

JANUARY 18, 2026

THE AUSTIN

VOL. 45 • NO. 20

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A THREAT TO THE EMPIRE

Lawsuits, band backlash, an employee exodus: Chaos at one of Red River's staple music venues

BY CAROLINE DREW PAGE 18

PAGE 3

PLUS:
LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!

AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS

it's history on repeat

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FEEDBACK

LETTERS + COMMENTS

PLANTING SEEDS

Dear Editor,

Homelessness is a very big problem in the city of Austin. Many of us who live here see it every day. It's a difficult problem to solve, as there are thousands of homeless people around Austin, and it is not as simple as just giving them a place to live. That's why every community-led effort to aid in homelessness matters, especially involving young people, since we are the next generation.

A good friend of mine, Carsten, is an example of a young person doing so. He is only 15, but has been leading a monthly donation drive that he started last summer out of our church, called the Community Outreach by IFGF Teens.

Carsten goes into this with a long-term mindset of planting seeds for the next generation (really our generation), who could be bringing aid to the homeless just like him. Carsten volunteers with organizations such as Mobile Loaves & Fishes, and the donated food goes to locations where they serve each month. The program has been running for about eight months and focuses on collecting food donations, instead of money, with the total value of food donated reaching an estimated \$1,000. Although he's mostly doing this alone, in just the last six months, his donation drive has managed to surpass its goals well beyond expectations. This has motivated the church to help him with his work to support the homeless.

In a city with a homelessness problem like Austin, community-led efforts such as Carsten's donation drive remind us that you don't need to use large systems and organizations or the government to help others. Instead anyone can make a difference as an individual by helping and supporting efforts similar to Carsten's, or even starting their own. Together we can make Austin a better place.

William Ruppert

I LIKE BIG BUTS

Dear Editor,

Your latest Project Connect article ["Five Years After Its Approval, Project Connect Plans Proceed," News, Jan. 9] showed its "Big But" on the second page: "But in April of 2022, 17 months after Project Connect's approval, the Austin Transit Partnership announced that a spike in construction costs had pushed the plan's price from \$5.8 billion to more than \$10 billion."

So I asked my faithful Google AI: "What's the yearly inflation rate if a cost goes from \$5,800,000,000 to more than \$10,000,000,000 in 17 months?" The AI decided not to hallucinate: "The question seems to be incomplete, as it specifies the final cost as 'more than \$10,000,000,000.'" Assuming the cost reached exactly \$10,000,000,000 to find the minimum possible rate, the minimum yearly inflation rate is 46.89%.

Now it is possible that the original projection was just a slight miscommunication on the part of the 2020 Project Connect folks, like the one between Lucy and Charlie Brown about the football or Donald Trump and the American public about foreign wars. But the Project Connect question will be easy to answer. Just invite the 2020 Project Connect proposition folks down with their original written projections, texts, emails, etc. for a friendly visit under oath with the Travis County Grand Jury to explain the \$4.2 billion discrepancy. Somehow I don't expect it to happen.

So we're stuck. No Grand Jury means no fraud charges and the \$5.8 billion can only be used for transportation purposes. There are 1.38 million Travis County residents. So how about lifetime 15,000 miles/year passes on Southwest Airlines for every resident? Or a fleet of 20,000 Waymos rented at \$10,000/year for 58 years and free rides for everybody with the new "I Was Here in 2026" card? I say, "Use the money wisely."

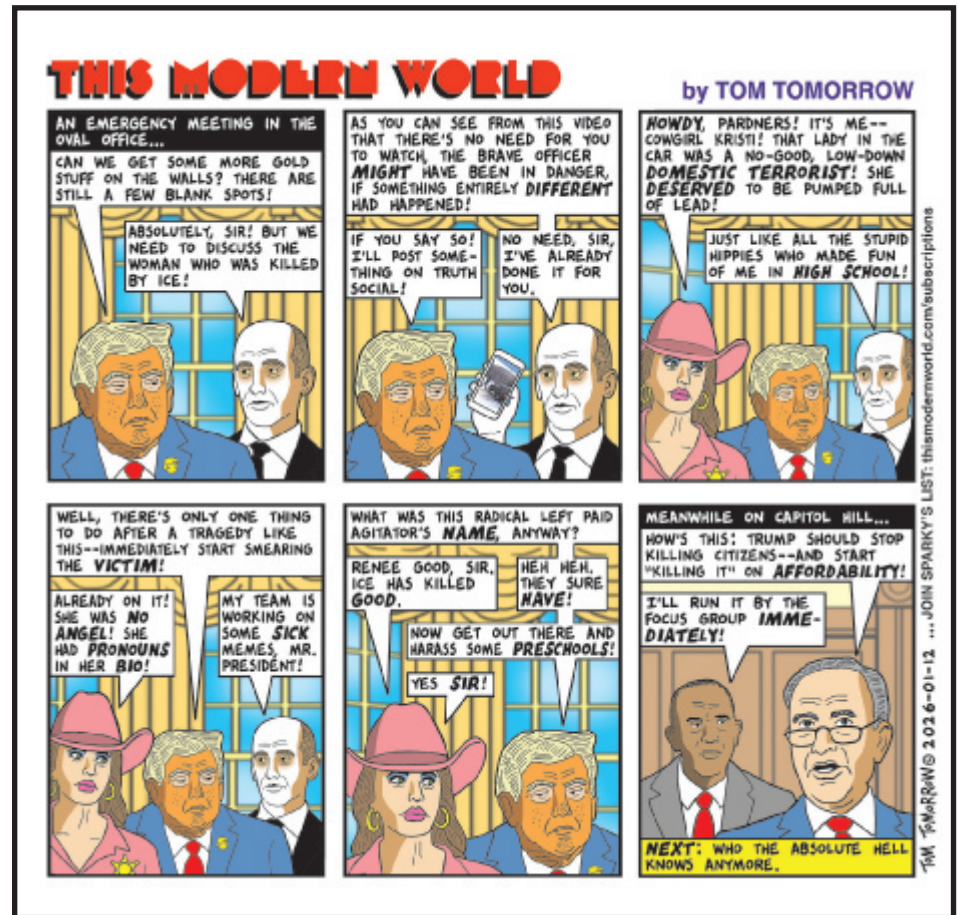
David B Miller

BEATING THE DRUM FOR FROSTY

Dear Editor,

I think [Barry Smith aka] Frosty warrants an in-depth consideration for admittance into the Austin Music Hall of Fame. I don't think I have to list his credits. I believe he was one of the greatest drummers ever to play in Austin or anywhere for that matter.

Dusty Wood Sr.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or email address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

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“To ICE: Get the fuck out of Minneapolis. We do not want you here. Your stated reason for being in this city is to create some kind of safety, and you are doing exactly the opposite.”

MINNEAPOLIS MAYOR JACOB FREY ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC AFTER THE RENEE NICOLE GOOD SHOOTING



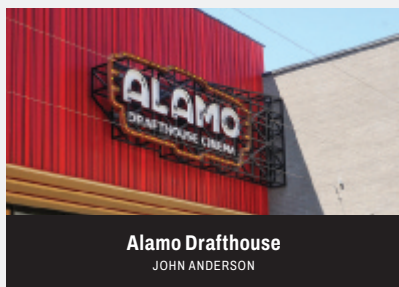
HEADLINES

ICE PROTESTS AROUND THE NATION:

On Jan. 7, an ICE agent in Minneapolis shot and killed 37-year-old U.S. citizen Renee Nicole Good. Good, along with others, was protesting ICE operations in the city when the incident occurred. After ICE agents began surrounding her SUV, she attempted to drive away when agent Jonathan Ross fired three shots into the vehicle, killing Good. The Department of Homeland Security and other MAGA officials and supporters, including Trump, JD Vance, and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, have claimed that Good was attempting to run over the officer and that Ross' actions fall under self-defense, while Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, along with other Democratic officials, vigorously oppose that conclusion. Since the shooting, countless individuals have gathered at over 1,000 different protests throughout the nation, including the Austin area, calling for justice for Good and for ICE to end operations in various states and cities, particularly Minneapolis. Our reporter Sammie Seamon was at the Jan. 9 gathering at the Capitol. See story at right.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE ON THE PHONE:

If the Alamo Draffhouse was famous for one thing, it was its clear “Don’t talk, don’t text” policy that defended the audience and films from distractions. Now it’s making phones mandatory by putting all food orders and payments on the app, including orders made during screenings. Draffhouse management has said that they’re training staff to differentiate between “good” phone use (ordering nachos) and “bad” (pirating movies, texting your mom), but audiences are unconvinced, with a massive online backlash against what many see as a betrayal of the core principles of the Alamo experience.



Alamo Draffhouse
JOHN ANDERSON

CONTINUED ON P.10



Protesters gathered at City Hall on Saturday, Jan. 10

JOHN ANDERSON

Renee Good’s Murder Sparks Local Protests Against ICE Brutality

Austinites call for ICE to “stay out of our communities” **BY SAMMIE SEAMON**

At 7 o’clock on Friday night, under the street lights of 11th Street, about a hundred people gathered at the southern gates of the state’s Capitol building. Many hoisted signs, one reading “ICE out of Austin,” another “Abolish ICE!,” and several reading “Justice for Renee Good.” Two Mexican flags rose above the crowd. Green-clad officers watched the scene from behind the gates.

“¡Fuera, ICE!” the crowd chanted. “When immigrants are under attack, what do we

do?” one organizer cried in a megaphone. “Stand up, fight back!”

Days of protest against ICE in the Austin area and across the country were sparked by the Jan. 7 death of motorist Renee Nicole Good, who was shot three times at point-blank range and killed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officer Jonathan Ross as she was legally observing ICE operations in her Minneapolis neighborhood. The nation watched bystanders’ videos of

the shooting in horror as they swept social media feeds.

On Thursday night, about 150 people gathered outside of an unmarked facility operated by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security in Pflugerville. Friday night, protesters convened at the Capitol. On Saturday afternoon, Austinites gathered outside of City Hall, and again in front of the J.J. Pickle Federal Building that night, where law

CONTINUED ON P.10

What Untreated Hearing Loss Is Really Doing to Your Brain

5 Medical Benefits of Taking Action + 7 Hearing Loss Prevention Tips



The Medical Benefits of Treating Hearing Loss

Treating hearing loss is about more than just improving how well you hear — it's also a critical component of overall health and well-being. Here are five medical benefits of treating hearing loss:

1. Increase in Quality of Life

People who treat their hearing loss often report feeling more connected, confident, and socially active. Better hearing supports relationships, work productivity, and emotional health.

2. Reduce the Risk of Falling

Untreated hearing loss is associated with a greater risk of falls due to decreased spatial awareness and balance. Treating hearing loss can help improve physical safety and coordination.

3. Increase Cognitive Function

Prescriptive hearing technology and other treatments help reduce the cognitive load required to process sounds, freeing up mental energy and supporting clearer thinking, memory, and focus.

4. Reduce the Experience of Tinnitus

Tinnitus often coexists with hearing loss. Treating hearing loss — especially with prescriptive hearing technology — can reduce the severity and impact of tinnitus symptoms for many individuals.

5. Reducing the Risk of Dementia

Numerous studies have linked untreated hearing loss to a higher risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Addressing hearing loss early may help protect long-term brain health.

7 Hearing Loss Prevention Tips

Hearing loss is a prevalent condition that can significantly impact an individual's quality of life. While some causes of hearing loss are unavoidable, there are proactive measures one can take to delay its onset. Drawing insights from Dr. Keith N. Darrow's book, *Preventing Decline: Advances in the Medical Treatment of Hearing Loss and Tinnitus*, here are seven steps to help preserve your hearing health.

1. Protect Your Ears from Loud Noises

Exposure to loud noises is a leading cause of hearing loss. Consistently using ear protection, such as earplugs or noise-canceling earmuffs, in noisy environments can safeguard your auditory system. Dr. Darrow emphasizes the importance of minimizing exposure to loud sounds to prevent damage to the delicate structures of the inner ear.

2. Maintain Cardiovascular Health

Good circulation is vital for the health of the inner ear. Regular exercise and a balanced diet contribute to overall cardiovascular health, which in turn supports auditory function. Dr. Darrow notes that conditions like hypertension and diabetes can negatively affect hearing, underscoring the importance of managing these health issues.

3. Avoid Ototoxic Medications

Certain medications are known to be ototoxic, meaning they can cause hearing loss or tinnitus as a side effect. Dr. Darrow advises patients to consult with their healthcare providers about the potential auditory side effects of prescribed medications and to explore alternatives if necessary.

4. Manage Stress Levels

Chronic stress can exacerbate tinnitus and may contribute to hearing difficulties. Implementing stress-reduction techniques such as mindfulness, meditation, or yoga can

have a positive impact on your hearing health. Dr. Darrow highlights the connection between stress and auditory issues, suggesting that managing stress is a crucial component of hearing preservation.

5. Limit Exposure to Ototoxic Substances

Beyond medications, certain substances like nicotine and excessive caffeine can negatively affect hearing health. Dr. Darrow recommends reducing or eliminating the consumption of these substances to help delay the onset of hearing loss.

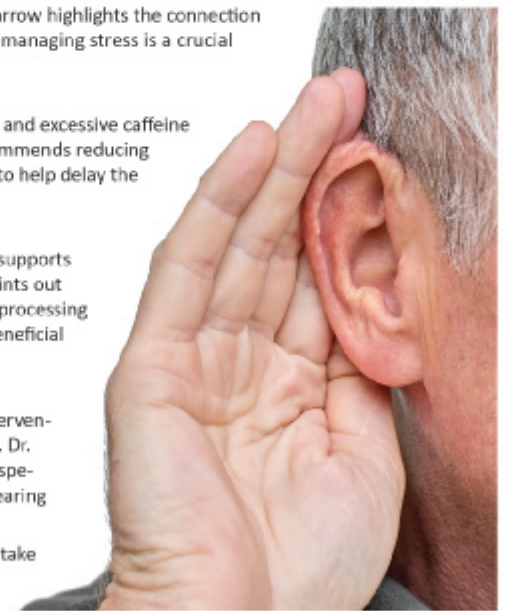
6. Stay Socially Active

Engaging in social activities stimulates the brain and supports cognitive functions related to hearing. Dr. Darrow points out that social isolation can lead to a decline in auditory processing abilities, so maintaining an active social life can be beneficial for hearing health.

7. Schedule Regular Hearing Check-Ups

Early detection of hearing issues allows for timely intervention, which can slow or prevent further deterioration. Dr. Darrow advocates for regular hearing assessments, especially for individuals over the age of 50, to monitor hearing health and address any concerns promptly.

By incorporating these steps into your lifestyle, you can take proactive measures to delay the onset of hearing loss and maintain optimal auditory health.



Take Action Today! If you or a loved one is experiencing hearing loss or tinnitus, now is the moment to invest in a future of clarity and vitality. Contact **Hearing and Brain Centers of America** today to learn more. Our team is prepared to conduct thorough evaluations and guide you through the enrollment process and guide you on your wellness journey for life.

For the most up-to-date information on hearing loss or tinnitus, visit HearingandBrainCenters.com. To learn more about tinnitus, visit SilenceTheSounds.com. For hearing loss education and ways to prevent further decline, visit HBCABookOffer.com.

Take the first step. Call **(817) 893-6592** to request a book, get your questions answered, or schedule an appointment!

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HEADLINES CONTINUED

DEMOCRATS CALL FOR GROK

INVESTIGATION: Texas House Democrats are calling on Attorney General Ken Paxton to conduct an investigation into Elon Musk's X AI chatbot, Grok. In a letter issued on Monday, Jan. 12, led by Texas House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Rep. Mihaela Plesa, the group is urging the A.G. to examine if the social media app – which is headquartered in the Austin area – complies with the state's age verification and child safety laws after the app's built-in artificial intelligence program has continuously generated sexually explicit images. "Grok will undress any photo you give it," Plesa said in a press release. "A classmate, a coworker, a child. Elon Musk knows this and won't stop it. Ken Paxton knows this and hasn't acted."

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE HEMP

INDUSTRY COMING: While the Texas hemp industry continues to combat Texas lawmakers, the Texas Department of State Health Services published a proposal for drastic changes to the industry in December 2025. According to The Texas Tribune, the changes would require consumers to be 21 years or older to purchase hemp products, which would be enforced through age verification requirements. Along with the age restriction, the rules call for mandatory product recalls and testing procedures. Testing of THC levels would throw a dramatic wrench in the plans of hemp distributors, as many retailers sell consumable products containing well above the legal limit. On top of all of these changes, licensing fees would increase to \$25,000 per manufacturing facility each year and \$20,000 per location each year for retailers. According to the *Statesman*, these rules could go into effect as early as Jan. 25, although modifications and delays could also emerge before changes occur.



JOHN ANDERSON

CONTINUED ON P.12



Demonstrators also gathered at 11th & Congress on Friday, Jan. 9

JOHN ANDERSON

ANTI-ICE PROTESTS CONTINUED FROM P.8

enforcement officers deployed pepper balls and a chemical irritant gas against protesters.

"We need to show that we are the vast majority, and are willing to stand up against this ICE terrorism," Brianna Griffith of the Austin Party for Socialism & Liberation, which organized the Pflugerville protest, told the *Chronicle* Thursday afternoon.

Five were arrested on Saturday night, according to the Austin Police Department, which said protesters obstructed the roads and placed drivers and bystanders in "dangerous positions."

"Many people are justifiably frustrated, fearful, and angry with how their national government is acting," Mayor Kirk Watson said in a statement to the *Chronicle*. "Austin will protect the right for people to peacefully protest and speak out. However, Austin cannot allow destructive activities or violations of law."

Good's death followed President Donald Trump's early January order for the "largest DHS operation ever," deploying 2,000 federal agents and officers in Minnesota, citing fraud allegations involving child care centers operated by Somali residents. Two hours after Good's death, before an investigation had taken place, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem called Good a "domestic terrorist," claiming Good had tried to hit Ross with her vehicle and that the agent's decision to shoot and kill her was an act of self-defense.

The Trump administration echoed Noem, even as the widely circulated videos appear to show Good turning her tires away from Ross, attempting to leave, as Ross pursues the moving vehicle and takes out his gun. He fires thrice through the window and windshield.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey was quick to defend his city's residents, characterizing DHS's version of the shooting as "bullshit." "Get the fuck out of Minneapolis," he told ICE that afternoon in a press conference regarding the situation.

"We need to show that we are the vast majority, and are willing to stand up against this ICE terrorism."

BRIANNA GRIFFITH OF THE AUSTIN PARTY FOR SOCIALISM & LIBERATION

Good's killing at the hands of an ICE agent follows the 32 deaths of people held in ICE custody in 2025, the highest count in over two decades, per *The Guardian* reporting. Protest organizers have connected Good's killing to that of Chicago father Silverio Villegas González in September, who was also shot and killed at close range by an ICE officer at a traffic stop.

At the Capitol gates on Friday, Jesse Valdelamar of the Austin Immigrant Rights Action Committee, which organized the

protest, spoke to the crowd. "Despite what the Trump administration may want us to believe, Renee does not fit the profile of a criminal," Valdelamar began.

