

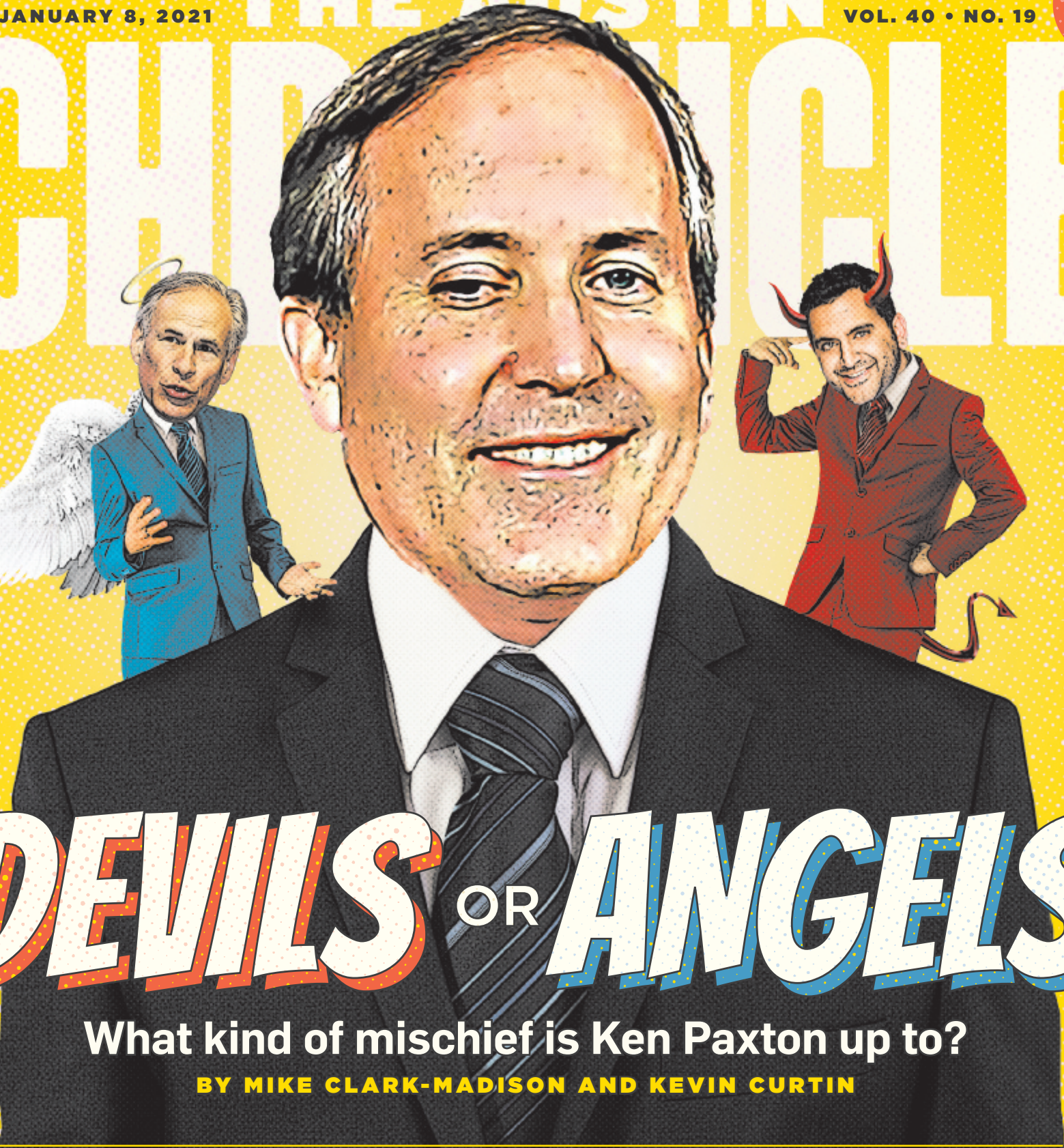
JANUARY 8, 2021

THE AUSTIN

VOL. 40 • NO. 19

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DEVILS OR ANGELS

What kind of mischief is Ken Paxton up to?

BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON AND KEVIN CURTIN

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you know it's bad when abbott is the angel

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Cassidy Frazier

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EDITOR Kimberley Jones
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NEWS EDITOR Mike Clark-Madison
ASSISTANT NEWS & COMMUNITY EDITOR Beth Sullivan
ARTS Robert Fairres
FOOD Jessi Cape
SCREENS Richard Whittaker
MUSIC Raoul Hernandez

CHRONEVENTS

SPECIAL SCREENINGS & COMMUNITY LISTINGS
ARTS LISTINGS & FOOD EVENTS
Wayne Alan Brenner
CLUB LISTINGS Greg Stitt

STAFF WRITERS

Kevin Curtin, Austin Sanders

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

FILM Marjorie Baumgarten
FOOD Emily Beyda

DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod

FASTER THAN SOUND Rachel Rascoe

MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. Steinberg

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION / ART DIRECTOR Zeke Barbaro
WEB / DIGITAL DIRECTOR Michael Bartnett

WEB CONSULTANT Brian Barry

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Pedro Diniz, Jeff Gammill,
Shelley Hiam

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS John Anderson, Jana Birchum,
David Brendan Hall

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INTERNS Carys Anderson, Vivie Behrens,
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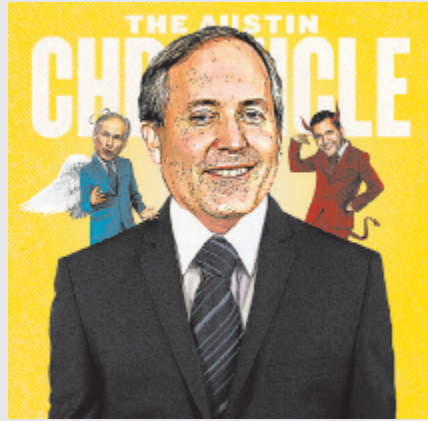
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This Chaos Didn't Sow Itself

My original draft of this column was a breezy little number about political theatre and the pointless-but-for-the-political-points posturing of so many Republican politicians, including Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who belly-flopped in his attempts to sue four battleground states that went for Biden, and Sen. Ted Cruz, who has spearheaded a challenge to the Electoral College vote count. I can't imagine either Paxton or Cruz thought they'd actually reverse Trump's defeat with these stunts, but by stoking conservative ire that the election was stolen and the system is rigged, they achieved their real goal – to genuflect to Trump and court his base.

From the Senate floor Wednesday morning, teeing up his political tap dance, Cruz said, "We are gathered at a time when democracy is in crisis."

And then Trump's MAGA rally in D.C. turned into an insurrection when Trump followers breached barriers at Congress, forcing an evacuation, and Cruz left the Senate chamber to the invaders, there for the express purpose of preventing the peaceful and lawful certification of our democratically elected next president.

We are gathered at a time when democracy is in crisis.

Who put us there, Ted?

As detailed in this week's cover story, Paxton's priority doesn't appear to be his day job as A.G. (As I type this, he's still in D.C., a featured speaker at Trump's rally. I wonder if he took a personal day?) Paxton's been under indictment for felony securities fraud charges for five years now, but his tarnish turned dingier yet when he took a personal interest in the criminal investigation of real estate magnate (and Paxton donor) Nate Paul. That interest alarmed his staff enough for them to alert authorities; cue recriminations, mudslinging, federal investigation, a whistleblower lawsuit. News Editor Mike Clark-Madison and staff writer Kevin Curtin unravel what we know, and what we don't know, about the whole sordid tale on p.14.

Our annual Austin Music Poll kicks off in this issue. The *Chronicle's* been conducting the poll for 40 years now, but right now, it feels especially urgent to cheer on our favorite musicians, industry professionals, and their many innovations in a calamitous year for the local music scene. Check out the nominees on p.39 and cast your ballot through Feb. 1 at vote.austinchronicle.com.



ONLINE THIS WEEK

BURSTING THE BRIDGERTON BUBBLE In our Opinion section, a professor of English literature argues that the hit Netflix show isn't escapist romance but rather the narrative of a traumatized Black man stuck in the fairy-tale world of his white social peers.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT Austin FC's roster continues to fill, including the just-announced signing of former U.S. World Cup player Matt Besler, who channeled Austin's own Matthew McConaughey in a video tweet trumpeting his move to Austin.

BIG NEWS FROM ROBERT RODRIGUEZ The El Rey Network, the cable channel platform for Hispanic audiences and talents that Rodriguez started in 2012, shut down on New Year's Day. But in brighter news, Rodriguez announced that he's developing a sequel to *We Can Be Heroes*, an end-of-year hit for Netflix.



Bridgerton

LIAM DANIEL / NETFLIX © 2020

Founded in 1981 and committed to a progressive point of view, *The Austin Chronicle* is an independent, locally owned and operated alternative newsweekly.

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“We cannot vaccinate ourselves out of this surge.”

— Interim Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott. See p.12.



JANA BIRCHUM

HEADLINES

FORMER WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF Robert Chody, who is currently under criminal indictment (see below), has filed a lawsuit against his successor, WilCo Sheriff **Mike Gleason**, who won the November election. The suit argues there was a glitch in Leander's voting machine software that caused voters to be given the wrong ballots, among other claims. Meanwhile, WilCo prosecutors have not filed any criminal charges in connection to any allegations of election fraud.

MORE CHODY NEWS Judge **Sid Harle** of the **4th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas** denied Robert Chody's and **Jason Nassour's** separate requests for their criminal indictments to be quashed in a pretrial hearing this week. Chody and Nassour, former WilCo general counsel, were indicted for **evidence tampering** in the destruction of video and audio recordings in connection to the 2019 death of **Javier 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.

ABOUT THAT MPT VOTE **City Council** will vote on its new **mayor pro tem** at Council's meeting on Wed., Jan. 27, instead of during this week's virtual inauguration (Jan. 6) as previously reported. Council Members **Natasha Harper-Madison**, **Greg Casar**, and **Allison Alter** have all expressed interest in becoming Austin's next mayor pro tem.

TWO POLICE SHOOTINGS IN TWO DAYS In two consecutive days – Jan. 4 and Jan. 5 – **Austin Police Department** officers shot two people in separate instances: **Dylan Pollinski**, a suspect wanted in connection to an aggravated robbery who was shot during an APD SWAT standoff at an Austin hotel on Monday, and **Alexander Gonzales**, who was shot and killed by an on-duty officer after pointing a gun at an off-duty officer in Southeast Austin.

NEW CITY LEADERSHIP **Shannon Jones III**, a former director of **Austin Public Health**, has been appointed **interim assistant city manager for health & environment and culture & lifelong learning**. The recruitment for the new permanent ACM – to replace former ACM **Chris Shorter** – will begin by Jan. 15.

CITY COMPOST EXPANSION Beginning in February, **Austin Resource Recovery** will expand the **Curbside Composting Collection Program** to 55,000 new households in the program's fourth and final expansion. Currently, about 152,000 homes receive the service, which is part of the city's **Zero Waste** goal to divert 90% of materials from landfills by 2040. For more info, visit www.austintexas.gov/composting.



Hundreds of President Trump supporters gathered at the Texas State Capitol and lined 11th Street on Wednesday, Jan. 6, to protest Congress' certification of President-elect Joe Biden. The Texas Department of Safety closed the state Capitol building and the surrounding grounds after pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., that afternoon, forcing a lockdown and halting the count of Electoral College votes. Visit austinchronicle.com/photos for our gallery covering the rally.

JOHN ANDERSON

From Cloud Coup-Coup Land

Was this the worst that could happen? That (still) depends on what we do next.

Life is going on at 3pm on a breezy day in Downtown Austin; the cars are still rolling past me on I-35 at their normal speeds, the MAGA mob at the Texas Capitol a few blocks from me has not rioted yet and, I suspect, will not. (The building, which just reopened to the public Monday after months of protest- and pandemic-related security measures, is again locked down, even as the Capitol Complex revs up for the scheduled start of the 87th Texas Legislature next week.)

The last four hours or so have been the most epochal in U.S. history since at least 9/11, as President Apesh*t (who may no longer be president when you

read this, and certainly won't be in two weeks) straight-up incited a riot against the very government he swore so mendaciously to defend four years ago. His speech then

– the one George W. Bush told Michelle Obama was “some weird shit” – raised the specter of “American carnage” that only he could end and heal. Now that he feels rejected by those he was anointed to save, of course, the carnage materializes on cue.

For the last two years, I've been trying in this space to make a path by walking between the cynical and/or opportunistic insouciance of those who think MAGA Nation could never be truly

transgressive or threatening, and the hair-trigger anger and panic of those who felt that every single bad, stupid thing Apesh*t did was a signal that the End Times were already upon us and perhaps had been since before 2016. That path, I think, is still the place we need to be to actually *do* what's needed to make sure that the attempted coup of January 6, 2021, remains the low-water mark of an era of malign excess, and not just another preview of coming attractions.

SURVIVING THE DISCOURSE

As I've semi-jokingly written here before, I pay attention to more of the madness that unfolds on political platforms so that you

CONTINUED ON P. 6

AUSTIN AT LARGE
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

Feedback

LETTERS & COMMENTS

DISAPPOINTMENT BURGER

Dear Editor,

As a loyal reader for 15+ years, I was deeply disappointed the *Chronicle* would not only publish an anti-Semitic epithet but praise a restaurant that uses the epithet in its name. (See "Burgers for Life," [Food,] Oct. 16, 2020.) "JewBoy" is among the most hateful ethno-religious insults. It is what anti-Semitic bullies called my late father before beating him up. Would you consider endorsing a restaurant named "N-word Chicken," even if it were owned by an African American? Then please abstain from anti-Jewish slurs too – and post a retraction to the online version of your article. Keep Austin weird, not racist.

Alan J. Kuperman

CRUZ BLUES

Dear Editor,

There is no evidence, as proven in 60 court cases (including cases in the Supreme Court) of

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widespread voter fraud that would alter the results of the election. Every state has certified their votes after following procedures outlined by their own state governments. I am livid that a senator from Texas is planning to contest the electoral college votes. Sen. Cruz has always been the worst sort of cynical politician, but participating in an attempt to overthrow the decisive results of the November election is a new low, even for him. Senator Cruz knows there is no fraud and he is trying to sow doubt in our election system. History books will remember the senator as a traitor who tried to undermine all of American democracy, and so will voters.

Rebecca Elder

UPDATED DAILY AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/POSTMARKS

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

ONE YEAR FROM NOW
HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE MADE IT THROUGH 2021 SOMEHOW!
REMEMBER WHEN WE THOUGHT 2020 WAS TERRIBLE? WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW LUCKY WE WERE!

WHO EVER IMAGINED THAT THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AT MAR-A-LAGO WOULD GET AHEAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
SHAME ABOUT NEW YORK CITY! I'LL MISS THE PLACE!

NOT THAT WE DARE TRAVEL, WITH THE FLESH-DISSOLVING ULTRA COVID SURGING EVERYWHERE!
I SAW AN ANTI-PROTECTIVE-SUIT PROTESTER LIQUIFY INTO GOO AT THE WALMART YESTERDAY!

AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE BRAIN-EATING SPACE PARASITES! LIKE WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY?
LET ALONE THE UNSPEAKABLE LOVECRAFTIAN HORRORS CRAWLING OUT OF THAT TRANSDIMENSIONAL PORTAL BENEATH LOS ANGELES!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, 2021 WAS THE WORST YEAR THAT COULD EVER POSSIBLY HAPPEN!
THINGS WILL DEFINITELY GET BETTER IN 2022! I'M SURE OF IT!

A YEAR AFTER THAT
WOW, I DIDN'T EXPECT THE EARTH TO BREAK OUT OF ORBIT AND BEGIN TO PLUNGE INEXORABLY TOWARD THE SUN!
NEXT YEAR CAN'T BE ANY WORSE!
AT LEAST, UNTIL WE PLUNGE INTO THE SUN.

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AUSTIN AT LARGE CONTINUED FROM P.4

don't have to; even though, yes, 2020 was as hard on my mental health as on yours, my job demands that I spend more time on Twitter and Facebook and Reddit than I think is advisable for civilians. So I've seen plenty of both of the mindsets I'm trying to avoid, whether from mendacious clout-chasing Texas Republicans like our cover boy Ken Paxton, or from (white) leftist boys going around the horseshoe and finding common cause with seditionists, or from (white) #resistance forces who think all of this has been *completely* unprecedented and not-my-country. And, of course, a lot of arguing over what to call the things we're seeing, as if it would all be more tolerable or fruitful if we just labeled these outrages properly and made sure the right bad people suffered for them. In that sense, the wilding out of 1/6/21 helps clarify things. Insurrection is pretty easy to spot, and it looks different from a BLM protest, or even direct action by antifa super soldiers.

I have helped reset my perspective after too much psychically stressful time in the news trenches by realizing that, really, most people get what is actually happening. The fact that Apesh*t hadn't been 25th Amendment-ed back to Mar-a-Lago was not because people don't care, or are afraid of either his fans or his tweets, or don't believe his provocations are real or outrageous; or because the institutions the people support are failing to heed the warnings and are doomed to collapse under greater MAGA pressure. I think it's true that a lot of Beltway media and political influencers and the professionally savvy and the extremely online do hold and echo such beliefs, because The Discourse – the media pursuit of clicks, the political pursuit of campaign cash, the social media algorithm's pursuit of conflict-driven engagement – is larded with time-wasting bullshit.

THESE TRUTHS, SELF-EVIDENT

The rest of the species can and does see quite clearly that the MAGA Nationals include enough violent extremists to be worth controlling and remediating just as surely as the pandemic that continues to rage and that they have directly helped spread. (And far more than anyone on the left.) Texans have been, perhaps, more aware of this than others because of our lengthy subjection to a Republican rule that gave up policing its disorderly fringe a long time ago, thus begetting Alex Jones and Jade Helm and Tea Party Patriots and all the rest, again including our cover boy, who spoke at Trump's riot rally Wednesday. The violent seditionists are not numerous or competent enough to really challenge the power of U.S. institutions, even if it's now beyond dispute that MAGA toxins have infected America's police forces and need to be flushed from the system.

It's also beyond any dispute that this is racist, that MAGA is white nationalism, that Apesh*t feels his power has been stolen because nonwhite votes are fraudulent by definition, and that the Republican Party and conservative movement have, at a minimum, tolerated such thinking for a very long time, which is how Trump came out of left field to snatch the keys to their kingdom. The Democrats' ability to call this shit out has of course been constrained by the party's aging white elders and the rich people in their orbit, but that's fixable and is in fact being fixed; it just takes time. Look how long it took Georgia and Arizona to finally flip. Texas can get there. The victories of Biden and Harris and Ossoff and Warnock (and, yes, Stacey Abrams) themselves show that America is doing something, and the right things, to get past MAGAgeddon. There will be plenty more work ahead. ■

Georgia on My Mind

It was the best of days, it was the worst of days

Yes, I know this column generally focuses on local politics – and god knows we have plenty of that going on largely behind the scenes at City Hall (see last week's City Council item on the jockeying for **mayor pro tem**) – but I woke up this morning expecting to take a break from that, to bask in the very satisfying news out of the Peach State: the **dual Senate races** providing the electoral rebuke of Trumpism that was so sadly and strangely missing from his own defeat two months ago. But the events of the day have overtaken that, as whatever last-ditch assaults on the democratic process the GOP's **Sedition Caucus** may have intended were drowned out and run out of the building by the goons they've inspired and mobilized and will now be scrambling to disavow.

The GOP may never come to terms with the fact that this is the logical extension of their brand – that if you stoke fear and resentment nonstop, promote hatred and divisiveness at every turn, and build your whole message around that, then people are going to react in very predictable hateful ways and not be inclined to even *want* to find common ground – but that lesson was on full display today, and that disavowal is going to take some acts of extreme contortion, if not contrition.

So many times over the past four years, I've been reminded of U.S. Army counsel Joseph Welch's immortal rebuke

to the red-baiting Sen. Joe McCarthy – “Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?” – and wondered that same thing, as the bar for what might be considered acceptable behavior kept getting lowered to impossibly subterranean levels. But today may have finally been the rock-bottom, can't-ignore-it-anymore dead end for that brand. So just for now, once the carnage around the U.S. Capitol is cleared and the would-be seditionists slink back home with the entire world aghast and embarrassed by their actions, I'm going to go back to reveling in Georgia and looking forward to having the adults back in charge of both houses of Congress. □

PUBLIC NOTICE
BY NICK BARBARO

Living Springs: the origin story. In case you missed it the first time around, KLRU will re-air the documentary film **Origins of a Green Identity: Austin's Conservation Pioneers** this Friday, Jan. 8, at 8pm. A product of the Living Springs documentary project, **Origins** looks back at “Austin's earliest efforts to preserve Barton Springs and Barton Creek,” focusing on two early heroes in Austin's conservation history, Parks Board Chair **Roberta Crenshaw** and Parks and Recreation Department Director **Beverly Sheffield**. Directed by Monica Flores and Karen Kocher, the film is narrated by novelist **Sarah Bird**, with original music from **Graham Reynolds** and **David Murray**. ■

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

CIVICS 101

BULLETIN BOARD

For the latest info, visit www.austintexas.gov/covid19. Watch www.austintexas.gov/atn for livestreamed city meetings. **Uninsured Travis Co. residents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms:** Call [CommUnityCare's](tel:737-877-5121) hotline at 512/978-8775.

THURSDAY 1/7

DISTRICT 1 REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION Learn more about Austin's ongoing police reforms. 5pm. Online. Free. www.austintexas.gov/publicsafety.

MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER ADVISORY BOARD Presentation on a cultural center's audit, among other items. 6-7:30pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

FRIDAY 1/8

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN Ellen Richards from Integral Care will provide a briefing regarding issues related to mental health in Austin. 9am. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Presentation and discussion regarding wheelchair-accessible restrooms at Waterloo Park, among other new business. 5:30-7pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

MONDAY 1/11

CAMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD See agenda for details. 2pm. Online. www.campotexas.org.

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE'S FOREST RESTORATION SERIES Learn how to rebuild soil biology and structure on degraded landscapes to create resilient ecosystems. 6-7:30pm. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/water.

TUESDAY 1/12

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT Interim Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott provides his weekly update on COVID-19 to commissioners typically around 10am. 9am. Online. www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court.

LIVELY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S EVENING OF WONDER Meet Lively's teachers, students, and staff during this showcase for prospective families. 5:30-7:30pm. Online. Free. lively.austinschools.org.

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE OPENING DAY Legislators have until March 12 to file bills, but you can check out what's already been filed at capitol.texas.gov. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress. capitol.texas.gov.

WEDNESDAY 1/13

BIZAID WEBINAR A general overview of opening a small business or reevaluating an existing business. 10-11am. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/smallbiz.

AISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES DEEP DIVE

Learn more about the AISD Board of Trustees' priorities for the 87th Texas Legislature. 5:30-6:30pm. Online. Free (registration required). www.austinisd.org.

DISTRICT 3 REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY See Thursday (1/7). 5:30pm.

THURSDAY 1/14

INTERVIEWS AND HIRING EMPLOYEES WEBINAR for business owners. 9am-noon. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/smallbiz.

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Out of Control

Austin weathers unprecedented surge in COVID crisis

BY BETH SULLIVAN

The start of the new year witnessed several grim milestones in Austin's **COVID-19** crisis.

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, the **seven-day moving average** for **COVID-19 hospitalizations** reached an all-time high of 83 for Austin and Travis County, marking a **160% rise** in new hospitalizations since Dec. 5. For comparison, that metric hit 75 at the peak of Austin's earlier surge in July. Earlier this week **Austin Public Health** reported 752 new cases, which is the first time daily cases have exceeded 750 since that same mid-summer surge. Occupied ICU beds – 161 – and ventilator use – 99 patients – also recorded alarming highs on Tuesday, representing a 99% and 130% increase, respectively, since early December.

Central Texas' unprecedented surge is following the trajectory already seen elsewhere in the state. As of Tuesday, COVID patients accounted for more than 15% of a region's hospital capacity for at least seven consecutive days in 17 of Texas' 22 **Trauma Service Areas**. Per Gov. **Greg Abbott's**

GA-32 executive order, that means local officials in those regions now have the authority to mandate most businesses reduce capacity from 75 to 50%. Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott** expects Central Texas' 14-county TSA will likely trigger the 15% rule sometime this weekend, which would also entail a rollback on elective medical procedures for the region. As of Jan. 5, there are only 39 ICU beds available in our TSA, according to state data.

"We've really reached the limits of what we can do under state law and under the [state] executive orders," said Escott of what would lie beyond the current **Stage 5** of local pandemic risk guidelines. "We would encourage the state to reassess their plan. What we've seen is jurisdiction after jurisdiction transitioning into a surge, and then once they transition to surge, it continues to worsen," said Escott. "I don't think the rollback to 50% occupancy at retail and restaurants is doing the trick."



JANA BIRCHUM

UT-Austin's COVID-19 Modeling Consortium predicts that should Austin's disease transmission trends continue as they stand today, Jan. 7, then Austin could reach its ICU surge capacity of 200 beds as early

as the end of this week. Escott estimates that APH will soon begin to activate its **Alternative Care Site** at the **Austin Convention Center**. The Downtown field hospital, prepared over the summer to take in

A Surprise Gift Boosts Meals on Wheels



JANA BIRCHUM

How would you feel if your Secret Santa gave you \$8 million? That's sort of how **Meals on Wheels Central Texas** feels now, after receiving a generous and unanticipated gift from **Mackenzie Scott**. The novelist and former wife of

Amazon chieftain **Jeff Bezos**, whose post-divorce share of the fortune makes her the second-richest woman on the planet (worth about \$60 billion), has embarked on an unprecedented philanthropic journey to give her money away as fast as she can, which will still take a while.

Her second wave of gifts, announced in mid-December, totals more than \$4 billion and includes the local MOW award, which like all of Scott's donations was made without being asked. "All this was a surprise to us," says MOWCTX CEO **Adam Hauser**. "She does not have a foundation; you do not apply for a grant. She has a team of advisers who do extensive due diligence and decide [with her] who they want to give money to. It's incredibly humbling to be recognized."

Scott's latest round of donations, intended to accelerate relief and support for those suffering economically due to the COVID-19 pandemic (which, she acknowledges, has boosted her own fortunes and those of other billionaires) went to 384 agencies nationwide. These include some, but not all, Meals on Wheels affiliates, and other agencies working on the intersecting priorities of food security and support for seniors aging in place. According to her December post on Medium revealing the gifts (the only information she provides about her efforts), her team "took a data-driven approach to identifying organizations with strong leadership teams and results, with special attention to those operating in communities facing high projected food insecurity, high measures of racial inequity, high local poverty rates, and low access to philanthropic capital."

Austin certainly meets some of those criteria, and MOWCTX's workload has been growing with the increasing needs created by the pandemic. "I think we are a somewhat unique Meals on Wheels agency," says Hauser, giving credit to the decades of service by leaders, donors, and volunteers since the organization was founded in 1972. "We of course have our signature meal program, but we offer lots of other holistic services [to] provide the best care for vulnerable seniors in our community." These include home repair, financial counseling, and other supports for lower-income older Austinites, a segment of the community that is both growing steadily and bearing the full brunt of the pandemic.

So how will \$8 million in new funding – for an agency with an annual budget of just under \$14 million – help MOWCTX best address the needs it sees? "Certainly, we want to serve more people; we want to expand our existing programs," Hauser says. But "we're going to sit down and really do some strategic planning now that we have this additional resource." Among the things he's considering are "innovative partnerships with health care payers and community-based providers" for services (such as those provided by the peer-to-peer health workers known in Latinx communities as *promotoras*) that "we think will produce really good, valuable health outcomes outside of the clinical setting." He also thinks MOW can "get more heavily involved in ... affordable access to technology for a low-wealth population," for telehealth services as well as to combat social isolation among Austin's seniors.

– Mike Clark-Madison

MOWCTX has an urgent need right now for volunteers, with 200 routes that need covering once daily in-home meal service resumes this year. Visit them online to learn more: www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org.

patients should local hospitals become overwhelmed, has never been utilized. Health officials originally planned for only those patients requiring limited care to be transferred to the ACS, while patients needing higher-level or intensive care would still be cared for at hospitals.

“We are getting very close to the stage where our hospitals are going to run out of beds. And if they run out of beds, they not only run out of beds for COVID-19 patients, but they run out of beds for everybody,” said Escott. He anticipates that Austin’s positivity rate – 17.8% for the week ending on Jan.

2 – will rise above 20% this week, putting us on par with Los Angeles County, where currently one in five people getting tested for COVID-19 are testing positive.

Contact tracing efforts have shown that much of Austin’s surge has resulted from holiday gatherings and activities in recent weeks, according to APH Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Janet Pichette. APH officials said they expect to see the impact of New Year’s celebrations at Austin-area bars –

which were allowed to stay open over the weekend after the state’s successful legal challenge over local dine-in limitations – in the agency’s data within the week.

Meanwhile, the state continues its roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines with uneven success. Although Texas officials expanded eligibility to Group 1B of the state’s COVID vaccination strategy – include those 65 years old and up and those with certain high-risk medical conditions – many localities, including Travis County, have yet to receive enough vaccine to expand beyond Group 1A, which is primarily

front-line health care workers. As of the third weekly allocation from the Texas Department of State Health Services – the agency in charge of distributing vaccines in the state – Travis County has received 42,000 doses, said Cassandra DeLeon, APH’s interim assistant director for disease prevention and health promotion. “That does not go very far, and that does not meet even the needs that we have for our direct health care staff.”

“We are getting very close to the stage where our hospitals are going to run out of beds.”

DR. MARK ESCOTT, INTERIM
HEALTH AUTHORITY

The state’s current vaccine strategy allows for distribution to the 1B group only at pharmacies and grocery store chains like H-E-B – in addition to a federal program to vaccinate patients and staff in long-term care facilities. This is a problem in low-income communities of color that historically have had unequal access to such stores. Earlier this week Austin Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, joined by state Rep. Sheryl Cole, Travis County Commissioner Jeff Travillion, Manor Mayor Dr. Larry Wallace Jr., and Pflugerville City Council Member Rudy Metayer, released a statement calling for local alternative strategies to improve vaccine access to Black and Latinx communities living in the Eastern Crescent.

These could include using facilities such as fire stations and schools for pop-up vaccination clinics, as well as prepping firefighters, paramedics, school nurses, and nursing students to help administer the vaccine as the supply increases. “We will not tolerate a hands-off vaccination strategy that ends the pandemic quickly for the privileged while letting it linger indefinitely among our most marginalized constituents,” said the joint statement. “This community can and must do better and we won’t rest until it does.” ■



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Bad Education

New audits highlight problems at police academy

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

Two new city reports on the **Austin Police Department's training academy** highlight the cultural problems and racial inequities that helped drive the City Council decision in 2020 to shut it down and put new APD cadet classes on hold until changes were made.

One of the reports is an analysis, conducted by **Peace Mill Research and Communications**, of "equity self-assessments" conducted by seven divisions within APD. The assessments were conducted in 2019 as part of a citywide initiative by the equity office. Peace Mill Research Director **Raymond Weyandt** found that from 2015 to 2020, Black Austinites – accounting for 8% of the city population – made up 7% of academy recruits but only 5% of graduating cadets.

That translates to a graduation rate for Black men of 48.5% and for Black women of 52.5%. By comparison, 81.6% of white men and 66.76% of white women graduated from the academy. Weyandt's analysis also found that Black cadets sustained injuries at the academy at nearly double their rate of graduation (11.2%) – which may be one reason for the low graduation rate.

Interviews Weyandt conducted with former cadets outline a culture dominated by militaristic aggression that has character-

ized the training division's reputation in recent years. Cadets described "smoking sessions," which the report describes as "unscripted, unscheduled physical and psychological stress drills" used to punish individuals or groups of cadets. In addition to the smoking sessions, cadets said that the academy overall "fosters a dangerous and ineffective learning environment that discourages, degrades and injures highly qualified candidates," leading many to drop out to prevent long-term physical and mental damage.

The second report, from **Joyce James Consulting**, is essentially a compilation of prior reports the city has conducted or commissioned to identify racial inequities within the police department. Both it and the Peace Mill study support the claims advocates and former cadets have made at City Hall for years: Not only is the curriculum used by instructors at the academy ineffective, but the way cadets are taught produces officers who are fearful of the community they swear to serve and more inclined to treat Austinites with aggression.

"It comes down to the culture," Weyandt told the *Chronicle* of his research. "The recruiting division is bringing in some peo-



An APD graduation ceremony in 2018

JOHN ANDERSON

ple who want to connect to the community, to be a friendly face that people trust and seek out for safety. But the training division prioritizes this paramilitary approach: a combat training camp, rather than a community-driven public safety academy."

