

MARCH 5, 2021

THE AUSTIN

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# CHRONICLE

IT'S THE 39TH ANNUAL AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS • SEE WHO GOT A VISIT FROM THE WINNER WAGON • P. 32 • BY THE CHRONICLE MUSIC STAFF •



2020-2021

XXXIX

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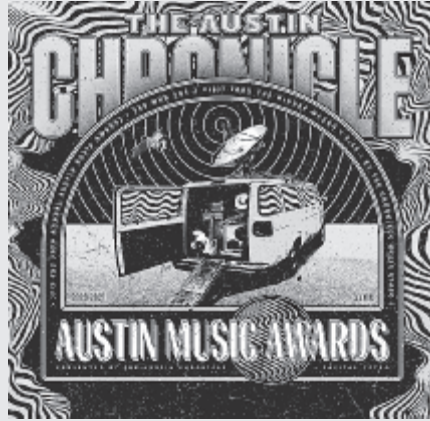
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**32 Cover Story**

**2020-2021 AUSTIN MUSIC AWARD WINNERS**

A pandemic-specific Austin Music Poll yields singular winners in a year no one will soon forget



COVER BY ZEKE BARBARO

**6 Feedback**

**7 OPINION** We Need to Prioritize Our Service Workers  
BY MICHAEL FOJTASEK

**10 News**

**10 AUSTIN AT LARGE**  
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

**12 PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BY NICK BARBARO  
**CIVICS 101**

**14** New Policies for Survivors; Council: Reason to Believe?; SXSWedu Online; more

**24 POWER TO THE PEOPLE?** "Strong-mayor" proposal divides Austin's progressives  
BY LINA FISHER

**30 NAKED CITY**

**46 Calendar**

**48 Arts & Culture**

**48 PRIME NUMBERS** In his virtual exhibition "Veintiuno," artist Ender Martos celebrates the 21st in the 21st of the 21st ...  
BY ROBERT FAIRES

**50 ARTS PREVIEW**  
Amplify Austin

**ARTS EVENTS**

**53 QMMUNITY** BY BETH SULLIVAN

**54 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**55 DAY TRIPS**  
BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

**SOCCER WATCH**  
BY NICK BARBARO

**56 Food**

**56 BACK TO THE SOIL** Supporting local farmers and ranchers helps everyone  
BY JESSI CAPE AND LINA FISHER

**58 FOOD NEWS BUFFET** BY JESSI CAPE AND WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

**60 Screens**

**60 SCIENCE ON THE SET** Co-Production House brings the tech behind *The Mandalorian* to Austin  
BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

**62 MOVIE REVIEWS** *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry*, *Chaos Walking*, *Mandabi*, *Raya and the Last Dragon*, *Sophie Jones*, *Stray*, *Tom and Jerry*

**66 SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

**67 SHOWTIMES**

**68 Music**

**68 FASTER THAN SOUND**  
BY RACHEL RASCOE

**70 PL-ATX LIST**

**72 LIVE MUSIC + STREAMING EVENTS** BY GREG STITT

**73 Back**

**THE LUV DOC COMIX MR. SMARTY PANTS**

**74 Classifieds**

**78 CROSSWORD**  
**FREE WILL ASTROLOGY**

**The Award for "Loosiest-Goosiest Award Show Reimagining" Goes To ...**

For a lot of people, last year's Austin Music Awards is time-stamped as the final public outing they enjoyed before the pandemic hit.

Back in the fall, when we first started talking about this year's AMAs, we sure liked the idea of the 2021 ceremony marking a kind of welcome back to being together again, a post-vaccine party to celebrate getting through a grueling 12 months. What sweet symmetry that might have been.

It wasn't meant to be.

So what did we do instead to celebrate the music artists and industry workers who won the annual *Austin Chronicle* Music Poll? Same thing everybody else has been doing this past year: We got crazy creative.

Music Editor Raoul Hernandez and staff writer Kevin Curtin cooked up a marvelous idea – why not bombard winners at their own homes, Publishers Clearing House-style? The idea grew from there (oversized prop checks were a must, naturally). Our marketing and art departments got busy building it out. Our friends at

Arts + Labor came on as creative collaborators. The participation of the Society for the Preservation of Texas Music, title sponsor Capital Metro, and a host of other sponsors enabled us to cut \$500 checks for every winner.

On Monday of this week, Kevin put on a bow tie, climbed in his 1995 Dodge Ram 3500 van (redubbed "the Winner Wagon" by Digital Coordinator Tamar Price),

and started hand-delivering winner plaques and those comical checks. Arts + Labor filmed the whole thing, staff photographer David Brendan Hall took stills, and we've been blasting the videos out "almost live" over social media. As I type this, we're on day two, and I'm starting to worry

Kevin's voice is going to give out. But the good cheer he's spreading – of that, he seems to have a limitless supply.

You can find all the footage online at [austinchronicle.com/ama](http://austinchronicle.com/ama), and read profiles of the winners starting on p.32. Seek out their music – buy some merch if you can! – and save the date for sometime next March. We'll get the party started again then. ■

**WE HAVE AN ISSUE**  
BY KIMBERLEY JONES

**ONLINE THIS WEEK**

**AUSTIN LANDMARKS MEET XR** SXSW has collaborated with extended reality experts VRROOM to create a virtual Downtown Austin in the SXSW Online XR world, featuring the Paramount Theatre, the Contemporary Austin, Mohawk, Empire Control Room & Garage, and more.

**COMEDY, DRAG, LIVE MUSIC, AND MORE**  
Qmmunity contributor James Scott previews Trans Crowdfund Live, a March 5 online variety show (of sorts) raising funds to cover gender affirming care for BIPOC trans Austinites.



SXSW Online XR reconvenes Congress Avenue

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**A COLLEGE BALL TRAILBLAZER** Michael King reviews *I Came As a Shadow*, the autobiography of John Thompson Jr., the legendary Georgetown Hoyas basketball coach who passed away in August.

**MOVIES IN PUBLIC, BUT ALSO PRIVATE** Violet Crown Cinema will reopen this month for private screenings with their new RSVP Cinema program, where you can book your own movies to watch in a theatre all to yourself.

**TRUST THE PROCESS** Arts Editor Robert Faires interviews choreographer Gesel Mason about teaching her students to be okay with being vulnerable in her livestreamed Texas Theatre & Dance project, *burst!*



PHOTO BY ENOCH CHAN

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# Feedback

LETTERS &  
COMMENTS

## MASK MISSTEP

Dear Editor,

Governor Abbott's decision to rescind the statewide mask mandate and allow all businesses to reopen at 100% capacity is an outrage. Not only is the governor guilty of ignoring indisputable scientific evidence, but he is also now responsible for the thousands of preventable Texas deaths yet to come. His cowardly directive is a slap in the face to health care workers, front-line responders, and essential employees who are continuously put in harm's way to keep Texans safe, protected, and well-served.

While more and more Texans are getting vaccinated every day, our state's immunization numbers are nowhere near acceptable levels of widespread coverage. Instead of playing politics with the lives of hardworking Texans, Governor Abbott must continue to abide by the CDC's COVID-19 regulations set forth nearly a year ago. His failure to do so will cost our state even

more than it has already lost recently. We cannot afford such a cruel and inhumane misstep on our road to recovery.

Emma Kat Richardson

## THANKS FOR THE BIRD WORDS

Dear Editor,

Many thanks to Gerald E. McLeod for his 1,539th (!) "Day Trips" ["Galveston Island State Park," Feb. 26]. I thoroughly enjoyed reading of his visit to Galveston Island State Park in this week's issue. After his frank admission that he wasn't a birder, it made his appreciation of the great and snowy egrets as they "danced, sparred, and preened near the road" even more special – and having witnessed roseate spoonbills down in Port A, I wholeheartedly agree with Gerald's assessment: "The best description is 'Wow.'"

Sincerely,  
Darrel Mayers

## RENOUCE THE GOP

Dear Editor,

It is my hope that the suffering ends soon for the residents of Texas. I pose this question, "What if Trump had won the election and the state of Texas had filed a lawsuit trying to overturn Trump's election, do you think Trump would be providing relief like President Biden or seeking revenge?"

Make no mistake, this was a man-made disaster. Why has no one asked this question: What if the non-winterized production units had been brought online prior to the onset of the cold weather? I think they would have continued to run through the cold weather.

While I do not have any training in operating electrical production, I know that production needs to equal demand. Is it possible that this disaster could have been avoided by innovative management of production assets?

While Texas is a strong proponent of state's rights, your governor wasted no time in seeking a disaster declaration for federal funds to correct a Texas-made disaster. It is evident that belief in state's rights does not include the right to fail.

I will soon renounce my affiliation with the Republican Party. Rick Perry says that Texans would go without power rather than have federal oversight. Is that how you feel? Does Mr. Perry have a generator at his house? Do you trust a politician willing to throw his young daughters under the bus to save his political career? In all fairness, Ted had to, he couldn't blame the dog who got left at home.

If any of this makes sense to you, please consider renouncing your affiliation with the Republican Party. While I am not proud of the people that we lowans have representing us in Washington, I am offended by all of the butt-kissing going on just to preserve their seats in Washington.

John E. Waltzing

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dear Editor,

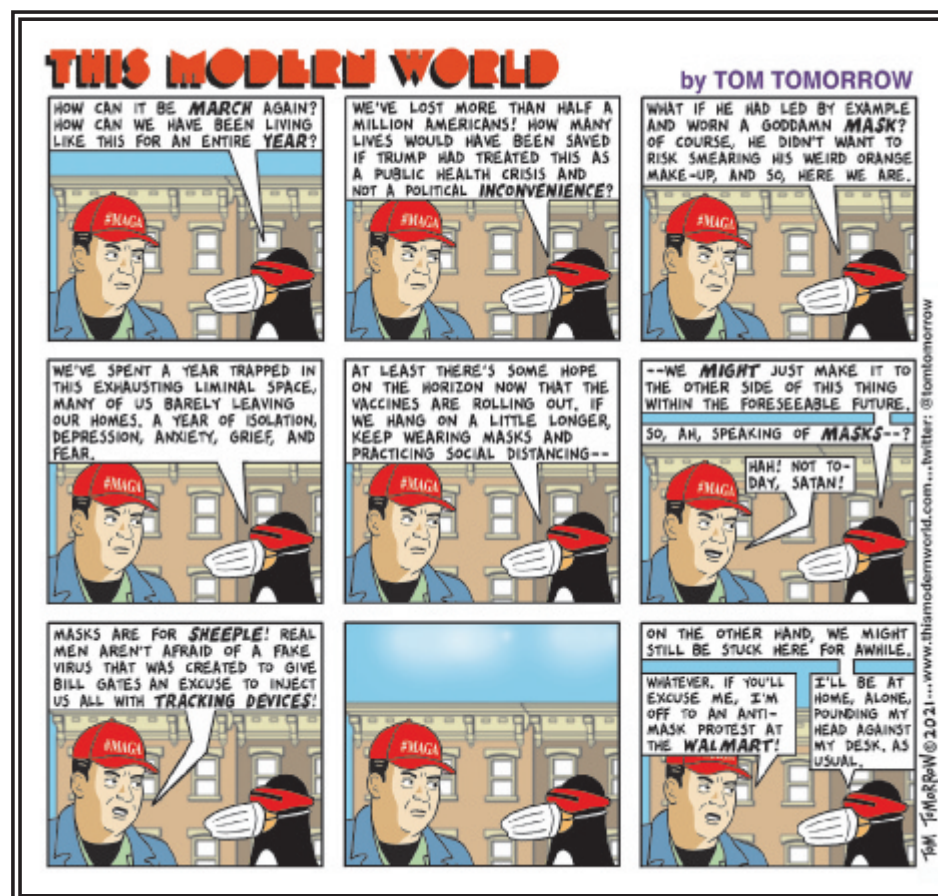
I wrote a few words for the woman who recently died at Esperanza Community as mentioned in your February 19 story "Dark Was the Night, Cold Was the Ground."

Her name was Justine. It wasn't her fault. She died at the Texas state-sanctioned camp during the recent extreme cold weather in Southeast Austin. They found her Monday, February 15. Now other Texans know what it is like to live without electricity, heat, and a guaranteed shower. No one deserves to die like that. No one deserves to live like this. End segregation, inequalities & the disparate distribution of services in Austin and Texas. End the resulting homelessness. For Justine. For us all.

Sara Black

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## WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE OUR SERVICE WORKERS

We closed the Olamaie dining room March 15, 2020, to protect our staff and community from the coronavirus. It's still closed. In a world where "personal responsibility" is bandied about as the primary means of mitigating the effects of this deadly virus, service workers are receiving it from their fellow citizens inadequately and inconsistently.

Some people continue to insist that the virus is harmless, and even worse, many exercise that belief on anyone unfortunate enough to be in their proximity by refusing to properly wear a mask or stay distanced. The desire to return to normalcy has become stronger than either scientific reasoning or empathy. If you are friendly with a service worker, please ask them how the last year has been. Don't be surprised that they have lost much of their confidence in humanity.

The Centers for Disease Control website states, "Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people from racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19." The *why* is obvious: These are the people without the luxury of working from home. It's the grocery store, utility, restaurant, and retail workers who make it possible

for others to stay protected in their residences getting "sick of Zoom calls." How do we prioritize the safety of the people tasked with keeping the system going?

The Payroll Protection Program and Economic Injury and Disaster Loans help keep employment possible, temporarily. But even with owner-enacted safety systems, the Small Business Administration cannot protect the health of in-person workers perpetually in contact with strangers. It should be the responsibility of said owners to provide a living wage and a safe work environment, but how can we stay safe from a virus playing Russian roulette?

The way to ensure the health and livelihoods of service industry people is through vaccination. Other places, like New York City, have made this prioritization. We should, too. So far, we're not doing so well.

Vaccination equity should be 2021's North Star. What would it do for them, for us all? It would move our economy in the right direction. The service industry has been the hardest-hit by layoffs. People like myself – employing half of my former workforce – could hire back the highly skilled workers I was forced to furlough a year ago. The result would also be open dining rooms, where we honor birthdays, promotions, and anniversaries.

Workers could return to earning a living and making plans for their future. They could be relieved of the constant fear of not earning enough for rent or groceries, and of worrying their job may suddenly no longer exist. They get to not die, and not risk spreading the virus to compromised family members who could die. The dichotomy seems aggressive, no? Well, it's been the entire service industry's reality every day for a year.

The people I get to work with at Olamaie take on this challenge with grace, tenacity, and a responsibility to one another.

Not only have we worked hard to protect each other, we have completely changed what we do. What was once a dining room where people gathered to celebrate is now a staging area for Little Ola's Biscuits, a contactless biscuit shop with online ordering and curbside delivery. Servers who have formidable knowledge of cutting-edge winemaking are smiling behind masks as they walk to open trunks. Cooks who have aspirations to learn the distinct challenges of producing high-level food are happy to be making biscuit sandwiches in this "pivot."

We are thrilled to have work. The positive feedback and kind words we have received from guests enable us to believe that better days are ahead. All the while, we are aware that there are many far less fortunate than we are. Our professional community has been decimated. With each passing week, beloved restaurants continue to shutter around us. The loss is immeasurable. From farmers and ranchers to purveyors and printers, every level of the hospitality industry is in the crosshairs.

Michael Fojtasek is executive chef and owner of Olamaie and Little Ola's Biscuits.

BY MICHAEL FOJTASEK

**Vaccination equity should be 2021's North Star.**

Michael Fojtasek is executive chef and owner of Olamaie and Little Ola's Biscuits.

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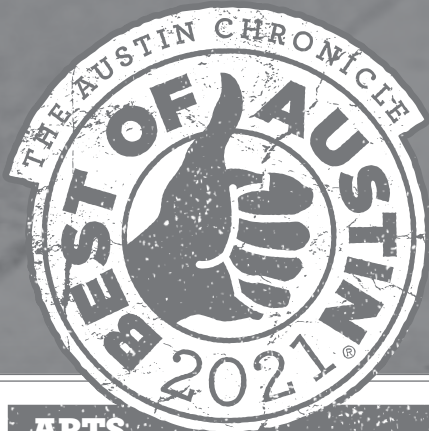
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- Drag Performer \_\_\_\_\_
- Drag Showcase \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Video Game Developer \_\_\_\_\_
- Movie Theatre \_\_\_\_\_
- Film Festival/Series \_\_\_\_\_
- Filmmaker \_\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor Festival \_\_\_\_\_
- Most Innovative Pivot \_\_\_\_\_
- Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) \_\_\_\_\_

## NIGHTLIFE

- Dance Club \_\_\_\_\_
- Large Live Music Venue \_\_\_\_\_
- Intimate Live Music Venue \_\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor Venue \_\_\_\_\_
- DJ \_\_\_\_\_
- Cocktail Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Dive Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Sports Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Bar for Singles \_\_\_\_\_
- Happy Hour \_\_\_\_\_
- Bartender \_\_\_\_\_
- Place for Sober Socializing \_\_\_\_\_
- Karaoke \_\_\_\_\_
- Jukebox \_\_\_\_\_
- Trivia Night \_\_\_\_\_
- LGBTQIA Club \_\_\_\_\_
- Queer Party \_\_\_\_\_
- Pool Hall \_\_\_\_\_
- Escape Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Adult Club \_\_\_\_\_
- Most Innovative Pivot \_\_\_\_\_
- Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) \_\_\_\_\_

## FOOD & DRINK

- New Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Established Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Chef \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastry Chef \_\_\_\_\_
- Late-Night Dining \_\_\_\_\_
- Restaurant/Beverage Delivery \_\_\_\_\_
- Drive-Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Patio \_\_\_\_\_
- Brewery \_\_\_\_\_
- Winery \_\_\_\_\_
- Distillery \_\_\_\_\_
- Food Truck \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffee Shop \_\_\_\_\_
- Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_
- Weekend Brunch \_\_\_\_\_
- Bakery \_\_\_\_\_
- Fine Dining \_\_\_\_\_
- Steak \_\_\_\_\_
- Vegan/Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_
- Juice/Smoothie \_\_\_\_\_
- Pizza \_\_\_\_\_
- Burger \_\_\_\_\_
- Tacos \_\_\_\_\_
- Margarita \_\_\_\_\_
- Barbecue \_\_\_\_\_
- Noodles/Ramen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sushi \_\_\_\_\_
- Italian \_\_\_\_\_
- Ice Cream/Frozen Treats \_\_\_\_\_
- Desserts \_\_\_\_\_
- Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Cheap Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Most Innovative Pivot \_\_\_\_\_
- Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) \_\_\_\_\_

## SPORTS & RECREATION

- Place to Tube \_\_\_\_\_
- Place to Camp \_\_\_\_\_
- Place to Hang With Your Pet \_\_\_\_\_
- Swimming Pool \_\_\_\_\_
- Swimming Hole/Lake \_\_\_\_\_
- Sports Venue \_\_\_\_\_
- Bowling Alley \_\_\_\_\_
- Golf Course \_\_\_\_\_
- Gym \_\_\_\_\_
- Exercise Class \_\_\_\_\_
- Self-Defense Class \_\_\_\_\_
- Personal Trainer \_\_\_\_\_
- Yoga \_\_\_\_\_
- City Trail \_\_\_\_\_
- Out-of-Town Hike \_\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor Run/Race \_\_\_\_\_
- Alternative Sports \_\_\_\_\_
- Pro/Semi-Pro Sports Team \_\_\_\_\_
- Most Innovative Pivot \_\_\_\_\_
- Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) \_\_\_\_\_

## KIDS & FAMILY

- Party Place \_\_\_\_\_
- All-Ages Venue \_\_\_\_\_
- Toy Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Kids' Clothing \_\_\_\_\_
- Summer Camp \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth Sports Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth Arts Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth STEM Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Online Tutoring/Children's Education \_\_\_\_\_
- Birthday Cakes \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Playground \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Festival \_\_\_\_\_
- Most Innovative Pivot \_\_\_\_\_
- Wild Card (TELL US WHY!) \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICES

- Barbershop \_\_\_\_\_
- Salon \_\_\_\_\_
- Spa \_\_\_\_\_
- Massage \_\_\_\_\_
- Mani/Pedi \_\_\_\_\_
- Wax/Skincare \_\_\_\_\_
- Lashes/Brows \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel \_\_\_\_\_
- Bike Shop/Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- Psychic/Tarot \_\_\_\_\_
- Tattoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Auto Repair/Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Computer Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- Music Services/Equipment \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Maintenance/Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Lawn Care/Landscaping \_\_\_\_\_
- Fencing \_\_\_\_\_
- A/C Repair/Installation \_\_\_\_\_
- Electrician \_\_\_\_\_
- Plumber \_\_\_\_\_
- Locksmith \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaning Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Laundromat \_\_\_\_\_
- Dry Cleaner \_\_\_\_\_
- Tailor/Alteration \_\_\_\_\_
- Movers \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTING ENDS MONDAY, MARCH 8 FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT ONLINE AT: [VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM](http://VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM)

“Thanks bro but we ain’t gonna do it till it’s safe”

– @mohawkaustin in a March 2 tweet, in response to Gov. Greg Abbott’s reckless decision to lift Texas’ mask mandate, among other science-based COVID-19 restrictions

Hancock Conservancy volunteer Justin Green canvasses near Hancock Golf Course on Saturday, Feb. 27, to obtain petition signatures. The grassroots org, which supports transforming the city-owned nine-hole course into a public park, launched the petition last October seeking to prevent a public-private partnership to develop the 45-acre parcel into a golfing center.



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## At the Bottom of the Well

Greg Abbott’s still making horrible things happen, but at least now he’s in charge!

When I use words in this space like “decadent” or “depraved” or “incompetent” to describe Texas’ ruling red regime, I’m trying to be precise, not just looking for variety in the sackful of invective I have to haul up here every week. After 20-plus years of mostly talking only to themselves, our ruling partiers have become soft, clumsy, clueless, lost their bearings, aren’t sending their best people. I wouldn’t describe in those same terms earlier eras of Texas GOP governance, from Ann Richards’ loss to George W. Bush in 1994 through Rick Perry’s third victory in 2010, both wave elections for Team Red.

**AUSTIN AT LARGE**  
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON

Those were troubling, difficult, frustrating years for many Texans, in ways Bush and Perry mostly ignored as they hitched their wagons to the Texas Miracle mule train.

But what we face now is worse; the state Republican Party has fracked up the buried strata of its voters’ psyches to let the fossilized gases of racism and avarice flare out, giving the regime a burst of energy as it bounces off the bottom of the well and flails about when required to be useful.

This is another week when I’ve changed up my plans for this column as the news overtakes them. I was going to focus on the decadent, depraved, incom-

petent state-level response to our latest climate disaster, but as was his obvious intent, Gov. Greg Abbott bluntly and shamelessly changed the subject by freeing Texans from the chains of their masks. Instead of further contemplating his cold, oafish impotence in the face of a deadly catastrophe that he chose to let happen but now blames on others, we have to watch Abbott be a man of *action*, guaranteeing equally horrible and callous outcomes by decree, which for him feels much, much more comfortable.

### YOUR MOVE, AGENT WEST ...

The only thing Governor Loveless really cares about right now is protecting his

CONTINUED ON P.12

## HEADLINES

**GAMBLING WITH OUR LIVES** Beginning next Wednesday, March 10, Texas will lift its statewide mask mandate and other COVID-19 restrictions, per Gov. Greg Abbott’s new executive order, GA-34, announced this week. See p.14 and p.16 for local reactions.

**BATTLE OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE** The Texas Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Austin City Council to modify the ballot language for the Proposition B measure to recriminalize homelessness, one of many props voters will decide on in the May 1 special election. Allies of the group behind Prop B, Save Austin Now, sued the city to force Austin to adopt SAN’s petition language, but the state Supreme Court rejected the group’s request. See p.16.

**DID SOMEONE SAY ELECTION?** Voters will decide the fate of public camping, Austin’s form of government, and ranked-choice voting in city elections, among other propositions come May 1. Find our ballot breakdown on p.28, and follow election coverage at [austinchronicle.com/election](http://austinchronicle.com/election).

**REMEMBER THE RITZ** Austin’s homegrown dine-in movie theatre chain Alamo Drafthouse has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The nationwide chain has agreed to sell substantially all of its assets to a group of lenders and investors, which includes Drafthouse founder Tim League. Operations will continue as normal, although three theatres will shutter permanently, including the Ritz location Downtown. More online.

**AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT** will not release the video of the Jan. 5 fatal police shooting of Alexander Gonzales until next month, which falls outside of APD’s 60-day release policy; APD cited the city’s recent “weather-related closures” as reason for the delay. Video capturing the Jan. 4 non-fatal police shooting of Dylan Polinski will still be released this Friday (March 5).

**THE EMAILS OF TEXAS** Emails sent by University of Texas at Austin alumni and donors to UT-Austin President Jay Hartzell reveal dozens of people threatened to stop financially supporting the school if university leadership didn’t take a stronger stance supporting “The Eyes of Texas,” according to The Texas Tribune. Students have petitioned for months for UT to do away with the song because of its racist roots.

**SOMETHING IN THE WATER** Dog owners are urged to keep their pets from playing in the lake or near the shoreline in the Hudson Bend area of Lake Travis after water samples tested positive for toxic blue-green algae, which can be fatal to dogs.

**THE BILLS ARE COMING** Friday, March 12, is the filing deadline for bills in the 87th Texas Legislature. Find legislation, livestreams, and more at [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov).

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**AUSTIN AT LARGE** CONTINUED FROM P.10

right flank from the inevitable primary challenge he's going to encounter a year from now from, many believe, Allen West, the ex-war criminal and Florida Man who, having won the hearts of proto-MAGA nutters in his brief time in Congress, now leads the Republican Party of Texas. Had Abbott not turned the icy hose on the festering unrest over his "dictatorial" COVID restrictions from his party's unpoliced radical fringe – people who've already filed lawsuits against him, joined by West and the Texas GOP – he might have pulled a more formidable primary challenger like U.S. Rep Dan Crenshaw, who could lap him like Ted Cruz and Dan Patrick did over two cycles to end David Dewhurst's political career.

That still might happen, as the December filing deadline is still months away and may get pushed back by the delay in census data needed for redistricting. But someone like West, who observers in both parties think already intends to be somewhere on the 2022 ballot if not here, will not suffer in any way by continuing to f\*ck with Greg Abbott from now until then. He's basically answerable to nobody but the hardest-core GOP activists that decide who leads their party, and he's got a national brand that can activate the small-dollar donors whose aggregate power has negated the formerly moderating influence of anti-controversial big money donors, much as has happened on the Democratic left.

So in the face of that, no, Greg Abbott does not care, at all, about the misery his Decisive Action to let Texas go commando on COVID will engender. He will never face any consequences for that, he thinks; he will only be harmed if he fails to act. This is clearly not his native instinct; he's been

trying to avoid taking big stands and dropping his obligations like they're hot for a whole year of plague time. He is very much the white-shoe corporate insurance defense lawyer he was before seeking office, the guy who explains why it's not the refinery's fault the kids along the fence line have no toes. He has none of the primal, vulgar energy of the rising stars to his right, and he demonstrated to everyone during his week on the winter storm struggle bus that he has no real ability to lead anywhere worth following. Going low, to the bottom of the well, is all he's got.

**SOUL AND INSPIRATION**

This is where I typically try to curve my columns to end on a high note – "Take heart! We've got this! We will survive." It's hard to do that in the face of amoral recklessness that many Texans will not survive. And it's not obvious how those of us who aren't at the bottom of the GOP well can shape the trajectory of the next few weeks to aim at different outcomes.

We can, of course, take a break from trying to influence the politics of Texas' current existential crises and simply lend our hands and hearts to helping each other as we endure them. The best response to Abbott's breathtaking selfishness and, yes, "depravity" is probably to ignore it as best we can and not let him have more power over the Texas we live in than he can claim for himself. That's likely the best that Austin and other Texas cities, and the folks they send to the Legislature, can do right now as well. In doing so, I think we will build back some of the resilience we will need to break the back of the ruling regime when that time comes, be it 2022 or 2024 or perhaps sooner. Our buckets are small right now, but our well is not empty. ■

# Taking a Mulligan?

Hancock Golf Course/Park plans seem to be off the boil

The **Hancock Conservancy** held its twice-delayed open house meeting with Austin parks officials to discuss the future of the Central Austin park and/or golf course Tuesday evening, and the added time may have mellowed the group's messaging into a more concerted plea for consensus among the various stakeholders and opinions.

As I wrote a few weeks back ("Conserve What?", Feb. 12), there's been some animosity between two schools of thought as the Parks and Recreation Department and its Golf Division try to chart a future for its historic nine-hole course – a perennial money-loser that during the pandemic has oddly become profitable. City golf czar **Kevin Gomillion** scratched his head (virtually) on Tuesday night about that sudden turn in the finances, but signaled that if it stayed that way going forward, PARD would be happy to keep running it as is, ending the need for a restructuring plan and the current debate over it – which has become quite heated between the "make it a park" Hancock Conservancy and the "keep it a golf course" **Hancock Golf Conservancy**.

Perhaps to forestall some of that, the Hancock Conservancy – while still adamant in its belief that the 45-acre site would be better as public parkland than a golf course – said in a statement just after the meeting that its focus for the moment is on seeking consensus to take to city officials around four points:

- **No driving range** should be included as a component in any plans for the site;

- **No RFP.** The city should pursue a "more public" request for information process rather than the "closed-bidding" request for proposal process being contemplated;
- **More time to review proposals**, "in particular to allow for full public participation"; and
- **Ecological restoration of Waller Creek** must be included in any plans.

And that's where we stand at press time, with HC promising to put out a concept park plan later this month, outlining what that would look like and how it could be paid for.

Stay tuned, and see [www.imaginehancockpark.org](http://www.imaginehancockpark.org) and [www.hancockgolfcourseconservancy.org](http://www.hancockgolfcourseconservancy.org) for more info.

□

**Stand Up for Schools** is the annual fundraiser for educational support nonprofit **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**, a two-time "Best of Austin" award winner (don't forget to vote in this year's poll; see p.9) that among other

things puts on the HopeFest resource fair at Northeast Early College High School. This year you have to supply your own lunch, but the speaker list is impressive indeed – with recently confirmed U.S. Secretary of Education **Miguel Cardona** delivering the opening speech, followed by a panel including U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**; **Montserrat Garibay**, the Austin union leader who's now senior advisor for labor relations in Cardona's office; Dr. **Linda Darling-Hammond**, chair of the California State Board of Education who led Biden's U.S. Department of Education transition team; and Dr. **Julian Vasquez Hellig**, former UT-Austin faculty who's now the dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky. Monday, March 8, noon-1:30pm; see info and register at [www.austinvoices.org](http://www.austinvoices.org). ■

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BY NICK BARBARO

## CIVICS 101

**BULLETIN BOARD**

For the latest info, visit [www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://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](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19-vaccines) or call 512/972-5560.

**THURSDAY 3/4**

**CITY COUNCIL** See p.14 for our preview. 10am. [www.austintexas.gov/council](http://www.austintexas.gov/council).

**HIV PLANNING COUNCIL** plans how Austin distributes Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to meet the needs of residents living with HIV. 6pm. *Videoconference.*

[www.austintexas.gov/content/hiv-planning-council](http://www.austintexas.gov/content/hiv-planning-council).

**HOME COMPOSTING CLASS** Learn how you can eliminate food waste at home. 6-7pm. *Online. Free (registration required).*

[www.austintexas.gov/arrhomerebate](http://www.austintexas.gov/arrhomerebate).

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN DAY** Central Texas' biggest day of giving will include thousands in matching gifts and \$80K in prizes for participating nonprofits. Amplify LIVE is a virtual experience with celebrity guests, local leaders, and live music. Visit website to search nonprofits and make a contribution. [www.amplifyatx.org](http://www.amplifyatx.org).

**FRIDAY 3/5**

**INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION** The commission is responsible for redrawing the boundaries of Austin's council districts; today, the commission will discuss considerations for choosing the final six ICRC commissioners. 1pm. *Videoconference.* [www.austintexas.gov/redistricting](http://www.austintexas.gov/redistricting).

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN DAY** See Thursday (3/4). [www.amplifyatx.org](http://www.amplifyatx.org).

**SATURDAY 3/6**

**LASA'S MOVE TO THE EASTSIDE** AISD shares info about the Liberal Arts and Science Academy's transition to the current Eastside Memorial Early College High School at the Johnston campus. 10-11:15am & noon-1:15pm. *Online.* [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org).

**BERTHA SADLER MEANS YWLA GIRLS CONFERENCE** Students will receive a free swag bag, and Central Texas Food Bank will supply food packs for families while supplies last. 10am-noon. *Bertha Sadler Means YWLA, 6401 N. Hampton Dr.* [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org).

**UPLIFT AUSTIN** will distribute free PPE, cleaning, and hygiene supplies across the Eastern Crescent, including Southwest Key Programs (6002 Jain Ln.); American YouthWorks (1911 E. Ben White); Josephine Houston Elementary (5409 Ponciana); Valero (4918 FM 1327, Creedmoor); Ana Lark Center (1400 Tillery); and Guerrero Thompson Elementary (102 E. Rundberg). 10am-noon. [www.upliftaustin.com](http://www.upliftaustin.com).

**MONDAY 3/8**

**STAND UP FOR SCHOOLS** See Public Notice, above. Noon. *Online.* [www.austinvoices.org](http://www.austinvoices.org).

**AUSTIN ORGANIC GARDENERS CLUB** Samuel Beautysta Lazer will discuss the agroecosystem of Mexico's Central Valleys of Oaxaca. 6pm. *Online.* [fb.com/austinorganicgardeners](http://fb.com/austinorganicgardeners).

**TUESDAY 3/9**

**TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** 9am. *Online.* [www.traviscountytx.gov](http://www.traviscountytx.gov).

**BE A STAAR** AISD leaders will answer questions about the STAAR exam. 5:30-6:30pm. [www.aisd.tv](http://www.aisd.tv); AISD FB page. [www.fb.com/austinisd](http://www.fb.com/austinisd).

**WEDNESDAY 3/10**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** Briefings cover decoupling and reinvestment activities as part of the city's "Reimagining Public Safety" initiatives. 3:30pm. *Videoconference.* [www.austintexas.gov/department/public-safety-committee-0](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/public-safety-committee-0).

**THURSDAY 3/11**

**MOBILITY COMMITTEE** Updates from TxDOT on the I-35 project, among other mobility projects. 1pm. *Videoconference.* [www.austintexas.gov/department/mobility-committee](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/mobility-committee).

**WINTER STORM URI**

**CITY RECOVERY RESOURCES** Info on water distribution, emergency repairs, and other storm relief. [www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo](http://www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo).

**FEMA ASSISTANCE** If you have insurance and are applying, you must also file a claim with your insurance company; if insurance does not cover all damage, you may be eligible for federal assistance. Apply online or call 800/621-3362. [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

**FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND** You can help recovery by contributing to FC's fund providing direct relief for food, water, rent, medical assistance, and more. [www.foundcom.org/get-involved/donate-emergency-fund](http://www.foundcom.org/get-involved/donate-emergency-fund).



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# Reason to Relieve

Council, city utilities continue to soften blow of storms

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

City Council meets Thursday, March 4, to take up additional relief measures for people impacted financially by **Winter Storm Uri**. These include \$5 million to both **Austin Water** and **Austin Energy** to fund the **Plus-One** payment assistance programs at each utility, which provide bill relief to customers experiencing financial hardship. Council expanded the program in April 2020 in response to the unfolding **COVID-19** pandemic.

Another proposal from Austin Energy would waive its \$20 service initiation fee for new customers, so that those forced to relocate due to storm damage can avoid the fee. That ordinance would also waive a \$10 service charge on February bills for all customers. Together, those relief measures will cost the utility about \$4.7 million and will be in effect until at least April 3. Austin Water will also adjust its billing, using historical averages for customers' water usage instead of actual data from February to offset days of dripping faucets. The fee for emergency shut-offs of water service will also be waived; all told, these relief measures will cost Austin Water about \$3.5 million.

With thousands of Austin residents still without water and others struggling to repair damage from last week's historic winter storms, Council emphasized at its special called meeting Feb. 25 that the crisis is not yet behind us. "We're not even at the recovery stage yet," Mayor Pro Tem **Natasha Harper-Madison** said at the meeting. "We're still trying to stabilize."

Austin Water Director **Greg Meszaros** estimated that the residents of between 200 and 400 apartment complexes throughout the city did not have water service, due to plumbing damage on the private property beyond the water meter. The scale of freeze damage to water infrastructure dwarfs that typically seen by AW over an entire winter, Meszaros said. An unknown number of single-family homes have sustained similar damage, adding to the long list of Texas properties in need of plumbing repairs in the weeks ahead – enough to ensure a shortage in materials and labor that will prolong the time it takes to get pipes fixed.

**The scale of freeze damage to water infrastructure dwarfs that typically seen by AW over an entire winter, said Austin Water Director Greg Meszaros.**

The storms showed that Council, City Hall, and AW do not have robust systems in place to gather the on-the-ground intelligence needed in such a disaster at an appropriate scale. An expansive resolution, approved unanimously on Thursday, directs staff to respond on many fronts, one of which is simply to develop a "**centralized list**" of places in Austin and Travis County where residents don't have safe water. That list will help the city better coordinate delivery of water in bulk as well as bottles to those who may need it for the next several weeks, not only for drinking but also cleaning and bathing.

Council Member **Greg Casar** suggested Austin Water could set up tanks in the parking lots of impacted complexes to provide access to bulk water where and when it's needed, along with directing residents to water-distribution "pods" established by the city and other agencies. In response, AW has converted **fire hydrants** at about 50 apartment complexes into water distribution sites and is sending tanker trucks to another dozen where the hydrant-mounted systems could not be accommodated. Additionally, **Austin Community College's** Northridge campus at 11928 Stonehollow Dr. is a mass water distribution site from 9am to 5pm, March 1-8. People going to the ACC campus should bring their own containers to fill with water.

The placeholder resolution brought forward by staff was fleshed out with amendments from Mayor **Steve Adler** and CMs Casar, **Ann Kitchen**, **Mackenzie Kelly**, **Paige Ellis**, **Kathie Tovo**, and **Alison Alter**. It now also directs staff to craft a plan to provide short-term housing for people displaced by storm damage, as well as more direct assistance to those who need home repairs. Austin Water has already earmarked \$1 million from its budget to help with this effort.

Council also approved an ordinance to waive permit requirements and fees that may be needed for some repairs, like plumbing or tree removal. Assistant City Manager **Rodney Gonzales**, whose portfolio includes the **Development Services Department**, encouraged people in need to not wait for permits to be issued, but to



An electric meter at the Jamestown-Payton Gln Intersection on Feb. 15; Council will vote on utility relief measures at its March 4 meeting

JOHN ANDERSON

begin work as soon as they can and file for permits within five business days. These waivers will also allow plumbers who aren't fully certified to take on jobs – a move, also authorized statewide by Gov. **Greg Abbott**, which would hopefully help ease the plumber shortage. The waivers expire on March 31, but could be extended. Another ordinance waived all late fees associated with utility bills.

