

THE CHRONICLE

A Mother's Story of Falafel and Family

How Afia Foods Is Empowering
the Syrian Refugee Community
One Mediterranean Recipe at a Time

BY EMILY BEYDA & JESSI CAPE
P.32

MAY 10, 2019
VOLUME 38, NUMBER 37
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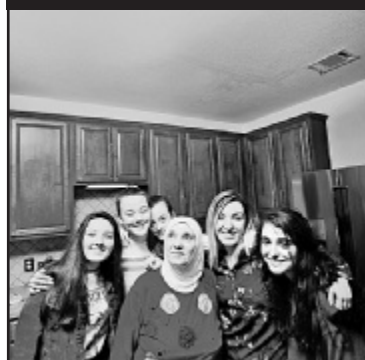
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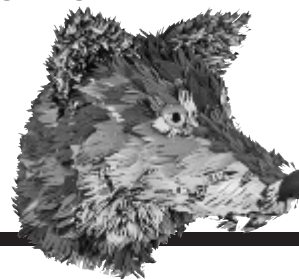
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FEEDBACK LETTERS & COMMENTS

YOUR OPINION IS WRONG

Dear Editor,
 For all the unwitting folks who would trust Kimberley Jones' 4-star rating of *Long Shot*: Be forewarned! Seth Rogen literally screams 2/3 of his lines, yet at my viewing of the film, got the most edgy laughter when he intensely jerks off into his own face, perhaps also to the delight of Ms. Jones. Her take on Rogen's performance: "so confident, so fully [her emphasis!] adult." Really now?! So disgustingly juvenile.

*Respectfully submitted,
 Hal Strickland*

BLOOD, SWEAT, TEARS, AND THE LDC

Dear Editor,
 The Austin City Council voted last week to base the Land Development Code rewrite on city staff and consultants' Draft 3 of CodeNEXT. A universal criticism of CodeNEXT was that it was too driven by city staff and consultants. Virtually everyone on Council acknowledges that the city needs to rebuild trust among the citizenry. Much of the past mistrust was directed toward city staff and consultants. How does using city staff

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and consultants' Draft 3 as the baseline for the LDC rewrite not perpetuate those problems? The Planning Commission I once sat on took months of public comments on the LDC rewrite. After intensive deliberations in marathon meetings, we recommended amendments to Draft 3. Council should trust the Austinites it appoints to serve on its boards and commissions. The hard work done by us and the Austinites we heard from should not be cast aside. Those amendments should factor into what the next iteration of the LDC rewrite looks like. Doing otherwise does a huge disservice to Austinites who poured their blood, sweat, and tears into rewriting the LDC.

*Regards,
 Tom Nuckols*

UPDATED DAILY AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/POSTMARKS



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NEWS



QUOTE of the WEEK

“Make the case for your sorcery to consumers on your own dime.”

— Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford, tweeting out anti-vax “parental rights” bullshit to Dr. Peter Hotez of Baylor College of Medicine, one of Texas’ leading authorities on infectious diseases (and parent of a child with autism).

HEADLINES

CATCH YOUR BREATH After last week’s grueling special meeting on the land use code, today’s **City Council** meeting (May 9) features a relatively light 43-item agenda to consider: a **Green New Deal** resolution, the **affordable housing bonus program**, and a relatively short list of **zoning cases**.

SO WHO PAYS? The **Texas Legislature** proceeded on its path to cap local (and school district) property tax increases at an annual 3.5% rate, while GOP leaders proposed paying for it by increasing the sales tax rate – thus shifting the tax burden in a regressive direction. But on Tuesday, the **sales “tax swap”** – which would have required voter approval – was pulled down amid unified Democratic and some Republican opposition in the House.

AUSTIN FC GRANDFATHERED Elsewhere at the Lege, a Senate bill that could have derailed the city’s deal for a **Major League Soccer** team and stadium is no longer a threat, as it was amended by its author so as not to impact agreements made prior to the law’s taking effect this fall.

NEW BLAND EVIDENCE “I will light you up!” yelled Trooper **Brian Encinia** to **Sandra Bland**, threatening her with a Taser when she didn’t immediately get out of her car after a traffic stop allegedly made for failure to signal. Bland’s brief **cell phone video** of her 2015 arrest – before her subsequent death in the Waller County jail – was released by a Dallas TV station this week. Encinia had claimed he “feared for his safety.”

ALAS, POOR ALEX Last week, **Facebook** banned local demagogue and “conspiracy theorist” (i.e., fantasist and survivalist shill) **Alex Jones** from its social platforms, along with several other hard-right personalities and Nation of Islam leader **Louis Farrakhan**, as “dangerous” and “promoting violence and hate.” **President Trump** reacted angrily to the ban as “discriminatory” and began boosting the banned content via his Twitter feed.

CAN WE KEEP THE HAT? On May 1, four **Texas State University** students were arrested in the wake of a confrontation between student groups, in anticipation of an **anti-immigrant demonstration** that never materialized. One student reportedly grabbed a “MAGA” cap off another’s head; after the hat-napper was arrested, three more students were grabbed for disorderly conduct or interfering with police. It was the latest in a series of provocations and incidents, dating back to 2016, of the San Marcos campus being targeted by outside alt-right and white nationalist agitators.



JANA BIRCHUM

Ivey Kaiser, foreground, is taking the reins at the Shoal Creek Conservancy from its founding Executive Director Joanna Wolaver. Kaiser’s also been engaged with SCC since its inception, as the community outreach leader for REI in Austin; she says championing the Shoal Creek Trail action plan for the 13-mile waterway along the west side of the central city is a natural extension of her career focus on “getting people outdoors and improving public spaces.” Wolaver, whose efforts helped turn a loose group of friends of the creek into a thriving nonprofit over the last five years, expects to continue working on community projects involving parks, water, and the environment.

Rising to the Defense

TRAVIS COUNTY TRIES TO LEVEL THE COURTROOM PLAYING FIELD

Travis County commissioners spent much of Tuesday afternoon contemplating a grant proposal to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission that (if approved) would initiate the creation of a public defender’s office, beginning next year (see p.14). It’s hardly the first time the issue has been discussed, but the subject has become increasingly pressing. One of the embarrassing notes sounded as the question has been raised is that Austin is “the largest city in the country without a public defender’s office,” charged with the legal

and institutional purpose to defend poor people accused of crimes.

For the uninitiated, what Travis County has instead is a patchwork system, currently including public defenders in special contexts (juvenile justice, mental health, civil child protection) and (since 2014), a “Managed Assigned Counsel” system provided through the Capital Area Private Defender Service. CAPDS hires private criminal defense attorneys, generally paid with a flat fee, to defend accused people who can’t otherwise afford a lawyer.

In principle, a public defender’s office would provide an institutional complement to CAPDS, eventually handling 30% of all criminal cases, with salaried attorneys and “holistic” services that might include social workers, translators, and other professionals to help address the web of circumstances that often complicate what are seldom simply legal matters.

THE UNEASY TRIANGLE

As noted, this is a conversation that has been taking place over many years – CAPDS is its most recent incarnation – and it’s been fascinating to watch the latest episode.

CONTINUED ON P.10



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POINT AUSTIN CONTINUED FROM P.8

Excluding the commissioners themselves, there are three interest groups that are both collaborating with each other and jockeying for position in developing the project: the PDO advocates, the criminal defense attorneys, and the criminal court judges. All profess to support the PDO "in principle," but each of them has a very different notion of what such an office should look like.

The advocates – speaking primarily through the Indigent Legal Services working group (appointed by the Commissioners Court) – see themselves as most urgently representing accused defendants, and trying to get them the fairest possible PDO structure. The defense attorneys see that role as primarily their own, and while generally sympathetic with reform, have come to resent the advocates' focus on the defense bar as one major locus of the ongoing problems. As a third group, the judges have been characteristically opaque, issuing collective letters under the signature of Presiding Judge Brenda Kennedy but otherwise avoiding public comment.

IT'S LONG PAST TIME FOR TRAVIS COUNTY TO BEGIN CREATING A CRIMINAL DEFENSE SYSTEM INDEPENDENT OF THE FOLKS PRESIDING ON THE BENCH.

OUTSIDE THE TENT

The bottom line, in the judges' most recent official declaration on May 2, was that they were ready to support a PDO proposal only if it would "adequately fund our current Managed Assigned Counsel (CAPDS)." That left the commissioners with the task of haruspicing just what the judges would accept in the way of other changes to their revised proposal. What became the "Eckhardt Plan" (as County Judge Sarah E. named it, approved in a 4-1 vote) accepted the judges' additional CAPDS funding while punting down the road the vexed question of supervisory-committees-to-be-named-later. Eckhardt's logic was understandable: Facing an already delayed May 10 deadline to file the grant application, stakeholders could hold their voluble breaths for a bit while they wait for a TIDC response.

Nobody was entirely happy, the sign of either a good compromise or a deal about to become undone. The advocates (notably Grassroots Leadership) lamented what they considered a betrayal of the working group's proposal. Yet the chair of that working group, Amanda Woog of the Texas Fair Defense Project, while criticizing the judges' desire to maintain administrative control, otherwise welcomed the commissioners' approval as representing "a major step forward" for indigent defense in Travis County. Skeptical defense attorneys, also worried about CAPDS funding, loudly complained that other "systemic problems" for indigent defense will not be solved by the creation of a PDO. That's both true, and no reason not to make this substantial contribution to leveling the courthouse playing field, heavily weighted in favor of the prosecution.

As I write, no one is certain whether the Eckhardt compromise will garner sufficient judicial support to advance the application and then persuade the TIDC. It's no secret that the courthouse judicial leadership (and assembled lawyers) reflexively resent any intrusion on their institutional, clubbish authority. But it's long past time for Travis County to begin creating a criminal defense system structurally independent of the folks presiding on the bench. A public defender's office should help make that happen. ■

Odds and Ends

Good Deeds, Bad Deeds, Restricted Deeds

You can read about last Thursday's special called City Council meeting about the **Land Development Code rewrite** on p.12. Council's recommendations are an aggressive attempt to move the status quo, and there's plenty to talk about there. But what's disturbing isn't the recommendations themselves, but the angry and vindictive tone of much of the debate, with Council members seeming to treat every issue as a zero-sum game, rather than looking for solutions that might work for both sides. Just one example, but a particular low point in this regard, was CM **Natasha Harper-Madison** demagoguing about the **deed restrictions** that nominally bar people of color from property ownership in **Hyde Park**. These have been ruled unconstitutional and unenforceable, but neighbors who started the process to remove them some years back were told this would require written support by 100% of property owners (including all absentee landlords in an area that's over 70% renters) and/or an act of the state Legislature. Moreover, according to a UT study, racially discriminatory deed restrictions such as this exist in every Council district that was within the Austin city limits in 1950, including Harper-Madison's own. If she really wants to help the situation, instead of just trying to count coup against her perceived enemies, perhaps she could join HPNA in that effort. (Hyde Park's deed restrictions were put in place in the 1880s; shockingly, others were still being added as late as 1949; that was in what's now **Greg Casar's** district.)

Vintage Steve Adler Quotes

2017 State of the City Address: "For starters, let's agree we will not force density in the middle of neighborhoods. There's no sense in shoving density where it would ruin the character of the city we're trying to save in the first place, where it's not wanted by its neighbors, and where we would never get enough of the additional housing supply we need

anyway. ... I would also urge that neighborhoods be given significant influence in deciding how these transition areas are done in those neighborhoods, so long as each accommodates an appropriate share of the city's needed housing supply."

2018 State of the City Address: "I am encouraged that the most recent staff recommendation for [CodeNEXT] is closer to the Austin Bargain of preserving and respecting neighborhood identity and quality of life, [and] focusing our housing supply growth on our major corridors."

Attention property owners: Wednesday, May 15, is the deadline to file a protest regarding **property valuations** which will be used to calculate this year's taxes. The **Travis Central Appraisal District** has said they expect a record number of protests this year, in view of some steep hikes in valuations. They recommend e-filing as "the easier, faster way to resolve your protest"; see www.traviscad.org/eservices for info.

Speaking of things you can look up online: The final adopted **Austin Strategic Mobility Plan** document is now available at www.austintexas.gov/asmp. Some map updates are still TK.

The **Austin Humane Society** has opened registration for their seventh annual **Summer Kids Series**, free sessions for kids 12 and under, with several sessions each week, June 4 through August 13, on various topics, "to help kids dive a little deeper into the world of animals." All sessions are free; register online at www.austinhumanesociety.org.

The **AIA Austin 2019 Awards Celebration** is Thu., May 9, 6pm at Fair Market, 1100 E. Fifth, honoring winners of the architects' society's annual Honor Awards and Design Awards – "celebrating excellence in design while enjoying pop-up lounges, food trucks, cocktails, music, and other surprises." 6pm cocktails, 7pm awards, 8:30pm afterparty. Tickets are \$30-35 at www.aiaaustin.org.

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge will offer guided nature walks on the preserve the next three Saturday mornings, 9-10:30am. It's free, but requires reservations; call the visitor center at 512/339-9432 Mon.-Fri., 8am-4:30pm, or see www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones_canyonlands for more info.

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

CIVICS 101 DUTY NOW FOR THE FUTURE

THURSDAY 5/9**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING** 10am. *Austin City Hall.***CERTIFICATION 101:**

Overview of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Certification. 1-3pm. *Carver Library, 1161 Angelina. www.austintexas.gov.*

TOYPRINTS LAUNCH PARTY

Join this STEAM-focused nonprofit for beer tasting, 3D-printing demos, and raffle. 6-8pm. *WhichCraft Tap Room, 1900 Simond. \$10-20. www.toyprints.org.*

FRIDAY 5/10**RHYTHM RESTORATION FOOD DRIVE**

Help provide meals this summer to kids who rely on school lunches for consistent meals. Donate online or drop off nonperishable food items or money. *Through May 10. All local Caliber Collision locations.*

SATURDAY 5/11**ZERO WASTE BLOCK LEADER ORIENTATION**

Learn about Austin's Zero Waste goals and becoming a block leader. 10am-noon. *Austin Resource Recovery. Free. austintexas.gov/zerowasteblockleader.*

CELEBRASIA Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with cultural performances, family-friendly arts & crafts, and more. 11am-3pm. *Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron. Free.*

SUNDAY 5/12**SJP MONTHLY GATHERING**

Advocate for effective sexual assault response change. 1-2:30pm. *Batch Craft Beer + Kolaches, 3220 Manor Rd. www.fb.com/survivorjusticeproject.*

LABOR HISTORY AND RESISTANCE IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

Austin Democratic Socialists of America leads a discussion about the history of the labor movement. 4-6pm. *AFL-CIO Hall, 1106 Lavaca. www.austindsa.org.*

MONDAY 5/13**ROAD TO RUN**

Women in business and politics will discuss strategies for pursuing new leadership opportunities, political or otherwise. Hosted by nonprofit She Should Run. 6-9pm. *Central Library, 710 W. Cesar Chavez. Free. www.sheshouldrun.org.*

TEXAS INMATE FAMILIES ASSOC.

Have a loved one in jail? TIFA can help by offering strength to families through support, education, and advocacy. Second Monday of every month, 7-8:30pm. *AGE of Central Texas, 3710 Cedar #2. Free. www.tifa.org.*

TUESDAY 5/14**BASICS ON COMMERCIAL LEASES**

Learn the ins and outs of a typical lease. 10-11am. *Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron. Free.*

LIFEGUARD HIRING EVENT

Apply for lifeguard, cashier, and instructor positions. 4-8pm. *PARD Aquatic Office, 2818 San Gabriel St. www.lifeguardaustin.com.*

SKU SHOWCASE DAY

Companies participating in consumer product goods (CPG) accelerator SKU present their final pitches to investors and the community. 6-9pm. *Native Hostel, 807 E. Fourth. Free. www.sku7showcaseday.splashthat.com.*

BOOKSIGNING Jillian Coburn reads from her memoir *My Ugly Truth: Life Beyond Abuse*. 6:30pm. *BookWoman.*

WHISPERING VALLEY & WEST COW PATH FLOOD-RISK REDUCTION

Open meeting to discuss repair projects following flooding. 6:30pm. *Davis Elementary, 5214 Duval Rd. www.austintexas.gov/whisperingvalley.*

NAKED CITY

CAMPO THROWS MONEY AT I-35

The **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's** Transportation Policy Board voted Monday to allocate \$400 million in new funding to the "**Capital Express**" project – the latest iteration of the **Texas Department of Transportation's** decades-long quest to upgrade **I-35** through Central Austin. The current TxDOT vision for adding capacity to the 28-mile stretch from State Highway 45 North to SH 45 Southeast involves **managed lanes** (either one or two in each direction). With new **toll projects** again out of favor among the state's top officials, these lanes (unlike those on MoPac) would be "managed" in some other fashion, such as restricting them to high-occupancy vehicles and buses.

Actually fitting several new lanes, managed or not, into I-35's constrained right-of-way has always called for creative engineering; TxDOT now proposes **two levels of tunnels** under the main lanes between Downtown

and Airport Blvd., replacing the current upper deck. Through Downtown, TxDOT's animated rendering shows I-35 depressed below grade but not "capped," as has been proposed by the **Reconnect Austin** initiative to create new developable land and public space between the Eastside and the city center. (It was in support of Reconnect Austin that the Congress for the New Urbanism declared I-35 one of its 2019 "Freeways Without Futures.")

The total TxDOT project would cost over \$8 billion; both the state and CAMPO (which has direct access to federal transportation funding) have already set aside more than \$800 million to the cause. The CAMPO board, chaired by Austin Mayor **Steve Adler**, hopes that by allocating almost all of the region's available highway dollars to I-35, the region can impress the importance of the corridor upon state and federal funders and get the long-stalled project moving as soon as 2021.
– *Mike Clark-Madison*

DE-CONFEDERATE GEORGETOWN?

Near the **Williamson County Courthouse** on the square in Georgetown stands a 60-foot monolith and statue dedicated to "**Confederate Soldiers and Sailors**." Erected in 1916, it features an inscription: "No braver patriots ever fought, no braver deeds were ever wrought." A group called the **Wilco Patriots** has been circulating a petition requesting the monument be moved to a less prominent site, writing, "The statue, erected during the Jim Crow Era, creates an unwelcoming environment for the people of color in our community, and we plan to change that."

In the past, Williamson County commissioners have rejected similar requests, and several bills under consideration at the Legislature would make removal more difficult. **House Bill 583** would not only forbid the removal of war monuments without state permission, but also criminalize unpermitted removals with fines or jail terms. (Reported out of committee, that bill has yet to be scheduled for the House floor.) On Tuesday, the Senate approved (on a party-line vote) a somewhat less restrictive bill, **Senate Bill 1663** – including civil fines but no criminal penalties – that would create a complex approval structure for moving or removing monuments, while making some distinctions between monuments greater or less than 25 years in age. The intent of this "monument protection act" is much the same as HB 583: to make it much more difficult for local jurisdictions to choose to remove Confederate monuments or markers.

Austinite **Bryan Register** has been monitoring the monument bills as a member of **De-Confederate Austin**, and said the aim of statue-removal efforts is primarily educational. "If they succeed in making these efforts illegal," he said, "these conversations [will] never take place."

– *Michael King*



The Soldiers and Sailors monument

BILLY HATHORN/CC BY-SA 3.0

WEDNESDAY 5/15

CPPPS FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON Luncheon and panel on the future of public school finance, moderated by Evan Smith (Texas Tribune), benefits the ACC Center for Public Policy and Political Studies. **11:30am-1pm.** Sheraton at the Capitol, 701 E. 11th. Free to students; \$100, faculty, staff, alumni; \$150, everyone else. www.austincc.edu/cpppsbenefit.

AUSTIN ENERGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING 1:30pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second.

THURSDAY 5/16

2K FREEDOM RUN/WALK & JUNETEENTH PARADE REGISTRATION 6-7:30pm. B.D.H.S. Center, 1183 Chestnut Ave. www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com.

WEBBERVILLE ROAD AND OAK SPRINGS DRIVE OPEN HOUSE The Transportation Department seeks community feedback for safety and mobility projects. 6-7pm. *Willie Mae Kirk Library, 3101 Oak Springs Dr. austintexas.gov/webbervillerd*.

ONGOING

SUMMER SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION is open for lessons for all ages and skill levels, provided by PARD's Aquatic Division. \$57, residents; \$66, nonresidents. www.austintexas.gov/parksonline.

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A Code, Foretold

COUNCIL PREVIEWS THIS FALL'S MAIN EVENT

As the *Chronicle* goes to press, City Council offices are getting one last look at the “policy guidance” memo wrought over the last two months, mostly on the dais, to shape **Land Development Code revision** (what was once **CodeNEXT**). At its special called meeting May 2, Council ultimately voted 8-3 to approve memo language that, on the whole but not without *any* restraint, calls for a new code supporting more housing (specifically, more affordable housing) citywide, increased density in and around urban neighborhoods, and land use planning to support transit.

That final vote saw Council’s established loyal opposition on land use questions – Council Members **Leslie Pool**, **Kathie Tovo**, and **Alison Alter** – on the short end. Throughout the nine-hour meeting, the three had regularly been joined by CM **Ann Kitchen** on votes on individual provisions, but Kitchen ultimately endorsed the final product, which she described as “going beyond suggestions [to] being more prescriptive than I think is prudent ... but there is a lot that is good and that I agree with, and I do share the overarching goals.”

Kitchen and her colleagues emphasized that, through multiple sessions of word-smithing and deliberating and amending, the document that Council was voting on was still a draft, not yet final, of a “direction” to city staff to create a process that will, prospectively in October, bring back a draft

of how Austin might revise its code. “There is no final decision being made tonight,” said Mayor Pro Tem **Delia Garza**. “There will be time for all of us to, once again, likely have very similar discussions that we had tonight, when we see that draft.”

Tovo, who proposed the lion’s share of the amendments considered at the meeting, concurred. “I’m going to work just as hard [when the draft code returns] to propose amendments and collaborate with my colleagues,” she said, “to see if we can get to a place, with code and a map, that I think represents a balanced approach” – more balanced, she made clear, than what Council had produced – “and also achieves our goals of **Imagine Austin** to increase the density along the corridors and in the activity centers. I think that we have an opportunity with this process to build back some trust with the public.”

Despite these caveats, most members agreed with Mayor **Steve Adler** that this exercise was valuable and needed to be done to avoid the uncontrolled communal strife that doomed CodeNEXT. “This was not easy. And I think we got through it really well,” he said. “I think it does reflect the general will of our community ... [and] this is really good work.” □

On today’s agenda (Thu., May 9), Council will work through a relatively light 43 Items. CM **Greg Casar**’s “Affordability Unlocked”



Conceptual view of the new Dougherty Arts Center, as seen from Toomey Road

program – introduced as a resolution in February – is set for a public hearing and possible passage into city ordinance. At Council’s Tuesday work session, **Lauren Avioli** with the city’s **Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department** explained the ordinance as a density bonus program targeted at affordable housing. Developers would be allowed to waive minimum parking requirements and other code standards in exchange for adding more affordable housing units to a project.

A plan to redevelop the **Dougherty Arts Center** at a site on Butler Shores is set to be discussed as well. The aging facility on Barton Springs Road is prone to flooding during heavy rains. Tovo noted that the

existing building was not a safety risk yet, but that “we could do better” by the artists and youth who regularly use the space.

Another item that would establish a **small area plan** along North Lamar is set to be postponed indefinitely by staff, following concerns from several CMs at the work session. Casar and others said embarking on a land code revision outside of the big Next CodeNEXT project could be confusing, and he recommended scuttling the issue for now. Elsewhere, zoning cases off Manchaca Road (from residential to office) and on Dessau Road (upzoning the Pioneer Hill Apartments) will be heard, with some expected concerns from nearby residents.

– *Mike Clark-Madison, Austin Sanders*

New Study Shows How Scooters Can Hurt

A study commissioned by **Austin Public Health** in conjunction with the **Centers for Disease Control** found that about 20 **scooter riders** were injured for every 100,000 trips taken during a three-month period last fall in Downtown Austin.

By looking at Austin-Travis County **Emergency Medical Services** incident reports and hospital emergency department records, along with interviewing riders, the study identified 190 incidents in which a rider was injured – plus two in which a nonrider was injured – in an accident involving a dockless electric scooter. Researchers were able to interview 125 of these riders, helping to inform the study on how the riders were using the scooters, where they were riding, and other factors that may have contributed to their injury. According to APH, the study was the first in the nation to include such interviews.

Nearly half (48%) of injured riders sustained a fracture, laceration, or abrasion to the head, with 15% of those riders showing symptoms “suggestive of a traumatic brain injury.” (Only one of the interviewed riders was wearing a helmet.) About half of the injured riders were between the ages of 18-29, and about two-thirds had taken fewer than 10 scooter

trips before their injury. About 60% of interviewed riders said they “received training on using the e-scooter” via a phone app, which could indicate that the brief training offered by scooter companies is not enough to prevent most injuries.

At a press conference on May 2, Austin Transportation Director **Robert Spillar** said some of the injuries could be attributed to users adjusting to a new mode of transportation. “As a community, we’re learning how to use them,” he said. “When you first rode a bicycle, you probably fell off the first time. ... We continue to see better behavior as we go along.”

The study also refutes the anecdotal evidence offered by anyone who’s walked Downtown since scooters hit the streets last year and claimed a near-death experience: Only one of the 190 injured riders collided with a pedestrian, while one other collided with a cyclist. The study also found that cars and scooters seem to coexist on Austin’s roads fairly comfortably: Just 10% of injuries were caused by colliding with a motor vehicle.

Notably, the APH report also provided evidence that scooters aren’t going anywhere. During the Sept. 5-Nov. 30 study period, 936,110 e-scooter trips were recorded, for a total of

891,121 miles of use. With other cities across the state also seeing rapid growth in scooter use, enter the **Texas Legislature**. On May 1, the Senate passed a bill that would impose new regulations on scooter usage statewide.

Introduced by Sen. **Royce West**, D-Dallas, **Senate Bill 549** would mostly regulate scooter operation and parking. “We are beginning to see more and more accidents that are occurring on the electrical scooters,” West said of his legislation. The law would prevent Texans under the age of 16 from using dockless rental scooters; speed would be constrained to 15 mph for standing scooters and 20 mph for sitting scooters. Only one user would be permitted to ride a scooter at a time, and riders must yield to pedestrians. Users would also be prevented from parking scooters in a way that blocks sidewalks, roads, or paths for people with disabilities.

Most controversially, the bill was amended on the floor to remove a provision banning scooters from sidewalks, instead leaving that up to cities, which could also impose stricter regulations on scooters if desired. (The rules in SB 549 largely mirror Austin’s current ordinance, though City Council is set to consider enforcement measures and penalties this month.) After about 30 minutes of debate, the bill passed 20-11 and now moves to the House.

– *Austin Sanders*

AISD BOARD GETS CLOSER TO "SCHOOL CHANGE"

The **Austin ISD Board of Trustees** spent hours Monday night, May 6, debating the overarching guiding principles and regional maps the district will use as it crafts scenarios for school closures, repurposed facilities, and redrawn attendance zones. At times, the conversations echoed the recent wrangling at City Hall over the city's land use code. "We have a board that tends to get so paralyzed by over-analyzing the details of everything that sometimes it can stand in the way of being able to stand aside and let staff do their work," Trustee **Yasmin Wagner** said at one point. Looking ahead to the long, controversial process of rightsizing the district, she added, "Let's not get bogged down at this point in the game. Let's keep focused on the bigger picture."