"She will be remembered as a prize-winning poet, lovely guitarist, a celebrated member of her community, and ... a mother," he continued. "Motivated by her compassion for human beings, she felt compelled to become a legal observer. It was in this capacity that ICE struck her down in cold blood and left her children without a mother."

Several protesters called out, "Shame!"

On Jan. 8, Austin City Council member Mike Siegel called for local law enforcement to "protect our communities in the face of lawless federal agents. If such an incident were to happen in Austin, I would expect immediate action to arrest the shooter, just as we would in any instance of such well-documented criminal action," Siegel wrote in a statement.

The weekend's protesters also called for city leadership and APD to protect the city's immigrant community and refuse a higher level of partnership with ICE, called the 287(g) Program, a decision which must be made by the end of the year by local Texas sheriffs under Senate Bill 8. The bill became law Jan. 1.

"For city leadership who are listening, it's important that proactive steps are taken to ensure that communities are truly safe," Griffith said on Thursday. "Because what we've seen from the Trump administration is, frankly, nothing short of terroristic attacks on immigrant communities."

"I think it's the responsibility of every member of our law enforcement ... to recognize the moment that we are in," Arshia Papari, a protester and Texas congressional candidate, told the *Chronicle* on Friday. "The lack of accountability going on, the lack of justice being served, and to ... make a conscious decision to not follow orders that continue to bring terror to our communities."

At the foot of the state Capitol Friday night, Austin residents took the megaphone in turn, expressing solidarity with the immigrant community and refusing to normalize the violence of the federal agency.

"We've been fed constant lies to justify these extreme methods of violence," one student protester told the crowd.

"We've been sold the lies that our immigrant friends, family, and neighbors are violent and dangerous criminals," she continued. "In reality, time has gone on to prove that the real threats to our safety are ICE. The threats are our own government." ■

Find more of John Anderson's photographs from a weekend of anti-ICE protests online.

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY SOLUTION

Austin, TX — Are you experiencing numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands and feet? Are you finding it difficult to balance and have a fear of falling? It's possible you have Peripheral Neuropathy which is caused by nerve damage.

Peripheral Neuropathy is a chronic degenerative disease. If left untreated, the condition will continue to progress. Over time our nerves experience a loss of blood supply from constriction which leads to degeneration. A damaged nerve will start to send abnormal signals to the brain which will bring sensations of burning, tingling, and intense pain. Further, more serious progression of nerve damage will present as numbness. This leads to a high risk of falling, dropping things, and loss of independence.

Now for some good news. There is a facility right here in Austin that offers hope for relief without having to take drugs with harmful side effects.



Figure 1

Figure 1 provides a visual of what happens when the blood vessels that surround the nerve become constricted and shrivel up. This prevents the nerve from getting the blood supply and nutrients it needs to survive. As these nerves begin to degenerate it leads to Peripheral Neuropathy.



Figure 2: Just as plant's roots grow when watered, the blood vessels will grow back around the nerves.

Three Factors to Effectively Treat Neuropathy:

- 1) Find the Underlying Cause
- 2) Evaluate the amount of nerve damage
- 3) Determine the amount of treatment required

Goals of Treatment:

- 1) Increase Blood Flow
- 2) Stimulate Nerve Fibers
- 3) Decrease Pain

Our treatments return blood flow and nutrients to the affected area to stimulate the growth and repair of blood vessels and peripheral nerves.

Dr. Lucas Brown, DAOM at Rosedale Acupuncture & Wellness, will perform a Neuropathy Severity Examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage, which consists of detailed sensory and vascular testing along with an analysis of neurological findings.

We will be offering this \$40 examination from now until 1/30/26. To ensure quality of care, Dr. Brown will only accept 10 new Peripheral Neuropathy patients a month.

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HEADLINES CONTINUED

TEXAS ELIMINATES ABA OVERSIGHT:

After 42 years of partnership, Texas becomes the first state to disassociate from the American Bar Association, which once oversaw the state's law schools. According to KERA News, the Texas Supreme Court issued an order that no longer prioritizes the ABA to oversee which law school grads can take the bar exam in order to become a licensed lawyer in Texas. Now, the state's highest civil court has the authority to approve or deny which law schools meet the requirements to practice law in Texas. The dissolution of the partnership comes after the Texas Supreme Court made a decision last September to cut ties with ABA.

CROCKETT, TALARICO SCHEDULE FIRST DEBATE:

On Saturday, Jan. 24, U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett and state Rep. James Talarico, the two leading Democratic candidates for the state's U.S. Senate seat, will face off in a one-hour debate held by the Texas AFL-CIO. Held at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center in Georgetown, the debate will begin at 2pm and will be streamed throughout Texas. The discussion will be moderated by KXAN anchor Daniel Marin and *Dallas Morning News* writer Gromer Jeffers.

AISD OPENS FOOD PANTRIES:

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, Austin ISD opened six on-campus food pantries in partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank, where parents will be able to access free frozen protein, produce, and pantry staples. They'll be located inside Barbara Jordan, Cook, Ortega, Padrón, Pérez, and Walnut Creek elementaries, expanding upon the first AISD Feeding Futures School Pantry at Galindo ES. The food pantries are not limited to the six campus communities, but open for all AISD families to access 10 days' worth of food every week within AISD, according to Noelle Newton of the CTFB.



New AISD food pantry in partnership with Central Texas Food Bank

CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK

CONTINUED ON P.14



ZEKE BARBARO / GETTY IMAGES

City Workers Fear Layoffs Are Coming

CM Mike Siegel wants consultations between the city and its employees **BY BRANT BINGAMON**

Does City Manager T.C. Broadnax believe that Austin is employing too many workers? Carol Guthrie, a longtime leader of the union representing the city's employees, AFSCME Local 1624, fears he does.

Guthrie told the *Chronicle* last week that she is in communication with a city employee who said that Broadnax expressed this opinion during a meeting in the fall with the leaders of the city's 45 departments. Guthrie said the employee, who wishes to remain anonymous, told her that Broadnax made the comment as he discussed the city's ongoing effort to consolidate the services offered by different city departments, known as the Shared Services Optimization process.

"First, he said there won't be any layoffs," Guthrie said. "Then, in this meeting, he said that the city is bloated. They have about 1,500 to 2,000 too many employees."

The city of Austin employs about 13,500 people. If the allegation Guthrie relayed is true, it would mean that Broadnax believes that one out of every nine city workers is unnecessary.

A city spokesperson told the *Chronicle* that the city manager denies describing the city workforce as bloated, but that he "has said in various meetings that the city has 1,500 to 2,000 more employees than peer cities of similar size." The spokesperson added that the city manager has also said that "the city is *not* an employment agency and that we *are* a customer service organization."

Broadnax described the Shared Services Optimization process and other city initiatives promoting efficiency in a memo last November. The goal of the project, led by the department of Budget and Organizational Excellence (BOE), is to reduce the duplication

of services in different departments so that the services can be delivered, in the words of Broadnax's memo, in a "more consistent, customer-centered, and cost-effective" way. Broadnax added in the memo that BOE will examine the services offered by departments like Human Resources, Development Services, Financial Services, Fleet Mobility Services, and others.

Regarding the possibility that the process could lead to future layoffs, the city spokesperson said that BOE is committed to keeping the initiative transparent and inclusive. "No decisions have been made about roles, reporting lines, or organizational structure," the spokesperson said. "This is a collaborative improvement process focused on understanding what is working well and what can be done better. There is no predetermined outcome. Any changes that emerge will be

based on what best supports departments and improves service delivery.”

As the Shared Services Optimization process proceeds, a parallel effort is focused on the Austin Technology Services department, which provides IT services for the city. ATS was renamed and reconfigured last year as a merger of two departments – Communications and Technology Management, which has long been the subject of criticism, and the Information Security Office. In his memo, Broadnax said the city began examining its IT services this past May, writing, “A recent assessment found that Austin has nearly twice the number of IT staff and double the technology spending compared to similar cities, yet most of this investment is spread across individual departments rather than centralized.” Broadnax said the city will consolidate the city’s IT staff into ATS, estimating that the process could take up to three years.

Guthrie said the consolidation efforts have workers on edge. “They’re talking, gossiping with each other, consoling each other,” she said. “We’re not buying that people aren’t going to lose their jobs. And we think this approach is much like the DOGE approach. It’s very top-down.”

To address the workers’ concerns, City Council Member Mike Siegel announced last week that he will introduce a resolution on Jan. 22, Council’s first meeting of the year, directing Broadnax to meet with AFSCME members to develop a policy allowing the union to hold consultations with the city. Siegel already has four co-sponsors for the resolution: Council members Vanessa Fuentes, José Velásquez, Krista Laine, and Zo Qadri. If approved, it will require the city and AFSCME to deliver a consultation policy for the approval of Council no later than Feb. 26.

Siegel’s resolution explicitly refers to the consolidation effort as a reason to give AFSCME the right to consult with city leaders, saying it will “impact the employment and working conditions of City workers.” The resolution adds that consultations would be “a way to ensure efficient operations and fair and balanced decision-making when a local government takes actions that substantially impact the jobs and working conditions of its employees.”

The consultation policy Siegel envisions would allow AFSCME members to represent city workers at regularly scheduled meetings with the city manager’s office, on



City Manager T.C. Broadnax

PHOTO BY KATHERINE IRWIN

a committee chosen by both sides. The workers and the city would address “employment policies and procedures; working conditions; and future City actions that may require departmental reorganization, departmental restructuring, and/or reductions in force.”

The topics discussed by the committee would also include “new information that substantially impacts the workforce, such as budgets, budget revisions, budget forecasts, market studies, or changes in policy; changes to employee benefits; changes in working conditions; consideration of future reductions in force and whether they might be avoided,” and more. If the new policy is approved, the first meeting between workers and the city would occur within 30 days of the February vote.

Brydan Summers, the president of AFSCME, said he is grateful to Siegel for sponsoring the resolution and that the union is fortunate the current City Council is pro-worker. He believes that closer relations between workers and city management would benefit both parties and the residents of Austin in general.

“I think it goes without saying that workers just generally deserve a seat at the table whenever there’s these big organizational changes being decided upon,” Summers said. “As workers, we’re the people who are closest to the operations. We’re the ones who really understand where the inefficiencies lie. And being able to relay that information to the city manager as they’re trying to make organizational decisions, I think that really will be good for all of us.”

“We’re not buying that people aren’t going to lose their jobs. And we think this approach is much like the DOGE approach. It’s very top-down.”

AFSCME LOCAL 1624 REP CAROL GUTHRIE

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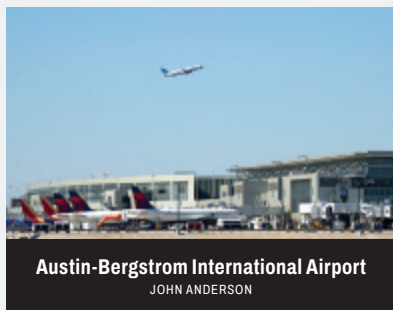
According to KUT, the state's voter roll, made up of 18.4 million registered voters, is now available to the U.S. Justice Department. The passing of information comes after the Trump administration demanded states provide access to their complete list of registered voters. The request, the department said, is to ensure that election laws are being enforced. Now, the dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and the last four digits of Social Security numbers of all registered Texan voters are on hand for the Trump administration's access. Despite concerns regarding the legality of the efforts, the Justice Department says that it has a right to the information under federal law. So far 23 states and Washington, D.C., have been sued by the department for withholding the information.

CAPMETRO BUS HIT AND KILLS

PEDESTRIAN: Last Wednesday, Jan. 7, a pedestrian in Downtown Austin was hit by a CapMetro bus. According to reporting from the *Statesman*, the accident took place just after 7pm near West Sixth and Rio Grande. While first responders attempted to save the individual, their efforts "unfortunately proved unsuccessful," said Christa Stedman, spokesperson for Austin-Travis County EMS. APD has since said that the incident is currently under investigation as a suicide.

AUS SET TO ADD 32 GATES:

On Jan. 7, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport announced that 32 gates are scheduled to be added to the airport as part of a larger expansion plan. The airport entered into lease agreements with airline providers Southwest, Delta, United, American, and Alaska, as well as cargo companies FedEx and UPS, for 10 years of service at AUS. 26 of the gates will open in the early 2030s as part of the Concourse B development, with the other six possibly opening in 2027 within Concourse M, according to KUT.



Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
JOHN ANDERSON



GETTY IMAGES

HB 7 Is Now Law, but Texans Are Still Accessing Abortion Pills

Even as the state continues to challenge access in the courts

BY SAMMIE SEAMON

Though living in a state with a near-total abortion ban, Texans can be prescribed and mailed mifepristone and misoprostol pills by out-of-state medical providers, making at-home medicated abortions possible. Last summer, Texas lawmakers tried to close off that access to abortion medication for good when they passed House Bill 7.

As of Dec. 4, HB 7 is in effect, allowing private citizens to sue any individual who makes, distributes, mails, or prescribes abortion pills to a Texan patient. Rather than incriminating the patient themselves, the law prosecutes those helping the patient access the pills – whether that be the parent of a pregnant teenager, a spouse, or their medical provider.

But post-HB 7, the reality is that Texans are still accessing abortion pills due to the reproductive care shield laws in states like Massachusetts, New York, California, and Colorado that legally protect their medical providers' rights to serve patients over telehealth, regardless of where the patient

lives. At the end of October, New York's shield law held up against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's attempt to prosecute a New York doctor.

One out-of-state group serving Texans is the Massachusetts Medication Abortion Access Project, whose five clinicians prescribe and mail abortion medication to pregnant individuals in their first trimester for a suggested fee of \$5. Two-thirds of patients requesting abortion medication cannot afford the full \$75 cost of the care, according to MAP.

MAP also offers abortion medication in advance as "period pills" for higher fees, a practice where the pills are taken by someone who thinks they might be pregnant but didn't take a test. "For some patients, not knowing is something that they value," Angel Foster, a leader at MAP and medical provider, told the *Chronicle*. "They know they don't want to be pregnant, but they don't want to know if the pills caused an abortion or not."

Since HB 7 took effect in Texas, "We haven't changed anything about our practice," Foster said, adding that, in December, the same month HB 7 became law, MAP saw its largest monthly patient volume yet – over 3,000 patients. About a third of the organization's patients reside in Texas.

Nonetheless, HB 7 could still have an isolating effect on Texas patients. Foster said that MAP is often contacted by a parent on behalf of their pregnant child, or an English-speaker on behalf of their non-English-speaking partner or family member – acts that could be prosecuted under HB 7. As before the law, MAP insists on working with the patient directly.

"I fear ... abortion seekers in Texas will feel less comfortable reaching out to their support networks for fear that those people could get sued," Foster said.

Moreover, complications from abortion medication are rare within the first 10 weeks, but cases of excessive bleeding, ectopic pregnancy, or incomplete abortion would require further care, Foster emphasized. In states like Texas with near-total bans that can delay even miscarriage treatment, Foster said patients have reported not receiving needed treatment at their local clinic. "The thing that keeps me up at night is that somebody presents at an emergency department, and then doesn't get treated," Foster continued.

Additionally, when many individuals are using the internet to look up out-of-state abortion pill providers like MAP, data privacy can be a concern for those in unsafe relationships or home situations. Over the past year, patients have increasingly contacted MAP via secure or temporary emails, like Proton Mail, Foster said.

Attorney General Ken Paxton continues to challenge abortion pill access, suing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration alongside Florida on Dec. 9 after the agency's approval of a new generic version of mifepristone, accusing the agency of enacting changes "untethered to any medical research evaluating the safety and effectiveness of mail-order abortion drugs."

Foster says Paxton's claims that abortion pills prescribed by out-of-state providers are mailed out without discretion and additional medical care are not based in reality. "In terms of what our medical practice looks like and the kind of care that we provide to patients, it just couldn't be further from the truth," Foster said. "They're painting a picture of how we're providing care that is just inaccurate."

While the legal challenges continue, MAP and similar providers plan to continue to serve Texans. "Our message to them is that we're here for them. We're going to continue to provide care, and we can provide support as well," Foster said. ■

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Chrystabell Honors Collaborator David Lynch with The Spirit Lamp

Multimedia performance at Radio/East celebrates filmmaker's birthday on Jan. 20

"The whole idea of The Spirit Lamp was the flicker of recognition, or the flicker of that soft candlelight, of something beckoning you to a deeper awareness," says Chrystabell, the mononymous vocalist who cherished a decades-long creative relationship with filmmaker David Lynch.

"And, hopefully, towards the idea of peace and love for humanity and love for yourself and" – her voice drops suddenly from its ethereal loftiness to a more pedestrian, self-deprecating tone. "All of that sounds so ridiculous and grand. And it is!"

The San Antonio native laughs into the phone and pauses. I can almost hear her leaning back to toss her long auburn hair from one chiseled cheekbone to another in her La Vernia duplex, a picture of alien grace in the esoteric normalcy of Lynch's world. "I loved how David was never afraid to make these sweeping [intentions]," she says. "He literally wanted peace on Earth – it's not just this cliché thing that you say – with every cell of his body. He wanted the world to know peace."

The mystically attuned 47-year-old describes The Spirit Lamp as a musical devotional, a ceremony drawn from immense grief and a desire to honor her late mentor, who died last January at age 78. Onstage, Chrystabell revisits the dreamlike compositions she and Lynch created while veiled in 16mm film projections from experimental filmmaker David Gatten.

"I didn't know when we were writing it that it would also be the music that would help get me through losing him, but that's been the gift," she says tearfully.

Chrystabell met Lynch when she was just 19, already a haunting beauty with an unearthly sensibility ripe for muse-making. She'd acted briefly in a kung fu movie and for several years she'd been singing with Austin cabaret collective 8 ½ Souvenirs, but meeting the *Blue Velvet* director opened new doors for her career. Lynch, she tells me, had just returned from a million-dollar meditation course with Maharishi, the creator of Transcendental Meditation™,

which the filmmaker practiced deeply and taught to Chrystabell.

"The lyrics for 'This Train' came to him immediately after taking this course, and he said that coming home from that course, he was in love with everyone," the singer recalls of the titular song from their first collaborative project, released in 2011. At the time, she wasn't necessarily sure what to make of the surrealist, emotionally charged lyrics she'd vocally interpreted, nor the dazzling world of famous connections that accompanied Lynch.

"The first person to hear that song was Elizabeth Taylor," she says, still astonished. "He really wanted to bring her the gift of meditation, and he thought that hearing this song might reach her heart."

The relationship Chrystabell formed with Lynch, 30 years her senior, profoundly altered the course of the young Texan's life, teaching her intuitive confidence and entangling her musical artistry with Lynch's own. The pair would go on to release two more albums: 2016's *Something in the Nowhere*, out shortly before Chrystabell appeared as FBI agent Tammy Preston *Twin Peaks: The Return*, and 2024's *Cellophane Memories*.

Performing *The Spirit Lamp*, the chanteuse breathes life into iconic songs of the *Twin Peaks* universe – like "The World Spins," originally performed by Lynch's early muse Julee Cruise in a pivotal episode of Season 2. From the perspective of an established artist more than two decades into her career, she also revisits her own work with the director.

"I get to now have the experience of singing this song as the woman that I am now, with people who are drawn to have the experience to be there with me in that moment," she says. "I'm this living intention for one aspect of what David really wanted to be in this life, which was a reflection for a deepening of awareness."