In December, Mayor **Steve Adler** and Council Member **Leslie Pool** expressed interest in restarting cadet classes this spring, rather than waiting until 2022 as Council had approved with the current fis-

cal year budget. Their thinking is that classes can resume with cadets just learning the state-mandated curriculum from the **Texas Commission on Law Enforcement**, while work continues to revise the city-specific portion of the curriculum, which includes cultural sensitivity trainings intended to improve interactions between police and nonwhite racial groups. The **Austin Police Association** has pushed hard on city staff to adopt this approach.

Brenda Ramos Sues City Over Son's Killing



Brenda Ramos

JOHN ANDERSON

The killing of **Mike Ramos** by police last spring was "a direct result of the racism that has permeated policing in Austin," according to a lawsuit filed on behalf of his mother last week. **Brenda Ramos'** suit, prepared by **Rebecca Webber** of the Hendler Flores law firm, asks for a jury trial and damages for the loss of her only son.

Mike Ramos, a Black and Latinx 42-year-old, died on April 24 after officers were summoned to his Southeast Austin

apartment complex. A resident had called 911 to complain that a man was holding a gun to a woman's head as the couple did drugs inside a car. Several police units responded to the call, blocking the parking lot exit. Eight officers then pulled their weapons and ordered Ramos out of the car.

Quoting a transcript compiled from body-worn camera video, the lawsuit indicates the chaos that followed, as different officers barked contradictory orders at Ramos: "Keep your hands up!" "Hey, relax! Relax, Michael! I need you to turn around for me." "Hey, hey, Michael, get on your knees!"

At first, the critical incident video shows, Ramos complied with the officers' commands, showing his hands and demonstrating that he had no gun in the waistband of his pants. He became uneasy when the officers, their guns still trained on him, demanded that he step toward them, pleading with them to lower their weapons. A senior officer then directed **Mitchell Pieper**, fresh out of the police academy, to shoot Ramos with a "less lethal" lead-pellet round: "He's not following commands and he has a weapon" – despite Ramos' showing and telling the officers otherwise.

After Pieper followed the order and fired his shotgun, striking Ramos with the pellet bag, Ramos got back inside his car. "Nine seconds later, as Mike slowly drove forward and away

from police and bystanders toward the dumpsters at the dead-end of the parking area, Officer [**Christopher**] Taylor shot Mike in the head and killed him," the lawsuit reads. "There was no gun on Mike, in the car, or in the vicinity. Officers never saw a gun or anything they mistook for a gun."

The lawsuit lays the blame for Ramos' death at the feet of a racist police culture in Austin, citing the city's own data and reform efforts as evidence. This includes **racial-profiling statistics** the **Austin Police Department** collects, and that other city offices analyze, showing that APD pulls over disproportionately more Black and Latinx motorists than white ones, and that those stops result in disproportionately more discretionary searches and arrests.

The lawsuit also notes that just a week before Ramos was killed, the city released the results of the third-party investigation known as the **Tatum Report**, which detailed the use of racist language by APD officers, including those in the top ranks, and the widely held belief that anyone who reported such misconduct would face retaliation from fellow police.

The filing of the lawsuit is the beginning of a long journey for Ms. Ramos and the city that could take years to resolve. While it proceeds in civil court, the long-delayed criminal inquiry into Ramos' death may also find its way to a grand jury. New Travis County District Attorney **José Garza** has singled out the Ramos case as one of his highest priorities, saying he'll address it within his first 30 days of office.

– Brant Bingamon

But advocates point to the new reports as evidence that the academy is not ready to open and first needs to correct issues that go beyond the revisions to the curriculum and training materials that Council asked for last summer. **Kathy Mitchell**, an organizer with Just Liberty, told us that the academy needs not just new courses and a more diverse instructional staff but a complete reimagining, with buy-in from department leadership that has thus far been lacking. “APD has been told it has a racism problem, which it tried to address by adding an anti-racism class,” Mitchell said. “It was told it has a gender problem, so they put in a LGBTQ and gender class. Those courses help, but what leadership is unwilling to acknowledge is that the problem is larger than what can be addressed in a two-hour lecture.”

“It comes down to the culture.”

RAYMOND WEYANDT,
PEACE MILL RESEARCH
AND COMMUNICATIONS

Adler says that the academy should not open until changes have been made, but he’s not sure what he’s read in the reports should prevent the city from resuming classes in the spring. “I believe two things to be true,” Adler told us. “We shouldn’t do a new class until the curriculum and recruits better reflect the culture, priorities, and values of the city. Second, I also believe we need another cadet class and we need one sooner than later.”

As for the Peace Mill conclusion that a “lack of political will” among APD brass “threatens meaningful change” at the academy, Adler says he hasn’t yet decided that removing police Chief **Brian Manley** is essential. “Based on the information I had before” – back when the public and other CMs demanded Manley be demoted, as only

City Manager **Spencer Cronk** can do under state law – “I was not to that place,” the mayor told us. He did, however, vote for a resolution, which passed unanimously, that included a “no confidence” clause. “I don’t have additional info subsequent to that that changes my mind,” Adler told us.

Cronk agrees. “The City Manager has laid out expectations for the Chief and will hold him accountable, just as he himself expects to be held accountable for his performance by the Council,” a city spokesperson said in a statement. “Right now, the City Manager is focused on maintaining momentum on Reimagining Public Safety, implementing the policy changes the Council has called for, and continuing the movement towards policing reform.”

If Cronk expects the political arm of the police force to cooperate with these efforts, he may be disappointed. APA President **Ken Casaday** told us that the reports didn’t bother him much; as he sees it, the training division has been working on problems identified in the report for the past five years. As for a broader cultural change – moving away from the “warrior mindset” that cadets are currently taught and into a “guardian” role – Casaday isn’t sold.

The union boss, who is ex-military and has more than 20 years of service on the APD force, said officers must be prepared to turn into warriors when dangerous situations arise. “The general public and their well-being is the top priority for officers,” Casaday told us. “We can train in the guardian mentality, but officers have to be prepared to go to the next level if the situation calls for it.” ■



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Extra Work Required

After mishandling a student assault, AISD stalls on training

BY CLARA ENCE MORSE

Julia wasn't surprised when she was called into her principal's office in 2018. A junior at the time, she had been pulled out of class several times already after reporting a sexual assault by another student, although this was the first time she'd spoken directly with Austin High School Principal Amy Taylor.

Julia told the *Chronicle* that once she'd recounted her assault to Taylor, the principal told her, "Maybe if you had screamed then this wouldn't have happened to you." Then, as Julia cried, she was told that she couldn't leave the office until she signed a formal stay-away agreement that would bar her from talking to the other student: "I'm the principal, so I can force you to [sign the agreement]."

Julia described the encounter as retraumatizing. "I was really scared because I was alone and I didn't know what was happening," she said. Taylor "was forcing me

to do something that I was really uninterested in doing."

Now 19 and an Austin High graduate, Julia said she felt silenced, ignored, and blamed by staff when she reported the alleged assault, which happened on a class field trip. "From the get-go, it felt like the school and staff had no idea what they were doing," Julia said. Even after signing the stay-away agreement, Julia said Austin High put her in a class the next year with the student she reported. (AISD said in a statement that it is unable to discuss specifics of her case due to privacy rights.)

Now 19 and an Austin High graduate, Julia said she felt silenced, ignored, and blamed by staff when she reported the alleged assault. "From the get-go, it felt like the school and staff had no idea what they were doing."

Lawyers with Texas Legal Services Center say Julia's experience isn't isolated. The legal aid group isn't asking for a reinvestigation of Julia's case, or more severe punishment for perpetrators, or a reworking of AISD's sexual assault protocol. Instead, TLSC has a much more specific request: Will AISD mandate an employee



Julia H. and her mother, Karen (left), joined TLSC attorneys during a press conference in December

COURTESY OF TEXAS LEGAL SERVICES CENTER

training from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault on how to prevent and respond to assaults?

At one point, it seemed the answer might be yes. Julia told us that she decided to report her own experience after learning that another girl had allegedly been assaulted by the same student. (It was difficult: Julia said she couldn't find any information about how to file a report online, and the page AISD uses for student reports of inap-

propriate behavior showed only a 404 error, which "stung.") After going through Austin High's protocol, a process during which she says the school "really did victim-blame me, and punished me for being assaulted," she and attorneys from TLSC got in touch with AISD's Title IX office, and then Paul Cruz, at the time the district superintendent.

TLSC attorney Wayne Krause Yang said that Cruz met privately with Julia, listened to her story, and said that AISD "needed to

Feeling TEA Pressure, AISD Goes Back to Campus



Ascension Seton partnered with AISD to offer COVID-19 vaccines to some high-risk staff

COURTESY OF SETON ASCENSION

Earlier this week the Austin Independent School District returned to on-campus classes as planned after winter break.

This semester will be the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic that AISD will have to navigate classes – both in-person and virtual – under Stage 5 of local risk-based guidelines, while also meeting state directives requiring in-person instruction. This puts the district, as Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Elizalde frankly admitted, "between a rock and a hard place."

"Our goal is always to want our community to be very satisfied with the decisions that we make," said Elizalde during a New Year's

Eve press conference. "There are also constraints [that] absolutely come from the Texas Education Agency." If AISD had pivoted to all-virtual classes this week, as it considered doing once Austin and Travis County entered Stage 5 on Dec. 23, the district would lose state funding.

A third option would have been to cancel both in-person and virtual classes entirely. This delay would mean making up lost days by extending the school year, which Elizalde said would also jeopardize state funding if AISD were unable to complete its required instructional hours before June 30. Teachers' contracts must also end before that deadline.

The district employee union Education Austin blasted the decision to reopen this week. "This is no time for business as usual,"

"Our goal is always to want our community to be very satisfied with the decisions that we make."

AISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. STEPHANIE ELIZALDE



Julia H.

and it needs to stop covering things up.”

In 2019, Yang said, TLSC attorneys and TAASA representatives met over months to put together a training, incorporating feedback from the district to include helpful elements, such as a one-page cheat sheet for staffers to reference in conversations about sexual assault and harassment. They had nailed down everything but the dates of training; TAASA CEO **Rose Luna** said in a statement that, in early 2020, the organization discussed options for both recorded and in-person training on sexual violence in schools for AISD staff. Then Cruz stepped down. Since then, in TLSC’s telling, the district under current Superintendent Dr. **Stephanie Elizalde** has ghosted the group and “reneged upon its commitment” to mandate the training for staff.

In a statement, AISD said in response that, “In ongoing discussions with the Texas Legal Services Center, the district did not make any firm commitments to complete specific training they requested or in the manner they requested. We maintain our commitment to support teachers, staff, and students by making additional training available to staff and provide flexible ways of allowing staff to participate in these trainings.”

Julia says that’s not good enough, noting that the other girl who was allegedly assaulted chose not to report it, because she didn’t want to go through what Julia went through.

“By refusing to do that training, they’re putting more students at risk for experiencing the same kind of backlash and mistreatment and just blatant disrespect I experienced.” ■

EA wrote in a Dec. 31 statement. “The superintendent is actively contributing to unsafe conditions and risking people’s lives. We call on members of the AISD Board of Trustees to right the ship, and exercise all available power to delay reopening schools until it is safe to do so.” Last month, the union filed more than 100 grievances on behalf of educators who had asked to teach virtually this semester, among the more than 1,000 AISD staffers whose requests for medical accommodations were denied by the district. Union President **Ken Zarifis** told the *Chronicle* that some of the high-risk teachers have since received a COVID-19 vaccine as a result of Ascension Seton’s partnership with AISD, but that many more vaccinations will be needed.

Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott** had recommended Travis County middle and high schools go all virtual for two weeks following winter break, as well as suspending extracurriculars; except for varsity activities, AISD has postponed these indefinitely. Now that campuses have reopened, Escott has

recommended to local superintendents that students should avoid transportation by bus or carpooling to schools whenever possible, as health officials have seen some clusters associated with carpooling.

Disease transmission within classrooms has been controlled up until now, said Escott, but that could soon change if the local **positivity rate** continues to rise. It stood at 17.8% for the week ending Jan. 2, and it’s likely we will hit 20% positivity this week, said Escott. “It’s going to be much more difficult for us to prevent transmission in places like schools [and] like nursing homes at that positivity.”

Under TEA’s COVID-19 guidance, school districts have the authority to close classrooms, campus wings, or entire schools for up to 14 days in response to concerns about on-campus disease spread. Elizalde said she might be “more aggressive” on closures later in the semester if the data indicates a surge in on-campus cases.

— Beth Sullivan

Clara Ence Morse contributed to this story.

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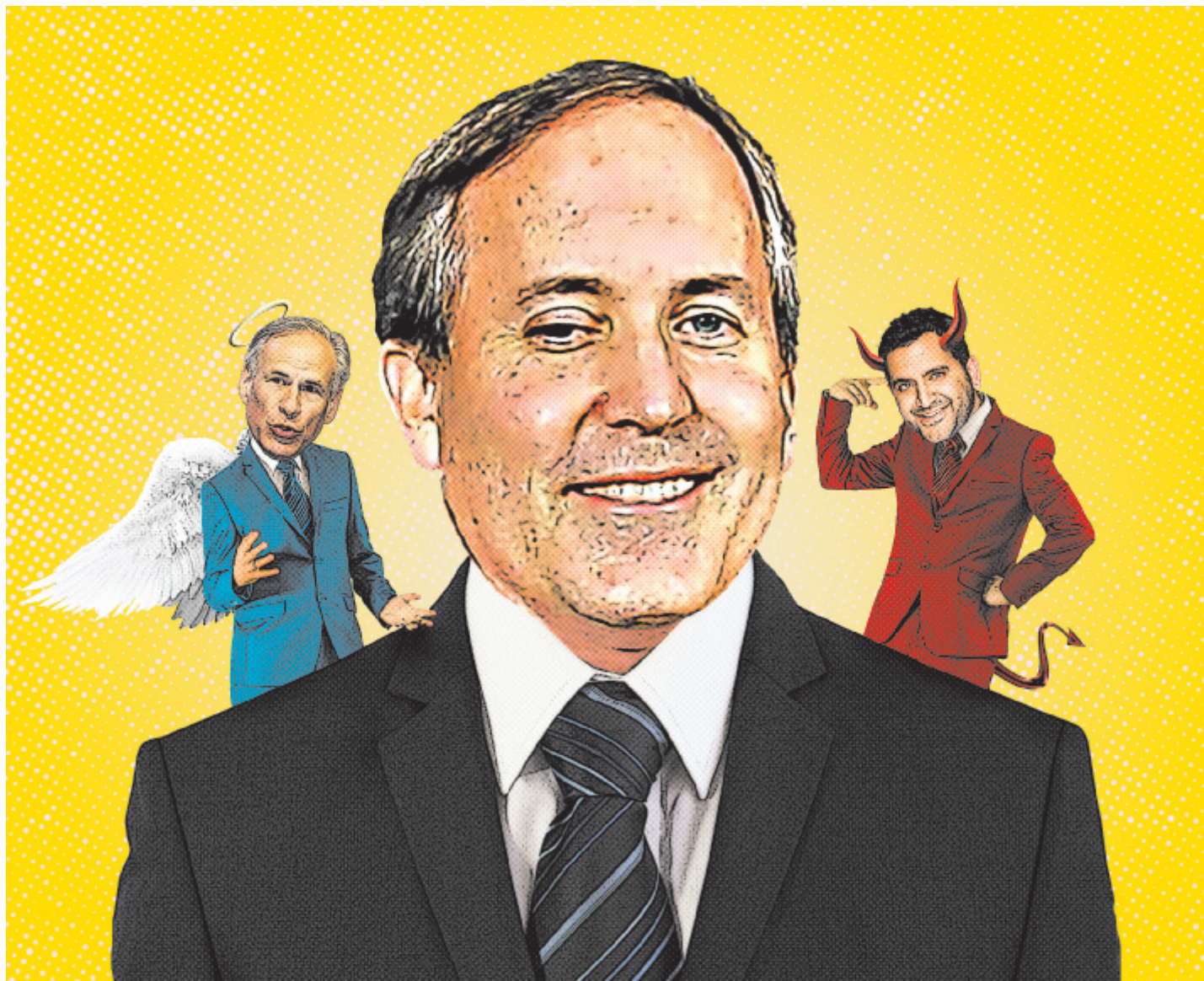
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DEVILS OR ANGELS

What is going on with Ken Paxton and Nate Paul?

BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON AND KEVIN CURTIN

So how much do you know about Nate Paul?

The two of us asked each other this question back in the summer of 2019, when Nate Paul's spots got raided by the FBI. Over the years, we'd both acquired some knowledge about Paul and his World Class property empire that we hadn't seen in other coverage, enough to know that something about the story was really odd – his coming out of nowhere to acquire a set of high-visibility properties all over town, without evident

plans to do anything with these assets, and then running into heavy financial weather almost immediately.

It wasn't enough to tell in the paper, though, and both Nate Paul and the FBI like to keep secrets. With new insights not coming easily, soon it was 2020, and the two of us had *much* other news to cover, and we were tired. (Plus, Kevin now has a baby boy.) So World Class got pushed to the back burner, with us keeping half an eye on it, until in October it suddenly boiled over and spilled without

warning into the much bigger, but also really odd, story of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a frequent character in the News pages of the *Chronicle*. Not much has been revealed since then that sheds light on the mysterious dealings between Paxton and Paul, but it's a new year with, as of next week, a new Texas Legislature that has the tools and the interests to jump in and investigate.

Paxton is now nearly a household name across America – the ostensibly Christ-centered heir to the legal activism of his predecessors (Sen.) John Cornyn and (Gov.) Greg Abbott, always at the front lines of culture-war clashes, and in 2020 devoted to raising up Donald Trump and slapping down Texas and especially Austin Democrats in equal measure. Our fellow Americans mostly now know that Paxton has spent most of his A.G. tenure under felony indictment, though they're hazy on the details.

Paxton's alleged securities fraud and scamming of, among others, his GOP colleagues in the Legislature, and his heavy labors to beat the resulting rap, did not involve Nate Paul, at least that we knew of. This is a whole different scandal, although, as we wrote back in October, "It makes some sense that ambitious, provocative, ethically questionable, and now embattled Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton would vibe well with ambitious, provocative, ethically questionable, and now embattled Austin real estate mogul Nate Paul. Just how well – and at what cost to the people of Texas – is now the subject of many, many questions, after an extraordinary mutiny last week within the A.G.'s Office."

That week, seven of Paxton's top lieutenants ratted him out after he made a string of bizarre, risky, shady power moves to help Paul as World Class unwound in bankruptcy and litigation. They did so using the exact form and language prescribed in the state's Whistleblower Act, which Paxton immediately flouted as he fired, demoted, and defamed aides whom he had hand-picked after ousting his prior executive team in 2017. In Paxton's telling, there was nothing to see here, Nate Paul was just a friend, his aides were the real crooks, and so on, as he busied himself fluffing Trump, suppressing Texas votes, fussing at Austin and Travis County like Henery the Chicken Hawk, and also trying to overturn the 2020 election at the U.S. Supreme Court.

This mess now belonged to the entire Austin and Capitol press corps, which after years of sustained storm damage to the news industry is about the size of a modest recreational softball league. Many players in that league – us, the *Statesman* (whose Tony Plohetski first broke the whistleblowers' mutiny), the *Houston Chronicle* (whose Jay Root and Taylor Goldenstein broke the Nate Paul angle), *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Texas Tribune*, *The Associated Press*, the *Austin Business Journal*, and *KUT/Texas Standard* – have tried to put some mustard on the Paxton/Paul ball over these last months, but again, 2020, tired, a whole lot of news.

It is a journeyman's beat to just follow and report on the wild things Ken Paxton *wants* us to pay attention to. He's always able to find time for a Fox News hit when, for example, he sues Austin on New Year's Eve to defend Texans' liberty to infect others with a dread disease. He rarely does normal press with the folks who cover the Capitol to discuss the duties of his office, which he barely performs, especially when compared to his predecessor Abbott, the very model of a modern major red-state attorney general.

He sure doesn't want to talk about Nate Paul, though maybe he *should* before the

Lege comes back to Austin and Trump flees to Florida. The only “interviews” Paxton has given about this turmoil have been with *The Southeast Texas Record*, one of the network of “local” fake-news outlets exposed as GOP PR fronts in October by *The New York Times*. Ian Prior, the Republican operative now serving as Paxton’s spokesperson, promoted this story to other Texas media in lieu of addressing their questions directly.

The FBI continues to not talk, but did visit the A.G.’s Office in Austin with a subpoena in mid-December, when Paxton was in D.C. filing his Hail Mary lawsuit at SCOTUS to reverse Trump’s election defeat. Public details of the Paxton/Paul connection are scant; the most obvious is a single \$25,000 donation from Paul to Paxton’s 2018 reelection, one of several Paul made to GOP candidates that cycle.

Paul also acknowledged in a deposition in November, in one of the civil cases involving World Class, that he employed a woman who, according to reporting by *The DMN* and AP, had an affair with Paxton in 2018. Paxton disclosed this affair privately at the time to his staff; Paul said in his deposition that he did not know the details of his employee’s private life. Paxton’s wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton – elected to represent his old Collin County district in 2018 – has said nothing.

Also now embroiled in the saga is Bryan Hardeman, owner of Austin’s Mercedes-Benz dealership and a donor to both Paxtons as well as to Democrats. Ken Paxton in December filed a criminal complaint with Austin police alleging Hardeman threatened his life; Nate Paul had earlier identified Hardeman as the leader of an alleged conspiracy to steal World Class out from under him. Hardeman denies both claims.

A WORLD-CLASS DECADE

For the last decade, you could hardly traverse Downtown Austin without encountering a property owned by Nate Paul.

The buildings held by his self-styled investment/development/management empire are easy to spot. They brandish big black vinyl banners with pithy slogans, often the (trademarked) “Another World Class Project,” sometimes just “Another One,” “Prime Space Available,” or the especially noxious “Moving from California? What took you so long?”

Paul planted his flag on a host of properties whose fate had been the topic of many conversations on the banks of the Austin real estate pond – on Fourth Street between Colorado and Congress, on what had been Lance Armstrong’s bar, and the Spaghetti Warehouse, and the menswear shop that in the way back had been the Vulcan Gas Company. Or at what had been the venerable Carmelo’s restaurant, or at Cesar Chavez and Red River facing the Convention Center and Rainey Street, or on South Congress where Ego’s once was, or facing the Saltillo development on the Eastside, or all the way up on FM 2222, where Paul and World Class took the former 3M Austin campus, a landmark of a prior boomtown era.

“What took so long?” is also what one senior employee at a Paul-owned company thought when the World Class Capital offices, along with Paul’s West Lake home, got raided by the FBI and other agencies in August 2019. No arrests were made, but many documents and computer assets were reportedly seized; it’s not clear what potential illegality, by Paul or whomever, involving World Class or something else, the FBI has its sights on. Paul has ever since alleged impropriety and criminal behavior against those making the raid –

charges that, a year later, Ken Paxton would take it upon himself to investigate, after his executives found them without merit.

“We didn’t know how it was going to affect our business, if they were going to arrest him, what the deal was,” the employee, who spoke on the condition we not use his name, told the *Chronicle*. “Later they sent an email that said Nate and Sheena [Paul’s sister and World Class’ chief operating officer] and everybody is fine and here at the office, and we were going ... ‘Well, that sucks.’”

The 33-year-old Paul, who grew up in Victoria, began to assemble his collection of companies and LLCs – eventually including World Class Capital, World Class Development, World Class Investments, World Class Equity, World Class Mortgage, etc. – in 2007, when barely over the edge of adulthood. As with Ken Paxton’s other famous friend in the White House, Paul’s business was built upon his ownership of lucrative yet unsexy real estate assets elsewhere: a huge cache of self-storage facilities.

CONTINUED ON P.16

Ken Paxton is now nearly a household name across America... always at the front lines of culture-war clashes, and in 2020 devoted to raising up Donald Trump and slapping down Texas and especially Austin Democrats in equal measure.

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JOHN ANDERSON



Nate Paul

IMAGE VIA WORLD CLASS PROPERTIES

PAXTON CONTINUED FROM P.15

These Great Value Storage sites are mostly in Texas but now include 66 properties in 11 states, according to the corporate website. Our source, Paul's senior employee, worked on this side of the business, which he told us made frequent acquisitions for years until the pace of growth slowed sharply in 2015.

Increasingly, he said, it was rumored that Nate Paul leveraged the storage units as a piggy bank for other investments, to the original business' detriment. Great Value Storage managers came to believe that "the self-storage industry was [Paul's] bankroll," our source told us. "He'd skim money off the top of his self-storage holdings, let the facilities run down, and then these profits would be used to buy other pieces of real estate."

Nate and Sheena's father, Love Paul, is a family practice physician, and their mother, Pearl Paul, is a real estate agent. They moved to Austin in time for their son, then known as Natin, to attend St. Michael's Academy. While in high school, he founded several businesses, including 360 Tutoring and New Wave DJs, and received a TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He attended UT-Austin's McCombs School of Business before dropping out to start his real estate career.

Paul's portfolio of businesses, several of which are technically owned by his mother, went on to include Downtown bars Rio Rooftop Pool Lounge & Restaurant and Recess Arcade bar. Rio, a Las Vegas-style pool bar where bikini-clad employees provide high-dollar bottle service, was the subject of a 2014 lawsuit involving eight employees who alleged that Paul and other owners cheated them out of a half-million dollars in tips.

THE COLLIN COUNTY CRUSADER

While Nate Paul was living large at Rio, Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr. was a backbencher in the Texas Legislature quietly preparing his own come-up. A Baylor grad who'd had a modest legal career (a few years at the big firm Strasburger & Price, a few more in-house at J.C. Penney Co.), Paxton was running a wills-and-estates solo practice while Ned Flanders-ing his way into the public eye among the fully devoted followers of Christ in Collin County at Prestonwood Baptist Church, which has 45,000 members – enough potential voters all on its own to help him claim the newly drawn, open House District 70 in 2002.

Paxton was thus on the scene as the Texas GOP assumed control of the entire state government for the first time since Reconstruction, back when "Radical Republican" meant something different; the last GOP governor then, Edmund Davis, locked himself in his office and refused to leave once unseated, an example Paxton may help Trump follow now. A century later, the reign of House Speaker Tom Craddick was action-packed for Texans of all parties, but not so much for Paxton, who passed few bills, never chaired a committee, played no role in the drama that replaced Craddick with Joe Straus in 2009, came up way short in his own campaign to unseat Straus as speaker in 2011 after the tea party blowout, bailed for a single session in the Senate in the seat now held by Mrs. Paxton, and then in 2014 made his way to the front of the Red Parade.

He was not an obvious heir to the office held by Cornyn and then Abbott, both Texas Supreme Court justices before taking the helm of an agency with a big-as-Texas profile in GOP legal circles and also an important day-to-day role as a credible

arbitrator in a less sharply partisanized state government. When Abbott set his sights on the Governor's Mansion after 12 years as A.G., his more likely successor was state Rep. Dan Branch, a Straus ally who represented Dallas' tony Park Cities, a few miles and a sizable cultural gulf away from Paxton's Collin County Holy Land. But 2014 was a redder-than-red year, with theocrats and tea partyers and their wealthy backers flush with fracking cash and buoyed by their man Ted Cruz's bank-shot upset victory in 2012, pledging their hearts to Paxton alongside fellow crusaders Dan Patrick and Sid Miller atop the GOP ticket.

Even before he won the primary run-off against Branch, The Texas Tribune had broken the story of Paxton's sketchy disclosures of his stock-pumping activities to the State Securities Board, with which he settled an enforcement action. That case would, after months of further revelations, spawn the felony indictments for securities fraud for which Paxton has been outrunning Lady Justice for five years. Rather than reaching a plea deal on what even Democrats agree are not grave offenses – above the threshold you'd like from an *attorney general*, but not that spicy – Paxton has instead fought like a Trump to keep the case bottled up, raising money for his legal defense, separate from his campaign coffers, to do so.

Nate Paul's growing clout atop the World Class enterprises left many in the industry puzzled. How could he sit on assets indefinitely, claim an increasing net worth into the ballpark of billionairehood, and still – legally – deliver returns to investors?

While still keeping his home in McKinney and his soul at Prestonwood Baptist, Paxton hired a guy named Chip Roy out of Cruz's office to be his first assistant A.G., and Allison Castle from Rick Perry's team to manage the agency message. He kept up Abbott's string of legal challenges to the actions of a Black president, deftly jumping between the cameras of Fox News Nation and the causes that fired up the Tea Party Patriots and Texas Values voters who would soon become MAGAs, such as insisting Texas county clerks didn't *have* to recognize same-sex marriages just because the Supreme Court said so.

What Paxton did not do was his job, the attention to the state's business that even prior ethically challenged (Democratic) A.G.s like Dan Morales felt was not optional, and that Abbott had pursued with diligence even while trying to burnish his political star. Eventually people wised up and just started directing their questions to Chip Roy. By the time SCOTUS took up *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* – the (successful) challenge to the abortion restrictions Wendy Davis had tried to kill via filibuster in 2011 – Roy was pulling focus in national media that Paxton thought should be his, and soon these folks were no longer friends. (A good chronicle of Paxton's first two years in office is R.G. Ratcliffe's December 2016 *Texas Monthly* long read.)

Roy and Castle quickly exited the A.G.'s Office, receiving severance payments that ignited their own controversy. Roy in 2018 would be elected to Congress to represent much of Austin; last year, while running for reelection (against Davis), he was the first GOP official to call for Paxton's resignation after the Paul story broke. Abbott, Cornyn, and Patrick simply expressed concerns, returned Paul's contributions to their campaigns, and then had to backtrack a bit as Paxton became the hero of MAGA Nation.

Roy was replaced at the A.G.'s Office by Jeff Mateer, a hard-right Christian lawyer from the controversial First Liberty Institute in Plano, aligned with Prestonwood Baptist (one of whose pastors would replace Castle at the A.G.'s comms shop). Mateer would prove too wing-nutty (particularly on LGBTQIA issues) for Trump to nominate and Mitch McConnell to confirm to the federal bench, but not so wing-nutty as to tolerate Paxton's suspicious favors to Nate Paul. After leading the mutiny and leaking Paul's name to the

press, Mateer departed; Paxton and his spokesperson Ian Prior have since alleged without evidence misconduct on his part.

A CHIP OFF THE TRUMP BLOCK

Paul's growing clout atop the World Class enterprises left many in the industry puzzled. At a time when, as you can see just by looking at the flocks of cranes above Austin, stakes in prime real estate, especially Downtown, were much in demand, World Class neither built nor sold on any of its properties. Speculation grew on local message boards and real-estate social networks about how Paul could sit on assets indefinitely, claim an increasing net worth into the ballpark of billionairehood, and still – legally – deliver returns to investors.

In addition to the Rio lawsuit, Paul faced legal action in 2015 from Austin's Michael Macs, president of the oil company Ranger Exploration, alleging fraud and breach of contract after Macs invested several million dollars with World Class Capital Group and reportedly did not receive promised quarterly returns for two years. The case eventually went to arbitration. Later, in 2019 according to legal filings, Paul was sued by investors Robert and Richard Hooper for failing to recognize or report a \$1.5 million equity investment they made on a property where he allegedly misrepresented the financial potential of the deal. That case was later dismissed.

The senior employee who spoke to the *Chronicle* described Paul as an unscrupulous businessman who stiffed vendors so frequently it seemed like company policy. "What this boils down to is, he knew he could keep that money in the bank and make interest off it rather than pay the landscapers, the people who repair the

buildings, the plumbers, electricians, pest control, and people that we'd buy our locks from," our source explained.

"The managers would get notices from the vendors stating they needed to be paid what they were owed, [but] were forced to keep working them until [Paul's business] was denied service. Then the company would not pay the bill and would make the regional managers find someone else to do the job, [telling them,] 'If you don't find new vendors, you can start looking for another job.'"

The former employee, whose role with the company has been verified by the *Chronicle*, revealed that one of the companies stiffed by World Class and Great Value Storage worked on a job that cost tens of thousands of dollars, and that at one point multiple vendors working at most of the 66 Great Value facilities were threatening lawsuits. (Also among Paul's creditors was the *Chronicle* itself, with whom Great Value Storage racked up large delinquent bills for advertising and legal notices.)