The maps in question are of "regional planning areas" that eschew the seven trustee districts, traditional school attendance zones, and familiar boundaries such as Lamar and I-35, according to AISD Operations Officer **Matias Segura**. This was to promote "creative solutions" to the problems the district faces, such as underenrollment in the east and overcrowding in the west, or "academic deserts" without access to popular programs such as dual-language classes or pre-Advanced Placement courses. (The map that has attracted the most positive attention from trustees so far divides the district into five broad east-west bands.)

Eventually, district staff will use one of these maps to develop 10-12 scenarios for each region, which will attempt to solve the academic, operational, and financial woes the district has confronted over a decade of enrollment decline. Those scenarios will each include multiple elements, such as closing older schools that are expensive to maintain, redrawing boundaries to balance diversity among schools, or moving programming from one campus to another. Staff will then whittle down the scenarios to a short list for the board to consider in October.

Trustees stressed that the maps presented Monday would not be set in stone, even after district staff choose one as a starting point for the "school changes" process. As scenarios are generated for each region, it's possible that the maps will shift. Several trustees referred to the maps as "planning tools," meant to make an unwieldy process of districtwide change more manageable. Board President **Geronimo Rodriguez** said that the process would not "be easy work, but the right work," and that the maps and guiding principles are "a prudent, smart way of making equity real to every single parent, child, and community member in the district." The board is set to approve guiding principles at its May 20 meeting. — *Austin Sanders*

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| Monte Montgomery THU JUN 6 | Marshall Crenshaw FRI JUN 7 | Bob Schneider & Mitch Watkins FRI JUN 14 | Rippingtons FRI JUN 21 |
| BoDeans FRI JUN 28 | Elan Trotman FRI JUL 19 | Dave Koz Summer Horns Gerald Albright, Rick Braun, Kenny Lattimore, Aubrey Logan SAT JUL 27 | Poco SAT AUG 3 |
| R. Carlos Nakai & Will Clipman SUN AUG 25 | Jake Shimabukuro FRI AUG 30 | Adrian Belew SAT SEP 7 | Brian Simpson SUN SEP 8 |
| Felix Cavaliere's Rascals SAT SEP 14 | Kenny G SAT SEP 21 | John Sebastian SUN SEP 22 | Subdudes TUES & WED SEP 24 & 25 |
| Gino Vannelli FRI & SAT SEP 27 & 28 | Texicana Mamas Tish Hinojosa, Patricia Wonne, Stephanie Urbina Jones SUN SEP 29 JUST ADDED | Eddie Palmieri THU OCT 17 | Keiko Matsui SUN OCT 20 |
| David Wilcox WED OCT 23 | JD Souther TUE OCT 29 JUST ADDED | David Bromberg THU NOV 7 | Music of Abba SUN NOV 17 |
| Ottmar Liebert FRI NOV 22 | Peter White Xmas w/ Euge Groove, Lindsey Webster & Vincent Ingala FRI NOV 29 | Rahsaan Patterson SAT NOV 30 | David Archuleta SAT DEC 7 JUST ADDED |
| THE GUESS WHO 12.6 | ALBRIGHT FAMILY CHRISTMAS 12.14 | ELIZA GILKYSO & CARRIE RODRIGUEZ 3.1.20 | THE HOT SARDINES 3.5.20 |
| THE MIKE STERN / JEFF LORBER FUSION FT JIMMY HASLIP & DAVE WECKL 12.15 | NORMAN BROWN'S JOYOUS CHRISTMAS W / BOBBY CALDWELL & MARION MEADOWS 12.20 | ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION 3.8.20 | ALBERT CUMMINGS 3.26.20 |
| KIM WATERS 12.29 | STANLEY CLARKE BAND 1.10.20 | STRUNZ & FARAH 4.2.20 | VICTOR WOOTEN 4.10.20 |
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| GEORGE WINSTON 2.18 & 2.19 | MARY WILSON OF THE SUPREMES 2.21.20 | BRUBECK BROS CELEBRATE DAVE'S CENTENNIAL 5.17.20 | FIREFALL 6.7.20 |
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Dignity at Work

LOCAL BUSINESSES STAND UP FOR SICK LEAVE

On Wednesday, May 1, the House State Affairs Committee heard four bills authored by Sen. **Brandon Creighton**, R-Conroe, that would prevent cities – notably Austin – from regulating certain employment practices, including “**fair chance**” hiring ordinances that level the playing field for those with a criminal history, required **rest breaks** for construction workers, and guaranteed **paid sick leave**, where Austin’s first-in-the-state ordinance from last year is now blocked in court by conservative legal activists.

Creighton and his allies claim these bills ensure there isn’t a “patchwork” of regulations across the state, an argument that Austin City Council Member **Greg Casar**, who championed Austin’s pro-worker efforts, called “disingenuous” in his testimony. “If you want to solve this patchwork, then pass a state sick days law or pass a statewide rest breaks law. Don’t take these protections away from everyday people. Do the right thing.”

Nearly 400 people, including businesses and labor unions, signed up to testify during a committee hearing broken up by several hours of House floor debate. **Amanda May**, founder of local eco-cleaning business the Purple Fig, testified against all bills but spoke specifically on the sick leave measure. “We worked to pass an ordinance that was the democratic process at work. Seeing this being possibly taken away is why I’m here,” said May, who helped advocate for Austin’s ordinance. “Any competent business would be able to figure out how to implement this rule.”

Joseph Strickland, co-founder of Home Slice Pizza, also testified against all the bills and focused on paid sick leave. “I care deeply about the people that work for me – happy employees mean happy customers, and that

makes the whole thing work,” he said. “I’m more worried about the other restaurants and businesses. This morning, corporations and hotels that depend directly on the backs of hourly workers to make their businesses work lobbied against legislation that helps the lives of those workers significantly while they themselves have access, I’m sure, to paid sick leave if they need it. I find that interesting, to say the least.”

Several citizens and legal experts voiced concern that the bills would place local **non-discrimination ordinances** in jeopardy. Creighton’s initial legislation included language protecting NDOs that was later removed, causing concern among the LGBTQ community. In the end, State Affairs only approved one of the four bills, **Senate Bill 2486**, which bars cities from enforcing rules on how businesses schedule their employee shifts or compensate overtime. That bill moved forward with language that explicitly protects local nondiscrimination ordinances; it remains to be seen if NDO language finds its way into the other bills if and when they get to the House floor...

□

The Clock Is Ticking: Officially, Monday, May 6, was the deadline for getting bills out of House committees, and Tuesday, May 7, for their first approval on the floor (technically “second reading”). Measures that didn’t make the cut might later survive as amendments to other bills coming over from the Senate or in conference...

□

No Sales Tax for Schools: The Senate approved its version of House Bill 3 on **school finance** legislation Monday, after hours of debate and dozens of amendments that set up clashes with the House – notably on a **\$5,000**

– with the latter handling roughly 30% of the county’s felony and misdemeanor offenses.

At Tuesday’s court session, there were actually three versions of the proposal on the table: a draft by the commissioners’ appointed Indigent Legal Services working group; a counterproposal by the county’s criminal court judges; and a hybrid version presented by County Judge **Sarah Eckhardt**, explicitly delaying to a later date the disputed question of the PDO oversight structure. Eckhardt quoted a friend who told her, “If you’re trying to be a bridge, you need to be in the right place and be strong enough for people to walk on you in both directions.”



Senate Education Committee Chair
Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood

JANA BIRCHUM

pay raise to teachers and librarians and on tying some school funding to **student outcomes**. The chambers agree on increased funding for low-income students and students with special needs, and for quality **full-day pre-K** for the state’s low-income students.

The most notable changes, however, came from Senate Education Committee Chair **Larry Taylor**, R-Friendswood, who dialed back his bill’s provisions targeting local school property taxes; an increase to the homestead exemption was scrapped, and the Senate plan’s compression of tax rates was lowered to 10 cents (from 15) per \$100 valuation. (The House’s “Texas Plan” only included a 4-cent reduction.) As both parties showed increasing dissatisfaction with the **sales tax swap** pitched by state leaders, the Senate instead proposed a new **Tax Reduction and Excellence in Education (TREE) Fund** (introduced by Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin) to fund new school spending. The TREE Fund would include about \$2.3 billion from oil and gas

severance taxes – diverted before landing in the state’s **rainy day fund** – along with \$300 million each in **School Land Board** investment revenue and **online retail sales taxes**. Watson noted that the proposal “does not increase any taxes of any kind. ... This is not a new tax, it’s a streamlined process for [collecting] sales tax that’s already due.”

On Tuesday, Taylor’s House counterpart, Rep. **Dan Huberty**, R-Houston, killed his HB 4621 proposal to put the tax swap – which would have raised the state sales tax by one cent – before voters as a constitutional amendment this November. The floor debate in the House included several members criticizing their Senate colleagues – for example, Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian, asked Huberty rhetorically if the Senate’s chief tax hawk Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, “author[ed] one piece of legislation to create sustainable funding for school finance.” Eventually, Huberty settled the issue by postponing debate on his bill to Jan. 12, 2021. – *Mary Tuma, Austin Sanders*

COUNTY PUSHES PUBLIC DEFENDER PLAN FORWARD

On Tuesday, May 7, the **Travis County Commissioners Court** voted 4-1 to approve a working proposal to establish a **public defender’s office** (with Commissioner **Gerald Daugherty** dissenting). If approved, the grant application to the **Texas Indigent Defense Commission** would, beginning next year, draw down nearly \$20 million over four years (with county matching funds) to establish the PDO, along with additional funding for the current “Managed Assigned Counsel” system, which hires private attorneys through the **Capital Area Private Defender Service**. This would over time establish a parallel system of private attorneys and public defenders

Previously, Commissioners **Jeff Travillion** and **Brigid Shea** expressed support for the idea of a PDO, and Eckhardt strongly favored moving forward. Commissioners **Margaret Gómez** and Daugherty expressed reservations, mainly related to cost: Gómez said she wanted to know what services her colleagues proposed to cut to enable the county funding, and Daugherty said he didn’t believe he had sufficient long-term cost information to support the plan. In the end, a still-skeptical Gómez voted to approve.

A looming wild card is the **Texas Legislature**, which seems intent on imposing caps on property tax revenue increases; the current proposal is 3.5%. Annual county cost drivers – insurance, contractual wage

increases, etc. – are estimated at 3.8%, so the county would face program cuts (or annual tax-rate elections) just to keep up with inflation. That makes new programs such as a public defenders’ office more dubious. But Travis County currently spends more than twice as much on indigent prosecution as it does on indigent defense, despite a constitutional obligation of equitable defense. (Right now, the Senate’s revenue-cap bill – but not the House’s – lets counties exclude indigent defense costs from the cap calculation.)

Both the **Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association** and the criminal court judges had raised objections to earlier drafts. Late last week, the judges submitted a “revised” version of the ILS working

Women's Jail Closer to Funding

The **Travis County Commissioners Court** voted last week to issue a debt package that includes initial funding for a new **women's jail** – despite the objections of justice advocates who, for more than a year, have identified the proposed facility as a troubling move away from efforts to decrease incarceration in Travis County.

Several Travis County agencies, along with the **Austin City Council** and groups such as **Grassroots Leadership**, have embraced programs and policies aimed at reducing jail bookings for minor offenses such as driving with an invalid license, public intoxication, and marijuana possession. This is in part a budget measure – incarceration costs to taxpayers will grow \$10 million this year over 2018 – but also reflects the community's commitment to restorative justice.

These strategies seem to be making a difference; female bookings for misdemeanors are down 24% since 2016, and 2019's average overall daily population is the lowest it's been in six years. That's what makes the Commissioners Court's move to fund a new jail for women inmates controversial and why the county responded to advocate concerns and held off on funding last year. But on April 23 the court put the jail, currently budgeted at more than \$80 million, back on the list of projects to be funded by certificates of obligation; then on April 30, commissioners voted to issue the CO package, with \$6.6 million in design and pre-construction funding.

County leaders, including County Judge **Sarah Eckhardt**, Commissioner **Margaret Gómez**, and Sheriff **Sally Hernandez**, have long cited the need to replace the obsolete current facilities housing women at the county's correctional complex in Del Valle; Hernandez says the decision to move forward shows that her office should care for inmates rather than warehouse them. But the size

of the jail remains a sticking point; Eckhardt managed to secure commissioners' approval for 350 beds.

That would represent a 15% increase from the current female population of 304 inmates. Advocates have argued that these extra beds will inevitably be filled, giving the county less incentive to pursue diversion for women. Commissioner **Brigid Shea**, despite eventually voting for the beds and COs, questioned if projections still made sense considering the "great success" of the county's diversion programs; Commissioner **Jeff Travillion** successfully added an amendment requiring the court to study additional diversion efforts.

The vote "deeply disappointed" Grassroots Leadership, which has led opposition to a new jail in favor of lasting reductions in the jail population. "During the hearing on the **public defender's office** earlier in the day, the majority of the Commissioners Court identified mass incarceration as a key civil rights issue of our time," says Grassroots Executive Director **Bob Libal**. "They debated whether they could afford the robust, holistic public defender's office, but voted to pour close to \$100 million into building a new jail facility."

Throughout the past year, Grassroots and other advocates have expressed concerns about the county's transparency, including the notice of the April 23 vote to add the jail to the CO list, which Grassroots says it learned about only the day before at Shea's request. "When it's something that affects the community," says Libal, "the community always finds out at the last minute."

The funding for the COs is scheduled to be issued in early June. Voters don't typically approve this debt, but state law allows 5% of a county's population to petition to send a CO-funded project to the ballot box. In Travis, that's just over 61,000 signatures.

– Lindsay Stafford Mader

group draft: "First and foremost," they wrote, "with the intent that the current MAC system be adequately funded, as they will continue to represent the vast majority of indigent clients."

The working group's chair, **Amanda Woog**, quickly released a sharply worded response signed by most of the other members, charging that their initial proposal for a "client-centered" defense system "has now been co-opted to further fund and empower the current broken system. The changes that the judges have made ... illustrate how broken this system really is." According to the letter, the judges' proposed structure "would create a symbolic public defender office which instead of spurring meaningful change

would reinforce – and better fund – the status quo." The letter most strongly objected to oversight committees that would include judges or judges' staff as representing a conflict of interest under guidelines published by the American Bar Association.

Some of that debate was reiterated in public testimony Tuesday, and Eckhardt noted ominously that it still remains uncertain whether the court-approved version will garner sufficient support from the judges to persuade the TIDC of the efficacy of the county's application – or whether this latest attempt to improve Travis County's indigent defense system will become so much more water flowing under Eckhardt's bridge. – Michael King



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He's the youngest member of the Legislature, and looks even younger than his 29 years, but James Talarico sees himself as more of a throwback. "Every election is located at a certain point in history, whether it's for dogcatcher or president of the United States," he tells me as we walk along a county road on the edge of Taylor. For him, that time is Trump Time, and "the sense I got was not necessarily that the people of this district wanted something new; I think they wanted something a little old-fashioned. And I think this walk is an example of that."

We're not walking alone. Surrounding us are a small band of Talarico's staffers, supporters, friends, and family, managing the Round Rock Democrat's conversation not just with this reporter but with scores of people via Facebook Live. On this Sunday, Talarico will walk 25 miles, holding town halls in Taylor, Hutto, and Round Rock and meeting his constituents along the way. "You think back to the 19th century – like the Lincoln-Douglas debates – where candidates went town to town and had a public exchange of ideas, and citizens participated directly."

"It feels like in the Age of Trump, we've lost that," Talarico continues. "It's become entertainment politics, this reality TV show, and social media with its algorithms promoting conflict with one another. People wanted to get back to having elected officials who would listen to them, engage with them, and wouldn't embarrass them."

As we know, millions of Americans found those people by voting for Democrats for the first time in a long time, and Central Texas likewise saw the purple wave break on Austin's shores. With the exception of a single term at the turn of the decade, the last time Williamson County was represented by a Democrat in the Texas Legislature was 1993, when James Talarico was 4 years old and, he says, already signed up for the blue team. "My mother told me I was a Democrat when I was in kindergarten," he says, "because she said Democrats are for the people, and I've tried to maintain that." (His mom, Tamara, is following us in the walking tour's de facto sag wagon. "Is he drinking enough water?" she asks me later.)

Talarico's first political experience was working for former Rep. Mark Strama, who also flipped a GOP seat on the edge of Austin 10 years earlier, "and he was very much in the mold I've tried to replicate: someone who is pragmatic, not afraid to work across the aisle, and do the work of the state in a way that's productive." In Talarico and his fellow R-to-D freshmen across the state – a group dubbed "The Twelve" – one sees ample evidence that, despite the shrieking about socialism and whatnot echoing from Fox News Nation, Democrats now have a solid claim on the political center, at least in Texas.

STOPPING THE SILLY S---

"It shouldn't be that way, and luckily in our chamber, it isn't really that way," Talarico says, "but yes, statewide and nationally the Democratic Party has its hand extended, and the GOP is led by people who don't have any interest in bipartisanship." He points to his work on school finance this session – a former classroom teacher, he sits on the House Public Education Committee – as an example of how things should be, with a GOP chair

Republicans and just folks fed up with the political process, wanting us to stop the silly s---" – he checks himself – "coming through the state Capitol."

Despite Williamson County's persistent redness, it's probably not that surprising that as Austin grows, its outer bands of left-leaning political sentiment reach into the suburbs. But that doesn't mean that flipping four state House seats, along with other notable down-ballot wins, didn't take a lot of work. When my colleague Michael King spoke to

The Purple Tide

Wading through the new landscape in Williamson County

BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON



District 52 Rep. James Talarico (center) walks through Hutto en route to Round Rock on April 28

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

"We thought we would probably win in a nail-biter, nothing like we saw on Election Day."

REP. JOHN BUCY

(Houston's Dan Huberty) who "won't move a bill without support from his Democratic colleagues" and a speaker (Dennis Bonnen) who is "absolutely invested in working across the aisle."

The victories of the Twelve, four of whom are from seats bordering Austin, "symbolically, at least, changed the tone of the discourse in the Texas House," Talarico says. He cites as an example the group's collective decision to "white vote" (registering "present not voting" in a roll call vote) the ridiculous and redundant "Born Alive" bill from Plano Rep. Jeff Leach. "That's exactly what we were elected not to do. There's a coalition of Democrats and moderate

Rep. John Bucy III – whose House District 136 adjoins Talarico's HD 52 to the west – at the beginning of the 86th Legislature, the representative pointed to several factors behind his larger-than-expected 10-point victory over incumbent Tony Dale.

"The suburbs are changing rapidly," Bucy said, "but we ran an aggressive field campaign in 2014, when I ran and lost the first time [also against Dale]. We continued that field development throughout, with the Western Williamson County Democrats group" – another of whose leaders and success stories is Austin City Council Member Jimmy Flannigan – "with the focus on building the grass roots throughout District

136. So it's really been five years without letting up. That, coupled with population growth and what was going on higher up the ticket" – meaning Beto O'Rourke's U.S. Senate campaign and the national anti-Trump backlash – "just, a lot happened. We thought we would probably win in a nail-biter, nothing like we saw on Election Day."

Talarico worked closely with Bucy during the 2018 campaign to nurture the growing Democratic electorate in Williamson County, along with "one of my most famous constituents, a rock star and American hero," MJ Hegar, who carried the county in her narrow loss to U.S. Rep. John Carter and who is now the Democratic front-runner in the 2020 U.S. Senate contest against John Cornyn. During Talarico's walking tour, Hegar joined him on the path outside of Hutto.

MOVING THE NEEDLE ON TEXAS VALUES

As with Talarico, Hegar was a toddler growing up in the Williamson County countryside the last time a Dem represented her in Congress. Her political narrative is now familiar well beyond Central Texas – a Marine helicopter rescue pilot shot down in Afghanistan, she became engaged in politics on behalf of women in combat service roles, and through skillful viral video messaging attracted attention and big money from across the nation to challenge a GOP incumbent who'd last won the district by 32 points. One of her big digs against Carter was his failure to engage with his constituents on the ground; part of her commitment to do otherwise was to work closely with Talarico and Bucy on what became a tightly coordinated Williamson County campaign that, in the eyes of many observers, was more effective than O'Rourke's in bringing out dormant Democrats.

"I'll say this because she won't say it herself," Talarico told his virtual audience, "but most candidates that are famous and have a national profile and millions flowing in would not assist a local legislative candidate like me. But MJ made it a point to merge our field operations and pulled us over the finish line ... I count myself as part of the legacy of [her] campaign; without it, John and I wouldn't have two seats in the Legislature."

Hegar takes the praise gracefully and returns serve. "I think it's a very good, not-so-obvious litmus test to see why people are doing what they're doing. If they're in it for themselves and their ego and their résumé, and they want the nameplate and respect, then maybe they don't pay attention [to down-ballot candidates], even though it's strategically not very smart. But also, I often tell you this, and you hate it when I say this, but my children's future is in your hands, and I'm trusting you with protecting their education."

CONTINUED ON P.18

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A DECADE OF DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Eleven Texas House districts comprise the five-county Austin metro area: Travis has six, Williamson is split among three, Hays makes up most of one, and Bastrop and Caldwell together anchor another. (State House districts, unlike state Senate or U.S. congressional districts, are drawn to respect county lines.) When this map debuted in 2012, Republicans captured six of those 11 seats; today, Democrats hold nine, which between them include the entire city of Austin.

The chart below shows the shift in the Dems' favor, in percentage terms, in 2018 from the previous race for each seat. So, for example, Sheryl Cole's margin of victory over Republican Gabriel Nila in 2018 was 16.2% higher than her (scandal-ridden) predecessor Dawnna Duker's win over her GOP opponent – also Nila – in 2016. (We're leaving out the Libertarians for now.)

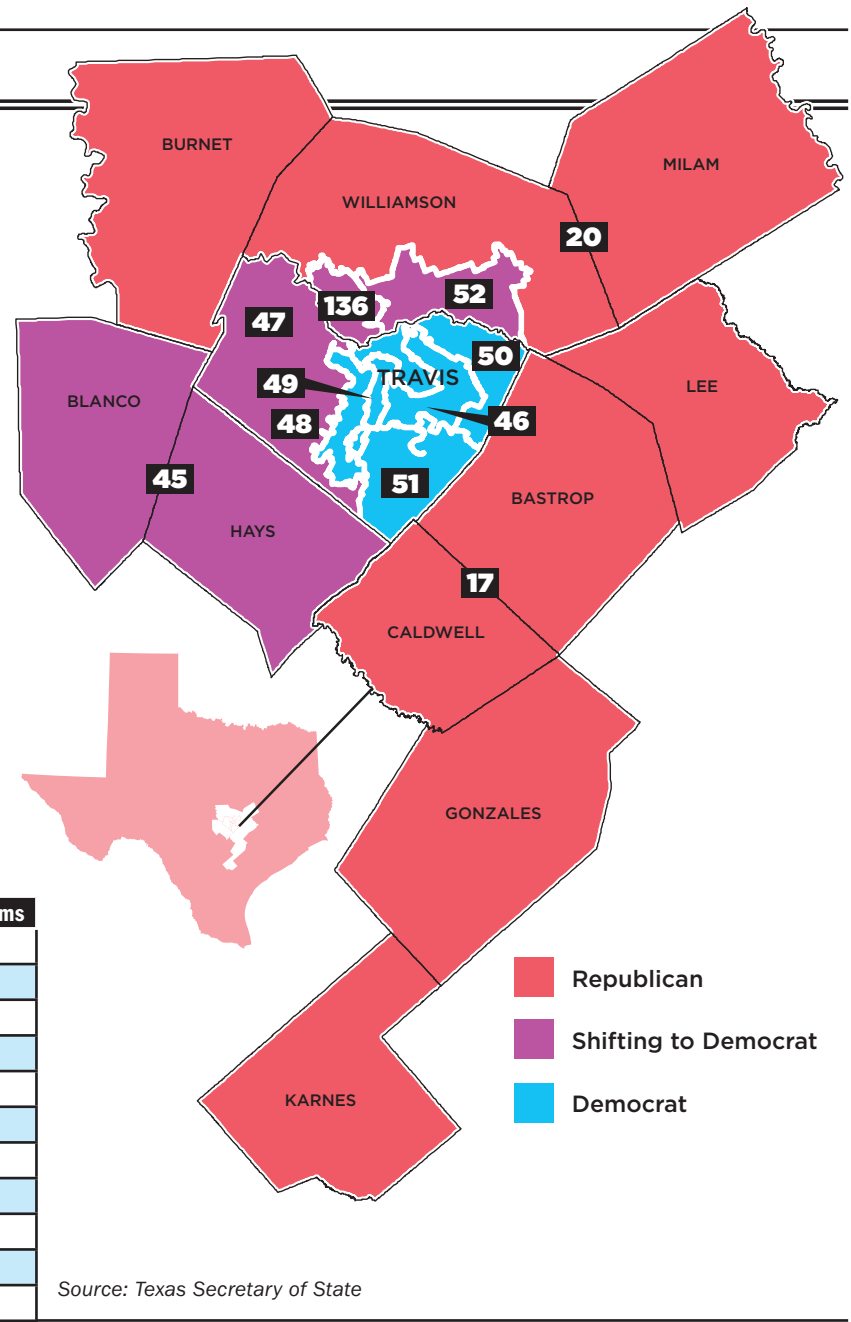
The safest blue seats in Central Texas have long been those anchored in Central and East Austin: Cole's HD 46 (historically Black), Eddie Rodriguez's HD 51 (historically Latinx), and Gina Hinojosa's HD 49 (historically Weird). North and West Austin – today's HD 48 and HD 50 – used to be more swing-y, as was famously shown when Donna Howard escaped the 2010 red tide by four (4) votes. The years since have seen both districts harden in the Dems' hands; neither Howard nor Celia Israel faced a Republican opponent in 2018.

The shift to the left in the suburbs – those outside Travis County, plus HD 47 – has come from different baselines. To the south, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell remained yellow-dog country for a very long time (HD 17 until 2008, HD 45 through 2010), but flipped red hard over the past decade. Conversely, Williamson and western Travis have spent most of the last 30 years in GOP hands.

Since the 2011 map took effect, the only Central Texas seat to be contested by both major parties in every election has been HD 136, anchored in Cedar Park; John Bucy's victory over Tony Dale in 2018 (a rematch of 2014) reflected a massive shift of more than 20 points in the Dems' direction over prior cycles. Vikki Goodwin's defeat of Paul Workman in HD 47 – 2018's other defenestration of a GOP incumbent – required a 17-point blue wave.

Running in open seats that Dems didn't even contest in 2016, Round Rock's James Talarico and Driftwood's Erin Zwiener likewise built winning coalitions in 2018, well to the left of where their party had last left those districts. The two remaining Austin-area red seats, held by Lockhart's John Cyrier and Marble Falls' Terry Wilson, likewise had walkovers in 2016 but have now felt a purple ripple; even as more GOP voters turned out in both districts in 2018, the Dems' share of the two-party vote grew from the 2014 baseline.

– M.C.M.



