

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

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VOL. 40 • NO. 26

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RIDERS AGAINST THE STORM

Hit Their Stride **P.54**
BY DEREK UDENSI

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ride on



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The Austin Chronicle (ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. 512/454-5766 ©2013 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.
Subscriptions: One year: \$110 2nd class. Half-year: \$60 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.

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54 RIDERS AGAINST THE STORM After ghosting the studio for the better part of a decade, hip-hop duo RAS finally drop long-awaited full-length *Flowers for the Living*
BY DEREK UDENSI



PHOTO BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

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

Don't Let Them Get Away With It

Starting the week with the sun on our faces, the air warm enough to allow for going barefoot in the grass, you could almost forget last week the temperature was in the single digits.

And they *want* you to forget.

I mean the people responsible – no, not for the weather but for the mismanaged response before, during, and after last week's winter storm catastrophe. That includes ERCOT and the energy providers who failed to adequately upgrade and winterize their equipment despite experience with a similar storm in 2011. And it includes the people running the government who show very little interest in actual governance, and have indeed actively campaigned on the promise of minimal government.

Today (Thursday, Feb. 25), the Texas House of Representatives Committee on State Affairs and Energy Resources will hold a joint public meeting to receive testimony on the statewide electrical blackouts; the response by the energy industry; and what changes are needed to avoid another energy crisis. You can watch the live broadcast at house.texas.gov/video-audio.



I understand the desire to move on, to put this behind us. But we need to keep putting these stories down for posterity – the harrowing experiences of millions in the cold, in the dark, without access to water or food, and the lives lost when people froze to death in their homes and on the street. Let's never forget how our state leaders failed us, and in how many ways.

"Government" isn't a dirty word, and we should stop electing politicians who think it is.

Music Editor Raoul Hernandez discovered Derek Udensi during his first semester teaching music journalism at UT back in 2018, and Derek interned at the *Chronicle* the following semester. This week he files his second cover story, a profile of Riders Against the Storm – aka husband-and-wife team – which isn't just a band but a force for good in our community. Find that story on p.54.

More on the "forces for good" front: A lot of locals went above and beyond during the storms. Show them your thanks by casting a vote for them in the *Chronicle's* annual "Best of Austin" Readers Poll at vote.austinchronicle.com. Voting ends March 8.

ONLINE THIS WEEK

SXSW TRAVELS EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SXSW Music announced Tuesday 106 more acts booked for the 2021 all-virtual fest: Rowdy Aussie punk trio the Chats, L.A. psych pop upstart Boyo, British dream pop duo Babeheaven, and South African folk singer Bongeziwe Mabandla. Performances are set to stream from far-flung locations including a Taoist temple, a cable car in Norway, and London's Abbey Road Studios.

... SPEAKING OF TRANSPORTATION Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg will speak at SXSW Online's conference, along with Kenan Thompson, George W. Bush, and more announced Wednesday.

OVER OLD WINTER The Djaltones turned the launch of new single "Young Summer" into a fundraiser for Austin Mutual Aid; find the video and the GoFundMe online.

FRANKLY, THEY DO GIVE A DRAM Wayne Alan Brenner waxes rhapsodic over Austin-made Frankly Organic Vodka.

A BLUMHOUSE HASIDIC HORROR Writer/director Keith Thomas discusses *The Vigil*, his supernatural horror film set in the Orthodox Jewish community.



Bongeziwe Mabandla



Pete Buttigieg

JANA BIRCHUM

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Feedback

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COMMENTS

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FROST DRILL

Dear Editor,

Good warmer morning!

Wise adults set up "fire drills" for young people, in order to train them to react quickly and properly in case of fire. When the temperature is excessively high, you can expect a call from the mayor's office, asking people to check on their elderly neighbors and to leave water for the pets. When electricity is cut off, lots of heating systems stop working. At that point, the population should be able to consult a chart that lets people know how long it will take the pipes to freeze at different temperatures. That kind of information should be printed on every calendar. A "frost drill" will then practice shutting off the water coming from the street, and also draining the water from the pipes inside the house. There is no running involved but the damages can be as costly as those caused by fire. The most important thing is to cut off the water supply before the

temperature rises above freezing. Some frozen pipes will not leak a single drop for days. Then just when the house feels warm again, comes the deluge. Water will make the floors buckle if you do not get rid of it soon enough. This is a giant setback for a lot of people. Sorry Texas!

Philippe Paul

THROUGH THE FOG

Dear Editor,

Upon reading the February 12th edition (and other various social media forums) it occurred to me that you receive a particularly large amount of people voicing criticism. In the example that prompted this email Lila O. was critical about the wait list for COVID-19 vaccinations. She wasn't specific in her complaint as to its regards (APH, WilCo, Bell County, Texas, Mars, etc.) but I'd like to remind Lisa and everyone else that the fee for any criticism is three compliments (thank you, Nana). So for Lisa ... great

penmanship, wonderful use of wait list as two words, and excellent use of technology/this forum to communicate.

I would personally like to compliment the volunteers working at APH and for how well the system is running given unprecedented times. I am also extremely impressed with WilCo's drive-up system. Love that we live in a city with smart people. I'm sure if left up to me and Lisa we'd be up a creek without a paddle. Onward through the fog!

Aaron Walsh

KY JELLY

Dear Editor,

I'm not understanding Greg Abbott's response to the electric companies gouging us due to failure. Giving us 10 years to pay back high-priced high-demand profiteering. Demand was high due to the failure of the system. A failure of government and ERCOT to weatherize the grid. You had the 2011 study and you voted it down in 2017. Did you expect us to turn off the heat in the middle of a cold snap?

You guys are trying to figure out how to be KY Jelly. How much can we screw Texans without them squeezing?

You guys need to choose big energy or us paycheck-to-paycheck Texans who voted for you. There is no in between on this one.

Let's get this straight. Y'all (big energy/big government) failed to weatherize the system. Y'all want us to accept the "I'm sorry there was nothing I could do" line yet when do y'all accept "sorry" in lieu of money for the electric bill or taxes? You want us to be cool with all the damage you caused and flip that bill, then on top of that y'all want us to be OK with the electric companies gouging us, and not a few cents [but] 70 times our normal bill?

ALL CAUSED BY YOUR FAILURE ... HELL NO. You need to choose Texans this time.

ERCOT and the electric companies, as does the government, need to be held financially accountable. That is the only way they will ever think "if I screw this up it is going to cost me money" in the future.

That is the only way the electric company executives in charge of ERCOT will put Texans first.

BTW, where did you think energy sector executives who run ERCOT would put their stock? Do they put Texans first? Or the energy companies (their companies) first? It is pretty obvious who is getting put first right now.

DON'T BE KY JELLY.

Roy Cantrelle

KEEPIN' IT AC FRESH

Dear Editor,

Huge thanks for everyone who worked hard this past crazy week to bring Austin Chronicle to print. I was surprised and happy to pick up a fresh copy from my local H-E-B. As a dedicated reader I commend each of you for making every publication a unique experience. Y'all rock!!

Brian Renel

GOOD ON YA

Dear Editor,

Good on ya, Chronicle. Thank you for your passion and dependability. Even through the Big Freeze, your dedicated staff put out a Chronicle for us. Grateful for your contribution to the Austin community!

Fancy Fairchild

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

To the Editor,

Before we even began to thaw out from this crisis, Governor Abbott was already blaming others for a catastrophe largely of his making. Calling for the resignation of the ERCOT CEO and board, he cunningly drew attention away from the fact that ERCOT answers to the Public Utility Commission, all three members of which were appointed by Abbott. The PUC in turn answers to the Texas Lege – mostly Republican.

The bigger problem is of course a system which allows Texas to not comply with federal regulations that in part require electric producers to have adequate excess energy stores for emergencies. The Texas system minimizes this storage as well as weatherization measures so as to maximize profit to the producers.

The buck stops with the governor. He and his appointed commissioners knew, as did his predecessor Rick Perry, that we were not adequately prepared for this. Now hundreds of thousands have suffered and some died, including, tragically, an 11-year-old boy who apparently froze to death in his bed. I call on Governor Abbott to resign.

Guy LeBlanc

TEXAS CAN

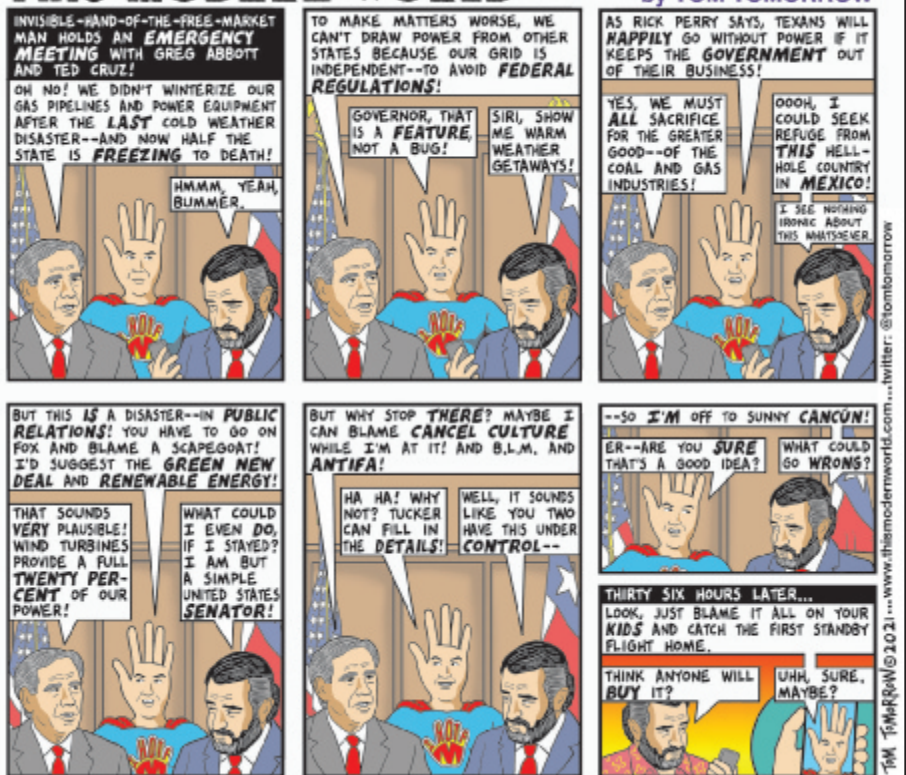
Dear Editor,

I am a Texan currently finishing a master's in power and electrical engineering at Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technical University in Aachen, Germany. This last week, I worried from afar as both my brothers and their families went without power for more than 24 hours. I worry about those who may not have been as prepared or fortunate as my brothers. This severe winter storm has revealed weaknesses in Texas' power grid. Even without extreme weather, rapid population growth is stressing Texas' aging power network. As Texas' power grid is isolated from other U.S. networks, we have an unprecedented opportunity to modernize our grid on our own. Renewable and alternative energy sources will continue to play a growing role in our infrastructure and Texas' power grid already needs to be fixed: I say we fix the system in a way that uses renewables in the most efficient way. A "smart" decentralized grid with distributed storage will not only improve the power network's efficiency, it could prevent millions from going without power in the next severe weather event. Texas is home to some of the best hardware and software manufacturers and universities in the world, and it is about to be home to one of the top lithium battery manufacturers: If anybody can do this, Texas can.

Paul Schleicher

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



THE PROBLEM IN TEXAS ISN'T REPUBLICANS – IT'S CAPITALISM

The *New York Times* published an article last week quoting William Hogan, Harvard professor of global energy policy and ERCOT market architect, on the climate crisis in Texas: “It’s not convenient. It’s not nice. It’s necessary.” Hogan is correct. The ongoing catastrophe is not a system failure – it is the necessary outcome of capitalist free markets functioning exactly as designed.

As we look for political answers, it can be tempting to cherry-pick from the most obviously heinous villains. There’s Ted Cruz, who tried to sneak in a trip to Cancun while nearly half his constituency didn’t have heat. There’s the newly elevated-to-infamy Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the 501(c)(4) lobbying organization and quasi-controller of the privatized statewide grid. Neither are blameless, but we cannot limit our scope to them. While Democrats and Republicans fire up the engine of their endless, pointless culture war, trading jabs about whether wind turbines or natural gas plants are to blame, we’re expected to take the normal Red Team/Blue Team sides. But we risk missing the forest for the trees: This is exactly how the system is designed to operate.

The free market promises efficiency, innovation, fully stocked shelves, and the lowest possible prices. Day-to-day, this system trucks along just fine – if you overlook the nearly 4 million Texans living in poverty, or the half of Austinites who struggle to pay rent. Labor unions, one of the few vehicles working class people have to fight for social and economic improvement, come under attack every time our legislature convenes Downtown.

But in times of crisis, the market will cease to fulfill needs. This is not an accident. It is the natural outcome of a system based on maximizing profit and minimizing consumer cost, a system that requires that the cost of operations be kept to a bare minimum. In some sectors, that looks like paying starvation wages. In the case of the Texas energy market, that looks like decades of deregulation, non-winter-

ized equipment, production of just enough energy to meet demand at any given time, and privately operated power-generating stations shutting down when people need them the most. By its own logic, the free market fails to fulfill its promises to society when pressed with any crisis. We had no power at my house for over 40 hours during a record-setting barrage of cold temperatures and winter storms. The power came back, but then the water was out, and there were dire warnings about the food supply crumbling. Almost half of Texans experienced similar or worse conditions that I did, and many have ongoing issues a full week after this crisis began. One of my neighbors, an elderly woman, told me last week that with no power, iced-over roads, and lows below 10 degrees, that she was afraid she would freeze to death in her home. This is a humanitarian crisis.

Wealthy officials holding press conferences from their luxury high-rise apartments or show ranches tell us that we’re all in this together. Meanwhile, working-class people sit in the dark and freeze. This is not solely a “Red State” problem. If you’re hoping that Democrats sweeping to power at the state level would remedy what ails Texas, look no further than recent crises in New York and California to see that they are not coming to save us. In deep-blue New York City, 2019 saw extended power outages in predominantly Black neighborhoods. In 2020, Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo sent COVID patients into nursing homes, causing over 15,000 deaths, and then covered up the full extent of the misery he created.

The frequency of crises caused by climate change is increasing. If we have any hope of a society that distributes the basic necessities for survival to meet human need, it will take more than charitable elites or green capitalism. It will take building independent political organizations run by and for working-class people to challenge the bipartisan free-market consensus. We need democratic control of our energy system and a plan to prevent the next catastrophe. It’s time for Texans to take back our power. ■

BY DAVE PINKHAM

Dave Pinkham is an electrical worker, member of IBEW Local Union 520, and member of Democratic Socialists of America’s national leadership body. Read more at www.powerfortexas.org.

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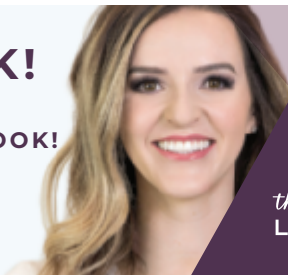


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Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

NIGHTLIFE

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Outdoor Venue _____
DJ _____
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Dive Bar _____
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Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

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Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

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Alternative Sports _____
Pro/Semi-Pro Sports Team _____
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Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

KIDS & FAMILY

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Summer Camp _____
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Youth Arts Program _____
Youth STEM Program _____
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Real Estate Agent _____
Apartment Locator _____
Lawyer _____
Veterinarian _____
Doggie Day Care _____
Pet Grooming _____
Wedding Venue _____
Online Adult Education _____
Most Innovative Pivot _____
Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

POLITICS & MEDIA

Print Publication _____
Online Media Outlet _____
Radio Station _____
Radio Program _____
Spanish-Language Radio Station _____
Radio Host _____
Podcast _____
TV News _____
TV Anchor/Reporter _____
Sportscaster _____
Weatherperson _____
Journalist _____
Film Critic _____
Food Writer _____
Photographer _____
Online Personality _____
City Official _____
State Official _____
Nonprofit/Grassroots Org _____
Activist _____
Local Controversy _____
Most Innovative Pivot _____
Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

SHOPPING

Men's Clothing _____
Women's Clothing _____
Vintage/Consignment Clothing _____
Bridal Shop _____
Jewelry _____
Furniture/Accessories _____
Used Furniture/Antiques _____
Garden Store/Nursery _____
Florist _____
Neighborhood Grocery _____
Farmers' Market/Farmstand _____
Liquor Store _____
Adult Store _____
Smoke Shop _____
CBD Purveyor _____
Pet Store _____
Bookstore _____
Electronics Store _____
Sporting Goods _____
Comics/Fandom _____
Game/Gaming _____
Record Store _____
Arts and Crafts Store _____
Austin Gifts/Souvenirs _____
Monthly Subscription Box/Service _____
Most Innovative Pivot _____
Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) _____

PLACES WE MISS

Tell us which Austin establishment lost during the pandemic you miss the most: _____

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SXSW
ONLINE



Loco



Demi Grace



Baker Boy



Camryn

Here's the second wave of genre-spanning artists from around the globe performing at SXSW Online 2021:

404 Guild | Eastbourne UK-ENGLAND | Hip-Hop / Rap
Adwaith | Carmarthen UK-WALES | Punk
Afro Cluster | Cardiff UK-WALES | Hip-Hop / Rap
Afronaut Zu | London UK-ENGLAND | World
Ailbhe Reddy | Dublin IRELAND | Singer-Songwriter
Altin Gun | Amsterdam NETHERLANDS | Folk
 Aoife Nessa Frances | Dublin IRELAND | Rock
Awich | Okinawa JAPAN | Hip-Hop / Rap
Babeheaven | London UK-ENGLAND | Pop
Baby Queen | London UK-ENGLAND | Pop
Baker Boy | Melbourne AUSTRALIA | Hip-Hop / Rap
Best Move | Sacramento CA | Rock
Black Country, New Road | Cambridge UK-ENGLAND | Avant / Experimental
Bongeziwe Mabandla | Johannesburg SOUTH AFRICA | World
BOYO | Los Angeles CA | Pop
Br3nya | London UK-ENGLAND | Hip-Hop / Rap
Buzzard Buzzard Buzzard | Cardiff UK-WALES | Rock
Camilla George | London UK-ENGLAND | Jazz
Camryn | Denver CO | Pop
Carson McHone | Austin TX | Americana
The Chairs | Taipei TAIWAN | Folk
The Change | Santo Domingo DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Latin
The Chats | Sunshine Coast AUSTRALIA | Punk
Chief Cleopatra | Austin TX | Rock
Choses Sauvages | Montreal CANADA | Rock
Christian Pagán | San Juan PUERTO RICO | Pop

Chubby and the Gang | London UK-ENGLAND | Punk
Couch Prints | New York NY | Pop
D.A.N. | Tokyo JAPAN | Rock
Dasom Baek | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | World
Dead Pony | Glasgow UK-SCOTLAND | Rock
The Deer | Austin TX | Rock
Demi Grace | New York NY | World
DeVita | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | R & B
DJ Wegun | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | Hip-Hop / Rap
DL D | Naucalpán de Juárez MEXICO | Latin
Doom Cannon | London UK-ENGLAND | Jazz
Drug Store Romeos | Fleet UK-ENGLAND | Rock
Enjoyable Listens | Oxford UK-ENGLAND | Avant / Experimental
Enyel C | San Juan PUERTO RICO | Latin
THE GOA EXPRESS | Manchester UK-ENGLAND | Rock
Greyhounds | Austin TX | Rock
Hachiku | Melbourne AUSTRALIA | Pop
Haru Nemuri | Yokohama JAPAN | Singer-Songwriter
Heave Blood & Die | Bodø NORWAY | Metal
Holy Wave | El Paso TX | Pop
Iceage | Copenhagen DENMARK | Rock
IDER | London UK-ENGLAND | Pop
I See Rivers | Bodø NORWAY | Pop
Jade Jackson & Aubrie Sellers | Los Angeles CA | Americana
Jaguar Jonze | Brisbane AUSTRALIA | Pop
JAMBINAI | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | Rock
JaRon Marshall | Austin TX | Hip-Hop / Rap

Johnny Aries | Margate UK-ENGLAND | Rock
Jovem Dionisio | Curitiba BRAZIL | Pop
J Soulja | Austin TX | Hip-Hop / Rap
Just Mustard | Dundalk IRELAND | Rock
Kapil Seshasayee | Glasgow UK-SCOTLAND | Singer-Songwriter
Katie Cole | Nashville TN | Americana
Kevin Galloway | Austin TX | Americana
Khalia | Kingston JAMAICA | Reggae
Kinky | Monterrey MEXICO | Latin
Kosha Dillz | Brooklyn NY | Hip-Hop / Rap
Kota Banks & Ninajirachi | Sydney AUSTRALIA | Pop
Lambert | Berlin GERMANY | Pop
The Lazy Eyes | Sydney AUSTRALIA | Rock
Loco | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | Hip-Hop / Rap
Lord Friday the 13th | Austin TX | Punk
Luke Howard | Melbourne AUSTRALIA | Classical
Mae Powell | San Francisco CA | Singer-Songwriter
Magdalena Bay | Los Angeles CA | Pop
Mama Duke | Austin TX | Hip-Hop / Rap
Mariana Bo | Culiacán MEXICO | Latin
Matilda Mann | London UK-ENGLAND | Folk
MEMES | Glasgow UK-SCOTLAND | Punk
Merk | Auckland NEW ZEALAND | Pop
millennium parade | Tokyo JAPAN | Avant / Experimental
Nadia Reid | Dunedin NEW ZEALAND | Folk
Nani | Caracas VENEZUELA | Latin
Neighbor Lady | Atlanta GA | Rock

NinoMan | Harlem NY | Hip-Hop / Rap
No Joy | Montreal CANADA | Avant / Experimental
Novi | Ashland OR | Pop
Onipa | Sheffield UK-ENGLAND | Electronic
Oter | Tromsø NORWAY | Hip-Hop / Rap
OZAS | Tromsø NORWAY | World
Penelope Isles | Brighton UK-ENGLAND | Rock
Phoebe Green | Manchester UK-ENGLAND | Pop
porij | Manchester UK-ENGLAND | Dance
Rachael Lavelle | Dublin IRELAND | Avant / Experimental
Randy Randall | Los Angeles CA | Avant / Experimental
Rob Markman | Brooklyn NY | Hip-Hop / Rap
Sasha and the Valentines | Austin TX | Pop
The School | Cardiff UK-WALES | Pop
Srourge | London UK-ENGLAND | Punk
Sebastian Plano | Rosario ARGENTINA | Classical
sogumm | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | R & B
Sophie Hutchings | Sydney AUSTRALIA | Classical
Steven Bamidele | Brighton UK-ENGLAND | R & B
Sycco | Brisbane AUSTRALIA | Pop
Travis Birds | San Juan PUERTO RICO | Pop
Van Mary | Austin TX | Rock
Vero | Stockholm SWEDEN | Rock
Villano Antillano | San Juan PUERTO RICO | Hip-Hop / Rap
Woo | Seoul SOUTH KOREA | Hip-Hop / Rap
Ximena Sarifiana | Mexico City MEXICO | Latin

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Charles Yu



Ava DuVernay



Pete Buttigieg



Kathleen Rubins

Check out these artistic and industry luminaries speaking at SXSW Online 2021:

Best selling author and television writer and SXSW Online Keynote **Charles Yu**; writer, director, producer and film distributor **Ava DuVernay**; United States Secretary of Transportation **Pete Buttigieg**; and NASA Astronaut **Kathleen Rubins**.

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“Our people are going hungry and we refuse to accept it.”

– Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Harper-Madison in a Feb. 21 tweet addressing council members’ demands for citywide food distribution (see p.14)



JOHN ANDERSON

HEADLINES

CITY COUNCIL CONVENES today (Thursday, Feb. 25) for a special called meeting to consider several items related to recovery and relief efforts in the wake of last week’s catastrophic **winter storms**. See p.14 for our preview.

WTF HAPPENED, Y’ALL? Both chambers of the Texas Legislature are holding hearings today to dive into what led to the system failures that left millions of Texans without power for several freezing days. The **Senate Business and Commerce Committee** and the **House State Affairs and Energy Resources committees** (meeting jointly) will commence the fireworks displays at 9am; while they’re only taking invited testimony, you can comment online via each chamber’s website.

AND WHO’S TO BLAME? Travis County District Attorney **José Garza** said he is opening a **criminal investigation** to determine whether any entities or individuals should face charges following Texas’ power crisis. The **Travis County D.A.’s Office’s Public Integrity and Complex Crimes Unit** will investigate the matter, but Garza has not named any entities or individuals that his office is looking into specifically.

A SURPRISE TO NONE The GOP-led group **Save Austin Now** is now suing the city over the ballot language adopted by Council for its **Proposition B**, which would reinstate criminal consequences for homelessness, including a ban on **public camping** Downtown and near the UT campus. The group is helping three Austinites file suit in both the **3rd Court of Appeals** and the **Texas Supreme Court** arguing that the language distorts the initiative in an “attempt to intentionally bias voters against the public camping ban,” according to SAN. The proposition is on the May 1 ballot, and any revisions need to be made ASAP to meet election deadlines.

WITH NO POWER COMES LOW BILLS **Austin Energy** customers shouldn’t expect to see massive electricity bills as a result of the winter storm, said the city’s ratepayer-owned utility. Unlike competitive retail providers in other Texas cities that rely on **variable rate pricing**, which fluctuates based on swings in the wholesale energy market, **Austin Energy** uses **fixed rates** and only bills customers for their actual energy usage; if you lost power last week, then that usage should be zero for those days.

IRS EXTENSION FOR TEXANS All Texans now have until **June 15** to file their tax returns and make federal tax payments, the **Internal Revenue Service** announced this week. This includes 2020 individual and business returns normally due on **April 15**, as well as various 2020 business returns due on **March 15**, among other deadlines. More details at www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations.



After the Storm: Ishmael Behrhorst stands in his apartment near Riverside and Lakeshore on Friday, Feb. 19. Behrhorst’s apartment was flooded with 2 inches of standing water after water pipes burst as a result of Winter Storm Uri.

JANA BIRCHUM

Help Is Not on the Way

By design, decadence, and default, Austin and Texas have entered a DIY era

And lo, did the cold wind split Austin down the middle in its splitting place as was done to Texas, so that 55% haveth power and 45% haveth not. Statewide, this divide separates the red from the blue, among those who vote, but here in town it literally described those who retained electric service last week and those who went dark. Like most days in Texas, the misery was not spread evenly; unlike most days in Texas, it was visited upon us rather randomly.

Because last week’s storm brought privation to the middle- and upper-class white Texans who have sustained the

state’s increasingly decadent and incompetent GOP ruling regime for the last two decades, every political leader with a microphone felt compelled to proclaim, over and over, that the collapse of the Texas power market was unacceptable and couldn’t be allowed to happen again. Only some of them, mostly the Democrats but a couple of R’s as well, finished that thought properly: Given Texas had consciously chosen not to prep its grid for winter, despite having a similar but less severe crisis 10 years ago, that collapse was inevitable and will almost surely happen again as climate change warms and

weakens the polar vortex that has held such weather back from our northern frontiers. What would you like to do about that fact?

WE ARE ALL IN THE TOOLBOX

Because this is Austin, our leaders talk about climate change, as Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros did at one of the past week’s many press briefings. Keeping backup drinking water on hand, knowing how to turn off your water supply at the street (or if it’s possible to shut off water to your unit within a complex), how to disconnect a water heater, and how to disinfect water if you can’t boil it – such skills and habits of dads and preppers will be increas-

CONTINUED ON P.12

AUSTIN AT LARGE
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

PLANET TEXAS.COM

Grownup Gifts for Kids of All Ages

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY is TUES. MARCH 2

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SOUTH 1516 S. LAMAR 443-2292	CESAR CHAVEZ 3111 E. CESAR CHAVEZ 247-2222	
TRADING POST BEE CAVE HWY 71 & BEE CAVE RD 263-9945	ONION CREEK EXIT 225 S / 226 N 233-4300	
STASSNEY 727. W STASSNEY 707-9069		

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AUSTIN AT LARGE CONTINUED FROM P.10

ingly important for all of us to know and master, Meszaros suggested, as climate change makes extreme weather more likely.

That's not bad advice, nor did it come across as callous, the way the now-ex-mayor of Colorado City (upriver from here, out past Abilene) did in a viral Facebook post that, while highly pressurized, made basically the same points as Austin's mild-mannered water guy. As Greg Meszaros or anyone at City Hall did not angrily refuse to help people who were unprepared, which even the red team knows is a bad look, they still have their jobs, unlike that mayor. But many Austinites do wish that taking such things into our own hands could be avoided.

Austin isn't as much of a political outlier as people like to think, but it is different from other Texas cities. We like government and trust it to do good things; we expect and largely receive high levels of service for what we pay in taxes and utility rates. We believe we all benefit when government helps our neighbors with greater needs, and we pay more to provide many with housing and health care and education and transportation – and water and power.

We have wing nuts here, as other Texas cities (run by Democrats) do, who fulminate about government waste and pinko priorities. That jive still works in other places better than here; our rightists don't have the courage to challenge our local premises. Nobody will gain much support here by suggesting we cannot all have equal access to high-quality services from a beneficent government. (This works in the other direction as well; you'll hear more about redistribution away from the entitled, to enable equity for all, in other cities than you do here.)

WORKING MUCH AS DESIGNED

Even the reddest Texas leaders used to also know that “No free lunch!” and “Sucks

to be you, poor person!” were rude things to say and act upon no matter if you believed them. From the Capitol to Cancún to Colorado City, we can all see that's not really true anymore. Today (Thursday, Feb. 25), the state's energy agencies are due to be dragged through committee hearings in both the Texas House and Senate, where both parties will express great performative outrage but only one will bother much with empathy. Testimony from the public has not been invited.

Austin wants to put in the work that the state won't, but delivering on a commitment to serve everyone well all the time grows tougher as the stresses pile up. It requires more than just paying taxes and voting, and we are more accepting as time goes on that just doing those things entitles us to less than we may like. Nearly 100 volunteer and mutual aid efforts sprung up in Austin last week to deliver immediate help to those needing (as some still do) food, water, heat, and shelter. Meeting all those needs was more than the city by itself could do as it faced and fixed its broken infrastructure; that's not likely to be less true in future crises.

Austin owns its own power company, which has created its own microclimate within the organized chaos of the deregulated, privatized, and insulated Texas power grid and market. Many local conservatives have demanded repeatedly over the years that we sell Austin Energy into the same free market that landed wheels up in the ditch last week, leading to unconstrained misery throughout the whole Great State. I'd like to think that people will agree that maintaining Austin's own measure of energy independence is more timely than ever, but the creativity in service of venality shown by red Texas leaders up until now may truly be an inexhaustible resource. ■

Live and In Person!

The Austin Music Awards presentation is comin' at ya

The pandemic can't stop us. The historic ice storm? See below and on following pages if you're in need, or in a position to help others in need, but meanwhile ... The show must go on.

The **40th Annual Austin Music Awards** will be presented this coming week – Monday through Thursday, March 1-4 – unfolding across four full days, COVID-safe, but live and in person (mostly), at multiple venues around town. How are we doing that? Look for details to be announced starting **Monday at xpm** on your favorite social media channels. (It's so secret, I can't even tell you the start time.)

Last year's AMA show was Austin's last big party before the COVID shutdown; next year live music will be back to normal and we'll be celebrating that. But this year is something completely different. Thanks to **Capital Metro** and the **Society for the Preservation of Texas Music** for making this happen, the *Chronicle* music and marketing staffs (among others) for keeping the spirit alive, and Austin's music fans for voting for their favorite performers and music industry workers in this most unusual year. Meet the winners in next week's annual Austin Music Awards issue. □

This week's scheduled meeting about the **Hancock Golf Course/Park** was postponed for a second week – first because of ice, a second time at the request of the **Parks and Recreation Department** – and will now be held next Tuesday, March 2, presumably still at 7-8:30pm, with PARD's **Anthony Segura** and **Kevin Gomillion** and perhaps CM **Kathie Tovo** in attendance, and presumably at a link to be found on

the **Hancock Conservancy** website, www.imaginehancockpark.org. If you haven't been following this, there are plans to redevelop the site as a golfing center, or perhaps turn it into pure parkland, or not. Read more in the Feb. 12 Public Notice, and see the rival conservancy to preserve the golf course at www.hancockgolfcourseconservancy.org.

Food For All Species

Austin ISD is resuming its free weekly meal distribution for children and their caregivers this week, serving free curbside seven-day meal packs each Thursday at 47 district sites – mostly 10am-1:30pm, but a few sites run from 7-9am, and a few 3:30-5:30pm. Meal packs are free for anyone under 19, and free caregiver meals, prepared by local restaurants, are available for accompanying adults. AustinISD.org has info on food, water, and other resources, or text FOOD to 512-886-6434.

A lot of that work is being supported by the **Austin Ed Fund**, AISD's nonprofit public education foundation, which is in turn asking for donations to their **AISD Crisis Support Fund**, which has provided financial assistance for AISD families and staff, as well as meal programs for caregivers, ever since the pandemic started. See more info at www.austinedfund.org. □

The **Austin Humane Society** will distribute thousands of pounds of food this Saturday, Feb. 27, at their sixth **Pet Food Pantry** event. It's a drive-through event, 9am-noon at the shelter, 124 W. Anderson Ln. (enter the parking lot from Georgian Drive). Stay in your vehicle and AHS staff and volunteers will provide contactless delivery of the pet food requested. See more info and a map at www.austinhumanesociety.org. ■

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

CIVICS 101

BULLETIN BOARD

For the latest info, visit www.austintexas.gov/covid19. Uninsured Travis Co. residents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms: Call CommUnityCare's hotline at 512/978-8775. Austin Public Health has launched a COVID-19 vaccine preregistration system for residents; sign up at www.austintexas.gov/covid19-vaccines or call 512/972-5560.

THURSDAY 2/25

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING City staff will provide updates on last week's severe winter storm, after which Council will vote on several items related to recovery and relief efforts. See p.14. 10am. ATXN. www.austintexas.gov/atxn.

SATURDAY 2/27

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION Groceries are available via drive-through or walk-up. 9am-noon. KIPP School-South Campus, 5107 S. I-35. www.centraltexasfoodbank.org.

FREE PPE Hand sanitizer, masks, and educational materials. 10am-2pm. Manor City Hall, 105 E. Eggleston St. www.austintexas.gov/ppe.

SUNDAY 2/28

REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE WE'VE LOST Come together with Interfaith Action of Central Texas to remember those who have died from COVID. The service includes prayers, music, and practices from Bahá'í, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Buddhist, Catholic, Sikh, Unitarian, and Indigenous peoples, as well as nonsecular remembrances. Join in by ringing bells or gongs at 4:30pm. 3-4:30pm. *Austin Parks & Recreation Department's FB Live, YouTube, and Microsoft Teams.* www.austintexas.gov/remembrance.

TUESDAY 3/2

CTFB MOBILE PANTRY This distribution does not affect eligibility for Hays County Food Bank distributions; you may visit this one in addition to one of HCFB's weekly distributions. 8:30-9:30am. Rattler Stadium, 4660 SH 123, San Marcos. www.centraltexasfoodbank.org.

STRATEGIC PRICING WEBINAR To help small-tbusiness owners and managers understand common mistakes that companies make in pricing and learn best pricing practices that will enable them to maximize company profitability. 9am-noon. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/smallbiz.

AUSTIN LEGACY BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT WEBINAR Open to art galleries, bars and restaurants, live music and performance venues, and theatres that have operated a physical space in the city for at least 20 years, among other eligibility criteria. 2-3pm. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-legacy-business-relief-grant.

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

WEDNESDAY 3/3

SMALL BUSINESS RECORDKEEPING WEBINAR Learn the basics of what records to create, how long to keep them, and how to use this info to grow a business. 9am-noon. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/smallbiz.

THURSDAY 3/4

SMALL BUSINESS RECORDKEEPING See Wednesday. 9am-noon.

HOME COMPOSTING CLASS Learn how you can eliminate food waste at home. 6-7pm. Online. Free (registration required). www.austintexas.gov/arrhomerebate.

WINTER STORM URI

COLD WEATHER INFO AND RESOURCES Find resources for water and meal distribution, ways to help, and more at www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo.

CITY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM The city has announced an infusion of \$1 million to its home repair program for low- to moderate-income homeowners to assist with repairs needed due to storm damage. www.austintexas.gov/homerepairs.

FEMA ASSISTANCE Travis County homeowners and renters may now apply for disaster assistance. www.disasterassistance.gov.

ONGOING

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT EQUITY SURVEY Share your experiences accessing DSD services. Deadline: March 15. www.austintexas.gov/department/development-services.

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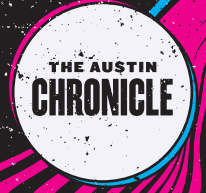
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It's Not Over Yet

Council calls for more aid as food, water still lacking

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

Although most Austin residents have exited crisis mode this week after utility service was restored following the winter storm, thousands more still do not have running water as we go to press Wednesday, Feb. 24. These include those living in apartment complexes or older single-family homes that sustained plumbing damage during last week's storm – on private property where it's their responsibility to repair, even if they have no means to do so.

Austin Water's map of locations that have work orders pending or are awaiting inspection for completed plumbing repairs showed 69 locations on Wednesday (it updates every 15 minutes), but that only includes self-reported repairs mostly made by larger commercial plumbers who routinely pull permits from the city. Officials don't really know the true scale of the damage citywide. "Job No. 1 has to be a mass communication campaign to get everybody who doesn't have water to tell that to the city," Council Member **Greg Casar** told us. "We've been calling and texting people and knocking on doors, but we need to have the city proactively contact people while getting safe water to people in need."

