TX 78754
(512)537-3412
Coe Moore, Peter Tyler, Jonathan Bowers, Ericka Hunt, Jimmy Nguyen, Tim Patrick, James Levi Welch, Donte Walker, Thomas McLaughlin, Esther Ellis

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **Move It Self Storage-Austin 620** will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held online at <http://www.storagecenters.com>. Competitive bids for the unit(s) will be accepted until October 13th, 2020 at 10:00am. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. Deposit for removal and

cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw item(s) from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants. Williams, Christina: Furniture, Boxes, Bedding, Décor; Bulnes, Marlon: Furniture, Bedding, Totes, Fishing Equipment, Kids Toys; Leal, Joseph: Furniture, Piano, Kids Items, Records; Mathews, James: Furniture, Office Equipment, Wall Art; Leal, Joseph: Truck Tool Box, Canopy; James, Adrienne: Furniture, Shelving, Boxes, Kids Toys.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property code, Life Storage locations listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Self-storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.storagecenters.com which will end on Thursday 10/15/2020 at 10:00am
Life Storage #8030
1714 E Parmer Ln. Austin, TX 78754
(512)537-3412
David Wayne Brown, Ricardo Ruiz, Jacquelyn Brown, Chadwick Gaddy, Megan Kirby, Keri Phillips, Joseph Delacera,

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
MORNINGSTAR STORAGE
 of Austin 290 IN AUSTIN TEXAS HEREBY PUBLISHES NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, OF A PUBLIC LIEN SALE FOR THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW TO SATISFY A LANDLORD'S LIEN. ALL

SALES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY COMPETITIVE BID FOR CASH TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FINAL. MORNINGSTAR STORAGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BIDS. **THE SALE SHALL BE HELD AT** www.storageauctions.com **On October 12, 2020 @ 10:30 AM. Units below:**
 #1065 Kelly Jones: Boxes, Home Décor, Holiday Decorations.
 #1067 Kelly Jones: Boxes, Furniture, Books, Children's clothes and toys. #1071 Kelly Jones: furniture, lamps and mirrors

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 of property to satisfy landlord's lien. The sale will be conducted on <https://storageauctions.com/> and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on Oct 20 at 10:00 AM. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces at A Mini Storage of Texas, 2381 Hwy 71 East, Del Valle, TX 78617: Household and other goods-construction equipment, furniture, and/or office furniture. Questions please call @ 512-582-0300.
 Ramirez, Severiano H
 Moffatt, Dan
 Reese, Xavier Rakim

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on October 14th 2020 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storagecenters.com: **CubeSmart 10707 N IH35 Austin TX 78753:** Steven Corley, Jasmin Bryant, Brianna Russ, Jimmy Lindquist
CubeSmart 244 Benelli Dr Hutto TX 78634: Gloretta Sneed
CubeSmart 400 N HWY 183 Liberty Hill TX 78642: Charnell Comins
CubeSmart 3706 N Main St Taylor TX 76754: Classy Henderson, Ramon Garcia, Marjorie Smith, Earnie Robinson
CubeSmart 13601 Dessau Rd Pflugerville TX 78660: Robert Maney, Doris Bailey, Joseph Rendon
CubeSmart 2701 FM 1460 Georgetown TX 78626: Anthony Linney
CubeSmart 251 N AW Grimes Blvd Round Rock TX 78665: Ymocencia Mamoe, Zach Reeves, Lorenza Guadalupe James, Samantha Perales
CubeSmart 14509 Owen Tech Blvd Austin TX 78728: Deangelo Moore, Bryan Pechacek, Chrisun Fowler
CubeSmart 2400 N Austin Ave Georgetown TX 78626: Jeremy Vidaure, Paula Rainey
CubeSmart 646 W Front St Hutto TX 78634: April Gomez, Joshua Randall, Charles Phillips
CubeSmart 12407 US 290E Manor TX 78653: Tammie Townsend, James Darby, John Collins, Brenda Williams, Tanglynn Nuckols, Marisela Reyes
CubeSmart 110 S FM 1660 Hutto TX 78634: Andy Smith
 RV Prowler LS26H
 Vin:1ECH1H2625X1477538