Source: Texas Secretary of State

GOP vs. Dem Races (not including third-party candidates)

| HD | Representative | Contested in 2018: | Before that: | 2018 swing toward Dems |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 17 | John Cyrier, R-Lockhart | Y | 2014 | 4.1% |
| 20 | Terry Wilson, R-Marble Falls | Y | 2014 | 7.6% |
| 45 | Erin Zwiener, D-Driftwood | Y | 2012 | 14.4% |
| 46 | Sheryl Cole, D-Austin | Y | 2016 | 16.2% |
| 47 | Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin | Y | 2016 | 16.7% |
| 48 | Donna Howard, D-Austin | N | 2012 | N/A |
| 49 | Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin | Y | 2002(!) | 18.8% |
| 50 | Celia Israel, D-Austin | N | 2016 | N/A |
| 51 | Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin | N | 2010 | N/A |
| 52 | James Talarico, D-Round Rock | Y | 2014 | 21.3% |
| 136 | John H. Bucy III, D-Austin | Y | 2016 | 19.7% |

She likewise urged support for candidates even further down the ballot, in city council and school board races in Taylor, Hutto, and Round Rock that were decided this past weekend (results were mixed, from Hegar's perspective). What's most important "is to move the needle on the values that I'm also fighting for," she said. "It doesn't matter if I accomplish them, or you [Talarico] accomplish them, or someone else. You want to help the people above you on the ballot and pull up the people down-ballot."

Like Talarico and Bucy, Hegar positions herself as a champion of Democratic values that are also Texas values that transcend party: "strength, courage, integrity," in her words. It was with no awkwardness that

Talarico and I were joined earlier on the town hall by another of his satisfied constituents – his own Republican predecessor, Larry Gonzales, who retired after four terms representing HD 52 and 18 years before that working as a House staffer.

"JUST STAY IN THE FAIRWAYS"

As we made our way along the railroad tracks that flank U.S. 79 through Hutto – "It's like *Stand by Me*," Talarico says – Gonzales stresses that Williamson County's rapid growth (enough to merit creating the new HD 136 in the 2011 redistricting) itself creates an impetus toward centrist collaboration across the aisle. "People are moving here, but also in 2018 you saw a lot of people

who've been here for a while find their voice and vote for the first time in some time," he says. "In 2009, there were a lot of people who told me they didn't want growth, and they were digging in, but now people are on board and are working together."

But did it take a resurgent Democratic Party to make that collaboration possible? "I think it's up to his party," says Talarico, pointing to Gonzales. "If it decides to follow his lead and elect leaders like Chairman Gonzales again, they'll be back in fighting shape and will reclaim districts like HD 52." (Gonzales served as chair of the Sunset Advisory Commission while in office.) "If they continue on another path, a more radical path, they'll [continue to] see the same

results. The Democrats aren't the active players in this situation; I think we're just reacting naturally to what the GOP has done. The pragmatic Republicans who are pro-local control and pro-business ... they used to run this state, and I don't know why they've abandoned that successful Reaganesque path that got them here. But they have, and there's an opening that Dems have tried to fill."

Gonzales, whose years as a staffer included many sessions in a House under Democratic leadership, remembers then-Speaker Pete Laney telling members "as the bell was ringing during a vote, 'Vote your district.' In my opinion, I just did what I thought was right and voted HD 52. You

start with education, the most important thing we do as a state, and without an educated workforce the jobs don't come here. So you just have to stay in the fairways – education, jobs, infrastructure, the things that holistically define opportunity.”

Talarico translates: “What the chairman just said is the reason why, upon his retirement, I was able to take the seat, because there were a lot of Democrats in this district who voted for him in every single election because of that approach. If he stayed, they could have kept this seat, because he attracted support in the middle ground. A lot of leaders would benefit from taking that advice.”

Gonzales comfortably wears the mantle of “policy wonk” that he acquired under the dome, and says that “on the House floor, there’s the partisanship and the politics and the policy, and for so long, the policy has come in third – or fourth – out of three in some cases. But when I see a problem, I want to fix it.” Talarico concurs: “That’s the job I was hired to do. There’s a difference between being an activist and being a lawmaker. It’s not a job for everybody; some people are better suited to being activists.”

As it has happened, the two reps agree, the folks who ended up in the wrong job are concentrated on the GOP side of the aisle. “There are a lot of pressures you feel under the dome, but I think it’s different for each party,” Gonzales says. “For Republicans, those pressures come from outside the building” – from third-party interest groups like Empower Texans, keeping ideological scorecards – “and for Democrats, they come from inside the rails,” whether from the longtime lions of the caucus or the siblings in solidarity such as the Twelve.

“On the House floor, there’s the partisanship and the politics and the policy, and for so long, the policy has come in third – or fourth – out of three in some cases.”

FORMER REP.
LARRY GONZALES

The advent of social media has changed some of those dynamics, though, certainly from when Gonzales first took office. Talarico elaborates on his earlier observation that social media algorithms promote friction: “It’s not designed to lead to compromise or consensus or understanding or empathy; it’s good for business, the constant fighting and yelling at each other, and it’s not healthy. It can do great things, like today,” gesturing to his Facebook Live audience, “but in so many ways, I think it’s damaging our civic culture.”

Both he and Gonzales – and Bucy and Hegar and others among Williamson County’s purple brigades – are finding the messy business of real-life politics more fruitful, though more complex, than the old game of blue vs. red tug-of-war, no matter how aggressively certain Republicans attempt to bait them into battle. “Every time there’s a leadership change, there’s a renewed energy around the building,” says Gonzales, referring to Bonnen succeeding Joe Straus, who succeeded Tom Craddick, who succeeded Laney.

“And the tough votes will come, but you’ve now had three months to get to know and work with your colleagues, and you meet their family, you see the kids dressed up for the Easter egg hunt, and it’s nice to have that rapport. The body has had a lot of time to spend with each other on issues that everyone cares deeply about. That’s a huge benefit going forward as people. Because, you know, they’re just men and women.”

“They’re just human beings,” adds Talarico. “Once you see them with their families and their kids, you see them as three-dimensional figures, not the two-dimensional villains you thought they were.” ■

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WEEK-MINDED

9 THURSDAY



DEAD SOULS AFS Cinema, 7pm

BOOKS: **Laird Barron: Black Mountain**
BookPeople, 7pm

THEATRE: **Shakespeare in the Park:
Merchant of Venice** Zilker Hillside Theater, 8pm

COMEDY: **Ky Krebs: Oops, All Gay Jokes**
Kick Butt Coffee, 9pm

10 FRIDAY



TEXAS BURLESQUE FEST Long Center, Friday-Saturday

VISUAL ARTS: **Due WEST** ACC Highland, 7-10pm

MUSIC: **KVRX Fest** Cheer Up Charlies & Symphony
Square, Friday-Saturday

DANCE: **Giselle** Long Center, 8pm

MUSIC: **A Guy Called Gerald** North Door

MUSIC: **The Teeta** Empire Control Room

COMEDY: **Abby Rosenquist** Velveeta Room, 9pm

COMMUNITY: **Poo Poo Platter** Elysium, 10pm

11 SATURDAY



WEST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR Saturday-Sunday

COMMUNITY: **Celebrasia** Asian American
Resource Center, 11am-3pm

COMMUNITY: **O. Henry Pun-Off**
Brush Square Park, 11am

COMMUNITY: **Big Squeeze Youth Accordion
Contest** Texas State History Museum, 1-5pm

COMMUNITY: **Artbomb** Electric Church, 3:30-7:30pm

MUSIC: **Heavy Psych Sounds Fest** Lost Well

MUSIC: **Desert Hearts** Cedar Street Courtyard

12 SUNDAY



MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS See p.31 or austinchronicle.com/mothersday

KIDS: **Families in the Garden**
Umlauf Sculpture Garden, noon-4pm

SPORTS: **Round Rock Express** Dell Diamond,
1:05pm

CLASSICAL MUSIC: **Mystic, Scientist,
Scholar, Nun** St. John's United Methodist Church,
3pm

CIVICS 101: **Labor History and Resistance
in the Age of Trump** AFL-CIO Hall, 4pm

MUSIC: **Combo Chimbita** Barracuda

13 MONDAY



VAGABOND AFS Cinema, 7:30pm

CIVICS 101: **Road to Run** Central Library, 6-9pm

FOOD: **Arpepe Winemaker Dinner** Gusto
Italian Kitchen, 7pm

14 TUESDAY



L7 Mohawk

FOOD: **Interfaith Ramadan Iftar Dinner**
University Christian Church, 7:30pm

SPORTS: **Austin Bold FC** Bold Stadium, 7:30pm

15 WEDNESDAY



MOSES STORM Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm

BOOKS: **Lara Prior-Palmer: Rough Magic**
BookPeople, 7pm

MOVIES: **Lost in America** AFS Cinema, 7:30pm

16 THURSDAY



WAKEY, WAKEY Hyde Park Theatre, 8pm

COMMUNITY: **Thinkery21** Thinkery, 7-10pm

MUSIC: **Angelo Moore** Empire Control Room

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ARTS & CULTURE

Look, Then Make

Some artists on the 2019 West Austin Studio Tour want you to get in on the creative action

BY ROBERT FAIRES

Looking at art can inspire you in all kinds of ways: to feel differently about yourself, to think differently about others, to change your behavior. One of the most exhilarating ways it can inspire you is to make art your own damn self. Artists are well aware of this impact their work can have on viewers, and many of them are eager to share what they know to help you join the creative process. That's evident in this year's West Austin Studio Tour, where a number of participating artists have carved out time and space to help you make art. Here's a curated list.

62. Debra Flanagan

Debra Flanagan likes to explore pattern, color, and texture with her distinctive Painted Papers, which layer acrylic paint, glitter, and found objects onto a rice-paper quality base. For Mother's Day, she's inviting guests to use origami in making a paper rose for someone special in their lives. *Sat. & Sun., May 11 & 12, 11am-6pm. 911 Shelley.*

141. Donna Starnes

Color means a lot to artist Donna Starnes, and you can see just how much when you see her work with alcohol ink, those dyes that can deliver neon-bright hues. Following a demo by the artist, you'll get to use the inks to make your own painting on a 6-by-6-inch tile. *Sat., May 11 & 18, 2-4pm. 2613 Wilson.*

285. Juliet Whitsett

After you get an eyeful of Juliet Whitsett's crisp graphic images of clothing popular in honky-tonk culture, two-step over to the art supplies, cards, envelopes, and inspiration that she has provided, and make yourself some mail art to post to a friend. All ages welcome. *May 11-19, Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. 1310 W. 9th½.*

345. Hurd Collective/Burning Chapel

Santiago Escobedo and Daniel Baugh have shared a studio for seven years, and their latest collection of work goes under the name "Burning Chapel." They'll be giving a demo on how to cast small pewter sculptures from minimal materials. *Sat. & Sun., May 11 & 12, 11am-6pm. 4424 Jinx.*

60. Austin Creative Art Center

The philosophy of the Austin Creative Art Center is to integrate the study of art with personal expression so that its students develop individual, original styles. To that end, ACAC is hosting a live painting experience with the artist currently showing in its gallery, the fantastic Rejina Thomas. Wine is welcome! (\$35 per person + BYOB.) *Wed., May 15, 7-10pm. 1605 W. Sixth.*

ACL. Austin Central Library

Calder Kamin, who's been doing her part to save the world by creating art from waste, will not only share her creative journey and mission with attendees, she'll also guide each one in making an accessory inspired by her exhibit, "What a Mess," now showing at the Austin Central Library. *Thu., May 16, 6-8pm. 710 W. Cesar Chavez.*

WEST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR 2019

The spring sibling to Big Medium's East Austin Studio Tour keeps blooming, with more than 381 artists, exhibitions, and happenings included this year, all spread between I-35 and MoPac, from Research on the north to William Cannon on the south. The free, self-guided art event spans two weekends, May 11-12 & 18-19, 11am-6pm each day, and as with EAST, the best guide to WEST's wonders is the extensive catalog, complete with map. Free catalogs are available at all library branches while supplies last. Or you could get one and support Big Medium by attending Due WEST, the tour's kickoff event and fundraiser, this Friday, May 10, 7-10pm, at ACC Highland, 6101 Highland Campus Dr. For more information, visit www.west.bigmedium.org. — R.F.



*Enough is Enough
(Cobalt Canine)
by Calder Kamin*

LOOK, THEN WATCH AND LISTEN

How's about a little performing arts mixed in with your visual arts at WEST?



Mull by John Christensen

154. JOHN CHRISTENSEN

Five short modern dances in an oak grove, followed by live music. *Sat., May 11, 2-5pm, 500 W. St. Elmo.*

128. JULIE AHMAD

After-hours concert by singer-songwriter Chelsea Pribble of Little Red & the Riffs. \$12 tickets in advance/\$15 at the door. *May 11-19, Sat. & Sun., 6pm. 804 W. Mary.*

164. ALICIA PHILLEY

Mother's Day jazz brunch with mimosas, coffee, and muffins, plus music by the Steve Garmhausen Trio. *Sun., May 12, noon-2pm. 1915 Miles.*

71. ANDREA LOOMIS

Literary performances by local authors, live music, and complimentary bites with cocktails from Goodnight Loving Vodka. *Fri., May 17, 5-10pm. 2311 Ridgeview.*

ONLINE // IN MEMORIAM: RODOLFO MENDEZ | 2019 CLASS OF AUSTIN ARTS HALL OF FAME | CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS | AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/ARTS

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This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

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AUSTIN'S QUEEREST NEWS + EVENTS

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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

ARTS EVENTS

Bird of Paradise

Austin Playhouse's *Summer and Bird* gives audiences of all ages the chance to travel to a mythical land of wonders

BY LAURA JONES

Fairy tales are allegorical. They deal with more than just the plot at hand, symbolizing deeper human issues crying to be figured out. Like a good poem, these tales offer a space to ponder and dream.

Summer and Bird, the new theatre for youth production at Austin Playhouse, is no different. Based on the middle grade novel of the same name, adapted by its author, Austin's own Katherine Catmull, the surface story of the play is also a common fairy tale trope. Two young girls, the first named Summer (Sarah Chong Harmer), the next Bird (Madison Polomo), wake up one day to find their parents missing, with just a mysterious note left behind, written in what a former age might be called hieroglyphics, but what today's kids will recognize as emoji.

As the two girls struggle to understand the message, let the interpretations begin. Summer and Bird's mother (Jen Brown) is no mere human at all, but also part swan, one whose white, sheddable coat is stolen one day by their father (Robert Deike) and locked away in a closet. At the hands of the evil Queen Regent (Amber Lackey), who desires the coat for herself so she can become Queen of the Birds, the girls are manipulated into searching for their parents in the "down" world, each encountering her own journey of discovery, loss, and resilience along the way.

My favorite thing about the production is the incredible layers of puppetry by Zac Thomas that reaches far beyond normal children's fare: beautiful, bespoke mask work in the form of the Owl; prop birds that spin and flap on the ends of a clear umbrella; a Chinese dragon snake; and even shadow-puppet play projected on the back wall. At times, I just wanted to watch more of that splendor and to think less about the plot, which is sometimes convoluted even for an adult like myself.

Prior to the play beginning, the children in the audience are instructed to look and listen carefully, to not talk, so everyone can understand just what is going on. But the beauty of these allegories is that it's almost impossible to fully comprehend what's going on, whether you pay full attention or not. Do we interpret the family's eventual split and parting at the end as a gentle nod to divorce, where both children must now navigate two different homes and identities, now forever uncontainable in one place? Do we read the father's theft of the mother's coat, as that familiar yet still poignant pain mothers feel surrendering their lives to their families, until that moment they can resume them again, picking them up like so much discarded clothes?

I swear: I looked, I listened. I didn't speak, but even I'm not totally sure.

That's okay, though. The beauty of costumes and colors



SUMMER AND BIRD

Austin Playhouse at ACC
Highland, 6001 Airport,
512/476-0084
www.austinplayhouse.com
Through May 12
Running time: 1 hr.



PHOTO BY LARA TONER HADDOCK

Madison Palomo (l) and Sarah Chong Harmer in *Summer and Bird*

and characters enraptured me. One of my favorite moments didn't happen on the stage at all, but in reaction to what was happening on it. A wiggly little boy next to me in the audience asked his mother loudly, "Is that bird real?" As staged by Artistic Director Lara Toner Haddock, *Summer and Bird* gave me – and him – the opportunity to travel to a mythical land of unreality, where phoenixes, like children, always rise back up from the ashes. Inevitably, no matter what the allegory means, there's something comforting in that, isn't there?

One more plus: Austin Playhouse is committed to providing inexpensive theatre to families. Children get in free to *Summer and Bird*, and adult admission is by suggested donation only. For this reason alone, I suggest parents and children take a trip to the show and enjoy puzzling it out together. Or just experience the wonder. ■

THEATRE

OPENING

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: MERCHANT OF VENICE The Austin Shakespeare company, directed by Ann Ciccolella, brings all the romance, comedy, and dramatic clashes of this Shakespeare masterpiece to life on the hillside stage at Zilker Park. This iteration of the show is set in the *Belle Époque of 1890s Italy* – so there will be plenty of gorgeous costumes – and, big bonus, the role of **Shylock** is per-

formed by **Marc Pouhé**. May 9-26, Thu.-Sun., 8pm. Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr., 512/397-1463. Free. www.austinshakespeare.org.

LIVE DESIGN SHOWCASE Here's a showcase of work created for theatre, dance, and other performance mediums by the MFA candidates in UT's Live Design program. Areas of work include costume design and technology, lighting design, integrated media, and scenic design. Sat., May 11, 6-9pm. Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, 300 E. 23rd. Free. www.texasperformingarts.org.

DEX & ABBY Sean and Corey are enjoying the beginning of a relationship and their new home; but their dogs, Abby and Dex, are definitely not. So there are a few conflicts to deal with in the relationships of all four characters, and – you won't believe what

happens next in the world premiere of this new pet-friendly comedy from **Allan Baker**, directed by **Robert Tolaro** for **Ground Floor Theatre**. May 16-June 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Ground Floor Theatre, 979 Springdale, 512/840-1804. \$5-45. www.groundfloortheatre.org.

WAKEY, WAKEY It returns! "Though the man telling the jokes is sitting down (he's in a wheelchair), dying is a stand-up routine in this glowingly dark, profoundly moving new play by **Will Eno**," states *The New York Times*. From the playwright of *Thom Pain* (based on *nothing*) comes this welcome work of theatre, embodied here by **Ken Webster** and **Maria Latiolais**; directed by **Mark Pickell** for **Capital T Theatre**. May 16-June 1, Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 512/479-7529. \$20-30. www.capitalt.org.

TEXAS BURLESQUE FESTIVAL We reckon this might just be the burlesque event of the year, featuring performers from all over Texas and the rest of the States, from Canada, from the whole wide world. With headliners **Mr. Gorgeous** from New York, **Ophelia Flame** from Minneapolis, and Las Vegas Legend **Gina Bon Bon** – plus Austin's own Queen of the Tease **Coco Lectric** and new Austin resident (and reigning King of Burlesque) **Icky Muffin**. Be ready for a night of "tantalizing strip tease performances that range from classic glove-and-garter peels to comedic takes on pop-culture icons." Fri.-Sat., May 10-11, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 512/461-2355. \$55-108. www.texasburlesquefestival.com.

CLOSING

ESTAR GUARS! The Latino Comedy Project, fully embracing the power of the dark(er) side, presents this intergalactic send-up to end all send-ups, staging a 1) hilarious and 2) totally Mexified version of all that Jedi shit that George Lucas and friends have been visiting on this planet for more than three decades now. See **Han Cholo**, **La Princesa Leia Organa-Cortez**, **Tio Juan Kenobi**, **Yola**, **R2Me2**, **Darth Vendido**, **ICE Troopers**, and more in a comedy fiesta set "not long ago, in a barrio just around the way..." Note: This show is performed mostly in English with some Spanglish and is rated PG-13. Written & directed by Sith Lord **Adrian Villegas**. Through May 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Ground Floor Theatre, 979 Springdale, 512/840-1804. \$25. www.estarguarscomedyfest.com.

CATS You have **Broadway In Austin** to thank for the return of this beloved musical, now featuring "new sound design, direction, and choreography for a new generation." But it's still an ailurophile's theatrical dream, bringing **T.S. Eliot's** rambunctious rhymes about fantastic felines to spectacular staged life. Ah, there's nothing old about *this* possum, tell you what. (Pro tip: Get a ticket for your mom, too, take her to see this show 'round Mother's Day – moms love cats!) Through May 12. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 1 & 7pm. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman, 512/477-6060. \$30 and up. www.broadwayinaustin.com.

CHRON EVENTS EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE IN AUSTIN
AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/EVENTS



(l-r) Rone Harris, Kaya Epstein, and Gryffin Toavs



PHOTO BY PHILLIP F. PATTERSON JR.

MEMOIRS AND ARMOURS

The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd.
May 4

It's a curious thing, this dance show mounted by Violet Crown Players and Diverse Space Dance Theatre. The evening was centered around the notion of memory. "We are made out of memories," read the program notes. "They shape our thoughts, believes [sic] and the course of our relationships." Throughout the choreography, the dancers performed a sequence of independent movements, one at a time, demonstrating isolation and alienation before coming together in a striking tableau. They wore costumes, designed by Toni Bravo and Diana Huckaby, from various time periods – anywhere from the (vaguely) 19th century through the last decade – for much of the show. The overall mood was one of longing.

Yet almost all the dancers were youth performers, who by definition have less experience with memory than adults. This isn't to dismiss a young person's understanding of memory, which, for all that it isn't as extensive, should be valued as much as anyone else's. Yet in this show about memory – the desire for it and its inconsistency – in which so many youth dancers appeared, the performers served more as representations of memory than as bearers of their own understandings of it.

There was a lot to admire in the performances. The dancers were young, and they largely haven't reached the level of technique of a professional. But there were glimmers of future achievement in their movements. Moreover, their dedication to a shared vision was

impressive; their bodies might not have fully grown yet, but all of them had committed to what the performance sought to accomplish.

In the moments when an adult performer joined the cast – such as when Toni Bravo danced a duet with one of the younger girls – the strengths of the choreography became clear. Yes, you could see how years of experience and work give a dancer like Bravo exactness and focus, but the younger dancers didn't pale in comparison, because the choreography was created to suit them. (Credit for the choreography was shared by Bravo, Michael Jahoda, Maria Naidu, Věra Ondrašíková, and the cast.) It used what their bodies and their youth could offer and made an appropriate work of art from it.

Staged at the Vortex in a gala performance, *Memoirs and Armours* featured live musicians with original compositions (Victoria Schwarz, Tyler Mabry, and Fabian Isaola all received credit). Recorded music also played. The overall soundscape was melancholic, reminiscent (to an admittedly untrained ear) of classical Spanish guitar meshed with early Western, sacred music influences – plus some yoga studio notes, thanks to the singing bowls.

Though the show as presented at the Vortex has now closed, the company plans to present pieces from the evening at various upcoming festivals. For those interested in contemporary dance and what can be achieved with growing bodies, it's well worth seeing what these performers can do.

– Elizabeth Cobbe

MERLIN WORKS: COMEDY GRADUATION SHOWCASE Watch the improv all-stars of Austin, the **Known Wizards**, headline this comedy showcase that also features the newest Improv 301 graduates – with spontaneous scenes, games, songs, and stories all made up on the spot based on audience input. *Sun., May 12, 8pm. Zach Theatre's Whisenhunt Stage, 1510 Toomey. \$10. www.merlin-works.com.*

DANCE

EVOLUTION Here's a new show from UT's collaborative design laboratory, wherein teams have partnered with composers throughout the university to produce short danceworks for the concert stage. *Thu.-Fri., May 9-10, 7:30pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, Winship Drama Bldg., 24th & San Jacinto, 512/471-1444. Free. www.texasperformingarts.org.*

REELS IN THE PARK Enjoy picnic bites, cocktails, raffle prizes, and games while the kinetic folks of **Early Era Collective** present their **dance films** and share exclusive footage from upcoming work. *Fri., May 10, 8pm. Zilker Lodge, 2225 Andrew Zilker Rd. Donations accepted. www.earlyeracollective.org.*

CORPS MULTIPLE: RESIDENCY This French dance company performs their new work at the Vortex tonight, using live music, contemporary dance, singing, and more. It's strange, it's beautiful, it's free! *Sat., May 11, 6-8pm. Butterfly Bar at the Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 512/478-5282. Free. www.vortexrep.org.*

LOOKING FOR MORE DANCE CLASSES? Swing? Ballet? Tango? Pole dancing? **We've got myriad classes listed online**, with all manner of schools waiting to get your feet firmly on the floor – or soaring through the air – to joyful moves.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

AUSTIN PERCUSSION FESTIVAL This showcase of diverse percussion music from across our city features performances by **Austin Samba**, **Kraken Quartet**, and UT's **Austin Percussion Ensemble** – with students from **Austin Soundwaves** and **Round Rock High School** playing alongside the local professionals. *Fri., May 10, 6:30-10pm. Imagine Art, 2830 Real, 512/448-1840. Free. www.thekrakenquartet.com.*

☼ **TEMP: MYSTIC, SCIENTIST, SCHOLAR, NUN** Well, of course the **Texas Early Music Project** means **Hildegard von Bingen!** Who else would they be invoking with a title like that? And now **Daniel Johnson's** excellent troupe presents the beautifully sophisticated and powerful music of this 12th-century German abbess with a performance of several of her compelling antiphons and sequences, performed by 15 women singers. Bonus: KMFA's **Sara Schneider** provides a 30-minute lecture one hour before each concert. *Sat., May 11, 7:30pm: St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd. Sun., May 12, 3pm: St. John's United Methodist Church, 2140 Allandale. \$25-30. www.early-music.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT Here's a sweet way to bring this Mother's Day evening to a close: a free concert in her honor on the state Capitol's south steps, with marches, movie scores, and original band pieces. *Sun., May 12, 7pm. State Capitol Rotunda, 11th & Congress. Free. www.austinsymphonicband.org.*

MIDDAY MUSIC: A BAROQUE BRICOLAGE Harpsichordist **Eric Mellenbruch** presents music by **Buxtehude**, **Sweelinck**, and other great keyboard composers of the 17th and 18th centuries. *Thu., May 16, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. Eighth, 512/610-3500. Donations accepted. www.stdave.org/music/concerts.*



Buttrick Gallery: The South Welcomes You Home

The devolution of the Austin sky. Texas caves reimagined as intergalactic landscapes. The peculiar yet familiar renderings of Southern life. Behold, as artists **Mae Crocker**, **Renee Victor**, and **Heidi Pitre** celebrate the beauty and quirks of this land we call home.

Reception: *Sun., May 12, 4-6pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 512/974-4000. www.austintexas.gov/dac.*

“RACHEL KALISKY: GLASSNET”

CAMIBAart Gallery, 6448 Hwy. 290 E., Ste. A-102
www.camibaart.com
Through May 19

A man walks into a bar, a bird flies into a mirror, a woman walks into a glass-fusing workshop.

You could join those disparate elements and make yourself a fine narrative, but let's just focus on the last one. It could be any woman walking into that glass-fusing workshop – there are several such classes offered right here in town – and emerging, weeks later, with a completed piece of artwork – a serving plate in a vaguely Art Deco style, say, or perhaps a pendant for a necklace to be gifted to a beloved niece – and that's the end of it.