Council made clear these were just the first steps to provide relief and to seek accountability from all levels of government. Tovo's amendment calls for oversight hearings into how city departments and other agencies both responded to the emergency and communicated with residents. As the *Chronicle* went to press, a hearing was underway in a joint meeting of Council's AE and AW **oversight committees** (the first of which comprises the whole Council but is chaired by CM **Leslie Pool**; Kitchen chairs the five-member AW committee). Most of the hearing is focused on what went wrong – ascertaining a clearer timeline of events and exploring how to protect more customers in the future – but some discussion is planned for additional relief measures.

At the prior meeting Thursday, both Alter and Kitchen asked staff to look for ways to better inform Austinites of such an

impending disaster or where to find resources should one occur in the future. City Manager **Spencer Cronk**, who weathered a rough patch with the Eastside CMs last week over his perceived unresponsiveness to the urgent community needs prompted by the crisis, needs to report back on his progress before Council's March 25 meeting, though staff expects to be able to provide updates this week.

In non-storm business, Harper-Madison is bringing a resolution to the dais that would acknowledge "the City's role in **disenfranchising Black Austinites** through past discrimination, urban renewal policies, and the 1928 Master Plan." It would also direct staff to partner with **UT-Austin** and **Huston-Tillotson University** to explore the "economic value of the direct, indirect, intentional, and unintentional harm caused through economic, health, environmental, criminal injustice, and other racial disparities and declination of resources by the City." The resolution also directs staff to create a "**Black Embassy**" in East Austin, possibly on city-owned property, which would serve as a hub for connecting Black-led businesses with resources and support from existing city programs. Cronk is directed to report back to Council with recommendations by Aug. 1. ■





Over 3,000 people were vaccinated at the first mass drive-through vaccination clinic at Circuit of the Americas on Saturday, Feb. 27

JANA BIRCHUM

## Abbott Lifts COVID Rules: Will a Surge Follow?

The first anniversary of Texas' **COVID-19** crisis will be observed with tragic irony as the state remains in a frustratingly, dangerously familiar place, with the virus just as prevalent as it was last spring and with few or no statewide health and safety mandates to combat the pandemic.

On Texas Independence Day (March 2), Gov. **Greg Abbott** announced that Texas' statewide mask mandate that he first enacted last July, among other COVID-19 restrictions, would be lifted next Wednesday, March 10. That will be one year almost to the day since Abbott first declared a state of disaster caused by the novel coronavirus. Under the

governor's latest executive order, all businesses of all types, including restaurants and bars, will be allowed to open at full capacity, despite a specific warning earlier this week from the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** that states should not ease up now on public health precautions.

"It is now time to open Texas 100%," said Abbott on Tuesday, because "Texas is in a far better position now than when I issued my last executive order back in October." That order allowed most businesses to operate at 75% capacity under certain thresholds, as well as permitting bars to reopen at 50% if authorized by county officials. Abbott said

businesses will still be able to implement safety protocols and won't be barred from requiring employees or customers to wear masks. "It is their business, and they get to choose to operate their business the way they want to. At this time, however, people and businesses don't need the state telling them how to operate," said Abbott.

Although new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have all been trending downward in Texas (and in Austin and Travis County) from their all-time highs at the start of the new year, vaccine distribution continues to lag behind the ambitious goals set by state leaders, with only 7.2% of Texans being fully vaccinated, according to **Texas Department of State Health Services** vaccine data. In addition, Texas is No. 2 among the states (behind California) in its COVID-19 death toll – 42,995 deaths as of March 2, according to CDC data – and is in the top 10 with its COVID-19 death rate over the past seven days (0.8 per 100,000; Virginia currently tops this list).

A chorus of local officials and business owners across Texas has lambasted the new order as a premature and dangerous move. "There's no scientific basis for the governor now creating an ambiguity where none should exist," said Austin Mayor **Steve Adler** in a Wednesday morning press conference. "Masking works, and it continues to be necessary." Many Austin restaurants and other businesses took to social media on Tuesday night to double down on their commitments to either remain closed or to require social distancing and mask-wearing for customers and employees (see p.57). **Laura Huffman**, CEO and president of the **Austin Chamber of Commerce**, urged businesses to continue safety measures – and for customers to respect such protocols – despite the new executive order, for the good of both public health and the economy. "If you are con-

cerned about our local businesses, then I urge you to respect the guidelines that they set," said Huffman. "If you're concerned that people are able to work so they can provide for their families, then wear a mask."

The new guidance says county officials are allowed to use "COVID-19 related mitigation strategies" if cases of the disease account for 15% or more of regional hospital capacity for seven consecutive days. This threshold is carried over from Abbott's October order, but now is more constrained; business capacity can be set no lower than 50%, and jurisdictions can't issue penalties to enforce mask mandates. No limits can be imposed on religious services, child care, public and private schools, and higher education institutions. As Texas school districts await updated guidance from the **Texas Education Agency** regarding Abbott's order, which the agency said in a March 2 tweet "will be coming this week," **Austin ISD** said it will continue to require all students, teachers, and staff to wear masks on district property and at AISD events.

Only hours before Abbott shared his new order with the public on Tuesday, Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott** told **Austin City Council** and the **Travis County Commissioners Court** that Austin could ease into **Stage 2** of local risk guidelines by early next month should the community continue its precautions. Escott has not commented directly on Abbott's new order, but he told Adler during Tuesday's briefing that a mask mandate through summer would allow **Austin Public Health** to get more people vaccinated. "The danger that we face by releasing or reducing some of those restrictions, particularly the mask mandate – which really has been the most effective public policy decision that the government has made – certainly has the potential to initiate a surge," he cautioned. – *Beth Sullivan*

## Court Orders Change to Camping Ban Ballot

Following a ruling from the **Texas Supreme Court**, City Council has made two changes to the language that will appear with **Proposition B** on the May 1 ballot, the citizen initiative to reinstate criminal penalties for **public camping**, panhandling, and other facets of visible homelessness in certain parts of town.

In a 6-3 ruling issued Tuesday, March 2, the Court ordered Council to remove the word "anyone" from the ballot language. In the court's majority opinion, Justice **Jimmy Blacklock** asserted the ordinances would not apply to anyone, because it includes exceptions – for example, if someone were having a medical emergency or waiting on a bus, they would not be in violation. Leaving the word in would "suggest to voters that the ordinance criminalizes and penalizes a much wider swath of conduct than it actually does," Blacklock wrote. Shortly after the ruling was issued, Council voted unanimously to adopt the language changes.

The court did not side with the plaintiffs – three signers of the petition organized by **Save Austin Now** to place Prop B on the ballot – on other, more significant changes to the ballot language. In their filings,

submitted simultaneously to SCOTX and the **3rd Court of Appeals**, attorneys for the plaintiffs argued that the City Charter requires Council to adopt the language used on the SAN petition without any changes. They also sought to strike Council's references to a "criminal penalty"; former Republican Party of Texas General Counsel **Donna Garcia Davidson** and former Travis County Judge **Bill Aleshire** wrote in their filing that the language adopted by Council was "inflammatory, misleading, and prejudicial." The 3rd Court ruled against the plaintiffs on Feb. 24 on all three requests without issuing an opinion.

In Blacklock's opinion, SCOTX ruled that the plaintiffs did not provide enough evidence in this "expedited proceeding" (rushed to meet deadlines for printing ballots) that the charter prevents Council from modifying the language of citizen initiatives. As for criminalization, Blacklock noted that the court has previously held that city governments have "broad discretion in wording propositions" and that this one "correctly states that the ordinance creates criminal offenses and penalties." Blacklock continues that plaintiffs "would prefer that this aspect of the ordinance appear less prominently in the proposition, but



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

it is not the courts' job to micromanage the sentence structure of ballot propositions." The job of the court "is to ensure voters are not misled by inaccuracies or material omissions in the proposition while preserving the governing body's discretion to select ballot language." – *Austin Sanders*

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# New Policies for Survivors

D.A. commits to culture change to aid access to justice

BY SARAH MARLOFF

The **Travis County District Attorney's Office**, led by **José Garza**, has announced a major shift in policies and practice to better support survivors of “interpersonal violence,” including domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Announced Feb. 25, the new policies go into effect immediately, though some aspects, such as a new community advisory board, won't be finalized for another month or two. The office's three-page announcement highlights four areas of focus: Prioritize victims; ensure access to justice for all victims; collaborate with community advocates and experts; and improve transparency. Together, the changes are “designed to ensure that victims of interpersonal violence and complex trauma know that reporting their abuse or harm will not mean they are retraumatized, ignored, or accused of not being credible,” according to the announcement.

Garza told the *Chronicle* these policies were informed by meeting with and speaking to survivors of interpersonal violence and advocates. He added: “The process of listening to survivors and advocates is not a one-time thing. For it to be real and meaningful, it's something we have to be committed to do[ing] consistently, and we are.”

The new policies symbolize a change in direction for the D.A.'s Office, which Garza took over on January 1, after beating incumbent **Margaret Moore** in last year's Democratic primary run-off. **Erin Martinson**, who finished third in the primary, was named director of the D.A.'s **Special Victims Unit**, which oversees the Family Violence Division, the Sexual Assault Division, and now also the office's victim counselors, who support survivors of violence through the criminal justice process.

Previously, those victim counselors were staffed by the back-office Department of Operations, which largely handles finances and administration. To manage the new division under Martinson, Garza has hired **Neva Fernandez**, a national expert in providing trauma-informed services to victims and a longtime colleague of Martinson at both the Travis County Attorney's Office and the Texas Legal Services Center. Garza explained, “We really feel like it's important for victim counselors to be supervised by someone with sub-

ject-matter expertise, who has the experience and training to manage and assist them in day-to-day work.”

Going forward, counselors will be automatically assigned to homicide cases, but also to certain cases involving interpersonal violence and complex trauma, which Martinson noted is a broad category. However, prosecutors working on all types of cases will be able to request counseling services for victims if needed or desired.

Among the new policies is a return, after nearly four years, to the **Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT)**. This group coordinates community response to sexual assault, which includes advocates, attorneys, sexual assault nurse examiners, law enforcement officers, and others; Moore had abandoned it after the D.A. and **Austin Police Department's** handling of sexual assault cases – including the backlog of thousands of DNA evidence kits – was criticized in a letter by former SARRT leaders.

Such groups are considered a best practice for responding to domestic violence and sexual assault, as a way to identify gaps within the justice system's procedures and services. As Martinson explained, it's important for the D.A.'s Office to be at the table because “we prosecute the majority of crimes related to those issues.” Martinson, who previously served on the SARRT for several years, confirmed the office has been attending meetings since January.

“It's core to our philosophy,” said Garza. “Expertise lies in many places. But first and

**“The process of listening to survivors and advocates is not a one time thing. For it to be real and meaningful it's something we have to be committed to do consistently and we are.”**

TRAVIS COUNTY D.A. JOSÉ GARZA

foremost, it lies with regular people who've had experiences with our criminal justice system, [both] people who've been victims of crime and people who've been victims of our criminal justice system. We really believe that, as a result, all that we do has to be informed by our community.” In addition to using the SARRT and the similar **Domestic Violence High Risk Team**, the



Erin Martinson, director of the Travis County D.A.'s Special Victims Unit, in 2019

office has promised to work with community-based organizations to reinstate the practice of educating each new grand jury on the prevalence and dynamics of sexual and intimate partner violence.

As part of its policies to promote transparency, the office has promised to create an advisory board of survivors and others from the community, which will provide oversight and help hold the office accountable. Garza stressed how important it is for his team to hear what the office is doing wrong and what it can do better. This board, he said, “is at least one way that we seek to invite that analysis of our work.”

Martinson elaborated: “My vision for the community advisory board is also [to help us] look toward the future and alternatives to the carceral system. We know that the majority of victims don't report their offenses.” According to a 2015 study from UT-Austin, only 9.2% of sexual assault survivors report attacks to law enforcement. “We need to start looking at alternatives for solutions that help all victims heal.”

The D.A.'s Office is working now and “hopes to make significant progress within a month or two” on launching the advisory board, said Garza. In the meantime, the

office has begun trauma-informed training that addresses the dynamics of interpersonal violence, best practices for the use of expert witnesses, and the neurobiology of trauma, as well as bias trainings on anti-racism, race, gender, LGBTQIA issues, culture, and economic status.

Also announced this week: the return of Dana Nelson, one of the early leaders in building a specialized unit at the D.A.'s Office to prosecute sexual assault cases, to join Garza and Martinson's leadership team. Nelson, whose expertise in prosecuting these complex cases helped bring \$650,000 in federal grant funding to the office in 2016, has for the last several years been a prosecutor in Bell County.

As leader of the SVU, Martinson is responsible for implementing these policy changes, with support from Garza and his first assistant, Trudy Strassburger. Martinson noted, “We have a very collaborative approach to leadership, so the entire senior leadership team has weighed in and provided feedback on our policies.”

Garza added that divisions outside the SVU also interact with victims on a regular basis, and so it's a responsibility for the entire office to treat them with dignity and respect. He credited Martinson as the office's “culture-setter-in-chief” about how we approach victims in our office. ■



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# Strength in Numbers

Drive to unionize the *Statesman* newsroom prevails

BY JOSE BENJAMIN MONTAÑO

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, the editorial staff at the *Austin American-Statesman* voted 36-12 to form a union, becoming the third unionized newsroom in Texas and the second, after *The Dallas Morning News*, to do so through an election overseen by the **National Labor Relations Board**. (The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*'s newsroom union was voluntarily recognized by the paper's owners, the McClatchy Co.)

Last week's vote at the NLRB's regional office in Ft. Worth came two months after *Statesman* editorial employees first announced their desire to organize in December, and after the paper's owner, **Gannett Co.**, the largest newspaper publisher in the U.S., declined to recognize an Austin chapter of the **NewsGuild**. That union, based in Washington, D.C., represents 24,000 workers in media and journalism, including in other "right-to-work" states that discourage union organizing, at major papers like *The Arizona Republic* (also owned by Gannett), the *Miami Herald*, and *The Denver Post*.

The Austin NewsGuild includes employees at the *Statesman* below the rank of department editor, as well as employees of the **Austin Community Newspaper Group**, which publishes suburban newspapers such as the *Bastrop Advertiser* and *Westlake Picayune*. The journalists hope "to begin collective bargaining with management within two months," the *Statesman*

reported, after electing a union council and assembling a negotiation committee.

"We respect the decision by our colleagues," said *Statesman* Editor Manny García in a statement to Austonia. "We will continue to focus on our public service mission to serve our growing community." The vote occurred one day before the release of Gannett's quarterly financial report, which highlighted a "challenging 2020" and booked a \$122 million net loss even as the chain's revenues increased through further acquisitions.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has sent shock waves throughout the media industry, fur-

ther eroding advertising revenue that was already dwindling as **Facebook** and **Google** control ever-growing portions of the media marketplace. As corporate media owners – often at the behest of private-equity and venture-fund investors who take them over – consolidate operations and institute steep cuts, the hundreds of local newspapers owned by a handful of U.S. chains have been battered by the ripple effects.

But newsrooms across the country are taking decisive action to protect themselves. Just last Wednesday, the day of the *Statesman*'s ballot count (which still needs to be formally certified by the NLRB), the *Orange County Register* and 10 sister papers in Southern California also announced plans to unionize, citing years of gradual layoffs and the threat posed by the current owner, Alden Global Capital, a hedge fund known in the media industry as "the grim

reaper." On the same day, the NLRB ruled in favor of the Washington State NewsGuild's effort to consolidate four different McClatchy newsrooms in the state into one union drive, which is seeking the same voluntary recognition the parent company – which emerged from bankruptcy last fall – gave to the *Star-Telegram*.

At the *Statesman*, where the guild aims to bargain for better pay and benefit packages as well as new diversity policies, informal conversations about unionizing the newsroom have been happening for a while. The daily, which

began publishing in 1871, has spent the last few years in an unusually turbulent period of transformation.

For over four decades beginning in 1976, the *Statesman* operated under the ownership of Atlanta-based **Cox Media Group**, part of the sprawling media empire of the Cox family, worth more than \$20 billion. Cox put the *Statesman* up for sale in 2008 but withdrew it from the market the following year, citing a lack of suitable offers.

That, however, put the newsroom and the city on notice, and in 2018 **New Media Investment Group**, parent company of **GateHouse Media**, bought the paper in a



The *Austin American-Statesman* office on South Congress

JANA BIRCUM

nearly \$48 million deal. Only a year later, GateHouse merged with Gannett, bringing the *Statesman* into a corporate family with more than 250 other newspapers. (Meanwhile, the Cox family retained ownership of the landmark *Statesman* property on Lady Bird Lake, poised for a major redevelopment that will earn them far more than they got for the paper itself. The *Statesman* is relocating to Southeast Austin's Met Center, near the airport.)

At the time of the deal, the two companies announced they would save more than \$300 million annually by seeking the sorts of "efficiencies" common in large mergers. A few months later, Gannett offered the *Statesman*'s entire staff voluntary severance packages, which many veterans decided to take; a few months after that, as the pandemic took hold, a nationwide round of layoffs at Gannett led to more losses in a newsroom whose journalists were already enduring furloughs.

Those who remained, such as courts and criminal justice reporter **Katie Hall**, a leader of the organizing effort, feared the voices of journalists were being ignored by the corporate owners, and the precarious situation brought on by the pandemic made it clear it would take forming a union for Gannett to grant them a seat at the table. "We are obviously aware of the state of the industry and we know that layoffs and budget cuts to some extent are a reality," Hall said. "But COVID-19 was a reminder of how the company can make unilateral decisions

without consulting its journalists, and that's not okay."

With most *Statesman* editorial work being done remotely, and as employees faced individual challenges amid the public health crisis, organizing efforts were challenging but constructive, allowing workers to "touch base, get to know each other and the struggles we were going through ... better than we have ever before," Hall said. While her colleagues were generally supportive of the campaign, she noted that among workers used to asking probing questions, forming consensus meant "digging into the weeds" of the potential hurdles, disadvantages, and functions of a future union.

Compared to efforts in other cities where it owns papers, Gannett pushed back considerably less against the *Statesman* organizing drive, despite declining to recognize the union voluntarily, Hall told us. At the same time, "we're not doing anything radical by unionizing. It's a right that we have, and in my opinion we're leaving money on the table as employees if we don't take advantage of it." She wishes Gannett had been more supportive (the company has never recognized a union without an election) and doesn't think the *Statesman*'s drive has changed how Gannett feels about labor rights, "but I think that they've accepted that it's happening and they can't stop it."

The *Chronicle* has reached out to Gannett for its reaction to the NLRB vote, but has not received a statement at press time. ■



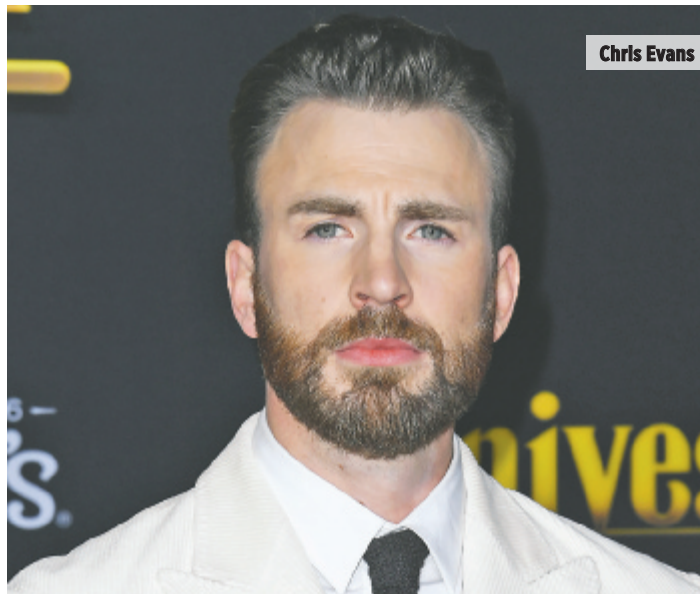
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**SXSW EDU Online  
keynote speaker  
Oprah Winfrey**



PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAYMER



**Chris Evans**

PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF / GETTY IMAGES

# Zombies, Oprah, and Zoom, South By!

2021 SXSW EDU Online Expands Its Scope **BY CLARA ENCE MORSE**

After the complete cancellation of Austin's homegrown **South by Southwest** last spring, including the education-exclusive forum **SXSW EDU**, this year's **SXSW EDU Online** roars back for a digital-only experience. The three-day lineup – next Tuesday through Thursday, March 9-11 – features the traditional curation of celebrities, ed techies, education journalists, and other leaders in the education industry. This year, organizers added dozens of panels dedicated to the response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, which has reshaped nearly every aspect of American education.

Headliners include big-name celebrities like featured speaker **Chris Evans**, the *Captain America* star who recently co-launched a video-based civics engagement website dubbed “A Starting Point,” and keynote

speaker **Oprah Winfrey**, who will discuss the ramifications of childhood trauma with child psychologist Dr. **Bruce Perry** in a Tuesday opening keynote conversation.

In addition to celebrity-led presentations, attendees can seek out discussions, presentations, Q&As, and film screenings across eight broad tracks covering equity and justice, emerging tech, and the future of work, among other topics. Panels tackle topics of heated discussion both in Austin and across the U.S., including innovative methods for expanding broadband internet access, practical advice for creating an anti-racist classroom, and critically assessing the “Hollywood” ideal of college – a romanticized version of higher ed that fails to reflect today's growing majority of working or financially dependent college students.

Virtual learning, of course, is one of the most prescient current topics in the education industry. As many parents, teachers, and students have grappled with navigating the digital classroom (and graduates wonder how on earth anybody manages to learn anything over Zoom), EDU Online embraces a variety of responses to the challenge. Practical panels on teaching topics like computer science and data abound; advice for frazzled parents is there too, with sessions like “Building a Home-School Connection: Lessons Learned.” Taking pandemic response in a different direction, however, one session, “Why Teach Kids About Zombies and Superheroes,” looks to a more supernatural apocalypse. Led by a Harvard professor, the panel encourages professors to “#teachaboutzombies,” in part as a way to alleviate Zoom fatigue.

Austin's education community – or the edu-curious – will recognize some topics that reflect the local response to education during the COVID-19 crisis. Last November, the **Austin Independent School District** lost some 5,000 students from its projected enrollment in the pandemic fallout – some transferred, some simply dropped off the map, and some joined small “micro-schools,” also known as “learning pods.” “Offline and Left Behind,” which features 2016 presidential candidate **Jeb Bush** (and which festgoers might also recognize from “please clap” fame), will center around the learning lost due to uneven internet infrastructure. On the other hand, “Do Pods & Public Schools Have to Be at Odds?” will examine the effects of learning pods on public schools and discuss potential solutions to making pods more equitable.

Finally, after a national reckoning with continued systemic racism in the wake of George Floyd's murder, SXSW EDU Online devotes over a dozen sessions to discussing racism in the classroom, how to support Black students, and **anti-racist classroom environments**. Panels range from promoting the power of Black moms to reimagining financial education as a way to promote equity. One Wednesday session examines one of the grossest injustices in public schools to come to light, in a district which serves over 80% Black students. “Detroit Speaks: Reclaiming the Right to Literacy” features a seventh-grade student and two employees of the **Detroit Public School Community District**, which received a multimillion-dollar settlement last year after students from some of Detroit's lowest-performing public schools successfully sued the state of Michigan for denying their right to literacy. Panelists will discuss the district's skyrocketing literacy test scores in the wake of the lawsuit.

In short, people from zombie enthusiasts to equity advocates to ed-tech geeks should be able to find a panel for them at SXSW EDU Online this year. ■

**Find details on passes (\$139), lineup, and more at [www.sxswedu.com](http://www.sxswedu.com), and follow our SXSW 2021 coverage at [austinchronicle.com/sxsw](http://austinchronicle.com/sxsw).**

## What and Where: Nine Panels to Catch at SXSW EDU Online

**Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Bruce Perry In Conversation, Tue., 9:30am:** “Ms. Winfrey and Dr. Perry will discuss their forthcoming book, *What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing*.”

**Offline & Left Behind: The Lost Generation, Tue., 11am:** “The digital divide compounds structural disadvantages of race and poverty, and is the critical educational issue of our time.”

**The ‘Klds’ Aren’t Alright: Reinventing Higher Ed, Tue., 12:30pm:** “For too long, we’ve romanticized the ‘Hollywood’ version of college. But the majority of today's students work while in school, half are financially dependent, and a quarter are parents. Traditional higher ed isn’t designed to serve these students and it shows.”

**Why Teach Students About Zombies & Superheroes, Tue., 12:30pm:** “Learn how and why an innovative public policy educator features superheroes and a zombie apocalypse in his teaching.”

**Building a Home-School Connection: Lessons Learned, Wed., 11am:** “Building a home-school connection, especially during a time when parents are the main essential link from schools to students.”

**Connected In Class: A Starting Point & Close Up, Wed., 11:30am:** “The imperative for civic engagement and bipartisanship has never been more urgent. The Close Up Foundation and Chris Evans’ A Starting Point have teamed up to create ASP HOMEROOM, an educational civic engagement portal.”

**Detroit Speaks: Reclaiming the Right to Literacy, Wed., 2:30pm:** “Hear from a Detroit student, teacher, and leader about the powerful new literacy curriculum, professional learning, and vision that are transforming Detroit schools into engines for equity.”

**EduCast: Legacy Tech Is a Bridge to Broadband, Thu., 10:30am:** “Traditionally used for public safety, datacasting is now being used to deliver instructional content to students with broadband challenges. This session will discuss the pilot projects while facilitating conversations around access, equity, and decreasing the digital divide.”

**Do Pods & Public Schools Have to Be at Odds?, Thu., 4pm:** “Could this COVID-19 trend emerge as a long-term solution for improving educational outcomes?”

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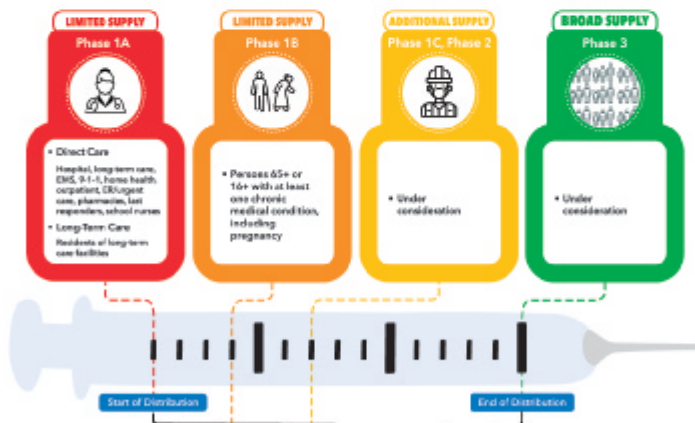


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JOHN ANDERSON

# Power to the People?

“Strong-mayor” proposal divides Austin’s progressives

BY LINA FISHER

The upcoming May 1 special election provides Austinites with an opportunity to fundamentally change the structure of city government. To some, these changes are revolutionary advances toward a more robust local democracy; to others, they threaten to cause a catastrophic collapse of Austin’s current progressive consensus. Either way, a very big deal.

Five of the eight city propositions on the May 1 ballot – Propositions D through H – are charter amendments that began life last July in the mind of Andrew Allison, a local entrepreneur with previous lives as an attorney and political speechwriter. That was at the peak of public outcry against Austin police Chief Brian Manley for (among a slew of other missteps) the Austin Police Department’s gross mishandling of the May 31 Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality, sparked by the kill-

ings of George Floyd in Minneapolis and, a month earlier, Mike Ramos here in Austin.

Those events led many Austinites to learn, and then to deplore, the fact that bureaucratic civil service protections in Texas state law make it impossible to simply fire the police chief. Instead, Manley could only be demoted to his prior position (he was chief of staff to his predecessor Art Acevedo, so No. 2 in the department). That action could only be taken by City Manager Spencer Cronk, who refused to demote Manley despite a unanimous City Council vote expressing “no confidence” in APD

leadership. This led to calls for Council to fire Cronk, which it likewise refused to do.

The anger and frustration felt by Austinites seeking change found a ready outlet in the charter amendment package proposed by Allison’s group, a political action committee known as Austinites for Progressive Reform. The campaign’s four proposals – which turned into five propositions on the ballot – were positioned as all serving a common goal: making Austin “the most pro-democracy city in the country.” Implementing public campaign financing, eliminating run-offs by adopting ranked choice voting, and shifting the mayor’s term to coincide with presidential rather than midterm elections are all conceived as ways to ensure the choice of the city’s elected leadership is being made by as many people as possible.

It’s APR’s fourth proposal that has gripped the fevered interest of local politi-

cos: creating a “strong mayor” with many of the executive duties, such as hiring and firing the police chief, that now belong to the city manager. Most cities in Texas, and many throughout the U.S., are “council-manager” cities, structured as corporations in which the council is the board of directors, the mayor is the chairperson of that board, and the city manager is the chief executive.

But most large cities in the U.S., including Houston in Texas, have a “mayor-council” form of government that mirrors those of the states and nation: The (strong) mayor is the chief executive like the governor or president, and the city’s department heads are members of the cabinet whom the mayor can hire and fire, while the city council is the local legislature. (The third main form of local government in the U.S. is the “commission” style – as is used by all of Texas’ 254 counties – in which the elected officials are both the legislature and the executive branch.)

Austin started as strong-mayor when incorporated in 1839, then went to a commission in 1908, then went to council-manager in 1924, an arc traveled by a lot of cities, including Houston before it abruptly changed back to strong-mayor in 1947. Doing the same thing in Austin has been cocktail party fodder within local political circles for ages, but has never been put before the voters until now. (Dallas has voted it down twice since 2000. El Paso in 2004 went the other way and became a council-manager city.)

Most Austin progressive groups express no qualms about the other APR reform proposals, but strong-mayor – now Prop F – has provoked intense opposition that may be beyond what Allison’s earnest good-government backers anticipated. Moving a lot of power away from Council – now, finally, representative of all of Austin since the overwhelming vote in 2012 to create the 10-1 district system – into the hands of a strong mayor could take away the Eastern Crescent’s hard-fought seat at the table. Some progressive leaders who originally participated in the APR steering committee that wrote the amendments have since switched sides, now backing the election campaign against them.

## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

The most simple and elegant reform in APR’s package is moving the mayoral election to presidential years (Prop D) in an endeavor to allow the largest possible electorate to choose the city’s leader. While few progressives object to this, some have little faith that just moving the date will do much to transform the politics of mayoral elections, citing the money it takes to run citywide.

CONTINUED ON P.26

**Ultimately, the strong-mayor arguments hinge on a fundamental question that’s unanswerable on or before May 1: Will the mayor be good or bad?**

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**STRONG MAYOR** CONTINUED FROM P.24

It is, at a minimum, ironic that this question will be decided in an off-cycle special election that will likely see a small fraction of the voters who turned out last November. “I think it’s pretty disingenuous, when you have a group of people saying they want to move the mayor’s race ... but they’re doing this in a May ballot during a pandemic,” says Jeremy Hendricks with the Laborers’ International Union of North America 1095.

However, APR would not have been able to mount its campaign last year, as state law requires cities to wait two full years between charter amendments. And since APR proposed creating an 11th council district to replace the mayor’s vote – which Council split off as its own ballot measure, Prop G – it seemed timely to aim for now, when the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is assembling to redraw the council districts, a process also created by the 10-1 charter amendment in 2012. (Like the state, though, the ICRC is being held up by the greatly delayed delivery of data from the 2020 census.) State law requires Austin to use each year’s designated dates in May or November for its local elections.

Over a five-week period in September and October 2020, APR held 17 public meetings via Zoom, gathering input for its steering committee to use when drafting the amendment language that was in turn used to gather signatures from the 20,000-plus Austin voters needed to put it on the ballot. This campaign outreach, while extensive, is not enough to convince progressive advocates that APR’s package has buy-in from the community. Chas Moore of Austin Justice Coalition, an original member of the steering committee, released a statement Feb. 11 saying that though he personally believes in many aspects of the reforms, “I received a message from the community loud and clear: Austinites for Progressive Reform has not built the trust required to push forward transformative structural changes to our city charter with the kind of robust community support we need to see.”

**MORE POWER FOR EVERYONE?**

As APR backers see it, the package empowers the citizenry that gets to elect both the mayor and Council, each of which would gain more power over a City Hall that’s now led by staffers answerable only to Cronk. The mayor would appoint, and Council would confirm, the city attorney; Council would continue to hire and supervise the city clerk, city auditor, and municipal court clerk and judges. Other department heads – including the police chief – would serve at the mayor’s discretion. The mayor would develop the annual budget and present it for Council approval.

To supporters, this will result in more power to take action. “In Austin right now,



Nelson Linder

JANA BIRCHUM

**“10-1 was not meant to be a final system. We have to evolve to address the continuing issues that plague this city.”**

NELSON LINDER, CO-CHAIR OF APR LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

we need more committed leadership to address some of these issues like homelessness, police issues – to lead the way,” says Nelson Linder, co-chair of the leadership committee of APR and president of the local NAACP chapter. “Even if our mayor now can address that, he doesn’t have the authority to address it in terms of policy. There’s still gonna be a balance, but here the mayor will be in a position to [be] a chief executive. It’s really the constitutional model ... with the proper checks and balances.”

Advocates on both sides insist on the importance of those checks and balances, using our closest strong-mayor neighbor Houston as a cautionary tale. During the community engagement process, participants highlighted Mayor Sylvester Turner’s ongoing battle with the city’s firefighter union (there, as here, a much more progressive political force than its police counterpart) and his unwillingness to institute a

grace period on residential evictions early in the pandemic. In response to these concerns, APR crafted and has championed multiple differences between its model and that of Houston. Here, Council would continue to make appointments to city boards and commissions, including ones with sovereign authority like the Planning Commission, as well as the Civil Service Commission, responsible for hearing city employees’ labor concerns.

Perhaps most importantly, the mayor – who would not be a member of the council at all – can’t set the council agenda like Turner can in Houston. The current mayor pro tem position would become that of council president, chairing the meetings, and Council would control all lawmaking; once it approves an ordinance, the mayor would have 10 days to sign or veto it. That veto has become the most contentious aspect of the entire proposal.

In a report on its website, APR explains that “a majority of council districts are wealthier and less diverse than the city as a whole. The veto is therefore critical to preserving progressive and equitable government in the event of a council majority that is more conservative than the city as a whole.” (That is, assuming that the mayor is more progressive than Council.) Council can override the veto with 8 out of 11 votes (assuming passage of Prop G), which is not enough of a check on executive power for advocates from the labor community, among others.

**UNITING THE OTHER SIDE**

On Feb. 9, a coalition of labor unions gathered to protest outside City Hall with a 14-foot inflatable fat cat (“your next mayor”) in tow, holding a bag of money in one paw and a “veto” stamp in the other. Bo Delp, an

CONTINUED ON P.28

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**STRONG MAYOR** CONTINUED FROM P.26

organizer with UNITE HERE Local 23 who works in strong-mayor Southern cities (Houston, Atlanta, New Orleans) as well as Austin, led the event, joined by members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 520, Laborers' International Union of North America 1095, and Workers Defense Action Fund, among others.

Kathy Mitchell of Just Liberty, a member of the city's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force along with Moore, told the *Chronicle* at the rally that she was there in a personal capacity: "The veto is a non-starter for me." She said the move to 10-1 strengthened the voice of the Eastern Crescent and made it easier for "controversial" ideas like police reform to be seriously considered. "I believe that will always be controversial. And therefore we need to have a system that allows new ideas. But when you give the veto to the mayor, it means that a majority of members of Council can want a thing, and we don't get to have that thing."

Other high-profile criminal justice advocates like Moore and Chris Harris of Texas Applesed, both originally public supporters of APR, subsequently came out in opposi-

**“We need to have a system that allows new ideas. But when you give the veto to the mayor, it means that a majority of members of Council can want a thing, and we don't get to have that thing.”**

KATHY MITCHELL

tion as it became clear that the group had enough signatures to put its reforms on the ballot. Harris told the *Chronicle* in January that he supported the other three proposals, but that strong-mayor was just too much consolidation of power in the hands of one individual. "The overwhelming experience that the city has had with citywide elections is that they require a lot of money. And ultimately, that empowers people with money to have a lot of sway. It's ultimately too big of a risk to invest the power of a veto that requires eight council members to override it in the hands of a single city-wide elected official."

Selena Xie, president of the Austin Emergency Medical Services Association, was a participant in APR's steering committee efforts but also spoke at the labor rally. She told the *Chronicle* she broke with APR after she raised concerns from labor groups that it never addressed.

Other strong-mayor cities scare her because "when you go into a council member's office and try to voice your concerns, the first thing that council member will ask is, 'Where's the mayor on it?' And so you have to get the mayor's buy-in to move forward. Here, I've never been asked that question."

Bo Delp



JOHN ANDERSON

Xie also worries about the mayor's power to make department head appointments. "Here, we have a lot of [fire, police] chiefs that have been here a long time. And I think it's important that you don't have this constant turnover and you do have people that are chosen for their expertise, not because they were political supporters ... There is benefit in having people appointed by somebody who is apolitical."

Opposition to APR is also coalescing under the banner of Austin for All People,

a very different coalition of interests than the labor unions. Its volunteer co-chairs include the Rev. Joseph Parker, pastor of David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church; Mason Ayer, CEO of Kerbey Lane Cafe; and Jesus Garza, himself a former Austin city manager who went on to be a top executive at what is now Ascension Seton. Ayer told the *Chronicle* earlier this year that he was concerned that an inexperienced politician wouldn't be able to do the job of a professional city manager. In a January press release, Garza said the council-manager model had delivered results: "Over the past two decades, the people of Austin helped the city emerge as a global destination for job creation while maintaining its roots ... All of this was accomplished under a council-manager system of government, and while imperfect, it is a system that works."

Parker told the *Chronicle* in February, "My understanding is that, except for the cycle of elections, there's not much accountability on the one person who will occupy the place of mayor." And in the event of a strong mayor Austin doesn't like, "although in theory there can be a recall, we've never seen that happen ... and the damage that could be done over the time period of a mayor's term could be significant."

Ultimately, the strong-mayor arguments hinge on a fundamental question that's unanswerable on or before May 1: Will the mayor be good or bad? Opponents fear the worst: a Trumpian tyrant who stonewalls progressive causes and is only receptive to those who will reelect them. APR hopes for the best: a democratically accountable elected leader with the power to make big decisions that Austinites want made. "10-1

## What's on the May 1 Ballot?

VOTERS WILL DECIDE "STRONG-MAYOR" LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC CAMPING BAN, AND OTHER LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

The May 2021 special election will feature six citizen ballot measures. Proposition B was brought by a **Save Austin Now** citizen-initiated petition certified by the city clerk in February, while Propositions D through H are the result of a 2020 **Austinites for Progressive Reform** citizen-initiated petition. Propositions A and C were added to the ballot by Council. All but Prop B are charter amendments; the City Charter can only be amended by election every two years, so if any of these amendments pass, no others may be considered until 2023.

— Beth Sullivan

**Election day:** Saturday, May 1

**In-person early voting:** April 19-27

**Last day to register to vote:** Thursday, April 1

**Last day to request a ballot by mail:** Tuesday, April 20 (received by the county clerk, not postmarked)

**Prop A:** Charter amendment allowing the Austin Firefighters Association to force the city into binding arbitration if they reach an impasse in collective bargaining.