The city announced Wednesday a new webpage at www.austintexas.gov/atxrepairs with (according to a press release) "information about plumbers, electricians, and other contractors; code compliance and service requests; the City's emergency permitting process; homeowner's funding assistance; and federal and local assistance programs. 'Our top priority continues to be helping our community recover from the devastating effects' of the storm, said City Manager **Spencer Cronk** in the announcement.

Directing Cronk to develop the proactive outreach plan Casar calls for – along with a more cohesive strategy to distribute food to people in need – will be the focus of a special called **City Council meeting** scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25. Staff will brief Council on the city's storm response and present ideas for meeting ongoing needs.

Council will also direct staff to evaluate options for providing **utility bill relief** to customers struggling to pay. Rates charged

to customers by **Austin Energy** are fixed, so those customers who retained electric service won't see the four- and five-digit bills other Texans have received from their competitive retail energy providers, and the nearly 45% of Austinites who used no power for four days will pay that much less. Water would be different; the combination of burst pipes throughout town and the call to drip faucets during freezing temperatures meant AW saw record "demand" that basically emptied the entire system. Council hopes staff can explore ways for the city to pay off some or all of the debt incurred by AW customers last week, or at least allow for extended payment plans for customers to pay off their individual debts across months.

Well over 1 million gallons of water have been distributed to those who need it, ranging from large users (such as hospitals) to individuals living in tents. That work will need to continue, since broken pipes all over Texas have stretched the state's plumbers very thin; Gov. **Greg Abbott**, finding something useful to do, has waived licensing barriers to allow apprentice plumbers and those from other states to get to work. In working-class, renter-heavy neighborhoods like those in Casar's District 4 in Northeast Austin, pressuring property owners to repair damaged infrastructure is an ongoing need even without a winter storm. It often takes those owners weeks to fully restore service to their tenants, a reality Casar is bracing for but hopes to avoid. "I don't care if it's private plumbers or ones paid for by the city, we just have to fix this problem," he said. "We can't be in this position three or four weeks from now."

Lack of running water also makes it harder for people to feed themselves at home. Organizations like the **Del Valle Community Coalition** have helped to coordinate hot meal distribution by restaurants and food trucks. On Monday and Tuesday, the **Wholly Cow** food truck visited sites in Southeast Austin, where they handed out close to 1,500 meals; for some people, it was the first hot meal they had in more than a week. (Also see p.42.)

Standing in line for a burger with his daughter on Tuesday, **Jose Gomez** told us he lost power on Sunday and didn't regain it

"I'm glad to be eating a hot meal with my daughter, but I'm worried about what we're going to do for food in the future."

JOSE GOMEZ



Volunteers distribute bottled water to residents on Sunday, Feb. 21, at Zilker Park

JANA BIRCHUM

until Thursday. He lost water in the middle of that outage and couldn't do much cooking; since he works at a nearby car wash, which was shut down during the storm, he's also lost a week's worth of income. "It was a stressful week," Gomez told us. "I'm glad to be eating a hot meal with my daughter, but I'm worried about what we're going to do for food in the future."

CM **Vanessa Fuentes**, whose District 2 covers much of Southeast Austin, said she has heard many similar stories from constituents like Gomez. "We have people who stocked up their fridge using food stamps before the storm, and now all of that food spoiled," Fuentes told us while taking a break from handing out water bottles. "They won't be able to buy groceries with food stamps again until March, so these are the people we need to prioritize."

Thus far, the city's ability to distribute food and water itself has lagged behind volunteer-led efforts (see "Chasing the Cold Away," p.16). Cronk said on Monday that the **American Red Cross** has contributed 30,000 meals ready to eat (MREs – i.e., military rations) for the city to distribute. But the MREs come 12 per box and cannot be broken into smaller amounts; Council offices and their assembled volunteers must give 12 MREs to each household, which may be too much food, or too little.

The four CMs representing the **Eastern Crescent** – Casar, Fuentes, **Pio Renteria**, and Mayor Pro Tem **Natasha Harper-Madison** – feel strongly that the city has not done enough and that Cronk has not engaged them enough. After waiting two

days for him to respond to their inquiries with no reply, they said, the group published an **open letter** on Sunday, urging city management to "communicate to our constituents and to the public that our city is aware of the need and is taking immediate action to meet that need." Cronk hasn't really done that yet, but he did respond in an email on Tuesday. "I take the issue of food insecurity very seriously," he begins the email, before noting the hard work of Austin Energy and Austin Water to restore utility service and then going on to more or less lecture the CMs: "I have been clear with you that the magnitude of this event would stretch far beyond the City's own response capabilities; that should not surprise you." State, federal, and philanthropic aid is an essential component of relief, he wrote.

Harper-Madison agrees. "I think we are in a better place now with city management and communication is flowing," she told us while working to manage volunteers and pushing pallets of water at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex in East Austin, the site of relief efforts that she and her office staff, along with volunteers, carried out for days without much help from the city's emergency management teams. "We have so many volunteers and organizations to thank for helping us out," she said – including the **Texas Music Workforce Coalition**, whose members' skill at logistics helped the Millennium effort run with maximum efficiency. "But at the city, we can mobilize more people to knock on doors and distribute supplies. We must do more of that in the days and weeks ahead." ■

City Promises a Lighter Touch for Camp Cleanups

City-contracted cleanups at encampments will be carried out under modified guidelines this week, following pressure from advocates for those experiencing homelessness that they be suspended after the winter storm that devastated Austin last week. Cleanups had been scheduled to take place at 10 different camps along I-35 and in the **Riverside** and **Pleasant Valley** area on Tuesday and Thursday. Instead, crews went out Tuesday to tell camp residents the cleanups would be delayed; work under the new guidelines began Wednesday, per a city spokesperson.

“Crews will only remove obvious trash and waste from sidewalks and roadway areas,” the spokesperson wrote in an email to the *Chronicle*. Crews will also not clean near tents “or any place where people may have been camping,” the spokesperson wrote. Advocates and camp residents tell us the city contractors have sometimes thrown away personal belongings and essential items. Often, if a person is not present during a cleaning to ensure their things are secure, they could be swept up and thrown away.

With dozens of unhoused people rushed into motels by mutual aid groups last week, concerns grew over what would happen to the belongings they left behind. **Liz Salazar**, who has lived on the streets in the Riverside area since 2004, told us the cleanups are a hassle. She has to plan her day around them and sometimes – like Tuesday – they don’t even happen. “I wanted to make sure my tent and blankets were safe, especially after the snow and ice last week,” Salazar said. “So I planned to stay here today, but the

crews came by in the morning to say sweeps were delayed.”

City officials bristle at the term “sweeps,” preferring instead to call them “cleanings” that are part of the **Clean City Strategy**. The spokesperson described the cleanups as meeting a “critical need” to remove waste, akin to the curbside service housed residents receive, and said, “It’s the responsibility of the City to make sure public spaces are clean, including our public rights-of-way.”

In 2019, before **City Council** voted to ease restrictions on where people could camp in public spaces, the city began contracting with an outside vendor (which in turn subcontracts with the actual crews) to conduct cleanups under 60 overpasses. Signs are posted at a camp 72 hours before the scheduled work, but when a cleanup actually happens depends on how long the previous ones take, so contractors can’t give an exact time. That can be a problem for people who need to plan their days to allow time to get around on foot or by bus.

The new guidelines are only temporary; the spokesperson said the city will “monitor these locations and make a determination on what level of services are needed next week.” Still, advocacy groups like **Stop the Sweeps** – which describes itself as a “network resisting the sweeps of homeless encampments” – are celebrating even a day’s relief. “Today we stopped the sweeps,” the group posted on Facebook. Their work is not done, though. “We demand a supportive, voluntary plan which includes us. Voluntary cleanup is the only option allowed in the future.” – *Austin Sanders*



Liz Salazar, who lives at a camp on Riverside, taped a “know-your-rights” flier outside her tent. Volunteers who support camps during city-contracted cleanup efforts distributed the fliers.

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The line of customers outside H-E-B on E. Riverside Friday, Feb. 19, just kept going ...

Chasing the Cold Away

Volunteer efforts take center stage in winter storm relief **BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON**

Describing Austin as beginning “to shift into recovery and healing mode” after last week’s winter storm, City Manager **Spencer Cronk** at a Monday (Feb. 22) press briefing was candid about what the city could and could not do in the crisis. “The city provided service by returning water and power service as soon and quickly as possible. We sheltered thousands of residents, provided support to the hospital systems, answered thousands of 911 calls, cleared roadways and repaired infrastructure, and numerous other efforts that only government can undertake. But the city of Austin and Travis County cannot achieve meeting the needs of the community and the situation without help. And we understand that. And we are so thankful for the efforts of our council members and other elected officials, numerous partner organizations, and regular citizens who stepped up to help one another.”

That help sprung into action quickly as the scale of the disaster became apparent. With traditional relief partners such as the **Central Texas Food Bank** knocked out of commission by the utility service cuts and lack of safe mobility options for their staff, individual and small-group efforts filled the gap with what one Council aide described as “DIY FEMA” efforts. Actual help from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** did not arrive until Friday, having been bollixed up in part by a lack of effort from the state of Texas, whose own emer-

gency response was barely detectable. (At one point in his daily press briefings, Gov. **Greg Abbott** suggested that Texans – including the millions still without power at that point – look up resources on Google and YouTube.)

By Cronk’s count, nearly 100 such DIY efforts arose to bridge the gaps in providing relief. Local elected officials organized drives to get water into apartments and warming shelters (Council Member **Greg Casar**) or delivered it themselves to neighbors in their districts (CM **Paige Ellis**, alongside state Rep. **Donna Howard** and Constable **Stacy Suits**) or contracted with truckers to get it hauled to Austin from FEMA’s staging areas in Ft. Worth (Travis County Judge **Andy Brown**). Del Valle High School (CM **Vanessa Fuentes**) and the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (Mayor Pro Tem **Natasha Harper-Madison**) became improvised relief hubs, both receiving and distributing food, water, and other essentials to hundreds daily before the city’s formal water distribution pods firmed up over the weekend. At the Millennium, where Harper-Madison and volunteers continued to distribute supplies through Wednesday, a couple from Los Angeles (event producer **Regina Carpinelli** and Beverly Hills hair stylist **Chris Petroff**, who documented their trip on Instagram) arrived Monday night in a box truck filled with 11,000 bottles of water; they’d raised

\$5,000 from friends (including, reportedly, **Elvira, Mistress of the Dark**), rented the truck, and stopped at Walmarts and H-E-Bs along the way to buy as much water as possible. “Don’t let me catch you cussin’ any Californians ever again,” Harper-Madison tweeted. “Honorary Austinites in my book, now and forever.”

Many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Austinites were aided by efforts as improvisational (or more) as these – neighbors helping neighbors clear roads and debris, restaurants feeding everyone within reach, Austin Mutual Aid and others raising money to spring for hotel rooms. Labor organizer **Jacob Aronowitz’s** group (**United Professional Organizers**) opened the union hall it shares with the **Austin Firefighters Association** as a shelter for the unhoused on Valentine’s Day, housing 50 or so during the week and providing food and resources to as many more. The group also brought together multiple partners who’ve worked alongside Casar, such as **Workers Defense Action Fund** and **BASTA**, to distribute bulk water in 275-gallon cubes (each weighing more than a ton), obtained largely from breweries and wineries as far afield as Wimberley. “Our mission is pretty simple: Give water to people who need it, for free,” Aronowitz told us on Monday.

Runner City, the Southside-based pickup and delivery service that describes itself as “the largest gig cooperative in the nation,”

turned its collective attentions toward saving people on Austin’s streets as the weather began to worsen over the Valentine’s Day weekend. “We were literally pulling people out of their tents, in the snow,” volunteer **Debra Sheffield** told us via email; she came down from Round Rock and ended up staying with camp residents that Runner City’s efforts had sheltered in a South Austin Travelodge. “When the city lights and power went out, [we] were still driving people to hotels,” Sheffield wrote. “I got in last. In the dark. In a foot of snow. By following Andy’s tire tracks in the snow.”

“Andy” is **Andy Kaminski**, one of Runner City’s moderators on Facebook – where much of its matching of indie gig runners and assignments takes place – along with **Penii Galindo-Cook** and **Scott Engle**. “The more Andy, Penii, Scott, and I shared the people’s stories, the more the donations poured in” via cash-transfer apps like Venmo and PayPal. (Cronk noted at one of the week’s press briefings that the city is unable to accept direct cash donations, so efforts like Austin Mutual Aid and Runner City were more able to quickly secure lodging at area hotels and motels.)

“This became a private citizen event involving all the Austin metro-cities working together, providing warm clothing, firewood, propane, camp stoves, tents, food, snacks, Taco Bell runs for a couple of folks returning late after work on a cold night,” Sheffield wrote. Not all the unsheltered Austinites Runner City served chose to go elsewhere despite the harsh conditions. “Many stayed, and endured the worst of icy cold, to watch over their camps, while the more vulnerable, elderly, younger, and less



... and going, and going ...

JANA BIRCHUM

prepared came in during the first few days. Those that stayed out are now coming in [on Tuesday] as the others go back out, to rest, warm up, shower, and eat freshly prepared free hot meals, and wash clothes.”

Even more down-to-earth were the efforts of people for whom living off the grid is not always an emergency. **Chad Rittenberry**, a “godless heathen Burner” (as in **Burning Man**) and **Black Lives Matter** activist, pulled together a group of friends “who can come together and kick ass in a time of crisis,” he wrote on Facebook. They also filled water cubes from local wells and ended up supplying the **Housing Authority of the City of Austin** directly with fresh water, and they harvested enough firewood to warm up “250-300 homes and countless homeless

campers these last 4 days,” Rittenberry posted on Feb. 19. The next day, he wrote: “We responded quicker than the city and FEMA saving folks from this disaster. Just sayin’ ... Without any type of protocols or planning or structure of an organization. Without any financial support (until yesterday). ... Maybe we should have taken the moral high ground and flew to Cancun instead. ... Thank you all who have donated already. I’m having trouble controlling my face leaking. Thank you all [who] gave us food and drinks. I have tried every food that y’all have made. Even the biscuits that were hard as a hockey puck.” (He went on to note that these may have been intended for dogs.) ■

Brant Bingamon and Austin Sanders contributed reporting to this story.

Winter Storm Resources and Relief for Austinites

In the wake of last week’s severe winter weather, the need to help our neighbors right now is great. Here are some resources, and a few local recovery efforts that are still accepting donations to help those in need.

Emergency Food Relief: The Central Texas Food Bank will distribute groceries this Sat., Feb. 27, 9am-noon, via drive-through or walk-up. **KIPP School-South Campus, 5107 I-35. www.centraltexasfoodbank.org.** Also, AISD will resume its free, weekly meal distribution for children and their caregivers at 47 district sites every Thursday. See www.austinisd.org/openforlearning/meals for meal sites and times, or text “FOOD” to 512/886-6434 to find sites in their area.

Winter Storm Resources: The city is partnering with multiple governmental and public agencies to provide services. Find available resources for water and meal distribution, ways to help, and more on the city’s website. www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo.

Home and Business Repair: The city’s home repairs program helps low- to moderate-income homeowners. www.austintexas.gov/homerepairs. And a new city webpage (www.austintexas.gov/atxrepairs) shows emergency repair resources for residents and business owners.

Federal Disaster Assistance: Homeowners and renters may apply for assistance from FEMA; apply online or at 800/621-3362. www.disasterassistance.gov.

Front Steps Blanket Drive: This nonprofit is still taking donations of blankets for unhoused Austinites. Order one online and have it shipped directly to Front Steps, or drop one off. **Front Steps, 500 E. Seventh. www.frontsteps.org/get-involved/annual-blanket-drive.**

Red Cross Seeks Blood Donations: The winter storm put a damper on blood drives, and now supplies need to be replenished. Donors, especially type O, are encouraged to find a Red Cross drive to visit. www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

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Not Just Numbers

A national effort to track use-of-force, starting with Austin

BY BRANT BINGAMON

Lynda Garcia has spent the last nine years trying to gather information from police departments about their uses of force, as an attorney with the **ACLU**, the **U.S. Department of Justice**, and others. Often, it's not easy. "I feel pretty indignant about the fact that a police department, many times, has trouble telling you how many people they shot the year before," Garcia said. "And even aside from the fatal shootings, we just don't know how force is used every single day, thousands of times, across the country."

In her current position as the director of the policing program at the **Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights** – the historic civil rights group that partnered with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his lifetime – Garcia is trying to do something about that lack of transparency. On Feb. 11, the group unveiled **Accountable Now** (www.accountablenow.com), the goal of which is to bring together use-of-force data from the 19,466 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the country to one central website. "Every day, police use force across the country but we have no way to track it," the site announces

The goal of the newly unveiled Accountable Now website is to bring together use-of-force data from the 19,466 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the country.

on its landing page. "It's not just numbers. It's people. They deserve accountability."

So far, the project has obtained use-of-force information from the **Austin Police Department** as well as 137 others across the country. As the site is built out, visitors to **Accountable Now** will be able to easily compare how often agencies employ force and filter the incidents by race, type of incident, and type of force used. Currently in beta mode, the site's "Data Explorer" function shows stats from five cities – Austin, Dallas, Baltimore, Indianapolis, and New Orleans – and for three years, 2017-19. That limited dataset includes 21,524 incidents, of which the largest number, 6,307, are from Austin.

Garcia's team is acquiring the information via public records requests and government documents. The APD "**Response to Resistance**" dataset is published on the city's **open data portal**, which exists to make information like this available to projects like **Accountable Now**, but not every law enforcement agency is so forthcoming; the LCCHR team expects to have collected data on an additional 1,000 departments by the end of the year.



PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES

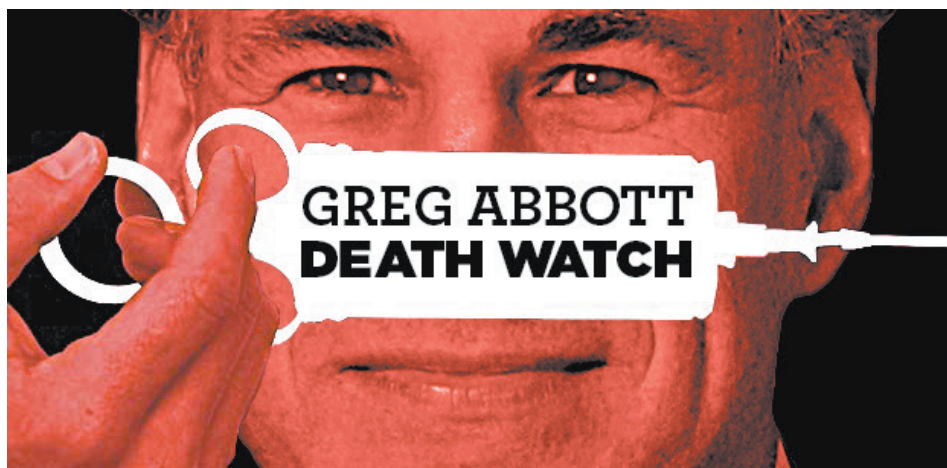
Crowdsourced information is not yet part of the database but that's expected to change – the site includes tools to help users prepare and submit public information requests to their local law enforcers and to upload the results for inclusion in the database.

Garcia believes that once enough data is collected, **Accountable Now** will be able to paint a nuanced picture of the many ways that law enforcement uses force. "Police shoot people. And they do chokeholds. They also punch them and do takedowns. And all of these other, quieter forms of use of force that we're not focusing on," Garcia said. "There's a huge volume of that. And

as we work with [our web developers] we'll continue to add variables in there. So maybe we'll start to see injuries that result from use of force in different sorts of circumstances, the age of people, gender breakdowns, and really get to the big picture, identify the problems."

Local criminal justice advocate **Kathy Mitchell** of **Just Liberty** is, like Garcia, a data person, and she's enthusiastic about **Accountable Now's** plans. "When you start to have a huge amount of data, you can do legitimate science with it," Mitchell said. "In a state like Texas, if you have all your large jurisdictions and maybe even [the

A HARD LIFE, A DISABLED MAN, A DEATH SENTENCE



Russell Hunt has been trying to get evidence of **Ramiro Ibarra's** terrible childhood before a jury for years, in hopes of overturning his death sentence. Now, with a week to go before Ibarra's execution date of March 4, Hunt has gained traction with different appeals – that Ibarra is intellectually disabled, and that his conviction was tainted by three different types of forensic "junk science" that would never stand up in court today. On Feb. 24 the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals agreed to stay Ibarra's execution to consider two of those junk-science claims: questionable eyewitness identifications, and outdated DNA techniques now known to yield unreliable results.

Ibarra was found guilty in 1996 of raping and murdering his niece. Hunt took his case a decade later and advanced a **mitigation defense**, arguing that Ibarra's original attor-

neys had failed to give jurors an accurate picture of his childhood during the sentencing phase of the trial. Such testimony sometimes persuades juries to give those convicted of capital murder life without parole instead of a death sentence. For Ibarra's defense, his attorneys brought his sister and wife to the stand. They testified merely that he'd grown up poor in Mexico, that his father had "worked on the land," and that later he'd supported his family.

The evidence unearthed by Hunt tells a more harrowing story. He found that Ibarra was one of 13 children born into extreme poverty. They often went days without food. The family moved frequently, living together in one room with no electricity, no furniture, and few possessions. The children worked from the age of 6. Because of their malnourishment and exposure, they were frequently



Texas Department of Public Safety] in there, then all of a sudden you might be looking at a million interactions with people where force was used. And you might be able to say something about how, when, and by whom force is used.”

Mitchell has long obtained APD data from the city and crunched the numbers herself. She believes that once Accountable Now gathers enough data, it might help answer a question she’s been considering: whether officers who have recently graduated from police academies are more likely to use excessive force. Many of the questionable uses of force by APD over the last two

years have come from newer officers.

“There’s a lot of questions about whether force incidents generally occur in the first two to five years [after graduation],” Mitchell said. “So doing an evaluation with a large enough dataset, if you can determine that you really do have this relatively short window when officers straight out of the academy are doing things that are apparently not needed ... then you can either look at your academy training – which Austin is currently doing – or you can look at how academy training is implemented in the field in those early years. And you can make changes.” ■

sick. Ibarra witnessed one sibling’s death and saw other family members close to death.

Ibarra’s father savagely beat and demeaned his wife and children. “He beat his children with whatever was around: a belt, a rubber strap, rope, wooden sticks or clubs, a cable, a whip for animals,” Hunt wrote in one of his court filings. “He left physical scars, rope burns, and bruises on Ramiro and the other children.”

Hunt’s efforts to get this information before a jury have bounced around courts since at least 2010. Judges have dismissed the testimony in different ways. The **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has ruled, for example, that it can’t consider the evidence since Ibarra’s original lawyers never presented it in state court, although it’s ruled those lawyers provided adequate counsel to Ibarra. Hunt’s appeal with the **Texas Court of**

Criminal Appeals, in addition to the forensics claims, cites Ibarra’s score of 65 on an IQ test and an analysis by two neuropsychologists. As well, Hunt offers testimony from Ibarra’s family and teachers stating that Ibarra could not speak intelligibly until the age of 8 (and is still difficult to understand); that he had difficulty cleaning and caring for himself; that he was slow and did poorly at school; that he made no friends, was defenseless, and cried easily; and that he suffered from anxiety and hopelessness.

The CCA recently kicked the cases of **Blaine Milam** and **Edward Busby** back to their trial courts to decide if they’re intellectually disabled, and it’s possible the state’s highest criminal court will do the same for Ibarra. If they don’t, he’ll become the first person executed by Texas in 2021.

– Brant Bingamon

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Can Anybody Help?

AISD's special education system is struggling to keep up with its workload and comply with legal mandates

BY CLARA ENCE MORSE

Trasell Underwood doesn't know how hard it will be yet.

Underwood adopted her son when he was 5 months old; she says his birth mother was using drugs during pregnancy, and she was concerned from the outset about his potential disabilities. When her son was in prekindergarten, she felt her toddler was even more hyperactive than toddlers typically are, and had him independently tested for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). She brought the results to the special education staff at Pecan Springs Elementary, who concurred. But diagnoses change as kids grow and develop, and sometimes that growth highlights new needs to be addressed by parents and teachers. That's why the law requires reevaluation for special education students every three years.

When her son was in first grade, in October 2019, and that reevaluation date came up, Underwood had even more questions. Her son would become incredibly uncomfortable when he confronted changing situations, and he had even more difficulty focusing than she'd become used to. She wanted to know if he might need help for additional learning disabilities.

After an initial meeting, Underwood said she should have received the results of the reevaluation within a month, but that day came and went. Frustrated by the lack of communication, Underwood called and discovered that her son's evaluator had quit. The school warned Underwood it might take another month to finalize the findings; she grudgingly assented, expecting it would be promptly completed.

Three semesters later, Underwood's "biggest fear" has come true. She still has no evaluation showing what learning disabilities her son might have, no idea what additional supports he might need, and no clue when he will be tested. She has mentally prepared herself for the worst-case scenario – that the testing will not occur at all this year. Although her son, now in second grade, has returned to in-person school due to his ADHD, she says she still has no picture of how great his learning losses might be.

"Each time I thought about how, virtually or [with] him at home, how can we [address] any of his accommodations, I would go back to – well, shoot, we don't even know how his

accommodations should be addressed, because he hasn't even been tested!" Underwood said. "We don't even know how extreme it needs to be, or how minimal it needs to be. There was no clear direction from an evaluator ... We didn't have that."

Underwood is one of hundreds of parents caught up in backlogs in Austin ISD's special education evaluation system, which determines which students are eligible for services and what supports – such as speech therapy, counseling, or extra teaching time – they need. Without evaluations, students can't enter the system; without timely reevaluations, their evolving needs can't be addressed.

Right now, AISD's system is severely understaffed and overtaxed, according to more than a dozen interviews with parents, organizers, advocates, and current and former staff and administrators. This has led to backlogs that violate legal requirements and, in some cases, produce devastating waits for students and parents. Approximately 500 initial evaluations and a "similar number" of reevaluations are currently overdue, and the numbers of staff who would typically be able to fill them are dwindling, leading to a heavy reliance on contracted employees. According to data obtained through open records requests, AISD has lost nearly half of its evaluation staff since October 2019.

The losses have been especially heavy for licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSPs), who write evaluations and conduct many of the behavioral and cognitive assessments that determine if students are eligible for particular special education services. In March 2019, the district employed 51 LSSPs; since then, 48 have resigned. Even with new hires, the district currently employs only 19 LSSPs, putting its student-to-psychologist ratio at 3,959:1 – nearly six times the upper limit recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists.

"I just continue to see people come on, people go, 'Oh crap, this is a mess,' and people quit," said one current AISD special education employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to concerns about retribution. "You get this job, and then within two months you're gone."

Although there is a national shortage of such professionals, the district's severe staffing situation has also been the subject



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

AISD parent Trasell Underwood

of two corrective actions imposed by the Texas Education Agency in the past two years. And COVID-19 has only intensified matters – 627 initial evaluations, and at least as many reevaluations, were put on hold for months due to the pandemic. The backlog only began to be tackled in October 2020, after a lawsuit was filed by the advocacy group Disability Rights Texas.

"It's just a total and complete system failure," Leah Marie Kelly, a former special education employee and parent of a special education student, said. "The whole entire system is broken. Top down, bottom up."

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The story begins with a shock wave felt by schools across Texas – the lifting of caps on the percentage of students in each district allowed to access special education services. This cap of 8.5% – compared to national estimates that as many as 13% of K-12 students need such services – was imposed by TEA in 2004 during a state budget crisis and then quietly left in place. After a 2016 investigation by the *Houston Chronicle* exposed the many troubling ways in which Texas schools denied thousands of students the services they had a right to under federal law, TEA revised its policy and was then further checked by the Texas Legislature, which in 2017 enacted statutory prohibitions against any such caps.

Dr. Akweta Hickman, AISD's executive director of special education, announced this week she would be leaving the district; she first arrived in Austin in March 2019, 18 months after the legislation ending the caps went into effect and as the district was still adjusting, she said, to the influx of referrals. "That was happening and well under-

way when I came to Austin," Hickman told the *Chronicle* in an interview, before she announced her resignation in an email to staff on Tuesday, Feb. 23. "There were more referrals coming in from parent requests for evaluations, in significant numbers, already underway in May of 2019. That did not change. It continued, and is still today part of what we're experiencing."

While districts across Texas were dealing with this spike in demand for evaluations, that fall AISD began experiencing uniquely high staff attrition, especially among evaluators: 32 people affiliated with the special education department resigned in the last half of 2019, including many evaluators. From late November 2019 through February 2020, the district's staff of evaluators shrank by 11 employees, a 17% drop. Karen Owens, who had worked with the district since 1998, was one of the first to go.

At the time, Owens was supervising AISD's evaluators to ensure compliance with legal timelines. In prior months, a couple of "nail-biters" aside, they had mostly managed the task. But over the summer of 2019, Owens said, it suddenly became much more difficult to get approval for contract extensions to complete evaluations over the summer, a common way for evaluators to get ahead of the back-to-school deadline crunch while being paid for their additional time. (Hickman told us that "there was not a scaling back [according to] any knowledge that I have, and [it was] definitely not on my authority that that occurred.") In addition, Owens said, she was overstressed and overworked, working 12-hour days frequently, including on weekends. The burden, and the perceived lack of support from the administration, drove her to

CONTINUED ON P.22

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Former AISD school psychologist Amy Leigh Shatila



JANA BIRCHUM

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM P.20

resign in August, just after receiving her pin commemorating 20 years of AISD service.

“It was hard enough just to get the evaluations done to the degree that we had,” Owens said. “And any idea that I was going to get pushback about [that] and not be supported from on high, to achieve the goals [that] had been set? You know, it was ... it was heartbreaking and depressing.”

A “NEGATIVE FEEDBACK LOOP”

Within four months, Owens had been followed out the door by 31 other special education staffers – an exodus that attracted notice from district and community leaders and the media. These resignees also said they were asked to do more than was possible; some claimed their workloads had doubled, increases not reflected in their pay.

Those who left included Amy Leigh Shatila, an LSSP who resigned in December 2019. Although Shatila told us she knew the pay was lower in Austin than in surrounding districts, she joined AISD in 2015 – and recommended the district to her friends – because of the community and ability to make an impact on students’ lives. Shatila typically worked on evaluations over the summer, an additional income stream that she said “ground to a halt” in summer 2019. In the fall, she said, she was faced with unclear and confusing expectations, and a lack of support from leadership.

Shatila served two middle schools alone, a caseload too big for one LSSP to handle. She says she was told to focus only on initial evaluations, and then, only after those were completed, turn her attention to reevaluations. “I had parents who would call me weekly, crying and crying and crying,” she told the *Chronicle*.

Shatila had hoped to be with AISD the rest of her career. Instead, after throwing up from stress on the way to work, she resigned in December 2019 with no other job in place.

“It was super traumatic. You invest yourself heavily in your campus, in your kids. You don’t pour yourself into it for years and years ... to just walk away. Like, that’s unheard of,” Shatila said. “It was horrible. But I was ultimately left with a choice. I would have to go against my own ethics on a daily basis, and try to toe the line ... or I could go with what I knew was ethically right, and go against what they thought, and be in trouble for work. I was like, man, I didn’t go into this field to be so consumed with these worries that I can’t help children.”

The district responded to the 2019 exodus with a modest pay increase for special education staffers, but the damage was largely done. The resignations, Education Austin organizer Matt Inman told us, demonstrated the “negative feedback loop” that’s ongoing in the department: increased referrals lead to overworked employees, who leave, which increases the workload on those who remain, as the district develops a reputation as a bad place to work for special education professionals, making it harder for AISD to replenish its staff. “We’re kind of in shambles, and everyone knows it,” Inman said.

PANDEMIC SLOWDOWN

Only a few months after the exodus, Austin and Texas began to feel the disruptive brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic in every aspect of life, including school. The suspension of in-person learning and more or less complete shutdown of AISD campuses from April until October of last year also constrained special education services,

and no initial evaluations, let alone reevaluations, were completed for months.

Eventually, the spiraling delays caught the attention of Disability Rights Texas, which describes itself as “the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities” (every state has one). The agency took legal action against AISD for impermissibly late evaluations; AISD acknowledged that it hadn’t met the timelines to serve hundreds of students and submitted a corrective action plan to TEA to “address systemic issues.” These efforts ranged from expanding recruitment efforts to fill staff positions, to quadrupling AISD’s use of contracted outside providers, to redesigning the evaluation assignment system.

“We’re reasonable and understand that COVID changed a lot of what can and can’t happen,” said Kym Rogers, an attorney with Disability Rights Texas who worked on the case. “A lot of our concern with Austin is that there seemed to be absolutely no attempt to do what *could* be done, even when in-person [visits] couldn’t occur.” Hickman told us the district conducted “some inventories and interviews [with] parents” in online formats, although it was unable to complete most evaluations as they require in-person assessment.

Since October, AISD has begun in-person evaluations, opened in-person instruction to all who want to return, and made special education students a priority to bring back to campus. However, a district spokesperson told the *Chronicle* via email that “approximately 500” initial evaluations are still overdue, around 80% of the peak backlog in October. Hickman added that AISD gets about 15 new referrals per day, and that evaluations can take up to 20 hours and input from multiple staffers to complete.

While the backlog continues, parents such as Underwood wait without knowing what support, if any, their children need – or when the district will provide it. And some current AISD special education staffers, who spoke to the *Chronicle* on the condition of anonymity, still describe themselves as overworked. One teacher interviewed in mid-November said she was looking forward to Thanksgiving for a chance to get caught up with paperwork.

Another teacher participates in time-consuming annual ARD reviews for many students – the “admission, review, and dismissal” process in which parents and educators develop individual education plans for each special education student – in addition to her regular instructional duties. Her school

has multiple vacant positions; she’s been forced to take personal days off just to catch up with emails, parent communications, and paperwork. Despite getting regular panic attacks while driving to work, she said, she stays with the district.

“If I had any other option, I would quit. My co-workers, every single one of them, if they had any other option, they would quit,” she said. “But the district understands that we don’t have a lot of options. They understand that we don’t want to hurt our co-workers. We sure as hell don’t want to hurt our kids and their families. And I think that they take advantage of that.”

However, AISD leadership also says the situation is untenable. “I know this is not ideal in any way,” Hickman said. “We know that we want to get our kids services as swiftly as possible. We are working really hard to do that. We’ve done quite a bit of evaluations ... we’re bringing in contractors, and we’re working really hard to make it happen for our students and our families.”

Hickman said in her resignation email that she was leaving to join her husband, who is working outside the Austin area, after the recent death of her mother; she plans to “remain available” to staff as the transition proceeds.

In January 2020, Underwood, a former AISD employee who now works for Education Austin, was in a meeting where Hickman was also in attendance and mentioned

her son’s case to the director. However, she said Hickman “played it off like, ‘Well, that was, you know, oh, it’s a *reeval*. Oh, that’s fine. We can be late.’ Basically, that’s what I walked away with.”

After a disastrous experience with virtual learning after the spring COVID-19 campus shutdown, Underwood sent her son back to in-person school in the fall, hoping it would offer a better environment.

Instead, he came home declaring, “I don’t want to be at school no more.” His conviction that “school sucks” was driven in part by turnover in his classroom, with one of his favorite teachers leaving after an evaluator working with his campus had already resigned. Although he’s settled into a routine now and is happier in the stable classroom, Underwood says she still worries about his learning – and isn’t sure if AISD can help him.

“There’s actually no trust,” Underwood said. “My child’s already in special ed, and not getting the services that he should be getting. So yeah, I don’t trust right now ... I’m trying to keep from being resolved to the fact that he may not be tested this year, but I feel like he won’t be.” ■

“I didn’t go into this field to be so consumed with these worries that I can’t help children.”

FORMER SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST AMY LEIGH SHATILA



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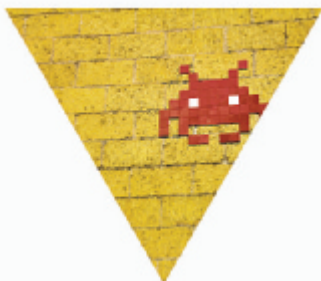


CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 25 > MARCH 4



25 >> THURSDAY



LESS THAN 10: ARCADE

Online, 7:30pm

Digital collective Less Than 10 presents a streamed concert featuring a diverse array of popular video games music, as well as a full set from Austin's own Invoke String Quartet. Bonus: the premiere of a new work by composer Phong Tran.

See more arts events on p.34.

26 >> FRIDAY



THANKFUL

Online, 7:30pm

Initially scheduled as a stacked New Year's Eve show, the Black Live Music Fund and Six Square's Thankful finally finds a spot. No loss to the lineup, all seven artists are scheduled to perform bridging hip-hop and neo-soul. Donations can be made to both orgs running the event.

See more music recommendations on p.56.

27 >> SATURDAY



VIRTUAL CRAFTHER MARKET

Online, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28

Brought to you by bbATX to support women and LGBTQIA small-business owners, this digital marketplace features over 150 local creatives, designers, makers, and artists.

See more community events on p.38.

28 >> SUNDAY



AUSTIN COVID MEMORIAL

Online, 3pm

Close to 700 people in Travis County have died due to COVID-19. The city of Austin and Interfaith Action of Central Texas invite the community to a virtual memorial service to remember those who have died and honor the families affected by the pandemic.

See more community events on p.38.

1 >> MONDAY



YUNG BRYSE: TRILL LIVIN'

Bryson Philen details the ambitions of a bona fide hustler on debut solo album *Trill Livin'*. The J Soulja associate rhymes with fervor while refusing to shy away from getting personal across the January tape's 10 songs. These 27 minutes make the 4Life4Ever Ent. artist one to watch going forward.