At times, the senior employee told us, Paul or executives acting on his behalf would impose policies intended to deceive customers. At one point, the business began charging for insurance on all units; employees were threatened with dismissal if they alerted tenants of these charges. This violated many managers' consciences, our source told us: "We're storage managers, we deal with people in crisis. They've been evicted, they're going through a divorce – there's a lot of heartbreaking situations that we run into and storage is their last option. So when you have people traveling 2,000 miles after you've quoted them an estimate, and then you start adding admin fees, insurance, and future rate increases, the managers felt they were being forced to be deceitful."

CONTINUED ON P.18



Paxton with Greg Abbott (center) and Dan Patrick

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Enough said: Graffiti on the outside of the former World Class Properties headquarters

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

PAXTON CONTINUED FROM P.17

He told us, “Because of his actions, it appeared [Nate Paul] did not care about his managers or employees at all. It was his bottom line that was most important to him, and if you did not follow suit with his plan, you would be fired in a heartbeat. He would fire multiple individuals at a time with no notice.”

If this sounds rather Trumpian to you, it does to our source, too. “It’s the political environment that’s allowed Nate Paul to get into the position that he’s gotten to. He’s moving lockstep with what’s happening in the political arena. How did a man like Nate Paul get to where he has in Austin? We allowed him to do it – not me, not you, but the environment created through Trumpism has allowed him.”

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

At some point, Ken Paxton and Nate Paul found each other. Paul’s 2018 contribution of \$25,000 to Paxton’s reelection efforts does not on its own establish a relationship; Paul also donated the federal max of \$2,800 to Chip Roy’s campaign for Congress, online, and Roy (who joined Abbott, Patrick, and other GOP electeds in returning Paul’s money) says he’s never met the man. Mateer has since told reporters that this donation made him more suspicious of Paxton’s efforts to help Paul; if he or his colleagues know more about the pair’s connection, they haven’t said so publicly. (This would be an obvious starting point if the Lege holds hearings; the whistleblowers may also be the sources who confirmed Paxton’s extramarital affair to the AP and *The DMN*.)

Ken and Angela Paxton’s campaign disclosures include much larger sums from others; hard-right cash cows like Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks and their like-minded organizations (and other campaigns, like Dan Patrick’s) are in for millions. Bryan Hardeman, whom Paul alleges without evidence is the mastermind behind World Class’ downfall, donated \$10,000 to Ken in 2017 and \$5,000 to Angela in 2018 in addition to hosting a 2018 fundraiser on Ken’s behalf. The Paxton gift is Paul’s largest to any candidate; a \$10,000 contribution to Rick Perry in 2010 is his only other recorded political donation in the five-digit range.

Ted Cruz’s contest with Beto O’Rourke was the main event of what we now know was the high-water mark (for now) of Texas’ rising blue tide, but Paxton’s victory over UT law professor Justin Nelson was actually the narrowest GOP scrape of the 2018 cycle. But he still won, and he made no amends to anyone. Angela – a guidance counselor at a Christian high school and Ken’s musical warmup act on the trail, singing, “*I’m a pistol packin’ mama and my husband sues Obama*” – walked easily into the Senate over primary contenders with more robust political credentials, and token Democratic opposition in the deep-red district in November.

Nate Paul’s life was going less smoothly. The month after the Paxtons won their elections, Paul became embroiled in a legal dispute with one of his limited partners, the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation. World Class agreed to a \$10.5 million settle-

ment with Mitte in 2019 but has not paid it, one of several outstanding big-ticket settlements and judgments as well as defaulted loans to various institutions. Paul instead tried to continue the dispute with Mitte and sidetrack the bankruptcy proceedings of the property involved; this would end up earning him and his lawyer Michael Wynne a \$232,000 pile of sanctions from District Judge Jan Soifer.

That unhappy outcome came only after Paxton had abruptly and unexpectedly sought to have the state of Texas intervene in the Mitte case, claiming that his duties as A.G. involved regulating Texas charities and thus gave him an interest in the matter. He also wanted to argue that position *personally* in Soifer’s court, rather than deferring to one of the hundreds of assistant A.G.s who do such chores even in Paxton’s headline-grabbing cases. Mateer would tell *The Dallas Morning News* that “in my memory, no attorney general has ever done” anything like this.

Mateer talked Paxton out of this plan in July and, he told *The DMN*, asked the A.G. to drop any efforts to help Paul. That did not happen; the Mitte matter is one of at least four instances reported so far by the Texas press in which Paxton intervened in unusual, personal ways in otherwise minor matters before his large agency – from open records requests to the permissible dates of foreclosure sales – that just happened to be to Paul’s benefit.

In November 2020, Paul Thompson of the *Austin Business Journal*, who has diligently

tried to keep up with the unraveling of World Class, reported that Paul’s companies have made 21 separate bankruptcy filings involving properties (all in Austin except for one in Plano) appraised in the neighborhood of \$250 million. But these are not all of World Class’ holdings, and the debt owed to his largest creditors – about \$200 million, the *ABJ* reported – could theoretically be serviced if Paul were actively managing the portfolio with leases and development deals.

Thompson’s reporting has also touched on Paul’s track record of stiffed vendors and unpaid bills – including a six-figure debt to American Express, as well as smaller amounts owed to people like John Koriath, owner of the members-only Driftwood Downtown bar, who in 2019 secured a \$92,000 judgment against World Class over a lease dispute. It remains unpaid, and the conflict, Koriath told the *ABJ*, has been “a nightmare of distrust and denial” that’s generated more than \$200,000 in legal bills for both sides. “It’s been the stress of my life since [Paul] obtained the building, and I don’t think I’m alone in that situation. ... Just because someone knows how to raise money and buy a building, doesn’t mean they know how to operate it.”

Paul’s track record as a difficult landlord for Downtown bars, clubs, and music venues – in addition to operating Rio and Recess – was fairly long at that point, and was reported on by the *Chronicle* in August 2018 (“Playback: Eviction Notice,” Music), after World Class had acquired the buildings containing two dance clubs, Kingdom and Ethics Music Lounge, and evicted them. That story recapped how La Zona Rosa closed in 2012 after Paul purchased its building, as would happen again when World Class acquired the Red River home of Headhunters/Metal & Lace, and other venues.

Even earlier, in 2011, World Class purchased the building at West Sixth and Rio Grande that had been home to Momo’s and Katz’s Deli; while renovating the latter, a construction crew cut a support beam, causing the floor of Momo’s to buckle and for that club to vacate, abandoning a lengthy lease. At the time we published, Paul had a deal lined up to buy the home of the Empire Control Room, which fell through after our story and the subsequent outcry.

The World Class CEO seemed to embrace public criticism to some degree. A photo from a 2019 Halloween party, posted to Instagram by his business partner Josh Cisneros, showed Paul in a “fake news” costume of imaginary *ABJ* and *Statesman* headlines like “Nate Paul Owns Too Much Property.” Yet Paul wasn’t laughing after the FBI raid two months earlier, which he alleged involved improper conduct by the feds and other agents involved – tampering

with search warrants, seizing inadmissible evidence, violating his rights.

Paul and his pugnacious attorney Wynne would eventually bring these gripes to the A.G.'s Office, who found them without merit, and then to the Travis County district attorney, with whom Paul filed a separate criminal complaint alleging a conspiracy led by Hardeman, Paxton's friend and donor with the Mercedes dealership, to illicitly acquire his World Class holdings. Hardeman, along with other real estate and financial players, had expressed interest in acquiring some of World Class' distressed debt, which is common in cases like these. The alleged plot that Paul spun out of this one fact, involving Hardeman, several lenders, and a federal bankruptcy judge, was described as "a stretch" and "ludicrous" by those alleged to be part of it, speaking to *The DMN*.

Paul's claims were bumped back to the A.G.'s Office by then-D.A. Margaret Moore, with appropriate disgust (expressed in an open letter to Paxton). In response, Paxton signed an agreement, without telling anyone else, with Houston lawyer Brandon Cammack, a young professional acquaintance of Wynne's with no known track record in either financial crimes or ethics probes, as his "special investigator" for \$300 an hour. Cammack and Wynne then threw down subpoenas at the offices of various characters in Paul's conspiracy theories, including a lender who'd been approached by Hardeman. This was *much* too much for Mateer and his colleagues.

REPUTATION MANAGEMENT

When the A.G. Seven blew their whistles, Paxton pushed back hard on their allegations but also tried to pronounce the whole matter closed. At that point, Wynne fired back an angry letter, which he shared with the media, putting Paxton on blast: "The contention that the OAG intervention somehow benefited my client is preposterous," he wrote. Whether this represented an actual rupture in the Paxton/Paul bromance or a strategic move to deflect attention is unknown; in any event, the FBI has now widened its probe to include both men.

In December, Paxton made his own criminal complaint to Austin police, which Ian Prior again shopped to local media, alleging that Hardeman threatened his life by texting him a picture of a dead deer with a message to stay away from Nate Paul.

Hardeman's version of the story is less sensational – he says Paxton is his friend, with whom he's hunted in the past, and that Paxton should be careful to protect himself from Paul, not that he shouldn't protect Paul from Hardeman.

Perhaps such care is justified. We talked to the plaintiff in a civil court case related to a 2016 assault at Recess, one of the Downtown clubs (along with Rio) that Paul owned and operated. He says the assault stemmed from a prior encounter at Paul's Rio club, in which a DJ showed him videos of an apparent sexual assault by the DJ against an unconscious woman who happened to be our source's friend. He alerted the woman, who went to the police.

He alleges that in retaliation, a bouncer at Recess body-slammed him into a manhole cover on the sidewalk outside the Sixth Street bar. He sustained broken ribs, which punctured his internal organs; the injury has led to three surgeries, severe chronic pain, and necessitated wearing a back brace four years later. His civil case, set for trial this past fall right around the time the Paxton/Paul story broke, was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, the plaintiff says, he faced harassment related to the case: first threatening phone calls, then two blacked-out SUVs parked outside his residence, before an attorney for Paul (not Wynne) delivered a letter threatening to sue him if he talked to the press – months before he eventually spoke with us. Finally, last summer, he discovered that someone had registered his name as a dot-com domain. After he filed a grievance with the domain registrar, he received (and has shared with the *Chronicle*) information indicating the name was registered by the same person who registered NatePaul.com.

That redirects to World-Class.com, the corporate site of the multipronged business enterprise, which doesn't appear to have been freshened up since 2019. However, NatePaul.org takes you to a new site for the Nate Paul Initiative, replete with stock photos and inspirational quotes from Paul about its goals for education, justice and opportunity, entrepreneurship, and community. It'll show up as an ad-tagged result if you Google "Nate Paul," suggesting that he's paying for some reputation management. As the Paxton/Paul saga continues its odd course through 2021 – in court, at the Lege, in the media, and who knows where else – it's sure to be a timely investment. ■

“What took so long?” is what one senior employee at a Nate Paul-owned company thought when the World Class Capital offices got raided by the FBI and other agencies in August 2019.



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CALENDAR

JANUARY 7 > JANUARY 14



7 > THURSDAY



UNBEARABLE: HIGHBEARNATION

Online, 8pm

These winter nights do be long, and there's no better company to spend 'em with than the Dames of the Den - aka yer hostesses with the mostesses Bulimianne Rhapsody, Chique Fil-Atio, and Mascara Rivers.

See more LGBTQIA events on p.21.

8 > FRIDAY



MAMA DUKE: BALLSY

"Did this shit with three whammys, to make it up I need three Grammys/ 'Cause I'm Black, female, and gay, and somehow still found a way!" So celebrates Kori Roy with these words on "Found A Way." The Afro-Latina from the tiny Gulf Coast locale of Palacios moved on down the road from the smooth R&B sounds of recent mixtapes on her debut album, *BallSy*.

See more music recommendations on p.40.

9 > SATURDAY



AURAL CANYON PRESENTS: RICK REED

Online, 3pm

While the experimental music community is rendered asunder for the foreseeable future, the creation nagging at so many audiovisual artists must somehow stretch its legs. Local "deep listening" New Age tape label Aural Canyon collaborates with bastion of community creation Church of the Friendly Ghost for an evening of the ambient, meditative, and modular.

See more music recommendations on p.40.

10 > SUNDAY



PRINTMAKERS: IN GOOD COMPANY

Wally Workman Gallery, Jan. 9-30

Each of the five printmakers in the gallery's stable of artists invited another printmaker they admire to show alongside them, resulting in an exhibition of work by 10 printmakers from across the country.

See more arts events on p.22.

11 > MONDAY



BRIDESMAIDS

Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7pm

The movie that launched Melissa McCarthy's career into the stratosphere and took bathroom humor to the street (literally) comes to the drive-in. Pull in, sit back, and let the comedic talents of the stellar cast wash over you.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.30.

12 > TUESDAY



ARE THE STRAIGHTS OKAY?

Online, 7pm

We're gonna say our guess is as good as the Boiz's here. Austin's drag king troupe explores gender roles, straight culture, and whatever lies beyond in this evening of digital drag.

See more LGBTQIA events on p.21.

13 > WEDNESDAY



ALEXI PAPPAS: BRAVEY

Online, 7pm

The Olympic athlete, actress, and filmmaker, in conversation with SXSU's Janet Pierson, shares what she's learned about confidence, self-reliance, mental health, embracing pain, and achieving dreams in this new memoir-in-essays.

See more arts events on p.22.

14 > THURSDAY



RACIAL EQUITY SERIES

Online, 5:30pm

"The Path to Racial Equity: Practical Steps Toward a More Equal Society" is a six-week conversation series with community experts examining the issues and offering steps Austinites can take to be part of the solution. The sessions will be followed up with insights from thought leaders on Tuesdays via Facebook Live.

See more community events on p.24.

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SUBMIT!

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

COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN



The fight for LGBTQIA rights resumes at the Lege next week

JANA BIRCHUM

NEW YEAR, NEW LEGE. On Tuesday (Jan. 12) the **Texas Legislature** will convene for the **87th legislative session**. And while the *how* of a legislature conducting its business during a pandemic continues to be worked out, we have an early idea of the *what* on the Lege's rainbow agenda.

Bad bills, unsurprisingly, are already being filed (the deadline is March 12). Among them is **House Bill 68** from state Rep. **Steve Toth** (R-The Woodlands), which, if passed, would classify any gender affirming surgeries and hormone therapy for trans and gender nonconforming kids as child abuse under the **Texas Family Code**. In October 2019, at the height of the right wing's obsessive meddling in the custody battle of Luna Younger, a young trans girl from North Texas, Toth threatened to file such a bill, along with state Rep. **Matt Krause** (R-Ft. Worth), who at the time also pledged to introduce anti-trans legislation. That clash, I'm afraid, when folded into context with the fights over trans youth and athletes' rights at other state legislatures last year, signals what could be a likely battle this session against bills targeting trans youth.

Which leads me into my other guiding framework going into the the 87th Lege: Will LGBTQIA advocates' strategy at the Capitol be primarily one of defense or offense? The 85th session in 2017, no doubt, was one of defense as qmmunity advocates fought off the (ultimately failed) "bathroom bill," Senate Bill 6, and while the **86th Texas Legislature** didn't witness huge gains for nondiscrimination protections, several pro-LGBTQIA bills received historic first hearings. I'm excited (anxious?) to see how, if at all, that momen-

tum will carry into this session, particularly in the wake of **SCOTUS's** historic ruling on federal workplace protections last summer. And if the discrimination-is-bad-for-business argument is worth its weight in pink dollars, then I'll also be watching how the fight for explicit **nondiscrimination protections** for the LGBTQmmunity might unfold in the freshly blessed Lone Star State of Tesla et al....

In light of Austin-Travis County entering Stage 5 risk guidelines, please check venue websites and Qmmunity listings online for the most up-to-date information on in-person events.

2 TO DO

UnBEARable: HighBEARnation

These winter nights do be long, and there's no better company to spend 'em with than the Dames of the Den - aka yer hostesses with the mostesses, Bulimianne Rhapsody, Chique Fil-Atio, and Mascara Rivers. Performances by Luna Knight, Basura Mykels Hughes, and Sham Payne. **Thu., Jan. 7, 8-9pm. Online. \$10 suggested donation. www.twitch.tv/eatmorechique.**

Are the Straights Okay?

We're gonna say our guess is as good as the Boiz's here. Austin's drag king troupe explores gender roles, straight culture, and whatever lies beyond in this evening of digital drag. **Tue., Jan. 12, 7pm. Online. \$5 suggested donation. www.twitch.tv/papijinx.**

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

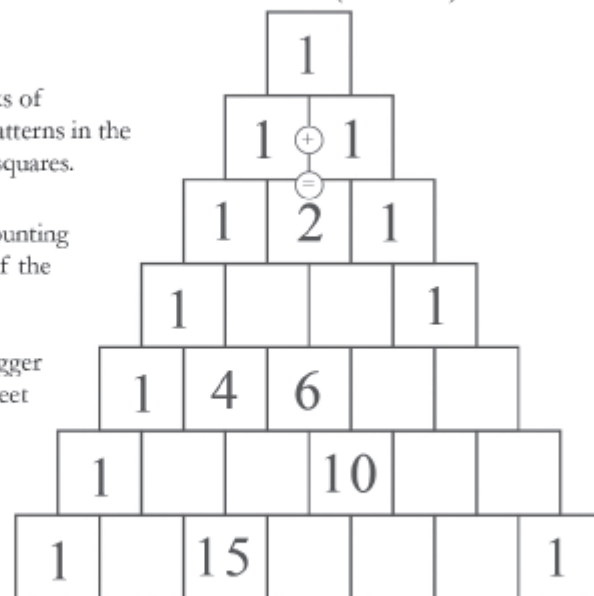
Make Pascal's Triangle!

Pascal's triangle is a triangular array of numbers that have a specific pattern. It is named after French mathematician Blaise Pascal (1623-1662).

Fill in the blanks of Pascal's triangle. Find patterns in the diagonal rows of squares.

Did you find the counting numbers in one of the diagonals?

Try to make a bigger triangle on a sheet of paper!



Scan the QR code to learn more about Pascal's triangle.

Designed by Viyang Shah at MathHappens Foundation.

For more information, visit www.mathhappens.org or email us at info@mathhappens.org.



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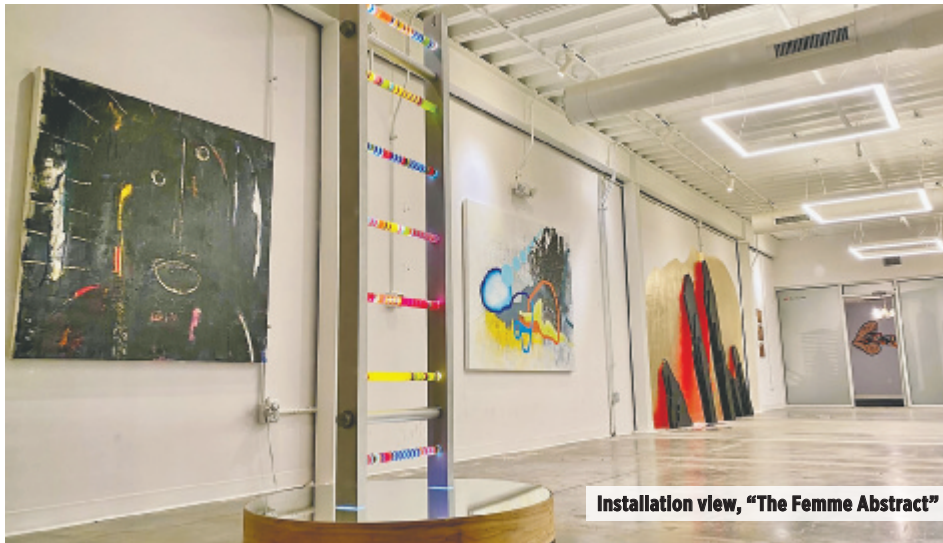
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Arts & Culture



A Welcome Wealth of Art, Again

"The Femme Abstract" ushers in the new year with a glorious plenitude of color and imagery **BY ROBERT FAIRES**

In these clamped-down, stressed-out, resource-stripped days of pandemic, we've come to scarcely expect art exhibitions at all, much less ones that present wide-ranging surveys showcasing dozens of artists.

And yet, here we are, greeting 2021 with just such a broad, extensive show. Two years after heroically assembling work by 50 women artists into a single exhibition, artist and curator Moya McIntyre has made that monumental effort again.

The number of artists in the second edition of "The Femme Abstract" may be slightly smaller, but the show itself is no less engrossing than the Austin Critics Table Award-winning first. Here are pieces by more than 40 artists spread over two floors in a former office space in the redeveloped warehouse at 979 Springdale, and the varieties of style and medium are so expansive that every wall, every room, every nook and cranny offers a distinctive and fresh experience. Indeed, the

show is a lesson in how woefully inadequate the term "abstract art" is in describing work that isn't purely representational. You'll certainly find 2D paintings composed of geometric shapes and color fields – the go-to style when many people think "abstract" – but you'll also find abstracted human forms in bronze, soaring towers of found trash, a 7-foot pyramid, natural and human-made objects suspended from chains, fabric hangings, installations with video, installations with large slatlike forms, prayer flags, ceramic pots with tendrils, ceramic heads, a soft sculpture of a leg, glass-covered high-heeled shoes under bell jars, and so much more. Just as the show itself is unexpected given the times, the work it presents is frequently unexpected – and pleasingly so.

Clearly, McIntyre solicited artists whose work will surprise in the context of the show, no matter how you interpret the phrase "The Femme Abstract." But she's also taken care to position their pieces around the space in ways that surprise by juxtaposition.

Hallie Rae Ward's *Foreplay / Four Play*, consisting of four long tubes wrapped on the outside in yarn of varied colors but also lit from the inside by LEDs that change color every few seconds, radiates a gentle, cheering vibe, while just next to it Hollis Hammonds' hulking pillars of discarded pie pans, milk cartons, toys, boxes, and other detritus, all stuck together and painted midnight-black, accompanied by the voice of poet Sasha West, project a mood of gloom, if not outright doom.

In one of several small rooms (one viewer at a time, social distancing observed) hang some of Mars Woodhill's dense vortexes of color, each

acrylic painting depicting a range of vivid hues streaming into a turbulent central mass that's part hurricane eye, part tree trunk rings, part geode. They're evidence of nature's forces in contention, perhaps even violent opposition. In an adjacent room, one of Alejandra Almuelle's sculptures haunts quietly: A bust of a woman hangs upside down near the floor, with a ceramic cast of feet hanging several feet above the head and pointing upward, creating the sensation of her entire body upended. But the gap between head and feet is filled with rows of large, thick needles. Their purpose is unclear – to sew her back together? – but her closed eyes and lips indicate no answer is forthcoming. As with Hamlet's last words, "The rest is silence."

Under one set of stairs is another of Ward's light works, *Which Way Are You Going?*, in which the tubes appear as rungs of a tall ladder suspended over a mirror. Peering into the looking glass, you see this ladder stretching far below you, suggesting some nether realm where your fate may lie. But at the top of those stairs are

Sarah Luna's ethereal black-and-white photographs of curved objects on a white field. The subjects are blurred and hazy, such that you can't quite make out what they are, so indistinct that they appear not fully in our

world but receding into some other plane, ghostly and insubstantial. They give the impression that if you reached for them, your hand would go right through them.

McIntyre has seeded such contrasts throughout the exhibit, and considering them from work to work could occupy you for hours. For that matter, taking each work on its own could occupy you for hours. As with its 2018 predecessor, "The Femme Abstract" of 2021 provides a bounty for the eyes and mind. We might not have expected the show, but it's welcome – for the break it provides from the past year and the hope it offers for art in the months ahead.

"THE FEMME ABSTRACT"
979 Springdale #123
www.moyamcintyre.com
Through Jan. 31

ARTS LISTINGS **AC**

THEATRE

AUSTIN ACTS! VIRTUAL STAGE TALENT COMPETITION

The eight actors here, competing since last July, are vying for the grand prize in this online event from Austin's **City Theatre**, which features the performances that got them to the finals via embodiment of works by Tom Stoppard, Edward Albee, Paula Vogel, Neil Simon, Terrence McNally, Tennessee Williams, Anna Devereaux Smith, and more. *Through Jan. 10. Donations accepted.* www.citytheatreaustin.org.

★ **THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL** This is an online community, as playwright and unstoppable force of creative nature **Nick Green** informs us, and it's been activated to "celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by the need for social distancing that has come about due to the spread of Coronavirus

(COVID-19)." It's not Austin-based, this virtual and ongoing festival of all kinds of performance arts, but damned if there aren't a few talented Austinites among the eclectic (and ever-growing) mix. www.socialdistancingfestival.com.

COMEDY

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.

ColdTowne Theater www.coldtownetheater.com

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS LIVE The former stage on Airport might be defunct, 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.*

Hideout Theatre www.hideouttheatre.com

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

★ **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.*

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Engendered Species

This new project from renowned photographer **Rino Pizzi** (in collaboration with an impressive slate of local artists) consists of a series of **photographic portraits of heterosexual couples as they impersonate each other** – their body posture, facial expressions, clothing, and the way they express their relation to each other, thus addressing issues of gender identity and relations as they emerge in a personal setting. *Through Jan. 15. Free.* www.rinopizzi.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 internet. *Ongoing. \$3-7 per class.* www.balletaustin.org.

BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: BEYOND THE CLOUDS The acclaimed aerial dance troupe's 2020 performance (chosen by *Chronicle Arts* Editor Robert Fairies for inclusion among his Top 10 shows of the year) is now available in a digital version online – free of charge. *Donations accepted.* www.bluelapislight.org.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

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

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

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

★ **RITA'S QUILT: BRINGING WOMEN TOGETHER** When **Shannon Downey** of **Badass Cross Stitch** discovered an unfinished quilt at an estate sale in Mt. Prospect, Ill., she knew she had to finish it in honor of the original artist who had passed on. She also knew that she could not do it alone. Now, see the glorious results and hear the story of what happened when **150 artists from across the country** worked together to finish **#RitasQuilt** – featuring a **beautifully embroidered map, 50 stars, and 50 state birds and flowers.** Downey will speak about the project in person and online. See website for details and to sign up for the embroidery workshops. *Thu., Jan. 7, 5-7pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel. \$5-15.*

THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN: WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL In anticipation of the 2021 presidential inauguration, the Contemporary Austin presents a virtual conversation with the museum's new executive director, **sharon maidenberg**; maritime artist **Constance Hockaday**; filmmaker **PJ Raval**; *The 19th** Editor **Andrea Valdez**; and UT professor **Laura Gutiérrez**. The discussion? "How can art work toward fulfilling the American promise of 'liberty and justice for all'?" Join in! *Tue., Jan. 12, 7pm. The Contemporary Austin, 700 Congress, 512/453-5312. Free.* www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.

OPENING

CAMIBA ART: REROOT This, **Orna Feinstein's** fourth solo show with the acclaimed gallery, is a meticulously curated exhibit that presents new works from the artist's concrete-based "**Dendro Beton**" sculptural series alongside never-before-seen works from her "**Branch and Rooted**" series of monoprints on paper. *Jan. 7-Feb. 6. Camiba Art, 6448 Hwy. 290 E. Ste. A-102. www.camibaart.com.*

COLLECTION RERT: WHAT IS IT? What is it, indeed? Abstract sculptures about the future? Something else artfully ambiguous? An invention of some sort? Book an appointment slot for yourself and up to five housemates. Note: Each 30-minute appointment can accommodate up to six people, who will view the exhibit from two windows outside the gallery, providing ample space to each – and everyone wearing masks. *Opening: Sat., Jan. 9, 5-8pm. Collection Rert, 2608-B Rogers. www.collectionrert.org.*

★ **WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: PRINTMAKERS: IN GOOD COMPANY** It's like **Print Austin** is starting a bit early in this excellent gallery on West Sixth, as each of the five printmakers in the gallery's stable of artists invite another printmaker they admire to show alongside them, resulting in an exhibition of work by (*does math*) 10 printmakers from across the country. Exciting? Yes, because – look, these are the artists: **Ellen Heck, Susan Belau, Kathryn Polk, Andrew Polk, Revi Meicler, Emily Weiskopf, Elvia Perrin, Luisa Duarte, Julia Lucey, and Golbanou Moghaddas.** *Jan. 9-30. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

CLOSING

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

★ IVESTER CONTEMPORARY: ABSOLUTE RELATIVISM

This is a solo exhibition by Austin-based artist **Dave McClinton**, representing a continuation of his "**Black Life**" series, an ongoing project that aims to **illustrate the inner life cycle of Black people in America.** Bold, illuminating, confrontational, and aesthetically superlative. Bonus: Ivester's **Project Space** presents "**Olas de Perturbación**," new works by **Michael Anthony García.** *Through Jan. 9. Ivester Contemporary, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #107. www.iverstercontemporary.com.*

THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: EXPANDING ABSTRACTION

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

ONGOING

★ SUFFRAGE NOW: A 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

This is the show for which **women photographers nationwide were invited to share photos** that comment on the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. *Through Jan. 31. Free.* www.elisabetheymuseum.org.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE: THE BRUSH IS A BOW Howard Rains is a watercolor artist *and* a master fiddler. Now, the abandonment of touring and the quiet hours in his studio during this pandemic have begun to shift his **portraits of fellow musicians** and others into the realm of the surreal. www.texasfolklife.org.

★ WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY: CONCRETE TO CANVAS

The gallery formerly known as the **Russell Collection** rebrands itself as **West Chelsea Contemporary** and boasts an inaugural show featuring some of the biggest names in street art – from **Banksy** and **Basquiat** to **KAWS** and **Keith Haring**, among others. *West Chelsea Contemporary, 1009 W. Sixth #120. www.wcc.art.*

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

DIMENSION GALLERY: POLARITY This latest installation by **Colin McIntyre** balances **subtle extremes of light and sound,** featuring a constructed setting that's a rhomboid chamber painted with extreme matte black "that eats light

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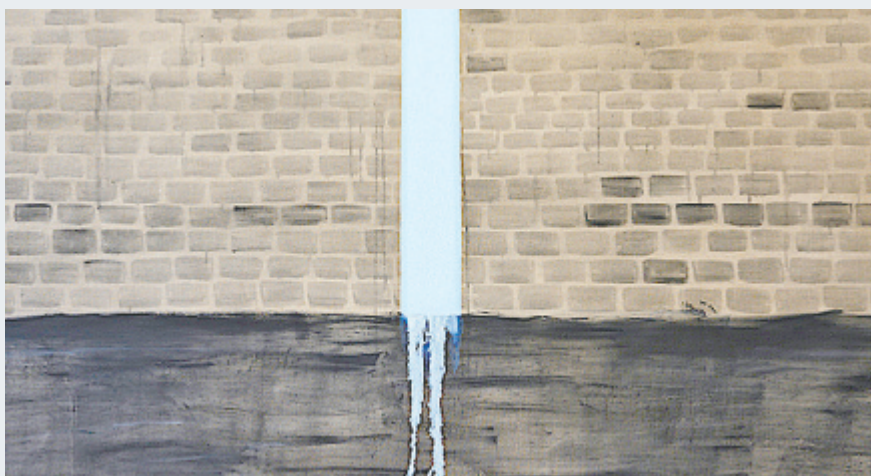
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grayDUCK Gallery: A Study of Fences

Renee Lai's new work focuses on the picket fence, a structure she associates with the traditional suburban American home, and explores **what gets included and what gets excluded** in the vision of American society. *Opening: Fri., Jan. 8, noon-6pm. grayDUCK Gallery, 2213 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.*

like a two-dimensional black hole." Into this Stygian vault the sculptor has engineered **neon light** and **sound that plays through cymatic devices** to oscillate fluids at the frequency of a specific tone – and those cymatic displays are the only element in the space reflecting light from the minimal neon installation. Note: This is an in-person event inside the gallery, for one to two people at a time, with a strict face mask and social distancing policy. *Through Feb. 28. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99. www.dimensiongallery.org.*

LAGUNA GLORIA This local treasure of a venue, run by those **Contemporary Austin** folks who also bring us the Jones Center shows Downtown, is all about the outdoors – and the many examples of **world-class sculpture** arranged thereupon. *Thu.-Fri., 9am-noon; Sat.-Sun., 9am-3pm. Laguna Gloria Amphitheater, 3809 W. 35th. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/lagunagloria.*

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

☛ **MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MEXICO, THE BORDER, AND BEYOND** Mexic-Arte Museum presents an exhibition of selections from the **Juan Antonio Sandoval Jr. Collection**, an array of work that is considered one of the most important Latinx art collections in the United States. *Through May 30. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 512/480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: BATON The N-S gallery space has been turned into an ever-evolving installation called **Baton**, by a series of artists working in turn, and here's a whole new year, and gallerista **Phillip Niemeyer** says this tag-team situation will continue until we're all clear of the 'ronas, and so who *knows* what this wonderment has morphed into at this point? We say: Check it out! *Northern-Southern, 1900-B E. 12th. www.northern-southern.com.*

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN The Umlauf's famed garden remains open, yes, featuring all those expertly wrought sculptures, the bronze or stone cyanostructures from **Charles**

Umlauf and others anchoring sight among the bright foliage and tree-towered paths. *Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-4pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Azie Morton, 512/445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

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

BOOKS

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

MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE: THE FREEZER DOOR The author, in conversation with Austin's own **Alyssa Harad**, presents her "complex meditation on the trauma and possibility of searching for connection in a world that relentlessly enforces bland norms of gender, sexual, and social conformity while claiming to celebrate diversity." *Thu., Jan. 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

◀ **ALEXI PAPPAS: BRAVEY** The Olympic athlete, actress, and filmmaker, in conversation with South by Southwest's **Janet Pierson**, shares what she's learned about confidence, self-reliance, mental health, embracing pain, and achieving dreams in this new memoir-in-essays. *Wed., Jan. 13, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

BOOKWOMAN POETRY: VIRTUAL READING AND OPEN MIC Nine-time Pushcart Prize nominee **Loretta Diane Walker** reads from her work. **Cindy Huyser** hosts, and an open mic follows. *Thu., Jan. 14, 7:15pm. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.*



COMMUNITY AC

☛ **AHS CAR RAFFLE** The 17th annual Austin Humane Society car raffle, powered by Roger Beasley Mazda, kicks off with a virtual launch party Jan. 7 at 12:30pm on Facebook Live, where the car you can win will be unveiled. Each ticket provides one night of safe and warm shelter, nutritious food, quality medical care, and lots of love for a cat or dog who is waiting to find a home. *Tickets available Thu., Jan. 7; drawing held April 17. Online. \$20; three tickets for \$50. www.austinhumanesociety.org.*

YWCA WARMLINE Call the YWCA of Greater Austin's "Warmline" to get support amidst the isolation of COVID-19. *Mon.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., noon-4pm. Via phone: 512/548-9922. www.ywcaustin.org.*

TRAVIS COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Give your natural holiday tree new life by recycling it at one of the following locations: West Service Center (4501 FM 620); Del Valle Adult Softball Complex (3614 FM 973, Del Valle); Collection Center (2625 Woodall Dr., Leander); and East Service Center (6011 Blue Bluff). Remove decorations, and trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half. Flocked trees not accepted. *Through Jan. 10, 7am-5pm. Multiple locations. Free. www.austintexas.gov/treerecycling.*

DONATE BLOOD, GET A FREE CINNABON MINIBON Donate blood or platelets to get a voucher redeemable at select Schlotzsky's. Appointments are mandatory; schedule online or call 512/206-1266. *Through Jan. 14. We Are Blood donor centers & mobile drives. www.weareblood.org/donate-blood/donation-locations.*

BSC'S REBUILDING BUSINESS NATIONWIDE ONLINE FORUM With Business Success Center's weekly forum, create strategic alliances and learn from other business owners in order to relaunch and rebuild carefully and successfully. *Thursdays, noon-1pm. Online. Free. www.ownersview.com.*

☛ **OMNI ONLINE: FOUR TRACK CHALLENGE WITH SPITFIRE AUDIO** For Omni Sound Project's free Four Track Challenge, they'll send you prompts to help you create a composition for media. Practice your composition skills and add your own touches to the song, then join your fellow participants to share your creations at Hear and Tell, where Homay Schmitz of Spitfire Audio will offer feedback and guidance. *Prompts sent Thu., Jan. 7; event is Tue., Jan. 12, noon. Online via Zoom. Free. www.omnisonndproject.com.*

VIRTUAL AYC OFFICE HOUR New and prospective Austin Young Chamber members are invited to stop by

virtually to learn how to join the chamber and make the most out of a membership. *Fri., Jan. 8, noon. Online. members.austinyac.org/calendar.*

TASTE OF GLASS EXPERIENCES If you've been wanting to cross glassblowing off your bucket list, here's your chance! Try a crash course to get a quick overview and make your own small souvenir. Private lessons, workshops, and multi-week courses also available. *Fri.-Sat. through January, 6, 7, or 8pm. Ghost Pepper Glass, 979 Springdale #100. \$65 per person and project. www.ghostpepperglass.com.*

BACKYARD HARVESTS CLASS This course for intermediate/advanced gardeners teaches how to track seeds and expected harvest dates, time additional successions of plantings, and estimate an anticipated yield so that you can determine how much space and how many plants you need in order to feed your family. *Sat., Jan. 9, 1pm. Online. www.pioneerfarms.org.*

☛ **NEW YEAR VISION BOARD WORKSHOP** Set your intention for 2021 by making your own collage vision board with mixed media artist Whitney Avra. Either provide your own materials or order a kit with supplies for delivery or local pickup. Live versions of the workshop take place at the Cathedral; visit www.thecathedralatx.com for details and to reserve tables for up to six people for \$200 (supplies included). *Sat., Jan. 9, 1pm; Sat., Jan. 16, 11am. Online. \$45-55. www.creativeboxstudios.com.*

PEACE SUNDAY A meditation for world peace with the Human Potential Center. *Sun., Jan. 10, 1-2pm. Online. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

MATT POWERS: REGENERATIVE SOIL Join Austin Organic Gardeners for a Zoom talk about the importance of soil with Matt Powers, author of the book *Regenerative Soil*. *Mon., Jan. 11, 6pm. Online. Free. www.austinorganicgardeners.org.*

AAI APPLICATIONS OPEN The African American Leadership Institute is accepting 2021 AAI Fellow applications for a cohort beginning in March. Established leaders and individuals who desire to become more civically engaged are encouraged to apply. *Mon., Jan. 11. Online. www.aaliaustin.org.*

HEALTHSPEAK EDUCATION SERIES: INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE Join massage therapist Ruth Ontiveros, LMT, to discuss the benefits of self-care and tips for self-massage while working from home. *Tue., Jan. 12, noon-1pm. Online. Free. www.bswhealth.com/healthspeak.*



Unlearning Circle: Either/Or Thinking

Join Undoing White Supremacy Austin to delve into either/or thinking and ask: How can we recognize and interrupt our paternalism in order to dismantle white supremacy culture and create lasting solutions? *Sat., Jan. 9, 10am. Online. www.undoingwhitesupremacy.org/unlearning-circles.*

🌟 **COUPLES CLASS: MAKE SPARKS FLY** A special evening date-night class on the basics of working hot metal in Pioneer Farms' historic smithy. No previous blacksmithing experience is required. *Wed., Jan. 13, 5:30pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr. www.pioneerfarms.org.*

🌟 **VIRTUAL ADULT STORY HOUR** Listen to or tell a five-minute story – truth or fiction, funny or serious, read or memorized, any story about life, fantasy, or yourself – on the theme of “new beginnings.” *Wed., Jan. 13, 6:30pm. Online. library.austintexas.gov/events.*

PUB QUIZ AT BAKER STREET Triviaficionados are welcome to join this COVID-cautious quiz to compete for prizes. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Baker Street Pub & Grill, 3003 S. Lamar. Free. www.fb.com/austincitytrivia.*

HEALTHSPEAK EDUCATION SERIES: ORTHOPEDICS

Join orthopedist Henry Ran via Zoom for a discussion on symptoms and causes of carpal tunnel, cubital tunnel, and trigger finger. Learn about advances that enable individuals to return to a more active lifestyle. *Thu., Jan. 14, noon-1pm. Online. Free. www.bswhealth.com/healthspeak.*

REACHING THE TECHNICAL BUYER IN 2021 Join Austin American Marketing Association to learn how engineers and technical buyers find and consume information to make purchase decisions and how their behavior has changed due to COVID-19. *Thu., Jan. 14, 5pm. Virtual. AMA members, free; nonmembers, \$6.24. www.austinama.org.*

🌟 **RACIAL EQUITY SERIES** “The Path to Racial Equity: Practical Steps Toward a More Equal Society” is a six-week conversation series with community experts examining the issues and offering steps Austinites can take to be part of the solution. The sessions will be followed up with insights from thought leaders on Tuesdays via Facebook Live. *Thursdays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 5:30pm. Online. www.libjlibrary.org.*

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Oklahoma. *Tue., Jan. 12, 7pm. Men's Basketball* Vs. Texas Tech. *Wed., Jan. 13, 8pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texasports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. UT-Tyler. *Thu., Jan. 7, 5pm. Men's Basketball* Vs. UT-Tyler. *Thu., Jan. 7, 7pm. Recreation and Convocation Center, 3001 S. Congress. www.gohilltoppers.com.*

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Arkansas State. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 8-9, 4pm. Strahan Arena, 106 Charles Austin Dr., San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

ABSOLUTE BEGINNING PILATES New to Pilates and/or the Pilates Reformer equipment? This workshop is a perfect place to start. *Wednesdays, Jan. 13-Feb. 17, 6:30pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third, 512/476-9151. \$150 for 6 weeks. www.balletaustin.org.*

IT'S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE Participants track healthy activities, like eating healthy foods and doing physical activity, to earn points for their communities and weekly chances to win prizes. *Through Feb. 28. Statewide. Free. www.ittcommunitychallenge.com.*

🌟 **VIRTUAL LIVESTREAMED WORKOUTS** Check the schedule for a huge selection of livestreamed workouts and ballet classes taught by Ballet Austin instructors. *Ongoing. Online. Up to \$12.50 per class. www.balletaustin.org/dance-fitness/live-streamed-classes.*

JEN'S GENTLE YOGA A class for all shapes, sizes, and experience levels – even beginners. Students will link gentle movements with breathing techniques to build strength, flexibility, balance, and mental focus. Each class ends with guided meditation and deep relaxation. *Sat., Jan. 9, 9am. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr. www.pioneerfarms.org.*

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

SOUND BATH MEDITATION A relaxing and meditative experience where participants “bathe” in the vibrations from instruments such as chimes and Tibetan bowls, guided by Cynthia Bernard, founder of ATX Yoga Girl. *Sun., Jan. 10, 9am. The Carpenter Hotel, 400 Josephine St. www.eventbrite.com/e/sound-bath-tickets-133885199235.*

SOCCER WATCH BY NICK BARBARO

Alright, Alright, Alright

It's been another big week for **Austin FC**, with two big-name free agent signings in as many days. First came midfielder **Diego Fagúndez**, who's just 25 but has 10 years of MLS experience – all of it at the New England Revolution, where he debuted at 15 after growing up nearby. He became the youngest MLS free agent signing ever when his deal was announced Tuesday. The next day, the team announced defender **Matt Besler**, World Cup veteran and longtime captain of Sporting Kansas City, where he remains well-beloved despite seeing his playing time limited this past season. Both players gushed about their moves and the chance at getting in on the ground floor of what AFC is building here; Besler backed that up with a video shout-out to AFC and its co-owner Matthew McConaughey, posted on Twitter Wednesday morning.

Liverpudlians everywhere – from Merseyside to B.D. Riley's at Mueller – were saddened this week by the death of **Gerry Marsden** of Gerry & the Pacemakers, whose cover of the song “**You'll Never Walk Alone**” became a huge hit and the eternal anthem of **Liverpool FC**. And if you've ever heard 53,394 fans belt it out at Anfield, you understand what they're feeling.



“It's time to go to work. Alright, alright, alright.” Matt Besler is the latest player on his way to Austin FC.

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

KIDS

🌟 **GIRLSTART STARRY NIGHTS AT HOME** See a virtual star show and participate in hands-on STEM activities for the entire family, centered on the theme of Inuit lore. *Thu., Jan. 7. Online. Free. www.girlstart.org/our-programs/starry-nights.*

LONESTAR SOCCER CLUB JUNIOR ACADEMY Registration is now open for the program, which is designed for players who excel at the recreational level and require a more challenging, developmentally appropriate environment to maximize their potential. *Academy begins Feb. 8. Various locations. \$295. www.lonestar-sc.com/junior-academy.*

LADYBUG MUSIC WINTER SESSION An online music class for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, the session includes a weekly livestream, access to the FB group and pre-recorded classes, song downloads, and more. *Jan. 14-March 18. Online. \$199 per family. www.ladybugmusicatx.com.*

JUST FOR TEENS: APL FANTASY CLUB Join other teens virtually to discuss fantasy and sci-fi books, with a focus on personal headcanons and character deaths. *Sun., Jan. 10, 2pm. Online. library.austintexas.gov/events.*

HOMESCHOOL DAY AT THE SCIENCE MILL: CHEMISTRY Solve chemistry riddles and explore the science behind chemical reactions that make foaming geysers and floating blobs, then hear about chemistry careers. *Wed., Jan. 13, 10am-2pm. Science Mill, 101 S. Lady Bird Ln., Johnson City. Prices vary by age. www.sciencemill.org.*

JUST FOR TEENS: TEEN COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUR Meet members of the Central Library Teen Council at a virtual social hour with games and activities, and learn more about how they work with the library to amplify teen voices. *Wed., Jan. 13, 5pm. Online. library.austintexas.gov/events.*

🌟 **MLK ORATORY COMPETITION** Students are invited to compose a short speech for this 16th annual competition, this year taking place virtually, on the question, “If Dr. King were alive today, what would you discuss and share with him on how you would help to create a stronger unity for the people in America and the world?” *Thu., Jan. 14, 6:30pm. Online. www.mlkcelebration.com/celebration-events/oratory-competition.*

OUT OF TOWN

PAVILION WINE TASTING Make a reservation to enjoy a flight of five wines on the covered pavilion with up to six friends, and take the glass home as a souvenir. *Daily, 10am-5pm. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall. \$30/person. www.beckervineyards.com.*

🌟 **CAPTURING LEE MILLER** This new documentary follows Lee Miller, who went from stunning fashion model to World War II photographer. *Jan. 8-22. Online via the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. \$10. www.mfah.org/films/virtual-cinema.*

ON THE TRAIL WITH THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS Join the Buffalo Soldiers for stories and artifacts of life in the military on the Texas frontier. Group size is limited and park entry passes should be purchased online before attending. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 8-9, noon-4pm. Government Canyon State Natural Area, San Antonio. www.tpwd.texas.gov.*

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Roughhouse Brewing takes the art of making beer to a personal level. Using yeast harvested from the property between **Wimberley** and **San Marcos** and aging the beer in oak tanks gives their brews a unique flavor profile.

For instance, in collaboration with **Real Ale Brewing Company**, head brewer and founder **Davy Pasternak** put the recipe for the Blanco brewery's popular Firemans #4 through the Roughhouse lens and created the distinctive **Farmhouse 4**.

Davy explains that as one of the essential ingredients in beer, yeast greatly influences the taste of the final product. Even when all other variables are the same, naturally occurring yeasts can impart a different flavor. It is much like a winemaker works with grapes.

Adding to that, Davy uses four 30-barrel **foeders** (pronounced FOOD-ers) to age the beer. These 1,000-gallon oak tanks work with the yeast to produce a mature finish.

This March the 2-year-old brewery will release the first “spontaneous beers” aged in a cave on the property. Davy says he didn't pitch any yeast in these beers. Instead, he allowed the natural yeast cultures of the cave to do their work.

“It's an old-world style of brewing,” Davy says. “Very rustic.”

Roughhouse Brewing is in a German-style barn off Ranch Road 12, 7 miles south of Wimberley. The pandemic has been tough, but they've made adjustments, says **Alexandra**, Davy's wife. The brewery



GERALD E. MCLEOD

has added locally sourced food items to a menu that complements the 10 beers on tap. The biergarten under a stand of oak trees opens Thursday through Sunday.

“We're a small family-run business,” Alexandra says. “We want visitors to feel safe and like they're coming to hang out at our house.”

1,532nd in a series. Follow “Day Trips & Beyond,” a weekly travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

Food

Casper Fermentables' Cultured Cultures

Ben Hollander honors his Korean and Jewish roots with preserved foods **BY VERONICA MEEWES**

Ben Hollander grew up eating and preparing a spectrum of Korean food and began his culinary education at age 13 by training under a chef. That chef – his mother – owned a popular udon restaurant in Seoul before relocating to Washington, D.C. “Her kimchi and her kombucha were things that really stuck with me when I left to come down here to go to school,” Hollander says. “I missed that flavor so much and couldn’t find anything that was exactly like it or even close to it.”

He also missed the delis and restaurants he’d visit with his dad’s Jewish side of the family so naturally Hollander began working on his own products inspired by his favorite familiar foods. Now the owner/founder of Casper Fermentables, Hollander relocated to Austin in 2012 to study microbiology and learn about global food systems (and their systemic flaws) with Research Professor Raj Patel at the University of Texas. “Pesticides and preservatives are known to be deleterious for the human body in a multitude of ways,” he says. “And [Patel] is a big proponent of [the belief that] this is not complicated – people just need to have access to real food.”

Hollander also frequented San Francisco’s world-renowned bakeries, Tartine Bakery and Josey Baker’s The Mill, attempting to imprint the taste and texture memories of their sourdough on his palate so he could reverse-engineer it in Austin. He studied the work of Sandor Katz, learning that fermentation is the only form of cooking that increases raw food’s nutritional value. This practice of “food as medicine” has played a crucial role in Korean survival and cultural identity for generations. “The microbes in our gut are responsible for our digestion, our moods, and our immunity,” explains Hollander.

“In our guts, there’s a battle of good and evil – beneficial versus deleterious microbes. Eating and drinking probiotics adds good soldiers to the fight. Probiotics from fermented foods help you establish and maintain a healthy composition of microbes in your gut.”

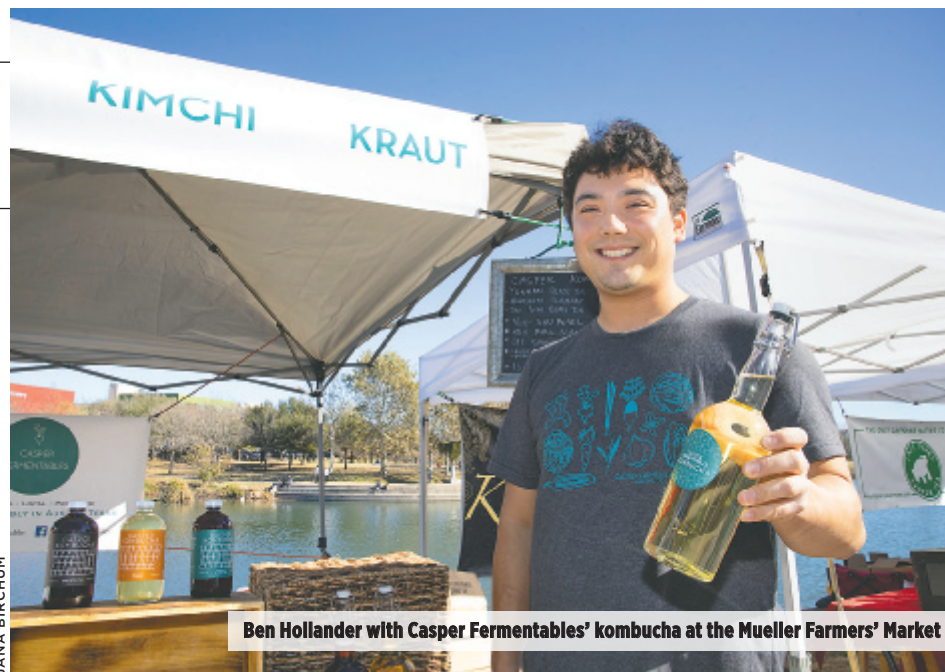
While still in college, Hollander worked as a cook under Chef Evan LeRoy at Freedmen’s, Chef Fermín Núñez at Launderette (now at Suerte), and Chef Amanda Turner at Juniper, where he was promoted to fermentation director. Hollander rejoined LeRoy, now at LeRoy & Lewis, to consult on the kimchi recipe and fermentation program, and along the way, Hollander started a cottage food business and began selling pickles, kimchi, and vinegar at HOPE Farmers Market. When he perfected his kombucha recipe, made with high quality Yunnan tea, Casper Fermentables was born. Hollander named it after the ghost that is, much like probiotic microbes, actually friendly – not scary at all.

Hollander credits his friend So Han Fan, proprietor of West China Tea Company, for introducing him to the world of tea. He makes one kombucha with farm-direct pu-erh, a fermented black tea from the Yunnan province, and another with picked and sundried Yunnan black tea. All of the tea is harvested from century-old wild trees without any watering, fertilizing, or pruning, which gives the final product a real sense of terroir. Unlike most kombuchas, which are blended with fruit juice and often full of extra sugar, Casper’s balanced and effervescent kombucha showcases the fair trade and organic tea itself.

“I think it gets lost that kombucha is made of tea, that tea comes from China, and that kombucha is an Asian food,” explains Hollander. “When I first moved here, I felt like people were culturally appropriating kombucha and so I wanted to make a product that was more authentic and honored the base ingredient, which is tea – something that never gets honored.”

About a year and a half after selling his bottled kombucha in stores, Hollander decided to launch Casper Fermentables at the farmers’ market, giving people a chance to sample his kombucha, and his kimchi, a vegan adaptation of his mom’s original recipe.

“Sometimes I feel like kimchi can be really overpowering, so we found that this is



Ben Hollander with Casper Fermentables' kombucha at the Mueller Farmers' Market

the recipe that really connected with people at the market,” says Hollander. “It’s really simple and very clean-tasting, which allows it to go with a lot of things.”

Every week, Hollander ferments his kimchi for three days at room temperature and then moves it to the refrigerator to finish it off. The resulting fermentation is a bit sour but still has a little life – and plenty of crunch – to it. “When my mom was growing up in Korea, my grandpa used to bury the kimchi in the ground in the winter,” says Hollander. “It would snow a bunch and he’d take the snow off and dig up this huge crock, so the fridge simulates that cold fermentation.”

In addition to the vitamin, nutrient, and antioxidant-rich lacto-fermented cabbage kimchi, Casper Fermentables features other fermented veggies that rotate seasonally. Right now they are offering a radish kimchi, escabeche-inspired pickled jalapeños and carrots, and a turmeric kraut made with fair trade, single-origin heirloom turmeric from Andhra Pradesh, India. “We get all the produce locally and it’s fermented in a salt brine for four weeks so it’s fully acidified, but there’s no vinegar in it,” says Hollander. “It’s living, probiotic food.”

Hollander advises kimchi newbies to try adding the spicy tangy cabbage to grilled cheese or fried rice, but those who like the cabbage to break down more, becoming even more intense, might try making kimchi jjigae (stew) or kimchi geon (pancakes) with it. “It goes amazing with pastrami or Texas barbecue too,” he points out. “If you think about it, Texas barbecue is eaten with onions and pickles and kimchi is basically those two things combined with some spiciness.”

Casper’s bread program, based on a long sourdough fermentation, features baked

goods that are also good for gut health. “I actually have Crohn’s disease but I’m able to eat all the things that we make because they’re fermented,” says head baker and General Manager Phoebe Raileanu. “I’ve lost 15 pounds since working here because it’s all so healthy and moves your digestion ... when you eat something that’s alive, it just helps your gut in so many ways.”

Hollander’s San Francisco sourdough research has been manifested into beautiful rustic loaves that are dark and crunchy on the outside, soft and stretchy on the inside. The same sourdough starter is used to produce beautiful bagels (plus house-made cream cheese), fluffy focaccia (often folded with turmeric kraut), and Jewish delicacies like babka and seasonal treats like sufganiyah (jelly donuts) for Chanukah.

Casper Fermentables’ baked goods and ferments can be preordered and picked up at any of the local farmers’ markets; his kimchi and kombucha are sold at various local retailers. While he has big dreams for the future of Casper Fermentables, he’s currently focused on growing his team, finding a new kitchen space, and expanding in whatever ways feel most organic in this unpredictable climate. Above all, he wants to keep making honest, nourishing food that’s accessible to everyone.

“At the time I was starting this, the only time I felt like you could find food that was made with local vegetables and handled by people who were serious, professional chefs was at expensive, fancy restaurants,” says Hollander. “I think that’s something we want to do more of in the future – not only offer really nutritious, artisanally crafted foods but make them accessible to different members of our community.”

www.casperfermentables.com

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Like many other spots that make this city a live music, bar-hopping, and dining destination, The Far Out Lounge & Stage is more than just a watering hole. The current owners of the storied property at 8504 South Congress Ave. have had to get creative and communal, and focus on both the food and the family of musicians, to survive.

The stone cottage now home to The Far Out (TFO) was built in 1908, and in recent decades it housed Austin favorites like Red Shed Tavern (closed in 2018) and the biker bar Beverly's. Known in the early days as The Last Chance bar, it was "the last chance to get a beer before San Antonio" (according to a 2005 *Chronicle* letter to the editor). The newest iteration kept part of the original bar where infamous bank-robbing Newton Boys saddled up for post-heist brews, where UT student Janis Joplin played gigs long before Woodstock, and where countless Austinites enjoyed almost year-round patio weather in the large backyard. Skip ahead to Feb. 2019 when Hopfields owners Bay Anthon and Lindsay Anthon-Zuloaga and General Manager Pedro Carvalho opened a cozy living-room-style cocktail bar called Nicolaza's with a Hopfields sibling food truck. The team relaunched as The Far Out Lounge & Stage in late summer 2019, and they were working on promising 2020 plans when the pandemic struck in early March.

"Those initial few weeks were super dark, really scary," said co-owner and operator Carvalho. "We were just trying to make sure that whatever resources we had, we were able to share with the people who make this place possible."

Very fortuitously, pre-pandemic the team had already applied for permitting and talked to engineers on how to build out the restaurant, which meant they didn't have to "go find some loophole to turn the bar into a restaurant," said Carvalho. Upon reopening in May, about 90% of the staff returned, and they've kept the inside of the small restaurant venue at 0% capacity, instead focusing on the very large outdoor space.

"We have an obligation to this part of Austin, and to the people who made this place what it is, to keep the music scene alive ... while maintaining a culture of safety and not hurting people," said Carvalho. The added expenses to outfit TFO for new requirements in COVID-era hospitality were "insurmountable" at first, things like building an outdoor bar, switching to disposable everything. "We now pay somebody to stand at the front door and take your temperature every night, and we pay somebody to ask you to stay seated – which is a thing I never thought we would do at a music venue."

The main food concept – a truck called Fowl Mouth led by Sam Castrale, former executive chef at sister restaurant, cam-



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

More Than a Venue

The Far Out Lounge is focused on food, safety, and Austin musicians **BY JESSI CAPE**

pus-area gastropub Hopfields – was a team effort. "We rebranded [the food truck] during the beginning of the pandemic. We didn't have anything to do. We're sitting around like, we're closed, there's no one here, we don't have jobs, let's [mess with] the food truck – turn the restaurant on and see what we can do, out of boredom and from necessity, just to keep some kind of morale. We're all workaholics; we don't know how to not work," Carvalho said. "It's a pretty awesome team behind a chicken joint – it's elevated food truck food."

The daily menu focuses on fried chicken, Southern sides, and vegan options – think mac & cheese, charred street corn, vegan chicken wings and sandwiches, catfish tenders, and kid-friendly menu items. There's brunch every Saturday and Sunday, 11am-3pm, and in addition to a Bloody Mary bar, there are buttermilk pancakes, bananas foster waffles, steel cut porridge, avocado toast, and smoked duck hash. "We've tried to make the food eclectic and fun, and sometimes more handheld because it fits the spirit of the laid back music venue we're going for."

Fowl Mouth is also joined by a small pack of other local food trucks: Wunder Pig Barbecue, SolarSno Shaved Ice, Austin Rôtisserie, and Lucky's Italian Sandwiches. Only outdoor bar service is currently operating, with a full bar and 36 rotating taps with beers, ciders, and seltzers. As their website says, "Whether you want a shot and a beer, a claw, or a classic cocktail – we got you!"

But it's not just the dishes and drinks enjoyed on picnic tables spread across 3 acres of shady live oaks that's kept TFO alive. Hellbent on being more than "just a music venue," TFO's publicist and Event Organizer Allison Welsh said it's also the responsibility they feel to musicians, South Austin, their staff, sister businesses, and partner-

ship organizations, to "keep the sense of community." Relationships with Black Swan Yoga, Redeemer Small Batch CBD, MOD Fitness, Eastside Pop Up, and JuneShine Hard Kombucha (among others) mean they can host fundraising events for different organizations like Austin Justice Coalition, Multicultural Refugee Coalition, and the Cajun Navy Relief. They've also hosted benefit shows, including one for Scotty Mescall, known as "The Mayor of House Park," and in June, a Black voices listening party. Creating a safe space for everyone is a driving force, said Carvalho. "It's why we do it – it's the whole reason for it. I hope it shows."

There have been a small number of people who bristled at the new restrictions, but TFO will not relent. "They did show up, and they did not find a place that they enjoyed because they found out right away that you have to wear a mask and be socially distanced here," explained Carvalho. "There is a musician on stage but you can't be close to them, and you have to follow CDC guidelines at all times. Pretty quickly they got weeded out and it became a place where we just want to keep the music alive."

Attendance is capped at around 150 guests, or 10% of capacity, to manage the spread-out and seated crowd, and mostly everyone is understanding. "It's been super positive. Most people, by this point, are used to it. It's been a year of us going through this hell and when we get a little bit of pushback here and there our message is always like, 'Dude, all you have to do to watch a live music show in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is sit down and put on your mask.' Seems pretty reasonable. We're not asking you to do anything out of the ordinary – what's out of the ordinary is getting to see a show, so don't make this any harder or you have to leave."

Still, the back and forth restrictions and shutdowns have taken a toll. "I feel like a lot of the Stage 1-5 conversations have been really frustrating and ... it's a huge ask from the local government without any real assistance. We're doing it as safely as we possibly can, and for the local government to make recommendations on how to run our business, [without] actually [having] any help for local business, it's infuriating to say the least. We know the CDC guidelines by this point. What I can't do is go to my staff and tell them that Mayor Adler said, 'It's probably a good idea for you to not come to work for a while – and he's not going to pay you either. Your rent's not going to stop, and your electric bills will not stop, and you won't be able to feed your family, but we highly recommend that you do that.'"

Carvalho added, "I think 'impractical' is super light. I would say it's pretty fucking *immoral* for them to do that, to not have assistance for these people. We have an obligation to help them stay fed and nurtured and keep their homes and be safe. I don't know how to tell somebody that they're going to lose 100% of their stream of income – it's just a ridiculous ask without any assistance, [and] I don't think it's fair to ask of a [small] business. If the local government was going to pay all of the local musicians the money they are getting playing shows at TFO and pay all of the staff during this whole thing – it would be an easy 'let's shut it down and call me when you're ready' – that's not a problem."

"The problem is there is no assistance and we're left here in the dark. We have to fend for our friends and family here. And we owe that to South Austin to stay alive."

As for the new year, one still heavily weighted under a raging pandemic, Carvalho is hopeful. "We have a really strong community down here in South Austin. I don't think that the music community, or the music fans, or the people who work here, will really let it go, and we'll do our best to stay safe, keep others safe, and keep Austin music alive."

They've got a second, inclement weather-friendly stage set up with a 4,000-square-foot tent with high ceilings and open sides, complete with a giant space heater and steady bookings. Continuing through January, TFO is raising money for SIMS Foundation, an organization "close to the heart of our talent booker Lawrence Boone." For those still not ready to venture out, Fowl Mouth and the other food trucks offer takeout and delivery options. The January special, to coincide with the Sunday residence of the month, A Live One (Phish cover band), is a new cornflake fried chicken sandwich special, served on a biscuit with jalapeño jelly and Swedish fish syrup. "We're trying to get as creative as possible to keep it going."

www.thefaroutaustin.com

FOOD NEWS BUFFET

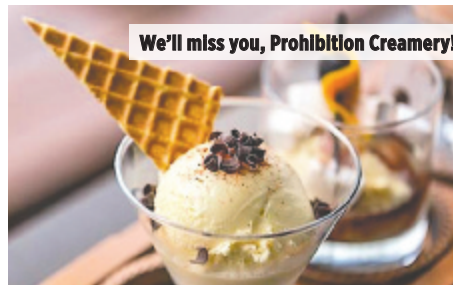
Here's some of what's happening in Austin's culinary scene, as wrangled from numerous PR releases, official posts, words on the digital street, and even the occasional (verified) IRL eavesdroppings.

The sorrow stabs like an icicle of gin to the heart as we note the closing of **Laura Aidan's Prohibition Creamery**, that Instagrammy East Sixth hotspot of booze and ice-cream bounty, where the bar program was as good as the frozen dairy deployment, and the whole thing easily among the best in this city. "I poured my heart and soul into Prohibition Creamery and was so delighted watching people enjoy our boozy creations, our craft cocktails, and our little piece of East Austin," says the disappointed proprietor. "I am thrilled by all the people who made us their first date spot, fell in love, and helped create so many special memories." But – take heart, pandemic-weathering comrades! Like many of us, Aidan is only temporarily daunted: "We are looking forward," she says, "to creating new memories when we reopen in the future." And you can still grab to-go cocktail and sundae kits and more – until **Sunday, Jan. 17**.

