

DECEMBER 19, 2025

VOL. 45 • NO. 16

FREE
BUT NOT CHEAP

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

2025

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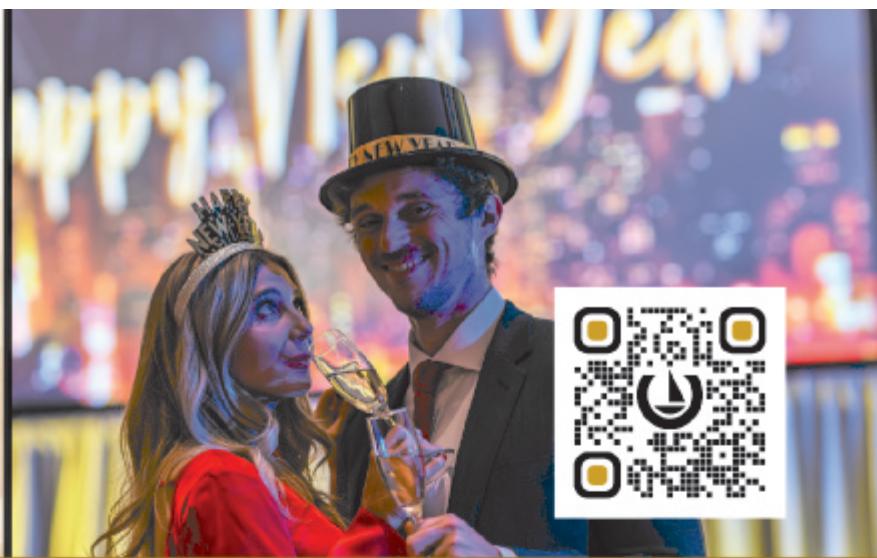
A YEAR
OF ABSOLUTE
CLOWNERY
PAGE 20

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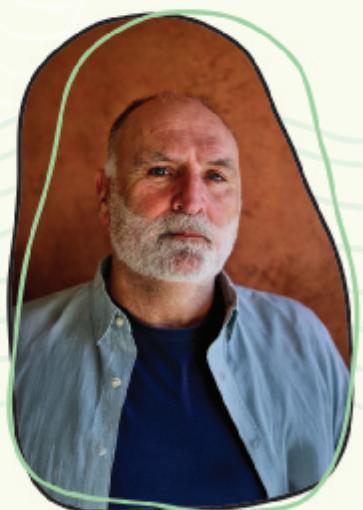
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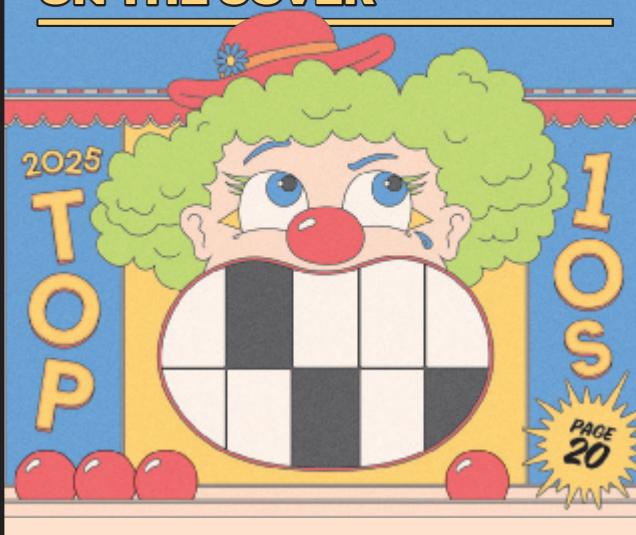
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The Austin Chronicle is an independent, locally owned and
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Many free press.★
Kill AI.

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STAND UP TO YOUR SCIATIC PAIN

Sciatica is used to describe nerve pain that originates in the lower back, radiates deep into the buttock, and travels down the leg – Better known as, a literal “PAIN IN THE BUTT.” All jokes aside, we understand how painful and debilitating sciatic pain can be.

- The burning sensation is unbearable.
- The shooting pain makes staying active almost impossible.
- Long car rides are out of the question.
- Standing for extended periods of time, forget it.
- You spend your entire day trying to get comfortable only to find that it's nearly impossible.

You've tried the stretches. You've tried ice and heat. You've tried inversion tables and chiropractic. You've even tried dietary changes with little to no relief!

You feel like you've already tried everything, but you haven't tried Rosedale Acupuncture.



At Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness Center, we offer a PROVEN SOLUTION to TREAT your sciatic pain.

We skillfully use non-invasive therapies like ATP Resonance Biotherapy™ and other nonpharmaceutical, non-opioid, non-steroid, therapy for amplified and lasting results to relieve you of your sciatica and back pain.

Joey M. said this about her sciatica, “My sciatica pain was a 10 out of 10. Nothing was comfortable. I couldn't lay flat. I couldn't sit or stand for more than 10 minutes. Walking was the worst, my pain was so bad I couldn't even stand up straight. I like to walk and hike for exercise, this was impossible.”

“I was on the brink of surgery.”

“This had been going on for months and I had tried EVERYTHING. I came to Dr. Brown at Rosedale Acupuncture desperate for relief. He put me on an intensive treatment plan and within a few weeks my pain was cut in half and I was walking much better. By the end of our time together, I was hiking and walking without pain, standing up straight, and back to my exercise routine. Lucas is a lifesaver!”

Dr. Brown is now accepting a limited amount of new patients. In an effort to protect his patients, both current and future, he has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in his clinic. **Only TEN New Low Back Pain and Sciatica patients will be accepted before the end of January 2026.**

Testimonials :

This wellness center is amazing, and the staff is phenomenal. I have experienced low back pain for almost 10 years and within 2 weeks I've found relief without muscle relaxers. I came in bent over and I stand now with minimal pain. I am still a patient and may be for years to come. Choose Dr. Brown if you're ready for long term progress and say goodbye to a temporary fix. He will change your life.

I love Rosedale Acupuncture and Wellness! Dr. Brown and his staff are so professional yet make you feel like family! I am having great results for my sciatica and lower back pain and stiffness. I know it is a process, so I am looking forward to seeing even better results as I continue with my wellness and healing process!

After suffering with sciatica for over four years, I contacted Dr. Brown to see if he could help me. In just a few short months, I'm pain free, and completely off the prescription pain medicines! I would definitely recommend seeing Dr. Brown for help with sciatic pain. Wish I had known about this sooner!

Visit www.RosedaleAcuWell.com to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer

GOING STEADY

Dear Editor,

My late brother-in-law was a Vietnam vet and suffered from PTSD. My sister would attend various group functions without him and mention that he wasn't attending because the PTSD made him nervous and uncomfortable in groups. I mentioned this to my buddies and their universal reaction was something like, "Wow! What a great way to get out of crap we get stuck having to attend!"

How does this relate to your ["Luv Doc"] column? My girlfriend and I, both in our 70s, have been in our exclusive relationship over 30 years. We don't live together, but refer to each other as boyfriend/girlfriend. At gatherings people may refer to her as my wife or to me as her husband. We respond by telling them the above. And, exactly like my buddies and the PTSD thing, the, I swear, universal response is, "Wow! What a great way to have a relationship!" Trust me, they're not just being polite.

I regularly read your column – it's excellent! I love your digressions. The column I'm referring to was a good answer to the lady complaining about her boyfriend not choosing a gift for his mom ["The Luv Doc: His Mom's Birthday Gift," Columns, Dec. 12]. My only quibble is that you say the use of the terms boyfriend and girlfriend must be abandoned after 10 years. Not so.

Best regards from a fan,
Jack Bishop

FIGHT BESS TEXAS

Dear Editor,

Please spread the news about the lithium battery storage facilities going in in our Hill Country.

These facilities will be harmful to the Hill Country environment, ecosystem and the communities.

Read more about this at fightbesstexas.org.

Linda McClure

NOT JAZZED ABOUT JASMINE

Dear Editor,

I feel bad for Texas – that you have someone filing for a high-government position that lacks just about as much integrity as our president ["Candidates Shift Races After Supreme Court Ruling," Headlines, Dec. 12].... Not the kind of news the American people want.... It seems Jasmine Crockett needs to brush up on the book written by Miss Manners.... This is not a partisan issue, but a personality issue.... We can't sing "God bless America" and yet think and behave ungodly ways.... To quote the Good Book, "we shall know them by their fruits" and I see sour grapes....

Lindie Gibson

R.I.P. JOE ELY

"A Texas legend. I'll never forget meeting him at Saxon Pub in Austin when he spent the time after his incredible show telling me the story of how he met and became friends with Joe Strummer of The Clash. I was enthralled. He didn't have to spend his time doing that, but he was a gentleman and I hung on every word. His music was part of the reason I wanted to move to Texas and I felt so lucky and honored to see him play."

– melissajaneatx, via Instagram

"He will be forever missed and remembered!! My all time favorite singer/songwriter!!! Devastated!! Prayers for his family! ❤"

– staceyabondo007, via Instagram

Re: "Texan Troubadour Joe Ely Dies at 78"
Read Caroline Drew's remembrance on p.19.

THIS MODERN WORLD

1. TRUMP MAKES A PRONOUNCEMENT THAT IS BOTH TROUBLING AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

WE'RE GOING TO GET RID OF THE ENTIRE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND REPLACE IT WITH SOMETHING BETTER--A POUCH OF MAGICAL HERBS AND SPICES YOU CAN TIE TO YOUR BELT WITH A STRING!



IT'S A VERY OLD-FASHIONED WORD, POUCH. IT MEANS A BAG WITH THINGS IN IT!

2. MIKE JOHNSON DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

SIR, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON--

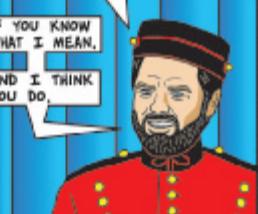
NO! I HAVEN'T SEEN THE STORY, OR THE TWEET, OR THE VIDEO, OR THE LEAKED EPSTEIN FILES EXPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S TRUE DEPRAVITY, OR WHATEVER IT IS!



I KNOW NOTHING!!

3. J.D. VANCE SOMEHOW MAKES IT EVEN WEIRDER.

WHITE AMERICANS HAVE A LONG AND STORIED TRADITION OF Tying POUCHES TO THEIR BELTS! THE PRESIDENT SIMPLY WANTS TO RESTORE A COMMON HERITAGE UNSULLIED BY LESSER CULTURES!



IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN,

AND I THINK YOU DO,



4. THE RIGHT-WING PROPAGANDA MACHINE TRIES TO RETCON HIS REMARKS.

SO, SIR--YOU MEAN "POUCH" AS A METAPHOR FOR THE EVER-PRESENT SECURITY OF A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT--RIGHT?



NOPE! I MEAN A LITTLE LEATHER BAG TIED TO YOUR BELT! IT WAS BOBBY'S IDEA! HE DOES HIS OWN RESEARCH!

5. KAROLINE LEAVITT YELLS AT THE PRESS CORPS.

WHY CAN'T THE LYING LIBERAL FAKE NEWS MEDIA EVER REPORT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S INNOVATIVE NEW APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE?



IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I'D HAVE YOU ALL SHOT LIKE THE VERMIN YOU ARE!

EXCEPT FOR OUR FRIENDS THE RIGHT WING INFLUENCERS, OF COURSE!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

7. CYCLE REPEATS ON A DAILY, IF NOT HOURLY, BASIS.

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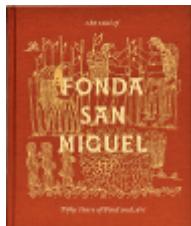
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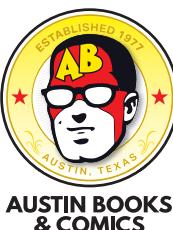
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1:00 - 3:00PM CILANTRO BOOMBOX
4:00 - 6:00PM MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ
7:00 - 9:00PM KELSEY WILSON & FRIENDS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

1:00 - 3:00PM DEL CASTILLO TRIO
4:00 - 6:00PM RUTHIE FOSTER
7:00 - 9:00PM KELLY WILLIS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

1:00 - 3:00PM WARREN HOOD, EMILY GIMBLE & FRIENDS
4:00 - 6:00PM BEAT ROOT REVIVAL & FRIENDS
7:00 - 9:00PM BILL KIRCHEN AND HIS SILENT KNIGHTS & FRIENDS

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NEWS

It is motivated by discriminatory animus. It is not backed by crime data or any evidence of safety needs. It's designed to divide us, to conquer us, and to promote cynical political goals.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MIKE SIEGEL ADDRESSING SB 8 TAKING EFFECT



COURTESY OF CITY OF AUSTIN

HEADLINES

CITY EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FLOOD INSURANCE ASSISTANCE: Following the catastrophic July 4 floods that took place this past summer, the city has announced that it is continuing its pilot program partnership with Del Valle Community Coalition to provide flood insurance assistance. With a goal of supporting Austinites who reside in high-risk flood locations, the Flood Insurance Assistance Program provides up to \$2,000 for homeowners to obtain or maintain a year's worth of flood insurance. In order to receive the program's benefits, residents must be homeowners of a property located within the 100-year floodplain and have a household income at or below 140% of the median family income. Eligible residents can apply through Del Valle Community Coalition's website.

CONVENTION CENTER LAWSUIT: The coalition of Austinites trying to force a vote on the convention center is not going away. In mid-November, the Austin city clerk rejected Austin United PAC's bid to establish a voter referendum at an election next May on whether to continue construction on the new convention center. On Monday, the PAC filed suit against the city for rejecting the petition, claiming the city violated the Texas Public Information Act by keeping secret how it reviewed the more than 25,000 voter signatures collected by the group to get the proposal on the ballot. Austin United's leaders criticized the cost of creating the convention center at a press conference on Tuesday. The city currently estimates the cost at \$1.6 billion, but Austin United's leaders say the true cost, with interest payments, is closer to \$5.6 billion. The group proposed better uses for the six blocks of prime, Downtown real estate on which the new convention center will sit, namely the creation of an arts district.



The former Austin Convention Center
JANA BIRCHUM

CONTINUED ON P.14



Activist Brigitte Bandit (in purple) joined council members and LGBTQ advocates for a press conference following City Council's unanimous vote to direct staff to craft a plan to renovate restrooms in city buildings in order to make them gender-inclusive

BRANT BINGAMON

Protecting Trans Texans, Creating Jobs, Reducing Homelessness

It was a good week at City Hall **BY BRANT BINGAMON**

Marti Bier, a nonbinary organizer with the Texas Freedom Network, spent the last three legislative sessions at the state Capitol trying to protect the trans community from a series of Republican attacks.

"It has felt worse and worse as our humanity and dignity has been legislated away,"

Bier told Austin's City Council last Thursday. "When SB 8 passed during the special session, it was devastating. People like me who already deal with stares or comments will now face lawfully acceptable repercussions for simply existing in public life when we need to use the restroom."

Senate Bill 8, passed this September, requires trans Texans to use bathrooms corresponding to their birth gender in public buildings, something that studies show leads to verbal and physical attacks. So Council voted unanimously at its Dec. 11 meeting

CONTINUED ON P.14



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HEADLINES CONTINUED

BATHROOM BILL ENFORCEMENT AT CAPITOL: As Senate Bill 8, also known as the “bathroom bill,” has been enacted, different institutions around the state differ on how they enforce the new law. On Dec. 6, state troopers stood guard outside of the Capitol building’s restroom facilities, mandating that those wishing to use the restroom provide identification, while protesters voiced their opposition to SB 8, stating that the restrictions could influence an individual to photograph or harass others using public restrooms. City Council approved a resolution, authored by Mike Siegel, last Thursday that is set to establish ways to replace multi-occupancy restrooms that are affected by the changes with single-person restrooms. “We don’t know if anyone else has done this,” Siegel said. “In some ways, Texas is the testing ground for new discriminatory and hateful policies, and we’re just responding as creatively as we can.”

TIME TICKS ON CAP AND STITCH:

As TxDOT continues its work on expanding I-35, time is ticking for city officials to make a decision on what the cap-and-stitch initiative will look like, currently divided on the best routes. After Council agreed to allocate \$104 million in the long term, counting on the funding to come from a federal grant that fell through, they now have until May of next year to inform TxDOT on the city’s funding route, and must decide this month how many caps they intend on building and where they will be placed. Commenting on the potential capping areas, Council Member Chito Vela told KUT, “Looking at that highway cap between Cesar Chavez through Seventh Street, if we were to cap that area of the highway and put some nice amenities on it, we are potentially building one of the best downtown parks in Texas.”



A rendering of the bridge at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. with a cap
TxDOT

CONTINUED ON P.16



Council has approved incentives for an expansion of Southwest Airlines at the airport COURTESY OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

CITY HALL CONTINUED FROM P.12

to direct staff to craft a plan to renovate restrooms in city buildings to make them gender inclusive. CM Mike Siegel, who is leading the effort, said the restrooms could be converted for use by one person at a time, so that every toilet is private.

Siegel emphasized at Thursday’s meeting that he believes SB 8 is unconstitutional and will be struck down. “But until then, I want us to send a message as a city,” he said. “I believe all of us agree that we are welcoming. We’re welcoming to our residents, to our visitors, to everyone who comes to our great city.”

Council members José Velásquez, Vanessa Fuentes, and Zo Qadri joined Siegel and LGBTQ+ advocates for a press conference outside City Hall after the vote. Local activist Brigitte Bandit, dressed in a lavender ensemble, read from the children’s book *Everybody Pees*. The Council members and speakers from the Transgender Education Network of Texas, Equality Texas, and the Texas Freedom Network vowed to protect trans Austinites.

“We will not be complicit with hate,” CM Velásquez said. “Protecting our trans and nonbinary friends is not optional. We all need to show up every day to protect and defend them, however we can. And this is a call to male allies, Hispanic allies, Black allies: Use whatever privilege you have to protect our nonbinary and trans neighbors.”

Council also approved an economic development agreement on Thursday to provide \$5.5 million in incentives over the next five years for an expansion of Southwest Airlines at the city’s airport. As part of the expansion, Southwest will establish a new crew base at Austin-Bergstrom, including pilots, flight attendants, and managerial and support staff who, according to a press release from Gov. Greg Abbott, will make an average salary of \$180,000 a year. Altogether, the expansion is expected to create 2,000 jobs paying at least \$22 an hour and including health benefits for domestic partners and dependents. Southwest will receive \$2,750 per hire and return 10% of the money to the city’s Childcare Assistance Reserve Fund, which helps provide child care for low-income Austinites.

The city celebrated the agreement in its own press release on Friday, saying the expansion will reduce disruptions at the airport, increase the number of direct flights, and improve the passenger experience in

general. The release stated that the deal contains no tax abatements or automatic payouts. “All incentives are capped and tied to job creation and community benefits, ensuring the deal remains fiscally responsible and protective of taxpayer dollars,” it read.

The deal’s announcement occasioned a rare moment of public conciliation between Abbott and Mayor Kirk Watson, with the governor joining the mayor and Southwest executives in praising its benefits. Fuentes, whose district includes the airport, told the *Chronicle* she’s excited to bring more economic development to the city at a time when tax revenue is down and the city manager is warning about budget deficits. “Given the structural budget deficit we’re in, having this type of economic development in our city that will generate and expand our tax revenue is a good thing,” she said.

Council also approved seven contracts with homeless services providers, appropriating around \$5 million in the short term, and potentially over \$40 million in the next five years, for supportive housing projects coming online in 2026. The funding will help provide services at new communities overseen by The SAFE Alliance, Endeavors, and The Other Ones Foundation, among other groups.

Liz Baker, the executive director of The Other Ones Foundation, told the *Chronicle* that the city contracts were approved the same day that TOOF received a \$50 million grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The grant will help fund a major expansion of its Esperanza Community in far East Austin. Baker said the grant was the product of two and a half years of steady work and added that the contract with the city will cover about half of the costs of running Esperanza for the next five years.

Last Thursday’s meeting was supposed to be the final one of the year, but Council is expected to conduct a special meeting today, Dec. 18, to approve a new four-year labor agreement with the Austin Firefighters Association. In the updated agreement, the city will promise to maintain a minimum of four firefighters on all trucks sent to emergencies. In turn, the firefighters will drop their request for an election in May asking Austin voters to make four-person staffing mandatory by amending the city’s charter. The *Chronicle* will report on the new contract in next week’s issue. ■

“All incentives are capped and tied to job creation and community benefits, ensuring the deal remains fiscally responsible and protective of taxpayer dollars.”

CITY PRESS RELEASE ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST AIRLINES EXPANSION



Looper booster shots

MIRANDA WILLIAMSON

Texas' THCA Vape Crackdown Sparks New Consumption Loophole

With Senate Bill 2024 underway, Texas smoke shops create new pathway to vape products **BY MIRANDA WILLIAMSON**

When Senate Bill 2024 took effect on Sept. 1, smoke shops across Texas hurried to clear their shelves of highly desired products: vaporizers. The law reclassified the sale of pre-filled THCA vapes – long a staple of Texas's hemp economy – as a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail, a \$4,000 fine, or both. SB 2024 specifically bans the sale of pre-filled vape products containing cannabinoids like THC, CBD, Delta-8, or THCA, or those made in “foreign adversary” countries such as China.

Smoke shop inventories disappeared overnight. Still, customers came in expecting products that were no longer legally available. “For more than a month, we had nothing to give them,” said Ryan Grant, manager of Happy Clouds locations in Austin and Round Rock. “It was really a difficult situation.” He estimates that roughly 40% of his inventory became unsellable the moment SB 2024 took effect. Grant had little ability to restock his empty shelves. Not one of his distributors carried a vape product that complied with SB 2024’s strict rules, leaving Happy Clouds – and every other hemp shop in the state – with nothing compliant to sell.

As the ban took hold, the disruption moved beyond storefronts and into the wholesale network that every Texas hemp shop relies on. “SB 2024 cut the shit out of the distribution pipeline,” said Anthony Vazquez, owner of Dooby’s Smoking Depot on South Lamar. Before the ban, he sourced 70-80% of his products from Texas-based distributors. Since the ban went into effect, the

local supply has dried up, leaving retailers unable to find products that are both local and legally greenlit.

“Now, I send my money to California,” he lamented, mourning the revenue lost for the Texas hemp industry. On the day the law took effect, Vazquez had to apply to eight out-of-state wholesalers to keep his shelves somewhat stocked, with no state help to offset the losses. He estimated total drops of 20% in September, 16.5% in October, and 7.6% in November. December is the first month that looks “almost normal.”

This stabilization has conveniently coincided with the discovery of a legal loophole that allows disposable THCA devices to return to Texas smoke shops. SB 2024’s language explicitly bans the sale of *pre-filled* devices, but does not mention any prohibitions regarding customers filling their own cartridges after purchasing all device components. Manufacturers descended on this technicality, launching a product line built from an empty cartridge, a battery, and a syringe filled with THCA liquid – effectively a build-your-own banned disposable. These syringe-based products follow the letter of the law while leaving its spirit all but meaningless.

Brands have aggressively leaned into the work-around. Pixie Dust, a Florida-based vape brand, markets its 3mL empty battery kits as “Fully SB2024 Compliant,” while Looper, a California-based brand widely stocked in Texas hemp shops, pitches its 1mL refillable device as an alternative method that “keeps

you in the game.” Shops across Austin prominently sell both products, often beside THCA syringes labeled “for topping flower” or “intended for concentrates,” even though they were designed to refill empty cartridges. Syringe products hit the market in early November and gave cart loyalists their first decent hit in months, flying off shelves at Dooby’s, Happy Clouds, Drip n Rip, Delta 8 THC Austin, MaryJae, and Restart CBD + THC. Statewide, shops from Dallas to San Antonio report the same surge.

Vazquez described the mad rush to order the new compliant products as similar to the significant toilet paper hoarding stint in 2020: “Supply was short, and the demand skyrocketed ... I was only able to buy two units at a time.” Whatever he managed to stock vanished just as quickly. “I used to be able to get next-day delivery. Now, these syringes sold out in less than two days, and I can’t get them until next week.”

Some product lines come with strict guidelines. Ryan Grant stocks 1mL and 3mL Looper Refillable Devices and corresponding “booster shots” at Happy Clouds locations from San Marcos to Round Rock. None of the stores place the products next to each other. “They’ve asked us not to put them together,” Grant said, explaining that Looper does not want the items featured side by side in displays, marketing materials, or photographs.

Employees are also no longer allowed to assemble devices or demonstrate how they operate. “Anything that can be modded or refilled, I can’t demonstrate anymore,” said Jenna Angus, a Drip n Rip employee, who used to walk customers through every step. She calls the months after SB 2024’s passage “turbulent times,” as staff tried to calm customers who couldn’t get their usual stock. Now, Angus and others are navigating legal confusion about what is and isn’t permitted.

Early confusion remains as the workaround continues to evolve. As customers adjust to the new syringe systems, shops have had to update their supply and how they explain it. Those that cannot stock the syringe systems have shifted their shelves to include wax, liquidizers, and other SB 2024-compliant products to replace disposables. Trippiez Smoke Shop now displays wax under signs that read “Due to SB 2024, all hemp vapes and carts are banned in Texas.”

Trippiez owner Ahmad Alnajjar expressed concern about what’s next: “There are people who depend on hemp-derived products as viable alternatives to opioids for pain, anxiety, and more ... We want regulation. We just want it to be comprehensive, reasonable, and fair.”

The Texas Department of State Health Services hasn’t clarified whether selling empty devices along with syringes violates the intent of SB 2024, and several owners fear a second crackdown is on the horizon. A greater threat looms in Washington: Proposed changes to the 2018 Farm Bill would categorize THC by total weight instead of potency.

“The entire product line would be wiped out. Consumables, smokables, and edibles,” said Angus. Shop owners are preparing for a tumultuous year, uncertain if the syringe workaround is just a temporary fix or the beginning of an entirely new market. The loophole keeps the shelves alive for now – but it won’t protect Texas from what comes next. ■

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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HEADLINES CONTINUED**COUNCIL APPROVES DISANNEXATION OF LAKE AUSTIN PROPERTIES:** At the last scheduled Council meeting of the year, on Dec. 11, Council members approved the removal of multiple properties on Lake Austin from being within city limits, after 140 property owners petitioned for the removal. According to *Statesman* reporting, the change will result in a loss of \$290 million in taxes from the city. Council's decision comes after a 2019 vote that added the properties to city limits, followed by over 300 owners suing the city.

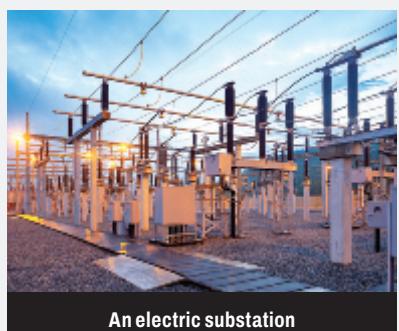
Austin Fire, Austin-Travis County EMS, Austin Energy, and Austin Water will still continue to serve the area.

FORMER MAYOR FRANK COOKSEY

PASSES: At 92 years old, former Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey died on Monday, Dec. 15. Cooksey is remembered for being an activist for civil rights and progressive policies during his time serving as the city's mayor from 1985 to 1988. During that three-year period, the city approved the Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance that protects water quality by regulating land development and usage. He also helped craft the Department of Economic Development and Trade, along with other notable achievements in and out of office.

AUSTIN ENERGY GRID EFFORTS: On

Tuesday, Dec. 16, Austin Energy announced its goal for a "stronger, smarter, more reliable" grid: Electric System Resiliency Plan. The proposed plan comes after over a year of engagement from stakeholders, reviewing costs, and conducting third-party studies. The strategy is to ensure that the energy system will be reliable during extreme weather conditions and other hazards and quickly respond to outages. The plan comes as a 10-year rollout, with an overall cost of \$735 million for a variety of infrastructure developments starting in 2026, according to Austin Energy.



An electric substation

GETTY IMAGES



Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock (right) conversing with two individuals

COURTESY OF TEXAS COMPTROLLER

Business Owners Search for Solutions After Termination of HUB Program

They fear that opportunities for larger state projects will dwindle **BY JOE ELLETT**

As the year comes to a close, Jessica Scanlon, founder of Hot Dog Marketing, can already cross one item off of her 2026 to-do list: renewing her Historically Underutilized Business program status. After Comptroller Kelly Hancock abruptly announced in early December that the program would no longer provide benefits to women- and minority-owned businesses, business owners and local advocates have raised concerns, unaware of how they are going to move forward.

The HUB program was initially designed to uplift businesses owned by marginalized communities and has now been altered to exclusively support veterans. Hancock announced that the program has been narrowed to strictly support veterans with an impairment connected to their service, and will be renamed the Veteran Heroes United in Business program. Only 31% of veterans in the nation have a service-connected disability, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over 15,000 Texas businesses have now had their status revoked. According to the comptroller's fiscal year 2025 semi-annual report, which was released in May, of the 15,762 companies that were registered under the program in FY25, a mere 485 are owned by disabled veterans. Of those 485, none are owned by female vets.