See more music recommendations on p.56.

2 >> TUESDAY



STRETCH PANIC: GLITTER & GORE

Scary situations can do a lot of things to a person, so Stretch Panic built an art fortress - or rather, haunted house. The trio go on a ghoulish excursion decorated in surf moods and indie hues on *Glitter & Gore*. Wielding whimsical lyricism and futuristic synth waves, the Panics encourage us to be kind to fanciful pop.

See more music recommendations on p.56.

3 >> WEDNESDAY



AMPLIFY AUSTIN DAY

24 hours, starting Wednesday at 6pm

Central Texas' biggest day of online giving includes thousands of dollars in matching gifts and \$80K in prizes for participating nonprofits, double last year's amount. This year, Amplify LIVE launches a virtual experience with celebrity guests, local leaders, and musical performances.

See more community events on p.38.

4 >> THURSDAY



VIRTUAL STORYTIME: MONARCH MIGRATION

Online, 10am

Listen in to *Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies* by Deborah Hopkinson, and learn about this majestic insect, its journey through Texas, and how we can be better neighbors to our winged friends.

Find more events for kids on p.38.

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SUMMER CAMPS

This is only a portion of the camps listed in our complete guide at:
AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SC

GUIDE 2021

ATX KIDS CLUB With a focus on urban literacy and local culture, ATX Kids Club inspires campers to experience the rich diversity of Austin by taking daily adventures on Cap Metro. Subjects explored include nature, art, diversity, and careers, and the camp emphasizes fitness and healthy eating. *Ages 4-12. June 7-Aug. 27. Drop-off/pickup locations at Garrison Park, Rendon Park, Pease Park, Brentwood Park, and Mueller Lake Park. \$375. www.atxkidsclub.org.*

AUSTIN DOG ALLIANCE Can your little one not get enough of man's best friend? Austin Dog Alliance lets your kid spend the summer in a puppy panic, learning about dogs and dog care alongside the family canine or a "rented" doggo, with options for in-person and online camps. *Ages 7-14. June 7-Aug. 5. 1321 W. New Hope Dr., Cedar Park. \$130-300. www.austindogalliance.org/summer-camp.*

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION CAMPS The city typically begins registration for summer camps in February and aquatic programming in April, but this year that is delayed due to COVID-19. Stay tuned, and meanwhile, check out their free virtual programming via YouTube at www.youtube.com/austincityparks. *Dates TBA. www.austintexas.gov/parks.*

AUSTIN SUNSHINE CAMP Five days and four nights of exciting, in-person outdoor activities including canoeing, hiking, swimming, science, nature, cooking, arts & crafts, a ropes course, and team-building activities. This year, camp is held at Zilker Lodge with limited capacity, with campers ages 11-14 attending the first half of the summer and ages 8-10 in the second. Campers age 15 can sign up for either section as part of the ASC Work Crew. *Ages 8-15. June 14-Aug. 13. Zilker Lodge, 2225 Andrew Zilker Rd., 512/472-8107. Free. www.sunshinecamps.org.*

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AUSTIN GREAT FUTURES Boys & Girls Clubs summer camps offer a variety of high-quality programs designed to keep kids learning, active, and engaged. Programs revolve around STEAM, fine arts, academic success, and healthy life skills. *Ages 5-18. June; dates TBA. 6648 Ed Bluestein. www.bgcaustin.org/our-programs/current-programs.*

CAMP BALCONES Explore, learn, and grow with Camp Balcones, Camp Fire's urban nature and science day camp that sparks curiosity and inspires learning while preventing summer learning loss. *Ages 6-14. Dates TBA. Various pickup locations. \$400. www.camp-fire.org.*

CAMP BALCONES SPRINGS With dozens of activities from archery to ziplining, this camp offers a fun, memorable summer with lots of opportunities for growth in an idyllic lakeside Hill Country setting. *Ages 7-17. June 6-Aug. 7. 104 Balcones Springs Dr., Marble Falls. \$1,850-4,450. www.campiscool.com.*

CAMP CHAMPIONS Camp Champions has created a tradition of excellence since 1967. With the top-notch faculty and staff of a premier overnight camp, this camp is distinguished by its developmental focus on building strong kids.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic many summer camps are altering their plans. Please check individual camps' websites for the latest information.

One, two, and three-week sessions available for ages 5-17. Champions operated COVID-free in 2020 and is prepared again in 2021. *Ages 5-17. May 30-Aug. 7. 775 Camp Rd., Marble Falls. \$1,960-4,925. www.campchampions.com.*

CAMP DOUBLECREEK Offering over 30 exciting outdoor activities, including horseback riding, swimming, a giant water slide, climbing wall, ropes challenge course, archery, sports, arts & crafts, and innovative playground games to ensure there is something for everyone. *Ages 4-14. June 1-Aug. 13. 800 Doublecreek Dr., Round Rock. \$325-410. www.campdoublecreek.com*

CAMP HEADWATERS Three locations around town provide summer fun for all ages, with Summer Clubhouse for the younger ones offering activities built on Montessori principles and Camp Headwaters offering skating, rock climbing, and water sports for older adventurers. *Ages 2-17. June 7-Aug. 6. Headwaters School, 6305 Menchaca Rd.; 801 Rio Grande; 9607 Brodie. \$325-400. www.headwaters.org/camp.*

CAMP INDIGO Help your kids find their inner creative spirit through nature hikes, dance, drama, and yoga, while learning confidence, communication, and respect for themselves and others. *Ages 4-12. June 21-July 2. Whole Life Learning Center, 10801 Old San Antonio Rd., 512/476-8884. \$350. www.amalafoundation.org/camp-indigo.*

CAMP OF THE HILLS Christian camp that shows and shares the love and hope of Jesus to underserved kids. Offering outdoor fun, creative projects, and worship activities. *Ages 8-18. June 7-Aug. 14. 1552 CR 344, Marble Falls. \$60. www.campofthehills.org.*

CAMP TRINITY Themed half-day camps run in the morning and afternoon, so sign up for one or make it a full day. Athletic skills clinics offer fifth to eighth graders a chance to hone their volleyball and soccer skills. *Ages 4-13. June 7-18. Trinity Episcopal School, 3901 Bee Caves Rd. \$260; \$225 for athletic skills clinics. www.austintrinity.org.*

DRAGON'S LAIR VIRTUAL CAMPS Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy offers several different camps this year via Zoom, including *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Warhammer 40,000*, *BattleTech*, and *Blood Bowl*. Spots are limited, so reserve your camper's place soon. *Ages 10-16. June 14-Aug. 13. Via Zoom with Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy. \$150. abevents@dlair.net, www.dlair.net/austin/events/summer-camps-2021.*

EARTH NATIVE WILDERNESS SCHOOL Kids can turn off the TV and have some old-school fun learning all about the natural world of Central Texas through exploration and games. Expert naturalist instructors teach lasting skills and how to make the most of the outdoors, and two new day camps offer epic adventures and wildlife discovery. Older kids get into some survival techniques at the overnight camp in Bastrop. *Ages 3-16. June 7-Aug. 13. McKinney Falls State Park; Earth Native Bastrop Campus. \$325, day camp; \$645, overnight camp. www.earthnativeschool.com/summer-camps.*

EL RANCHITO CAMP An overnight camp specifically created for children from low-income families, this is a great chance to get the traditional summer camp experience, complete with swimming, horseback riding, and campfires. *Ages 9-18. June 13-July 3. Shield Ranch, 16037 Hamilton Pool Rd. \$50. registration@elranchito.org, www.elranchito.org.*



Camp Balcones Springs



Earth Native Wilderness School

ELITE UNIVERSITY At Elite U, choose from a bevy of day camps offering a wide range of activities, including fencing, gymnastics, horseback riding, visual & culinary arts, and STEM. *Ages 4-12. June 1-Aug. 7. St. Luke's on the Lake, 5600 RR 620 N. \$375-650. www.elitesummercamps.com.*

EXTEND-A-CARE YMCA Kids have the opportunity to stay physically active, build a sense of belonging, independence, and creativity, and parents have peace of mind knowing kids are in a safe and enriching place. *Ages 4-13. June 1-Aug. 6. Various locations. \$215-285. www.eacymca.org.*

FIGMENT CREATIVE LABS Dress for mess, because kiddos will be making art, exploring STEAM, and hanging with furry friends including a mini pig, chickens, goats, and bunnies. This is a peanut-free campus and COVID safety precautions are in place. *Ages 4-12. June 14-Aug. 13. 7809 Brodie. \$325. www.figmentcreativelabs.com.*

GIRLSTART This year's STEM education camp themes are Camp Hermione, Secrets of Super Girl, and Girlstart Games. Stay tuned for more information on registration as Girlstart monitors the unfolding COVID-19 situation. *Ages 9-15. June 7-July 30. Prices TBA. info@girlstart.org, www.girlstart.org/our-programs/summer-camp.*

IRON HORSE COUNTRY RANCH It's the motorcycle summer camp for kids. This dirt-bike camp has various shuttle pickup/drop-off locations, and they supply the dirt bikes, safety gear, and training. *Ages 8-15. June 7-July 23. 9100 E. FM 243, Bertram; various pickup locations. \$890-1,760. www.ironhorsecountry.com.*

JCC SUMMER CAMPS Kids can take their pick from dozens of fun activities offered at the Jewish Community Center with no shortage of arts & crafts, sports, field trips, swimming, improv, STEM learning, and then some. Go online for a complete list of camps and prices. *Ages 2-15. June 1-Aug. 13. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 512/735-8050. www.shalomAustin.org/camps.*

KIDVENTURE Each camp week is a unique adventure designed to provide campers with a wide variety of activities designed to promote fun, learning, and development. *Ages 3-12. June 1-Aug. 6. Various locations. \$290. www.kidventure.com/austin-summer-camp.*

NEURON GARAGE Campers can join the virtual Neuron Garage community, from any location, for full or half-day programs led by trained guides. Interactive, hands-on engineering challenges with recycled materials allow kids to be creative and discover their potential. *Ages 7-12. June 7-Aug. 13. \$150. www.neurongarage.com.*

SHERWOOD FOREST CAMP Learn archery, blacksmithing, leatherworking, swordplay, and other Renaissance activities, and spend the night in an air-conditioned castle. In other words, the kids get the whole times-of-yore experience. *Ages 7-16. July 4-24. Sherwood Forest Faire, 1883 Old Hwy. 20, McDade, 512/222-8570. \$895. www.sherwoodforestsummercamp.com.*

SQUAD STX BOYS CAMPING Run by former U.S. Army infantry officers, Squad STX is a boys-only five-day, four-night camping and leadership program, which is a unique combination of summer camp and scouting. Kids learn leadership basics with a focus on backpacking, orienteering, and team competitions using situational training exercises (STX). *Ages 10-16. June 9-July 11. Dinosaur Valley State Park, 1629 Park Road 59, Glen Rose. \$449-1299. www.squadstx.com/?summercampguide.*

SUMMER AT ST. ANDREW'S St. Andrew's Episcopal School invites young artists, athletes, and thespians to keep their bodies and brains active throughout the summer. Half-day and full-day camps are available at two locations. More information available in early March when registration is scheduled to open. *Ages 4-18. June 1-July 2. 1112 W. 31st; 5901 Southwest Pkwy. www.sasaustin.org/student-life/summer-at-st-andrews-2021.*

WET & WILD ADVENTURE CAMP Every day is a new adventure: Daily field trips include swimming at either a pool, lake, river, or water park. Campers also go kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, indoor rock climbing, bowling, and will visit arcades, amusement parks, and trampoline parks. *Ages 6-15. June 7-Aug. 13. Multiple pickup locations: 12017 Amherst, 2008 Enfield, 6001 Westcreek. \$400-480. info@wetwildcamp.com, www.wetwildcamp.com.*

YMCA CAMP TWIN LAKES This is the classic summer camp vibe: swimming, hiking, sports, and making friends. Overnight and day camps all summer long with themes like medieval week and beach week. *Ages 5-16. June 1-Aug. 13. Camp Twin Lakes, 204 E. Little Elm Trail, Cedar Park. \$215-1124. www.ymcagwc.org/programs/youth-camps.*

YMCA OF THE ROCKIES For campers looking for a bit more adventure and an escape from the Texas heat, Camp Chief Ouray in the Colorado Rockies offers programs that build confidence, independence, and resilience. Meet people from all over the world and enjoy a life-changing experience. *Ages 7-17. June 6-Aug. 12. Camp Chief Ouray, Granby, Colorado. \$150-1,800. chiefouray@ymcarockies.org, www.campchiefouray.org.*

CONTINUED ON P.28



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Summer Camps CONTINUED FROM P.26

ART AMORE Young artists get messy and work with professional supplies to create masterpieces. Explore Austin with Excursion Camp, pulling inspiration from the city's natural beauty, or create with unique themes at Studio Camp. Ages 4-16. May 31-Aug. 6. 6507 Jester Blvd. #107. \$350-590. artamoreaustin@gmail.com, www.artamoreaustin.com.

ART BARN ATX Create multiple art projects every day in a variety of mediums, receive one-on-one instruction from a professional artist, play games, and hang out with chickens. Cost covers use of studio space and all supplies (canvases, paint, brushes, clay, glazes, etc.), instruction, and even a water day with a 60-foot water slide and snowcones. Ages 6 and up. June 14-July 22. 14284 FM 2769, Leander. \$320. www.artbarnatx.com/summer-camp.



Art Garage

ART GARAGE Awesome art camps with over 20 different themes, including Hogwarts, rainbows, galaxies, and "Aloha." Projects will include drawing, painting, working with clay, tie-dye, mosaics, glass fusion, jewelry-making, and more. Ages 5-13. Jun. 7-Aug. 13. 11190 Circle Dr. #202. \$329. www.theartgarageaustin.com.

BAND AID SCHOOL OF MUSIC Campers will learn songwriting, recording, and performing ensemble skills with peers of a similar age and have the opportunity to record and mix a song in a real recording studio. They'll finish the session with a live performance at Stubb's (COVID-permitting) for friends and family on the last day of camp. Beginners and experienced rockers welcome. Ages 4-18. June 7-Aug. 13. 2309 Thornton; 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N. \$275-599. info@bandaidschoolofmusic.com, www.bandaidschoolofmusic.com.

CAMP VAMONOS! Kids enjoy a summer day like their grandparents did: playing, exploring, creating art and crafts, and devising elaborate play scenarios with friends, old and new, in a backyard filled with fun. They play on a zipline, a hammock, a slackline, a tree house, playhouses, a climbing dome, and more, and do outings around town and to the neighborhood pool. Ages 5-11. June 7-Aug. 13. 6919 Reese. \$200. megaritob@gmail.com, www.campvamonos.com.

CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL From pottery to painting and everything in between, your child is sure to create a masterpiece using a variety of mediums including watercolors, acrylics, colored pencils, graphite, and more. Fun new "Art-Venture" themes every week are covered in full or half-day camps for all skill levels. Ages 6-16. June 4-Aug. 20. Locations in Northwest & Southwest Austin, Round Rock,

Georgetown, and Cedar Park. \$183-369. nancy@cordovanartschool.com, www.cordovanartschool.com.

INSPIRED MINDS ART CENTER Campers with an artistic bent can choose from fine arts, "Shakespeareance," and musical theatre day camps. Ages 5-12. May 31-Aug. 6. 121 Main St., Buda. \$250. www.inspiredminds.art/on-site-classes.

JOSHUA'S STAGE Get the full camp experience with arts, improv, crafts, music, dance, and more. What's more, make some friends and learn self-confidence in the process. See everything they've gleaned at the showcases at the end of every weeklong session. Ages 5-12. June-July; dates TBA. Capitol School of Austin, 2011 W. Koenig, 512/825-2744. Prices TBA. www.joshuasstage.org.

SONGBIRD RISING STRING CAMP

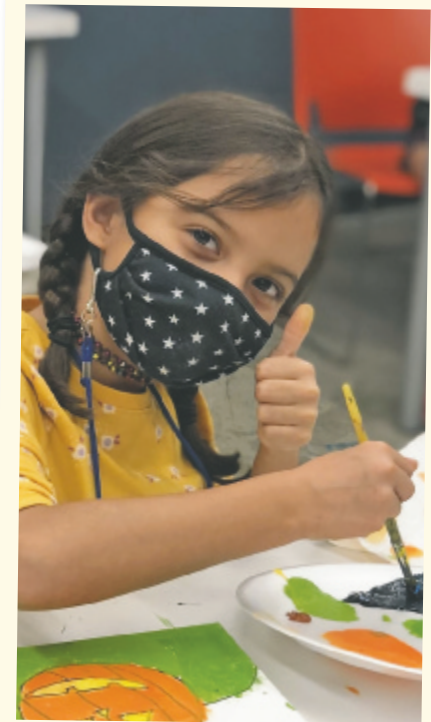
Using the Suzuki method, children will learn violin, viola, cello, and bass in a creative and supportive environment. Ages 6-11. July 5-9. Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 512/751-0541. \$525. www.songbirdrising.com.

TEXARTS ACADEMY

Kids as young as 2 are invited to this musical theatre-based camp offering a wide range of performance options. Dance camps are available too, and others focus on audition techniques, acting on camera, and more. Ages 2-17. May 31-Aug. 13. TexARTS, 2300 Lohmans Spur, 512/852-9079. \$115-365. www.tex-arts.org/academy/summer-camps.

UT SUMMER ST.ART UT-Austin's Art and Art History Department welcomes teen artists for intensive pre-college virtual programs where students can learn from practicing artists and grow their portfolios. Ages 15-18. June 28-July 30. Online. \$450-4,000. sites.utexas.edu/precollege-art.

art+
music
CAMPS



Cordovan Art School



Get back in the act!

Photo: KirkTuck.com

Summer Theatre Camps at ZACH | June 7–August 19
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theatre + dance CAMPS

AVERY RANCH DANCE & MUSIC SUMMER CAMPS

Popular tunes from *Frozen* and *Descendants* will be the soundtrack to your child's summer as they learn ballet, hip-hop, jazz, and set design. Weekly virtual and in-person camps are available, as are virtual one-day events. Ages 3-13. June 7-Aug. 6. Dance Discovery, 10526 W. Parmer. \$225; \$60, virtual; \$12, one-day events. averyranch-danceandmusic@gmail.com, www.austin-dance.org.

BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS Calling all dancers! Options abound for tiny dancers to expert youngsters, from half-day camps to summer intensives. Some themes incorporate art projects like tie-dye or street art, and little ones will love dancing with dinosaurs or exploring outer space. Ages 3-18. June 7-July 30. 4554 S. Lamar #300. \$150-399. www.balancedancestudios.com.

CAMP ONE WORLD When Camp One World starts on Monday, the little red truck from Missoula Children's Theatre arrives with everything necessary to put on a full-scale musical production on the One World Theatre stage. In just one week, campers will go from auditions to opening night. Ages 5-15. Dates TBA. *One World Theatre*, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 512/330-9500. \$240. www.oneworldtheatre.org/outreach/summer-camps.

DANCE DISCOVERY CAMP Kids explore dance through the themes of "Rainbow Unicorn," "LOL Pop Princess," *Frozen*, and more. One-day virtual dance events and weekly virtual and in-person camps are available this year. Ages 3-13. June 7-July 30. Central Studio, 7729 Burnet Rd. \$245/week; \$60, virtual; \$12, one-day virtual events. austin-dance.org/home/locations/central-studio/camps.

DANZVERSITY Danzversity promotes creativity and positivity through dance. Students are encouraged to dance to the rhythms of their own heartbeat, and each week has a different theme. Ages 5-17. May 31-July 30. Pod camps at location of your choice; location TBD for open camps. \$180-600. dance@danzversity.com, www.danzversity.com.

FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP What could be better to satisfy the bug for trickery and illusion? Prepare for puppetry, ventriloquism, storytelling, and, of course, magic. They have made arrangements to adhere to or exceed the state's recommended COVID-19 guidelines. Ages 5-12. June 7-Aug. 13. Journey IFC, 7500 Woodrow. \$650. www.magiccamp.com.



Avery Ranch Dance & Music Summer Camps

JOYCE WILLETT SCHOOL OF DANCE A chance to practice all those moves with camps including Disney, hip-hop, and more. Ages 5-10. June 1-July 23. 12687 Research. \$200. jwsd.dance@gmail.com, www.jwsd.net/summer-dance-camps.

KIDSACTING Since 1980, kidsActing has offered award winning summer theatre camps, and this year they're going all out with single- and multiple-week camps, all of which end with exciting performances for friends and family. Give your child a summer filled with fun, friends, and lifelong memories. Ages 4-18. May 31-Aug. 13. Sixteen Austin-area locations. \$265-365. www.kidsactingstudio.com.

SYNERGY DANCE STUDIO Celebrating 15 years of dance training in the heart of Westlake Hills, Synergy offers weekly themed preschool/school-age camps for students looking for an enjoyable and creative dance experience. Camps include ballet, jazz, hip-hop, acting, tumbling, and crafts, and intensives are available for the more experienced dancer. Ages 3 and up. May 24-Aug. 6. Synergy Dance Studio, 3425 Bee Caves Rd., 512/327-4130. \$205-450. www.synergystudio.com/summer-dance-camp.

ZACH THEATRE CAMPS Young thespians will hone their dance, musical theatre, and acting skills at the venerable institution's in-person weekly camps. Ages 6-19. June 7-Aug. 19. 1510 Toomey; 14010 Hwy. 183 #540. Prices TBA. www.zachtheatre.org/education.

CONTINUED ON P.30



BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP AUSTIN'S PREMIER BASKETBALL CAMP FOR BOYS + GIRLS • AGES 7-16

SESSION	DATE	LOCATION
1	June 14-17	West Austin Youth Association
2	June 14-17	Georgetown Rec. Center
3	Jun 28-Jul 1	West Austin Youth Association
4	Jun 28-Jul 1	Clay Madsen Rec. Center
5	Jun 28-Jul 1	St. Michael's Athletic Center/ WACC
6	July 12-15	West Austin Youth Association
7	July 12-15	Cedar Park Rec. Center
8	July 26-29	West Austin Youth Association
9	July 26-29	Central Texas Fieldhouse, Buda TX
10	Aug 2-5	West Austin Youth Association
11	Aug 2-5	Brushy Creek Rec. Center



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WaterWorksLBJ.com

Summer Camps CONTINUED FROM P.29

instructional CAMPS

A SPACIOUS PLACE The aim is nurturing the soul through creativity activities like terrarium-making, film-making, costume design, rock gardening, chef school, Messy Art Day, and more. Aug. 2-6. 7105 Gentle Oak. www.aspaciousplace.com.

AFF FILM CAMP Join Austin Film Festival for a summer of creativity, collaboration, and fun with hands-on, one-week camp classes and workshops in the arts of screen-writing, filmmaking, editing, video game writing, and more. Both virtual and limited in-person classes are available. Ages 9-18. June 7-July 30. Virtual or on-site at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity. \$125-410. www.austinfilmfestival.com/summer-camps-and-classes_2021.

ART + ACADEMY With options for online or in-person camps, captivating weeklong art camps cater to all ages and interests, balancing fun with expert instruction. Young artists can select from a variety of engaging and inspiring themed camps that will take their drawing and painting skills to the next level. Ages 5-17. June 1-Aug. 13. 9300 Anderson Mill; 2300 Lohmans Spur #190; 3621 E. Whitestone Blvd. #700, Cedar Park; 5424 U.S. Hwy. 290 W. #110. \$136-320. www.artplusacademy.com.

AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FASHION DESIGN Half- and full-day classes for the beginner to advanced fashion designer. All supplies are included, and each week concludes with a fashion show so you can see what your child created. Ages 7-13. June 1-Aug. 14. Austin School of Fashion Design, 3216 S. Congress, 512/323-0633. \$240-499. www.austinschooloffashiondesign.com.

AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FILM CREATIVE MEDIA CAMPS Bring stories to life through the power of film, animation, and creative media through hands-on learning. Each camper is mailed a creative media box with tools and supplies needed to complete the projects, and will receive access to free trials to creative media software for the duration of the workshop if it pertains to lesson. Ages 8-16. June 14-Aug. 6. Virtual. \$680. camp@austinfilmschool.org, www.austinfilmschool.org/virtual-summer-camp-2021.

BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMP These fun and challenging writing workshops allow students to work closely with a professional writer as they explore the arts of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and playwrighting. All campers experience the joy of reading, writing, and sharing their original work during one-week or three-week camps. Ages 7-17. June 7-Aug. 6. Virtual; in-person camps to be added. \$125-300. kkelly@austinlibrary.org, www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps.



Austin School of Film



Bake Austin

BAKE AUSTIN A new virtual cooking experience that offers you everything you know and love about Bake Austin from the comfort of your home, plus online enhancements including printable materials, video tutorials, online recipes, and more. Kids afraid to get messy knead not apply. Ages 8 and up. June 7-Aug. 6. Virtual. \$250. bakeaustin@gmail.com, www.bakeaustin.com.

BLUE VALLEY FLY FISHING Have your child experience the incredible creek fly fishing opportunities in the Hill Country with a two-day expedition where they will improve their skills and target different game species. Ages 8-16. July 28-Aug. 5. Sportsman's Finest Fly Shop, 12434 Bee Caves Rd. \$200. www.bluevalleyflyfishing.com.

CODEWIZARDSHQ LIVE ONLINE CODING SUMMER PROGRAM CodeWizardsHQ is the leading online coding school for kids and teens, with fun and effective live, online coding classes designed to give students the programming knowledge, skills, and confidence to thrive in a digital world. Students learn Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Scratch, Java & more. Ages 8-18. June 7-24; July 5-22; Aug. 2-19. Online. \$447 or \$149/week. school@codewizardshq.com, www.codewizardshq.com/summer.

CODING WITH KIDS Little coders get the basics, and older kids learn about Python, mobile apps, web development, robotics, design, and more. Ages 5-18. May 31-Aug. 27. Online. \$119-289. www.codingwithkids.com.

DIVE WORLD AUSTIN Get introduced to scuba diving and complete AquaMissions that teach skin diving, search and recovery, conservation, and more. Teens can work toward a certification. Ages 8-18. June 14-Aug. 13. 12129 RR 620 N. \$375-675. www.diveworldaustin.com.

ESTEAM LEARNING LABS Learning Fun 101 & 4Reelz School of Film joined forces to create a program focusing on entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, the arts, math, music, movement, and more. Ages 5-17. May 31-Aug. 13. Online or at ESTEAM Learning Labs, 12 Lake Dr., Round Rock. \$385-650. www.learningfun101.com.

FOODIE KIDS SUMMER CAMPS Is your young foodie the next MasterChef Junior star? Hone their skills with camps that delve into French and Italian cooking, pastry baking, restaurant classics, and lots more. Ages 4-14. June 1-Aug. 7. Foodie Kids, 3818 Far West Blvd. #107. \$325. getcooking@foodie-kids.com, www.foodie-kids.com.

GAME WORLDS Real-world game developers guide kids through a crash course into how games are made, and help students bring their vision to life through practical skills such as digital art, audio engineering,

programming, design, testing, writing, and business presentation. Students leave with a playable game they've created themselves, which they will pitch to a panel of professional developers. Cost includes healthy catered lunches and a pizza party. Ages 8-18. June 14-Aug. 20. ACC Northridge, 11928 Stonehollow Dr., 512/870-7916. \$650. www.gameworldscamp.com.

HOFT INSTITUTE TEEN INTENSIVE ESL CAMP This intensive language program offers students a chance to improve their language skills while meeting students from all over the world. Camps vary in length from three to 10 weeks. Ages 14-18. June 15-Aug. 20. Hoft Institute, 2400 Pearl. \$1,240-3,620. www.hoft.edu/esl/summer-teen-programs.

ID TECH CAMPS Sharpen STEM skills with virtual courses in coding, game development, robotics, and creative arts with Roblox, Minecraft, Python, Java, YouTube, and more. Students learn from tech rock-star instructors who are recruited from top universities like Stanford, Caltech, and NYU. Ages 7-19. May 31-Aug. 27. Prices vary by course. www.idtech.com/virtual.

IDEA LAB KIDS Diverse, balanced curriculum brings excitement to STEM education and allows families to use the program for the whole summer or just one week at locations all over town. Ages 5-13. June 7-Aug. 13. Idea Lab Kids (8620 Burnet Rd.); Circle C Rec Center (7817 La Crosse); St. Andrew's Episcopal (1112 W. 31st); St. Gabriel's Catholic School (2500 Wimberly). \$325-375. austin@idealabkids.com, www.idealabkids.com.

IMAGINE ARTS ACADEMY Imagine Arts Academy camps are designed with exciting, fun art activities. Your child will become an artist for the week, having the opportunity to experience a variety of hands-on adventures. Instructors use an inquiry-based technique that allows even the youngest camper to enjoy learning. Children will design, create, build, and assemble a variety of interesting projects based on four different themes, including Artblazers, Wild World, World of Design, and Artist's Passport! Ages 5-12. Happening now through August. Virtual; in-person locations TBA. \$18-385. austin.imagineartsacademy.com.

KIDS WITH PENS Poetry, graphic novels, comedy, and other creative writing genres are explored, and every young author will be published on the blog and in a book at the end of the summer. Ages 8-15. June 7-July 23. Online, 323/807-3672. \$275-300. www.girlswithpens.org.

CONTINUED ON P.32



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instructional CAMPS

LIVE THE LANGUAGE SPANISH IMMERSION These online immersive camps put vocabulary and key phrases in real context, making Spanish relevant, practical, and fun. Activities include bilingual cooking videos and recipes to make at home. Ages 6-12. June 7-Aug. 20. Online, 512/762-4907. \$250. www.livethelanguage.org.

MAD SCIENCE Your child will become a junior scientist for the week, having the opportunity to experience various hands-on adventures. Children will design, create, build and assemble a variety of interesting projects. Twelve different camp themes are available including robots, rockets, spies, yuckology, invention and more! Various locations as well as virtual options with supplies delivered to your door. Ages 5-12. Happening now through August. Virtual; in-person locations TBA. \$18-325. austin.madscience.org.

MARIPOSAS SPANISH CAMP Children have a blast learning and improving their Spanish through outdoor games, storytime, culture-focused activities, cooking,

music, dance, and art. Join the mailing list to be advised when camp dates are set for the summer. Ages 2-8. Early June & August, dates TBA. 4108 Avenue H. Prices TBA. www.mariposasspanish.com/summer.

MOOLAH U Young entrepreneurs will work one-on-one with a mentor to go from idea to pitch to profitable business in five short days, and will engage in live virtual sessions and calls each day. Campers will leave with a developed entrepreneurial mindset and critical skills needed for smart financial choices in the future. Ages 8-15. May 24-Aug. 27. Various locations. \$195. info@moolahu.com, www.moolahu.com.

MY CODING PLACE Summer is the perfect time to learn valuable coding skills, including Python, web design, and graphics. Camps will be offered in virtual or in-studio formats with precautions to ensure safety and limited enrollment. Ages 7-18. June 7-Aug. 30. Virtual or at 3616 Far West Blvd. #109. \$225-499. www.mycodingplace.com.

NATUREVERSITY Through creative games and inspired adventures led by amazing naturalist counselors, students discover a passion for solving natural mysteries, learning to adapt in mock survival scenarios, shoot traditional bows, and heighten their awareness of their surroundings through scouting. Ages 5-12. June 7-July 30. East Austin. \$350. www.natureversity.org.

PLAY-WELL TEKNOLOGIES Dream it, build it, wreck it, repeat in these LEGO-inspired engineering programs. Your

kid will engineer interesting projects, engage in critical thinking, work collaboratively, and learn STEM concepts through playing with LEGO. Kids can choose from themes like Star Wars, Minecraft, Pokémon, and more. Ages 5-13. June 1-Aug. 13. Multiple locations. Pricing varies. www.play-well.org.

RIO VISTA FARM SUMMER CAMP Campers learn the basics of English riding and horse care through hands-on experience. Responsibility is taught through the care and riding of "their" horse for the week in preparation for the weekly horse show, and equine games and crafts round out the experience. Ages 7-16. May 30-Aug. 13. 1000 Fallwell Ln., Del Valle. \$410. smcmorris2@gmail.com, www.riovistafarm.net.

SNAPOLGY Weekly LEGO camps with themes like stop-motion animation, amusement parks, and Star Wars make STEAM learning fun and develop social skills and teamwork. Ages 4-14. June 1-Aug. 13. Various locations. \$250-395. austin@snapology.com, austin.snapology.com.

SQUISHY BANANA STUDIOS FILM CAMP Each week, campers will create a complete film from start to finish: write a script, scout a location, storyboard, act, and even edit. Sessions are limited to six campers each. Ages 5-12. June 14-Aug. 13. 11530 Menchaca Rd. \$295-395. www.squishybananastudios.com/summercamp.html.

THINKERY CAMPS Austin's children's museum offers day camps focusing on math, science, engineering, and nature with an emphasis on fun, which is kinda this place's M.O. Camps are themed around color and light, sound engineering, and inventions. Ages 5-12. May 31-Aug. 9. Thinkery, 1830 Simond, 512/469-6201. \$385. reservations@thinkeryaustin.org, www.thinkeryaustin.org/camp.

UT COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMER ACADEMIES The UT-Austin Department of Computer Science offers five very distinct summer academies for high school students, including robotics, iOS development, and more. These camps offer unique hands-on experience in learning computer science. Ages 14-18. June 7-July 30. Online. \$799. www.cs.utexas.edu/outreach/academies.



Waterworks (SEE SPORTS CAMPS, AT RIGHT)



Thinkery Camps

UT RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM MEDIA CAMPS Are your kids curious about the process of filmmaking or writing a screenplay? Do they love to play video games and might like to design their own? Do they live for animation or love to laugh at funny movies? UT's faculty of advanced graduate students, professors, and media professionals can help develop those interests and teach your kids the skills to make the content they love, all while having fun with other creative kids. Ages 8-18. June-August (dates TBA). Virtual from UT-Austin. \$575-1150. rtf.utexas.edu/camps.

WICKED WORKSHOP CAMP ON DEMAND This virtual camp on demand provides curriculum based on authentic, reality-based projects that foster independent thinking, self-directed learning, exploration, and creativity. Campers explore one main theme such as mythology or flying objects with four projects and can work at their own pace. Ages 6-14. Ongoing; curriculum and materials provided anytime. Online. \$60-75. www.wickedworkshop.org.



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ALL-STAR SPORTS CAMP Campers learn teamwork and sportsmanship through a variety of fun team-based games and activities including soccer, basketball, kickball, capture the flag, Ultimate Frisbee, and more. *Ages 5-12. May 28-Aug. 20. SoccerZone South, 9501 Menchaca Rd.; Lakeline, 920 Old Mill Rd. \$199-299. www.allstarsportscamp.org.*

AVILA CREATIVE SOCCER CAMPS Focuses on technical soccer skills, with campers working on shooting mechanics, dribbling, juggling, passing, and more. Summer Train & Apply combines summer camp and scrimmaging for the ultimate experience, with added speed and agility training. *Ages 4-18. May 31-Aug. 13. Multiple locations. \$300-550. www.avilasoccer.com.*

BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP This four-day basketball camp is designed for all players and focuses on shooting skills. Attendees will get a season's worth of training (and fun) in each four-day session. *Ages 7-16. June 4-Aug. 5. Various locations. \$240. www.brandyperrymanshootingcamp.com.*

FIRST TEE OF GREATER AUSTIN GOLF CAMP All camps are structured around the organization's life skills curriculum and core values, and campers will all receive a one-year membership to Harvey Penick Golf Campus. *Ages 5-17. June 7-July 16. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 512/926-1100. \$130-525. www.firstteeaustin.org/summer-camp.*

JUMP! GYMNASTICS Kids will explore the imagination through theme-based curriculum with gymnastics, art exploration, interactive centers, social integration, dramatic play, yoga, music, and dance. Find out why Jump! was voted *Austin Family* magazine's Most Fun Camp four times. *Ages 3-10. June 7-Aug. 20. 2117 W. Anderson; 6800 West Gate #111. \$265-305; extended care, \$115. north@jump-austin.com; south@jump-austin.com, www.jumpgymnastics.com.*

ROCK-ABOUT CLIMBING ADVENTURES Does your kid prefer summer activities that are somewhat on the rough and tough side? Consider this five-day rock-climbing program, where campers will learn to work as a team as they scamper up stony surfaces at the Greenbelt, Reimer's Ranch, and Enchanted Rock. *Ages 9-18. June 7-Aug. 13. 3755 Capital of TX Hwy. S. \$399. adam@rock-about.com, www.rock-about.com/courses/kids-camps.*



All-Star Sports Camp

UT SOCCER CAMP Offers programs for players at all levels of experience, has a strong instructor-to-athlete ratio, and gives campers the opportunity to train with university-level coaches. Registration will be closed until further notice, and will open pending camp approval by UT-Austin and will be subject to NCAA rules as well as state and federal government guidelines and policies. *Ages 5-18. Tentative dates: June 5-July 21. The University of Texas at Austin. Prices TBA. texassoccer@utexas.edu, www.texassoccer.com.*

WATERWORKS A four-night, five-day camp experience focused on water sports for students of all skill levels. Every camper gets customized instruction from Baylor Team instructors and champion wakeboarder Harley Clifford. The majority of each day is spent on Lake LBJ, then campers hang out at the Fun House in the evening. *Ages 10-17. June 13-17; July 12-16; July 19-23. 14757 W. FM 1431, Kingsland. \$3,000. info@waterworks1bj.com, www.waterworks1bj.com.*

WESTLAKE YOUTH SOCCER CAMP Recreational and advanced kickers can choose from full-day and half-day camps that have indoor play areas to escape the heat. *Ages 3-12. June 14-July 30. Westlake Athletic & Community Center, 300 Westbank Dr., #205; Eanes ISD (locations TBA). \$195-395. www.westlakesoccer.com.*

YOUTH GAZELLES Campers will enjoy running with Gilbert Tuhabonye, local running icon, to experience his joy and passion for running and develop good running form and endurance in a fun and motivating atmosphere. *Ages 10-14. June 7-July 9. 115 Sandra Muraida Way Ste. 105-A. \$200. www.gilbertsgazelles.com.*



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Arts & Culture

"ANDY ST. MARTIN: THE WEIGHT"
Prizer Arts & Letters, 2023 E. Cesar Chavez
www.prizerartsandletters.org
Through March 6

He Is What He Did

In "Andy St. Martin: The Weight" at Prizer Arts & Letters, the artist is, as ever, nothing if not commitment incarnate **BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER**

"You Are What You Did" says the print from graphic designer Rick Griffith's Matter shop in Denver. I bought that print because I'd seen another iteration of it in Austin's Northern-Southern Gallery months before and hadn't been able to get it – the message, the type treatment – out of my mind. Which has nothing but also everything to do with Andy St. Martin and "The Weight," his new show of original works at Prizer Arts and Letters on East Cesar Chavez.