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart to satisfy a lien on 10/21/2020 at approx. 9:30AM at www.storagecenters.com:
610 E Stassney Ln, Austin, TX 78745: Christian Stahl, Meisa Parkinson; **10025 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748:** Rita

Albin, Marcos Renteria; **1905 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78744:** Tiffany Lopez, Alan V Brock, A B, Oscar Ochoa, Luis Ivan Aguilar Olvera, Erica Flores-Dehuma, Erica Flores D.; **6130 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741:** Fredrique San Marc-Charles, Kamalei Kaneoka Bacon, Barak J. Nisim, Veronica Ruiz, Ray-shawn Kenahi Bonton, Erica Breen, Christopher T Bourland; **2701 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704:** Montrez Fields; **701 Philomena Dr, Kyle, TX 78640:** Coy Villasenor, C V, Nancy Robledo, Glenda Castro, Regina Thompson; **21400 IH 35, Kyle, TX 78640:** Kenny Davis

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 The following properties are being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at self-storageauction.com
 The facility, "A-Austin Storage Center" is located at 1805 Frontier Valley Dr. Austin Tx.78741 Bidding will conclude October 19th at 9:00 am
 100.00 cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Property includes the contents of unit 450, Charles Quesada
 Unit contains electronic equipment.

NOTICE OF RELOCATION
 Kanubhai A. Patel, M.D., P.A. will be relocating effective November 2, 2020
 For questions or copies of medical records call: 972-540-6256
NEW LOCATION
 WellMed at McKinney
 4510 Medical Center Drive, Suite 311
 McKinney, Texas 75069
 972-540-6256

NOTICE OF RELOCATION
 Specialists for Health-Supportive & Palliative Care will be relocating effective October 12, 2020
 For questions or copies of medical records call: 512-651-8644
NEW LOCATION
 WellMed at Park Bend
 2200 Park Bend Drive, Bldg. 2, Suite 300
 Austin, Texas 78758
 512-651-8644

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
 State of Texas
 County of Travis
 Cause: **D1GN13003857**
 By virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the **District Court of the 98th Judicial District Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, September 11, 2020**, in cause numbered **D1GN13003857**, styled **HARRIS BRANCH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. versus DANIELLE HATCH** on a judgment rendered against **DANIELLE HATCH**; I did on **September 22, 2020**, at 2:05PM, levy upon as the property of **DANIELLE HATCH** the following described real property:
LOT 5, BLOCK A, OF EDINBURGH GARDENS SECTION ONE, AD ADDITION TO TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NO. 200500005 OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS COMMONLY KNOWN AS 12313 DRUMMOND DRIVE,

MANOR, TEXAS 78653.
 On **November 03, 2020**, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of **10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.**, beginning at **10:00AM**, at the Travis County Courthouse, **1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I** will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of **DANIELLE HATCH** in and to the real property described above.
 Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, **September 22, 2020**
 Carlos B. Lopez,
 Constable Precinct 5
 Travis County, Texas
 /s/

By Sr. Deputy Julien Smith
 Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately. Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.
NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
 State of Texas
 County of Travis
 Cause: **D1GN19008511**
 By virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the **District Court of the 250th Judicial District Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, September 17, 2020**, in cause numbered **D1GN19008511**, styled **GLAZIER HOMES LLC versus RON MILLS AND AMY C. MILLS** on a judgment rendered against **RON MILLS AND AMY C. MILLS**; I did on **September 18, 2020**, at **8:00AM**, levy upon as the property of **RON MILLS AND AMY C. MILLS** the following described real property: **"Unit 7, Abbotsbury Village Condominiums, a condominium project in Travis County, Texas, according to the Declaration of Condominium and amendments thereto, recorded under Document No. 2015091343, as further affected by Document No(s). 2015092123, 2015144022, 2017014053, and 2018038632 of the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas, together with an undivided interest in and to the common elements appurtenant thereto."**
 On **November 3rd, 2020**, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of **10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.**, beginning at **10:00AM**, at the Travis County Courthouse, **1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I** will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of **RON MILLS AND AMY C. MILLS** in and to the real property described above. Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, **September 18, 2020**
 Carlos B. Lopez,
 Constable Precinct 5
 Travis County, Texas
 /s/