Chrystabell presents The Spirit Lamp on Jan. 20 at Radio/East.

“He wanted the world to know peace.”

CHRYSTABELL, ON MENTOR DAVID LYNCH



Chrystabell and David Lynch

PHOTO BY DAVID LYNCH

STATE OF GRACE SCORES VINTAGE FINDS FOR ALL

Many a magazine, movie, and vintage rack would have you believe that until very recently, everyone was rail thin. The problem with movies and magazines as an all-encompassing, representative source is, well, we know better.

"Everyone of all sizes has always existed," says Grace Womack, the curator behind State of Grace, a mid- and plus-size vintage reseller. "No matter what the magazine tells you, they were there and they were well-dressed. They were shopping from the same catalog."

The proof is in Womack's sourcing. "It's not necessarily that I'm shopping in different places than a lot of the other vintage sellers," she says. "It's just that I'm looking for something different."

Like many vintage resellers, hunting down time-tested treasures and sustainable statement pieces has become a way of life for Womack. Working at North Lamar's Revival Vintage before striking out on her own helped set up the clothing fanatic for a career of dedicated, ceaseless searching. When traveling, she opts to drive rather than fly so she can collect more pieces along the way. Digging deep through estate sale closets and small town thrifts just to come up empty-handed is just a part of the job.

"I want to do the hard work for you," she says. "It's a lot of being willing to walk out of a place with nothing enough times that you walk out of a place with something really good."

If she has sourcing secrets, this fashionable shopper isn't sharing them, but she does have two messages for vintage fiends. First, it's really, truly okay to stop by a booth and just chat, she promises. "We love to talk," she laughs. "And even if you don't buy anything – totally fine." Second, if you've spent your life dreaming of a purple suede coat or the perfect empire waist gown, let your local reseller in on your journey.

"If there's a piece that you're really interested in and you can't find it, and you don't want to stay on eBay for 400 hours and find it, we will gladly do that for you, because we're freaks, and that's our favorite thing to do," Womack says.

Her wares, always available for perusing at South Lamar's multi-vendor extravaganza Potluck Vintage and found many weekends at local pop-ups, focus on natural fabrics that have, as she says, "lasted so long for a reason" and lean toward a Nineties-onward style.

"You can go up to my market on a Saturday and you can find something that fits you pretty easily – and in a whole sea of other things that could also fit you," says Womack, with the confidence and satisfaction of someone who knows how valuable that feeling is. "I don't feel as true to myself when I'm not selling things that wouldn't even fit me." ■

State of Grace vintage will sell clothes, accessories, and more at LoLo Wine on Saturday, Jan. 17, from noon-5pm.

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A THREAT TO THE

Lawsuits, band backlash, an employee exodus:
Chaos at one of Red River's staple music venues

The message on the black gate that separates Empire Garage from the street was simple: "Fuck u Steve." The spray-painted words, captured on Dec. 30, quickly became a backdrop for angry Instagram posts, directed at Empire Control Room & Garage owner Stephen Sternschein, that flooded the timelines of music lovers across the Live Music Capital last month. Personal accounts accused the venue owner of firing a majority of his security staff after several late paychecks.

When reached for comment on Dec. 31, Sternschein texted: "Times are rough for venues – bar sales have plummeted and we can't afford to have [an] in-house security dept." Empire will instead employ a third-party security provider, the owner said, but "Rumors flying around that we let go of 'the staff' are untrue; there are still 30 of us here doing our best to survive and make more out of less." He estimated that five employees and 10 contractors were fired, accounting for a 20% staff reduction. "It's only a part of what we need to do to survive this next year," he wrote.

"For over a decade at Empire Control Room & Garage, we've led the charge on wages and quality of life for our staff. We didn't just talk about it – we paid 2x the national average for our industry because we believed the people who make the shows happen deserve to be compensated fairly," Sternschein continued. "That commitment hasn't changed. But the reality has. Bar sales are down significantly. Consumer preferences have shifted. And the current payroll structure is no longer sustainable. We're reorganizing and moving to a vendor staffing model for some of our event operations – the

same approach venues like Stubb's and ACL Live do. There are still 30+ of us over here on the Empire team, and we're grateful for the outpouring of support from our Austin community during this difficult time."

For many of the past employees sharing their frustrations online, however, these recent developments are merely the latest issue in a long list that's been building for many years.

"This is not the first time that payroll has not been received by employees," said Ashley Pickell, who started at Empire in 2017 and played several roles at the venue before leaving as a manager in 2023. "This has happened multiple times throughout the years, and because most of the people who work there are young musicians and artists and people that want to get into the industry, there's not a lot of fight in them when things like this happen, because where else are they going to get a job where they're getting this kind of exposure to the industry and the experiences they're having?"

Alongside Pickell, audio engineers Ana Hymson and Sydney Wright – both of whom worked at Empire until May 2025 – and ex-manager Adam Anthony recalled times that their paychecks were shorted or late and only rectified after days to weeks of following up with Sternschein, as evidenced by email and workplace communication platform messages received by the *Chronicle*.

"A lot of these people are frustrated. It's the holidays," said Anthony, who left Empire on Nov. 28 after five years there. "These people rely on this check in order to make rent." When asked on Jan. 9 specifically about late and missing paychecks, Sternschein offered no comment.

BUILDING AN EMPIRE

Sternschein has worked in the music industry in many capacities, experiencing his fair share of legal and financial issues along the way. The New Jersey native opened Empire in 2013, alongside then-partners Mike and Dave Machinist and Side Bar owner Trey Spaw, under Heard Entertainment LLC. Empire, officially titled Empire Control Room & Garage, spans two parcels of land on Red River with an indoor and outdoor stage. The team was nearly evicted in 2018 during a development sweep that threatened many venues in the area. Since then, Sternschein and his financial partners have purchased both parcels with help from the city of Austin.

Four years after Empire opened its doors, the Heard team bought Parish, a small venue then located on Sixth. The mid-capacity stage has experienced a turbulent ride in the owners' hands. A pandemic-era lawsuit concerning disputed rent and utility payments pushed the owners to relocate Parish to 501 Brushy. There, fire damage kept it shuttered for months and "rising real estate costs and changing consumer behavior," according to a press release, pushed the venue back onto the streets in August 2025. Sternschein and his investors continue to search for a "central and affordable" long-term home for Parish.

Throughout his tenure as a venue owner, Sternschein has also been involved in several venue sustainability projects and businesses, including co-founding Prism.fm, a booking and ticketing software aimed at independent concert promoters, in 2016. Sternschein has since left the company. When COVID-19 erupted, he became



PHOTO BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

EMPIRE

BY CAROLINE DREW



the founding treasurer of the National Independent Venue Association, a pandemic-born trade organization that advocates for small stages, serving on their board until July 2021.

“We built [NIVA] based on what we did here,” Sternschein told the *Chronicle* in 2020. “I told everybody the story of Austin – how we built a really effective live music body that’s protecting all of us.”

During his time with the coalition, Sternschein also served as the executive producer of the virtual Save Our Stages Festival, a part of the Save Our Stages campaign, which resulted in the passing of a congressional act of the same name securing \$15 billion in federal funding for music venues across the country. Empire and Parish both benefited from the act, receiving nearly \$2.1 million combined to cover rent and maintenance costs while concertgoing was put on pause.

Following the pandemic, Sternschein and Resound co-founders Ian Orth and Graham Williams merged Heard Presents and Resound Presents, forming an independent concert promotion and booking outfit that, at the time, expected rapid symbiotic growth. The partnership has since ruptured, and the two agencies now book separately. While Resound books at many stages across Central Texas, Heard arranges shows at Empire and, until recently, Parish. The Machinists remain partners in Heard Entertainment and the two venues it operates – though staff, and legal documents, say that they are no longer involved in day-to-day operations as of December 2024.

INITIAL CRACKS

Accusations that Empire had been stiffing artists and that Sternschein’s business management wasn’t up to snuff remained whispers amid the scene and comments on Reddit until last month. Trouble at the venue began to compound in November, following the tragic suicide of longtime employee Dick Chalmers. A jack-of-all-trades fixture on Red River, Chalmers had worked at the venue for 13 years, spending nights at the door doing security, behind the booth running lighting, and by the bar creating content for the venue. He was beloved for his mentorship of younger employees, and his passing brought many emotions to the surface.

“He was an uplifter,” emphasized Wright. “He lived and breathed Empire.”

Shortly after Chalmers’ passing, staff received an email obtained by the *Chronicle* that outlined coming changes for 2026. “You will have to choose to be a contractor or employee,” Sternschein wrote in the email, going on to explain that hourly rates for all positions “are going to go down” in order to ensure “sustainability for employees and the Venue.”

“The choice was – choose to be a contractor and get hardly any shifts or be an employee and all of a sudden your time is worth less cause you’re taking that pay cut,” Wright said via text, adding that slow seasons might leave full-time employees unable to pay rent under this new model.

Despite Sternschein’s claim that Empire has led the industry in employee pay rates, disputes over wages are not new at the venue. In 2022, then-manager Amanda Justice led a short labor strike after she discovered that she and her production staff would not be receiving festival pay, an industry standard, for their South by Southwest shifts.



PHOTO BY JOHN ANDERSON

At left: Empire Control Room & Garage, empty during Free Week 2026

At right: Steve Sternschein in 2017

“Every venue, every production company, pays festival pay for South By and ACL in the very least,” Justice said, explaining that the increased wages are intended to compensate for a higher volume and intensity of labor during the festival. “We found out [on] Thursday [a day before the 2022 festival began] that we’re not only not getting festival pay, but that we are the lowest-paid production team in town for that week.”

Justice called for her co-workers to join her in refusing labor until higher wages were negotiated. Though the strike was a success, Justice was promptly fired after the festival. Justice filed for unemployment with the Texas Workforce Commission, alleging that she was eligible because she had been fired for unionizing retaliation, rather than the claimed misconduct – Empire said they’d fired Justice for drinking on the job. The Texas Workforce Commission found her termination was not due to misconduct, but an appeal from the venue led to the filing being dropped.

Staff members like Justice, Pickell, and Hymson said they had also been witness, during their time with the venue, to larger instances of financial mishandling by Sternschein. Hymson recalled unpaid equipment repair bills and Pickell remembered Sternschein requesting money “no questions asked” from the cash box. Several managers expressed confusion after the venue received a major check from Ticketmaster, following a new contract with the ticketing giant, and was still unable to balance company accounts.

“We started working with Ticketmaster in August [2025],” said Sternschein when asked about the financial impact of the deal. “They have the best ticketing solution that I’ve seen, and absolutely the partnership immediately helps us to stabilize the business and it will help immensely over the next few years.” He had no comment on further questions about his financial management and employee confusion surrounding the Ticketmaster funds.

Venue employees are not the only ones to allege incompetence at the venue. Juan-Carlos Silva, the organizer behind punk festival This Is Austin, Not That Great, spoke out in a video on Dec. 31 about reactionary and unprofessional treatment from the venue owners after Empire hosted part of the three-day fest in 2023.

“This is just a reflection of the people that run this place. Not the staff, of course. The staff – everybody I’ve ever worked with there have always been really cool and awesome people,” said Silva.

Local show organizers Tiny Sounds Collective also shared a recent negative experience on social media.

“Tiny Sounds hosted a show on the Empire Control Room stage on December 2nd. At the end of the night a check was offered to us but just looking at the numbers I knew it was short,” Mathew Zuniga wrote to the *Chronicle*. Discussing payment with the venue over email, the independent booking collective discovered that the initial check was about \$700 short. Despite settling on the correct amount with venue officials, Zuniga is still awaiting payment as of Jan. 13.

While many bookers collect a fee for their services arranging shows and handling financials for bands, Tiny Sounds Collective does not, leaving the group in a precarious position after paying out musicians.

“Tiny Sounds doesn’t take a cut from any show, to help bands maximize profit. So, when we are stiffed like this there is no reserve of money or fund we can fall back on,” Zuniga wrote. “Stories of Empire not paying bands and bookers are not new and since posting about it multiple bookers have sent messages about how they have had similar experiences.”

Sternschein stated that he was unaware of Tiny Sounds’ unfulfilled payment.

LEGAL DISPUTES EXPOSE BROADER ISSUES

An ongoing legal dispute between Sternschein and Empire investor Andrew Sernovitz has surfaced several other accusations of financial mismanagement on a larger scale. Sernovitz declined to comment due to the active nature of the case.

Sternschein petitioned for a temporary restraining order against Sernovitz on July 18, 2025, following Sernovitz’s resignation from his role as an interim consultant. The petition was dismissed by an Austin judge on Friday, Dec. 5. According to the dismissal document, the judge found that Sternschein’s initial filing against Sernovitz, who was brought on to help “restructure and consolidat[e]” Sternschein’s many business interests in February 2025, was brought “for an improper purpose.” The judge goes on to describe that purpose as “harassing” Sernovitz and inhibiting him from “exercising [his] constitutional rights” via sharing important financial information with fellow shareholders in Heard Entertainment LLC and 606 Holdings LLC, two of Sternschein’s venue-related LLCs. Rather than appeal the decision, Sternschein chose to refile a similar suit on Dec. 29, which is ongoing.

In addition to several claims of maladministration on an investor level, this case, and an ongoing countersuit filed by Sernovitz, accuses Sternschein of “misclassifying and failing to pay multiple employees, artists, music venues, and vendors.”

At left: Graffiti on the fence outside Empire Control Room & Garage, December 30, 2025

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE DREW



Sernovitz also alleges that Sternschein violated the terms of his contribution agreement with the city of Austin via Rally Austin (formerly the Austin Economic Development Corporation).

The *Chronicle* reported on Empire's deal with Rally Austin, a real estate nonprofit that facilitates economic development by connecting cultural spaces to government money, in October 2024. The \$2.2 million loan allowed Heard Entertainment to purchase one nominal half of Empire Control Room & Garage, the Garage, at 604 E. Seventh. The Control Room, located at 606 E. Seventh, was already held by Sternschein via 606 Holdings LLC.

Within the pages of their legal dispute, Sernovitz alleges that Sternschein transferred ownership of the Garage from Heard Entertainment to his real estate-owning LLC, 606 Holdings, in exchange for stock in that company which he sold to investors. Sternschein, when reached for comment, denied transferring ownership of the property.

The provisions of Rally Austin's loan, provided to the *Chronicle* via public information request, state that they must approve of any such movement. Rally Austin Chief Operating Officer David Colligan told the *Chronicle* that, while they are aware of the allegations, they have not received a request to transfer the property title and that any change in the property's shareholders could require them to request immediate or expedited repayment.

"The controls are there. We've not been made aware of or have been requested to make any significant changes or approve any significant changes in movement of the property," said Colligan. He emphasized that Empire is up to date on its payment plan.

Other recurring payments appear to be receiving different treatment. According to documents from the Travis County Tax Office, Heard Entertainment has not paid property taxes since it gained ownership of the 604 E. Seventh property. The venue initially owed the city of Austin \$103,701.77 in property taxes, fees, and interest by Jan. 31, but as of Jan. 8, the Travis County Tax Office website stated the unpaid taxes are disputed – thereby postponing the due date.

Sternschein stated that he is unaware of outstanding property taxes. "2024 taxes, which are from before we owned it, are on a payment plan," he wrote. Mixed Beverage Gross Receipts report that the venue made a total of \$968,298 in alcohol sales, before taxes, in fiscal year 2024.

January is shaping up to be a difficult month for the venue owner. On Dec. 5, the same date that his initial case against Sernovitz was dismissed, a status update was issued in a civil suit leveled against Sternschein in the state of New York. This case, filed by Ian Fine, Joshua Rowe, and Paul Magyar, a group of executives in Sternschein's brand partnership venture AdVentures, alleges that Sternschein did not properly compensate them for their work and committed other acts of financial misconduct, including a claim that: "Sternschein commingled corporate funds with his own, and with



PHOTO BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

funds belonging to other entities that he owned or otherwise controlled. ... Sternschein used corporate funds for personal expenditures such as vapes, alcohol, streaming subscriptions, and vacations."

According to the publicly available court docket, Sternschein has twice now ignored court summons related to the case and has offered no further comment to the *Chronicle* when asked on Dec. 31.

Jan. 13, the day before this story went to press, was the deadline for Sternschein to appear in court to avoid a warrant for his arrest.

Among their claims of commingling corporate funds and misleading investors, the ex-executives of AdVentures also made startling claims about the venue owner's professional conduct. "Sternschein's behavior during meetings was often erratic and inappropriate. He made crude, misogynistic remarks, and created a hostile work environment," states the filing. "Staff began referring to being inconvenienced or harmed by his erratic behavior as getting 'Sternscheined.'"

Crew members at Sternschein's venue echoed that sentiment. "The culture is absolutely toxic," said Wright. "Empire is a place that does not value their employees, and that can beat you down if you feel stuck there."

EMPIRE EXODUS

As a fresh layer of black paint began to dry over the frustrated graffiti on the gate, online allegations stacked up, and all 12 bands scheduled to play on Empire's two stages during the Jan. 9-10 mini-festival Free Week either dropped out of the festival or moved their performances to other Red River venues.

When reached for comment, a Red River Cultural District representative stated that "adjustments [were] made as new bands were added to the bill, and new schedules were finalized based on artist preferences, availability and logistics."

For many bands, and local music fans, positive feelings about the venue itself no longer feel separable from their frustration with its ownership.

"[The] Austin music scene does not need to continue to support this man in any kind of way, or contribute to him financially," said Pickell. "It sucks that Empire, the venue's name, has to be smeared like this because it doesn't have anything to do with the space. That space is so loved by so many people."

"The staff are 100% the best people in the world," Anthony agreed. "It's a beautiful place, and it could have been something that was an amazing spot for so many people to hang out at, had it not been run by him."

"Empire is a place that does not value their employees, and that can beat you down if you feel stuck there."