"Like all my paintings, collage, and drawings," says St. Martin, "these new ones are a chain reaction of reactions, reflections, decisions (about them, paintings, and life and light, literally). They are my activity, evaluation, commitment incarnate, and contract with myself." They've been those things since the artist first picked up a brush, a pencil, a pair of scissors and some glue. They've been those things, at least subtly influenced by our own river city, since the New Hampshire-born artist moved here in 1991 to participate in a workshop conducted by dancer Deborah Hay. They've been those things while St. Martin has worked, is working, and will work in a studio among the other makers (woodcrafters, blacksmiths) of the Splinter Group. They'll

be those things as long as he's doing them.

These abstractions of St. Martin's – large, initially mild of impact or downright confrontational, with fields and patterns that intrigue more than they explain, with a palette that shifts according to whatever urgency of color comes a-calling (part of that chain reaction of reactions and all, we reckon) – these new paintings inhabit the walls of Prizer with an oblique record of the artist's life that is also, taking the image-maker at his word, a *literal* record of the artist's life. He is what he did. He is the choices and applications, the paths his hands describe in changing the blankness of a surface toward what his muse dictates, the actions required to wrangle pigment and paper, business and board, texture and time. Especially time: He's relentless, we've heard, in his explorations.

"This is the time, and this is the record of the time," as Laurie Anderson voiced it in her "From the Air" of 1982 – which has nothing but also everything to do with Andy St. Martin's "The Weight" at Prizer Arts and Letters. In this time that's recorded more by everyone than during any of the times before it, that's more basically *surveilled*, you can still be your own choices



COURTESY OF PRIZER ARTS & LETTERS

and applications. You can, for instance, choose to apply yourself to traveling to see what light bounces off the transmogrified life of Andy St. Martin expressed upon those walls. You can make an appointment for a full viewing or you can peer through the front window that'll be

illuminated nightly, from 6-10pm, until March 6. And then it – appreciating art in person – will be something you did, do you see? And it will be you. Or, as one of our favorite fictional beings of all time struggled to realize, "The Spanish dancer is the girl who was hurt in darkness."

ARTS LISTINGS

★ AC

THEATRE

MAYPEARL St. Ed's continues its 48th annual season with a public reading of this new play by **Tlaloc Rivas**. It's an adaptation of **Friedrich Dürrenmatt's** 1956 tragicomedy *The Visit*, and this livestreamed reading features "guest artist **Lowell Bartholomee**, a little country music, dancing puppets, a healthy dose of controversy, and a whole lot of heart." *Through Feb. 28. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 512/448-8484. Donations accepted. www.stedwards.edu/theatre.*

THE PEOPLE COULD FLY **Spectrum Theatre Company** presents a **virtual reading** of the titular African American folktale, as adapted by **Glenn Towery** from the **Virginia Hamilton** version. Each performance will be broadcast on the company's YouTube channel and Facebook page. *Sun., Feb. 28, 7pm. Donations encouraged. www.spectrumtheatreastin.org.*

THE SPOON RIVER PROJECT **City Theatre** presents a virtual theatre performance adapted from the critically acclaimed American poetry of **Edgar Lee Masters**, with **30 Austin**

actors bringing to life the politics, passion, love, betrayals, secrets, failures, and hopes of a small Illinois town. True stories about death and life combine to reveal a moving portrait of what - and who - creates a place called home. Staged and filmed at Mueller Park, directed by **Andy Berkovsky**, with filming and editing by **J. Kevin Smith**. *Through Feb 28. Donations accepted. www.citytheatreastin.org.*

FATE INCORPORATED This is a three- to six-week theatrical experience told through email in a choose-your-own-adventure sort of format, brought to you by Austin's own **Madison Sheridan** and crew. Listen: The participant (that's you, citizen) has just been hired as a "relational fate associate" at a corporation founded by the goddess of fate to aid mortals from all different worlds and universes. Your job is to help answer these mortals' prayers and help them as much as possible. *Say what? Say, see the website for details. Deadline for sign-up: March 14. Free. www.fateinc.org.*

👁️ **THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL** This is an online community, as playwright **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 mix. www.socialdistancingfestival.com.

COMEDY

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.*

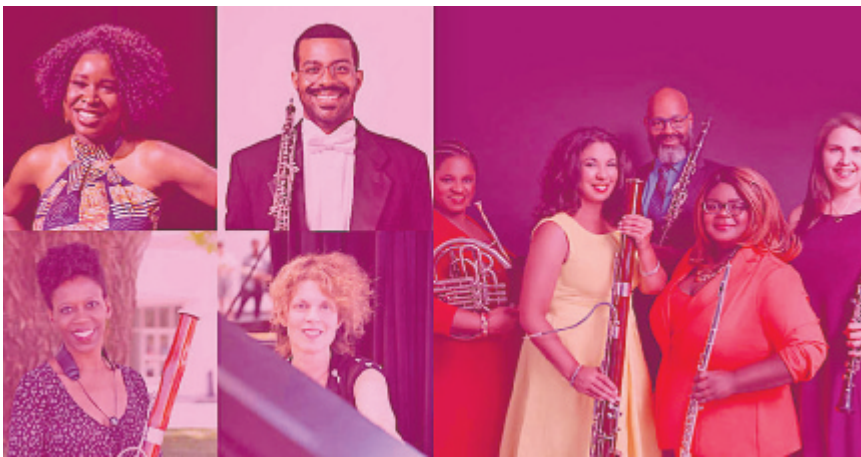
Hideout Theatre www.hideouttheatre.com

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.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

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



ACMC: Celebration

The **Austin Chamber Music Center** presents the 18th annual **Black Composers Concert**. Led by **Artina McCain**, pianist extraordinaire and long-time ACMC collaborator, they'll take you on a journey of beauty, celebration, and story-telling focused on living Black composers and the incredible legacy of **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**. The program features McCain on piano, oboist **Titus Underwood**, bassoonist **Maya Stone**, **Adelante Winds**, and pianist **Kathryn Goodson**. Note: All ticket holders will also be able to access the program on demand after the concert premiere through May 31. *Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30pm. Austin Chamber Music Center, 7600 Burnet Rd., Ste. 190, 512/454-0026. \$10-40. www.austinchambermusic.org.*

CHORUS
AUSTIN
PRESENTS

KEEPING THE LIGHT SONGS OF HOPE



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FEB 27TH AT 6PM
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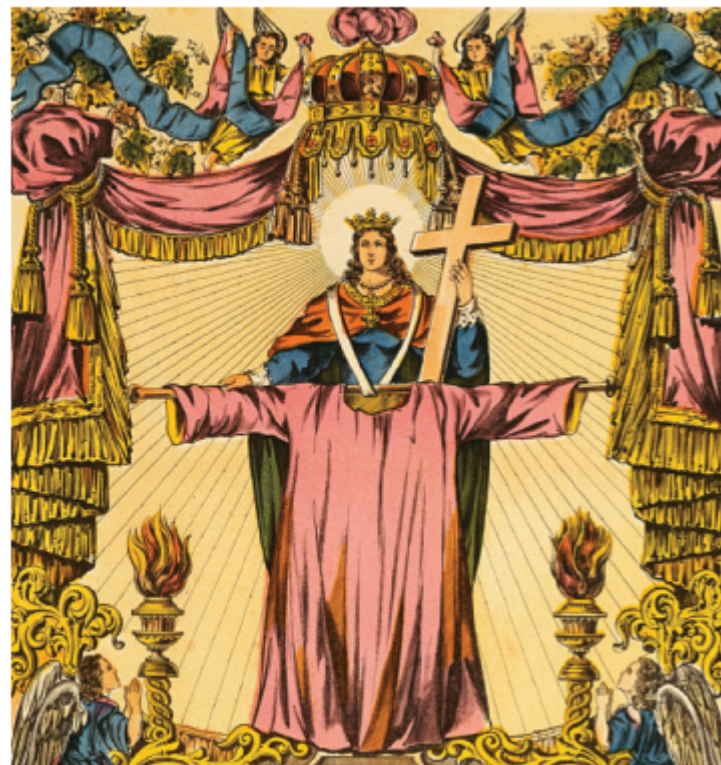


Burst!

Conceived and Directed by **GESEL MASON**

jointhedrama.org

Photo by Lawrence Peart



A CRITIC WHO ASTONISHED.
A COLLECTION THAT ASTOUNDS.
BE AMAZED BY BOTH IN THIS
NEW EXHIBITION.

A treasure trove of artworks, spanning continents and centuries, tells the history of printmaking and how earlier artists influenced those who followed — even hundreds of years later. This remarkable collection also reveals the mind of its collector, art historian and critic Leo Steinberg. His writings upended many long-held ideas about artists, originality, and printmaking. Be one of the first to see the revelatory exhibition that explores Leo Steinberg's library of prints, just opened and on view through May 9.

Advance timed-entry museum admission reservations required. Details at blantonmuseum.org/exhibitions

Image: Anonymous, *La Robe de N.-S. Jésus-Christ*, number 1851 from *Imagerie d'Épave*, Chromolithograph on newsprint, 11 5/8 in. x 15 1/2 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, 2002

BLANTON

The University of Texas at Austin / blantonmuseum.org / @blantonmuseum f t i ALWAYS FREE ON THURSDAY

TRAINWRECK TUESDAYS: AN OPEN MIC Yes, it's a mid-pandemic comedy night at the Common – presented by **G-Spot Comedy Showcase**, replete with drink specials, and followed by karaoke. You're, what, still waiting for the punchline? It's an *open mic*, laughmonger, you supply the punchline. Note: Sign up at 7pm. *Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30pm. Common Interest, 8440 Burnet, 512/453-6796. www.ciaustin.com.*

DANCE

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

BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: BEYOND THE CLOUDS The acclaimed aerial dance troupe's 2020 performance (chosen by *Chronicle Arts Editor Robert Faires* 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.*

BURST! This new show is part of an ongoing investigation by **Gesel Mason**, who uses **contemporary dance and movement techniques** to reimagine our identities and create space for individual voices to impact the collective community. *Thu., Feb. 25, 7:30pm. Donations accepted. www.theatredance.utexas.edu.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC

LESS THAN 10: ARCADE Digital collective **Less Than 10** presents a streamed concert featuring a diverse array of popular video games music, as well as a full set from Austin's own **Invoke String Quartet**. Bonus: the premiere of a new work by composer **Phong Tran**. *Thu., Feb. 25, 7:30pm. Donations accepted. www.lessthan10music.com.*

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR: RUPERT AND LAURA ACG's concert-streaming rig has **traveled up to Brooklyn** to broadcast some of that borough's amazing artistry. This new series begins now, with married duo **Rupert Boyd** and **Laura Metcalf** sharing the divine sounds of cello and guitar. *Sat., Feb. 27, 8pm. Donations accepted. www.austinclassicalguitar.org.*

KEEPING THE LIGHT: SONGS OF HOPE **Chorus Austin** and **Ryan Heller** present a virtual concert featuring new and previously recorded favorites. *Feb. 27-March 13. Free. www.chorusaustin.org.*

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 (as long as the streets and sidewalks aren't dangerous with all this newfangled ice and snow) is a hearty, full-throated YES. *Ongoing. Free. www.landmarks.utexas.edu.*

📍 **NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: TO** Have we mentioned how we can't even with this **Phillip Niemeyer** and his **Northern-Southern** gallery? And that we mean that in a *good way*? Listen: While the artistic takeover called **Baton** continues in the N-S venue on East 12th, here comes another wide-ranging project set in and around the city itself, a group show of **paths and directions considered as art experience** – installed outdoors, in semi-wild public spaces across Austin and beyond. This show encompasses "audio tours, trails, portals, sculpture, digital media, instructions, new landmarks, wayfinding marks, sibyls, remote running sessions, and care stations." And the artists providing this panoply of discovery? **Adreon Denson Henry, Alyssa Taylor Wendt, Amanda Julia Steinback, Amy Scofield & Lisa Hallee, Emma Hadzi Antich, Laura Latimer, Chris Lyons, Ted Carey, Sean Ripple, Staci Maloney & Michelle Smolensky, Tammy West, and Zoe Berg.** Recommended. Five stars. 10/10. Get out of the house and remap your territory! See website for details on how. *Through Feb. 28. Free. www.northern-southern.com.*

COFFEE CHAT: MICHAEL ANTHONY GARCÍA AND BUG DAVIDSON This series from **Big Medium** features leaders in the creative community sharing their personal and professional experiences to inspire others pursuing careers in art. **Michael Anthony García** is a multidisciplinary artist & independent curator, and a founding member of **Los Outsiders** curatorial collective. **Bug Davidson** is a motion-image artist and film/theatre director interested in communicating through visual language intersections of media & representation, social corporeal choreography, akousmata and action, and the enchantment of cinematic gesture. *Thu., March 4, 11am. Big Medium, 916 Springdale #101, 512/939-6665. Free. www.bigmedium.org.*

OPENING

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: SLOW SEASON **Bucky Miller** – artist, writer, recipient of the Aaron Siskind Foundation Individual Photographer's Fellowship – has exhibited in solo shows at Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum and more, and his work's also been featured in publications like *n+1*, *Der Greif*, *The Believer*, and *Glasstire*. He says: "The photographs and other things in 'Slow Season' constitute a **love note to friends about the very reasonable joys of slow and sporadic attentiveness**. When lost in the fog, it helps to pause. Unhurried, there is room for puppet theater. Do not worry: It will be clear the puppets were an asset once things get moving again." *Feb. 26-March 28. Gallery hours by appointment. grayDUCK Gallery, 2213 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.*

CLOSING

BALE CREEK ALLEN GALLERY: SPACE JUNK TELEMETRY Here's a solo show from **Vargas-Suarez Universal**, an artist currently living and working between New York City, Houston, and Bishkek (in Central Asia's Kyrgyz Republic). He's best known for public art, paintings, textile works, drawings, and sound recordings, sourcing spaceflight programs, astronomy, and aerospace architecture of countries around the world to create stunning work for museums, galleries, private, and public spaces. *Through Feb. 26. Bale Creek Allen Gallery, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #103. www.balecreekallengallery.com.*

147 DEVICES FOR INTEGRATED PRINCIPLES **Big Medium** presents a new collaboration between **Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Kirk Lynn, and Peter Stopschinski**: a **sensational new work of installation** that features photography, video, sculpture, and an interactive closing Zoom event. Entry by appointment only. *Through Feb. 27. Big Medium, 916 Springdale #101, 512/939-6665. www.bigmedium.org.*

📍 **WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: BE THE SOUL** Emerging from the chaos of the pandemic and the fight for social justice, this exquisite show of paintings by **Anne Siems** explores "a shift in consciousness to a softer and more playful way of being. The women depicted are strong yet vulnerable; they are both a hope and a reflection of our world. In this work and in her practice, Siems has found strength and patience to be the soul." We heartily concur. *Through Feb. 27. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, 512/472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.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 of red on red. Into this incarnadine vault the sculptor has engineered **neon light and sound that plays through cymatic devices** to oscillate fluids at the frequency of a specific tone. 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.*

📍 **THE FEMME ABSTRACT** **Moya McIntyre** of **Dimension Gallery** is the producer for the second showing of this much-loved group show, a **multi-artist group exhibition featuring local abstract artwork by women** in a 20,000-sq.-ft. space on Springdale. Our verdict: This is a bi-level warehouse of brilliance that you shouldn't miss, a **diverse collection that rewards multiple viewings**. *Through Feb. 30. Saturdays, noon-5pm. 979 Springdale. www.moyamcintyre.com.*

LYDIA STREET GALLERY: ATTACHMENT **Deanna Miesch's** new gallery on the Eastside debuts with an exhibition of drawings and sculptural works by Austin's **Stephen Daly**. Reception: *Fri. Feb. 26, 6-10pm. Lydia Street Gallery, 1200 E. 11th #109. www.lydiastreetgallery.com.*

ONGOING

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.*

MACC: 21/ VEINTIUNO The **Mexican-American Cultural** Center presents this new virtual exhibition by **Ender Martos**, featuring multiple digital photographs of the acclaimed artist's work arranged in three thematic periods of 21 years that represent the artist's past, present, and future. *Free. www.maccastin.org.*

WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY: THIS IS NOW Yes, it's contemporary AF, featuring an array of work by more than 40 artists across a range of disciplines – with **Russell Young** and the **Connor Brothers** mining images from old Hollywood and blurring the lines between high and low culture; **Jim Dine, James Rosenquist, and Donald Sultan** abstracting symbols from the everyday; **Yayoi Kusama** and **Damien Hirst** using stark visual contrast to explore the transient nature of life; and so on, in that globally eye-compelling manner. Bonus: There are works by Austin-based artists **Melanie Farris, Lauren McPhail, Christina Moser, Ender Martos, Ion Art, and Marcella Colavecchio**, too. *Through March 28. 1009 W. Sixth. www.wcc.art.*

BEHIND THE SCENES: ART OF THE HOLLYWOOD BACKDROP Visit midcentury Hollywood without leaving Austin through an up-close view of these **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** studio assets. This first-ever public viewing of **12 historic Golden Age of Film backdrops** provides a look into the nearly lost art of hand-painted Hollywood scenic art. Bonus: Re-creations of other backdrops in the collection, as painted

by UT scenic art students training with **Karen Maness**. *Tuesdays-Sundays. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman, 512/527-4739. \$5-12. www.texasperformingarts.org.*

📍 **THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN: "I'M" AND "BIBLE EYE"** Austin-born and internationally acclaimed, **Deborah Roberts** critiques notions of **beauty, the body, race, and identity in contemporary society** through the lens of Black children. Norway's **Torbjørn Rodland** works with analog technology and readymade spaces to create **photographs that render the everyday uncanny**. *Through Aug. 15. The Contemporary Austin, 700 Congress, 512/453-5312. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.*

STAYCATION IV: (UN)PROMISED POTENTIAL Featuring works by **Robert Jackson Harrington, Annie Miller, Liz Rodda, and Tammie Rubin**, "staycation iv: (un)promised potential" explores concepts that generate and change through repetition, contradiction, and fictional narratives. Note: In conjunction with this exhibition, **MASS Close Encounters** will offer virtual programming with the artists via their @massgallery Instagram. *Through March 14. MASS Gallery, 705 Gunter, 512/535-4946. www.massgallery.org.*

📍 **MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MEXICO, THE BORDER, AND BEYOND** Mexic-Arte Museum presents an exhibition of selections from the **Juan Antonio Sandoval Jr.** collection, 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.*

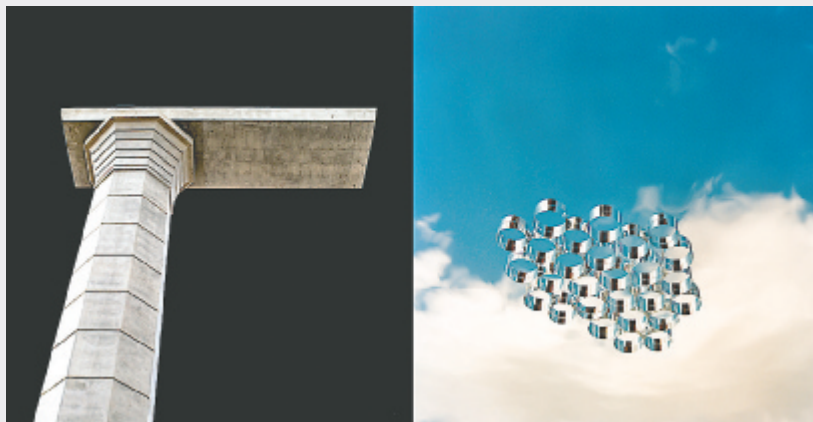
NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: BATON The N-S gallery space has been turned into an ever-evolving installation called **Baton** by a series of artists working in turn, and here's a whole new year, and gallerista **Phillip Niemeyer** says this tag-team situation will continue until we're all clear of the 'ronas, and so who knows what this wonderment has morphed into at this point. *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 cynosures from **Charles Umlauf** and others anchoring sight among the bright foliage and tree-towered paths. *Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-4pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Azie Morton, 512/445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

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

BOOKS

BOOKS: PICK 'EM UP CURBSIDE! Don't forget: 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 **South Congress Books**, the ultimate in unique works on paper) 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**. www.bookshop.org.



ICOSA: Nothing Is

The journey, the process, the times in between, the present moment in which we find ourselves: "Nothing Is" features **photographs, video, and installation works** by **Leon Alesi** and **Amy Bench**, deconstructing and reassembling artifacts, transitional objects, talismans, and icons as expressions of momentary (or eternal) tension. The gallery is open Fridays, noon-6pm, by appointment; Saturdays, noon-6pm (no appointment necessary). Bonus: the always-viewable **Window Dressing** show in the gallery's front window features works by **Veronica Ceci, Michael Villarreal, and Rodell Warner**. *Feb. 26-March 27. ICOSA, 916 Springdale #102, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.*

QMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

LONG TIME, NO COLUMN, Y'ALL.

Writing this on a balmy, sunny morning, it's hard to believe that only a week ago I was fanning smoldering *Chronicle* copies in my fireplace so I could boil some water alongside the hundreds of thousands of Austinites – and millions of Texans – who lost power in last week's blizzard blitz. Lots of queer orgs and businesses in Austin sprung into action in the storm's wake, either donating proceeds to local relief efforts like **The Little Gay Shop's** limited T-shirt sales, or organizing to get food, water, and other critical supplies and aid to Austinites, including **Black Trans Leadership of Austin**, **Austin Black Pride**, and **Frida Friday ATX**. The qmmunity's always shown up for each other, but to witness so many folks rally together and really show us that we do, in fact, get by with the help of our friends, well, felt pretty special to ATX. Many are still not on the other side of this disaster though. Frida Friday is still accepting donations to its new fund that aims to help its vendor community and local creatives in response to the storm as well as the pandemic's continued fallout. Check out their IG (www.instagram.com/fridafridayatx) or Facebook (www.fb.com/fridafridayatx) for how you can help. Of course, taking care of your mental health is especially important right now, so keep checking in on your friends and fam and don't forget to take care of yourself. As a reminder, local arts and mental health advocacy org **WhatsintheMirror?** continues to accept applications for its **"Connect to Care"** program connecting communities of color, including the LGBTQIA community and people living with HIV/AIDS, to free mental health services. Find more info and the application at www.whatsinthemirror.org ...

Some Q-for-Q Housekeeping: In light of last week's events, a few happenings were postponed or rescheduled. Austin's transmedia arts fest, **OUTsider Festival**, will now take place Fri.-Sun., March 5-7, virtually and with limited screening availability outside the Butterfly Bar. Passes are available online and are priced at pay-what-you-can. Check out the lineup at austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and see next week's column ... Produced by **Embrace Austin**, **Thee Gay Agenda**, and BTLA, "Trans CrowdFund Live!," which was originally scheduled for Fri., Feb. 26, has been postponed. Watch Qmmunity for its rescheduled date ...



We get by with a little help from our friends

BETH SULLIVAN

2 TO DO

Post Gaylentine's Weekend Market

Frida Friday ATX celebrates Gaylentine's Day (like V-Day, but gayer) with an outdoor, socially distanced market. Music by DJs Chorizo Funk, Eriq Stylez, and Boyfriend ATX. Rotating vendors each day, boo. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28, noon-4pm. Revival Coffee, 1405 E. Seventh. www.fb.com/fridafridayatx.*

Queer Loteria

It's Sunday Fungay with Tatiana Cholula. Play Loteria with Tatiana and enjoy some masked-up fun tunes, too. *Sun., Feb. 28, 4-6pm. Oilcan's, 211 W. Fourth. www.fb.com/oilcanharrys.*

Q'D UP

TAHARA A queer coming-of-age drama about a teen girl who's manipulated into a romantic encounter with her best friend. *Through March 2. Online. www.agliff.org. Free; \$12.*

SHA'NANIGANS with your host host Sha'Nyia Ellis Narcisse. *Fri., Feb. 26, 10pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth.*

VIRTUAL CRAFTHER MARKET Brought to you by bbATX to support women and LGBTQIA small-business owners. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28. www.crafthermarket.com.*

RELEASING & UNRAVELING Wellness workshop for QTPOC. *Sun., Feb. 28, 3pm. Online. Free. www.fb.com/allgoqopoc.*

SIR RAT KINK BINGO Don your gear – and face masks, obvi. *Sun., Feb. 28, 4-7:30pm. Oilcan's, 211 W. Fourth.*

BEARBACK BINGO Lady Grackle Birdbreath and CupCake play host. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. The Iron Bear, 301 W. Sixth. Free. www.fb.com/theironbearatx.*

INTRO TO INTRO TO SKETCH CLASS Inielle Wesley teaches ya how to bring the laughs. *Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. Online. Tips suggested. www.theegayagenda.com.*

MAKE HIV HISTORY Join Vivent Health and Equality Texas to hear some key updates about the Texas Legislature. *Wed., March 3, 6-7:15pm. Online. www.viventhealth.org.*

SXSW EDU ONLINE

MARCH 9—11, 2021



PHOTO BY TICO MENDOZA

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

COMMUNITY AC

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

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation invite communities across Texas to apply for the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Awards, which are judged on achievements in areas such as environmental education and community improvement. *Deadline: March 4, 5pm. Online. Free. www.ktb.org/gcaa.*

YOUNG TEXAN AMBASSADORS Keep Texas Beautiful is accepting applications for its Young Texan Ambassador program. Ambassadors are passionate about the environment and are committed to making Texas the best place to live, work, and play through volunteerism and leadership. Program is open to young people age 15-25. *Deadline: March 5. Online. Free. ktb.org/ambassador.*

DONATE BLOOD, GET A FREE CAR WASH Donate blood, platelets, or convalescent plasma and get a voucher for a free "Lucy's Special Express" car wash at Arbor. *March 1-15. We Are Blood donor centers and mobile drives. Free. www.weareblood.org.*

TEXAS SCIENCE FESTIVAL UT-Austin's fest offers a series of virtual events, most of them live. Hear from world-changing researchers, COVID-19 vaccine innovators, and more; join virtual star parties with astronomers; and get step-by-step guidance for fun at-home experiments. *Through March 26. Virtual. Free. www.utexas.edu.*

125TH TSHA ANNUAL MEETING The Texas State Historical Association's meeting is online, with more than 30 sessions featuring the research and work of top Texas historians. Regular sessions are prerecorded to watch at your own pace, and live events and Q&A sessions will take place March 3-6. *Online. \$25; VIP, \$125. www.bit.ly/TSHA125.*

HAWK WALK Nonprofit educational program Wildlife Revealed presents Hawk Walks, in which participants walk along the vineyard and the hawk follows along, flying from tree-

top to glove. After your up-close experience with the "wolves of the sky," relax and enjoy outdoor dining at the winery. *Sat., Feb. 27, 1 & 3pm. Rising Sun Vineyard, 233 Edmondson Ranch Rd., McDade. \$40. www.rising-sun-vineyard.com.*

PIONEER FARMS SKILLS CLASSES Have you wanted to learn blacksmithing, crochet, leatherwork, sewing, candlemaking, or cheesemaking? The historic Pioneer Farms offers courses in all these and more. Check the calendar and sign up today to learn a fun new skill. *Ongoing. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 512/837-1215. www.pioneerfarms.org.*

PET FOOD PANTRY Austin Humane Society, along with donations from Chewy.com, H-E-B, and support from the Lola Wright Foundation, will provide free cat and dog food for those in need on a first-come, first-served basis. Email or call with questions. *Sat., Feb. 27, 9am-noon. Austin Humane Society, 124 W. Anderson, 512/685-0118. petfoodpantry@austinhumanesociety.org, www.austinhumanesociety.org.*

AUSTIN FLEA Shop handmade, vintage, and local goods. *Sat., Feb. 27, 10am-4pm. Captain Quack's, 5326 Menchaca Rd. Sun., Feb. 28, noon-5pm. The Brewtorium, 6015-A Dillard Cir. www.austinflea.net.*

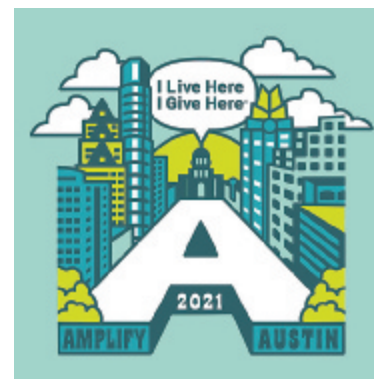
SHOP SMALL SATURDAZE A family- and dog-friendly handcrafted and vintage market spread out over 3 acres, with live music, food trucks, and fundraising for Austin Area Urban League. *Sat., Feb. 27, noon-5pm. The Far Out Lounge & Stage, 8504 S. Congress. Free. www.fb.com/events/3850726421647039.*

ONE BIG VIRTUAL CRAFTHER MARKET Brought to you by bbATX to support women and LGBTQIA small-business owners, this digital marketplace features over 150 local creatives, designers, makers, and artists. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28. www.crafthermarket.com.*

EASTSIDE POP UP Enjoy shopping goods from local artisans, makers, and vintage collectors, complemented by libations from Armadillo Den and bites from Ranch Hand and Pueblo Viejo. *Sun., Feb. 28, noon-5pm. Armadillo Den, 10106 Menchaca Rd. Free. www.fb.com/events/246921440214035.*

Amplify Austin Day 2021

The ninth annual iteration of Central Texas' biggest day of online giving will this year include thousands of dollars in matching gifts and \$80K in prizes for participating nonprofits, double last year's amount. This year, ILIGH and partner C3 Presents will also launch Amplify LIVE, a virtual experience with celebrity guests and local leaders, including musical performances under host and musical director Charlie Sexton. Visit the online platform to search nonprofits by category, cause, or location and make a contribution; early giving is already underway. *March 3, 6pm, to March 4, 6pm. Online. www.amplifyatx.org.*



AUSTIN COVID MEMORIAL Close to 700 people in Travis County have died due to COVID-19. The city and Interfaith Action of Central Texas invite the community to a virtual memorial service to remember those who have died and honor the families affected by the pandemic. *Sun., Feb. 28, 3-4:30pm. Online. www.austintexas.gov/event/remembrance-those-weve-lost.*

100TH BIRTHDAY OF NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA Turn out the lights, turn up the volume, and kick off the work week with a personal dance party with DJ Brian Blackout. March 1 marks the 100th event, so it'll be extra celebratory. *Mondays, 8pm. Virtual. Free. www.liteandbriteatx.com/no-lights-no-lycra-atx.*

TECHTALK The Austin Chamber presents Hugh Forrest, SXSW chief programming officer, for an insider's preview of SXSW Online 2021, a digital experience that'll include keynotes, featured speakers, world-class networking, music, and film. *Tue., March 2, 2pm. www.austinchamber.com/events.*

LEGALLINE Call 512/472-8303 for LegalLine, the free legal advice hotline sponsored by Austin Lawyer Referral Service. Attorney volunteers can answer questions and give brief legal

advice concerning many areas of law. *First Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm. www.austinlrs.com.*

HEALTHSPEAK: ARCHITECTURE OF THE HEART A look at the heart, and how being correctly shaped and undamaged can prevent conditions like stroke, heart failure, and cardiac arrest. *Wed., March 3, noon. Online via Zoom. Free. www.bswhealth.com/healthspeak.*

HOME COMPOSTING CLASS Learn how to recycle your food "waste" by turning it into a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your plants, garden, or lawn by using a home composting system. Plus, you could be eligible for a \$75 rebate on a home composting system and accessories from the city. *Thu., March 4, 6pm. Online. Free. www.austintexas.gov/arrhomerebate.*

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN SPURS The Austin Spurs tipped off their 2021 season Feb. 10 in Orlando, and will play 15 games before the top eight teams advance to play a single-elimination playoff. Check the schedule to find out how to watch the games. *Through March 6. austin.gleague.nba.com.*

TEXAS STARS Vs. Iowa Wild. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 26-27, 7pm. H-E-B Center at Cedar Park, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. www.texasstars.com/games.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Baseball Vs. BYU: *Wed.-Fri., Feb. 24-26, 6:30pm; Sat., Feb. 27, 3pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi: Tue., March 2, 6:30pm. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. Softball* Lone Star State Invitational. *Fri.-Sun., Feb. 26-28. McCombs Field, Comal & MLK. Women's Tennis* Vs. UCF. *Sat., Feb. 27, noon. Texas Tennis Center, 2100 Comal. Women's Basketball* Vs. Oklahoma State. Vs. Oklahoma: *Sat., Feb. 27, 1pm. Vs. Baylor: Mon., March 1, 6pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Soccer* Exhibition vs. Houston Dash. *Sun., Feb. 28, 4pm. Mike A. Myers Stadium, 707 Clyde Littlefield Dr. Volleyball* Vs. Baylor. *Wed., March 3, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texasports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Spectators are encouraged to watch online, but may bring a chair and sit outside the permanent seating area. **Baseball** Vs. UT-Tyler. *Fri., Feb. 26, 2pm; Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28, 1pm.. Lucian-Hamilton Field, 3001 S. Congress. www.gohilltoppers.com. Women's Soccer* Vs. Texas A&M International. *Wed., March 3, 4pm. Lewis-Chen Family Field, 3001 S. Congress. www.gohilltoppers.com.*

CONCORDIA Baseball Vs. East Texas Baptist University. *Fri., Feb. 26, 7pm; Sat., Feb. 27, 1 & 4pm. Tornado Field, next to the fieldhouse on Killian Rd. Men's Basketball* No spectators allowed; watch online. Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: *Sat., Feb. 27, 3pm. Vs. Howard Payne: Thu., March 4, 7:30pm. Women's Basketball* No spectators allowed; watch online. Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: *Sat., Feb. 27, 1pm. Vs. Howard Payne: Thu., Feb. 4, 5:30pm. athletics.concordia.edu.*

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Galveston Island State Park outside of Galveston preserves an oasis of nature surrounded by the development that covers much of the island.

Late last year I headed to Galveston hoping to spot the 3- to 4-foot-tall **sandhill cranes**. The red-capped birds migrate from northern states and winter along the Texas coast from December to February.

Let me say up front that I don't know much about birds. I just admire our feathered friends like I do most any wildlife (except maybe snakes).

After a fruitless day of visiting several birding locations listed at www.galveston.com/whattodo/outdoorfun/birding/birding-locations, my wife and I gave up the search. We grabbed supper at **Blvd Seafood** and headed for our campsite in the state park.

At first glance the park is a nondescript marshland popular with fishermen. The beach side of the park is closed until 2022 as the dunes recover after a battering by storms. As we pulled into the park a little after dark the lights of houses on stilts twinkled almost to the park's fence line. The city about 15 minutes away cast an orange glow on the low clouds.

The next morning the wetlands burst with avian life. A flock of **great egrets**, with a few **snowy egrets**, danced, sparred, and preened near the road. At another shallow pond a group of large white birds did synchronized aerial acrobatics before landing, and then repeated the display several more times.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Across the road from the air show, six flat-billed fluorescent pink **roseate spoonbills** slowly patrolled the shore for their breakfast. The best description is "Wow."

I never saw the out-of-state visitors, but with the assortment of beautiful native birds, I can wait and try again next year.

1,539th in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

SOCCER WATCH BY NICK BARBARO

Gearing Up for Spring Seasons

The NWSL's **Houston Dash** will be in town this Sunday, playing the **UT Longhorns** at Mike Myers Stadium, with no fans allowed. The Dash are preparing to defend their 2020 Challenge Cup title, while the Horns prep for a five-game spring season.

Austin Bold FC added a pair of experienced strikers this week; **J.J. Johnson** and **Omar Gordon** both have played for the Jamaican national team and excelled in USL for some years.

Austin FC's additions this week were off the field, and just a list of the job titles they filled gives an idea of all the work that goes into fielding a major-league team: AFC hired a first-team goalkeeping coach, video performance analyst, player care coordinator, academy athletic trainer, and assistant equipment manager and player support coordinator.

The **U.S. women** haven't completely impressed in the SheBelieves Cup, their first official competition of the year. All they managed to do was shut out two of their biggest rivals in Canada (1-0) and Brazil (2-0), but you got the feeling they could've played a lot better and should have won each game by more. And that tells you how good and confident the U.S. is, going into this summer's **Tokyo Olympics**.

Results are in from the first leg of the **UEFA Champions League** knockout stage, and whether it's the empty stadiums or whatever, home-field advantage seems to be out the window. Seven of the first eight games were won by the road team; the only home winner was relative outsider Porto, the lone team in the final 16 that's not from one of the big five nations.