By Sr. Deputy Julien Smith
 Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately. Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section **34.015, Tax Code**, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.
NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
 State of Texas
 County of Travis
 Cause: **D1GN18000900**
 By virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the District Court 261ST Judicial District Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, September 11, 2020, in cause numbered **D1GN18000900**, styled **TTA TEXAS FIRE ALARM INC versus SATTAR INVESTMENTS, INC.**, on a judgment rendered against **SATTAR INVESTMENTS, INC.**,; I did on **September 18, 2020**, at **11:00 A.M.**, levy upon as the property of **SATTAR INVESTMENTS, INC.**, the following described real property: **13801 BURNET ROAD, LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 2 (LESS .057A) MARKET AT WELLS BRANCH SEC. 1, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

On **November 03, 2020**, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of **10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.**, beginning at **10:00 A.M.**, at the Travis County Courthouse, **1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I** will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of **SATTAR INVESTMENTS, INC.**, in and to the real property described above. Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, **September 18, 2020**
 Carlos B. Lopez,
 Constable Precinct 5
 Travis County, Texas
 /s/ Carl Eller
 By Carl Eller, Sr. Deputy
 Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's inter-

est in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately. Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Stassney located at 201 W. Stassney Lane, Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions on 10/13/2020 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Kevin Salter, Mynaria Walker; Ethan Gunter Bond; Diana Aguilar. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Wasson located at 5405 Wasson Rd., Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions on 10/13/2020 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Jefferey Votaw; Jerry Rogers; Benjamin Locklear. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GREGORY STEWART JONES, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gregory Stewart Jones, Deceased, were issued on September 1, 2020, in Docket No. C-1-PB-20-001347, pending in Probate Court Number 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Susan K. Jones, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the Executor's attorneys, addressed as follows: c/o Pete Meeker, Reed, Claymon, Meeker & Hargett, PLLC, 5608 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL JOHN ROGERS, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that Cause No. 20-0832-CP4, styled Estate of Michael John Rogers, Deceased (the "Estate"), pending in the County Court at Law

contact this office immediately. Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section **34.015, Tax Code**, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Stassney located at 201 W. Stassney Lane, Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions on 10/13/2020 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Kevin Salter, Mynaria Walker; Ethan Gunter Bond; Diana Aguilar. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Wasson located at 5405 Wasson Rd., Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions on 10/13/2020 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Jefferey Votaw; Jerry Rogers; Benjamin Locklear. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GREGORY STEWART JONES, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gregory Stewart Jones, Deceased, were issued on September 1, 2020, in Docket No. C-1-PB-20-001347, pending in Probate Court Number 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Susan K. Jones, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the Executor's attorneys, addressed as follows: c/o Pete Meeker, Reed, Claymon, Meeker & Hargett, PLLC, 5608 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL JOHN ROGERS, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that Cause No. 20-0832-CP4, styled Estate of Michael John Rogers, Deceased (the "Estate"), pending in the County Court at Law