**Prop B:** Code amendment prohibiting public camping in addition to sitting or lying down on a public sidewalk or sleeping outdoors in and near Downtown and the UT-Austin area.

**Prop C:** Charter amendment permitting City Council to appoint or remove the director of the Office of Police Oversight.

**Prop D:** Charter amendment moving Austin's mayoral election to presidential election years.

**Prop E:** Charter amendment creating ranked choice voting for city elections. If passed, voters would rank candidates instead of voting for just one candidate.

**Prop F:** Charter amendment changing Austin's form of government from "council-manager" to "mayor-council," also known as "strong mayor." If passed, this would eliminate the city manager position; the mayor would not have a vote on Council but would have the authority to veto Council decisions.

**Prop G:** Charter amendment creating an 11th City Council district. Because the mayor would be rendered a nonvoting member of Council if Prop F passes (see above), an 11th single-member district was proposed in an effort to avoid potential 5-5 deadlocks on Council. However, because Prop G is a stand-alone proposition, it is not dependent on Prop F's passage or failure.

**Prop H:** Charter amendment creating a so-called "Democracy Dollars" public campaign finance program that would provide up to two \$25 vouchers to every registered voter, who could then contribute them to candidates for city office.

Follow the latest election news, including how to register to vote and apply for ballot-by-mail, at [austinchronicle.com/elections](http://austinchronicle.com/elections).

was not meant to be a final system,” says Linder. “We have to evolve to address the continuing issues that plague this city.”

### MORE MONEY, MORE CHOICES

Ranked choice voting (Prop E) would do something a lot of people can agree on – eliminating the run-off elections, featuring abysmally low turnout, currently required when no Council candidate earns more than 50% of the vote. Under RCV, instead of selecting one candidate, voters will rank all the options; on election night, working from the last-place finisher up, each contender’s first-choice votes are reallocated according to these preferences until one gets to 50%. As APR describes it on its website, RCV “enables the same electorate to participate in each round, makes sure winning candidates have broad support, lowers administrative costs, and disincentivizes negative campaigning (because successful candidates need to be ranked highly by their rivals’ supporters).”

State election law does not explicitly prohibit RCV, but when Austin considered adopting a similar proposal back in 2001, the idea was rejected in an opinion by then-secretary of state and now U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar. In this year’s 87th Texas Legislature, there are three bills (Senate Bill 537 and House Bills 117 and 740) filed to authorize RCV in local elections; the ballot language of Prop E says it’ll only take effect if allowed by state law, but APR says passing it now would smooth its path to adoption in the future.

As noted above, Council decided to split the proposed 11th Council district off from Prop F as a stand-alone ballot measure. To APR, creating the 11th district was a means to replace the strong mayor’s vote and avoid a deadlocked 5-5 Council in the future. Now, City Hall faces the prospect, should either Prop F or Prop G pass and the other fail, of not being able to break ties on the dais (either 5-5 or 6-6) making it more difficult for the majority to legislate. Any such stalemate would be in effect for at least two years before the city could once again amend its charter to resolve it. However, APR says there are reasons to vote for Prop G even if one doesn’t want to strengthen the mayor. As Austin has grown, more council districts could create an oppor-

tunity to elect more people of color, such as with an Asian American opportunity district in North and West Austin.

Then too, candidates in those future council districts might be able to make use of so-called “Democracy Dollars.” The public financing program proposed by APR (Prop H) is modeled on an existing system in Seattle; it would give each registered voter two \$25 vouchers to donate to a candidate of their choice. In a Medium article laying out his opposition to the APR package from Jan. 18, UNITE HERE’s Delp points out that the Seattle program, which is open to all residents and not just registered voters, includes parallel limits on campaign spending that the Austin one does not. He writes that “public money could subsidize an independently wealthy candidate’s campaign, even a billionaire’s campaign, and could help exacerbate our city’s existing inequality.”


Being open only to registered voters means that those unable to register – such as noncitizens or those formerly incarcerated – could not participate in the public financing system, although they’re able to make actual campaign contributions. While APR says the “Democracy Dollars” proposal was drafted to pass initial legal scrutiny by Texas courts and could be expanded once it’s adopted, not everyone thinks that’s enough. “I was a legal permanent resident, and it took me five years to become a citizen,” Monserrat Garibay, secretary-treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO – formerly an official with Education Austin, and now headed to D.C. to work in the Biden administration – told the

**“When this PAC tells everybody that they want to expand democracy, and the first thing they do is create a system that excludes immigrants who hold green cards or people who have been incarcerated – I think they ought to take a hard look in the mirror.”**


**BO DELP, ORGANIZER  
WITH UNITE HERE  
LOCAL 23**

*Chronicle* at the labor event in February. “I feel that if our communities live here, if they buy products here, if they pay rent here, they should have a voice in what happens in City Council. Because those things are going to have a big effect in their life every single day.”

Delp takes issue with the eligibility requirement as well. “When this PAC tells everybody that they want to expand democracy, and the first thing they do is create a system that excludes immigrants who hold green cards or people who have been incarcerated – I think they ought to take a hard look in the mirror.” ■



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## NAKED CITY

BY THE CHRONICLE  
EDITORIAL STAFF**Bored, Unemployed, and Extremely Online: Textile Artist Odalys Vargas Finds the Silver Linings**

From the flock of yarn loops that build a tufted rug, a psychedelic image emerges; A clear cup tips over, spilling its contents into a hot pink orb, checkerboard-printed liquid filling the round cavity. This piece, like all of Odalys Vargas' textile art, extends into another dimension, existing somewhere beyond earthly constraints.

Odd Rugs, Vargas' textile art brand, leans into bright colors and amorphous blobs. "Someone described it really well," Vargas says. "They were like, 'This looks like what I see when I close my eyes in the dark and look at my eyelids for too long.'" Typically under six square feet, her rugs serve more as wall hangings than floor mats: something to be cherished, not tread on.

The Texas State graduate worked as a social media manager until she was laid off last June, months into the global pandemic. Like many young professionals dropped from their office jobs, the 23-year-old found herself bored, unemployed, and extremely online – fertile ground for a new hobby to sprout.

In July, Vargas and her roommate explored tufting after stumbling across videos of the artform online. She picked up a tufting needle and learned the ropes from Instagram and YouTube tutorials. Soon, she transitioned to a tufting gun, and by August, her self-taught quarantine hobby was something more. The textile artist decided to sell her pieces and take commissions via an Instagram account, and Odd Rugs (@odd.rugs) was born.

Tufting is not an artform easily undertaken. "This is such a long process that you kind of have to go all in," Vargas says. It requires a wooden frame to hold a cloth canvas taut, but they aren't widely available to purchase; Vargas built one herself. A tool, either a manual punch needle or a time-saving tufting gun, is needed to weave yarn in and out of the canvas, creating a carpet's swarm of loops. Glue and a fabric backing lock the loops in place, while edge binding finishes off the project. Though it depends on size and intricacy, her rugs take about three weeks to make, and since her three frames can only hold one piece at a time, she has to finish those in the frame before she can start the next. "It's quite a process, honestly, but it's very rewarding."

Odd Rugs soon moved beyond Vargas' friends and quickly cozied into the feeds of those who admired her work. Now, she has over 3,000 followers on Instagram. Vargas says that despite her virtual presence, the account maintains a local spirit: "It feels really personal, because I know a lot of those people and then, even if I don't really know them, I know how they got to me."

Resembling fuzzy collages, Vargas' pieces look as if multiple tiny rugs coincidentally latched together; the holes that remain are intentional. "I really like feeling things," Vargas says. "So I think it's really satisfying to feel the art and really cut into it and make it three dimensional." Squares and circles are often requested in commissions, but the artist prefers rugs with less geometric bounds, like a dusty rose cowboy hat or a warm lava lamp. A more arresting work, "Black of All Colors," exhibits the faces of four Black women whose varying skin tones escape the lines meant to hold them. The piece was sold at Martha's Contemporary in November.

Living off rug sales and leftover savings, Vargas has a lot of time to explore her craft when she's not roller skating, her outdoor activity of choice. In her seven months of tufting, the artist has translated her work to other formats, creating a gem-covered, thin-striped purse with wooden handles and tufted knob covers for her own dresser. Now, she's working on a carpeted addition to the back of her denim jacket.

As a self-described artistic flake, Vargas has always considered herself creative but couldn't find her niche before tufting. "This has been a great way for me to really accept my creative side and value it more," Vargas says. "I can take myself more seriously now that I feel like I've found something I'm passionate about."

Odd Rugs' bubbly abstraction of reality is often anything but serious, but Vargas' asymmetrical edges and round shapes reveal a certain care for space and what exists in it. Even when she's creating a rug based on something tangible, like a gummy bear or cartoonish mushrooms, her whimsical energy pervades, each work strung together by silver linings.

– Laiken Neumann

Odalys Vargas



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Blackillac  
Deezie Brown  
Kydd Jones  
The Teeta

## BEST TEXAS RECORDINGS

### ALBUM OF THE YEAR

(SPONSORED BY REAL ALE BREWING CO.)

#### Jackie Venson, *Vintage Machine*

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

### SONG OF THE YEAR

(SPONSORED BY REAL ALE BREWING CO.)

#### Heartless Bastards, "Revolution"

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

### VIDEO OF THE YEAR

(SPONSORED BY REAL ALE BREWING CO.)

#### Annabelle Chairlegs, "Outside" [Dir. Vanessa Pla]

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

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Kevin Connor  
Aaron "Fresh" Knight  
Taylor Wallace

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Antone's Records  
BLK Vinyl  
Breakaway Records  
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### RECORDING STUDIO

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King Electric  
The Orb  
Public Hi-Fi

## BEST 2020

### BEST NONPROFIT

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#### HAAM Day

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

### BEST 2020-THEMED SONG

(SPONSORED BY PRECISION CAMERA)

#### Shinyribs, "Stay Home"

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

### BEST INNOVATION / BUSINESS PIVOT

(SPONSORED BY BECKY BEAVER)

#### Love & Lightstream drive-ins

ACL Live week of weddings  
Emo's election polling station  
Mobley's curbside tour  
Mosaic Sound Collective's livestream facility

### MUSICIAN WHO WENT ABOVE & BEYOND

(SPONSORED BY THE SOUP PEDDLER)

#### Jackie Venson

Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone  
Adrian Quesada  
Nakia Reynoso  
Charlie Sexton

## BEST VIRTUAL

### BEST VIRTUAL EVENT

(SPONSORED BY WEIRD HOMES TOUR)

#### Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic

*A Night for Austin*  
*Black Everythang Matters*  
*Blues on the Screen*  
*HOME Cookin' for the Holidays*

### BEST ONLINE SERIES

#### Shakey Graves Presents Hello Gorgeous

*Bud's Presents Live & Direct*  
*Hotel Vegas' Hotel Free TV*  
*Lost Well's Rock for Rent Safehouse*

### BEST LIVESTREAMING ARTIST

(SPONSORED BY LUXE REFILL)

#### Jackie Venson

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

## AUSTIN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

(SPONSORED BY STRAIT MUSIC COMPANY)

#### Iron Age

James Hand  
Erik Hokkanen  
Tee Double  
Texana Dames



# WINNER WAGON

The 2020-2021 Austin Music Awards came bearing a pandemic stimulus **BY KEVIN CURTIN & RAOUL HERNANDEZ**

Not throwing an epic wing-ding after the dreadful and disillusioning last 12 months remains a bitter pill to pop. This community deserves one. That said, not having an in-person Austin Music Awards is a no-brainer. No tradition's worth risking the health of people we care about – not even a homegrown legacy show.

So instead of orchestrating a diminished version of something we've done for 39 consecutive years, the *Chronicle* decided on something completely different: bringing the AMAs to the winners.

In an homage to the Publishers Clearing House Prize television commercials from decades ago, we transformed a 1995 Dodge band van into a "Winner Wagon" and surprised the top vote-getters of the 2020-2021 Austin Music Poll at their homes. Like the old-school Prize Patrol, we presented folks with comically oversized checks.

That decision arose from the knowledge that musicians in our community have

weathered a financially forsaken existence over the last year. AMA honors never came with money, but we believe honorees of every walk need to keep the lights on even if the state can't. Our own creative venture here at the paper suffered like everything else in the pandemic, but sponsors allowed us to accompany each of the 20 awards and one Hall of Fame induction with \$500.

And anyway, isn't it everyone's dream to stand there on camera holding a giant check?

Minor stimulus aside, the Austin Music Awards remain an endeavor of thanking, honoring, and recognizing individuals and groups who make community-binding art. Probably like us, you've had your fill of "unprecedented" times and can't wait to return to warranted life. Expect next year's AMAs to be a proper hug-it-out festivity.

For now, we celebrate the 2020-2021 winners who'll stand forever as those who emerged triumphant in a year like no other. ■

CHECK OUT ALL THE WINNERS ON P.34



Emcee Kevin Curtin behind the wheel



Shakey Graves receives the award for Best Online Series



Shinyribs receives the award for Best 2020-Themed Song



Black Pumas receive the award for Band of the Year

PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## BLACK PUMAS *BAND OF THE YEAR*

How high up in the stratosphere can one Austin group ascend? Sky's the limit for the Black Pumas.

The local soul-rock septet, energized by the electric emotion of singer Eric Burton, became ubiquitous enough on 2020's national stage that when they were heard in a Super Bowl commercial collaborating with Lucius on a cover of the Kinks' classic "Strangers" it came as a shock to absolutely no one. Only getting booked to play the actual halftime show could up the ante at this juncture.

Pandemic hit the three-year-old band particularly hard, nixing international travel and a sold-out four-night May run at Stubb's Waller Creek Amphitheater that totaled over 9,000 tickets, a historic and unparalleled local feat. Their momentum carried over into remote performances as guests on late night shows and a virtual appearance from ACL Live on the Biden/Harris inauguration telecast. Although they lost out on last year's Best New Artist Grammy to Billie Eilish, the deluxe reissue of their 2019 self-titled debut elicited three nominations for the forthcoming ceremony: Album of the Year, Record of the Year, and Best American Roots Performance, the latter two relating to their anthem "Colors."

In other words, Black Pumas posted a third straight monumental year in a 12-month span no one else would dare call "monumental."

Burton, Adrian Quesada, Stephen Bidwell, Brendan Bond, Lauren Cervantes, JaRon Marshall, and Angela Miller collected Austin Music Award honors along the way. 2018 saw them win Best New Band and perform at the show. Last year, they took home Band of the Year as well as Best Soul/R&B.

A rare feat: Austin's favorite band overlapping with one of America's favorite new bands. Enjoy it. — Kevin Curtin



Jackie Venson's *Austin City Limits*  
Live taping in October

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## JACKIE VENSON

- MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR
- ALBUM OF THE YEAR (*VINTAGE MACHINE*)
- MUSICIAN WHO WENT ABOVE + BEYOND
- BEST LIVESTREAMING ARTIST

Jackie Venson personifies perseverance by relentlessly ascending the music industry's creaky, overcrowded, and failing ladder.

The Northwest Austin native undoubtedly "Went Above & Beyond" during a year defined by despair and death. Unable to cast her trademark joy on physical audiences due to pandemic, the ever resourceful independent artist maintained a virtual presence at every juncture of 2020 (archived on Instagram @JackieVenson). This ray of light in a disaster area, presented free of charge, makes her the rightful and inaugural title holder of Best Livestreaming Artist.

Two volumes as Jackie the Robot zoom the former blues ensemble bandleader past even her pivot to a self-sampling solo multitasker and catapult the guitarist into future worlds, yet it's October's *Vintage Machine* that travels the furthest among a whopping five releases in 2020. Her third studio album delivers a batch of good vibrations creeping closer to pop without sacrificing instrumental virtuosity. Opener "Awake" explains its creator's commitment to fulfilling the dreams of her father Andrew Venson, former bassist of Austin R&B act Blue Mist.

Across 33 minutes, *Vintage Machine* journeys autobiographically, so musically that yields uplifting vibes in a downbeat year.

2020 feels like a seed for Austin's ever popularizing hometown hero. Rising star these past several years, her wicked guitar solos and radiating glow got everyone to take notice, but this contemporary era of stark division absolutely uncovered in Venson a palpable hunger to fight. Increasingly, she uses her voice for change – refusing to halt or conform.

"Instead of being silent, today I'm going to demand that my city, Austin, Texas, be better," Venson tweeted on June 2. "I hope you still believe Black lives matter when you're choosing lineups for the major Austin concert events and festivals, when you're picking out music and songs for your radio shows, when you're doing artist spotlights."

Strong billing greeted her on the livestream edition of ACL Radio's Blues on the Green, but she took a defiant stand for further diversity and wound up curating an all-Black *Blues on the Screen* herself in July. Venson performed only briefly during R&B singer Alesia Lani's set.

In November, she remedied that by debuting on PBS live concert long hauler *Austin City Limits* with an incredibly bold statement. A black dress stenciled with the names of 73 victims of police brutality reaffirmed the priorities of the only Black woman to win an Austin Music Award for Best Guitarist (2019). In the midst of actualizing a lifelong goal, she once again diverted attention to people in need.

Time to eliminate "rising" before "star." Jackie Venson is Austin's Musician of the Year.

— Derek Udensi

CONTINUED ON P.36



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



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JOHN ANDERSON

## MAGNA CARDA

### HIP-HOP ARTIST OF THE YEAR

“I use my lungs to rap y’all – simply can’t risk that.”

That’s Megz Kelli on Twitter last summer shutting down Magna Carda’s live performances. Even so, her acclaimed rapper/producer duo with Dougie Do now bags Austin’s Hip-Hop Band of Year for the fourth consecutive year. The young, Black, and gifted pair stood amongst the tallest in an unprecedented year for Austin and the rest of the globe.

Amid COVID-19 precautions, the group utilized the musical downtime to turn up efforts in needed areas, including the Music Commission and the Black Austin Musicians’ Collective. Kelli used her lungs to breathe life into a new project, developing and producing a substantial new literary magazine, *Water*, now on its second issue. They were consistently vocal following the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

And let’s not forget the music.

Following a loosie single dropped in March (“Untitled”), the duo released *Coffee Table Talk, Vol. 2* last April, a brief but potent meditation on Blackness, jazz and Black classicism, and neo-soul offerings. Producer Chris Beale says a brand-new full-length is on the way, which he reveals took “most of the last year” to finish: “We’re just adding the final [post-production] spices now. The new project is my favorite album personally so far.”

– Kahron Spearman

## DAVID RAMIREZ

### SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

No local artist built as steadily to earn an Austin Music Award for Songwriter of the Year than David Ramirez, and 2020’s *My Love Is a Hurricane* finally sealed the honor for the raw and real troubadour. The Houston native writes with unrivaled emotional grit, fearless in confronting his own doubts and struggles with a powerfully poetic lens that first found footing on 2015’s third album *Fables*, then upended behind the biting brilliant *We’re Not Going Anywhere* in 2017.

*Hurricane* swirls altogether differently again, though, bound to a relationship and self-revelations that emerged within it.

“I’d always thought my loneliness and depression was fueling all this music,” Ramirez confessed to the *Chronicle* in July. “Then I opened myself up to this woman like I never had before and found I’m still able to stumble upon songs that have richness and story. That made me realize I didn’t need to be sad or an alcoholic to write something that I found to be beautiful.”

The songs still storm amid Ramirez’s anxieties, but the underlying anchor keeps new balance, the songwriter rising beyond his own agonies and ecstasies. Once again, Ramirez proves one of Austin’s most provocative and constantly evolving songwriters.

– Doug Freeman



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## HEARTLESS BASTARDS SONG OF THE YEAR ("REVOLUTION")

A triptych of wistful nostalgia, prophetic counsel, and a requiem for the modern age, "Revolution" triumphs into a six-minute spiritualist wonder. Marking the Heartless Bastards' return after six years following *Restless Ones* in 2015, the standalone single came out via Austin imprint Spaceflight Records on July 3, with a portion of proceeds going to ACLU. The downtempo rumination on greed and loss of innocence coupled with melancholic acoustics combust into a supernova as Lauren Gurgiolo's ricocheting six-string and Kevin Ratterman's palpating

drums give into the hypnotic mantra, "The revolution is in your mind."

"'Revolution' is a reminder to myself to avoid playing the game as much as I can," revealed the Austinites' lead powerhouse and the song's author and oracle Erika Wennerstrom on Instagram. "I don't need this and I don't need that. The marathon everybody is running is exhausting."

In the dying moments of the song, Wennerstrom's central question – "Where are you going my friend, have you forgotten when there was a time filled with hope instead of fear that's in your heart?" – hangs in the air. Her answer is our answer.

– Alejandra Ramirez

CONTINUED ON P.38



POP STUNNA

## TRENCHES

PRESENTED BY  
SPACEFLIGHT RECORDS

Check out Austin-based artist **Pop Stunna's** new single "Trenches," from his upcoming album *The Bachelor*, due to release **May 21!**

**TRENCHES** is available now on all streaming platforms:



Apple Music



amazon music

You can also connect with Pop Stunna on Instagram and Twitter to keep tabs on all the amazing stuff he has in store this year:

 : @popstunna

 : @popdpopstunna

 : Pop Stunna



## ANNABELLE CHAIRLEGS VIDEO OF THE YEAR ("OUTSIDE")

Written years ago when singer Lindsey Mackin began performing in Austin, the ambient anxiety of Annabelle Chairlegs' sophomore LP *Gotta Be in Love* was predetermined long before the pandemic. Maybe the surfy, jittery set of forceful rock songs, particularly "Outside," held out for such isolated circumstances. As a *Jetsons*-ish cosmonaut sealed in a bubble helmet, Mackin opens ominously: "If you're gonna go outside, should I warn you? 'Cause if you're gonna go outside, they will harm you."

Known for diaphanous scenes, local director Vanessa Pla shared the short's extraterrestrial inspiration via Instagram: "[Lindsey] and I spent months talking about our weird surreal ideas. When COVID hit, the lyrics made more sense to

us than ever and inspired us to create a world of our own."

Sci-fi styled in pastels, Mackin breaks through walls and peers out windows. Trekking through whimsical scenes of flowers and floating goldfish, the looming monster never appears. Bassist Derek Vaughan Nunez Strahan and drummer Billy Wong appear only as floating heads in jars, a clever coronavirus precaution.

The full "Outside" crew includes Zach Morrison, Mackenzie McMahon, Tiger Hill, Andy Hoffman, Jackson Montgomery Schwartz, Kevin Baker, Jordan Langmore, Noah Goodman, and Dave Wolfe. Enjoy more of Pla's work in a recent series for Tele Novella, as well as Chairlegs' "Candy Apple Red." — Rachel Rascoe

## CHICKEN RANCH RECORDS BEST LOCAL LABEL

Chicken Ranch Records owner Mike Dickinson told *Chronicle* writer Greg Beets in a 2007 profile he preferred "eclectic music."

"I like bands that aren't afraid to do their own thing," admitted the affable record man.

That's certainly what he had in mind when he moved the label with him to Austin in 1996, two years after its start in his native Ruston, La. Back then, he merely envisioned putting out wax by the punk band he drummed for, the Habitual Sex Offenders.

"We basically just wanted to put out a record with our name on it," he said. "Then it became a real label."

Austin's self-proclaimed "sixth most popular indie label" kept busy since, issuing all manner of solid senders. Recent releases include the superb live Townes Van Zandt sampler, *Somebody Had to Write It*; contemporary country troubadour Chris Canterbury, including his exceptional 2017 LP *Refinery*

*Town*; the debut "Voice of Memphis" 45 from tragedy-stricken Afropunk colossus Negro Terror; a live LP cut at Sun Studios by hillbilly punk terrorists the Legendary Shack Shakers; and several releases apiece from twin signature acts: Japanese cartoon punks Peeland-Z and cabaret rockers Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5. — Tim Stegall



## KUTX 98.9FM

BEST RADIO STATION

## Laurie Gallardo

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY

"Connection."

So resounded Laurie Gallardo's one-word explanation for radio. Graciously coiffed, eyes alight, protective tenor bobbing, weaving, and jabbing same as it transmits Monday-Thursday, 1-5pm, on KUTX 98.9FM, the afternoon deejay sent a depth charge through the early morning UT class this January.

Goosing Zoom constitutes a near miracle in our new day and age, but Gallardo crackled and popped for a journalism course titled *Covering Performance*, which in-person should've met three floors above where she broadcasts. Most college students can't name more than a couple of Beatles tunes

since they're busy standardizing tomorrow's trends today, but they knew her. Via a technological beacon still integral to mankind — particularly in a disaster area — we all do.

Anchoring the days and weeks and now years since KUTX's 2013 musical spinoff from university frequency KUT, Susan Castle and Jody Denberg helped make KGSR "The Sound of Our Town." That transferred with them on-campus where they mix and match with Paul Carrubba, Michael Crockett, Jay Trachtenberg, Taylor Wallace-Riegel, Confucius & Fresh, Soundfounder, and many more as the capital's BBC, an all-in-one transmitter. In September, when Wallace took over for local radio superstar John Aielli and Gallardo returned on-air after a pandemic pause, KUTX restored at least one key tributary of the live music capital.

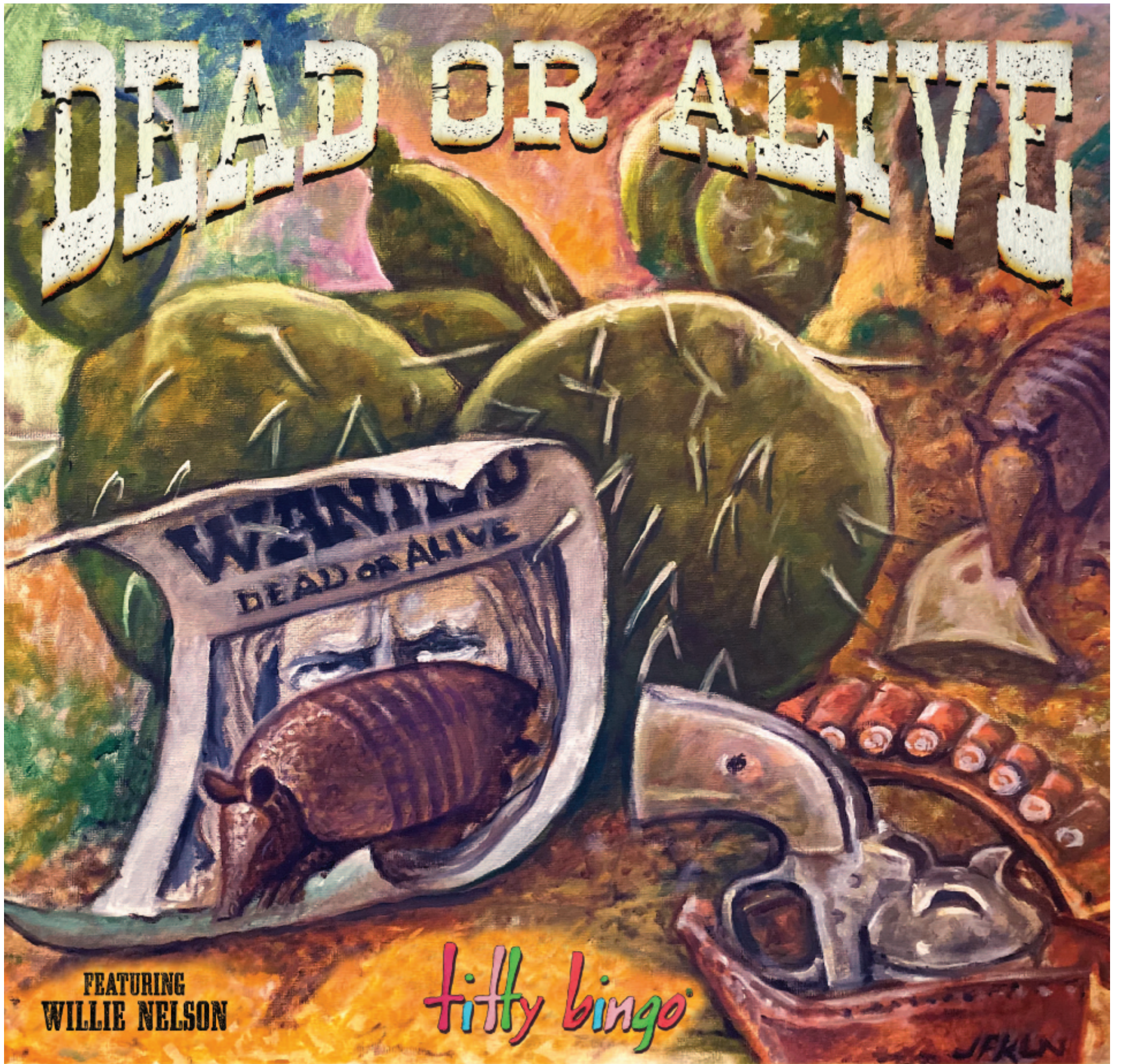
For the latter, winner of Best Radio Personality for five straight years now, "Connection" isn't simply a 1967 Rolling Stones ripper.

— Raoul Hernandez

CONTINUED ON P.40



JOHN ANDERSON



FEATURING  
WILLIE NELSON

titty bingo



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## WATERLOO RECORDS

### BEST RECORD STORE

March 11, 2020, Austin Music Awards night at the Moody Theater: Waterloo Records takes home Best Record Store as it has every single year since the category debuted on the Austin Music Poll in 1982. To many that Wednesday evening, the show proved their final live musical attendance for the year. Five days after Mayor Steve Adler and South by Southwest dropped the news heard around the world (“canceled”), the event also provided a novel excuse for at least one attendee to stop at the actual store on the way home from another history-books ATX prom night.

Forty-eight hours later, the city shut down.

Like other fundamentalists around the capital – Antone’s, Breakaway, End of an Ear, Half Price Books, et al. – the ‘Loo initiated curbside service faster than a 45 spins. Soon, even that seemed unsafe: “We were doing curbside service until we thought it safer for our staff and customers to just close,” wrote in one manager.

Back up and running shortly thereafter, the music emporium spearheaded a local council of record stores, which decided to stay closed even after state government lied over and over again about gathering safely. Only on Sept. 7 did that aforementioned panic drop-in become the beta testing appointment shopper at the Sixth & Lamar landmark.

Since then, I’ve been back to stock up on further essentials. Call them the bare necessities.

– Raoul Hernandez

## ARLYN STUDIOS

### BEST RECORDING STUDIO

Yes, Arlyn Studios boasts immaculate microphones, amps, audio gear, and a behemoth mixing board born out of grafting the vintage Neve from Willie Nelson’s Pedernales Studio with an equally covetable API console. Still, glorious equipment alone doesn’t make a studio special. Environment, space, vibe all add up to magic.

The 7,000-sq.-ft. space on Academy Drive, occupying onetime Austin Opera House territory, remains a creative nexus of South Austin: an elite facility that feels like a communal living room. The studio’s eminent enough for superstars from Foo Fighters to Frank Ocean to drop in, yet

accessible to homegrown artists working with Chief Engineer Jacob Sciba. Fans, meanwhile, witness intimate performances inside the homey Studio A: raging South by Southwest parties, nonprofit fundraisers, TV tapings from Willie Nelson and Gary Clark Jr. – the latter having recorded his last two albums there.

Arlyn’s a family affair for Freddy and Lisa Fletcher. Son of Sister Bobbie Nelson, Freddy spearheaded the facility in 1984 at the behest of his uncle Willie and named it after his father Arlyn “Bud” Fletcher. Following an Aughts-era lease to the Media Tech recording school, the studio reopened commercially in 2012 with partners Will Bridges and the late T. Murphey. A home for gold records past and future.

– Kevin Curtin



JOHN ANDERSON



IMAGE VIA LUCK.STREAM

## WILLIE NELSON’S 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC

### BEST VIRTUAL EVENT

Luck Presents, the production company of Matt Bizar and Willie Nelson’s grand-niece Ellee Fletcher Durniak, offered a path forward as one of the first organizations to reset to the new livestream reality for live music. The crew quickly adjusted with the March cancellation of their SXSW-adjacent Luck Reunion to present the virtual event ‘Til Further Notice and April’s Come & Toke It. The pinnacle followed when they ensured Willie’s annual 4th of July Picnic continued in a time of artistic and basic need.

Hosted hilariously haphazardly by Nelson scions Lukas and Micah from the Luck clubhouse at the family’s Spicewood

movie-set town, the event combined live performances with a Charlie Sexton-led backing band before a two-hour recorded finale of superstars and the Family Band closing out from the Pedernales Studio. Production leaned into the meta-moment, with Robert Earl Keen fronting the band virtually on a TV, creating a screen of a screen ... of a screen, while stage footlights reflected on the television as if it were all happening in real time.

Not without its glitches, the stream provided crucial continuity of tradition, with a homespun and creative twist that added a new element to Nelson’s hallowed show for fans.

– Doug Freeman



Shakey Graves at Love & Lightstream in November

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## SHAKEY GRAVES

*BEST ONLINE SERIES (SHAKEY GRAVES PRESENTS HELLO GORGEOUS)*

Shutdown caught Alejandro Rose-Garcia in the midst of building out his new studio, lovingly dubbed Hello Gorgeous just southeast of Austin in Goforth. He then took advantage of the moment to offer up a revealing, endearing series with his bandmates and crew as they establish their new musical sanctuary.

"This is me wanting to film walking into this new house ... and all the songs and moments and time I get to spend in this building and really bring these people I love into it and hopefully make some really weird magic happen," he allowed at the outset of the series in April.

Through three half-hour mini documen-

taries interspersed with a pair of livestream performances, the troubadour unfolds his aptly titled new EP *Look Alive*, while geeking out on his recording equipment and process, and presenting freaky music videos and stellar impromptu takes of songs. Behind-the-scenes footage of touring the U.S. pre-pandemic, from L.A. to Levon Helm's renowned *Midnight Ramble* in Woodstock, can't eclipse thoughtful, sincere commentary on music making, his DIY ethos, and even artistic hardships wrangled by the Austin emissary known to the world as Shakey Graves.

— Doug Freeman

CONTINUED ON P.42



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## SHINYRIBS *BEST 2020-THEMED SONG ("STAY HOME")*

As documented in the christening entry of the *Chronicle's* popular and populist pandemic series *Checking In* last year, COVID-19 hadn't fully revealed its hand before Shinyribs captain Kevin Russell spray-painted the writing on the wall himself. This week one year ago, South by Southwest canceled upon orders from city health officials and one week later all area schools shut down. Eleven days afterward, on March 24, 2020, the Austin Music Awards' Band of the Year in 2018 and 2019 Bandcamped a "musical message from Shinyribs to practice social distancing. And that you really don't need more TP."

Fundraising for the capital's Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM), the tune's pocket groove popped out a horn-schmeared toe tapper from your favorite Gulf Coast crab shack, seafood, and Mexican beer, all washed down in Russell's

soft-leather coo instantly bottling the melancholy of a distanced social species:

*"The bars are all closed,  
The hospitals are full.  
The churches are empty and the cafes, too.  
They say there's nothing we can do ... but stay home."*

The YouTube video, posted by the Texas Medical Association and titled "Shinyribs Band and Texas Physicians Say 'Stay Home!'," montages a literal visual to accompany Big Daddy's chill ditty, a single lending credence to the theory that some songs exist already and that their author merely shares them with the rest of us. Such is this sobering but uplifting reminder of the everyday heroism of local and statewide health care workers.

God bless them folks.

— Raoul Hernandez



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## LOVE & LIGHTSTREAM DRIVE-INS

### *BEST INNOVATION / BUSINESS PIVOT*

Drive-in concerts never showed up on the planner ... until pandemic hit.

Like many of 2020's philanthropic upstarts, Love & Lightstream's drive-in concert series reacted to COVID's near-obliteration of the homegrown music industry. Origin org Austin Love & Light planned a stacked local showcase at Scholz Garten during South by Southwest, and when everything canceled, the event pivoted to livestream-only, closed to the public.

Fast forward to August: The group relaunched as Love & Lightstream alongside production partners the Werd Company and announced a one-off drive-in music festival at Cedar Park's Haute Spot, 120-car cap, anchored by local heavyweights ...Trail

of Dead, Jackie Venson, and David Ramirez (all broadcast online). Safety protocols solidified and public interest piqued, so producers expanded to five consecutive weekends (Oct. 23-Nov. 15) starring more than 40 of ATX's finest, plus out-of-state notables like Mt. Joy and Lion Babe. With few (safe) in-person performances available and an altruistic angle to boot (shows benefited performers, Black Fret, HAAM, and Austin Justice Coalition), Love & Lightstream seeded hope during a bleak year and aided more than 100 essential music workers.

They've got more planned for 2021.

— David Brendan Hall

CONTINUED ON P.44



Best of Austin is Back.

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BALLOT ON P.9 AND ONLINE AT [VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM](http://VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM)

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## HEALTH ALLIANCE FOR AUSTIN MUSICIANS (HAAM)

- BEST NONPROFIT  
- BEST FUNDRAISING EFFORT  
(HAAM DAY)

In a year when canceled performances and venue shutters destabilized the so-called live music capital, the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians remains an argument for the latter to stick around. You play here, you live here, you get free or low-cost health insurance. The golden ticket is HAAM membership, open to any working musician, music teacher, or DJ living within 50 miles of the city.

Alongside the ability to sleuth out an in-network ophthalmologist for your favorite hypnagogic pop vocalist, the nonprofit stepped up offerings after the city called off South by Southwest. Within days, HAAM expanded assistance to food, rent, and prescriptions for the community in crisis – as if their legendary custom-fit earplugs weren't enough. The number of calls for assistance doubled, and Executive Director Reenie Collins brought in trauma training to help her small team endure the intensity.

In a spring survey of over 2,600 HAAM members, almost 80% of recipients said income losses due to the pandemic would

“drastically affect their ability to meet basic needs” in coming months. The dire results fueled emergency city funding. Leader Collins spoke with the *Chronicle* in September, ahead of annual HAAM Day, a concert fundraiser aired both online and on Fox 7 Austin, featuring Jack Ingram, Reckless Kelly, Asleep at the Wheel, Band of Heathens, Jackie Venson, Gina Chavez, and more.

“The calls [from musicians] are so much deeper than, ‘I don’t have any gigs.’ It’s, ‘My whole means of existence is gone,’” she explained. “Musicians already lived in a really fragile ecosystem. Now more than ever, it’s important to have good health care and access to it.”