Since 1999, the HUB program has served

as a gateway for small businesses to play a role in substantial state-funded projects that are usually executed by larger, out-of-state companies. Through the HUB directory on the comptroller's website, prime contractors can find Texas businesses that specialize in certain areas needed to complete their projects. For contracts greater than \$100,000, prime contractors are required to submit a HUB subcontracting plan that demonstrates that they have made a "good-faith effort" to incorporate small businesses in the project.

"I've been kind of telling people the HUB program is not a DEI program; it's a small-business accelerator program," Scanlon said.

Scanlon's marketing company had seen the benefits that HUB status can provide for almost 10 years before the changes were made. It was a devastating blow when she received word that the program was no longer intact. "I wanted to crawl out of my skin," she said.

With the discontinuation of the program, Scanlon and other small-business owners fear that bigger contractors that are not based in Texas will see no use in partnering with them.

"It'll be a lot of large companies winning state deals again without small businesses getting any uplift," she said. "I think we'll see a lot of state procurement money leaving the state because a lot of those companies aren't even based here."

Ali Khataw, CEO and founder of Encotech Engineering Consultants, said he's already been turned down by a prime firm that he previously worked with now that his business no longer has HUB status. "The response from that multinational firm was, 'Ali, we don't really need you guys because we can do this all in-house, and now that there are no goals, we don't have to put you or any other HUB firm on the team,'" he said.

Having held HUB status for nearly 20 years, Khataw said that his business has been able to grow through the program. Now, he is unsure how he and other subcontractors will be able to grow in the field.

"If all these projects without HUB goals would now go to multinational firms, how will the small firms ever get a chance to grow into a position where they can become a prime firm one day?" he asked.

Khataw said that the change not only puts these businesses at a disadvantage, but also the Texans who fund these projects. "It's not fair for taxpayers to give work to all of these multinational firms that might have headquarters outside of Austin, and you have Austin-based businesses that are fully qualified, have been in business for years, and they get nothing out of those large projects," he said.

Considering the decision came so suddenly, business owners are befuddled, unsure how to navigate the changes and strategically move forward. This is no different for Scanlon. While she hasn't coordinated a plan for her specific business to move forward on landing state projects without the certification, she said that she is focused on organizing with other previous HUB businesses to try to combat the change.

"I think there's an opportunity for these businesses to have their voices heard and work together on trying to save some version of this program," Scanlon said.

In speaking with other affected business owners, the early response has been encouraging for Scanlon. "When I bring up the idea that we should all be getting together and figuring out what to do next, they get very excited about the idea of, at least, shouting from the rooftops that this was handled incorrectly," she said.

While business owners are taking on the brunt of the change, they are not the only ones contesting the comptroller's decision to end the program. In the midst of the drama, and after the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the GOP congressional map, state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt switched from running in CD 10 and instead decided to enter the race for Texas comptroller. In an official email explaining her move to the comptroller race, Eckhardt made it known that she plans on reviving the program. "The Comptroller can't just strike a law off the books," she wrote. "It's ILLEGAL. And in this case, it's outright stupid economics." ■



APL Director Hannah Terrell

COURTESY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hannah Terrell Named Austin Public Library Director

After serving as interim director for over a year, she takes on the permanent position **BY JOE ELETT**

Two weeks after the Austin Public Library hosted the public for a meet-and-greet with the four finalists for the APL director position, Hannah Terrell was named the new director of the public library system on Monday, Dec. 15.

With nearly 20 years of experience working in libraries under her belt, Terrell has been with APL for just over four of those years, first as the division manager of branch services, then as the assistant library director.

She has been serving as APL's interim director since 2024 after former Director Roosevelt Weeks joined the Fort Bend County Library system as its director. Terrell beat out three other finalists, Cedric Clark, Kathy Donellan, and John Trischitti, all of whom have years of experience serving in various library roles.

On Dec. 1, the night of the meet-and-greet, the four candidates had about 20 minutes to answer questions presented by the audience, pitching why they were the best fit for the role.

On the topic of what she would like to continue and discontinue as the new director, Terrell mentioned that she hopes to see an increased focus on programming for engaging with teens, seniors, and disadvantaged communities. Specifically on the topic of involving more young adults in the public library system, Terrell referred back to some of the work that she has conducted in previous roles.

"I have remodeled my library just for teens," she said. "I've sat down, I've talked to them. I've dealt with homeless teens."

She mentioned a time when an unhoused teen was sleeping within one of the libraries she was overseeing. Instead of kicking the individual out of the building, Terrell said that she found ways to engage with him. She believes that this is the first step to making young adults feel welcomed in the spaces.

"What I'm saying is, we have to connect. Young people are dealing with a lot of different issues. Then it is the training of staff, it is making sure that we have the right people working with our youth ... Under my administration, we will do it."

According to APL, the director "leads the Austin Public Library system, overseeing its operations, programs, facilities, and staff." Next year, Austin Public Library will celebrate its centennial birthday with Terrell at the helm.

Terrell touched on her gratitude for being selected in an official email from APL announcing her as the new director. "It's been an honor to lead the Austin Public Library as Interim Director, and I am deeply grateful to now be stepping into the permanent role of Director," Terrell said. "I look forward to continuing this work alongside the brilliant staff at APL as we move confidently together into APL's second century of service." ■

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Robert Earl Keen Presents Christmas for Jokers

The Greatest Christmas on Earth comes to ACL Live Dec. 19 and 20

Robert Earl Keen didn't even set out to write a Christmas song. He certainly didn't set out to create a Christmas show. Still, the country singer-songwriter has never been one to pass up an opportunity to have fun. For 15 years, that's exactly what Keen's Christmas show has meant to him.

"We aren't there to play a bunch of boring Christmas songs that you can go to your local Walgreens and listen to," Keen says with a playful touch of sneer. "We are there to bring the spirit of Christmas to you, the community, the feeling of it, the family of it, the friendship of it."

Each year the Texan legend and his band select a theme that guides the popular covers they'll add to a set list of Keen's folk-inspired hits like "The Road Goes on Forever" and "Corpus Christi Bay" and, of course, his two reluctant Christmas songs. The singer wrote "Merry Christmas From the Family" while working on songs for his 1994 album *Gringo Honeymoon*.

"I was trying to be Mr. Real Serious and Cool and Bob Dylan-ish and all that sort of thing," he says. When inspiration waned at the beginning of the holiday season, however, he decided to write something festive and simple to clear his mind. Keen says it was "based on the thought that there wasn't a Christmas song out there that really represented me."

The song's charmingly dysfunctional, mixed drink-loving family of eccentric jokers and Marlboro smokers resonated immediately with Keen's producer at the time, Garry Velletri, who persuaded him to set aside his cool guy dreams and include the alternative Yuletide anthem on his Americana record. Sure enough, listeners heard echoes of their own imperfect families in the tune, and "Merry Christmas From the Family" – and its 1998 follow-up "Happy Holidays Y'all" – made its way into the holiday rotation for many merry ruffians.

Much like the irreverent revelers in Keen's works, the songwriter finds the Christmas spirit most easily through shared laughter.

His jocular spirit and the longtime friendships that anchor his band are at the heart of his holiday tour every year. It's the jokes and stage stunts of these holiday performances that stick with Keen.

Cooking up what's in store for crowds across Texas and the South this holiday season, the longtime performer fondly remembers a country-themed Christmas where fiddler Brian Beken enacted an incredibly convincing Dwight Yoakam impersonation and a Johnny Cash duet was partially performed by a mannequin.

This year, Keen and his crew will wish audiences "Merry Christmas From the Family" with circus-themed sing-alongs as they present The Greatest Christmas on Earth. Surprises aren't surprises if you print them in the paper, but Keen cheekily assures me that he wouldn't be doing the Christmas show without some shenanigans.

"If you're not having fun you should just quit, so I'm still having fun," he says. Realizing an opportunity for a festive pun, he revises: "If my sleigh still runs, I'm still gonna run with it." ■

"We aren't there to play a bunch of boring Christmas songs that you can go to your local Walgreens and listen to."

ROBERT EARL KEEN

Robert Earl Keen's The Greatest Christmas on Earth runs Dec. 19-20 at ACL Live at the Moody Theater.

DUKE ELLINGTON'S NUTCRACKER TAKES THE BENEFIT STAGE

Tiered skirts in confectionary colors, an austere classical soundtrack, and predictably old-fashioned roles are the sugar plum visions that the *Nutcracker* conjures – but not at this performance. Caitlin Elledge, artistic director of Capital Contemporary Ballet and co-founder of the fledgling nonprofit ATX Artists for Social Impact, has imagined a different variation on the dance.

Their spin on the timeless ballet begins with the music. Elledge's dancers will leap and twirl to Duke Ellington's arrangement of the classical score, performed by ATX Jazz Orchestra and members of the Huston-Tillotson student



ROBERT EARL KEEN

PHOTO BY ERIKA GOLDRING

band. Where Tchaikovsky's original is stiff and precise, the jazz orchestra's adaptation, retooled by Ellington and his longtime collaborator Billy Strayhorn, leans into the genre's long history of improvisation and collaboration. Fittingly, Elledge has also reimagined the setting of the iconic holiday dance, placing it in an underground jazz bar pulled out of the Sixties to recall spaces where inclusive and transgressive communities gather and find chosen family.

"It's almost like a protest piece," says Elledge. "Not only by Duke Ellington making Tchaikovsky's music jazz and essentially that being a protest in itself – it's also taking something that's traditionally very binary and very gendered and very, usually, racist and not accessible, flipping it on its head, and making it the complete opposite."

Elledge, a nonbinary dancer who has professionally performed and taught dance in many capacities over the past 13 years, hopes to demonstrate a possibility for elasticity in ballet's traditional rigidity through their newly formed company and their original choreography.

"I want everyone to be able to learn the ballet technique in whatever way they can," Elledge says, explaining that lessons are typically strictly gendered and learning skill sets across binary expectations can be daunting, even for experienced dancers. Of course, Elledge says, it just takes communication and patience. "You don't have to be a child growing up in that

technique in order to learn it. You can be a professional adult and be going through these transitions with yourself and suddenly learn how to do a million new things."

Elledge's *Nutcracker* choreography embraces a fusion of jazz-inspired moves and elevates other queer dancers as well, but their vision for this performance's social impact doesn't stop there. Partnering with Sofar Sounds, a for-profit performance platform centered on intimate concerts in unexpected places, ATX Artists for Social Impact will bring the one-night performance to Brazos Hall and donate a portion of the proceeds to Casa Marianella, a local refugee shelter and support organization.

Elledge and their partner, Paolo Dumancas, formed ATX Artists for Social Impact earlier this year as a hub for the efforts of their individual organizations, Capital Contemporary Ballet and ATX Jazz Orchestra, respectively, and a method to support community organizations through art. In addition to accessible lessons – Elledge teaches accommodation-friendly dance to individuals with autism and youth in foster care – and free jazz performances in underserved communities, the couple sees this holiday *Nutcracker* performance as the "kickoff" for more unique benefit events ahead in 2026. ■

ATX Artists for Social Impact and Sofar Sounds present Duke Ellington's Nutcracker on Dec. 19 at Brazos Hall.



Joe Ely

PHOTO BY BARBARA FG

Texan Troubadour Joe Ely Dies at 78

Legendary singer-songwriter remembered for progressive country impact **BY CAROLINE DREW**

Texas roots singer-songwriter Joe Ely passed away at age 78 on Monday, Dec. 15, due to complications with Lewy body dementia, Parkinson's, and pneumonia, according to a statement from his family.

Ely was born in Amarillo in 1947 and became a pivotal part of Austin's progressive country and Americana scene throughout the Seventies and Eighties as a solo musician and a member of the Texas-spanning trio the Flatlanders. Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Butch Hancock influenced a generation of alternative country sounds with their strong, simple arrangements, incorporating elements of Western swing, blues, and honky-tonk classics. Raoul Hernandez followed the icons to their *Late Show with David Letterman* performance for a *Chronicle* cover story in 2002.

"We had the Lubbock look!" beamed Ely at the time, in a response to a compliment on the trio's Western flash attire. "I found that stuff in a Western store in Lubbock."

Like many proud Lone Star songsters, the Flatlanders spent time in Lubbock before moving to the capital, leaning on a strong musical friendship.

"The way we related to each other back then is exactly the way we relate to each other now," Ely told Hernandez on that trip. When the music writer caught up with the trio 14 years later, they played with the same rapport and enthusiasm.

The Austin City Limits Hall of Famer built a musicians' musician reputation with prolific recordings and residencies with the Flatlanders throughout the Live Music Capital. In 2021, he reunited the band to release *Treasure of Love*, a collection of unearthed recordings from the trio's storied past. He recorded over two

dozen solo albums throughout his career, including *Driven to Drive*, released in August 2024 on his own label, Rack'em Records. On that LP, as on every other project he touched, "Ely's rangy, expressive tenor fuses the rootsy resonance of his Panhandle twang to the nervy urban restlessness of the native Amarilloan's eternally adventurous gusto," the *Chronicle* wrote in our review.

A part of the Kerrville Folk Festival's early days, Ely shared his talents with many other local legends, including Robert Earl Keen and Kimmie Rhodes, and inspired international touring acts like the Clash, whom he played with onstage and in the studio throughout their career, and Bruce Springsteen, with whom he recorded "Odds of the Blues." As a solo artist, his boundless creative energy colored in the Hill Country of Texas and the deserts of the Southwest with original songs like "Honky Tonk Masquerade" and "Because of the Wind."

Ely and his wife Sharon shared his diagnosis in September, along with a determination to embrace slower days and revisit and re-release Ely's extensive discography. "Our story is about how music continues to lift us up," Sharon shared in a press release at the time. The couple also began compiling a memoir, a follow-up to the troubadour's two released books: *Bonfire of Roadmaps*, a collection of diary entries and stories from his years spent crisscrossing highways as a traveling musician, and *Reverb: An Odyssey*, a novel about a young Texan rambler like himself in the early days of the hippie movement. He passed peacefully in his Taos, New Mexico, home beside Sharon and his daughter Marie. ■



THE AUSTIN
CHRONICLE

TOP 10'S

A YEAR
OF ABSOLUTE
CLOWNERY

2025



ART BY ZEKE BARBARO

THE BIGGEST STORIES OF 2025 IN CENTRAL TEXAS

(IT'S MOSTLY BAD NEWS)

THE LEGE MARCHES TEXAS FARTHER RIGHT ...

With the GOP now even more empowered to pass legislation, no matter how overtly some bills appeared unconstitutional and aligned with far-right, Christian nationalist values, the 89th legislative session (and the two special sessions that followed) greenlit a host of bills targeting public education, the immigrant and queer communities, abortion access, and more.

A requirement to hang the Ten Commandments and dedicate prayer and Bible reading time in public school classrooms. A law that blocks Texans from using the bathroom aligned with their gender identity in public schools, universities, and any government-run building. Police must partner with ICE in 2026. A bill that takes away librarians' authority to approve school library books, when ever-more titles containing diverse perspectives have been banned by the state. The creation of a bounty hunter system that allows a next-door neighbor to tattle on people trying to access abortion pills. While most laws went into effect Sept. 1, more became effective as recently as Dec. 4, and advocates say their effects have already begun to be felt by Texans.

— SAMMIE SEAMON

... AND ABBOTT FINALLY GETS HIS SCHOOL VOUCHERS

For Texas students, parents, and school districts, another catastrophe in this year's legislative session was the state's creation of private school vouchers. The voucher bill, signed into law in May, will allow parents to take approximately \$10,000 of taxpayer money per child from the state's coffers to spend on their children's private schooling. Applications will open in the spring.

The voucher vote was an epochal loss for public school supporters who had fought since the 1950s to stop previous versions of the measure. For the Republican leaders who championed it, particularly Gov. Greg Abbott, the vote concluded a years-long campaign to impose their will not just on the electorate, who were never hugely supportive of vouchers, but also on their fellow Republicans, particularly those from rural areas, who had crossed the aisle to vote with Democrats to keep vouchers from becoming law.

Advocates say the program will slowly drain funds from schools that are already underfunded, hurting poor students and undermining public education in general. The state allocated \$1 billion for the program in 2026, but that figure is expected to balloon to \$5 billion by the beginning of the next decade.

— BRANT BINGAMON

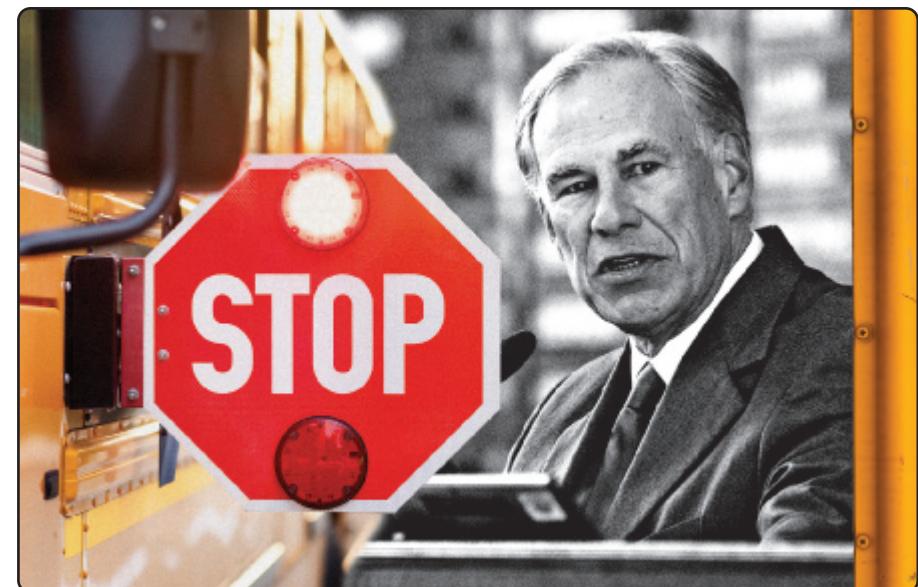
STUCK IN NEUTRAL

Maybe we're just getting older and grumpier, but we seem to encounter construction on every trip we take around town. Let's not talk too much about the I-35 expansion, which will be a Top 10 story for the next decade or so (sigh). To make matters worse, the prospect of those caps over the highway are looking less impressive after the fed took back \$100 million slated for the project (another casualty of the OBBBA). Remember the flurry of excitement when the Travis County Commissioners Court voted in October to fund a study on the feasibility of a rail line between ATX and SATX? Last we heard, that plan could be completed before the I-35 project but was counting on a big investment from the federal government. Sounds pretty unfeasible to us. Those with an even better memory will remember Project Connect's rail plan that locals voted to fund in 2020. This year the city solicited proposals for the multibillion-dollar final design and construction contract. Fingers crossed.

— JAMES RENOVITCH

top-bottom: The Texas Capitol building // Greg Abbott // I-35 as seen from 12th Street

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES // ZEKE BARBARO WITH PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON, GETTY IMAGES // JANA BIRCHUM





● Demonstrators outside of Austin ISD headquarters // ICE agents



PHOTOS: SAMMIE SEAMON // GETTY IMAGES

ONE BIG BARFING SOUND

If there are two traits you can count on from the Trump administration, they are stupidity and cruelty. First, the name of budget reconciliation measure HR 1 was nonsensical: The president's lackeys have called it One Big Beautiful Bill, making it the nonsensical One Big Beautiful Bill Act when it passed because they are idiots who don't understand how words or the legislative process work. But beyond the stupidity was the cruelty of vast spending cuts, including an estimated \$155.3 million gouging of promised finances for the City of Austin alone. The list included FEMA grant to improve flood protection for power and water treatment plants, money to cap and cover stretches of the I-35 project, and an all-out attack on plans to decrease the city's reliance on fossil fuels, plus there's the massive local impact of cutting funds for federal agencies and programs like Medicaid and SNAP. Of course, it's Texas' fault: HR 1 was authored by Lubbock Republican Jodey C. Arrington. — RICHARD WHITTAKER



GETTY IMAGES

PROP FLOP

It didn't seem particularly controversial when the Council approved a budget last August which necessitated a tax rate election. The election, dubbed Proposition Q, asked voters to raise their property taxes by an average of around \$200 per year.

But Prop Q got controversial in a hurry. In October, the *Statesman* published a series of articles questioning spending by city leaders on lunches and travel and focusing on the city's \$1 million logo. Opponents of Prop Q threatened lawsuits against the political action campaign supporting the measure, argued that the higher taxes would worsen the city's affordability crisis, and complained that the money generated by Prop Q would support the city's "homeless industrial complex." Gov. Greg Abbott kept the focus on the homeless, sending state troopers to clear out homeless camps in the weeks before the vote. Attorney General Ken Paxton threatened to sue the city's largest provider of housing for homeless people, Foundation Communities, falsely suggesting that the group's donations to the Prop Q PAC "might be illegal."

In the end, Prop Q was defeated 63-37%. A revised city budget passed on Nov. 20, which reduced funding for homelessness, public safety, parks, and social services. Now, city leaders wait to see what they're going to have to cut next year.

— BRANT BINGAMON

AISD MAKES UNPOPULAR SCHOOL CLOSURE DECISIONS

In early September, the Texas Education Agency told Austin ISD administration that 33 of its campuses had fallen into dangerous waters, receiving failing accountability scores from the state agency for low STAAR performance. The TEA also gave 24 schools turnaround plans, giving them the option to close down or totally rehire faculty and revamp curriculum. The district has also found itself in dire financial straits: With declining enrollment, a lack of state funding, and half of their budget paid out in recapture payments, they're predicting to run out of money by next school year. If the district fails to raise student performance, the TEA could take over management of AISD, as they did Fort Worth ISD in October.

In early October, the district decided to propose school closures to save money and respond to the TEA's requirement for turnaround plans. In the weeks that followed, students and their families protested the dismantling of their neighborhood school communities, hoisting signs and chanting outside of TEA and AISD's headquarters. Then, three schools were taken back off the closure list, leading to accusations that the district was favoring the loudest parents (which the district denied). On Nov. 21, after hours of rigorous debate, the AISD Board of Trustees ultimately voted to close eight elementary schools, two middle schools, and International High School next school year.

— SAMMIE SEAMON

ICE'S DASTARDLY DRIVE TO DEPORT

This year has been unlike any other for a multitude of reasons, many of which can be attributed to the Trump administration's aggressive decision-making — one of the most intense being the rollout of ICE agents across the nation, which Trump promised during his 2024 campaign. He stayed true to his word, deploying ICE agents on the very first day following his inauguration. According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Texas currently has the most ICE detainees — 17,696 as of Nov. 28 — in the nation.

On April 1, ICE and other federal and state agents raided an Austin suburb Airbnb, where nearly 50 people were arrested, some of whom were children. The raid came as an attempt to deport members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, the agencies involved claim, though advocates have said there has been no evidence provided that suggests any of the half a hundred individuals had any gang affiliation, but rather were targeted merely based on physical appearance.

Whether it's 50 potential gang members or just one immigrant, such as the Boston student who was planning to fly home to Austin to see her family for Thanksgiving, only to be arrested and deported after she arrived for her flight, ICE has been relentless in its forceful attempts at deportation throughout the year.

— JOE ELLETT



I-r: UT-Austin // Flooding in Kerr County in July

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES // SARAH WOLF



WATER WOES (AND A WIN)

It's now a well-known and troubling truth: Texas, with our projected growth and draining aquifers, is running out of water. Moreover, the move of big tech to Austin and greater Central Texas is placing even more strain on our energy grid and water resources: By 2030, data centers are projected to multiply roughly tenfold across the state, with the average center using 300,000 gallons of water a day. Texas, which is currently experiencing higher temperatures than during the Dust Bowl, will face only further water loss from evaporation and hotter soil as drought conditions worsen with climate change.

On Nov. 4, Texans voted on Prop 4, a 20-year investment in the future of our state's water availability, one that will funnel \$1 billion annually out of state sales tax revenue toward water conservation and production projects. These projects include fixing leaky pipes, wastewater reuse, seawater desalination, and produced water reuse from fracking, plus others listed in the State Water Plan.

— SAMMIE SEAMON



ZEKE BARBARO / GETTY IMAGES

BURNT ORANGE BLEEDS RED

When far-right thought leader Chris Rufo urged conservatives to "lay siege" to UT at a campus talk in 2023, it was hard to imagine anyone taking him seriously. Two years later, it's remarkable how much Rufo's allies have accomplished.

Last year, UT eliminated diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and restricted students' rights of free speech and assembly. Professors and administrators left in unprecedented numbers, including the president and provost, who were replaced with allies of Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

This year, Republicans approved SB 37, which ended the longstanding practice of including professors in choosing the university's leaders and setting policy for the school, handing that power over to the board of regents. SB 37 also created the "Office of the Ombudsman," an overseer appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to investigate professors accused of violating state law.

SB 37 also gave the board of regents the power to decide which courses are taught at UT. The board is currently reviewing the content of hundreds of courses concerned in one way or another with gender and sexuality. Professors are bracing for changes in the curriculum and for the consolidation of programs like Women's and Gender Studies, African Diaspora Studies, and other ethnic studies in the College of Liberal Arts. They're also awaiting a decision from university leaders on the Trump compact, an offer promising federal research money in exchange for supporting Trump's political agenda. Of the nine universities offered the deal, only UT expressed enthusiasm, demonstrating how far right the school's leaders now lean.

— BRANT BINGAMON

MAPPING CHAOS

Six months into his second term as president, Donald Trump was nervous about the chances for keeping a Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives after the 2026 elections. So in July, Trump demanded that Texas Republicans discard decades of precedent and redistrict the state's congressional districts in the middle of the decade. Texas Republicans were more than happy to deliver.

The maps redrew the districts of some of the most effective Black leaders in the country and crammed Austin's 35th and 37th congressional districts into one, to remove either Rep. Greg Casar or Rep. Lloyd Doggett from office. To stop the redistricting, 56 Democratic House members, including Austin Reps. John Bucy, Gina Hinojosa, James Talarico, Donna Howard, and Lulu Flores, left Texas to deny Republicans the quorum necessary to finalize the gerrymander.

The Dems stayed away two weeks, long enough to educate voters nationwide about what was happening. Then they returned and were steamrolled by Republicans, who approved the redistricting plan on a party line vote. (The GOP majority twisted the knife by enacting punitive new measures to discourage future resistance from their colleagues.) A federal court blocked the gerrymandered map last month, ruling that it illegally discriminates against people of color. But the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily paused the lower court's ruling while the legal battle rages on, allowing the map to stand for the midterm election. For now at least, Trump got exactly what he asked for.

— BRANT BINGAMON

UNTHINKABLE LOSS

Within hours, a torrent of rain quickly overwhelmed the banks of the Guadalupe River over the Independence Day weekend. Fast-rising floodwaters and swollen rivers destroyed multiple towns and took over 135 lives, mostly in Kerr County, to become one of the most devastating natural disasters in Texas history. At Camp Mystic, an all-girls sleepaway summer camp along the Guadalupe in Hunt, 25 children and three staff members were lost in the deluge.

In those first days, the casualty count rose horrifically, and then slowed as the missing were accounted for. In the days and weeks that followed, Central Texans pitched in to aid their neighbors, first by clearing debris and searching for survivors, then by gathering resources and raising funds for those impacted. Then, Texans began to point to their lawmakers, asking what the state should have done to prevent the tragedy. In the second special legislative session, the Texas Legislature addressed some of those failings, investing in flood sirens and evacuation plans. The parents who lost their children at Camp Mystic are still in an active lawsuit against the summer camp, suing for failing to evacuate the campers, gross negligence, and wrongful death, even as the camp seeks to reopen next summer.

— SAMMIE SEAMON



THE TOP 10 AUSTIN ALBUMS OF 2025

As decided by the *Chronicle* culture desk

I fell back in love with Austin music in 2025. Our city has been rife with talented performers since long before I came around, but it's easy to get overwhelmed by the embarrassment of riches – and by everything else going on these days. These records – anticipated follow-ups, big-time debuts, new outfit premieres – woke me up. Leading up to No. 1, here are the 10 projects most spun by myself and *Chronicle* music and culture reporter Caroline Drew – including a couple we both loved so much we couldn't decide who got to write about them.

– MUSIC + CULTURE EDITOR CARYS ANDERSON

10) MAGIC ROCKERS OF TEXAS, GORGING ON AMERICAN FARE

On their sophomore release, Magic Rockers of Texas are settling into their sound – without losing any garage sensibilities. The Nineties-impacted outfit is still rasping, drawing with self-deprecating humor, but they're not so afraid to turn down the distortion a little and say it to your face. On power-pop anthem "Houston," leader Jim Campo buzzes through smirking verses about band-on-band fighting and the turbulence of trying to make it, while friendzone ballad "Tarmac Honey" strips down his cantankerous defenses, laying bare something like sweetness. Quick-moving tempo changes and choral experimentation keep every moment of this album interesting.