In much better ice cream news – nondairy, vegan ice cream, even – we're stoked to see that Austin's **Sweet Ritual** powerhouse of cold, cold sweetness has teamed up with California's plant-based **Eclipse Foods** to create an exclusive line of dairy-free ice creams to celebrate what they're calling "Veganuary." We've previously raved about what Sweet

Ritual does (read: the sort of culinary witchery that even nonvegans clamor for), and we're now happily anticipating the nine new flavors that **Amelia Raley** and **Valerie Ward** have created – with ingredients like roasted stone fruits and fennel, ube, durian, matcha, sweet potato, golden milk, and more. Bonus: They're already available!

And what is ice cream without pizza beforehand? That's rhetorical, but be aware that longtime favorite **Roppolo's Pizza's** newest location (at 2604 Guadalupe) is open seven days a week and serving their savory pies from 11am-12mid ... and that those **Hajimaleki brothers, Amir and Ali of Oasthouse** and **District Kitchen** fame, are (with Executive Chef **MacKenzie Viglianco**) running thick, Greek-style 'za and grinders out of their new **Shortie's** concept above the District venue on Shoal Creek ... and, tangentially, that gastropub **Culinary Dropout** in the Domain's got a **Takeout Tuesday** deal featuring 25% off all online orders every Tuesday (with code TUESDAY25). And, finally, this week: Happy new year to you, citizen, and – *hang in there, OK?*



We'll miss you, Prohibition Creamery!

COURTESY OF PROHIBITION CREAMERY

FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES FROM SFC A new year dawns, but we've still got a ways to go in dealing with this pandemic. The **Sustainable Food Center** has put together a thorough compilation of food access resources for Central Texans, ranging from farmers' markets to CSAs to delivery options and everything in between, so you can ensure that healthy food stays on your table. And if you're able to contribute they're accepting online donations, which support farmers and low-income families facing food insecurity. Get all the details on their website. Citywide. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

PRESSED JUICERY: NEW YEAR, NEW JOURNEYS The Pressed Juicery, that bright bastion of plant-based goodness in the Domain (that we reported about at the start of October), kicks off the new year with a juice fast deal and a sneak peek at the company's graphic redesign, offering half-day juice fasts (\$20, for a series of four juices and one shot, that you finish with a plant-based meal) and full-day juice cleanses (\$29, which includes six juices per day, with one juice consumed every two hours). What a healthy way for you to ditch the dumpster fire of 2020, citizen! Through Feb. 1. Pressed Juicery, 11401 Century Oaks Terrace #103. 512/900-8604. www.pressedjuicery.com.



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Screens

Banned Leader

Alex Winter takes on the combative side of a cultural maverick in *Zappa* **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

You never forget your first Frank Zappa album. Unless you're Alex Winter, and then he has an excuse. "I'm so flipping old," he joked, "that I don't even remember. It was probably something boring – and I don't mean the album was boring, I mean something obvious like *Apostrophe* (') or *Over-Nite Sensation*."

The reality is a little more complicated for the *Bill and Ted* star and director of Napster documentary *Downloaded* and *The Panama Papers*. Partly it's because he's spent the last few years deep in the near-mythical Zappa archive, a vastly complicated digital restoration project that took dozens of professionals and a \$1.2 million Kickstarter fundraising push to complete. Partly it's because he spun all that research off into *Zappa*, his documentary about the uncategorizable maverick musical genius, from pre-*Freak Out!* to his swan song, *The Yellow Shark*. But it's also because Zappa wasn't just a musician to Winter. "I fell in love with Zappa as a cultural icon before I really got the music," he explained. "I was of an age where it was our older brothers smoking pot over the garage, and by virtue of our ages we rebelled against

anything they were listening to [and] by the time I got the music he was already into the orchestral, even the synclavier stuff."

For Winter, it wasn't his first Zappa album but his first Zappa exposure that rewired his opinions: the now-infamous Oct. 21, 1978, episode of *Saturday Night Live* that Zappa both hosted and sabotaged. "I vividly remember watching that with my best friend at his parent's house and thinking, 'This is an important person but an important person that I can access.'"

That *SNL* appearance captured a pivotal aspect of Zappa's creative personality: He knew what he wanted and could be combative or domineering if that's what it took to get there. *Zappa* the documentary does not shy away from that destructive determination, or that he would deliberately spark conflict in the studio if that's what it took. Winter said, "Like all things Zappa, it's a contradiction. He was a martinet and hard and aloof on the one hand, but he was also really, really focused and invested in his musicians and his collaborators. He really wanted to bring the best out of them and often did across the span of their careers."



That list of collaborators is unmatched in musical history. If anyone else had worked with just Tina Turner, or Captain Beefheart, or Alice Cooper, or drumming legend Aynsley Dunbar, or guitar experimenter Steve Vai, each partnership would be a documentary in its own right. Zappa recorded with literally hundreds of musicians in the studio and performed with an incalculable number live. That sheer volume of material could be daunting for a filmmaker, and it's why Winter (who learned narrative scriptwriting before he became a documentarian) worked with his editor Mike J. Nichols on creating what he called "a skeletal architecture" to *Zappa*, built around a classic three-act, two-hour movie structure. He said,

"I like the constraints of that time frame, because at no point did I want to make the quote 'definitive' Zappa documentary, or 'this is every single aspect of everything he ever did crammed into a movie,' or an album-to-album music movie. I had no interest in that at all. I wanted to tell a narrative story about a man in a specific period of time who, very early in his life, made a commitment to a kind of artistic life that was going to cause him a world of pain as well as be very rewarding, and what the consequences of that decision were. That was the story I wanted to tell."

Zappa is on VOD now. For a longer version of this interview, and our review of the film, visit austinchronicle.com/screens.

MOVIE LISTINGS

★ AC



One Night in Miami ...

NEW REVIEWS

★ ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...

D: Regina King; with Kingsley Ben-Adir, Eli Goree, Aldis Hodge, Leslie Odom Jr., Joaquina Kalukango, Nicolette Robinson, Beau Bridges. (R, 110 min.)

One Night in Miami ... begins with a jaunty plunking of the piano under a series of cartoonish jeers and jokes from Muhammad Ali (Goree), then still called Cassius Clay. He hops through the boxing ring, confident of a win he hasn't yet clinched, before a punch to the face lands him flat on his rear, wide-eyed and defeated.

This is the start of director Regina King's unique approach to fictionalizing slices of the 1960s Black Power movement. Focused on a historic hotel room meeting between Ali, Malcolm X (Ben-Adir), King of Soul Sam Cooke (Odom Jr.), and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown (Hodge), *One Night in Miami ...* opens with a mix of high stakes and wisecracking humor, introducing each character's personal struggles with the gravitas

you'd expect. But the larger-than-life dramatics fall away as the four men draw closer together, making room for images a little more human.

As *Malcolm X*, Ben-Adir is perhaps the film's greatest strength. He reveals the quiet fear that must have been necessary to sustain Malcolm's hallmark militance and crafts masterful friction between his revolutionary public persona and the tenderness he tries to offer his friends. Tension explodes between Malcolm and Sam, especially, which sets up a careful structure for the rest of the film. In a natural sequence, the characters pair off in different combinations for private conversations. These moments, marked by sheepish confessions and washed in warm yellows and oranges, are where *One Night in Miami ...* achieves its major goals. Though Malcolm, Sam, Cassius, and Jim are all devoted to collective Black liberation in different ways, the movement demands a lot from a person. In private, they express the subjectivity that no one else has afforded them, making tangible mean-

ing of the kind of “brotherhood” that Malcolm X spoke of just days before his assassination.

One Night in Miami ... offers humility and vulnerability to four men that history has rendered as giants. In the film’s heart-rending final moments, Odom Jr. gives a career-defining performance of Cooke’s 1964 classic “A Change Is Gonna Come.” And you believe him – it’s clear that each man will go on to move mountains in this country. But the warmth of the film’s gaze has managed to take the political and make it all personal. It’s hard not to feel just as affected by the way these men have moved each other.

★★★★ – *Selome Hailu*

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, CINEMARK 20, HIGHLAND, IPIC, LAKE CREEK 7

🌟 BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING LEFT BEHIND

D: **Katrine Philps.** (NR, 88 min.)

Winner of the 2020 South by Southwest Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary under its original title of *An Elephant in the Room*, on first viewing one thinks that this is possibly not the best season of sorrow in which to release a documentary about children ages 5-10 coping with grief, trauma, loss, and death. Then again, with countless kids suddenly bereft of loved ones amidst a global pandemic that knows no mercy and draws no quarter, perhaps this is *exactly* the right moment for this admittedly heart-wrenching and, on occasion, outright exhausting examination of human mortality as viewed through the eyes of the very young. (The film was shot before the advent of the novel coronavirus.)

Danish director Philps focuses her lens on the Good Grief community, a Morristown, N.J., group that helps shattered preteens work through their emotions – incomprehension, rage, depression, outright despondency – over the course of a year. Six children in particular: Jimmy, Nicky, Nora, Peter, Mikayla, and Nolan. Group therapy sessions and various other, often ingenious, methods of pediatric psychological

tonics are shepherded by adult counselors and the occasional relative, who by appalling default are simultaneously dealing with their own turbulent emotions.

The missing, the dead, each went in their own way, some more incomprehensible to the kids than others: car crash, illness, suicide. But through it all, Philps keeps her camera low, the better to represent the children’s as-yet-unformed POVs, both literally and emotionally. And yet these devastated young people are sometimes surprisingly resilient, as in a moment when a little boy asks his sister what she wants for Christmas and she matter-of-factly answers, “A pony!” to which he responds, “You’re never gonna get it. You got a saddle. You got a *picture* of a saddle.” Harrumph! She then turns the tables on him and asks what *he* would like. “A passport. So I can go anywhere in the world.”

Nora and her brother are seen exploring the woods at one point. They stop to pick up a pair of fallen branches and immediately, in tandem, begin to smash them against a tree, battering it into bits of broken bark while shouting, “A terrible way to die, this is a terrible way to die.” And yet for all the frenzied pain, these kids, some withdrawn, some verging on tantrum-outrage, turn out to be most empathetic with each other. Hugs, tears, “Do you want go outside and talk about it?” from one kid to another, and another. Lest this review strike far too grim a chord, Philps ends her documentary on a note of hope as the members of Good Grief gather for a Chinese sky lantern ceremony to memorialize those who have ascended before them, warm yellow flames rising in the communal darkness, turning the night sky, fireflylike, into a canopy of memory and moving forward.

***Beautiful Something Left Behind* is available now as a virtual cinema release.**

★★★★

– *Marc Savlov*
VIOLET CROWN



Beautiful Something Left Behind

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Hunter Hunter

★ HUNTER HUNTER

D: Shawn Linden; **with** Camille Sullivan, Devon Sawa, Summer H. Howell, Nick Stahl, Lauren Cochrane, Gabriel Daniels. (NR, 94 min.)

The most traumatizing sound in a horror movie is not a broken bone or a gushing wound. It's the sound of a soul breaking. That's what made the most brilliant and disturbing films of the 1970s – films like *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, *I Spit on Your Grave*, and *The Last House on the Left* – so impactful. It's a keening wail, a silent inhalation, the stomach drop of knowing that the characters who survive will never be whole again. That nightmarish realization is what separates the brilliantly brutal and truly shocking *Hunter Hunter* from many of its contemporaries.

The surgical deployment of a needle drop from Danish post-psychedelic gothsters Tales of Murder and Dust is the moment that seals it for Shawn Linden's story of the destruction of a family by outside forces. That's exactly what father Joe Mersault (Sawa, grizzled and gristly) was trying to avoid when he took his family out into the backwoods to become a fur trader. His

wife, Anne (Sullivan), knew what she signed up for, even if this hard-scrabble existence isn't what she might have chosen for their daughter, Renee (Howell). It's hard to tell exactly what Anne resents: this bloody, muddy life, or the fact that Renee is adapting to it a little too well. They live beyond the fringes of order, as noted by the local rangers (Cochrane and Daniels), who spend most of their time dealing with folks who have brought second homes and don't know not to leave their trash cans where bears can get them.

Much like Jeremy Saulnier's trip into the long Alaskan night of the soul (2018's *Hold the Dark*), the collapse of the very idea of civilization begins with the incursion of a wolf. The family sees a dual risk, to both life and income, but Joe's decision to deal with the predator himself opens the door to a bleakness. Yet coming for all with subtle speed is a catastrophic fate, built on the idea that only the most merciless survive.

What makes *Hunter Hunter* so special is that the first half-hour feels like a cousin to Debra Granik's haunting *Leave No Trace* or Annie Silverstein's *Bull*, both depictions of underseen lives on the outermost fringes of society. This

time, it's the kind of family that has embraced the last dying embers of the backwoods trapper, barely surviving in rural Manitoba. This is a life of putting cans back when you get to the cash register, of gutting and skinning, of scat and musk. Joe has taken his family to the other side of the edge of society, and it's hard to see how they can ever come back. That's their choice, but the intrusion of a wounded stranger (Stahl) adds a new component, a survival thriller aspect that catches the family's core conundrum: If you're off the grid, the grid can't protect you. But it's the final act that takes that final

twist of the knife, as the thriller becomes a grand guignol horror, yet still based within the world and the rules established in that grounded opening. It's true horror, summed up in a tiny moment, a minuscule drop in the face of Cochrane's shattered ranger. It is a moment of realization that makes *Hunter Hunter* both deeply emotional and utterly chilling. When that needle drop ends, souls have been broken. That's what makes *Hunter Hunter* an extraordinary entry in the modern horror canon.

★★★★

– Richard Whittaker
BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

OPENINGS

One Night in Miami... (R)

Beautiful Something Left Behind (NR)

Hunter Hunter (NR)

The Reason I Jump (NR)

RATINGS

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

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

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

🍌 La bomba

🍌 ★ Recommended

★ THE REASON I JUMP

D: Jerry Rothwell. (NR, 82 min.)

In 2007, Naoki Higashida, a nonspeaking 13-year-old Japanese boy on the autism spectrum, published *The Reason I Jump*, a book of questions and answers in which he attempts to explain to outsiders the different ways in which he experiences the world. The book was translated into English in 2013 by novelist David Mitchell (*Cloud Atlas*) and his wife, K.A. Yoshida, themselves the parents of an autistic son. Their translation of Higashida's book achieved wide acclaim for the experiential window it provides into an autistic person's interaction with the world. All the while, Higashida is careful to note that his book reflects his personal record alone and that each person's autism journey is individual. Yet the book is dotted with enough anecdotal descriptions to give neurotypical readers a good sense of what it's like to be unable to give expression to one's thoughts.

Now, the book has been made into a film by British filmmaker Jerry Rothwell. In *The Reason I Jump*, the filmmaker attempts to find visual corollaries for the nonspeaking autistic person's involvement in the world. The immersive presentation sometimes illuminates the sensory experience for neurotypical viewers, but as often as not, the autistic person's experience remains a bafflement. Rather than a mimetic demonstration of the autistic person's contact with the world (which, I think, is this film's aim), Rothwell humanizes the experience by his personal observation of several nonspeaking autistic teens from around the globe, as well as commentary from translator Mitchell and other parents who fret about there being a place where their autistic children can fit into their communities and function once their parents

are no longer alive to look after them.

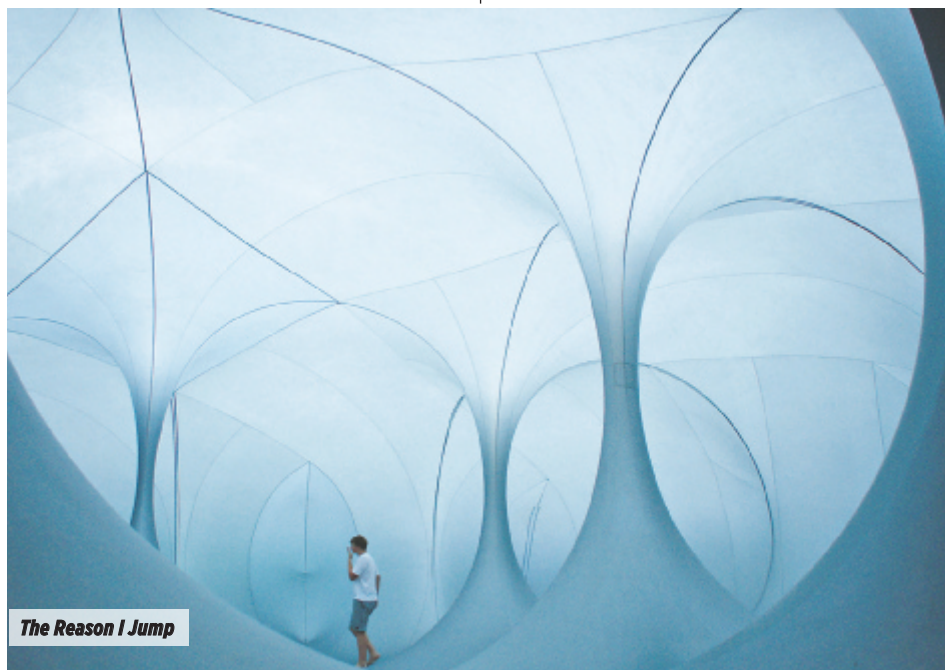
The more documentarylike aspect of the film spends time with the teens in their home and community environments. Amrit is a young woman in India whose skillful paintings are her communication outlet. In England, Joss leads his parents around to listen to the "music" he hears coming from public electrical boxes and substations. Emma and Ben in Illinois are nonspeaking autistic teens who've been friends since childhood. We witness the breakthrough communication device of spelling boards, which help the two express themselves, letter by letter, with their fingers. In Sierra Leone, Jestina, who is shunned by strangers who fear she is demonically possessed or otherwise deranged, is helped by her loving parents, who organize a school where Jestina and others like her can be educated. Interspersed throughout these home visits are the wanderings of a young Japanese boy (Jim Fujiwara), a clear avatar for Higashida.

The Reason I Jump will be revelatory for viewers who know little about the subject, and affirmative for caregivers and parents of children on the autism spectrum. What everyone, however, can take away from the film is the knowledge that just because someone is unexpressive, it doesn't mean they are without thoughts and ideas; and just because someone's bodily motions may appear odd and eccentric, it doesn't mean they are possessed or unmanageable. It means that people who are neurotypical need to make space in this world for autistic citizens, who should not be discriminated against for their behaviors (or lack thereof).

The Reason I Jump is available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten
AFC CINEMA



The Reason I Jump

ENTERTAINMENT



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SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story



VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Trinidad (2008) D: PJ Raval and Jay Hodges. (NR, 86 min.) **Virtual Controversy & Conversation.** Presented by the Austin Public Library in partnership with the UT-Austin Humanities Institute, a discussion of the doc about a transgender surgeon in Colorado who turned a small town into a haven for gender affirming surgery. Thu., Jan. 7, 7:30pm. library.austintexas.gov.

Capturing Lee Miller (2020) D: Teresa Griffiths. (NR, 60 min.) This new documentary follows Lee Miller, who went from stunning fashion model to World War II photographer. Jan. 8-22. www.gooddocs.net/products/capturing-lee-miller-mfh.

Origins of a Green Identity: Austin's Conservation Pioneers (2020) D: Karen J. Kocher; narrated by Sarah Bird. (NR, 58 min.) The latest documentary in the Living Springs series, exploring Austin's earliest efforts to preserve Barton Springs and Barton Creek. Fri., Jan. 8, 8pm. Broadcast on KLRU.

The Dead of Jaffa (2019) D: Ram Loevy. (NR, 96 min., subtitled) Austin Jewish Film Festival presents the Texas premiere of a film about tensions that arise when an Israeli couple takes in three children smuggled in from the West Bank, and their stories intertwine with an English director's film being shot nearby. Ticket includes a director Q&A. Available Jan. 10-17; Q&A Jan. 17. www.austinjiff.org.

La Soledad (2016) D: Jorge Thielens Armand. (NR, 89 min.) Enjoy access to a virtual film screening, then connect with the Bullock Museum and Cine Las Americas for a live lunch chat about the film. Available Jan. 11-15; Q&A Jan. 14, 1pm. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

SPACES

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016) D: Gareth Edwards; with Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Alan Tudyk. (PG-13, 133 min.) **Moonlight Movie.** A new film event series at the historic Pioneer Farms, drive-in style, with popcorn and concessions available. (*) @Pioneer Farms: Sat., Jan. 9, 8:25pm.

WALL-E (2008) D: Andrew Stanton; with Fred Willard; with the voices of Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight, Jeff Garlin, John Ratzenberger. (G, 97 min.) **Moonlight Movie.** (*) @Pioneer Farms: Sat., Jan. 9, 6:05pm.

FEATURED SCREENINGS

Back to the Future (1985) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd. (PG, 111 min.) **Dinner Theatre.** Tickets for Dinner Theatre shows include meals from the new Blue StarBite Diner. @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Thu.-Fri., Jan. 7-8, 7:20pm.

The Maltese Falcon (1941) D: John Huston; with Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre. (NR, 101 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Thu., Jan. 7, 7:20pm.

Mortal Kombat (1995) D: Paul W.S. Anderson; with Christopher Lambert. (PG-13, 101 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Thu., Jan. 7, 10:15pm.

Alien (1979) D: Ridley Scott; with Tom Skerritt, Sigourney Weaver, John Hurt. (R, 117 min.) See the gorgeous 4K restoration and get a free Mondo enamel pin. @Alamo South Lamar: Fri., Jan. 8, 6:15pm. Alamo Lakeline: Fri., Jan. 8, 7:40pm.

The Big Lebowski (1998) D: Joel and Ethan Coen; with Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Julianne Moore. (R, 117 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Fri., Jan. 8, 10:30pm; Mon.-Tue., Jan. 11-12, 7:20pm; Thu., Jan. 14, 7:20pm.

Bridesmaids (2011) D: Paul Feig; with Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne. (R, 125 min.) **Dinner Theatre.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Fri., Jan. 8, 10:40pm.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1990) D: Steve Barron. (PG, 93 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Fri., Jan. 8, 10:40pm.

Grease Sing-Along (1978) D: Randall Kleiser; with John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, Didi Conn. (PG, 112 min.) @The Globe Drive-In: Sat., Jan. 9, 6:25pm.

Late-Night Shorts Dinner Theatre. Selected short films, vintage oddities, fun cartoons, and other unique entertainment. @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Sat., Jan. 9, 10:25pm; Thu., Jan. 14, 10:20pm.

The Office: Michael Scott Appreciation Night Screening the classic episodes "Local Ad," "Survivor Man," "Dinner Party," "Golden Ticket," and "Threat Level Midnight," with door prizes handed out between shows. Meet new friends, tie some yarn; that's how you do the Scam! @The Globe Drive-In: Sat., Jan. 9, 9pm.

Field of Dreams (1989) D: Phil Alden Robinson; with Kevin Costner. (PG, 107 min.) **Dinner Theatre.** @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Sun., Jan. 10, 7:30pm.

Labyrinth (1986) D: Jim Henson; with David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly. (PG, 101 min.) **Dinner Theatre.** @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Mon., Jan. 11, 7:20pm.



The Dead of Jaffa

Origins of a Green Identity: Austin's Conservation Pioneers



The House With a Clock in Its Walls (2018) D: Eli Roth; with Jack Black, Cate Blanchett, Owen Vaccaro, Kyle MacLachlan. (PG, 104 min.) **Dinner Theatre.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Tue., Jan. 12, 7:20pm.

Family Shorts Dinner Theatre. Selected short films, vintage oddities, fun cartoons, and other unique entertainment. @Blue Starlite Mueller II: Thu., Jan. 14, 7:20pm.

OFFSCREEN

The New Blue StarBite Drive-In Diner Exciting news from Blue Starlite! Their new diner is now open, offering meals like the Werner Herzdog (bacon-wrapped hot link with fixin's), the Hermione (veggie sloppy Joe), Eldorado Cafe chips & queso, ice cream from Amy's, and lots more. And now, for certain films marked "Dinner Theatre," tickets include dinner, a drink, and dessert. Check out the full menu online. *Blue Starlite Mueller II*, 2103 E. M. Franklin Ave. www.bluestarlitdrivein.com/menu.

FESTIVALS

AFS & Sundance Film Festival AFS Cinema has announced that it will be Austin's exclusive satellite venue for the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. Each satellite will have its own special events and screen selections from the festival program. Sign up at www.austinfilm.org to get on the mailing list for updates. @Austin Film Society, Jan. 28-Feb. 2.



What's next for movies in Austin? Which cinemas will reopen? What does the future hold for virtual festivals? Tune in to **Lights Camera Austin** on KOOP 91.7 Jan. 7 and 14 at 2pm for a two-part chat with host Robert Sims and *Chronicle* Screens Editor Richard Whittaker about making and watching film and TV in the ATX in the age of pandemic.

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

SUBMISSION INFORMATION: *The Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 22 issue is Monday, Jan. 11.** 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.

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.

ALIEN: Fri, 7:40
THE CROODS: A NEW AGE:
Fri, 3:35
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE:
Fri, 3:15; Sat, 11:30am
NEWS OF THE WORLD: Fri, 2:20,
6:00; Sun, noon, 3:10, 6:20
ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...:
Fri-Sat, 3:45, 7:00; Sun, 12:25,
3:45, 7:00
PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:
Fri, 4:00, 6:35, 7:20;
Sat-Sun, 12:45, 4:00, 7:20
THE WIZARD OF OZ: Fri, 4:35;
Sat, 12:25; Sun, 11:30am
WONDER WOMAN 1984: Fri, 2:05,
2:45, 5:40, 6:40; Sat, 11:00am,
1:40, 2:55, 5:40, 6:40pm;
Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 2:55, 5:40,
6:40pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER, 512/861-7060.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE:
Fri, 3:10, 5:20
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE:
Sat, 11:00am, 11:15; Sun, 1:30, 1:30
NEWS OF THE WORLD: Fri, 3:45
ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...: Fri, 4:00,
7:15; Sat, noon, 2:55, 6:00;
Sun, 12:10, 3:20, 6:25
PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:
Fri, 4:30, 7:30; Sat, 1:15, 4:25,
7:30; Sun, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00
THE WIZARD OF OZ: Fri, 4:45;
Sat, 2:10; Sun, 4:25
WONDER WOMAN 1984: Fri, 3:15,
7:00; Sat, 11:30am, 3:15, 7:00pm;
Sun, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

ALIEN: Fri, 6:15
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE:
Fri, 3:10, 3:10; Sat, 2:25, 2:25;
Sun, 11:25am
NEWS OF THE WORLD:
Fri, 3:20, 7:35; Sat, 12:25, 3:50;
Sun, 11:20am, 2:40, 6:05pm
ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...: Fri, 3:35,
7:00; Sat, 11:20am, 2:35, 6:15pm;
Sun, 12:25, 3:45, 7:25
PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:
Fri, 2:45, 3:50, 5:25, 7:15;
Sat, 12:55, 4:20, 7:45, 9:25;
Sun, 12:55, 4:15, 7:30
THE WIZARD OF OZ: Fri, 2:20;
Sat, 11:20am; Sun, 2:30
WONDER WOMAN 1984:
Fri, 2:35, 6:30; Sat, 11:00am,
2:55, 7:15pm; Sun, 11:00am,
2:50, 6:40pm

AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

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

**THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC/
DVS):** Fri, 4:40, 7:40; Sat, 1:40,
4:40, 7:40; Sun, 4:40, 7:40;
Mon-Wed, 7:00

FATALE (CC/DVS):

Fri, 5:00, 8:00;
Sat, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00; Sun, 4:50,
7:50; Mon-Wed, 8:00

THE MARKSMAN:

Thu (1/14), 7:30

THE MARKSMAN (CC/DVS):

Thu (1/14), 6:00

MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS):

Fri, 5:10, 8:10; Sat, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10;
Sun, 5:10, 8:10; Mon-Wed, 7:50

NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/ DVS):

Fri-Sun, 3:10, 6:20;
Mon-Wed, 6:50

PINOCCHIO (CC/DVS):

Fri-Sun, 3:40, 7:00;
Mon-Wed, 6:20

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 3:20, 6:40; Sat, 4:20,
7:50; Sun, 3:20, 6:40;
Mon-Wed, 7:40

WONDER WOMAN 1984:

Fri, 4:30,
8:20; Sat, 12:40, 4:30, 8:20;
Sun, 4:10, 8:00; Mon-Wed, 7:20

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 3:30, 7:20;
Sat, 3:20, 7:20; Sun, 3:30, 7:10;
Mon-Wed, 6:10; Thu (1/14), 2:10,
3:30, 6:00, 7:20

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

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

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25; Sat, 1:20,
2:20, 4:50, 7:25; Sun, 2:15, 4:45,
7:25; Mon-Wed, 3:10, 4:30, 7:25

FATALE (CC/DVS):

Fri, 2:30, 5:20,
8:10; Sat, 5:30, 8:10; Sun, 2:30,
5:20, 8:10; Mon-Wed, 4:45, 7:45

THE MARKSMAN (CC/DVS):

Thu (1/14), 6:00, 7:00

MONSTER HUNTER (CC/ DVS):

Fri-Sun, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15;
Mon-Wed, 5:00, 8:00

NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 3:30, 6:30; Sat, 1:30,
4:25, 7:30; Sun, 3:30, 6:30;
Mon-Wed, 3:40, 6:40

PINOCCHIO:

Fri, 3:45, 6:45;
Sat, 1:10, 4:15, 7:35; Sun, 3:45,
6:45; Mon-Wed, 3:30, 6:50

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 2:20, 5:05, 8:05;
Sat, 1:05, 4:40, 7:40; Sun, 2:20,
5:05, 8:05; Mon-Wed, 5:10, 8:00

THE WAR WITH GRANDPA (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 2:05, 4:35; Sat, 1:05,
3:40; Sun, 2:05, 4:35;
Mon-Wed, 4:10

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/ DVS):

Fri, 2:10, 4:10, 6:00, 8:00;
Sat, 2:10, 6:00; Sun, 2:10, 4:10,
6:00, 8:00; Mon-Wed, 3:00, 5:30,
6:30; Thu (1/14), 3:00, 6:30

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS, IMAX):

Fri, 3:10, 7:00; Sat, 1:00,
4:30, 8:00; Sun, 3:10, 7:00;
Mon-Thu (1/14), 4:00, 7:30

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (SENSORY FRIENDLY):

Sat, 1:45

BLU STARLITE DOWNTOWN

300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

BLADE RUNNER:

Sat, 10:30

BRIDESMAIDS:

Sat, 10:30

THE FIFTH ELEMENT:

Fri-Thu (1/14), 7:00

SCHOOL OF ROCK:

Thu (1/14), 7:00

SKYFALL:

Sat, 7:00

SPIDER-MAN 2:

Sat, 7:00

TENET:

Fri, 7:00

BLU STARLITE MUELLER II

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

DINNER THEATRE: BACK TO THE FUTURE:

Fri, 7:20

BACK TO THE FUTURE: PART III:

Thu (1/14), 7:00

I LUV VIDEO PRESENTS: THE BIG LEBOWSKI:

Fri, 10:30; Mon-Thu (1/14), 7:20

DINNER THEATRE: BRIDESMAIDS:

Fri, 10:40; Sat, 10:20; Mon, 7:00;
Thu (1/14), 10:15

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS:

Sat, 10:00

DEADPOOL:

Sun, 7:20

DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD:

Sat-Sun, 7:00

DINNER THEATRE: FAMILY SHORTS:

Thu (1/14), 7:20

DINNER THEATRE: FIELD OF DREAMS:

Sun, 7:30

DINNER THEATRE: THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS:

Tue, 7:20; Thu (1/14), 7:00

HOWARD THE DUCK:

Thu (1/14), 10:20

HUNTER HUNTER:

Fri-Wed, 10:30;
Thu (1/14), 10:15

LABYRINTH:

Fri, 7:00; Mon, 7:20

DINNER THEATRE: LATE-NIGHT SHORTS:

Sat, 10:25; Thu (1/14), 10:20

THE MALTESE FALCON:

Sun-Mon, 7:00

PITCH PERFECT:

Thu (1/14), 10:15

SHREK:

Mon, 7:00

SKYFALL:

Sun, 7:00

SPIDER-MAN 2:

Fri, 7:10

SPY KIDS:

Tue, 7:00

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE:

Thu (1/14), 7:00

I LUV VIDEO PRESENTS: TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:

Fri, 10:40

DINNER THEATRE: TENET:

Wed, 7:20

TRUE LIES:

Fri-Thu (1/14), 7:00

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT:

Tue, 7:00

BLU STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRELL PKWY.,
832/915-0332.