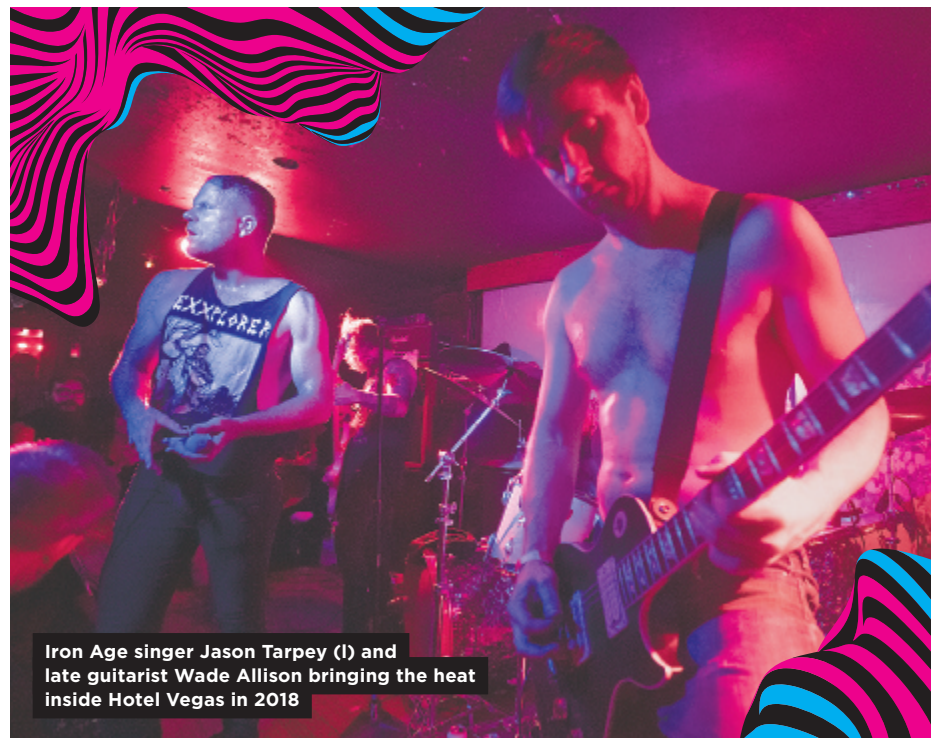
Facing their own funding gaps, HAAM successfully rallied for support from Austin Economic Development and Travis County’s Central Health. New partnerships carried HAAM’s first-ever virtual insurance enrollment to close out 2020. The nonprofit’s unique ability to stretch funds in the notoriously inefficient health care system makes it a great candidate for donations.

Every dollar donated is leveraged into \$7 of direct services to Austin musicians.

– Rachel Rascoe



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



Iron Age singer Jason Tarpey (l) and late guitarist Wade Allison bringing the heat inside Hotel Vegas in 2018

JOHN ANDERSON

## IRON AGE AUSTIN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

“Iron Age are very important to the history of Texas hardcore and metal,” Blake Ibanez, guitarist for beloved Dallas thrash revivalists Power Trip, told the *Chronicle* in 2019. “It’s safe to say we wouldn’t be a band if it wasn’t for them.”

Led by singer/conceptualist Jason Tarpey and late guitarist/composer Wade Allison, the electrifying Austin quintet took the hardcore/thrash metal hybrid dubbed crossover and injected strains of doom, swords ‘n’ sorcery based on a fantasy concept by Tarpey, and Lovecraftian cosmic horror for a pioneering amalgam heard ‘round the Lone Star State and far beyond.

Following the traditional hardcore of 2006’s *Constant Struggle*, Iron Age released its masterpiece, 2009’s *The Sleeping Eye*, a powerhouse namechecked by modern metalheads. Lincoln Mullins of Denton maulers Creeping Death calls it “one of the greatest

records to ever come out of this state. The Texas scene would not be the same now without it.” The album and its creators prompted Power Trip, with Ibanez and drummer Chris Ulsh (whose band Mammoth Grinder sometimes included Allison) both serving time in Iron Age post-*Sleeping Eye*.

“These bands are all shouting out Texas, basically,” said Tarpey, who now writes fiction, works as a blacksmith, and leads the power metal band Eternal Champion, which continues the story begun in the lyrics for *The Sleeping Eye*. “They realize that this specific kind of crossover is a Texas sound.”

“We were always wholly compelled by our own vision of what we needed to put out there,” said Allison a year or so before his unexpected passing in 2020. “It made sense to us, and now it makes sense to a few more people.”

Ibanez big-ups Iron Age more unequivocally: “Their records continue to be revered, and their legacy remains intact.”

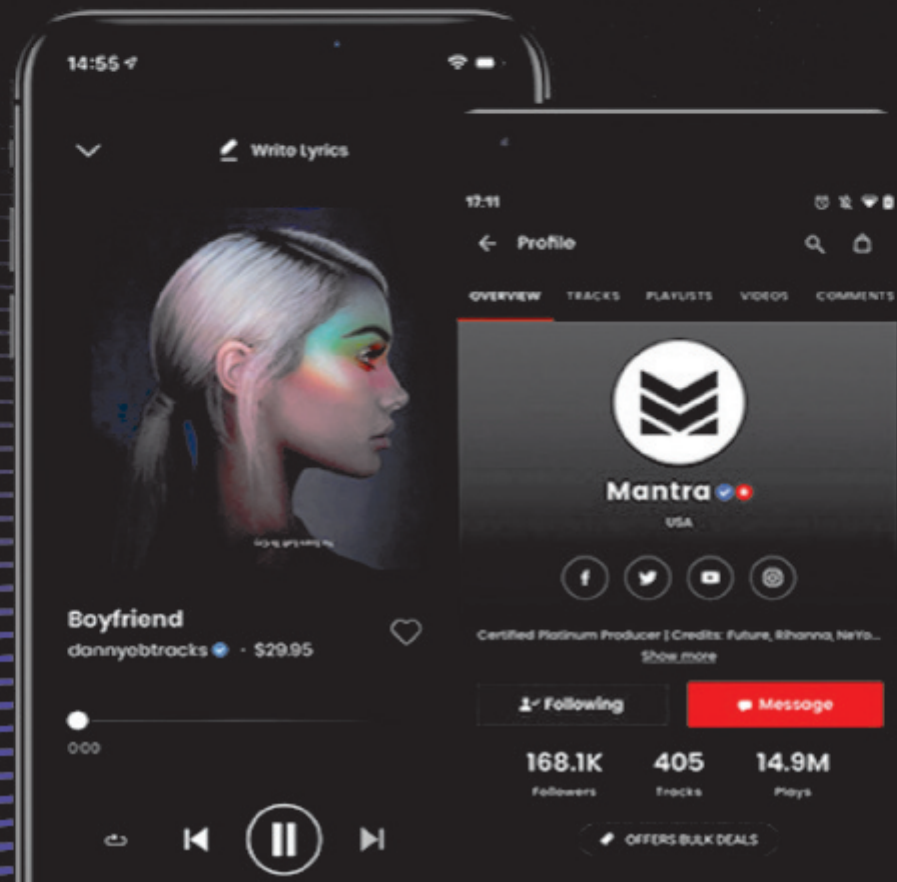
– Michael Toland





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# CALENDAR

MARCH 4 > MARCH 11



## 4 > THURSDAY



### AMPLIFY AUSTIN DAY 24 hours starting at 6pm, March 4

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

See more community events on p.54.

## 5 > FRIDAY



### OUTSIDER FESTIVAL Online and the Vortex, March 5-7

Austin's transmedia fest returns with three days of totally queer and totally out-there art. Performances by playwright and poet Jesús I. Valles, artist Xandra Ibarra (aka La Chica Boom), performance artist Elliot Reed, and more.

See more LGBTQIA events on p.53.

## 6 > SATURDAY



### ROARING Online, 7:30pm

Austin Playhouse presents a livestreamed reading by Austin award-winning playwright Cyndi Williams, featuring cast members from the 2014 production. It's a show that "asks the audience to look at what they would do if isolated from the outside world and forced to encounter the ghosts of their past."

See more arts events on p.50.

## 7 > SUNDAY



### VARIETY SHOW WITH AHBJ Online, 7-10pm

A lifelong artist of many mediums, Collection Rert's own Amanda h.b. Jones can't seem to give up her addiction to variety. Jones is revisiting solo performance in order to bring you pandemic-style theatre - and this night presents a veritable smorgasbord of her activities.

See more arts events on p.50.

## 8 > MONDAY



### THE MELLOWS: NEED YOU

With the ease of a Sunday morning, the Mellows' sophomore LP nestles into the listener's ears with shocking dexterity. Rock & roll classicist of the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" variety, frontman Colton Turner resonates the Crickets, Everlys, and Chet Atkins.

See more music recommendations on p.70.

## 9 > TUESDAY



### BLANTON MUSEUM VIRTUAL PREVIEW Online, 7pm

Learn about new architectural features, performance spaces, landscaping, and more planned for the Blanton Museum of Art. Featuring a Q&A with members of the Snøhetta design team and performances by Jackie Venson and Shinyribs.

See more community events on p.54.

## 10 > WEDNESDAY



### WILDFIRES

Inspired by its own UFO encounters, "the least shoegaze band of all the shoegaze bands" returns from a four-year hiatus with this zippy full-length, where lightness reigns supreme over the genre's classic wall-of-sound intensity.

See more music recommendations on p.70.

## 11 > THURSDAY



### "DEBORAH ROBERTS: I'M" Contemporary Austin, noon-5pm (reservations required)

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.

See more arts events on p.50.

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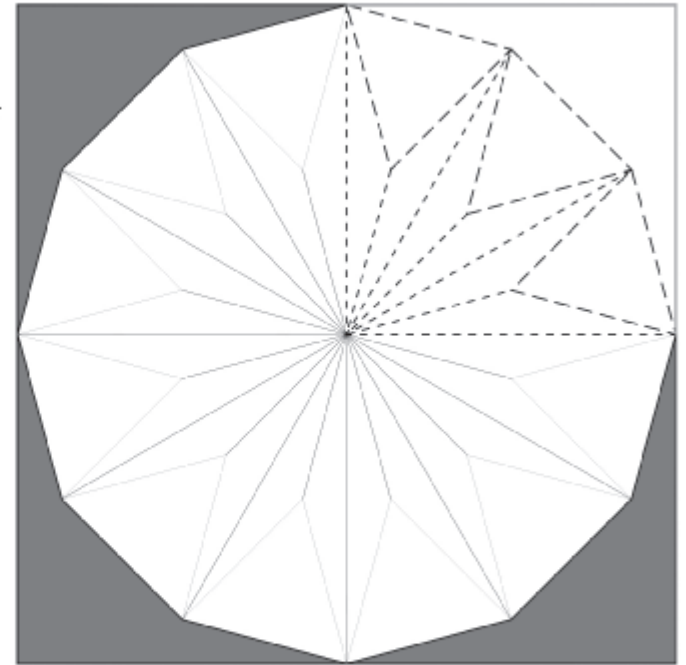
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**Math Happens**

## Area of a Dodecagon!

The area of a dodecagon is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the area of the superimposed square around it.

Show this by cutting along the dotted lines and rearranging the pieces to fit inside the grey shaded area outside of the dodecagon.



Source: alisonkiddle.co.uk



Scan QR code for the solution.

Designed by Quan Q Nguyen at MathHappens Foundation.  
For more information, visit [www.mathhappens.org](http://www.mathhappens.org)  
or email us at [info@mathhappens.org](mailto:info@mathhappens.org).



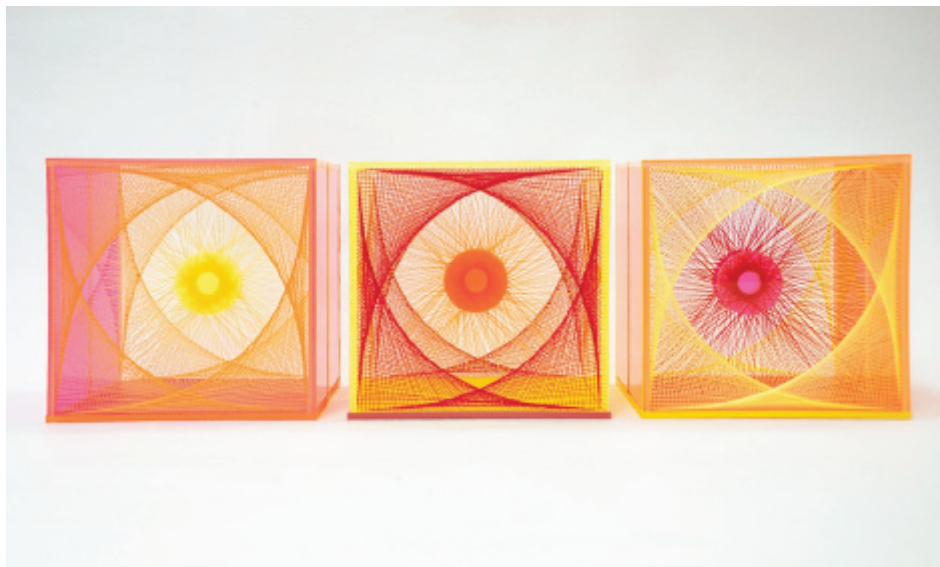
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# Arts & Culture



(l-r): Ender Martos at work; *Arachnid Cuboid Eye* by Ender Martos; *Centrifugal Force of Geometry* by Ender Martos

## Prime Numbers

In his virtual exhibition “Veintiuno,” artist Ender Martos celebrates the 21st in the 21st of the 21st ...

BY ROBERT FAIRES

No doubt you know we’re in the 21st century. And we’re in the year 2021.

Well that, as it happens, marks the 21st year that artist Ender Martos has been living in Austin.

That, as it happens, was preceded by 21 years of him living in his native Venezuela.

Martos has taken advantage of this convergence of 21s to create a virtual exhibition that explores not only his artistic work, but also his life – and not only his life in the two 21-year spans he’s enjoyed so far but also the life he aspires to live in the 21 years to come. Images of his work are accompanied by photographs of the artist as a child and a young man, videos of him in the present day at work and play in Austin, text and audio in which he shares his history and philosophies, and digital renderings of future works – it’s art exhibit as biography.

“Veintiuno” – which opened on 2/01/21, naturally – is divided up as neatly as the ghostly visitations of Dickens’ *A Christmas*

*Carol*: Three “rooms” represent the past (Venezuela), the present (Austin), and the yet-to-come (TBD). In each, a brief video serves as an introduction to the selected works on view there and how the place and/or time influenced them. Below the art is extra curated content in the form of videos that provide more context for Martos’ creative direction.

For those who know the artist just by his work – translucent monofilament lines strung in complex geometric patterns, like the psychedelic webs of spiders high on mescaline and mathematics – this background information may offer surprises. Where in those elegant abstracts does one see that Martos’ “condition as an immigrant has

always been a central theme in [his] work”? On the other hand, learning about the three Venezuelan artists who were the major influences on Martos reveals so much – you can see his vibrating colors in the murals of Carlos Cruz-Diez, his delicate lines in the sculptures of Gego, his kinetic energy in the work of Jesús Rafael Soto.

**Martos associates the number 21 with energy, and in “Veintiuno,” his art hums with it, even in virtual rooms.**

themselves among the intricate latticework of monofilament lines.

A few examples of the *Reflections* series are included in Room Two, but try as you might, you won’t be able to see yourself caught in their neon-bright webs. The unfortunate aspect of “Veintiuno,” as with any virtual art show, is that you aren’t in the space with the art, and the full impact of the work is diminished by the separation of the screen. To be present with Martos’ work is to have it shimmer and vibrate in front of you, your every movement causing a shift in the light that’s passing through the translucent lines and making it appear the colors are as active as atoms. You miss the artist’s realization of his “biggest obsession” and the op art legacy of Cruz-Diez and Soto. Still, the geometric interlacing of the lines is breathtaking, especially against the fluorescent hues. Martos associates the number 21 with energy, and in “Veintiuno,” his art hums with it, even in virtual rooms.

Martos also connects the number to hope, and Room Three is proof of that. Unlike Scrooge, the artist doesn’t need a specter of death to frighten him into doing good. In the video, he reels off a list of positive resolutions for the coming 21 years: “to use any opportunity to celebrate life,” “to stop taking nature for granted,” “to make new friends and feel comfortable with anyone who thinks differently than me,” “to create and never stop creating bigger and better projects that I can share with people in their communities.” Along with them, he presents a few concept designs for such “bigger and better projects,” works intended to activate large public spaces with color and beauty. But maybe more significantly, he notes that they were designed in collaboration with others, and he includes the faces of 21 fellow Venezuelan immigrants involved in the exhibition, people who, he says, are “part of a new diversity in the U.S.” It suggests that the third chapter in Ender Martos’ life may bring the first and second together, a fusion of Venezuela and Austin. That only makes numerical sense: 3 is the sum of 2 and 1. ■

“Veintiuno” is on view at [www.veintiuno.art](http://www.veintiuno.art).



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## Amplify Austin, Amplify the Arts

This annual fundraising program is needed – now, yes, more than ever

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Today is Amplify Austin Day.

No, wait: Today, if you're reading this on Thursday, March 4, or Friday, March 5, is Amplify Austin Day.

The fundraising (and fund-matching) program runs for 24 hours – from March 4, 6pm, to March 5, 6pm. Also, this is Amplify Austin Day for 2021, so it's immediately following our first Year of COVID-19.

Do we have to tell you how devastating that's been for everyone? No, we don't: If you're reading this, at least you're still alive and well enough to read ... and also therefore aware of the economic and societal and emotional tolls the pandemic (and the response to the pandemic) has exacted upon our beleaguered species. And that's why, though there are an increasing number of noteworthy events here in the Arts Listings section, this annual Amplify Austin Day wrangled by the I Live Here I Give Here organization is currently the most important thing happening in this context.

"Over the past eight years, Amplify Austin Day has raised \$69 million in critical unrestricted funds for our nonprofit sector," as the official website tells us. Of course, that sweet cash flow wasn't all directed toward the arts as represented in this section – Amplify Austin encompasses around 700 local nonprofit organizations of all kinds, after all – but a decent chunk of it was.

And, right now, arts organizations could use a decent chunk of anything, pretty much.

"Because the pandemic crushed the hotel/motel tax revenues that feed the Austin arts," says Ken Webster, head honcho of Hyde Park Theatre, "we've had a 58% cut in funding this year – right when we still can't quite open for business."

"Contributions from the community are greatly needed to make up for over 60% in funding cuts and the loss of many typical revenue streams," Ariel Dance Theatre's Andrea Ariel tells us.

"Staging performances, arranging business sponsorships, collaborating on artistic projects and performances with other artists and companies – these were not, as you know, really viable during 2020."

We do know. And we also know that, whereas you can always donate to any of these arts nonprofits any time you feel like it, O generous citizen, on this particular day your gift will be matched by Amplify Austin sponsors and work much better to

support the people you choose to support. For instance?

"This year," says Hyde Park's Webster, "we qualify for an amazing \$20,000 matching grant from Tito's Handmade Vodka, may they flourish forever."

Well, yes, Ken: Tito's will likely flourish for a long time indeed – and more power to 'em, if they're helping to support the arts like

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN**  
www.amplifyatx.org  
www.ilivehereigivehere.org  
March 4-5



this. And there are many other sponsors – your *Austin Chronicle* is among them, and H-E-B, and Samsung, and St. David's, and so on, as noted on that informative website – and they're all behind this community-forward initiative. And we mean: What is the arts, after all, if not community-forward?

"We're committed to making sure that Ground Floor Theatre comes through this," vows Lisa Scheps, leader of that creative Eastside powerhouse, "so that we can continue making theatre that lifts voices that need to be heard."

Exactly. And you want to help lift those voices, Austinite? Now's your chance to Amplify them.

### THEATRE

**THE SPEAKER SPEAKS: ACT I** This audio-theatre presentation is based on the **Public Domain Theatre Company's** stage production of **Clay Nichols' *The Speaker Speaks: An Evening with Sam Rayburn***, as directed by **Robi Polgar** in 1999. This new iteration was adapted by – and stars – **David R. Jarrott**, with sound design, mixing, and editing by **Craig Brock**. Pro tip: Join the livestreamed launch party on March 4 at 7:30pm for behind-the-scenes interviews and more. Note: **Act II** will be released on March 11, and **Act III** on March 18; after that, the installments will always be avail-

able on the home page of the **Jarrott Productions** website (or your favorite podcast platform). *Thu., March 4, 7:30pm. Donations accepted: AMPLIFY. www.jarrottproductions.com.*

**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.*



### Austin Playhouse: Roaring

**Austin Playhouse** presents a livestreamed reading of *Roaring* by Austin award-winning playwright **Cyndi Williams**, featuring cast members **Babs George, Claire Grosso, Huck Huckaby, Molly Karrasch, and Steven Mercantel** reuniting from the 2014 production. It's a show that "asks the audience to look at what they would do if isolated from the outside world and forced to encounter the ghosts of their past." Perfect for these times? We heartily concur. *Sat., March 6, 7:30pm. \$9 and up. www.austinplayhouse.com.*

**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*

**PGGRAPH** 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.*

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE COMEDY** **Jacey TV** and **Be Rare Comedy** present this showcase hosted by **Tai Nguyen**, with stand-ups **Lando Shepard** and **Jay Whitecotton** bringing the laughs as only they can. *Fri., March 5, 8pm. Santa Cruz Theater, 1805 E. Seventh, 512/696-8058. \$10. www.santacruztheater.com.*

**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.*

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## 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. Come explore this revelatory exhibition that explores Leo Steinberg's library of prints, on view through May 9.

Advance timed-entry museum admission reservations required. Details at [Blantonmuseum.org/Steinberg](http://Blantonmuseum.org/Steinberg)

Image: Giorgio Ghisi, *The Prophet Jeremiah*, after Michelangelo, early 1570s (detail), 11 13/16 x 17 in., engraving, Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, 2002

BLANTON

The University of Texas at Austin / [blantonmuseum.org](http://blantonmuseum.org) / @blantonmuseum    ALWAYS FREE ON THURSDAY

## Austin Modern Home Tour

The **Modern Architecture + Design Society** presents the **13th annual showcase of Austin's greatest modern homes** – gone virtual this year, naturally – with each home on the tour displayed through a combination of photos, video, 3D imaging, and live panel discussions with Q&A. You can watch live and ask questions, or rewatch later and explore the homes on your own (via the 360 degree imaging) – all segments will be available to view after the live event ends. *Sat.-Sun., March 6-7, \$40. www.mads.media.*



## 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 Faies for inclusion among his Top 10 shows of the year) is now available in a digital version online – free of charge. *Donations accepted. www.bluelapislight.org.*

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**COLTMAN COMPETITION VIRTUAL SHOWDOWN** Begun in the spring of 2010, the annual nationwide **Coltman Chamber Music Competition** from **Austin Chamber Music Center** has provided performance experience and expert commentary to advanced applicants. Winners of the competition get a cash prize and multiple performance opportunities – including a live broadcast on KMFA 89.5. Which ensembles will earn the honors this year? Find out today, via these Zoom'd showdowns: **junior division** of 11 ensembles (11am); **senior division** of 10 mixed-instrumental ensembles (2pm); senior division of 10 string-and-piano ensembles (\$5). *Sat., March 6. Donations accepted. www.austinchambermusic.org.*

**KEEPING THE LIGHT: SONGS OF HOPE** **Chorus Austin** and **Ryan Heller** present a virtual concert featuring new and previously recorded favorites. *Through 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.*

☛ **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 lan-

guage 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.*

**ALMOST REAL THINGS: VIRTUAL VACATION** Those irrefragable champions of all that's creative in this town, **Almost Real Things**, present the **last stay-at-home art & music fest** of their short-lived, just-in-the-nick-of-time series. All sorts of artists representing a plethora of genres are featured in this blow-out event (Oh! It's a three-hour tour, little buddy! With **Mike Melinoe, Dossey, Easy Compadre!, Trupica, PrintAustin, Mystica Fiora**, and more!) – and there's a **VIP party box** full of drinks, snacks, a packed gift bag, and a full printmaking workshop to add a wonderful tactile element to the party. (Bonus: Use the code **artfriend** for \$10 off.) *Sat., March 6, 6-9pm. Free-\$50. www.almostrealthings.com.*

## OPENING

**CONTRACOMMON: SOMETHING LIKE YESTERDAY** **Aria Brownell** and **Sidney Westenskow** investigate memory and the pockets of messy nostalgia that define one's self, both artists working within bold forms of portraiture and self-portraiture. *Reception: Sat., March 6, 6-9pm. 12912 Hill Country Blvd. Ste. F-140. www.contracommon.org.*

**LINK & PIN GALLERY: DOGS IN BORDERLANDIA** Through painting, drawing, video, and performance, **Andrea Muñoz Martínez** invites people to contemplate the beauty that exists in a land where people negotiate their place, where people thrive and struggle, and where people resist the idea of unjust borders: **Borderlandia**. And now, with **dogs!** *March 11-April 18. Thu.-Sat., 1-5pm. Link & Pin, 2235 E. Sixth #102, 512/900-8952. www.linkpinart.com.*

## CLOSING

☛ **DAVIS GALLERY: AS THE WORLD STOOD STILL** This is a retrospective of the creative journey that painter **Kevin Greer** started inside his studio during the lockdown. You want to see some **vivid, multicolored abstractions** like strategically shattered shards of somebody's **lysergic and fire-marked dreams?** Then you should see this. *Through March 6. Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th, 512/477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

## ONGOING

**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.*

**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 Rødland** 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.*

**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." *Through March 28. Gallery hours by appointment. grayDUCK Gallery, 2213 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.*

☛ **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**. *Through April 3. ICOSA, 916 Springdale #102, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.*

**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.*

**PRIZER ARTS & LETTERS: THE WEIGHT** New paintings from Austin's **Andy St. Martin**. "Like all my paintings, collage, and drawings," says the artist, "these new ones are a chain reaction of reactions, reflections, decisions (about them, paintings, and life and light, literally). They're my activity, evaluation, commitment incarnate, and contract with myself." Ah, "commitment incarnate," we love that. See what it means in this bright painterly context: Schedule a visit or check out the gallery's front room that's illuminated nightly, 6-10pm, through March 22. *Through March 22. Prizer Gallery, 2023 E. Cesar Chavez. www.prizerartsandletters.org.*

**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, citizen: The best place to get your reading material is from Austin's own **Walvern Books** or **Half Price Books** or **BookPeople** or **BookWoman** stores online. (And for the ultimate in vintage collectors' editions and unique works on paper, we recommend the excellent **South Congress Books** – right there on, well, South Congress.) Or try **Bookshop.org** in general – because Bookshop, unlike the internetted behemoth named after a certain South American river, **Bookshop shares the profits among all its independent-bookstore members.** *www.bookshop.org.*

**TEXAS POET LAUREATE EMMY PÉREZ** UT's **Humanities Institute** presents the award-winning poet **Emmy Pérez**, author of the poetry collections *With The River on Our Face* and *Solstice*, live via Zoom. *Wed., March 10, 7pm. Free. www.liberalarts.utexas.edu.*

**BOOKWOMAN POETRY: D. ELLIS HELPS** Featured poet **d. ellis helps** is the author of two books of poetry – *what she holds* (Moon Shadow Sanctuary Press, 2020) and *what holds her* (Main Street Rag, 2019) – and of the novel, *Making Room for George* (MSSP, 2016). **Cindy Huyser** hosts; an open mic follows. *Thu., March 11, 7:15pm. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.*

## Collection Rert: Variety Show with AHBJ

A lifelong artist of many mediums, **Collection Rert's** own **Amanda H. B. Jones** can't seem to give up her addiction to variety. Now, around the time of her 41st solar return, Jones is revisiting solo performance in order to bring you pandemic-style theatre – and **this night presents a veritable smorgasbord of her activities**. See the website and let the fun begin! *Sun., March 7, 7-10pm. Free. www.collectionrert.org.*



# COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

**IT'S ABOUT TO GET** real weird 'n' queer up in here, thanks to this weekend's **OUTsider Festival** (Fri.-Sun., March 5-7). Austin's homegrown queer transmedia fest returns for year seven with the thoroughly apropos theme, "**Future in FluX**," in reaction to these strange – and we mean really strange – times when, as fest founder **Curran Nault** tells me, past, present, and future have become a blur. ("Who even knows what day it is anymore?" Ditto). Right now, "past forms are resurfacing in new ways – like the drive-in as an old/new form of socially distanced moviegoing – and, when the future – of teleworking, etc., – is zooming at us faster than [we] could have ever anticipated: a future 'influx,'" he explains of this year's inspiration. To transport festgoers into this dimension that knows not the limits of time, space, nor heteronormativity, organizers have broken each day into separate themes – past, present, and future – with each featuring an artist lineup promising to probe 'n' poke any and all boundaries in true OUTsider fashion. Performances will be streamed online, plus to a limited number of socially distanced seats available to watch the stream outside the **Vortex**. And what about this year's Legacy Award, you ask? This time around, unlike in previous years, past Legacy awardees – artists **Annie Sprinkle** and **Beth Stephens**; punk-cum-folkster **Phranc**; and Dorian Wood, who honored the late queer ranchera crooner Chavela Vargas last year – will choose artists to whom they would hypothetically confer an award, shares Nault. "That is, as a kind of past-present-future 'pay it forward' moment," he explains. Who they've picked is a surprise and will be revealed by the artists themselves on the fest's opening night. So, if it strikes your fancy, pick up a badge and let OUTsider Fest transport you outta this world this weekend.



**OUTsider artist-in-residence Jesús I. Valles shares new work *Bullet.Fruit*. Saturday**

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## 2 TO DO

### OUTsider Fest

Three days of totally queer and totally out-there art. Performances by playwright and poet Jesús I. Valles, artists Xandra Ibarra (aka La Chica Boom) and Elliot Reed, and more. **Fri.-Sun., March 5-7. Online; the Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. Badges priced pay-what-you-can. [www.outsiderfest.org](http://www.outsiderfest.org).**

### Trans Crowdfund Live!

Embrace Austin, Thee Gay Agenda, and Black Trans Leadership of Austin fund-raise for gender affirming care for Austin's queer and trans BIPOC community. Ms. GIRL6 and MsAmazingHead are your hostesses with the mostesses, with performances by Texas artists including Vonne, Soups, and more. **Fri., March 5, 7-8:30pm. Online. \$5-35. [www.embraceaustin.com/tickets](http://www.embraceaustin.com/tickets).**

## Q'D UP

**DRIVE 'N DRAG SAVES 2021** Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's *RuPaul's Drag Race*'s Bianca Del Rio, and she's come to rescue us from one helluva year with a *RuPaul*-studded night. Shows are sold out, but a recording will be available for purchase online beginning April 12. **Fri.-Sun., March 5-7, 7 & 9:30pm. H-E-B Center at Cedar Park, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park. Sold out. [www.vossevenets.com/drive-n-drag](http://www.vossevenets.com/drive-n-drag).**

**INTERFACES** Interfaces amplifies marginalized artists this evening, featuring a performance from Saliyah and Ivy Roots, plus an open mic (see online for sign-up instructions). **Fri., March 5, 7-8:30pm. Online. Free. [www.fb.com/atxinterfaces](http://www.fb.com/atxinterfaces).**

**FRIDA FRIDAY ATX** (Note: Rescheduled from Feb. 13.) Mask up for this outdoor market, an "open-air" photo booth, and more gal (pal) fun. **Sat., March 6, 11am-3pm. Veracruz All Natural, 2505 Webberville Rd. Free. [www.fridafridayatx.org](http://www.fridafridayatx.org).**

**BIZARRE STRIPPER BURLESQUE** Celebrate Black History Month with Austin's only all-trans, BIPOC burlesque troupe's tribute to Motown. BSB co-founder and co-producer Sylvia Hatchett Purchase is your host, with performances by Ruby Knight, Jinxy Deviate, Kara Foxx, Chanel Andrews, and special guests. **Sat., March 6, 8pm. Online. \$11.99. Velvet Revue subscription. [www.velvetrevue.com/performer/bizarre-stripper-burlesque](http://www.velvetrevue.com/performer/bizarre-stripper-burlesque).**

**INTRO TO INTRO TO SKETCH CLASS** QueerTowne special guest Inielle Wesley teaches you how to bring the laughs while you learn the basics of writing a comedy sketch. **Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. Online. Tips suggested. [www.theegayagenda.com](http://www.theegayagenda.com).**

For all Qmmunity listings see [austinchronicle.com/qmmunity](http://austinchronicle.com/qmmunity) and send yer queer'd events to [qmmunity@austinchronicle.com](mailto:qmmunity@austinchronicle.com).

CHORUS  
AUSTIN

## SPRING 2021 CONCERTS

### VIRTUAL 56TH SEASON

2/27 *Keeping the Light*  
4/24 *Southwest Voices: She Sings*  
5/22 *Pops: The Great American Songbook*

FREE & STREAMING LIVE  
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[CHORUSAUSTIN.ORG](http://CHORUSAUSTIN.ORG)

↓ KMFA89.5 Cultural Arts Bloomberg Philanthropies

## THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S ONLINE STORE

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM / STORE

# COMMUNITY

**A NEIGHBOR IN NEED A/C GIVEAWAY** Do you know a homeowner whose heating and air system no longer works, who needs a new system but can't afford it? Tell Del's Heating & Air Conditioning their story, and Del's will provide one winner with a new HVAC system. *Nominations accepted through April 15; winner chosen April 30.* [www.delsacs.com](http://www.delsacs.com).

**CITY OF AUSTIN RECOVERY RESOURCES** Looking for info on water distribution, code complaints, or anything related to fallout from the winter storm? Check the city's site for the most up-to-date info. [www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo](http://www.austintexas.gov/weatherinfo).

**UPLIFT AUSTIN SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION** A free PPE, cleaning, and hygiene supply distribution for Black and brown communities in Travis County, sponsored by several community orgs in partnership with Proctor & Gamble. The event will distribute \$200,000+ worth of supplies in the Eastern Crescent of Travis County. *Sat., March 6, 10am-noon. Multiple locations.* [www.fb.com/events/250455700154793](http://www.fb.com/events/250455700154793).

**VIRTUAL ATX VETERANS BALL** Benefiting Samaritan Center, this event raises awareness and garners support for the mental health needs of veterans and military families in our community. *Fri., March 5, 7pm. Online.* [www.samaritan-center.org](http://www.samaritan-center.org).

**ADRN STORM RECOVERY** The Austin Disaster Relief Network is hosting a series of intakes to assist those impacted by the recent winter storm, gathering information from impacted residents in order to connect them with potential resources. *Fri.-Sat., March 5-6. Promiseland Church, 1504 E. 51st, 512/806-0800.* [www.adrn.org](http://www.adrn.org).

**THE WANDERING VEGAN MARKET** Nom Burger, East Austin Coffee, Bruja's Brew, and Milky Way Shakes provide the noms, and local vegan artisans sell cruelty-free skin care products, jewelry, candles, succulents, and more. Family- and pet-friendly. *Sat., March 6, noon-4pm. Vegan Nom, 2324 E. Cesar Chavez.* [www.fb.com/events/753527955596355](http://www.fb.com/events/753527955596355).

**ESCAPE THE BOX** Take a journey through time exploring the hidden clues of South Congress with this puzzle box, scavenger hunt, and escape room all in one. Each box is designed for 2-6 players and features puzzles and clues that can all be found on South Congress Avenue, along with discounts to participating businesses. *Sat., March 6,*

*1-5pm. Toms Austin, 1401 S. Congress. \$50.* [www.fb.com/events/1189398254828304](http://www.fb.com/events/1189398254828304).

**LITTLE BLACK DRESS-DOWN & DRIVE-IN** The main fundraiser in support of Dress for Success Austin's workforce programming features music from the Peterson Brothers, live and silent auctions, an empowerment program, food and drinks, a raffle, and games, followed by a screening of *A League of Their Own*. *Sat., March 6, 5:30-10pm. Doc's Drive In Theatre, 1540 Satterwhite Rd., Buda. \$100 and up; virtual, \$50.* [austin.dressforsuccess.org](http://austin.dressforsuccess.org).

**VIRTUAL MODERN HOME TOUR** The annual Modern Home Tour returns as a 100% virtual experience. Using impressive 3D imaging, the livestreaming event will include a full walk-through of each home with a Modern Architecture + Design Society host and the architects, builders, designers, and owners of each home. Viewers can ask questions during the tour, and if you can't make it to the stream, the segments and models will be available to explore later. *Sat.-Sun., March 6-7. Online. \$40.* [www.mads.media/atxmod2021](http://www.mads.media/atxmod2021).

**10 STEPS TO ONLINE SUCCESS** For anyone building a career in audio or music, a seminar on how to increase your online exposure and engagement. It's for members only, but membership is free and open to anyone who identifies as female, trans, or gender nonconforming. *Tue., March 9, 7pm. Zoom. Free.* [www.omnisonproject.com](http://www.omnisonproject.com).

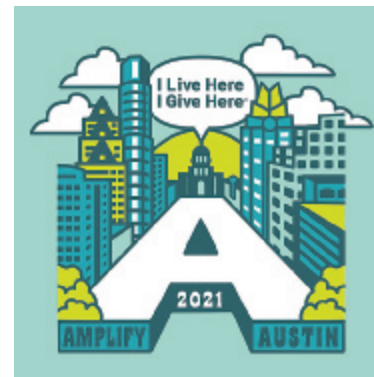
**BLANTON MUSEUM VIRTUAL PREVIEW & GROUND-BREAKING** Learn about new architectural features, performance spaces, landscaping, and more planned for the Blanton Museum of Art. Featuring a Q&A with members of the Snøhetta design team and performances by Jackie Venson and Shinyribs. *Tue., March 9, 7-8pm. Virtual. Free, but RSVP.* [www.bit.ly/BlantonNGICelebration](http://www.bit.ly/BlantonNGICelebration).

**WORKSHOP: PREVENT TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION** In conjunction with the Bullock's exhibit "Not Alone: Working Together in the Fight Against Human Trafficking," a workshop with reps from Love146, an organization dedicated to ending human trafficking. The workshop will provide an introduction on the reality of human trafficking and give attendees some tools they can take with them

## Amplify Austin Day 2021

The ninth annual iteration of Central Texas' biggest day of giving will include thousands in matching gifts and \$80K in prizes for participating nonprofits, double last year's amount. This year, ILHIGH and partner C3 Presents will also launch Amplify LIVE, a virtual experience with celebrity guests and local leaders, including musical performances under musical director Charlie Sexton featuring stars from Night Glitter, Black Pumas, Greyhounds, and more.

Visit the online platform to search nonprofits by category, cause, or location and make a contribution. *March 4, 6pm, to March 5, 6pm. Online.* [www.amplifyatx.org](http://www.amplifyatx.org).



to safeguard their communities. *Thu., March 11, 6pm. The Bullock Museum online. Free.* [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**CUSTOMIZED FACE MASKS** We Are Blood will reward all donors who participate in their Platelet Step-Up campaign with a custom "Platelet Donor" face mask. Donate platelets twice in March to participate. *We Are Blood donor centers.* [www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/donation-locations](http://www.wearblood.org/donate-blood/donation-locations).

## SPORTS

### THE HOME TEAMS

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Tennis** Vs. UTSA. *Thu., March 4, 3pm. Texas Tennis Center, 2100 Comal. Soccer* Vs. Texas State. *Fri., March 5, 7pm. Myers Stadium, 707 Clyde Littlefield Dr. Volleyball* Vs. Texas State. *Mon., March 8, 7pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Wed., March 10., 5pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Baseball* Vs. Sam Houston. *Tue., March 9, 6:30pm. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. Softball* Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. *Wed., March 10, 6pm. McCombs Field, Comal & MLK.* [www.texasports.com](http://www.texasports.com).