– CAROLINE DREW

9) WILL JOHNSON, DIAMOND CITY

From the first tambourine hit to the final notes of pedal steel, this earnest collection of wind-worn moments soothes the rock-affected ear with ominous imagery and haunting hooks. Johnson's storytelling meanders down a long highway, traveling through ragged-yet-yielding, barren-yet-beautiful landscapes held together by rural legends. Surrounding his words on all sides are straightforward, hardworking melodies and a hearth-warmed, dust-tinted ambience as far as the eye can see.

– C.D.

8) ÉGAUX SELLS, I HATE FIGHTING!! EP

The movie's almost over. The coming-of-age scenes that came before are reflecting off the disco ball, swirling around this underground bar with tear-swelling dizziness. That's where *I HATE FIGHTING!!*, a buzzy neon portal of an EP, transports you. Over New Wave tremors and pulsing dance beats, sultry whispers swirl around delicate arpeggios and entrancing synth hums, lulling you "to live, to love, to die with ease." Before you even know it, you're in an Eighties-meets-indie-sleaze heaven, trapped in a mystical dance floor somewhere between *Twin Peaks*' Roadhouse and *Buffy*'s Bronze with no desire to come back to the life you knew before.

– C.D.

7) GUMMY FANG, S/T

Endearingly sweet and deliciously lo-fi, Gummy Fang's self-titled debut plays like a lost K Records release. From the jump, opener "Hands" conjures a warm twee paradise, where Willow Braun's airy vocals dance with mononymic bassist Fructose's not-so-low end and Nicky Christmas' drums thrum on a pillow, faraway landing. "Harbinger" and "Lovesick Thing" tumble at a sprightly clip, but Braun's naked cry in confessional centerpiece "A Woman, a Clown" will break your heart. Simple yet undoubtedly intentionally crafted, you'll want to whistle these tunes like the three-eyed creature doodled on Gummy Fang's album cover.

– CARYS ANDERSON

6) JARON MARSHALL, THE RETURN OF SLICK

JaRon Marshall's second full-length album is dedicated to his late father, Joseph "Slick" Ricky Marshall Sr. He writes: "[A]lthough I had the stereotypical voicemails and narration ready to go, I realized the best thing I could do is make something I can see him jamming in his car with the windows up." The Black Pumas keyboardist achieves this feat – crafting an engrossing psych-soul-hip-hop universe – in a brisk 26 minutes. Guest vocals from Ric Wilson, Jermaine Holmes, James Robinson, and Claudia Isaki add depth to "The Realest," "Deep Shadows," and other highlights, but Marshall's keys remain the star, bending smoky, pensive, and cinematic at the bandleader's will.

– C.A.

5) LITTLE MAZARN, MUSTANG ISLAND

Ethereal vocals and minimalist arrangements reign in the freak folk fairytale land of *Mustang Island*. The invocation of such an otherworldly, Texas-infused isle in the album's title track anchors the mirage of Little Mazarn's music conceptually and thematically, whether intentional or not. Softly layered experiments are augmented by nature-mimicking whines and whistles that blend Jeff Johnston's material exploration and Lindsey Verrill's patient vocal expression in the style now-emblematic of this delicately composed project. On the group's third full-length release, however, occasionally climactic drum beats and rock-reminiscent riffs draw on a dramatic relish to show that these shimmering compositions are strong enough to bear the weight of louder emotions.

– C.D.

4) BIG BILL, SICK MYTH

After 13-odd years, you can rely on Big Bill. You can count on Eric Braden to speak-sing cartoonish-yet-beleaguered lyrics, on Jeffrey Olson and Alan Lauer to snap spry rhythms, on Alex Riegelman to scratch barbed wire guitar. Yet the quartet's consistent, quickly growing discography continues to skirt the worst tropes of its genre. *Sick Myth* rejects the apathetic slackerdom of other bare-bones art-rock, espousing biting, direct political protest without preaching or throwing up its proverbial hands. "I don't really think they care at all," Braden sighs in the title track. Against all odds, Big Bill still does.

– C.A.

3) NUCLEAR DAISIES, FIRST TASTE OF HEAVEN

Rob Glynn, Alex Gehring, and Robby Williams are the preternaturally gifted action movie trio you can believe in. They dance from the depths of a Middle-earth dungeon – in the space between real and artificial, frantic and tranquil(ized), life and death. It's a realm where a blistering chorus of Prodigy breakbeats, synthesizer squall, and angel-devil harmonizations can pull the world from its smoldering demise. "Honey in the Wound" freaks; "Infinite Joy" cries; "333" accepts. If heaven sounds like this, the angels must have seen some shit.

– C.A. / C.D.

2) VIRGINIA CREEPER, GOBLN7 EP

Genevieve Poist loves sports, amusement parks, and the pronoun "you." Her ragingly specific serenades immortalize sun-baked moments of misplaced catharsis, like when "you got soaked and the Celtics won" or "dropped your retainer on the gas station floor." Storming beneath Poist's morose vocals, distortion-adoring guitarist Aaron Arguello and prowling bassist Michelle Ayoubi meet Kyle Dugger's thundering drums in a torrential wave of sludge-ridden eulogy. *GOBLN7* is only a four-track EP, and we know each second of its walloping riffs and uniquely Southern imagery well. – C.A. / C.D.

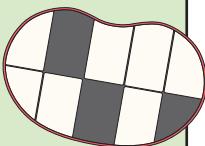
1) DIE SPITZ, SOMETHING TO CONSUME

No sellouts here. Die Spitz growls louder, riffs heavier, and wades further into sonic experimentation on the Will Yip-produced, Jack White-released *Something to Consume*. Sharing songwriting duties as well as instruments, Eleanor Livingston, Ava Schrobilgen, and Chloe De St. Aubin hone their rock & roll roles – Livingston the audacious metalhead ("Throw Yourself to the Sword"), Schrobilgen the tortured punk ("Pop Punk Anthem"), De St. Aubin the alt-rock femme fatale ("Punishers") – while wild-eyed Kate Halter holds it down on bass and violin. The precocious young Austinites have Coachella and a date with Foo Fighters on the books for 2026; as Livingston taunts on "Throw Yourself," "What's it like knowing none of you bitches can compete?"

– C.A.

CAROLINE'S 10 FAVORITE NON-LOCAL ALBUMS

- 1) Greg Freeman, *Burnover*
- 2) Wednesday, *Bleeds*
- 3) Ryan Davis & the Roadhouse Band, *New Threats From the Soul*
- 4) Friendship, *Caveman Wakes Up*
- 5) Benjamin Booker, *LOWER*
- 6) Snocaps, *Snocaps*
- 7) Florry, *Sounds Like...*
- 8) Fust, *Big Ugly*
- 9) The Macks, *Bonanza*
- 10) Geese, *Getting Killed*



CARYS' 10 FAVORITE NON-LOCAL ALBUMS

- 1) Hayley Williams, *Ego Death at a Bachelorette Party*
- 2) Addison Rae, *Addison*
- 3) Wednesday, *Bleeds*
- 4) They Are Gutting a Body of Water, *LOTTO*
- 5) Water From Your Eyes, *It's a Beautiful Place*
- 6) Wet Leg, *Moisturizer*
- 7) Momma, *Welcome to My Blue Sky*
- 8) Garbage, *Let All That We Imagine Be the Light*
- 9) The Lemonheads, *Love Chant*
- 10) Shallowater, *God's Gonna Give You a Million Dollars*



I-r: Antone's Nightclub // Jamal Hussain // Estani Frizzell



PHOTOS: CAMRYN HUTCHENS // RONIN MEDIA // JUICE CONSULTING

TOP 10 LESSONS I LEARNED FROM AUSTINITES WHILE ON THE CULTURE BEAT

Key insights from local creatives **BY CAROLINE DREW**

If you're looking for a crash course in Austin's music, art, and culture scene, I suggest writing a biweekly column on the subject – it sure worked for me. In between sets at five-band shows and in the lobbies of museums and galleries, I've been jotting down notes, learning from the city and the creative eccentrics who call it home. Here's some of my favorite takeaways.

1) IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT – DOUBLE DOWN

Soaring rents, declining alcohol sales, an uncertain economy – Austin weirdness saw its fair share of challenges in 2025. Amid some anguish (RIP Skylark Lounge, Outer Heaven, Sunny's Backyard), three long-loved establishments cemented their outposts. Room Service stewardess LuCretia Sisk passed the North Loop torch of Austin's oldest vintage store to Prototype Vintage co-founder Audrie San Miguel. Metal bar the Lost Well landed in its dream home on Airport after a year of wandering. And Antone's signed a 50-year lease and announced plans to add a museum to its two-story Downtown locale.

"We're not the kids anymore," said Antone's co-owner Will Bridges. "We're the experts, and we shouldn't shy away from creating the framework and the mechanisms we need to make sure this stuff gets the support it needs so it's going from surviving to thriving."

2) BLACK ARTISTS ROCK

We already knew this one, but efforts by Scott Strickland and DAWA made sure we couldn't forget it. Strickland's second-annual Black Artists Rock songwriter series showcased rock-inspired musicians, filling a gap he noticed in performance opportunities for artists like himself.

"It's important that they receive their accolades because it helps them in terms of booking and helps them in terms of being able to pay a band," Strickland told me. "I see Black Artists Rock as one of the economic drivers that's missing from the city of Austin and – from a wide-lens perspective, I think it's missing from music in general."

Meanwhile, Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone's DAWA celebrated six years of providing support and opportunities to BIPOC thinkers and creatives, handing out over half a million dollars to those who give back to their communities.

3) NEVER THROW OUT THAT RECORD

There is a "tremendous amount" of Texas music that is "endangered of being lost and/or forgotten," said Jonathon Kimbrell, the one-man team conserving old vinyl through the Texas Jukebox Project.

His archive could look like UCLA's Frontera Collection, where singer-songwriter Estani Frizzell found recordings of her grandmother's Sixties and Seventies conjunto. Her finds fueled 2025's *Tú De Mi Te Acordarás*, an homage-paying album. "I'm always saying now: just go look," Estani said. "If your uncle, grandfather, great-uncle, mom, or grandmother played music and you know [that] they recorded, just maybe, they might be there."

4) IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR RECOGNITION

Mandy Rowden was surprised that no one had thought to gather and celebrate the women songwriters of Texas. As the Girl Guitar founder began to piece together the Texas Women Songwriters Festival, that surprise gave way to pride and a collective joy as the festival blossomed, welcoming writers aged 17 to 75, including Tish Hinojosa, Kimmie Rhodes, and Sara Hickman, to Lockhart.

5) REMAIN IN LIGHT (AND CRAFTMANSHIP)

In Jamal Hussain's Georgetown studio, I was entranced by his patient integration of technology and nature. At Ivestor Contemporary, a ventilator bag made tears catch in my throat as I watched Steve Parker's *Funeral for a Tree* breathe and sing. All across the gallery floor at Women & Their Work's design showcase "Form Works," I contemplated sitting on and sipping from heirloom-quality art objects. In a year filled with unpredictable innovations and chaotic ideals, these deliberately crafted pieces served as welcome reminders to breathe and surround oneself with beauty when all else feels out of reach.

6) SPINNING YARN TIES US TOGETHER

All the world may be a stage, but it's not much of an audience. At Austin's varied storytelling events, both can be true. Crowds gather across the city to attentively hear true tales told by their friends, their neighbors, and complete strangers, drawn to the proverbial campfire as humans always have been.

"It's really about sharing experiences with others and not isolating," said Meredith Johnson, poet, comedian, and onetime Hyde Park Storytelling performer. "Storytelling is crucial to culture and understanding how we relate to ourselves and others and I'm so grateful to have been given the experience of doing that."

7) TALL TALES (SOMETIMES) TELL TRUTHS

The plot of an engaging story is invariably concerned with a question: *Should I stay or should I go? How do I find space for myself in a crowded world?* These are just some of the immutable ponderings posited in debut works by Austin authors this year. In Carrie R. Moore's short story collection *Make Your Way Home*, Black characters living across the South navigate interpersonal decisions. *Dwelling*, a novel by Emily Hunt Kivel, follows a young professional from New York to Texas in search of stable housing and community. Awash in our own answer-seeking, traveling along someone else's map offers a new angle.

8) THE INTERNET CAN STILL BE FUN

Getting trampled by an endless barrage of advertiser content and AI slop, it's hard to remember what was once charming and exciting about the internet. *Welcome to My Homepage*, Museum of Human Achievement's bespoke web page, is a welcome reprieve. The program's founder, Rachel Stuckey, summed up the residency's ethos with a question: "How can I make more reminders to myself that [the internet] is also a space for creativity and play and for magical encounters to happen?"

9) THE DIVE BAR IS HOME

If Raf Miastkowski has said it once, he's said it a million times: "A dive is a shabby and unpretentious bar that serves cheap drinks without a cocktail menu." The *Texas Dive Bar Encyclopedia* author introduced me to his personal favorite local dive, the Cloak Room; unwittingly helped me establish a bucket list of Austin dives; and reminded me what's so great about kickin' back over a couple brews – which we, here at the Culture desk, can and did wax poetic about for a whole cover story in October.

10) ROUND IT OUT

For my first *Chronicle* cover story, I spent joyously cluttered hours with some of Austin's preeminent yardists, including the King of Junk himself, Vince Hannemann. The steward creator of the Cathedral of Junk left me with this lesson that, like good yard art, creeps up in unexpected places: "You can't have too many round things. When in doubt, more round things."



1-r: Le Calamar // Mercado Sin Nombre // Twin Isle



PHOTOS: CHAD WADSWORTH // JOHN ANDERSON // JESSICA ATTIE

THE TOP 10 DISHES FROM AUSTIN RESTAURANTS IN 2025

These are the plates I kept coming back to

BY TAYLOR TOBIN

Another year, another long list of new restaurants and food trucks hoping to make a name for themselves in our very opinionated city. Luckily for me as a food critic, 2025 provided Austin diners with plenty of exciting twists on classics, international items that were previously hard to find around here, and playful bites that bring serious flavor without serious attitude. This list includes my Top 10 dishes from restaurants that opened in or around 2025. In no particular order:

1) WHITEFISH WITH ALMOND MOLÉ AT LE CALAMAR

Le Calamar's creative French-Texan dishes and shockingly affordable prix fixe menu make it one of my absolute favorite restaurants of 2025. It's hard to go wrong with anything on their menu, but if I have to choose one standout, I'm picking the complex sauce made with almonds and guajillo peppers that Le Calamar serves with its seasonal whitefish entrée. This sauce eats like a molé complete with nutty notes, a trace of spice, and aromatics for days. Crunchy almond slices sprinkled on top provide welcome texture, and the lemon wedge provided alongside should absolutely be squeezed over the plate to tie all of the flavors together.

2) PECAN MOLASSES CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE AT MICKLETHWAIT CRAFT MEATS

I've gone on the record many times with my belief that Micklethwait Craft Meats makes some of Austin's finest barbecue, and every time I've visited their new brick-and-mortar on Tanney, I've left deeply satisfied with the quality of their brisket, sausages, and top-tier side dishes. But to be totally honest, the Micklethwait menu item that I crave the most frequently falls into a very different category: dessert. The pecan molasses chocolate chip cookie that they offer on a seasonal basis is the size of an adult palm, with a crunchy bite on the outside and a tender, melty interior. The chocolate and pecans play together just as well as you might expect, and the molasses provides a deep brown sugar dimension that makes this one of the most indulgent cookies in Austin.

3) BISCUIT SANDWICH AT MERCADO SIN NOMBRE

It's hard to think of a new Austin restaurant that made a bigger splash on the national food media scene than Mercado Sin Nombre. This al fresco cafe in East Austin racked up mentions in *The New York Times*, *Bon Appétit*, and the Michelin Guide, and dishes like their blue masa biscuit sandwich easily justify that legacy media praise. The house-nixtamalized masa creates biscuits with the right blend of tenderness and crumbliness; the locally sourced chicken sausage is well seasoned; the sunny-side up egg is cooked exactly right; the American cheese is melty and salty; and the zippy habanero hot sauce cuts through the rest with an attention-grabbing burst of heat. It's a flawless breakfast sandwich, and if I lived closer to Mercado Sin Nombre, it would have been a daily order for me in 2025.

4) DAN DAN NOODLES AT MIAN & BAO

A taste of the impressive Chinese restaurant scene in the San Gabriel Valley of California can be found in Austin via Mian & Bao, a new Sichuan-Shanghainese spot in the Triangle from the team behind Chengdu Taste in Alhambra. Mian & Bao also serves great dumplings, but the destination-worthy dish has to be the Dan Dan Noodles. Springy wheat noodles, ground pork seasoned with just enough tingly Sichuan peppercorn, a trace of sesame, and bright pickled mustard greens produce a warm and comforting dish that's worth braving the Triangle's terrifying parking situation.

5) NOM PAHNG AT BLUE APSARA

Austinites sick and tired of hearing Houstonites crow about their "superior" Asian food landscape should rejoice at the arrival of Blue Apsara, a Cambodian food truck on South Lamar that's responsible for a deeply delicious twist on the bánh mì. The Nom Pahng layers marinated ground pork, steamed pork roll, cucumbers, pickled carrots and jicama, cilantro, and coconut sriracha sauce on a plush baguette, and the result is spicy, savory, tangy, and generally amazing.

6) CAESAR SALAD AT ROCCO'S

Caesar salads are fairly simple dishes by nature; how much does one plate of romaine tossed in egg-and-anchovy dressing and topped with parmesan really vary from another? But when you encounter a Caesar with the perfect balance of ingredients, its excellence really shines through. At Rocco's, a new pasta joint in North Loop, I found myself thoroughly enchanted by a Caesar with well-drenched (but not soggy) greens, a garlic-forward dressing with just enough acidity, a crunchy garlic bread crumble subbing in for croutons, and a huge fistful of fluffy parm placed on top and ready to mix in. (See our full review on p.46.)

7) AL PASTOR TACOS AT PAPRIKA ATX

Taco fans in Austin have long recognized the Paprika truck as an elite purveyor of al pastor, but now that Paprika has its own brick-and-mortar on North Lamar, a broader swath of diners are becoming wise to these impeccable handheld bites. Fresh corn tortillas get loaded with charred-yet-tender pork roasted on a vertical trompo, and Paprika uses a restrained hand to add garnishes like pineapple, cilantro, and diced onion. You're then welcome to add your own salsa; the fiery orange is an especially strong match for these Saturday-only masterpieces.

8) KHACHAPURI AT SAMI SUMELI

Bread and melted cheese are a combination that's hard to argue against in general, but when the bread features a sturdy crust and a boat shape and the cheese has a rich egg yolk floating on top for mix-in purposes? That's magic right there. And Sami Sumeli, a new Georgian restaurant in Cedar Park, makes what may be the city's best version of khachapuri. The bread holds its structure (so there's no risk of the cheese spilling out the sides), the cheese is combined with both egg and butter for maximum richness, and the hands-on nature of the dish is fun and communal.

9) OXTAIL FRIES AT TWIN ISLE

Loaded fries just might be my favorite game-day snack, and when they have a specific point of view from a flavor perspective, I'm even more excited. Twin Isle, a new Trinidadian fast-casual spot in East Austin, offers a substantial platter of fries topped with juicy oxtail and melted cheese and drizzled with garlic sauce and punchy Scotch bonnet hot sauce. These are loaded fries that call for a fork, but they're worth the extra piece of silverware.

10) LAO'D SMASH BURGER FROM LAO'D BAR

Lao'd Bar technically opened its doors on the very eastern edge of town in 2024, but 2025 is when I was first introduced to the dish that kept me driving back to this far-flung location: the Lao'd Smash Burger. Chef Bob Somsith forms his patties out of Laotian pork sausage made by his mom, and after smashing them, he places them on a potato bun with melted American cheese, a veggie slaw mixed with Jeow Bong (a Laotian chili paste) aioli, and rice-fermented pickles.

Central Market
H-E-B

LIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

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THUR DEC 18TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
PHILIP MARSHALL GUITAR TRIO | JAZZ

FRI DEC 19TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
THE SOUTHSIDERS FEAT.
MARCUS THARPE | BLUES

SAT DEC 20TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
SOUL WAGON | BLUES, SWING, &
NEW ORLEANS STYLE

N. LAMAR 4001 N. LAMAR

THUR DEC 18TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
GRUPO MASSA | WORLD MUSIC

FRI DEC 19TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
WOOT TALLEY + THE BOX | BLUES & ROCK

SAT DEC 20TH - 6:30-9:00 PM
MAZEL TOV KOCKTAIL HOUR
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1-2: *Falsettos* // *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* // *Venus in Fur*



PHOTOS: GROUND FLOOR THEATRE // STEVE ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY // JILL MAXWELL



7) FRIENDS FAIR

The heart yearned for examples of community and collaboration this year. All those dreams came true with the artistic alliance behind Friends Fair. Even before the fair happened, the sheer hype coming from the originating five galleries was exhilarating. The participants were truly future-facing, considering how to be as inclusive as possible while growing in national recognition. But the experience of the fair itself: magical. Loren Hotel became a wonderland, each room transformed to spotlight art or artists. My favorites integrated bathrooms, tubs, and mirrors to create verdant forests or neon dreams.

8) DIRTY GOLD'S VENUS IN FUR

Oooo, this play was *hot*. A two-hander like this has to be tight to keep attention. Actors Dylan Hoeffer and Julia Bennett definitely kept it so. They prowled and played their way through the script's maze of gendered power dynamics. Sure, you could call it a psychosexual encounter. You could also just call it fun, watching Hoeffer's self-important director character picked apart piece by piece by Bennett's mythically powerful woman. Is she a goddess, a witch, a succubus? Why not all three? In the end, *Venus* was a master class in staging dangerous intimacy.

9) DOCTUH MISTUH PRODUCTIONS' PRETTY FILTHY

In the sticky summer heat, Doctuh Mistuh kept it sultry with *Pretty Filthy*, a docu-musical exploration into San Fernando Valley's porn scene. Based on real interviews, it was less a linear story and more a recollection from workers both seasoned and fresh on the scene. The stellar cast shared pride and fragility through their numbers. The pride was maybe the most memorable, as I doubt I'll ever forget Sebastián Vitale's number as Jimmy Wood, a performer with a certain set of skills onscreen. Remembering his joyful singing against well-timed projections of waterfalls (I'll leave you to make the connection on your own) never fails to leave me chuckling.

10) THE SPARK'S PILLAR OF FIRE

The Spark proved that the kids are absolutely alright. The teen company's inaugural work tackled another Ray Bradbury, so I was perhaps a bit in the pocket already. But that also means they could have slaughtered a beloved sacred cow. They didn't. They lived up to Bradbury's work, brilliantly balancing the sunny sincerity of fresh-faced youth with the wise warnings nestled in the dystopian hellscape onstage. There's some hope for the future. It's nice to remember that not all is lost. There's an upcoming generation poised to create and explore, and that reminder will keep me warm in the long winters to come.

THE TOP 10 SHOWS OF (MOSTLY) 2025

Looking back at a year of bold, empathetic, boundary-pushing creations **BY CAT McCARREY**

1) GROUND FLOOR THEATRE'S FALSETTOS

Technically a 2024 show, but it happened right after last year's Top 10s issue, and it sure deserves a spot at the top. This show earned the unique honor of making me fall in love with musicals again. I thought I'd moved on, but this score, this talent, this sheer showmanship from the performers – why yes, I'm still thinking about Megan DeYoung's roller skating number, and I probably will be for the rest of my life – the entire show coalesced to make magic.

2) WALKING SHADOW SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET

I just raved about WSS's Shakespearean mash-up, but this January 2025 production is what vaulted them onto my radar. What an introduction to their entire ethos. I'm prone to love *Hamlet* anyway, as any red-blooded Shakespeare fan would, but it was a privilege to see how the company broke down barriers between text and audience. Often that was literally: There was an audience participation option, and I was lucky enough to ad lib a line or two as one of the castle guards during an early scene. But the company also worked to eliminate any blockage in understanding. Along with an immersive space, they integrated technology, like an endearing TikTok commentary on the royal family, demonstrating how the story could be happening today. Making the past immediately present and applicable? My catnip.

3) ISHIDA DANCE'S "SOUL-WRITER"

ISHIDA Dance is working to create not just national, but international buzz for Austin's dance scene, under the keen eye of Artistic Director Brett Ishida. And while I respect the artists she brought to town, it was her own piece, "soul-writer," that left a lasting impression. A section where sons mourn the loss of their mother, who herself appears as a ghostly form, stood out for the physical beauty of the dance and the emotional roundhouse kick of witnessing the tenderness and insecurity of lost relationships. The open-ended nature of dance let it resonate differently than other mediums. It gave space for pondering, and I've kept pondering my own losses ever since.

4) MASS GALLERY'S TOXIC MASCULINITY

If you told me this time last year that a show spotlighting a hardcore gay pornographer would be one of the most touching, empathetic exhibits of 2025, I probably wouldn't believe you. But that's exactly what Beth Schindler of MASS Gallery curated. Her David Hurles retrospective, created alongside his friends Dian Hanson and Christopher Trout, was thoughtful, respectful, and created a thoroughly fascinating portrait of a sensitive man. I left MASS in awe of the sheer amount of paraphernalia they had, the excellent organization, and the way it presented a heartening glimpse at someone who could have been forgotten at the fringes.

5) FILIGREE THEATRE'S DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

Gothic sensibilities will always have a leg up in my book, so *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was ahead of the curve already. But adding a clever script with multiple Hydes, plus some truly remarkable acting? I'm sold. I'm seated. I'm a fan. Filigree Theatre filled the venue, the Factory on 5th, with perfectly macabre Victorian trappings. They added broken windows to the high ceilings to create a nightmarish atmosphere, decorated with minimalist doors and surgical tables, and washed everything in red light with heavy shadows. It was Hyde's hell, and I was just happy to be there.

6) ONE OUNCE OPERA'S RAY BRADBURY, AGE 12, AT THE CARNIVAL IN WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

All the short operas at One Ounce's *Fresh Squeezed Ounce of Opera* showcase were incredible, but one knocked my socks off. Ray Bradbury is a huge personal creative inspiration – the man was the perfect blend of talent and insanity – but I had somehow never heard "his favorite childhood story" about a carnival encounter with Mr. Electrico. Composer Tyler Mabry was beyond inspired when he used it as the basis for his one-act. Opera became the perfect medium, the high drama of the music completely at home with Bradbury's fantastical words. It's a story that does exactly what Mr. Electrico teaches Bradbury: "live forever."



THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S TOP 10 MOVIES OF 2025

The year's best feature films, plus critics lists

The Austin Chronicle's Top 10 list, listed alphabetically, is the combined effort of *Chronicle* film critics Kimberley Jones and Richard Whittaker and film critic emeritus Marjorie Baumgarten, who was this week named the Austin Film Critics Association's first Member Emeritus.

KIMBERLEY JONES' TOP 10 MOVIES

1) ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Loved Leo's shambling slapstick, Benicio's unruffled sensei, but the women – an electrifying Teyana Taylor; newbie Chase Infiniti, showing her teeth; and Regina Hall, a master class in mournful restraint – ruled PTA's unruly epic.

2) THE SECRET AGENT

Speaking of movies that deliver both popcorn pleasures and rattling truths about fucked-up power structures! Also: America's finally waking up to what a stone-cold movie star Wagner Moura is.

3) MARTY SUPREME

Josh Sardie and Timothée Chalamet craft a mid-century Jewish American character as distinctive and colossal and scathingly funny as anything Saul Bellow or Philip Roth ever put to page.

4) PETER HUJAR'S DAY

Ira Sachs dusts off the 50-year transcript of a conversation between two friends and makes magic out of it. I want to watch Ben Whishaw and Rebecca Hall dance all day long.

5) SORRY, BABY

A movie about being stuck that moved me to tears – but even more revelatory were the laughs. Somebody please greenlight eight more of these from Eva Victor.

6) SOUND OF FALLING

In Mascha Schilinski's bravura film, the timelines of generations of women in the same German farmhouse tangle and softly talk to each other. Harrowing stuff, where death is always near and trauma repeats itself.

7) TRAIN DREAMS

Good on Netflix for putting Clint Bentley's gorgeous picture in front of a gazillion eyeballs – but I will forever treasure seeing it on the big screen at AFS, with a rapt audience: a sacred space.

8) EEPHUS

Also sacred: baseball! Like the titular pitch, this debut was itself a weird meatball – a comedy that went into extra innings to reveal something more ruminative.

9) SENTIMENTAL VALUE

Joachim Trier's ongoing, evolving inquiry into depression really speaks to me ... and Labi Siffre was the sweetest way to sing us out the door.

10) IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

The second film on my list to center around a missing leg, Jafar Panahi's explicitly political, unequivocally comic thriller contains multitudes.

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH

BLUE MOON

FRANKENSTEIN

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

MARTY SUPREME

NOUVELLE VAGUE

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

PETER HUJAR'S DAY

THE SECRET AGENT

TRAIN DREAMS

MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN'S TOP 10 MOVIES

- 1) *One Battle After Another*
- 2) *Frankenstein*
- 3) *Nouvelle Vague*
- 4) *It Was Just an Accident*
- 5) *Sirat*
- 6) *Die My Love*
- 7) *Bugonia*
- 8) *Sovereign*
- 9) *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*
- 10) *Train Dreams*



RICHARD WHITTAKER'S TOP 10 MOVIES

1) TRAIN DREAMS

Clint Bentley and Greg Kewdar follow up their Oscar-nominated *Sing Sing* with a poetic adaptation of Denis Johnson's existentialist novella. The passage of the 20th century becomes a lens to view our own sense of disconnection.