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for October 2-8

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In her high school yearbook, Libra-born Sigourney Weaver arranged to have this caption beneath her official photo: "Please, God, please, don't let me be normal!" Since then, she has had a long and acclaimed career as an actor in movies. ScreenPrism.com calls her a pioneer of female action heroes. Among her many exotic roles: a fierce warrior who defeats monstrous aliens; an exobiologist working with indigenous people on the moon of a distant planet in the 22nd century; and a naturalist who lives with mountain gorillas in Rwanda. If you have ever had comparable fantasies about transcending normalcy, Libra, now would be a good time to indulge those fantasies – and begin cooking up plans to make them come true.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio-born Prince Charles has been heir to the British throne for 68 years. That's an eternity to be patiently on hold for his big chance to serve as king. His mother Queen Elizabeth just keeps going on and on, living her very long life, ensuring that Charles remains second-in-command. But I suspect that many Scorpions who have been awaiting their turn will finally graduate to the next step in the coming weeks and months. Will Charles be one of them? Will you? To increase your chances, here's a tip: Meditate on how to be of even greater devotion to the ideals you love to serve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Inventor Buckminster Fuller was a visionary who loved to imagine ideas and objects no one had ever dreamed of before. One of his mottos was, "There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly." I recommend that you spend quality time in the coming weeks meditating on butterfly-like things you'd love to have as part of your future – things that may resemble caterpillars in the early going. Your homework is to envision three such innovations that could be in your world by October 1, 2021.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During World War II, Hollywood filmmakers decided it would be a good idea to create stories based on graphic current events: for example, American Marines waging pitched battles against Japanese soldiers on South Pacific islands. But audiences were cool to that approach. They preferred comedies and musicals with "no message, no mission, no misfortune." In the coming weeks, I advise you to resist any temptation you might have to engage in a similar disregard of current events. In my opinion, your mental health requires you to be extra discerning and well-informed about politics – and so does the future of your personal destiny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Pretending is imagined possibility," observes actor Meryl Streep. "Pretending is a very valuable life skill and we do it all the time." In other words, fantasizing about events that may never happen is just one way we use our mind's eye. We also wield our imaginations to envision scenarios that we actually want to create in our real lives. In fact, that's the first step in actualizing those scenarios: to play around with picturing them; to pretend they will one day be a literal part of our world. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to supercharge the generative aspect of your imagination. I encourage you to be especially vivid and intense as you visualize in detail the future you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "My own soul must be a bright invisible green," wrote author and philosopher Henry David Thoreau. Novelist Tom Robbins suggested that we visualize the soul as "a cross between a wolf howl, a photon, and a dribble of dark molasses." Nobel Prize-winning poet Wislawa Szymborska observed, "Joy and sorrow aren't two different feelings" for the soul. Poet Emily Dickinson thought that the soul "should always stand ajar" – just in case an ecstatic experience or rousing epiphany might be lurking in the vicinity. In the coming weeks, Pisces, I invite you to enjoy your own lively meditations on the nature of your soul. You're in a phase when such an exploration can yield interesting results.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "I am, indeed, a king, because I know how to rule myself," wrote 16th-century author Pietro Aretino. By January 2021, Aries, I would love for you to have earned the right to make a similar statement: "I am, indeed, a royal sovereign, because I know how to rule myself." Here's the most important point: The robust power and clout you have the potential to summon has nothing to do with power and clout over other people – only over yourself. Homework: Meditate on what it means to be the imperial boss and supreme monarch of your own fate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "The basic principle of spiritual life is that our problems become the very place to discover wisdom and love." Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield made that brilliant observation. It's always worth meditating on, but it's an especially potent message for you during the first three weeks of October 2020. In my view, now is a highly favorable time for you to extract uplifting lessons by dealing forthrightly with your knot-tiest dilemmas. I suspect that these lessons could prove useful for the rest of your long life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "My business is to love," wrote poet Emily Dickinson. I invite you to adopt this motto for the next three weeks. It's an excellent time to intensify your commitment to expressing compassion, empathy, and tenderness. To do so will not only bring healing to certain allies who need it; it will also make you smarter. I mean that literally. Your actual intelligence will expand and deepen as you look for and capitalize on opportunities to bestow blessings. (P.S. Dickinson also wrote, "My business is to sing." I recommend you experiment with that mandate, as well.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "I'm the diamond in the dirt, that ain't been found," sings Cancerian rapper Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent. "I'm the underground king and I ain't been crowned," he adds. My reading of the astrological omens suggests that a phenomenon like that is going on in your life right now. There's something unknown about you that deserves and needs to be known. You're not getting the full credit and acknowledgment you've earned through your soulful accomplishments. I hereby authorize you to take action! Address this oversight. Rise up and correct it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The author bell hooks (who doesn't capitalize her name) has spent years as a professor in American universities. Adaptability has been a key strategy in her efforts to educate her students. She writes, "One of the things that we must do as teachers is twirl around and around, and find out what works with the situation that we're in." That's excellent advice for you right now – in whatever field you're in. Old reliable formulas are irrelevant, in my astrological opinion. Strategies that have guided you in the past may not apply to the current scenarios. Your best bet is to twirl around and around as you experiment to find out what works.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Your relationship with yourself sets the tone for every other relationship you have," says motivational speaker Robert Holden. Hallelujah and amen! Ain't that the truth! Which is why it's so crucial to periodically take a thorough inventory of your relationship with yourself. And guess what, Virgo: Now would be a perfect time to do so. Even more than that: During your inventory, if you discover ways in which you treat yourself unkindly or carelessly, you can generate tremendous healing energy by working to fix the glitches. The coming weeks could bring pivotal transformations in your bonds with others if you're brave enough to make pivotal transformations in your bonds with yourself.