But Austin's Rachel Kalisky walked into a glass-fusing workshop years ago, and luckily for anyone who encounters her delicately layered creations, there's no end in sight. Because some people are what other people – other people who are sometimes impressed, sometimes condescending – call “creative.” And the creative people – Kalisky's art would be regarded as impressive by anyone who appreciates talent, skill, industry, and beauty, to be sure – those “creatives” will get hold of a new thing – a material, a process, a style – *or it will get hold of them* – and an exploration of possibilities will begin that won't be exhausted until some other new thing intervenes.

Even people who are otherwise previously untrained in visual self-expression can, with sufficient time and effort, generate work that

will be a gift to all who can see it – a gift of pattern, of shape and shade, of color and curve, of confounding complexity or refreshing simplicity. (That's what some people might call outsider art – because people love labeling stuff, don't they? – and it tends to work even better than the time-telling properties of that proverbial stopped clock that is any art career's baseline.)

Kalisky, though, was trained at the Humber College of Art & Design in Toronto. And before she got into this whole fused-glass situation, she was an interior designer and an industrial designer for a couple of decades, for banks and retail stores and computer manufacturers and so on. You don't do that sort of thing successfully for so long without starting out with some kind of talent; and you don't work that talent for so long without developing a great deal of skill. This, in addition to her ceaseless work, is why her glass creations, in their diversity of forms and refinements, are consistently gorgeous. This visual beauty made manifest via precise industry is why the woman's pieces have won both critics' awards and popular acclaim. This is why we're still kicking ourselves for having missed Kalisky's “Glasswork: The Unexpected” at CAMIBAart back in 2016.

But, *aha*, CAMIBAart – the newly relocated gallery on East 290 that thrives even though the CAMIBA outpost in the shuttered Flatbed World Headquarters complex is gone – is now



showing Kalisky's latest forays into the possibilities of silicate fusion. And recently the artist has been exploring the “organic movement of metal mesh” within her fused-glass designs. Now *that's* some interesting textural juxtapositioning, all right. Reckon we'd want to see *anyone's* explorations of metal mesh and fused glass. Thus, we further reckon

we're downright jonesing to see what Rachel Kalisky has been up to with the combining of these two disparate materials. Fortunately, her new “Glassnet” show will be up through May 19 – and maybe our own realities will briefly fuse, dear reader, and we'll see you there? Let's raise a glass to that.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

LAIRD BARRON: BLACK MOUNTAIN Word to the wise: That fierce Shadow King of crime novels returns to Austin to present his latest **Isaiah Coleridge** thriller tonight. *Thu., May 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

BOOKWOMAN POETRY: K.F. ANTHONY Anthony is the author of the collection *Circling*; her debut short poetry film, “Breath of Faith,” was selected for the 2018 Capital City Black Film Festival. **Cindy Huyser** hosts; an open mic follows. *Thu., May 9, 7:15pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 512/472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.*

ERIC SILVERSTEIN: THE PEACHED TORTILLA That celebrated Peached Tortilla maestro presents his first cookbook of “Modern Asian Comfort Food from Tokyo to Texas” and we reckon

that, if you've ever eaten any of the off-the-charts delicious food that his various venues have served to the public, you'll be front and center at this event. *Sat., May 11, 2-4pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 512/418-8985. www.thepeachedortilla.com.*

E. LEE WALKER: IMAGINATION HOUSE The first president of Dell Computers presents his autobiographical book about what it's like being so entrepreneurial and creatively engaged. *Sat., May 11, 6pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

NAKED GIRLS READING: NAKED GIRLS IN SPACE Those delightfully disrobed and distaff denizens of the (very popular, duh) Naked Girls Reading series present this double-feature of a **sci-fi themed literary event**. “One night. Two completely different shows. Endless entertainment as we explore the galaxy!” **QUANT SUFF!** **QUANT SUFF!** *Sat., May 11, 7 & 8:30pm. Sky Candy, 1023 Springdale, Bldg. 8, 512/800-4998. \$25-45. www.skycandyaustin.com.*

AUSTIN AUDIO FICTION: INTRO TO LOCAL FICTION PODCASTS From sci-fi adventure to urban fantasy, learn about the world of audio drama and how your next favorite writer may actually be in your ears. Featuring **Chris Garrett** of *Splintered Caravan*, **Michelle Nickolaisen** of *Unplaced*, **Gabe Alvarez** of *Starcalled*, and **A. R. Olivieri** of *Great and Terrible*. *Sat., May 11, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th. www.malvernbooks.com.*

TREVOR ROMAIN: CONNECTING WITH KIDS IN A DISCONNECTED WORLD The award-winning children's book author presents a book filled with practical strategies, effective tools, and inspiring stories designed to help adults shape and improve connections with kids. *Mon., May 13, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

FERNANDO A. FLORES: TEARS OF THE TRUFFLEPIG The much-heralded author presents his trippy debut novel about a parallel world in which

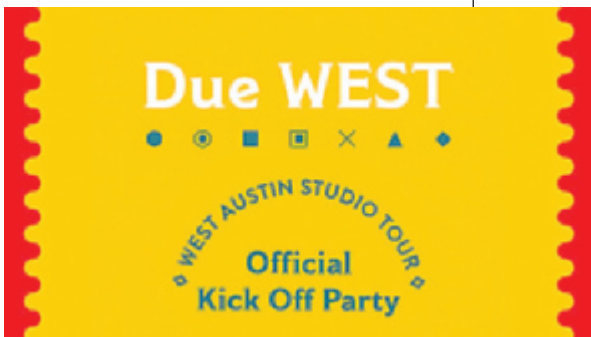
narcotics are legal and the new contraband is ancient Olmec artifacts and long-extinct animals brought back from the dead for the amusement of the wealthy. *Tue., May 14, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th. www.malvernbooks.com.*

CHRIS PAVONE: THE PARIS DIVERSION The bestselling author of *The Expats* and others returns with a new thriller about a suicide bombing in the heart of Paris. Note: That's Paris, France, you Lone Star citizen, you. *Tue., May 14, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ECHO LITERARY MAGAZINE: LAUNCH PARTY Join the crowd at Malvern in celebrating the new issue of this publication from UT's **Liberal Arts Honors Program**, showcasing the work of undergrads from all majors and programs. *Wed., May 15, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th. www.malvernbooks.com.*

LARA PRIOR-PALMER: ROUGH MAGIC Right, now *this* is a book worth reading. And tonight the author will present it, telling about how she became the first woman to win the grueling Mongol Derby – following in the hoofsteps, so to speak, of Genghis Khan's own horse. *Wed., May 15, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ERIC GORGES: A CRAFTSMAN'S LEGACY The host of that popular UCTV show about being a craftsman is in town to present his new book on the same ever-relevant topic, in conversation with **Khiem Nguyen**. *Thu., May 16, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*



DUE WEST Of course you're gonna do WEST, and, if you're really stoked for the annual two-weekend event – or you're just looking for a **hella good art-filled time** this Friday night – you'll do Due WEST, too. It's the official launch party and fundraiser for the **West Austin Studio Tour**, featuring a **storefront-turned-gallery** hosting the work of **nearly 300 WEST artists**, a **Nineties-themed pizza party and ice cream sundae bar** enhanced by Nineties jams from **DJ Girlfriend** and all manner of adult bevies from the likes of **Tito's, Thirsty Planet, Austin Eastciders, Dulce Vida Spirits**, on and on, and on and on, rocking until the break of dawn. (Note: Nowhere *near* the break of dawn, actually; but for three full hours, yo.) It's gonna be a solid crystal night, all right, just like back in the early days of Netscape Navigator and GeoCities – before the internets became social oxygen, remember? *Fri., May 10, 7-10pm. ACC Highland, 6101 Highland Campus Dr. \$45. www.austincc.edu.*

COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

IN A LANDMARK HEARING, the House Committee on Public Health debated whether to ban conversion therapy for minors last Wednesday. In an emotional testimony, Rep. **Celia Israel** testified in support of her **House Bill 517**, “I also ask you on behalf of 17-year-old Celia, who nearly ended her life because she thought she couldn’t continue to live life as a gay person.” (Revisit Qmmunity writer **Lilli Hime**’s in-depth profile of Israel online for more on Israel’s youth.) The bill was left pending, and ultimately failed to advance out of committee by the midnight deadline on Monday, May 6. Still, this year was the first time the legislation was granted a hearing in the three consecutive sessions the Austin Democrat has filed it. That same night, the House State Affairs Committee heard testimony on Sen. **Brandon Creighton**’s Senate Bill 2486, one of the Conroe Republican’s many bills seeking to limit the ability of cities – including Austin – to regulate private companies’ employment policies and, in effect, local nondiscrimination ordinances protecting LGBTQ employees. A reworked version of the bill was advanced by Rep. **Dade Phelan**, which included explicit language protecting such ordinances. HB 517’s hearing and **SB 2486**’s revision are steps forward, no doubt, and yet this you-can’t-win-em-all outcome is a sour pill to swallow. Add to that two religious freedom bills still slithering through the Lege – **SB 17** and **HB 3172** – and it’s clear we’re not out of the woods yet. With the Lege concluding on May 27, let’s rally to prevent anti-LGBTQ legislation from advancing any further. Testify at committee hearings, call or write your legislators, and encourage fellow qmmunity members and allies to do the same.



PHOTO BY MONTINUQUE MONROE

2 TO DO

Q'D UP

ArtBomb

Those Queerbomb QTs continue to raise funds for this year’s DIY Pride celebration. This time they’re showcasing the city’s talented queer artists and poets. To keep the art accessible, auction items will start low and some pieces will be free. Bring whom-ever – this is an all-ages event in a sober space (though frisky art will be available in a separate room). *Sat., May 11, 3:30-7:30pm. The Electric Church, 5018 E. Cesar Chavez. \$3 suggested donation.*

Guerrilla Queer Bar: Spring Fling for Out Youth

Forget the milkshakes, these queers bring all the QTs to the yard ... or bar. So getcher happy hour on at this queer bar takeover to raise cash for Out Youth. *Thu., May 16, 6-10pm. The Brixton, 1412 E. Sixth. Free. www.fb.com/wherethegirlsGoATX.*

KY KREBS Do good, laugh hard. *Thu., May 9, 9pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport. \$8-12.*

TRANS MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM *Fri.-Sat., May 10-11. ACC Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Rd. \$50+.*

KILT NIGHT Bare some leg! *Fri., May 10, 9pm. Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth.*

POO POO PLATTER Taylor Swift vs. Carly Rae Jepsen. *Fri., May 10, 10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River. \$7.*

SOY POSITIVO ¿Y QUÉ? “Conversación íntima sobre vivir prósperamente con el VIH.” *Sat., May 11, noon-2pm. The Q Austin, 1023 Springdale, Bldg. 14. Free.*

DADDY ISSUES Dads, daddies, zaddies. *Sat., May 11, 9pm. The North Door, 502 Brushy. \$10.*

TGO SOCIAL For any & all on the trans spectrum. *Second Sundays, 6-9pm. Butterfly Bar, 2307 Manor Rd.*

QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING City’s queer commission. *Second Mondays, 7pm. City Hall, 301 W. Second.*

PAIGE RENÉE BERRY, MY GOLDEN CALF, TAFT Musical Monday. *Mon., May 13, 9pm. Cheer Up Charlies, 900 Red River.*

AUSTIN PRIDE BINGO Sassy queens, great cause. *Tue., May 14, 7-9pm. Red’s Porch, 3508 S. Lamar.*

KINKY GAY MEETUP Leather-lovin’ kinksters. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Barfly’s, 5420-B Airport.*

XY CHELSEA Chelsea Manning doc. *Wed., May 15, 7:30pm. Alamo South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar. \$12.*

CHRISTEENE W/ HEY JELLIE The prodigal queer returns. *Thu., May 16, 9pm. Barracuda, 611 E. Seventh. \$10.*

Sarah Marloff returns next week with more musings on Austin’s Qmmunity. For all Qmmunity listings, see austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and send yer queer’d events to qmmunity@austinchronicle.com.

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SIGHT LINES

FOOD



Farrah Moussallati Sibai (second from right) and her family: (l-r) daughters Mariam, Janah, and Ayah; mother-in-law Fadia Sibai; and daughter Sereen

JANA BIRCH

A Mother's Story of Falafel and Family

Empowering the Syrian refugee community one Mediterranean recipe at a time

BY EMILY BEYDA AND JESSI CAPE

For Afia Foods founder Farrah Moussallati Sibai, spending time in the kitchen has always been intimately tied to a sense of home and her Syrian heritage. Her local food business, named for an Arabic word meaning “bon appétit” or “to your health,” supports refugees through economic empowerment, community-building, and shared meals. “Our goal is to break bread with our neighbors from all backgrounds through Afia Foods, so they can enjoy our authentic Mediterranean cuisines, our heritage, and hopefully learn just how special our community is.”

Eating and cooking Syrian food with her family offered an important sense of cultural identity as she grew up in the United Kingdom, and Moussallati Sibai said it took a few years to fully assimilate after she moved to Austin in 2012 to grow her blended family with her husband, Yassin. “During that period, there was a huge influx of Syrian refugees arriving in Austin, and I spent the majority of my time volunteering at nonprofit organizations, helping them adapt to their new lifestyle. I related to these woes myself, so I was thrilled to help and provide much-needed comfort at a difficult time.”

Moussallati Sibai saw firsthand how critical a role food plays in connecting people to memories of home. “My mother-in-law, like many who flee their homes due to unfortunate, unsafe circumstances, missed her life, her home, her kitchen,” she said. “The only place she found comfort and felt at home was in our kitchen – it’s her domain. It was here that she would cook the most authentic, traditional meals and feed the whole family with recipes from her mother, her grandmother, and even her great-grandmother.” Moussallati Sibai also discovered that food could be a tool for

economic empowerment, particularly for mothers. “The women would often make food and sell it to the community to help their husbands out,” she said. “It’s an easy way for them to make money without leaving the home.”

And it was these combined experiences – and empathy – that led to Moussallati Sibai’s decision to create an employment program for Syrian refugees, who would go on to become the backbone of Afia’s factory workforce. “Years later, after I founded Afia Foods, I decided I wanted to provide a safe and comfortable working environment for these refugees, an environment where they could communicate in a language they can speak and support their families.”

Her primary inspiration for Afia Foods is rooted in her own family’s story, tucked inside one of the only family heirlooms her mother-in-law was able to bring along on the journey to escape tensions back home. “As the war broke out in Syria, she had very little time to pack her most valuable and sentimental items, her life, her memories, before the borders closed. One priceless item that she packed and brought with her was her black recipe book, filled with recipes handed down from generation to generation.”

But re-creating those familiar comfort foods at home proved difficult, something she realized while grocery shopping for Syrian dishes in Austin: Many spices and ingredients simply weren’t available. And despite Mediterranean-inspired recipes, restaurant concepts, and food trucks becoming hugely popular in the U.S., the wave still had not expanded past niche items, remaining inconvenient for busy families. “The frozen section was especially bare – I have four daughters, so I like to have stuff in the freezer for my kids when I get home after a long day. When I could find them in ethnic stores, it wasn’t a great variety, [so] when my mother-in-law arrived with her black recipe book I was like, ‘Why isn’t this at H-E-B? Why isn’t great Mediterranean food available to more people? Why can’t I make these tastes more mainstream while supporting the refugees I [have] been working with?’”

The recipes from that little black book are the very ones used for Afia’s falafel and kibbeh – a dinner dish made with ground beef or lamb combined with bulgur wheat, pine nuts, and warm spices like cinnamon and allspice – along with influencing their more modern variations like spicy turmeric falafel and jalapeño kibbeh. “The kibbeh started out because my mother-in-law was making kibbeh, and I saw how difficult and time-consuming it was. But everyone loved it so much! I wanted to find a frozen version to help her, but when I didn’t find anything out there and saw how much everyone –



JANA BIRCHUM

Arab and American – loved her recipe, I was determined to create something that would make her life easier and create something my kids always wanted.

“As for the falafel, we always have falafel over the weekend for breakfast. When we’d go to the park, we’d always bring falafel sandwiches. I thought more and more about making a version of these recipes because it was so mainstream and very sought-after by Americans – I didn’t need to educate people about it. I wanted to create a new Mediterranean category that everyone would feel comfortable exploring.”

For Moussallati Sibai, Afia’s mission is about more than providing culturally sensitive employment and expanding the range

of Mediterranean options available in neighborhood H-E-B stores beyond hummus and pita chips – it’s about emotion. “Food feeds our hearts and souls,” she said. “Typically at the center of any gathering of any color, culture, religion, food is present and brings us together ... so being able to share our recipes’ authenticity with Texas has been a great reward. It is a humbling feeling that we are also sharing generations-old traditions with Americans who maybe haven’t had these foods before. [Now] the greatest support Afia Foods has enjoyed has been from our Texan neighbors – their enthusiasm and spirit in supporting local businesses such as ours is why our business is thriving today.” ■

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Jam Sanitchat and her husband Bruce Barnes

Learn to Cook Thai Green Curry and Glass Noodles

JAM OF THAI FRESH OFFERS MOTHER'S DAY COOKING CLASS WITH HER MOM **by Alisha McDarris**

On Saturday, May 11, Jam Sanitchat, owner and chef at Thai Fresh, is co-hosting a Mother's Day cooking class with her own mom, Orawan Sanitchat. Neither Jam nor her mother remember their official teacher-student relationship in the kitchen, or when exactly Jam learned how to cook. Jam recalls phoning her mom, who lives in Thailand, to chat about offering cooking classes some

15 years ago, to which Orawan replied, "When did you learn to cook?"

Jam didn't really show an interest in cooking growing up, but that doesn't mean she wasn't frequently in the kitchen while her mom crafted family dinners every night. She was always nearby, grinding curry paste with a mortar and pestle on the kitchen floor, watching her mom scoop spices into the

palm of her hand – weighing and smelling, but never measuring. But the truth was, Jam would rather have been anywhere else.

Orawan, on the other hand, seems to be more at home in the kitchen. "My husband jokes that we need to get her a cot for the kitchen because she spends all her time in there," Jam says. Yet even though Jam never actively tried to absorb the culinary arts her mother found so fulfilling, simply being present as Orawan cooked every night turned out to be enough to plant a seed.

That seed didn't sprout until Jam was 18 or 20, but when it did, no lack of formal training was going to stop her. As she nurtured her newfound passion and began experimenting in the kitchen, trying to remember how her mom had done it all those years, there were a lot of late-night calls home. Jam would ask for instruction and clarification on favorite recipes and proper volumes of spices, a difficult thing to explain over the phone when measurements aren't made in teaspoons or cups but by the weight of the ingredients in your palm or the smell of simmering sauces.

Once Jam discovered she enjoyed time spent creating in the kitchen, she looked forward to working side-by-side with Orawan, both in Austin and in Thailand when she flew home for visits. She was determined to learn as they developed recipes together, like the glass noodle salad dish they'll instruct home chefs on how to make during the event. Since opening Thai Fresh, Jam has been sharing the techniques and recipes her mom taught her, effectively imbuing Orawan's presence and wisdom into the classroom, but this is the very first time Jam will have her mother by her side with the students, and the first time Orawan will see her daughter share the time-honored techniques.

"I'm excited to introduce my mom, [the woman] who formed who I am and my style of cooking," Jam says, though she wonders if Orawan will pipe up occasionally during class to correct her cooking methods. "It's a chance for me to bond with her."

And for their students to bond with their families as well (though attending with your mother – or offspring – isn't required). Together, the Sanitchat women offer hands-on instruction for some of their favorite family recipes, including green curry and the chicken rice that Jam still claims as one of her all-time favorite dishes. Pad ka prow, Thai Fresh's famous coconut milk ice cream, and some drinks will also be part of the special event that takes place at photographer Jody Horton's studio. It promises to be a special time where two generations come together to share their love of cooking – and their heritage.

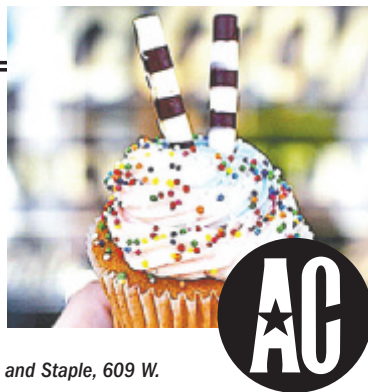
Tickets for the class at St. John's Studio are \$100 and can be purchased at the Thai Fresh website, www.thai-fresh.com/cookingclass.

JOHN ANDERSON

FOOD EVENTS

Walton's Fancy and Staple: 10 Years of Sweet Success

This iconic Sixth Street deli marks 10 years of sweet success with a weeklong celebration, offering complimentary mini golden eggs – nutmeg-infused yellow cake dipped in melted butter and coated with cinnamon sugar. Also, free house-made doggie treats will be available for the pups, honoring the anniversary's beneficiary: Austin Pets Alive! *Mon.-Fri., May 13-17. Walton's Fancy and Staple, 609 W. Sixth, 512/542-3380. www.waltonsfancyandstaple.com.*



WIZARDS & WITCHES BEER FESTIVAL Here's "a wizarding world of wonders complete with magic, debauchery, and mischief," with tastings of more than 20 beers, eldritch photo ops in Wizards Alley, the Adult Butterscotch Beer Tavern and other magical places. Bonus: live music from the Sorceress Sisters, and more. *Fri., May 10, 6:30-10pm. Fair Market, 1100 E. Fifth, 512/494-9093. \$39 and up. www.rockstarbeer.com.*

PALEO CRAWFISH BOIL Picnik is serving up hot Louisiana-style crawfish with potatoes, green beans, mushrooms, and Pederson's

Old World Kielbasa. Also, Tito's lemonade and Fairweather cider or K/Tonic Kombucha. Bonus: Mammoth Creameries' keto ice cream. *Sat., May 11, 2-6pm. Picnik Austin, 1700 S. Lamar Ste. 400-B, 512/293-6118. \$25-30. www.picnikaustin.com.*

INTERFAITH RAMADAN IF TAR DINNER This free iftar dinner is a communal feast to break the Ramadan fast for the

day and to foster dialogue, solidarity, and peace among the different faith communities. Culinary, this means a classic Mediterranean feast – meat, vegetable, grain, salad, beverages, and baklava – to say nothing of the tasty food for thought. *Tue., May 14, 7:30pm. University Christian Church, 2007 University Ave., 512/550-2767. Free, but RSVP. www.ucc-austin.org.*

MOTHER'S DAY DINING

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SCREENS

ATX FILM NEWS by Richard Whittaker

How to Be a Fleabag

SNARKY BRITISH COMEDY MINES THE PRICK IN ALL OF US

Tipsy, walking down the front steps of her childhood home, the titular character of British dark comedy *Fleabag* whips back around to her father, who's standing in the doorway. "I have a horrible feeling," she confesses, "that I'm a greedy, perverted, selfish, apathetic, cynical, depraved, morally bankrupt woman who can't even call herself a feminist."

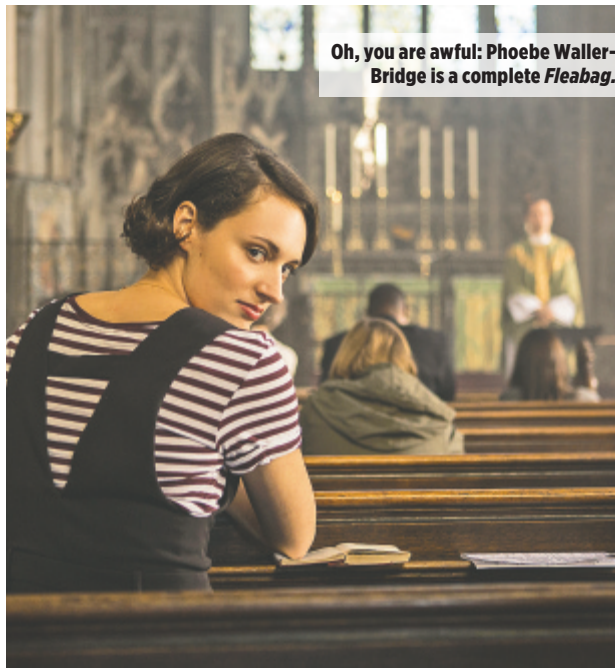
"Well," Dad inhales, "you get all that from your mother." Ouch. "Good one," Fleabag shoots back.

Dad's backhanded zinger may sound cruel, until Fleabag's expression of half surprise suggests that "horrible feeling" may, in fact, not be totally unfounded. While barely into the show's first episode, it's obvious the eponymous protagonist's moral compass started buckling long before.

As portrayed by series creator and writer **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** (producer and writer behind BBC America's *Killing Eve*), Fleabag is the sex-obsessed owner of a guinea pig-themed cafe, a young Londoner with an urge to con: sexually, emotionally, materially. In the first episode alone, she lashes into a toothy, unlucky date after he rejects her advances (not before swiping some cash from his wallet, of course), and when her "perfect, anorexic supersister" Claire (**Sian Clifford**, tightly wound) goes in for a hug, Fleabag slaps her in a knee-jerk reaction. Later in the series, she even flirts with a dog. These transgressions are made all the more nasty or hilarious by Fleabag's ever-present side-glances and quips to the camera, speaking to the audience directly.

Fleabag's tragicomic crassness isn't unprovoked. She's broken up with her on-again, off-again boyfriend for the umpteenth time, and her cafe is failing. Her and Claire's mom died from breast cancer, and in a cruel twist of the knife, Dad (**Bill Paterson**) shacked up with their god-mother, an insufferable artist played by a glacial **Olivia Colman**. At the crux, though, she's mourning the death of her best friend and former cafe co-owner, Boo, whose cause of death is initially a mystery. Then there's Fleabag's boozehound of a brother-in-law Martin (*Another Period*'s **Brett Gelman**). "He's one of those men who is explosively sexually inappropriate with everyone but makes you feel bad if you take offense, because he was just being fun," she divulges in an aside, revolted yet ignorant of her and Martin's shared egregiousness.

It wasn't until well after its 2016 premiere on Amazon that I realized how often I rewatch *Fleabag*. The show's a riot, sure: smutty, deadpan, Fleabag's smirks always winking. But I never turn to it when in need of a laugh. Instead, I find myself hitting play out of validation: During bouts of remorse when—depending how "morally bankrupt" I'm feeling—I either want to feel a little less alone in my own "greedy, perverted" selfishness; or, on the other hand, need to be assuaged, "At



Oh, you are awful: Phoebe Waller-Bridge is a complete Fleabag.

least I'm not as depraved as Fleabag." We're all that asshole sometimes; we don't want to be that asshole most of the time; and asshole loves company all of the time. Fleabag is confiding in you, and only you, after all.

Waller-Bridge's character—miserable but still trying to figure her ish out—is nothing new in contemporary comedies, and neither is breaking the fourth wall (hello *Malcolm in the Middle*). "Bad girls" and "boss babes" slogging it through 21st century ennui and bullshit on the small screen doesn't feel entirely groundbreaking anymore, either (a phenomenon that, I should clarify, isn't something to grouse about). Hell, Fleabag's far from a diverse everywoman: She's white, posh, seemingly straight, and cisgender (just like her creator). But neither Fleabag nor Waller-Bridge have ever claimed their stories as being universal.

Fleabag's doggedness and obsession with portraying one singular, confused woman's experience is what makes the show so brilliant. She is, no doubt, a uniquely botched soul.

Across the six-episode season 1, Fleabag proves that initial, biting, two-in-the-morning doorstep confessional to be true. However, in the heartbreaking season finale—when the backstory of Boo's death finally comes to light and we see just how deeply Fleabag's wedged in the doldrums of grief—it's clear she wants to be a better daughter, sister, lover; she just doesn't know how.