BACK TO THE FUTURE: PART III:

Thu (1/14), 7:00

DEADPOOL:

Fri, 10:00

SCHOOL OF ROCK:

Fri, 7:00

TENET:

Sat, 7:00

BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

LASER IMAX 2D: "INTO AMERICA'S WILD":

2:00

LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE ODYSSEY":

noon

CINEMARK 20 AND XD

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

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGI- TAL):

Fri, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35,
10:05; Sat, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30,
10:05; Sun, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30;
Mon-Tue, 4:50, 7:30

FATALE (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:20,
7:10, 10:00; Sat, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10,
10:00; Sun, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10;
Mon-Tue, 4:20, 7:10

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:30,
6:50, 9:40; Sat, 12:50, 4:00, 6:50,
9:40; Sun, 12:40, 6:50; Mon-Thu (1/14), 4:50, 7:40

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGI- TAL):

Fri, 2:40, 3:50, 4:50,
5:30, 6:30, 7:20, 8:15, 9:15;
Sat, 11:00am, 12:10, 1:10, 2:40,
3:50, 4:50, 6:20, 7:20, 8:15,
9:30pm; Sun, 12:10, 1:10,
2:40, 3:50, 4:40, 6:20, 7:20;
Mon-Wed, 3:50, 4:20, 5:10, 6:20,
7:20, 7:45; Thu (1/14), 3:50, 4:20,
6:20, 7:20, 7:45

THE MARKSMAN (DIGITAL):

Thu (1/14), 7:00

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50; Sat, 1:25,
4:15, 7:05, 9:50; Sun, 1:25, 4:15,
7:05; Mon-Tue, 4:15, 7:05

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):

Fri, 2:55, 3:50, 4:55, 5:50, 6:50,
7:50, 9:50; Sat, noon, 12:50,
1:50, 2:55, 3:50, 4:50, 5:50, 6:50,
7:50, 9:50; Sun, noon, 12:50,
1:50, 2:55, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:50;
Mon-Tue, 4:00, 4:50, 6:55, 7:50

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ... (DIGI- TAL):

Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00;
Sat, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00;
Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu (1/14), 4:00, 7:00

PINOCCHIO (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:30,
6:45, 9:55; Sat, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45,
9:55; Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45;
Mon-Tue, 4:10, 7:35

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:00,
6:55, 9:45; Sat, 1:05, 4:00, 6:55,
9:45; Sun, 1:05, 4:00, 6:55;
Mon-Tue, 4:30, 7:25

WONDER WOMAN 1984:

Fri, 3:40,
5:10, 7:15, 8:45; Sat, 12:05,
1:35, 3:40, 5:10, 7:15, 8:45;
Sun, 12:05, 1:35, 3:40, 5:10, 7:15,
8:45; Mon-Tue, 5:10, 7:15

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGI- TAL):

Fri, 3:40, 4:25, 5:10, 5:55,
7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30; Sat, 12:05,
12:50, 1:35, 2:20, 3:40, 4:25,
5:10, 5:55, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45,
9:30; Sun, 12:05, 12:50, 1:35,
2:20, 3:40, 4:25, 5:10, 5:55, 7:15,
8:00; Mon-Tue, 4:25, 5:10, 5:55,
7:15, 8:00

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (XD):

Fri-Sat, 2:55, 6:30, 10:05;
Sun, 2:55, 6:30; Mon-Tue, 6:30

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. WHITESTONE,
800/326-3264.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGI- TAL):

Fri, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00;
Sat, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:55pm;
Sun, noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30;
Mon-Thu (1/14), 3:55, 6:30

FATALE (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:20

Music

Music Venues React to Stage 5

As Austin headed into the holidays, health officials moved Travis County into **Stage 5 COVID-19 risk guidelines** on Dec. 23 because of increased virus cases and hospitalizations. Bumping to the highest restrictions did not mandate closure of bars and music venues – allowed to operate up to 75% capacity with recertification as restaurants under wiggly state orders – but local officials encouraged closure of indoor dining spaces. Left to interpret for themselves, many venues with restarted concert calendars canceled until further notice.

Stage 5 recommendations “[urge] individuals to avoid all gatherings outside of the household and avoid dining and shopping except as essential. Businesses are recommended to only operate through contactless options such as curbside and delivery.” **Topaz McGarrigle**, who owns **Sahara Lounge** with his mother **Eileen Bristol**, felt the announcement “made it pretty clear” the venue should close. He plans to reevaluate mid-month.

“Basically, we were listening to local recommendations, not state recommendations,” he adds via text.

Radio Coffee & Beer owner **Jack Wilson** followed suit in pausing live music at the South Austin venue, while continuing to operate as a coffee shop. Prior, tickets for the space’s Monday Bluegrass Nights consistently sold out with limited capacity.

“When Stage 5 hit, we felt like we needed to set an example,” says Wilson. “You can come here and have your coffee at your table, but there doesn’t need to be any excuses to gather right now.

“It’s the whole fuckin’ question: How do we stay open and encourage people to come to our business, while at the same time not encouraging people to gather? I legitimately want both of those things.”

After the city implemented a curfew on restaurants and bars for New Year’s weekend, **Gov. Greg Abbott** instructed Austin restaurants to ignore the curfew on Twitter. Some bars, like newly opened South Austin venue **Armadillo Den**, posted plans to stay open until midnight anyway, willing to risk a \$1,000 fine. **Ben Davis**, co-owner at Riverside metal hub **Come & Take It Live**, participated in a press conference opposing the curfew orders, which were blocked days later by the **Texas Supreme Court**.

Empire Control Room opted to call off their NYE event, an eight-act fundraiser for the **Black Live Music Fund**. Postponed to Feb. 19, the event details that if Empire gigs cancel, tickets transfer to a livestream instead. Managing partner **Stephen Sternschein** says the team will consider upcoming shows on a case-by-case basis.

“I’m really proud of how our team has been able to enforce social distancing and keep things safe,” he says. “But, with people

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THAN
SOUND**
BY RACHEL
RASCOE



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Blackillac at Empire Garage on November 21, 2020

not following those rules all over, [not staging a NYE show] was right for our community. The frustrating thing is: No one is going to hold those irresponsible folks accountable.

“In six months, it won’t matter who was open and who was closed. Everyone will just be open.”

After restarting shows in October, Empire sold tickets for seated group pods at the outdoor stage. While shows paid performers and staff, they didn’t provide significant income to sustain the venue. Sternschein says both Empire and the **Parish**, his other venue with **Heard Presents**, were preliminarily accepted to the city’s **Live Music Preservation Fund** with a \$20,000 grant in late December. Many local venues count on continuing monthly payments, up to a total of \$160,000, after

fulfilling the long-term program requirements, as well as larger grants via the recently passed national **Save Our Stages Act**.

“Knowing the city program and Save Our Stages are coming makes it a little bit easier for us to stay closed and say, ‘Look, we don’t have to worry so much about financial decisions, because we’re going to be taken care of,’” explains Sternschein, who leads Save Our Stages efforts with the **National Independent Venue Association**.

At **Parker Jazz Club**, owner **Kris Kimura** also found altered shows at the small indoor space, which only allowed for some 30 patrons among distanced tables, to be unsustainable. The club announced closure on Dec. 18 after a team member tested positive for COVID-19. Although all employees have since tested negative, he chose to stay shut.

“For us, it’s just a safety issue,” he says. “My main engineer is over 70 years old. I’m not going to risk his life so that we can make \$10 at the bar. I don’t want to lose my club, but I’d rather lose my business than someone else lose their life.”

Kimura plans to continue weekly livestreams and a new episodic video series. Recently, he helped jazz competitors the **Elephant Room** set up onstage livestream gear. Parker Jazz Club also received the initial \$20,000 Preservation Fund grant, and hopes for upcoming programs to tide the club over.

“Since it’s the city [recommendations] that shut me down, I’m like, ‘Hey, this is great,’” explains Kimura, referring to the Preservation Fund. “The city is basically making it okay to be closed – just as long as we don’t get evicted before we get the rest of that money.”

CROSSTALK

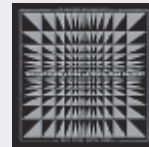
GINNY KALMBACH, former owner of longtime honky-tonk **Little Longhorn Saloon**, died Dec. 30. She was 85. Initially a bartender, Kalmbach inherited the Burnet Road bar from original owners in 1982, changing the name from **Dick’s Little Longhorn**. As **GINNY’s Little Longhorn**, she cultivated regular country acts like **Dale Watson** and launched the famed **chicken shit bingo** Sundays. Under current ownership, the saloon remains closed but livestreams bingo.

ELECTRIC LADY BIRD, the **Austin Public Library’s** program offering local artists \$200 to non-exclusively stream their music on the library site, is open again. Submit EPs or LPs released within the last two years before Jan. 31. Recent works by **Jackie Venson**, **LNS Crew**, **Ley Line**, and more stream now – chosen by a jury of local industry leads.

AUSTIN MUSIC FOUNDATION announces the fourth year of its **Artist Development Program** with new songs from **Deezle Brown**, **Aubrey Hays**, **Drint**, **Pelvis Wrestley**, and **Stone Wheels**. Produced by **Einar Pedersen** and **Chris “Frenchie” Smith** at the **Bubble**, find **ATX Gen Next: Adventures In Lockdown** on austinmusicfoundation.bandcamp.com.

BLACK FRET AWARDED \$160,000 across 20 local artists at its Dec. 12 ball. Nominees **Dossey**, **Bayonne**, **Cilantro Boombox**, **Nobody’s Girl**, **Altamesa**, **All Holder**, **Darkbird**, **Moving Panoramas**, **Sir Woman**, **Carrie Rodriguez**, **Sam Houston & Bik Odyssey**, the **Belle Sounds**, **Nané**, **Think No Think**, **Dr Joe**, **Henry Invisible**, **Croy & the Boys**, **Love & Chaos**, **Barbara Nesblitt**, and **Alesia Lanl** performed virtually on Facebook. The org also offers a new \$750 annual membership, previously \$1,500.

THE REVERBERATION APPRECIATION SOCIETY, local label and producers behind **Levitation**, mark **10 Years of Reverberation**. The compilation celebrates with **Osees**, **Boogarins**, **Holy Wave**, and more. The label also launches new archival series **Live at Levitation** with Japanese psych machine **Kikagaku Moyo’s** 2014 and 2019 performances. “We look forward to seeing you in Fall 2021 for the next **Levitation**,” teases their announcement.



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CHRONICLE

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AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SUPPORT



The Texas Music Museum developed several new virtual programs in 2020.

Texas Music Museum has been closed most of 2020 because of COVID-19, but we have been busy expanding museum exhibits as well as developing our first series of Virtual Program for digital viewing. We hope you will enjoy them!



A CONVERSATION ON EAST AUSTIN BLUES AND JAZZ HISTORY WITH MICHAEL CORCORAN AND KAHRON SPEARMAN.



A CONVERSATION ON AUSTIN JAZZ HISTORY WITH PAMELA HART AND DR. JAMES POLK



TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



GOSPEL MUSIC FROM AUSTIN'S EAST SIDE

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THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.





Jackie Venson and Chris Cubas hosting the 2019/2020 Austin Music Awards last March at ACL Live at the Moody Theater

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

The Austin Music Poll Got COVID-19

Coronavirus prompts a pandemic polling of Austin's best in the worst year on record

BY KEVIN CURTIN AND RAOUL HERNANDEZ

For hundreds of locals, the 2019/2020 Austin Music Awards transpired as the last big show they attended before life turned upside down.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, ACL Live at the Moody Theater: We were so naive, passing joints backstage on the “Willie’s Place” balcony while getting and giving all the hugs and handshakes you could ever desire and living in utter denial of how bad the COVID-19 pandemic would soon become. City officials canceled South by Southwest the Friday previously, but venues worked to host unofficial shows and bands planned on playing them.

Five days later – 120 hours – Best Music Venue the Continental Club closed down in the interest of public safety and hasn’t reopened. That added to an industry chorus all too familiar by now, one hammered home six months later when Best Festival honoree ACL Music Fest didn’t hold a physical event. In 2020, no Austin festival did.

In fact, basically every musician who walked offstage at the Moody that night eyeballing a psychedelic cowboy statuette soon saw every gig on their planner scratched.

The devastation endures, naturally. Where Best Booker Trish Connelly counted no rooms or patios to fill in the ensuing 42 weeks, that honor’s 2016/2017 prizewinner, Margin

Walker, went out of business only last month. Their co-founder Graham Williams inducted Austin punk kings the Big Boys into the AMA Hall of Fame that same year, 2017.

Now, Austin music finds itself in completely uncharted territory. Never has our scene experienced the fiscal devastation of the last calendar year. The coronavirus didn’t just drastically alter the lives of homegrown musicians and fans. It destabilized Austin’s entire ecosystem.

Accordingly, the Austin Music Poll reacts.

PANDEMIC PICKS

If society learned anything in the global gap year, it’s that our species doesn’t always get to dictate the situation. Sometimes, the situation dictates you.

Today marks the launch of the 40th annual Austin Music Poll. Four decades feels like an improbable life span for any independent endeavor relating to local music. Driving that history is a strong sense of tradition ... a tradition we set aside, in part.

The Music Poll you’re seeing today contains drastic alterations. The ballot consists of 20 categories and the Hall of Fame, instead of over 50. Nearly half are brand-new awards: Musician Who Went Above and Beyond, Best 2020-Themed Song, Best Innovation/Business Pivot, Best

Livestreaming Artist, Best Virtual Event, Best Fundraising Effort, Best Online Series, and Best Music Video.

As the Poll administrators going back to the founding year of *The Austin Chronicle*, 1981, we crafted a multiple-choice checklist reflecting what’s happened to Austin music over the last 10 months, rather than a ballot upholding currently less-relevant categories for the sheer sake of continuity or, worse, obligation. As such, Best Performing Bands awards and almost all genre categories are sitting out for at least a cycle. Since the majority of artists aren’t performing live out of safety concerns for themselves and their audience, it didn’t seem right that bands willing to tempt fate by gigging received undue advantage.

Long term, the absent categories aren’t canceled. To borrow a parlance currently employed by concert promoters who don’t want to issue ticket refunds, they’re “postponed.” And because worldwide vaccination schedules remain uncertain at best, next year’s Poll cull will likely reflect the unknowns of the next 12 months.

The coronavirus didn’t just drastically alter the lives of homegrown musicians and fans. It destabilized Austin’s entire ecosystem.

We did keep one genre category: Hip-Hop Artist of the Year. Given the state of race relations in a nation divided, reasons for such a spotlight appear obvious. Yet, if you’ve followed our weekly “PL-ATX List” since last spring, beat rhyming might be the single biggest growth industry in local soundscaping.

Once again, we used a voting body composed of over 600 Austin music professionals to assemble the nominations. In their selections, both consensus and variety emerged. Ultimately, that totaled a list of nominees we’re honored to present, and we hope the artists, businesses, and bands featured are proud to be included.

Public voting opens now on the *Chronicle* website and runs until February 1.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Expression births artistry. When humans gather, communion occurs. Feeling purposeful in that singularly central regard proved the greatest challenge of 2020.

Encouragement, acknowledgment, and gratitude thus fuel our belief that community-voted awards are more important than ever.

Granted, actually delivering those awards poses particular challenges when there’s an airborne virus still threatening people’s lives. That job now falls to us. We think we’ve hit on a novel idea, too – again, one suited to the circumstances.

For starters, former *Chronicle* Editor Louis Black quietly retired from producing the Austin Music Awards themselves. In recent years, the SXSW co-founder operated the AMAs independently from the paper, first via Louis Black Productions and later through the short-lived Society for the Preservation of Texas Music. In that time, we administered the Poll as we have since shortly after the paper hit print on Sept. 1, 1981.

Now, additionally, we’re running the show as well, and going forward, we plan to do that in our trademark scrappy, independent, and unfancy way. Except, of course, there won’t be an awards show this year. At least not one with lots of hugs and backstage partying.

While many of us held out hope we’d be able to safely congregate by March, that’s become increasingly unlikely. Still, it’s extremely important that we honor the winners who’ll arise over the next month of citywide voting. We’re working on something that’s more crafty, unusual, and exciting than a mere virtual version of the normal awards ceremony, but we can’t give it away just yet, so stay tuned, as they say.

In the meantime, vote in the 2020/2021 Austin Music Poll. ■

MUSIC POLL BALLOT

BEST OF THE YEAR

BAND OF THE YEAR

- ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead
- Black Pumas
- Sam Houston & Blk Odysse
- Ley Line
- Sir Woman

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

- Gina Chavez
- Jake Lloyd
- Walker Lukens
- Mobley
- Jackie Venson

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

- Eric Burton
- Bill Callahan
- Eliza Gilkyson
- Jana Horn
- David Ramirez

HIP-HOP ARTIST OF THE YEAR

- Blackillac
- Deezie Brown
- Kydd Jones
- Magna Carda
- The Teeta

BEST TEXAS RECORDINGS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

- Botany, *End the Summertime Forever*
- Deezie Brown & EC Mayne, *Candy Blue Like Screw*
- Charley Crockett, *Welcome to Hard Times*
- Eliza Gilkyson, *2020*
- Greyhounds, *Primates*
- Ley Line, *We Saw Blue*
- David Ramirez, *My Love Is a Hurricane*
- Skeleton, *Skeleton*
- Star Parks, *The New Sounds of Late Capitalism*
- Sweet Spirit, *Trinidad*
- The Teeta, *The Quarantine*
- Jackie Venson, *Vintage Machine*

SONG OF THE YEAR

- "Revolution," Heartless Bastards
- "IDK," Tameca Jones
- "James Crow," Mobley
- "Karen O," Sun June
- "Walk With Me Austin," Adrian Quesada and various artists

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

- "Outside" Annabelle Chairlegs [Dir. Vanessa Pla]
- "Underworld," Being Dead [Dir. Riley Engemoen, Juli Keller, Cody Dossier]
- "Someone to Love," Dossey [Dir. Peter Longno]
- "Feel the Way I Want," Caroline Rose [Dir. Caroline Rose]
- "Old Friend," Jonathan Tyler feat. Nikki Lane [Dir. Jonathan Tyler, Scott Wade, Chris Boosahda]

INDUSTRY AWARDS

LOCAL LABEL

- Chicken Ranch
- Holodeck
- Insect
- Modern Outsider
- Spaceflight

RADIO STATION

- KVRX 91.7FM
- ACL Radio 97.1FM
- KUTX 98.9FM
- Sun Radio 100.1FM
- 101X 101.5FM

RADIO PERSONALITY

- Suzanna Choffel
- Kevin Connor
- Laurie Gallardo
- Aaron "Fresh" Knight
- Taylor Wallace

RECORD STORE

- Antone's Records
- BLK Vinyl
- Breakaway Records
- End of an Ear
- Waterloo Records

RECORDING STUDIO

- Arlyn
- The Bubble
- King Electric
- The Orb
- Public Hi-Fi

BEST VIRTUAL

BEST VIRTUAL EVENT

- A Night for Austin
- Black Everything Matters
- Blues on the Screen
- HOME Cookin' for the Holidays
- Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic

BEST ONLINE SERIES

- Bud's Presents Live & Direct
- Hotel Vegas' Hotel Free TV
- Lost Well's Rock for Rent
- Safehouse
- Shaky Graves Presents Hello Gorgeous

BEST LIVESTREAMING ARTIST

- ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead
- Band of Heathens
- Corey Baum (Croy & the Boys)
- DJ Mel
- Jackie Venson

BEST 2020

BEST NONPROFIT

- Black Fret
- Diversity Awareness & Wellness in Action (DAWA)
- Girls Rock Austin
- Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM)
- SIMS Foundation

BEST FUNDRAISING EFFORT

- Fine Southern Gentlemen's Austin Will Survive
- Free Lunch for the homeless from Carrie Fussell Bickley, Jade Skye Hammer, Jazz Mills
- HAAM Day
- No More Silence Vol. 1 & 2
- Red River Cultural District's Banding Together Fund

BEST 2020-THEMED SONG

- "Broke," Akina Adderley
- "Death to the DNC," Big Bill
- "I Gave Greg Abbott the Coronavirus," Dumb
- "Keep Your Mask On," Miss Lavelle White
- "Stay Home," Shinyribs

BEST INNOVATION/BUSINESS PIVOT

- ACL Live week of weddings
- Emo's election polling station
- Love & Lightstream drive-ins
- Mobley's curbside tour
- Mosaic Sound Collective's livestream facility

MUSICIAN WHO WENT ABOVE & BEYOND

- Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone
- Adrian Quesada
- Nakia Reynoso
- Charlie Sexton
- Jackie Venson

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE NOMINEES BELOW:

- James Hand
- Erik Hokkanen
- Iron Age
- Tee Double
- Texana Dames

WRITE-IN WHAT DID YOU MISS THE MOST THIS YEAR?

THE RULES

- Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, Feb. 1, 2021.**
- Mail in this ballot or vote online at vote.austinchronicle.com.
- No hand deliveries accepted.
- One ballot per envelope.
- Photocopied ballots? Never.
- Ballot-stuffing may be punishable. Also, it's lame.

ADDRESS TO:
MUSIC POLL
 The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 4189
 Austin, TX 78765

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ AGE _____

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Casey Seymour's *Hidden Hills* BANDCAMP

"I wasn't planning on releasing a couple positive, inspirational songs," admits Casey Seymour, whose solo debut contains the unabashedly slinky pop gem "Come Together 2021" and the emotional "We Persevere." "It's weird to put those out with all my years of partying."

A local equivalent to the Dude, the style-to-burn drummer known for his white Stetson and kit work with Croy & the Boys and Chris Catalena remains a compellingly carefree party mystic at Austin honky-tonks and bars. Now one year sober, he's strictly quarantined, dedicated to self-help, and releasing his first music as a singer. That ascendant lifestyle transformation manifests into a lush and lovable six-song set where his breathy vocals fall over shades of tropicália, psychedelia, and layered soundscape grooves.

Tracked in deep isolation at his homespun Dripping Springs studio, the sturdy rhythms and airy melodies of *Hidden Hills* incarnate on "Casio

Clouds" and standout "Instillations" imitates urbanite pretentiousness with the hilarious quartet, "White walls, illumination, chords of string... art show" over nylon guitar and piano. Seymour says the 2019 death of his Living Grateful bandmate Greg Enlow catalyzed the creative transformation from which the EP arose.

"After that, I kinda lost my shit," reveals Seymour. "I was drinking way too much and using that to self-medicate. I could see myself going toward the same darkness that Greg went down, being suicidal almost. I had to reach out to [musician mental health/addiction service] the SIMS Foundation to get my shit together. Luckily, they put me in touch with a counselor who's been so awesome and knows a lot about music."

"That's really helped me have the energy to be creative."
— Kevin Curtin



QUIN NFN, "RIGHT NOW"

YouTube

"Da 04" welcomes Big 4x on Quin NFN's anticipated new single "Right Now." The East Austin rapper's latest release, which features brazenly explicit DaBaby signee Stunna 4 Vegas (Khalick Caldwell), received an early release last month after an initial target date of Jan. 8. Frequent collaborator CioMadeTheTrack provides a simple, yet intimidating piano melody while the soon-to-be 20-year-old local and 25-year-old North Carolina native each deliver a verse of trademark content. The 10K Projects rapper merrily brags about having relations with women "in more rooms than the White House," going from tax-free living to writing off taxes, and the ability to "spray" dirty-playing oppressors like Lysol. Stunna, who happily gets hype alongside the NFN Entertainment collective in the music video viewed by 500,000-plus, matches Quin's energy by affirming he, too, will get active at any moment if necessary.
— Derek Udensi

DUBBO, "BEN 10"

Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube

Cameron Allen quickly racked up buzz within the Austin hip-hop scene thanks to scratchy-voiced, high-octane rhyming about gritty environments. The young MC used this momentum to strike a deal with Babygrande Records last month. Dubbo's Double O Records imprint also receives backing from the NYC indie as part of the deal. "Ben 10," re-released by Babygrande in December after previously amassing steam on Spotify, receives a crystal clear visual courtesy of Pflugerville native Kade Fresco and his Fresco Filmz production company. The video primarily features the ascending Austinite blowing up his set while backed by eager comrades. Cartoon Network superhero Ben 10 serves as a metaphor for Allen's transformation: "I had to make a decision/ Go get a bag/ Gotta get out the trenches," he offers in reference to his hustling and pursuit of music after getting expelled from school.
— Derek Udensi

BLOODY KNIVES: 70 YEARS OF STATIC

Bandcamp

Since 2009, Bloody Knives' high-propensity pairing of punk energy and user-friendly industrial with shoegaze sensibilities nestled the group among the alumni of DFW dream-pop specialists Saint Marie Records. Fifth studio full-length self-released digitally in early December, *70 Years of Static* gallops through its 10-course meal of precision beat-keeping from percussionist/programmer Jake McCown, while Preston Maddox's vocals glide in unison to the rhythm à la Swervedriver's Adam Franklin. Highlights "Eclipse," "Extinction," and "Parasomnia" slot in among the eight remixes included with the release, sharpened up and made club-ready by Dean Garcia of Curve, Portland's We Are Parasols, and more.
— Greg Stitt

TIA CARRERA: TRIED AND TRUE

Bandcamp

Released on CD last year via Detroit's Small Stone Records and recently pressed on quickly dwindling colored wax by Germany's Kozmik Artifacts, local improvisational psych rock trio Tia Carrera's fifth studio album revels in cathartic riffology. On their first long-player since *Cosmic Priestess* a decade ago now, guitarist Jason Morales and drummer Erik Conn initiate ex-Dixie Witch thrumster Curt Christenson on the low end, and his rumbling presence gives the locals a heavier anchor than before. Between the solid ground on which Christenson puts his bandmates and the polish playing together since 1999 inevitably applies, the five tracks come across as less the barely controlled anarchy of the early years and more telepathic songcraft. "Layback" kicks open the blast doors with joyful abandon, "Swingin' Wing" lights a blistering fire under the trio's blues-rock roots, and the epic title cut melts down like a stone on the surface of Venus, with Christenson just holding Conn and Morales back from the abyss. Heavy psych and spontaneous composition can be a match made in hell, but Tia Carrera blasts off heavenward, just as they've done from the get-go. Small Stone's CD pressing also contains "Visitors" and "Early Purple," originally released as a 2019 12-inch.
— Michael Toland

MAMA DUKE: BALLSY

Apple Music, Bandcamp, Spotify

"Did this shit with three whammys/ To make it up I need three Grammys/ 'Cause I'm Black, female, and gay/ And somehow still found a way!" So celebrates Kori Roy with these words on "Found a Way." The Afro-Latina from the tiny Gulf Coast locale of Palacios moves on down the road from the smooth R&B sounds of recent mixtapes on her debut album, *Ballsy*. Bass-riddled "I Feel a Way" boasts about her cold flow and laughs at lowlife males whose mothers regret raising a "sucker." She worships a lover on "Mad" because her beliefs land "opposite of conservative." Tracks such as "Never Coming Down" maintain elements of Duke's previous form, but songs like "Over My Head" display a glorious penchant for unadulterated trash talk. Then there's the ironically titled "Get Off My Dick," where claims include a self-appointed award for Ghostwriter of the ATX. Above all, *Ballsy* represents an artist prepared to simply snatch her just due if it's not served up soon.
— Derek Udensi

DAVID GARZA: NIGHTWALKER

Bandcamp

David Garza acts as a musical reagent, creating a unique alchemy in every project he touches, most recently co-producing last year's stunning return for Fiona Apple, *Fetch the Bolt Cutters*. Now holed up in L.A., the longtime Austinite continues his own prolific output with the beautifully evocative *Nightwalker*, a world of lo-fi rhythms full of the Texan's trademark lyrical quirk and beatlike poetry. The LP runs late-night dreams through lonely lockdown streets but bursts with life, "Sing Me a Sweet Dream" echoing Cohen and Waits leaning against the piano. John C. Reilly guests harmonies for the gentle "Rosa," while "Chablis" sips hypnotic. The album strikes playful and full of curiosity in the marvel of slight everyday dramas, sonically restless but settled in a calm solitary haze.
— Doug Freeman

AURAL CANYON PRESENTS: RICK REED

Twitch.tv/cotfg; YouTube.com/ghostfriendly, Saturday 9, 3pm

While the experimental music community is rendered asunder for the foreseeable future, the creation nagging at so many audiovisual artists must somehow stretch its legs. Local "deep listening" New Age tape label Aural Canyon collaborates with 18-year-old bastion of community creation Church of the Friendly Ghost for an evening of the ambient, meditative, and modular. Rick Reed, Michael C. Sharp, Charlie Russell, Mari Maurice (More Eaze), Neil Lord (Future Museums), Eduardo A. Garcia (Cruush), Shane Renfro (RF Shannon), and Bryan Gary supply the sounds in a series of performance videos, followed by a Zoom chat.
— Greg Stitt

HOYT VAN TANNER: BIG SLOUGH

Bandcamp

The debut offering from Hoyt Van Tanner, aka Chris Hoyt of Lockhart's indie pizza hub Loop & Lil's, plucks an immediate chord tuned to John Prine and Blaze Foley with EP opener "EOTW." The track spins the end of the world as gentle lullaby, with Jess Williamson shading the apocalypse in backing vocals. Likewise, "Jericho Is for Lovers" echoes the melody of Wilco and Billy Bragg's "Way Over Yonder in a Minor Key," as the songwriter's dusky, Colter Wall-ish voice patiently toils through loves and losses ("Toki Doki"). Shane Renfro of RF Shannon fills out the largely sparse sound as producer, especially on the four-track's closing ballad "Hey, Billy."
— Doug Freeman

CARI HUTSON, "THE RESCUE"

SoundCloud

Previewing her first recordings since 2016, the upcoming *Salvation and Soul Restoration* EP, Cari Hutson showcases powerful and emotionally gripping single "The Rescue." The local songwriter penned the tune shortly after her mother's death this past September, and confronts their tough relationship and her parent's long struggle with alcoholism. Hutson delves into the hard frustration and failures, but with an extreme empathy that gives the song a depth and understanding of addiction. Her sharp but subtle vocals ring with the confluence of grief and relief, turning on unanswerable questions in the soft strings and Wurlitzer backing, haunting and redemptive.
— Doug Freeman

LIVE STREAMING

THURSDAY 1/7

Eve Monsees & Mike Buck 7pm *FB LIVE*
Graham Wilkinson 7pm *FB LIVE*
I Always Cry on Thursdays w/ Jean Caffeine 7pm *FB LIVE*
Monks Jazz presents David Mesquitic Trio & Guests 7:30pm *FB LIVE*
The Squirrel Show w/ Oliver Steck 7:30pm *FB LIVE*
Patrice Pike 8pm *FB LIVE*
Bonnie Whitmore & Her Virtual Gallery 8:30pm *FB LIVE*
First Thursdays Bossa Nova w/ Paula Maya 9pm *FB LIVE*
Party Wolfe 9pm *TWITCH*
The Harms Hang w/ guests 10pm *INSTAGRAM*

FRIDAY 1/8

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

SATURDAY 1/9

The Kids' Show w/ Oliver Steck 10am *FB LIVE*
Kris Schultz Live From the Corner (of Her Apartment) 1pm *FB LIVE*

Aural Canyon & COTFG present Rick Reed, Michael C. Sharp, Charlie Russell, Mari Maurice, Neil Lord, Eduardo A. Garcia, Shane Renfro, Bryan Gary 3pm *TWITCH, YOUTUBE*

DJ Mel's Living Room Dance Party 6pm *FB LIVE*
Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater 9pm *FB LIVE*
DJ Chorizo Funk 10pm *INSTAGRAM*
Synthy & Chatty w/ Todd V. Wolfson 10pm *FB LIVE*

SUNDAY 1/10

Corey Baum 11am *FB LIVE*
Leeann Atherton's Sunday Sing-Along 12:30pm *FB LIVE*
Shelley King's Soul-O Sundays 2pm *FB LIVE*
Pamela Hart 5pm *FB LIVE*
Ülla 5:30pm *FB LIVE*
Sydney Wright 7pm *FB LIVE, INSTAGRAM*
Monks Jazz presents Christian Wiggs & Thomas Wenglinki Sextet 7:30pm *FB LIVE*

MONDAY 1/11

Bob Appel 6pm *FB LIVE*
Blue Monday w/ Oscar Omelas 8pm *FB LIVE*
Cari Hutson & Hunter St. Marie 8pm *FB LIVE*
No Lights No Lycra w/ DJ Brian Blackout 8pm *TWITCH*
Not at Donn's Depot w/ Chris Gage 8pm *FB LIVE*
Line of Fire: Live From Living Room 8:30pm *FB LIVE*