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

PARK & HOMER puzzles

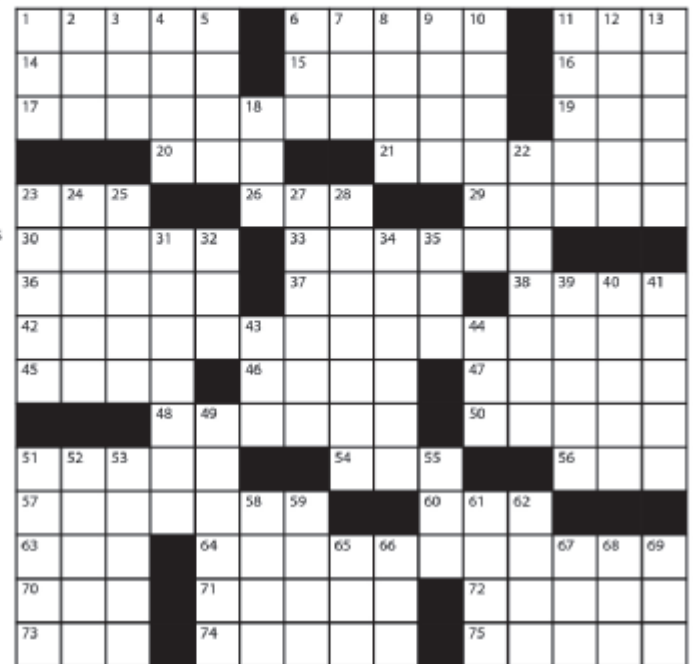
Tidy up

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 656

Across

1. Risk taker
6. Relax
11. Sixth sense
14. Cheer up
15. Accumulate
16. ___-tzu
17. Eliminates undesirable parts
19. "___ magic!"
20. Football great Dawson
21. Part of a board
23. Unspecified no.
26. Laptop screen
29. Heroic acts
30. Subarctic forest
33. Enters cyberspace
36. ___ Park, Colo.
37. "How exciting!"
38. Soprano's song, maybe
42. First grade expectation, maybe
45. Capital on a fjord
46. Brazilian soccer legend
47. Pitcher Ryan
48. Hospital figures
50. "___ there yet?"
51. Barcelona's home
54. Sault ___ Marie
56. Morning moisture
57. Incomplete
60. It needs refinement
63. Add years to one's life
64. Like the start of 17- and 42-across



70. Deal-busting org.
71. Soother
72. Make amends
73. Road curve
74. ER pictures
75. Peter, Paul or Mary

Down

1. Holiday mo.
2. "That's ___!"
3. "Norma ___"
4. And others: Abbr.
5. Russo of "Get Shorty"
6. ___-di-dah
7. Punk rock subgenre
8. Drawn tight
9. Cold war inits.