In the end, the swindler becomes the truth-teller, and she just needs us to listen. ■

Beth Sullivan is the *Chronicle's* Special Screenings & Community Listings Editor. *Fleabag* season 1 is now on Amazon Prime; season 2 arrives May 17.

MY OBSESSION
by Beth Sullivan

WHAT KAT CANDLER DID NEXT: Ever since the filmmaker, who has helped define Austin movies over the last decade, wrapped up her tenure as showrunner and director on OWN's *Queen Sugar*, she's been quiet about her next step. Now *Variety* reports that she will direct supernatural drama *Splitfoot*. The script (originally written by horror specialist **J.T. Petty**, with a rewrite by *The Sinner* director **Antonio Campos**) is inspired by a 1936 article for *The New Yorker* by reporter and folklorist **Carl Carmer**. Titled "Voices Through the Trumpet," it examined the Lily Dale Spiritualist Assembly, a mystical group that gathered at America's first recorded haunted house. This will be Candler's first feature since 2014's critically acclaimed *Hellion*; however, she's not done with original projects, and she's said that the planned full-length version of her 2013 short "Black Metal" is "still on my dream project list."

PUT ON YOUR BEST SHUFFLING SHOES: *Fear the Walking Dead*, the Austin-made spin-off from AMC's zombie leviathan *The Walking Dead*, returns to screens on June 2. The show, which has become a cable smash in its own right, moved here in 2017 for season 4 after stints in Los Angeles and Baja California, and is back for season 5. Of course, the hope is that the series (which has been a massive employer of local creative talent and film techs) will stick around for season 6, and the ongoing discussion in the Texas Legislature about the **Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program** could affect that decision, and that of several other network and cable shows rumored to be eyeing Austin for potential relocation.

SAY GOODBYE TO ANOTHER AMC SHOW: *The Son*, the locally shot Western series based on the novel by Austin author **Philipp Meyer**, has just begun broadcasting its second and final season. The network's positive experience with Austin's production crew was a major part of the original decision to move *Fear The Walking Dead* here. (For more on the show, read our interview with the author, "*The Son Rises With Philipp Meyer*," April 7, 2017.)

SPEAKING OF PRODUCTION INCENTIVES, the **Texas Film Commission** is hiring. The agency has just listed two positions—a production incentives specialist, dealing specifically with TMIIP applications, and a program specialist, reporting directly to the commission's director and deputy director. Visit www.gov.texas.gov/film/page/ for details.

AUSTIN-BASED SCRIPTWRITER PAUL VANCE just made the **Austin Film Festival 25 Screenwriters to Watch** list, published last week by *Moviemaker* magazine. Vance has been cutting his teeth as a production assistant and script supervisor on a host of local features (including two recently released titles, *Little Woods* starring Tessa Thompson and Willie Nelson's latest *Waiting for the Miracle to Come*), but it's his four shorts as a writer, including "A Haunting" and "Panty Raid" (which he also directed), that caught AFF's attention.

ANOTHER WIN for *Virgin Cheerleaders in Chains*: the Austin-made meta-horror picked up the best feature award at last month's **Georgetown Film Festival**, its third best feature prize after **HorrorHound Film Festival** in Indianapolis and L.A.'s **Artemis Women in Action**. According to co-director **Gary McClain Gannaway** (who wrote the film while he was a mature student at ACC), the producers are currently working with distributors and sales agents internationally, with plans for digital and physical release this fall. Read a full interview with Gannaway at austinchronicle.com/screens.

Got some breaking film news? Want to tell us about your new or upcoming project? Email us at atxfilmnews@austinchronicle.com.

MOVIE LISTINGS



In Tune With History

Come hang with the artists and artisans of *Carmine Street Guitars*

BY MARC SAVLOV

When it comes to guitars, Ray Wylie Hubbard sang it best: “Good tone is more important than the show or the biz/ Show business is a heartbreaking thing/ But if you got good tone you can get through the gig.” That sort of hard-won musical wisdom flows through this intimate portrait of Greenwich Village-based guitar maker Rick Kelly and his protégé Cindy Hulej, who daily apply concentrated and reverential craftsmanship to the creation of utterly unique instruments. Kelly’s impish smile and unassuming manner belie the blood, sweat, and tears he brings to his trade. He is, for want of a better word, a *guitartisan*, the Hattori Hanzō of six-string samurais, and his singular handiwork is revered by the steady stream of legendary musicians who wander into his cozily cluttered workshop.

Carmine Street Guitars being a documentary by Ron Mann (*Tales of the Rat Fink, Grass*),

the border between cinema vérité and scripted-seeming sections is a porous one. Yet there’s no denying that Kelly’s creations exude a peerless sort of sorcery that lures the best of the best into the shop to strum a song



CARMINE STREET GUITARS

D: Ron Mann. (NR, 80 min.)

★★★★

or two, admire Hulej’s intricate, wood-burned inlays and etchings, or just shoot the breeze. Chatting with Patti Smith’s longtime guitarist Lenny Kaye on the subject of Fender Telecasters and musicianship in general, Kelly sagely notes that “Anything more than three chords is kinda like showing off.” Joe Strummer, Johnny Ramone, and Lou Reed would doubtless agree, but they’re not around anymore, in the flesh at

least – although Reed’s guitar makes a cameo appearance. So in lieu of those late rockers, Mann trains his lens on the likes of the Roots’ Kirk Douglas, who worshipfully comments on the audaciously simple power of the guitar: “One pickup, wood, electricity, boom!”

Roving behind the curtain that leads to his gloriously sawdusty workshop, Kelly explains how the timber he chooses helps to create the timbre (and the tone) of the final product. The secret? It’s all reclaimed lumber from old New York itself. Stacks of what to the untrained eye would appear to be junk wood are in fact salvaged pieces of Five Points-era lower Manhattan, each with a scrawled note attesting to their original address and date, their place in time: Bowery, 39 Carmine St/1850, Washington Mews/1830. Two-hundred-year-old wood that was used to literally build the city. “People’ve been spilling beer on this wood for over 160 years,” says Kelly, running his hand over a fire-scarred plank of highly resonant white pine that was once the floor of the infamous McSorley’s Old Ale House.

Carmine Street Guitars is an affectionate, somewhat elegiac glimpse into a master and a craft that, like so much of the surrounding neighborhood, is steadily being corporately gentrified. When a real-estate suit-and-tie guy pops in to sniff around for presumably yet another precious property to gobble, Kelly’s tersely polite conversation barely conceals his obvious contempt. Thankfully, Charlie Sexton drops by to hang out, as does Bill Frisell, who strums the Beach Boys’ masterpiece “Surfer Girl” on one of Kelly’s own masterworks. It’s a sweet little gem of a moment in a film that’s part time capsule, part thoughtful meditation on art and artisans, and all heart.

AFS CINEMA

OPENINGS

Carmine Street Guitars (NR)
El Chicano (R)
The Hustle (PG-13)
The Man Who Killed Don Quixote (NR)
Meeting Gorbachev (NR)
Pokémon Detective Pikachu (PG)
Poms (PG-13)
Tolkien (PG-13)
UglyDolls (PG)

RATINGS

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

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THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE

OPENS MAY 10

Dreams and reality intermingle in Terry Gilliam’s long awaited epic adventure. Adam Driver stars as a filmmaker who stumbles into a world of time jumping fantasy when he meets “Don Quixote” (Jonathan Pryce), a delusional Spanish cobbler who believes him to be Sancho Panza.

CARMINE STREET GUITARS OPENS MAY 10

Amidst encroaching gentrification in New York City’s Greenwich Village, Carmine Street Guitars builds handcrafted guitars out of reclaimed wood from old hotels, bars, churches, and other local buildings. **Musician Charlie Sexton in person for Friday’s 7:15 screening.**

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Mamma Mia!

D: Phyllida Lloyd; with Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, Christine Baranski, Julie Walters, Amanda Seyfried, Dominic Cooper. (2008, PG-13, 108 min.) **Brunch with the "Boys."** Join your fave dancing queens – CupCake, Louisiana Purchase, and Zane Zena – for a Mother's Day-themed movie and drag brunch. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 12:30pm.

EL CHICANO

D: Ben Hernandez Bray; with Raúl Castillo, David Castañeda, George Lopez, Aimee García, Emilio Rivera, Kate del Castillo. (R, 107 min.)

While he may not be a household name, Joe Carnahan is a favorite among genre fans. With cult classics like *The Grey* and *Smokin' Aces* on his résumé, Carnahan has carved out a niche for himself as a writer-director who delivers blockbuster-caliber genre fare at Redbox price tags. On paper, then, there's a lot to like about him teaming with his longtime stunt coordinator Bray on an action movie built around Latinx performers. Unfortunately, *El Chicano* is far from the sleeper action movie we all hoped it might be.

Even by police standards, Diego (Castillo) has a strong sense of right and wrong. Not only is he driven to clean up the streets of Los Angeles, but he's also obsessed with correcting the mistakes of his brother Pablo, a former drug dealer who died after years in prison. But when a warehouse worth of hired muscle – hired muscle with Pablo's nickname and birthdate tattooed on their arms – end up slaughtered, Diego finds himself trying to outrun both the ghost of his late brother and the long reach of Shotgun (Castañeda), a childhood friend who has become one of the most dominant faces of organized crime in all of Los Angeles.

Much of the marketing for *El Chicano* made the film look like the Los Angeles answer to *The Punisher*, but the film's first hour is spent creating an engaging mythology for the character. Diego finds copies of *The Art of War* and books on the French Revolution among his brother's belongings; he also finds journals that position *El Chicano's* violence as an act of decolonization. Pablo has come to view the drug cartels as an invading force. As a "Mexican-AMERICAN" – with the second word always fully capitalized in his notes – he believes

he must fight for his homeland, much like the original Los Angelenos did during the Mexican-American War.

The idea of a superhero movie that sits at an intersection of identities – Mexican, American, and Mexican American – is certainly intriguing, and for a while, the film seems to be gearing up for a direct conflict between these identities. Then the shooting starts in earnest. Bray may have served as the stunt coordinator on several of co-writer Carnahan's previous films, but here the action is maddeningly tough to follow. Clarity is sacrificed in favor of endless edits, turning key set-pieces into incomprehensible messes. As the film devolves into a series of gunfights, the potential for it to find its own sense of style and rhythm is quickly washed away. Netflix has been putting together better fight cinematography than this for years.

El Chicano is also a surprising miss from Raúl Castillo, the actor tasked with being the face of this would-be franchise. His talent as a performer is above reproach – his portrayal of the abusive father in *We the Animals* was one of the best performances of 2018 – but here he comes across as stiff and humorless in a movie that needed something to offset its own sense of gravity. It seems unfair to suggest that *El Chicano* could have overcome its shortcomings with a more dynamic central performance, but when your lead actor doesn't seem to be having any fun in an action movie, there's not much left for audiences to cling to. Genre fans will need to look elsewhere for their gunslinger fix.

★★ – Matthew Monagle
CINEMARK 20, METROPOLITAN

THE HUSTLE

D: Chris Addison; with Anne Hathaway, Rebel Wilson, Tim Blake Nelson. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Third outing for the story of two con artists clashing and

collaborating in search of one big score. Hathaway takes the part of the stylish sneak, as played by David Niven in 1964's *Bedtime Story* and Michael Caine in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, while Wilson fills the shabby shoes previously worn by Marlon Brando and Steve Martin, respectively.

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THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE

D: Terry Gilliam; with Adam Driver, Jonathan Pryce, Stellan Skarsgård, Olga Kurylenko, Joana Ribeiro, Óscar Jaenada. (NR, 132 min.)

Obsession is a bizarre trait. Without it, no filmmaker would get anything done. But with it, they can end up down peculiar and costly rabbit holes. Few such quests have been more intriguing than Terry Gilliam's quest to make his meta-commentary on *El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*, aka *Don Quixote*. His quasi-adaptation/meta-commentary, *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*, has been an on-and-off endeavor since 1989, and even merited its own (un)making-of documentary, *Lost in La Mancha*. That version – which starred a pre-scandal Johnny Depp and almost killed his *Don Quixote*, Jean Rochefort – is dead. So now, finally, Gilliam has completed his quest.

Or rather, continued the latest stage of it. Gilliam has spent decades circling the theme of fantasy and filmmaking, from the cops raiding the set of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* onward. His *Don Quixote* loops back to concepts that he crystallized in *The Fisher King*, of how illusion melds into delusion, of how damaging and comforting living in a dream can be. On one side is Toby (Driver), a former cinematic enfant terrible reduced to making expensive commercials; on the other, an old shoemaker (Pryce) who he cast as *Don Quixote* in a student film. Their paths cross again when Toby is back in Spain on a film shoot, and finds that the old man firmly believes his is the knight errant. More than that, the whole world is enabling his fantasy, to the point where it is more real than Toby's fictions.

Both Toby – who falls into the Sancho Panza role – and *Don Quixote* are, at some level, clear proxies for Gilliam. They are the toxic influence of cinema and its victim, the cynic and the dreamer, and the melding of the two is caught with a gorgeous, frenetic energy. There's no doubt that Gilliam is a master filmmaker. Every frame and moment is packed with details to the point of distraction, every choice seems deliberate but many seem baffling, like Driver's decision to occasionally adopt Neil Gaiman's recent transatlantic pronunciation, go nowhere and add up to little. On the positive side, at least this time he's abandoned his irksome sound edit-

ing obsession with having the cast talk over each other (a quirk he developed with *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, and one that has only got worse over time). But the audio clarity doesn't really help the narrative or thematic flow, as Toby becomes an arch Greek chorus to the increasingly garbled and deliberately nonsensical events. Gilliam may have evolved as a director since 1977's *Jabberwocky*, but he's kept the same spirit of wild imagination (and also, unfortunately, his tendencies toward broad stereotyping and blond damsels in distress).

So what, ultimately, is *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*? It may be an end cap to a career, or the culmination of decades of effort. Yet it seems most suitable that this came out so soon after the release of Orson Welles' *The Other Side of the Wind* – or rather, producer Frank Marshall's construct from Welles' footage, since the director himself never got to finish the film. Or as implied in *They'll Love Me When I'm Dead*, Morgan Neville's documentary about Welles' posthumous swan song, it was more a process than a project. There's a similar sensation when watching *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* – that Gilliam has been making it for so long that he doesn't know how not to make it. Yet the whole point of *The Other Side of the Wind* was that it was Welles throwing out his old rulebook and reinventing himself for a new era. This is Gilliam at his most Gilliam, and that's fine, but there's nothing left to say. It's a stark contrast to a pair of his peers: With *Dog Eat Dog* and *First Reformed*, Paul Schrader has reinvented himself. Gilliam instead is more like Alejandro Jodorowsky, whose later works (*The Dance of Reality* and *Endless Poetry*) are missives to the faithful. Maybe it's time Gilliam find new windmills at which to tilt.

★★★ – Richard Whittaker
AFS CINEMA

MEETING GORBACHEV

D: Werner Herzog, Andre Singer. (NR, 90 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Two legends – one of cinema, one of politics – meet as Werner Herzog sits down with former Secretary of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, and discuss how the world changed through cooperation rather than conflict, and what can and should be learned from glasnost.

ARBOR

POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU

D: Rob Letterman; with Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton, Bill Nighy, Ken Watanabe, Chris Geere, Rita Ora, Suki Waterhouse; with the voice of Ryan Reynolds. (PG, 104 min.)

It's amazing that *Pokémon Detective Pikachu* succeeds as a movie at all, given that it lands in the summer box-office arena with two strikes against it even before it commences: 1) It's a Pokémon adventure, which

means the film space comes packed with its own hermetic rules which baffle outsiders and flout narrative logic, and 2) It's a film adaptation of a video game – never a good portent. Yet *Pokémon Detective Pikachu* is unlike any of the 21 feature-length cartoons that have preceded it: The film combines animation with live-action, which gives it a different look from the standard anime renditions. Moreover, this film introduces a Pokémon-noir element by which the Pikachu's yellow fur becomes just about the brightest thing in the film's color palette.

Some working knowledge of the 809 creatures in the Pokémon universe is certainly useful but it's really only necessary to have familiarity with Pikachu (the most adorably irresistible Pokémon and the emblematic icon of the franchise) and Mewtwo (a powerful and genetically engineered Pokémon, usually the antagonist). The film is an adaptation of a recent, one-off video game starring the titular Detective Pikachu. A Sherlock Holmes deer-hunting cap perches on the character's head throughout the film, and the Pikachu acts as though he's a cute private eye in a Sam Spade story.

Except for a head-scratching opening sequence, the film's action takes place in Ryme City, a planned community created by self-proclaimed "visionary icon" Howard Clifford (Nighy, engagingly playing a twisted tycoon). Here humans and Pokémon dwell in

harmony, supposedly free of the conventional master-and-chattel relationship in which humans catch the Pokémon creatures and enter them in exhibition battles. In Ryme City, humans and Pokémon team up as partners (in my mind, it's something akin to having a therapy animal). The social harmony also stands in contrast to the *Pokémon Go* game in which people run around town trying to "catch 'em all" on their smartphones. In Ryme City, Pokémon seem to control their own destinies.

The Ryme City metropolis visually looks like something of a cross between the worlds of *Blade Runner* and *Zootopia*, a foggy yet colorful urban fantasia of shadows and weirdness. The masters of this universe, Howard Clifford and his son Roger (Geere), have the cartoon look of a Rupert Murdoch mogul and son, although in certain moments Roger appears a bit more like Eric Trump. A troubled young man, Tim Goodman (Smith), comes to Ryme City to find his father, who has been reported dead. Instead he finds his father's Pokémon partner Detective Pikachu (voiced by Ryan Reynolds, with no F-bombs but much of the sass displayed by his Deadpool character). Unlike communication in the rest of the Pokémon universe, Detective Pikachu and Tim can understand what each other is saying, a fact that alters the essential human/Pokémon relationship.

The film's plot is either too much or too little, but whatever you decide, it's best to give up on any expectations of true logic and just go with the flow because you know what, Jake: Forget it. It's Pokémania.

★★★

– Marjorie Baumgarten

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POMS

D: Zara Hayes; with Diane Keaton, Jacki Weaver, Celia Weston, Pam Grier, Phyllis Somerville, Rhea Perlman, Alisha Boe. (PG-13, 91 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Retirees defy convention as they form a cheerleading squad for their retirement home.

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★ TOLKIEN

D: Dome Karukoski; with Nicholas Hoult, Lily Collins, Colm Meaney, Harry Gilby, Patrick Gibson, Derek Jacobi, Laura Donnelly, Pam Ferris. (PG-13, 112 min.)

Life experiences shape the creative process, which is the main theme of Dome Karukoski's biopic charting the formative years of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, aka J.R.R. Tolkien, who would write one of the most beloved and popular high fantasy series ever written. The Finnish director (*Tom of Finland*), along with screenwriters David Gleeson and Stephen Beresford, intercuts between Tolkien's youth and education and

his harrowing experience as a soldier in World War I, especially the brutal Somme Offensive, one of the bloodiest battles in human history, as British and French forces sought to stave off Germany on the Western Front. It is a well-worn device to contrast the idyllic with the horrific, and for the most part it succeeds, but it also falls into a kind of pedantic flow of checkmarks ticked off inherent to the genre.

The young Tolkien (played by Gilby) explores meadows and forests with his younger brother, while his mother Mabel (Donnelly) regales them with candlelit tales of mythical dragons and fosters the boys' interest in literature. Those scenes of the countryside are dutifully sun-dappled by cinematographer Lasse Frank Johannessen: But as financial strains stress the family, Tolkien (now Hoult) is moved to smoke-covered industrial Birmingham, then orphaned and placed under the care of a benefactor, Mrs. Faulkner (Ferris), through the help of a Catholic priest, Father Morgan (Meaney). He continues his education, first at King Edward's School, and later at Oxford College. He makes friends with a group of young men, erudite intellectuals all, and together they form the TCBS (Tea Club and Barrovian Society, named after the teahouse within the Barrows department store that they frequented). These scenes have a familiar but comforting cadence, of young men joking and bantering about life and literature. All the while Tolkien is knee-deep in studying ancient mythology when he's not sketching helmets and monsters, obsessively affixed to his bedroom wall. He becomes obsessed with language and poetry. He also meets his muse and love, Edith (Collins), who adds emotion to his intellectual pursuits: "Words aren't beautiful for how they sound, they're beautiful for what they mean," she remarks, and a chance encounter with a philology professor (Jacobi) steers Tolkien down the road of that discipline – until global conflict intervenes and he enlists, with his friends, as a soldier in the Great War.

Tolkien the film is incredibly concerned with the connect-the-dots moments from the author's life that informed his work, almost to a fault. Here there is the pastoral landscape that informs the Shire and there is the camaraderie of young men forming a "fellowship." When Tolkien, feverish from sickness on the battlefield, hallucinates a German flame-thrower as a dragon, it becomes a bit over-determined. Still, the performances are wonderful, especially Hoult and Collins, who exude a charming chemistry, and fans of both the books and the films will find pleasure in this look at the early life of the man whose work still influences artists to this day.

★★★

– Josh Kupecki

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Marie Menken and Friends

UT art history doctoral candidate Francesca Balboni has organized this special program showcasing the avant-garde master's works, including "Notebook" (1962), a short film spliced together from footage shot across 20 years. @UT campus, DFA 2.204, Thursday (5/9), 7:30pm.

UGLYDOLLS

D: Kelly Asbury; with the voices of Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe, Blake Shelton, Pitbull, Wanda Sykes, Gabriel Iglesias, Leehom Wang. (PG, 87 min.)

If you've seen the trailer for candy-coated animated kids' film *UglyDolls* and felt a twinge of recognition, it's probably because you were in college a decade ago. The original felt-covered toy line was an underground smash in the early 2000s: Originally created by David Horvath and Sun-Min Kim as a cute little story between them after grad school, the off-shape and lumpen little critters became ubiquitous in comic stores and dorms. So it seems inevitable that it becomes a kiddie-friendly animated song-and-dance feature now those students are starting to become parents.

And this is undoubtedly aimed at those youngest of kids, who are probably barely past chewing on their parents' threadbare Fea Bea. The story, written by Robert Rodriguez, is removed from the original version of the Uglyverse, where the Uglydolls were all well-meaning, if burdened with some very grownup neuroses. OG fans may be a little surprised that kleptomaniac Ox is now mayor of Uglyville, the home to all the Uglydolls. That's ugly as in cute, since these ever-friendly monochromatic misshapes all have their differences and strangenesses, but that's what makes them so adorable and special. That's still not quite enough for the adorable Moxy (Clarkson), who believes that it's every toy's destiny to finally find a kid to make happy. It turns out that her dream may be based in reality, and that the path to some winsome waif's toy box lies on the other side of a portal in the Institute of Perfection. That's where all the beautiful toys are, under the benevolent dictatorship of Lou (Jonas). With her big heart and assorted friends (Iglesias voicing lumbering Babo, Wang as the nervous Lucky Bat, Pitbull

**Vagabond
(Sans Toit Ni Loi)**

D: Agnès Varda; with Sandrine Bonnaire, Setti Ramdane, Francis Balchère. (1985, NR, 105 min., subtitled) **Jewels in the Wasteland.** Bonnaire won a César Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of French drifter Mona in Varda's seminal art-house drama. Followed by a post-screening Q&A with AFS founder and Artistic Director Richard Linklater. @AFS Cinema, Monday, 7:30pm.

**NOW STREAMING IN AUSTIN** MASTER OF DARK SHADOWS BITES INTO THE GOTHIC SOAP

Daytime soaps are the perennial running joke of television, the blue-collar dream of upper-middle-class comfort. So if you're going into the realm of fantasy, why stop there? Ditch the suburban McMansion for a Gothic hall. No more bored housewives as the protagonists: Instead, classic 19th century heroines, exploring hidden passages and moonlit cemeteries. Finally, dispatch the swoon-worthy surgeons as the love interest. Why not a vampire?

Depending on your point of view, 1960s horror-soap *Dark Shadows* was either the nadir of cheapo TV, or a hidden masterpiece. However, new documentary *Master of Dark Shadows* digs up the astonishing history behind the unlikely smash, which dominated ratings, spawned two film spin-offs, a 1991 reboot and – most terrifying of all – a 2012 cinematic do-over by Tim Burton. The show's rise, fall, and lasting legacy is narrated by **Ian McShane** from a script by director **David Gregory** and Austin film writer and historian **Max Meehan** (if you recognize the name, that's because Meehan is best known to local audiences as a keystone of the booking team for two now-legendary repertory series, **Video Hate Squad** and **Savage Gold**, the latter of which recently wrapped up its long run at AFS Cinema with a sell-out double bill). Yet the documentary looks beyond the cult appeal of one show and instead takes in the full history of series creator **Dan Curtis**, who later went on to sweep the Emmys with his epic miniseries *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*.

Master of Dark Shadows is available on YouTube, Vudu, Amazon Prime, and Google Play now, and on DVD and Blu-ray from MPI. For an interview with Max Meehan, visit austinchronicle.com/screens.

as the self-assured Uglydog and Sykes as Wage, the original Uglydoll created by Horvath and Kim), she's sure she'll get to her new home. However, her newfound friend Mandy (Monáe) knows from bitter experience that not everything in Perfection is really that perfect.

For a protracted toy commercial, *UglyDolls* is surprisingly charming, not least because it is that rarest of films that is genuinely aimed at small children. Of course, there are the moral qualms about disguising a merchandising reel as a movie; but since just about every film has some kind of merchandising tie-in (*The Passion of the Christ* crucifixion nail pendants were a real thing), and the "we're just creating mini-consumers" horse bolted somewhere around the first *G.I. Joe* cartoon, that sin belongs to a wider conversation. Instead, with its by-the-numbers archetypes and pleasant enough story of learning to be yourself, *UglyDolls* is likely to be a candy-colored crowd-pleaser for the littlest of littles. There were literal outbursts of tiny hands clapping during the preview screening I attended, and there's no way to argue with that critical approval from the intended audience.

Yet that same crowd lulled a little outside of the songs, and especially when the action moved from the cardboard and twine joys of Uglyville to the charmless plasticity of Perfection. It's not surprising, since that's when this felt most generic – a Gobot to *Toy Story's* Transformers – and the script underwent a lot of sweetening after animation finished, with plenty of one-liners and exposition



yelled in from just off-camera, almost all of it either unnecessary or just plain flat. If this is setting up the seemingly inevitable TV cartoon spin-off, just leave the Uglydolls at home, where they are most fun and engaging.

★ ★ – Richard Whittaker

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FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

AMAZING GRACE

D: Alan Elliott, Sydney Pollack. (G, 112 min.)

Filmed by director Sydney Pollack over two nights at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles in January of 1972, *Amazing Grace* records the 29-year-old Aretha Franklin at the height of her musical powers and in a dramatic return to her gospel roots. Now the film, long delayed by both technical problems and Aretha's characteristic intransigence, and completed by Elliott after Pollack's death, finally catches those nights. Devoted fans of the album may be slightly surprised to learn that the concert doesn't closely track it – that's just as well, as the pleasures of this aural and visual performance are somewhat different from those on record, and not a whit disappointing. The second night falls off a bit from the first in intensity, but there's also a spontaneity that has its own rewards, and no one who loves Aretha or soul music or gospel will be disappointed. (04/12/2019)

★ ★ ★ – Michael King
ARBOR, VIOLET CROWN

APOLLO 11

D: Todd Douglas Miller. (G, 93 min.)