TEXAS STATE Softball Lone Star State Invitational. *Fri.-Sun., Feb. 26-28. Bobcat Softball Stadium. Baseball* Vs. *New Mexico St.: Tue., March 2, 6pm. Vs. Texas: Wed., March 3, 6pm. Bobcat Ballpark. Men's Basketball* Vs. *ULM. Fri., Feb. 26, 4pm. Strahan Arena. Women's Basketball* Vs. *ULM. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 26-27. Strahan Arena. Women's Tennis* Vs. *Tarleton State. Sat., Feb. 27, 11am. Bobcat Tennis Complex. Women's Soccer* Vs. *North Texas. Sun., Feb. 28, 1pm. Bobcat Soccer Complex, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

SATURDAY POOLSIDE YOGA Revitalize your mind, body, and soul with this all-levels class. Tickets include access to gym, showers, and pool deck until 1pm, and yoga mats, towels, Richard's Rainwater, and fresh pressed juices will be provided. *Saturdays, 10-11am. Austin Proper Hotel & Residences, 600 W. Second. \$25. www.swiftfitevents.com.*

VINO VINYASA Vinyasa-based yoga and fun wine facts are brought together through creative yoga poses, then participants enjoy a tasting and a discount on select wines and bites from Heel of the Boot food truck. *Sat., Feb. 27, 11am. Wanderlust Wine Co., 610 N. I-35. \$30. www.eventvesta.com/events/3476.*

HIP-HOP DANCE FOR ADULTS Start any time and come when you can to one of two levels of hip-hop dance class with a super-fun instructor at Ballet Austin. *Sundays through March 28. Basic, 1pm; intermediate, 2:15pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. www.balletaustin.org.*

KIDS

STARTUP CHICA Know a youth with an entrepreneurial spirit? Latinitas' daylong conference is open to all girls, trans and cisgender, and nonbinary students, ages 14-18. Participants will spend the day learning the business skills needed to launch their own startup or product that identifies and solves community issues, and will work with mentors and each other to use tech, media, and innovation to develop ideas. *Sat., Feb. 27. Virtual. \$20; scholarships available. www.startupchica.com.*

TEEN COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUR Join the Austin Public Library's teen group for games and activities and to hear

about how they work with the library to amplify teen voices. *Wed., March 3, 5pm. Online. library.austintexas.gov/events.*

GIRLSTART STARRY NIGHTS AT HOME View a Mayan starry skies show and do a related activity. Materials list is posted the Monday prior. *Thu., March 4. Online. www.girlstart.org.*

VIRTUAL STORYTIME: MONARCH MIGRATION Listen in to *Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies* by Deborah Hopkinson, and learn about this majestic insect, its journey through Texas, and how we can be better neighbors to our winged friends. *Thu., March 4, 10am. The Bullock Museum online. Free. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

OUT OF TOWN

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO Special events at the Texas shrine honor those who died with tours, demonstrations, parades, and remembrances. *Through March 6. San Antonio. www.thealamo.org.*

TEXAS FLY FISHING & BREW FESTIVAL Just 15 minutes from downtown Dallas, the annual conference helps old fishermen sharpen their skills and beginners to learn the ropes while trying a local craft beer. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28. Mesquite. www.bflyfishingfestival.org.*

SPRING TRANSPLANT SALE Get a head start on your spring garden with organic starter plants, bring picnic, and explore the 200 acres of vegetables. Plants can also be ordered online and picked up at a farmers' market near you. *Saturdays through April 24, 9am-1pm. Garfield Farm & Greenhouses, Garfield. www.jbgorganic.com/transplants.*

SEVERE WEATHER RELIEF

AUSTIN DISASTER RELIEF NETWORK ADRN deployed volunteers to emergency shelters during the storm and is now seeking donations and volunteers for crisis cleanup. If you need assistance, call the hotline at 1-800-329-8052 through March 2. *www.adrn.org.*

CITY OF AUSTIN HOME REPAIR PROGRAM The city has announced an infusion of \$1 million to its home repair program for low- to moderate-income homeowners to assist

with repairs needed due to damage from Winter Storm Uri. Get details online. *www.austintexas.gov/homerepairs.*

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE Homeowners and renters who suffered damage due to the winter storm may apply for assistance from FEMA. Get details and apply online or call 800-621-3362. *www.disasterassistance.gov.*

RED CROSS SEEKS BLOOD DONATIONS The winter storm put a damper on blood drives, and now supplies need to be replenished. Donors, especially type O, are encouraged to find a Red Cross drive to visit in the coming days and weeks. *www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.*

SUN RADIO RECHARGE Sun Radio has pledged \$40,000 in disaster relief funding for any Central Texans affected by the recent winter storm. Apply online for a \$100 check if you were affected, or donate to keep the fund going. *www.sunradio.com/recharge.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ARTS DISTRICT HOUSTON Enjoy a virtual dance performance honoring the history of Richard Brock Park in Houston's First Ward Historic District. *Sun., Feb. 28, 2pm. Online. www.fresharts.org/arts-district-houston.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH KIDS' DAY & HBCU DAY Join the Carver Museum and Creative Action for a family-friendly day of activities inspired by this year's BHM theme, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity." Features include Zoom sessions with reps from HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) and with Ellison and Bavu Blakes, authors of *El's Mirror*. *Note: Rescheduled from Feb. 27. Sat., March 27, 11am-3pm. Online. Free, but RSVP. www.fb.com/events/1551242251931358.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH TEXAS STATE PARKS Park rangers from around Texas, including the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Outreach Program and the Texas Outdoor Family staff, are debuting a new series of virtual programs celebrating Black history, culminating in a live, interactive trivia challenge at 6pm on Feb. 27. *tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/programs/buffalo-soldiers.*

IMPEACHMENT AND OUR AMERICA: WHAT WOULD BARBARA JORDAN DO? In conjunction with Black History Month and the annual celebration of Barbara Jordan Week, the Barbara Jordan Freedom Foundation invites the public to experience the powerful words and legacy of the trailblazing Texas political and civil rights leader with a free virtual event where her impeachment speech is showcased and discussed. *Fri., Feb. 26, 10am. Free. www.bit.ly/barbarajordan2021.*

LIVING THE LEGACY: A TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLY HARDEN Spectrum Theatre Company, Austin's only African American theatre company, presents a special tribute to Dr. Billy Harden (1953-2018), with musical and spoken performances in honor of the company's late founder. *Sat., Feb. 27, 7pm. Online. Free; donations encouraged. www.spectrumtheatreustin.org.*

SPECTRUM THEATRE COMPANY: THE PEOPLE COULD FLY For Black History Month, Spectrum Theatre Company presents a virtual play reading of *The People Could Fly*, written by Spectrum's Glenn Towery, adapted from the African American folk tale written by Virginia Hamilton. *Sun., Feb. 28, 7pm. Online. www.spectrumtheatreustin.org.*



PIONEER FARMS

CENTRAL TEXAS' PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK

VOTE FOR US!



FORGED IN FIRE: AUSTIN BLADESMITHING CHALLENGE

Our blacksmithing forges will be fired up March 26-28 with an exclusive three-day regional bladesmithing challenge. This competition, led by national *Forged in Fire* champion Chris Farrell, is a special exclusive Austin event not to be missed. Participant and spectator tickets available.

CONTESTANT DEADLINE APPROACHING
REGISTER NOW TO COMPETE!
PioneerFarms.org/forged-fire



MAKE A BOTTLE OPENER: THREE HOURS. TAKE IT HOME.

Basic, advanced, and couples blacksmithing classes now enrolling for March. Expert all-in-one bladesmithing classes booking for next two months.

Register at PioneerFarms.org

DEVIN JAKE LIVE. IN PERSON.

Saturday
Mar 20

Community Dance,
March 20th, 7 p.m.
COVID-safe program in
an historic dance hall

GUIDED HISTORY TOURS AND CURATED NATURE WALK NEXT WEEKEND.

Details at PioneerFarms.org/weekly-features

PIONEERING AND "LOST ARTS" WORKSHOPS EVERY WEEKEND - SCHEDULE AND ONLINE ENROLLMENT AT:

WWW.PIONEERFARMS.ORG
PIONEER FARMS IS A VOLUNTEER-RUN, 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION.

Food



(l-r) Sister/brother chef/grill master duo Ann Marie and Warren Dyer, with their mother (and co-operator/kitchen matriarch) Melda Morris

PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Food Is Love

Kings & Queens Jamaican Cuisine is on a mission to make the world better with good food

BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Several of Jamaica's signature dishes are well-known global favorites: jerk chicken, curries, fried plantains. But the Caribbean island's diverse cuisine, which rests on the shoulders of long-standing recipes influenced by the country's complex colonial history, is harder to fully grasp. Detailing that legacy would require a whole newspaper's worth of explanation, but it can be summed up by the official Jamaican motto, "Out of many, one people." Family operated food truck Kings & Queens Jamaican Cuisine, based at the Old Gin Pfood Court in downtown Pflugerville since October 2019, masterfully incorporates that culmination of

immigrant stories from across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in its piquant plates and the owners' broad ancestry.

"Our family ... it's the United Nations," says co-operator and kitchen matriarch Melda Morris, mother to the trailer's sister/brother chef/grill master duo Ann Marie and Warren Dyer. All three are native Jamaicans and aren't afraid to boast that their cooking skills – learned from working in their family's kitchens in their home city of Montego Bay – are a cut above anyone else's. "If we are in a cookout and we have the same [spices], I bet you mine is gonna taste better than yours," Melda says.

Having tasted a variety of items from

their constantly rotating menu prior to our interview, I wasn't about to argue with her. The jerk chicken (served daily) is as tender and juicy as any artisan barbecue joint and spiced to please both heat aficionados and those who enjoy just a little kick. The oxtail (Wednesday's special) is glazed in a richer marinade and slow-cooked so it effortlessly falls off the bone (similar to slow-roasted ribs). Curry goat and chicken (Thursdays) balances a subtle sweetness with signature scotch pepper spice (the key ingredient in all Jamaica's fiery foods). And the pineapple jerk chicken wings (primarily Fridays) put mainstream wing eateries' mango habanero glaze to shame. It's one of three original fusion recipes, along with jerk chicken chili (arguably hotter than the dish it's derived from) and reggae wraps (burrata bread filled with boneless jerk chicken, bell peppers, avocado, onions, mango salsa, and a creamy jerk sauce made in-house by Ann Marie).

Neither the Dyers nor Morris are for-

mally trained. In fact, they all have other careers outside of food: Ann Marie teaches at a charter school, Warren is a union sheet metal worker, and Melda is a caretaker. So how is it that their eats are so damn delicious? "We don't give away our secrets," says Melda with a smirk.

So their methods remain under wraps, but they were willing to talk at length about how their upbringing shaped their undeniable talent. Ann Marie began apprenticing under Melda, her grandmother, and great-grandmother from the get-go, and mastered all dishes by age 9 (same for Melda). Warren was likewise ever-present, and from age 5 was responsible for gathering leaves and herbs from the banks of the nearby river. Ann Marie was 15 when Melda moved to New York in 1986, when she took the helm in the kitchen, though she credits her father with always making "the wicked-est" curry and mannish water (a traditional goat soup). When Ann Marie joined her mother stateside 10 years later, it was cooking that sustained the family's connection – the two would craft cakes and puddings for every holiday and birthday and ship them to Warren in Jamaica.

"We're all passionate about food – that's one thing we share in common," Warren says. "The way we cook, the way I grew up ... they don't teach that in culinary school. You just can't."

Which is why they're chiefly dependent on family, despite everyone juggling other jobs, to run the truck. After the whole family settled in Central Texas – Warren got married and moved to Leander about 20 years ago, and his sister and mother arrived in 2012 – that thread continued with Warren and Ann Marie's kids, two of which previously took charge of the business but have since departed for college. Would it be possible for Kings & Queens to continue without direct kin involved?

"I don't see that happening," Warren says. "You have to be either Jamaican or involved in Jamaican culture to know how to handle [things]."

That deep generational knowledge is essential to their food's heavenly flavors and just as important in adhering to authentic ingredients. While in Jamaica, all meats, plants, peppers, and otherwise were sourced from the land they lived on.

"Organic was always a way of life for us. It wasn't something we learned," Warren says. Here, they've aimed to uphold those standards as ardently as possible, buying antibiotic- and hormone-free meats from local ranches, growing their own callaloo (similar to collard greens and served on Sundays with fried dumplings and ackee salt fish as part of a traditional breakfast) and buying authentic spices from wholesale



Indian and Asian restaurant suppliers, particularly Scotch Bonnet peppers, for which there is no adequate substitute.

“Some Jamaicans cook here in Austin [using] habaneros,” Ann Marie says. “Habaneros are hot, but they don’t have the flavors of the Scotch Bonnet peppers. They’re in everything we use. We will go miles away to get [them].”

Such a commitment to quality plays directly into Kings & Queens’ slogan: “It’s a better world with great food.” The mantra highlights their underlying mission, which favors quality of life over turning a profit and harkens back to why it was so important that all family members were trained in the kitchen: to ensure the entire family – which, for Jamaicans, comprises everyone in their immediate community – gets fed.

Cases in point: At their family home-stead, feeding all the members of the church next door, plus the elderly and less fortunate in the neighborhood, “was just a way of life.” And in Central Texas, part of each Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s since 2012 was spent cooking for local police/fire departments and homeless populations (they delivered 42 meals to unhoused individuals last New Year’s Day).

“It’s a way of giving back to our world,” Ann Marie says. “I guarantee you, if we don’t give away more than we sell, we’re probably pretty close,” adds Warren.

Truly, that ethos extends to anyone and everyone – within the first 15 minutes of our interview, I receive an invite to come over for Thanksgiving, which, they point out could be any day at Melda’s house given that there’s constantly some friend or family member in need of a meal wandering into the kitchen, where there’s always food ready. “That’s not joking,” Warren says. “It’s already set,” adds Melda.

Relating everything to the title of their truck, they go on to explain their viewpoint that we’re all kings and queens of our own world – meaning that no person is better than another – and every king or queen deserves good food, so it’s “necessary” for everyone to have it. “[Our food] is love,” Warren says. “And I say that because, when you go to a Jamaican home and they’re cooking, you’re eating. That’s automatic.”

After the winter storm that decimated Texas, Kings & Queens reopened for business this Wednesday, Feb. 24. They’re at 310 E. Pecan St. in Pflugerville and available for catering: 512/297-1689, kingsqueensjamaicanuisine.com

Humpty’s Wall of Breakfast

Grand Opening: March 1

Free samples available opening day!

Drop in: **8820 Burnet Rd,
Suite 502, Austin TX 78757**

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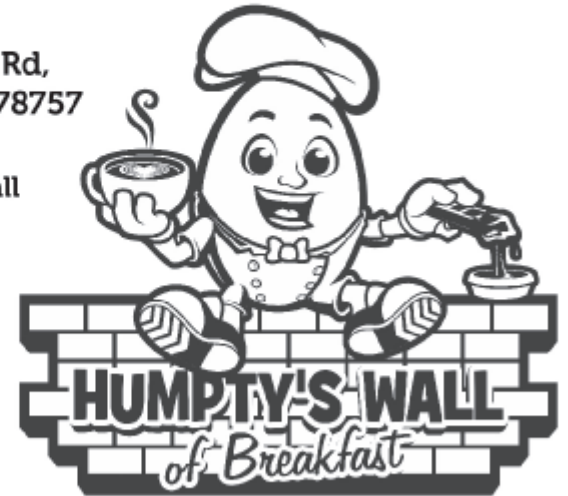
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humptyswall.com

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Build It Your Way: Breakfast, Lunch, & Signature Sauces To Choose From!



Easy Cheesy

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FREE small side
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FOOD NEWS BUFFET

So many restaurants stepping up like nobody's business during the recent power outages and lack-of-water crises. Places that've been dealing with their own pandemic-related challenges for almost a year now, pitching in like champions – sometimes while their own busted pipes and powerless buildings made it nigh on impossible, and regardless of personal struggles and financial woes – to provide for those in need.

Nixta Taqueria, Discada Tacos, La Tunita 512, Doughboys, and Trill Foods joined forces to cook and distribute food to the community. **Michael Fojtasek** of **Olamaie**, the folks of **Good Work Austin** – including, of course, those **L'Oca d'Oro** titans **Fiore Tedesco** and **Adam Orman** – and the **World Central Kitchen** with chef **José Andrés**, have served thousands of restaurant meals to the people of Austin. **Justine's Brasserie, Nickel City, and LoLo Wine** all provided hot meals to hungry folks waiting in long lines. **Revival Coffee** hosted on-site food distribution with hundreds of restaurant meals. **Antonelli's Cheese**, in conjunction with **Deep Eddy's Austin Relief Efforts**, with donations from **Facebook** and **GAHCC Austin**, provided hundreds of protein packs.

Rambler donated cases and cases of sparkling water to be distributed at **Paramount Austin**. Breweries flexed decency to distribute clean drinking water to the city: **Meanwhile Brewing, Austin Beerworks, Central Machine Works, Adelbert's**

Brewery, 4th Tap, Hopsquad Brewing, Oskar Blues, Southern Heights, Blue Owl, Friends and Allies, the list goes on and on. Water, food, basic needs – your favorite neighbors were doing what they could to help. **Treaty Oak Distillery, Contigo, Jo's Coffee, Easy Tiger, Richard's Rainwater, Buenos Aires, Chi'Lantro, Tacodeli, Old Thousand, La Pera Pickup, Twin Lion, Thai Fresh, China Harbor, Phonatic, Salt & Time, Sala & Betty, The Smokin' Rose, Burro Cheese Kitchen, Colleen's Kitchen, Toss Pizzeria, The Tippy Alchemist, The Cavalier, Pieous, T Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs**, ah, can we ever properly chart all the generous outpourings of aid?

Note: Most places have announced reopening to the public – but check their social media for updates and specific offerings.

And our local farmers – working their asses off to try to save what could be saved from the onslaught of **Winter Storm Uri**, the state's big sky itself suddenly against them, bringing what they could to **Texas farmers' markets**. The first weekend out, many farmers and vendors reported selling out due to high turnout, but their troubles will intensify as many have lost almost all their crops except for greenhouse seedlings.

Note: **Free Lunch**, the nonprofit group founded by **Jazz Mills**, has been tirelessly working to provide food for the unhoused. If you're among those fortunate enough to have shelter, please consider becoming a Lunch Monitor to support ongoing efforts to feed unhoused neighbors. With unprecedented resource depletion, the need will continue



– for housed and unhoused citizens alike. If you're able to volunteer, check the social channels for mutual aid groups and organizations to determine where your time, resources, and money will be best spent.

We said “stepping up like nobody's business,” but what about the *grocery* business? What about **H-E-B**? The San Antonio-born, family-owned corporation is once again proving itself a superhero for Central Texas. From the viral story of letting shoppers with full baskets

simply leave the suddenly without-power store, to mass supply distribution, to doing as much as they can for the people they live among, instead of just, like, *flying to Cancun or something* ... oh, we're never gonna mock that goofy-ass **H-E-Buddy** mascot again! At least, not until we get through the consequences of this wintry catastrophe and back to the more familiar, almost oddly comforting, challenges of the pandemic. Keep those masks up, y'all, and please be safe out there.



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

DESERT DOOR SOTOL X TEXAS BEES Ah, who wouldn't want to take a post-snowpocalypse drive out to Driftwood, to the Desert Door distillery and tasting room, where the acclaimed sotol-mongers are celebrating the Texas honey bee population by offering a special cocktail featuring wild-harvested, West Texas honey? That's a rhetorical question, but we'll guess the answer is “I want to take that drive!” Especially when you know that proceeds from every **Rugged Flower** cocktail sold will go directly toward adding more bee hives to the ranch, thus increasing the area's biodiversity. *Through Feb. 28. Desert Door Sotol, 211 Darden Hill Rd. Ste. 200-A, Driftwood, 512/829-6129. www.desertdoor.com.*

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*

HUMPTY'S WALL OF BREAKFAST: GRAND OPENING

Oh boy, are we stoked to have a new breakfast option in town – and so close to our beloved **ZooKeeper Exotics store**, too! Listen: Humpty's focuses on **customizable breakfast and lunch** favorites, including build-your-own sandwiches, wraps, bowls, signature entrees, and a variety of side dishes. Wanna try some of these noms and see if you like them? On opening day – that's this Monday, March 1 – they'll be dishing out all manner of **free samples**. Dunno “bout that “great fall” we heard about as kids, but it sure looks like this eggy Humpty will be having a great spring. *Mon., March 1, 6am-3pm. 8820 Burnet Rd. #502, 512/394-5221. www.humptyswall.com*

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Screens

Austin on TV: The Bizarre Story of Cable Access

Web series and documentary highlight the wild heyday of Austin Public Access and its vibrant future

BY TRACE SAUVEUR

Everything changed for documentarian John Spottswood Moore when he learned about *The Ol' Bitty Show*. Originally from North Carolina but now resident in Austin, Moore was astonished hearing a pair of Austin-native co-workers reminisce that, in the Nineties, they would leave parties specifically to go home and turn on Austin Public Access. "When I was in North Carolina, public access was like church television," Moore explained. "I had no idea that you could actually do something inventive."

"Inventive" might be the kindest word to describe *Ol' Bitty*. A cursory glance at clips online reveals a show founded on the sole premise of some local weirdo dressing up as an old lady, putting on a hideously grating smoker's voice, and fielding vulgar phone calls live from loyal viewers and confused newcomers alike. Of course, this type of off-kilter, aberrant content was a calling card for the late-night drunken denizens of a city that took distinct pride in its weird identity. Not only that, the wild array of shows was early proof that there's an audience and culture for everything, decades before YouTube and social media widely popularized that idea. Channel 10 has been and remains the home for Austin Public since 1973, making it the country's longest continually running public access channel (though they now also operate on channels 11 and 16). Surviving tapes from the city's heyday now serve as historic documentation of the individuals that made up Austin in the latter period of the 20th century, whether they existed as an eccentric niche or were communities disregarded by mainstream outlets.

Moore's original plan was to put together a film focused on *Bitty* and its successor show, *Clown Time*. Yet his research quickly

uncovered a much more far-reaching, enthusiastic community than he could have ever anticipated. He said, "It just kind of turned into this thing where I'd keep contacting people and no one would say 'No, I don't want to talk.' They would always say 'Yes, I do want to talk, and in fact here's a whole box of tapes. Can you digitize them for me?'" It grew to where people were actually getting in touch with Moore to send him material instead of the other way around, which is when he realized the true scope of his documentary. Now, six years after he launched his Kickstarter campaign, he expects to complete his grand history of Austin Public Access, *When We Were Live*, later this year.

During production, he's also been awarded an Austin Film Society Grant, as well as funding from the city of Austin. One requirement of that city grant is to stage a free event for the public, and in previous years Moore has held live screenings of old tapes, and even an exhibition in his own backyard of vintage televisions running themed compilations. Now, in the wake of COVID-19, he's repurposed those collections into a five-episode online series called *Our Town on TV*, now available through AFS.

The series serves as a testament to the heart of a city with an untold amount of strange, influential, and significant characters. They're the kind who make Austin what it was and is by fighting for noble causes or just broadcasting something they wanted the world to hear, no matter how bizarre. The first episode, "Famous Folks," sees an obligatory interview with Richard Linklater, as well as Sammy Hagar, Allen Ginsberg, James Brown, and more. Mainstay music programs during this period *Raw Time* and *CapZeyeZ*, both produced by local legend David Prewitt,

"The idea that anybody could get a camera and move throughout a community and make their own television show is kind of revolutionary."

JOHN SPOTTSWOOD MOORE



Top: The Austin Access logo; left: *The Ol' Bitty Show*; right: *Hide the Hamster*

provide an appearance from No Doubt and a live performance from Milla Jovovich (yes, that Milla Jovovich). *The Show With No Name* pops up with backstage and performance footage from a Corey Feldman concert (yes ... that Corey Feldman). And how could anyone overlook the clip of Alex Jones carving a jack-o'-lantern on Halloween while yelling about the Austin Police Department using infrared cameras on civilians?

Episodes 4 and 5 act as a two-parter for "The City That Rocks," and exclusively focus on the city's music scene, showcasing a plethora of live performances from the likes of Timbuk 3, Rusty Wier, Gary P. Nunn, and even the UT Jazz Ensemble circa the 1980s. Meanwhile, episodes 2 and 3 home in on the silenced communities that were able to televise their plights with "Pride on Prime Time" and "Cable for a Cause," respectively. The clips shared in these range from the exuberant Captain Condom using a cucumber to demonstrate how to properly prepare for safe sex, to local rallies in the wake of the Rodney King trial, and an extended harrowing account of police brutality against civilians during an Act Up/Queer Nation march protesting the Republican National Convention. It's these episodes that reveal the true catalyst for positive change that lies in public access by providing tools for the historically oppressed to broadcast their voices. This was a necessary aspect for Moore: "The idea that anybody could get a camera and move throughout a community and make their

own television show is kind of revolutionary because it's like the power is no longer at the hands of those who have millions of dollars. It's at the hands of a community."

In today's hyperdigital, constantly broadcasting age, there's the question about what purpose public access still serves. The answer for Austin Public, as always, lies in accessibility and adaptability alike. Along with having access to training, peers, and professional equipment, current Station Manager Doug Gray explained, "When you go live on our channels, not only are you live on four cable companies, but you're also live on the AFS website, you're live on our Roku, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire apps. You can be going live on your own social media. You're pretty much everywhere at this point. So instead of it being one vs. the other, it's kind of everything now."

For Moore, it all comes back to recognizing those who took the steps to make their voices heard. "It's kind of to show that even when it was less convenient than it is right now, these are some pioneers that really said I'm not necessarily a broadcaster, but I have something that needs to be said," Moore said. "I think it's very, very important that everyday people, no matter what their walk of life, use the technology that's been given to them to speak about what is important to them."

Find all five episodes of *Our Town on TV* at www.afsathome.org. Interested in joining Austin Public? Visit www.austinfilm.org/austin-public for more info.

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Magic and Loss

Eerie and scary Jewish horror *The Vigil* blends the secular and the supernatural **BY MATTHEW MONAGLE**

In recent years, Brooklyn's Hasidic Jews have become a source of inspiration for journalists and filmmakers alike. *One of Us* – a film that followed three ex-Hasidic Jews as they adjusted to a secular lifestyle – was named one of the best documentaries of 2017 for its unflinching examination of this closed community. Now the same community has become the setting for *The Vigil*, an early contender for one of 2021's best horror films.

After leaving Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish community for unspecified reasons, Yakov (Davis) finds himself struggling in the secular world. Unable to find work – and forced to choose between food and medication – Yakov is desperate for ways to earn a little extra cash. So when a member of his former community offers to pay him to be a shomer, or guardian, and sit vigil for the Litvak family, he reluctantly agrees. Soon, Yakov learns that an evil spirit named a mazzik has been freed by the death of Mr. Litvak and is now in search of its next host.

Horror often works best at the intersection of the modern and the historical, unleashing archaic fears into a society that has forgotten how to respect them. *The Vigil* is no exception. Yakov is a man caught between worlds; his inability to integrate into either secular or religious society makes him as easy a target for the mazzik as

THE VIGIL

D: Keith Thomas; with Dave Davis, Menashe Lustig, Malky Goldman, Fred Melamed, Lynn Cohen. (PG-13, 90 min.)

★★★

the personal tragedy he works to overcome. Given the limited space available to the filmmakers – most of the movie takes place in a single kitchen and living room – Yakov's emotional (and spiritual) imbalance goes a long way toward selling the power of the demon.

Which is not to suggest that *The Vigil* is lacking in its use of setting. What Thomas and his crew accomplish in a Brooklyn brownstone's cramped quarters is nothing short of miraculous. Elongated by the camera lens, the Litvaks' home seems to expand to fit the mental state of its inhabitant. Cinematographer Zach Kuperstein often frames

Yakov off-center or in the corner of the screen, carving out space for the film's infrequent – but essential – text message typography. This makes *The Vigil* feel simultaneously cramped and hollow, a spatial tension that mirrors the religious conflict at the heart of the film.

Surprisingly, technology plays a vital role in *The Vigil*. As someone new to the comforts of the modern world – in the opening scene, he jokes about recently discovering that his phone is also a flashlight – Yakov is the perfect foil for a series of audiovisual scares. The way the mazzik tortures him with his cell phone might raise questions for those looking to understand the “rules” of this movie monster, but Thomas understands how to let his character's naivete do the heavy lifting. His desperation allows a familiar scare to take on a new edge.

As Yakov prepares for his final confrontation with the mazzik – wrapping his arms in retzuot, the thin leather straps meant to symbolize his physical connection to the spiritual world – *The Vigil* takes a step beyond the confines of many religious-themed horror films. Like the demon that haunts Yakov, those films are damned to look backward, trapping their characters in the darkness of their pasts. It dares to look forward, finding a future for Yakov that merges his two identities – religious and secular – and suggests a path back into the light.

IPIC

NEW REVIEWS

CHECK

D: Chandra Sekhar Yeleti; with Rakul Preet Singh, Nithiin, Priya Prakash Varrier, Murli Sharma, Sampath Raj. (NR, 135 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Telugu drama about a convict (Nithiin) on death row who uses his skill at chess to avoid the executioner's clutches.

CINEMARK 20, MOVIEHOUSE

DARA OF JASENOVAC

D: Predrag Antonijević; with Biljana Cekic, Zlatan Vidovic, Anja Stanic, Luka Saranovic, Jakov Saranovic, Simon Saranovic, Marko Pipic, Nataša Ninković. (R, 130 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Serbia's Oscar entry recounts an often-overlooked aspect of the Holocaust, when Serbs and Roma were butchered in concentration camps of the Jasenovac complex.

MOVIEHOUSE

MY ZOE

D: Julie Delpy; with Delpy, Richard Armitage, Gemma Arterton, Daniel Brühl. (R, 100 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Tragedy and science intermingle as a mother (Delpy) is faced with the ethical questions of cloning her dead daughter.

MOVIEHOUSE

NIGHT OF THE KINGS

D: Philippe Lacôte; with Denis Lavant, Issaka Sawadogo, Steve Tientcheu. (R, 93 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. A contemporary reinvention of *One Thousand and One Nights* as a prisoner in the Ivory Coast must tell a story that lasts until the moon sets.

ALAMO S. LAMAR

SAFER AT HOME

D: Will Wernick; with Dan J. Johnson, Jocelyn Hudon, Michael Kupisk, Emma Lahana, Daniel Robaire, Alisa Allapach, Adwin Brown. (NR, 82 min.)

Screen life movies – films that take place within the confines of a laptop or cell phone screen – are nothing new. Like their cousin, found footage, they've become most associated with horror, although missing persons drama *Searching* proved that crime flicks and thrillers can work just as well. Any film that depends on tension, it seems, can get away with it. Well, almost, as online-party-gone-awry *Safer at Home* proves.

In lieu of the trip to Las Vegas a bunch of old friends had planned for Evan (Johnson) on his birthday, they decide to have a Zoom party – and, of course, like all insufferable late twenty-somethings, they decide to take some E to prove they're still cool. Slim chance. Evan bickers with his girlfriend, Jen (Hudon), as Ollie (Kupisk) and his new girlfriend Mia (Lahana) start making out on-camera, while fuddy-duddy, prematurely middle-aged couple Ben (Brown) and Liam (Robaire) fuss. Deprived of a partner to define her, solitary Harper (Allapach) has little purpose than to ask questions to move the story along. Some are in



Los Angeles, some in New York, some in Austin, but the locations often make no difference, and in fact ablate the pandemic tension. Most of the narrative would make exactly the same sense without the lockdown setting, which seemingly serves only to add a certain timeliness. Yet the fact that it's set in 2022, and director/co-writer Wernick adds footage of former President Trump for unnecessary context, just leaves the inclusion of the pandemic feeling more like an intrusion. (Also, does anyone need to see more of him, when life is stressful enough already? I think not.)

The party is already so lame that you'll wonder why no one claims their connection has dropped and just bails, but they all stick around until disaster. The fracture point comes with a push (or was it a fall?) and a horrible accident. Looking from afar, the friends start making consistently bad, stupid, incoherent decisions, and giving even worse advice with no sense of comeuppance.

Moreover, the screen life component does not really add much here. In part, it's a problem with the technology. Only a couple of years ago, a film on cell phones looked sufficiently grainy and glitchy that it added an immediacy, as well as giving an excuse for any visual clunkiness. Now even a low-end webcam captures digital images that would have made *Collateral*-era Michael Mann drool, and so any screen life drama needs more than some split-screen visuals and some simulated shutter roll. That means a screen life movie needs more – whether visual flair, or just the tightness of editing shown in last year's pandemic/Zoom-era gold standard, *Host*. Similarly themed (the British supernatural horror was also a pandemic-era Zoom party), it was perpetually visually enthralling, something *Safer at Home* never achieves.

What *Host* really had, and *Safer at Home* lacks, are credible characters. Instead, we're

confronted with the same nonsensical solipsism that made everyone glad that *Cloverfield* had monsters: Without them, it's an annoying night with a bunch of squabbling dummies and their weak, occasionally nonsensical motivations (the fact that the whole narrative depends on no one making one simple, obvious phone call is infuriating). The audience is required to invest their emotional energy in seven people who consistently make terrible decisions and give even worse advice, and it's not worth the return. "There's nothing we can do from this side of the screen," one of the septet ruminates. How true.

★★

– Richard Whittaker

IPIC

OPENINGS

<i>Check</i> (NR)	<i>17 Blocks</i> (NR)
<i>Dara of Jasenovac</i> (R)	<i>Silk Road</i> (R)
<i>My Zoe</i> (R)	<i>Synonyms</i> (NR)
<i>Night of the Kings</i> (R)	<i>Tom and Jerry</i> (PG)
<i>Safer at Home</i> (NR)	<i>The Vigil</i> (PG-13)

RATINGS

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





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WHAT'CHA WATCHIN'?

SCREENGRABS FROM THE CHRONICLE STAFF



Defunctland (YouTube)

Theme park historian Kevin Perjurer wanted to re-create lost rides through VR, but that was complicated and expensive, so he started a deep dive into the history of individual rides that have been taken down or rebranded, like Tomorrowland's ExtraTERRORestrial, or the Big Bad Wolf at Busch Gardens. Over time, Defunctland evolved into a grand history of theme parks with an emphasis on Walt's vision, its inspirations, the near-misses, and forgotten history of the Happiest and Most Magical Places on Earth. There are episodes, spin-offs, a podcast, a feature-length documentary, and even those VR walkthroughs. All aboard the Nautilus!

Disney Dan (YouTube)

If Perjurer is the quiet academic then Disney Dan, aka Dan Becker, is the guffawing jolly uncle who loaded you up on Dole Whip before going through the Haunted Mansion for the fifth time. His laughter-filled looks at the evolution of Disney theme park costumes, their subtle changes in design and operation, will make you feel like you're getting a big hug from Goofy at an EPCOT photo op.

Mickey Mouse (Disney+)

The first time I went to Disneyland (age 49 – don't judge me), after a packed day at the park I'd go back to the hotel room, put on the TV, and watch big blocks of these amazing three-minute shorts that took Mickey back to his wild, strange, chaotic, caring roots. After five glorious seasons, now it's back with successor show *The Wonderful World of Mickey Mouse*, giving you more reasons than *WandaVision* to give the House of Mouse your money.

– Screens Editor Richard Whittaker

17 BLOCKS

D: Davy Rothbart. (NR, 96 min.)

While many important stories have come to light as a result of the documentarians dedicated to “giving a voice to the voiceless,” that approach is often a patronizing cliché. The best documentarians understand that no one is voiceless. Davy Rothbart's *17 Blocks* began when he was young. He befriended another kid, a Black boy named Akil “Smurf” Sanford, and started filming him and his family. Eventually, the family picked up the camera themselves. Twenty years later, *17 Blocks* is the story of the Sanfords' growth and grief, with their own agency at the center of it all.

Smurf, his younger brother Emmanuel, his sister Denice, and their mother Cheryl all participate, and the sides of themselves that they choose to film (and that Rothbart chooses to use) create real, flawed, vibrant characters. A weaker film or a less understanding viewer might have wanted Rothbart to zoom out a bit, to tell a bigger story of “Black plight” all at once, and Rothbart even gives into that at times. But on the whole, *17 Blocks* resists those instincts. Its strength is in its specificity. As Cheryl struggles with addiction, and Smurf begins selling drugs to get by, they neither understate nor sensationalize their lives. It's remarkable how innately inclined to storytelling they are – after bouts of violence, the video camera lands on a confused kitten making sense of the blood. They get shots of each other's wringing hands during uncomfortable conversations. And after an unthinkable tragedy, it's the camera that keeps the family together.

17 Blocks would have been even stronger if Rothbart had trusted the material just a little bit more. He opens the film with clips from the fallout of that trauma in a way that almost seem to shout, “This film gets deep!” It takes away from the genuine impact that footage could have had when he circles back to it later on. Similarly, the title references the distance the Sanford family lived from the U.S. Capitol building, a gesture that feels superficial when larger-scale politics are rarely discussed. Some moments, especially near the end, would have benefitted from a more nuanced and creative soundtrack rather than trite piano tracks that tell you how to feel. Still, even when the direction is heavy-handed, the Sanfords are just too compelling to ignore.

★★★★

– Selome Hailu
VIOLET CROWN

SILK ROAD

D: Tiller Russell; with Nick Robinson, Jason Clarke, Alexandra Shipp, Paul Walter Hauser, Jimmi Simpson, Katie Aseleton, Darrell Britt-Gibson, Daniel David Stewart. (R, 112 min.)

Silk Road, the notorious online drug marketplace, was the brainchild of Ross Ulbricht, who in 2011, launched the site on the Tor network, using bitcoin as currency. It was a completely anonymous way to procure all manner of contraband and an ingenious use of darknet encryption.