TUESDAY 1/12

Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya 5:30pm *FB LIVE*
Eric Bettencourt 7pm *FB LIVE*
Miles Zuniga 7pm *FB LIVE*
Good Time Supper Club w/ Band of Heathens 7:30pm *FB LIVE, YOUTUBE*
Monks Jazz presents Andre Hayward & Mike Sailors Quintet 7:30pm *FB LIVE*

WEDNESDAY 1/13

Pat Byrne 5pm *FB LIVE*
Bruce Smith 6pm *FB LIVE*
Good Vibes Only w/ the Deer 7pm *LUCK, STREAM/LONGCENTER*
Matt Hubbard's "Grandpa's Piano" Livestream 7pm *FB LIVE*
C4AC presents Fastball, Bri Bagwell 8pm *FB LIVE*
Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains 8:30pm *FB LIVE*
Sonya Jevette 8:30pm *YOUTUBE*

ONGOING

Jeff Plankenhorn Mondays, 7pm and Tuesdays, 8pm *FB LIVE*
Karen Mal & Will Taylor Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm *FB LIVE*

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LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY 1/7

Broken Spoke Lance Lipinsky (7:00)
Buck's Backyard Backyard Bangers w/ W.C. Clark (6:00)
The Far Out Tiger Alley & Friends (7:00)
Geraldine's Birds Bubbles & Blues w/ Jo James (8:00)
Riley's Tavern Manzy Lowry & Tyler Cannon (7:00)
Sagebrush JD Clark (12mid), Aaron McDonnell & the Neon Eagles (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00), John Calvin Abney (7:00)
The White Horse Armadillo Road (11:30), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00)

FRIDAY 1/8

Antone's Them Dirty Roses (10:00, 7:00)
Broken Spoke Alvin Crow (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)
Brushy Creek Amphitheater Deadmau5 (8:00)
Buck's Backyard Glen Collins & the Alibis (9:00)
Coliseum Tigrillos, La Tropa Vallenata (9:00)
Come & Take It Live Tough on Fridays, Inks Lake, the Genders, Crownscoffins, Andrew Stone (7:00)
The Far Out Zack Morgan & Friends (8:00)
Geraldine's Rochelle & the Sidewinders (9:30)
Gruene Hall Walt Wilkins, Chris Beall (6:30)
Hole in the Wall The Lewd Dudes, Garner Sloan [patio] (8:00)
Riley's Tavern Mark Jungers (7:00)
Rustic Tap Squeezebox Bandits (8:00)

Sagebrush Mrs. Glass (11:00), Jake Penrod (9:00), Texas Tycoons (7:00)
Shooters North Hair Metal Giants (9:00)
Victory Grill D-Soul Davis Experience (7:00)
The White Horse JD Clark & the Stuck in the Mud Band (11:30), Aaron McDonnell & the Neon Eagles (9:00), Dallas Burrows (7:00)
Wild West Curtis Grimes (9:00)

SATURDAY 1/9

Antone's Kevin Russell & Friends (10:00, 7:00)
Broken Spoke Darrell Goldman (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)
Buck's Backyard Lucas Brothers (9:00)
Come & Take It Live We're Not Dead Yet show-case w/ Aerith Dies, Honor Me, the Bottomless, Combat, Under Subsidence, Don't Think Twice, Pure, Hero to the Villain, Trne, ItBegins, Sykotic Tendencies, Subverter (6:00)
Empire Control Room Blaze X Black, Tone Royal, Vace [garage] (9:00)
The Far Out W.C. Clark Blues Revue (7:00)
Geraldine's Drew Davis (9:30), jazz brunch w/ Sarah Arenella (11:30am)
Gruene Hall Van Wilks (6:30), Brian Pounds Band (12:30)
The Happy Cow Austin Gilliam Band (8:30)
Lamberts Dinner & Show series w/ Django Walker (7:00)
Paramount Theatre Charlie Starr, Benji Shanks (9:00, 6:00)
Riley's Tavern Beth Lee & the Breakups (8:00)
Sagebrush Devin Jake (11:00), David Touchton (9:00), Danny B. Harvey Hot Rod Happy Hour (7:00)
The White Horse Jake Penrod (11:30), Them Duquines (9:00), Jacob Alan Jaeger (7:00)
Wild West Tanner Usrey (9:00)

SUNDAY 1/10

The Far Out Sunday Phunday w/ A Live One (noon)
Geraldine's Jazz brunch w/ Kenny Williams (11:30am)
Gruene Hall Linda Gail Lewis (4:30)
Riley's Tavern Picker's Circle w/ Kayla Jane Shepherd (4:00)
Sagebrush The Mellows (9:00), Buffalo Gals (7:00), Texas Blues Party w/ Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)
The White Horse Tumbleweed Hill (8:00)

MONDAY 1/11

Sagebrush Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00), Choctaw Wildfire (7:00)
The White Horse Adam Johnson (10:30, 8:00)

TUESDAY 1/12

Broken Spoke Weldon Henson (8:00)
Gruene Hall Tony Taylor & Friends (6:00)
Sagebrush The Golden Roses (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Caldwell (7:00)
The White Horse Devin Jake (8:00)

WEDNESDAY 1/13

Broken Spoke Bracken Hale (7:00)
Geraldine's Zach Person (9:30)
Lamberts Dinner & Show series w/ James Bullard (7:00)
Sagebrush The Jerrells (12mid), Sophia Johnson (10:00pm), Mrs. Glass (8:00)
The White Horse Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (8:00)

Be safe out there!
 See austinchronicle.com/events/music for more.

speakeasy

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THE Luv Doc



"LIBIDO"

Dear Luv Doc,

Before the pandemic, me and my girlfriend used to have sex two or three times a week. Now we still see each other regularly, but the sex has slowed way down. Part of the reason for that is because her kids are home a lot more, but a bigger part of the problem is that the antidepressants I have been taking have lowered my libido to the point where I just don't have a lot of sexual drive. I can see that it's starting to affect our relationship. Even though I have told her I still love her, she sees my lack of sexual drive as rejection. I don't want to lose her over something I can't control. I have been through this before, and I know my libido will come back, but I can't say when. How can I get her to hang in there with me?
— Baggy Boxers

First of all, switch to briefs. You don't want your junk clanging around down there like the Bells of St. Mary's just because you have some neurotic aversion to elastic. Your privates should never be out wandering the neighborhood like a latchkey kid or a free-range chicken. You never want to have to ask yourself, "Do I know where my junk is?" only to realize it's crawling out the gaping leg hole of your shorts when you pick up your toddler from day care. Boxer shorts are only appropriate for two occasions: frat parties and when you are too self-conscious to sleep naked. That's it. Otherwise, you save your money and just go commando.

Now, I think we can both agree that the sound of your flaccid penis slapping against your thigh probably isn't the only thing killing your libido. Antidepressants can definitely have a deleterious effect as well. Even though I'm not an actual doctor, I have read enough to confirm that is a fact, so I won't insult you by suggesting that you get with your physician and try to adjust your dosage or type of medication to achieve a more acceptable outcome. If you're doing OK mentally and are confident that the lull in your libido is a temporary thing, stick with the program. Remember: When the oxygen mask drops, you use it on yourself first and your penis second – or whatever it is you're trying to save.

But yes, it absolutely does suck that your sex drive has waned, and it's not hard to imagine that your girlfriend might be taking it personally. If you haven't already, explain to her as clearly and succinctly as you can why you think your sex drive has waned. Make sure she knows that it hasn't negatively affected your feelings for her or commitment to your relationship. Great! Now that that's out of the way, you need to know that talk is cheap and you're not getting off the hook that easily.

Your girlfriend is clearly feeling a lack of intimacy, and just because you're not breaking her spine every night with your rock-hard, jackhammer penis doesn't mean you can't share intimate moments that make her feel special. In fact, you can make her feel special and satisfy her needs without having any sex drive at all. You don't need a turgid member to perform cunnilingus. You have all the tools you need to both get her aroused and give her orgasms – and if you don't, buy some! Even still, I would be willing to bet that if you go down on her for 30 minutes or so three times a week, she will feel special and valued and closely connected to you. Plus, when your libido finally does come back, you'll be the happy recipient of her gratitude! Anyway, it's worth a try. Give it a couple of years to make sure it's working, though. Nobody likes a quitter.

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

Denmark produces as many as 12 million Christmas trees a year, and about 10 million of those go to other countries.

"Auld Lang Syne" is an old Scottish poem that translates literally to "old long since," but its meaning is closer to "times gone by."

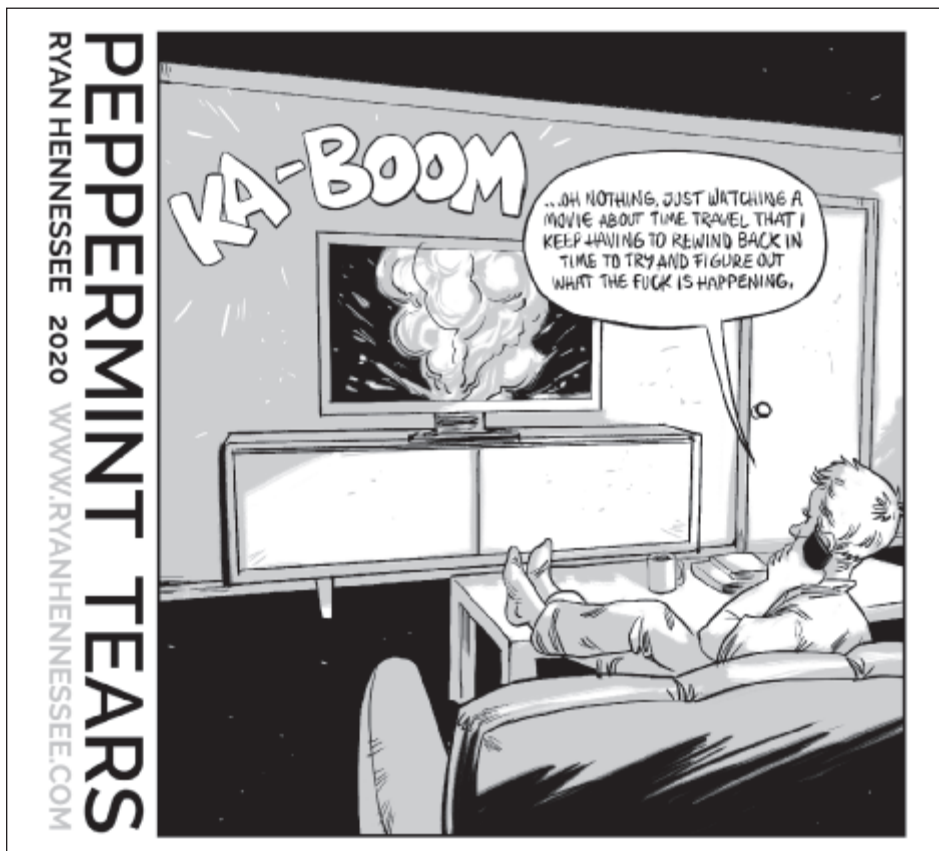
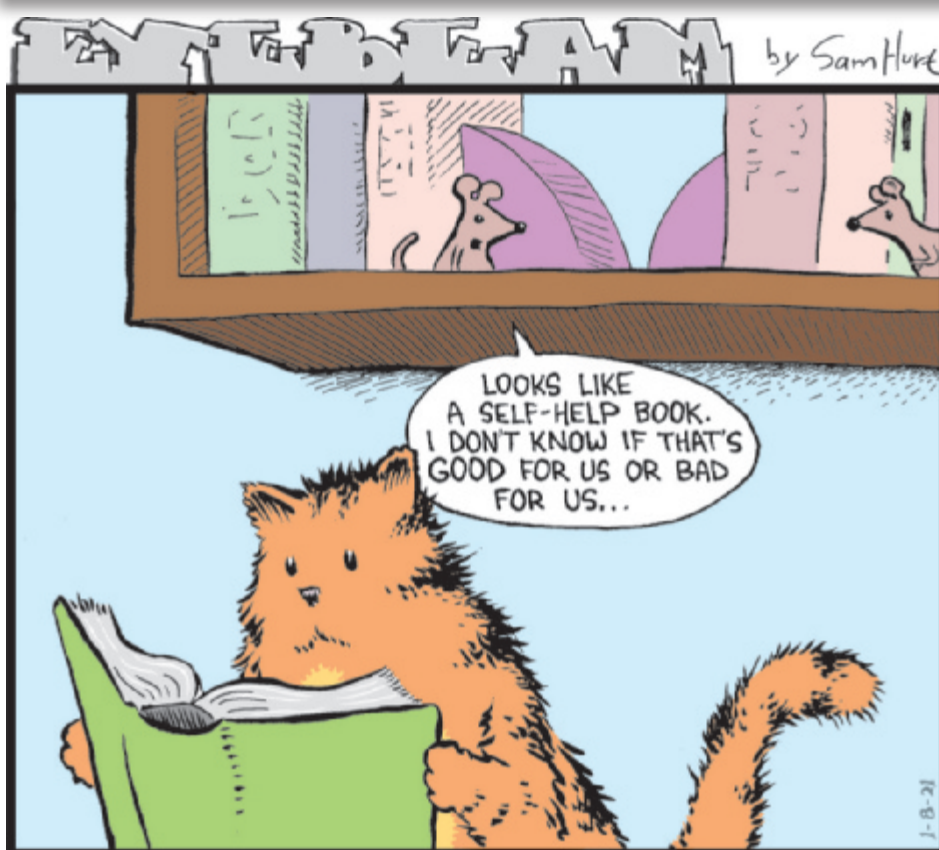
Charles William Post, inventor of Grape-Nuts Cereal, also founded the city of Post, Texas. Post tried to have explosives detonated in the atmosphere to artificially create rain there. The experiments failed.

According to the Transportation Security Administration, in 2019 the agency found an average of 85 firearms a week at airport security checkpoints, for a record of 4,432 guns for the year. As of July 2020, the rate was three times higher than July 2019, despite reduced travel caused by the pandemic.

In 1794, Welsh inventor Philip Vaughan was the first person to receive a patent for the ball bearing.

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



COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER - FRONT END (AUSTIN, TX)
Resp. for building next gen. Scheduling, Practice Mgmt. & Referral Mgmt. solutions. Contribute to accurate, unambiguous tech dsgn specs. Resumes to athenahealth, Inc. HR at asantamour@athenahealth.com, Ref#: 478427.

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MEDICAL

CAREGIVER NEEDED
Searching for caregiver or live in caregiver. No experience needed. Hiring now \$10/hr. Call 512-486-0931

EMPLOYMENT
Looking for a new job? Have to hire a new employee? Check out the great job opportunities in this week's Austin Chronicle. If you would like information on how to place an ad, call 454-5765.

PROFESSIONAL

PIANO AND THEORY INSTRUCTOR (AUSTIN, TX)
Teach private piano lessons to students of all ages and abilities. Teach group Music Theory classes music to students of all instruments. Attract and retain piano students. Collaborate with faculty to write innovative curricula and lesson plans. Travel once or twice annually within the U.S. for music teacher conferences. Must have Master's Degree in Music, with a major in Piano, and documented experience

of performance as a Pianist and Choir Accompanist on at least 5 separate occasions. Mail CV to Klondike Steadman, Orpheus Academy of Music LLC, 3918 Far West Blvd, Ste C, Austin, TX 78731.

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.



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LEGAL NOTICES CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Origen LLC dba Ma'Coco, to be located at 501 Comal St. Austin, TX 78702, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation Origen LLC are Javier Magana.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Fifth and Brazos Beverage Manager LLC d/b/a Thompson Hotel located at 506 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, Travis County, TX 78701. Manager and Members of said limited liability company are Brian D. Gordon, Manager/Member and Omar Palacios, Member.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-19-007618 To: SIMON LUNA VAZQUEZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at

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, 353RD 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 1ST AMENDED PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on APRIL 6, 2020, and said suit being number D-1-FM-19-007618 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUADALUPE ALVARADO and SIMON LUNA VAZQUEZ, and In the Interest of SIMON ISIDOR LUNA, A CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right. The 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. VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
RAUL GARCIA
PO BOX 140028
AUSTIN, TX 78714-0028
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 828-7956
FAX: (512) 828-7990
PREPARED BY: JESSICA CORTEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-005101 To: LISA MARIE GONZALEZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at

or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP OF MANUEL VILLALOBOS and MARIA C. VILLALOBOS Petitioner(s), filed in said court on SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, against LISA MARIE GONZALEZ Respondent (s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-005101 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF A.M.V., N.C.V., AND A.M.V. CHILDREN", the nature of which suit is a request PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP. 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, December 30, 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
IRIS AGNES ALBIZU-RIVERA
111 W. ANDERSON LN., STE. D-207
AUSTIN, TX 78752
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 861-5638
FAX: (866) 584-6996
PREPARED BY: STANFORD ZELDA

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-006271 To: OMAR VAZQUEZ VIVERO and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 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 ORIGINAL PETITION FOR TERMINATION AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN, TRAVIS COUNTY

STANDING ORDER of ENEYDA RIVERA CARBAJAL AND RODRIGO RUIZ Petitioner(s), filed in said court on NOVEMBER 10, 2020, against OMAR VAZQUEZ VIVERO Respondent (s), and said suit being entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF J.V.R. AND E.V.R. CHILDREN", the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship and for adoption. The Name, Birth date, and Place of Birth of said is as follows:
JONATHAN VAZQUEZ RIVERA SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
UNKNOWN TO CLERK
ELIZABETH VAZQUEZ RIVERA MAY 28, 2011
UNKNOWN TO CLERK
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, December 30, 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
TANIA KARINA ROSAMOND
111 W. ANDERSON LANE E316
AUSTIN, TX 78752
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 971-8549
FAX: (512) 233-1765
PREPARED BY: CASAREZ LEANNE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Defendants Whose Address and Whereabouts are Unknown:
REGINALD PARKER, WALTER ROBINSON JR., CHARLES ROBINSON, NORMA ROBINSON, VANCE ROBINSON, JOHN ROBINSON, FREDDIE ROBINSON, BILLY MCMILLAN, JR.
Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: 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, 353RD 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 ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on DECEMBER 21, 2020, and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-007013 on

the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF ELVIA MARINA MENDEZ and ABNER JEZIEL LARA AND IN THE INTEREST OF A.M.L. AND D.A.L. CHILDREN, and In the Interest of ANDREA MARINA LARA AND DANIEL ALESSANDRO LARA, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right. The 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, December 29, 2020.

VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
TANIA KARINA ROSAMOND
111 W. ANDERSON LANE E316
AUSTIN, TX 78752
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 971-8549
FAX: (512) 233-1765
PREPARED BY: CASAREZ LEANNE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: all persons interested in the estate of AHLAME QOURZAL, Deceased.
AMINE QOURZAL, Applicant(s), filed in Probate Court Number 1 of Travis County, Texas, on December 30, 2020, an application for Determination of Heirship and for Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration upon the Estate of AHLAME QOURZAL, Deceased. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. JANUARY 11, 2021, which is the Monday next following the expiration of 10 days after the date of posting this citation. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this ap-

CARR, ROBERT J. LEE, JR., GARY LANTION, LARRY LEE, BENNIE LEE, LAURA GARRISON, WALTER ROBINSON, JR., CHARLES ROBINSON, SHERYL ROBINSON, JAMES ROBINSON, NORMAN ROBINSON, TANITHA BLACON-ROBINSON, HAROLD ROBINSON, JR., VANCE ROBINSON, LAUREN MCCLELLAN, JOHN ROBINSON, FREDDIE ROBINSON, JIMMY WASHINGTON, WILLIE WASHINGTON, MATTIE ARNOLD, BILLY MCMILLAN, JR., EARNEST MCMILLAN (INDIVIDUALLY AND AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF EDNAL MCMILLAN), AND JEANNIE CARTER, Defendants (Estate of Mary Lou Washington, Deceased, Cause No. C-1-PB-18-001076) (Estate of Charlie Washington, Deceased, Cause No. C-1-PB-18-0001077)
Filed in PROBATE COURT No. 1 on September 30, 2020. Given under my hand and seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on December 28, 2020.
Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ S. DELACROIX
Plaintiff's Attorney
Don E. Walden
8310 N. Capital of Texas Highway
Building One, Ste. 305
AUSTIN, TX 78731-1011
(512) 349-9595

CITATION BY PUBLICATION Application for Determination of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002564 in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas The State of Texas County of Travis
To all persons interested in the estate of AHLAME QOURZAL, Deceased.
AMINE QOURZAL, Applicant(s), filed in Probate Court Number 1 of Travis County, Texas, on December 30, 2020, an application for Determination of Heirship and for Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration upon the Estate of AHLAME QOURZAL, Deceased. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. JANUARY 11, 2021, which is the Monday next following the expiration of 10 days after the date of posting this citation. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this ap-

plication if they want to do so. To ensure consideration, any objection, intervention, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-20-002564, styled AHLAME QOURZAL on or before the above-noted date and time. The officer executing this citation must post a copy of this citation at the door of the Travis County Courthouse or at the location in or near the Courthouse where public notices customarily are posted. Citation must be posted for at least 10 days before the return day of the service, excluding the date of posting. The officer must return the original citation to the county clerk and state the date and location of the posting in a written return on the citation. Given under my hand and seal on DECEMBER 30, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: S DELACROIX

CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-20-007266 To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AVERY EUGENE MCCARVER, DECEASED
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 FEBRUARY 15, 2021, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION FOR PARTITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE TO DEFENDANT of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on DECEMBER 1, 2020, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number D-1-GN-20-007266, in which JOHN TAYLOR, TRUSTEE OF THE 1007 CHICON REVOCABLE TRUST Plaintiff(s), and OTIS DWAYNE MCCARVER AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AVERY EUGENE MCCARVER Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: JOHN TAYLOR, TRUSTEE OF THE 1007 CHICON REVOCABLE TRUST HAS SUE OTIS DWAYNE MCCARVER & ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AVERY EUGENE MCCARVER, DECEASED. IN THE SUIT, JOHN TAYLOR, TRUSTEE

CONTINUED
ON P.44

OF THE 1007 CHICON REVO-CABLE TRUST SEEKS TO PARTITION THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1007 CHICON STREET, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS 78702, LEGAL DESCRIBED AS LOT 1, BLOCK 8, GRANDVIEW ADDITION IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, DIVISION B, TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS, A FULLER DESCRIPTION OF THE SUIT APPEARS IN PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION FOR PARTITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE TO DEFENDANT ON FILE IN THE TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE. ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION FOR PARTITION OF REAL PROPERTY. REQUESTED BY: DANIEL FRANCIS BURKE, 14603 HUEBNER RD BLDG 32 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78230-5505 BUSINESS PHONE: (210)391-0741 FAX: (210) 672-4042 PREPARED BY: JIMENEZ, CHLOE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of DOLORES GONZALES, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-15-001556, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. CHARLES RODELA AND ROBERT RODELA filed an COUNTER-APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITION TO VIRGINIA HILLS APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND TO DECLARE HEIRSHIP in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on October 31, 2016, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of DOLORES GONZALES, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Court-house, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-15-001556, styled IN THE ESTATE OF DOLORES GONZALES, DECEASED, on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on December 30, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: G DALESSIO

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of MARK ANTHONY RUBIO, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002235, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. JOE JESSE PAZ, Applicant, in the above-numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 9th day of December, 2020 an APPLICATION FOR HEIRSHIP DETERMINATION of the said estate and requests that

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of RAUF SURENOGLU, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002235, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. JOE JESSE PAZ, Applicant, in the above-numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 9th day of December, 2020 an APPLICATION FOR HEIRSHIP DETERMINATION of the said estate and requests that

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of RAUF SURENOGLU, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002235, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. SULE SURENOGLU filed an

APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHI & ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION
in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on November 05, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of RAUF SURENOGLU, 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 Court-house, 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-20-002235, styled IN THE ESTATE OF RAUF SURENOGLU, 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 November 10, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ G DALESSIO

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of MARK ANTHONY RUBIO, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002523, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. THERESA RUBIO filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Administration in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on December 22, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of MARK ANTHONY RUBIO, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Court-house, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-20-002523, styled IN THE ESTATE OF MARK ANTHONY RUBIO, DECEASED, on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on December 23, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: B. HICKS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of RAUF SURENOGLU, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002235, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. JOE JESSE PAZ, Applicant, in the above-numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 9th day of December, 2020 an APPLICATION FOR HEIRSHIP DETERMINATION of the said estate and requests that

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of RAUF SURENOGLU, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002235, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. SULE SURENOGLU filed an

the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said FRANCES GARCIA PAZ, DECEASED, and their respective shares and interest in such estate. Said application may be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on or after the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Williamson County Justice Center in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court on or before above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved. Issued and given under my hand and seal of office at Georgetown, Texas, this the 10th day of December, 2020, Applicant's Attorney: Emily K. Smith 3001 Knox St., Suite 400 Dallas, TX 75205 Nancy E. Rister Williamson County Clerk 405 MLK Street, Box 14 Georgetown, Texas 78626 By: /S/ S. Klint, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PAMELA LAUREN BRANSON, DECEASED, Cause No. 21-0003-CP4, in County Court at Law #4 of Williamson County, 405 Martin Luther King Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626. KELLY LOUISE LOOP, Applicant in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5th day of January, 2021 an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PAMELA LAUREN BRANSON, DECEASED, and their respective shares and interest in such estate. Said application may be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on or after the first Monday next after the date of publication of this citation, at the Williamson County Justice Center in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court on or before above mentioned time and place and by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved. Issued and given under my hand and seal of office at Georgetown, Texas, this the 5th day of January, 2021, Applicant's Attorney: Joel H. Whitney 1250 S. Capital of Texas Highway Building 3, Suite 400 Austin, TX 78746 Nancy E. Rister Williamson County Clerk 405 MLK Street, Box 14 Georgetown, Texas 78626 By: /S/ S. Klint, Deputy

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES
FIRST NOTICE
2005 Volvo S40 CO-BB019 Plate VIN YV1MS382752120094 Picked on 1/02/21 from 1600 S. Mopac SB. Charges as of 1/2/20 are \$550.46 Towed to EZ Auto & Towing Service (Oak Hill Ln) 1830 Oak Hill Ln Austin, TX 78744 The Vehicle may be redeemed by proper owner or lienholder.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES
SECOND NOTICE
PURSUANT TO TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT,

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION UNLESS CLAIMED. GARAGE KEEPER: TRI-CITY TOWING, First Notice: YEAR: 2006 MAKE: CENTEX MODEL: TRAILER PLATE: NONE VIN: 5RHCT20226H903157

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES
PURSUANT TO 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-TEX TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC 205 FARLEY DRIVE AUSTIN, TX 78753 512-636-7443 0650246VSV WWW.TDLR.TEXAS.GOV 239820 2021 INTERNATIONAL TRACTOR BLUE 3HSDZA-PR6MN366678 TOWED FROM 10500 N IH 35 S/B PROPER AUSTIN, TX 12/30/2020 \$1,331.87

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy a landlord's lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on January 26, 2021, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 08:00 AM and continue until all units are sold. Lien sale to be held at the online auction website, www.storage treasures.com, where indicated. For online lien sales, bids will be accepted until 2 hours after the time of the sale specified.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 00190, 1800 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704, (512) 518-4734
Time: 08:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Alvarez, Daniela; Watson, Michelle; Holley, Kelly; Adkins, Tony; Herrera, Tony
PUBLIC STORAGE # 07007, 1213 W 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703, (512) 808-5509
Time: 08:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Landin Jimenez, Alejandro
PUBLIC STORAGE # 08431, 2121 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741, (512)514-3949
Time: 09:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Finley, Sumner
PUBLIC STORAGE # 08382, 5220 W Highway 290, Austin, TX 78735, (512) 649-5342
Time: 09:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Rodriguez, Madonna
PUBLIC STORAGE # 08455, 3911 Ranch Road 620 S, Bee Cave, TX 78738, (512) 277-3247
Time: 10:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Merzies, Monica; Fitzsimmons, Jon; Uribe III, Henry; Graber, Elma
PUBLIC STORAGE # 25611, 937 Reimli Street, Austin, TX 78751, (512) 264-7396
Time: 11:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Escobar-Tello, Laura; Degenhart, Charles; King, Harold; Stratton, John; Ortiz, Nickolas; Hill, Henry; Routh, Michael
PUBLIC STORAGE # 25926, 1321 W 5th St, Austin, TX 78703, (512) 537-9961
Time: 11:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Wood, Stephanie; Font Muadi, Jorge; Gudenias, Erik; Reza, Daniel
PUBLIC STORAGE # 29106, 1033 E 41st St, Austin, TX

78751, (512) 270-6933
Time: 12:30 PM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Quesada, Bryan; Hunter, Tonya; Govan, Tiffany; Hernandez, Breanna; Castillo, Teresa; Brown, Trent; LANG, Gregory; Vallejo, Christine; Browning, PierreLouis; Jeffries, Ronnie; Hairston, Stephan
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
"Pursuant to 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 of 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.storage treasures.com, which will end on January 27, 2021 at 10:00am.
Life Storage #276 2830 S. A.W. Grimes, Round Rock, TX 78664
512-310-0279
Tiffany Wom-Hslsd Gds/Furn Jose A Berrelez-Hslsd Gds/Furn Alicia Davis-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Boxes
Brandon Baum-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
Brenda Spencer-Hslsd Gds/Furn Stephen Barr-Hslsd Gds/Furn Juan G Cazares-Hslsd Gds/Furn
Life Storage #390 12835 Pond Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78729
512-250-5152
Jeremiah Johnson-Hslsd Gds/Furn Jason Hall-Hslsd Gds/Furn Jerrell Taylor-Hslsd Gds/Furn Naomi Fesler-Hslsd Gds/Furn
Life Storage #392 550 S. IH-35, Round Rock, TX 78681
512-238-6648
Justin Sink-Tools/Applnces Howard Harbert-Hslsd Gds/Furn Pedro Mavo-Bikes Randy Batzer-Hslsd Gds/Furn
Life Storage #429 2715 Sam Bass Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-3724
Ira Mitchell-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces Stephen Michaud-Hslsd Gds/Furn Deaza Gaston Ellis-TV/Stereo Equip, Boxes, DVD's, Bedframe
Life Storage #545 506 McNeil Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-7939
Demaso Tubac-Tools/Applnces, Landscng/Cnstrct Equip Justin Nacol-Hslsd Gds/Furn Chris Drake-Tools/Applnces, Off furn/Mach/Equip Craig Neely-Hslsd Gds/Furn Alice Collins-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces, Boxes
Cathy Blackson-Hslsd Gds/Furn
Life Storage #864 16700 RR 620 Round Rock, TX 78681
512-599-8840
Rudy Sanchez-Hslsd Gds/Furn Tomas Reyes-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces
David Jackson-Hslsd Gds/Furn David Jackson-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Off Furn/Mach/Equip, Tools/Applnces Patrick Willis-Hslsd Gds/Furn

Life Storage #971 2000 University Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78665
512-255-1110
Michel'e Smith-Hslsd Gds/Furn Michael Deese-Hslsd Gds/Furn
Life Storage #7109 3997 FM 1431 Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-5017
Kathy Marshall-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Off Furn/Mach/Equip, Actcng Rcrdrs/Sales Sampls, 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.storage treasures.com which will end on Thursday 01/21/2021 at 10:00am
Life Storage #8001 2150 Double Creek Dr Round Rock, TX 78664
(512)774-5905
Joseph Birdwell
Life Storage #8004 10201 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy Leander, TX 78641
(512)456-8106
Kristi Smith
Life Storage #8030 1714 E Parmer Ln. Austin, Tx 78754
(512)537-3412
Jordan S Kirkham, Lakeskia Davenport, Curtiss Williams, Megan Kirby, Joseph Lucero
Life Storage #8031 981 N Red Bud Ln Round Rock, TX 78665
(512)537-3481
Terrance Drayton, James D Shaw.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
At Devon Self Storage, 8008 S Congress Ave Austin, TX 78745 Stored vehicles will be sold to satisfy the Landlord's lien for rent and other charges in accordance with Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. Vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder via an online auction at www.storage treasures.com.
Santana Duran, 1975 GMC Bus VIN 16H4523A1285.
Abundio Lopez, 2001 Wanderer Lite Travel Trailer VIN 4XTT24281C228672.
Evaristo D. Torres, 1963 Ford Galaxy VIN 3D5X2113141.
Online bidding will begin on January 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM and will continue until January 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM at which time a high bidder will be determined.
Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids.
Please refer to www.storage treasures.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE MORNINGSTAR STORAGE - LAKE TRAVIS IN AUSTIN, TEXAS HEREBY PUBLISHES NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, OF A PUBLIC 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.STORAGEACTIONS.COM ON JANUARY 19, 2021 @ 10am. Units below:
#3029 Sonia Linares- sleeping bag, new Coleman stove, camping
#3094 Erika Mora- gas grill, TV, rugs