10. False start?
11. Best of the best
12. Filled to excess
13. Model's series show
18. NBC weekend
22. One of 100
23. Dictation taker
24. Relieves
25. Imperative
27. Copies
28. Makes squiggles
31. "Don't just stand there!"
32. Fire remnant
34. Advice of 1951
35. Nasdaq unit: Abbr.
39. Angry, with "up"
40. Amazed
41. Running mate of '68

43. Mar. follower
44. ___ flash
49. For all, as a salon
51. Garden tool
52. Beeps
53. Locales
55. Many, many moons
58. On ___ with (equal to)
59. Actress Kudrow
61. Vitamin bottle info
62. "Cómo ___?"
65. 1970s Dodgers
66. ___ gratia artis
67. Luau food
68. ___ Arbor
69. Court divider

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.61

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sarah Margaret Youngquist, Deceased, were issued on September 22, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001463 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Suzanna Caballero. The address

of such Independent Executor in Travis County, Texas is: Suzanna Caballero c/o John H. Akin 3307 Northland Drive, Suite 185 Austin, Texas 78731 (512) 476-6258 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered

are required to present them to the Independent Executor of the Estate of Sarah Margaret Youngquist, Deceased, at the address shown above within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 25th day of September, 2020. Suzanna Caballero, Independent Executor of the Estate of

Sarah Margaret Youngquist, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On September 22, 2020, Sharon D. Coleman was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ronald H. Coleman, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001524 pending in Probate Court No.

THE COMMON LAW

by Luke Ellis

Can I Get a Hardship Driver's License for Football Practice?

I'm 15 years old and play football at an AISD high school. It's difficult for my parents to get me to and from practice because of their work schedules. And when COVID goes away, I think I'll have even more challenges getting to and from school and sports commitments. I want to apply for a hardship driver's license so I can start driving myself. Is the hardship license likely to get approved?

- E.T.

Unlikely under just these facts. Legal driving age in Texas is 16. But as a 15-year-old, you still might qualify for a "hardship license" under certain circumstances. At least one of the following four circumstances must exist in order to get approved for a hardship license in Texas:

- (1) an unusual economic hardship for the 15-year-old's family;
- (2) a death-related emergency in the immediate family (close family member has recently died, and the 15-year-old must drive to carry on normal household routines);

(3) sickness, illness, or disability of a family member (typically one that requires the 15-year-old to drive the family member to medical treatment or to carry out other normal household routines); or

(4) the 15-year-old is enrolled in a vocational educational program.

Based on the facts in your question, it doesn't appear that you fall under any of the above criteria. The criterion requiring unusual economic hardship provides the most discretion, so that may be your best option when seeking approval (assuming the other three criteria don't apply). However, even this will be difficult because the Texas Hardship Drivers' License Card Application specifically states (in all caps and bolded), **"TRAVEL TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BAND, SPORTS, ETC. WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED A SUFFICIENT REASON TO ESTABLISH AN UNUSUAL ECONOMIC HARDSHIP."**

It's also worth noting that hardship licenses often come with limitations. For example, if you are given a hardship license to get to and from school or work, you would violate the terms of the hardship license if you are caught driving around with your friends at night. If you are caught driving under unauthorized circumstances, you risk losing your hardship license and delaying normal driving privileges when you turn 16.

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to inclusion in future columns.

1, Travis County, Texas. The address of Sharon D. Coleman, Independent Executor, is c/o D'Ana H. Mikeska, Hopper Mikeska, PLLC, Barton Oaks Plaza II, Suite 570, 901 South MoPac Expressway, Austin, Texas 78746, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. Sharon D. Coleman, Independent Executor of the Estate of Ronald H. Coleman, Deceased By: D'Ana H. Mikeska, Attorney for the Independent Executor, Sharon D. Coleman

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Original Letters Testamentary, Estate of EDWARD N. MUNZER, Deceased, were issued September 1, 2020, C-1-PB-20-001403, Probate Court One, Travis County, Texas, to JOHN E. WILLIAMS. All claims are to be presented to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.

DATED September 23, 2020.