It was also incredibly profitable (last year, the U.S. seized one billion dollars in cryptocurrency connected to the site), until the FBI took it down and arrested Ulbricht in 2013. These events have been widely reported online and in Alex Winter's sympathetic 2015 doc *Deep Web*, and now we have a drama based on Ulbricht's rise and fall.

But much like the cavalier way DEA agent Rick Bowden (Clarke) plays fast and loose with the law to take down Ulbricht's drug empire, writer/director Tiller Russell does the same with the facts in *Silk Road*, which declares its intention with the opening caveat “This story is true ... except for what we made up or changed.” So much for fidelity, but the truth is often too complex and dull, and well, just not *cinematic* enough.

Two parallel stories then: the hardcore libertarian idealist (is there any other kind?), searching for his life's calling, who yearns to free society from the shackles of government regulation versus the aforementioned DEA agent, a washed-up dinosaur who majorly fucked up his last assignment by getting a little too close to the cocaine he was tasked to seize. Ulbricht is played by Robinson (*Love, Simon; A Teacher*), who does exactly two things in this film: He waxes euphoric on Austrian economists and agorism while kicking around Austin, Texas, (hello, Barton Springs!) which then segues into him frantically, obsessively, and endlessly staring at his laptop as he tries to control the free market Frankenstein he has unleashed. Meanwhile, Bowden, fresh from rehab, has been put out to pasture at a desk job in the cyber crime department, and struggles to acquaint himself with the bewildering task of sending an email or the nuances of how a mouse works. He also is trying to repair his relationship with his wife, Sandy (Aseleton) and their young daughter, who has a learning disability. Which is as good a time as any to point out that *Silk Road* is not much interested in its female characters. Sandy spends the film lashing out at her asshole husband when she's not fretting over getting their daughter into a very expensive school. Ulbricht's girlfriend, Julia (Shipp) fares no better, repeatedly exclaiming “I'm worried!” only to be told, “You don't understand this!” Forget it Julia, it's the dark web; no girls allowed.

Russell's film is a silly film, inhabited by familiar archetypes; perpetually stoned hackers (there's two! And both Hauser and Britt-Gibson are the highlights of the movie), dismissive FBI agents, and of course, old-school rogues who lament that they “can't get shit done the way we used to.” But *Silk Road* is not without its pleasures – Clarke especially is fun to watch as he gets increasingly cornered with his shakedown shenanigans – just don't expect the kush; this is strictly schwag.

Silk Road is available on VOD now. Read our interview with filmmaker Tiller Russell, “Unmasking the Dread Pirate Roberts in *Silk Road*,” Feb. 19.

★★★

– Josh Kupecki
HIGHLAND

★ SYNONYMS

D: Nadav Lapid; with Tom Mercier, Quentin Dolmaire, Louise Chevillotte, Uria Hayik, Olivier Loustau, Yehuda Almagor. (NR, 123 min., subtitled)

The pursuit of shedding one's national identity is the primary concern of Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid's latest film, *Synonyms*. But how can that be possible? We all carry the memories, the cultural signs and internal psychology, the very language to articulate ourselves. Can we just discard it so recklessly, and what then, would be left? Who would we be? Lapid examines these questions in this semiautobiographical story of Yoav (Mercier), who has decided to completely reject his native country of Israel and reinvent himself in Paris, to transform himself into la personne français.

Pursued by the camera, Yoav – and the film – careen into a completely empty Parisian flat, a blank slate to begin. It's cold, breath cloudy cold. Yoav, in the shower, hears a noise, investigates and realizes he has been robbed of his backpack, all of his belongings. A completely blank slate, then. Exhausted, he lays in the tub, resigned to death, lacking merely a hanging arm over the side to complete the *Marat tableaux*. He is rescued by neighbors, a young couple, Emile (Dolmaire) and Caroline (Chevillotte), who take him in. They are the very essence of the French bourgeoisie: he a writer (“boredom structures me”), she an oboe player in a local orchestra. Rich and listless, they, along with a pocket-sized dictionary, provide the mentoring for Yoav's quest. If only he could stop referring to plastic bags as “bags for cadavers.”

Idioms, rhyming word associations, and yes, synonyms, flow from Yoav in a constant stream. He is a sponge, trying to drown himself in this new culture. He finds employment at the Israeli embassy and lives like a pauper in a cramped apartment. He spends his time with other Israeli

expats, along with Emile and Caroline, both of whom develop a deep attraction to him. Yoav shares stories with them, stories of his past, of his militaristic upbringing, of Greek mythology he holds dear, of his family torn apart by war.

Nadiv's film forgoes an overarching narrative structure, which – depending on your patience with such things – is either exhilarating or exasperating. I found it to be the former, in no small part because newcomer Mercier is absolutely riveting. It is a performance filled with such a startling range between innocence and violence, between cold blankness and bursting passion. It is a brilliant high-wire act. Yoav is utterly unpredictable at any given moment, and so too, is *Synonyms*. It is a director exorcising his hate, his contempt for a culture he sees as rotting and vile. Catharsis can be healing, but it can only take you so far, as Yoav soon learns. His mental health deteriorates, the severing of his past unmooring and thus alienating him from his adoptive home. This scathing satire reminds us that some facets of identity are impossible to shed. Your past is not something you can throw away.

Available now as a virtual cinema release
as part of Austin Film Society's Children of
Abraham/Ibrahim series.

★★★★

– Josh Kupecki
AFS CINEMA

TOM AND JERRY

D: Tim Story; with Chloë Grace Moretz, Michael Peña, Rob Delaney, Tom, Jerry. (PG, 101 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The original frenemies return, and this time the chase is across a swanky New York hotel. Chaos may ensue.

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



Synonyms

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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS



VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Cooked: Survival by ZIP Code (2018) D: Judith Helfand. (NR, 81 min.) Huston-Tillotson and Southwestern universities present a virtual screening and panel discussion about the film that covers Chicago's deadly 1995 heat wave and connects the dots between extreme weather, disparity, and racism. @Online: www.bit.ly/greenfilm-cooked, Thu., Feb. 25, 6pm.

An Evening of Award-Winning Shorts Austin Film Festival presents a special encore presentation of 2020 award-winning shorts and digital series. @Online: www.austinfilmfestival.com, Thu.-Fri., Feb. 25-26.

"Four Women" and "Illusions" D: Julie Dash. Reel Women in Film. Enjoy access to a virtual screening of Julie Dash's insightful early short films "Four Women" (1975) and "Illusions" (1982), then connect with the Bullock Museum for a live conversation about them. @Online: www.thestoryoftexas.com. Films available Feb. 23-25; conversation is Thu., Feb. 25, 7:30pm.

Tahara (2020) D: Olivia Peace; with Madeline Grey DeFreece, Rachel Sennott, Daniel Taveras. (NR, 78 min.) A queer coming-of-age drama about an anxious teen girl who is manipulated into a romantic encounter with her best friend during the funeral service of their former Hebrew school classmate. Screening is followed by a Q&A. Co-presented by aGLIFF, Austin Jewish Film Festival, and Austin Black Pride. @Online: www.agliff.org, Through March 2.

TECH.NOLOGY D: Y2K. The premiere of Y2K's new project blending fashion and music, in which Y2K "embodies a genderless cyborg that investigates our relationship to fetish, technology, and augmented reality, and imagines an accelerated future where these are embedded within the human experience." @Online: diverseworks.org/y2k. Premiere: Fri., Feb. 26, 7pm; streams through April 11.

The Walking Dead Advance Screening and Q&A After an extended hiatus, *The Walking Dead* season 10 returns. Join ATX TV Fest to be the first to see a brand-new episode, followed by a panel conversation with EPs Scott Gimple and Angela Kang with cast members Norman Reedus, Lauren Cohan, Angel Theory, and Okea Eme-Akware. @Online: www.atxfestival.com, Fri., Feb. 26, 7pm.

The Joy Luck Club (1993) D: Wayne Wang; with Kieu Chinh, Tsai Chin, France Nuyen, Lisa Lu, Ming-Na Wen, Tamlyn Tomita, Lauren Tom, Rosalind Chao, Vivian Wu. (R, 139 min.) **Virtual Read-Watch-Talk.** Discuss the merits of the film and the book, both available from the Austin Public Library. (*) @Online: library.austintexas.gov, Tue., March 2, 7pm.

Villains Wear Black Presents This locally produced show, inspired by the likes of MTV's *120 Minutes* and USA Network's *Night Flight*, offers a variety of music videos, live performances, and interviews. Created by Austin musician and artist Rona Rougeheart, who co-hosts/co-produces with Curse Mackey, it's a mind-expanding exploration of art, film, music, animation, and fashion. See it online, on Austin Public channel 16, or search "Austin Public" on AppleTV, Roku, and Amazon Fire TV Stick. @www.villainswearblack.online, Wednesdays, 10pm.

Company Town (2017) D: Natalie Kottke and Erica Sardarian. (NR, 90 min.) **Virtual Controversy & Conversation.** A doc about a paper mill's pollution allegedly causing cancer and other illnesses in Crosssett, Ark. Austin Public Library invites you to screen the doc through the library's catalog prior to an online conversation, presented in partnership with the UT-Austin Humanities Institute. @Online: library.austintexas.gov, Thu., March 4, 7:30pm.

SPACES

Pitch Perfect (2012) D: Jason Moore; with Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson. (PG-13, 112 min.) **Music Movie Theater Thursdays.** Empire hosts a socially distanced movie night in their outdoor space featuring a fave music-minded throwback. The first 30 people in the door get a complimentary Bacardi cocktail. (*) @Empire Control Room, Thu., Feb. 25, 7pm.

Snakes on a Plane and Shaft CMW shows a double feature in the biergarten each Wednesday with a bonus of free popcorn and a reverse happy hour with specials on burgers, pizza, and tasty brews. @Central Machine Works, Wed., March 3, 7pm.

FEATURED SCREENINGS

Boyz n the Hood (1991) D: John Singleton; with Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr., Morris Chestnut, Larry Fishburne. (R, 107 min.) **Fathom Events.** It's the 30th anniversary of the critically acclaimed coming-of-age story about growing up in South Central L.A. (*) Sun., Feb. 28: Cinemark 20, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Hill Country Galleria, 3, 7pm. Wed., Mar. 3: Cinemark 20, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, 7pm. **Dracula (1931)** D: Tod Browning; with Bela Lugosi. (NR, 75 min.) **With Mondo Pin.** Tickets include a free Universal Monsters enamel pin produced by Mondo. Thu., Feb. 25: Alamo Lakeline, 7:15pm; Alamo Slaughter Lane, 7:30pm; Alamo S. Lamar, 7:40pm. Sat., Feb. 27: Alamo Lakeline, 2:20pm. Sun., Feb. 28: Alamo S. Lamar, 3:25pm.

E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) D: Steven Spielberg; with Henry Thomas. (PG, 115 min.) **With Mondo Pin.** Tickets include a free mystery family-friendly enamel pin from the Mondo archives. Fri., Feb. 26: Alamo S. Lamar, 4:25pm; Alamo Slaughter Lane, 3:55pm; Alamo Lakeline, 4:10pm. Sat., Feb. 27: Alamo S. Lamar, 12:25pm; Alamo Slaughter Lane, 12:30pm; Alamo Lakeline, 12:30pm.

Family Shorts Dinner Theatre. Selected short films, vintage oddities, fun cartoons, and other unique entertainment. Dinner Theatre tickets come with a meal, drink, and dessert from the Blue StarBite diner. @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Feb. 25, 7:15pm; Thu., Mar. 4, 7:20pm.

The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005) D: Judd Apatow; with Steve Carell, Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd, Romany Malco, Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Leslie Mann, Jane Lynch. (R, 116 min.) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Sat., Feb. 27, 7:20pm; Mon., Mar. 1, 7:20pm.

Get on Up (2014) D: Tate Taylor; with Chadwick Boseman, Nelsan Ellis, Dan Aykroyd, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Craig Robinson. (PG-13, 138 min.) **Fathom Events.** Chadwick Boseman stars as the Godfather of Soul, James Brown. (*) Sat., Feb. 27: Cinemark 20, CM Southpark Meadows, CM Hill Country Galleria, 7pm.

The Goonies (1985) D: Richard Donner; with Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Corey Feldman, Martha Plimpton. (PG, 114 min.) Thu., Feb. 25: Doc's Drive In, 7:30pm; Blue Starlite Downtown, 9:40pm. Fri., Feb. 26: Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:15pm. Sat., Feb. 27: Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7pm; Blue Starlite Downtown, 7pm; Blue Starlite Round Rock, 7pm.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) D: Peter Jackson; with Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin. (PG-13, 180 min.) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7pm.

Mallrats (1995) D: Kevin Smith; with Shannen Doherty, Jeremy London, Jason Lee, Claire Forlani, Ben Affleck, Jason Mewes, Smith. (R, 97 min.) (*) Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Feb. 25, 10:10pm; Sat., Feb. 27, 10:15pm.

PG: Psycho Goreman (2021) D: Steven Kostanski; with Matthew Ninaber, Nita-Josée Hanna, Owen Myre, Adam Brooks, Scout Flint, Rick Amsbury, Alexis Kara Hancey, Kristen MacCulloch; with the voices of Steven Vlahos. (NR, 99 min.) (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Fri., Feb. 26, 10:10pm.

FESTIVALS

Children of Abraham/Ibrahim The UT-Austin Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Austin Film Society present a series of films from the Middle East intended to "open our hearts, minds, and understanding about a region that many of us only experience in news reports." *Synonyms* by Nadav Lapid (*The Kindergarten Teacher*) opens Feb. 25, and March 4 will be *There Is No Evil* by Mohammed Rasouli (*Manuscripts Don't Burn*), who is presently under house arrest in Iran. Join in on Zoom for a discussion on *There Is No Evil* with scholar



Dr. Babak Tabarraee on March 9. @Online: www.austinfilm.org. Films open on Thursdays through March 11.

Indie Meme Film Festival Indie Meme, a festival celebrating the film of Southeast Asia, doesn't start until April, but now's a great time to buy an early bird fest pass. Purchase of a family membership gets you access to the festival as well as special events, screenings, and filmmaker talks all year long for only \$50, for a limited time only. @Online: www.indiememe.org. Festival runs April 16-18 & 23-25

Ultimate Drive-In Doggie Drive-In Weekend Four days of fur-flying film fun awaits at this BYODog affair featuring all the adorable animals you can imagine, from *The Adventures of Milo and Otis* to *Marley & Me*. @Ultimate Drive-In, 1600 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Thu.-Sun., March 4-7.

Ultimate Drive-In Totally Eighties Weekend Get all the Molly Ringwald you can handle in one weekend, plus Ferris, Marty McFly, and the rest of the gang in eight films over four days. @Ultimate Drive-in, 1600 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Thu.-Sun., Feb. 25-28, 6:30 & 9pm.

OFFSCREEN

AFS Merch Store Attention cinephiles: Austin Film Society's online store is stocked with neat items, from *Dazed and Confused* pint glasses to throwback tees to framed vintage movie posters. Support AFS and score a unique gift for yourself or your fave filmgoer. *Ongoing.* Online. www.austinfilm.org.

The Drive-In Comedy Tour Live stand-up comedy with a 360-degree skyline view at Blue Starlite Downtown's rooftop theatre. Thu., Feb. 25, 7pm. *Blue Starlite Downtown, 300 San Antonio, 707/787-5072.* www.bluestarlitedrivedrivein.com.

The Drive-In Comedy Tour Live stand-up comedy in Blue Starlite's spacious yard. Sat., Feb. 27, 7pm. *Blue Starlite Mueller II, 2103 E.M. Franklin Ave., 512/850-6127.* www.bluestarlitedrivedrivein.com.



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 March 12 issue is Monday, March 1.** 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 DRAFFHOUSE LAKELINE

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

BRIDESMAIDS: Sat, 4:20

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE:

Fri, 3:30; Sun, noon

WITH MONDO PIN: DRACULA:

Sat, 2:20

WITH MONDO PIN: E.T.: THE

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL: Fri, 4:10;

Sat-Sun, 12:30

JUDAS AND THE BLACK

MESSIAH: Fri, 3:10, 6:40;

Sat, 11:10am, 2:30, 6:20pm;

Sun, 11:10am, 2:30, 6:15pm

THE LITTLE THINGS: Fri, 6:25;

Sat, 1:25; Sun, 2:55, 6:30

NOMADLAND: Fri, 3:50, 7:00;

Sat, 11:15am, 1:05, 5:00pm;

Sun, 12:15, 3:20, 6:45

TOM AND JERRY: Fri, 3:00, 6:00;

Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 6:00pm

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE

SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER, 512/861-7060.

WITH MONDO PIN: E.T.: THE

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL: Fri, 3:55;

Sat-Sun, 12:30

JUDAS AND THE BLACK

MESSIAH: Fri, 7:20; Sat, 1:20,

4:45, 7:15; Sun, 12:35, 3:55, 7:15

NOMADLAND: Fri, 4:40, 7:45;

Sat, 12:55, 4:15, 7:40; Sun, 1:25,

4:30, 7:35

TOM AND JERRY: Fri, 2:55,

4:30, 6:00; Sat, 11:00am, 2:00,

5:30pm; Sun, noon, 3:00, 6:00

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE

SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA

COUNTY: Fri, 4:15

WITH MONDO PIN: DRACULA:

Sun, 3:25

WITH MONDO PIN: E.T.: THE

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL: Fri, 4:25;

Sat, 12:25

JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH:

Fri, 3:10, 6:30; Sat, 11:55am, 3:15,

6:35pm; Sun, noon, 3:35, 7:20

LAND: Fri, 2:50

THE LITTLE THINGS: Fri, 4:35;

Sat, 3:35; Sun, 11:35am

NIGHT OF THE KINGS: Fri, 3:00;

Sat, 12:40; Sun, 1:00

NOMADLAND: Fri, 3:55, 5:40,

7:00; Sat, 11:45am, 1:15, 4:20,

7:25pm; Sun, 1:20, 4:25, 6:30

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:

Fri, 7:20

TOM AND JERRY: Fri, 6:15, 6:15;

Sat-Sun, 2:00, 2:00, 5:00, 5:00

WILLY'S WONDERLAND:

Fri-Sat, 8:00; Sun, 12:40, 8:00

AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

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

JUDAS AND THE BLACK

MESSIAH (CC/DVS): Fri, 4:30,

8:00; Sat, 1:10, 4:30, 8:00;

Sun, 4:00, 7:30; Mon-Wed, 6:10

LAND (CC/DVS): Fri-Sun, 3:40;

Mon-Wed, 7:30

THE LITTLE THINGS (CC/DVS):

Fri-Sun, 6:40; Tue, 7:30

THE MARKSMAN (CC/DVS):

Fri, 4:40; Sat, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40;

Sun, 4:40; Mon-Wed, 6:00

MONSTER HUNTER (CC/

DVS): Fri, 5:10, 8:10; Sat, 2:10,

5:10, 8:10; Sun, 5:00, 8:00;

Mon-Wed, 8:00

NOMADLAND (CC/DVS):

Fri, 3:10, 7:40; Sat, 1:20, 4:20,

7:30; Sun, 2:50, 6:00, 7:40;

Mon-Wed, 7:40

TOM AND JERRY (CC/DVS):

Fri, 3:50, 4:50, 6:10, 6:50, 7:50;

Sat, 1:00, 1:50, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50,

7:50; Sun, 3:20, 4:10, 6:20,

7:10; Mon-Wed, 6:20, 7:20; Thu

(3/4), 7:20

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/

DVS): Fri-Sat, 3:20, 7:10;

Sun, 2:30, 6:10; Mon-Wed, 6:40

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

BARTON CREEK SQUARE MALL,

MOPAC & HWY. 360, 512/306-1991.

JURASSIC WORLD (SENSORY

FRIENDLY): Sat, 12:10

TOM AND JERRY (CC/DVS):

Fri, 4:00, 7:00; Sat-Sun, noon,

noon, 3:00, 6:00

BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN

300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

CLUELESS: Sat, 10:00

COMING TO AMERICA: Fri, 10:00;

Sat, 7:00

FREAKY: Fri, 10:00

THE GOONIES: Sat, 7:00

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE:

Fri, 7:00

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...: Fri, 7:00

SING: Fri, 7:30

WRONG TURN: Sat, 10:00

BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

2103 E. M. FRANKLIN AVE.,

512/850-6127.

BILL & TED FACE THE MUSIC:

Fri, 10:10; Sat, 7:20

BLITHE SPIRIT: Fri, 7:00

THE BOURNE IDENTITY: Wed, 7:00

CASABLANCA: Tue, 7:20

CLUELESS: Sat, 10:00; Sun, 7:20

COMING TO AMERICA:

Sun-Mon, 7:00; Thu (3/4), 7:15

EVIL DEAD 2: DEAD BY DAWN:

Fri, 7:10; Sat, 10:15

DINNER THEATRE: FAMILY

SHORTS: Thu (3/4), 7:20

THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN:

Sat-Mon, 7:20

FREAKY: Sat, 10:15; Sun, 7:10; Thu

(3/4), 7:00

GODZILLA: KING OF THE

MONSTERS: Mon, 7:00

THE GOONIES: Fri, 7:15;

Sat-Sun, 7:00

HAPPY GILMORE: Wed, 7:00

KONG: SKULL ISLAND: Fri, 7:00

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE:

Sat, 7:00; Mon, 7:20

MALLRATS: Sat, 10:15

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI ...:

Sun, 7:20,

PG: PSYCHO GOREMAN: Fri, 10:10

THE PRINCESS BRIDE:

Fri-Sat, 7:00

TENET: Fri-Sun, 7:00; Wed, 7:15

THE WANTING MARE: Fri, 10:15

WONDER WOMAN: Tue, 7:00;

Wed, 7:15; Thu (3/4), 10:10

WRONG TURN: Fri, 10:10;

Sat, 7:10, 10:20; Wed, 7:10

BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRRELL PKWY.,

832/915-0332.

CLUELESS: Fri, 9:30

THE GOONIES: Sat, 7:00

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE: Fri, 7:00

WRONG TURN: Sat, 9:50

BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

LASER IMAX 2D: "INTO

AMERICA'S WILD": Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:00; Wed-Thu

(3/4), 2:00

LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE

ODYSSEY": Fri-Thu (3/4), noon

CINEMARK 2D AND XD

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

FATHOM EVENTS: BOYZ N

THE HOOD: Sun, 3:00, 7:00;

Wed, 7:00

CHECK (DIGITAL): Fri, 3:25, 6:50,

10:10; Sat, 12:05, 3:25, 6:50,

10:10; Sun, 12:05, 3:25, 6:50;

Mon-Wed, 4:05, 7:25

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGI-

TAL): Fri, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55;

Sat, noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55;

Sun, noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:50;

Mon-Wed, 4:50, 7:50

FATHOM EVENTS: GET ON UP:

Sat, 7:00

FATHOM EVENTS: GOD'S

COMPASS: Fri, 7:00

JUDAS AND THE BLACK

MESSIAH (DIGITAL): Fri, 3:35,

6:40, 9:45; Sat, 12:30, 3:35,

6:40, 9:45; Sun, 12:30, 3:35,

7:10; Mon-Wed, 4:10, 7:15

LAND (DIGITAL): Fri, 2:45, 5:15,

7:45, 10:05; Sat, 12:15, 2:45,

5:15, 7:45, 10:05; Sun, 12:15,

2:45, 5:15, 8:15; Mon-Wed, 5:15,

8:15

THE LITTLE THINGS (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:05, 7:15, 10:20; Sat, 12:55,

4:05, 7:15, 10:20; Sun, 12:55,

4:05, 7:40; Mon-Wed, 4:30,

7:40

THE MARKSMAN (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15; Sat, 1:55,

4:45, 7:35, 10:15; Sun, 1:55, 4:45,

8:05; Mon-Wed, 5:20, 8:05

THE MAURITANIAN (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:45, 6:55, 10:05; Sat, 12:35,

3:45, 6:55, 10:05; Sun, 12:35,

3:45, 6:55; Mon-Wed, 4:05, 7:10

MINARI (DIGITAL): Fri, 4:10,

7:05, 9:50; Sat, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05,

9:50; Sun, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05;

Mon-Wed, 4:10, 7:05

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGI-

TAL): Fri, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40,

10:20; Sat, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40,

10:20; Sun, 2:10, 4:55, 8:10;

Mon-Wed, 5:15, 8:10

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:00, 9:20; Sat, 1:00, 4:00,

9:55; Sun, noon; Mon-Tue, 4:20,

7:20; Wed, 4:00

TOM AND JERRY (DIGITAL):

Fri, 2:30, 3:15, 5:20, 6:05,

8:10, 8:55; Sat, noon, 12:45,

2:50, 3:30, 5:40, 6:15, 8:30,

9:00; Sun, noon, 12:4

Music

Free Lunch Creatives Feed Austin's Unhoused

Like many homegrown tag teams, **Carrie Fussell Bickley** met **Jazz Mills** at **South by Southwest**. As leader of local psych-folk enthusiasts **Calliope Musicals**, the former played the show while the latter musician oversaw the hospitality area. Fussell Bickley says it's no surprise Mills now oversees a program providing nourishment to Austinites without homes.

Out of work, the pair launched **Free Lunch** last summer. Aided by co-runner **Jade Skye Hammer** and a small group of creatives, the independent operation regularly serves meals at the state-run **Camp Esperanza**, located off of 183 near Montopolis. Homemade selects offer fresh, healthy ingredients in compostable packaging.

"I'm used to coordinating volunteers and backstage logistics at music festivals," says Mills. "So, instead of a festival VIP area, I need to rally resources to this homeless camp. It doesn't feel that different to me, but of course, I am wildly more passionate about it."

When last week's deep freeze halted deliveries from some larger aid organizations, the group increased dinner service from four times a week to daily, which Mills says they plan to maintain going forward. Unlike their typical setup, the crew mobilized out of the back of currently unused tour vans from Calliope Musicals and team member **Caroline Rose**. Alongside hot dinners, Free Lunch left reheatable eats at the Camp's office, which Fussell Bickley estimates totals some 2,000 meals over the week.

"We were driving around hollering like, 'Give us a wave, and we'll come to your tent,'" explains the frontwoman. "With all the snow, a lot of people couldn't even really leave their tents. It's inspiring to see the community rise, but it makes me so much more annoyed at our city and state infrastructure for not helping. Like, 'Why are you even here? Who are you saving?'"

Mills says a resident of Camp Esperanza died during the storm. A Feb. 21 memorial at **Auditorium Shores** honored the unknown number of unhoused lives lost during the calamitous cold. As state infrastructure collapsed, Austin's mutual aid and service organizations plastered their info across the internet.

"The sad thing is, people are always hungry," adds Fussell Bickley. "When it's freezing cold, it becomes more urgent, but we've been feeling this sense of urgency for a while. When it's 70 and sunny, it's just easier to forget about people in need."

On Instagram @f_r_e_e_lunch, the group found mentions from the **Obama Foundation** and actress **Hilary Duff**, who called them "a little bit more grassroots than the food banks." While accepting Venmo (@FreeLunch-ATX) donations, Mills encourages monthly \$10 donations as a "Lunch Monitor" at FreeLunchATX.com.

Subscription includes a quarterly magazine designed by art director Hammer with updates.

For now, the team waits to see how the recent swell of support sustains before expanding.

"Our program isn't trying to solve homelessness in Austin – that's not realistic for us," explains Mills. "We just want to tackle food insecurity at Camp Esperanza, and then at another camp and another. What really matters is that when we tell people we're going to bring them food, we don't bail."

More Musician-Led Storm Relief

In less than a week, **Diversity Awareness & Wellness in Action (DAWA)** distributed \$32,000 in direct assistance to Texans impacted by the storms, according to an update on Tuesday from founder **Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone**. The **Music Commission** chair crowd-sourced funds over Facebook Live, divvying \$50 emergency grants via Google Form to those in need. Mahone and wife **Ghislaine "Qi Dada" Jean**, celebrating the release of new **Riders Against the Storm** album *Flowers for the Living* this week, also enlivened a **Sims Elementary** distribution center with music. DAWA accepts donations on their website, Venmo (@DawaHeals), or paypal.me/dawaheals.

Austin Texas Musicians, the **Amplified Sound Coalition**, and **Texas Music Workforce Coalition** pooled volunteers to support an emergency distribution center at East Austin's **Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex** in partnership with Mayor Pro Tem **Natasha Harper-Madison** and Council Member **Greg Casar**. For six

**FASTER
THAN
SOUND**
BY RACHEL
RASCOE



Carrie Fussell Bickley utilizing the Calliope Musicals tour van for food distribution during last week's cold crisis

COURTESY OF FREE LUNCH

days, musicians and music production workers handed out food, water, and supplies to long lines of waiting cars at one of many facilities quickly set up across the city.

Katy Kirby's Five-Alarm Folk Rock

Driving through the South with her little dog, **Katy Kirby** is on a nostalgic journey. She's staying at her old house in Nashville, which she vacated after the pandemic sent her home to Texas last summer. She's en route from Alabama, where work on a childhood friend's album placed Kirby in the company of the same crew who produced her own debut album, *Cool Dry Place*, on the eve of its Feb. 19 release.

Her buddies picked up a kiddie fire truck cake in a nod to Kirby's bendy, frank folk number "Fireman." Alluding to her recent acclaim, the icing read, "Who did you have to kill to get in *The New York Times*?"

"I've wanted to put out an album forever, and now it just is," says the 25-year-old. "Suddenly I'm on the second paragraph of my hypothetical Wikipedia entry."

The celebratory crew included album producers **Alberto Sewald** and **Logan Chung**, who helped Kirby craft a warm indie rock ambience to match her sharp lyricism. In 2018, earlier versions of songs like "Juniper" debuted on cassette for **Keeled Scales**. Support encouraged the onetime **Old Settler's Music Festival** youth talent winner to re-record the material for a proper debut on the local imprint – highly regarded for new LPs

from both Kirby and **Sun June** this month.

"I wasn't sure I actually wanted to make a life out of music," she admits. "I dropped out of **Belmont's** songwriting program after the first semester, and went for English because I figured I'd make a reasonably cool English teacher. Maybe early 2018, I decided, 'Okay, I'll try music for a year.'"

Mostly recorded in Nashville, Kirby's troupe of collaborators made a trek last fall to her parents' house outside of Austin in Spicewood to wrap up *Cool Dry Place*.

"Alberto was enchanted by how stereotypically Texan it was," she says. "We took him to my high school, **Faith Academy** [in Marble Falls], and he was like, 'Whoa, y'all like, made it out.'"

"I was like, 'Oh my god, you're right. We won.'"

For all its unexpected shapes and imaginative narratives, *Cool Dry Place* carries a cathartic, spiritual throughline. Songs like "Secret Language," which riffs **Leonard Cohen's** "Hallelujah," endeavor her own distancing from Christianity, which Kirby shared with her parents while living at home for the first time in years.

"I'd always told them, 'Oh yeah, I totally still believe, my expression of faith is just looser,'" says the artist. "But my mom and I were in a weirdly similar emotional place, and it was really nice to get to know her again and become a little bit more honest about my faith."

"Which is great, because I would have blown my cover in literally every single interview."

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FLOWERS FOR THE LIVING

Band of the Year threeppeat Riders Against the Storm hit their stride with long-awaited third LP **BY DEREK UDENSI**



PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

“We are Austin music,” repeats Jonathan “Chaka” Mahone.

He states those words emphatically in reference to not only his own musical endeavors, but the unappreciated depth of Black talent in the Texas capital.

“Putting the Black and brown face on music is what they should be doing,” he continues. “Get out of the way. Stop acting like we’re still in the Willie Nelson and Stevie Ray Vaughan days. The symbol of [Austin] music is still a guitar. That day is over!”

His passion transcends virtual confines necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic. After 11-plus years of hustling alongside his wife, Ghislaine “Qi Dada” Jean, the hyperactive social justice advocate earned the right to voice his opinion in unadulterated terms. The two unite as Riders Against the Storm, a hip-hop duo focused on uplifting its community in lieu of promoting dysfunction for album sales.

Jean states she and her spouse’s “training” from elders prepared them for their paths. She entered the world in the Eighties, when hip-hop already stretched deep into the roots of her Brooklyn childhood. Meanwhile, party culture informed her Haitian roots and Caribbean heritage entwined all three festive rites rife with unique storytellers.

Said background feeds the pair’s popular Body Rock ATX events.

“I learned to merge the idea of rhymes, stories, music, and how that orbits a person,” she says during a Zoom interview lasting nearly two hours. “Our music is really about that. How can we take a story of emotion and people, and have that orbit them where it can actually affect different points in their imagination, spirit, and body.”

The singer, 39, also states their desire to tap into a young, Black, and free frequency.

“All of the [American] music that we love was created by young Black people who were celebrating the fact that they were free,” emphasizes the first ever Black female to win an Austin Music Award for Band of the Year. “We’re still celebrating the fact that we’re free! The fact that we’ve been unhinged from bondage. That was not that long ago.”

SO FAR GONE

The other half of the first hip-hop group to win the Austin Music Award for Band of the Year grew up in Pittsburgh. His father, a Black man who overcame poverty and racial inequality to become a lawyer, instilled a nonstop work ethic in him. Jonathan Mahone’s efforts to improve the local community accentuate that fact. Austin Music Commission, Black Live Music Fund, Diversity and Wellness in Action (DAWA), and E4 Youth stack an antithetical list to what many rappers usually flex.

Mahone says he sent out \$32,000 in emer-

gency direct cash assistance, via DAWA, to those impacted by February’s unprecedented winter storms.

Before discovering he wanted to combine social justice, music, and art, the DAWA founder attended Brown University in the hopes of becoming a civil rights attorney. Initially intending to follow in his father’s professional footsteps, he changed course while at the Ivy League institution. Mahone came to believe that law programs train the future “rulers of America” how to sustain the very system of oppression he yearned to tear down.

His calling became clear only after some years of soul searching.

“To actually have the impact I wanted to have and make a living was not easy,” says the 43-year-old. “That was a challenge and part of the reason I started DAWA. People who give the most in our society are paid the least.”

Mahone graduated from Brown with a bachelor’s degree in American civilization (honors) and a master’s degree in teaching. He met his partner afterward, in pursuit of a 2004 contest awarding the winner an opportunity to open for NYC hip-hop duo Dead Prez. Their collaborative tandem followed each having rapped during college.

He brought over a CD of beats, they wrote to Monica’s 2003 Top 10 hit “So Gone” (its instrumental employed for the popular #SoFarGoneChallenge social media trend in 2016), and the future husband and wife performed their very first song together at the contest. Victory and 17 years of music and life ensued.

“Not full-time [music], not professionally. More so, ‘Let’s see what happens,’” clarifies Jean about balancing diverse creative portfolios. “We were doing a lot of different things and music was one of them, but that’s the first leg of it.”

A relocation to Austin in late 2009 occurred after spiritual inclinations, and Mahone met then-Austin resident Martin Perna of Antibalas and Ocote Soul Sounds at a political magazine retreat.

BODY ROCK ATX

The Northerners arrived here with that year’s full-length album *Speak the Truth*, and a penchant for throwing memorable house parties discussed months afterward. They parlayed both into Body Rock ATX. Perna suggested to DJ Chorizo Funk, aka Eddie Campos, that he meet with the newly minted Texans.

Campos vibed with the duo, which led to Body Rock’s February 2010 inception. The spinner operates two turntables while the front MCs engage primarily via call and response. Attendees of all demographics receive a safe space to free their minds of various shackles.

“Walking in the door, the purpose is to feel good,” affirms Campos. “We know how much goes on in our lives and we know how different we all are, but we also know the power music, intention, and ceremony have. It’s a really powerful experience when that happens as a group.”

Pandemic-eradicated Downtown locale Plush and its 105-person capacity held the first event. Attendance doubled, tripled, and eventually quadrupled monthly by the second year. Its last in-person convergence occurred February 2020 before COVID halted such gatherings and brought in roughly 800 enthusiasts.

“[That] lets me know there are people who are not waiting for someone to tell them what’s hot,” says Jean. “They can feel it and are willing to invest in it again and again. So much so that it becomes ingrained into their lives, which is really the biggest honor.”

“It hasn’t changed since we’ve had 10 or 20 people in the room,” adds Mahone. “At a lot of [other] parties, people aren’t getting free because it’s about what you’re wearing, who’s there, or who’s throwing it. Body Rock is not about any of that shit! It’s about, ‘Come here and sweat!’”

“We don’t care what race you are, what gender you are, what your sexuality is. We don’t give a fuck! Let’s get it on! For four hours, let’s just get it on.”

Riders Against the Storm took an inverted career path in comparison to the traditional trails for success. They cultivated an incredible live presence despite releasing little new music during the past decade-plus. The three-year span of 2014-

16 netted them six Austin Music Awards, including three straight Band of the Year honors, which put them on an exclusive list alongside Grammy winners Los Lonely Boys and indie rock outfit Spoon. That’s remarkable for an act that put out an eponymous five-song EP in 2013 before essentially ghosting the studio.

Body Rock’s sustained success on a monthly basis made upholding the quality of those events a priority over recording new music. Years of grinding the live scene paid off in the form of a house purchased a little over two years ago. Stabilization of income primarily due to Body Rock’s monthly magic and a complete “spiritual metamorphosis” finally equals new music.

There’s plenty on the way according to both of them.

MAGIK & XXTRA

Flowers for the Living, the first studio album by RAS with primarily new content since 2009’s *Speak the Truth*, dropped on Feb. 22 after a postponement from its original Dec. 2020 target date. February also notched 14 years of marriage for Jean and Mahone.