FORMER EMPIRE EMPLOYEE SYDNEY WRIGHT

CALENDAR

JAN. 15-22



COURTESY OF THE VORTEX

the wolf you feed THEATRE

THROUGH FEBRUARY 7, THE VORTEX

New from playwright Darcy Parker Bruce, this take on *Where the Wild Things Are* finds the Sendakian tale reimagined on the outskirts of a national forest. Protagonist Max's world has gone feral since her recent separation, and the call of a punk wolf pack urges her to give in to her more bestial nature. Helmed by Vortex Associate Artistic Director Chris Fontanes, this production, starting Thursday, Jan. 15, features performances by Rachel Hancock, Phoenix Shaw, Angelina Castillo, Aurora Villarreal, Mon Darter, and Pablo Munoz-Evers. There are two wolves inside you, Reader, and they both want you to buy a ticket to this play. — JAMES SCOTT

MLK Oratory Competition

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY 15, ACC HIGHLAND

Join the Austin Area Heritage Council in celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with local fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students presenting their own original speeches. Each participant competing in the 21st annual event will give a five-minute presentation with songs allowed – but no note cards, as these speeches must be delivered from memory alone. First place secures a \$500 cash prize, with second place earning \$250 and third place \$150. This year's theme is "If Dr. King were alive today, what would you share with him based on the present-day situation/issues which are more prominent in people's lives today? To help his dream become a reality for the world, how would you personally make these changes?" — JAMES SCOTT

FronteraFest THEATRE

THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, HYDE PARK THEATRE

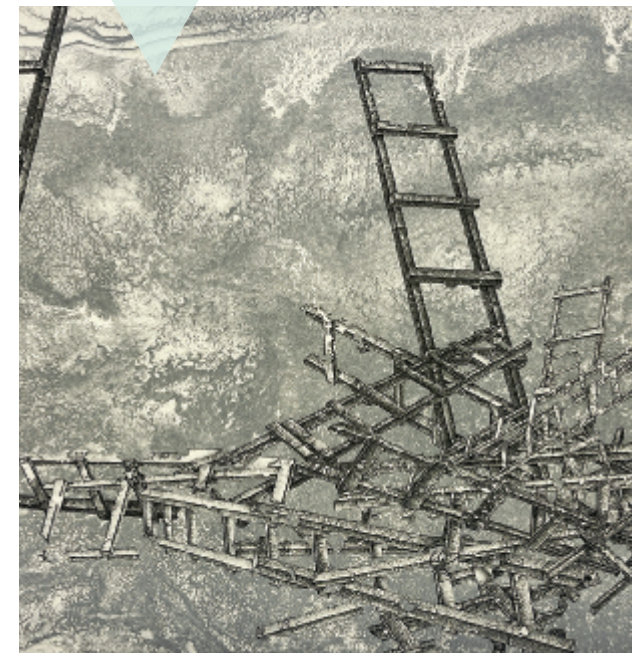
For the 31st year, Hyde Park Theatre brings new, weird performances to its stage. Puppets, improv, dance, multimedia presentations, and other random acts of creativity come fast and furious in the Short Fringe presentations every Tuesday through Friday. Saturdays feature a curated Best of the Week (get tickets early!). After all the good, bad, and ugly art has been seen, there's a Best of the Fest showcase of only the great. Tickets for that will be near impossible to attain, so stay frosty, you beautiful theatre-obsessives you. — JAMES RENOVITCH

The Contemporary Print

VISUAL ARTS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 8, LINK & PIN

Local bastion of traditional printmaking PrintAustin once again hosts their juried exhibition of contemporary approaches to the medium, this time at Link & Pin Gallery starting January 16. Chosen here are pieces that exemplify printmaking's "dynamic and fluid nature," as Link & Pin puts it, while also showcasing the artists' tackling of myriad subject matter from immigration to dialogues between artistic techniques. This year's juror is Susanna V. Temkin, senior curator at El Museo del Barrio. Participating artists are Ron Abram, Kyle Chaput, Bryan Chavera, Cathie Crawford, Don Dao, Maria Dore, Isa Ghanayem, Clarissa Gonzalez, Brandy González, Madeline Goolie, Bláithín Haddad, Cole Hancock, Sadie Harrison-Fincher, Gaby Hurtado-Ramos, Raluca Iancu, Monica Jacobs, Ami Mehta, Katrina Noble, Carolyn Norton, Olivia Overfield, Ava Reynolds, James Scannell, VC Torneden, and Kalinda Tran. — JAMES SCOTT



"ASCENSION I" BY KYLE A. CHAPUT // COURTESY OF PRINTAUSTIN



Bound FILM QUEER

FRIDAY 16, HYPERREAL FILM CLUB

Of course I love all Wachowski films almost equally – I haven't seen *Cloud Atlas* and therefore can't speak on ginger Halle Berry – but there's nothing that compares to their first feature. Made as a proof of skill before the sisters could enter *The Matrix*, this taut thriller features groundbreaking sapphic chemistry between stars Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Against a backdrop of mob warfare, Christopher Meloni with hair, and tense phone calls separated by a single wall, gangster's moll Violet and former jailbird Corky find love – and 2 million dollars – in a nearly hopeless place. Screening hosts Carabiner Club add in drag by Karabiner, spins by DJ Kshal, and a 2-for-1 drink special for you and a cutie who shares your star sign.

– JAMES SCOTT

Socialist Happy Hour COMMUNITY

FRIDAY 16, HOLE IN THE WALL

It's a new year and everything still sucks, so it's high time for comrades to reconnect. Join Austin DSA for a happy hour at the historic Hole in the Wall to meet other like-minded folks and get in on the community-driven action our local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America has in store. Go in the back way through Amity's if you'd like to avoid the band cover charge, but this would also be a great chance to catch some live music after. Can't make it? They plan to meet again every third Friday evening.

– KAT MCNEVINS

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas FILM

FRIDAY 16 - MONDAY 19, ALAMO VILLAGE, MUELLER, SLAUGHTER LANE, SOUTH LAMAR, AND LAKELINE

Burt Reynolds and birthday girl Dolly Parton anchor this raunchy comedy musical as the star-crossed sheriff of a small Texas town and his longtime paramour and madam of the Chicken Ranch, the titular top-tier bordello. When slimy muckraker Melvin P. Thorpe threatens to shut the ranch down with an exposé, Sheriff Ed Earl appeals to the out-to-lunch Texas Capitol in one of the funniest skewerings of our state's politics ever to grace the silver screen. It's worth it to see this one with a live audience – collective laughs are all but guaranteed.

– LINA FISHER

The Improvised Shakespeare Company THEATRE

FRIDAY 16 - SATURDAY 17, MCCULLOUGH THEATRE

YOU – an audience member desirous of the wit and verve standard to all Willie S.'s plays. THEM – a theatre company dedicated to creating totally improvised Shakespearean masterpieces based on your suggestions. The players are set, the stage awaits, and hark! What transpires upon those boards at the McCullough Theatre will be fully unique and never heard before, delighting your senses until you exit, pursued by a bear.

– JAMES SCOTT

CONTINUED ON P.24

Bridge & Torch Puzzle!

Four people come to a river in the night. There is a narrow bridge, and it can only hold two people at a time. They have one torch, and because it's night, the torch has to be held (not thrown) when crossing the bridge.

Anna can cross the bridge in 1 minute, Bryan in 2 minutes, Chris in 5 minutes, and Dana in 10 minutes. When two people cross the bridge together, they must move at the slower person's pace. The question is, can they all get across the bridge if the torch lasts only 17 minutes? If so, how is it possible? If not, how much time is needed?



Scan the QR code for an answer & explanation!

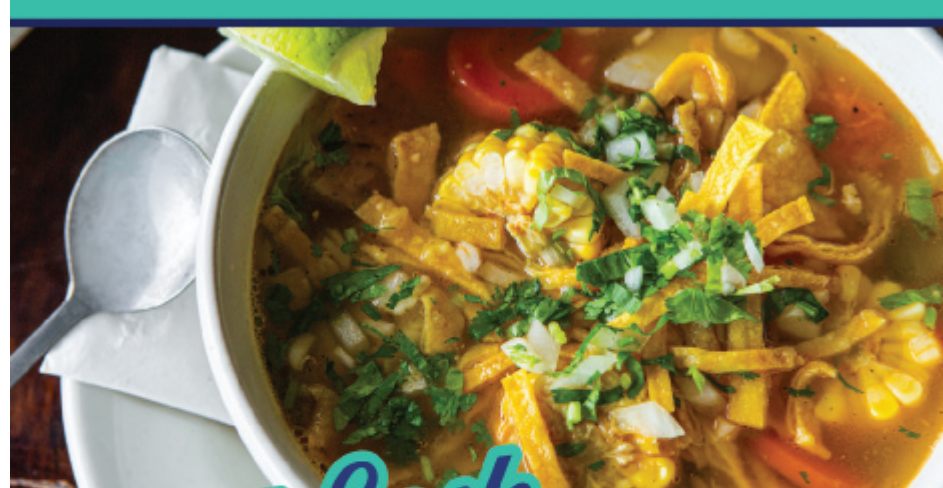
Designed by Elizabeth Wrightsman at MathHappens Foundation.

Math Happens

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



Adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridge_and_torch_problem



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Memphis Kee Album Release

MUSIC

FRIDAY 16, STUBB'S

Memphis Kee can unload a low-down gritty Southern rock jam, but as the local quintet's new sophomore album *Dark Skies* emphasizes, they're at their most powerful stripping back into sincere ballads behind leader Kee's roughened deep vocals that conjure Robert Earl Keen filtered through Waylon Jennings. Harsh realities and small wonders collide with songs like the Uvalde-inspired "Being a Kid," balanced against the easy melody of "Hummingbird" and the Jamie Lin Wilson duet "Bewitched." The release gets support from two country scene stalwarts: suave baritone honky-tonker Ellis Bullard and former Silverada pedal steel maestro Zach Moulton, picking solo behind last year's *Faded Jackets* EP. — DOUG FREEMAN

Know Your Rights Focus Groups

CIVICS

FRIDAY 16, THURSDAY 22, AND SATURDAY 24,
MONTOPOLIS RECREATION CENTER,
APD HEADQUARTERS, AND VIRTUAL

"Accountability" hasn't necessarily been in the vocabularies of law enforcement agencies across the board lately, if ever. Austin Police Oversight is doing what it can to make inroads into APD to ensure that someone is watching those tasked with serving and protecting. This series of focus groups gives Austinites a voice in updating the group's "Know Your Rights" materials for 2026. In practice – and perhaps depending on how blue the state you live in is – those rights aren't always respected, but at least we can offer a guide to what that law says and hope for change in the future. — JAMES RENOVITCH

CONTINUED ON P.26



PHOTO BY SCOTT RODGERSON VIA UNSPLASH

COMMUNITY

Ebony Stewart at the Vortex's
MLK Day open mic 2025

PHOTO BY ERRICH PETERSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

CELEBRATING MLK DAY WITH POETRY AT THE VORTEX

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was first celebrated in 1986. Some 40 years later, the third Monday in January continues to be a moment for reflection on freedom of speech as well as freedom for all people. In that tradition, the Vortex – which resides in the historically Black cultural district Six Square – hosts their long-running MLK Day open mic poetry showcase with host Ebony Stewart, where Black artists get priority on a stage dedicated to resistance through art. Participating is free, but listening is pay-what-you-can with a \$5 recommended donation. This year's celebration features new players in local cultural org the Poet House and their every.Word Poetry program.

Bringing the Poet House's every.Word Poetry program into the annual MLK Day event was serendipity, according to Michael Hatcher and Jasmine Games, the House's executive director and artistic director, respectively. Founded in 2024, every.Word's Monday night adult open mics in the Butterfly Garden have "grown really, really fast, and it's a beautiful community," says Games. By combining that open mic with the MLK showcase, "we're getting the every.Word Poetry experience while celebrating MLK Day, while still getting Ebony Stewart," she explains.

Stewart's start as MLK Day open mic host came right as she made her departure from Austin, which she considers the site of her "poetic start." Thanks to the Vortex team she'd been with since 2013 looking to keep the nationally recognized writer included in their programming, she admits she just can't quit ATX. "Austin is one of those cities that won't let you go," she explains. "So even if you leave, they're like, 'No, we'll find something for you to do. We want you here. Don't leave us.'" Being involved is a positive,

Stewart finds, as she's witnessed myriad standout performances at these MLK celebrations, including 2025 National Poetry Slam Champion Rudy Francisco and 2023 Bigfoot Regional Poetry Slam champ Christopher Diaz. But her biggest highlights are "the community and people that you didn't even know were writers or poets [who] show up and sign up onto the list."

"People can show up for, I want to say, a cause, but it doesn't really feel like that," she adds. "They could show up for what matters to them, and this is something that matters to them."

Holding an open mic as an MLK Day tribute signals to a specific part of the great orator's impact. Martin Luther King Jr.'s

legacy includes utilizing language to create social progress, as Hatcher explains: "Martin Luther King, I think he had an understanding. He was an eloquent speaker, but I think he [also] had an understanding of the impact of

words, the way that they can change laws, the way that they can change hearts," he says. "Poets have to have that same understanding, especially performance poets, because we're trying to alter, we're trying to change. We're trying to ... evoke emotion."

For Stewart, the connective tissue between spoken word poetry and MLK's legacy is "us saying we are committed to each other."

"We are committed to freedom of speech. We are committed to truth telling and the collective liberation of what that looks like and how that feels in the moment, in real time," she says. "A lot of virtuality happens where a lot of us live our lives online, and so to be connected in real life in person, to me, it feels good, but it also gives me the satisfaction and the reassurance of knowing that I'm not alone."

— JAMES SCOTT

An every.Word Poetry MLK Day Open Mic

Monday 19, the Vortex Eloise Brooks Cullum Stage
vortexrep.org

Spirit & Splendor

El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque



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Spirit & Splendor: El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque is organized by the Hispanic Society Museum and Library, with support from The Museum Box. Major support for this exhibition at the Blanton is provided by The Moody Foundation.

Image: Visitors in *Spirit & Splendor: El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque*, at the Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Aug 24, 2025–Feb 1, 2026

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IMAGE VIA BANDCAMP

Big Bite MUSIC

FRIDAY 16, HOTEL VEGAS

Seattle's Big Bite returns to Texas stages this month for the first time since 2019, following the release of two 2025 singles reinvigorating the band's noisy, feedback-affected take on Pacific Northwest guitar music. The garage quartet takes the tradition of their grunge predecessors and runs with it, infusing raw rock energy with all the distortion and jagged punk-adjacent sounds of the contemporary PNW scene. Supported by local jangly guitar-loving shoegaze-pop darlings Touch Girl Apple Blossom, this Hotel Vegas show – the second stop on a Lone Star State mini-tour – has all the charm of the Nineties reimagined.

– CAROLINE DREW

Jonas Wilson and Elijah Ford MUSIC

FRIDAY 16, RADIO/EAST

Don't let Jonas Wilson's appearance on the current and waiting-for-your-input Austin Music Poll under "Experimental" fool you for one moment. Bastrop's ingenious player/producer can't compose, record, or perform without landing a melodic earworm. His guitar skills alone thrill with every lick, making his collabs with Ghostland Observatory's Aaron Behrens, Heartless Bastards, and Alejandro Escovedo auspicious. Solo, he's John Frusciante or David Garza, master of every instrument, sound, and impulse. September's *Smash the Control Machine* lands like a post-New Wave cult classic. Local axe bender and fellow all-in-one Elijah Ford pairs perfectly with Wilson for hooky and homegrown head-n-heart "experimentalism" at your favorite Eastside garden of delights.

– RAOUL HERNANDEZ

Planets & Pasos MUSIC

FRIDAY 16 - SATURDAY 17, THE LONG CENTER

Three, two, one – lift off! Leave the Earth's atmosphere with Miguel Espinoza Fusion as they perform a set bolstered by Gustav Holst's cosmic suite *The Planets*. Each movement titled after a different icon of our solar system, this performance of the suite highlights the ensemble's signature intermingling of flamenco, classical, and world rhythm. Before dancing on the rings of Jupiter, arrive early for stargazing with the Austin Astronomical Society.

– JAMES SCOTT

The Big Bash COMEDY

FRIDAY 16, HIDEOUT THEATRE

Back in the year 2013, former Arts Editor Robert Fairies interviewed the Hideout's Roy Janik on this "all-star" improv comedy team. Janik said at the time that his desire for the Big Bash, Hideout's Friday night show for now over 13 years, was the performance be "something that you 'have to do' when you come to Austin." Well, Reader: You're obviously in Austin. Why not stop by this Congress comedy den for a knockout night of pro improv performers delivering a highly skilled showcase of games, scenes, and stories? – JAMES SCOTT

An Afternoon with Isabel Ibañez, Rebecca Ross, and Ali Hazelwood BOOKS

SATURDAY 17, BOOKPEOPLE

Welcome to the holy romance trinity: Isabel Ibañez, introducing her debut adult novel at BookPeople with support from fellow writer deities Rebecca Ross (*Divine Rivals*) and Ali Hazelwood (*The Love Hypothesis*). *Graceless Heart* plays in Renaissance-era Italy, with a magical sculptress on a quest to save her brother and bring down powerful Florence families. It's history, romance, and intrigue galore.

– CAT MCCARREY

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Cartoon Saloon in Toonstone, Texas**, has been called a "roadside distraction" rather than a "roadside attraction." It's a photo op outside of Comfort disguised as an Old West town with tongue firmly placed in cheek.

Built of weathered wood with a tin roof, the saloon is sandwiched between the "Not So OK Corral" and "Sal Men Nello's Café" facing the ranch-to-market highway and backing up to a thicket of cedars.

Inside the small room there's a bar made of bottles encased in cement. The walls are insulated with neat rows of empty beer cans. Among the beer signs and graffiti left by visitors are hand-painted signs saying pithy things like "God Bless John Wayne," "Remember the Alamo," and "\$5.00 fine for Whining." Wind chimes made with beer cans and animal bones rattle in the trees.

The bartender never took our order, but someone had left a half-full bottle of Jack Daniel's whiskey on the bar despite a

sign warning that alcohol or drugs aren't allowed in Toonstone.

The mock saloon is the brainchild (or brain fart, depending on your view of folk art) of four friends hanging out in the Cockey Rooster Bar, a real saloon in Comfort. J.P. "Cartoon Cowboy" Rankin, Paul Denmark, Brian Coyle, and Marc "Biscuit" Lafrenais built the faux town after Rankin and his daughter Ammeke Herrera decorated a cedar tree with Lone Star Beer cans for Christmas in 2013.

Rankin holds the title of justice of the peace of the fictional town of Toonstone when he's not an insurance agent or award-winning cartoonist in the style of Ace Reid and Jim Franklin. Denmark is the self-proclaimed mayor, and Biscuit is the deputy because Bob Marley/Eric Clapton shot the sheriff.

The Cartoon Saloon in Toonstone is at 508 FM 473, about five miles east of Comfort. It's open 24/7 and there's never a cover charge.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

1,789th in a series. Everywhere is a day trip from somewhere. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/day-trips.



COURTESY OF IVESTER CONTEMPORARY

Hayun Surl: "Guardians"

VISUALARTS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 21,
IVESTER CONTEMPORARY

Created via high firing with special attention to glazing, the newest series of ceramic figures by Hayun Surl present a strong yet delicately detailed brigade. These "guardians" take inspiration from Korean artifacts, traditional pottery, and Surl's own experiences moving between cultures. Also, they look really freaking cool, in this writer's opinion. Ivester unveils the pieces this Saturday, Jan. 17, where viewers can observe this ongoing series' reflections on "cultural fluidity, adaptation, and identity through ceramic form." — **JAMES SCOTT**

Thanks for the Memories

BOOKS COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 17, RECYCLED READS

Rest in peace yet another Austin gem. Austin Public Library bids adieu to its classic secondhand store, replacing it with branch-specific sales. I'll miss finding strange memoirs and glorious sci-fi paperbacks on those strange shelves. To celebrate the end of an era, join a stacked Saturday lineup: bookmark crafting, bookmaking from repurposed materials (a literal recycled read), and concerts from Project Melody, Javier Jara, and Poet Hawkins. There may not be much inventory left, but there sure are memories to share. — **CAT MCCARREY**

CONTINUED ON P.28



PHOTO BY GONZALO BA VIA PEXELS

MLK Jr. Celebration: Readings by Muslim Authors

BOOKS COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 17, CENTRAL LIBRARY

Austin Public Library pays tribute to the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with this afternoon of cultural activities led by City Council Member Zo Qadri. Also honoring Muslim Heritage Month, the library offers an all-ages craft station, a henna station, and the chance to have your name written in Arabic calligraphy. While APL doesn't have the author names listed as of press time, these are sure to be engaging works – and there'll even be a book giveaway! — **JAMES SCOTT**

O'Brien's Orchestra Presents *The Room*

FILM THEATRE

SATURDAY 17,
SOUTHWEST THEATERS LAKE CREEK 7

Not content with shadowcasts of the traditional *Rocky Horror* variety, these fishnetted performers are ready to tear you apart via Tommy Wiseau's mangled masterpiece. Join them in celebrating this cult classic with all the audience participation you've come to expect, as well as a live "red flag counter" tracking every time the film makes you go "Ruh-roh." — **JAMES SCOTT**

— **JAMES SCOTT**



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the past is a jean jacket Poetry Reading

BOOKS QUEER

SATURDAY 17, ALIENATED MAJESTY BOOKS

No one ever loses those big emotions they felt as a teenager – we only lose the space and joy of staring at the ceiling, bumping whatever sad-sack sounds soothe the soul while considering the meaning of it all. Author Cloud Delfina Cardona channels those impeccable impulses in her poetry collection, the perfectly titled *the past is a jean jacket*. Listen to Cardona's own reading, accompanied by literary fellows Amber Isaac, Dee Lalo Garcia, and Travis Shosa. Gently indulge your past self with an evening of poetry.