/s/ Vivian Mahlab
Vivian Mahlab
Attorney for JOHN E. WILLIAMS
State Bar No.: 12836650
1911 McCall Rd.
Austin, TX 78703
Telephone: (512) 477-9400
Facsimile: (512) 477-9422
E-mail: vm@mahlabyoung.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Original Letters Testamen-

tary, Estate of FLORA DIAN NAUMANN, Deceased, were issued September 1, 2020, C-1-PB-20-001406, Probate Court One, Travis County, Texas, to EVELYN ALICE WILLIAMS. All claims are to be presented to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.

DATED September 23, 2020.

/s/ Vivian Mahlab
Vivian Mahlab
Attorney for EVELYN ALICE WILLIAMS
State Bar No.: 12836650
1911 McCall Rd.
Austin, TX 78703
Telephone: (512) 477-9400
Facsimile: (512) 477-9422
E-mail: vm@mahlabyoung.com

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Virtual Commissioner Court Services, 2008-009-TG
Opens: October 14, 2020 at 2:00pm

Pre-Bid Info: A pre-proposal conference will be held at 12:30 PM CST, on October 1, 2020. If you use the call-in option, please ensure your phone is muted during the entire conference as no questions will be allowed from Proposers who call-in to the conference; however, those Proposers who call-in may submit any follow-up questions via BidSync.

If you choose to use Teams, please email Tawana.Gardner@traviscountytx.gov by September 29, 2020, so that an email invitation and agenda can be provided to you. 2. Tumbleweed Trail at Lake Austin Tributary Drainage Improvements, 2009-004-PH
Opens: October 22, 2020 at 2:00pm
Pre-Bid Info: Attendance is optional
Date/Time: Oct 5, 2020 10:00 AM CDT
Location: The Optional Pre-Response Conference will be held via Microsoft Teams. Please use the Dial-In Information below:
DIAL-IN: 1 512-854-8326
CONFERENCE ID: 707 668 783#
3. New Tax Office Renovation Project, 2009-005-AR
Opens: October 16, 2020 at 2:00pm
Pre-Bid Info: October 6, 2020 at 3 PM CDT
A call-in option is available for the pre-proposal conference using the following credentials to dial in:
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 512-854-8326 United States, Austin (Toll)
Conference ID: 643 124 640#
If you use the call-in option, please ensure your phone is muted during the entire conference as no questions will be allowed from Proposers who call-in to the conference; however, those Proposers who call-in may submit any follow-up questions via BidSync. If you choose to use Teams,

please email April.Rodriguez@traviscountytx.gov by October 5, 2020, so that an email invitation and agenda can be provided to you.

Bids should be submitted to: Bonnie Floyd, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

Orange Market 2 Inc. has applied for a Wine & Beer Retailer's Off Premise Permit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission d/b/a Orange Market 2 Inc., 2401 San Gabriel Street, Ste 200, Austin, Travis, TX

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Apparajan Ganesan, Deceased, were issued on September 28, 2020, under Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001106, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Vyasar Ganesan. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Estate of Apparajan Ganesan, Deceased

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BACK PAGE

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Above the Lake Storage, 18500 FM 1431, Jonestown, TX, pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Selfstorageauction.com for cash or certified funds. Bidding will open at 10AM September 26, 2020 and ends at 10AM October 13, 2020 for units belonging to: Houston Holly, Laura G. Foster, Thomas Macon, Mara Hinson, Caitlin Tate, Jeremy Outler, Kerry G. Dennis, Jeff Patschke, Daniel McMurrugh, Misty Gibson, Marjorie B. McSpadden, Sandra Leal
All are household items and

some tools. \$100 deposit clean up deposit is required. All sales are final. Cash payment for items and Successful buyer shall take possession and remove purchased items within 72 hours. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and to withdraw any items or units before the sale.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Howard Earl Smith, Deceased, were issued on September 29, 2020, under Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001207, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Crystal Davenport. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Estate of Howard Earl Smith, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Howard Earl Smith, Deceased, were issued on September 29, 2020, under Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001207, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Crystal Davenport. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Estate of Howard Earl Smith, Deceased

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