2) BLUE MOON

Ethan Hawke and Richard Linklater push each other into a new phase in their decades-long creative collaboration for this sealed-bottle tragicomedy. The self-immolation of a genius becomes an analysis of aging as an artist.

3) THE SECRET AGENT

Critic-turned-filmmaker Kleber Mendonça Filho exhumes Brazil's violent political history through the story of a college professor and political dissident, played by Wagner Moura. A warning about the chilling ease in which we can become victims.

4) AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH

Cinema as spectacle, but also cinema as subversive and outspoken political diatribe. James Cameron builds his flick about indigenous tribes facing down the military-industrial complex into a multi-generational epic.

5) THUNDERBOLTS*

Who knew that Marvel would make the year's best film about repressed trauma and the dangerous allure of self-flagellation? Of course the MCU's most dysfunctional band of superheroes are the ones we can associate with.

6) GAZER

First-time director Ryan J. Sloan and star Ariella Mastroianni blow the roof off the possibilities of modern indie filmmaking with this immersive, grimy New Jersey noir about memory that's equal parts *The Big Sleep*, *Taxi Driver*, and *Seconds*.

7) IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi channels his own experiences being imprisoned for making art into this quietly terrifying depiction of life under a brutal regime, and the high cost of revenge.

8) CHAINSAW MAN: THE MOVIE – REZE ARC

The smash hit anime horror series jumps to the big screen with all the gore and chaos intact, but this adaptation of the second volume of Tatsuki Fujimoto's twisted manga delivers a heartbreakingly conclusion.

9) AMERICAN SWEATSHOP

Like last year's *Red Rooms*, Uta Briesewitz's tale of working life in a social media content moderation farm shows nothing graphic but still forces us to examine what damage the internet is doing to us.

10) MATERIALISTS

Celine Song channels Bertolt Brecht in her cunning and heartfelt examination of the eternal dichotomy between the emotional and transactional forces within all relationships, set against modern NYC's dating scene.

CALENDAR

DEC. 18-25



The Summer Sauron Turned Pretty

QUEER THEATRE

THURSDAY 18 - SATURDAY 20, THE MUSEUM OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

Annual traditions never sounded – or smelled – so good as the yearly MoHA holiday play. But what else could audiences expect from a writing team that includes local genii like Sam Mayer, Sawyer Stoltz, Megan Tabaque, and Best of Austin winners (separate awards) Roxy Castillo and Aira Juliet. An exciting mix of Christmas joy, Aughts-era cringe (Livejournal, anyone?), and *Lord of the Rings* fanfic fun, this tale of a middle-school girl helping save the One Ring from evil clutches features tons of Austin talent both onstage and behind the scenes – a worthy weekend visit before the holidays swallow us all whole. Friday shows are plumb sold out, but consider snapping up a ticket for either a 7 or 9pm showing most other days, some of which include Smell-O-Vision. Pro tip: Most of the GA tix with a custom, Billie Buck-designed cup added on are still available.

– JAMES SCOTT

Jingle All the Way

FILM

THURSDAY 18, HYPERREAL FILM CLUB

It ain't Christmas until we all join together in watching Arnie dressed as Turbo Man fight Sinbad on a parade float. A classic of the Nineties holiday live-action boom, this family comedy is peak background-noise cinema that works best while your relatives ask you about living in "the big city." But there's much to love here, I swear! One, Phil Hartman delivers an all-timer sleazeball performance that'll cheese you off so bad you'll think he was eating YOUR cookies. Two, the fantastically silly Schwarzenegger everyman acting attempt almost achieves camp status. Three, remember the Santa con-man scene? Where all the Santas get arrested? That's worth the ticket price, I think.

– JAMES SCOTT

Diego Rivera Octet: Jazzy Lil' Christmas

MUSIC

THURSDAY 18, MONKS JAZZ CLUB

Now past the three-year mark of becoming director of jazz studies for the Butler School of Music at UT-Austin, and releasing seven albums during that time span, saxophonist Diego Rivera has plenty to celebrate. So he's bringing the upbeat vibes to Monks for the final time at the club's current location, alongside a squadron of local swingers. Joining him at the fourth-to-last show at the Pedernales address are trumpeter Mike Sailors, saxophonists Matthew Chavez and Aidan Brown, trombonist Judah Guerra, pianist Ross Margitza, bassist Liam O'Dell, and busiest-drummer-in-Austin Daniel Dufour. Singer Genesis Staple brings her own holiday spirit as well.

– MICHAEL TOLAND



COURTESY OF DIEGO RIVERA



PHOTO BY PHIL ROBSON VIA UNSPLASH

Hotel Vegas & Volstead's Christmas Extravaganza

MUSIC

THURSDAY 18, HOTEL VEGAS,
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE

This holiday event has everything: *Blue Christmas* performed by "the world famous Elvis Presley," a drag show from the Vixens of Volstead, a Bad Larry Burger Club pop-up, a Christmas cocktail happy hour, a vintage market, photos with Santa, and live music galore. Trejo DJs on the patio, ulovei hosts a holiday dance party inside Volstead, and four local acts spanning surf to songwriter soundtrack a winter coat drive in the Vegas indoor. Flags' playful beach tunes, Team Trust's quirked up post-punk, Leche's irreverent cowpunk, and Gabi Turner's sad girl anthems are better than Christmas music anyway.

— CARYS ANDERSON

Emo Twilight Night

COMMUNITY

FRIDAY 19, TINY MINOTAUR TAVERN

It's hoa hoa hoa season, which means it's time to dress up as a neutered vampire, a depressive teen girl, or a whiny werewolf and watch *Twilight* in the backyard of Austin's iconic immersive fantasy bar. Enjoy themed drinks and an emo playlist (*How did we get here?*), and do please utilize Tiny Minotaur's glitter spray to become the biblically accurate Edward Cullen of our dreams. 7pm start time; free for tavern members, \$10 for outsiders.

— CARYS ANDERSON

Ghost Stories for Christmas

BOOKS

MUSIC

FRIDAY 19,
ALIENATED MAJESTY BOOKS

A frightening night for all those who prefer their festive season OG Dickens' style spooky, Austin's hub for small press print hosts their third annual reading of haunting holiday tales. Gather at 6pm for a darkwave synth serenade from Hexpartner, with the scary stories afterward presented by AMB-fave local booksellers. But don't float on out just yet! Short film screenings and warming bevvies bring the night to a satisfying close.

— JAMES SCOTT

Mindful Movement: Winter Wonderland

FAMILY

FRIDAY 19, CENTRAL LIBRARY

For kiddos 5 years or younger, getting the holiday wiggles out is paramount for reduced stress for parent & child. Introduce them to the wonderful world of yoga and dance via the Austin Public Library's Storytime series, which this week focuses on winter-themed activities. With stretches, dances, breathing exercises, and games all oriented around little attention spans and development levels, this is the perfect chance to instill mindful habits during an often intense and overstimulating season.

— JAMES SCOTT

CONTINUED ON P.32



Weighing Pool Balls!



You have 12 pool balls identical in size and appearance but 1 is an odd weight (could be either light or heavy). You have a set of balance scales which will give 3 possible readings:

1. *left and right have equal weight*
2. *left is heavier, or*
3. *left is lighter.*

You have only 3 chances to weigh the pool balls in any combination using the scales. Find which ball is the odd one and if it's heavier or lighter than the rest. How do you do it?

Source: <https://www.mathsisfun.com>



Scan the QR code for a solution.

Designed by Elizabeth Wrightsman
at MathHappens Foundation.

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



Eyes Wide Shut FILM

FRIDAY 19 & MONDAY 22,
ALAMO SOUTH LAMAR, LAKELINE, AND MUELLER

Unlike other films that get stamped with Christmas season approval merely because they happen to take place around the red-and-green holiday, Stanley Kubrick's final film makes Xmas pretty dang involved in its otherwise not-so-jolly plot. After all, what sets Dr. Bill Hartford (Tom Cruise, of coconut cake fame) down his journey through upper-crust depravity is a chance encounter during a Christmas party. Add that to the New York City at Christmas decorations adorning the streets he hurries through while spinning out over Nicole Kidman's weed-induced confession of adulterous thoughts, and this here's the most seasonal picture ol' Cruise ever made. So c'mon down to the Drafthouse and have a laugh with your favorite auteur's last flick – or maybe your Grinch-ass thinks that 400-day production shoot's not worth a ticket?

– JAMES SCOTT

A Christmas Carol Cocktail Experience FOOD THEATRE

FRIDAY 19,
TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS MANSION

How to make Smoking Bishop, aka Bob Cratchit's favorite Christmas beverage: Take red wine, port, oranges or lemons roasted with cloves, a cinnamon stick, allspice, mace, ginger, and brown sugar. Gently simmer until the sugar dissolves. But, if that sounds like too much effort, just lift a glass at this special live performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Your ticket purchase comes with four handcrafted cocktails, perfect for the season.

– RICHARD WHITTAKER

CONTINUED ON P.34



IMAGE VIA FEVER EVENTS

FILM



8 Women

AFS CINEMA INVITES YOU HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The category of holiday film stretches around this time of year to fit basically any kind sufficiently comforting or wintry, if comfort's in short supply. Such is the thread running through this year's selections for AFS Cinema's Home for the Holidays series – an annual tradition where Austin's foremost indie cinema programs screenings to get you through the yuletide. All four features – kickoff pick *8 Women* (Dec. 21-27), returning champ *The Thin Man* (Dec. 22-25), Bowie prisoner piece *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence* (Dec. 23-25), and all-time classic *The Apartment* (Dec. 26-31) – offer a little cinematic respite from the blustering and busy weeks around Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve.

In the opinion of lead programmer Lars Nilsen, *Home for the Holidays* hits right when most people are taking a break. "We're not removed from our regular obligations to family and friends," he says, "but the heat's a little off by common consensus." Here in the cinema, Nilsen explains, is a chance to reflect on what's been a pretty wild year through films ranging from humorous to heartrending. "It's a time when I'm honestly probably giving myself permission to have a few more drinks than I otherwise would," he adds.

But what sets the seasonal picks of AFS apart from, as Nilsen puts it, "a mall movie theatre that might choose to show *Christmas With the Kranks*," is their eye toward more eclectic viewers. These pictures are "really films that are about what the holidays are like for the cosmopolitan bohemian arthouse film-going type of person," he says. This year's arthouse hounds will enjoy director François Ozon's French mystery thriller *8 Women*, which fits franco film rock stars Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, and Emmanuelle Béart all in one feature. Dashiell

Home for the Holidays

Sunday 21 - Wednesday 31, AFS Cinema
[austinfilm.org](http://austinfilm.org/series/home-for-the-holidays)
[/series/home-for-the-holidays](http://austinfilm.org/series/home-for-the-holidays)

Hammett adaptation *The Thin Man* is another solid cinéaste select and has held up as an AFS favorite.

"I see no reason not to play *[The Thin Man]* every year," Nilsen says, "because people show up every year. There's just something about drinking martinis and watching a fast-paced, funny old Hollywood movie with a cute dog that people really seem to like. I think a lot of people have made it a holiday tradition."

Both *The Apartment* and *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence* offer an ironic rebuttal to the series' home-centric title. Billy Wilder's romantic story prominently features lead Jack Lemmon repeatedly forced out of his titular abode, and Nagisa Ōshima's World War II tale of four men stuck in a Japanese POW camp shows a grimmer take on being away from home. "There

is a kind of sick humor that we indulge every year in choosing a movie that is just absolutely not a fun Christmas classic," Nilsen says. "The absolute opposite of *White Christmas*, and that's *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence*, certainly, this year for us."

Even though it's programmed for the cinephile who considers the theatre their sanctuary, Nilsen says *Home for the Holidays*' other big clientele is folks who've never been to AFS before. The series gives the cinema a chance to "let people know through this programming what we're all about," he says.

"We're not trying to create some sort of honey trap where we're playing *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, or something like that – giving an impression of the kinds of movies that we play, that we don't play," Nilsen says. "[These are] the kind of movies that we play. So come and see us during the holidays. If you like what we're playing, then you are truly a sick person, and you will enjoy what we're doing the rest of the year."

– JAMES SCOTT

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Diane Brewer

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George Benedict

George Jones

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Hilary Kaufmann

Jack Bishop

Jess Weaver

John Godfrey

John Turner

Karen Acuna

Kelly Holmes

Laura Liles

Lawrence Lewis

Lemon Tree Herbs

Lilian Monique Rodrigues Valle

Liza Feldkamp

Margaret Nicklas

Mary Lu Walter

Michele Whisenant

Mike Dallas

Mona Sarkiss

Nevyn Langlinais

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DAY TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Texas had a big year punctuated by devastating floods and crowned with new parks. Here are 10 highlights from all over the state.

- **The Kerr County floods** on July 4th weekend killed 119 people and wrecked a beautiful stretch of the Guadalupe River.
- **The African American Heritage Monument & Park** in Kendleton commemorates and tells the story of the first freedman's town in Texas. Although the park around this beautiful 3-story structure southwest of Houston isn't complete, it's worth a visit.
- **Expansion of state parks** is happening thanks to Texas voters who approved the \$1 billion Centennial Parks Conservation Fund in 2023, and to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for using the money to improve the parks. With only 5% of Texas land open to the public, every addition of new parkland is a win.
- **Bear Creek State Park** in Uvalde County near Garner State Park is roughly 1,720 acres with Frio River frontage and Hill Country views. Partial opening in 2026.
- **Post Oak Ridge State Park** in Lampasas and Burnet counties, across the Colorado River from Colorado Bend State Park, partially opens in 2026.
- **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** in 2024 and 2025 grew by 3,702 acres, almost doubling the size of the park north of Fredericksburg. Open by guided hikes.
- **Devils River State Natural Area** about 66 miles north of Del Rio opened the Dan Hughes Unit, accessible by high-clearance vehicles.
- **Washington-on-the Brazos State Historic Site** added new signs, buildings, and a renovated museum to help explain the historical meaning of the park north of Brenham.
- **CEO of the Alamo Trust Kate Rogers** was forced to resign from the \$550 million renovation of the Alamo, leaving the writing of Texas history to the politicians.
- **In memoriam:** Victor Emanuel (1940-2025), top birder and tour guide; George Coulam (1937-2025), founder of Texas Renaissance Festival' and Mary-Love Bigony (1952-2025), outdoor writer and editor.

1,785th in a series. Everywhere is a day trip from somewhere. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/day-trips.

The Mutt-Cracker (SWEET!)

THEATRE

FRIDAY 19 - TUESDAY 23 & FRIDAY 26 - MONDAY 29, THE VORTEX

Have a doggone good time this holiday season with Circus Chickendog's Darren Peterson and his delightful trained dogs. Firefly, Dragonfly, Coyote, and newcomer Butterfly strut their talented stuff on the Eloise Brooks Cullum Stage with fabulous aplomb to Tyler Mabry's live score with additional support by pianist Vikki Schwarz and direction from Melissa McKnight. Performers Olivia Rose McCain, Nicole Boyd, Patricia Wappner, Monica Kurtz, and Balyssa Bell also lend a paw – I mean, hand! – in making this merry moment as extraordinary as possible. – JAMES SCOTT

Bosh EP Release

MUSIC

FRIDAY 19, 29TH STREET BALLROOM

Nothing says "Happy holidays!" like an evening of ripping hardcore punk of various textures. The totally excellent Bosh, who already have a few EPs under their collective belts, is the crew with new material to celebrate, their savage work a mix of sludge, grindcore, and a feeling of senses dulled and rage turned outward. With Mouthing, whose hellacious screaming recalls being dragged into Hell; Unnecessary Roughness, perhaps the closest thing to orthodox hardcore on this bill (beware the mosh pit for them); Pain God and its double bass/drum powerviolence; Mallories' draggy sludge; and Blastochrist. The scene is alive! – JOE GROSS

Patty Griffin

MUSIC

FRIDAY 19, PARAMOUNT THEATRE

If Patty Griffin's eponymous 2019 LP struck as a reclamation of self and craft in recovering from cancer and loss, this year's stunning *Crown of Roses* feels like a confrontation of the aftermath and lingering reality of life moving on. From the bluesy ambivalence of opener "Back at the Start" to the devastatingly beautiful, cinematic swoon of "The End" ("So that was the end, and then this world began") and gentle prayer of "A Word," Griffin's songwriting is at its most poetic and moving. *Crown of Roses* is rife with a humble wisdom and fearlessly vulnerable strength. – DOUG FREEMAN

Mujeres Podridas

Album Release

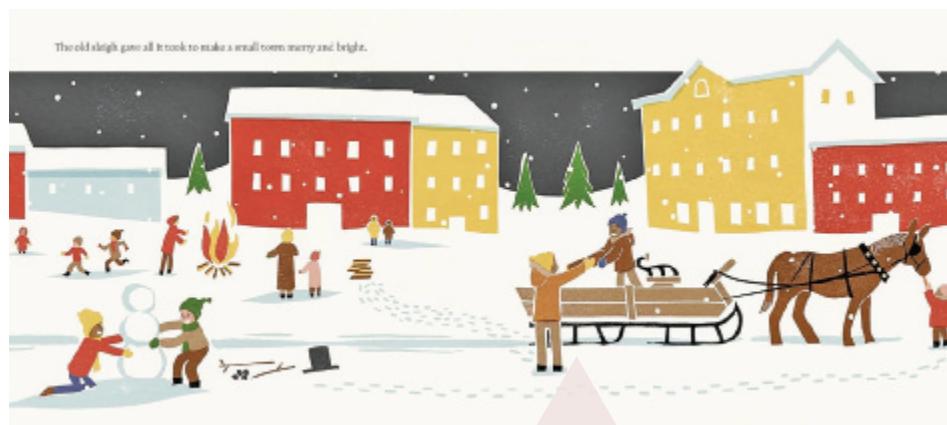
MUSIC

FRIDAY 19, THE LOST WELL

"We just really wanted to start a band with all Valley people, and it evolved from there." So explained Dru Molina in 2022, nearly a year after the ATX post-punks put out debut long-player *Muerte en Paraíso*. Thanks to COVID-19, it took the *Chronicle* that long to catch up to Mujeres Podridas and the quartet's scabrous frontwoman. Finally, a whole other Trumpkin administration later, the band returns with *Sangre y Sol*, urban punk for border exiles. Molina's slashing Spanish, John Morales' nervy guitar assault, and rhythm tandem Alex Guzman's blackjack bass and Phil Gonzalez's whiplash drums sound like the Valley too: desperate, determined, raw. Up first: Night Ritualz, Blood Rite, and Open Carry. – RAOUL HERNANDEZ



IMAGE VIA BANDCAMP



COURTESY OF EGYPT STREET PR

The Crafty Adult: Celtic Chainmail Pendants, Earrings, & Greeting Cards

LEARNING

SATURDAY 20,
YARBOROUGH BRANCH LIBRARY

The best gifts come from the heart. However, you certainly get bonus points if you make them with your own hands. Enter this regular library event that teaches locals a new craft every month. For the stragglers on your gift list, you can learn to make a chainmail pendant, earrings, and greeting cards. If they don't come out perfect, that just shows your giftee how much effort you put into it. They might not wear it, but they'll treasure it.

— JAMES RENOVITCH

The Jing-a-Ling Super Sing

MUSIC

SATURDAY 20, THE VORTEX

What's that whistling through the winter air? Why, it's the beautiful vocals of One Ounce Opera and LOLA's yearly festive show. During their "annual nightcap," these nonprofit cultural orgs offer a sweeping seasonal showcase delivered by 18 Austin-based and classically trained vocalists accompanied by two pianists. They'll first fill the halls of the Butterfly Bar before heading into the theatre around 8:30pm for an even bigger performance. Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$10-50, so everyone's got a chance to enjoy this wonderful winter wassail.

— JAMES SCOTT

Jerome & Jarrett Pumphrey Storytime: *The Old Sleigh*

BOOKS

SATURDAY 20,
LARK & OWL BOOKSELLERS

The Old Sleigh delivers firewood, a gift of warmth, community, and tradition, in the snowy landscape of Jerome and Jarrett Pumphrey's latest children's book. Dressed in the local author-illustrator brother duo's signature stamp-art style, *The Old Sleigh* is right at home on the shelf among winter classics like Jan Brett's *The Mitten* and Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day*. Its delicately crafted, heartwarming narrative tells a timeless and inclusive seasonal tale you'll look forward to reading every year. Start that tradition with the creators themselves at Lark & Owl Booksellers.

— CAROLINE DREW

Pin

FILM

SATURDAY 20, WE LUV VIDEO

Doctor Sandor Stern was responsible for two great expressions of wildly radical art. First, three of his sons – Shawn, Mark, and Adam – founded L.A. hardcore pioneers Youth Brigade. Second, he adapted and directed Andrew Neiderman's absolutely bug-nuts and warped novel *Pin*, a psychosexual sleazefest about a dysfunctional family and an anatomical dummy called Pin. Even for a filmmaker and scriptwriter whose career veered between *Touched by an Angel* and *The Amityville Horror*, it's a weird diversion. Make sure to grab your limited-edition *Pin* pin, one per attendee. — RICHARD WHITTAKER

CONTINUED ON P.38

THE Jing-a-Ling
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December 20, 2025
8:30 pm at The VORTEX

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COURTESY OF FFTX

'Tis the season for top 10 lists, but ya boy here has looked at this year's queer news bulletin and, um, well. It's not a lot of "fun" or "uplifting" stuff to fill out the ol' listicle format. Instead, I thought I might drop 10 local queer places to put whatever extra holiday bucks you can spare. None of the recos appeal to you? Donate to a friend's top surgery, housing, health care, etc. fundraiser. Everyone could use a little help these days, and it does do a body good to give back.

• **MASS Gallery:** Contributing to this locally and sapphically run gallery means helping continue their platforming of interesting artists through stipends, residencies, and other resources.

• **Oilcan's Winter Clothing Drive:** Fourth Street's longest running gay bar hosts a donation drop spot for Queertopia, a local LGBTQ homelessness nonprofit, where you can give hats, coats, gloves, and other cold weather garments to help your neighbors out.

• **allgo:** This year marks 40 years of fine programming from this QTBIPOC-centric nonprofit, so consider donating to help them continue their work well past 40 more years.

• **OUTsider Fest:** Next year's "BODIES" theme offers radical celebration of queer bodies, with tons of artists showcasing their work. Help them get paid and put on the best show possible by donating to OUTsider – or even pre-buying your fest badge!

• **Future Front Texas:** Dropping your dough with this cultural hub allows them to keep running multiple markets, festivals, and workshops for women & LGBTQ creatives year-round.

• **Local Queer ATX:** If you've Strut'd, skated, or even helped Fill-A-Fridge with this local queer social nonprofit, then you know they're using every dollar donated to make Austin a pleasant place for the LGBTQ community.

• **Austin Rainbow Theatre:** What goes together better than queers and the theatre? Well, your donating power and these local stagecraft creators!

• **Equality Texas:** You know these guys from every protest at the Capitol to their daily emails on how to fight our state Lege's newest attack on LGBTQ rights, so it goes without saying a donation here goes far.

• **Black Trans Leadership of Austin:** From their grant work to their event support, BTLA fights for Austin's Black transgender residents like few others – and they deserve just as much support from you.

• **Transgender Education Network of Texas:** Trans Texans are under real, tangible attack from our state and federal government, which means TENT's work is crucial. Donations here help keep Texas informed and empowered about trans rights during this pretty scary time.

Queer Film Theory: Chosen Family

Thu., Dec. 18, The Highball

Hear queer film "professors" talk about their favorite features showcasing ragtag groups of misfits coming together in heartwarming ways. And also I'll be there, Qmmunity Editor James, talking about *Crash* (1996). So why don't you be there, too, huh?

America's Next Top Lesbian Pageant

Fri., Dec. 19, The Vortex

Futch Fetish and TribRelations join forces for this first-of-its-kind Austin pageant of all sapphic sweethearts. Five contestants enter the runway, but only one will win this coveted title.

Better Gays

Fri., Dec. 19, Better Days

Spread a little holiday cheer with these queers spinnin' "jams that will make your grandma faint!" Lineup includes DJs MK Ultra, Isto Juan, and Happy Meal.

Book Swap & Present-Wrapping Party

Fri., Dec. 19, Birdhouse Books and Gifts

Catch up on your gift wrap – I know we're ALL behind – and enjoy light bevs and bites during this community events. For the book swap, bring up to five swappable spines.



PHOTO BY MINERVA VILLA
Sun., Dec. 21, Trinity Street Theatre
A night of seasonal rebirth from married artistic duo Jenny Larson Quiñones (J) and khattieQ (K), this variety hour signs off the 2025 Just Kidding season with performances by Sir Beau Elliot, Adrienne Dawes, Tor Reynolds, and Angie and Audrey of ORO Dance Company.

JK's Just Kidding Variety Hour: Winter Solstice Edition

Sun., Dec. 21, Trinity Street Theatre

A night of seasonal rebirth from married artistic duo Jenny Larson Quiñones (J) and khattieQ (K), this variety hour signs off the 2025 Just Kidding season with performances by Sir Beau Elliot, Adrienne Dawes, Tor Reynolds, and Angie and Audrey of ORO Dance Company.

Fourth Annual Jolly Dolly Holiday

Sun., Dec. 21, Fairmont Austin

Extragrams puts the jingle in your bells with this show at the Fairmont's holiday pop-up, the Ugly Sweater. Brigitte Bandit, Celia Light, Diamond Dior Davenport, and Mars perform, so reserve your spot today.

Bronco 2

Mon., Dec. 22, Sagebrush

Before the year ends, boot scoot over to this final lesson from Country Fried Dance and Neon Rainbow's Ed West. Usually the advanced event, this Bronco 2's open to every skill level as well as to all those interested in contributing to a potluck. Sign up for the dish you're bringing via Neon Rainbow's Insta.

Chosen Family Xmas Dinner

Thu., Dec. 25, The Austin Eagle

Need a place to enjoy the holidays? Look no further than the Eagle, where a traditional Christmas dinner gets served right at 5pm. Plus, a hot chocolate social with this year's Mr., Ms., and Bootblack Eagle title holders.

Send yer queer events and stories to jscott@austinchronicle.com. Find more at austinchronicle.com/qmmunity.

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A collage of merchandise from The Austin Chronicle Store, including a white mug with 'FREE PRESS FOREVER', a light blue t-shirt with a banana graphic, a tan t-shirt with a 'MILK & BLOOD DOG' graphic, and a black t-shirt with a 'HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL' graphic. A QR code is in the bottom left. A circular 'NOW HIRING' sign is in the top left.

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A black and white photograph of a woman in lingerie standing in front of a map of a shopping area. The map shows 'Anderson Mill Rd.', 'Roxie Dr.', 'Spicewood Springs Rd.', and 'McNeil Dr.'. A road sign indicates '183'.

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Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour MUSIC

SATURDAY 20, CENTRAL MARKET NORTH; SUNDAY 21, STARGAZER; MONDAY 22, SAXON PUB AT AUS

Celebrate the seventh night of Hanukkah with Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour, Austin's own klezmer and Yiddish folk revivalists, as they bring the music of Europe's Jewish community to Central Market just in time for the lighting of the candles. The next two days see the itinerant band pack their fiddles, flutes, horns, and accordions for a local mini-tour, starting with their Sunday residency at Stargazer and wrapping up Monday as they serenade travelers at the airport.

— RICHARD WHITTAKER



COURTESY OF MAZEL TOV KOCKTAIL HOUR

Teen Ornament Making & Cookie Decorating Party COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 20, CENTRAL LIBRARY

Youths! What are you doing this holiday break that's not scrolling on ya phone? Because I've got a gathering to recommend that's free, fun, and at your local library – which is a great place for all sorts of other excitements year-round, by the by. From noon to 2pm, this event created by fellow teens in the Library Foundation's Teen Fellowship Program offers cookie decorating kits as well as materials to make clay ornaments for a wonderful winter afternoon away from school and family stresses. You could probably even take a little video of the whole deal and show off how totally offline you can be to your TikTok followers. It's not touching grass – because it's actually touching clay – but the idea's the same.

— JAMES SCOTT



PHOTO BY CASEY CHAE VIA UNSPLASH

Barry Lyndon FILM

SATURDAY 20 - SUNDAY 21 & WEDNESDAY 24, AFS CINEMA

You'd be forgiven for assuming it's OK to skip a three-hour historical drama in your foray through Stanley Kubrick's filmography, but you'd be missing out. [Editor's note: I do not share Lina's forgiving heart on this matter.] Despite its arduous runtime, the life story of a seemingly amoral 18th century Irish trickster – replete with hilarious antics and truly devastating tragedy – makes for a riveting cinematic experience. Barry is a difficult character to pin down but a joy to watch, as he traverses the Irish social ladder and contends with the fruits of his roguery.