– CAT MCCARREY

Dolly Parton Birthday Tribute

MUSIC

SATURDAY 17, SAGEBRUSH

It's the queen's birthday, and we must all pay tribute. Dolly is the closest the U.S.A. will ever come to a mutually agreed-upon royal, and Austin is showing out this weekend at Sagebrush to wish her a happy entrance into her eighth decade, with hopefully more to come. Don your tallest wig for the look-alike contest or dance to covers of her many hits by our own hometown hitters Paige Plaisance, Darci Carlson, Valley Flower, and of course, Austin's own voluptuous matriarch, Brigitte Bandit. Jubilation extends till midnight, and it all goes to a good cause, with Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM) benefiting.

– LINA FISHER



A Celebration of Life for Jason Camacho

MUSIC

SATURDAY 17, THE LOST WELL

"Almost died my homies," announced Jason Camacho on his FB page Sept. 14, 2025, after a horrific car wreck locally. "Broken sternum and blood in both lungs." Six weeks later, the Austin drummer, 40, passed on. Metallic hardcore GOATs Glassing now play tribute to their trio anchor alongside Fuck Money, Blank Hellscape, and God Shell. "Jason Camacho roars across his kit like Keith Moon if he'd been raised on thrash metal," wrote the *Chronicle* about third atomizer Twin Dream. His bandmates, guitarist Cory Brim and singer/bassist Dustin Coffman, posted, "Come celebrate Jason the way he lived... loud, in the moment, and surrounded by friends." \$20 benefits HAAM.

– RAOUL HERNANDEZ

The Rose: Improv Comedy Meets Reality TV Romance

COMEDY

SATURDAY 17, COLDTOWNE THEATER

If you've seen one episode of *The Bachelor*, you've kind of seen them all, but there are already 29 seasons of it and they can't seem to stop making them. And that's not even counting the spinoffs. People love this stuff! And what a rich tapestry to pull from for improv comedy – which is why ColdTowne is bringing back its award-winning riff on reality romance for a fifth season. Celebrate all the clichés of the genre and its trainwreck appeal every Saturday through March 7.

– KAT MCNEVINS

Age of Audio

FILM

SUNDAY 18, AFS CINEMA

I'm tapping this out the day after the Golden Globes awarded their first-ever Best Podcast statuette, as good as any indicator of normie acceptance-slash-omnipresence. But podcasts haven't always been so dominant. There are a lot of ups and downs crammed into the medium's relatively brief history, which this documentary surveys with a raft of heavyweight talking heads, including Ira Glass, Julie Snyder, Kara Swisher, Jad Abumrad, Kevin Smith, Roman Mars, and Marc Maron. Director Shaun Michael Colón, an AFS Grant recipient, also uses an up-and-coming podcaster, Ronald Young Jr., to both narrate (he's got great pipes) and illustrate how desperately hard it is for indie spirits in an industry overrun with corporate interests. A Q&A follows the screening.

– KIMBERLEY JONES

"Lost and Found"

VISUALARTS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, MASS GALLERY

What remains past our human lifetime are the objects we created – items which make up curator Yvette Mayorga's upcoming exhibition. MASS Gallery becomes decorated by memory fragments this Saturday, Jan. 17, with everything from "[painted] flora and fauna passed down through generations" to a "handwritten note of words of affirmation on a table napkin." These works were gathered via an open call for pieces inspired by personal objects moved over borders and through generations. Contributing artists include Sophia Hatzikos, Emily Lawson, Rewon Shimray, Renee Lai, Sonya Berg, Chantal Lesley, Roberto Jackson Harrington, Xochi Solis, Lorena Diosdado, Edward Gia, Victoria Cantu, Bárbara Miñarro, Yasmine Barrón Marquez, Guadalupe Najar, Nymera Thornton, and Javier Robelo.

– JAMES SCOTT



"BETWEEN TWO VOLCANOS" BY XOCHI SOLIS // COURTESY OF MASS GALLERY

CONTINUED ON P.30

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PHOTO VIA AUSTIN AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MLK Community March, Festival, and Food Drive

COMMUNITY

MONDAY 19, TEXAS STATE CAPITOL & HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the Austin Area Heritage Council's annual community gathering. Barring any rain-related reschedule, attendees will march from the south steps of the Capitol after a rally. This march concludes at Huston-Tillotson, where a festival including family-friendly activities, vendors, and local music acts awaits. While enjoying the many attractions there, consider donating to the Central Texas Food Bank, as there'll be receptacles both at the Capitol and at the university to take canned and nonperishable food items.

— JAMES SCOTT

MLK Day Donation Drive

COMMUNITY

MONDAY 19, PEASE PARK

Continue Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s community-focused spirit by participating in Pease Park's donation drive. Located within the park's Kingsbury Commons will be receptacles for both Micah 6 of Austin food pantry items (like cereal, canned goods, and packaged, non-refrigerated juices and milk) and items for Austin Diaper Bank (including baby wipes, pull-ups, and period pads). Remember when selecting items to donate that these will be going to folks who, like you, deserve dignity — so maybe grab a new can of beans before dumping the dented one from the back of your pantry.

— JAMES SCOTT

Get Fit! SPORTS

SUNDAY 18, BALLET AUSTIN

If the words "Ballet Austin" conjure for you tutus, grand jetés, and deep pliés, well, you're not wrong, but you haven't got the whole picture. This annual free day at Ballet Austin HQ on West Third allows you to explore over 30 far-ranging classes on offer, including the machine-based Pilates Reformer, yoga, boxing, barre, and dance fitness ranging from Latin and twerk to Broadway cardio and cheer pom. Attendance is entirely free but you'll need to register online; classes are expected to fill up. Don't forget to bring a nonperishable food item to contribute to Ballet Austin and Black Women in Business' community food drive.

— KIMBERLEY JONES

Manic Monday: *Serial Mom* & *The Toxic Avenger* FILM

MONDAY 19, THE CROW BAR

If you haven't checked out the new Crow Bar, now would be a good time. Your host Jay McDowell, aka Jay McFreeMovies, will present two solid dark-comedy selections on the bar's enormous screen, complemented by free popcorn and a full menu of craft drinks, sandwiches, pizzas, and bar snacks. Enjoy John Waters' *Serial Mom*, in which Kathleen Turner's picture-perfect housewife keeps a terrifying secret, and last year's gory reboot of the 1984 cult classic *The Toxic Avenger*, directed by Macon Blair and starring Peter Dinklage.

— KAT MCNEVINS

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse FILM

SUNDAY 18, TUESDAY 20 AND WEDNESDAY 21, ALAMO LAKELINE, MUELLER, SLAUGHTER LANE, SOUTH LAMAR, AND VILLAGE

After hiring the (uncredited) director of *American Pie* for this young-adult vamp romance's second installment, Lionsgate decided the next guy who ought to take a crack at Bella & Edward's love life was David "30 Days of Night" Slade. Stylish and addicted to shadows, Slade said he took a "more realistic approach" to this movie that includes werewolves, vampires, and an extremely charged camping trip between the two. Does grounded work as a take on Stephenie Meyer's melodramatic tale of supernatural sweethearts? Hm. Depends on how much you liked the pilot *Hannibal* episode, also directed by one Mr. Slade.

— JAMES SCOTT

Steel Magnolias FILM

SUNDAY 18, MONDAY 19 AND WEDNESDAY 21, ALAMO VILLAGE, LAKELINE, MUELLER, SLAUGHTER LANE, AND SOUTH LAMAR

Up there with the top tier of tearjerkers, this ensemble drama stars Julia Roberts, Sally Field, Daryl Hannah, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, and Dolly Parton. These heavy hitters have the best chemistry in the beauty parlor as they weather illness, heartbreak, and life's myriad struggles through the grit of Southern sisterhood. But don't be fooled by the weepy reputation; it's also a zingy collection of one-liners that'll carry you lightly through the darkest moments, much like a Southern matriarch would.

— LINA FISHER





PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

David Lynch's Birthday

COMMUNITY FILM

TUESDAY 20, WE LUV VIDEO

A same-day performance by David Lynch muse/collaborator Chrystabell at Radio/East is sure to honor the late filmmaker with style, love, and mythos, but this free community hang is a great alternative for those not in the market to spend \$50 on concert tickets. Cinephile paradise We Luv Video celebrates what would've been the iconoclast's 80th birthday with a curated screening of Lynch interview clips, shorts, and famed weather reports. Coffee and donuts are on the house, and the staff, always friendly and chatty, welcomes discussion of the man's oeuvre – and with Lynch, there's always something to talk about.

– CARYS ANDERSON

Broadway in Austin: Six

THEATRE

TUESDAY 20 - SUNDAY 25,
BASS CONCERT HALL

Divorced. Beheaded. Died. Divorced. Beheaded. Survived. The fates of the six wives of Henry VIII is dramatically fertile stuff – there's a reason their stories have been adapted roughly a gazillion times – but the neat trick of Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss' Tony Award winner is to put the storytelling agency back in the hands of the wronged women. In their spirited pop musical, the six wives compete in a song contest for who had it worst – until they come to realize that they're stronger together than as solo acts, and that Henry dude can go suck an egg.

– KIMBERLEY JONES

Hetty Lui McKinnon: Linger

BOOKS

TUESDAY 20, FIRST LIGHT BOOKS

I could spend this entire blurb waxing rhapsodic over Hetty Lui McKinnon's black pepper and fennel ice cream (from 2023 cookbook *Tenderheart*) or her sheet-pan crispy ramen and glazed tofu, a *New York Times* Cooking recipe I've made so many items I've got it memorized. I've made both dishes for friends – relevant here as the Chinese Australian, veg-forward writer's newest cookbook underscores how food creates community. *Linger's* focus – “salads, sweets, and stories to savor” – even comes with playlists, further enticement to keep everybody sat around the dinner table a little longer. The James Beard Award winner will be in conversation with Allday Pizza co-founder Daniel Sorg.

– KIMBERLEY JONES

Piece by Piece

FILM

TUESDAY 20, HYPERREAL FILM CLUB

It might seem crazy what I'm about to say, but when asked how he'd like his life story to be told, master music producer Pharrell Williams said (paraphrasing): “Bring out the LEGO bricks, baby.” Surreal as the concept is, the documentary directed by Morgan Neville is fully animated in “brickfilm” and produced by the real-deal Danish Lego Group as well as Williams' own production company I Am Other. What plays out is a kaleidoscopic retelling of the producer's rise in the music industry featuring multiple celebrity talking-head interviews – also in Lego form. Animation appreciator supreme Blake Williams (no relation) intros the feature for Hyperreal.

– JAMES SCOTT

CONTINUED ON P.34

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Jos Tha DJ at Girls on Aux

PHOTO BY DEANDRE ACOSTA PHOTOGRAPHY

Start of the year means the start of yearly goals, and boy: I'm not sure what even the next three months hold! To be honest, these early January weeks have been mostly filled by thoughts of how I-o-n-g last year actually was. Helping those thoughts proliferate have been all the year-in-review style Instagram posts folks have made – which really puts into perspective what a mixed bag 2025 was.

I noticed most of last year's positives were personal or professional successes rather than wider progressive gains, which makes sense given our current federal administration's highway-to-hell approach to governance. When we can't control the wider ill-winds created by a certain president's bluster, why not try to control what's in your power? Myself, I'd like to take that energy further in 2026. How can I use my skills to better the Austin community for everyone else? Beyond letting y'all know about cool queer events every week, of course... It's a big goal, but not unattainable.

Let's try our best, Reader, and bring about a better Austin together in 2026. ■

ATX Vogue Nights

Thursday 15, Swan Dive

Starting a little later than usual but no less fantastic is House of Lepore's monthly kiki ball. Miss Girl6 emcees, DJ Babidoll spins, and you? You'll be a respectful participant in this culture, you hear?

Girls on Aux: Freaknik Edition

Fri., Jan. 16, Neon Grotto

Jos Tha DJ kicks off the weekend with a downstairs dance party themed to Atlanta's original freaky picnic. VVN guests, with reverse happy hour, Jungle Juice, and free lollipops.

ATX Sapphic Chaotic Singles Party

Fri., Jan. 16, Stargazer

Chaotic Singles Party teams with Local Queer ATX to bring you a totally bonkers singles mingle. If you're 1) single, 2) a chaotic sapphic, and 3) 21 years or older, swing by Stargazer to get your color-coded name tag.

Honkers II Electric Boogaloo

Fri., Jan. 16, Swan Dive

These clowns, they honk for thee! Celebrate MK Ultra's birthday with a big ol' Shock Therapy bash featuring special guests and tunes spun by DJ BB Crux.

The Nerve Drag Brunch

Sat., Jan. 17, Wanderlust Wine Co.

Diamond Dior Davenport and Nazareth join host Cheeki Khant for this nervy brunch featuring drink specials and spins by DJ Arlini.

Lez in the Capital Presents MLK Day Party

Sat., Jan. 17, Pop Austin

Get in the groove all day with Jos Tha DJ spinning through this black & pink themed affair. Plus, hookah, flavored mimosa towers, and on-site food from Good Eats With Jeff.

Frisky Business Burlesque Presents Fet-Tease

Sat., Jan. 17, Soundspace at Captain Quack's
Kinky spirits arise this Saturday with your devilish friends – or maybe fiends? – Frisky Business performing their annual fetish-themed show. Quack's also offers a themed drink menu.

Drip

Sat., Jan. 17, Cheer Up Charlies

Premiering their new music video, 24Cobras and Vertarias host a party celebrating the collab with multiple local artists, drag stars, and other creatives via live performances from Lucy Lone Star, Leo Von Sol, Miss Girl6, Robbie Lepore, and Vertarias. Plus, a preview of Austin queer nightlife doc *I Need Space*.

Lesbian Singles Mixer

Sat., Jan. 17, 29th Street Ballroom

As event promoter Faye Fearless says in this social's copy, this is the perfect place to find a date for February's Lez Prom. Dance, drink, chat, and generally break ice with other singles throughout the night.

333

Sat., Jan. 17, Tiny Minotaur Tavern

Get ready for the heavenly drag show of your trans dreams – or nightmares – with host the Trans Era and her cast of Venus Rising, Hurricane Short King, Stephania Elegonza, and Atlas Mars.

The Best Drag Show Ever

Saturdays, 9pm, Oilcan's

Has there ever been a drag show so best? Maybe, but they don't have the host with the most Ritzy Bitz, who presents you a night of dazzling queens, music by DJ Eriq Stylez, and much more.

The Patio Sessions: MLK Weekend

Sun., Jan. 18, Highland Lounge

Pride in Black ATX runs their usual Sunday kickback with Melissa Bellz behind the decks and plenty of community spirit.

Austin Idol

Sundays, Highland Lounge

Aria Rey hosts this singing competition every Sunday with a cash prize, special guest judges, and – huge plus – no Simon Cowell plastic surgery jumpscars.

Queer MMA

Sun., Jan. 18, Black Widow MMA

Taught by coach Lu Villarreal, this monthly class is open to anyone in the LGBTQ community who wants to learn more about mixed martial arts.

Dirty Bird Drag Brunch

Sun., Jan. 18, The Austin Eagle

Malibu Imported brings back this bustling brunch with cast members Stella Rey Love, Mz. Cookie Dlux, and Vylette Ward.

Dirty Dynasty Bingo

Sundays, 4pm, Oilcan's

Join bingo queens Cupcake and Lady Grackle as they liven up your Sunday scares with prizes from Adult Video Megaplex, Package, and Vixen Creations.

Dolly Parton's 80th Birthday Blowout

Mon., Jan. 19, VINYL Beauty Bar

Celebrate Dolly's birthday with performances by Brigitte Bandit, Darci Carlson, Hilary York, Jolie Goodnight, Annie Marie Lewis, Danny B. Harvey, Billie Buck, Lindsay Walker, Jeska Forsyth, Jamie Bahr, and Dalynn Grace. A portion of ticket sales goes to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Wide Open Spaces

Mon., Jan. 19, Sagebrush

She needed wide open spaces, and by golly, Neon Rainbows is gonna deliver!

Celebrate the 28th anniversary of the Chicks' album with DJ Ed West, Country Fried Dance, and a live performance by Libby & the Loveless.

Ritzy Roulette

Mondays, Oilcan's

Ritzy Bitz returns to the Monday drag stage with special guest Eileen Dover for her unpredictable request-based show where the songs are on shuffle.

Brushes & Bubbles Paint + Sip

Every other Wednesday, Halcyon

Violet Aziza hosts this biweekly creative space where queer artists can have a drink, make some art, and enjoy each other's company. Theme switches each session.

Queer Film Theory Presents Anime

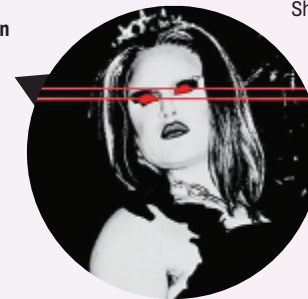
Thu., Jan. 22, The Highball

New year, new QFT 101: Come listen to queer media "professors" school y'all on their favorite Japanese animated features, series, and OVAs. (That's original video animations to you bakas.)

Drag Bingo: TikTok Rewind

Thu., Jan. 22, Industry

Vylette Ward and Juliana bring you back through all the most viral TikTok tracks of 2025 while you try to win a big ol' bingo prize.



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COURTESY OF CHRYSTABELL

The Spirit Lamp MUSIC

TUESDAY 20, RADIO/EAST

David Lynch taught generations to wade deeper, trust one's intuition, embrace the absurd, and pay close attention to those owls. Following his passing in January of last year, collaborators and creatives in every medium publicly mourned the loss of such a singular, surrealist voice in film, music, and culture. Texas-based vocalist Chrystabell received those lessons firsthand as a friend and musical collaborator of Lynch's. On his second birthday in the next spiritual plane, she celebrates the eccentric director and their work together with a musical devotional fitting of the late filmmaker's enigmatic vision. (Read more in this week's "In the Pocket," p.16.)