It will be 50 years ago this summer that Americans first walked on the moon, and this feature-length documentary takes us inside the event with footage that's never before been seen or heard. It's a celebratory movie designed to rekindle awe for the accomplishments of the NASA astronauts and ground scientists, as well as a reminder of what can be achievable when a country and its politicians work in unison toward a shared goal. Director Todd Douglas Miller (*Dinosaur 13*) painstakingly assembled *Apollo 11* from a trove of newly discovered 65mm footage and 11,000 hours of uncatalogued audio recordings. NASA cinematographers filmed everything, not only the Mission Control scientists, but also the mechanical workers prepping the launchpad platforms and catwalks, and the crowds that assembled on the nearby beaches and parking lots. This constructs a sense that this was a community's effort, rather than the just the heroic actions of three brave astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. (03/15/2019)

★ ★ ★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
ARBOR

ASH IS PUREST WHITE

D: Jia Zhangke; with Zhao Tao, Liao Fan. (NR, 135 min., subtitled)

The latest from Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke covers nearly two decades of changes in China through the relationship of crime boss Bin (Liao Fan) and his girlfriend Qiao (Zhao Tao), who is so much more than a petty gangster's moll. Jia, a member of China's edgier "sixth generation" movement, never romanticizes his story's love affair, and keeps his focus on the people living in society's margins. *Ash Is Purest White* is a story about life on the fringes, the passage of time, the chips in the Bamboo Curtain as China increasingly opens its borders to the rest of the world. (03/22/2019)

★ ★ ★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
AFS CINEMA

AVENGERS: ENDGAME

D: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo; with Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Josh Brolin, Scarlett Johansson, Danai Gurira, Mark Ruffalo, Jeremy Renner. (PG-13, 182 min.)

Thanos won. That was the denouement of *Avengers: Infinity War*, last year's epic opening to the resolution of this arc of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Now *Endgame*, the Russo brothers' massive payoff to that emotional hammering, brings that moment back to its emotional core as the surviving Avengers try to reverse what they can of the Mad Titan's genocide. At a hefty but textured three-hour running time, *Endgame* pulls off an astonishing feat of wrapping up 11 years and 21 films before launching the next phase, and the script by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely again hits that sweet spot between magic, mysticism, science, and action. Some heroes rise (yes, of course you knew that). Some fall. Some rewrite their destinies. Some complete the path they have always been on. From here, there's a whole new universe to explore, but *Avengers: Endgame* gives us one last look back at where we came from. (04/26/2019)

★ ★ ★ – Richard Whittaker
ALAMO RITZ, ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO SLAUGHTER LANE, ALAMO S. LAMAR, ALAMO VILLAGE, ARBOR, BARTON CREEK SQUARE, BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, FLIX BREWHOUSE, HIGHLAND, IPI, LAKELINE, METROPOLITAN, MOVIEHOUSE, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY LANTANA PLACE, SKY CINEMAS, VIOLET CROWN, WESTGATE

BREAKTHROUGH

D: Roxann Dawson; with Chrissy Metz, Topher Grace, Josh Lucas, Marcel Ruiz, Sam Trammell, Dennis Haysbert. (PG, 116 min.)

Based on the true story of a young man who fell into a frozen lake in Missouri but was revived an hour later, *Breakthrough* is designed for a very specific Middle American audience aims, a community that embraces an unwavering belief in the power of prayer and God's ability to perform miracles. For those viewers, the movie is an affirmation of their faith, a true-story tale of a modern-day

XY Chelsea

D: Tim Travers
Hawkins; with
Chelsea Manning,
Nancy Hollander,
Vincent J. Ward.
(2019, NR, 92 min.)
aGLIFF Presents.

Like they do so well,
our queer film fest
is hosting the Texas
premiere of Timothy
Travis Hawkins'
documentary on
Chelsea Manning,
the trans woman and former U.S. Army soldier
and intelligence analyst convicted of violating the
Espionage Act in 2013 after leaking classified
documents to WikiLeaks. @Alamo S. Lamar,
Wednesday, 7:30pm.



★ DUMBO

D: Tim Burton; with Colin Farrell, Finley Hobbins, Nico Parker, Eva Green, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Alan Arkin. (PG, 115 min.)

Do we need a new *Dumbo*? The latest in the stream of inessential Disney live-action reimaginings strips the 1941 original down to its studs and reconstructs it for a 21st century audience. The bones are the same – a circus, a mother elephant named Mrs. Jumbo, and the dopey, giant-eared junior she protects with a scary fury – but the focus has shifted to the humans of his circus: ringmaster Max Medici (DeVito) and the wounded Farrier family (Farrell, Parker, and Hobbins), against rival entertainment entrepreneur V.A. Vandevere (Keaton), and his eye-popping amusement park, Dreamland. *Dumbo* may get his name in the title, but the baby elephant who can fly is no longer top-billed. The well-rounded cast marches through worthy if perfunctory emotional beats and bromides: Still, you could do far worse than this sweet and occasionally quite nifty revamping. (03/29/2019)

★★★

– Kimberley Jones

CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, METROPOLITAN

★ HAIL SATAN?

D: Penny Lane. (R, 95 min.)

Opposition to the notion of theocracy is not merely inherent in American politics: It was item one in the writing of the U.S. Constitution. In this case, it's the Satanic Temple who stepped up to counter a very concrete attempt by Christian fundamentalists to turn statehouses into pseudo-churches, filing suit to stop evangelicals from putting Ten Commandments statues up on capitol grounds. If this sounds like naked confrontationalism, then yes and no. Documentarian Penny Lane takes a pleasantly breezy and often hilarious look at the temple's work, and particularly their philosophy – not comedy devil worshippers, but quirky outsiders who have a clear view of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they laid the ground rules about how the U.S. should operate. (05/03/2019)

★★★

– Richard Whittaker

AFS CINEMA, ALAMO S. LAMAR, ARBOR

HIGH LIFE

D: Claire Denis; with Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche, André Benjamin, Mia Goth, Lars Eidinger, Agata Buzek. (R, 110 min.)

There's something deeply frustrating when a director who has traditionally steered clear of science fiction dips their toes and then claims, no, their film is not science fiction. So it is with Claire Denis and *High Life* and it undoubtedly is science fiction. It's just not particularly good. She sets her protagonists in the splendid isolation of a prison ship, dispatched at near-light speed on a mission of exploration to a black hole. Sole survivor Monte (Pattinson, gaunt and exhausted) keeps the ship going, his only company is a baby, Willow, for whom he must care, and he does so with gentle, measured compassion. The fate of the rest of the crew is slackerly explored and somewhat explained through a back-and-forth narrative that dismantles any sense of connection to these ill-sketched inmates. (04/12/2019)

★★

– Richard Whittaker

ALAMO S. LAMAR

★ THE INTRUDER

D: Deon Taylor; with Meagan Good, Michael Ealy, Dennis Quaid, Joseph Sikora. (PG-13, 102 min.)

Good melodrama is sometimes hard to spot, but you'll see *The Intruder* coming from a mile away, as San Francisco marketing executive Scott (Ealy) and his wife Annie (Good) find a perfect family home in Napa Valley. They're even willing to overlook the occasional visit from Charlie (Quaid), the previous owner, who seems like nothing more than a middle-aged widower looking to help out a little. Until, of course, Charlie's drop-ins become a little more frequent and a little less innocent. Quaid throws himself into the role with a manic energy that borders on the heroic. This is a performance of bulging eyes, grotesque smiles, and wet noises delivered under his breath.

CONTINUED ON P.43

Lazarus raised from the dead after divine intervention. The accident itself is effectively caught, but the overarching viewpoint of *Breakthrough* is relentlessly nonsecular, preaching to the choir at almost every turn. For a movie focusing so intently on personal faith, it doesn't much trust your independent capacity to find religious, spiritual, or other meaning in what is truly an amazing story. (04/12/2019)

★★

– Steve Davis

BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, SKY CINEMAS

★ CAPTAIN MARVEL

D: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck; with Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Jude Law, Ben Mendelsohn, Djimon Hounsou. (PG-13, 128 min.)

The 15th (and counting) star in the Marvel Cinematic Universe introduces us to Captain Marvel, aka Vers, aka Carol Danvers (Larson) in a feature-length flashback that weaves the superpowered hero into the existing Avengers backstory by having her land, unsure of who she is, in 1995 L.A. Larson goes toe-to-hilarious-toe with a digitally de-aged Jackson as a less world-weary (and still two-eyed) Nick Fury, while a cosmic war wages between the noble Kree and the deceitful, shape-changing Skrulls (led by Mendelsohn at his popcorn villain best). The narrative of the hero finding themselves may seem old hat for Marvel now, but Larson marks a well-earned changing of the guard. She's the hero for anyone who has ever been told they couldn't, and who works out they could, and should have a long time ago. Higher, further, faster? Damn straight. (03/08/2019)

★★★★

– Richard Whittaker

ALAMO LAKELINE, ALAMO MUELLER, ALAMO S. LAMAR, CINEMARK 20, CM CEDAR PARK, CM HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA, CM STONE HILL TOWN CENTER, LAKELINE, MOVIEHOUSE, SKY CINEMAS, WESTGATE

THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA

D: Michael Chaves; with Linda Cardellini, Marisol Ramirez, Raymond Cruz, Patricia Velasquez. (R, 93 min.)

In this clumsy add-on to the *Conjuring* universe, a ghost from Latin America, La Llorona (Ramirez), haunts families searching for children to replace the ones she drowned out of spite to her cheating husband. In Michael Chaves' film, this scorned, dead wife is after the children of Anna Garcia, played by the wonderful Linda Cardellini. It's clear that Chaves was hired to imitate franchise creator James Wan, but from the signature tracking shots down to the ghost's design itself, there is nothing original in this movie. Both horror fans and the Latinx community deserve more respect than this lazy attempt at a cash grab. A decent performance from Linda Cardellini doesn't save a film loaded with predictable jump scares and weak mythos building. (04/19/2019)

★★

– Jenny Nulf

BARTON CREEK SQUARE, CINEMARK 20, METROPOLITAN, WESTGATE

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Unbounded Agency for the Underrepresented

Last Friday's torrential rains at **Cheer Up Charlies** pared down the audience for Monterrey DJ **NurryDog's** Latin dance selects and Dallas rap duo **Fagedelics'** sparkling trap. A cozy dance floor thus emphasized attendees' friendships with event-maker **Anita Obasi**. Launched last year, the former tech worker's **Unbounded Agency** curates intersectional spaces for queer creatives.

Alongside last week's **La Rebelión** series, she found a niche early on with her **Glowed Up Balls**.

"I heard feedback like, 'There's no space like this in Austin' or 'This is the first time I felt like I could dress in drag,'" recalls Obasi, 27. "Seeing people feel confident enough to participate, dance, or even just say hi to someone is super satisfying."

Across town that same night, **UT** ethnomusicology Ph.D. candidate **Jeannelle Ramirez** kicked off the first year of her **Future Traditions Festival**, which links Latinx musicians and multimedia artists.

KVRX FEST PREVIEW: JAY WILE

Friday and Saturday's first annual **KVRX Festival** breaks out the student-run tastemakers at **Cheer Up Charlies** and **Symphony Square** for some 40 notable acts, including local **Frank Ocean** devotee and R&B songwriter **Jay Wile**, who frequented the superstar's subreddit when his own music showed up in the conversation.

"If Frank is the second coming of **Jesus**, is this the third?" wrote one user of the smooth Texas singer, born **Justin Wiley**. The comparison emerged from a mysterious video upload of 2017 track "Numb" to **YouTube** as a new Ocean track. The song's attracted over 200,000 views since March.

"It was a blessing in disguise," says the Austinite of the viral select from debut *Blue Patio*. "'Numb' basically wrote itself when I was in a really weird space. I was very honest on that song, so it confirmed that if I can just be myself, someone will like it."

Spin suggested the artist's co-manager **Kayvan Daragheh**, an A&R manager at **Genius**, posted the video, but the earnest singer says he doesn't know where it came from.

Unbounded helped with marketing. Obasi's behind-the-scenes consulting also pairs her with youth nonprofit **New Horizons Lacrosse**, alongside her full-time event coordination for nonprofit assisting venture fund **Notley**.

"My goal is always to create more visibility for underrepresented demographics, which boils down to people of color, queer people, and people whose voices aren't generally the dominant narrative," says the production wiz.

After moving to Austin from D.C. as a high-tech account executive, Obasi helped launch former Eastside multi-use space **Topology** in 2016. The project's momentum carried over to Unbounded, which pulled its largest event in December. **Equal Axis**, presented by **Red Bull Music** and DJ collective **Thank You for Sweating**, stood out with over 1,000 attendees Downtown and national media coverage.

"There are queer spaces in Austin, but as far as consistent programming beyond **Cheer Up Charlies**, it's still difficult to find," adds the first-generation American. "There's an assumption

Still, the San Antonio-raised performer is accustomed to magic online connections. They led to him opening last year for a sold-out show by **Mac Ayres** at NYC's **Bowery Ballroom**.

Wiley credits a high school classmate's take on Ocean's "Lost" as his first-ever production effort. He later mastered cover arrangements as music director of an a cappella group at **Texas A&M**.

"When songs touch me, I want to do my own take on them," says the 25-year-old multi-instrumentalist. "Like **Brockhampton's** 'Waste,' I had to redo it. I really love melodies and honing exactly where I can float and find the pocket for them."

Landing in Austin last December, he worked in **Human Influence** co-founder/rapper (**Christopher**) **Omenihu** and his roommate/collaborator **Phon** (aka **Jake Bracher**) on latest single "2AM." KVRX Fest marks the crooner's third performance ever in Austin, joining **Abhi the Nomad** and **Fat Tony** for a stacked Saturday show at Symphony Square.

JANA BIRCHUM

La Rebelión: Anita Obasi

that Austin is super liberal and avant-garde, but the progressiveness is not actually there."

Obasi speaks with an easygoing enthusiasm about nitty-gritty marketing and scientific research on the liberating effects of reggaeton. Past production experience with the **South Congress Hotel** also makes her an ideal power source for the local LGBTQ scene. **Antonio Padron** of San Antonio dance collective **House of Kenzo** and trans activist **Sam Davis** dream up competition categories for Obasi's **Glowed Up** events, and Mexican label **Estudio 1070** partners for **La Rebelión** series, returning in June.

"You're in a space, and by talking about the space, you're talking about community issues – while surrounded by queer performers and international DJs," explains Obasi. "The whole mix turns into a dance party."

More KVRX Fest Picks

ABHI THE NOMAD Charismatic Austin rapper's high-energy sunshine set will ensure your new song of the summer, and he doesn't play locally too often.

NEVIL Local trio's sturdy, world-weary rock songs pull hard on only two released tracks.

OMNI Chipper Atlanta post-punks, including ex-**Deerhunter** guitarist **Frankie Broyles**, mark **Sub Pop** signing with "Delicacy" and "I Don't Dance."

PALM Perfectly unconventional rock songs from a jagged Philly quartet last seen at **SXSW 2018**.

SEXY DEX & THE FRESH Backed by New Orleans' **Community Records**, futuristic funk group conjures cosmic fun.

VIDEO AGE NOLA synth lovers/songwriting buddies weren't kidding when they named 2018 LP *Pop Therapy*.

VONNE Yvonne Goodwyne weaves locally sourced, electronically edged etherealness.

CROSSTALK

JMBLYA'S AUSTIN STOP, planned for last Saturday at **Circuit of the Americas**, canceled the morning of due to weather damage. Fans lit up social media with complaints, taunted by sunny skies and the event's preceding Dallas date. A speedily sold-out replacement show at **Emo's** offered **Lil Wayne**, **Kevin Gates**, and others the same night, inviting more upset that festival ticket holders weren't prioritized. Presenter **ScoreMore** ended the weekend with cheeky new tees reading "F*CK JMBLYA."

SUPERFÓNICOS offer sprightly new songs "Cumbéalo" and "Tropidelico" Friday and celebrate Saturday at the **Mexican American Cultural Center**. The 7-inch launches **Spoon** drummer and local producer **Jim Eno's** new **Prospector Series**, a team effort between Austin pressers **Gold Rush Vinyl** and his own **Public Hi-Fi Studio**.

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL reported a \$264.6 million contribution to Austin's economy in 2018, representing a 3.8% increase from 2017. The announcement included a \$5.1 million donation to the **Austin Parks Foundation**. Online, festival tracking group **Book More Women** celebrated **C3 Presents'** fall classic as one of "the most diverse and balanced" major American lineups for the second year in a row, including 45% acts with at least one woman or nonbinary member.

EDEN WELPLY suffered severe injuries following a pedestrian accident, as detailed March 8 on our Daily Music blog. Friends gather Thursday, May 16, for a benefit show at 610 Terrell Hill Dr. A dreamy folk-influenced lineup includes **Christelle Bofale**, **Blair Robbins (Ama)**, **Emily Whetstone (Van Mary)**, **Lizzie Buckley (Marijuana Sweet Tooth)**, and more.

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My Gear: American Sharks

Six years after the release of their bong-rattling self-titled debut, Austin speed-sludge trio American Sharks return with life-affirming sophomore LP *11:11*. They deliver it this Friday, May 10, with a record release show at Mohawk. — Kevin Curtin

JOHN ANDERSON



DIFFICULT BIRTH

The American Sharks — singer/bassist Roky Moon, guitarist Will Ellis, and drummer Nick Cornetti — recorded *11:11* in 2016. It took a year to mix, then their label got bought by Sony BMG, and its release was repeatedly delayed. “It was excruciating,” says Moon, né Mike Hardin, who became so despondent he quietly quit the Sharks in 2018, but ultimately decided to remain and see the album through.

GIBSON SHARK FIN GUITAR

When Ellis (far right) got two guitars stolen out of his car in 2009, his auto insurance cut him a check. Instead of replacing his Gibson Explorer, he copped an ultra-rare Gibson Shark Fin, the apex ocean predator of metal guitars.

ALBUM COVER

Puerto Rico-born, Austin-based visual artist Jonny Negron, whose interpretations of the human form have showcased at galleries nationwide, designed the cover of *11:11*, depicting a shimmering gold figure sprawled over bricks.

KYLE SHUTT

Sword guitarist Kyle Shutt is the “fifth Beatle” to the American Sharks, a mentor and supporter since day one. Friday’s show doubles as the album release for his newly minted solo project.

11:11

Moon sees 11:11 everywhere. The Sharks believe the sequence can mean you’re on the right path, but they also see it as a signal from the “weed gods” — trickster deities that reward praises with blessings of pointless miracles.



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Airplane Taking Off at Dusk

The Infinites get loopy at the intersection of Jared Leibowich and Dan LeVine

BY LIBBY WEBSTER

Jared Leibowich can't contain his excitement. The quixotic local animates just short of giddy about the Infinites' debut album finally being out and its accompanying two-week tour of the Midwest and East Coast next month. He's even still thrilled about discovering Austin guitarist Dan LeVine's loop project, which he says swept him away when he first heard it more than five years ago and now serves as the foundation for the Infinites' hypnotic soundscapes.

"Every few years, there will be something that gets me really emotional and, for whatever reason, sticks to me, reinvigorates me, reminds me how much I like music," recalls Leibowich emphatically about first hearing LeVine, string-bender of Austin punk outfit Ghetto Ghouls, at a house show. "It was like this whole other side of Dan that he kept hidden. He's very introverted and soft-spoken, and he had this secret thing that was phenomenal."

Cerebral, good-natured, and instrumentally gifted, Leibowich remains a scene staple since moving here in 2008 after graduating from the University of Chicago. Having

experienced a seminomadic childhood, with the bulk of his formative years in South Florida, he moved to the Texas capital intending to pursue film, but instead chased music every night and ultimately swapped visual narratives for sonic storytelling. Best known for leading the weirdo character-pop of the Zoltars, his discography also explores an understated vulnerability as a solo artist and high-energy indie rock for kids as Jarebear.

The Infinites too ride character sketches, these underlined by LeVine's brainy guitar work. That plays out in a honeyed dreaminess skirting retro-pop. It's amongst either musician's most dazzling music so far.

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in geography at UT, LeVine approaches his repetitive, abstract instrumentals like landscapes, building hazy, subtle, surf-y intricacies influenced by early-Aughts indie rock as well as the compositions of Steve Reich and Dustin Wong. The Infinites name nods to the nature of their six-string loops, but fits the bill doubly considering how long the band's debut took to materialize.

The Infinites ride character sketches that play out in a honeyed dreaminess skirting retro-pop.



Finite Five: (l-r) Jared Leibowich, Dan LeVine, Miles Kelley, Ian Rundell, Sam Jordan

The guitarist uploaded a handful of songs to Bandcamp in late 2014, which prompted Leibowich – unsolicited – to send makeshift recordings of himself singing over the tracks. LeVine hesitated until hearing "Scott McMurray," wherein a boy eschews love in favor of reading on the floor of the library's sci-fi section. The duo began playing out as Dan & Jared in late 2015, and by May 2017 recorded their debut with Ghetto Ghouls member and audio engineer/producer Ian Rundell.

Thereafter, when Leibowich and LeVine rebranded as the Infinites, they recruited a full band for the live shows: Rundell on guitar, drummer Sam Jordan, and bassist Miles Kelley. Everything proved smooth sailing until Leibowich saw the potential in recording the album with a full group and pushed

to redo the LP. Rundell bears repute for his rapid-fire ability to churn out professional recordings, and LeVine recounts how the producer completed the most recent Ghetto Ghouls LP in just four hours. Re-recording sometimes felt tense, an unfamiliar path spread across several months, but the final mix impressed all band members.

"Jared is such a perfectionist," notes LeVine. "He's the reason I'm really proud of the record. Every time we listened to the mixes, he was like, 'We need to fix this, this, this, and this,' and Ian and I would say, 'I think it sounds fine,' but in the end it was worth it. It's way better because of all those details Jared picked up on. He has ears like no other – like a bat."

Bat man is all too self-aware of his high standards. Leibowich calls every release a

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sonic photo album, an eternal work, and refers to the Infinites as a crash course in respectful collaboration that yielded strong bonds. After a release day in-store at Waterloo Records on April 26, he mentioned the band's plans to camp out near Krause Springs the next night to celebrate the release.

Key to the final product, Leibowich isn't playing guitar, which means he's freed up live for polite, mild-mannered dance moves that recall Jonathan Richman. Thus unburdened by an instrument, his vocals also hit their most crystalline. At Waterloo, the Infinites played through the debut in its entirety, documenting 11 fully-formed characters in under 30 minutes. There's the introductory lovestruck ode to "Nina Segovia," the sleepily sinister "Ryan Fontaine," a mysterious specter in "The Man With No Name," and the brooding depression of "Polly-Anne Parker."

Most of the lyrics brainstormed in Leibowich's original voice memos ended up on the album.

"He's got such a knack for lyrics and storytelling," says LeVine, who keeps a Google Drive with hundreds of loops that Leibowich can hear, and enjoys accessing the temporary titles his compositions receive: "Airplane Taking Off at Dusk," "Alien Playground," and whatever else pops in Leibowich's constantly whirring mind.

For his part, the latter hopes that the next two years liberate two already-completed Zoltars albums, a solo LP, a sophomore Infinites full-length, and a new release from Jarebear. The through line imbuing the Infinites and Leibowich's music is a singular sweetness, a trademark of his, and a parallel to how he seemingly inhabits his day-to-day: with earnest dedication, free of cynicism, mining beauty from minute details.

"You create this world, you create this character, and it came out of thin air," waves Leibowich. "Then all of a sudden you end up getting emotional about this thing, you know what I mean? For whatever reason, I really enjoy that." ■



THE INFINITES (First Humans)

Quick-witted songwriting pervades the wooziness of the Infinites' eponymous full-length bow. Dan LeVine's mesmerizing guitar loops string along Jared Leibowich's languid verse, so mellow it's all singularly pop hypnotic. Atop 11 tracks named after squeaky-clean-sounding characters, the Austin quintet layers deceptively childish rhyme schemes with Belle & Sebastian-like melancholic vignettes. Following sunny highlights like "Scott McMurray," stormier stories emerge in the spunky interludes of "Jimmy Smith." Breaking the title game, "The Man With No Name" spins a darker scheme of "children on the run/ meth heads in the sun," leaning into the work's gloomy underbelly. Teetering between surf rock and bedroom pop, the music supports lyrics that lean twee, while the guitars hum a bit overtly chilled-out. Yet, like the vintage photos of the Infinites' singles, the songs are far less concerned with trend and more with personal preference, leaning on years of individual band members' output on the Austin scene. Notes of the Zoltars' blunt quirk (courtesy of Leibowich) and LeVine's lo-fi solo work away from Ghetto Ghoulies emerge in a high-quality synthesis. On their first-ever sampling, the Infinites develop a tasty new flavor.

★★★★

— Rachel Rascoe

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SUN. 5/12: SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH DANNY GOLDEN 2-4PM • FREE!

MON. 5/13: GEEKS WHO DRINK TRIVIA NIGHT 8-10PM FREE

TUE. 5/14: COMEDIANS INTERVIEWING MUSICIANS WITH NATALIE PRICE 7-9PM • FREE!

WED 5/15: CIDER & SEAFOOD PAIRING DINNER WITH GARBO'S 8-9PM - \$75 ON EVENTBRITE

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**MARCUS MORALES
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A Guy Called Gerald NORTH DOOR, FRIDAY 10 Ian Orth, Mouthfeel, and Dylan Reece open



In 1988, Gerald Simpson released “Voodoo Ray,” the first UK acid house track. If that wasn’t enough, thank him also for pioneering the frenetic rhythms of jungle music in the early Nineties, and a career of forward-thinking music including a forthcoming electronic jazz album. — Dan Gentile

Austin Chronicle: Do you incorporate a live element into your sets?

Gerald Simpson: Even when it’s more of a DJ thing, I like to bring live instruments. I’ll sync up a few Roland keyboards and drum machines until I’ve got an orchestra of equipment talking together.

AC: Why do you think the acid bass sound has had such a lasting impact?

GS: There was an opening for something new. It was the end of an era of post-punk and post-disco. The technology was changing and people were looking for something that was ours.

AC: Do you think it’s possible for regional scenes to develop today the way jungle did?

GS: The internet was new then, so no one else was aware of jungle. It’s almost like you left it alone in a culture plate to develop. The culture plate was pirate radio stations and after-hours dances. Things could hide away in the dark and grow, and would come out and we’d all be excited. That’s really hard to do now.

SOUNDCHECK

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

TROMBONE SHORTY
ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Friday 10

Tremé clarion Troy Andrews.

TAB BENOIT
04 Center, Friday 10

Bayou blues Louisianan lists axe influences as Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Albert King, Albert Collins.

COMMUNION TAPE
RELEASE/OBEDIENCE
ALBUM RELEASE

Beerland, Friday 10

Doom triad meets hardcore quintet in their mutual hometown.

SUPERFÓNICOS
SINGLE RELEASE

MACC, Saturday 11

Colombian psych gone ATX.

BIG SQUEEZE FINALS

Bullock Museum, Saturday 11

Grand prizes in polka, Cajun/zydeco, and conjunto accordion from Texas Folklife Resources followed by Cedryl Ballou zydeco concert. A free, premier event annually, 1-5pm.