**AUSTIN FC VERDE VAN** Beep, beep! The Verde Van, Austin FC's mobile merch store, will be on the move this weekend. Select items available for walk-up purchases, or preorder online and pick up. *Sat., March 6, 6-10pm: Crown & Anchor Pub, 2911 San Jacinto. Sun., March 7, noon-4pm: Austin Eastciders, 1530 Barton Springs.* [www.verdevan.com](http://www.verdevan.com).

## RECREATION & FITNESS

**SUNDAY SOUND BATH SERIES** A healing yoga session with soothing sounds of singing crystal bowls and chimes in a serene candlelit setting that will leave you with a feeling of purpose and joy. Yoga mats, blankets, and Richard's Rainwater provided. *Sun., March 7, 5pm. Austin Proper Hotel, 600 W. Second. \$30.* [www.properhotel.com](http://www.properhotel.com).

**FREE LEAGUE OPEN HOUSE** The next axe-throwing season starts the week of March 14, so UA is hosting an open house for anyone interested in joining a league. *Tue., March 9. Urban Axes, 812 Airport Blvd.* [www.urbanaxes.com](http://www.urbanaxes.com).

## RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

**APA! PALENTINE'S 5K** Registration fees for the Austin Pets Alive! virtual 5K support animals in need. *Sat., March 6. Virtual. \$25-30.* [www.austinpetsalive.org](http://www.austinpetsalive.org).

**BIKE NIGHT AT COTA** Cyclists can clip in and navigate the Circuit at Bike Night, powered by Ascension Seton. The weekly event lets riders cruise COTA's famed stars and stripes in a stress-free environment without the worry of city traffic while offering fantastic sunset views of the COTA's Observation Deck and Austin skyline. After the ride concludes, cyclists can replenish and recharge with refreshments, great conversations, and camaraderie with fellow riders. *Tuesdays through Oct. 12. Circuit of the Americas, 9201 Circuit of the Americas Blvd., 512/301-6600.* [www.circuitoftheamericas.com/bike](http://www.circuitoftheamericas.com/bike).

## KIDS

**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](http://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](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**¡VAMONOS! A CAMINOS TALK SHOW** Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center's Caminos program has created ¡VAMONOS!, an arts and variety show by teens for teens. Tune in via Facebook Live or Instagram TV. *Every other Friday, 6pm. Online.* [www.fb.com/austinesbmc](http://www.fb.com/austinesbmc).

## DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The McFaddin-Ward House in Beaumont displays the opulent living conditions of the very rich in the early 20th century, but also tells the story of a pioneer Texas family.

The McFaddins moved into the three-story, Beaux-Arts Colonial mansion in 1907 and occupied it for the next 75 years.

Decorated with furnishings from the late Victorian era to the 1950s, the house was left as it was when the last McFaddin turned over the keys to a foundation that maintains the property.

The house is filled with rare items that illustrate the finest of the decorative arts of the time. Quite often the furnishings seem more for style than function. Still, the tours, with COVID-19 precautions, are a walk through a beautiful time capsule.

The McFaddins arrived in Southeast Texas in 1823. William (1819-1897) fought at the **Battle of San Jacinto** as a teenager and became a rancher and land speculator. His sons, James (1840-1916) and William Perry Herring, known as "Perry" (1856-1935), continued the family business. The elder brother moved to the Victoria area, and Perry stayed in Beaumont. Perry's daughter, Mamie McFaddin Ward, was the last to live in the mansion.

In 1901, **Spindletop**, the gusher that ushered in the Texas oil boom, was on McFaddin land. Over the years the family's businesses included banking, oil, rice, meatpacking, muskrat farming, and a



GERALD E. MCLEOD

lot of ranches. Former McFaddin-owned land became **Port Arthur, Sea Rim State Park, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge**, and parts of other coastal refuges.

The McFaddin-Ward House is at 1906 McFaddin Ave. The museum is currently offering free self-guided audio tours Wednesday through Saturday. For information, call 409/832-2134 or go to [www.mcfaddin-ward.org](http://www.mcfaddin-ward.org).

**1,540th in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a weekly travel blog, at [austinchronicle.com/daily/travel](http://austinchronicle.com/daily/travel).**

# SOCCER WATCH BY NICK BARBARO

## More Players for Austin FC

Austin FC announced two more player acquisitions as we go to press Wednesday, strengthening their roster and building on their youth strategy. First came Slovenian left-back **Žan Kolmanic**, who despite being just 21 has already logged four seasons with top Slovenian side NK Maribor, plus 39 youth national team appearances. He's on loan from Maribor and will fill an international roster spot once he gets his visa and transfer papers.

Also announced Wednesday, also on loan, is 19-year-old midfielder **Sebastian Berhalter**, who arrives from the defending champion Columbus Crew with an option to acquire his rights permanently after the season. The UNC grad was a homegrown player in Columbus, where his father **Gregg** used to coach before becoming U.S. national team coach in 2018. So Austin may be new to him, but he'll be joining a lot of folks at AFC whom he's known for a long time.

That gives the club 24 players on roster, but they've also invited two unsigned SuperDraft picks, plus three others – most notably another famous relative, Duke goalkeeper **William Pulisic**, a cousin of U.S. international **Christian Pulisic** – to participate in their upcoming training camp, which kicks off Monday, March 8, at St. Edward's, with an eye to moving to the new **St. David's Performance Center** later in the spring. All training sessions are closed-door events and, of course, under strict COVID protocols. AFC also announced that they'll be playing three preseason matches in April prior to the start of the MLS regular season. Details and the full schedule will be out in the coming weeks.

The **Austin Bold** had roster news of their own this week: re-signing popular midfielder **Amobi Okugo**, who's been a mainstay for the club throughout its first two seasons... The **UT Longhorns** play Texas State this Friday; catch it at 7pm on the Longhorn Network.



COURTESY OF NK MARIBOR

Žan Kolmanic

**GIRLS' CONFERENCE DRIVE-THROUGH** Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy is holding its sixth annual Girls' Conference as a drive-through event this year. Each student (fifth through ninth grade) who comes through will get a free "Success Bag" with more than 20 free items from Central Texas businesses and organizations. Central Texas Food Bank will be on hand supplying food packs for families while supplies last. And Grammy-nominated musician Saul Paul will open the event by performing as families drive through. **Sat., March 6, 10am-noon. Bertha Sadler Means YWLA, 6401 N. Hampton. Free. www.ciscentraltexas.org/girlsconference.**

**BEE TO BOTTLE WALKING TOUR** Walk a mile (or less) in the beekeeper's boots as she harvests the golden bee juice and prepares it for consumption. Masks and reservations required. **Sat., March 6, 10am. Walker Honey Farm, Rogers. \$5. www.walkerhoneyfarm.com/tours.**

## OUT OF TOWN

**TOUR AT NEW LEAF FARM** The winter storm was hard on the community-supported farms, so now is the time to see the vegetable fields in a new beginning. **Fri., March 5, 10-11am. Elgin. Free. www.mrcaustin.org/events.**

**BORNRAGER'S PUBLIC AUCTION** Twice a year the small Amish community in South Texas holds a large auction of antiques, farm implements and animals, and collectibles to raise funds for their school. Year-round, the group has a small country store that sells farm supplies, fresh produce, local honey, teas, handcrafted items, and – on Fridays – fresh-baked pies, breads, jellies, and cookies. The store hours are 8am-5pm Mon.-Sat.; closed for lunch from noon to 1pm. **Sat., March 6. Beeville. Free. www.bornragerfarms.jimdofree.com.**

**BIRDWATCHING AT THE BATTLEGROUND** Not just for birders and photographers, the site of the historic battleground belongs to the wildlife in the morning before the park opens to the public. **Sat., March 6, 7-9am. San Jacinto Monument, La Porte. Free. www.thc.texas.gov/news-events/events/bird-watching-battleground.**

**VISIT THE OLD JAIL** Tours of the two-story calaboose that was used until 1939 offer a look into the history of incarceration and the people who served the community as jailers. **Sat., March 6, 10am-3pm. Fredericksburg. \$2. www.pioneermuseum.net/old-jail.html.**

## SUMMER CAMPS

### YMCA Camp Cullen



**CRUX CRUSHERS** A safe environment for youth to explore their skills in rock climbing while making new friends and building confidence. Plus, campers will participate in yoga, crafts, and fun games. **Ages 6-12. July 20-Aug. 13. Crux Climbing Center, 121 Pickle Rd. \$225-275. www.cruxcc.com.**

**LONESTAR DANCE CENTER** Rainbow unicorns, *Trolls* World Tour, Frozen, Disney, *Minecraft*, and more come to life through dance, art, and music as campers make memories with new friends at these themed camps with activities galore. **Ages 3-11. June 14-Aug. 6. Lonestar Dance Center, 2606 W. Pecan St. #212, Pflugerville. \$175-250. info@lonestardance.com, www.lonestardance.com/camps.**

**YMCA CAMP CULLEN** Located just north of Houston among the tall pines along the shores of Lake Livingston, Camp Cullen enriches campers' summer with activities including water sports, horseback riding, a high adventure course, nature exploration, arts/drama, and more. All of this is provided in a multilayered protection plan with safety as the No. 1 priority. **Ages 7-17. June 6-Aug. 7. YMCA Camp Cullen, 460-A Cullen Loop, Trinity. \$1,295. www.ymcacampcullen.org.**

Looking for more summer camps?  
Find our full guide at [austinchronicle.com/sc](http://austinchronicle.com/sc).

# BEST OF AUSTIN IS BACK.



# VOTE!

BALLOT ON P. 9  
AND ONLINE AT  
[VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM](http://VOTE.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM)



# 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.

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# Food

## Back to the Soil

Supporting local farmers and ranchers helps everyone

BY JESSI CAPE AND LINA FISHER

After the devastating winter storm system that sustained freezing temperatures and knocked out power and water across Central Texas, regional farmers and ranchers experienced extraordinarily harsh conditions, which in turn affects our entire local food system.

Nora Chovanec, deputy director of the Texas Farmers' Market, explained, "Being a farmer in general is really difficult, but in Central Texas we have two growing seasons, and our markets stay open year-round (unlike in the Northeast, for example). So our farmers don't necessarily take a lot of breaks. They are used to dealing with inclement weather – we have freeze cycles and drought cycles; it really runs the gamut – but this was an incredibly unprecedented event. Usually when there's a flood or a freeze, out of our ag producers, we'll see a couple of them who are affected by whichever inclement weather was passing by at that point. This time around, everybody experienced it and experienced it really hard." Texas Farmers' Market operates two of Austin's large farmers' markets, both producer-only, at Lakeline and Mueller. Chovanec inspects to make sure they are growing the things they say they are growing, treating their animals humanely, using the sustainable practices they say they are using. "My job is to understand what's going on on the ground to best support our farmers and tell their story, and help people understand why they should support our markets, farmers and ranchers, and all our small businesses."

Speaking with producers firsthand means Chovanec has a clear grasp of the ongoing aftermath. She said, "Pretty much anybody who had anything out in the field, it's gone. That is really difficult this time of

year because there are crops that we only get for a few months in Texas and they're so delicious – thinking about brassicas, like broccoli, cauliflower. Everything turned to mush in the field; there's no way anybody could protect them. It means that's the end of that season because those things were planted months ago. Central Texas experienced around 150 hours of freeze, which is the longest on record. Farmers [here] are used to dealing with a day or two of freeze."

Many farmers have built high tunnels – greenhouses, hoop houses – and some were able to save certain products. Others' hoop houses broke under the weight of the ice, or completely froze after the long power outage. "People don't think of farmers needing electricity, but to keep some of those crops going they spent thousands of dollars to build cold weather contingency plans, and those crops still disappeared."

This was not a matter of only preparation. "We're always aware, always prepared; we always know what the weather is at least five days out, so we saw this storm coming," she explained. "Our farmers worked the whole week prior doing storm prep, but it was just beyond what anybody expected." The sustained cold coupled with extended power outages meant that well water wasn't available and troughs were frozen. "We had a rancher who slept in his car for a week so he could, every few hours, knock the ice out of the troughs for his cattle. There are so many different levels that no one could have prepared for.

"It's been really heartbreaking for our produce farmers to see so much of their hard work for months on end just disappear like that. Our farmers are very resilient though, [and] everybody started planting this week. I don't know a single farmer



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

The Johnson's Backyard Garden stand at the Texas Farmers' Market on Sunday at Mueller

who was like, 'I'm throwing my hands up because this is terrible.' No, they're like, 'Well, back to the soil.'"

Some farmers were able to harvest before the storm and save cold storage crops with generators, but as all of them lost power and water, many exhausted the fuel after several days and the storage froze. The producers with livestock worked incredibly hard to keep their animals alive. One goat farmer with 70 goats had to milk the animals by hand twice a day throughout the week, and because they had no way to refrigerate, they had to pass the milk. Chovanec said, "I have backyard chickens in Central Austin. It was so cold that we had to bring the chickens to live inside with us – and that was insane – but our farmers can't bring 500 chickens inside. They kept heaters and propane heaters going, and were able to insulate and keep hay on them. Pretty much none of them lost animals, which truly feels like a miracle with not having any regular resources. It's another layer that most people don't even think about."

Texas Farmers' Markets has an ongoing Ag Producer Support Fund that focuses on providing small grants to farmers and ranchers that experience year-round detrimental effects from incidents like freezing, floods,

droughts, and medical emergencies. "A few years ago we had a farmer that was bit by a rattlesnake while she was farming and she was out for a number of months recuperating," for example. Many times a producer just needs "a small infusion grant to buy seeds to replant and be able to get that income going again. We've seen a really wonderful outpouring from the community – even other small farmers from around the country.

"We saw this week already that our farmers were already buying seeds and transplants and getting stuff into the ground because people donated and we could turn the funds around so quickly. We still definitely have a big need – we're still assessing the damage from what happened – and it really runs the gamut." Beekeepers, for example, lost dozens of hives. "Bee cans can be hardy and withstand, but in Texas we build a lot of infrastructure to withstand extreme heat, not necessarily the extreme cold, so the bees were shocked. For our ranchers who are used to their cattle being free-range and grass-fed ... when the grass is all frozen and under snow for a week, they had to buy massive amounts of alfalfa and grass to keep their animals fed, and that's thousands and thousands of dollars that normally they wouldn't have to incur, so we're supporting them that way as well."

The support is returned in full. During the well-documented rush on grocery stores, shoppers found mostly empty shelves because the large trucks couldn't travel due to road conditions. But the farmers' markets, which experienced record numbers of visitors the first weekend after the storm passed, had inventory because they are local and didn't have to travel too far.

**"It's been really heartbreaking for our produce farmers to see so much of their hard work for months on end just disappear like that. Our farmers are very resilient though, [and] everybody started planting this week. I don't know a single farmer who was like, 'I'm throwing my hands up because this is terrible.' No, they're like, 'Well, back to the soil.'"**

NORA CHOVANEC, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TEXAS FARMERS' MARKET

CONTINUED ON P.58

## FOOD NEWS BY JESSI CAPE

Beginning next Wednesday, March 10, **Texas will lift its statewide mask mandate and allow all businesses to fully reopen and operate at 100% capacity**, announced **Gov. Greg Abbott** in a press conference on Tuesday.

Abbott's new executive order, **GA-34**, rescinds most of the governor's earlier COVID-19-related orders, including an earlier rule in which Texas bars were allowed to reopen at 50% beginning in October, but only if cleared by county officials first. Although Travis County did not approve reopening bars under that earlier rule, Abbott's new executive order means Austin-area bars can reopen at full capacity beginning next Wednesday. The new rule, however, states businesses are allowed to "limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols" and won't be barred from requiring employees or customers to wear masks. The order also specifies that "under no circumstance" can a county judge jail someone for not following their orders. They also cannot impose penalties on people for not wearing masks or on businesses for not requiring masks for customers or employees.

Effectively, this means that restaurants, for example, can still require masks, social distancing, and reduced capacity, but *they will not be backed by legal enforcement of such restrictions.*

Currently, **less than 13% of Texans** have received at least one dose of the vaccine; **less than 7%** have been fully inoculated, according to *The New York Times*. Texas ranks **48th in the country** for administered vaccine doses and will now be the most populous state without a mask mandate. As of press time, only health care workers, people in long-term care facilities, people 65 years and older, and people 16 years and older with specific high-risk conditions are eligible for the vaccine; hospitality workers and grocery

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store employees are not specifically designated as qualified to receive the vaccine.

Local restaurants immediately took to social media to express their thoughts and to largely reinforce their existing business protocols and rules. The majority are asking customers to comply with mask requirements. "Because the majority," *Chronicle* food lieutenant Brenner points out, "are not fucking stupid."

**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](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org).

◀ **THE SOUP PEDDLER'S FRIDA SMOOTHIE** The talented culinary crews at **Soup Peddler** are offering an artist-inspired smoothie to raise funds for **Dell Children's Medical Center** this month. The Frida smoothie (don't you dare say "Frida who?" or you can just GTF out of Texas, philistine) will be **available at every Soup Peddler location** for the entirety of March – and it's made from **banana, cinnamon, vanilla extract, spinach, Himalayan salt, rice milk, and spirulina**, with a flavor profile "harkening back to horchata." Harkening back to *yum*, we daresay, and it's sure to paint a smile on your face. *Through March.* All *Soup Peddler locations*, 512/444-7687. [www.souppeddler.com](http://www.souppeddler.com).



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There is plenty of fresh produce at all of Austin's markets. Support producers and get creative with new ingredients.

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

#### LOCAL FARMS CONTINUED FROM P.56

In terms of current product availability at the markets, there is temporarily a bit less volume and variety, but the farmers still have plenty of fresh seasonal produce and the ranchers have eggs, cheese, honey, and other agricultural products. Chickens lay fewer eggs when they are extremely cold (or hot), so there were fewer eggs to sell, but they were available even when grocery stores couldn't offer them. Chovanec reports that their seafood vendor, K&S Seafood, did not really experience a production downturn and had fresh fish and shrimp even when the short shelf life meant grocery stores had to halt availability.

Chovanec also reminds us to consider purchasing the added value products that vendors offer, like pickles, kimchi, and pesto, made from fresh produce that they preserved. "I would encourage people to step out of their comfort zone. Maybe if they were going to pick up relish at the grocery store, try getting it from the farmer at the market instead this week. So even if you can't buy the fresh cabbage, you can support them by buying the fermented cabbage. Try something different from the farmer's table - maybe you'll get hooked on it and won't want to go back to the store-bought pickles."

Direct donations toward recovery are still very much needed as the majority of farmers and ranchers experienced hardship and loss, and the funds come full circle to make a huge

difference in the food supply chain. "It's really one thing to say to our farmers, 'We're so sorry this happened,'" she explained. "But it's totally different to stand in front of them and say, 'We're so sorry this happened, and here's a check to replace those plants so you can start growing again, get back on your feet, and start feeding us once again.' It's really been difficult, but we're incredibly thankful. And we're all tired, but we see that spring is coming and we see the light from the community as well."

People can support farmers' markets across the city by visiting in-person and purchasing products, but also donating directly through the individual agriculture support funds:

**TEXAS FARMERS' MARKET** is hosting a free virtual event with Antonelli's to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. [www.texasfarmersmarket.org/ag-producer-support-fund](http://www.texasfarmersmarket.org/ag-producer-support-fund).

**BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET**  
[www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org](http://www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org).

**SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER'S FARMER AND RANCHER RELIEF FUND** [www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/farmer-and-rancher-relief-fund](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/farmer-and-rancher-relief-fund).

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN DISASTER RELIEF FUND**  
[www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/ilhigh-amplify-disaster-relief-fund](http://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/ilhigh-amplify-disaster-relief-fund).

#### TERRAPUREZZA

TerraPurezza, a pioneering model of regenerative agriculture that has several campuses in Spicewood and Dripping Springs (as well as on Willie Nelson's Luck Ranch) suffered devastating losses as a result of the winter storm. Tina and Orion Weldon use a well pump to get water; "when you lose power in the country, you lose water automatically at the same time," Orion Weldon told the *Chronicle*. "And, you know, if we were just people living in the country, we would store water, we would shut off our well and drain the lines in anticipation - but we have animals to water, so we need to keep [it] flowing." The temperature got down to 3 degrees at one point, colder than Austin ever felt, due to the heat island effect, where cities retain 5-10 more degrees during cold snaps because of heat-retaining concrete and close-together buildings.

Compounding their troubles was the inability to drive to reach their other campuses and check on the animals. "Texas is not prepared as a state for this kind of weather," Tina explained. "So there aren't plow trucks and salt trucks out on the road to help you get out and drive to your animals." On the first two days, they managed to drive out and spread hay as ground cover for the pigs, but on the third day, the roads were so bad that when they tried to drive, their trailer snapped off of the truck and rolled into a ditch. But the Weldons know they were not the only livestock farmers that suffered; at the feed store after the worst was over, Orion overheard "grown men breaking down and crying ... when the cashier casually asked them how their animals did at the farm, they would just start crying. And [they] said, 'I had to use my tractor to dig a hole, and I had to shove them all in.'" Other exotic ranchers by the

border lost 100% of their livestock; "They make good money, they were able to get all of the supplies, and it was still too cold," says Tina.

No one in Texas had the infrastructure to prepare for this kind of event. Luckily, Willie's property has more tree and brush cover, so the chickens and pigs there fared far better.

Venmo: @TinaWeldon (last four digits 6410);  
PayPal: [terrapurezza@gmail.com](mailto:terrapurezza@gmail.com); Patreon:  
[www.patreon.com/terrapurezza](http://www.patreon.com/terrapurezza).

#### EDEN EAST FARM

In a Feb. 23 Facebook post, Eden East shared before and after pictures of a snow-laden greenhouse and its tattered remains. "What a difference a week makes." The farm detailed the process of triage during the peak of the storm: "We kept our greenhouse warm using generators from our community as our power went out. We have already been able to salvage plants as our neighbors helped hand-carry water to our greenhouse to protect our future crops, as our well froze up even though we dripped water. We were able to deconstruct our damaged hoop house in record time due to our community's help. We then replanted that area." They credit community assistance with the survival of some of their transplants, and were able to emergency-sell crops to restaurants as well. As of February 22, they had replanted 17 new transplants. "When the sun came out and we assessed everything, we learned valuable lessons. One, some plants are resilient and survived the winter storm. Two, our community is strong and supportive."

They return to Flitch Coffee at 641 Tillery to sell springtime veggies on Saturday, March 6, 9am-1pm. Farm stand: 1910 Main St., Bastrop; Wed., 4-7pm & Sat., 9am-1pm.  
[www.edeneastaustin.com](http://www.edeneastaustin.com).

#### HAT & HEART FARM

On Feb. 16, Hat & Heart Farm in Fredericksburg posted a picture of a frozen chicken egg. "It's hard to see the beauty in any of this snow through the pits in our stomachs, shivering animals, no running water, and no power for over 100 hours at the farm." Later that week, it got much worse; after nine days without power, they put out a call for a 15-kilowatt generator for their field well. "This is crucial to keep the few crops that did survive alive. Any leads of one for sale that's not back-ordered is appreciated." Their harvest schedule was delayed by eight to 10 weeks, and they still can't replant until they can guarantee irrigation. "The work is just beginning." By Friday, Feb. 26, that work had progressed into a more hopeful phase of replanting, a generator having been secured: "There is much work to be done, and when the electricity eventually returns, the downed trees are cleared, and the irrigation lines are complete again - the path (literally) will be open for all these seeds to grow into gorgeous, delicious food. But first, we hook up the big generator ... It's safe to say I know more about watts, volts, amps, capacitance, distribution lines, transformers, and kilowatt-hours than ever before."

Hat & Heart sells eggs, veggies, and goat meat at five different farmers' markets, but during the pandemic they only operate at the Kerrville and Spicewood markets. Venmo: @Hat\_Heart. 3961 N. Grape Creek Rd., Fredericksburg. [www.hatandheart.com](http://www.hatandheart.com).

## URBAN ROOTS

Urban Roots Farm Manager Montana Stovall says that although they prepared the same way other farms did, weatherizing equipment and protecting vulnerable transplants, one technique in particular saved them: "Because our crop plan includes succession planting every two weeks, we had enough seeds stored in the cooler ready to go once it warmed up ... [It's] sort of a built-in way to mitigate a crisis like this one." But despite their preparations, their hoop house collapsed under the ice and now has to be completely replaced. It served multiple purposes, "including as storage for our harvest bins, as a curing facility for onions and winter squashes, and even as a gathering place for youth on cold or wet days," says Stovall. "If there are more storms like this one in the future, we want to be sure that the structures we rely on are built to withstand them." Its replacement will take funds that Urban Roots didn't plan for.

Stovall says the best way to support is to donate to their Amplify Austin campaign. [www.urbanrootsatx.org](http://www.urbanrootsatx.org).

## NEW LEAF AGRICULTURE

New Leaf Agriculture, a working farm that employs refugees through the Multicultural Refugee Coalition, started planning for the freeze days before like so many others, turning off the irrigation system and twice covering the plants already in the ground. The row cover ended up doing its job, but the transplants in their temperature-controlled walk-in cooler weren't so

lucky: "When the power went out, no one was out here to click those back on," says New Leaf Agriculture Director Matt Simon. They lost their window to plant winter vegetables in mid-February for an end-of-March harvest, so will only have baby veggies like arugula and kale for their community-supported agriculture boxes, with a four-week delay. "When you're farming, you have to think at least six weeks in advance, typically; looking where we're gonna be six weeks or two months from now based on our greenhouse losses was kind of sobering."

Luckily, says Simon, their CSA subscribers have been understanding, converting their refunds for the delay into donations to help New Leaf get back on its feet and coming out to volunteer at the farm for the first time. "[It's] really lifted our spirits in the past week or so ... just how much the community has really come together and shown up. Farming is kind of an isolating task sometimes, you know, you're out on your own land, toiling in your fields ... But I think all the farms that have CSA, the community has really gotten behind [them]; you probably had 15 CSA members who had joined our CSA but never actually been out to the farm to see where it was growing."

See this story online at [austinchronicle.com/food](http://austinchronicle.com/food) to find more local farms and agricultural nonprofits in need of assistance.

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# Screens

## Science on the Set

New studio Co-Production House brings the tech behind *The Mandalorian* to Austin **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

Six months ago, Justin Kirchoff was in the same situation as every other filmmaker, struggling to put some work together in the middle of the pandemic. Now he and co-founders Kristina Smith and Keller Davis are opening Co-Production House, a truly state-of-the-art soundstage in Austin, powered by the same technology that made *The Mandalorian* possible.

It's called Volume, and it's quickly become a gamechanger for filmmaking. At its simplest level, it's the evolution of old movie backdrops – but instead of giant sheets of painted canvas, it's the kind of LED screens used for electronic billboard displays. Combined with Unreal Engine (the same 3D graphics software used on films like *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, and games *Batman: Arkham Asylum* and *Final Fantasy VII Remake*), it creates immersive backgrounds rendered in real time. Not only that, but the LEDs also replace traditional stage lighting. Filmmakers can create immersive backgrounds, and also program the color, temperature, brightness, and direction of the light.

That's how Industrial Light & Magic could create a convincing double sunset over the Dune Sea, and now the same technology will be available in Austin.

It's been a sprint to get the first commercial Volume stage in

Texas ready for its March 20 opening, as the team only got the keys to the South Congress location in January. "The secret," Kirchoff said, "is you work your ass off."

The team had been planning to open a studio well before the pandemic, and before the Disney+ series made Volume the hot new tool for filmmakers. The original idea was just to share some office space: Kirchoff and Smith realized that his company (Digital Shakedown) and her firm (Imagine You Media) were working together so much that they should look at renting a shared facility. They checked out the newly completed spaces at the Collective on South Congress, and their shared office

idea became a plan for a coworking space aimed directly at media professionals – with a little something extra. Kirchoff said, "We shoot a lot of interviews, I do a lot of commercial and broadcast shoots, so we'd benefit from having a studio as well."

That's when they made a critical decision: At the end of 2019, they decided to take some time off, and then the pandemic hit. They had nothing but time on their hands, so they took a trip to Colorado, looked over the business plan, and started brainstorming how to truly distinguish their facility in the Austin market. That's when Kirchoff started reading articles about Volume and *The Mandalorian*, "and I was like, 'OK, how did they do it, and how do we do it?'"

What he found was that it was going to take more than placing an order. Volume is a term, not a product, originally coined by James Cameron and Robert Zemeckis for the motion capture spaces used for *Avatar* and *The Polar Express*. With the new LED-powered iteration, each soundstage is basically bespoke. Kirchoff said, "I've

been studying, and studying, and studying everything about LED volumes, processors, and Unreal Engine, and how all those things work together." Plus there was a lot of research into pixel pitch – relating to the size of pixels, and the distance between them, "in order for the camera to not discern the individual pixels."

Now Co-Production is ready to open phase 1 on March 20, with a 2,500-sq.-ft. studio with a 20-ft.-by-10-ft. LED wall furnished by Ilumin, as well as the coworking space they always planned. Phase 2, planned for summer, will include a 40-ft.-by-10-ft. curved wall Volume stage with ceiling. Co-Production will be running training sessions so that filmmakers and creatives will get the most out of the tech – and there's a lot to get. When it comes to the opportunities presented by Volume, "color me impressed," said Austin Film Commission Director Brian Gannon, who said he was

**"Color me impressed. If you want a Kubrick-esque level of control, this is it."**

AUSTIN FILM COMMISSION  
DIRECTOR BRIAN GANNON



(l-r): Community manager Alva SIm and co-founders Keller Davls, Kristina Smith, and Justin Kirchoff of Co-Production House

JOHN ANDERSON

convinced of its potential by (like everyone else) *The Mandalorian*. "If you want a Kubrick-esque level of control, this is it."

In the short term, until the coronavirus restrictions are lifted, the soundstage is an immediate boon for Austin. Gathering rules in Texas mean it's easier to have a full crew indoors than out, so location shooting has become trickier than ever. With a Volume stage, Gannon said, "It basically allows you to send a small splinter unit out, doing the B-roll background shooting for the Unreal Engine, and bring that into the studio."

The long-term effect of the technology could be more complex, especially in Austin where location shooting is such a part of the ecosystem – and in Texas at large, where the state film commission has actively encouraged production in smaller towns through the Film Friendly Texas initiative. If it becomes cheaper and easier for films to create virtual environments, then producers looking at their bottom line will always make the budget-friendly decision. At the same time, there are already discussions in the industry about what new kinds of image licensing will be required to use a pre-rendered image on set.

For Gannon, one of the biggest bonuses is that Co-Production puts a dent into two of Austin filmmaking's biggest shortfalls:

production offices and soundstages. Even before the pandemic soundstages were at a premium, and during the lockdown every square foot has a hold booking on it. The lack of studio space is "the biggest detriment we have," said Gannon, and even if Co-Production was just a regular soundstage that would help. However, with a Volume stage, "You don't need 50,000 square feet. You can build out your set digitally." Plus, much as early reports of the death of location shooting via green screens were greatly exaggerated, Gannon sees a healthy future for filming off-stage. He said, "We're a practical location destination, and I don't think that's ever going to change. There's stuff you can't emulate on a stage."

Until opening day, Kirchoff is enjoying experimenting with what his Volume stage can do, using free virtual environments from the Unreal marketplace. "What I like doing is going in to each of the environments, throwing the virtual camera in there, then hooking up my camera, and just practicing so I can do demos for people when they come into the studio. 'Check this out. It's ready to go.'"

**Co-Production House opens March 20. More details and information at [www.co-productionhouse.com](http://www.co-productionhouse.com).**



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## It's a Dog's Life

Canine adventures on the streets of Istanbul in four-legged documentary *Stray* **BY STEVE DAVIS**

From its opening tracking shot of four furry legs sauntering through a bed of colorful pansies as cars and trucks whoosh nearby, *Stray* is a documentary of unhurried pleasures. Its ambulatory rhythm marks the pace of everyday life for a street dog named Zeytin, a weathered mixed breed who ekes out an itinerant living – along with thousands of others just like her – in the hustle and bustle of metropolitan Istanbul. In many large cities today, Zeytin and her kind are the exception to the rule, largely eradicated from public view by statutes and ordinances designating them public nuisances. But under Turkey's more humane laws, it is illegal to euthanize or capture a stray dog. (Previously, the government promoted the mass killing of such animals during the 1990s, but the public backlash against this brutal slaughter prompted passage of protective legislation about 15 years ago.) As *Stray* compassionately demonstrates, criminalizing the extermination of these free-range canines and requiring local governments to provide them medical care has solidified a cultural tolerance for Zeytin and her fellow travelers. While the film shows the occasional human annoyance with these homeless animals (a street vendor shoos them away from his food cart, an Asian tourist curses one pooping in a park), it's obvious most of the people of Istanbul have openly embraced them, not simply as local mascots but as four-legged citizenry integral to the city's social fabric.

The movie is a fitting bookend to the like-minded 2017 documentary *Kedi*, which focused on the compelling symbiosis between Istanbul's freely roaming felines and its populace. (Zeytin briefly chases a couple of these kitties during the course of the film.) But while that equally remarkable film turned out to be as much about those creatures' human caretakers

as the cats themselves, *Stray* is content to document Zeytin's daily existence in the spirit of something akin to canine neorealism. Wherever she goes, the camera follows, as if attached to some invisible leash, a wagging tail serving as your tour guide. It's amazing how multihyphenate director Lo filmed the dog's interactions so unobtrusively, including those with other strays like running buddy Nazar (yes, there is some butt-sniffing) and the sporadic Homo sapien. She must have forged a strong bond of trust with her leading lady to make a film this intimate, one full of closeups. As Zeytin makes her rounds each

day, scavenging for food and looking for shelter, Lo cleverly eavesdrops on snippets of passing conversations (funny and not-so-funny alike) that – along with her close-to-the-ground camerawork – give you an inkling of the dog's sensory experience. This is smart, dedicated filmmaking that deserves to be noticed.

Although *Stray* is a tonic for dog lovers, it also speaks to something greater than just the humane treatment of its animals. The movie crosses paths more than once with a homeless band of teenaged Syrian refugees, young men without a future who are always seen clutching plastic bags filled with glue residue, huffing their lives away. And yet, they show an almost innocent compassion and affection for Zeytin and her kind, going so far as stealing an adorable black-and-white pup named Kartal from a construction crew to raise as their own. Their presence in this film gives *Stray* an allegorical frame of reference. If hope can somehow work to salvage the lives of the mongrels and mutts wandering the streets of Istanbul, surely it can do the same for these lost souls.

Available now as a virtual cinema release.

VIOLET CROWN

### STRAY

D: Elizabeth Lo.  
(NR, 72 min.)

★★★★

### CHAOS WALKING

D: Doug Liman; with Tom Holland, Daisy Ridley, Mads Mikkelsen, David Oyelowo, Demián Bichir, Nick Jonas, Cynthia Erivo, Ray McKinnon, Kurt Sutter. (PG-13, 108 min.)

The pleasures found in engaging with dystopian narratives have to do with a certain distance. While examining contemporary tendencies carried out to their intensely unpleasant conclusions, these fictions are safely removed. They give the morbidly curious various scenarios while also reassuring us that our current society, while seemingly beyond repair, could be far more worse. Author Patrick Ness took the pearl-clutching idea of humanity overloaded with information, added a dash of gender politics, and crafted the *Chaos Walking* trilogy, which, after extensive delays and various creative dance partners, has finally been birthed by Ness (with co-writer Christopher Ford) and director Doug Liman (*The Bourne Identity*, *Edge of Tomorrow*). The result is an entertaining if uneven cocktail of classic YA adventure tales with cautionary overtones. Call it dystopian-pop.

On a planet unremarkably called New World, the year is AD2257, and amid all the lush flora and fauna is a small colony called Prentissstown. The human founders of the planet quickly discovered a couple of things about New World that complicated their seemingly idyllic expansion plan. The first is that the planet already had a race of natives, the Spackle, who were less than thrilled by their new neighbors. The second is that every man on New World is afflicted by the Noise, an unfiltered display of every thought conceived for all to witness, the inner world of the mind outwardly exposed. Both

### OPENINGS

*Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry* (R)  
*Chaos Walking* (PG-13)  
*Mandabi* (NR)  
*Raya and the Last Dragon* (PG)  
*Sophie Jones* (NR)  
*Stray* (NR)  
*Tom and Jerry* (PG)

### 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

heard and seen, (the physical manifestation itself a lingering aura with a shifting, mood-ring color palette), the cognitive life of every man adds to a collective chorus of dissonance. One thing, though: Women are not affected by the Noise, a closed book to the men's unceasing ego monologues. And then the Spackle attack, slaughtering all the women in the colony.

Born and raised in this society is a young man named Todd Hewitt (Holland), living on a farm with his two fathers. An adept at controlling his own Noise, he's not as good as



Billie Eilish: *The World's a Little Blurry*

the town's leader, Mayor Prentiss (Mikkelsen, sporting an amazing fur coat), who not only can manage his own Noise, but holds sway over his community by using it to tame them. And then there is the preacher, Aaron (Oyelowo), a religious fanatic who sees the Noise as an aspect of the divine. Into this drops Viola (Ridley), the lone survivor of a scouting ship crash, the vanguard of a second wave of colonists arriving imminently. Can she warn them that New World holds some deadly surprises for them? Will Todd stop apologizing to Viola for his wayward thoughts on interacting with a woman for the first time while he aids her in her quest? Will fickle fate allow Todd's faithful dog Manchee to survive until end credits?

*Chaos Walking* has some things going for it, notably the ramifications of the Noise, and Todd and Viola's uncovering of the secrets of Prentisstown and New World. The aesthetic here is the now easily identifiable pioneer-futurist chic, and the film, once the cinematic engine starts humming, is basically a Western, as the mayor and his posse chase the duo through the wilderness. Liman keeps the pace from flagging, and the world-building exposition (so often laborious in these films) is clipped and painted with broad strokes. But aspects of the story never reach their full potential. Aaron, the increasingly unhinged preacher who has his own agenda for capturing Viola, offers tantalizing hints into how religious fervor, deception, and guilt mark one's soul, but his arc fizzles into just being another bad guy. Similarly, the primal fear of femininity that alternatively gives the women power and makes them incredibly dangerous to men could have been explored with a bit more nuance. As it stands though, *Chaos Walking* is, as with any pop confection, catchy and has a solid beat, it's just a shame that this tune is all too familiar.

★★★★ — Josh Kupecki  
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, IPIC, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7

## 🎧 BILLIE EILISH: THE WORLD'S A LITTLE BLURRY

D: R.J. Cutler. (R, 140 min.)

The title of this comprehensive documentary about Billie Eilish features a lyric from one of her favorite songs she's ever written, "ilomilo." It's a complex and dark pop track about the terrifying fear of being separated from someone you love, someone you'd die for. Inspired by a game she used to love playing on her phone, the song is layered with quivering fear, choked back tears, and unbearable pleading.

Much like the singer herself, "ilomilo" is haunting: And, similar to her music, *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry* isn't just surface level fluff. It's packed with the usual music documentary live performances, writing sessions, and valuable personal moments, but it's the film's patient and honest introspective on young fame that

makes it feel so much more than your standard pop music doc. For every success, Eilish has to face pitfalls: a damaged ankle, breaking up with her boyfriend, and internet scrutiny. There's an incredible vulnerability Eilish has in front of the camera: She's unguarded for her fans, willing to show the world her tears, frustration, and pain.