— CAROLINE DREW

Bad Acid, Calves, Swellin MUSIC

TUESDAY 20, VALHALLA

Perhaps matching our dire political circumstances, Austin punk, metal, doom, and noise rock are having an exciting moment. Austin's own Bad Acid is adept, if music this wonderfully dunderheaded can be called as much, at blending all four modes, especially the last two, into a pleasing, loud lava. With Calves, a little speedier but trafficking in the same sort of murk, and Swellin, whose goth-vocaled, garage-guitared EP *Tsunami Backhand* arrived in October.

— JOE GROSS

Jenn Lueke: Don't Think About Dinner BOOKS

WEDNESDAY 21, FIRST LIGHT BOOKS

Food influencer Jenn Lueke of the @jenneatsgood Instagram account gives a tough ask as her first cookbook title. Don't think about dinner? Even a little? But the phrase isn't an imperative: It's an aspiration! Through her inclusive and low cost meal-prep instructions, Lueke seeks to remove the terror of feeding one's self and others until – at last – you don't even have to *think* about dinner to enjoy a good one. First Light pairs the author with Austin-based creator Tim Laielli of @barefoodtim, for a conversation that's sure to leave you considering all the well-cooked possibilities.

— JAMES SCOTT

Murder on the Orient Express

THEATRE

THROUGH MARCH 1, ZACH THEATER

Does it count as a locked-room mystery if the "room" is a moving train? Agatha Christie's 1934 whodunit certainly fits the "this murder sure seems impossible" criterion of the genre. Ah, but possible it is – it's one of the queen of mystery's biggest jaw droppers – adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*), directed by Jenny Lavery, and starring, *naturellement*, Christie's iconic Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, played on the Topfer stage by Steven Pounders. Set in the 1930s aboard one of the world's great luxury trains, expect your little gray cells to spark to the production design as well as the sleuthing.

— KIMBERLEY JONES



PHOTO BY AXELB PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY YANRAN XIONG

Sudan Archives MUSIC

WEDNESDAY 21, RADIO/EAST

When Britney Parks put on the Sudan Archives uniform at the Stones Throw Records showcase at SXSW in 2017, it was mostly a staid performance behind her violin. She was simultaneously channeling Nineties R&B, trip, SWV, and Afrobeat icon Fela Kuti. Things have definitely changed. After her full-on breakout with 2022's escapist, Afro-electronica *Natural Brown Prom Queen*, she's become a fully liberated artist. In 2025's *The BPM*, she steps into dance, specifically Chicago house, Detroit techno, and Jersey club. Richmond, VA-based opener Angélica Garcia offers catharsis and bold self-exploration in a Latin-pop-rock-electronic amalgam.

— KAHRON SPEARMAN

Sew Indigenous: Community Sewing & Beading Workshop COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY 21, NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Whether you're just starting on your sewing/beading journey or are a longtime pro, this meeting centered in Native American culture is the perfect place to connect with other artists. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own sewing or beading supplies – including sewing machines, although a few are available for shared use – as well as any fabric, thread, ribbon, or bead donations if you've got extra.

— JAMES SCOTT

Zine Night: Calendars COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY 21, CENTRAL LIBRARY

Zines have been enjoying renewed popularity as people seek an escape from digital fatigue, and we here at print media bastion the *Chronicle* couldn't be more thrilled. Get in on the analog action with pals at this zinemaking night focused on a Calendar theme. Make a *date* to design a zine for the *Simpsons*-inspired month of Smarch, create something for the Austin Public Library Centennial Zine, or craft anything in the form of a calendar. Meet at the Den on the sixth floor for the event, but be sure to stop by the zine library on the fifth floor for inspiration.

— KAT MCNEVINS

CONTINUED ON P.36



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Caroline Hale

IMAGE VIA BANDCAMP

Latte Art Throwdown & Market

FOOD

THURSDAY 22,
PEACHES COFFEE & BONFIRE YOGA

Sometimes you think you've seen it all as far as latte art, then someone comes along and throws colors in the mix or creates an animal you've never seen on top of coffee before. Who knows what art will be in store at this throwdown featuring the community's best latte artists, but we do know the cash and prizes top \$1,000 and that there's plenty else to do at the party: free Meanwhile beer and NA cocktails, free flash tattoos, chili & cornbread, vintage and jewelry pop-ups, and lots more, with a party bus to and from Central Market Westgate. They suggest dressing in a fruity theme to be extra peachy.

— KAT MCNEVINS

Elephant Room 35th Anniversary Celebration

MUSIC

THURSDAY 22, ELEPHANT ROOM

For 35 years and counting, the Elephant Room has been the paragon for bringing jazz to the Central Texas masses. In part that's due to the club's focus on local talent — familiar names like Ephraim Owens, John Mills, Mitch Watkins, Jon Blondell, Elias Haslanger, and Sarah Sharp have been staples on the calendar for years, even decades, joined now by Michael Malone, John Fremgen, Marco Antonio Santos, the Boss Street Brass Band, and other stalwarts. The big boss of them all was Tony Campise, whose remains overlook the stage to this day. Elephant booker Michael Mordecai leads his big band once again, with club co-owner Kris Kimura in the late saxophonist's alto chair.

— MICHAEL TOLAND

A Fundraiser Concert for Hi, How Are You Project

MUSIC

THURSDAY 22, 29TH STREET BALLROOM

The marquee event for this local nonprofit, named after Daniel Johnston's legendary tape of the same name and meant to raise awareness and funds for mental health support, is actually on Friday, Jan. 23, at the Paramount Theatre. This pregame might be better, though. One half of the bill: local post-punk quintet Witches Exist, whose 2025 EP *shelter in the cocoon* both swirls with heavy reverb and contemplative vocals ("i could not find it") and yo-yos a poppy, bittersweet melody (its title track). Caroline Hale rounds out the show with her self-proclaimed twang pop, indeed both easily digestible and alternately heavy, country, and gleefully defiant.

— CARYS ANDERSON

The John Doe Folk Trio

MUSIC

THURSDAY 22,
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY

With Los Angeles punk pioneers X now largely retired from the road, bandleader and longtime Austin resident John Doe turns January's Thursday nights into a quiet local homecoming. Doe trades his bass for an acoustic guitar in the John Doe Folk Trio, formed during COVID with Willie Nelson bassist Kevin Smith and drummer Conrad Choucroun, and heard to subtle effect on 2022's *Fables in a Foreign Land*. The Continental's intimate upstairs room is an ideal setting for their darkly poetic frontier ballads.

— TIM STEGALL



PHOTO BY TODD WOLFSON

Music Notes

BY DEREK UDENSI



Peyton

COURTESY OF STONES THROW RECORDS

Peyton, Hasaan Olu

Thursday 15, Sahara Lounge

Houston connects with Austin for a show celebrating the birthdays of Pushermania founder Matt Sonzala and Ichikara Valdez, who performs as the vocalist for H-Town experimental trio Hasaan Olu. Stones Throw Records signee Peyton headlines after Sonzala DJs between sets.

Big Mic & Nnédimmáyá

Friday 16, Flamingo Cantina

Nnédimmáyá linked with College of Hip-Hop Knowledge co-founder/rapper "Big Mic" Pereida for their new single, "Villain." The Jsun the Prophet-produced track features spacey synths as Nnedi calls out global atrocities that occur because "power wants more power." After singing throughout the track, she concludes with a sternly delivered call for action: "It's time for eyes on Congo, eyes on Sudan... eyes on Palestine... we fight until we are all free. We fight until there is freedom for all." This show acts as a single release party for "Villain," with support from Meddah and StormShadow.

The 4411

Saturday 17, 3ten ACL Live

Indie-folk band the 4411 ("As You Please") returns home for a headline show after touring through Florida earlier this month. The group's most recent single, "Her," was released back in November. Openers are fellow locals Vision Arcade and Barb.

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» This Weekend

Colter Wall
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WITH HAYDEN REDWINE
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JAN 22 & FRI JAN 23

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SAT FEB 14
Bob Schneider & THE MOONLIGHT ORCHESTRA
VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

SAT JAN 31
KC & The Sunshine Band

FEB 15
BECKY ROBINSON THE BEASTS IN ME TOUR

FEB 5
Sam Harris TRUTH & CONSEQUENCES

FEB 18
Tauren Wells HERE COMES THE CHURCH
LIVE ALBUM RECORDING

FRI FEB 6
ATMOSPHERE WITH SAGE FRANCIS, R.A. THE RUGGED MAN,
KOOL KEITH & DJ MR. DIBBS

FEB 19
DROPKICK MURPHYS WITH THE AGGROLITES
AND HAYWIRE

SAT FEB 7
LAUREN SPENCER SMITH THE ART OF BEING A MESS TOUR
WITH HENRY MOODIE

FRI FEB 20
KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND WITH JIMMIE VAUGHAN &
THE TILT-A-WHIRL BAND

FRI FEB 13
Cat Power THE GREATEST TOUR - 20TH ANNIVERSARY
PERFORMING THE ALBUM IN ITS ENTIRETY

SAT FEB 21
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FRI MAR 27

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APR 2

SKIZZY MARS "THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET GOOD"
APR 15

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REVIEWS



Cloud Companion



Felt Out



Subpar Snatch

Red River Comes Alive

MUSIC

Snapshots from Free Week 2026

PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

When was the last time you saw a line outside the 13th Floor?

It's typically a touring act that inspires Austinites to queue, but Free Week 2026 brought musical enthusiasm back to the locals. Folks of all ages – some in winterwear, others braving the surprise cold in their night-out best – milled around the Red River Cultural District last weekend, bopping between clubs to make the most of the annual no-cost mini-festival.

The *Chronicle* posted up at that aforementioned psych rock haven, where Stop Motion Orchestra, Little Mazarn, KindKeith, Felt Out, and je'Texas showcased a smorgasbord of experimental rock, folk, funk, and electronic sounds. Darkwave duo Jet Cemetery got the goths moving at Elysium, Sweet Limb tapped the “lo-fi beats to study to” jackpot at Stubb's, and earnest art-punks Team Trust kicked the festivities off early with a Thursday night sound collage at Mohawk. It was like the South by Southwest of years past: all homegrown, all scrappy, all Austin.

See more Free Week photos online.



KindKeith



Team Trust



Tear Dungeon

Free Week 2026

JANUARY 9-10

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PHOTO BY MIYA MIZUNO

End of the Old, Birth of the New

FILM

Horror franchise sets the past to rest **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

Since the massive success of revisionist not-a-zombie zombie flick *28 Days Later* in 2002, the franchise has always been fundamentally disinterested in the infected themselves, having added little to their nature since the original idea of them being driven by rage rather than hunger. As the fourth film overall and second in the ongoing new trilogy, *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple* therefore takes a wide and wild turn because a large portion of its narrative is dedicated to the previously unasked question: What is it like to be one of the infected?

This seemingly essential question is answered in the burgeoning and unlikely friendship between the iodine-drenched Dr. Kelson (Ralph Fiennes) and the gigantic and very, very naked infected Alpha he has named Samson (Chi Lewis-Parry). First seen in 2025's *28 Years Later*, and now strung out on the good doctor's sedative darts, they wander toward some kind of understanding in the shadow of Kelson's titular open-air ossuary.

Nearby, the other wanderer from *28 Years Later*, young Spike (Alfie Williams), is now caught up with the merciless Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell) and his equally violent gang of Jimmys, a small cadre who wander the land inflicting hideous tortures on any uninfected unlucky enough to cross their paths.

In some ways, the Kelson/Samson plotline seems like a diversion from creator and screenwriter Alex Garland's underlying intent in the series, to dismantle British nostalgia and romanticism. However, Kelson stands as the only character who has truly accepted that the old world is dead. *28 Years Later* was a metaphor for Brexit-era little Britain, with the survivors retreating to the isle of Lindisfarne to foolishly re-create a lost era of hearth and home. Here, Jimmy and his band of Jimmys are stuck in a perpetual amoral infancy, quoting *Teletubbies* and dressing like ...

Well.

Garland has always been a fearless and confrontational storyteller, but it's hard to believe that he didn't blanch at the end of his own script for *28 Years Later* when taking on *The Bone Temple*. The Jimmys are dressed like ubiquitous UK TV host, DJ, and serial child rapist Jimmy Savile, and the instinctual gut reaction for anyone British on seeing that signature bottle-blond hair, track suit, and gold chains was raw disgust. (For American audiences, imagine if the gang turned up in Cosby-style sweaters, eating pudding cups.) It's impossible for this sequel to pretend that never happened, but director Nia DaCosta and Garland seemingly do their best to turn a blind eye to the symbolism put in place. Either

that, or Garland just thought he was being edgy, and that would be unforgivable.

However, DaCosta generally does not engage with the profoundly British nature of the story, instead leaning into a broader discussion of good and evil, with the Jimmys having taken up Satanism as well as parkour (although they seem to have forgotten their bouncing skills in between chapters). She seems to relish the extremities of the situation, whether it be more gore than the series has ever seen before, or outlandish characters. Williams is often overshadowed by O'Connell, which is not surprising in that he's such a vile caricature of a man, but it's also because there's little for him to do than cower. Yet DaCosta finds new elements of pathos and even comedy, both centered around Fiennes' tragicomic performance as the man closing the book on that last chapter of history. This is the DaCosta who stormed through festivals with her debut feature, *Little Woods*, rather than the director who was seemingly stripped of all uniqueness by the studio misfires of *Candyman* and *The Marvels*. She may divert the series from its withering dissection of the green and pleasant land's self-image, but her absurdist perspective on this inherently absurd franchise is still undeniably entertaining. ■

ALSO OPENING

All You Need Is Kill (R, 85 min.)

Anime adapts the same source manga as 2014's Tom Cruise sci-fi actioner *Edge of Tomorrow*. **R**

Charlie the Wonderdog (PG, 96 min.)

(PG, 96 min.)

Owen Wilson voices a family pet who turns superhero after an alien encounter.

The Choral (R, 113 min.)

A Yorkshire choral society tries to soldier on in the midst of WWI in this Nicholas Hytner drama starring Ralph Fiennes. **R**

Night Patrol (R, 104 min.)

Ryan Prows' buzzy Fantastic Fest film stars Justin Long as an LAPD cop undergoing a dark transformation. **R**

Signing Tony Raymond (NR, 105 min.)

(NR, 105 min.)

Sports dramedy about an assistant coach trying to land the nation's top recruit debuted at last year's Austin Film Festival.

The Testament of Ann Lee (R, 137 min.)

(R, 137 min.)

The Brutalist co-writer and producer Mona Fastvold directs this strange, stirring musical telling of the founding of the Shakers by Mother Ann Lee (Amanda Seyfried), the self-styled second coming of Christ. **R**

The Voice of Hind Rajab (NR, 98 min.)

(NR, 98 min.)

Kaouther Ben Hania's docudrama uses real-life emergency call recordings to dramatize the attempted rescue of a wounded 5-year-old Palestinian girl in a Gaza under siege by Israeli forces. **R**

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FULL-LENGTH REVIEW



28 Years Later: The Bone Temple

DIRECTED BY NIA DACOSTA. STARRING
RALPH FIENNES, JACK O'CONNELL,
ALFIE WILLIAMS, CHI LEWIS-PARRY,
ERIN KELLYMAN. (R, 109 MIN.)

★★★★

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FRI JAN 16TH - 6:30-9 PM
THE JERRELLS | ROCKABILLY

SAT JAN 17TH - 6:30-9 PM
JONAS ALVAREZ | LATIN

SUN JAN 18TH - 12-2:30 PM
LA COCINA | LATIN

N. LAMAR 4001 N. LAMAR

THUR JAN 15TH - 6:00-8:30 PM
DARIN LAYNE TRIO | JAZZ

FRI JAN 16TH - 6:00-8:30 PM
LATIN DUKES | LATIN/SALSA

SAT JAN 17TH - 6:00-8:30 PM
CORNELL HURD | COUNTRY

SUN JAN 18TH - 6:00-8:30 PM
MIRAGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE | JAZZ

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"A coming-of-age memoir for the ages, in turns hilarious and compassionate, furious and faithful."

— MARY KARR

HOME SCHOOLED



A Memoir

STEFAN MERRILL BLOCK



PHOTO BY DANA MCCLURE

Block offers a peek into the history of homeschooling in the United States and a critique of the lack of legal and educational oversight that left him isolated in his mother's grasp.

A Moving Memoir for Lone Star Loners

BOOKS

Texas-raised author Stefan Merrill Block releases memoir with a message

BY CAROLINE DREW

Middle school, high school, college — these defined educational stints, relatively short compared with the expanse of adult life, are often the stuff that lifelong labels are made of. How these bracketed years impacted you, or who you were during them, gets permanently folded into your life story in some way or another.

For author Stefan Merrill Block, it wasn't necessarily one of these more universally recognizable educational chapters that became defining, but a self-imposed — or, rather, mother-imposed — five years, from fourth through eighth grade, during which he was homeschooled.

Block opens his memoir with one of those sticky childhood memories where the overwhelming emotions and the grandiose

logic of youthful decision making are still sharply felt decades later. Standing on a cliff's edge above a meandering suburban creek in Plano, Texas, a 9-year-old Block contemplates what level of injury would provoke an adequate shock to his mother's system. Since moving to Plano, she's been moody and distant, no longer the "fun mom" all the other kids envied back in Indiana. A prepubescent Block can't figure out what's come over the eccentric, whose home-cooked health theories grow increasingly paranoid.

When his cliffside tumble doesn't do the trick, a general sullenness endears Block to his conspiring mother. What, to his childhood mind, begins as an attempt to draw closer to her ends in Block being pulled out of school and spending five years drawing

science-fiction monsters, reading by the pool, and wandering the mall. Actually, he does do a good bit of math — but even as a youngster, Block frets over the potential pitfalls of the education he's receiving as his mother clings to what's left of those reliant years of childhood, growing increasingly determined to isolate her son from the outside world.

Throughout the chapters of his fourth book, Block unwinds the impact these years out of school had on his eventual return to institutional education, his social and family life, and his identity. Dipping seamlessly into sociological and historical conditions, Block offers a peek into the history of homeschooling in the United States and a critique of the lack of legal and educational oversight that left him isolated in his mother's grasp. Writing

many years later from New York, the Texan landscape of Block's childhood provides a refuge and, as he ages, a timestamp, as Plano's ravenous development reshapes the creeks and flatlands that sheltered him. With an empathetic depth and a sharp sense of humor, the musing writer gracefully places his experience within the bounds of the country, city, and family history that shaped it, while keeping tight narrative reins on his autobiographical account.

We readers follow the familiar arc of growing up and gaining agency through Block's eyes, made ever more stark by the intense period of closeness and the lingering, constraining connection between the boy and the woman who raised him. Though, like so many of us, the author clearly has his qualms with his maternal upbringing, he remains lovingly neutral and nearly forgiving in his description of her worsening alcoholism and subsequent deterioration, drawing out some of her worst moments against a backdrop of insecurities and anxieties even as he squirms to assert boundaries as an adult.