DEICIDE, ORIGIN

Come & Take It Live, Saturday 11

Glen Benton still leads the undead with support from Topeka tech nutters.

JIM JAMES' UNIFORM
DISTORTION

Stubb's, Saturday 11

My Morning Jacket wardrobe change.

ALLMAN BETTS BAND

Mohawk, Sunday 12

South rises again in scions Devon Allman (g/v), Duane Betts (g/v), Berry Duane Oakley (b/v).

LADY LAMB

Antone's, Monday 13

Aly Spaltro picks Even in the Tremor.

DEER TICK

Scoot Inn, Tuesday 14

New but now veteran old weird Americana with opener Courtney Marie Andrews.

TOM RUSSELL

Cactus Cafe, Thursday 16

New Austinite, Western vintage.

TODD SNIDER

Paramount Theatre, Thursday 16

Urban, H-Town, Texican.

Heavy Psych Sounds Fest LOST WELL, SATURDAY 11

Whereas Duel's first two LPs rattled head shops across Austin, the local quartet's third full-length for Italian powerhouse Heavy Psych Sounds rockets a whole new classicism. Epic in song, sound, and confidence, *Valley of Shadows* shatters every water pipe in the house on its fission of base elements evoking Kiss, Monster Magnet, and the Hellcopters. They thus help fuel one of the label's four inaugural U.S. showcases.

“Heavy Psych Sounds Records is the creation of Italian mad man Gabriele Fiori,” writes in Duel frontman Tom Frank from California, where two of the fest dates fall. “Gabriele started the record label to self-release his own albums from his bands Black Rainbows and Killer Boogie. He soon picked up more and more super active bands in the doom, stoner, and heavy psychedelic scene in Europe and the U.S.

“The Austin lineup for HPS Fest features most of the Texas bands that are booked by or have released albums with the label.”

Who better, then, to handicap the local bill than Frank, a supernova of hair with an almost British overlord intonation on *Valley of Shadows*.

— Raoul Hernandez

Ecstatic Vision: “Tripped-out space rockers from Philadelphia, who recently toured with Uncle Acid & the Deadbeats.”

Wo Fat: “Super heavy riff masters from DFW.”

Duel: “Heavy occult rockers from ATX.”

Crypt Trip: “Up-and-coming Seventies progressive rock from San Marcos.”

Greenbeard: “Austinites who serve up their own flavor of high desert rock.”

Tia Carrera: “Beloved Austin improvisers with endless heavy jams.”

Heavy Temple: “Great female-fronted doom band also from Philadelphia.”



Duel

KUTX THE BREAKS PRESENTS: TEETA, GRIZZ
Empire Control Room, Friday 10

Austin natives the Teeta (Terell Anthony Jackson) and Grizz (Justin Gaytan), aka Kngofthawoods, showcase the variety of rap found on local label 2400 Records. Teeta sports “pretty boy trap,” a self-proclaimed term that describes his penchant for slick rhyming over bass-heavy beats. Grizz sounds grittier, ready to pop off if necessary. Attendees who show up in their cap and gown get in for \$1.

— Derek Udensi

KVRX FEST
Cheer Up Charlies/Symphony Square, Friday 10 & Saturday 11
“Faster Than Sound” preview: p.46.

DESERT HEARTS
Cedar Street Courtyard, Saturday 11

Begun in 2012 and voted Best Boutique Festival by *DJ Mag* last year, California dance music renegade tradition blooms funky in the Desert Hearts crew. They take over Texas with Crosstown Records head and dance shaman Damian Lazarus, last in Austin for SXSW 2018 at now-shuttered Ethics. Laurent Garnier protégé Rodriguez Jr. brings a live set spanning melodic melancholy to uplifting hypnosis.

— Christina Garcia

COMBO CHIMBITA
Barracuda, Sunday 12

Sophomore spiritual journey *Ahomale*, a Yoruba word meaning “adorer of ancestors,” finds Colombia-NYC tropical futurists Combo Chimbita conjuring the ancients while exploring the outer reaches of the galaxy. The Spanish-language vocals of *cantante* Carolina Oliveros counter-punch the percussive-heavy cumbia and *guacharaca* beats adorned with swirling synth sounds.

— Thomas Fawcett

L7
Mohawk, Tuesday 14

Igniting seventh LP *Scatter the Rats*, L7's first album in two decades, “Burn Baby” lacks only an atomic Butch Vig sheen for it to sound like a *Bricks Are Heavy* track. Distorted, sludgy, hook grenade, the debut for Joan Jett's Blackheart Records finds the L.A. riot grrrl foursome – still Donita Sparks, Jennifer Finch, Suzi Gardner, and Demetra Plakas – at peak punk. Consider this a Fun Fun Fun Fest 2015 encore.

— Raoul Hernandez

ANGELO MOORE
Empire Control Room, Thursday 16

Fishbone founder/fronter Angelo Moore's been throwing multiple genres in a mixmaster since the SoCal pioneers first fused ska with punk in 1979, effectively becoming America's first 2 Tone Records outfit. Moore's restless creativity enjoys energetic outlet via his project Brand New Step, which in promoting 2018's *Pendulum Swings* flexes more jazz, reggae, and Motown than before.

— Tim Stegall

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And Mike Hidalgo

Friday, May 10 • 7:30pm • \$10 adv / \$12 door
Bukka Allen

Saturday, May 11 • 10pm • \$8 adv / \$10 door
Kat Beal

Saturday, May 11 • 7:30pm • \$15, \$25, & \$35
Connie Kirk & Her Jazz Quartet

Monday, May 13 • 7:30pm • \$15 adv / \$20 door
Erin Ivey

Tuesday, May 14 • 7:30pm • \$8 adv / \$10 door
Alice Spencer

Wednesday, May 15 • 10pm • \$5 adv / \$8 door
Smokestack Relics

Wednesday, May 15 • 7:30pm • \$8 adv / \$10 door
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THU 5/9 **LZ LOVE & THE DUE RIGHTS** 8PM
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FRI 5/10 **BIG STATE** 7:30PM **DJ EVAN BALBONA & DJ GINO SCARAMUZZA** 9PM

SAT 5/11 **AFRICA NIGHT!** 8PM **REY ARTEAGA** 10PM **HAIL MARLEY** 10PM
ZOOMOUNTCHI 12AM

SUN 5/12 **DOGS AND DIAMONDS** 7PM
KID LUCIFER 9:20PM
RUSTY DUSTY 10:10PM

WED 5/15 **DARK CUTTER** 8PM
CHAMBERLAIN GREENE 9PM
GOSPEL TRUTH 10PM **BOY WONDER** 11PM

THU 5/16 **HARRISON ANDERSON** 8:30PM **MARY BRYCE** 9:15PM **KING WARBLER** 10PM **MD AND THE BIDS** 11PM **TISH** 12AM

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ARIEL POSEN 10PM
LOVE & CHAOS 6PM

• Friday, May 10 •

SOUTH AUSTIN MOONLIGHTERS
CD RELEASE SHOW 9PM
DENNY FREEMAN 6PM
GRAHAM WILKINSON 11PM

• Saturday, May 11 •

JOHNNY NICHOLAS 8PM
PETERSON BROTHERS 10PM
JAMES HAND 6PM
GEORGE ENSLE 3PM
BRANDON HUGHES 11:45PM

• Sunday, May 12 •

THE RESENTMENTS 7:30PM
The Irish Invasion
With **Andrea Magee & Pat Byrne** 5:30PM
DEANN RENE 3PM

• Monday, May 13 •

LONELYLAND 8:30PM
HOODY & THE WOLVES 6PM

• Tuesday, May 14 •

GIULIA MILLANTA & MICHAEL FRACASSO 8PM
DAVID GRISSOM 6PM
DALE & WAYLON 10PM

• Wednesday, May 15 •

CHRIS BERARDO 8PM
EDDIE HEINZELMAN 10PM
JOHN GAAR 6PM

Drew Davis

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•THURSDAY, MAY 9•
HH 6:30PM **CASPER RAWLS AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS**

BARFIELD THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK 10:30PM

•FRIDAY, MAY 10•
12:30AM **THE BLUES SPECIALISTS** HH 6:30PM
GRAVELTOOTH

11PM **ERIC McFADDEN**
9:30PM **TAE & GENEVIEVE**

•SATURDAY, MAY 11•
MATINEE 3:30PM
EARL POOLE BALL & FRIENDS
MONEY CHICHA WITH **JOSE LUIS CARBALLO** 11:30PM

KIKO VILLAMIZAR 10PM
7:30PM **BOTTLE ROCKETS**

•SUNDAY, MAY 12•
MATINEE 3:30PM
CAJUN DANCE PARTY WITH **JESSE LÉGE & CAJUN THROWDOWN**
WILLIE PIPKIN AND ZAPATA! 10:30PM
7PM **HEYBALE!** WITH REDD & EARL & DALLAS

•MONDAY, MAY 13•
HH 6:30PM **PETERSON BROTHERS BAND**
BILL KIRCHEN 10:15PM

•TUESDAY, MAY 14•
10PM **SHELLEY KING** HH 6:30PM
MIKE STINSON

•WEDNESDAY, MAY 15•
12AM **TOM BEN LINDLEY** WITH **ALVIN CROW** HH 6:30PM
JAMES McMURTRY
10:30PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**
WILLIAM HARRIS GRAHAM 9:45PM

•THURSDAY, MAY 16•
CASPER RAWLS & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS HH 6:30PM
BARFIELD - THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK 10PM

•FRIDAY, MAY 17•
12AM **THE BLUES SPECIALISTS** HH 6:30PM
CHAPARRAL
JUNIOR BROWN AND THE LOVELY TANYA RAE 10PM

•SATURDAY, MAY 18•
MATINEE 3:30PM
REDD VOLKAERT
BIG SANDY AND HIS FLY-RITE BOYS 11:30PM
MARTI BROM 10PM
THE RED FLOORS 8:45PM
DAVID BEEBE 3 7:45PM

•SUNDAY, MAY 19•
MATINEE 3:30PM
MARSHALL HOOD
WILLIE PIPKIN & DYLAN BISHOP 10:30PM, **HEYBALE!** 7PM

• IN THE GALLERY •

DOORS AT 8PM

•THURSDAY, MAY 9•
10:30PM **BONNIE WHITMORE**
8:30PM **MONTE WARDEN** AND THE **DANGEROUS FEW**

•FRIDAY + SATURDAY, MAY 10 + 11•
10:30PM **THE LOST COUNTS**
FRI. 8:30PM **EMILY GIMBLE**, SAT. 8:30PM **BEAVER NELSON**

•MONDAY, MAY 13•
10:30PM **MICHAEL HALE ORGAN TRIO** WITH **MAC McINTOSH**
8:30PM **CHURCH ON MONDAY** WITH **ELIAS HASLANGER & DR. JAMES POLK**

•TUESDAY, MAY 14•
10:30PM **WILLIAM BECKMAN & PETER HERRERA**
8:30PM **JAMES McMURTRY**

•WEDNESDAY, MAY 15•
10:30PM **THE BRANNEN & RED SHOW**
8:30PM **ROSIE FLORES** AND THE **BLUE MOON JAZZ QUARTET**

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THURSDAY, MAY 9

FLYJACK Funk & Soul Revival 10PM
FURSDAYS 6:30PM

FRI. MAY 10 and SAT. MAY 11

SOULMAN SAM & THE S.M.S. BAND 10:30PM
◀ Fri.: **ROSIE FLORES REVUE** 6:30PM
Sat.: **MISS LAVELLE WHITE** 8PM

SUNDAY, MAY 12

MIKE & THE BURNALLS Feat. **CHICKEN \$!#!+ Sunday**
JAMES SPEER & WILL OWEN GAGE 10PM
FINGERPISTOL 7:30PM
IMPERIAL STARLIGHTERS 3:30PM

MONDAY, MAY 13

JONESIN' 10PM **PRESTO CHANGO** 6:30PM

TUESDAY, MAY 14

HENRI HERBERT 10PM, **8½ SOUVENIRS** 6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZZ 11PM
MATT HUBBARD TRIO 9:30PM
JOHN X REED Feat. **DENNY FREEMAN, SPEEDY SPARKS & RODNEY CRAIG** 6:30PM

THURSDAY, MAY 16

10PM **FLYJACK'S FUNK & SOUL REVIVAL**
6:30PM **THE FURSDAYS**

FRIDAY, MAY 17

11:30PM **BRIAN SCARTOCCI**
LOU ANN BARTON 10PM
ROSIE FLORES REVUE 6:30PM

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| | 6PM SAAS (SOUL SISTERS SONYA JEYETTE, ANDREA DAWSON, ALLY MEANS) | | 7:45PM STEADY LEGEND |
| | 7PM KELLY HAFNER | | 9PM RAY PRIM |
| | 8PM SKY MOMMA | | 10:15PM HONEY MADE |
| | 9PM GOLDIE PIPES | | 11:30PM COLLECTIVE THOUGHT |
| | | | 12:45PM EX ROMANTIKA <i>Fill Close!</i> |

SUNDAY, MAY 19

10PM **MIKE & THE BURNALLS** Feat. **CHICKEN \$!#!+ Sunday**
GEORGE DEVORE
7:30PM **HILARY YORK** & **DALE WATSON & HIS LONE STARS** 3:30PM

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ACL LIVE Violent Femmes, X (8:00) ⓂⓇ
ANTONE'S Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (10:00), Blue Monday w/ Carl Weathersby (6:30)
THE BARN BON (8:00)
BARRACUDA Sasami, Empath, Christelle Bofale (9:00) Ⓡ, TV Girl, Get a Life (9:00) Ⓡ
BATES RECITAL HALL UT Jazz Ensemble (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S Kristen Gibbs Band (10:00)
BEERLAND Spring Breeding, Thin Skin, Blank Hellscape, Hotmom (9:00) Ⓡ
BROKEN SPOKE Derailers (9:00), Darrell Goodman (6:00)
BUTTERFLY BAR AT THE VORTEX Butterfly Bluegrass Jam (7:00)
C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Flyjack (10:00), Fursdays (6:30)
CACTUS CAFE Andrew Nolte, Ali Holder (8:30) Ⓡ
THE CAPITAL GRILLE Ange Kogutz (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Alien Knife Fight (9:00), Thomas Hopper (7:00), Matt Bowles (5:30)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Grupo Massa (6:30) Ⓡ
CHEER UP CHARLIES Acid Dad, Teenage Cavegirl, Wurve, Cosmic Chaos (9:00) Ⓡ
CONTINENTAL CLUB Barfield the Tyrant (10:00), Casper Rawls (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Bonnie Whitmore (10:30), Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few (8:30)
CRAFT PRIDE Sugar Trio (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
DOZEN STREET Transit Method, Arc Set Empire, Methadrone, Werewolf (8:00)
DRISKILL BAR Big John Mills (8:00), Johnny Dango (6:00)
EDDIE V'S Blue Mist (7:00) Ⓡ
THE ELECTRIC CHURCH Sp_aces, Samantha Flowers, Summer Rental (9:00) Ⓡ
ELEPHANT ROOM Philip Marshall Trio w/ Adrian Ruiz (9:30), Mitch Watkins Trio (6:00)
ELYSIUM Diary of Dreams (9:00) Ⓡ

EMO'S Marcus King Band, Gabriel Kelley (8:00) ⓇⓇ
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Chromeo (DJ set), BoomBaptist (DJ set) [garage] (9:00) ⓇⓇ
EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis (7:00) Ⓡ
FLAMINGO CANTINA Reggae jamdown (9:00)
GIDDY UPS Open mic w/ Dewey Lyon (7:00)
GÜERO'S Debra Watson (6:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Hermits, Pelvis Wrestley, Tyler Jordan & the Negative Space, Magic Rockers of Texas (9:00)
HOTEL SAN JOSÉ Cubby Sessions w/ Ibrahim Aminou (8:00)
HOTEL VEGAS Rattlesnake Milk, Lo Country, Paige Renée Berry (9:00)
LITTLE DARLIN' Nolan Potter's Nightmare Band, DJ Dillon Fernandez (9:00)
LITTLE LONGHORN Alvin Crow & the Pleasant Valley Boys (8:30), Them Duquines (6:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Danny Smith (7:00) Ⓡ

ROAD SHOWS

THU 5/9

The Cactus Blossoms, Jack Klatt, 3ten ACL Live
Violent Femmes, X, ACL Live
Sasami, Empath, TV Girl, Barracuda
Thin Skin, Beerland
Acid Dad, Cheer Up Charlies
Samantha Flowers, the Electric Church
Diary of Dreams, Elysium
Marcus King Band, Gabriel Kelley, Emo's
Chromeo, Empire Control Room
Thanks Light, Mohawk
Pup, Mohawk
SoMo, Parish
Public Acid, Patton Haus
Avon Dale, Poodies

FRI 5/10

Tab Benoit, 04 Center
Roo Panes, 3ten ACL Live
New Tribe, the ABGB

Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, the Seratones, ACL Live
Lost Dog Street Band, Matt Heckler, Antone's
Shy Girls, eevvee, Barracuda
Nora En Pure, Cedar Street Courtyard
Chad Cooke Band, Cheatham St.
Palm, Omni, Cheer Up Charlies
KB Devaughn, Come & Take It Live
BoomBox, Empire Control Room
Piñata Protest, Flamingo Cantina
Whit, Hotel Vegas
A Guy Called Gerald, the North Door
Demrick, Reezy, Parish
Tanner Fenoglio, River Road Ice House
St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Stubb's
Drab Majesty, Sexy Dex & the Fresh, Symphony Square

Yheti, Sayer, Eazybaked, Vulcan Gas Co.
The Avett Brothers, Whitewater Amphitheater

SAT 5/11

Big Sam's Funky Nation, Antone's
Missy Raines Trio, Austin Acoustical Cafe
Pile, C.H.E.W., Barracuda
Tunic, Beerland
Dead Horses, Benjamin Jaffe, Cactus Cafe
Damian Lazarus, Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Marbs, Cedar Street Courtyard
Sad Cops, Frankie Cosmos, Video Age, Cheer Up Charlies
Decide, Origin, Jungle Rot, the Absence, Come & Take It Live
Grupo Zaaz de Victor Hugo Ruiz Jr., El Nocturno
Bogan Villa, the Electric Church
Chromatics, Desire, In Mirrors, Emo's

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MOHAWK Lantic, Thanks Light, Raccoon Brothers [inside] (9:00) **R**, Pup [outside] (9:00) **R**

MOONTOWER SALOON New Eastside Kings (5:00)

NEWORLEDEL Bluegrass open mic w/ Eddie Collins (7:00)

ONE-2-ONE BAR Aaron Stephens (10:00), Mother Neff, the Cohen Project, Bamako Airlines (6:30)

PARISH SoMo (8:00) **R**

PARKER JAZZ CLUB Kenny Williams w/ the Art Carvajal Trio (8:00)

PATTON HAUS, 713

PATTON Public Acid, Ninth Circle (7:00) **R**

PLUSH Mark & Markus (10:00)

POODIES Avon Dale (10:00) **R**, the AGT Project (8:00), Landon Bullard (6:00)

RADIO COFFEE & BEER Erik Hokkanen (9:00)

REALE'S Richard Patnaude (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Juliet McConkey (7:00)

RIVER ROAD ICE HOUSE Slim Bawb & the Fabulous Stumpgrinders (5:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN T.R. Sterzing (6:30)

RUSTIC TAP David Touchton & the Nowhere Band (8:00)

SAHARA LOUNGE SugaRee & Cold Sweat (10:00), LZ Love & the Due Rights (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Jimmie Dreams & Crescent Soul Revue (11:00), Western Fidelity presents Roger Miller's *A Trip in the Country* feat. Roger Wallace & Bob Appel (9:00), Guitar Grady (7:00)

SAXON PUB Ariel Posen (10:00), Patrice Pike (8:00), Love & Chaos (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Cody Sparks (7:30)

SEVEN GRAND Soul Food Thursdays w/ Mac McIntosh (9:00)

SHADY GROVE Unplugged at the Grove w/ Del Castillo (8:00) **R**

SKULL MECHANIX BREWING Henri Herbert (6:00)

SKYLARK LOUNGE Jennifer B & the Groove (9:00), Happy Hour w/ the Legendary Margaret Wright (6:00)

ST. ELMO BREWING CO. Grassy Thursday (7:00)

STATION ON MERCER Ashley Brown bookreading w/ Nathan Brown (album release) (7:00)

STAY GOLD Willy McGee (10:00)

STUBB'S Magna Carda, the Bishops, DJ Dougie Do [inside] (9:00)

SWAN DIVE Honey Tap, Motenko (8:30)

THE TOWNSEND Mike Hidalgo, James Jean, Aubrey Hays (7:30)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Créma hip-hop & cumbia night w/ ulovei (10:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Jackie Venson (5:00) **R**

WHIP IN Nick Swift, Full Moon Medicine, Todd Rogers (7:00) **R**

FRIDAY 5/10

04 CENTER Tab Benoit (8:00) **R**

3TEN ACL LIVE Roo Panes, Pat Byrne (8:30) **R**

THE ABGB New Tribe (9:00) **R**

ACL LIVE Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, the Seratones (8:00) **R**

ANTONE'S Lost Dog Street Band, Matt Heckler, Hill Country Devil (9:00) **R**

AZUL TEQUILA Mariachi Relámpago (8:00) **R**

BANGER'S Hot Pickin 57s (8:00)

THE BARN W.C. Clark (solo) (8:00), All Skate (6:00)

BARRACUDA Shy Girls, eevve (9:00) **R**

B.D. RILEY'S The Chancers (7:00), Daithi Arwine (6:00)

BEERLAND Communion (tape release), Obedience (record release), Vampire, Mandate (9:00)

BLACK SPARROW Shoddy Posture (8:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jason Roberts (9:00), Ben Rodgers (6:00)

BUTLER SCHOOL OF MUSIC Tribute to Ornette Coleman (8:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (10:15), Rosie Flores Revue (6:30)

CACTUS CAFE Austin Lounge Lizards (8:30) **R**

THE CAPITAL GRILLE Tara Williamson (6:30)

North Mississippi Allstars, Empire Control Room

Roleros Cosmicos, Las Perlas

Crypt Trip, Heavy Temple, the Lost Well

The Maine, Mohawk

The Funky Knuckles, Parish

Los Pajaritos de Tacupa, Luisillo Pineda y la Fascinante, El Compa Chepe, Grupo Atrévidos, Plaza Mexico

Johnny Bush & the Bandoleros, Riley's Tavern

Giovannie & the Hired Guns, Rustic Tap

The Strumbellas, the Moth & the Flame, the Scoot Inn

Jim James, Amo Amo, Stubb's

The Avett Brothers, Trombone Shorty, Whitewater Amphitheater

SUN 5/12

Wild Belle, Terri Terri, Antone's

Combo Chimbata, Prince of Queens, Barracuda

Honey Cutt, Cheer Up Charlies

La Fe Norteña de Toño Aranda, Conjunto Azabache, Coliseum

Blessthefall, Palisades, Come & Take It Live

Crypt Trip, Little Darlin'

Allman Betts Band, DJ Simo, Mohawk

Joshua Radin, One World Theatre

Los Rugar, Refuerzo Norteño, Plaza de Toros

Brian Cutean, Radio Coffee & Beer

Pearl Earl, Scholz Garten

Pacific Dub, Th3rd Coast Roots, Stubb's

MON 5/13

Lady Lamb, Katie Von Schleicher, Alex Schaaf, Antone's

Hot Mulligan, Come & Take It Live

Surfaces, Empire Control Room

Angélica Rahe, Geraldine's

Fried Egg, Hotel Vegas

Poncé, Bogbody, Mohawk

Lostboycrow, Overstreet, Parish

Dok-S Project, Simon Whetham, Volstead Lounge

TUE 5/14

Dog Reality, Beerland

Smokestack Relics, Dozen Street

L7, Le Butcherettes, Aubrey Hays, Mohawk

Deer Tick, Courtney Marie Andrews, the Scoot Inn

WED 5/15

The Mobros, Barracuda

Clay Parker & Jodi James, Geraldine's

The Wooks, Stumble Brothers, Mohawk

Joshua & the Holy Rollers, Parish

Lovelytheband, the Scoot Inn

Bryce Bangs, Stubb's

Mariachi Campanas de America, Taco Cabana

THU 5/16

Léon, Antone's

Yatra, Beerland

Tom Russell, Cactus Cafe

Wolf Party, Cheer Up Charlies

Angelo Moore & the Brand New Step, Empire Control Room

Marshall Tucker Band, Prophets & Outlaws, Gruene Hall

Klaus Johann Grobe, Hotel Vegas

Todd Snider, Elizabeth Cook, Paramount

Los Gumbo Blues Band, Poodies

Charlie Mars, Shady Grove

Flux Pavilion, Cyran, Vulcan Gas Co.

Central Market

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SAT. MAY 11TH 6:30-9PM

HOT TEXAS SWING BAND | WESTERN SWING

SUN. MAY 12TH 6:30-9PM

SHANE BARTELL | ROCK

WED. MAY 15TH 6-8PM

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THU. MAY 9TH 6:30-9PM

GRUPO MASSA | WORLD MUSIC

FRI. MAY 10TH 4-9PM

UT WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLES | WORLD MUSIC

SAT. MAY 11TH 6:30-9PM

SADDLE SORES | COUNTRY

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SEPTEMBER
18

LEWIS CAPALDI

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SEPTEMBER
19

BARNS COURTNEY

TIX ON SALE THIS FRIDAY AT 10AM!

SEPTEMBER
29

LITTLE STEVEN

TIX ON SALE THIS FRIDAY AT 10AM!

OCTOBER
15

A PLACE WE KNEW TOUR:

DEAN LEWIS

TIX ON SALE THIS FRIDAY AT 10AM!