— LINA FISHER

Spliff Kazoo & His Fronds One-Day Release "Tour" MUSIC

SATURDAY 20, FRIENDLY RIO MARKET, SHARP RECORDS, AND TWEEDY'S BAR

Spliff Kazoo & His Fronds never settle for simple. The free-wheelin' band, led by Max Juren, has a reputation for stunts and schticks, and their one-day *Encores* record release "tour" is no exception. The party starts with one song at Rio Market, the friendliest convenience store in town, plus a set by Thor Harris. Then hop in the conga line and rock your body in time to Sharp Records to hear "Souvenir" before a finale set at Tweedy's. They're gonna need help schlepping all their gear from venue to venue – now is not the time to skip arm day.

— CAROLINE DREW

Beethoven: Hoppy Holidays MUSIC

SATURDAY 20, NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM

Class up your holidays with the yeasty yuletide fun of Beethoven's annual holiday concert. Kids from one to 92 are invited to enjoy ticket-price-covered warm pastries, hot cocoa, and cold beer (okay, that one might be just for everyone 21 and above) from Easy Tiger and Lazarus Brewing while listening to the Tinsel Singers deliver festive favorites in innovative arrangements by professional and Grammy-winning vocalists. Attendees also get a voucher for a free museum visit to be used at a later date. Bring your blanket – it's finally cold out! – and settle in for a superlative seasonal showcase.

— JAMES SCOTT

(Not) the Last Waltz 3 MUSIC

SATURDAY 20, PARAMOUNT THEATRE

This past summer, songwriter and überproducer Walker Lukens went to the emergency room with a headache and ended up hospitalized for an abscess in his brain. So this year's third annual Last Waltz extravaganza serves as much as a life-affirming testament for the *Song Confessional* creator as a raucous holiday party. Expect plenty of antics (including the return of "Weed Santa") alongside the exceptional lineup, which boasts everything from songwriters Ben Kweller, Zella Day, and Matthew Logan Vasquez to the cosmic waves of Laraaji and Golden Dawn Arkestra's Topaz, ripping blues guitar of Monica Valli, and DJ Disko Cowboy.

— DOUG FREEMAN



PHOTO BY JILL WELLINGTON VIA UNSPLASH

A Most 'Memerable Holiday Evening

THEATRE QUEER

SUNDAY 21, STATESIDE
AT THE PARAMOUNT

Your holly days just got a little jollier with a visit from the Glorious Two, Rebecca Havemeyer and Stanley Roy. Coming in all the way from NYC (Havemeyer, aka Paul Soileau) and New Orleans (Roy) is a real seasonal storm of fresh festive fun cooked up by these divas just for Austin. There'll be song, dance, and even "hullabalooin'" to keep you warmed up during these sort-of cold nights. It's classic campy Christmas chaos the way only this dynamic duo can deliver, so grab your tix to the 9pm showing soon! Their early show, 6:30pm, has already sold out.

— JAMES SCOTT

Last Chance Christmas Market

QUEER

SUNDAY 21, THE LITTLE GAY SHOP

Whoops! You forgot to get holiday gifts. Honestly, what an achievement given our capitalist culture begs you at every corner to shop, damn you, shop. Still, your loved ones deserve treats, so it's a good thing intrepid small-biz the Little Gay Shop's rounded up over 20 local & queer makers for a last-dash delight of giftables. Set up in the parking lot across from their 12th Street store, this market's pet-friendly and features a totally free DIY gift wrap station. Your bacon? Consider it saved.

— JAMES SCOTT

The Dirty Bird Show

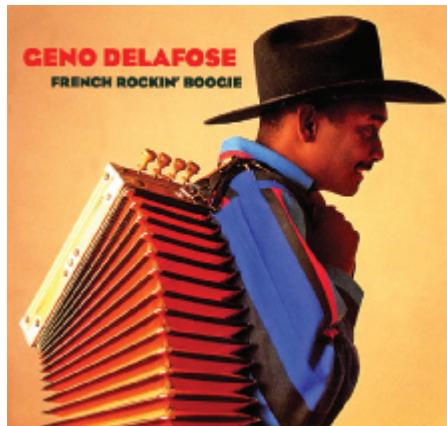
QUEER

SUNDAY 21, THE AUSTIN EAGLE

Out at Austin's leather & gear bar is a show most fowl. Malibu Imported hosts every week with support from fellow local icons DeeGee Rey and Lady Grackle and a brunch served hot by the excellent Eagle chefs. This Sunday's show offers a special thanks for those who've supported the show all year with gratis entry, but the real feather-ruffler is their special guest. Fresh off her massive win is season 2 *Dragula Titans* winner Evah Destruction – our very own hometown hero here to shake her tail feathers with the rest of the flock. Doors at noon, show's at 1:30pm, and stick around for a 3 o'clock meet & greet.

— JAMES SCOTT

CONTINUED ON P.41



GENO DELAFOSE
FRENCH ROCKIN' BOOGIE

A HOLIDAY MUSIC
MIX UNLIKE ANY
OTHER



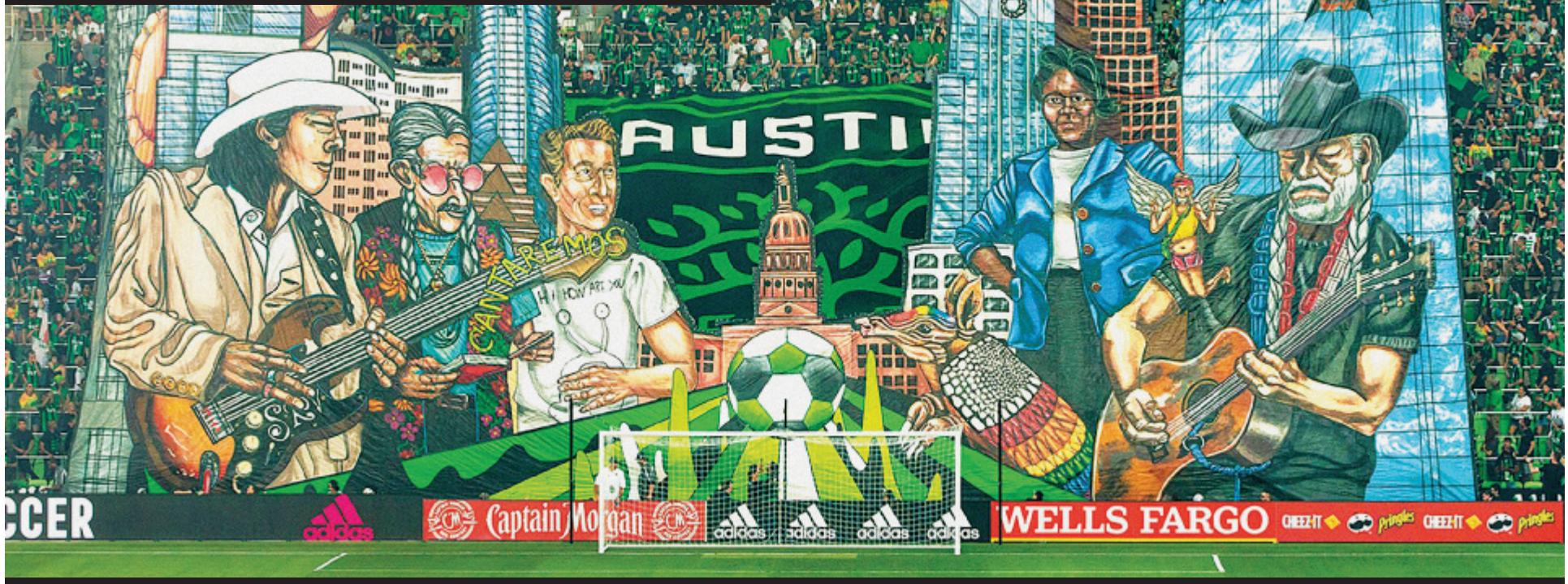
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TUNE IN FOR HOLIDAY MUSIC
WITHOUT THE CHEESE

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Throwback to the first-ever tifo from the Q2 Stadium supporters' section, depicting legends of Austin old and new

COURTESY OF AUSTIN FC

The Top 10 Moments of Austin FC's First Five Years

As jarring as the fact may be, Austin FC completed its fifth season of Major League Soccer this fall, meaning it has officially outlived *Breaking Bad*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *Vine*. In celebration of that milestone, let's reflect back on the top 10 most significant moments – both the good and the bad – in Austin FC's young history.

10) COPA TEJAS TRIUMPH

We'll begin in the happy column with Austin FC lifting its first-ever (unofficial) trophy, the 2022 edition of Copa Tejas, in the parking lot of FC Dallas' Toyota Stadium. Not only did this moment give ATX fans a taste of what it feels like to win shiny stuff, but it also symbolized the club's efforts to become the flagship MLS club in the Lone Star State.

9) FAGUNDEZ FAREWELL

If likability was a rated attribute on FIFA, Diego Fagundez would be comfortably in the high 90s. Seeing the club trade away a fan favorite and highly productive player like Fagundez – scorer of the first goal in Austin FC history – midseason in 2023 was a jarring reminder of the harsh business of pro sports.

8) TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Austin FC made its first (and so far only) appearance in the CONCACAF Champions Cup in 2023, and appeared to luck out by drawing Violette A.C. as its first opponent. The Haitian club's league was on indefinite hiatus due to unrest in the island nation, and it had to play its "home" leg in the Dominican Republic. Incredibly, Violette defeated Austin FC 3-0 in the first leg and eliminated the MLS club the following week at Q2 Stadium.

7) DRIUSSI DIOR

Designated players – you know, the ones that make all the money? – haven't exactly been Austin FC's forte. But the club got one right in Sebastián Driussi, who was signed for \$7 million from Zenit St. Petersburg in the summer of 2021. Driussi is the club's record goalscorer by a country mile, despite leaving Austin in 2024.

6) PARTY IN THE PLAYOFFS

Driven largely by Driussi's mega year, 2022 remains the high-water mark in Austin FC history. It culminated in a pair of dramatic playoff victories at Q2 Stadium, first against Real Salt Lake in a penalty shootout, then

against rivals FC Dallas to advance to the Western Conference final, where the club fell to eventual champs LAFC.

5) DP SHUFFLE

Austin FC made some serious money moves in the 2024-25 offseason, selling Driussi for a whopping \$10 million and using that cash to sign Brandon Vázquez, while spending an additional \$12 million on Myrto Uzuni, completely reshaping the top of the club's roster.

4) HE'S A KEEPER

The most important move in Austin FC's inaugural roster construction might've been the most unassuming. Brad Stuver – a journeyman goalkeeper signed as a free agent, and expected by most to serve as Andrew Tarbell's backup – has emerged as the face and voice of the club, and an All-Star.

3) #WOLFFOUT

After months of frustration from the Austin FC fan base, culminating in the infamously under-proofread "#WOLFDUT" airplane

banner, the club cut ties with its first-ever head coach, Josh Wolff, following another disappointing season in 2024. Wolff's replacement, Nico Estévez, returned the club to the playoffs this past season.

2) RODO TO THE RESCUE

After Claudio Reyna disgraced himself in the Berhalter brouhaha of January 2023, Austin FC's sporting director office became vacant. That is until Rodolfo Borrell signed on the dotted line, taking the role after spells coaching at some of Europe's biggest clubs. Legend has it, Borrell is still working tirelessly to undo the damage that Reyna inflicted on the roster prior to his exit.

1) LET THERE BE VERDE

Of course, nothing can top the significance of Austin FC's inaugural season. Despite much more struggle than prosperity on the pitch, the season of firsts felt like a seven-month pinch-me moment for Austinites who longed for major league sports to come to town.

Want the latest Austin FC news delivered straight to your inbox? Subscribe at austinchronicle.com.



PHOTO BY RACHELLE SKIDMORE

Home for the Y'Allidays

MUSIC

MONDAY 22, BURNET GO TO

Turns out you can go home again. That's what Home for the Y'allidays is all about – the talented performers who claim Austin as home. Emma Wallace, back from the British Isles and ready to work it, hosts the event with a smattering of fellow world travelers like Hannah Hufford and Stone Mountain. Watch them sing their hearts out in celebration of the holidays. After all, while they've gained acclaim in NYC and beyond, there's truly no place like home. **CAT MCCARREY**

Sarah Barlow Album Release

MUSIC

SUNDAY 21, ANTONE'S NIGHTCLUB

Chase your blues away with singer-songwriter Sarah Barlow and her Texas Blues Revue, set to deliver roots-driven originals with modern rockabilly flair. Once mentored and managed by Clifford Antone, Barlow returns to his namesake venue to celebrate the release of her self-titled debut, where country-laced rock and traditional blues are wrapped in a subtle, neo-psychadelic ribbon. The album's lead single, "Cinderella Blues," pulses with road-tripping Americana rhythms and bending, riff-heavy electric guitar lines, further charged by the songstress' smoky-sweet vocals. Soul-infused rock collective Kathy & the Kilowatts will kick off the high-energy evening with roadhouse-ready grooves and unwavering Texas grit. **MIRANDA GARZA**

Christmas Carols

COMMUNITY

MONDAY 22, WINDSOR PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

Hope you're not all sung out from the season's barrage of yuletide yodel-a-thons, because local group Windsor Park Neighborhood Association's got another caroling convention on the schedule. This holiday song session, however, offers a little somethin' extra: a ding-dang hot cocoa bar with promised "ooey gooey fixin's." All you gotta bring is your lovely voice, weather-appropriate garb, and a mug from home. **JAMES SCOTT**

The Power of Community With Anne Lewis

FILM

MONDAY 22, HYPERREAL FILM CLUB

Before this microcinema goes into hy-bernation, they're playing host to a very special screening from Just Collaborative. Documentarian Anne Lewis presents two of her short films that explore various social issues: "Un Trip: raúlsalinas and the poetry of liberation," which takes inspiration from raúlsalinas' poem "Un Trip through the Mind Jail" for a split-screen jazz and liberation doc, and "On Dying of Dementia in a Capitalist System," an animated auto-bio film following Lewis' journey through placing her partner in memory care and his passing that also examines the push-and-pull between for-profit institutions and the care workers and residents in them. A community conversation about both films' themes follows the screenings. **JAMES SCOTT**

CONTINUED ON P.42



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Wonderland

FILM

MONDAY 22 - TUESDAY 23, AFS CINEMA

Michael Winterbottom, the British auteur best known for sardonic scripts like *The Trip* and *24 Hour Party People*, puts down the dukes for a more sentimental take on Londoners around Guy Fawkes Night. Three sisters' lives are explored through vignettes of romance, parenthood, and the broad slog of life. In the style of interlocking story weavers like Robert Altman and Paul Thomas Anderson, this subtle study of human behavior is a bitter-sweet antidote to the sometimes-forced cheer of the holidays.

- LINA FISHER

Falasteen Book Club – Ghassan Kanafani: The Revolution of 1936-1939 In Palestine

BOOKS

TUESDAY 23, MCCORD COMMUNITY CENTER

The Austin-based Falasteen Book Club started in 2024 with the goal of immersing more people in the history, storytelling, and political science – among many other topics – of Palestine. This session's pick by political activist, writer, and artist Ghassan Kanafani analyzes a particular period (1936-1939) of mass uprisings against Zionism and British colonialism by delving into economic, political, and cultural circumstances of the time. Check out previous book club selections on their website, falasteenbookclub.com.

- JAMES SCOTT

Notebook Making

LEARNING

TUESDAY 23, MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS

As our world is increasingly monopolized by evil tech oligarchs, more people are turning to the utility and joy of DIYing. And especially around the holidays, a homemade gift that your loved one has spent actual time and effort on is often more meaningful than a store-bought item. Don't know where to start? Learn a practical skill this week at MonkeyWrench: how to bind a notebook. In this two-hour class you'll learn how to do a simple codex bind for a last minute gift or just a fresh start in 2026 with a journal you made yourself. Show up anytime between 12 and 6 to learn.

- LINA FISHER

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

THEATRE

WEDNESDAY 24, H-E-B CENTER AT CEDAR PARK

Family's in town and no one can agree on what to do on Christmas Eve. Kids can't do a Downtown bar-hop, Grandma and Grandpa will fall asleep in a dark theatre, and staying home spells more stress for whoever's playing host. Why not go the live performance route with this enchanting holiday event from Cirque Musica? Their incredible aerial and acrobatic feats will keep all ages engaged, with sparkling costumery and familiar festive tunes getting everyone in the yuletide mood. Be the holiday hero of this year's family gathering and snag your tickets now.

- JAMES SCOTT

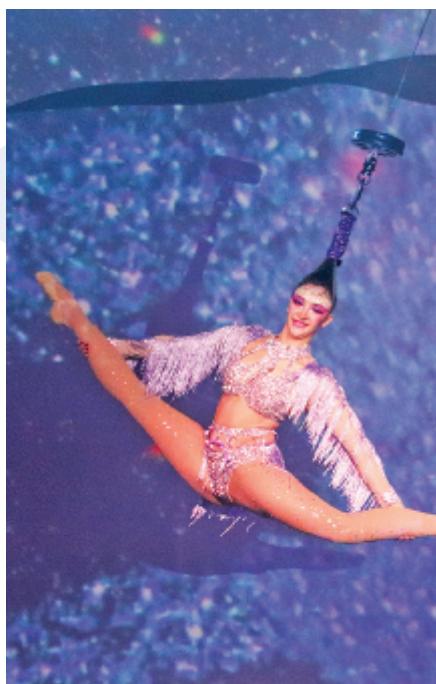
How the Grackle Stole Christmas

QUEER

THURSDAY 25, OILCAN'S

For all the sugar plums not snuggled in bed this Christmas night, Austin's own Lady Grackle hosts her fourth annual Xmas show. There'll be drag aplenty 'round this Fourth Street tree from friends Amber Nicole Davenport, Kara Foxx Paris, Cupcake, Jayden Daniels, and Nadine Hughes. C'mon, girly-pop: I know you wanna wear that new top you got right away and where better than the oldest gay bar in Bat City? 'Tis the freakin' season!

- JAMES SCOTT



COURTESY OF TCG ENTERTAINMENT

Music Notes

BY DEREK UDENSI



Kathryn Legende

PHOTO BY CHARLES REAGAN

A Motown Christmas

Friday 19, Geraldine's

For years, Austin-based R&B singer Tje Austin has hosted a "Motown Christmas" event in which he and several musical guests perform a variety of classic Christmastime tracks. This go-around's a bit different because he'll also perform his new, Christmas-themed EP *Seasonal D*. The four-track release contains original music; "Everything I Want for Christmas" breaks the fourth wall and acknowledges Texas rarely sees snow.

Nathan Felix & the Dirty Rotten Boys

Saturday 20, Hotel Vegas

Typically a composer of grand, operatic music, Nathan Felix teamed up with four other musicians to perform at KOOP Radio's SXSW 2025 day party for a dirt-stained country deviation. Nathan Felix & the Dirty Rotten Boys features Felix as an acoustic guitarist and gritty lead vocalist. This show – the group's first in a proper club/music venue – celebrates the release of the band's next single, "Take Me Back to Odessa." Moving Panoramas rounds out the Hotel Vegas evening starter.

Toys for Tots Fundraiser

Saturday 20, Sagebrush

Honky-tonkin' for a good cause! Phil Hollie, Kathryn Legende, and Mayeux & Broussard perform at this toy drive benefiting the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Admission is \$15.



SCAN FOR SHOWS



SCAN FOR TOURS

at THE MOODY THEATER

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SAT FEB 14

Bob Schneider and the Moonlight Orchestra Valentine's Day Concert

SAT FEB 14

BECKY ROBINSON
the Beasts in me

FEB 15

» Up Next

REBECCA ROBINSON
A Drag Queen Christmas
HOSTED BY NINA WEST

DEC 18

ROBERT EARL NEEN
PRESSENTS
THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS ON EARTH
WITH SUPPORT FROM RED SHAHAN

FRI-SAT DEC 19-20

O HOLY NIGHT
Candlelight Christmas Carol
KIRA FONTANA & 30-PIECE STRING ORCHESTRA

DEC 21

» Coming Soon

FRI-SAT JAN 16-17

Colter Wall MEMORIES AND EMPTIES
WITH HAYDEN REDWINE

JAN 22 & FRI JAN 23

Bert Kreischer PERMISSION
TO PARTY

SAT JAN 24

NOTHING MORE CARNAL NATURE WORLD TOUR
WITH CATCH YOUR BREATH, ARCHERS & DOOBIE

SAT JAN 31

KC & The Sunshine Band**Sal Vulcano** EVERYTHING'S FINE
TOUR

FEB 5

Sam Harris TRUTH &
CONSEQUENCES

FRI FEB 6

ATMOSPHERE WITH SAGE FRANCIS, R.A. THE RUGGED MAN,
KOOL KEITH & DJ MR. DIBBS

SAT FEB 7

LAUREN SPENCER SMITH THE ART OF BEING A MESS TOUR
WITH HENRY MOODIE

FRI FEB 13

Cat Power THE GREATEST TOUR - 20TH ANNIVERSARY
PERFORMING THE ALBUM IN ITS ENTIRETY

SAT FEB 14

Bob Schneider & THE MOONLIGHT ORCHESTRA
VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

FEB 19

DROPKICK MURPHYS WITH THE AGGROLITES
AND HAYWIRE

FRI FEB 20

KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND WITH JIMMIE VAUGHAN &
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Africa Night

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

the Point 9PM
Zoumountchi 11PM
Afro Jazz 7:30PM
 Africa Night Buffet 7PM

SAHARA LOUNGE
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Showlist: Austin



Your straight forward
guide to live music
in Austin, TX

CLUBS

EDITED BY
DEREK UDENSI

THURSDAY 12/18

04 CENTER Home for the Holidays w/ Carolyn Wonderland, Shelley King, Rosie Flores, & Kevin Russell (8pm) **Ⓐ**

29TH STREET BALLROOM Nico Play, Rulitos (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

ANTONE'S Sam Riggs, Ghosts of Hill County (8pm) **Ⓑ**

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Cento Threeo (7pm) **Ⓐ**

C-BOY'S Allisen & the Wy's Guys (6:30pm), Louisiana Surf Department, Nether Hour (10pm), Just Mel [jade room] (10pm) **Ⓐ**

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Grupo Massa (6pm) **Ⓐ**

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Philip Marshall Guitar Trio (6:30pm) **Ⓐ**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Return to Planet Casper w/ Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Warren Hood, & Rich Brotherton (6:30pm), Barfield the Tyrant (10:30pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Bonnie Whitmore (8:30pm), We DaHomies (10:30pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Sarah Sharp Quintet (6pm), Waxahachie Horns (9pm)

GUERO'S Buenos Diaz (6pm) **Ⓐ**
HOLE IN THE WALL Nichole Wagner & Sarah Walker (6pm), Jess Ledbetter & The Vision, Ginny Hall, Lapdog (9pm)

HOTEL VEGAS Winter Coat Drive w/ FLAGS, Team Trust, Leche, Gabi Turner (6pm) **Ⓐ**

KICK BUTT COFFEE Odar, Last Ditch, Ready Betty, Josh Langford, Danny B. Harvey, Hotrod Hillbillies, Mal Thursday Quintet, Preachers of Hell County (7:30pm) **Ⓐ**

KINGDOM DJ Tool (10pm) **Ⓑ**

LITTLE LONGHORN El Caminos Band (7pm), Deep Eddie Band (9pm)

MONKS JAZZ CLUB Jazzy Lil' Christmas w/ Diego Rivera Octet (10pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

MOODY CENTER Trans-Siberian Orchestra (7pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

NEWORLDDEL Kate Howard & Alison Tucker (7pm) **Ⓐ**

PARKER JAZZ CLUB Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few (7:30pm)

RADIO/EAST Jacques Melville, Caitlin King, Devin Bonnee, Alicia Gail (8pm) **Ⓐ**

SAGEBRUSH Blaze Foley birthday tribute w/ Dustin Welch, Gabe Rhodes, Dallas Burrow, George Ensle (host), more (7pm)

SAHARA LOUNGE Karma, Winkler Mill, Tyton Benson, Carly Jo Jackson (7:30pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Seth James (8pm), Jimmie Dreams & Friends (10pm)

STARGAZER Interstellar w/ Preston Scott Straus, Azuka, JMAC the Dragon, more (6pm) **Ⓐ**

SWAN DIVE The Boy, 1kSpin, Sage X Price, Ryan Dove, more (9pm)

THE WHITE HORSE Aaron McDonnell, the Tender Things, JD Clark (8pm)

FRIDAY 12/19

04 CENTER Beat Root Revival (8pm) **Ⓐ**

13TH FLOOR Eagle Claw, Cell Saga, Venus/Ex (9pm)

29TH STREET BALLROOM Bosh (EP release), Mouthing, Unnecessary Roughness, Pain God, Blastochrist, mallories (7pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

3TEN ACL LIVE Skyscrotet! (8:30pm) **Ⓐ**

THE ABGB Caros Amigos (8pm) **Ⓐ**

ACL LIVE Robert Earl Keen, Red Shahan (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

ANTONE'S Soul Message Band ft. Chris Foreman, Adam Scone, Red Young, D'Vibes (9pm) **Ⓑ**

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Diana Burgess & Curtis McMurtry (7pm) **Ⓐ**, Bluesqueezebox (8pm) **Ⓐ**

BUCK'S BACKYARD Randy Rogers (8pm) **Ⓐ**

BUDDY'S PLACE Glen Collins Band (8pm)

C-BOY'S Suzanna Choffel (6:30pm), Hayden Redwine, Mason Lively (10pm)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lisa Gamache & Banned for Life (7pm), Quiness, Mother Neff, Kathy McCarty & the Speeding Motorcycle Band (9pm)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Woot Tally & the Box (6pm) **Ⓐ**

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH The Southsiders ft. Marcus Tharpe (6:30pm) **Ⓐ**

CHESSE CLUB Commercial Breaks (album release), Magic Rockers of Texas, Queen Serene, Language (9pm)

CHEZ ZEE John Burnett's Bluesette Quartet (6:30pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30pm), Louisiana Surf Department, Nether Hour (10pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Alicia Gail (8:30pm), Bryce Powell & Friends (10:30pm)

CROW BAR Screamin' J (single release), Megafauna, Panjoma (9pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM King Daddy & the Flat Five (6pm), Jerry Espinoza Quintet (9pm)

EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Mars God, Heavy Velvet, Topdown [control room] (8:30pm) **Ⓐ**

THE FAR OUT Two Legged Dog, Chiconmal, Bicycle Boy (8pm) **Ⓐ**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Crucial Riddim, Sugar Waves, Los Surfivors (9pm)

GERALDINE'S A Motown Christmas w/ Tje Austin & Friends (9:30pm)

GRUENE HALL William Clark Green, Seth Van Dover (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

GUERO'S Dan Whitaker (6pm) **Ⓐ**

HIGHBALL Zoodust (9pm)

HOLE IN THE WALL Plum Tongue, Mad Whit, JUSTIN (EP release), DODO (9pm)

HOTEL VEGAS Strange Bangs, Leila Sunier (6:45pm), Mean Jolene, Pelvis Wrestley, Tearjerk (9pm)

KICK BUTT COFFEE One Death, Pachoco Cabras, Bloodhammer, Death Prison, Live Another Day (8pm) **Ⓐ**

KNOMAD BAR Real Wild Love, Grack Attack, Liz Burrito (9pm)

LITTLE LONGHORN Nate Boff (6pm), Alan Haynes (9pm)

THE LOADING DOCK Mouthfeel, Dylan Reece (10pm) **Ⓐ**

THE LOST WELL Mujeres Podridas (record release), Night Ritualz, Blood Rite, Open Carry (7pm) **Ⓐ**

MEANWHILE BREWING CO. Saddle Sores (7:30pm) **Ⓐ**

MERIDIAN BUDA Tish Hinojosa (5pm), the Discount Pills (9pm)

MOONTOWER SALOON Oreja (9pm)

NEWORLDDEL Owen Stroud (7pm) **Ⓐ**

OK CORRAL Gary Hobbs (8pm) **Ⓐ**

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Patty Griffin, Scrappy Jud Newcomb (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

RADIO/EAST Shane McGowan birthday celebration w/ the Brogues (8pm) **Ⓐ**

SAGEBRUSH Willy McGee, Paige Plaisance, Hayden Butler (8pm)

SAHARA LOUNGE Ladies Night w/ DJs Zapot & Juan Lo (9pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Will Sexton (5pm), Lucas Hudgins (8pm), the Memphis Strange (10pm)

STATESIDE AT THE PARAMOUNT Austin Meade, Mitchell Ferguson, Sterling Elza (8pm) **Ⓐ**

THE WHITE HORSE Jacob Alan Jaeger (5:30pm), the Last Jimenez, Libby & the Loveless, Jack Fister's Wildlife (8pm)