In those moments, and plenty of awkward others, Block presents an affable, relatable self-described character, full of the semi-precocious angst of loners and try-hards, teacher's pets and outcasts, that anyone who's struggled to fit in remembers all too well. The homeschooled label that, in time, helps the writer shortcut his experience and find community, is inessential to the story's resonance, but critical to Block's patient advocacy for homeschooling standards "to ensure students' safety, wellness, academic proficiency, access to diverse perspectives, and ability to socialize outside the home." His thoughtfully placed, contextualizing research broadens the insight of this compassionately funny, thoughtfully constructed memoir. ■

Homeschooled

BY STEFAN MERRILL BLOCK
HANOVER SQUARE PRESS

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FUN + GAMES

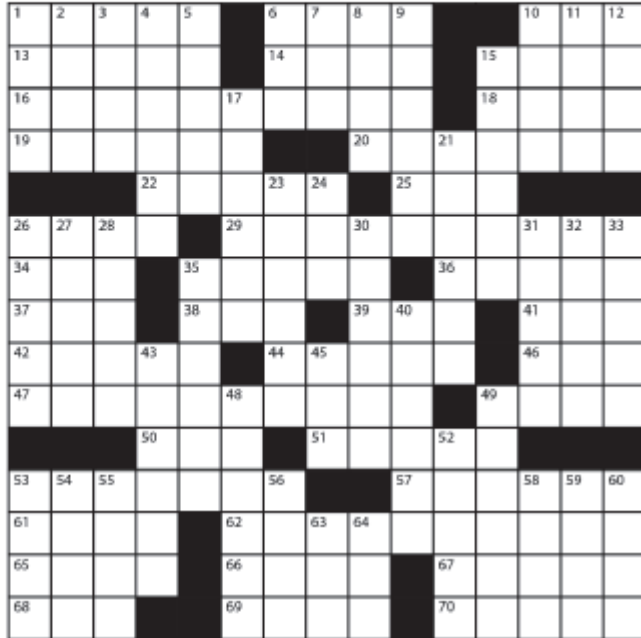
PARK & HOMER puzzles

Ground rule sorts

Puzzle by J. Reynolds No. 927

Across

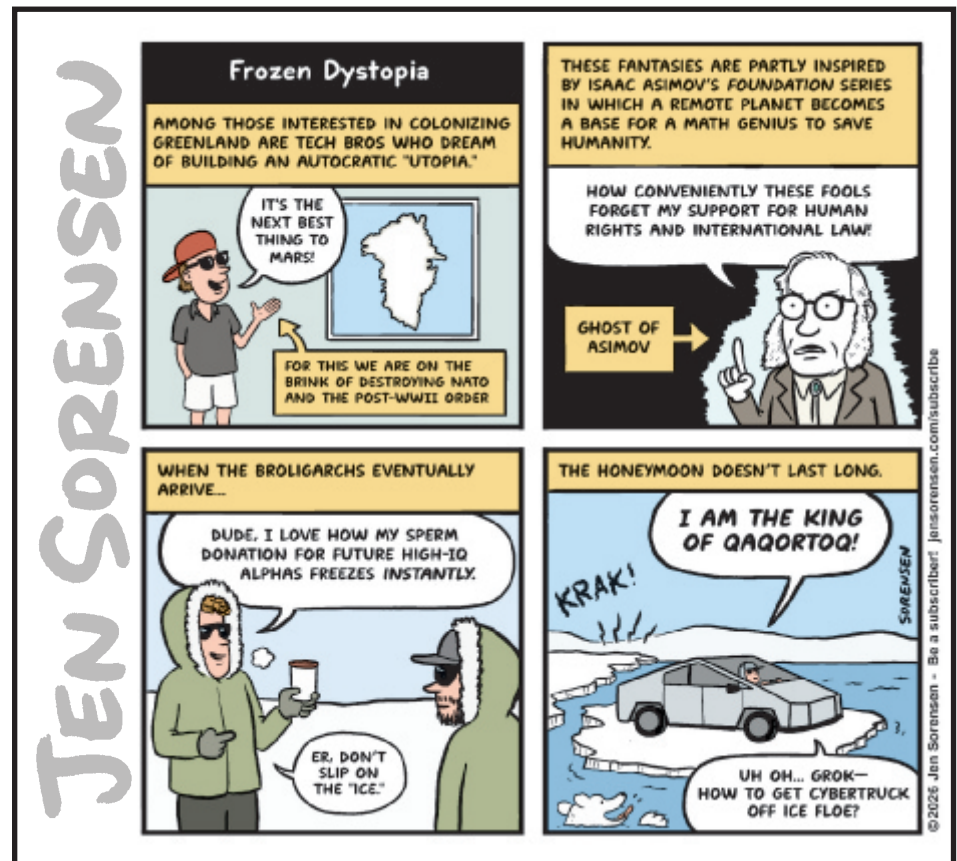
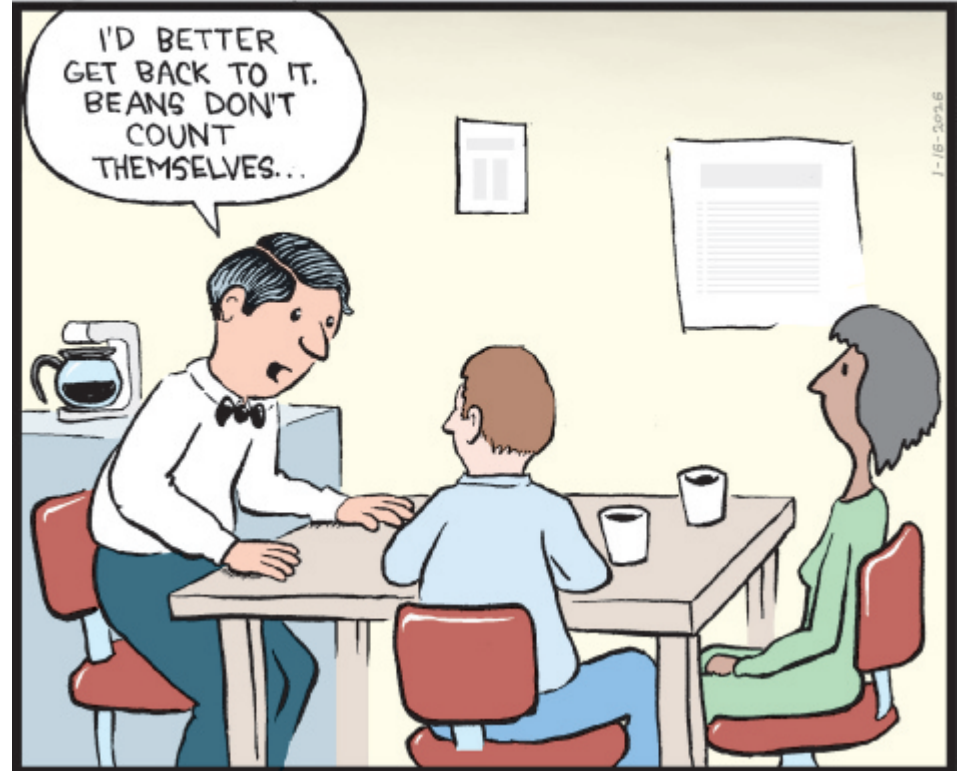
1. "An Army ___"
6. Cowboy boot feature
10. Chowed down
13. Spanish boys
14. Alleviate
15. "Later!"
16. Betrayal
18. Annex: Abbr.
19. More spine-tingling
20. Go back
22. Related on mom's side
25. Homer's TV neighbor
26. Leave a mark on
29. Like some win margins
34. Tarzan creator's monogram
35. St. ___ fire
36. Old-fashioned



37. Tic-___-toe
 38. Floral necklace
 39. Payable now
 41. Poodle's cry
 42. Record half
 44. Some Dodges
 46. ___ Valley, San Francisco
 47. One serving two masters
 49. Aardvark's fare
 50. ___ Aviv
 51. Analyzes
 53. "Toodle-oo"
 57. Lemon, e.g.
 61. Try, as a case
 62. Go over a second time
 65. Outback birds
 66. "___ expert, but ..."
 67. Poet Dickinson
 68. Hi-___ graphics
 69. Yesterday, in the Yucatán
 70. Carvey and Delany
- #### Down
1. ___ in a blue moon
 2. Order after "Aim!"
 3. "___ off?"
 4. More meddlesome
 5. German industrial city
 6. To be, in Barcelona
 7. Kung ___ chicken
 8. "Back in the ___"
 9. Take offense at
 10. Assistant
 11. Little ones
 12. Geologic periods
 15. Healthful exercise, informally
 17. Newborn's bed
 21. Actress Barbara Bel ___
 23. The when of an event
 24. It may be stroked
 26. ___ course (plans)
 27. Diet guru Jenny
 28. Start of a series
 30. Needs no more work
 31. Former Padre, Tony
 32. Dimwit
 33. Varieties
 35. Bringer of good news, perhaps
 40. Take down, in a way
 43. Steps in
 45. Always, in verse
 48. Singer Keys
 49. Cause of wheezing
 52. Cut into cubes
 53. "Moonstruck" actress
 54. Blood pigment
 55. Waters, informally
 56. "Good heavens!"
 58. Harness part
 59. Bruins' sch.
 60. "The ___ the limit!"
 63. Opposite of WSW
 64. Where streets meet: Abbr.

Eyebeam

by Sam Hurt



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

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The Luv Doc

Dear Luv Doc,

This year me and my husband of two years hosted our in-laws for the holidays for the first time. I say "we," but that's incorrect. My husband's family was here Christmas Eve through January 4 and it was a lot. They are a traditional Midwestern family with a stay-at-home mom and working dad. They are sweet, generous, hardworking people but somehow they raised a son who can barely wipe his own ass. For 13 days I cooked, cleaned, mopped, dusted, did laundry, grocery shopping, and received no help whatsoever from my husband. I would ask him to help with the dishes, he would say, "We can do them later." I would get up early to make everybody breakfast. He would sleep in. I cleaned the house in anticipation of their arrival while he went biking "while the weather was still good." At least his father was nice enough to take the trash to the curb and his mom always offered to help with the dishes. Once they were on the plane and we came back to a table full of breakfast dishes and a wrecked kitchen, my husband decided he wanted to take a nap. I completely lost it. I said, "How are you even tired? You have done literally nothing to help me host your family for two weeks." Then I told him I was going to the Domain to exchange some gifts and that since I had been doing it for the last two weeks, he could clean the kitchen and do the dishes. When I got back that afternoon, the kitchen was still a mess. He was in the bedroom napping. I was furious. He claimed he was going to do them later but was feeling sleepy. He finally did clean up the kitchen, but he did a terrible job of it. Too little too late. The main problem is that he just doesn't see the dishes in the sink or the clothes on the floor or the disgusting toilet. He is useless with helping out around the house. Is there anything I can do? Did I marry the wrong guy?

— The Mad Maid



"Mad Maid"

Sounds to me like your husband might have a textbook case of weaponized incompetence. Ideally those last two words should be accompanied by a film noir scare chord for dramatic effect, but if they didn't make your hair stand on end, maybe it might help if I mansplained them to the folks in the peanut gallery still trying to find their seats.

Weaponized incompetence is a manipulative tactic in which someone feigns incompetence in order to avoid having to do some task they don't want to do. Sometimes they will employ flattery to get someone else to do that task. Like, for instance, here at the *Chronicle* people are always saying (imagine a Jayne Mansfield-style pouty voice): "But Luv Doc, you really are the best at killing rats out back by the dumpster! My hands are just too small!" I mean, come on. Even people with tiny hands can kill rats given the proper training and tools. That's like saying you can't do Excel because you have press-on nails. Ain't nobody falling for that bullshit.

Similarly, when your husband steps over a pile of dirty clothes on his way to pee around the filthy toilet, he is either manipulating you or ... perhaps more disturbingly ... he has lived that way his entire life. Y'all know what I'm talking about. Sometime in your early childhood you surely ended up at someone's house where upon entering, you shuddered and thought, "How do people live like this?" Well, believe it or not, those people grow up and become husbands, wives, roommates, and they bring those unimaginably low standards of tidiness and cleanliness with them. There are literally countless tales of people who get married to someone based on their spouse's roommate's standards of cleanliness. Whoops! Ideally that revelation happens when living in sin and not actual matrimony, but sometimes clean freaks are also overly impatient.

So ... can he change? Well of course he can, but will he change? That's the question, isn't it? First you need to let him know that doing household chores is a non-negotiable condition of your relationship. Second, let him know that you will help him rise to an appropriate level of competence, but that effort is more important than perfection. And lastly, you will need to sit down and negotiate what level of cleanliness and tidiness is acceptable to both of you. That way, if he doesn't live up to the agreement, you won't feel guilty about the divorce.

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



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

The plural of carnyx, an Iron Age horn used by the Celts, is carnyces.

According to Dating.com, nerdy men are going to be popular with the ladies in 2026.

The red-lipped batfish or Galápagos batfish (*Ogcocephalus darwini*) is mainly known for its bright red lips. Not a good swimmer, the red-lipped batfish has highly adapted pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins to "walk" on the ocean floor.

A billabong is a small body of water, usually permanent, caused by a change in course of a river or creek.

Japan's chopsticks capital is Obama city in the Fukui prefecture. "Obama" means "little beach" in Japanese. The small city, not named after the U.S. 44th president, has about 33,000 people and manufactures about 80% of all Japanese chopsticks.

Above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the *Chronicle*, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY JAN. 16 - JAN. 22

by Rob Breznsky

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sandcastles are good reminders of how temporary everything is. We build them on the damp edge of the shore after the tide recedes, and then they crumble when the sea rolls back a few hours later. Let's make the sandcastle your power symbol for the months ahead. In doing so, I don't mean to imply that your certainties will be demolished. Rather, it's my way of urging you to enjoy and capitalize on the ever-changing nature of all things. In fact, I believe that knack should be one of your specialties in the coming months. As the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh told us, we should be grateful for impermanence, because it keeps every possibility alive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): During World War II, the United States faced a natural rubber shortage and funded research into synthetic substitutes. The effort was partly successful, but there were also failed experiments. Among these was a substance that later became a popular toy named Silly Putty. It sold millions of units and made its marketer wealthy. I suspect a metaphorically similar breakthrough is looming for you, Aquarius: an unplanned discovery that holds unforeseen value. You may soon have your own "Silly Putty moment" – an invention, idea, or situation that is technically a detour from your original goal but still delivers a gift. So keep your curiosity loose and your judgment soft. Don't dismiss the byproducts of your efforts. Some diversions may reveal themselves to be the magic you didn't realize you needed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I suggest you try an "as-if" exercise, Pisces. Here's what I propose: Enjoy a five-day period visualizing what your life would be like if you stopped saving yourself for a mythical future—including both the positive and negative aspects. Instead, envision yourself spending the coming months doing exactly what you yearn to do most, gleefully and intensely pursuing your sweetest dreams and prime mission. During this sabbatical, you will refrain from invoking excuses about why you can't follow your bliss. You will assume that you are attuned with the heart of creation. You will act as if you are a joy specialist who adores your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Japanese Zen master Hakuin (1686-1769) painted with astonishing vigor well into his 80s. When asked his secret, he said he treated each brushstroke as if it were his first. He approached the ink and paper with a beginner's inspired innocence. I propose that you adopt a version of Hakuin's practice. Dive into your familiar routines with virgin eyes. Allow your expertise to be influenced by surprise. As for the mastery you have earned, may I suggest you use it as a launching pad for enthusiastic amateurism? Being skilled is wonderful. Being skilled *and* willing to experiment like a newcomer? That's the high art of perpetual combustion, an Aries specialty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 1971, NASA's *Apollo 15* mission delivered a new asset to the moon: the Lunar Roving Vehicle. This battery-powered "moon buggy" enabled astronauts to explore farther from their landing site than ever before. They gathered a record haul of rock and soil samples and a deeper understanding of the lunar surface. I think you Bulls would be wise to get your own equivalent of that moon buggy. The apt metaphor here is enhancing your ability to extend your reach and explore beyond the familiar. In the coming weeks, I hope you will seek access to tools, allies, and freedoms that expand your range. Use them to push into new territory and scout around for intriguing valuables.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Are you ready to unveil the half-hidden, half-beautiful truths you have been keeping tucked away? I think you are. You might shake, sweat, and second-guess yourself right up until the moment the pivotal moment arrives. But then, I predict, you will zone in on how best to carry out your sublime assignment. The perilous blessings or radiant burdens you've been hoarding like secret treasures will finally spill out of you in just the right ways.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A hermit crab finds a new shell not because the old one was bad, but because the creature grew. A similar urge stirs in you now: an instinct to relocate your sensitivity and tenderness into roomier housing. You don't have to abandon your favorite people or situations. Just ripen and update your containers so your emotional intelligence can flourish even more. Maybe revise your work rhythms. Dream up new bedtime stories. Be braver in declaring your needs. Your ongoing transformations could be a bit bumpy, but mostly healing and cherished. Give them the spaciousness they require.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Poet Jack Gilbert wrote, "We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure but not delight." Here's what I think he meant: Pleasure is easy to access, available in many transactions. But delight requires courage. We must be undefended enough to be astonished and elated. Here's the potential glitch for you Leos: You sometimes feel inclined to perform your joy; you make your happiness into entertainment for others to be inspired by. But true delight is riskier and more real. It comes when you forget to curate yourself because you're too enchanted to remember you're being watched. Your next assignment: Conjure up three moments of private delight that no one but you will see.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Many of you are renowned for your precision, but that's just half the story. The more complete truth is that when you are most robust, you're a connoisseur of refinement. Your careful edits can transmute muddles into medicines. Your subtle fixes may catalyze major corrections. Here's my bold declaration: You are now at the height of your Virgo powers. I hope you wield them with utter flair and finesse. Make everything you touch better than it was before you touched it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Some astrologers work without ever glancing at the night sky. Their bond with the planets lives mostly through abstract ideas. To balance that approach, Daniel Giamario developed a more hands-on approach to astrology. In his retreats, students trek into wild country, far from city lights, and spend the dark hours watching the dance of the heavenly bodies. He teaches that cosmic energies can be sensed through our beautiful bodies as much as they can be understood by our fine minds. In the weeks ahead, I invite you to infuse all your explorations with that spirit. Learn through direct encounters, not just through concepts and recycled reports.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): English is my first language. I love how its wild, hybrid, restless qualities enable me to express myself. I never grow weary of exploring its limits and discovering new ways to use it with flair and care. But I am also very grateful that my horoscopes are translated into Italian, French, Japanese, and Spanish. I am supremely blessed to have editors who turn my idiosyncratic prose into language that non-English speakers can enjoy. It's one of the great gifts that life has given me. In the coming months, Scorpio, I will be wishing and expecting a similar bonus for you: help and support in expanding your ability to reach further in your self-expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your intrepid spirit is most likely to find exciting adventures if it's exquisitely prepared. While I love your daring spontaneity and experimental expansiveness, I hope that in the coming weeks, you will work hard to support them with good planning and rigorous foresight. Be imaginative and disciplined, wild and calculating, irrepressible and solidly responsible. If you heed my advice, you could break your previous records for making marvelous discoveries in the frontiers. p.s. Treat wonder like a muscle. Flex it daily – with gratitude.