After performing her hit "Bored" from the *13 Reasons Why* soundtrack to a small venue packed with diehard fans, she comments, "I'd look into the crowd and I'd see all these faces. So many different feelings and heartbreak... And the least I can do is make art that I make because I have the same problems." Her fans hug her, cry into her arms: they are a part of her. *The World's a Little Blurry* isn't meant to be a Wikipedia summary of her career, it's an invite into her life.

Throughout the intimate documentary from R.J. Cutler (*A Perfect Candidate*, *Belushi*, *The September Issue*), Eilish focuses on her family's support and love. Writing songs in her bedroom with her brother while he sits at her desk and she lounges on the bed with a mic, the intimacy of her music starts there. Elder sibling Finneas knows when to push her, and when to light her up. He promises every song she writes will be the best she's ever done, even when that promise makes her want to scream. Her parents are always on her side, supportive but not overbearing. In a touching moment, Eilish gets her driver's license and immediately zooms over to her boyfriend's house, leaving her father in the driveway, monologuing to the camera about how you have to let children grow up, and how bittersweet that release can be. It's a scene that feels reminiscent of Richard Linklater's *Boyhood*, powerful in its mundane simplicity and nostalgia.

*The World's a Little Blurry* does a great job at emphasizing how young Eilish still is, and how even with fame she's still dealing with all the agony that comes with growing up. She sobs upon meeting her lifelong crush Justin Bieber after her boyfriend doesn't show up to support her in the aftermath of a stressful Coachella performance. When they eventually break up, her voice cracks on stage and she chokes on the words, "I can't escape the way I love you" from the painful ballad "i love you." It's so raw and heart shattering to watch Eilish break from her performance, but it's a moment that tenderly connects her with her fans who are simultaneously sobbing to the same lyrics.

*Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry* is like an epic emo video diary entry. It's sentimental, reflective, and is layered with great music (and great music shirts – shout out to Eilish's father's incredible Phoebe Bridgers tee collection). It'll not just make you miss the experience of watching your favorite performer in a packed crowd, but make you wistful for the undying passion of being a young fan and the pure joy of watching your favorite artist shoot for the moon – and make it.

★★★★ — Jenny Nulf  
ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE

## 🎬 MANDABI

D: Ousmane Sembène; with Makhouredia Gueye, Youssef N'Diaye, Isseu Niang, Mustapha Ture, Farba Sarr. (NR, 90 min.)

1968's *Mandabi*, or *The Money Order* in English, is Senegalese director Ousmane Sembène's second feature film and first comedy. Newly restored as he and other historic African filmmakers begin to get their due respect within American film culture, *Mandabi* reminds why Sembène is known by critics, scholars, and film lovers alike as the "father of African cinema."

*Mandabi* is loudly satirical from its opening beats. Loud, obnoxious patriarch Ibrahim Dieng (Gueye) sits with his chin up and his eyes shut as a street laborer oils up his face and carefully shaves his nostrils. The uncomfortably close shots up Ibrahim's nose are a hilarious show of wealth, made even more ridiculous when we realize he has none. Ibrahim, the unemployed head of his household, moves through the world with unearned pride, spending based on credit he doesn't have and shouting commands at two wives and seven children who have no reason to respect him. When a nephew in Paris mails a hefty money order back home to Dakar, it seems like Ibrahim's problems might all be solved – until, of course, they aren't.

Because there was something else going on in those silly moments at the start of the film.

The lathering and shaving are met with a quick-paced but dissonantly sad song played on a West African string instrument called the kora. The same song soundtracks Sembène's debut feature *Black Girl*, a dark, painful story about a Senegalese maid made miserable by her job in Paris. The resonance seems to suggest these two films live in the same universe, and we see that play out as *Mandabi* unfolds. Corrupt and convoluted bureaucracies exist in Senegal as remnants of the French colonization that ended a decade before, and they prevent Ibrahim from ever cashing out his money order.

While Sembène is clearly critical of Ibrahim's overbearing hubris, the sad sympathy of *Black Girl* is present too, because while *Mandabi*'s characters are exaggerated, the state-enabled poverty they face is all too realistic. Sembène achieves this balance of tone with a mix of absurd and biting dialogue and a modest mise en scène. Stray cats pass through corners of the frame, and the shaky camera feels at times documentarian. It's an illuminating example of neorealist filmmaking and highly stylized comedy from a much needed non-Western perspective. *Mandabi* and this vibrant 4K restoration are gifts not to be taken for granted.

Available now as a virtual cinema release.  
★★★ — Selome Hailu  
AFS CINEMA

## ★ RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON

**D: Don Hall, Carlos López Estrada; with the voices of Kelly Marie Tran, Awkwafina, Gemma Chan, Daniel Dae Kim, Sandra Oh, Benedict Wong, Izaac Wang, Thalia Tran, Alan Tudyk, Lucille Soong, Patti Harrison, Ross Butler. (PG, 114 min.)**

The story of diversity and representation in cinema is about evolution. Take Disney and depictions of Asian life and culture. When the studio released *Mulan* in 1998, it was in part a reaction to the gross stereotyping in “The Siamese Cat Song” in *The Aristocats*. Two decades later and *Mulan* has its own issues, but *Raya and the Last Dragon*, the 59th animated feature from the House of Mouse, enters the discussion.

Where it starts is by throwing out the idea of Asian as it stands in American cinema, which is too often a clumsy mish-mash of Chinese and Japanese influences. The sumptuous mythical world of Kumandra draws in real-world Asian influences: Yet they are not monolithically East Asian, instead evoking Southeast Asia, most especially Malaysia, Myanmar, and Brunei. This is where Raya (Tran) is on a search for a legend, and the shattered remnants of a magical stone that contains the magic of the last dragon, Sisu. What she actually finds is Sisu herself (Awkwafina), slightly scatterbrained and big of heart. Now if she can only reunite the fragments with Sisu, maybe she can overcome both the world-threatening Druun (a shapeless cloud of malice that turns people to stone) and Namaari (Chan), the warrior from a rival tribe that she blames for the world's woes.

*Raya* is gorgeous and exciting, with both Raya and Namaari overcoming their innate biases to save the world. Yet there's a strange lack of focus to *Raya*, built at the script level (potentially traceable back to the convoluted production process, which seems as torturous as the now-infamous development of *The Emperor's New Groove*). This is a near-two-hour film that still relies on a montage and a lengthy flashback in the first 20 minutes. Even the menace of the Druun seems oddly ill-defined, a mix of the purple destructive storm of the power stone from *Guardians of the Galaxy* and Parallax, the malevolent cloud from *Green Lantern*. For a film that is so fresh, thrilling, and overdue in its very existence just by having three Asian American women leads, the narrative seems hidebound: For a story that breaks so far from the traditions of the Disney fairy tale, it's still deeply predictable.

The execution is far better than the inception. The five nations of Kumandra are all distinct but of a whole, distinctive but perfectly fused (as shown in a wonderful soup metaphor). The comedy is a mix of excellent slapstick and sparkling one-liners, much of it deriving from the found family that Raya assembles on her adventure. Benedict Wong's charming and pleasant rogue Tong speaks blunt truths that raise a good giggle, while Izaac Wang gives orphaned shrimp chef Boun a charming “little brother” energy. Meanwhile Thalia Tran may voice tiny toddler Little Noi, but she's really where the animators get to cut loose, in frenetic sequences in which she commits heists with her trio of gibbonlike ongi. What's a little surprising is how little Awkwafina is given in the comedy realm: Rather than try for a big, memorable part like Robin Williams in *Aladdin*, or Eddie Murphy in *Mulan*, she's allowed a lot more space for understatement. It's necessary to keep her earnest, since she embodies the film's core message that trust is the most important gift in the world. If she was playing everything for laughs, that admirable (if naive) message would get lost. Like Sisu, *Raya and the Last Dragon's* heart is absolutely in the right place, even if that's one of the few perfect parts. It could have been great. Instead, it's fine.

★★★ — Richard Whittaker

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, HIGHLAND, IPIC, LAKELINE, LAKE CREEK 7

## SOPHIE JONES

**D: Jessie Barr; with Chase Offerle, Sam Kamerman, Elle, Natalie Shershow, Jonah Kersey, Jessica Barr, Claire Manning. (NR, 85 min.)**

In 2012, the television show *Girls* changed the way we see women coming of age. Spearheaded by Lena Dunham, who both wrote, directed, and starred in the series, she made it possible for the young, white woman to envision a future in filmmaking.

Nearly 10 years later, Barr, like Dunham, is doing it all in her feature debut, *Sophie Jones*. After her mother's death, Jones (Barr) struggles to connect with her classmates. Her best friend starts to feel foreign to her, and she pours her uncertainty of the future into hooking up with boys. Barr's feature debut is a coming of age story tangled in grief: How do you enjoy the pleasures of coming of age when you're hit with an earth-shattering tragedy?

*Sophie Jones* is a montage of moments: Time passes casually and without indication of how much has actually passed. Jones fights with her best friend (Manning), and suddenly they have made up. Someone casually suggests an older, senior boy is interested in her, and in the following scene she's recalling a date she and the very same boy went on that ended with her having tea at his parent's house. This blasé treatment of time takes away from character development, making it incredibly difficult to connect with anyone outside Jones.

In her mourning, Jones becomes a selfish character. In a sense, grief is a very self-serving ritual, so there is nothing wrong with exploring that kind of greedy need to process and overcome a devastating loss. What alienates Jones from the audience is the lack of characterization and foils that challenge her, and help her grow. No one ever has the courage to tell Jones she's treating them like dirt, because she'll throw herself back into her hollow loneliness if they try to get too close. *Sophie Jones* is almost too breezy, whizzing by without an anchor to connect to.

But *Sophie Jones* isn't weighed down by her grief, but by the traditions that came before it, and because of this it never finds its life. There are echoes of Greta Gerwig and Dunham, and Barr's voice never fully comes through in her homage. Instead, *Sophie Jones* feels like bites from these auteurs Barr so clearly admires, with brief blips that feel genuinely her own. Barr falls for the clichés of most indie first features, down to the loud crash of noise that builds like a scream to the credits. As beautiful as the final scene on the beach is, because Jones' grief is not developed enough, it lands a bit chilly.

Available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★★ — Jenny Nulf  
VIOLET CROWN

## TOM AND JERRY

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

If it wasn't for the animation and the roster of comedy stars, you'd swear that *Tom and Jerry* fell out of the 1990s. Most especially, the mid-Nineties, when studios started digging into their old cartoon archives and trying to find ways to extract some new, fresh dollars. That's how the world ended up with live-action versions of *George of the Jungle*, *Mr. Magoo* and *The Flintstones*, a CGI-reliant *Casper*, and whatever *Space Jam* was.

Lately Warner Bros. has been digging deep into its own archive in comic form, with postmodern fusion takes on its Hanna-Barbera properties like *Exit Stage Left: The Snagglepuss Chronicles* reinventing the pink feline as Truman Capote. But the animals that built Hanna-Barbera, troublemaking cat Tom and mischievous mouse Jerry, have eluded this kind of makeover — so far. Maybe it's because the original cartoons are so perfect in their simplicity. To launch any kind of reboot, you either have to match their genius (and good luck measuring up to William Hanna, Joseph Barbera, Chuck Jones, or Gene Deitch on

that front) or find a worthy reinvention. That challenge explains why there have only been two new *Tom and Jerry* cartoons in the last 43 years.

*Tom and Jerry* scores points for not attempting a character redesign, and it at least understands something pivotal about the cartoon twosome: that they're both to blame. Many of the shorts follow the same equation: Tom is dismissive of Jerry, Jerry gets disproportionate revenge, Tom seeks his own vengeance, Jerry gets the upper hand, chaos ensues. If only they could get along, the cartoons ask, what could they achieve? Well, that's the lesson learned halfway through *Tom and Jerry*, a live-action/animation fusion that gives the duo their first feature outing.

When Tom (Tom, reprising his classic role) and Jerry (another welcome return) end up in New York, they've clearly fallen on hard times. No stolen cheese and fluffy pillows: Instead, Tom is a busker, dreaming of performing with John Legend, and Jerry is still derailing his plans. Yet they are secondary to the lives of the humans around them, mostly street-smart Kayla (Moretz), who cons her way into a job at the swanky Royal Gate Hotel, organizing the wedding of tabloid darlings Preeti (Pallavi Sharda) and Ben (Jost). Of course carnage results, as Jerry moves in, Tom gets hired to oust the mouse, and suspicious administrator Terrence (Peña) makes life more complicated for everyone.

But from the opening jam of pigeons singing A Tribe Called Quest's “Can I Kick It” through a visual nod to Tim Burton's *Batman*, *Tom and Jerry* feels wedded to those revamps of 30 years ago. It's not aimed at kids (although they'll probably enjoy the slapstick), but at parents who grew up on the 2000 *Scooby-Doo*, and will get something from the meandering plot about Preeti and Ben's communication skills. Kevin Costello's script is a plummet from the joyous, childlike creativity of his work on *Brigsby Bear*, and Tim Story's workmanlike direction never hits the cuttily chaotic energy of the original shorts. And maybe that's what it comes down to: the short format. There are some great sequences of just Tom and Jerry that feel like *Tom and Jerry*. There's just so much else, too much else, going on, and most of it involves the cast staring at animated animals added in post. The lack of interaction makes it feel more like the original *Pete's Dragon* than even *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, and that was three decades ago. The cast seem afraid to truly embrace the fact that there are cartoon critters right next to them — all save Ferran, showing unexpected comedic panache as Joy, the slightly off-kilter bellhop.

Maybe all that's needed is to do more Tom and Jerry shorts, like how Disney found a path for Mickey Mouse, after decades of being little more than branding, with the delightful *Mickey Mouse* shorts. Maybe we need two hours of Tom and Jerry (and hopefully Joy), but not in one block.

★★ — Richard Whittaker

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, IPIC, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, LAKE CREEK 7



Raya and the Last Dragon



Dear Mr. Brody

## ATX @ SXSW

Fill your schedule with these films and shows by Austin residents and veterans **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

### Features

**Dear Mr. Brody** Keith Maitland's followup to SXSW 2016 critical and audience smash *Tower* pulls apart the myths and stories surrounding the bizarre life of Michael Brody Jr., the margarine heir who tried to give away millions of dollars. (Festival Favorites: available from noon, March 16; 2,000 seat limit)

**Through the Plexi-Glass: The Last Days of the San José** Lawyer, hotelier, and documentarian Liz Lambert has been working on her history of the South Congress institution for nearly two decades, and now her look at a changing city through the keyhole of one motel is complete. (Visions, World Premiere: available from 4pm, March 16)

**Inbetween Girl** Austin filmmaker Mei Makano tells a story of teen awakening as young Angie (Emma Galbraith) finds hooking up secretly with the school hunk comes at a cost. (Visions: available from 4pm, March 18; 2,000 seat limit, only available in the U.S.)

**Language Lessons** Writer/director Natalie Morales stars in this Zoom observational comedy about the friendship that blossoms online between a Spanish-language teacher and her initially unwilling student (Mark Duplass). (Narrative Spotlight: available from 2pm, March 16. Filmmaker Q&A, March 18, 6:30pm)

**Without Getting Killed or Caught** Tamara Saviano's bio-documentary of the tragic and convoluted relationship between three legends of Texas music: Guy Clark, Susanna Clark, and Townes Van Zandt. (2020 Spotlight, World Premiere: available from 10am, March 18; 2,000 seat limit)

SXSW Online 2021 runs March 16-20. Follow our coverage at [austinchronicle.com/sxsw](http://austinchronicle.com/sxsw).

**Woodlands Dark and Days Bewitched: A History of Folk Horror** Former Alamo Drafthouse and Fantastic Fest booker Kier-La Janisse casts a spell on folk horror, the genre most commonly associated with spooky British classics like *The Wicker Man* but now undergoing a global renaissance. (Midnighters, World Premiere: available from 8pm, March 16. Filmmaker Q&A, March 17, 9:30pm)

### Episodic

**Sasquatch** The Duplass brothers executive produce this chilling new true crime drama from Hulu, which asks: Did a bigfoot kill three men in rural California? (Episodic Premiere, World Premiere: available from March 16, 10am; 5,000 seat limit)

### Shorts

**"Malignant"** Local filmmakers Morgan Bond and Nickolas Grisham, aka CamLock Films, take a road trip to West Texas as a woman tries to get her mom out of a dubious health retreat. (Texas Shorts Competition, World Premiere: available from 4pm, March 16)

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# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS



Leona

## VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

**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 Crossett, 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, Thu., March 4, 7:30pm.

**Leona (2021)** D: Isaac Cherem; with Naïan González Norvind, Christian Vazquez, Carolina Politi, Daniel Adissi, Margarita Sanz. (NR, 91 min.) The story of Ariela, a young Jewish woman from Mexico City who finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love. Tickets include a director Q&A on March 14. @Online: [www.austinjff.org](http://www.austinjff.org). Film available March 6-14; Q&A Sun., March 14.

**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](http://www.villainswearblack.online), Wednesdays, 10pm.

## SPACES

**The Shining (1980)** D: Stanley Kubrick; with Jack Nicholson. (R, 142 min.) **Movie Theater Thursdays.** Empire Control Room hosts socially distanced movie nights in their outdoor space featuring some of their favorite films, and the first 30 people in the door will receive a complimentary Grey Goose cocktail. @Empire Control Room, Thu., March 4, 7pm.

**Bridesmaids (2011)** D: Paul Feig; with Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne. (R, 125 min.) (\*) @Ultimate Drive-in, 1600 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Fri., March 5, 9:30pm.

**The Notebook (2004)** D: Nick Cassavetes; with Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams. (PG-13, 121 min.) (\*) @Ultimate Drive-in, 1600 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Fri., March 5, 6:30pm.

**Trolls World Tour (2020)** D: Walt Dohrn and David P. Smith; with the voices of Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Rachel Bloom. (PG, 94 min.) Join the Community Cinema and Tarrytown United Methodist Church for a safe, socially distanced screening featuring Lucy's Fried Chicken. The concessions stand with popcorn, candy, and drinks will be open, and Lucy's meals are available for preorder (choose the "add-on" ticket option). (\*) @Community First! Village, Fri., March 5, 6:30pm.

**Casablanca (1942)** D: Michael Curtiz; with Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman. (NR, 102 min.) Watch a classic movie inside a vintage theatre. Wear your best vintage garb and be seated by ushers who will be dressed to the nines, take a photo at the photo booth, and try your hand at some *Casablanca* trivia. Come early and enjoy dinner or *Casablanca*-inspired drinks at Wildfire Restaurant next door. @Palace, Sat., March 6, 7:30pm.

**50 First Dates (2004)** D: Peter Segal; with Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider, Sean Astin, Blake Clark, Dan Aykroyd. (PG-13, 96 min.) (\*) @Ultimate Drive-in, 1600 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Sun., March 7, 6:30pm.

**Rocky and First Blood** 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 10, 7pm.

**Dazed and Confused (1993)** D: Richard Linklater; with Jason London, Wiley Wiggins, Rory Cochrane, Matthew McConaughey. (R, 103 min.) **Movie Theater Thursdays.** Empire Control Room hosts socially distanced movie nights in their outdoor space featuring some of their favorite films, and the first 30 people in the door will receive a complimentary Grey Goose cocktail. (\*) @Empire Control Room, Thu., March 11, 7pm.

## FEATURED SCREENINGS

**Violet Crown RSVP Cinema** After nearly a year of closure due to the pandemic, Violet Crown is ready to reopen with RSVP Cinema. You choose the film and rent the theatre for \$50-100, then you'll get a ticket page for your guests. Bring-your-own-movie tickets are \$5, Jukebox Cinema (curated classics) are \$10, and new releases are \$15. Food and beverage offerings are delivered to your own theatre for a truly VIP experience. @Violet Crown, starting Fri., March 5.

**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., Mar. 4, 7:20pm; Wed., Mar. 10, 7:20pm.

**Happy Death Day (2017)** D: Christopher Landon; with Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Rachel Matthews, Charles Aitken, Rob Mello. (PG-13, 96 min.) (\*) @Doc's Drive In, Thu., Mar. 4, 9:30pm.

**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, Gerry Bednob, Shelley Malil. (R, 116 min.) (\*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Fri., Mar. 5, 10:20pm.

**Mallrats (1995)** D: Kevin Smith; with Shannen Doherty, Jeremy London, Jason Lee, Claire Forlani, Ben Affleck, Jason Mewes, Kevin Smith. (R, 97 min.) (\*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Fri., Mar. 5, 10:15pm.

**Scream (1996)** D: Wes Craven; with Drew Barrymore, Neve Campbell, Skeet Ulrich, David Arquette, Rose McGowan, Jamie Kennedy, Matthew Lillard, Courteney Cox. (R, 100 min.) (\*) @The Globe Drive-in, Fri., Mar. 5, 9:20pm.

**UFC 259** A championship triple-header with three title fights: Israel Adesanya vs. Jan Blachowicz, Amanda Nunes vs. Megan Anderson, and Petr Yan vs. Aljamain Sterling. @Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo S. Lamar, Alamo Lakeline, Sat., Mar. 6, 9pm.

**The Wizard of Oz (1939)** D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland. (G, 101 min.) @Doc's Drive In, Sat., Mar. 6, 7:30pm.

**Metropolis (1927)** D: Fritz Lang. (NR, 147 min.) **With Live Score.** The influential German expressionist sci fi is presented with the special treat of a live score by David DiDonato. @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Tue., Mar. 9, 7pm.

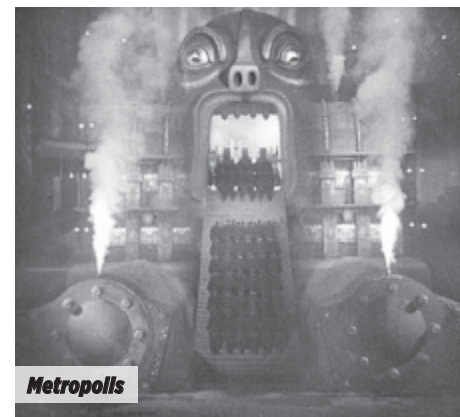
**Frank Ferrante's Groucho (90 min.)** A hilarious theatrical portrait of Groucho Marx, written and performed by actor Frank Ferrante. @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Wed., Mar. 10, 7pm.

**Monkey Business (1931)** D: Norman McLeod; with Groucho Marx, Harpo Marx, Chico Marx, Zeppo Marx, Thelma Todd. (NR, 77 min.) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Wed., Mar. 10, 9:20pm.

**Happy Gilmore (1996)** D: Dennis Dugan; with Adam Sandler, Richard Kiel, Bob Barker, Julie Bowen, Carl Weathers, Christopher McDonald, Ben Stiller. (PG-13, 92 min.) (\*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Mar. 11, 10:15pm.

## 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." March 4: *There Is No Evil* by Mohammed Rasoulouf (*Manuscripts Don't Burn*), who is presently under house arrest in Iran; discussion with scholar Dr. Babak Tabarraee on March 9. March 11: *Tazzeqa*,



Metropolis

about a young Moroccan chef who moves to Paris. @Online: [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org).

**OUTsider Festival** Transmedia LGBTQIA fest OUTsider has tons of virtual fun in store for the weekend, featuring outside-the-box film, art, music, and more. (Rescheduled from Feb. 19-21.) @Online: [www.outsiderfest.org](http://www.outsiderfest.org), March 5-7.

## OFFSCREEN

**ASOF Virtual Open House** Learn about Austin School of Film's classes, workshops, and programs, ask questions in real time, and get a general overview of what they have to offer and what you need to get started. Fri., March 5, 6pm. @Online: [www.austinfilmsschool.org](http://www.austinfilmsschool.org). Free.

**The Drive-in Comedy Tour** Live stand-up comedy with a 360-degree skyline view at Blue Starlite Downtown's rooftop theatre. Sat. & Thu., March 6 & 11, 5pm. *Blue Starlite Downtown*, 300 San Antonio. Live stand-up comedy in Blue Starlite's spacious yard. Sun., March 7, 7pm. *Blue Starlite Mueller II*, 2103 E. M. Franklin Ave. [www.bluestarlitedrivedrive.com](http://www.bluestarlitedrivedrive.com).



Casablanca

THE SYMBOL (\*) INDICATES FULL-LENGTH REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: [AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FILM](http://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 19 issue is Monday, March 8.** 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](mailto: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](http://austinchronicle.com/events).

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKELINE

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

**BILLIE EILISH: THE WORLD'S A LITTLE BLURRY:** Fri, 7:00; Sat, 7:15  
**BOOGIE:** Fri, 3:20, 6:20; Sat, 12:40, 3:30, 6:20; Sun, 12:40, 3:25, 6:20  
**CHAOS WALKING:** Fri, 4:20, 7:25; Sat, 1:15, 4:30, 7:40; Sun, 1:10, 4:20, 7:25

**THE LITTLE THINGS:** Fri, 3:35; Sat, 11:45am; Sun, 7:00  
**NOMADLAND:** Fri, 3:15, 4:00, 7:00; Sat, 12:55, 4:15, 7:15; Sun, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10

**RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON:** Fri, 2:45; Sat-Sun, 11:30am  
**TOM AND JERRY:** Fri, 3:00, 3:40, 6:40; Sat, 11:05am, 2:05, 3:50, 5:00, 7:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 12:10, 2:00, 3:50, 5:00, 7:50pm  
**UFC 259:** Sat, 9:00

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER, 512/861-7060.

**BILLIE EILISH: THE WORLD'S A LITTLE BLURRY:** Fri, 6:40  
**CHAOS WALKING:** Fri, 3:55, 7:00; Sat, 12:40, 3:45, 7:00; Sun, 12:45, 4:10, 7:15

**THE LITTLE THINGS:** Fri, 2:45; Sat, 8:15; Sun, 2:25  
**NOMADLAND:** Fri, 4:15, 7:20; Sat, 12:45, 4:45, 8:30; Sun, noon, 3:30, 7:40

**RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON:** Fri, 2:50, 3:35; Sat, 1:35, 2:50, 5:05, 6:00; Sun, 12:30, 2:50, 3:45, 6:00, 7:00

**TOM AND JERRY:** Fri, 3:25; Sat, 11:00am, 2:05, 4:00pm; Sun, 11:00am, 12:20, 2:00pm  
**UFC 259:** Sat, 9:00  
**WILLY'S WONDERLAND:** Fri, 7:35; Sat, 9:45

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

**BILLIE EILISH: THE WORLD'S A LITTLE BLURRY:** Fri, 6:45; Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00; Sun, 12:15  
**CHAOS WALKING:** Fri, 4:00, 7:20; Sat, 12:45, 4:15, 7:20, 9:30; Sun, 12:50, 4:05, 7:20

**JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH:** Fri, 2:40, 5:30; Sat, 11:50am, 3:00pm; Sun, 11:30am  
**NOMADLAND:** Fri, 3:40, 7:00; Sat, 12:30, 1:20, 3:40, 7:00; Sun, noon, 2:10, 3:45, 5:30

**RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON:** Fri, 6:00, 7:45; Sat, 11:40am, 12:10pm; Sun, 11:40am, 12:30, 5:45pm

**TOM AND JERRY:** Fri, 2:00, 5:00, 7:55; Sat, 11:00am, noon, 2:00, 5:00, 7:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 3:20, 5:00, 7:55pm  
**UFC 259:** Sat, 9:00  
**WILLY'S WONDERLAND:** Fri, 3:30, 8:30; Sat, 9:40; Sun, 8:35

## AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

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

**BOOGIE (CC/DVS):** Fri, 4:20, 7:20; Sat, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20; Sun, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20; Mon-Thru (3/11), 7:10  
**CHAOS WALKING:** Fri-Sun, 5:10  
**CHAOS WALKING (CC/DVS):** Fri, 7:50; Sat, 1:30, 7:50; Sun, 1:20, 7:50; Mon-Thru (3/11), 6:50

**JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (CC/DVS):** Fri, 4:50; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:50; Mon-Wed, 6:40  
**THE LITTLE THINGS (CC/DVS):** Fri-Sat, 6:40; Sun, 6:50

## MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS):

Fri-Sun, 8:10

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON:

Fri-Sun, 8:20; Mon-Wed, 7:30

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (CC/DVS):

Fri, 4:00, 4:40, 7:10;

Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 4:40, 7:10;

Mon-Thru (3/11), 6:30

## TOM AND JERRY (CC/DVS):

Fri, 3:10, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30; Sat, 12:20, 1:40, 3:20, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30;

Sun, 1:40, 3:20, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30;

Mon-Wed, 6:10, 7:20

## WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS):

Fri-Sun, 2:50; Mon-Wed, 6:20

## BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

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

## BOOGIE (CC/DVS):

Fri, 2:10, 7:25, 9:40; Sat, 1:10, 3:45, 6:35, 9:30;

Sun, 1:10, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30; Mon-Thru (3/11), 4:45, 7:45

## CHAOS WALKING (CC):

Fri, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:40; Sat, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:15; Sun, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00; Mon-Wed, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00; Thu (3/11), 5:00

## CHAOS WALKING (CC, IMAX):

Fri-Sun, 6:00, 8:45; Mon-Tue, 8:00; Wed, 5:00, 8:00; Thu (3/11), 4:00

## CHAOS WALKING (CC/DVS):

Fri, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:40; Sat, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:15; Sun, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00; Mon-Wed, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00; Thu (3/11), 5:00, 8:00

## CHAOS WALKING (CC/DVS, IMAX):

Fri-Sun, 6:00, 8:45; Mon-Tue, 8:00; Wed, 5:00, 8:00; Thu (3/11), 4:00

## JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (CC):

Fri, 2:35, 4:35; Sat-Sun, 12:10

## JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (CC/DVS):

Fri, 2:35, 4:35; Sat-Sun, 12:10; Mon-Wed, 3:05

## THE MARKSMAN (CC):

Fri, 2:00; Sat, 2:00; Sun, 2:00

## THE MARKSMAN (CC/DVS):

Fri, 2:00; Sat-Sun, 12:05; Mon-Wed, 6:10

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (CC):

Fri, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30; Sat, 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:00, 6:15, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15; Sun, 1:15, 4:15, 6:45, 7:45; Mon-Wed, 4:00, 6:45, 7:45; Thu (3/11), 3:45, 6:45

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (CC, IMAX):

Fri, 3:00; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:15; Mon-Tue, 5:00

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (CC/DVS):

Fri, 6:45, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 7:45; Mon-Wed, 6:45; Thu (3/11), 3:45, 6:45

## RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (CC/DVS, IMAX):

Fri, 3:00; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:15; Mon-Tue, 5:00

## TOM AND JERRY (CC):

Fri, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10; Sat, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10; Sun, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30

## TOM AND JERRY (CC/DVS):

Fri, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10; Sat, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10; Sun, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30

## BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN

300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

## COMING TO AMERICA:

Sat, 7:30

## DAZED AND CONFUSED:

Thu (3/11), 7:30

## THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY TOUR:

Sat & Thu., March 6 & 11, 5pm

## FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF:

Sat-Thru (3/11), 7:30

## THE GOONIES:

Fri, 7:00

## KONG: SKULL ISLAND:

Sat, 10:20

## WONDER WOMAN:

Fri, 7:00

## WRONG TURN:

Sat, 10:20

## BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

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

## THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY TOUR:

March 7, 7pm

## BILL & TED FACE THE MUSIC:

Thu (3/11), 7:00

## THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM:

Sun, 7:00; Tue, 7:20

## COMING TO AMERICA:

Fri, 4:00am, 7:20pm; Sat-Mon, 4:00am; Tue, 4:00am, 7:20pm; Wed, 4:00am; Thu (3/11), 4:00am, 7:20pm

## THE CROODS: A NEW AGE:

Sun, 7:10; Mon, 7:20; Tue, 7:00; Wed, 7:10

## DAZED AND CONFUSED:

Sat, 10:20

## EVIL DEAD 2: DEAD BY DAWN:

Thu (3/11), 7:00

## FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF:

Fri, 7:00; Sat-Thru (3/11), 7:20

## THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN:

Fri, 10:20

## FRANK FERRARANTE'S GROUCHO:

Wed, 7:00

## FREAKY: FRI, 10:20; WED, 7:00

## GOZILLIA: KING OF THE MONSTERS:

Wed, 7:00

## THE GOONIES:

Fri-Sat, 7:00; Sun-Mon, 7:20; Tue, 7:00; Wed, 7:00, 10:30; Thu (3/11), 7:00

## HAPPY GILMORE: THU (3/11), 10:15

## KONG: SKULL ISLAND:

Fri-Mon, 7:00

## THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE: FRI, 7:20

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING: Thu (3/11), 7:00

## MALLRATS:

Fri, 10:15; Sat, 10:10

## WITH LIVE SCORE: METROPOLIS:

Tue, 7:00

## MONKEY BUSINESS:

Wed, 9:20

## MY SALINGER YEAR: SAT-SUN, 7:00

## PG: PSYCHO GOREMAN: SAT, 10:15

## THE PRINCESS BRIDE: SAT, 7:10

## SAY ANYTHING: SUN, 7:20

## THE VIGIL: FRI, 10:15; SUN, 7:10

## TUE, 7:20; THU (3/11), 7:10

## WONDER WOMAN: SAT-THU (3/11), 7:00

## WRONG TURN: FRI, 7:10; SAT, 10:00

## BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRELL PKWY.,  
832/918-0332.

## COMING TO AMERICA:

Fri, 10:20

## FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF:

Sat-Thru (3/11), 7:00

## WONDER WOMAN:

Fri, 7:00

## WRONG TURN:

Sat, 9:40

## BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

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

Fri-Thru (3/11), 2:00

## LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE ODYSSEY":

Fri-Thru (3/11), noon

## CINEMARK 20 AND XD

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

## BOOGIE (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:50, 4:50, 7:20, 7:20, 9:50, 9:50; Sat, 2:20, 2:20, 4:50, 4:50, 7:20, 7:20, 9:50, 9:50; Sun, 12:20, 12:20, 2:50, 2:50, 5:20, 5:20, 7:50, 7:50; Mon-Thru (3/11), 5:20, 5:20, 7:50, 7:50

## CHAOS WALKING:

Fri, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sat, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sun, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15; Mon-Thru (3/11), 4:15, 7:15

## CHAOS WALKING (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:15, 5:30, 7:15, 8:10, 10:15; Sat, 1:15, 2:50, 4:15, 5:30, 7:15, 8:10, 10:15; Sun, 1:15, 2:50, 4:15, 5:30, 7:15, 8:10; Mon-Thru (3/11), 4:15, 7:15, 8:10

## CHAOS WALKING (XD):

Fri-Sat, 6:30, 9:15; Sun, 6:30; Mon-Thru (3/11), 6:45

## CHECK (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50; Sat, 12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50; Sun, 12:40, 3:45, 6:50; Mon-Thru (3/11), 5:00, 8:00

## CHEERY (DIGITAL):

Thu (3/11), 7:00

## THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL):

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, 7:25; Mon-Wed, 4:50, 7:25; Thu (3/11), 4:20

## JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (DIGITAL):

Fri, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40; Sat, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40; Sun, noon, 2:55; Mon-Thru (3/11), 4:25, 7:30

## LAND (DIGITAL):

Fri-Sat, 10:10; Sun, 7:35; Mon-Thru (3/11), 8:10

## THE LITTLE THINGS (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10; Sat, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10; Sun, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05; Mon-Thru (3/11), 4:00, 7:05

## THE MARKSMAN (DIGITAL):

Fri, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sat, 2:00, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sun, 2:00, 4:55, 7:40; Mon-Wed, 4:55, 7:40; Thu (3/11), 4:10

## THE MAURITANIAN (DIGITAL):

# Music

## Only in Austin: The 2020/2021 Austin Music Award Sweepstakes

At 11am on a Monday, at the corner of Guadalupe and Dean Keeton, it's quiet. **UT** classes remain predominantly virtual, so a lot fewer students mill about. There's still enough, however, to stop and gawk when a white van emblazoned "Austin Music Awards Winner Wagon" pulls up honking.

A bow-tied **Kevin Curtin** then hops out with a wireless mic to deliver the award for Best Radio Personality to **Laurie Gallardo**.

"I was like, 'Those people are [coming] to kill me!'" laughed the deejay afterward about the windshield tassels and spare tire strapped on top of Curtin's former Houston PD van.

Although she's won the title five years straight, the **KUTX** afternoon host didn't expect the guerilla drop-off. Friendly, unassuming *Chronicle* shutterbug **David Brendan Hall** acted as decoy, asking nominees to meet for photos – and setting the stage for zany game show host Curtin with the balloons and awards. Outside their studio, **Black Pumas** singer **Eric Burton** greeted, "Hey man, you look like **Willy Wonka** right now."

In recent months, the frontman reached the world from inside city limits through virtual appearances across the presidential inauguration and late-night TV. He understood the point of jockeying awards around town like an off-brand sweepstakes. In a year without travel or tours, it seems crucial to celebrate

what we have here, only in Austin.

"We wouldn't exist without the people of Austin," Burton added. "As a matter of fact, this wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Austin. Like, Kevin Curtin pulls up in a van. Who does that?"

Rather than trophies, winners received a \$500 giant check courtesy of **Capital Metro**, in a retro nod **Chicken Ranch Records** owner **Mike Dickinson** understood.

"This is like **Publishers Clearing House**," he said in his front yard. "I'm going to frame this."

Inspired, in part, by **Mobley's** ingenious curbside tour last year, presentations of the **2020-2021**

**Austin Music Awards** scattered throughout studios and front porches around town rather than last year's show locale at **ACL Live**. Goody bags went out Monday through Wednesday, while videos also went up daily. Find all of the clips on the *Chronicle* Facebook and Instagram (@austinchronicle) accounts.

Highlights include **Shinyribs** receiving Best 2020-Themed Song in a bathrobe for "Stay Home." **John Kunz** wrangled the entire **Waterloo Records** staff there that day outside for their photo, after which everyone enjoyed free beer out back of the Winner Wagon. Filmed with local producers **Arts+Labor**, the clips are seriously funny and lovingly made.



Emcee Kevin Curtin emerges, balloons in tow, from the Austin Music Awards Winner Wagon

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### What Austin Music Poll Voters Missed Most in 2020

Aside from tagging along with the Winner Wagon on Monday, my task for the **Austin Music Poll's** 40th anniversary became sifting through the write-in responses. Slimmed down thanks to last year's moratorium on live performance, the Poll inserts a free-form question custom to 2020: "What did you miss the most this year?" The responses proved pretty unanimous.

*Chronicle* readers miss live music, and **Shinyribs** knew just how to put it.