SATURDAY 12/20

29TH STREET BALLROOM Esun Gundz & Justin Rodriguez-Jones, Sewa Choki, Little Mazam, Chuck Roth, more (9pm) **Ⓐ**

THE ABGB Holiday Joy Drive w/ Paulo Santos Quartet (1pm) **Ⓐ**, the Latin Dukes (9pm) **Ⓐ**

ACL LIVE Robert Earl Keen, Red Shahan (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ** **Ⓒ**

ANTONE'S Andy Frasco & the U.N., Candi Jenkins (9pm) **Ⓐ**

ARISTOCRAT LOUNGE Real Wild Love, Born Twins, Intercom Heights (4pm) **Ⓐ**

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Luke Allen Duo (7pm) **Ⓐ**

BUCK'S BACKYARD Pop Punk Nite: Night Before Christmas w/ Van Full of Nuns, Offended by Everything, Our Last Daze, As the City Sleeps (6pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

BUDDY'S PLACE Cat Clemons Trio (5pm), Welcome to Texas (8pm)

C-BOY'S FunkyFoot (8pm), Heartchaser, Nakia & the Never Not Now (10pm)

CENTRAL MACHINE WORKS Howliday Bash benefiting Caritas w/ Brian Wolff & the Howlers, Beth/James (8pm)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour (6pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

CHESSE CLUB Die Mart, Nervous, Team Alice, SKRATZ, Promise? (9pm)

COME & TAKE IT LIVE End Period Poverty w/ Shysters, Overlay, Wild Heaven, Bat Allison, Mourning After (6pm)

THE CONCOURSE PROJECT The Glitch Mob, Ivy Lab, Brede, Yaz (10pm) **Ⓐ**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Earl Poole Ball (3:30pm), Bob Schneider (7:30pm), SugaRee & Cold Sweat (10pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Beaver Nelson (8:30pm), Josh Perdue (10:30pm)

CROW BAR Lechuza, Pocket Fishermen (4pm) **Ⓐ**, Odar, Tortures, Sudden Deaf, Shadow Hounds (9pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Adrian Ruiz Quintet (9pm)

THE FAR OUT Olé ELO (ELO tribute), DiscoTex (ABBA tribute) (7pm) **Ⓐ**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Guitzy Bal'head & the High Top Fades (9pm)

FRIENDLY RIO MARKET Spliff Kazoo & His Fronds (record release), Thor Harris (4pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**, Campaigner, Horsetail, Chase Burnett (7pm) **Ⓐ**

GUERO'S Bruce Smith Band, Zach Youpa, Trent Turner (2:30pm) **Ⓐ**

HOLE IN THE WALL Tracie, Bovine, Caroline Sears (9pm)

HOTEL VEGAS Moving Panoramas, Nathan Felix & the Dirty Rotten Boys (single release) (6:45pm)

KICK BUTT COFFEE Death Palmz, Permanent Shadows, Weird Wolves (9pm)

KINGDOM Veggi (10pm) **Ⓐ**

KNOMAD BAR Wooyahelmet, David Israel, Colin Swietek & the One Tough Customer (4pm) **Ⓐ**, Ronukah w/ Ron Titter Band, St. Inky, Thunder People, more (8pm) **Ⓐ**

LITTLE LONGHORN Bonneville County Pine Box (6pm), Chaparral (9pm)

THE LOADING DOCK Rob Vaughan, Herb (11pm)

MENCHACA BRANCH LIBRARY Highland String Trio (1pm) **Ⓐ**

MERCER DANCEHALL Bob Appel (3pm)

MERIDIAN BUDA Madam Radar (8pm)

MONKS JAZZ CLUB Elias Haslanger Quintet (Hank Mobley tribute) (10pm) **Ⓐ**

MOZART'S Miles Davis Trio (9:30am) **Ⓐ**, Savannah Lee (2pm) **Ⓐ**

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM Hoppy Holidays w/ Tinsel Singers (7pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

NEWORLDDEL Therapy Sisters (2pm) **Ⓐ**, Phil Hurley (7pm) **Ⓐ**

PARAMOUNT THEATRE (Not) the Last Walt w/ Walker Lukens, Zella Day, Laraaji, Matthew Logan Vasquez, more (8pm) **Ⓐ** **Ⓑ**

RADIO/EAST Icing (tenth anniversary & CAKE tribute), Jelly Belly (Smashing Pumpkins tribute), Wrestle With Jimmy (Weezer tribute) (8pm)  

THE ROSETTE Cumbia Navidad w/ Miguel St. Michael (8pm)

SAGEBRUSH T-Bo Trio (6pm), Toys for Tots fundraiser w/ Phil Hollie, Kathryn Legendre, Mayeux & Broussard (8pm)

SAHARA LOUNGE Africa Night w/ Zoumountchi, the Point, Afro Jazz (7pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Dale Watson (9pm), Ramsay Midwood (11pm)

SOUNDSPACE AT CAPTAIN QUACK'S Tucker Livingston, Vanessa Lively, & Wayne Sutton (7pm) 

STATESIDE AT THE PARAMOUNT Ellis Bullard (8pm) 

THE VORTEX The Jing-a-Ling Super Sing 

THE WHITE HORSE Darren Hoff (5:30pm), Jake Penrod, Peter Sinclair, Katrina Cain (8pm)

SUNDAY 12/21

THE ABGB Lucas Hudgins (4pm) 

ACL LIVE O Holy Night w/ Kira Fontana (7pm) 

ANTONE'S Sarah Barlow (album release) ft. Johnny Moeller, Red Young, Matt Adams, & more (7pm) 

ARISTOCRAT LOUNGE A Very Grimy Xmas w/ Grimy Styles, Joey Z & Josh Brown, Smell Monsters (7pm) 

BANGER'S JD Casper (noon)

BODHI'S HIDEAWAY Travis Carey (5pm)

BUDDY'S PLACE Texas Mavericks (3pm)

C-BOY'S Ginny's Chicken #!+ Bingo w/ Guitar Grady (3:30pm), Hilary York & Friends (7:30pm), Mike & the BurnAlls (10pm)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour  

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Toy Drive benefiting Dell Children's Hospital w/ Jacob Salazar, Boss Chingo Low (8pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie (3pm)  , Heybale! (6:30pm), Willie Pipkin & Friends (9:30pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Christmas Memories Trio (8pm)

GRACIA Margaret Slovak & Chris Marsh (1pm) 

GRISTMILL Dan Whitaker (12:30pm)

GUERO'S McLemore Avenue (3pm) 

HIGHBALL Western Express, two-step dance lessons w/ Native Texan Two Step (6pm)

HOLE IN THE WALL Flak Holiday Record Swap w/ the Coffee Sergeants, Larry Seaman, Rubilators, the Stayres, Eric Hisaw Band, Utley3 (4pm), Candler Wilkinson (9pm)

KNOMAD BAR King Amy, Boo Hoo, Obnoscicon (4pm) 

LITTLE LONGHORN Original Home of Chicken Shit Bingo w/ Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (4pm)

THE LOST WELL A Benefit for Tammy w/ Richie Stotts & Tits Out, Parasiticide, Sabbath Crow, Zero Percent, Yard Work (4pm) 

MCCULLOUGH THEATRE National Children's Chorus (1pm) 

MERCER DANCEHALL The Pearl Snaps (3pm)

MOZART'S B-Side Trio (10:30am)  , Aaron Gee (1pm) 

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM Hoppy Holidays w/ Tinsel Singers (3pm)  

NEWORLDDELI Terry Klein, Brian Wolff, & Silas Lowe (2pm) 

SAGEBRUSH Matt Tedder (7pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Cocktail Steel w/ Rose Sinclair (7pm)

SHORE RAW BAR Honeybee Jazz Trio (5:30pm)

THE WHITE HORSE All My(eux) Groovy Friends (6pm), Armadillo Road, Silo Road (8pm)

MONDAY 12/22

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Julie Slim & RendezVous (7pm) 

BURNET GO TO Home for the Y'ALLidays (8pm) 

C-BOY'S Theo Lawrence (6:30pm), Jennifer Foster & the Audacity (10pm)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour  

CONTINENTAL CLUB Eve Monsees & Mike Buck (6:30pm), Dale Watson (10:15pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Church on Monday w/ Elias Haslanger (8:30pm), Michael Hale Organ Trio (10:30pm)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank Cavitt (5:30pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell & Friends (6pm)

GERALDINE'S Brian Wolff (8pm)

GLOBE THEATRE JesseLee Jones & Brazibilly (7pm) 

HOLE IN THE WALL Horti (9pm)

MOZART'S Alex Bilodeau Trio (10:30am)  , Blake Robert (2pm) 

PERSHING HALL Yule Groove w/ Matchmaker Band (8:30pm) 

SAM'S TOWN POINT Steel Monday w/ Sweet Gary Newcomb (7pm), Little Elmore Reed Blues Band (10pm)

SAXON PUB Lonelyland (8:30pm)

THE WHITE HORSE Phil Hollie, Jordan Matthew Young (8pm)

TUESDAY 12/23

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Holly Frost (7pm) 

BROKEN SPOKE Jeff Gallagher (6pm)

C-BOY'S Flyjack (6:30pm), Grooveline Horns, D-Madness (9:30pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Carolyn Wonderland & Shelley King (6:30pm), BettySoo, James McMurtry (10pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Blue Moon Jazz Quartet w/ Rosie Flores (8:30pm), Gator Gar (10:30pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Trio (6pm), Milan Moorman Quartet (9pm)

GLOBE THEATRE JesseLee Jones & Brazibilly (7pm)

HOLE IN THE WALL Jim Campo, Ginny Thornton, Chase Dungan (9pm)

HOTEL VEGAS Broken Gold, William Harries Graham, the Let Down (10pm)

LITTLE LONGHORN Fingerpistol (7pm)  , Two-step dance lessons w/ Hill Country Two Step (7pm)

MOZART'S Amanda Bellitto Trio (10:30am)  , Sarah Price (2pm) 

SAGEBRUSH Hayden Butler (7pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT South ATX Serenaders (7pm), Linda Gail Lewis (9pm)

THE WHITE HORSE The Mellows, Libby & the Loveless, Missy Beth & the Morning Afters (8pm)

WEDNESDAY 12/24

ARMADILLO DEN Calloway & the Prickly Pears (7pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Violet Crown Revue (6pm), Jon Blondell & the Jazz Orphans (9pm)

GERALDINE'S Trevor Helt (8pm)

MOZART'S Nate Gelabert (2pm) 

SAGEBRUSH T-Bo Trio (8pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Libby & the Loveless (8pm), Guthrie Girls (10pm)

SPEAKEASY The Spazmatics (9:30pm)

THE WHITE HORSE Jake Penrod & Friends (8pm)

THURSDAY 12/25

CONTINENTAL CLUB Dale Watson (10pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jolly Jammers (8pm)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Jimmie Dreams & Friends (10pm)

FRIDAY 12/26

THE ABGB Pettit Brothers (6pm) 

THE ALCOVE CANTINA Fusion (8:30pm)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Andrea Marie Duo (7pm)

ARMADILLO DEN Lonesome Dave Fisher (8pm)

AUSTIN PROPER HOTEL DJ Phil Ross (9pm)

BANGER'S Taylor Graves & the Tombstone Trio (7pm)

BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Rent Party (7:30pm) 

BODHI'S HIDEAWAY The San Angelos (7pm)

BROKEN SPOKE Pierson Saxon (6pm), the Wagoneers w/ Monte Warden (9pm)

BUCK'S BACKYARD Gunner Latham (8:30pm) 

C-BOY'S Suzanna Choffel (6:30pm), RestFest day one w/ Harvest Thieves, Restos, the Let Down (10pm)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Phillip Greer (6:30pm) 

THE CONCOURSE PROJECT Mike Posner (9pm) 

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30pm), Soulhat (10pm)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Emily Gimble (8:30pm), Josh Perdue (10:30pm)

COPPER SHOT DISTILLERY Josh Calvin & the Celestial Mirage (7pm)

CROW BAR Miss Guilty, Tan Mala, Calves (9pm)

ELEPHANT ROOM Shane Pitsch & the Dirty Six (6pm), Red Young Tenor Madness (9pm)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Jamaica hurricane relief benefit w/ DJ Mista B, Likkle Fox, more (9pm) 

GERALDINE'S Alyssa Longoria Band (9:30pm)

GUERO'S Major Gold (6pm) 

IRON WOLF RANCH Tylor Brandon (2pm) 

LITTLE LONGHORN Teddy Ryan Band (6pm), Texas Tycoons (9pm)

THE LOADING DOCK Brett Johnson (10pm)

MOZART'S Jazablanca (10:30am)  , Anthony Caulkins (2pm) 

SAGEBRUSH Jake Penrod, Lucas Hudgins (8pm)

THE WHITE HORSE Darren Hoff (5:30pm), the Texases, Jack Fister's Wildlife, JD Clark (8pm)

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REVIEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCCO'S

Rocco's Hopes to Become a Neighborhood Staple

FOOD

New North Loop Italian restaurant specializes in cozy pastas and retro vibes **BY TAYLOR TOBIN**

These days, it feels like every new restaurant wants to become a destination-worthy venue. Appealing to social media users and out-of-town tourists is an easy-to-understand priority when you consider today's rent prices and operational costs in general, but there's something refreshing and brave about a restaurant that wants to serve its own neighborhood above all else. Rocco's, an Italian joint recently launched in North Loop, ditches Resy table bookings and influencer marketing in favor of a locally driven, IYKYK service model with plenty of charm to spare.

Rocco's is the creation of chef Nicholas Ford, who came to Austin from the Northeast and started using his Italian American cooking skills as part of the McGuire Moorman Lambert restaurant empire (at Sammie's and Favorite Pizza, specifically). Ford clearly draws inspiration from cities like Brooklyn and Boston, where casual, family-style pasta restaurants using recipes developed by Italian

nonnas flourish. Anyone who's spent time in these cities – or Midwestern equivalents like Chicago – will recognize the dim lighting, the dark polished wood, the framed vintage photos on the walls, and the very relaxed energy. When I visited, I dined amongst groups of friends and colleagues, long-established couples on chill weeknight dates, and chatty local residents grabbing a solo bite at the bar. The community spirit buzzes through every aspect of this space, and it makes Rocco's a very pleasant place to spend an evening.

The restaurant is currently walk-in only, which can lead to some lengthy waits on Fridays and Saturdays. The bar features counter seating on a first-come, first-served basis, but because the area is pretty compact, groups larger than two may want to venture next door to the adorable Flourish Plant Shop & Wine Bar for a round of drinks before dinner. As far as the Rocco's beverage program goes, this is a beer-and-wine-only establishment,

and its selection leans – unsurprisingly – in an Italian direction with a focus on natural wines. A highlight of the beverage menu is the Texas Spaghett, a playful blend of light beer and Aperol that's bright and refreshing.

The Rocco's menu is tightly curated with very little room for filler. The kitchen will rotate specific dishes out on a seasonal basis, but the current offerings include five antipasto plates, two salads, five pastas, and a single dessert. If you're a diner prone to decision paralysis, this brief menu will make your life much, much easier. It also allows the kitchen to hyperfocus on their ingredients and preparation techniques, resulting in well-conceived dishes with impressive flavor balance.

The antipasti include Italian American staples like fried mozzarella, meatballs, and bleu cheese olives. The fried mozz is a fairly flawless bite for anyone who loves melty cheese (so ... everyone). The mozzarella spills out of the enormous breaded wedges after the first bite (be

careful about the temperature, as that cheese can be scalding), and the tangy marinara served alongside is a perfect counterpoint. Do not leave without ordering at least one dish of these.

I admit to having very high standards for meatballs, and I generally enjoyed the version at Rocco's. The texture could use a touch more moisture, but the addition of ricotta cheese and that wonderful marinara sauce help tremendously. But Rocco's makes the peculiar choice to sprinkle the meatballs with crunchy breadcrumbs, which emphasize the dryness.

Those breadcrumbs also show up on the menu's fantastic Caesar salad, and they're a more successful addition there. This salad is well-dressed in smooth and garlicky Caesar, the breadcrumbs do an excellent job of providing some welcome texture, and the nutty chunks of parmesan tucked throughout will never disappoint. The huge portion size encourages sharing, but Rocco's will happily scale down to a half-plate upon request.



But Rocco's is a pasta spot first and foremost, serving house-made noodles with both meat-based and vegetarian-friendly sauces. The pastas come to the table with a tender composition; they're certainly not overcooked, but if you really love an al dente bite, you may balk a bit at their softness. The snail-shaped lumache pasta dressed in a sauce of sweet corn, black garlic, chantrelle mushrooms, and crispy salumi stood out as a particularly satisfying dish. The savory mushrooms and the salty salumi play well off of each other; the corn adds some gentle sweetness; the lightness of the sauce lets the pasta shine through; and the big plume of grated parmesan on top mixes in nicely for an extra layer of salt and richness.

A surefire crowd-pleaser will definitely be the rigatoni with vodka sauce. The tube-shaped pasta holds its structure better than any of the other pasta shapes, and the tomato-heavy sauce boasts an almost creamy consistency with a nice undercurrent of spice. I could have done without the large volume of sliced onions spread throughout the sauce; a finer dice would allow for better integration, but I did enjoy the sprinkling of breadcrumbs over the top.

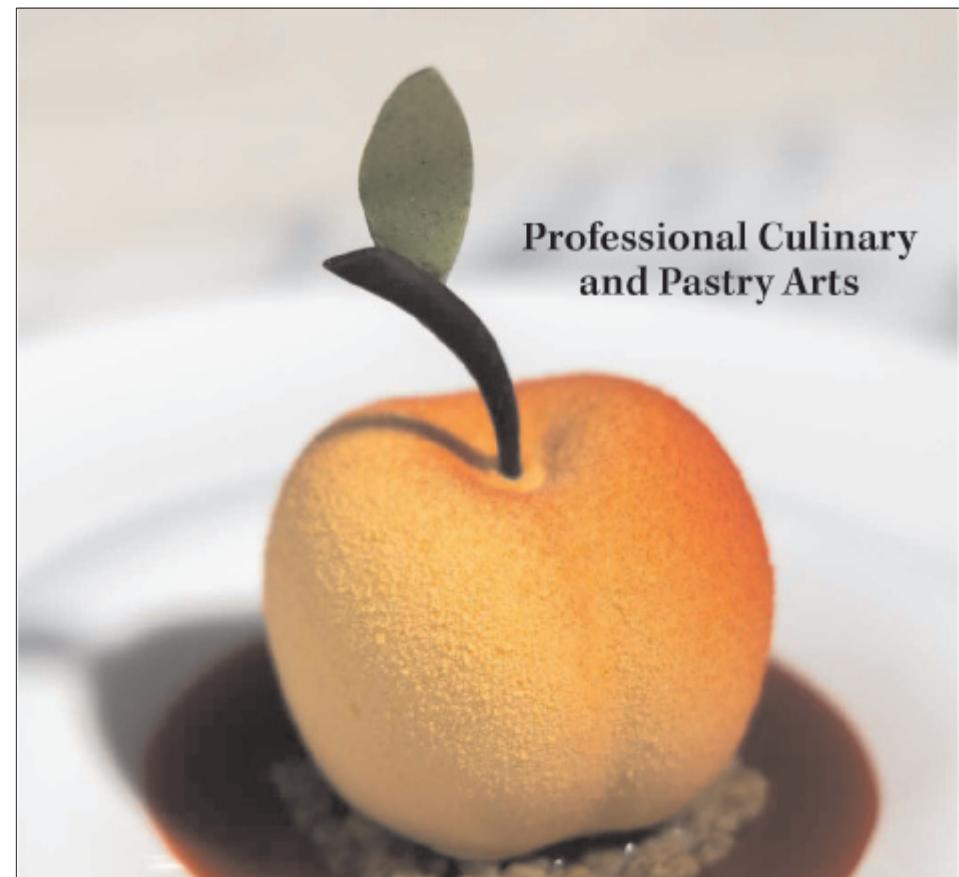
Meat eaters will likely gravitate to the casarecce, which is tossed in Rocco's signature Bolognese. Like the vodka sauce, the Bolognese features tomato as its primary flavor note; the meat seems almost incidental

by comparison. But the noodles themselves cling to the sauce perfectly. I highly recommend opting for the optional scarpetta add-on, which involves several slices of Sour Duck bread intended to swipe through the leftover sauce on your plate. The bread's tang matches up well with the Bolognese, and the hands-on nature of scarpetta drives home the comfortable, family-style vibes here.

Your only dessert option at Rocco's (at present) consists of a plate of very serviceable cannoli filled with smooth and mild mascarpone and rolled in chocolate chips and pistachios. These simple Italian American pastries hit a nostalgic chord for those of us who grew up in our nonna's kitchen helping her stir a giant pot of Sunday sauce while snacking on sweet treats from the local Italian bakery.

The Rocco's experience is comfy, uncomplicated, and very warm. I can't help but feel jealous of North Loopers who can walk over on a Monday night – because yes, they're open on Mondays – for a plate of pasta and a glass of wine, and I hope that those lucky locals will show it the love it deserves. ■

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COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Bigger, Hotter, Wetter, Longer

FILM

James Cameron's motion-capture eco epic is now a trilogy about families and messiahs **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

It's a running joke in certain more arch circles of cinema that no one can remember the name of the hero of the *Avatar* films. It's Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), but that never really mattered, since James Cameron was never really that interested in having some singular figure save the day. He's talked about these films being an intergenerational epic, and that becomes more obvious than ever with the opening of the third film in the series, *Avatar: Fire and Ash*. Sully's Na'vi son, Lo'ak (Britain Dalton), now narrates the story, because this is about more than one man.

A defining aspect of Cameron's work is that change is possible. Not just possible, but necessary. Even the Terminator can develop emotions, and in *Fire and Ash* Cameron makes the once inviolable lines between the humans of dying Earth and the Na'vi of alien world Pandora lacier than ever. First, there was the Avatar program that put crippled Marine Sully into the body of a Pandoran warrior. Then Dr. Grace Augustine's Avatar gave birth to a Na'vi child, Kiri (Sigourney Weaver in both parts), who is being raised by

Sully and Neytiri (Zoe Saldaña) as part of their extended family, alongside their own children, Lo'ak and Tuk (Trinity Jo-Li Bliss). But then there's orphan Spider (Jack Champion), the human teen who has rejected his pink and squishy terrestrial heritage.

Yet *Fire and Ash* – which is written by Cameron with Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, as was 2022's *Avatar: The Way of Water* – makes a major change in the war for Pandora's natural resources. It's already been established that there are many humans who oppose this ravaging, but now there are Na'vi who are quite happy to see it all burn down. The returning Avatar of the previously very dead Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang) has, as he would put it in his sneering colonialist tones, gone native and teamed up with the volcano-dwelling Mangkwan clan, led by the merciless Varang (Oona Chaplin). Of course, there's symmetry between Sully and Neytiri, and Quaritch and Varang as their shadow-selves, and while Lang brings a new moral conflict to the sadistic killer he's perfectly matched by Chaplin. Where Neytiri is catlike,

Chaplin writhes like a cobra ready to strike, and when Quaritch gives this pyromaniac a flamethrower, the world will burn.

Cameron's other big obsession, of course, is his terror and wonder at the military-industrial complex. No one films tools of war like Cameron, and no other mainstream filmmaker is quite as blunt about his raw hatred of untrammeled capitalism. Neither Edie Falco as base commander General Frances Ardmore nor Giovanni Ribisi returning as corporate stooge Parker Selfridge get much screen time, but they don't need it. Instead, they point to how Cameron tells stories and develops characters. He doesn't use archetypes but rather operates at Jung-meets-Barthes level, worldbuilding through raw totemic symbolism that bypasses logic and relies on emotional response. Nature good (if dangerous), ecosystem-wrecking industrialization bad. Obvious, yes, but it's not like it's any less true here than in the first film.

And just like the first film and *The Way of Water*, *Fire and Ash* is a technological marvel. The closing battle between the Na'vi and their wildlife allies, the flying banshees and the

whale-like Tulkun, and the corporate humans (including Brendan Cowell as the Ahab-esque Captain Mick Scoresby) will wreck your sense of distance from the screen, surrounding you in sea-spray and shrapnel.

Yet while *Fire and Ash* feels like it wraps up a trilogy, it also seems like a middle chapter. Emerging themes of rival messiahs, with Jake, Kiri, and Spider all wrapped up in fates and futures, planted in the earlier films still have to bear fruit. But if future films deliver similar spectacle and true, epic filmmaking, then this lengthy sequel can afford to be a prelude. ■

Avatar: Fire and Ash

DIRECTED BY JAMES CAMERON.
STARRING SAM WORTHINGTON, ZOE SALDAÑA, SIGOURNEY WEAVER, STEPHEN LANG, OONA CHAPLIN, BRITAIN DALTON, TRINITY JO-LI BLISS, JACK CHAMPION, GIOVANNI RIBISI, EDIE FALCO, DAVID THEWLIS, BRENDAN COWELL, KATE WINSLET. (PG-13, 195 MIN.)

★★★



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COURTESY OF NEON

A Pulp Fiction With Political Resonance

FILM

Kleber Mendonça Filho's thriller examines corruption and quiet resistance in 1977 Brazil

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

The title of writer-director Kleber Mendonça Filho's last film was *Pictures of Ghosts*, and his latest, *The Secret Agent*, opens with pictures of ghosts, too, of a sort. They are black & white photos of a bygone Brazil, pictures of 1970s-era merrymaking – drinking, singing, dancing. You'd never imagine these photos were taken in the midst of a military dictatorship, which is a point Mendonça Filho is making, without a whiff of hectoring – that life goes on, even under a corrupt and authoritarian regime. Indeed, as *The Secret Agent* makes plain over its nearly three hours, life *must* go on, especially under a corrupt and authoritarian regime. Any similarity to actual persons or current creeping authoritarian states dead or alive ... well, let's just say there's not *not* resonance there.

From there, *The Secret Agent* bursts from monochrome to dizzying color: blue sky, verdant green, and a bright yellow Beetle pulling into a rural gas station. There's a dead body in the dirt, tastefully covered over with cardboard. The Beetle's driver, Armando (Wagner Moura), notes the dead body – is unnerved by the dead body – but also, a guy's gotta get gas. A surprise encounter with the police, who've spied a chance to extort a motorist, reveals even more about

Armando: That he keeps his cool, stands his ground, knows how to bend (he'll hand over his pack of cigarettes) but not break (his wallet stays firmly in pocket).

We'll come to learn more about Armando, who is driving to his hometown of Recife under an assumed name, but Mendonça Filho takes his time teasing the mystery. Is he a secret agent? An undercover cop? A fugitive from the law – or what counts as the law in lawless times? In addition to the taciturn Armando, Mendonça Filho fills the frame with juicy, indelible characters – crooked cops, dirty bureaucrats, dissidents, hit men, and disgruntled academics – while his plot pulls in the kind of visceral kicks you might expect from a genre film: a body in a trunk, a rotten leg in a shark's belly.

A former film critic and programmer, Mendonça Filho and his team recall throwback genre cinema further in the editing choices and the way the camera moves – wipes, dissolves, and split-screens turn Armando's straightforward road trip into something exhilaratingly kinetic – but his background in film informs *The Secret Agent* in even more literal ways. Armando's decent but exhausted father-in-law Seu Alexandre (Carlos Francisco)

is a film projectionist at a movie palace (also the focus of documentary/film essay *Pictures of Ghosts*), where Recife audiences are going wild for *The Exorcist*; meanwhile Armando's young son Fernando (Enzo Nunes) is obsessed with seeing *Jaws*. Those film markers orient *The Secret Agent* in time, but there's also something fascinating bubbling under the main action – that tension in finding succor in fantastical stories when real life has plunged into stranger-than-fiction territory. An exchange between grandfather and grandson over whether or not he's old enough to watch *Jaws* spells it out. "You'll have nightmares," Seu Alexandre warns. Fernando's reply: "I already have nightmares, Grandpa."

The underlying dread powering *The Secret Agent* could give the viewer nightmares, too, which makes the pure adrenaline pleasure of the piece feel a little subversive. The period detail is a marvel, the era's music (largely Brazilian with some American pop dropping in) a most excellent groove, and the cast a top-to-bottom wowzer of interesting faces and eclectic bodies. (Tânia Maria's 76-year-old chain-smoking landlady might be my favorite character of the year.) Anchoring all the wild plot machinations and shocking,

ALSO OPENING

David (PG, 112 min.)

Animated musical from faith-based distributor Angel Studios tells the story of David; we're guessing Goliath makes an appearance, too.

The Housemaid (R, 132 min.)

Based on Freida McFadden's bestseller, this psychological thriller pairs Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried as live-in help and affluent employer – both with secrets to keep.

Is This Thing On? (R, 124 min.)

A fledgling comic (Will Arnett) and his wife (Laura Dern) are consciously uncoupling in Bradley Cooper's latest directorial effort. 

The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG, 88 min.)

SpongeBob hits the high seas with a ghost pirate, unaware he's being used to lift the dead man's curse. Shiver his sweet, dim timbers.