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, an online public

auction to satisfy a landlord's lien will be held at www.storage treasures.com. Sale by competitive bid ending on Tue 01/26/2021 at 10:00 AM. Property will be sold by the unit to the highest bidder for cash. \$100 clean-out deposit per unit will be required. All purchases are sold as is and must be removed within 48 hours of the time of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation up to the time of sale. Company reserves the right to refuse any online bid. Property sold includes the following contents:
Great Value Storage, 10013 RR FM 620 N, Austin, TX 78726 (512-331-1022)
Louis Rivas - furn, apls, tools, notes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Security Self Storage, under Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives Notice of Sale under Said Act, to wit: ON FEBRUARY 19, 2021 at 2 PM, at 10210 N Lamar, Austin, TX 78753, Security Self Storage will conduct a sale on Lockerfox.com prior to the sale date for each unit in its entirety to the highest bidder for cash, of the contents of the following units to satisfy a landlord's lien. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any property from sale. The public is invited to bid on said units.
Juan Fuentes: bed frame, mattress, luggage, boxes, misc items.
Jonathan Herrera: totes, toys, vacuum, clothes, misc household items.
Misty Suarez: vacuums, shelves, boxes, furniture, household appliances, toys, misc household items.
Misty Suarez: boxes, totes, furniture, clothes, shelves, misc household items.
Lazaro Cruz-Velazquez: tires, power tools, car parts, fishing pole, misc items.
Seamus Campbell: art, totes, printers, radio, tennis rackets, misc items.
Tasha Coz: boxes, chair, drawers, bags, misc items.
Emily Danielle Romero: furniture, boxes, DVDs, bed frame, vacuum, misc items.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 27th 2021 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storage treasures.com: **CubeSmart 2701 FM 1460 Georgetown TX 78626:** Gilbert Gibbs

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 1/20/2021 at approx. 9:30AM at www.storage treasures.com: **610 E Stassney Ln, Austin, TX 78745:** Laura Nixon, L. Nixon, David Rodriguez, Tabitha Brennan, Richard Hernandez Jr.; **10025 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748:** C. Long, Christine Long, Joe Cifelli, Jon Leonard, Rosetta Cervantez; **1905 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78744:** Luis Ivan Aguilar Olvera, Ahmad Haywood, Anthony January, Janie I. Guerrero; **6130 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741:** Ashley Brooke Tochar, Arthur Gatica, Rachel Richter, Veronica Ruiz, Viridiana Cortez; **2701 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704:** John Joe Preston; **701 Philomena Dr, Kyle, TX 78640:** Sherard Sorrells, Andrew Pirkle; **21400 IH 35, Kyle, TX 78640:** Isis Alatorre, Isis Anel Alatorre, Matthew Millard, Reid Dixon, Amanda Wiggins, Chris Jones; **5141 Cromwell Dr, Kyle, TX 78640:** Matthew J Leeskamp, Matthew Harper, Jacob Lucio, Kesa J Larson, Nathan G Allen, Nathan Gabriel Allen, Luis E Macias, Luis Enrique Macias

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy a landlord's lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on January 25, 2021, the personal property in

the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 08:00 AM and continue until all units are sold. Lien sale to be held at the online auction website, www.storage treasures.com, where indicated. For online lien sales, bids will be accepted until 2 hours after the time of the sale specified.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 20148, 8101 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 643-4430
Time: 08:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Miller, James; Silvestre, Laura; Traver, Ellis; HBMG Inc. Zarate, Manuel; Connor, Charles; bulhelezi, Skhumbuzo; Jackson, Michael; Parra Pacheco, Andres; Quiroz, Manuel; Easton II, Richard; JONES, OL- AMISHIA; Martinez, Juventina; Johnson, Bill; Aldaco, Brandon
PUBLIC STORAGE # 24316, 8525 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 649-2373
Time: 08:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Rodriguez, Osiel; Montoya, Lillie; Rosario, Maria; Earls, Earlene; Michael, Lizette; Puckett, Robert; Hall, Israel

PUBLIC STORAGE # 20407, 8128 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 402-3786
Time: 09:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Allen, Jerry; Vonan, Bigo; Fernando, Rubi; Duvision, John; Mohamed, Zahir; Diaz, Jose
PUBLIC STORAGE # 23709, 9205 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758, (512) 956-4324
Time: 09:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Haynes, Nicholas; Scott, Ernest; Corbin, Kimberly; RODRIGUEZ, ALBERTO; Hernandez, Ishmael; Anderson, Skyler; Mister Tramps McBride, Michael Brandon
PUBLIC STORAGE # 20199, 10931 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758, (512) 649-1307
Time: 10:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Humphries, John; Moore, Anne; Beall, Lisa
PUBLIC STORAGE # 07002, 12915 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78750, (512) 649-5152
Time: 10:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
woods, Tesa; Thornton, Laki-sha; woods, Tesa

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08428, 13675 N US Highway 183, Austin, TX 78750, (512) 643-4289
Time: 11:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Jefferson, Norman; Lotts, Vivian; Texas Roadhouse Zuniga salas, Francisco; Felkner, Christopher; Richardson, Charles; Duarte, Anna
PUBLIC STORAGE # 26538, 12342 Ranch Rd 620 N, Austin, TX 78750, (512) 593-5286
Time: 11:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Booth, Jessica Anne; Perez, Armando; Bartholomae, Lindsay; russell, john
PUBLIC STORAGE # 25790, 9420 Spectrum Dr, Austin, TX 78717, (512) 364-0620
Time: 12:00 PM
Sale to be held at www.storage treasures.com.
Morris, Tim; Zarco Sr., Robert; McNamara, Graham
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on January 27, 2021, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 09:00 AM and continue until all units are sold. Lien sale to be held at the online auction website, www.storageareas.com, where indicated. For online lien sales, bids will be accepted until 2 hours after the time of the sale specified.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 77508, 16091 S IH 35, Buda, TX 78610, (512) 361-2479
Time: 09:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Wallace, Tyler B; Garcia, Nancy; Silva, Jacobo

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08416, 9814 West Gate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748, (512) 910-2850
Time: 09:15 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Martinez, Nicolas; Dellere, Spencer; Salas, Marciella; west Oaks rehabilitation and healthcare center Boucher, Erick; west Oaks rehabilitation and healthcare center Boucher, Erick; Davis, Devin

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24401, 7200 S 1st Street, Austin, TX 78745, (512) 298-3228
Time: 09:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Davis, Marquel; Torres, Eric; Kimpfe, Lauren; Carson, Julia; Quevedo, Emily; Martinets, Renee; Amador, Macheall; Mustol, James; Asevedo, Jade; Garza, Dorothy; Kinny, Julius; Domingues Torres, Joyce; narter, timothy; Serrialle, Letitia

PUBLIC STORAGE # 20149, 7112 South Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78745, (512) 236-5541
Time: 09:45 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Cronin, Tammy M.; Martinez, Pete; sparks, Diann; Garza, John; Ybarra, Anthony; Hernandez, Francis; Silva, David; Rodriguez, Ruben; Headsept, Sammie; Jones, Brenda; Valdez, Mary; Atherton, Shannon

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25612, 4202 Santiago Street, Austin, TX 78745, (512) 298-1374
Time: 10:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Jones, Micheal; Gonzales, Ramona; Day, Rainy; Stump, Michael; Cavazos, Laura; Amando, Dina; Wilson, Rosie

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24315, 2301 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741, (512) 956-4612
Time: 10:15 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Molina, Victor; Barrera, Regina; Martinez, David; Wiggins, kearra M; Butler, Malcolm; Smith, Mahnaz; Gonzalez, Mario

PUBLIC STORAGE # 77526, 2401 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741, (512) 710-3488
Time: 10:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Brazil, Latricia; Wyszocki, Katherine; Bouldin, Billy

PUBLIC STORAGE # 21193, 5016 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741, (512) 593-5021
Time: 11:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Stubbis, Lacy; Freeman, Lisa; Blackwell, Kimora; Wade, Diane
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy a landlord's lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on January 27, 2021, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 08:00 AM and continue until all units are sold. Lien sale to be held at the online auction website, www.storageareas.com, where indicated. For online lien sales, bids will be accepted until 2 hours after the time of the sale specified.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08415, 1517 Round Rock Ave, Round Rock, TX 78681, (512) 298-3648
Time: 08:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Hernandez, Kyle; Martin, Rachel; Wainwright, Terrell; Good-Kermans, Michael

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08451, 10001 North IH 35, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 792-2977
Time: 08:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Love, Marcus; Ortiz, Roxanne; Darby, Chardonay; Moore, Jacoby; Lopez Aguilar, Gabriela; Susana, Ines; baker, Jimmy

PUBLIC STORAGE # 21607, 10100 North I-35, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 643-4313
Time: 09:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Brooks, Nathaniel; Knox, Kerry; Perez, Irma; Lupercio, Josue; Verdine, Anthony; Snowden, winifred; Mitchell, William; Williams, Dwayne; Solis-Garces, Mithaela; McCorkle, Raffinee; Vasquez, Alice; Yahoshua, Aundrea

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25875, 19339 Wilke Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660, (512) 354-1259
Time: 09:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 26951, 251 N A W Grimes Bl, Round Rock, TX 78664, (512) 375-4632
Time: 10:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Williams, Faron; Lemard, Glen
PUBLIC STORAGE # 28224, 12318 N MoPac Expy, Austin, TX 78758, (512) 643-1785
Time: 10:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Bennett Jr., Jerrrell; Marshall, Sheba; Barreto, Jorge; Atzenhoffer, Bill; chabolla, Adrian; Rollins, Brandon

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29218, 2300 S Interstate 35, Georgetown, TX 78626, (512) 591-0842
Time: 11:00 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Hebrank, Brett; Nelms, PATRICIA M; Berkley, Laura; Twiner, Lauren; Davis, Vinesha; Silvers, Brent; rogers, napoleon

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29223, 14002 Owen Tech Blvd, Austin, TX 78728, (512) 402-8182
Time: 11:30 AM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Israni, Ashok; Snyder, Samuel; Quintanilla, Stephanie; pugh, joyace; Arabpour, Mazaher; Allen, Paris; Mireles, Shana; Williams, Lacie; Soto, Erica; Sundaram, Siranjani

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29225, 1501 Louis Henna Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78664, (512) 277-3236
Time: 12:00 PM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Trevino-Vences, Christina Marie; David, Darius; Pena, Maria; MILLIGAN, ALONZO; Haggerty, Johnny; Conner, Michelle; Pineda, Karina; Mitchell, Joshua; Warfield, Ashley

Time: 12:30 PM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Ha, Scott; Durden, Angelek; Leras, Michelle; Todd, Angela; sierra, Maria; Torres, Vanessa

PUBLIC STORAGE # 77509, 700 Victor Street, Austin, TX 78753, (512) 387-2196
Time: 01:00 PM

Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

Eastman, Destanie; hagar, rachel; Therkelms, Natalie
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks.

To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTA L. GORCHS

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002212, styled Estate of Rita Jo Hornak, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 21, 2020, to Delma Mae Enger.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of the attorneys at the address below. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Signed on December 30, 2020,
McGINNIS LOCHRIDGE LLP
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100
Austin, TX 78701

512-495-6079 Telephone
512-505-6379 Fax
ALLenner@mcginnislaw.com
By: /s/

Alyson S. Lenner
State Bar No. 24102081
Attorneys for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BARBARA J. KELLY AKA BARBARA JEANNE KELLY, DECEASED

Notice IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of BARBARA J. KELLY AKA BARBARA JEANNE KELLY, Deceased, were issued on December 29, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002249, pending in Probate Court No. One (1) of Travis County, Texas, to ANN MARIE DE LA TORRE. Claims may be presented in care of the attorneys for the Estate addressed as follows: Estate of BARBARA J. KELLY AKA BARBARA JEANNE KELLY, Deceased, c/o VACEK, KIECKE & COLMIENERO, LLP, P.O. Box 1845, Austin, Texas 78767. 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 BARBARA J. KELLY AKA BARBARA JEANNE KELLY, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jerry Jeff Walker, Deceased, were granted on the 22nd day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002205 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Susan Streit Walker, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Susan Streit Walker, Independent Executor, Estate of Jerry Jeff Walker, Deceased, c/o JACKSON WALKER LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BILLY BOB BROWN SR., DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Billy Bob Brown Sr., Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002040 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Valenda June Brown
The address of such Independent Executor is:
c/o Jordan M. Ware, Esq.
Winstead PC
401 Congress Avenue
Suite 2100
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JORGE ENRIQUE ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jorge Enrique Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002166 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Jorge Michel Acevedo, Independent Executor, Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor, Estate of Jorge Enrique Acevedo, Deceased, c/o JACKSON WALKER LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTA L. GORCHS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTA L. GORCHS were ordered issued on December 31, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002219 pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Andrew Christopher Gorchs. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

401 Congress Avenue

Suite 2100
Austin, Texas 78701
512-370-2837
512-370-2850 Fax
jware@winstead.com
By: Jordan M. Ware
State Bar No. 24049209
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID STEPHEN KEIM, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of David Stephen Keim, Deceased ("Estate") were granted to Jeffrey A. Keim on December 15, 2020 and issued to Jeffrey A. Keim on December 21, 2020, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002267, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Jeffrey A. Keim, as Executor of said Estate, in the care of the attorneys and at the address given below, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law:

Katherine C. Akinc
Alvin J. Golden
c/o Rigby Slack Lawrence
Berger Akinc Pepper + Comerford, PLLC
3500 Jefferson Street, Suite 330
Austin, Texas 78731

DATED this 5th day of January, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
RIGBY SLACK LAWRENCE
BERGER AKINC PEPPER + COMERFORD, PLLC
3500 Jefferson Street, Suite 330
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 225-6586 (Tel)
(512) 782-2060 (Fax)

By: /s/
KATHERINE C. AKINC
State Bar No. 24065738
kakinc@rigbyslack.com

ALVIN J. GOLDEN
State Bar No. 08079000
agolden@rigbyslack.com

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF H. ALLEN LARSEN.

- On December 15, 2020, Letters Testamentary as Independent Executor for the Estate were issued to Margaret M. Larsen by the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001876 pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court. All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, should present those claims within the time prescribed by law to:

Ruth Julianne DeBower
1073 Confluence Dr
Lakeway, Texas 78734
Attorney for Margaret M. Larsen,
Independent Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JERRY JEFF WALKER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002167 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor, Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, c/o Jackson Walker LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATSY ANN ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002228 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Julia Anne Crouch Garcia, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Julia Anne Crouch Garcia, Independent Executor, Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, c/o JACKSON WALKER LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TELLMOND HERDER RICHTER, DECEASED

The administration of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to John David Richter, on July 10, 2020, by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000259. In the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, In the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to John David Richter, Independent Executor, at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 8th day of January, 2021.

JASON S. COOMER
406 Sterzing, Second Floor
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 474-1477
(512) 474-1802 FAX
ProbateLawyer@TexasLawyers.com
State Bar No. 00793547
Attorney for John David Richter,
Independent Executor of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTA L. GORCHS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTA L. GORCHS were ordered issued on December 31, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002219 pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Andrew Christopher Gorchs. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TELLMOND HERDER RICHTER, DECEASED

The administration of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to John David Richter, on July 10, 2020, by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000259. In the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, In the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to John David Richter, Independent Executor, at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 8th day of January, 2021.

ENRIQUE ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jorge Enrique Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002166 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Jorge Michel Acevedo, Independent Executor, Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor, Estate of Jorge Enrique Acevedo, Deceased, c/o JACKSON WALKER LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTA L. GORCHS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTA L. GORCHS were ordered issued on December 31, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002219 pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Andrew Christopher Gorchs. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Mark William Middleton on December 31, 2020, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002199, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Mark William Middleton on December 21, 2020, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002199, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA DRY WARREN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Patricia Dry Warren, Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002030 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Billy D. Warren. Claims may be presented to the Executor, addressed as follows: Billy D. Warren Executor, Estate of Patricia Dry Warren c/o Don E. Walden 8310-1 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 305 Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this December 30, 2020, /s/Don E. Walden
Don E. Walden
Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATSY ANN ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002167 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor, Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, c/o Jackson Walker LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATSY ANN ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patricia Dry Warren, Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002030 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Billy D. Warren. Claims may be presented to the Executor, addressed as follows: Billy D. Warren Executor, Estate of Patricia Dry Warren c/o Don E. Walden 8310-1 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 305 Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this December 30, 2020, /s/Don E. Walden
Don E. Walden
Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATSY ANN ACEVEDO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, were granted on the 29th day of December, 2020, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002167 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows: Jorge Michael Acevedo, Independent Executor, Estate of Patsy Ann Acevedo, Deceased, c/o Jackson Walker LLP, Attn: Amanda L. Neinst, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TELLMOND HERDER RICHTER, DECEASED

The administration of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to John David Richter, on July 10, 2020, by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000259. In the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, In the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to John David Richter, Independent Executor, at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 8th day of January, 2021.

HERDER RICHTER, DECEASED

The administration of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to John David Richter, on July 10, 2020, by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000259. In the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter, Deceased, In the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to John David Richter, Independent Executor, at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 8th day of January, 2021.

JASON S. COOMER
406 Sterzing, Second Floor
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 474-1477
(512) 474-1802 FAX
ProbateLawyer@TexasLawyers.com
State Bar No. 00793547
Attorney for John David Richter,
Independent Executor of the Estate of Tellmond Herder Richter

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTA L. GORCHS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTA L. GORCHS were ordered issued on December 31, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002219 pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Andrew Christopher Gorchs. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Mark William Middleton on December 31, 2020, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002199, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Mark William Middleton on December 21, 2020, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002199, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA DRY WARREN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Patricia Dry Warren, Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for January 8-14

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I only want people around me who can do the impossible," said Capricorn businesswoman Elizabeth Arden. In that spirit, and in accordance with your astrological potentials, I hereby authorize you to pursue two "impossible" goals in 2021. The first comes to you courtesy of fashion writer Diana Vreeland, who wrote, "There's only one thing in life, and that's the continual renewal of inspiration." Your second "impossible" goal is from actor Juliette Binoche, who said, "My only ambition is to be true every moment I am living."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your past is becoming increasingly irrelevant, while your future is still a bit amorphous. To help clarify the possibilities that you could harvest in 2021, I suggest you suspend your theories about what your life is about. Empty yourself out as much as you can. Pledge to re-evaluate everything you think you know about your purpose. Once you've accomplished that, meditate on the following questions: 1) What experiences do you truly need and passionately long for - not the experiences you needed and longed for in the past, but rather those that are most vivid and moving right now? 2) What are the differences between your fearful fantasies and your accurate intuitions? How can you cultivate the latter and downplay the former? 3) What are your nightly dreams and semi-conscious fantasies telling you about how to create the most interesting version of the future?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Author Günter Grass wrote, "Writers know that sometimes things are there in the drawer for decades before they finally come out and we are capable of writing about them." I would universalize his thought in this way: Most of us know that possibly useful ideas and dreams are in the drawer for years before they finally come out and we know how to use them. I believe this will be an ongoing experience for you in 2021, Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The pandemic has made it challenging to nurture our communities. In order to make new connections and keep our existing connections vibrant, we've had to be extra resourceful. I hope you will make this work one of your holy quests in 2021, Aries. In my astrological opinion, you should be ingenious and tireless as you nurture your web of allies. Your assignment during our ongoing crisis is to lead the way as you show us all how to ply the art of high-minded networking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus actor George Clooney is worth \$500 million. Yet his dazzling opulence is puny compared to that of Taurus entrepreneur Mark Zuckerberg, whose fortune exceeds \$100 billion. It's my duty to inform you that you will probably never achieve either man's levels of wealth. Yet I do hold out hope that in the next 12 months you will launch plans that ultimately enable you to have all the money you need. 2021 will be a favorable time to formulate and set in motion a dynamic master plan for financial stability.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): One of your main themes for the next 12 months comes from Leonardo da Vinci. He wrote, "To develop a complete mind: Study the science of art. Study the art of science. Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else." If you use da Vinci's instructions as a seed for your meditations, you'll stir up further inspirations about how to make 2021 a history-making epoch in the evolution of your education. I hope you will treasure the value of "learning how to see" and "realizing how everything connects to everything else." They should be at the root of your intention to learn as much as you can.

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.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An extensive study by psychiatric researchers suggests that well more than half of us experienced a potentially disabling trauma in childhood. You're in the minority if you didn't! That's the bad news. The good news is that 2021 will be a time when you Cancerians will have more power than ever before to heal at least some of the wounds from your old traumas. You will also attract extra luck and help to accomplish these subtle miracles. To get the process started, make a list of three practical actions you can take to instigate your vigorous healing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo author Isabel Allende says, "We are in the world to search for love, find it and lose it, again and again. With each love, we are born anew, and with each love that ends we collect a new wound. I am covered with proud scars." I appreciate Allende's point of view, and understand that it's useful, even inspirational, for many people. But my path has been different. As a young man, I enjoyed my endless quest for sex and romance. It was thrilling to keep leaping from affair to affair. But as I eventually discovered, that habit made me stupid and superficial about love. It prevented me from having to do the hard psychological work necessary to continually reinvent intimacy - and become eligible for deeper, more interesting versions of love. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because I think 2021 could be your time for a personal rebirth that will be made possible by deep, interesting versions of love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Occultist Israel Regardie (1907-1985) was an accomplished author and influencer. To what did he attribute his success? I'll let him speak for himself: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." I hope you will write out this quote and tape it to your bathroom mirror for the duration of 2021, Virgo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Kabbalistic tree of life is a mystical symbol of the hidden structure of creation. At its heart, in the most pivotal position, is the principle of beauty. This suggests that the wise teachers who gave us the tree did not regard beauty as merely a luxury to be sought only when all practical business is taken care of. Nor is it a peripheral concern for those who pursue a spiritual path. Rather, beauty is essential for our health and intelligence. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to take a cue from the tree of life. During the next 12 months, give special attention to people and things and experiences and thoughts and feelings that are beautiful to you. Meditate on how to nurture them and learn from them and draw inspiration from them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): According to motivational speaker Les Brown, the problem for many people is not that "they aim too high and miss," but that "they aim too low and hit." I'm conveying this to you just in time for the Reach Higher Phase of your long-term astrological cycle. According to my analysis, you'll generate good fortune for yourself if you refine and expand your personal goals. Here's a key detail: Don't borrow anyone else's standards of success. Home in on your own unique soul's code, and give it fuller, deeper, wilder expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): One of my primary pleasures in reading books is to discover thoughts and feelings I have never before encountered. That's exciting! But it's hard to force myself to keep plowing through an author's prose if it's full of stuff that I already know about from my own life or from books, movies, and other art. Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky's novels fit the latter description. I realize that many people love his fiction, but for me it is monumentally obvious and boring. What about you, Sagittarius? Where do you go to be exposed to thrilling new ways of looking at the world? Judging from the astrological omens, I conclude that this quest will be especially fun and crucial for you in the coming months.

PARK & HOMER puzzles

House components

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 670

Across

1. "Planet of the _____"
5. ___ decent living
10. High-five, e.g.
14. Mardi Gras follower
15. De Mille of dance
16. Mrs. Dithers in "Blondie"
17. ** The easy life
19. Aid and ___
20. For all to hear
21. Bring down
23. Familia members
26. Warner ___
27. Bud
30. Storage places
32. Ryan of "Top Gun"
35. Bullfight cheers
37. The Buckeyes, briefly

38. Sling mud at
40. ** Acting riskily
44. "West Side Story" role
45. "The Matrix" hero
46. ___ knot
47. Hi-___ monitor
48. Pipsqueaks
52. It may be framed
53. Suit to ___
54. Lowly laborer
56. Some saints
59. Puts into piles
63. Cousin of a bassoon
64. ** Soapy leftovers
68. "Return of the Jedi" dancing girl

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20							21		22				
23				23		24	25		26				
27	28	29		30			31				32	33	34
35			36		37				38	39			
40				41			42	43					
44						45				46			
47				48	49	50			51		52		
53								54			55		
56	57	58							59		60	61	62
63					64		65	66	67				
68					69						70		
71					72						73		

69. Accused's need
70. Pour
71. Word that could follow the start of the starred answers
72. Sprite flavor
73. Omar of "Screen 2"

Down

1. Jessica of "Dark Angel"
2. Drink garnish
3. Opposite of ecto-
4. Hearty pint
5. Listening device
6. Before now
7. "ER" extras
8. Required
9. Declare with confidence
10. Lasting impressions
11. Par of 5-down
12. Greek war god
13. Taps
18. Money guarantor, for short
22. Sheriff's group
24. "...bump on ___"
25. "Eh"
27. Arctic or Antarctic
28. Skirt style
29. Some casual wear
31. Certain Muslim
32. News outlets
33. Avid
34. Terrific
36. Dog command
39. Assembled
41. Foul
42. Office fill-in

43. Bill Clinton's birthplace
49. Kind of tea
50. Flea market deal
51. McGwire's friendly home-run rival
53. Mr. T's group
55. ___ Dame
56. Drop anchor
57. Peck-___
58. Caramel candy brand
60. Cut the crop
61. Make a misstep
62. Identity theft targets: Abbr.
65. Comic Conway
66. "Oz" network
67. Take the gold

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.45

P.O. Box 249
Round Rock, Texas 78680
(512) 244-0001
FAX: (512) 244-9733
By: /s/ Wesley Prewitt
State Bar No. 24007872
ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of John Mills

Martin Deceased, were issued on or about December 31, 2020, under Docket No. C-1-PB-20-002110 pending in the Probate Court at Law No. 1 of Travis County, Texas to Mike Figier.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Mike Figier
Estate of John Mills Martin,

Deceased, c/o Charles E. Lance, Attorney at Law
3613 Williams Drive, Suite 102
Georgetown, Texas 78628
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 1st day of January, 2021.

By: /s/ Charles E. Lance, Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Ernest Roy Goforth, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 1, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001959 in the County

THE COMMON LAW

by Luke Ellis

Can President Trump Pardon President Trump?

Is it actually possible for President Donald Trump to pardon himself? How could that be allowed?

There's about two weeks left in the Trump presidency. He has already issued several controversial pardons. And now there's speculation regarding the possibility of President Trump "pre-emptively" pardoning his immediate family-member advisors, and even the possibility of him pardoning himself. Whether President Trump can pardon himself is an outstanding question that constitutional legal experts debate without consensus.

The presidential pardon power comes from the U.S. Constitution and allows the president "to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment." The authors of the Constitution believed the pardon power was a way to allow for the public good by an executive showing of clemency. This could be in the form of a commutation (reduction or elimination of a prison sentence) or a pardon (nullification of all legal consequences for an offense). The pardon powers have been broadly applied by courts in the past, although some legal scholars suggest that the founders wanted implied limits on the pardon power.

In practice, broad use of the pardon power has been permitted in the past. President Gerald Ford issued a "full, free, and absolute" pardon of Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed while he was president. And later that decade, President Jimmy Car-

ter pardoned thousands of citizens that had previously avoided a government-imposed requirement to serve in the Vietnam war. And in the last month of his presidency, Bill Clinton pardoned his brother, Roger Clinton, who had been previously convicted of a drug offense.

So, knowing all that - can Trump actually pardon himself? The Constitution doesn't directly address the issue. No president has ever done this before so there's no court case directly on point. Simply put, it's an open question. Some constitutional scholars believe Trump can pardon himself because of the broad nature of the pardon power. Others argue a preemptive pardon for himself is unconstitutional.

President Trump has alternatives if he wants to pursue a somewhat more legally defensible pardon. For example, he could resign before President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in and allow newly installed president Mike Pence to issue his pardon. Or he could try to accomplish the same result by using the 25th Amendment, which gives the vice president all presidential powers for a limited time when the president is temporarily disabled.

While courts would likely view the pardon power broadly, the power is not absolute. The pardon power only applies to federal crimes. And it only applies for crimes committed up to the time of the pardon - it's not a get-out-of-jail-free card to commit future crimes. So, for example, a preemptive pardon of President Trump, if legal, would not prohibit his prosecution for violations of state crimes nor would it insulate him if he violates federal laws in the future.

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.

Court at Law No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Charles Goforth. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Charles Goforth, Independent Executor Estate of Ernest Roy Goforth, Jr. c/o The Law Office of William H. Russell 4408 Spicewood Springs Rd. Austin, Texas 78759. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ANITA L. SPINDLER, A/K/A, ANITA LOUISE SPINDLER Deceased, were issued December 31, 2020, in Docket No. C-1-PB-20-002340, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to SUSAN E. HALL, Independent Executor. The residence for the Independent Executor is in Akron, Ohio. The mailing address is: c/o A. Lynn Tiemann Thompson & Tiemann LLP Attorney at Law 5203 Pony Chase Austin, Texas 78727 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 4th day of January, 2021. Respectfully submitted,

THOMPSON & TIEMANN LLP P.O. Box 201988 Austin, Texas 78720-1988 (512) 335-8800 Telephone (512) 335-2088 Facsimile Email: lynn@tiemann.com /s/ A. Lynn Tiemann Attorney and Counselor State Bar No. 20021500 ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of AUBREY L. KITCHENS, A/K/A AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, A/K/A AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, SR., Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001905, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, JR. and REX ALTON KITCHENS. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, JR. and REX ALTON KITCHENS, Co-Independent Executors, Estate of AUBREY L. KITCHENS, A/K/A AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, SR. c/o Lorenza G. Cigarroa, Attorney Dated the 4th day of January, 2021. /s/ Lorenza G. Cigarroa /s/ Attorney for Aubrey Lee Kitchens, Jr. and Rex Alton Kitchens State Bar No. 24105603

The Law Offices of Kyle Robbins, PLLC 3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78756 Telephone: (512) 851-1248 Fax: (512) 361-1806 Email: lorenza@kylerobbin-slav.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Elizabeth Ann Keyes, Deceased, were issued on December 29, 2020 under Docket No. 11,896, pending in the County Court, Bastrop County, Texas to Timothy Harold Acord. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Elizabeth Ann Keyes, Deceased c/o Terry L. Garrett, Esq. The Garrett Law Firm, PLLC 4408 Spicewood Springs Austin, Texas 78759. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harris Gene French, Deceased, were issued on December 10, 2020 in Cause No. 20-1075-CP4, pending in the County Court of Williamson County, Texas, to Wanda Lynn Gibson, Executor. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to

present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims should be addressed in care of the Independent Executor's attorneys, Jackson Walker, LLP, c/o Michelle Rosenblatt, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of IMOGENE L. KITCHENS, A/K/A IMOGENE LOIS KITCHENS, Deceased, were issued on December 28, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001907, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, JR. and REX ALTON KITCHENS. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. AUBREY LEE KITCHENS, JR. and REX ALTON KITCHENS, Co-Independent Executors, Estate of IMOGENE L. KITCHENS, A/K/A IMOGENE LOIS KITCHENS c/o Lorenza G. Cigarroa, Attorney Dated the 4th day of January, 2021. /s/ Lorenza G. Cigarroa /s/ Attorney for Aubrey Lee Kitchens, Jr. and Rex Alton Kitchens State Bar No. 24105603 The Law Offices of Kyle Robbins, PLLC 3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78756

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARK CARROLL STEVENSON, Deceased, were issued on December 14, 2020 in Cause No. 20-0690-CP4, pending in the Probate Court, Williamson County, Texas, to: MARY M. STEVENSON, A/K/A MARY MARGARET STEVENSON, A/K/A MARY MARGARET GERACE.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. MARY M. STEVENSON, A/K/A MARY MARGARET STEVENSON, A/K/A MARY MARGARET GERACE, Independent Executor, Estate of MARK CARROLL STEVENSON. c/o Robert Kyle Robbins January 4, 2021 State Bar No. 24105719 The Law Offices of Kyle Robbins, PLLC 3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78756

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ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Ronald Carter Hughes, Deceased, were issued on December 30, 2020 in Cause No. C-1-PB-19-001806, by the Travis County Probate Court Number One to Monika K. Little, Independent Executor of the Estate of Ronald Carter Hughes. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Rose Cohen, Attorney at Law, 805 W. 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On December 31, 2020, Kristin Liautakul was appointed to serve as Independent Executor without requirement of bond or other security of the Estate of Wayland W. Bowser, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002296, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of Independent Executor is

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