"The live, unfiltered, pure stuff mainlined straight to the soul. Ain't nothing like it in the whole wide world. Or in the whole closed world." – **Kevin Russell**

"I used to take it for granted; all of this would be here forever. I miss driving to a show, parking my car, and knowing when I walked into the venue, I would see my friends." – **Jo Rae Di Menno**

"It was always fun to plan for a special occasion with a live show as the icing on

the cake. My wife and I were able to see **Big Freedia** several times at **Mohawk** for our anniversary." – **Will Hoermann**

"I really miss all the wonderful house concerts in the area. I love the intimacy and warm casual feeling that seems to bring out the best in the musicians and crowd." – **Trish Roach**

"The random acts, the established acts, from **ACL** to **Saxon Pub** to **Cactus Cafe**. Just everything that enriched my life. I want it back!" – **Dorothy Marchand**

Saxon Pub regulars revealed themselves as a voting bloc. **Peggy Little** misses seeing **David Grissom** on Tuesdays, then walking to **Maudie's** for cheese enchiladas, while **Alan Muskin** misses **Denny Freeman** on Fridays. Longtime **Texas Dance Hall Preservation** Director **Deb Fleming** wrote: "From their regular residencies to the special shows, the Saxon's consistency is too often taken for granted by many."

Homebound listeners argued passionately for their favorites outside Best Online Series and Livestreaming Artist categories. **Monte Warden** *Feel Good Hour*, **Monks Jazz & Austin Jazz Society's** **#ProjectSafetyNet**, **Purple Bee TV**, **Mau Mau Chaplains'** *Dreadneck Wednesdays*, and **Madam Radar's** *Saturday Extravaganza* – know you're appreciated. Livestreams also inspired musings.

"I REALLY love the livestreams. It was so great to watch the entire **HAAM Day** showcase without having to rush all over town ... [That's] when I discovered **Jackie Venson**." – **Robbie Nelson**

"The shows I did see were milder than usual, with audience members seated or the sound turned down because the shows were outdoors. Maybe as much as anything else, I missed dancing at shows. Online video shows were fun, but only a fraction as much as in-person." – **Dave Sullivan**

## CROSSTALK

**GENE TAYLOR DIED** Feb. 20 at age 68. According to the *Austin American-Statesman*, a housemate found the boogie-woogie pianist dead in his bed after five days without heat during the recent winter storm. As a teenager in Los Angeles, Taylor performed with blues legends including **Big Joe Turner**, **T-Bone Walker**, and **Canned Heat**. In the Nineties, he moved to Austin to join the **Fabulous Thunderbirds**. **Dave Alvin**, who hired Taylor into the **Blasters**, announced the news: "At 17, he had a full beard, could easily buy booze, smoked cigars and, most importantly, was already a boogie/blues piano master."

**ACL MUSIC FEST** shared 2021 dates on their website last week, without further updates. "We can't wait to see you Oct. 1-3 and 8-10, 2021, back in **Zilker Park**," the message read. Tickets are not yet available for the festival's 20th anniversary. Dates align with a statement shared last July, when **C3 Presents** canceled its 2020 event: "We encourage fans who have already purchased tickets to hold on to them to lock in access to next year's festival at 2019 prices. Refunds will be made available for fans who purchased directly through the festival and cannot attend next year's dates."

**BOB TOM REED**, guitarist of foundational local psych band **Shiva's Headband**, and partner **Allison Smith** lost their Rolling Oaks home and everything in it to a fire on Feb. 20. Friends launched a GoFundMe ("Bob Tom and Allison - Rebuilding after the fire") with a goal of \$150,000 to aid. A regular at a **Kerrville Folk Festival** and **Wimberley Market Day**, Reed produces the **Rolling Oaks Music Festival**. Son **John Robert Reed** posted plans to build a new tiny home: "My dad's house burned to the ground yesterday. He escaped with his life but lost everything else – literally everything he's ever owned. The house was uninsured, which means he's starting over from scratch."

# W

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austinchronicle.com MARCH 5, 2021 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 69

# Crystal Thomas

**NOW DIG THIS (DIALTONE)** [www.antonerecordshop.com](http://www.antonerecordshop.com)

To, in fact, *Now Dig This*, you just might need to pop into Antone's Records to purchase the 180-gram vinyl. Platform? Yes, it's the store's front display bin.

In the olden days, a sort of chitlins (and grits) circuit of record stores carried releases by mom-and-pop labels such as Austin's Dialtone, documenting artists rooted deep in regional scenes where "authenticity" proved no more difficult than plugging in and playing. Louisianan out of Mansfield, Crystal Thomas grooves a modern day Southern soul circuit between Dallas and Shreveport, "but she tells me her real love is playing the blues," reveals the imprint's patriarch Eddie Stout. *Now Dig This* tunnels beneath all these signposts.

Cut in Dallas and produced by the Dialtone true heart (revisit Sept. 8, 2017, cover story "Eddie Stout Is a One-Man Historical Blues Society"), the album burrows into sessions of seasoned backing by cap city journeymen Jay and Johnny Moeller – both siblings past and present Fabulous Thunderbirds on drums and guitar, respectively – plus bassist to the stars Chuck Rainey (Fats Domino, Aretha Franklin), and a nearly session-stealing wringer. Thomas, meantime, never over emotes like so many lesser singers, laying and even lazing

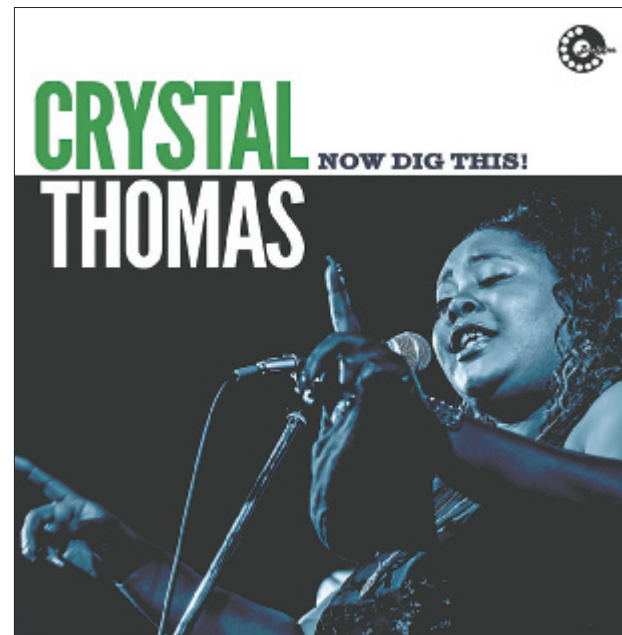
back in key spots, which lends all 10 tracks a sensuality. The opening cover of Toussaint McCall's "I'm a Fool for You Baby" eases into *Now Dig This* slowly, subtly.

Except for Dallas soulman Lucky Peterson, that is, dripping kerosene on the organ and throughout the full-length.

Peterson died of a brain hemorrhage on May 17, 2020, and Stout believes *Now Dig This* logs his final studio commitment. "I'm a Fool for You Baby" teams rhythm licks with tambourine hi-hat as Peterson's organ crisps the low-end while dueling with Moeller's stinging guitar. All the while, Thomas' broad, yet trebly bear owns the road. The label head's instrumental jam "Blues Funk" slurps up and down Peterson's keys into which the frontlady inserts a trombone solo!

On a straight, drain pipe blues like "I Don't Worry Myself," she doesn't need to peel paint since she's already slathered the barn in 12 shades of red. Brandishing Janis Joplin's "One Good Man," Thomas takes the song down rather than up, her position in the mix transporting her into the same room as the listener. Uptempo works too, because when "No Cure for the Blues" starts rolling downhill, get ... out ... the way.

Back-to-back soul stirrers "Take Yo' Praise" and "Ghost of Myself" illustrate an LP arc a Spotify playlist can't algorithm, but side two doubles down the stone blues. Johnny Moeller and Peterson groove a grand old time in Albert King visitation "Can't You See What You're Doing to Me," then save their best for last. "The Blues Ain't Nothing but Some Pain" siphons



off nearly five minutes bordering on Nina Simone, with Thomas' broadband bleed and Peterson's empathic accompaniment brightening until their vocal trade-off on closer "Let's Go Get Stoned," sanger and pianer man getting juke joint bent for the ultimate mic drop.

Texas blues abide.

– Raoul Hernandez

## I AM BEARWOOD: BORN

**Bandcamp**

Chris Brecht's main gig leading the Project ATX6 artists to festivals around the globe halted last year, so he focused on his own music. Following the charmed alt-folk debut LP of his band with partner Megan LaPrelle last year, the Eastern Leaves' *Light of the Lantern*, he teams here with hot-hand producer Jonas Wilson in I Am Bearwood on the *Born* EP, which allows him to explore more adventurous turns. "Hummingbird" commences with a wistful beauty floating in Brecht's distinctly sleepy, reedy vocals, while "Running Scared" twists with a dark edge. He's at his best lingering between weary and dreamy, as with the organ-lifted "I Love You Still" and marvelous Tweedy-eque piano build of closer "Kingdom Come."

– Doug Freeman

## GENTLEMEN ROGUES, "DO THE RESURRECTION"

**Bandcamp, YouTube**

This Austin power-pop quartet's new 7-inch single on Denver indie Snappy Little Numbers snapped Little Steven Van Zandt to attention when the nationally syndicated radio host declared Gentlemen Rogues' "Do the Resurrection" as that week's "Coolest Song in the World." Seemingly about love during a zombie apocalypse, its lyric collides with the naggingly insistent hook, "I want you, but I don't want to / I love you, now will you stop trying to kill me." Pummeling drums, guitars that simultaneously chime and crunch, and a three-part harmony six-string break do the rest. The video looks like *The Walking Dead* outtakes, featuring the band performing beneath a pair of abandoned overpasses – drummer Josh Power pounding out the beat on his thighs with his hands – inside a living room, and within a cramped rec room, complete with crates of records. It's a hilarious clip for an infectious 45.

– Tim Stegall

## CHA'KEETA B, "IN MY BAG"

**Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube**

Lauren Riggins uses a single verse to prove she's got plenty of sauce. The Austin MC dropped Valentine-themed EP *Lover's Lane* last year but didn't follow it up til now. Employing R&B singer-songwriter Lakrea Clark on the hook of "In My Bag" to hate on a go-getter for accumulating money over love, she leaves little for imagination when detailing this unmitigated hustle: "I'm a dawg, yeah, check my pedigree / Ain't no hoe from my city can fuck with me." The assertive nature of "In My Bag" represents a change of pace from the successfully sultry "Pull Up" of 2020. Riggins' new single is succinct, fast-paced, and a warning shot to any person still casting doubt on her pen.

– Derek Udensi

## WHOOKILLEDKENNY, "FINNA CHARGE"

**Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, Tidal**

From taking a stab at vlogging on YouTube to rapping, Kenneth Jackson exudes swagger with every move. As Whookilledkenny (fka Kenny Gee), the Austin MC now based in Los Angeles ends a 13-month music drought by imploring potential investors in his stock to #PayTheFee. "Finna Charge" turns his frequently uttered catchphrase into a vindicated demand over a silky smooth flow and vibrant instrumental. "Eastside, them niggas love it / Westside, them niggas love it / Northside, posted with my cousin / On the Southside, just sold a dozen," boasts the 23-year-old of his wide-spread influence. A live performance of "Finna Charge" showcases Kenny's stage presence despite being recorded on a rooftop. He matches the studio recording bar-for-bar, cadence-for-cadence, while backed by a deft band. With nearly 50,000 Spotify streams in less than three weeks, invoices may soon need filing.

– Derek Udensi

## WILDFIRES

**Bandcamp**

The truth is out there, but Wildfires won't try to convince you. Inspired by its own UFO encounters, "the least shoegaze band of all the shoegaze bands" returns from a four-year hiatus with this zippy full-length, where lightness reigns supreme over the genre's classic wall-of-sound intensity. Crisp melodies by Gabriel Baldwin and Johanna Heilman dance through reverb haze, and snappy rhythms from Chris Heckendorn and Aneil Naik keep a brisk pace. No time now for conspiracy crusades. Even the seven-minute instrumental centerpiece "It Stopped Over Us" manages to find comfort in the unknown, a faraway sample of one flying saucer spotting matched by an insistent airy guitar. Baldwin's nasally drawl lends the LP a human edge, and scratchy riffs in garage rock numbers "Cousins" and "Puppy Love" fill the space in which the band normally revels. Do Mulder and Scully know about these guys?

– Carys Anderson

## CORTÉGE: CHASING DAYLIGHT

**Bandcamp**

Post-Western. Spaghetti prog. Desert ambient. Half a decade on, local instrumental duo Cortège churns out cinematic mood music befitting a high noon, high stakes Warren Ellis and Nick Cave score. Freshly released two-part EP *Chasing Daylight* opens with field recordings of cicadas and cosmic wind; footsteps approach a car, turning the engine over to a news report of a meteor the size of Texas. The dial lands on a Judgment Day-hawking AM radio preacher before tires screech into the distance. Tubular bells exorcised by Mike Swarbrick, drummer Adrian Voorhies completes the whole with measured hi-hat and mounted tom pops as Swarbrick's nascent Moog and mellotron work adds further dramatic kindling to the campfire through the 16-minute runtime. Released on a limited-run CD through Albuquerque's Desert Records with cover art from Indonesian stoner metal artist Steven Yoyada.

– Greg Stitt

## DAYGLOW, "SOMETHING"

**Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube**

"Tell me, if what makes you someone is something, then why can't I have mine?" ponders Dayglow's Sloan Struble over punchy beats and sharp guitar strides in "Something," the second single released ahead of his sophomore album, *Harmony House*. Following lead single "Close to You" taking cues from Eighties synth-pop, "Something" returns with a little more bite. Wrestling his patience, Struble meditates on finding something to feel whole after achieving success with 2018 debut *Fuzzybrain*. Here, the 21-year-old's syncopated vocals and whistling synths usher in playful dynamics. While his commitment to danceability was never in question, both singles foreshadow a step away from indie fuzz and a surrender to that bright Dayglow sheen.

– Laiken Neumann

## DOSSEY, "JUMP"

**Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube**

Inspired by an endearing moment of sweetness caught on a cliff side, Sarah Dossey shares a tale of ethereal passion. A founder of Austin's Pop Union, the songwriter arranges a bouquet of classic electro grooves with New Age synthwave. Fourth single from her upcoming EP *Animal*, "Jump" proffers celestial harmonies enamored by charismatic synthesis. Unlike darker releases "Black Magic" and "Animal," the alt-pop queen wraps the lyrics of her latest single in warm tenderness but maintains her enrapturing vocalisations and melodies. Opening solo, flowing beats soon join the songwriter in a heavenly crescendo. As the couple in her story drift through their valley of ardor, tinkling keys float alongside them with chords fading into one another. Love is a daunting thing, and the track invites listeners to contemplate a single question. Are you ready to make that leap?

– Alyssa Quiles

## THE MELLOWS: NEED YOU

**Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube**

With the ease of a Sunday morning, the Mellows' sophomore LP nestles into the listener's ears with shocking dexterity upon the opening notes. Rock & roll classicist of the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" variety, frontman and silk-voiced songsmith Colton Turner resonates the Crickets, Everly's, Chet Atkins, and Ricky Nelson across the November platter's 12 tracks. Joined by brother Zane picking on lead, Yari Bolaños' upright bass and Jack Christy's kit round out the rhythm section and complete an airtight quartet. Compositions lean wistful ("That's How the Story Goes"), barroom romantic ("Yes I Do"), and archetypal garage ("Need Lovin' Baby"), Turner's croon imbuing love songs "Kiss and Make Up," "I Know I Don't Know," and the title track into Mellow Shoals time capsules. Released by Spain's Sleazy Records, get your copy locally from Antone's Records.

– Greg Stitt

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— *Lucky Peterson*



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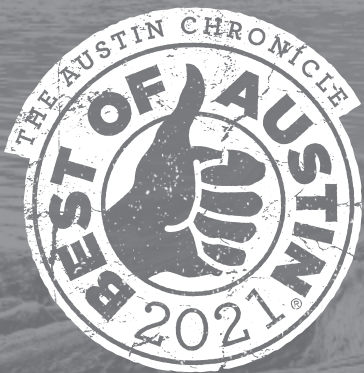
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# LIVE MUSIC

## THURSDAY 3/4

- Antone's** Joshua Ray Walker (8:00)
- Armadillo Den** Cottonwood Crows, Cowbirds (6:30)
- Broken Spoke** Lance Lipinsky (7:00)
- Cheatham St.** Christian Sparks & the Beatnik Bandits, Justin Cashion (8:00)
- Come & Take It Live** Scream at the Sky, Andrew W. Boss, XIII, Scrap Pile, Malignant Rot (8:00)
- The Far Out** Shiela (album release), Pixmap, DJ Ella Ella (8:00)
- Geraldine's** Birds Bubbles & Blues w/ Jo James (8:00)
- Meanwhile Brewing Co.** Buffalo Nichols (7:00)
- Riley's Tavern** Manzy Lowry & Tyler Cannon (7:00)
- Sagebrush** Deuce Coupe (12mid), Saddle Sores (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00)
- Sahara Lounge** Electric Astronaut, Merry Jane & the Fondas, Wisdom Cat, Will Travis & the County (7:00)
- The White Horse** Pearl Snap Playboys (11:30), JD Clark & the Stuck in the Mud Band (9:00), Jordan Matthew Young (7:00)

## FRIDAY 3/5

- Antone's** The Selfless Lovers, the Watters (9:00)
- Armadillo Den** Tyler McCollum Band, Jon Young (7:00)
- Broken Spoke** Johnny McGowan (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)
- Cedar Street Courtyard** Marsh, Nox Vahn (10:00)

## Cheatham St.

- Dylan Wheeler (8:00)
- Coliseum** Los Buitres de Culiacan Sinaloa, Los Morros del Norte, Banda Maguey, Liz y Liz (9:00)
- Come & Take It Live** Aerith Dies, the After Dark Society, XIII, the Bottomless, Don't Think Twice (7:00)
- Empire Control Room** Sir Woman, Lunar Rae, Dancy Jenkins [garage] (8:00)
- The Far Out** Fat Tony, Christelle Bofale, Indoor Creature (7:00)
- Geraldine's** Devan Jones (9:30)
- Guene Hall** Shinyribs (9:00)
- Mala Vida** Los Igualados (9:00)
- MalaSanta** Los Rugar, Hacienda (9:00)
- Mercer Dancehall** Joel Hofmann Band (8:00)
- Neighbor's** The Blues Fuses (7:00)
- Riley's Tavern** Danny B. Harvey (8:00)

- Sagebrush** David Touchton (11:00), Aaron McDonnell & the Neon Eagles (9:00), Devin Jake (7:00)
- Sahara Lounge** Lion Heights & Friends (7:00)
- Speakeasy** Type A (9:30)
- Victory Grill** D-Soul Davis Experience (7:00)
- Vista Brewing** David Touchton (6:00)
- The White Horse** God Damn Good Time Band (11:30), the Memphis Strange (9:00)
- Wild West** Mason Lively (9:00)

## SATURDAY 3/6

- The ABGB** Pearl Snap Playboys [outside] (5:00)
- Antone's** Satsang (9:00, 6:00)

## Armadillo Den

- Shaker Hymns, Dirty Bandanas (7:00)
- Broken Spoke** Two Tons of Steel (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)
- Central Machine Works** Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (9:00)
- Cheatham St.** Giovannie & the Hired Guns (8:00)
- Come & Take It Live** Freestyle Spring Fling Diva Edition Concert w/ Cynthia, C-Bank, Brianna, & more (8:00)
- Coupland Dancehall** Cody Canada & the Departed, Cody Hibbard (8:30)
- Desert Door** David Touchton (5:30)
- Empire Control Room** Y'all Out Boy [garage] (7:00)
- The Far Out** Fat Tony, Christelle Bofale, Eimara Sol (7:00), Graham Wilkinson (noon)

- Geraldine's** The Watters (9:30), jazz brunch w/ Curlytop Jazz (11:30am)
- Guene Hall** Shane Smith & the Saints, Tanner Usrey (8:00), Pat Byrne Band (noon)
- Hill Country Galleria** Live on the Lawn w/ Brothers Wayfare (4:00)
- Mercer Dancehall** Weldon Henson (8:00)
- Neighbor's** The Merles (7:00)
- Riley's Tavern** Sophia Johnson Band (8:00)

- Sagebrush** Candler Wilkinson (11:00), Linda Gail Lewis (9:00), Danny B. Harvey Hot Rod Happy Hour (7:00)
- Sahara Lounge** Africa Night w/ Sahara Allstars, Executive Steel Band (7:00)
- Summit Rooftop** Sounds on Saturdays w/ Skyler Madison (10:00)
- Vulcan Gas Co.** Mersiv (10:30)

**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](mailto:CLUBS@AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM).

**The White Horse** David Touchton (11:30), Aaron McDonnell & the Neon Eagles (9:00), Jacob Alan Jaeger (7:30)

**Sagebrush** Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00), Choctaw Wildfire (7:00)

**The White Horse** Adam Johnson (10:30), James Moritz (8:00)

## SUNDAY 3/7

- The ABGB** Josh Baca & the Hot Tamales [outside] (4:00)
- Armadillo Den** Jo James (4:00)
- Come & Take It Live** Traces Left, Brother Stone, Tinted Vision, Dead Things, the Genders (7:00)
- The Far Out** Buzz Electro, King Country, Cactus Flowers, Betty Benedeadly (6:00), Sunday brunch w/ Jomo & the Possum Posse (1:00)
- Geraldine's** Jazz brunch w/ Kenny Williams (11:30am)
- Mercer Dancehall** Tumbleweed Hill (3:00)
- Neighbor's** Buddy Vargas (5:00)
- Riley's Tavern** Picker's Circle w/ Kayla Jane Shepherd (4:00)

- Sagebrush** The Mellows (9:00), Buffalo Gals (7:00), Texas Blues Party w/ Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)
- Vista Brewing** Sour Bridges (4:00)
- The White Horse** Armadillo Road (10:30), Huck Johnson & the Jackknives (8:00)

## MONDAY 3/8

- Armadillo Den** Armadillo Road Duo (6:30)
- Come & Take It Live** SCUM, Claas, Cody Manson, Pound the Pavement, Cryptonite, XSP, Big E (7:00)
- The Far Out** Rent Party (6:00)
- Guene Hall** Bret Graham (6:00)
- Radio Coffee & Beer** Bluegrass Monday (7:00)

## TUESDAY 3/9

- Armadillo Den** Emay Holmes & Keith Sanders (6:30)
- Broken Spoke** Weldon Henson (8:00)
- Guene Hall** Song swap w/ Tony Taylor, Lucas Taylor & Austin Gilliam (6:00)
- Sagebrush** The Golden Roses (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Caldwell (7:00)
- The White Horse** Blake Whitmire (10:30), Devin Jake (8:00)

## WEDNESDAY 3/10

- Armadillo Den** Julie Nolen, Horseshoes & Hand Grenades (6:30)
- Broken Spoke** Bracken Hale (7:00)
- The Far Out** W.C. Clark Blues Revue (7:00)
- Sagebrush** Deuce Coupe (12mid), Barfield the Tyrant (10:00pm), Mrs. Glass (8:00)
- Sahara Lounge** The SidePiece Collective, Jeff Lofton Electric Thang (7:00)
- Trace at the W Hotel** Ruel Thomas (5:30)
- The White Horse** Sophia Johnson (10:30), Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (8:00)

Be safe out there, y'all!

# LIVE STREAMING

CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST AT [AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/EVENTS/MUSIC](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/EVENTS/MUSIC)

## THURSDAY 3/4

- 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 Ryan Hagler Trio** 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- The Squirrel Show w/ Oliver Steck** 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Patrice Pike** 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Purple Bee Live w/ Kalu & the Electric Joint** 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE, TWITCH, YOUTUBE
- Bonnie Whitmore & Her Virtual Gallery** 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- First Thursdays Bossa Nova w/ Paula Maya** 9pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Party Wolfe** 9pm TWITCH

**The Harms Hang w/ guests** 10pm INSTAGRAM

## FRIDAY 3/5

- Crooner Coffee Hour w/ Lex Land** 10:30am FACEBOOK LIVE
- Texas Freedom Network benefit w/ Erin Walter** 6pm RSVP ON EVENTBRITE
- Feel Good Hour w/ Monte Warden** 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Monks Jazz presents Mike Sailors Quintet** 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Anne's Freaky 15 w/ Anne Heller & MC Terroristic** 10:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

## SATURDAY 3/6

- 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

**Resistor III w/ Geoffrey PB, Eel Prongs, Claude9, Heavy Stars, Damien Valenzuela, W. David Oliphant, Black Magic Cyborg, Try Not to Make Sounds, Tiago da Silva, Lily Taylor, Charlie Russell, Venison Whirled, Pilgrimage, Production Unit Xero, & more** 4pm YOUTUBE

- DJ Mel's Living Room Dance Party** 6pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Long Center presents Besnard Lakes** 6pm THELONGCENTER.ORG
- Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater** 9pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Kevin Russell** 9pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- DJ Chorizo Funk** 10pm INSTAGRAM
- Synthy & Chatty w/ Todd V. Wolfson** 10pm FACEBOOK LIVE

## SUNDAY 3/7

- Corey Baum** 11am FACEBOOK LIVE
- Leeann Atherton's Sunday Sing-Along** 12:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

- Shelley King's Soul-O Sundays** 2pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- First Sunday Songwriters w/ Claudia Gibson** 3pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Pamela Hart** 5pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Úlla** 5:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Sydney Wright** 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE, INSTAGRAM
- Monks Jazz presents Ron Wilkins 4Tet ft. Becca Patterson** 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

## MONDAY 3/8

- 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 Blackout** 8pm TWITCH
- Not at Donn's Depot w/ Chris Gage** 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Line of Fire: Live From Living Room** 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

## TUESDAY 3/9

- Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya** 5:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Eric Bettencourt** 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Miles Zuniga** 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE

- Monks Jazz presents Wayne Salzman's Groove Society** 7:30pm 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 3/10

- 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
- Long Center's Good Vibes Only w/ Sweet Spirit** 8pm LUCK.STREAM/LONGCENTER
- Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains** 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

## ONGOING

- Jeff Plankenhorn** Mondays, 7pm and Tuesdays, 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Karen Mal & Will Taylor** Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm FACEBOOK LIVE
- Sonya Jevette** Tuesdays, 1pm and Fridays, 7pm YOUTUBE, CLUBHOUSE, FACEBOOK LIVE, TWITCH

# THE Luv Doc



"PAY MY RENT"

Dear Luv Doc,

I make a modest income as a station chef at a local restaurant. I have been living by myself and paying rent on a large one-bedroom apartment since my roommate moved a year and a half ago. I love the apartment and the location, but without a roommate, it really puts stress on my budget. I suppose I complain about it more than I should, because my (relatively) new boyfriend is telling me he wants to pay half my rent. He claims he doesn't want to move in with me – which I believe because he has a high-paying job and a very nice apartment himself, but I didn't feel comfortable with him taking on my financial burden, so I said no. I may be a little frugal, but I like being self-reliant when it comes to my own finances. He always insists on paying for everything whenever we go out anyway. He says "that's just the way he was raised." I don't mind if he pays for dinner, but paying half my rent feels like he is trying to control me. Anyway, now he is mad at me for not letting him help with my rent. He says I am being stupid and he thinks I am trying to get rid of him. Am I wrong for not letting him help pay my rent?

– A Stubborn Independent

To grossly misquote soul singer Luther Ingram, "If getting paid is wrong, I don't want to be right." Hey, who doesn't love money? I'm sure there's someone. Maybe Bernie Sanders. His dope inauguration mittens were bespoke as fuck, but they were actually a gift. That ruthlessly putty-colored Burton Edgecomb Gore-Tex jacket however, is some super-cozy one-percent outerwear, even in Vermont. It's the Green Mountain State equivalent of rocking a Tommy Bahama floral shirt. Kinda casual but kinda isn't, is it? No reason to pull his pinko card, but we see you, Bernie.

When it comes to true money hatin', there is another Jewish fellow doing the heavyweightin'. That being JC, of course. Had he attended the inauguration – and there are plenty of folks who will claim he did – he would be rocking a fierce off-white tunic and probably some mismatched flip-flops from Goodwill. You might have mistaken him for someone who thought he had stumbled into a Phish concert until you noticed that his feet weren't super dirty, he didn't have a hand-braided Guatemalan friendship bracelet, and he didn't know how to play Hacky Sack. Three strikes and you might be the messiah. Unlike Bernie, Jesus would have left the inauguration early to go run the moneychangers out of the temple because what else is he going to do with all that BDE? Invest in a Roth IRA? Unlikely.

I think what Jesus would tell you (and you're going to have to just trust me here because I am part of a long tradition of old white dudes telling people they know what Jesus would say) is that if you're feeling in any way uncomfortable about taking money from your boyfriend, you shouldn't. Trust your gut. Like you said yourself, you might be living a little architecturally beyond your means, but you are getting by. Remember: Gertrude Stein told Hemingway to spend less money on his clothes and more money on collecting art. In other words, drop that skrilla on whatever brings you joy, even if you have to wear mismatched Goodwill flip-flops – which, by the way, I don't recommend if you work in a commercial kitchen.

The second reason to trust your gut (aside from the fact that you're a chef) is that often it's reacting to behaviors that you can't quite put a name to. The idea of being in any way indebted to this fellow might be a sign that you're unwilling to commit at that level or that you sense he might be using the money as a means of controlling you. All that said, it's worth having a conversation with him about why he is so concerned about your financial situation. Maybe he thinks you're more stressed out than you really are. Maybe you can reassure him that your hair is not on fire financially. You could even invite him to an expensive restaurant and let him pay for it so he can be less worried about you. Make sure to order a really nice wine. It's what Gertrude Stein would do.

**NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC?** Send your questions to [luvdoc@austinchronicle.com](mailto:luvdoc@austinchronicle.com).



## Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

June Foray, who from 1959 to 1964 did the voice of Rocky the Flying Squirrel on *The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show*, later was included on President Nixon's "enemies list."

In 2019 the average McDonald's drive-through took six minutes and 18 seconds, but in 2020, the company trimmed that to five minutes and 49 seconds.

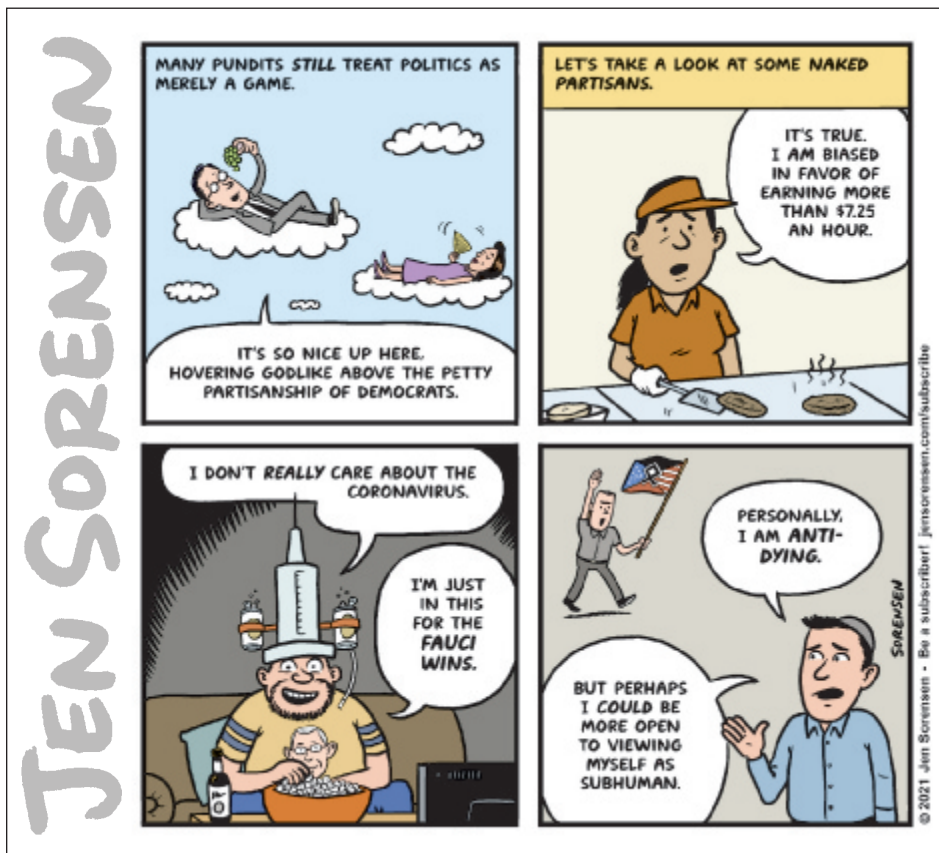
On a lot of hospital TV shows and movies, characters may say the word "stat." It comes from the Latin word "statim," which means "immediately or instantly." In real life, doctors and nurses usually don't yell out "stat" – they say "right now."

**Birds' wing flight feathers are called "remiges."**

When the U.S. Capitol's Statue of Freedom was commissioned in 1855, Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war, complained about the figure's liberty cap – because that was associated with freed Roman slaves.

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

## COMICS



## BACK PAGE

Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 454-5765.

## COMPUTER/TECHNICAL

### ENGINEERING

Help build the next generation of systems behind Facebook's products. Facebook, Inc. currently has multiple openings in Austin, TX (various levels/types): **Data Engineer (10886N)** Design, build, & launch data pipelines to move data across systems & build the next generation of data tools that generate business insights for a product. Mail resume to: Facebook, Inc. Attn: AA-USIM, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Must reference job title & job code shown above, when applying.

### IT

CyberSource Corporation, a Visa Inc. company, currently has openings in our Austin, TX location for:

**Staff SW Engineers (REF30864G)** Design, enhance and build Visa's transactional Fraud detection engine in an agile development environment with the Enterprise Risk Solutions team. Build real-time transactional services that are highly functional, distributed, secure, and scalable.

**Staff SW Test Engineers (Job# REF31414J)** Work on the development of software solutions and play a pivotal role in our payment platform in testing mission critical solutions to ensure the applications are built and functioning as per requirements, following an agile methodology, as well as gather and clarify requirements.

**Staff SW Engineers (REF31038D)** Engage in software development projects ranging from building full stack development of REST Service APIs, back-end batching applications, and web front-end user interfaces that are functional,

secure, scalable, and robust. **Senior Software Engineers (REF31498Z)** work on application development design, enhance and build our transactional platform in an agile development environment. Be tasked with multiple projects ranging from building full stack development of real-time transactional services, REST services API, Container based services to highly functional, secure, scalable, and resilient real-time and batching systems.

**Staff Software Engineers (REF31520Q)** to utilize big data technologies to accomplish data and reporting needs. Develop and create data sources and workflows for these data sources for incremental data loads. To apply, please reference the Job #s above when mailing resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: M1-12 SW, 900 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404. EOE

### IT

Visa Technology & Operations, LLC, a Visa Inc. company, currently has openings in our Austin, TX location for:

**Systems Analysts (REF30820N)** to provide application support of applications and services at Visa. Work with Visas Product Reliability Engineering team.

**Sr. SW Engineers (REF28361S)** Work with the lead on technical software development issues, problem analysis and resolution. Perform business and technical analysis, design, coding, unit testing, implementation, and documentation of solutions for new development, system enhancements, and production support.

**Sr. SW Engineers (REF31111X)** Develop and design high quality technology software solutions for revenue systems including pricing, rating, billing, accounts receivable and revenue reporting functions. Create of conceptual approach, technical analysis, software design, software

development, delivery, unit testing and support activities.

**Staff Software Engineers (REF31194C)** Work on the development of software applications. Design, develop and test IAM components: services in SOAP/REST, Tools, Integration code. Mobile. Deploy & evaluate 3rd party IAM products.

**Sr. SW Engineers (REF31137E)** Develop software integration design and deliver technology projects for the HRIT team. Collaborate with business partners, with Visa IT teams and third-party vendors. Utilize technologies including SaaS and hosted packaged applications such as Workday, Cornerstone, ADP, SmartRecruiters, and ServiceNow, and many other to develop and deliver software solutions.

**Sr. SW Engineers (Job# REF31417T)** to build a wide variety of web experiences that power, extend and showcase Visa's internal Cloud platform. Request and manage environments using VMs, containers, or bare metals, workflow automation tools, graphs, and visualizations for relationships and utilization.

**Sr. Systems Engineers (REF31179G)** Build, design and develop software visualizations and dashboards in Tableau to summarize compute capacity and forecast. Build and analyze the software virtual systems and application architecture for high performance, availability and redundancy and provide guidance on capacity optimization. Some travel, up to 50%, may be required to work on projects at various, unanticipated sites throughout the United States.

**Senior Software Engineers (REF31040T)** Design and develop features, understand customer requirements and meet business goals as she builds high quality and highly reliable software to meet the needs to the largest customers by analyzing and improving the performance, scalability, and high availability of large scale distributed systems and the query processing engine.

**Sr. Cybersecurity Engineers (REF31127X)** Guide the architecture, design, and implementation of data security solutions, and guide the maintenance and documentation of enrollment of various Visa applications into data security solutions enablement. Up to 10% travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the United States and internationally required.

**Cybersecurity Engineers (REF31437L)** Work on solutions throughout the life cycle of all security technologies. Work closely with the other technology architects to ensure that security is properly provisioned in their technology domains.

**Sr. Software Engineers (REF31448D)** Develop software operational support applications for Data Protection Technologies and Cybersecurity applications. Plan, execute and maintain Data protection technologies and server/client software implementations.

**Sr. Cybersecurity Engineers (REF31440T)** Develop and maintain secure solution throughout the life cycle of all applications. Work closely with the other technology architects to ensure that security is

properly provisioned in their technology domains. Conduct and facilitate security reviews, threat modeling including deep designs reviews throughout the development cycle.

**Staff Software Engineers (REF31441L)** Work on design, development, operationalization, and support of cloud platforms to enable application teams on their journey to cloud-native modernization; engage with Cloud product and program management to identify requirements for platform specifically for self-service workflows and CI/CD.

**Cybersecurity Analysts (REF31446T)** to develop mobile security guidelines, requirements and standards for mobile product development.

**Sr. Systems Engineers (REF31139N)** Work as part of the Middleware Engineering team, which is part of the Global Service Engineering and is responsible for common middleware and integration infrastructure that supports communication between multiple enterprise applications and multiple business lines. Responsible for configuration, troubleshooting, Root Cause Analysis, deployment, and continuous operational support and improvement of middleware technologies used at Visa. Enterprise mobile deployments and proactively mitigate risks associated with information security.

**Sr. SW Engineers (REF31376U)** Work on the development of applications. Design, develop, and test technical application solutions.

**Staff SW Test Engineers (REF31418E)** Perform quality assurance testing inclusive of unit, systems, integration, interface and regression testing. Test planning and Test strategy development using industry best practices.

**Sr. Staff SW Engineers (REF31447T)** Design, develop, test, document, and deploy high-quality solutions for the Enterprise Data Center Operational environment. Analyze and review business, functional, and technical requirements as well as assess operational opportunities to increase service quality or efficiency.

**Sr. SW Engineers (REF31488K)** to develop and implement new data driven business solutions. Drive development effort end-to-end for on time delivery of high quality solutions that conform to requirements, conform to the architectural vision, and comply with all applicable standard.