Scan here to find showtimes and more reviews online

 INDICATES WE HAVE A FULL-LENGTH REVIEW



garish violence is Wagner Moura's focused and forceful lead performance. Already well-established in Brazil and getting better known stateside for his roles in *Narcos* and *Civil War*, there's no way Moura doesn't emerge from this a major international star. He won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival – where Mendonça Filho and the overall film also picked up prizes – and it seems foregone they'll eventually land at the Oscars. I imagine they'll be in good company there, next to a simpatico picture, *One Battle After Another* – another thrilling entertainment with dead-serious things to say. ■

The Secret Agent

DIRECTED BY KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO, STARRING WAGNER MOURA, CARLOS FRANCISCO, GABRIEL LEONE, RONEY VILLELA, ROBERIO DIÓGENES, MARIA FERNANDA CÂNDIDO, ALICE CARVALHO, HERMILLA GUEDES, LUCIANO CHIROLI, UDO KIER.

(R, 158 MIN.)
★★★★★



NEED A LITTLE EXTRA WRAPPING PAPER? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.



A Tale of Two Tunas

Texas mainstay gets double exposure this holiday season **BY CAT MCCARREY**

Howdy y'all. I'm Cat McCarrey, and I'm a Tuna virgin.

My lack of experience with the fictional "third smallest town in Texas" could be generational or regional. Either way, the four-play sagas of that tiny town, written in the Eighties and Nineties by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard, were complete unknowns until my own Texas residency. Even then, it had an air of "you had to be there," the play. And while I'm sure it hits deeper for those who grew up in that sort of close-knit community, the loving send-up of country kooks can resonate with anyone.

When I learned of not one, but two different companies putting on the tale of Tuna's trial-ridden Christmas Eve, I knew what I had to do: fully immerse myself in unexplored territory. So welcome to the fruits of my two-Tuna weekend.

THE CAST

With only two actors per play, it's easy to compare the skills of each company. Luckily, with roughly 10 characters per player, there's plenty to consider. On the City Theatre side, we've got Scot Friedman and Rick Smith donning the wigs of Tuna denizens under Andy Berkovsky's direction. Friedman adds soft sensitivity to each of his characters, particularly the town thug Stanley Bumiller, who comes across so appealingly hangdog that it's hard to believe he's spent years as the bad seed. Smith fills the good ol' boy personality of bed-wetting

sheriffs and UFO-spotting drunkards with John Goodman-style charm, while channeling just enough heartbreak as put-upon housewife Bertha Bumiller to add emotional weight to the story. Both do well, especially when embodying the many cross-dressing roles with Monty Python-esque glee.

Penfold Theatre's casting has more lore to it. When they originally announced their *Tuna*, it was under the helm of director Kate Meehan with the twist of two women – Taylor Flanagan and Liz Zimmerman – as the cast. That creative team dropped out near the end of November, after certain script changes they were hoping to make were denied by Williams. On November 25, Penfold announced a new cast of Kirk Kelso and Will Mercer, directed by the original *Tuna*'s longtime stage manager Robert Tolaro. Of course all three have dwelt in Tuna before, and their experience radiates from the stage.

These are performances Kelso and Mercer could deliver in their sleep. That's made clear from their obviously differentiated voice choices, from their ease at character quick changes, from their expert delivery of each punch line, optimally hit for maximum audience chuckles. Kelso knows exactly how to differentiate between his feline portrayal of chainsmoking weapons dealer Didi Snavely and the cowboy nature of radio personality Arles Struvie. Mercer goes between giddy waitress Inita Goodwin and queer-coded Joe

Bob Lipsey with the slightest curve of the spine. They've been there, done that, and are doing it for Penfold.

The winner? Penfold squeaks ahead by a nose.

THE COSTUMING

A good half of the joy in *Tuna Christmas* comes from the rapid-fire outfit changes as the two actors morph between characters. It's a kick watching the same person play all three Bumiller children in a single 10-minute scene, or enjoying the handy hilarity of two Tastee Kreme waitresses and multiple diner patrons cleverly moving on- and offstage. Both productions used robes and slippers and hats to great effect. At Penfold, Pam Friday's festive costumes kept the Christmas spirit, topped by Christina Little-Manley's wonderful wig-work. Little-Manley also did the wigs and costumes for City Theatre, adding a dash more dresses to the feminine character lineup. It all came down to Bertha's homemaker dress and Didi's electrified fright wig, both of which worked slightly better at City Theatre.

The winner? City Theatre, by a wig hair.

THE DIRECTION

There's only so much that can be done with the minimal presentation of a play like this. It's mostly told with plenty of pantomime, against a bare-ish backdrop filled with a single

table and two chairs, and with a script that's essentially quippy conversations. There's not a ton of fights or chases, is what I'm saying here. It's two actors talking. Even the actions are small: running to the phone or peering out the window, gesturing a sip of coffee or snarfing breakfast buns. Honestly, the two productions are mostly identical in movement. The most variation comes down to the sides of the stage, sometimes functioning as mirror images. Waitresses talk on stage left versus stage right. Pearl sits on different sides of the table. Basically, they're both following those stage directions to the letter.

The winner? A tie. It's like picking your favorite fingernail. Maybe there's a snag here or there, but they're basically the same.

THE VERDICT

Are you city north or suburb north? Because travel time – to Penfold in Round Rock, or City Theatre in Cherrywood – should probably be the biggest factor in which Tuna tickles your fancy. If you're the Tuna type, either show should satisfy. ■

A Tuna Christmas

PENFOLD THEATRE (THROUGH DEC. 28)
CITY THEATRE (THROUGH DEC. 21)



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Texas Materials Group, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the amendment of Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 90532, which would authorize modification of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 2412 Picadilly Drive, Round Rock, Travis County, Texas 78664. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

FUN + GAMES

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puzzles

Sounds the same

Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 924

Across

1. Whip marks
6. Independent candidate Ralph
11. Smartphone buy
14. Electronic game pioneer
15. Snapshot
16. "___ sport"
17. Reassuring words
19. Dust remover
20. Pointless
21. Spanish uncle
22. Fill beyond full
23. Strong cleaners
25. Canadian gas brand
27. Mama ___ of the Mamas and the Papas
30. Radio settings
32. 747, e.g.
36. Bush spokesman

Fleischer
 37. "Othello" villain
 39. Add spice to
 40. Parting words
 43. Most October
 babies
 44. Gives a hand
 45. "_____
 Rosenkavalier"
 46. Tangle
 47. Building add-on
 48. Dynamic
 beginning
 49. Airline to Israel
 51. Cabinet dept.
 54. The ____ of Avon
 57. Tie the knot
 59. What's left
 behind
 63. "I'll take that as

 64. Third baseman
 for the Mets
 66. Mil. titles

67. 2000 comedy "My, Myself & "	9. Cultural values	41. Guessed wrong
68. Doubleday, ____ (old publishing house)	10. Decompose	42. Mosaic piece
69. Mayo, e.g.	11. Start of a magician's cry	47. Nearing midnight
70. Wilder and Hackman	12. ____ moss	48. Director's cry
71. "West Side Story" girl	13. Newspaper unit	50. Cognizant
Down	18. Filmmaker Spike	52. Drops on blades
1. Homeless child	22. Kind of panel	53. F.D.A. guideline
2. "____, Brute!"	24. Herb in stuffing	54. It's soothing
3. Endure	26. Gushes	55. Get the pot
4. Hiker's paths	27. Olympic track gold medalist Lewis et al.	56. One of the friends on "Friends"
5. Nonsensical	28. "The results ____!"	58. Eat
6. "Morning Edition" airer	29. "The Lion King" lion	60. Prefix with culture
7. Take ____ (suffer loss)	31. Fable's end	61. "Take ____!"
8. Plains orphans	33. "All kidding ____..."	62. European erupter
	34. Observant one	64. Archaeological site
	35. Another 69-across	65. ____ Plaines, Ill.
	37. "____ ears!"	
	38. Tummy muscles	
	39. Landscaper's need	

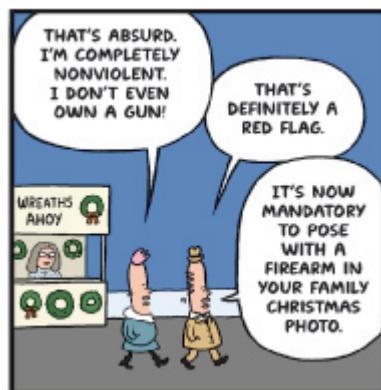
ЕЩЕ ВЕДЬМОК

by Sam Hunt



Hanks, Kent Hale 12-10-2005

JEN SORENSEN



How'd you do? See this week's puzzle solution here:

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The Luv Doc

Dear Luv Doc,

My boyfriend and I have been together since college (three years). When I met him, I was crazy about him. He was attractive, funny, he had ambitions, our values aligned. Over the last few years, I have come to realize that the compatibility I thought I saw in him was something that I had made up in my own mind. Here's an example: He talks all the time about getting a better job and trying to make more money, but he never does anything to make it happen. He has never even asked for a promotion. I thought we shared the same liberal values, but after spending time with him and some of his Trumpy co-workers, I'm not so sure anymore. In addition, there is almost no romance in our relationship. We have sex maybe once a month. It's not that I don't try, but he is never in the mood. At this point, there is really no spark in our relationship. I don't get excited to see him anymore, and he doesn't seem very excited to see me either. It's like we are just going through the motions. I know the holidays are coming up, but I think the time has come to move on, but I do still have feelings for him, so I don't want him to get hurt, but I also don't want to spend weeks or months pretending we can revive something that's already dead. How can I break up cleanly without hurting him? — Season of Sadness



"Season of Sadness"

What a way to kick off the holidays! "Hey hun, I've been thinking that you and I should go apartment shopping ... separately. I know you're sad but think of how much you'll save on Christmas gifts!" Seriously though, I don't want to make you feel worse than you already do — certainly not during the Holidays! In fact, good on you for recognizing it's time for a change, regardless of how deep we are into the calendar year. I get your reluctance. Sure, 2025 had its bright spots, but I think everyone not directly benefiting from the president's crime spree can universally agree that it's been an absolute dumpster fire of a year. In less than 11 months we've gone from debating whether Sleepy Joe was complicit to whether or not firing additional missiles at missile strike survivors constitutes a "war crime." Just for the record, if anyone is still unclear on the morality bit: No, it's not a war crime. America is not at war. It's a fucking *crime* crime — as in first-degree murder. Actually, given the fact that the Trump administration has carried out at least a dozen of these strikes resulting in the deaths of 87 people, I think we can safely call them serial murders. And here we were all worried that President Piggy was a pedo.

America just straight-up murdered 87 people. There's no gray area here. There's no "yeah, but"s. It's just murder — sanctioned and planned by the highest level of our government. What next? Ideally impeachment proceedings and jail time. Otherwise we're just a presidential temper tantrum away from real journalists getting diced up and hauled away in trash bags. *Put down your hand, Tom Homan.* The parade of butt-sucking sycophants that make up the majority of the Pentagon press pool is already a clear indication the Trump administration is up to some nefarious shit they don't want Americans to know about, but here's the deal: *We do know they are fucking murderers. We have it on film.* What more do we need to see? Seriously. Are there Republicans out there thinking, "Well, let's just wait until we can get some high-def video of Trump molesting a child. That would do it! That would give me the courage to change my mind!" Y'all. Come the fuck on. Santa doesn't have enough coal to reward this level of spinelessness.

So I get your procrastination, Season of Sadness. Breaking up with someone anytime in 2025 seems like piling on, but we're running out of year, which brings us back to your question: How can you break it off cleanly without hurting him? You can't. People with strong feelings feel strongly. It's going to hurt. He might even hate you, but if you're completely honest and vulnerable yourself, and if you own your part in this parting, he probably won't hate you forever — just during the holidays. Again, I applaud your willingness to recognize things aren't going well and taking appropriate action. Hopefully America will follow your lead.

Need some advice from the Luv Doc? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

Actress Cheryl Hines (wife of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.) broke out in hives after meeting Donald Trump.

One way to stay cooler at night: Put some socks in the fridge and wear them to bed because cooling your feet can lower your body's temperature.

"Fly tipping" is British slang for illegally dumping rubbish. The term first appeared in the 1940s and usually involves more waste than just littering. However, Roy Marsh, 86, of Skegness, Lincolnshire, was recently fined £250 because the wind blew a leaf in his mouth and he spit it out.

Seltzer first referred only to naturally carbonated mineral water from the German town of Niederselters.

The late accordionist Flaco Jiménez (1939-2025), born Leonardo Jiménez, was nicknamed "Flaco," which means "Skinny." His father, Santiago Jiménez Sr., was also nicknamed "Flaco."

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 mrspants@austinchronicle.com.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

DEC. 19
-DEC. 25

by Rob Brezsny

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to legend, the genius composer Mozart heard entire symphonies in his imagination before he wrote down any notes. That's a slight exaggeration. The full truth is that he often worked hard and made revisions. His inspiration was enhanced by effort and craft. However, it's also true that Mozart wrote at least five masterful works in rapid succession, sometimes with remarkably few corrections on the manuscript. They included his last three symphonies (Nos. 39, 40, and 41). I predict you will have a Mozart-like aptitude in the coming months: the ability to perceive whole patterns before the pieces align. Trust your big visions!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In Greek mythology, Proteus was a sea god famed for his ability to change his shape endlessly to evade capture. But now and then, a persistent hero was able to hold on to Proteus through all his transformations, whether he became a lion, serpent, tree, or flame. Then the god would bestow the gift of prophecy on the successful daredevil. I suspect that in the coming months, you will have an exceptional power to snag and grasp Proteus-like things, Capricorn. As a result, you could claim help and revelations that seem almost magical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In Florence, Italy, the Accademia Gallery houses several of Michelangelo's sculptures that depict human figures partially emerging from rough blocks of marble. They seem to be caught in the process of birth or liberation. These works showcase the technique Michelangelo called *non-finito* (unfinished), in which the forms appear to struggle to escape from the stone. In the coming months, Aquarius, I foresee you undergoing a passage that initially resembles these figures. The good news is that unlike Michelangelo's eternally trapped characters, you will eventually break free.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): To prepare you for 2026, I've gathered three quotes that address your most pressing need and urgent mandate. I recommend you tape this horoscope to your bathroom mirror. 1) "We cannot live in a world interpreted for us by others. An interpreted world is not a hope. Part of the terror is to take back our listening, to use our own voice, to see our own light." — author Elaine Bellezza. 2) "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." — Ralph Waldo Emerson. 3) "The ability to tell your own story, in words or images, is already a victory, already a revolt." — Rebecca Solnit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Nine hundred years ago, Sufi philosopher Al-Ghazali provided rigorous advice that's not very popular these days. "To understand the stars," he said, "one must polish the mirror of the soul." Here's my interpretation: To fathom the truth about reality, you must be a strong character who treasures clarity and integrity. It's highly unlikely you can gather a profound grasp of how life works if your inner depths are a mess. Conversely, your capacity to comprehend the Great Mystery increases as you work on purifying and strengthening your character. Everything I just said is good advice for all of us all the time, but it will be especially potent and poignant for you in the coming months.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The sound of a whip cracking is a small sonic boom. The tip breaks the sound barrier, creating that distinctive snap. In my astrological reckoning, Taurus, life has provided you with the equivalent of a whip. During the coming months, you will have access to a simple asset that can create breakthrough force when wielded with precision and good timing. I'm not referring to aggression or violence. Your secret superpower will be understanding how to use small treasures that can generate disproportionate impacts. What's your whip?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Some Japanese potters practice *yohen tenmoku*. It's a technique used to create a rare type of tea bowl with shifting, starlike iridescence on deep, dark glaze. The sublime effect results from a process that's unusually demanding, highly unpredictable, and hard to control. Legend says that only one in a thousand bowls achieves the intended iridescence. The rest, according to the masters, are "lessons in humility." I believe you can flourish by adopting this experimental mindset in the coming months. Treat your creative experiments as offerings to the unknown, as sources of wonder whether or not your efforts yield stellar results. Be bold in trying new techniques and gentle in self-judgment. Delight in your apprenticeship to mystery. Some apparent "failures" may bring useful novelty.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A fair-weather cumulus cloud typically weighs over a million pounds and yet floats effortlessly. Let's make that one of your prime power symbols for 2026, Cancer. It signifies that you will harbor an immense emotional cargo that's suspended with grace. You will carry complex truths, layered desires, and lyrical ambitions, but you will manage it all with aplomb and even delight. For best results, don't overdramatize the heaviness; appreciate and marvel at the buoyancy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Every 11 years, the sun reverses its magnetic polarity. North becomes south, and south becomes north. The last switch was completed earlier this year. Let's use this natural phenomenon as your metaphorical omen for the coming months, Leo. Imagine that a kind of magnetic reversal will transpire in your psyche. Your inner poles will flip position. As the intriguing process unfolds, you may be surprised at how many new ideas and feelings come rumbling into your imagination. Rather than resist the cosmic acrobatics, I advise you to welcome and collaborate with them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The sculptor Louise Bourgeois was asked why she worked so often with the image of the spider. She said it was a tribute to her mother, who was deliberate, clever, patient, soothing, helpful, and useful — just like a spider. In the coming months, I invite you to embody her vision of the spider. You will have the wherewithal to weave hardy networks that could support you for years to come. Be creative and thoughtful as you craft your network of care. Your precision will be a form of devotion. Every strand, even fragile ones, will enhance your long-term resilience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Researchers studying music theory know that dissonance — sounds that feel "wrong" or create tension — is in part culturally determined. Indonesia's gamelan music and Arabic maqam scales are beautiful to audiences that have learned to appreciate them. But they might seem off-kilter to Westerners accustomed to music filled with major thirds and triads. Let's use this as our starting point as we contemplate your future in 2026, Libra. Life may disrupt your assumptions about what constitutes balance and harmony. You will be invited to consider the possibility that what seems like discord from one perspective is attractive and valuable from another. My advice: Open your mind to other ways of evaluating what's meaningful and attractive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the Sonoran Desert of the southwestern United States, Arizona bark scorpions are hard to see at night. Scientists who want to study them can find them only by searching with flashlights that emit ultraviolet light. This causes the scorpions' exoskeletons to fluoresce and glow a distinct blue-green or turquoise color, making them highly visible. Let's use this scenario as a metaphor for you. In the coming months, you may reveal your best brilliance under uncommon conditions. Circumstances that seem unusual or challenging will highlight your true beauty and power. What feels extreme may be a good teacher and helper. I urge you to trust that the right people will recognize your unique beauty.

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

Commission for a wine & malt beverage retail dealer's on-premise permit by Jo's Coffee Ventures, LLC dba Jo's Coffee located 221 W 6th Street, Suite 140, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78701. William Gernstein and Gregory Marchbanks – managers.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a wine & malt beverage retail dealer's on-premise permit by ThoroughFare Aldrich, LLC dba ThoroughFare located 1905 Aldrich St, Suite 110, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78723. Nicholas Vukmarovich and Ryan Goebel – managers.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit by EJS CATERING ENTERPRISE LLC dba EJ's Hot Pot & Sushi, located at 10515 N Mopac Expy A150, Austin, Travis, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Hongdong Wang, manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On Premise permit by University IL Group Concession Management LLC, D/B/A Watermere Round Rock to be located at 725 University Blvd. Ste 200, Round Rock, Williamson County, TX 78665 Richard Simmons is the sole Manager/Member of said entity.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by Premier Business Investment, Inc. DBA Apple Mart to be located at 2101 Wickersham Ln., Ste: A, Austin, Travis Co., Texas. Officers of said corporation are Parvez Badarpura – Sec, Nasruddin Mahesania - Pres

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-25-001583 IN THE ESTATE OF GLEN D. WEISE, DECEASED PROBATE COURT NO. 1 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original letters of administration upon the Estate of the above-named decedent were issued to Jennifer Weise Newton aka Jennifer Weise Woodard nka Jennifer Ann Woodard whose residence is in Austin, Texas, on the 9th day of December 2025, in the proceeding indicated above, which is still pending. All persons having claims against the Estate being administered are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law. Address claims to: Estate of Glen D. Weise c/o J. Baird Smith PLLC 8310 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Suite 400 Austin, Texas 78731 Dated this 10th day of December, 2025. NAMAN, HOWELL, SMITH & LEE, PLLC By: J. Baird Smith

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS - CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-25-006883 - To: TANNER CLINE, Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the December 22, 2025, and answer the PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 459th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 21, 2025, 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." Said suit being number D-1-GN-25-006883, in which MARY ANN SAWYERS Plaintiff(s), vs. TANNER CLINE ; RANDALL MILSTEAD Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 24, 2023, PLAINTIFF WAS TRAVELING SOUTH-BOUND ON HAMILTON POOL DRIVE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS. WHILE PLAINTIFF WAS STOPPED, DEFENDANT CLINE FAILED TO CONTROL HIS SPEED AND CRASHED INTO THE REAR OF PLAINTIFF'S VEHICLE. AS A DIRECT AND PROXIMATE RESULT OF THE COLLISION, PLAINTIFF

SUFFERED PERSONAL INJURIES AND RESULTING DAMAGES IN AN AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED AT TRIAL, ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM: PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 05, 2025. - By: Rosa Oneal

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-15-004437 AMY LYNN RAMIREZ ANYWHERE SHE MAY BE FOUND and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s): GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org." YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 419TH DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Civil Family Court Facility of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PETITION TO MODIFY PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, filed by MARCO CASTELLANO RAMIREZ filed in said court of Travis County, on JULY 28, 2025, against, AMY LYNN RAMIREZ and suit being number D-1-FM-15-004437 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF M.C.R., A CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to PETITION TO MODIFY PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right. The date and place of birth of the child (children) who is (are) the subject of the suit: MARILYN CASTELLANOS RAMIREZ D.O.B. 10/10/2014 The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 03, 2025.

REQUESTED BY: HENRY, ELISSA IANA 1000 Heritage Circle Round Rock, TX 78664 Velva L. Price Travis County District Clerk Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF) 1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, TX 78701 Rosa Oneal, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-24-004035 To: STEVIE RENAE HINO-JOSA Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the January 26, 2026, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 459th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 05, 2025, 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." Said suit being number D-1-GN-24-004035, in which SHERI KAY WHITE Plaintiff(s), vs.

TONI MARIE SEGOVIA; JANE DOE Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: THIS IS

FIRST AMENDED PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 459th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 05, 2025, 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."

Said suit being number D-1-GN-24-004035, in which SHERI KAY WHITE Plaintiff(s), vs.

TONI MARIE SEGOVIA; JANE DOE Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: THIS IS A PERSONAL-INJURY LAWSUIT ARISING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION THAT OCCURRED ON APRIL 29, 2023, IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS. PLAINTIFF SHERI KAY WHITE ALLEGES THAT DEFENDANTS, ALL MINORS AT THE TIME, NEGLIGENTLY OPERATED A VEHICLE THAT STRUCK PLAINTIFF'S VEHICLE, CAUSING SIGNIFICANT INJURIES. PLAINTIFF FURTHER ALLEGES THAT THE MINORS FLED THE SCENE AND ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE EVIDENCE, AND THAT DEFENDANT TONI MARIE SEGOVIA NEGLIGENTLY ENTRUSTED THE VEHICLE TO THE MINORS. PLAINTIFF ALSO ASSERTS PARENTAL LIABILITY CLAIMS AGAINST THE MINORS' PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM: PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 03, 2025.

REQUESTED BY: HENRY, ELISSA IANA 1000 Heritage Circle Round Rock, TX 78664 Velva L. Price Travis County District Clerk Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF) 1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, TX 78701 Rosa Oneal, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-24-00550 HERITAGE LANDSCAPING GROUP D/B/A TEXAS POOL SUPPLY, PLAINTIFF(S) vs. MARIANO GARCIA VILALOBOS; MARIANO GARCIA VILLALOBOS D/B/A MARIANO GARCIA PLUMBING, DEFENDANT(S) TO: MARIANO GARCIA VILALOBOS D/B/A MARIANO GARCIA PLUMBING 119 LA COLINA DRIVE DEL VALLE TX 78617

Defendant, in the above styled and numbered cause: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. 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."

Attached is a copy of the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION in the above styled and numbered cause, which was filed on

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 in the 455TH DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Austin, Texas. ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at office, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

REQUESTED BY: ANTHONY FRED CICCONE 1101 S CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY BLDG 6 STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78746 Velva L. Price Travis County District Clerk Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF) 1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, TX 78701 Stefany Vega Juarez, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-24-007550 HERITAGE LANDSCAPING GROUP D/B/A TEXAS POOL SUPPLY, PLAINTIFF(S) vs.

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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."

Attached is a copy of the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION in the above styled and numbered cause, which was filed on

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 in the 455TH DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Austin, Texas. ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at office, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

REQUESTED BY: ANTHONY FRED CICCONE 1101 S CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY BLDG 6 STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78746 Velva L. Price Travis County District Clerk Civil Family Court Facility (CFCF) 1700 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, TX 78701 Stefany Vega Juarez, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-24-007550 HERITAGE LANDSCAPING GROUP D/B/A TEXAS POOL SUPPLY, PLAINTIFF(S) vs.

MARIANO GARCIA VILALOBOS; MARIANO GARCIA VILLALOBOS D/B/A MARIANO GARCIA PLUMBING, DEFENDANT(S) TO: MARIANO GARCIA VILALOBOS 119 LA COLINA DRIVE DEL VALLE TX 78617

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Consolidated Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit and Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision

Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants Proposed Registration No. 116698

Application. Texas Materials Group, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the amendment of Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 116698, which would authorize modification of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 8900 Ramirez Lane, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78742. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper?marker=-97.65222,30.24722&level=13>. The proposed facility will emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on September 26, 2025. The executive director has completed the administrative and technical reviews of the application and determined that the application meets all of the requirements of a standard permit authorized by 30 TAC § 116.611, which would establish the conditions under which the plant must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the registration because it meets all applicable rules. The application, executive director's preliminary decision, and standard permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Austin regional office, and at the Austin Public Library – Southeast Branch, 5803 Nuckles Crossing Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas, 78744, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Austin Regional Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building A, Room 179, Austin, Texas. Visit www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp to review the standard permit. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>.

Public Comment/Public Meeting. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting. See Contacts section. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments or meeting requests is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. If a public meeting is held, the deadline to submit public comments is extended to the end of the public meeting.

Contested Case Hearing. You may request a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 30 days from this notice, the executive director may approve the application.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. To request a hearing, a person must actually reside in a permanent residence within 440 yards of the proposed plant. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and registration number; (3) the statement "I/we request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must be identified. You may submit your proposed adjustments to the application which would satisfy your concerns. See Contacts section.

TCEQ Action. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The executive director's decision on the application, and any response to comments, will be mailed to all persons on the mailing list. If no timely contested case hearing requests are received, or if all hearing requests are withdrawn, the executive director may issue final approval of the application. If all timely hearing requests are not withdrawn, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

Mailing List. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information on this specific application. See Contacts section.

Information Available Online. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID) at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the link, enter the registration number at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

Further information may also be obtained from Texas Materials Group, Inc., 1320 Arrow Point Drive, Suite 600, Cedar Park, TX 78613-2189 or by calling Ms. Melissa Fitts, Senior Vice President, Westward Environmental, Inc. at (830) 249-8284.

Notice Issuance Date: December 3, 2025

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Consolidated Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit and Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision

Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants Proposed Registration No. 90532

Application. Texas Materials Group, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the amendment of Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 90532, which would authorize the modification of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 2412 Picadilly Drive, Round Rock, Travis County, Texas 78664. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper?marker=-97.667533,30.469894&level=13>. The proposed facility will emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on September 26, 2025. The executive director has completed the administrative and technical reviews of the application and determined that the application meets all of the requirements of a standard permit authorized by 30 TAC § 116.611, which would establish the conditions under which the plant must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the registration because it meets all applicable rules. The application, executive director's preliminary decision, and standard permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Austin regional office, and at the Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 Pfluger Street West, Pflugerville, Travis County, Texas 78660, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Austin Regional Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building A, Room 179, Austin, Texas. Visit www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp to review the standard permit. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>.

Public Comment/Public Meeting. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting. See Contacts section. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments or meeting requests is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

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TCEQ Action. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The executive director's decision on the application, and any response to comments, will be mailed to all persons on the mailing list. If no timely contested case hearing requests are received, or if all hearing requests are withdrawn, the executive director may issue final approval of the application. If all timely hearing requests are not withdrawn, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

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AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

Further information may also be obtained from Texas Materials Group, Inc., 1320 Arrow Point Drive, Suite 600, Cedar Park, TX 78613-2189 or by calling Ms. Melissa Fitts, Senior Vice President, Westward Environmental, Inc. at (830) 249-8284.

Notice Issuance Date: December 4, 2025

NOT FADE AWAY

OBITUARIES + MEMORIALS



JAMES ALAN GARDNER 1947-2025

Dr. James Alan Gardner (Jim), 78, of Leander, Texas, passed away on December 5th, 2025, surrounded by his family after a lengthy battle with melanoma.