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

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Arm Physical IP Inc / Arm Inc., a leading provider of intellectual property (IP) components, has openings in Austin, TX for Staff Engineer (ENG219): Enhance verification of release-ready CPU designs. Telecommuting may be permitted up to 3 days per week; Staff DFT Engineer (ENG220): Develop a high quality, correlated model for customer evaluation and internal analysis. Telecommuting may be permitted up to 3 days per week; Staff DFT Engineer (ENG221): Work on DFT architect definition and implementation of DFT features using Siemens Tessent, Synopsys, Cadence or equivalent tool suite. Telecommuting may

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MULTIPLE POSITIONS Tesla, Inc. currently has job openings in Austin, TX: Technical Construction Project Manager (AUS290453): Evaluate concept plans (site plans, floor plans, reflected ceiling plans, elevations and renderings) for new store openings throughout North America. Domestic travel required up to 30%, in order to visit sites for preliminary layout review, attend in person meetings with field team, per-punch walk, and final punch walk. **Manufacturing Equipment Engineer (AUS301302):** Diagnose equipment failures, find root cause and communicate actions. Requires domestic travel up to 10% and international travel up to 10% to complete FAT (factory acceptance test) for new equipment and lines. **Industrial Engineer (AUS303115):** Support process improvement by quantitatively assessing current production and business system performance. **Staff Software Development Engineer (AUS304129):** Design and develop high quality, scalable and stable web applications and/or back-end services. **Staff Process Engineer (AUS292366):** Responsible for process planning, capacity planning, project planning, EMF, 2D and 3D layout design. Domestic and International travel required up to 5% to visit other Tesla facilities. **Staff Manufacturing Equipment Engineer (AUS295973):** Design equipment meeting interdepartmental needs and specifications. Requires domestic travel up to 5% and international travel up to 5% in order to visit other Tesla facilities and international

vendor locations for equipment Factory Acceptance Testing (FATs). **Senior Data Analyst (AUS290694):** Create and maintain ETLs, identify correct data sources, write custom SQL queries, validate data against source applications, and make modifications according to new requirements. **Senior Technical Construction Project Manager (AUS292438):** Lead site infrastructure planning efforts, including the breakdown of various projects such as site work, building, utilities, and tooling, into manageable planning and scheduling packages. **Sr Supplier Quality Engineer (AUS292420):** Drive improvements utilizing Lean methodologies, Statistical Process Control, supplier scorecards, ensuring supplier compliance, whilst driving systematic problem solving and process improvement plans to deliver value. Requires domestic travel up to 15% and international travel up to 15% in order to visit other Tesla facilities. **Senior QA Engineer (AUS291935):** Responsible for ensuring the overall manufacturing quality for our most critical powertrain components and for all aspects of incoming, in-process, and outgoing quality to ensure our powertrain can meet Tesla's standards for safety, reliability, and manufacturability. **Multiple positions available. To apply, please email apply@tesla.com, and indicate the job code in the subject line. One email per job code. Tesla is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, state or local laws. Tesla is also committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. Please let your recruiter know if you need an accommodation at any point during the interview process.**

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(Accenture LLP; Austin, TX): Manage project execution to ensure adherence to budget, schedule, and scope. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00304081). Equal Opportunity Employer – Vets/Disabled.

SENIOR AI DEVOPS ENGINEER
Systematrix Solutions, Inc., Austin, TX – Design, optimize, manage deployment of Retrieval-Augmented Generation architecture for LLM. Job can be performed anywhere in U.S. MS or frgn equiv in Comp Sci or rel. Send CV to careers@systematrix.ai and refer to job code: SAIDE-NR.

SENIOR RESEARCH ENGINEER
support the development of machine learning models and design neural networks for various perception problems. Master of Science degree in Computer Science and 4+ years of industry experience is required. Send resume to Elena Sagunova to 8300 N Mopac Expy, Austin, TX or email: careers@avride.ai

SOFTWARE ENGINEER
Support remote autonomous vehicle operations, maintain user interfaces, work with analytics teams to design APIs and reporting systems, and ensure optimal performance and resilience. Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or equivalent. Foreign equivalent is accepted. At least 5 years in Backend and Frontend development and 3 years in Infrastructure and DevOps. Send resume to Elena Sagunova to 8300 N Mopac Expy, Austin, TX or email: careers@avride.ai

PACKAGED APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE MANAGER
(Accenture LLP; Austin, TX): Develop or update project plans for information technology projects, including project objectives, technologies,

systems, information specifications, schedules, funding, and staffing. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00304655). Equal Opportunity Employer – Vets/Disabled.

PACKAGED APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
(Accenture LLP; Austin, TX): Manage project execution to ensure adherence to budget, schedule, and scope. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00304081). Equal Opportunity Employer – Vets/Disabled.

SENIOR AI DEVOPS ENGINEER
Systematrix Solutions, Inc., Austin, TX – Design, optimize, manage deployment of Retrieval-Augmented Generation architecture for LLM. Job can be performed anywhere in U.S. MS or frgn equiv in Comp Sci or rel. Send CV to careers@systematrix.ai and refer to job code: SAIDE-NR.

SENIOR RESEARCH ENGINEER
support the development of machine learning models and design neural networks for various perception problems. Master of Science degree in Computer Science and 4+ years of industry experience is required. Send resume to Elena Sagunova to 8300 N Mopac Expy, Austin, TX or email: careers@avride.ai

SOFTWARE ENGINEER
Support remote autonomous vehicle operations, maintain user interfaces, work with analytics teams to design APIs and reporting systems, and ensure optimal performance and resilience. Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or equivalent. Foreign equivalent is accepted. At least 5 years in Backend and Frontend development and 3 years in Infrastructure and DevOps. Send resume to Elena Sagunova to 8300 N Mopac Expy, Austin, TX or email: careers@avride.ai

PACKAGED APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE MANAGER
(Accenture LLP; Austin, TX): Develop or update project plans for information technology projects, including project objectives, technologies,

TECH BUSINESS DEVELOPER III - MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Amazon Data Services, Inc. seeks candidates for the following (multiple positions available) in Austin, TX. Apply at: <https://www.amazon.jobs/en/>, referencing job ID AMZ26310.1: Tech Business Developer III (Job ID: AMZ26310.1). Engage in mid-level customer meetings to discuss customer's business issues and explore how new Cloud services can help address and resolve these issues. Establish ways to measure and track metrics related to adoption of the service, and to make improvements to the approach based on those measurements. Salary Range: \$147900 - \$200100

TECHNOLOGY
HP Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Software Applications Engineer in Austin, TX (Ref. #9376791). Design and architect software. Analyze requirements and design scalable system architectures using appropriate design patterns and frameworks. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$165,000.00/year to \$195,000.00/year. Email resume to jobs@hp.com. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

to HP USA Jobs, jobshpusa@hp.com. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY
HP Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Software Engineer in Austin, TX (Ref. #9376791). Responsible for designing and leading end-to-end technology solutions that support business strategy, with a strong focus on distributed systems, edge computing, and machine learning. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$200,000.00/year to \$230,000.00/year. Email resume to HPUSAJobs@hp.com. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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An application has been made for a Wine Only Package Store for Sarao Stores Inc., d/b/a 7-Eleven Convenience Store #38289B, located at 701 W. Braker Ln., Austin, Travis County, TX. Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic

Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. Sarao Stores Inc. - Officers: Paramjit Sarao – President and Secretary Application has been made with Texas

Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a MB – Mixed Beverage Permit with FB-Food and Beverage Certificate by Thai Zen ATX LLC dba Thai Zen Modern Thai Japanese Kitchen, to be located at 1414 Shore District Dr Ste 120, Austin 78741 Travis

County, Texas. Sirin Ruamsuk, Brendan Joseph Sipple, Nantiya Chomprayoor, Andrew Warakorn Kamrai and Pannipa Thouratum are Member Managed. Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package

Store Permit by Nawazish Investment LLC Db a Mo Pac Mart to be located at 3503 Hyridge Drive, Austin Travis Co., Texas. Managers of said LLC are Amin Maredia-Manager, Samreen Maredia- Manager, Rahim Noorani-Manager, Saleem Ali-

Manager, and Mustafa Ali- Manager Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On-Premise Permit by IREA LLC Db a Black Bird Grocers to be located at 1500

Spyglass Drive, Austin, Travis Co., Texas. Members of said LLC are Erick Prasla-Member and Amik Barkat- Member Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

CONTINUED ON P.50

undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Lynn E. Markham Attorney at Law**
608 East Houston Ave. Crockett, TX 75835
DATED the 13th day of January 2026.

/s/ **Lynn E. Markham**
 Lynn E. Markham
 Attorney for Erik Joseph Alvarado
 State Bar No.: 12988400
 608 East Houston Ave. Crockett, TX 75835
 Telephone: (936) 545-0344
 Facsimile: (737) 200-4204
 Email: LawyerMarkham@gmail.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Graciela Arce Lee a/k/a Grace A. Lee, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2025 under Docket No. C-1-PB-25-002387, pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Michael Robert Lee. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Arce Lee aka Grace A. Lee, Deceased c/o Terry L. Garrett, Esq., The Garrett Law Firm, PLLC 4008 Spicewood Springs Austin, Texas 78759. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Morris Ellis Howard, Deceased, were issued on January 13, 2026 in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002727, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Craig Howard.

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 Mitchell B. Crane Crane Law Firm 5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225 Austin, Texas 78735
DATED the 13th day of January, 2026.

Mitchell B. Crane
 State Bar No. 24099004
 5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225 Austin, Texas 78735
 (512) 469-9444
 Fax: (877) 469-9439
 Attorney for Craig Howard

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Loretta Ilene Rogers, Deceased, were issued to Elmer Allen Rogers aka Allen Rogers as Independent Executor of said Estate, on January 6, 2026, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002513, pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Elmer Allen Rogers aka Allen Rogers, Independent Executor of said Estate, in care of his attorney Rosemary Sullivan within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Rosemary Sullivan Collins Ostrom PLLC 816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF MARGARET DRAKE GRAHAM, DECEASED, were issued on January 5, 2026, in Cause No. 25-0432-P, pending in County Court at Law No. 3 of Hays County, Texas, to: MARK WILLIAM GRAHAM, JR. and JOHN STEVENS GRAHAM, as Independent Co-Executors. 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 to: The Estate of MARGARET DRAKE GRAHAM, c/o Matthew J. Meese State Bar No. 24026874 Law Office of Matthew J. Meese, PLLC 3301 Northland Drive, Suite 215 Austin, Texas 78731 Attorney for Independent Co-Executors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Onesimo Maldonado a/k/a Onecimo A. Maldonado were issued to Mary Esther Lopez on December 9, 2025, under Docket No. C-1-PB-25-002403, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for Mary Esther Lopez addressed as follows: Douglas A. Booth Sneed, Vine & Perry, P.C. 2705 Bee Cave Road, Suite 160 Austin, Texas 78746 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ronald Eugene Anderson, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2026, under Docket No. C-1-PB-25-002362, pending in the Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County, Texas, to Marsha Ellen Hendrix. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Ronald Eugene Anderson, Deceased c/o JoAnne McIntosh Eccles & McIntosh, PC 506 West 16th Street Austin, Texas 78701 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated January 7, 2026. Eccles & McIntosh, PC JoAnne McIntosh Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for Thomas Glenn Gunter, Deceased, were issued on the 29th day of April 2025, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-000733, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Donna R. Gunter.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart PLLC Attorneys at Law Rollingwood Center 2500 Bee Cave Road Building II, Suite 150 Austin, Texas 78746 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 12th day of January 2026. /s/ Barbara J. Lipscomb Barbara J. Lipscomb Attorney for Independent Co-Executors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that the original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Edley Ewing Hall, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2026, in Cause No. C-25-0353-P pending in the County Court at Law Number three of Hays County, Texas to Ritaorney

Hail. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law in care of the representative's attorney, Diana Reinhart, Reinhart Law, 609 W. 9th Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Notice by: Diana Reinhart, Reinhart Law, State Bar No. 24054529, 609 W. 9th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone: (512) 512-993-8473, Attorney for the Independent Administrator. Dated: January 13, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given to any person(s) having claims against the Estate of Marion Cathleen McLaughlin Grant, Deceased, that an independent administration of the estate has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary on January 8, 2026, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002482, styled IN RE THE ESTATE OF MARION CATHEEN MCLAUGHLIN GRANT, DECEASED, pending in the Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County, Texas, to Jenni Nickelson, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to Jenni Nickelson, c/o E. Glenn Thames, Jr., Potter Minton, a Professional Corporation, 102 N. College Avenue, Suite 900, Tyler, Texas 75702, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 On January 6, 2026, Weiling Yin was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary Ann Davis Wilson, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002463 pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. The address of Weiling Yin, Independent Executor, is c/o Michael I. Jones, Thompson East, PLLC, 1301 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite C-120, Austin, Texas 78746, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law. Weiling Yin, Independent Executor of the Estate of Mary Ann Davis Wilson, Deceased By: Michael I. Jones, Attorney for the Independent Executor, Weiling Yin

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DAN AUSTIN ANDREWS, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2026, in Cause No. 25-0484-P, pending in County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas, to Susan Jean Andrews. 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. Susan Jean Andrews, c/o Tracy J. Willi, Willi Law Firm, P.C., 5920 W. William Cannon Dr., Suite 6100, Austin, TX 78749. Publish date: January 16, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joy L. Cantrell, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2026, in Docket No. C-1-PB-25-002617, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Jakob Berzoff-Cohen. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows: Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 7th day of January, 2026. Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

Attorneys for the Estate By: /s/ Janice Pierce

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Melvin J. Miller, aka Melvin James Miller, aka Melvin Miller, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2026 in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002197, pending in the Probate Court #1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Heather Joy Hodnett. 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: **Brad Wiewel**
 Texas Trust Law
 1601 Rio Grande St, Suite 550 Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 12th day of January, 2026.
 By: Ann Lumley
 State Bar No.: 24034408

NOTICE TO CREDITORS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE
 Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jon Edmond Kasner, Deceased, were issued to Alison Cathy Kasner a/k/a Alison Kasner on January 8, 2026, in Cause No. 25-1352-CP4 pending in County Court No. 4, Williamson County, TX. 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.
TANYA K. STREIT
 Attorney for Independent Executor
 Streit Law Will's and Trusts 13809 Research Blvd, Ste 500 Austin, TX 78750
 Ph: 512-712-5829

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Jack Goodman A/K/A Jack Allen Goodman, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2026, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002512, pending in the Probate Court No: 2, Travis County, Texas, to: Janis Morgan A/K/A Janis Kaye Morgan, Independent Executor, Estate of Jack Goodman A/K/A Jack Allen Goodman, Deceased. 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 Dyan Lofton, Austin Legal Access, PO Box 303, Pflugerville, Texas 78691, Telephone: (512) 387-5378, Email: dyanlofton@austinlegalaccess.org, Attorney for Janis Morgan A/K/A Janis Kaye Morgan, Independent Executor.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Jacquelyn "Jackie" Kaye Morgan Goodman A/K/A Jacquelyn Kaye Morgan Goodman A/K/A Jacquelyn K.M. Goodman, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2026, in Cause No. C-1-PB-25-002515, pending in the Probate Court No. 2, Travis County, Texas, to: Janis Morgan A/K/A Janis Kaye Morgan, Independent Executor, Estate of Jacquelyn "Jackie" Kaye Morgan Goodman A/K/A Jacquelyn Kaye Morgan Goodman A/K/A Jacquelyn K.M. Goodman, Deceased. 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 Dyan Lofton, Austin Legal Access, PO Box 303, Pflugerville, Texas 78691, Telephone: (512) 387-5378, Email: dyanlofton@austinlegalaccess.org, Attorney for Janis Morgan A/K/A Janis Kaye Morgan, Independent Executor.

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OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 Notice is hereby given that sealed responses will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
 1. IFB Blister Packs & Cards (175-AS)
 Opens: February 06, 2026, at 2:00 PM.
 2. RFS Car Washing Services (171-PE)
 Opens: January 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM.
 3. IFB Printing Services (169-CM)
 Opens: January 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM.
 4. RFP Accounting Software (129-LC)
 Opens: December 22, 2025, at 2:00 PM.
 5. RFP Phase II - Implementation Services to Migrate to S/4HANA (126-LC)
 Opens: February 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

There is no cost to the Respondent for a response submission. Respondents may submit responses electronically through the Ariba Network or in paper format by delivery to the Purchasing Office. To submit a response electronically refer to **www.traviscountytx.gov/purchasing/solicitation**. Responses may also be submitted via USPS mail, FedEx, DHL, etc. to: C.W. Bruner, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Ph: 512.854.9700. Responses will be publicly opened at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 700 Lavaca, Austin, Texas. Respondents may view the submissions in the Ariba Network or use the virtual dial-in information (supplied within the solicitation) during which the responses will be publicly opened and read aloud. Respondents should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check or ACH.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-25-000775
In the Estate of Isabel Silva Requejo, Deceased
To: Yvonne Tijerina Dolores Foster, Applicant,

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. C-1-PB-25-000888, styled IN THE ESTATE OF John L. Moore, a/k/a John Lee Moore, a/k/a John Moore, DECEDED, which is now pending on the probate docket of said Court. Said application and any opposition will be heard and acted upon by said Court after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from date of publication of this citation, at the Travis County Probate Court House, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, TX 78701. You are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by **filing a written contest or answer** to the Application before the above stated time and date **should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, any objection, intervention, or response must be filed in writing** with the County Clerk of Travis County, Texas, on or before the above-noted date and time.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court on January 07, 2026.
Dyana Limon-Mercado,
 COUNTY CLERK
 Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325 Austin, TX 78714-9325
 By: CE WARREN
Filing Attorney:
 Andrew L. Smith
 13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd. Bldg. 5, Ste 200 Cedar Park, Texas 78613 (512) 851-1248
Notice of Application to Probate a Will More than Four Years after the Decedent's Death.
 You are notified of the filing in this Decedent's estate of an application to probate a will or codicil ("will") more than four years after the Decedent died. You must understand the following:
 1. The testator's property will pass to the testator's heirs if the will is not admitted to probate. (Or if this will is not admitted to probate, but another will of Decedent was previously admitted to probate, Decedent's property will pass to the beneficiaries in that previously probated will).
 2. The person offering the testator's will for probate may not be

in default for failing to present the will for probate during the four-year period immediately following the testator's death. Therefore, the Court will not grant the application in this case unless the applicant offers sufficient evidence to prove that he was not in default for failing to probate the will within four years of Decedent's death. As an heir of the Decedent - or as a beneficiary in Decedent's previously probated will - your rights to inherit property may be affected by the probate of a will more than four years after Decedent's death. If you want to object to the probate of the will more than four years after the Decedent's death, you need to file a written objection with the Clerk. The Clerk's citation, which is attached to this notice, indicates the date by which you should file a written objection. Note that the citation does not indicate a specific hearing date. If you sign an affidavit waving citation, your are indicating to the Court that you do not object to the probate of the will that has been filed by the applicant more than four years after the Decedent died. You should consult an attorney if you have any questions about your rights in this probate matter.

Top Austin Cajun Inc., Jun Ye, Dir/Pres & Feng Chen, Sec. have applied for a Mixed Beverage Permit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission d/b/a Hook & Reel, 7604 N IH 35, Austin, Travis County, TX

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