**Senior Software Engineers (REF31528V)** to contribute to a team that develops and manages end-to-end technology solutions for Visa's cloud platform. Perform low-level design of the features of microservices in visa Cloud Platform product. To apply, please reference Job#s above when mailing resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: M1-12 SW, 900 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404. EOE

### WEBSITE

Like me, and all you want is a 1973 turquoise Mustang Convertible? Try looking through our MARKETPLACE section at [austinchronicle.com/classifieds](http://austinchronicle.com/classifieds). If you find it, let me know...I'll buy it from you.

### IT

Visa U.S.A. Inc., a Visa Inc. company, currently has openings in our Austin, Texas location for:

**HR Managers (Job# REF30968W)** for managing complex employee relations matters, providing coaching and effective resolution, facilitating performance improvement plans as well as involuntary terminations, lead internal investigations/review and demonstrate a strong understanding of policy management and best practices.

**Staff SW Engineers (REF31105R)** Coordinate with product owners to design technical solutions for Visa Checkout feature development.

Build software applications that fulfill key business objectives. Ensure the Visa Checkout application meets all performance requirements.

**Staff SW Engineers (Job# REF31460M)** to design, develop, and implement software platforms for consumer facing mobile and digital products. Design and execute large-scale technology initiatives.

**Software Engineers (REF31029K)** Responsible for the analysis, design and development of business software systems, in conjunction with hardware requirements, such as Visa's unified digital payment system, used by millions of users, and shared by top merchants, payment providers, and banks.

**Senior Software Engineers (REF31318V)** Work on the development of software solutions. Build frameworks and tools that enable the development of new products. Build tools that enable service discovery and make it easier to connect to other services.

**Sr. Software Engineers (REF30521F)** Develop next generation payment application following best software practices; conceive, design, and create unique payment capabilities on various web channels; build and design code to perform on multiple platforms and environments.

**Sr. Project Analysts (REF31046W)** Implementation, delivery, and training of Visa's platform, inclusive of transaction management components, both directly to end customers, and indirectly via a partner managed end-customer relationship, efficiently and effectively. Some travel, up to 10%, may be required to work on projects at various, unanticipated sites throughout the United States.

To apply, please reference Job#s above when mailing resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: M1-12 SW, 900 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404. EOE

### FREE ADS

Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? All you need to do is go online to [austinchronicle.com/classifieds](http://austinchronicle.com/classifieds) and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

### SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Austin, TX, General Motors. Plan, design, dvlp, &test current &future SW syss &apps for GM vehicle assy, powertrain &stamping plants inclgd Order Mgmt, Mfg, &Logistics syss &report data in timely fashion to qlty, materials, logistics, supply chain &production team members &leadership. Dvlp Application Program Interface (APIs) to provide services &consume REST &SOAP web services. Provide coding &design expertise in Java framework inclgd microservices, REST, JPA, JTA &Spring. Provide modern &design expertise in coding JavaScript framework inclgd Angular, React, Express, &Koa. Define &implement data sharing integration patterns betw. apps using Kafka, RabbitMQ, &IBM MQ Series messaging platforms. Provide coding &design expertise in OPC UA technologies to enable PLC devices communication w/ mfg IT software inclgd AB PLC &Siemens PLC. Gather PLC production data through OPC UA interfaces. Required domestic travel to support go live SW at vehicle mfg facilities, up to 8 wks P/A. Bachelor, Computer, Electrical, or Mfg Engrg, or related. 12 mos exp as Engineer or Developer, dvlpg &testing SW syss &apps for vehicle assy, powertrain &stamping plants inclgd Order Mgmt, Mfg, &Logistics syss. Mail resume to Ref#14701, GM Global Mobility, 300 Renaissance Center, MC:482-C32-C66, Detroit, MI 48265.

**Software Engineer (REF31029K)** Responsible for the analysis, design and development of business software systems, in conjunction with hardware requirements, such as Visa's unified digital payment system, used by millions of users, and shared by top merchants, payment providers, and banks.

**Senior Software Engineers (REF31318V)** Work on the development of software solutions. Build frameworks and tools that enable the development of new products. Build tools that enable service discovery and make it easier to connect to other services.

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To apply, please reference Job#s above when mailing resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: M1-12 SW, 900 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404. EOE

### SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

**Arista Networks (Austin, TX)** seeks **Software Engineers** for multiple internal groups: **Packet Fwd Engines:** devel SW for Linux-based network OS that manages networking ASICs (job#PFE12193); **SW Defined Networking:** develop & deliver network management, orchestration & controller SW (job#SDN12192). All resumes to: [career@arista.com](mailto:career@arista.com). Must refer job#.

### TECHNOLOGY

Help build the next generation of systems behind Facebook's products. Facebook, Inc. currently has multiple openings in Austin, TX (various levels/types): **Workforce Planning Analyst (149456N)** Support long-term planning efforts to understand the capacity/workforce needed to: perform content moderation (items on the platform that are in violation of our community standards), ads on the platform (for validity & sales standards) as well as reviews of the solutions Facebook creates across the globe and platforms.

### Quality Systems Project Manager (147836N)

Manage cross-functional infrastructure information technology programs in a matrix organization covering a range of areas. **Data Analyst, Digital Rights Integrity (145963N)** Serve as a data expert leveraging analytical & technical skills to successfully support Digital Rights Integrity problems, operational needs, product support & growth, & tools development. **Analyst, Risk Investigations (140237N)** Apply expertise in quantitative analysis, data mining, & the presentation of data to see beyond the numbers & provide experience, risk, & product insights. **Enterprise Engineer (153061N)** Build integrated, scalable, & robust enterprise software applications. Mail resume to: Facebook, Inc. Attn: AA-USIM, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Must reference job title & job code shown above, when applying.

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## MEDICAL

### CAREGIVER NEEDED

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

### CNA

If your tired of traffic and the busy big city life, check out Glasgow Montana. Valley View Home, a long-term care facility, is looking for career minded Certified Nursing Assistants to join our family! Starting pay is \$14.50 an hour and experience is negotiable! The first two applicants to apply and interviewed will be authorized a moving expense as well. We also train and help certify staff that are new to healthcare. Please don't hesitate to reach out for further questions! 406-228-2461 [admin@vvnh1.net](mailto:admin@vvnh1.net)

## PROFESSIONAL

### BUSINESS

Help build the next generation of systems behind Facebook's products. Facebook, Inc. currently has multiple openings in Austin, TX (various levels/types): **Analyst, Risk Investigations (155160N)** Apply a data-driven approach to identify, understand, & scope emerging fraud trends on the Facebook platform. Mail resume to: Facebook, Inc. Attn: AA-USIM, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Must reference job title & job code shown above, when applying.

### WEBSITE

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**THE ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Looking for Native American Indians, Alaskan Natives or Native Hawaiians needing assistance finding employment or vocational training**



Must be a member of a US Federally recognized tribe with a supporting document from a US Federally recognized Tribe's Tribal Rolls and Records office and reside within our designated service area in Texas.

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Section 166, 20 CFR 684.300(a) (1) An Indian, as determined by a policy of the INA program grantee; or (2) An Alaska Native; or (3) A Native Hawaiian.**

**Call: 1-877-717-6101 or apply online at [www.acwia.org](http://www.acwia.org)**



Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailers Permit by Felipe Gonzalez and Tomas Gonzalez doing business as Upper 90 Bar, to be located at 920 Old Mill Road, Cedar Park, Williamson County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are owners Felipe Gonzalez and Tomas Gonzalez.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol 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 Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Brewpub License by LZA, LLC dba Shady Lane located at 1115 Shady Lane, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78721. David May and Patricia May - Managers.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Mensa II Austin Hotel TRS LLC dba Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol to be located at 701 E. 11th Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Shai Zelering, Managing Director; Amy

Lancaster-Labadia, Senior VP; Joshua Castle, Treasurer; Lisa Strauss, VP & Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and a Food and Beverage Certificate by K9 Entertainment LLC d/b/a Mutts Canine Cantina located at 9825 N Lake Creek Parkway, Austin, Williamson County, TX 78717. Managers of said limited liability company are Darrell W. Landers, Laura L. Landers and Lisa R. Ladewig.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Food and Beverage Certificate by CY Houston Management Company LLC d/b/a TownePlace Suites Austin located at 2237 Braker Lane, Austin, Travis County, TX 78758. Managers of said limited liability company are Buel G. Carter, Nancy S. Carter, and William P. Bagwell.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and a Food and Beverage Certificate by WTP Concessions Manager LLC d/b/a WTP Concessions Manager LLC located at 1717 Scottsdale Drive, Cedar Park,

Williamson County, TX 78641. Managers of said limited liability company are Kevin J. Warden, Matthew J. Luckie and Dallas D. Miller.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol 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.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by SM Switchback, LLC dba Smokey Mo's BBQ located at 10621 W Parmer Lane, #103, Austin, Williamson County, Texas 78717. Managers of said company are Todd Caven, Tim Keyes, and Nick Barnard.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by SM Switchback, LLC dba Smokey Mo's BBQ located at 11880 Hero Way West, Suite 101, Leander, Williamson County, Texas 78641. Managers of said company are Todd Caven, Tim Keyes, and Nick Barnard.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's

Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by SM Switchback, LLC dba Smokey Mo's BBQ located at 1601 S I-35, Suite 320, Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas 78664. Managers of said company are Todd Caven, Tim Keyes, and Nick Barnard.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by SM Switchback, LLC dba Smokey Mo's BBQ located at 717 S Hwy 183, Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas 78642. Managers of said company are Todd Caven, Tim Keyes, and Nick Barnard.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by CY Houston Management Company LLC d/b/a TownePlace Suites Austin located at 2237 Braker Lane, Austin, Travis County, TX 78758. Managers of said limited liability company are Buel G. Carter, Nancy S. Carter, and William P. Bagwell.

Application is being made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by Barton Creek Senior Living Center, Inc. d/b/a Querencia at Barton Creek located at 2500 Barton Creek Boulevard, Austin, Travis County, Texas

**78735. Officers of said corporation are Jesse Jantzen, President; Nicholas Harshfield, Treasurer; and Edward Fenoglio, Secretary**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-006065** To: JESSE JUAN MILLER and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](http://TexasLawHelp.org). YOU ARE HEREBY COMMAND-ED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER OF DEAVISTA ROMAAN BROWN Petitioner(s), filed in said court on OCTOBER 30, 2020, against JESSE JUAN MILLER Respondent (s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-006065 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF FEBRUARI AMARIUS REANNA BROWN-MILLER", the nature of which suit is a request SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD'S interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD'S adoption. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, March 02, 2021. VELVA L. PRICE Travis County District Clerk 1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 Austin, Texas 78767 REQUESTED BY: JESSICA CRISTINA FARRAR 314 E HIGHLAND MALL BLVD STE 304 AUSTIN, TX 78752-3731 BUSINESS PHONE:(512)535-0807 FAX:(866)357-4460 PREPARED BY: CANTU SUZANNE

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of DEBRA LYNN RENDON, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000388, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. ALEXIS JANÉ OJEDA filed an Application to Declare Heirship and Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration Without Bond Pursuant to Section 401.003 of Texas Estates Code in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 23, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of DEBRA LYNN RENDON, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000388, styled IN THE ESTATE OF DEBRA LYNN RENDON, 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 February 25, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: L. HERNANDEZ**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of CATHERINE LOUISE SCHILTZ, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000348, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. DANIEL PETER LANCASTER filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP & ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 12, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of CATHERINE LOUISE SCHILTZ, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000348, styled IN THE ESTATE OF CATHERINE LOUISE SCHILTZ, 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 February 24, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: G DALESSIO

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000401, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. JOANNE DAPPER filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 25, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000401, styled IN THE ESTATE OF GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, 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 February 25, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: S DELACROIX**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of JOE P. PASCCHALL, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000006, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. WILLIAM DEMON PORTER filed a FOURTH AMENDED APPLICATION FOR PROBATE OF WILL, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 10, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of DUDLEY C. CLARK, III, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-18-000535, styled IN THE ESTATE OF DUDLEY C. CLARK, III, 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 February 11, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: G DALESSIO

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000401, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. JOANNE DAPPER filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 25, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000401, styled IN THE ESTATE OF GEORGE DANIEL DAPPER, 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 February 25, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: S DELACROIX**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of JOE P. PASCCHALL, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000006, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. PATTI KIRKWOOD filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on January 04, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of JOE P. PASCCHALL, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000006, styled IN THE ESTATE OF JOE P. PASCCHALL, 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 February 25, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ V. LIMON

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of JOSHUA R HENSON, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000374, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. SARAH M TETER filed an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 23, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of JOSHUA R HENSON, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-21-000374, styled IN THE ESTATE OF JOSHUA R HENSON, 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 February 24, 2021, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: V. LIMON**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas To unknown heirs of JUANITA MARTIN MANOR, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000375, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. MALCOLM MAYES filed an APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE AND APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on February 23, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of JUANITA MARTIN MANOR, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.**

CONTINUED  
ON P.76

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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-21-000375**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **JUANITA MARTIN MANOR**, 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 **February 24, 2021**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By Deputy: **V. LIMON**

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **LAD JOSEPH KUBENA III**, Deceased Cause No. **C-1-PB-21-000163**, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **PATRICIA LYNN KUBENA** filed an Application for Determination of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the above-numbered and entitled estate on **January 25, 2021**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **LAD JOSEPH KUBENA III**, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-21-000163**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **LAD JOSEPH KUBENA, III**, 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 **January 26, 2021**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By Deputy: **S DELACROIX**

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **MI-CHAEAL LYNN WASHBURN**, Deceased Cause No. **C-1-PB-21-000018**, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **RODERICK L. WASHBURN** filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT BOND PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE in the above-numbered and entitled estate on **January 04, 2021**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **MI-CHAEAL LYNN WASHBURN**, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-21-000018**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **MI-CHAEAL LYNN WASHBURN**, 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 **January 06, 2021**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By Deputy: **/s/ G DALESSIO**

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **MYRELE DENISE MANOR**, Deceased Cause No. **C-1-PB-21-000293**, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **MALCOLM HAYES** filed an Application to Determine Heirship in the above-numbered and entitled estate on **February 08, 2021**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **MYRELE DENISE MANOR**, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-21-000293**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **MYRELE DENISE MANOR**, 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 **January 10, 2021**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By Deputy: **/s/ G DALESSIO**

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION The State of Texas

To unknown heirs of **KATHERINE MABEL ANN ASTIN**, Deceased Cause No. **C-1-PB-18-0001621**, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. **GARY DE HOBBS** filed an Application for Letters of Dependent Administration and for Determination of Heirship in the above-numbered and entitled estate on **August 17, 2018**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **KATHERINE MABEL ANN ASTIN**, 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 Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-18-0001621**, styled IN THE ESTATE OF **KATHERINE MABEL ANN ASTIN**, 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 **March 02, 2021**, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325  
By Deputy: **B. HICKS**

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HAYS

To all persons interested in the Estate of **Taliaferro Strickland Higginbotham, IV**, Deceased, Cause No. **20-00665-P**, in the County Court at Law, Hays County, Texas.

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an APPLICATION (1) TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND (2) FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in this estate on the 11th day of February, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Taliaferro Strickland Higginbotham, IV**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The Court may act on this Application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 A.M., on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published, at the Hays County Government Center in San Marcos, Texas. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Hays County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.

Applicant's Attorney: D'Ana H. Mikeska  
901 South MoPac Expressway, Suite 570  
Austin, TX 78746  
512-615-6195  
Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at the office of the Hays County Clerk in San Marcos, Texas on this the 12th day of February, 2021.  
Elaine H. Cárdenas  
County Clerk, Hays County, Texas  
712 S. Stagecoach Trail, Suite 2008  
San Marcos, Texas 78666  
BY **/s/ Christopher Alaniz**  
Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Rollingwood, Travis County, Texas, Case No. 20-06-2815P. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map

(FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe), or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance e-Exchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

#### 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.

**DESPIITE 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**

**JMA GARZA INVESTMENTS LLC, JAIME L. GARZA & YESENIA GARZA, MANAGING MEMBERS HAVE APPLIED FOR A MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT & MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS PERMIT WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION D/B/A EL COCO PIRATA, 8300 FM 620N, BLDG. M, STE. 100, AUSTIN, TRAVIS, TX**

**Notice is hereby given in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that Lab Ben White, LLC., dba LA Crawfish has filed application for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate. Said business to be conducted at 500 E Ben White Boulevard, Suite D200, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78704; David Y. Lee, Manager. Ji Yun Tark, Manager. Tommy T. Le, Manager.**

#### 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 on line at [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://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-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Cliff Cockerill-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Everett Avila-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Samuel Saraceno-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/ Appliances  
Ray Caldwell-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Tanisha Gloude-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Tanisha Gloude-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
James Hines-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Dwayne Porter-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Adria Alicia Davis-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Boxes  
Jazmyne Solis-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines  
Ray Caldwell-Hslsd 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-Hslsd 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-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Adriana Gutierrez-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines  
Valley Joseph-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
John Mullinaux-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Morgana Freeman-Hslsd Gds/Furn  
Bianca Salsberry-Hslsd Gds/

Furn  
**Life Storage #545**  
506 McNeil Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-255-7939  
Tyler Meyer-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/ Stereo Equip  
Patrick Bramel-Hslsd 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-Hslsd Gds/Furn, Tools/Applines  
Michel'le Smith-Hslsd Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/ Appliances  
**Life Storage #7109**  
3997 FM 1431 Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-255-5017

#### NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES:

Pursuant of Texas Abandoned Vehicle Act (<http://www.tdlr.texas.gov>), the following vehicle will be sold at public auction unless charges are paid in full: 2008 Ford F-150 Vin#1FTPWF12558FA93246. The current charges, as of 3/5/2021 are \$516.45. Storage fees are calculated daily until the vehicle is claimed. Garagekeeper: SMT Parking Solutions LLC DBA Space Makers Towing (0656137VSP), 4416 Brandt Road Austin, Texas 78744. Please call, (512) 961-3076 ext 2 for more details.

#### NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES.

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov) THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.  
GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,0655976V5F, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX, 78742. (512)441-7094.  
2002 SATURN I SERIES NO PLATE 1GBJU54FXZ5687522  
2010 MAZDA 6 6KEW114 CA 1YVHZ8BH0A5M06336  
2011 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER ILLINOIS SALSFPD-42BA268912

#### NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES.

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov) THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.  
GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,0655976V5F, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX, 78742. (512)441-7094.  
NISSAN TRUCK RED TD6091E MX 3N6AD33A-8JK808506

#### 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 S ACR 0.12, Addition in Travis County, According to map or Plat of records in Volume and Page or 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/**

1.) Property ID# 822227, ABS 24 DELVALLE S ACR 0.12, Addition in Travis County, According to map or Plat of records in Volume and Page or 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 LICENSE RENEWAL

On February 25, 2021, Ausluster, LLC, licensee of K248CU, 97.5 MHz, Austin, TX, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for renewal of its license. Members of the public wishing to view this application or obtain information about how to file comments and petitions on the application can visit <https://enterprise.filing.fcc.gov/dataentry/public/tv/publicAppSearch.html> and insert the station's call sign.

#### 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](http://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 Rojas, Jacinda Powell, Amir Kamlesh Patel  
**Life Storage #8031**  
981 N Red Bud Ln Round Rock, TX 78665  
(512)537-3481  
Julio De La Cruz, Richard Silva, Richard Silva, William Thrash, Jorge Castillo

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Commission of the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 24th day of March 2021 at 6:00 PM, and the City Council of the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday the 6th day of April 2021 at 7:00 PM virtually via GoToTraining to consider the following item(s):  
A request for a Special Use Permit to operate a Farmer's/Artisan Market under Section 2.503(i) of the Land Development Code by Salia Travers at 4805 US Highway 290.  
All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said virtual hearing. Any person may submit testimony via OpenTownHall, or virtually at such hearing, or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing, or emailed to [mlingafelter@sunsetvalley.org](mailto:mlingafelter@sunsetvalley.org). The Special Use Permit application may



# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for March 5-11

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** For you Pisceans, March is Love Yourself Bigger and Better and Bolder Month. To prepare you for this festival, I'm providing two inspirational quotes. 1) "If you aren't good at loving yourself, you will have a difficult time loving anyone, since you'll resent the time and energy you give another person that you aren't even giving to yourself," Barbara De Angelis. 2) "Loving yourself does not mean being self-absorbed or narcissistic, or disregarding others. Rather it means welcoming yourself as the most honored guest in your own heart, a guest worthy of respect, a lovable companion," Margo Anand.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In late April of 1969, Cambridge, U.K., hosted the first-ever Thriplow Daffodil Weekend: a flower show highlighting 80 varieties of narcissus. In the intervening years, climate change has raised the average temperature 3.24 degrees Fahrenheit. So the flowers have been blooming progressively earlier each year, which has necessitated moving the festival back. The last pre-COVID show in 2019 was on March 23-24, a month earlier than the original. Let's use this as a metaphor for shifting conditions in your world. I invite you to take an inventory of how your environment has been changing, and what you could do to ensure you're adapting to new conditions.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Author Leo Buscaglia told us that among ancient Egyptians, two specific questions were key in evaluating whether a human life was well-lived. They were "Did you bring joy?" and "Did you find joy?" In accordance with your current astrological potentials, I'm inviting you to meditate on those queries. And if you discover there's anything lacking in the joy you bring and the joy you find, now is a very favorable time to make corrections.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** At age 11, the future first president of the United States George Washington became the "owner" of 10 slaves. A few years later he "bought" 15 more. By the time he was president, 123 men, women, and children were struggling in miserable bondage under his control. Finally, in his will, he authorized them to be freed after he and his wife died. Magnanimous? Hell, no. He should have freed those people decades earlier - or better yet, never "owned" them in the first place. Another Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin not only freed his slaves but became an abolitionist. By my count, at least 11 of the other Founding Fathers never owned slaves. Now here's the lesson I'd like us to apply to your life right now: Don't procrastinate in doing the right thing. Do it now.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** During World War II, the Japanese island of Okunoshima housed a factory that manufactured poison gas for use in chemical warfare against China. These days it is a tourist attraction famous for its thousands of feral but friendly bunnies. I'd love to see you initiate a comparable transmutation in the coming months, dear Cancerian: changing bad news into good news, twisted darkness into interesting light, soullessness into soulfulness. Now is a good time to ramp up your efforts.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "Scars speak for you," writes author Gena Showalter. "They say you're strong, and you've survived something that might have killed others." In that spirit, dear Leo, and in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to authorize your scars to express interesting truths about you in the coming weeks. Allow them to demonstrate how resilient you've been, and how well you've mastered the lessons that your past suffering has made available. Give your scars permission to be wildly eloquent about the transformations you've been so courageous in achieving.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 909/950-7700.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** According to novelist Doris Lessing, "Everybody in the world is thinking: I wish there was just one other person I could really talk to, who could really understand me, who'd be kind to me." She implied that hardly anyone ever gets such an experience - or that it's so rare as to be always tugging on our minds, forever a source of unquenched longing. But I'm more optimistic than Lessing. In my view, the treasured exchange she describes is not so impossible. And I think it will especially possible for you in the coming weeks. I suspect you're entering a grace period of being listened to, understood, and treated kindly. Here's the catch: For best results, you should be forthright in seeking it out.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** "How much has to be explored and discarded before reaching the naked flesh of feeling," wrote composer Claude Debussy. In the coming weeks, I hope you'll regard his words as an incitement to do everything you can to reach the naked flesh of your feelings. Your ideas are fine. Your rational mind is a blessing. But for the foreseeable future, what you need most is to deepen your relationship with your emotions. Study them, please. Encourage them to express themselves. Respect their messages as gifts, even if you don't necessarily act upon them.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may never wander out alone into a dark forest or camp all night on a remote beach or encounter a mountain lion as you climb to a glacier near the peak of a rugged mountain. But there will always be a primeval wilderness within you - uncivilized lands and untamed creatures and elemental forces that are beyond your rational understanding. That's mostly a good thing! To be healthy and wise, you need to be in regular contact with raw nature, even if it's just the kind that's inside you. The only time it may be a hindrance is if you try to deny its existence, whereupon it may turn unruly and inimical. So don't deny it! Especially now. (p.s. To help carry out this assignment, try to remember the dreams you have at night. Keep a recorder or notebook and pen near your bed.)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "What damages a person most," wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "is to work, think, and feel without inner necessity, without any deep personal desire, without pleasure - as a mere automaton of duty." Once a year, I think every one of us, including me, should meditate on that quote. Once a year, we should evaluate whether we are living according to our soul's code; whether we're following the path with heart; whether we're doing what we came to Earth to accomplish. In my astrological opinion, the next two weeks will be your special time to engage in this exploration.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** What are your edges, Capricorn? What aspects of your identity straddle two different categories? Which of your beliefs embrace seemingly opposed positions? In your relations with other people, what are the taboo subjects? Where are the boundaries that you can sometimes cross and other times can't cross? I hope you'll meditate on these questions in the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, you're primed to explore edges, deepen your relationship with your edges, and use your edges for healing and education and cultivating intimacy with your allies. As author Ali Smith says, "Edges are magic; there's a kind of forbidden magic on the borders of things, always a ceremony of crossing over, even if we ignore it or are unaware of it."

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** According to intermedia artist Sidney Pink, "The idea of divine inspiration and an aha moment is largely a fantasy." What the hell is he talking about?! That's fake news, in my view. In the course of my creative career, I've been blessed with thousands of divine inspirations and aha moments. But I do acknowledge that my breakthroughs have been made possible by "hard work and unwavering dedication," which Sidney Pink extols. Now here's the climax of your oracle: You Aquarians are in a phase when you should be doing the hard work and unwavering dedication that will pave the way for divine inspirations and aha moments later this year.

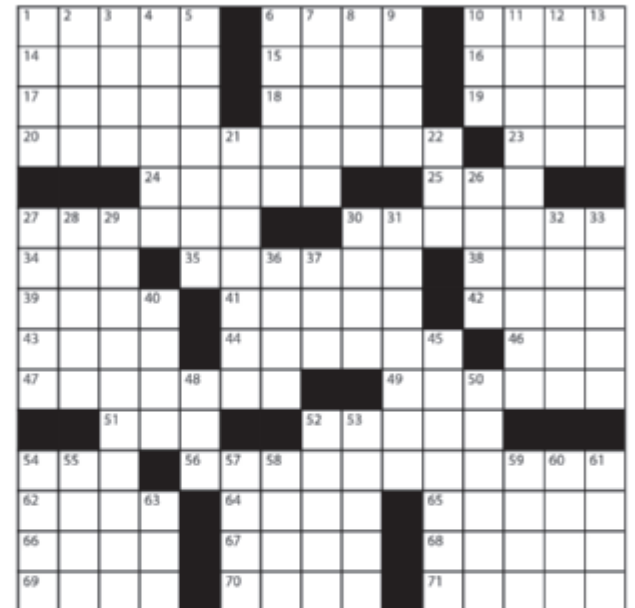
## PARK & HOMER puzzles

For Pete's Sake

Puzzle by J. Reynolds No. 678

### Across

1. Babe's family
6. Go across
10. Fresh talk
14. Nirvana attainer
15. Sea eagle
16. Troop group
17. Haggard of Nashville
18. \_\_\_ of the above
19. Small whirlpool
20. Peter...
23. Athletic supporter?
24. Come together
25. Bat wood
27. Scented pouch
30. Word connectors
34. Blood type letters
35. Putin's place
38. Missing from the Marines, say
39. Distribute
41. Fall tools
42. Mongolian desert
43. Matted cotton for stuffing
44. Biblical prophet
46. Had followers
47. Surrounded by
49. Reduce in volume
51. 60's war zone, briefly
52. In the know
54. Puns and such
56. Peter...
62. "By yesterday!"
64. Towel stitching
65. Tighten, perhaps
66. Hip bones
67. Encourage
68. "Gladiator" setting
69. Give away



70. Physicist Niels
71. Fragrant compound
- Down
1. Freeway exit
2. Fertilizer chemical
3. Kind of traffic
4. Braided bread
5. Mississippi traveler
6. Transmits
7. Destinations for some limos
8. Tolstoy's Karenina
9. At no time, poetically
10. Take to court
11. Peter...
12. Pro or con
13. Eyelid problem
21. Dispositions
22. Go on and on
26. Carpet type
27. Latin dance
28. At right angles to a ship
29. Peter...
30. Scurries
31. A Turkish veil
32. TNT inventor
33. Trombone part
36. Shaker contents
37. Word with bum or bunny
40. European erupter
45. Northern lights
48. Clock std.
50. Hot conditions
52. Cry of frustration
53. More sagacious
54. "Just a sec!"
55. Archipelago component
57. Great Lakes fish
58. Medal recipient
59. Editor's note
60. Cattle, to poets
61. Once around the sun
63. Good buddy

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT [WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD](http://WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD)

## LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.77

care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Gilbert Cuevas, Deceased c/o JoAnne McIntosh Eccles & McIntosh, PC 506 West 16th Street Austin, Texas 78701 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated February 24, 2021. Eccles & McIntosh, PC JoAnne McIntosh Attorney for Independent Executor

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES COTTON NALL a/k/a JAMES C. NALL, Deceased, were issued

on February 4, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001692, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Michael W. Baty. 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. BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER & WHITAKER, P.C. c/o: STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE Attorney at Law 15 North Main Street Temple, Texas 76501 DATED the 1st day of March, 2021. BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER & WHITAKER, P.C. By: /s/ Stephen T. Brischke STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE State Bar No.: 24045552 E-mail: stephenbrischke@bcslaw.com

15 North Main Street Temple, Texas 76501 Telephone: (254) 774-8333 Facsimile: (254) 774-9353 Attorneys for Michael W. Baty

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jean Plummer Baker, Deceased, have been issued on Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002089, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of County, Texas, to John Coalter Baker as Independent Executor. The mailing address of the Independent Executor is: c/o Babb, Reed & Leak, PLLC, 4131 Spicewood Springs Rd., Bldg. G-2, Austin, TX 78759. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 5th day of February, 2021.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jean C. Hopkins, Deceased, were issued on February 16, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002469, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Kathryn Murphy, as Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Representative, Jean C. Hopkins, Deceased c/o Walter C. Guebert, PC, 12017 Rayo de Luna Lane Austin, Texas 78732 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within

# THE COMMON LAW by Luke Ellis

## Minors Getting Ink: Can an Under-18 Teenager Get a Tattoo in Texas with Parental Consent?

*I'm 16. I want to get a tattoo when I turn 16 and I'm certain I can get it as long as one of my parents consents. Is that right? - E.T.*

No. Texas has specific laws that address at what age someone can get a tattoo. Section 146.012 of the Texas Health and Safety Code starts by outlining the general rule - a tattooist may not tattoo "a person younger than 18 years of age."

The same code section then sets out one exception to this rule for kids under the age of 18. The tattoo artist may tattoo a person younger than 18 years of age if the tattoo is intended to cover an already existing offensive tattoo and the child's parent provides consent to cover the tattoo. Tattoos that Texas law spe-

cifically allows a minor to cover with another tattoo (with parental consent) include (1) a tattoo that contains obscene or offensive language or symbols; (2) gang-related names, symbols, or markings; (3) drug-related names, symbols, or pictures; or (4) or any word, symbol, or markings that the child's parent thinks would be in the best interest of the person to cover.

So, what does all that mean? Basically, if the child has no tattoos, then the child must wait until they turn 18 to get a tattoo, even if a parent gives consent to the tattoo before the child turns 18. However, let's say a 16-year old kid gets an unauthorized tattoo of his girlfriend's name (as just one of the many examples of a tattoo that reasonable minds likely think isn't a good idea for a 16-year old), the kid can likely get that tattoo covered over with parental consent. A person younger than 18 years of age commits an offense (Class B misdemeanor) if the person falsely states he or she is older than 18 in order to get a tattoo.

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to [thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com](mailto:thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com). Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to inclusion in future columns.

the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 1st day of March, 2021.

WALTER C. GUEBERT, PC.  
By: /s/ Walter C. Guebert  
Walter C. Guebert

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joe Cedillo, Deceased, were issued on the 3rd day of February, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002454, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Yvonne Vega.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Barnes Lipscomb Stewart & Ott PLLC  
Attorneys at Law  
Rollingwood Center  
2500 Bee Cave Road  
Building II, Suite 150  
Austin, Texas 78746

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

Dated the 26th day of February, 2021.  
/s/ Clint Alexander  
Clint Alexander  
Attorney for Independent Executor

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARTHA A. BELL a/k/a MARTHA ANN BELL, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2021, in Cause No. 20-1168-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: DAVID J. BELL.

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.

DAVID J. BELL, Independent Executor, Estate of MARTHA A. BELL a/k/a MARTHA ANN BELL.

c/o Robert Kyle Robbins

March 1, 2021  
State Bar No. 24105719  
The Law Offices of Kyle Robbins, PLLC  
3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78756  
Telephone: (512) 851-1248  
Fax: (512) 361-1806  
Email: [kyle@kylorobbinlaw.com](mailto:kyle@kylorobbinlaw.com)

### Attorney for Independent Executor

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Petra F. Arellano, a/k/a Petra Flores Arellano, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001804, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Veronica Arellano as Dependent Executor. 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.

Estate of Petra F. Arellano, a/k/a Petra Flores Arellano  
Veronica Arellano, Dependent Executor

c/o Greg Johnson, Attorney at Law  
Farrell & Johnson, PLLC  
1000 MoPac Circle  
Austin, Texas 78746

Telephone: (512) 323-2977  
Facsimile: (512) 708-1977  
[gjohnson@txelderlaw.com](mailto:gjohnson@txelderlaw.com)  
Dated the 26th day of February, 2021.

/s/ Greg Johnson  
Greg Johnson  
Farrell & Johnson, PLLC  
1000 MoPac Circle  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Telephone: (512) 323-2977  
Facsimile: (512) 708-1977  
e-mail: [gjohnson@txelderlaw.com](mailto:gjohnson@txelderlaw.com)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Retta Martin Wehring were issued to Deneice Wehring Day on February 9, 2021 under Docket No. C-1-PB-21-000051, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of

Travis County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Executor addressed as follows: Douglas A. Booth Sneed, Vine & Perry, P.C. 2705 Bee Cave Road, Suite 160 Austin, Texas 78746  
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Wallace Bladuell-Ramos, M.D., Deceased, were issued on February 11, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002546, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Wanda Schafer, as Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Representative,  
Wallace Bladuell-Ramos, M.D.,  
Deceased

c/o Walter C. Guebert  
Walter C. Guebert, PC.  
12017 Rayo de Luna Lane  
Austin, Texas 78732

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 1st day of March 2021.

WALTER C. GUEBERT, PC.  
By: /s/ Walter C. Guebert  
Walter C. Guebert

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM KEITH CONNOR were issued on February 24, 2021, under Docket No. C-1-PB-21-000116, pending in Travis County Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to JONATHAN SCOTT CONNOR.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Estate of WILLIAM KEITH CONNOR

c/o Thomas F. Virr  
Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC.  
3410 Far West Blvd., Suite 385  
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 26th day of February, 2021.

Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, PC.  
/Thomas F. Virr/  
Thomas F. Virr  
Attorney for the Estate

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Raymond C. Lewis, were issued to Laura Lewis, whose mailing address is 500 Arbor Lane, Austin, Texas 78745, on January 21, 2021, by the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002423, which is still pending, and that the Independent Executor now holds such Letters Testamentary. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the claims to Laura Lewis, c/o Kelly C. Kocurek, DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, LLP, 303 Colorado Street, Suite 2300, Austin, Texas 78701, within the time prescribed by law.

Kelly C. Kocurek  
DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, LLP  
303 Colorado Street, Suite 2300  
Austin, Texas 78701

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of ELEANOR K. RIDLEHUBER (AKA ELEANOR KORNBAKER RIDLEHUBER, AKA ELEANOR KORNBAK RIDLEHUBER), Deceased, were issued on February 23, 2021 in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002475, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to CHARLES RIDLEHUBER, JR. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered

## MARKETPLACE

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Treat yourself to a relaxing hot oil, full-body Swedish massage in a candle-lit, private room/shower, 24/7, in/out calls. Clint 512-775-9164 - LMT# 034842

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### AUSTIN HARMONICA

LESSONS Austin Harmonica Teacher, Michael Rubin [michaellrubinharmonica.com](http://michaellrubinharmonica.com) 512-619-0761  
Skype/Facetime lessons available

### WEBSITE

If you had a Les Paul Faded Double Cutaway guitar, you could be an awesome musician. Find one in MARKETPLACE at [austinchronicle.com/classifieds](http://austinchronicle.com/classifieds).

## REAL ESTATE

### CENTRAL 1510 W. 6TH #104

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 at (512)203-4100

### NORTH 7920 ROCKWOOD LN #207

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### SOUTH 900 S. LAMAR #205

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## LEGAL NOTICES

are required to represent them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. C/O: CHARLES RIDLEHUBER, JR., 9907 Trails End Rd, Unit 6, Leander, TX 78641  
RICARDO J. VILLARREAL  
Attorney for Estate, State Bar No.: 00979501  
4634 Sterling Wood Way, Houston, TX 77059  
Telephone: (281)793-7262;  
Facsimile: (888)610-1729

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate Janice B. Broomall, a.k.a. Jan Broomall, Deceased, were issued on February 24, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000078 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Catharine Jane Broomall Miranda, as Independent Executor. 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.

c/o: Gabriel G. Gallas  
Gallas Law PLLC  
1403 West 6th Street  
Austin, TX 78703

DATED the 24th day of February, 2021.  
/s/ Gabriel G. Gallas  
Gabriel G. Gallas  
State Bar No.: 24069750  
Attorney for Catharine Jane Broomall Miranda

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOSEPH EVERETT DRABEK a/k/a JOE EVERETT DRABEK, Deceased, were issued to Melissa H. Drabek

a/k/a Melissa Drabek-Ratcliff on February 26, 2021, under Cause No. C-1-PB-21-000056, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate must present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law and may present them in care of the representative's attorney, addressed as follows: Drabek Estate, LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES SMAISTRALA, 4413 Spicewood Springs Rd #118, Austin, TX 78759.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gladys Jenelle Symms, Deceased, were granted on February 2, 2021, in Docket No. C-1-PB-20-002498, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Deanna Faye Cloud and Terri Rene Tygart.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Scofield & Scofield, PC., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 2nd day of March, 2021.  
Scofield & Scofield, PC.  
Attorneys for the Estate  
By: /s/ Janice Pierce

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Morton Lang Krumholz, Deceased, were granted on February 9, 2021, in

Docket No. C-1-PB-21-000046, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Golda Sue Golub Krumholz and Richard Samson Krumholz. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Scofield & Scofield, PC., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 2nd day of March, 2021.  
Scofield & Scofield, PC.  
Attorneys for the Estate  
By: /s/ Janice Pierce

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DORIANNE ANNE SIMMONS (also known as Dorianne Fox Simmons), Deceased, were issued on February 11, 2021, in Cause No. C-1-PB-19-001370, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis 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 undersigned 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. Liffing 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 Information 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/](http://www.traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/) solicitation. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

### 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 containing furniture, toys, washer, BMX bikes, BBQ grill, and fishing gear on site Saturday March 6th at 12 noon to satisfy a landlord's lien.

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