Jim was born on March 14, 1947 in Terre Haute, Indiana, the son of Donald Gardner and Thelma (Powell) Gardner. He graduated from Terre Haute High School in 1965, then went on to the Indiana University, earning a bachelor's degree in Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1970. At North Carolina State University, he got a Master of Science in Human Factors Engineering in 1972. He continued his education at North Carolina State University and earned his PhD in Human Factors Engineering in 1974.

On March 17, 1984, Jim married the love of his life Greta (Gregorio) Gardner in West Covina, California. They were married for 41 years and raised a blended family of four children together; moving from California to New Jersey and then to Texas. He worked for multiple companies including Honeywell, Developmental Sciences Corporation, Allied Signal, Kearfott Guidance and Navigation, and Zebra Imaging. At Honeywell he was Marketing Manager and Manager of Advanced Training Systems Marketing. At Developmental Sciences Corp, he was Vice President of Business Development and

Programs. At Allied Signal, he was Vice President of International Business Development. At Kearfott, he was Corporate Vice President of Business Development and Management. Zebra Imaging was the Vice President of Marketing for Government Programs. He retired in February of 2013.

Throughout his life, Jim enthusiastically pursued a wide variety of hobbies. He was an avid coin collector, stamp collector, and in most recent years, he took up screenwriting. He always enjoyed going to the movies and in his younger years he enjoyed radio broadcasting, hiking, and spelunking. He also enjoyed the live country music that pervades the Austin area.

Jim was a man of strong faith and from 2001-2004 Jim was an Elder at Sparta Evangelical Free Church in Sparta, NJ. After moving to Austin, TX, he was a regular attender of Grace Covenant Church until 2013. Although they moved further north of Austin, they would still consider Grace Covenant Church their church home and would try to attend regularly.

Jim will be remembered for his sense of humor, kindness, generosity, and joy. He never met a stranger and instantly welcomed everyone into his life and his home. He cared deeply for his family and friends and had many lifelong and deep friendships.

Jim is survived by his wife Greta; children, Jackie (Michael) McKindley, Andy Gardner, Keith (Lisa) Gardner, and Eric Gardner; grandchildren, Taylor and Brandon McKindley, Levi, Charis, and Ezra Gardner, and Grayson and Evelyn Gardner and their brother Brandon Cotton; brother Fred Gardner; nephew and niece, Frank and Serena Gardner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Gardner, Thelma (Powell) Gardner/Hinkle; Russell Hinkle; and Sister-in-law Petronella (Ruckel) Gardner.

A Memorial Service will be held at Yetter Hall, VFW Post 10427, on Saturday, December 27 from 1-3PM. Please feel free to join us in celebrating Jim anytime during the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to James P. Allison Institute at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Not Fade Away is *The Austin Chronicle's* section for obituaries, memorials, and notices of death. For information on rates, rules and deadlines, please contact 512-302-2737.

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTINUED

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS - GARAGE KEEPER: ATX TOWING 0659425VSF, 827 W FM 1626 UNIT A, AUSTIN, TX 78748 - 2nd Notice 2004 CHEVROLET AVEO, Color: SILVER, VIN K11TJ62684B213536, LICENSE PLATE FJ34214 UT, TOWED FROM 8015 Burleson Rd Austin, TX 78744 on November 20, 2025, CALL - 512-400-8655 FOR MORE INFO.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS - GARAGE KEEPER: ATX TOWING 0659425VSF, 827 W FM 1626 UNIT A, AUSTIN, TX 78748 - 2nd Notice 2010 Chevrolet Malibu, Color: Black, VIN 1G1ZC5EB9A4149886, LICENSE PLATE KNU6214 UT, TOWED FROM 3507 Chapman Ln Austin, TX 78744 on November 15, 2025, CALL - 512-400-8655 FOR MORE INFO.

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PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE: IF THE VEHICLE IS NOT CLAIMED 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE IS SENT GIVES THIS VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF THE VEHICLE. ADDITIONALLY, FAILURE TO CLAIM THE VEHICLE IS A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CONSENT TO SELL THE VEHICLE AT A PUBLIC SALE - GARAGE KEEPER: AUS-TEX TOWING & RECOVERY LLC 307 FARLEY DRIVE AUSTIN, TX 78753 0650246VSF 512-452-2222, 309604 2021 HYUNDAI TRAILER 3H3V532C5MQR852093 5444933, MAINE TOWED FOR APD FROM 14400 N IH 35 AUSTIN, TX 78728 12/15/2025 \$250.91

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ication for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.
Date: November 30, 2025
Foreclosure Commissioner
Carolyn A. Taylor
Hughes, Watters & Askanae,
LLP
1201 Louisiana Street, 28th
Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
CTaylor@hwa.com
(713) 590-4200

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59, Texas Property Code, **Morningstar Storage**, located at **4221 Ranch Road 620 N, Austin, TX 78734** will hold an online public auction of property being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Auction will be held at www.storageauctions.com. Bidding will conclude on **12/29/2025**, at **12:00 PM**. Self-Storage unit contents containing household and misc. items of the following customers will be sold:

• Patricia Ferguson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF MUSTANG RIDGE, TEXAS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA
GOVERNING TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS

Pursuant to Section 31.002(c-1) of the Texas Tax Code, (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Mustang Ridge, Texas (the "City"), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the proposed adoption of its City of Mustang Ridge, Texas Guidelines and Criteria Governing Tax Abatement Agreements.

Time and Place of Hearing:
The public hearing will start at 6:30 p.m. on January 12, 2026, at the City Municipal Building, 12800 US Hwy 183 S, Mustang Ridge, Texas 78610.

Proposed Guidelines and Criteria Governing Tax Abatement Agreements: The City's proposed Guidelines and Criteria Governing Tax Abatement Agreements is on file for public inspection at the Office of the City Secretary, located at 12800 US Hwy 183 S, Mustang Ridge, Texas 78610 and is available on the City's Internet website at <https://www.mustangridgetx.gov>.

During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the proposed adoption of its guidelines and criteria governing tax abatement agreements.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

In accordance with Texas Property Code, Chapter 59, Store It All Storage will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at LockerFox. A \$100 cash clean-up deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid at the time of sale. Sale will be held online at LockerFox.com starting on or after December 15, 2025 and ending at 10:00 am on December 29, 2025. Store It All-Del Valle 5280 Hwy 71 East Del Valle, TX 78617 James Elman 00A06 John Barnett, 1641 Matt Beahm Texas mini mix 1F41 Malca Cohen 1D45 Theresa Perez 1D46 Valentine Perez 1E02 Deanna Bartley 1P04

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given that Storage King USA at 15105 US Highway 290W Manor, TX 78653 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Title 5, Liens Chapter 59 Sec. 59.044). The sale will take place at the website www.StorageAuctions.com on the 30th of December 2025 at 10:00 a.m. The sale will be conducted

on StorageAuctions.com on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on www.StorageAuctions.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10-15% buyer's premium will be charged and a cleaning deposit of \$100 per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted:

Roland Guillen
Gary Meidinger
Veronica Harris
Maria Sanchez
Resheena Thomas
Destre Houston
Montana Watson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code: Lone Star Self Storage, location, 403 E. Ben White Boulevard, Austin, TX 78704, will hold a public auction to satisfy Lone Star Self Storage's lien on tenants listed below. The auction will be held on January 3rd, 2026. It will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com beginning on 12/19/25. Bidding will end on 01/03/26 at 10 AM. Property will be sold to the highest bidder to be paid in

CASH ONLY. A cash cleaning deposit will be required noted in Storage Treasures's listing and returned once the unit space is empty and broom swept clean. Lone Star Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. A brief description of contents in units being sold of the following tenant: Jovita Castellanos- Bicycles, Luggage, Bins, Bags, Boxes, Shelving units, Carts, Car parts, Tools, Riasia Miller- TV's, furniture, Bags Bed Frame, Chairs, Couch, Table, Carlos Pena; Washer, Bikes, Electric ATV, Vacuum, Bed Frame, Toys, Bags, Picture Frame, Playstation, TV, Monitor, Tools. Joseph Jurane; Ladder, Boxes, Bags, Luggage, Pictures, Table, Chairs, Coolers, Golf Clubs, Tools.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Texas Property Code Chapter 59, **Right Space Storage**, Said property 4405 Highway 71 East Del Valle, TX 78617, 512-996-7840, 9507 Manchaca Road Austin, TX, 78748 512-399-2829, 3000 E Hwy 290 Dripping Springs, TX 78620 512-996-7852, 227 Park 35 Cove N Buda, TX 78610 512-996-7828, 9024 HWY 71, Austin, TX 78758 512-996-7851, 21021 State Highway 71 West, Spicewood, Tx 78669 512-996-7863 will hold a Public Sale in order to satisfy a landlord's lien **Thursday on 8th of January 2026 at 10 am**. Property will be sold to the highest bidder online and must be removed within 48 hours. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid and withdraw property from the sale. Bidding takes place on StorageTreasures.com. Unless otherwise noted, all units contain household goods and items. For a more detailed listing, please visit StorageTreasures.com, 4405 Highway 71 East Del Valle, TX 78617: **Lilianna Fuentes** Lugo, **Destany Strother, Slava Kane, Patsy Coy, Andres Lechuga, Mauricio Chairez, Martha Gonzalez, Ana Estrada, Norma Rodriguez, Cedric Nelson, Demetria Edwards, Tenisha Hall**, 9507 Manchaca Road Austin, TX, 78748: **Caela Pousson, Marcella Salazar, Leticia Salazar, Marcellus Henderson, Matthew Hernandez, 3000 E Hwy, 290 Dripping Springs, TX 78620: Jonathon Levey, Laura Whipple, Todd Poehl, Vickie Brown**, 227 Park 35 Cove N Buda, TX 78610: **Natasja Biggs, Steven Rust, Sara Porter, Carlos Vasquez, Katherine Baer**, 9023 HWY

71, Austin, Tx 78735: **Edward Bennett, Mauricio Solorzano, Pamela Hennigan**, 2102 State Highway 71 West, Spicewood, TX 78669: **Jose Franciso, Ranett Metz**.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

pursuant to Texas Property Code Chapter 59, RightSpace Storage, Said property at 11520 Hero Way W, Leander, TX 78641, (512) 729-1380, 7650 TX-29, Georgetown, TX 76728, (512) 856-6789, 8959 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758, (512) 710-0798, 16450 N FM 620, Round Rock, TX 78681, (512) 910-7401, 4105 W 2nd St, Taylor, TX 76574, (512) 883-6373 will hold a Public Sale in order to satisfy a landlord's lien on Thursday the 8th day of January 2026, at 10AM. Property will be sold to the highest bidder online at Storage Treasures. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid and withdraw property from the sale. Bidding takes place on StorageTreasures.com. Unless otherwise noted, all units contain household goods, personal items and other contents. For a more detailed listing, please visit StorageTreasures.com 11520 Hero Way W, Leander, TX 78641: Linda Bonnet, Sonja Vimortons, 16450 N FM 620, Round Rock, TX 78681: Tamisha Degruy, Ron Piper, Eddy Sanchez, Christian Brown, 4105 W 2nd St, Taylor, TX 76574: Gay Brooks, Maria Rodrigues, 8956 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758: Victoria Tumlinson, Elizabeth Gutierrez, Jack Steinberg, Alfred Martus, APRO Software Solutions, Inc. – Brilandava Kavaja

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Mini U Storage (formerly Wells Branch Self Storage) located at 1763 Wells Branch Parkway, Austin, TX 78728, will hold a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien on the personal property being stored at the address above in the units listed. The sale will be held online at www.storage-treasures.com closing at 9:30 AM on January 21, 2026. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. Deposit for the removal and cleanup will be required. Mini U Storage reserves the right to bid at the sale and to refuse any bid. The property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants. Tenants noted the inventories listed at the time of rental. Landlord makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories.

B115- Sophia James- Misc. Household, Personal Effects, Business Records, Business Furniture and Equipment B132- Reynaldo Reyna- Misc. Household B303- Shelley Flippin- Crawford- Misc. Household and Personal Effects B368- Roylan Villalon Guevara- Misc. Household B374- Malcolm Banks- Misc. Household and Personal Effects B406- Jerry Campbell- Misc. Household, Personal Effects, Business Records, Business Furniture and Equipment B514- Todd McFadden- Misc. Household, Personal Effects, Business Records, Business Furniture and Equipment C108- Reynaldo Reyna- Misc. Household C305- Brandy Cude- Misc. Household C401- Jairo Martinez- Misc. Household C403- Marleny Caal- Misc. Household C404- Emilio Lopez- Misc. Household C422- Justin Dabney- Misc. Household and Personal Effects C513- Deweyne Fountain- Misc. Household C646- John Testerman- Misc. Household and Personal Effects

Effects D219- William Miles- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D301- Deandria Williams- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D311- Michel Chaveco- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D304- Jenesis Hill- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D407- Jamila John- Misc. Household D512- Adam Ward- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D513- Sammy Washington- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D520- Elijah Childress- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D616- Chris Jones- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D618- Ashleigh Mays- Misc. Household D634- Chrissy Holmes- Misc. Household D650- Trish Wilson- Misc. Household E109- Elizabeth Griggs- Misc. Household

Purchases must be paid for at the time of sale with credit card only. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is the property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original, resale permit at the time of payment in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

4518 Boston Ln Austin, TX 78735 1/06/2026 1:45PM Evan Felder 7110 E Ben White Blvd Austin, TX 78741 1/06/2025 12:30PM Dianne Chaf 851 Airport Blvd Austin, TX 78722 1/06/2025 2:15PM Camara Gibson 4500 S Congress Ave Austin, TX 78745 1/06/2025 1:00PM Gabrielle Gonzales; Denise Guajardo; John Rendon; Samuel Richter - Lifeworks; 2401 E Ben White Blvd Austin, TX 78741 01/06/2025 10:45am Dionisio Robinson-bikes, parts, instruments 1341 W Mary St Austin, TX 78704 01/06/2025 11:30am Sarah Puil 12408 Harris Branch Pkwy Manor, TX 78653 01/06/2025 10:30am Kervin Anderson; Samuel Gutierrez; Gyret Williams; Aleya Campbell; Janet Story-Harden; David Samuel Small; Rebecca Delaney 9171 E US Highway 290 Austin, TX 78724 01/06/2025 11:15am David Grant Gentles-detailing business items; Lucian Perez Miranda; Shnasia Middleton; Ezaria Franklin; Keith Thompson; Cindrianna Valladares 2009 Airport Blvd Austin, TX 78722 01/06/2025 12:00pm River Collins; Jennifer Von Sha Reynolds; Vanessa Piedra 1714 E Farmer Ln Austin, TX 78754 01/06/2025 11:45am Kevin Best; Tamika White; Izela Solis; Jessica Campbell; Marla Valenzuela; Ray Rhone; Lisa Hewitt 18629 Weiss Ln Pflugerville, TX 78660 01/06/2026 2:30pm Christine Pham, Marco Alvarez 1620 S IH 35 Frontage Rd Austin, TX 78704 01/06/2026 1:15pm Brandon Erickson 2220 E Howard Ln Pflugerville, TX 78660 01/06/2026 12:15pm Octavious Shaffer, Charles

Effects D219- William Miles- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D301- Deandria Williams- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D311- Michel Chaveco- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D304- Jenesis Hill- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D407- Jamila John- Misc. Household D512- Adam Ward- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D513- Sammy Washington- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D520- Elijah Childress- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D616- Chris Jones- Misc. Household and Personal Effects D618- Ashleigh Mays- Misc. Household D634- Chrissy Holmes- Misc. Household D650- Trish Wilson- Misc. Household E109- Elizabeth Griggs- Misc. Household

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

5431 Williams Dr Georgetown, TX 78633 01/09/2026 11:00AM

Rose Mundey

Brandy Moffitt

3009 Dawn Dr Georgetown, TX 78628 01/09/2026 11:45 AM

Rhiannon Zarate

Denise Dominguez

71 Wildwood Dr Georgetown, TX 78633 01/09/2026 1:00 PM

Ason Mexia

Ansu Kaikai

2801 University Ave Georgetown, TX 78628 01/09/2026 2:15 PM

Cierra Jeneis Nutall

Mark Bickhem

Charles Bland

Kristen von Dreasche

503 Ivory Cove Liberty Hill, TX 78642 01/09/2026 2:45 PM

Jessica McClinton

1972 US-183 Leander, TX 78641 01/09/2026 3:00 PM

Thomas Fletcher

Sebastian Hartley

1301 NE Inner Loop Georgetown, TX 78626 01/09/2026 3:30 PM

Rafael Plascencia

Eliana Palmillas

Glen McDaniel

Oscar Munoz Jr

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction.

Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

6512 McNeil Dr Austin TX 78751 1/06/2025 12:45 PM

Eva Zutshi; Mitchel Cotter;

Joey Verastegui; Sarah Menz

dez; Keimyni McIn; Ashley Roberts

1000 E. 50th St Austin TX 78703 1/06/2025 1:00 PM

Karen Zutshi; Mitchel Cotter;

Joey Verastegui; Sarah Menz

dez; Keimyni McIn; Ashley Roberts

7110 W 5th St Austin TX 78703 1/06/2025 1:00 PM

Lupe Martinez; Pam White; Erik Cadena; Ruby Rivera; Sonya Silva; Brian Burleson; Sharayne Carter; Brian Burleson; Rachael Cortez

9706 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748, 512-254-2303, 1-6-26, @ 11:45am

David O'Farrell

10800 W Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78736, 512-254-2313, 1-6-26, @ 12:45pm

Darryl Grimm; James Conrado;

Tyler Berry; Joaquin Barajas

1615 N IH 35, San Marcos, TX 78666, 512-249-2321, 1-6-26, @ 1:00pm

Eddie Christy; Hector Garnica; Erik Cadena; Mario Fierro; Steven Hebert; Kelli Brumfield; Debra Lawrence Todd

2216 S IH 35, San Marcos, TX 78666, 512-254-2296, 1-6-26, @ 12:30pm

Lupe Martinez; Pam White; Erik Cadena; Ruby Rivera; Sonya Silva; Brian Burleson; Sharayne Carter; Brian Burleson; Rachael Cortez

9706 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748, 512-254-2303, 1-6-26, @ 11:45pm

David O'Farrell

10800 W Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78736, 512-254-2313, 1-6-26, @ 12:45pm

Darryl Grimm; James Conrado;

Tyler Berry; Joaquin Barajas

1615 N IH 35, San Marcos, TX 78666, 512-249-2321, 1-6-26, @ 1:00pm

Jennifer Salinas

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above facility to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage and its affiliates may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase, up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

Donna-Furniture, 70"TV, boxes; Jacob Klement- Furniture
9206 Anderson Mill Rd Austin TX 78729 1/06/2025 10:00 AM

Tony Garrett II- Personal Items

5547 McNeil Dr Austin TX 78729 1/06/2025 10:00 AM

Les Nemeth- Bags; Lauren Watson- 1 bedroom home;

Curry Now- Tables, kitchen

items, ovens, cookware, fryers;

Curry Now- Tables, kitchen

items, ovens, cookware; Robert Lange- Tools/appliances, clothes

12100 Ranch Blvd Cedar Park, TX 78613 01/06/2025 1:45 PM

Phyllis Cline- Household items

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

11712 N Lamar Blvd Austin TX 78751 1/06/2025 10:00 AM

Rose Mundey

Brandy Moffitt

3009 Dawn Dr Georgetown, TX 78628 01/06/2025 11:45 AM

Rhianon Zarate

Denise Dominguez

71 Wildwood Dr Georgetown, TX 78633 01/06/2026 1:00 PM

Jerrod Alexander

13126 Ranch Rd 620 N Austin TX 78741 01/06/2025 10:00 AM

Jerrod Alexander- 2-piece sec

tional, queen mattress, frame, boxes; Jose Hernandez- Office

supplies etc; Josh Wiseman- Boxes, misc items; Crystal Johnson- Clothes, toys

12100 Ranch Rd 620 N Austin TX 78741 01/06/2025 10:00 AM

Jerrod Alexander- 2-piece sec

tional, queen mattress, frame, boxes; Jose Hernandez- Office

supplies etc; Josh Wiseman- Boxes, misc items; Crystal Johnson- Clothes, toys

12100 Ranch Rd 620 N Austin TX 78741 01/06/2025 10:00 AM

Jerrod Alexander- 2-piece sec

tional, queen mattress, frame, boxes; Jose Hernandez- Office

THE INSIDE OUT

istered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law: Ann Louise Sullivan, Independent Executor of the Estate of Dorothy Louise Friesen, c/o Clayton, Ramirez & Null Law, Attn: Julia Null, 4807 Spicewood Springs Road, Building 3, Suite 250, Austin, Texas 78759.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frederick Stephen Widmer, Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002382, pending in the Probate Court No: 2, Travis County, Texas, to: Paulette Sue Widmer. 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: Paulette Sue Widmer
9550 Savannah Ridge Dr.

Unit 25

Austin, Texas 78726

DATED the 15th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Jeffrey J. Barnett
Jeffrey J. Barnett, State Bar No.: 00792346
Joshua R. Buxbaum, State Bar No.: 24148853
Attorneys for Applicant
11824 Jollyville Rd., Suite 500
Austin, TX 78759
Telephone: (512) 336-1529
Facsimile: (512) 336-1550
Email: jbbarnett@clifflaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Horace Perry Williams, Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-001808, pending in the Probate Court No. 2, Travis, Texas, to: Lizzie Ann Williams.

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.

Lizzie Ann Williams, Independent Executor, Estate of Horace Perry Williams

c/o Rashmi P. Krishnappa
Attorney for Lizzie Ann Williams
13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd.
Bldg. 5, Ste. 200
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
December 10, 2025
/s/ Rashmi P. Krishnappa

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES DARRYL HOFFMAN, Deceased were issued on December 11, 2025 in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002238, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: TYLER REED HOFFMAN, as Independent Executor.

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

The Estate of James Darryl Hoffman

c/o Farren Sheehan
State Bar No. 24000751
Sheehan Law, PLLC
1601 E. Pfennig Lane
Pflugerville, Texas 78660
Attorney for Independent Executor
DATED this 15th day of December, 2025.
/s/ Farren Sheehan
Farren Sheehan

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jo Anne Hendrix, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2025, to James Paul Hendrix and Lisa Hendrix Hand, Independent Co-Executors. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered under Cause No.

C-1-B-25-002447 in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Claims may be presented to the Independent Co-Executors and should be addressed as follows:

Estate of Jo Anne Hendrix
c/o Gruber Allen PLLC
706 Guadalupe St
Austin, Texas 78701
Dated: December 9, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Huntington Allen, Jr., a/k/a John H. Allen, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002215, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Vanessa Leigh Allen Dobbins.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Melissa L. Harvey
Karisch Jonas Law, PLLC
9111 Jollyville Road, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78759

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

Dated December 11, 2025.
/s/ Melissa L. Harvey
Melissa L. Harvey
Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHERINE CHANEY WEBRE, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2025, under Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002241 pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: THOMAS LEE CHANEY.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Estate of KATHERINE CHANEY WEBRE, Deceased

c/o Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

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.

By /s/ Lindsey S. Drake
Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SHAWN YETTER A/K/A SHAWN MICHELLE YETTER, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2025, in Cause No. 25-1296-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: ANGELA TANDY.

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.

ANGELA TANDY, Independent Executor, Estate of SHAWN YETTER A/K/A SHAWN MICHELLE YETTER

c/o Sean Patrick King

Attorney for ANGELA TANDY

13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Bldg. 5, Ste. 200

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

December 15, 2025

/s/ Sean Patrick King

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Padrigin Ni Kennelly fka Patricia Kennelly Meadows, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2025 in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002505, by the Travis County Probate Court Number One to Edward Allen Meadows, Independent Executor of the Estate of Padrigin Ni Kennelly fka Patricia Kennelly Meadows. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

VERA L. GIVENS, Independent Executor Estate of Lewis Roland a/k/a Lewis Eugene Roland.

c/o The Law Office of Todd A. Wilson, Attorney

December 11, 2025

/s/ Todd A. Wilson

4425 S. Mopac Expy.

Bldg. II, Suite 201

Austin, TX 78735

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Robert Lether Hearn, III were issued to Monica Martha Hallahan Hearn, whose mailing address is 525 Buckeye Trail, West Lake Hills, Texas 78746, by the Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County, Texas in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002478, which is still pending, and that the Independent Executor now holds such Letters Testamentary. 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.

LAURA J. WHITLOCK, A/K/A LAURA WHITLOCK, A/K/A LAURA JUNE WHITLOCK.

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.

Claims may be presented to the Independent Co-Executors and should be addressed as follows:

Estate of Jo Anne Hendrix
c/o Gruber Allen PLLC
706 Guadalupe St
Austin, Texas 78701
Dated: December 9, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Huntington Allen, Jr., a/k/a John H. Allen, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002215, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Vanessa Leigh Allen Dobbins.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Melissa L. Harvey
Karisch Jonas Law, PLLC
9111 Jollyville Road, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78759

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

Dated December 10, 2025.
/s/ Melissa L. Harvey
Melissa L. Harvey
Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY BARRETT STEVENS, Deceased, were issued to JOHN EDWARD STEVENS by the Probate Court #2 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-001872 pending upon the docket of said court. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time prescribed by law.

The name and address where claims may be sent is: The Estate of MARY BARRETT STEVENS c/o S. TYLER SWAIN, whose address is 945 Bunker Hill Road, Suite 680, Houston, Texas 77024, Tele: 713/957-8932, Fax: 713/957-0980; S. TYLER SWAIN, Texas Bar Number 24003411. Date: 12/25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SHAWN YETTER A/K/A SHAWN MICHELLE YETTER, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2025, in Cause No. 25-1296-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: ANGELA TANDY.

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.

ANGELA TANDY, Independent Executor, Estate of SHAWN YETTER A/K/A SHAWN MICHELLE YETTER
c/o Sean Patrick King
Attorney for ANGELA TANDY

13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Bldg. 5, Ste. 200

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

December 15, 2025

/s/ Sean Patrick King

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Padrigin Ni Kennelly fka Patricia Kennelly Meadows, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2025 in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002505, by the Travis County Probate Court Number One to Edward Allen Meadows, Independent Executor of the Estate of Padrigin Ni Kennelly fka Patricia Kennelly Meadows. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

VERA L. GIVENS, Independent Executor Estate of Lewis Roland a/k/a Lewis Eugene Roland.

c/o The Law Office of Todd A. Wilson, Attorney

December 11, 2025

/s/ Todd A. Wilson

4425 S. Mopac Expy.

Bldg. II, Suite 201

Austin, TX 78735

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Robert Lether Hearn, III were issued to Monica Martha Hallahan Hearn, whose mailing address is 525 Buckeye Trail, West Lake Hills, Texas 78746, by the Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County, Texas in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002478, which is still pending, and that the Independent Executor now holds such Letters Testamentary. 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.

said estate are hereby required to present the claims to Monica Martha Hallahan Hearn, c/o Kelly C. Kocurek, DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, LLP, 303 Colorado, Suite 2300, Austin, TX 78701, within the time prescribed by law.

/s/ Kelly C. Kocurek
DuBois, Bryant and Campbell, LLP
303 Colorado Street, Suite 2300
Austin, Texas 78701
Dated: December 11, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Huntington Allen, Jr., a/k/a John H. Allen, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002215, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Vanessa Leigh Allen Dobbins.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:

c/o Anna D. White

LAURA WHITLOCK, A/K/A LAURA WHITLOCK, A/K/A LAURA JUNE WHITLOCK

Independent Executor, Estate of MARIA DEL REFUGIO BACA, A/K/A MARIA BACA

c/o Anna D. White

Attorney for LAURA J.

WHITLOCK, A/K/A LAURA

JUNE WHITLOCK

13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Bldg. 5, Ste. 200

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

December 10, 2025

/s/ Anna D. White

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY, Deceased, were issued to JOHN DALE McELMURRAY by the Probate Court #2 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002070, pending upon the docket of said court. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

The name and address where claims may be sent is: The Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY c/o Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

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.

By /s/ Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY, Deceased, were issued to JOHN DALE McELMURRAY by the Probate Court #2 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002070, pending upon the docket of said court. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

The name and address where claims may be sent is: The Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY c/o Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

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.

By /s/ Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY, Deceased, were issued to JOHN DALE McELMURRAY by the Probate Court #2 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002070, pending upon the docket of said court. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

The name and address where claims may be sent is: The Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY c/o Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

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.

By /s/ Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY, Deceased, were issued to JOHN DALE McELMURRAY by the Probate Court #2 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002070, pending upon the docket of said court. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

The name and address where claims may be sent is: The Estate of JOHN DALE McELMURRAY c/o Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

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.

By /s/ Drake Law, PLLC
1213 W. Slaughter Lane, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78748

MARKETPLACE

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!

On October 28, 2025, Larry Dale McElmurry was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Margaret McGuire Shurtleff a/k/a Nancy M. Shurtleff, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002070 pending in the Probate Court No. 2, Travis County, Texas, to: Larry Dale McElmurry, Independent Executor, c/o Claire D. East, Thompson East, PLLC, 1301 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78746.

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