The full-length packages four entirely new tracks with four previously debuted singles. *Speak the Truth*’s East Coast Nineties soul trades in for a sound closer to the ultimate vision of the group. The title track fuses soothing electro-instrumentation owing to house music, African percussion samples, and meaningful lyrics to create an invigorating concoction on par with gin and juice. Adding young Georgetown crooner Clarence James in the Kid Cudi role of providing a hypnotic hook/outro sends the cocktail’s potency into overdrive.

New songs “Magik” and “Xxtra” explore uncharted territory. The former enchants and inches closer to Jean’s desire to channel the voodoo rock genre of Haitian music in more songs. Mahone’s solo “Xxtra” stakes a claim as the couple’s most bullish effort yet. Its “extraterrestrial” Samaritan pops off while drums quake between otherworldly synths containing enough power to prompt Kryptonian Clark Kent to become Superman. Later, fitness instructor Richard Simmons gets a song named after him!

The title of their third LP comes from the belief people should send love to each other while they’re able.

“Give people flowers because you’re thinking about them, because you love them, because they

mean something to you,” Mahone suggests. “Don’t wait for them to pass on for you to bring them this whole big thing of flowers that they can’t even appreciate.”

He pitches displaying a deceased loved one on a T-shirt.

“Why not make a shirt and be like, ‘Yo, that’s my friend right here! This is my guy! This is my best friend!’ We wait until they die and I get that it’s part of our mourning process, but why do we wait? Make a T-shirt of them now!”

THANKFUL

Jonathan Mahone crafts much more than T-shirts for those he loves.

He joined the Austin Music Commission in April 2019 at the request of Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison. He then



became chair of the Commission toward the end of last year after previously serving as vice president. It’s his constant insistence regarding artists of color in Austin deserving equality that spearheaded many conversations at the government level.

The commission unanimously approved his recommendation that 50% of the Austin Live Music Fund be allocated to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) last October. The diligent pro-Black voice also wanted a fund for Black talent outside of government constraints. Mahone consequently founded the Black Live Music Fund in November.

“Ultimately, I just want us to be in control of our own destiny,” he explains. “I want the money to be in our hands and [we] make decisions about what we want to do with it. I just felt like [the Black Live Music Fund made sense], because I had already created the concept and built momentum toward it. People signed the petition when I first began saying the city should give 50% to a Black live music fund.”

The first goal of the BLMF is to raise \$50,000 by June. That money will divvy up into \$2,500 grants to Black members of the music scene who have demonstrated a willingness to aid the local Black community. So far, roughly \$20,000 has accrued, with hopes that streams like their *Thankful* – postponed twice due to extreme weather and finally

broadcasting this Friday, Feb. 26 – will raise both awareness and funds. Heavy hitters such as Deezie Brown, Eimaral Sol, and Jake Lloyd remained committed since December, but Mahone quickly points out his people have endured worse than the coronavirus and natural disasters.

“The pandemic was going on in our community before this happened,” he stresses. “Racism is a pandemic. Genocide, slavery – these are social and cultural pandemics. We’ve survived much worse than this. We’ve been through hell from the transatlantic slave trade and we’re still here. Not only are we here, we’re leading.

“There is no Austin without us.”

RAS hopes *Flowers for the Living* will begin a process of people learning to understand them musically rather than believing it their magnum opus. It’s a road less traveled, yet Jean and Mahone wouldn’t choose any other method to arrive at this destination.

“We pursued music in the manner and means that were most realistic, most authentic to ourselves,” offers Jean. “It required us to stabilize ourselves to the point now where we can facilitate stability for other people. We chose that route. That’s a different route from most artists.” ■

Consume *Flowers for the Living* on Apple Music, Bandcamp, SoundCloud, Spotify, Tidal, YouTube.

Lil' Bully & Boz

BEAUTIFUL NIGHTMARES (BULLY WORLD) Amazon, Spotify

Understandably hungry amid a broad reset, the grimy *Beautiful Nightmares* features veteran Austin MC Lil' Bully (LaDarrian Torry) sounding appropriately desperate not to allow the sun to set on his rap career without a proper fight. Consider the cinematic, Boz Bozic-produced five-track EP his statement of purpose. Here, the rapper sounds like Superman – spinning the globe backward, reversing time, pulling our star back to the high noon of an alternative future.

Abolishing the ominous “DoWrong” handle (revisit “Hip-Hop on the Verge,” Music, Jan. 16, 2015) and adopting new official moniker Lil' Bully “doesn't mean to step on others,” says the nephew of late League of Extraordinary Gz leader Octavis “Da 6th Street Bully” Berry. “It's a reminder to be fearless and to be yourself unapologetically, and to never compromise your morals no matter the severity of the circumstances.” For him, those “circumstances” include the shooting death of his father

and his own noted run-ins with Austin law enforcement.

Both chapters have created a new maturity and focus in Torry.

Simultaneously, his and Bozic's combined insistence on low waste, renewed intensity, and pathos begins from the first word. On the muddy, North Memphis-tinged trap of “Van Go,” the rapper describes running from the police followed by a new lease on life after a defibrillator jump-started his heart. “I've been like this ever since I was a kid!” he says in a chant on the Swagga P-assisted block-centric “Django.”

Bozic's cogent production reaches haunting levels on “Lick,” akin to a trapped-out, late Nineties Portishead. Torry's deepened voice and streetwise flows carry wisdom and experience versus the youthful, white-hot fury of previous projects. Moreover, the extended play shines in its tautness and efficiency, with only one track over three minutes.

An all gas/no brakes affair, the 14-minute runtime serves its voice as the best he's been. LaDarrian Torry is no longer a resentful, wayward boy. No, Lil' Bully is a young man with a label, star potential, and a plan to reach new heights.

– Kahron Spearman



THANKFUL

Facebook Live/YouTube, Friday 26, 7:30pm

Initially scheduled as a stacked New Year's Eve show at Empire Garage, then pivoting to the web during last week's most homebound stretch of the year, the Black Live Music Fund and Six Square's Thankful finally finds a spot. No loss to the lineup, all seven artists are scheduled to perform with mainstays and up-and-comers bridging hip-hop and neo-soul including Eimaral Sol, Nook Turner, Deezie Brown, J Soulja, Jake Lloyd, and Nnedi. Headliners Riders Against the Storm share an exclusive performance celebrating the release of new album *Flowers for the Living*, the eponymous single of which featured Clarence James and dropped in December. The event is free to stream, and donations can be made to both orgs running the event.

– Greg Stitt

MOBLEY: YOUNG AND DYING IN THE OCCIDENT SUPREME

www.mobleywho.com

“Home is a sarlacc pit,” deadpans a voice on “You Are Not the Hero of This Story,” the intro to Mobley EP *Young and Dying in the Occident Supreme*. Backed by an Ennio Morricone Midwestern theme and marching percussion, the song compares the all-encompassing maw from *Return of the Jedi* to the indifference of Western society until the song ends with, “There is no frontier.” That prelude “James Crow,” a sleek, bouncing, radio shoe-in that he wrote back in 2018 in Thailand, an opportunity affording him an objective lens to critique America's systemic racism. Its grim wordplay prompts more of the same with the sinewy, electro limbs of existential malaise (“Nobody's Favourite”) and hedonism (“Lost Boys/Occidental Death”). Like 2018 debut *Fresh Lies*, “Dreams of Empire,” and “Mate” find the ATX pop polymath navigating his nuanced relationship with the United States. Yet beneath both those layers – waxing poetic and sleek, modern musicality – Mobley masterfully composed a guitar-centric pop piece that gleans an expansive palate of R&B bass romp and supernova psychedelia. Just as the beautiful twofor “Lost Boys/Occidental Death” splits, the former into a dilated trip and the latter into an intimate requiem, the EP begs to be expanded into a full-length album.

– Alejandra Ramirez

LOS SUNDOWNS

Beto Martinez might become to Buda what Adrian Quesada manifested in Austin: cottage industry, scene ambassador, national breakout. Both men won a Grammy in Latin big band Grupo Fantasma, both hail from Laredo – a city that breeds ambition and arch survival techniques – and both guitarists produce, talent scout, and branch off into other vehicles. The latter you know from Black Pumas, while Martinez posts up in Santana-esque powerhouse Brownout and South American psych groovers Money Chicha. Now comes Los Sundowns, pairing him with Daniel Villarreal, drummer for Chicago alt.Latino group Dos Santos. On the duo's eponymous six-song EP – dropped on Martinez's label imprint Lechehouse Music, which also titles his Buda studio where initial sessions occurred last January before COVID swept the planet – Los Sundowns plays to its name. Like a time-lapse video of 24 hours in the desert, the subtle but continuous flow and grow of neon electro-life is hypnotic. The siren-esque bleat of keyboards, which creates the instant sway of the alternate Latin reggae pioneered by Alamo City hero Augie Meyers in the Sixties, carves out space with the guitar on an oasis groove of fiery, muted, sunset pinks. That's opener “Los Angeles,” while wind off the ocean crests “Endless Bummer.” Bilingual, balladic, atmospheric, nocturnal: Los Sundowns.

– Raoul Hernandez

SKELETON'S ORDAINMENT OF DIVINITY

Bandcamp

Sudden and unforeseen creation, *Ordainment of Divinity* emerges from the caves of Austin's most wretched metal band. Last year elicited Skeleton's smashing self-titled album on primo Northwest imprint 20 Buck Spin and 2021 promises another full-length, but betwixt them lands this surprise EP. Intro “Opening Rites” pumps a droning organ over cinematic percussion: a kick drum that sounds like soldiers marching into hell, plus a whiplike crash cymbal, and another mysterious instrument that may just be a rattle filled with human teeth. The black sacrament then explodes into tracks titled “I” through “IV,” orchestrated solely by guitarist David Ziolkowski, that take the group's blackened, blasting, death metal to new levels of intense rawness. Demos from the lair.

– Kevin Curtin

WILSON MARKS, “REINVENTING CUPID”

Bandcamp

You can't spell “evolve” without “love” ... and a couple extra letters. Ever a quirky lyricist probing the human condition, Wilson Marks examines romance with an appreciation for the unknown on this standalone single following his virtuous 2020 LP *True Beauty Is in the Random*. Behind the restless kick drum of a lo-fi loop, Janie Cowan's slippery upright bass, bent electric guitar, and hotel lobby piano, “Reinventing Cupid” coalesces trip-hop, coffeehouse jazz, Harry Nilsson lyricism, and a Flaming Lips-like psychedelia. Meanwhile, Marks' boyish voice breaks the fourth wall with the winking quatrain: “You can't believe everything that you've heard/ Every pop song is a problem/ Coined by one who couldn't solve them/ Excluding this.” A direct hit from cupid's bow.

– Kevin Curtin

JAMES MCMURTRY: SOUNDCHECK AT THE GALLERY

Bandcamp

Until he gets back onstage, Texas' best baladeer keeps his weekly residency ritual alive with Sunday and Wednesday livestreams, yet James McMurtry's also been digging through the archives. Last summer, he offered up an EP of live shots with his band ripping at the Continental Club, its proceeds benefiting his homebase club. Now he drops the other side of the repertoire with this four-song solo acoustic set from the club's intimate upstairs gallery. The live favorites pull from 1995 LP *Where'd You Hide the Body*, gritting through his harsh narratives with “Delaware,” “Melinda,” and classic “Levelland,” and closes with the sharp-picked “Peter Pan” debuted on 1997's *It Had to Happen*. McMurtry's vivid tales of edged-out lives and obstinate endurance remain unparalleled.

– Doug Freeman

DAVID BECK'S TEJANO WEEKEND: A TIP OF THE HAT

www.davidbeckstjanowweekend.com

Since releasing their *Vol. 1* LP in 2019, David Beck's quintet has upended country classics with Tex-Mex flavor and stellar results. Last year, they shuffled through renditions of Merle Haggard's “If We Make It Through December” and paid tribute to the late Billy Joe Shaver with “Live Forever.” Now, they offer up homage to King George Strait with his two-song *A Tip of the Hat*. “The Cowboy Rides Away” swirls behind David Herrera's accordion and synth keys by Peter Hugsman, but the cumbia rhythm that Beck's upright bass and Dees Stribling's drums find in “Ocean Front Property” provides a real treat as the Strait classic emerges uncanny and new.

– Doug Freeman

YUNG BRYSE: TRILL LIVIN'

Apple Music, Spotify, Tidal, YouTube

Bryson Philen details the ambitions of a bona fide hustler on debut solo album *Trill Livin'*. The J Soulja associate rhymes with fervor while refusing to shy away from getting personal across the January tape's 10 songs. Poignant closing track “Right Here Right Now” directly addresses both the North Austin MC's response to his mother's drug usage and his desire for a reprieve from the pain. Philen makes himself vulnerable in openly questioning the merits of his blessings and hardships alike. He's a battle-tested fighter thankful for each day, yet he pauses to ask why intermittently. He demonstrates a penchant for melody, yet maintains the essence of street-hardened bars that strike an emotional connection to many lyrics. It's a formula New York rapper 50 Cent utilized effectively during his peak, a blueprint followed by Bryse on the clearly 50 Cent-inspired “Ambitions of a Hustla.” These 27 minutes make the 4Life4Ever Ent. artist one to watch going forward.

– Derek Udensi

STRETCH PANIC: GLITTER & GORE

Bandcamp

Scary situations can do a lot of things to a person, so Stretch Panic built an art fortress – or rather, haunted house. MJ Haha, Jennifer Monsees, and Cassie Baker go on a ghoulish-inspired excursion decorated in surf moods and indie hues on debut full-length *Glitter & Gore*. Taking notes from Alfred Hitchcock for “Psycho Mama,” and influenced by all things spooky, the local trio tackles anything from the stifling patriarchy to blood-sucking relationships (“Vampire Love”). Featuring songs from their 2017 debut EP *Ghost Coast* alongside eight new pieces, the Panics breathe new life into their early garage recordings. With the addition of a full minute of melody and dramatic key change, “Symphony of the Night” now resonates in chilling vocalizations and paradisaical bass lines. For the finale, listeners find themselves “At the Ball,” slow dancing to a psych-driven *Carrie* fantasy. That's before the Austinites switch gears into hopping swing riffs. Wielding whimsical lyricism and futuristic synth waves, the Panics encourage us to be kind to fanciful pop. Have a little empathy.

– Alyssa Quiles

LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY 2/25

ACL Live Robert Earl Keen's Merry Christmas From the Fam-O-Lee Secret Santa Christmas (8:00)

Armadillo Den Buck Fuffalo, Julie Nolen (6:30)

Broken Spoke Lance Lipinsky (7:00)

Cheatham St. Texas Independence Weekend w/ William Clark Green, Ox Martin (8:00)

The Far Out Brian Scartocci, Rochelle & the Sidewinders (album release) (8:00)

Geraldine's Birds Bubbles & Blues w/ Jo James (8:00)

Gruene Hall Parker McCollum (acoustic), Corey Kent (8:00)

Riley's Tavern David Harris (7:00)

Sagebrush Wil Cope & the Dope (12mid), Candler Wilkinson (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00)

Sahara Lounge Take Us to Tomorrow, Isis Lee, Migzavier (8:00)

The White Horse Pearl Snap Playboys (11:30), Tumbleweed Hill (9:00), Jordan Matthew Young (7:00)

Wild West William Clark Green (9:00)

FRIDAY 2/26

ACL Live Robert Earl Keen's Merry Christmas From the Fam-O-Lee Secret Santa Christmas (8:00)

Antone's Jonathan Tyler, Desure (9:00)

Armadillo Den J.R. Sandoval, Mike Stanley (7:00)

Broken Spoke The Wagoneers (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)

Buck's Backyard The Frontmen of Country, Tony Kamel (8:00)

Cheatham St. Texas Independence Weekend w/ William Clark Green, Ox Martin (8:00)

Coliseum Grupo Legitimo, Conjunto Rio Grande (9:00)

Come & Take It Live Killing Ritual, Flesh Hoarder, Malignant Rot, In Distress (8:00)

Coupland Dancehall Sunny Sweeney, Rye Mountain Revelry (8:30)

Empire Control Room Y'all Out Boy [garage] (8:00)

The Far Out Alesia Lani, Ivy Roots, Lea'h Sampson (8:00)

Geraldine's The Selfless Lovers (9:30)

Gruene Hall Parker McCollum (acoustic), Corey Kent (8:00)

Lone Star Court Deer Fellow (7:00)

Native Hostel Monks Jazz presents Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:00, 7:00)

One-2-One Bar 80H Project, Ben Cina (9:00)

Parker Jazz Club Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)

Riley's Tavern Braydon Zink Trio (8:00), Season Ammons (6:00)

Sagebrush Jordan Matthew Young (11:00), Strahan & the Good Neighbors (9:00), the Jerrells (7:00)

Sahara Lounge Cowboy Diplomacy, Sol Chase, Pete Henry (8:00)

Summit Rooftop Lifted w/ Crizzly & Friends (10:00)

Trace at the W Hotel JD Casper (6:00)

The Venue ATX Victor Calderone (9:00)

Victory Grill D-Soul Davis Experience (7:00)

The White Horse David Touchton (11:30), Weldon Henson (9:00), Dallas Burrows (7:00)

Wild West Kody West, Carson Jeffrey (9:00)

SATURDAY 2/27

ACL Live Robert Earl Keen's Merry Christmas From the Fam-O-Lee Secret Santa Christmas (8:00)

Antone's Kevin Russell (10:00, 7:00)

Armadillo Den Teddy Long, Joel Hofmann (7:00)

Broken Spoke Alvin Crow (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)

Central Machine Works Cat Clemons Corporation (9:00)

Cheatham St. Texas Independence Weekend w/ Stoney LaRue (8:00)

Come & Take It Live Hinayana, Aerial, Slow Motion Crush (8:00)

Coupland Dancehall Jon Wolfe, Lucas Jagneaux (8:30)

El Nocturno Triny y la Leyenda, Estrellas de Tierra Caliente, Rene Lopez y Su Ley DTC (9:00)

Emerald Point Bar & Grill Audic Empire, Peter Dante, Reggae Lou, Kyle Rising, Sunrise Police (9:00)

Empire Control Room Emily Wolfe, Little Fangs [garage] (8:00)

The Far Out Bridge Farmers, Rickshaw Billie's Burger Patrol, High Desert Queen, Fostermother, Goodeye (7:00)

Geraldine's Elijah Zane (9:30), jazz brunch w/ Daniel Dufour Trio (11:30am)

Gruene Hall Junior Brown, Luke Olson (8:00), Flat Top Jones (1:00)

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

The Happy Cow Crawfish boil w/ Slim Bawb & Lil Howard (3:00)

Independence Brewing Billy King & the Bad Bad Bad, the Lewd Dudes (7:00)

Lamberts Dinner & Show w/ Emily Gimble (7:00)

Lone Star Court The Jerrells (7:00)

Parker Jazz Club Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)

Riley's Tavern Sully Rose (8:00)

Sagebrush David Touchton (11:00), Tiger Alley (9:00), Danny B. Harvey Hot Rod Happy Hour (7:00)

Sahara Lounge Africa Night w/ Sahara Allstars, Onda Cosmica (7:00)

Summit Rooftop Sounds on Saturdays w/ Lamar (10:00)

Trace at the W Hotel Mitchell Ferguson (6:00)

The Venue ATX Makj (9:00)

Vulcan Gas Co. Monxx (10:30)

The White Horse Michael Dart (11:30), the Golden Roses (9:00), Jacob Alan Jaeger (7:00)

SUNDAY 2/28

Armadillo Den Southern Angels (4:00)

The Far Out Zack Morgan & Friends (6:00), Sunday brunch w/ the Watters (1:00)

Geraldine's Jazz brunch w/ Jeff Lofton (11:30am)

Gruene Hall Slim Bawb & the Fabulous Stumpgrinders (noon)

Sagebrush The Mellows (9:00), Buffalo Gals (7:00), Texas Blues Party w/ Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)

Summit Rooftop Rafa Barrios (10:00)

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

MONDAY 3/1

Gruene Hall Bret Graham (6:00)

Radio Coffee & Beer Bluegrass Monday (7:00)

Sagebrush Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00), Choctaw Wildfire (7:00)

The White Horse Birds in the Mall (10:30), Adam Johnson (8:00)

TUESDAY 3/2

Antone's Jimmie Vaughan Trio (8:00)

Cheatham St. Gunnar Latham (8:00)

Gruene Hall Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (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 3/3

Antone's Jimmie Vaughan Trio (8:00)

The Far Out Flyjack (8:00)

Geraldine's Drew Davis (8:00)

Gruene Hall The Georges (6:00)

Lamberts Dinner & Show w/ Buffalo Nichols (7:00)

Sagebrush Sophia Johnson (12mid), Barfield the Tyrant (10:00pm), Mrs. Glass (8:00), Johnny Ringo (7:00)

Sahara Lounge Johnny Ringo & the Outlaws, Danny B. Harvey & Casino Frap, Charlie Terrell (8:00)

The White Horse Saddle Sores (8:00)

Be safe out there, y'all!

THU 25 **JEREM 8PM MIGZAVIER 8:45PM ISIS LEE 9:30PM TAKE US TO TOMORROW 10:30PM**

FRI 26 **PETE HENRY 8PM SOL CHASE BLUEGRASS BAND 9PM COWBOY DIPLOMACY + DJ BALBUENO 10PM**

SAT 27 **AFRICAN NIGHT BUFFET 7PM ONDA COSMICA 8PM SAHARA ALLSTARS 10PM**

SAT 27 **CHARLIE TERRELL 8PM DANNY B. HARVEY & CASINO FRAP 9:15PM JOHNNY RINGO & THE OUTLAWS 10:30PM**

WED 03 **WILL TRAVIS & COUNTY 7PM WISDOM CAT 8PM MERRY JANE AND THE FONDAS 9PM ELECTRIC ASTRONAUT 10PM**

THU 04 **1413 WEBBERVILLE RD. FREE PARKING SAHARALOUNGE.COM 512 927-0700**

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LIVE STREAMING

CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST AT AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/EVENTS/MUSIC

THURSDAY 2/25

Eve Monsees & Mike Buck 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Graham Wilkinson 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

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

Songs in the Wild w/ Erin Ivey 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Inside the Cocoon w/ Anna Larson 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Monks Jazz presents Red Young's Tenor Madness 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

The Squirrel Show w/ Oliver Steck 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Mobley (EP release), Bright Light Social Hour, Tameca Jones, Walker Lukens, Sun June, Urban Heat, Daniel Fears, Chief Cleopatra, Caelin, Mercutio & the Constantines 8pm *TICKETS AT MOBLEYWHO.COM/TOUR*

Patrice Pike 8pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Bonnie Whitmore & Her Virtual Gallery 8:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Party Wolfe 9pm *TWITCH*

The Harms Hang w/ guests 10pm *INSTAGRAM*

FRIDAY 2/26

Crooner Coffee Hour w/ Lex Land 10:30am *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Waterloo Records presents Mobley 4pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Feel Good Hour w/ Monte Warden 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Black Live Music Fund & Six Square present Thankful w/ Jake Lloyd, Eimara Sol, Nook Turner, Deezie Brown, Riders Against the Storm, Nnedi, J Soulja 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE*

Kick Butt Coffee presents Jay Satellite, the Swift Drag 9pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

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

SATURDAY 2/27

The Kids' Show w/ Oliver Steck 10am *FACEBOOK LIVE*

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

More Love Lunch Hour w/ Joanna Howerton & Michael Cross 2pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

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

HITW Happy Hour at Home w/ Heather Bishop & Danny G 6pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

CHHK & ATX Social Club present Big Mic, Mama Duke, Sill, Muenster, Tony22, Maikera, Los Kid Brothers, Era Wadi, Nick Cruz + Ruler Why, Nnedi, J Soulja 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE, TWITCH, YOUTUBE*

Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater 9pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Kevin Russell 9pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Kick Butt Coffee presents Brother Stone, iTBegins 9pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

DJ Chorizo Funk 10pm *INSTAGRAM*

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

SUNDAY 2/28

Corey Baum 11am *FACEBOOK LIVE*

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

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

Pamela Hart 5pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Ülla 5:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

One-2-One Bar presents These Fine Moments (album release) 6pm *HOLDMYTICKET*

Sydney Wright 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE, INSTAGRAM*

Monks Jazz presents Jacob Wise Trio 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

MONDAY 3/1

Bob Appel 6pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Blue Monday w/ Oscar Ornelas 8pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Cari Hutson & Hunter St. Marie 8pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

No Lights No Lycra w/ DJ Brian 8pm *TWITCH*

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

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

TUESDAY 3/2

Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya 5:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Eric Bettencourt 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Miles Zuniga 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Good Time Supper Club w/ Band of Heathens 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE*

Monks Jazz presents Aaron Parks Project 7:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

WEDNESDAY 3/3

Pat Byrne 5pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Bruce Smith 6pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Danny Britt 7pm *STREAM ON AUSTINCITYJAMS.COM*

Matt Hubbard's "Grandpa's Piano" Livestream 7pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains 8:30pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Sonya Jevette 8:30pm *YOUTUBE*

ONGOING

Jeff Plankenhorn Mondays, 7pm and Tuesdays, 8pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

Karen Mal & Will Taylor Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm *FACEBOOK LIVE*

THE Luv Doc



"TRAVELIN' TED"

Dear Luv Doc,

For the last few days me and my wife have been boiling snow for toilet water, taking whore's baths, and sleeping with our dogs in the kitchen to keep warm. Dealing with the snowpocalypse has brought us closer together in some ways and divided us in others (we disagree on how long to let the yellow mellow). However, the one thing that has truly brought us together and kept us warm during this disaster is our mutual hatred of Ted Cruz. While other Texas and even national politicians were working hard to help Texans in need, Senator Cruz decided to fly to Cancun for a mid-winter vacation with his family, leaving his constituents – literally – out in the cold. Not since Marie Antoinette has the world seen an act of political insensitivity so gallingly tone-deaf. I know this hot white hatred can't last forever, but what can we replace it with? Other than running water and electricity?

– Burning in NW Hills

Along with not being an actual doctor, I am also not an actual meteorologist, but I strongly believe that the warming trend that started Friday was actually caused by hatred for Ted Cruz. In fact, while watching Senator Sayonara, aka "Fled Cruz," aka "Travelin' Ted," aka "Teddy Turnaround," squirm through an embarrassingly awkward apology in front of the news crews on Friday morning, I could literally feel Texas' troubles begin to melt away. Such an instantaneous outpouring of warmth seemed unlikely to be caused by some sort of meteorological phenomenon.

Was it hatred that melted several million cubic feet of snow? Or was it the supernova of Cruz's massive ego collapsing into a white dwarf? I think it was probably a little of both, no matter what Austin's weather god Jim Spencer meticulously foretold in days prior. Hey, at least Jim got to perform a meteorological 360 tomahawk slam dunk just before going into retirement. The only thing that could have possibly been more satisfying would have been some sort of F5 sharknado cluster, but what would we have to look forward to in April? If Jesus can't cough up an actual sharknado cluster then maybe he can executive produce a *Last Dance* style documentary tell-all about Spencer's dominance of Austin's weather game for the last three decades.

Sadly, Spencer's grace, humility, and righteousness last week were completely eclipsed by Cruz's spectacularly graceless, astoundingly egotistical wrongness. Yes, Ted Cruz has made a career out of being wrong, but last week he was so wrong that even Donald Trump probably had a raging jealousy boner. And, as an impressive flourish, he tried to put the blame on his daughters, who are at least intelligent enough to know that being on a warm beach with Ted Cruz would be slightly less insufferable than sharing a cold house with him. There may be hope for them yet.

2021 started out as a banner year of douchebaggery for Cruz, but clearly he was unsatisfied. Helping incite an insurrection in the nation's capitol and calling Austin's mayor a hypocrite and a coddler of the homeless only wet his whistle. Who knows? Maybe he was jealous of all the Bernie Sanders memes dominating the interwebs.

I would love to give him credit for cooking this Cancun trip up as some sort of Machiavellian publicity master stroke, but that would be an insult to Machiavelli. No, it was simply self-indulgent stupidity. We've all been there. Truly, had Cruz not been a Texas senator, I think most Texans would have given him a pass. Hell, we like it when rich people act all rich and shit. What else could explain Jerry Jones? Unfortunately, Cruz is at least partially on the government dole, so we expect just a little thoughtfulness, empathy, and humility ... and if he can't muster that, he could at least have the common decency to fake it like John Cornyn.

Yes, your hatred will fade. Perhaps it might even turn into pity at some point. I mean, damn, those memes have been brutal even though Cruz looks pretty gangsta in those beach braids.

Yes, it would be unhealthy to sustain your anger for the next four years, but when you do get to vote I bet you'll remember that Cruz wasn't even smart enough to fake concern for his constituency in their time of need. I would be amazed if he gets reelected, but Texas always manages to amaze me.

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



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

Glitter made from plastic film can take about 1,000 years to degrade.

***Sansevieria Laurentii*, also known as *Dracaena Trifasciata*, is most commonly referred to as "Mother-in-Law's Tongue" due to its sharp leaves, and needs neither sun or direct light to stay alive.**

Just as Champagne must be made from grapes in a specific region of France, the same is true of cognac, which is produced from grapes grown in the Cognac region. Three types of grapes are typically used: Ugni Blanc, Folle Blanche, and Colombar.

Zambonis shave the ice at a maximum of 9 mph.

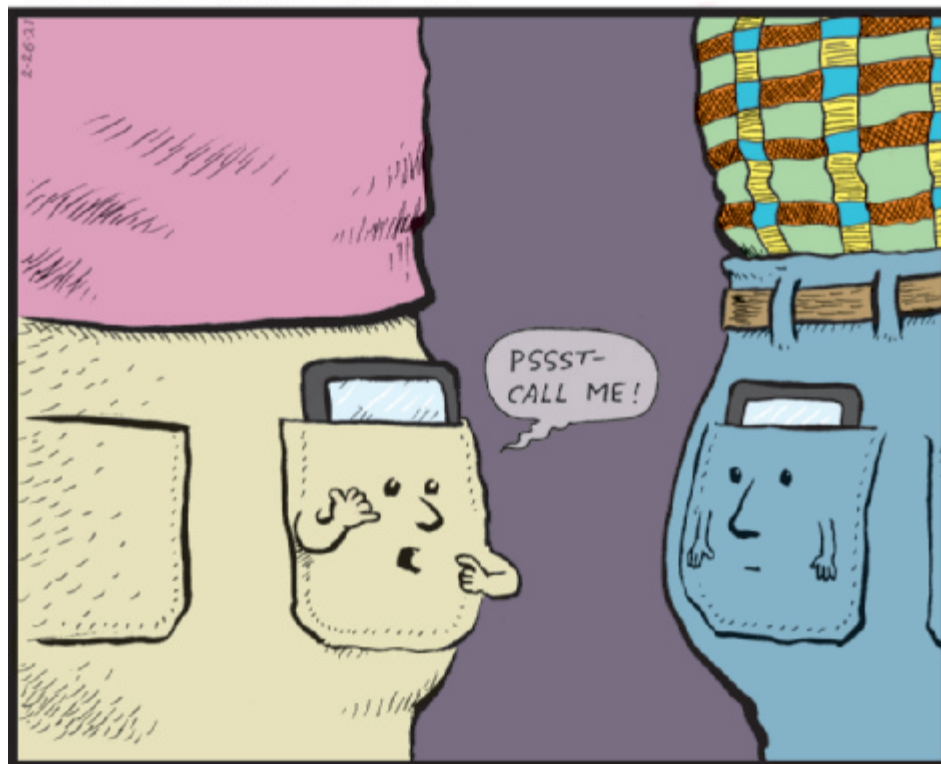
African American dentist Dr. George Grant invented the golf tee in 1899.

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.

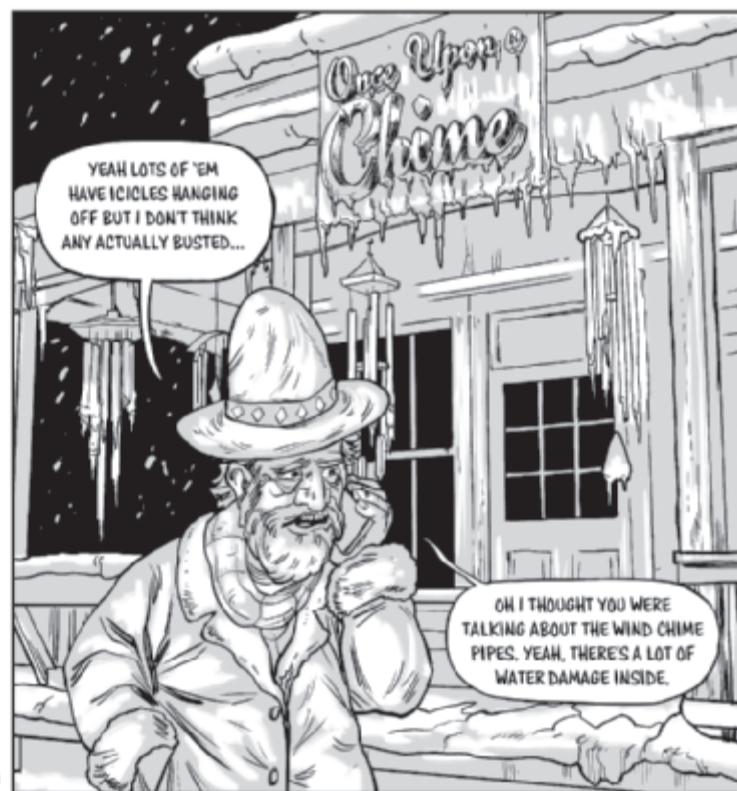
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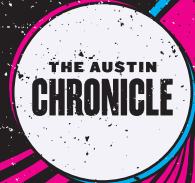
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sues on real hardware during processor bringup. Come up with and prototype novel ideas in the simulator model to improve performance of future microprocessors. File invention disclosures and add to company intellectual property. Utilize Computer Architecture, Processor Microarchitecture, System on Chip (SoC) Architecture, system performance analysis using simulator models, Compiler Design and Optimization, Optimization of Just-In-Time (JIT) Compilers and libraries, Python and Linux scripting. Required: Master's degree or equivalent in Computer Engineering or related (employer will accept a Bachelor's degree plus five (5) years of progressive experience in lieu of a Master's degree) and one (1) year of experience as a Performance Engineer or related. One (1) year of experience must include utilizing Computer Architecture, Processor Microarchitecture, SoC Architecture, system performance analysis using simulator models, Compiler Design and Optimization, Optimization of JIT Compilers and libraries, Python and Linux scripting. Send resumes to recruitad@us.ibm.com. Applicants must reference Y342

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LabVIEW; Linux; Databases like MySQL, NoSQL, MongoDB; NI Vision Builder; MS Excel, Debugging; Resolving issues with equipment; Working with Robot/Equipment software. Send resume to Magic Leap, Inc., Attn: C. Ouly, Job ID#: VNP-SE, 7500 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, FL 33322.

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and returned unopened. In accordance with DSHS guidance, Southwest Engineers is practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness and sanitation, and implementing social distancing by minimizing social gatherings; therefore, no more than ten (10) people can attend the bid opening and each person in attendance should also be practicing good hygiene and will be required to implement social distancing to minimize in-person contact. Any person who does not feel comfortable attending, or does not prefer to attend, can call in to the bid opening at 10:00 AM using the conference call

number: 1-832-917-1510 and then, when prompted, entering the code: 921474. Once connected to the conference call, each person calling in shall identify themselves so a record of such attendance can be documented. Project consists of, but is not limited to the following: **Transfer and High Service Pumps at Plant 1. Each Bidder shall also include the time when he could begin work and the number of days needed to complete the project as part of his bid. This may factor into the award of the project.** The Information for Bidders,

Bid, Bid Bond, Contract, Plans, Specifications, Performance and Payment Bonds and the Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations: **SOUTHWEST ENGINEERS, INC., 307 ST. LAWRENCE STREET, GONZALES, TEXAS 78629 (830) 672-7546** Plans and Specifications are available at the office of Southwest Engineers, Inc. in three different formats: Hard Copy - \$80.00 (Non-Refundable) CD in PDF Format - \$30.00 (Non-Refundable) Download - \$25.00 (Non-Refundable)

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety registered with the U.S. Treasury shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check payable to the Goforth SUD may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The Goforth SUD reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the Goforth SUD for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

February 11, 2021 Goforth Special Utility District Ronald Bell, President

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit and a local cartage Permit by Mort

Subite, LLC dba Mort Subite, located at 308 Congress Ave. Officers of said corporation are James Houchins, Manager and Richard Clements, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Austin License Holder, LLC dba Austin License Holder, LLC, 5610 N. Interstate Hwy 35, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Ignacio T. Garat, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage with FB Permit by Las Curras in Hyde Park, LLC (dba) Curra's Hyde Park located at 4215 Duval St, Austin, Travis County, TX. 78751. Managers- Daylon Miguel Garcia, Julieta Garcia Rodriguez

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off Premise Permit by Bee Caves Express LLC dba Barton Express Mart, 7110 FM 2244, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Karimbhai K. Prasla, Managing Member; Sanif K. Prasla, Managing Member.

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-21-000121 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LEWIS CONWAY, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lewis Conway, Deceased were issued on February 23, 2021 in Cause Number C-1-PB-21-000121 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Rosalind Conway All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time prescribed by law to Rosalind Conway Independent Executor of the Estate of Lewis Conway, c/o Joel B. Bennett, P.C., P.O. Box 267, Austin, TX 78767. Dated the 23rd day of February, 2021. By: /s/ Joel Bennett Attorney for Independent Executor

CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of DOROTHY VASQUEZ CRUZ, DECEASED

Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000141 In Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas JOSE GUADALUPE CRUZ filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on January 21, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of DOROTHY VASQUEZ CRUZ, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests is such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Room 217, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000141, styled DOROTHY VASQUEZ CRUZ 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 January 23, 2021. Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ S DELACROIX

FAMILY COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ACTION

TO: Matthew McCoy, Respondent FROM: Clerk of Family Court The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Petitioner, has brought a civil action (Petition # 20-20525) against you to terminate your parental rights of your child(ren): Minor Female, DOB: 02/25/16 Minor Female, DOB: 06/26/18 A hearing has been scheduled at the Family Court, Delaware, on 5/4/21 at 10:30 am. If you do not participate in the hearing, the Court may terminate your parental rights without your participation.

DESPITE THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY, FAMILY COURT WILL HOLD THIS HEARING. Please call 302-255-0077 or email FC_COVID19@delaware.gov for help in participating by phone. IF YOU WISH TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER BUT CANNOT AFFORD ONE, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO HAVE THE COURT APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU FOR FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK AT FAMILY COURT, (302) 672-1000

NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS ExteNet Systems, Incis proposing to replace existing metal streetlights with new metal streetlights in order to accommodate small cell equipment at the following location in Austin, Travis County, TX. AU1047BA 11LAB at 101 1/2 E. 9th St, Unit C. AU1047BA 71LAB at 1400 1/2 San Jacinto Blvd. Public comments regarding potential

effects from this project on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Dustin Cox with BEC, 8300 Douglas Ave, Ste 800, Dallas, TX 75225, 214-888-6965, or dustin@BenchmarkEC.com. Please refer to SC-TX-AU1047SCM1 and the address when submitting comments.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION In accordance with the provisions of State Law, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner and/or manager's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Life Storage location(s) listed below. And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment 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.StorageTreasures.com, which will end on March 24, 2021 at 10:00am.

Life Storage #276 2830 S. A.W. Grimes, Round Rock, TX 78664 512-310-0279 Tania French-Hsld Gds/Furn Cliff Cockerill-Hsld Gds/Furn Emerlet Avila-Hsld Gds/Furn Samuel Saraceno-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applines Ray Caldwell-Hsld Gds/Furn Tanisha Gloude-Hsld Gds/Furn Tanisha Gloude-Hsld Gds/Furn James Hines-Hsld Gds/Furn Dwayne Porter-Hsld Gds/Furn Alicia Davis-Hsld Gds/Furn, Boxes Jazmyne Solis-Hsld Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines Ray Caldwell-Hsld Gds/Furn Life Storage #390 12835 Pond Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78729 512-250-5152 Keante Coleman-Hsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip James Blades-Hsld Gds/Furn ATC Business Solutions-Off Furn/Mach/Equip Life Storage #392 550 S. IH-35, Round Rock, TX 78681 512-238-6648 Life Storage #429 2715 Sam Bass Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-3724 Life Storage #430 2101 Double Creek Dr. Round Rock, TX 78681 512-733-1203 Life Storage #446 1515 N. A.W. Grimes Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78665 512-310-2224 John Truan-Hsld Gds/Furn Adriana Gutierrez-Hsld Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines Vallery Joseph-Hsld Gds/Furn Jon Mullinaux-Hsld Gds/Furn Morgana Freeman-Hsld Gds/Furn Bianca Salsberry-Hsld Gds/Furn

Life Storage #545 506 McNeil Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-7939 Tyler Meyer-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip Patrick Bramel-Hsld Gds/Furn Life Storage #864 16700 RR 620 Round Rock, TX 78681 512-599-8840 Life Storage #971 2000 University Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78665 512-255-1110 Richard Bartz-Hsld Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines Michelle Smith-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Applines Life Storage #7109 3997 FM 1431 Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-5017

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES- FIRST NOTICE 1998 Dodge Stratus Red, \$7774.25, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF, Failure of the owner or lienholder to claim the vehicle before the date of sale is a waiver of all right,title,and interest in the vehicle and a consent to the sale of the vehicle at a public sale.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES- FIRST NOTICE 2000 Land Rover Discovery, #6370.25, Reliant Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900, #0645163VSF, Failure of the owner or lienholder to claim the vehicle before the date of sale is a waiver of all right,title,and interest in the vehicle and a consent to the sale of the vehicle at a public sale.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES. PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, www.tdkr.texas.gov THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS. GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,0655976VSF, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX. 78742. (512)441-7094. 2014 FREIGHTLINER'S CASCA-DIA RB84653 MI 3AKJGLD-V3SEF25567 TRAILER 4NU1895 CA 1JUV53DXGL898616 2019 CHEVROLET IMPALA TTY831 H1 2G11Z-55A3K9134158 2000 SUBARU IMPREZA CA NWF5321 4S3GTAV68L3716818 2020 NISSAN ALTIMA ABZL54 CO 1N4BL4BVL208127 2020 TRAILER GENERIC BLACK NO PLATE NO VIN MOTORCYCLE NO PLATE NO VIN

NOTICE OF CONSTABLE SALE

REAL PROPERTY BY VIRTUE OF a certain First Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the LAW #1 County Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 05 day of November, 2020, in a certain cause numbered C-1-CV-19-004219 wherein JOHN T BAKER D/B/A SUNRISE RANCH SERVICES is Plaintiff and JOAN HAVARD D/B/A CARSON CREEK RANCH AND CARSON CREEK RANCH, LLC is/are Defendant to me, as Deputy Constable of Pct. 2 Travis County, Texas, directed and delivered, I have levied upon this property 26th day of January, 2021 at 4:50 PM and will, between the hours of 10:00A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00 A.M. on the first Tuesday in April, 2021 A.D., it being the 6th day of said month, at the County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Austin, Texas 78701 of said Travis County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, and to the following described property to wit:

1.) Property ID# 822227, ABS 24 DELVALLE 5 ACR 0.12, Addition in Travis County, According to map or Plat of records in Volume and Page of Plat Records of Travis County, Texas, locally known as: 9507 Sherman RD Austin, TX 78742 NOTE: ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BUYERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS CONSTABLE SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTEREST ON THE

PROPERTY. YOU HAVE PURCHASED WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEFENDANT HAD IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE. THE PURCHASER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE AN UNEXPIRED WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE TAX-ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR OF THIS COUNTY IN WHICH THE SALE IS CONDUCTED THAT THERE ARE NO AD VALOREM TAXED OWED TO THE COUNTY, SCHOOL DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY. Texas Tax Code 34.015(b) The above sale to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$52,636.27 in favor of plaintiff, together with the cost of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

POSTED THIS 11TH day of February, 2021, 10:20 AM. Adan Ballesteros, Constable Pct. 2, Travis County, Texas By: /s/ _____

NOTICE OF CONSTABLE SALE

REAL PROPERTY BY VIRTUE OF a certain First Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the LAW #1 County Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 05 day of November, 2020, in a certain cause numbered C-1-CV-19-004219 wherein JOHN T BAKER D/B/A SUNRISE RANCH SERVICES is Plaintiff and JOAN HAVARD D/B/A CARSON CREEK RANCH AND CARSON CREEK RANCH, LLC is/are Defendant to me, as Deputy Constable of Pct. 2 Travis County, Texas, directed and delivered, I have levied upon this property 26th day of January, 2021 at 4:50 PM and will, between the hours of 10:00A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00 A.M. on the first Tuesday in April, 2021 A.D., it being the 6th day of said month, at the County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., Austin, Texas 78701 of said Travis County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, and to the following described property to wit:

1.) Property ID# 855741, ABS 24 DELVALLE 5 ACR 0.12, Addition in Travis County, According to map or Plat of records in Volume and Page of Plat Records of Travis County, Texas, locally known as: 9507 Sherman RD Austin, TX 78742 NOTE: ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BUYERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS CONSTABLE SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTEREST ON THE PROPERTY. YOU HAVE PURCHASED WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEFENDANT HAD IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE. THE PURCHASER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE AN UNEXPIRED WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE TAX-ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR OF THIS COUNTY IN WHICH THE SALE IS CONDUCTED THAT THERE ARE NO AD VALOREM TAXED OWED TO THE COUNTY, SCHOOL DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY. Texas Tax Code 34.015(b) The above sale to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$52,636.27 in favor of plaintiff, together with the cost of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

POSTED THIS 11TH day of February, 2021, 10:20 AM. Adan Ballesteros, Constable Pct. 2, Travis County, Texas By: /s/ _____

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 03/18/2021 at 10:00am

Life Storage #8001 2150 Double Creek Dr Round Rock, TX 78664 (512)774-5905 Trent Tindall, Robert Garcia Life Storage #8004 10201 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy. Leander, TX 78641 (512)456-8106 Melissa Miller Life Storage #8030 1714 E Parmer Ln, Austin, TX 78754 (512)537-3412 Anthony Riojas, Jacinda Powell, Amir Kamlesh Patel Life Storage #8031 901 N Red Bl Ln Round Rock, TX 78665 (512)537-3481 Julio De La Cruz, Richard Silva, Richard Silva, William Thrash, Jorge Castillo

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, of property to Satisfy a Landlord's lien. A public Auction to be held at My Attic Self Storage via www.SelfStorageAuction.com on March 10, 2021 at 12:00 pm. A cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants:

Kirsha Smith, misc. items; Hernando Zuniga, misc. items; Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 12:00 pm. My Attic Self Storage @ 1602 W. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX 78660. www.SelfStorageAuction.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION.

Store It All Storage- In accordance with Texas Property Code, Chapter 59, Store It All Storage, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at LockerFox. A \$100 cash cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at the time of sale. Sale will be held online at lockerFox.com starting on or after February 15, 2021 and ending February 26, 2021 at 10:00am. Store It All-Del Valle 5280 HWY 71 East Del Valle TX 78617 James Cox 1D48 Angel Jimenez 1D45 Mary Ornelas 1G44 Store It All-Westlake 1500 Village West Dr. Austin, TX 78733 Greg Lang 00116 Yvette Payne 00335

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, TJO 10 X 10 Management, Ltd Managing properties listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin on or about the time indicated at www.self-storageauction.com. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold by the space. Property being sold

includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 12:00 pm SpringWood Self Storage @ 9206 Anderson Mill Rd, Austin, TX 78729 www.SelfStorageAuction.com Kelsey Watson: misc. items. Marcus Monroe: misc. items. 12:00 pm Bergstrom Storage @ 530 Bastrop Hwy SB, Austin, TX 78741 www.SelfStorageAuction.com

Jose A. Tijerina: misc. items. Alma Marquez: misc. items. 12:00 pm Northgate Storage @ 8833 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758 www.SelfStorageAuction.com

Martha Campbell: misc. items. Joshua Ramirez: misc. items. Dana Hock: misc. items. 12:00 pm Lakeline Storage @ 11000 Lakeline Blvd, Austin, TX 78717 www.SelfStorageAuction.com Josue Cuesta: misc. items. Jeanne A Mullins: misc. items. Nathan Wilson: misc. items. Revil Samford: misc. items. 12:00 pm ATX Self Storage @ 6901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78752 www.SelfStorageAuction.com

Yelena Baez: misc. items. Michelle Keiper: misc. items. Corvina Ramos: misc. items. Jackson Gray: misc. items. Timothy W Jagers: misc. items. Samuel Anicua Rangel: misc. items. Trenton Renthrope: misc. items. Jordan Reynolds: misc. items. Jeffrey Vanslyke: misc. items. Willy Watkins: 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 March 10th, 2021 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com: CubeSmart 10707 N IH35 Austin TX 78753; Cesar Macedo, Nicole Robinson, Timesha Tibbs, Angelica Huerta, Sabrina Ragsdale CubeSmart 2220 E Howard Ln Pflugerville TX 78660; Thomas Ledford, Lynda Wilkinson, Jennifer Vasquez CubeSmart 3706 N Main St Taylor TX 76754; Justin Williams, Felicitia Maria Orlandin, Jean Strain, Jeanette Rodriguez, Christopher Reynolds CubeSmart 13601 Dessau Rd Pflugerville TX 78660; Theresa Taylor, Maria Zavala, Ruben Mondragon, Ronald Anthony, Torie Daniels CubeSmart 14509 Owen Tech Blvd Austin TX 78728; Augustino Munika, Maria Aguilera, Armando Medina CubeSmart 2400 N Austin Ave Georgetown TX 78626; Paula Rainey CubeSmart 646 W Front St Hutto TX 78634; Bryan Senney, Natalie Peace, Tim Nations CubeSmart 12407 US 290E Manor TX 78653; Hugo Alvarez, Raymond Riojas, Justin Coleman, Dustin Horn, Dwayne Benson, Robert Gladwin CubeSmart 110 S FM 1660 Hutto TX 78634; Derek Morgan, Bert Keefer, Jason Smith, Andy Smith CubeSmart 8023 W Parmer Ln Austin TX 78729; Amanda Parker, Jennifer Matassa

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 3/17/2021 at approx. 9:30AM at www.storage-treasures.com: 610 E Stansley Ln, Austin, TX 78745; Ashley Nivens; 10025 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748; Blake Roth; 1905 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78744; Erica Flores-Dehuma, Will Martinez, Ahmad Haywood, Ruth Padilla,

Joseph Botello, Allan Cabalero Calderon, William Edwin Burrell Jr., Laura Trejo, Janie I. Guerrero; 6130 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741; Luz Armenia Vargas Garcia, Melendez Roberto, Roberto Melendez, Maria Vasquez, Jonathan Harder; 2701 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704; Nestor Mendoza, Ankit Patel; 701 Philomena Dr, Kyle, TX 78640; Maribel Rosales, Diana Castille, Luke Pena, Melinda Perales, Angelica N. Sorrells, Angelica Sorrells; 21400 IH 35, Kyle, TX 78640; John Thornton, Larissa Mallen, Larissa M.; 5141 Cromwell Dr, Kyle, TX 78640; Brandon L Bedford

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Austin Stansney located at 201 W. Stansney Lane, Austin, TX 78745 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 3/9/2021 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Maray Garcia Rodriguez; Lisa Harris. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FERNANDO MOLINA OLIVA, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Fernando Molina Oliva, Deceased, were issued on February 8, 2021, in Cause No.C-1-PB-19-000287 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Alma Veturia Molina Montantes. Claims may be presented to the Executor, addressed as follows: Alma Veturia Molina Montantes Executor, Estate of Fernando Molina Oliva 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 February 23, 2021. /s/ Don E. Walden Don E. Walden State Bar No. 20672800 Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JILL STOCKBARGER FORLAND, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Jill Stockbarger Forland, Deceased ("Estate") were granted to Erling Christopher Forland on February 2, 2021 and issued to Erling Christopher Forland on February 8, 2021, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001849, 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 Erling Christopher Forland, as Executor of said Estate, in the care of his attorneys at the address given below, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law: Alvin J. Golden Katherine C. Akinc c/o Rigby Slack Lawrence Berger Akinc Pepper + Comerford, PLLC 3500 Jefferson Street, Suite 330

CONTINUED ON P.62

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for February 26 - March 4

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean author Anaïs Nin was a maestro of metamorphosis, a virtuoso of variation, an adept at alteration. She regarded her ceaseless evolution as a privilege and luxury, not an oppressive inconvenience. "I take pleasure in my transformations," she wrote. "I look quiet and consistent, but few know how many women there are in me." Her approach is a healthy model for most of you Pisceans - and will be especially worth adopting in the coming weeks. I invite you to be a Change Specialist whose nickname is Flux Mojo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I invite you to think about one or two types of physical discomforts and symptoms that your body seems most susceptible to. Meditate on the possibility that there are specific moods or feelings associated with those discomforts and symptoms - perhaps either caused by them or the cause of them. The next step is to formulate an intention to monitor any interactions that might transpire between the bodily states and emotional states. Then make a plan for how you will address them both with your own healing power whenever they visit you in the future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Poet Billy Collins describes "standing on the edge of a lake on a moonlit night and the light of the moon is always pointing straight at you." I have high hopes that your entire life will be like that in the coming weeks: that you'll feel as if the world is alive with special messages just for you; that every situation you're in will feel like you belong there; that every intuition welling up from your subconscious mind into your conscious awareness will be specifically what you need at the moment it arrives.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You're entering a potentially heroic phase of your astrological cycle. The coming weeks will be a time when I hope you will be motivated to raise your integrity and impeccability to record levels. To inspire you, I've grabbed a few affirmations from a moral code reputed to be written by a 14th-century Samurai warrior. Try saying them, and see if they raise you to make your good character even better. 1. "I have no divine power; I make honesty my divine power." 2. "I have no miracles; I make right action my miracle." 3. "I have no enemy; I make carelessness my enemy." 4. "I have no designs; I make 'seizing opportunity' my design." 5. "I have no magic secrets; I make character my magic secret." 6. "I have no armor; I make benevolence and righteousness my armor."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "The only way to live is by accepting each minute as an unrepeatable miracle," writes Cancerian author and Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield. I disagree with him. There are many other modes of awareness that can be useful as we navigate our labyrinthine path through this crazy world. Regarding each minute as an opportunity to learn something new, for instance: That's an excellent way to live. Or, for another example, treating each minute as another chance to creatively express our love. But I do acknowledge that Kornfield's approach is sublime and appealing. And I think it will be especially apropos for you during the coming weeks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The coming weeks will be a poignant and healing time for you to remember the people in your life who have died - as well as ancestors whom you never met or didn't know well. They have clues to offer you, rich feelings to nourish you with, course corrections to suggest. Get in touch with them through your dreams, meditations, and reminiscences. Now read this inspiration from poet Rainer Maria Rilke: "They, who passed away long ago, still exist in us, as predisposition, as burden upon our fate, as murmuring blood, and as gesture that rises up from the depths of time." (Translation from the German by Stephen Mitchell.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I'm fond of 18th-century Virgo painter Quentin de La Tour. Why? 1. He specialized in creating portraits that brought out his subjects' charm and intelligence. 2. As he grew wealthier, he became a philanthropist who specialized in helping poor women and artists with disabilities. 3. While most painters of his era did self-portraits that were solemn, even ponderous, de La Tour's self-portraits showed him smiling and good-humored. 4. Later in his life, when being entirely reasonable was no longer a top priority, de La Tour enjoyed conversing with trees. In accordance with the astrological omens, I propose that we make him your patron saint for now. I hope you'll be inspired to tap into your inner Quentin de La Tour.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I'm not saying there's anything wrong with your overall health, Libra. In fact, I expect it's probably quite adequate. But from an astrological point of view, now is the right time to schedule an appointment for a consultation with your favorite healer, even if just by Zoom. In addition, I urge you to consult a soul doctor for a complete metaphysical check-up. Chances are that your mental health is in fair shape, too. But right now it's not enough for your body and soul to be merely adequate; they need to receive intense doses of well-wrought love and nurturing. So I urge you to ask for omens and signs and dreams about what precisely you can do to treat yourself with exquisite care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Love commands a vast army of moods," writes author Diane Ackerman. "Frantic and serene, vigilant and calm, wrung-out and fortified, explosive and sedate." This fact of life will be prominently featured in your life during the coming weeks. Now is a fertile time to expand your understanding of how eros and romance work when they're at their best - and to expand your repertoire of responses to love's rich challenges. Don't think of it as a tough test; imagine it as an interesting research project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian poet and visual artist William Blake (1757-1827) cultivated a close relationship with lofty thoughts and mystical visions. He lived with his wife Catherine for the last 45 years of his life, but there were times when he was so preoccupied with his amazing creations that he neglected his bond with her. Catherine once said, "I have very little of Mr. Blake's company. He is always in Paradise." I hope that you won't be like that in the coming weeks. Practical matters and intimate alliances need more of your attention than usual. Consider the possibility, at least for now, of spending less time in paradise and more on earth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Poet Robert Graves regarded the ambiguity of poetry as a virtue, not a problem. In his view, poetry's inscrutability reflects life's true nature. As we read its enigmatic ideas and feelings, we may be inspired to understand that experience is too complex to be reduced to simplistic descriptions and overgeneralized beliefs. In fact, it's quite possible that if we invite poetry to retrain our perceptions, we will develop a more tolerant and inclusive perspective toward everything. I'm telling you this, Capricorn, because whether or not you read a lot of poetry in the coming weeks, it will be wise and healthy for you to celebrate, not just tolerate, how paradoxical and mysterious the world is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The coming weeks will be a favorable time to shed old habits that waste your energy, and create constructive new habits that will serve you well for months and years to come. To inspire and guide your efforts, I offer these thoughts from author and naturalist Henry David Thoreau: "As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives."

PARK & HOMER puzzles

Choices?

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 677

Across

1. Comic Sandler
5. Spanish houses
10. French weapon
14. Place for a comb
15. "I give up!"
16. Kind of prize
17. Several different things
19. Actress
Flynn Boyle
20. Citrus drink
21. Igloo dwellers
23. C.E.O.'s degree
26. Blows it
29. Not just fat
30. March of _____
32. _____ Sketch (toy)
35. Hi-_____ monitor
36. Actor Connery
37. Over the hill
39. "Without _____"
44. Cry with a salute
45. Normandy city
47. Turn-of-the-century year
50. Out of port
51. Nolan Ryan, notably
52. Home planet
54. Lingerie item
56. Farm female
57. Delighted
60. "Riddle-me-_____"
62. "Do I need to draw you _____?"
63. "_____ an inch"
69. Neural network
70. Birdlike
71. During
72. "_____ bien!"
73. Depends (on)
74. Lays down the lawn

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18						19			
			20				21		22				
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					74			

Down

1. Invoice abbr.
2. Code word
3. "Wheel of Fortune" buy
4. _____ Verde National Park
5. Doctor
6. Aardvark's tidbit
7. Coll., e.g.
8. Wings: Lat.
9. Adjusts, as a clock
10. Impromptu
11. Vagabond
12. Down in the dumps
13. Wipes out
18. Praiseful poems
22. Aussie "bear"
23. "ER" roles
24. Coffin stand
25. Asian nurse
27. Mix anew, as greens
28. Narratives
31. "A Day Without Rain" singer
33. Capture
34. Garden tool
38. Mil. awards
40. Fables
41. Fair-hiring inits.
42. Quaker _____
43. Claudius's successor
46. Parent's order
47. Take off
48. More tranquil
49. Come up with
51. Impressionist
53. Cassettes
55. Wrinkle removers
58. Alike: Fr.
59. One may be given a 10
61. Greek letters
64. Routing word
65. Suffix with Caesar
66. Latin 101 word
67. Tease
68. McBain and McMahon

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.61

Austin, Texas 78731
DATED this 12th day of February, 2021. Respectfully submitted,
RIGBY SLACK LAWRENCE BERGER AKINC PEPPER + COMERFORD, PLLC
3500 Jefferson Street, Suite 330
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 572-4675 (Tel)
(512) 782-2060 (Fax)
By: /s/ ALVIN J. GOLDEN
State Bar No. 08079000
agolden@rigbyslack.com

KATHERINE C. AKINC
State Bar No. 24065738
kakinc@rigbyslack.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Judgment Declaring Heirship and Authorizing Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the Estate of Joseph Brandon Mayo, Deceased, was issued on January 20, 2021, Cause No. 11,913, pending in the Probate Court No. 1,

Bastrop County, Texas, to: Tawanna Danielle Mayo. 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.
Twanna Danielle Mayo,
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Joseph Brandon Mayo
c/o Paul T. Morin, Attorney

911 Ranch Road 620 N., Suite 204
Austin, Texas 78701
DATED the 26th day of February, 2021.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Edward D. Clark a/k/a Edward Dean Clark, Deceased, were issued on February 23, 2021, under C-1-PB-21-000052, pending

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.

MARKETPLACE

1992 NATIONAL DOLPHIN
Toyota V6, 95k miles, A/C, 21FT,
sleeps 4-5 people, info at
mabax2@twemail.com,
asking \$2,000 (512) 727-2378

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CASH FOR CARS! We buy all
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Running or not! All conditions
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AAN CAN)

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rated. Call National Debt Relief
877-590-1202. (AAN CAN)

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nels + \$14.95
High Speed Internet. Free
Installation, Smart HD DVR
Included, Free Voice Remote.
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(AAN CAN)

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USERS! A cheaper alternative
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Special - \$99 + FREE Shipping!
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insurance companies. Get a
quote within minutes. Average
savings of \$444/year! Call
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Central) (AAN CAN)

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4G LTE Home Internet Now
Available! Get GotW3 with
lightning fast speeds plus take
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travel! As low as \$109.99/mo!
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SAVE YOUR HOME! Are
you behind paying your
MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan
Modification? Is the bank
threatening foreclosure? CALL
Homeowners Relief Line NOW
for Help 1-855-439-5853 Mon-Fri
: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Sat: 8:00
am to 1:00 pm(all times Pacific)
(AAN CAN)

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AUTO INSURANCE STARTING
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fee rate comparison to see how
much you can save! Call: 855-
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(Ages 50 to 80). No medical
exam. Affordable premiums
never increase. Benefits never
decrease. Policy will only be
cancelled for non-payment.
HOURS: M-F 9a-10p & Sat 11a-
2p EST 1-888-386-0113 (Void NY)
(AAN CAN)

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BECOME A PUBLISHED
AUTHOR! We edit, print and
distribute your work interna-
tionally. We do the work... You
reap the Rewards! Call for a
FREE Author's Submission Kit:
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HughesNet Satellite Internet -
Finally, no hard data limits! Call
Today for speeds up to 25mbps
as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift
card, terms apply. 1-844-416-
7147 (AAN CAN)

TAX RELIEF
Do you owe over \$10,000 to the
IRS or State in back taxes? Our
firm works to reduce the tax bill
or zero it out completely FAST.
Let us help! Call 855-955-0702.
(Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm PST)
(AAN CAN)

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Attention Active Duty & Military
Veterans! Begin a new career
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Best Deep Soft Tissue Sport
Massage
Full Body Massage
Swedish Massage (-> :)
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massage) :)
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shower. 24/7, in/out calls. Clint
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K-3
Austin TX 78750 512-757-7999

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available

REAL ESTATE

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Can't get more "Austin" than
this cool Clarksville condo in
old west Austin. Beautiful
condition with brand new
HVAC system. French doors at
front overlook the pool. Short
term rentals ALLOWED with
proper STR permit. Virtually
never vacant. \$280,000 For
private showing call Condo Joe
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**NORTH 7920 ROCKWOOD
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Just off Anderson Lane. One of
few premier units with HUGE
covered New Orleans style
wrought iron covered balcony.
Other side has bay window
overlooking the pool. Best
location in community. \$280
HOA pays for all gas, water, hot
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SOUTH 900 S. LAMAR #205
Primo SOCO location. Updated
& upgraded 1/1 in immaculate
condition. Small gated complex
with low HOA dues. Gleaming
bamboo floors. Cool "beach
vibe" pool area with cabana &
banana trees just outside your
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Joe at (512)203-4100



BACK PAGE
Advertise your product or
service on the Back Page! Call
454-5765.

a/k/a John Thomas Prud-
homme
c/o Helen Edwards, Esq.,
Attorney
Dated February 19, 2021,
s/ Helen Edwards, Esq./
Attorney for Patricia
Prud'homme Wendlandt
State Bar No. 24043762
4901 Spicewood Springs Road,
Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78759
Telephone: (512) 643-8584
Fax: (866) 314-2826
Email: helen@helenedwards-
law.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of RICHARD E.
TULK, were issued on February
11, 2021 in Cause No. C-
1-PB-21-000032 in the Probate
Court No. 1 of Travis County,
Texas to Independent Executor
Mary Parker Elliott. 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 to: Mary Parker Elliott,
c/o Lisa Tulk, Attorney, Kessler
Collins PC, 2100 Ross Ave., Ste.
750, Dallas, TX 75201.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Tommy Allen
Malmquist, Deceased, were
issued on February 10, 2021, in
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002275,
pending before the Probate
Court No. 1 of Travis County,
Texas, to Mary Esslinger,
Independent Executor.
Any person having a claim
against the Estate of Tommy
Allen Malmquist, Deceased,
shall address such claim to
the attention of the Estate's at-
torney at the address reflected
below:
Leonard B. Smith
Attorney for the Estate of
Tommy Allen Malmquist,
Deceased
P.O. Box 50003
Austin, Texas 78763-0003

All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
within the time and in the man-
ner prescribed by law.
DATED: February 12, 2021,
s/ Leonard B. Smith
Attorney for the Estate of
Tommy Allen Malmquist,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of William Done
Williams III, Deceased, were
issued on February 9, 2021, under
Docket No. C-1-PB-20-002457,
pending in the Probate Court
No. 1 of Travis County, Texas to
Linda Burnside Williams.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Linda B. Williams
Independent Executor
Estate of William Done Wil-
liams, III, Deceased
c/o MICHAEL GRIMES, PC,
1717 N. IH-35, Suite 250
Round Rock, TX 78664
All persons having claims
against this estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
within the time and in the man-
ner prescribed by law.
DATED: February 26, 2021.
MICHAEL GRIMES, PC,
1717 N. IH-35, Suite 250
Round Rock, TX 78664

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate Putnam W. Mon-
roe, Deceased, were granted
on February 4, 2021, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-20-002491 pending
in the Probate Court Number
One of Travis County, Texas,
to Karen Faye Monroe, a.k.a.
Karen Faye Monroe Mercer,
who qualified as Independent
Executor on February 22, 2021.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.

c/o: Gabriel G. Gallas
Gallas Law PLLC
1403 West 6th Street
Austin, TX 78703
DATED the 22nd day of Febru-
ary, 2021.
s/ Gabriel G. Gallas
Gabriel G. Gallas
State Bar No.: 24069750
Attorney for Independent
Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of DORIEENNE
ANNE SIMMONS (also known
as Dorienne Fox Simmons),
Deceased, were issued on
February 11, 2021, in Cause No.
C-1-PB-20-001370, pending in
the Probate Court No. One, Tra-
vis County, Texas, to: JIMMIE
LEE SIMMONS JR. All persons
having claims against this
Estate which is currently being
administered are required to
present them to the under-
signed within the time and in
the manner prescribed by law.
c/o and /s/ James B. Walters
- Attorney at Law and Attorney
for the Independent Executor
- 15100 Gebron Drive, Austin,
Texas, 78734 - DATED the 22nd
day of February, 2021.

**OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TO BIDDERS**
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that
sealed bids will be accepted by
Travis County for the following
items:
1. Littig Road Bridge 161
Replacement, 2001-005-PH
Opens: March 18, 2021 at
2:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Info: March 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM, CST
Location: The Optional Pre-
Response Conference will be
held via Microsoft Teams.
Please use the Dial-In Informa-
tion below.
Dial-In Option: 1-512-854-8326
Conference ID: 459 777 235#
Bids should be submitted to:
Bonnie Floyd, Travis County
Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca
Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box
1748, Austin, Texas 78767.
Specifications can be obtained
from or viewed at the Travis
County Purchasing Office at
no charge or by downloading
a copy from our website: www.
traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/
solicitation. Bidders should
use unit pricing or lump sum
pricing, if appropriate. Pay-
ments may be made by check.
The successful bidder shall be
required to furnish a Perfor-
mance Bond in the amount of
One Hundred percent (100%) of
the contract amount awarded,
if applicable.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
In accordance with the Texas
Property Code, Chapter 59,
Treasure Chest Storage at 1588

TX HWY 71, Cedar Creek, TX
78612 will conduct a public
auction for the 10 x 10 unit C-56
tenant being Luis Vela contain-
ing furniture, toys, washer,
BMX bikes, BBQ grill, and
fishing gear on site Saturday
March 6th at 12 noon to satisfy
a landlord's lien.

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION
The State of Texas**
**To unknown heirs of FELIX E
RAMIREZ, Deceased**
Cause No. C-1-PB-14-001910,
in Probate Court Number 1,
Travis County, Texas.
**ROSALINDA RAMIREZ VIL-
LAREAL, FELIX RAMIREZ JR.
AND ELIZABETH RAMIREZ
QUIROZ, SECOND**
**AMENDED APPLICATION
TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP**
in the above-numbered and
entitled estate on **MARCH
15, 2019**, requesting that the
Court determine who are the
heirs and only heirs of **FELIX E
RAMIREZ, 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
Courtroom, 200 West 6th
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-14-001910**,
styled IN THE ESTATE
OF **FELIX E RAMIREZ,**
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 20, 2020**.
Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ **V. LIMON**

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED
VEHICLES- FIRST NOTICE**
2009 Kymco Super. \$651.40, Re-
liant Towing, 10000 Slaughter
Creek Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-
5900, #0645163VSF

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED
VEHICLES- FIRST NOTICE**
Kountry Aire, \$826.30, Reliant
Towing, 10000 Slaughter Creek
Dr, Austin, TX, 512-363-5900,
#0645163VSF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that
original Letters of Independent
Administration for the Estate
of CARLOS DE ONIS AKA CAR-
LOS M DE ONIS, Deceased,
were issued on February
2nd, 2021, in Cause No. C-
1-PB-18-001816, pending in the
Probate Court No. 1 of Travis
County, Texas, to:
Teresa de Onis
8108 Kiana Dr, Austin, TX
78729
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
persons having claims should

LEGAL NOTICES

address them in care of the
representative at the address
stated above.
DATED the 23rd day of Febru-
ary, 2021.
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ **Alberto Velazquez**
Alberto Velazquez
Attorney for Teresa de Onis
State Bar No.: 24090449
418 Grace Lane
Austin, TX 78746
Telephone: (888) 407-7530
Facsimile: (512) 729-7819
E-mail: albert@mytxwills.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the estate of Shirley M.
Savoie, Deceased, were issued
on February 11, 2021, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-20-002528 in the
Probate Court No. 1, Travis
County, Texas, to Michelle
Behr. Claims may be presented
in care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Michelle Behr, Independent
Executor Estate of Shirley M.
Savoie, 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 admin-
istered 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 ANN BISHOP
RINEY, Deceased, were issued
on February 4, 2021, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-20-002409, pending
in the Probate Court No. 1,
Travis County, Texas, to: JOHN
STUART RINEY.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
**BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER &
WHITAKER, PC.**
c/o: **STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE**
Attorney at Law
15 North Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
DATED the 24th day of Febru-
ary, 2021.
**BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER &
WHITAKER, PC.**
By: /s/ Stephen T. Brischke
STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE
State Bar No.: 24045552
E-mail: stephenbrischke@
bcswlaw.com

15 North Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
Telephone: (254) 774-8333
Facsimile: (254) 774-9353
Attorneys for JOHN STUART
RINEY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
Pursuant of Texas Abandoned
Motor Vehicle Act (<http://www.tdlr.texas.gov>), SMT Parking
Solutions LLC DBA Space
Makers Towing gives NOTICE
OF FORECLOSURE OF LIEN
and intend to sell the following
vehicle: 2009 Chevrolet Malibu
Vin#1G1ZJ57B39F258993 on
03/19/2021, unless charges
are paid in full. The current
charges, as of 2/26/2021 are
\$819.55. Storage fees are cal-
culated daily until the vehicle
is claimed. Garagekeeper:
SMT Parking Solutions LLC
DBA Space Makers Towing
(0656137VSF), 4416 Brand
Road Austin, Texas 78744.
Please call, (512) 961-3076 ext 2
for more details.

in the Probate Court No. 1 of
Travis County, Texas, to Maria
Del Mar Clark and Eva Maria
Antonia Clark.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
Estate addressed as follows:
**Maria Del Mar Clark and Eva
Maria Antonia Clark**
**Independent Co-Executors for
the Estate of Edward D. Clark
a/k/a Edward Dean Clark
C/O Fleur A. Christensen
Attorney for the Estate**
**Blazier, Christensen, Browder
& Vir, P.C.**
**901 S. Mojac, Bldg. V.,
Suite 200**
Austin, Texas 78746
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED the 23rd day of Febru-
ary, 2021
s/ Fleur A. Christensen
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that original Letters of
Administration for the Estate
of JOE ALBERT MCDONALD,
SR., Deceased, were issued
on February 5, 2021 in Cause

No. C-1-PB-20-002039, pending
in the Probate Court, Travis
County, Texas, to JOE ALBERT
MCDONALD, JR.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
JOE ALBERT MCDONALD,
JR., Independent Administra-
tor, Estate of JOE ALBERT
MCDONALD, SR.
c/o Lorenza G. Cigarroa
February 23, 2021
State Bar No. 24105719
The Law Offices of Kyle Rob-
bins, PLLC
3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78756
Telephone: (512) 851-1248
Fax: (512) 361-1806
Email: lorenza@kylerobbins-
slaw.com
**Attorney for Independent
Administrator**

in the County Court of Travis
County, Texas, to Teresa Castro.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Teresa Castro, Independent
Administrator, Estate of Lupe
G. Castro aka Guadalupe G.
Castro, Deceased c/o Law Of-
fice of Richard Cahan, 209 12th
Street, Suite 109, Pflugerville,
Texas, 78660. All persons hav-
ing claims against this estate,
which is currently being admin-
istered, are required to present
them within the time and in
the manner prescribed by law.
DATED February 23, 2021. By:
s/ Richard Cahan Attorney
for Teresa Castro Independent
Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Jane E. Carroll,
Deceased, were issued on
February 1, 2021, in Cause No.
C-1-PB-20-002274, pending in
the Probate Court No. 1, Travis
County, Texas, to: Michael T.
Carroll.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time

and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 23rd day of Febru-
ary, 2021.
Ann Lumley
Attorney for Michael T. Carroll

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that original Letters Testamen-
tary for the Estate of JOHN
THOMAS PRUD'HOMME, a/k/a
JOHN THOMAS PRUDHOM-
ME, Deceased, were issued on
January 26, 2021, in Cause No.
C-1-PB-20-000424, pending in
the Probate Court No. 1, Travis
County, Texas, to: Patricia
Prud'homme Wendlandt, a/k/a
Patricia Alyce Prud'homme
Wendlandt.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
Patricia Prud'homme
Wendlandt, a/k/a Patricia
Alyce Prud'homme Wendlandt,
Independent Executor, Estate
of John Thomas Prud'homme,

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