OCTOBER
18

JULIA MICHAELS

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NEWS | ARTS & CULTURE | FOOD | SCREENS | **MUSIC**

FROM FRIDAY

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Luna Soltera, Festive Years, Lindsey Kappa (9:00), Ron Nottebart Trio (7:00), Variety Jones (5:00)
CEDAR STREET COURTYARD Nora En Pure (9:00) **R**
CENOTE The Azmaris (7:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH UT world music ensembles (4:00) **A**
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH The Hollywood Revue (6:30) **A**
CHEATHAM ST. Chad Cooke Band (8:00) **R**
CHEER UP CHARLIES KVRX Fest w/ Street Sects (12:30am), Mike Melinoe (11:00), Chucky Blk (9:50), Nevil (8:40), Hotmom (7:30), Lainey Gonzales (6:20) [inside]; Palm (10:30), Omni (9:00), Daphne Tunes (7:50), Smiile (6:40), Big Wy's Brass Band (5:30) [outside] **R**
COME & TAKE IT LIVE Boogie, KB Devaughn (8:00) **R**
CONTINENTAL CLUB Graveltooth (12:30am), Eric McFadden (10:30), Genevieve Heyward (9:30), the Blues Specialists (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY The Lost Counts (10:30), Emily Gimble (8:30)
CRAFT PRIDE Danny B. Harvey Trio (9:30), Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers (6:30)
DIRTY DOG BAR Broken Teeth, Snake Skin Prison, Inch of Dark (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
DOZEN STREET Friday Night Get Down w/ DJ R.O.C.K.M.A.N., Kaosyn, Squake, Mighty Monkz (9:00)
DRISKILL BAR Emily Herring & the FM Trio (9:00), Jim Trainer (6:00)
EDDIE V'S Blue Mist (8:00) **A**
ELEPHANT ROOM Elias Haslanger Quintet (9:30), Lissa Hattersley's Trip Trio (6:00)
EMO'S Missio, Blackillac, Swells (8:00) **A**
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM KUTX *The Breaks* live w/ the Teeta, Grizz [control room] (9:00) **R**, BoomBox, Ishi [garage] (8:00) **R**
FLAMINGO CANTINA Piñata Protest, Hans Gruber & the Diehards, Mamis (9:00) **R**
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL Drew Davis (5:00)
FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Eddy Maine (6:00) **A**
GERALDINE'S Sharks in the Deep End (10:30)
GIDDY UPS The Austones (8:30), W.C. Clark (5:30)
GRUENE HALL Asleep at the Wheel, Big Cedar Fever (8:00) **A**
GÜERO'S The Bob Fuentes Show (6:30)
THE HAPPY COW Buffalo Ruckus (8:00)
HIGHBALL Big Britches (10:00)
HOPS & GRAIN BREWERY Jon Klekman Trio (5:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Christian Bland & the Revelators, the Stacks, Whit (9:00) **R**
LITTLE LONGHORN Carl Hutchens (9:00), the Humdingers (6:00)
MOHAWK The Banisters, Fair City Fire, Gasoline Boots [inside] (10:00) **A**, American Sharks (album release), Kyle Shutt, Drakulas, Rickshaw Billie's Burger Patrol [outside] (9:00) **A**
MOONTOWER SALOON Public Disturbance (8:00)
NATE'S Jordan Cody & James Buffaloe (8:00)
NEWORLEDELI Hudson James (7:00)
THE NORTH DOOR A Guy Called Gerald, Ian Orth, Mouthfeel, Dylan Reece (9:00) **R**
OASIS BREWING The Soap Boxers (7:00)
THE OASIS London Calling (7:00) **A**
ONE-2-ONE BAR Bo Davis & the Dreamers (11:00), Sis Deville (9:00), Arielle (6:30)
OSKAR BLUES BREWERY Deadeye (7:00)
PARISH Dizzy Wright, Demrick, Reezy, Infrac3d (9:00) **R**
PARKER JAZZ CLUB Devan Jones & the Uptown Stomp (10:00), Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
PIONEER FARMS Sons of the Salt Fork (7:00)
POODIES Julie Nolen (10:30), Gordeaux (8:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Jungers (7:00)
RIVER ROAD ICE HOUSE Tanner Fenoglio (8:00) **R**
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN Joe Strouse (6:30)
RUSTIC TAP Jake Ward (8:00)
SAHARA LOUNGE DJ Evan Balbona, DJ Gino Scaramuzza (9:00), Big State (7:30)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Henri Herbert (10:00), Lucas Hudgins (8:00)
SAXON PUB Graham Wilkinson (11:00), South Austin Moonlighters (album release) (9:00), Denny Freeman (6:00)
SCHOLZ GARTEN Ringo Deathstarr, Eastside Suicides (8:00) **A**
THE SCOOT INN Craig Marshall (7:30)
SCRATCHHOUSE Nazaara, HODJ, Louiejayxx, M.E. Swank (8:00)
SHOOTERS NORTH Peterson Brothers (9:00)
SKULL MECHANIX BREWING Finite Fidelity (9:00)
SKYLARK LOUNGE The Soul Supporters (9:00), Happy Hour w/ the Legendary Margaret Wright (6:00)
SPEAKEASY The Austin Nines (9:45)
STAY GOLD John Branch & Cat Clemons (10:00), Rent Party (7:00)
STUBB'S Steady Legend [inside] (10:30), St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Los Coast [outside] (8:00) **R**
SWAN DIVE McMercy Family Band, the Frauleins, Jenny Parrott (9:00)

SYMPHONY SQUARE KVRX Fest w/ Drab Majesty (11:00), Sexy Dex & the Fresh (9:30), Hey Cowboy (8:20), Van Mary (7:10), Light Horse Harry (6:00) **R**
TAVERN ON MAIN The Merles (8:30)
TEXAS MIST Knights of Thor National Church w/ Tap Dead Sinner (10:00), Cold Form (9:00), 3rd War (8:00)
THREADDGILL'S NORTH Songwriters Series w/ Van Wilks (8:00) **A**
THE TOWNSEND Bukka Allen (7:30)
VISTA BREWING Driftwood Nights w/ Jacob Alan Jaeger (7:00) **A**
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Crashing In w/ King Louie (10:00)
VULCAN GAS CO. Yheti, Sayer, Eazybaked (10:00) **R**
WHIP IN The Cover Letter, Bleached Roses, Killer v. King (7:00) **A**
THE WHITE HORSE Jake Penrod (12mid), Weldon Henson (10:00), Missing Beth & the Morning Afters (8:00)
WHITEWATER AMPHITHEATER The Avett Brothers, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real (8:00) **R**

SATURDAY 5/11

3TEN ACL LIVE Rumours (Fleetwood Mac tribute) (8:30)
THE ABGB ABGB Debuts w/ the Boleys, the Naked Tungs, Hvy Mtl Bk Clb (9:00)
ANDERSON MILL PUB Heavy Led, Shelley Knight, Buzzfuel (9:00)
ANTONE'S Big Sam's Funky Nation, Roxy Roca (9:00) **R**
AUSTIN ACOUSTICAL CAFE Missy Raines Trio, Terry Klein (7:00) **R**
AVIATOR NATION Elijah Zane & the Groove, Kelsey in Paradise (8:00)
THE BARN Rich Creek Ramblers (8:30)
BARRACUDA Pile, C.H.E.W., Damak (9:00) **R**
BARREL O' FUN Aaron Parks, Adam Ostrar (7:00)
BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Mother Falcon Music Lab scholarship fundraiser w/ members of Hikes, Ley Line, Mother Falcon (2:00)
B.D. RILEY'S Daithi "Davey" Arwive (3:00)
BEERLAND Borzoi, Tunic, Super Thief, Hotmom (9:00) **R**
BLACK SPARROW Hector Alvarado (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Two Tons of Steel (9:00), Paula Russell (6:00), Ben Rodgers (noon)
BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX Big Squeeze 2019 Finals w/ Cedryl Ballou & the Zydeco Trendsetters, Conjunto Cats (1:00)
C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (10:15), Miss Lavelle White (8:00)

A ALL AGES VENUE **R** ROADSHOW **R** RECOMMENDED

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SUNDAY 5/12

- THE ABGB** Georgia Parker (4:00)
ANTONE'S Wild Belle, Terri Terri (8:00) **R**
AUSTIN EASTCIDERS COLLABORATORY Sunday Funday w/ Danny Golden (2:00)
THE BARN Friends of Traditional Music Song Circle (2:00)
BARRACUDA Combo Chimbita, Mamis, Prince of Queens (9:00) **R**
BATCH CRAFT BEER + KOLACHES Mama Slay Mother's Day tea party w/ Giddy Up Go, the Lochness Rockers, Mothermold, Honey Son w/ Olivia Sweet, DJ Tropicana Joe (11:00am)
B.D. RILEY'S Traditional Irish tune session (7:30), Joe Gee (2:00)
BUTTERFLY BAR AT THE VORTEX Saccharine Sundays w/ Honey Son (6:00)
C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL The Burnalls feat. James Speer & Will Owen Gage (10:00), Imperial Starlighters (7:00), Chicken \$#!+ Sunday w/ Fingerpistol (3:30)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Matthew Brodnax & the Blues Sherpas (6:30) **A**
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Shane Bartell (noon) **A**
CHEER UP CHARLIES Tres Oui, Honey Cutt, the Naked Tungs (9:00) **R**
COLISEUM La Fe Norteña de Toño Aranda, Conjunto Azabache (9:00) **R**
COME & TAKE IT LIVE Blessthefall, Palisades, Slaves, Glass Houses, Everrest (7:00) **R**
CONTINENTAL CLUB Willie Pipkin & friends (10:30), Heybale! (7:00), Cajun Dance Party w/ Jesse Lége & Cajun Throwdown (3:15)
COSMIC COFFEE + BEER GARDEN Jonny Burke Band (8:00)
CRAFT PRIDE Mother's Day brunch w/ El Tule (6:30), Hog Branch Groove Band (3:00), Emily Herring (noon)
DOZEN STREET Love You Bunches series w/ guests (3:00)
DRISKILL BAR Antone's Blues Brunch (11:00am)
EDDIE V'S Nick Connolly Trio (7:00) **A**
EL MERCADO Gospel-ish brunch w/ the Purgatory Players (10:00am) **A**
ELEPHANT ROOM AIME Jazz Combo (9:30)
MACC Trio Los Vigilantes & Julie Slim present Canciones Para Mi Madre (3:00) **A**
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Peter More, the Iceman Special [patio] (4:00)
GERALDINE'S Jazz brunch w/ Sarah Arenella (11:00am)
GRUENE HALL South Austin Moonlighters (album release) (5:00), Bret Graham (12:30), Mother's Day gospel brunch (9:30am) **A**
GÜERO'S Blue Mist (3:00), R.D.O. (noon)
HIGHBALL Second Sunday Salsa w/ El Ochete (6:00)

HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN

- Mother's Day blues brunch w/ Emily Gimble (11:00am)
HOTEL VEGAS Afterglow After Dark w/ DJ Ella Ella, Eimara Sol, Christelle Bofale (9:00)
HYATT REGENCY Mother's Day brunch w/ Landers Marshall Duo (11:00am)
JULIET Jazz Daddies (11:00am)
LAMBERTS Kevin Lovejoy (7:00), the Bougies feat. Doug Strahan, Beth Chrisman, Johnny Dango (11:30am)
LITTLE DARLIN' White Dog, Crypt Trip, Amplified Heat (5:00) **R**
LITTLE LONGHORN Original Home of Chicken Shit Bingo w/ Jason Roberts (6:00)
MOHAWK Allman Betts Band, DJ Simo [outside] (7:30) **R**
MOONTOWER SALOON Trent Turner & the Moontowers (3:00)
THE NORTH DOOR School of Rock Austin presents History of Funk, South of the Border, and Black Sabbath: A Tribute (10:30am)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Joshua Radin (6:00) **R**
ONE-2-ONE BAR The Big Jam w/ Deadeye, Henry + the Invisibles, La Koocharacha (Ween tribute), Lunar Eclectic, Flounders Without Eyes, Grace Park, Bobal, Josh Pearson (3:00)
OPAL DIVINE'S AUSTIN GRILL Divine Gospel Brunch w/ the Siekers (noon)
OSKAR BLUES BREWERY CTBA bluegrass jam (3:00)
PLAZA DE TOROS Los Rugar, Refuerzo Norteño (4:00) **R**
POODIES Lucas Johnson (10:00), Kara Grainger (8:00), Tessa Lou & the Shotgun Stars (4:00)
RADIO COFFEE & BEER Wilson Marks, Brian Cutean (8:00) **R**
RIVER ROAD ICE HOUSE Tyler McCollum (2:00)
RUSTIC TAP Crawfish boil w/ the Tailgators (4:00)
SAHARA LOUNGE Rusty Dusty, Kid Lucifer, Dogs & Diamonds (8:30)
SAXON PUB The Resentments (7:30), the Irish Invasion (5:30), Deann Rene (3:00)
SCHOLZ GARTEN Pearl Earl, Wurve (8:00) **R**
SKI SHORES Sasha K.A. (2:00) **A**
SKULL MECHANIX BREWING Skullwriter Series w/ Julie Nolen & friends (3:00)
SKYLARK LOUNGE Soul Sunday w/ Soul Man Sam & the SMS Band (8:00)
STAY GOLD Slow Cooked (9:00)
STUBB'S Pacific Dub, Th3rd Coast Roots [inside] (9:00) **R**, Gospel brunch w/ Kings of Harmony (10:30am)
THREADGILL'S NORTH Soul of a Musician Series presents Oliver Penn (6:30), Sunday brunch w/ Randy Collier & Grassland (11:00am) **A**
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE DJs No Kid\$ & Diggy Dutch (8:00)

- VOODOO ROOM** Tulum Nights w/ Woke Bloke (10:00)
THE WHITE HORSE Silo Road (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Colton Turner (7:00)

MONDAY 5/13

- ANTONE'S** Lady Lamb, Katie Von Schleicher, Alex Schaaf (8:00) **R**
B.D. RILEY'S Monday open mic (7:00)
BUTTERFLY BAR AT THE VORTEX Evil Modern Trio (8:00)
C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Jonesin' (10:00), Presto Chango (6:30)
CACTUS CAFE Open mic w/ Kacy Crowley (7:30) **A**
CHEER UP CHARLIES Paige Renée Berry, My Golden Calf, Taft (9:00)
COME & TAKE IT LIVE Hot Mulligan, Belmont, Kayak Jones, Fredo Disco, Future Teens (7:00) **R**
CONTINENTAL CLUB Bill Kirchen (10:15), Peterson Brothers Band (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Michael Hale Organ Trio w/ Mac McIntosh (10:30), Church on Monday w/ Elias Haslanger feat. Dr. James Polk (8:30)
CRAFT PRIDE Monday Night Folk Revival w/ Ben Balmer (6:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
DRISKILL BAR Sharon Bourbonnais (6:00)
EDDIE V'S Tony Taboada Trio (7:00) **A**
EL MERCADO Mystery Monday w/ Christine Albert & Bill Kirchen (5:30) **R**
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Surfaces [control room] (7:00) **R**
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) **R**
GERALDINE'S Angélica Rahe (9:30) **R**
GIDDY UPS David Touchton (7:00)
GRUENE HALL Chris Ruest Trio (6:00) **A**
HIGHBALL Motown Monday w/ Matchmaker Band (9:00)
HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN Shelley King (5:00)
HOTEL VEGAS Fried Egg, Enemy One, Lip Service, SQK (9:00) **R**
HUDSON'S ON MERCER Open mic (8:00)
KING BEE Little Elmore Reed Blues Band (10:00)
MOHAWK Poncé, Bogbody, Semihelix, Mother Water House [inside] (9:00) **R**
NEWORLEDEL Open mic hosted by Heather Miller (7:00)
ONE-2-ONE BAR Rainbow Danger Club, Brandon Callies (9:30), Cari Hutson & Good Company (7:30), Jocelyn Donegan (6:00)
PARISH The Score, Lostboycrew, Overstreet (8:00) **R**

POODIES Songwriters' showcase (6:30)

RADIO COFFEE & BEER Bluegrass night (8:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN Bluegrass jam (6:30)

RUSTIC TAP Alden Hedges Project (7:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Dylan Bishop (9:00), Geoff Queen (7:00)

SAXON PUB Lonelyland (8:30), Hoody & the Wolves (6:00)

SKYLARK LOUNGE Mr. Monday Night w/ Brian Scartocci (9:00), Kites (7:00), Emily McCoy (6:00)

STAY GOLD D-Madness Project (9:30)

THE TOWNSEND Erin Ivey (7:30)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Me Mer Mo Monday w/ More Eaze + AlexAlone, Dok-S Project, Simon Whetham, Heavy Stars, Home Baker, DJ Progscoot, DJ Malignator (6:30) **R**

THE WHITE HORSE Chris Rhoades (12mid), Henri Herbert Trio (10:00), Texas Tycoons (8:00)

TUESDAY 5/14

ANTONE'S Jake Andrews, Austin Cobb (9:00), Antone's Big Trio (6:30)

AUSTIN EASTCIDERS COLLABORATORY Comedians Interviewing Musicians w/ Natalie Price (7:00)

BEERLAND Shitbag, Dog Reality, Cop Slaughter, Drug Mugger (9:00) **R**

BROKEN SPOKE Two-Step Tuesdays w/ Weldon Henson (8:15), Tylor Brandon (6:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Henri Herbert Trio (10:30), 8½ Souvenirs (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Splif, Mining Uranus, Fontknow (9:00), the Ruins (7:00), Steve McCarthy (5:30)

CEDAR STREET COURTYARD Pendulum Hearts (8:00)

CHEER UP CHARLIES 5-1-Tunes Fest w/ Shiela, DJ Ella Ella, Mama Duke, Ladi Earth (7:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Mike Stinson (10:00), Shelley King (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Ephraim Owens Experience (10:30), James McMurtry (8:30)

COSMIC COFFEE + BEER GARDEN Kym Warner (acoustic) (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

DOZEN STREET Polarizado, Smokestack Relics, We Are Blood Bays, Red on Yellow (9:00) **R**

DRISKILL BAR Brian Kremer (8:00), Massimo Gerosa (6:00)

EDDIE V'S Tony Taboada Trio (7:00) **A**

EL MERCADO Durawa & guests (7:30) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Boss Street Brass Band (9:30), Sarah Sharp (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Grouchy Like Riley (7:00) **A**

GERALDINE'S Nathan Hamilton (9:30)

GIDDY UPS Blues jam (7:45)

GRUENE HALL Dallas Moore & friends (6:00) **A**

HALF STEP Michael Hale Trio feat. Mac McIntosh (9:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Timothy Abdnour, Billy Broome, Evan Charles (6:00)

HOTEL VEGAS The Cuckoos, Indoor Creature, Desert Medicine (9:00)

LITTLE DARLIN' Toni Price (8:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Fingerpistol (8:00), dance lessons w/ Scott & Elisa (7:00)

MOHAWK Tish, Deer Fellow, Aubrey Hays [inside] (9:00) **R**, L7, Le Butcherettes [outside] (7:30) **R**, **A**

NEWORLEDELI Beatle Bash w/ the Eggmen (6:30)

ONE-2-ONE BAR Ruby Dice Trio (9:30), Beat Root Revival (7:30), Jeff Warren Johnston (5:30)

PARKER JAZZ CLUB Wasabi Big Band (8:00)

POODIES Kevin Daniel Smith (8:00), the Troubadillos (5:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN Billy Dee (6:30)

RUSTIC TAP Tyler McCollum & friends (7:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Cale & the 45s (10:00), Bob Wills Night w/ Al Dressen's Super Swing Revue (7:00)

SAXON PUB Giulia Millanta & Michael Fracasso (8:00), David Grissom (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Deer Tick, Courtney Marie Andrews (6:00) **R**

SKYLARK LOUNGE Dickie Lee Erwin & guests (9:00)

STAY GOLD Jazz jam night w/ Daniel Dufour (9:00)

THE TOWNSEND Alice Spencer (7:30)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Paige Renée Berry, Carrie Fussell, Sasha & the Valentines (8:00)

THE WHITE HORSE Johnny Dango & the Stinkin' Roses (12mid), Devin Jake (10:00), Devan Jones & the Uptown Stomp (8:00)

WEDNESDAY 5/15

3TEN ACL LIVE Alicia Witt (8:30)

THE ABGB Warren Hood (6:30)

ANDERSON MILL PUB Open mic hosted by Michael Ryan & Corky Groat (8:00)

ANTONE'S Eve Monsees, Mike Buck, Chris Ruest (10:00), Guy Forsyth Blues Band w/ Bill Carter (6:30)

BARRACUDA Acid Carousel, the Mobros, Lantic (9:00) **R**

BEERLAND Aint Nothings, the Blowies, Favor, Chump (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Bob Appel (9:00), Ken Simpson (6:00)

C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL Trube, Farrell & Snizz (11:00), Matt Hubbard Trio (9:30), John X Reed (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Broken Atlas (9:00), Pine Coats (7:00)

CEDAR STREET COURTYARD The Spazmatics (10:00)

CHEATHAM ST. Kent Finlay's Songwriter Circle (8:00)

CHEER UP CHARLIES SIMS Foundation benefit w/ the Oysters, Being Dead, Holiday Music, Veranda (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB James McMurtry (12mid), Jon Dee Graham (10:30), William Harries Graham (9:45), Tom Ben Lindley w/ Alvin Crow (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY The Brannen & Red Show (10:30), Blue Moon Jazz Quartet feat. Rosie Flores (8:30)

CRAFT PRIDE Raccoon Brothers (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Honky-Tonk Doctors

DOZEN STREET Butter N Jam (10:30), D-Madness Project (9:00), Scooter Holiday & guests (8:00), Open mic (5:30)

DRISKILL BAR Bruce Smith (8:00), Massimo Gerosa (6:00)

EDDIE V'S Dave & the Dynamics (7:00) **A**

EL MERCADO Waterloo Wednesdays w/ John Innon & guests (6:30) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Cpt. Kirk & the Devil Horns (9:30), Jitterbug Vipers (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE The Peacemakers (10:00) **A**, Floyd Domino & Redd Volkaert's Demonic Duo (7:00) **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Dreadneck Night w/ the Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)

GERALDINE'S Clay Parker & Jodi James (9:30) **R**

GRUENE HALL The Georges (7:30)

GÜERO'S The Sun Radio Show (6:00)

HALF STEP Canned Beets (9:30)

HILTON HOTEL DOWNTOWN Wendy Colonna (5:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Bill Mullarky, Tommy Rebel & the Righteous, Christine Renner, Richie Charles (9:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Magic Rockers of Texas, Lola Tried, Major Major Major, Gentlemen Rogues (9:00)

JULIET KUTX Live Jazz Series w/ Tommy Howard Trio (7:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Emily Herring & the FM Band (7:00)

MOHAWK The Wooks, Stumble Brothers [inside] (9:00) **R**, **A**

NEWORLEDELI Scott George (7:00)

THE NORTH DOOR No Sets, Just Bars w/ Royal Fam, Yung Lady, Day Vercetti, TylrBoi, Lil Yo (9:00)

ONE-2-ONE BAR La Moña Loca Salsa Wednesdays (9:00), Seela happy hour show w/ guests (6:00)

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7PM

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FROM WEDNESDAY

PARISH Joshua & the Holy Rollers, Cowboy Diplomacy, Cory Williams (7:00) **A**

PARKER JAZZ CLUB Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)

POODIES No Bad WednesDays open mic (8:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike Ethan Messick (9:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN Herschel McFarland & John Driver (6:30)

RUSTIC TAP Julie Nolen's song swap (8:00)

SAHARA LOUNGE Boy Wonder, Gospel Truth, Chamberlain Greene, Dark Cutter (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Totsie & the Flames (8:00), Marghi Allen (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eddie Heinzelman (10:00), Chris Berardo (8:00), John Gaar (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Lovelytheband (7:00) **R**

SKYLARK LOUNGE Jazz Wednesday (8:30)

SPEAKEASY Salsa night w/ Salero (8:00)

STAY GOLD Motenko (9:00)

STUBB'S The Vegabonds, Bryce Bangs, Mandy Rowden [inside] (9:00) **R**

TACO CABANA Mariachi Campanas de America (6:00) **A**

TAVERN ON MAIN W.C. Clark (5:00)

THREADGILL'S NORTH Midweek Modern Troubadours w/ Jana Pochop feat. Bonnie Whitmore (7:00) **A**

THE TOWNSEND Smokestack Relics (10:00), Brave Julius, Frederico7 (7:30)

WHISLER'S Tom Bennett (6:00)

THE WHITE HORSE Hill Country Hustlers (12mid), Bobby Marlur (10:00), Rock Step Relevators (8:00)

CHEER UP CHARLIES Nite School w/ the Viewer, JT Whitfield, Wolf Party, Black Magic Cyborg, DJ N McDonough, DJ Scorpio (9:00) **A**

COME & TAKE IT LIVE Chasing After Alice, Battleship Down, Dayeater (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Barfield the Tyrant (10:00), Casper Rawls (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB GALLERY Bonnie Whitmore (10:30), Monte Warden & the Dangerous Few (8:30)

CRAFT PRIDE Sugar Trio (7:00)

DIRTY DOG BAR J. Troop, Zay Hardy, Young Fras, Deuce Capone, & more (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

DOZEN STREET Richard Parker Triad, Pala, the Bottomless, Hollow Robot (9:00)

DRISKILL BAR Sam Pace (8:00), Massimo Gerosa (6:00)

EDDIE V'S Blue Mist (7:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Tony Bray Quartet (9:30), Mitch Watkins Trio (6:00)

ELYSIUM Unwritten, XIII, Penalty Box, Hero to the Villain (9:00)

EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM Angelo Moore & the Brand New Step, Cilantro Boombox, DJ Jah Karma [control room] (9:00) **R**

EVANGELINE CAFE Lissa Hattersley's Trip Trio (7:00) **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Reggae jamdown (9:00)

GERALDINE'S Derrick Davis Trio (9:30)

GIDDY UPS Open mic w/ Dewey Lyon (7:00)

GRUENE HALL Marshall Tucker Band, Prophets & Outlaws (8:00) **R**

GÜERO'S The Sonny Wolf Band (6:00)

HIGHBALL Fingerpistol (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Despero, the Butts, PuppyCat (9:00)

HOTEL SAN JOSÉ Cubby Sessions w/ Andrew Stevens (8:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Klaus Johann Grobe, Vinyl Williams, Daniel Francis Doyle & the Dreams (9:00) **A**

LITTLE DARLIN' Nolan Potter's Nightmare Band, Lake of Fire (9:00)

LITTLE LONGHORN Alvin Crow & the Pleasant Valley Boys (8:30), Travis Green (6:00)

THE LOST WELL Nibbles, the Dead Coats (album release), Microscope Telescope, Ole Creepy (9:00)

MOHAWK My Empty Phantom, Dottie [inside] (10:00) **A**

NEIGHBOR'S Bastrop Music Festival w/ Reckless Kelly (9:30), Derailers (7:00) [yard]; Pat Byrne (8:30), Rochelle & the Sidewinders (6:00) [deck]

NEWORLEDELI Jenny Reynolds (7:00)

THE NORTH DOOR A Night of Soul w/ Kahu & the Electric Joint, Drew Davis & friends, G. Galindo, La Donna, DJ Zandra G (8:00)

OLD TOWN Bastrop Music Festival w/ Shelley King Band (10:00), Charlie Faye & the Fayettes (8:00)

ONE-2-ONE BAR Ali Holder, Anna Larson, Bakbonz, the Reverent Few (6:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Josanne Francis

PARAMOUNT Todd Snider, Elizabeth Cook (8:00) **A**

PARKER JAZZ CLUB Kenny Williams w/ the Art Carvajal Trio (8:00)

POODIES The AGT Project (8:00), Los Gumbo Blues Band (6:00) **A**

REALE'S Richard Patnaude (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN HalleyAnna Finlay & Dustin Welch (7:00)

RIVER ROAD ICE HOUSE Matt & Sylvia Kirk (7:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN T.R. Sterzing (6:30)

RUMPI'S TAVERN Sefo (6:00)

RUSTIC TAP Landon Bullard & the Mostly Sober (8:00)

SAHARA LOUNGE Tish, M.D. & the Bids, King Warbler, Mary Bryce, Harrison Anderson (8:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Jimmie Dreams & Crescent Soul Revue (9:00), Guitar Grady (7:00)

SAXON PUB Texas KGB (10:00), Patrice Pike (8:00), Bruce Smith (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Piano Lounge w/ Datura & guests, Todd Rogers (9:00)

SEVEN GRAND Soul Food Thursdays w/ Mac McIntosh (9:00)

SHADY GROVE Unplugged at the Grove w/ Charlie Mars (8:00) **A**

SKULL MECHANIX BREWING Henri Herbert (6:00)

SKYLARK LOUNGE Oscar Ornelas Orquestra feat. Ms. Mack (9:00), Happy Hour w/ the Legendary Margaret Wright (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Geno Gottschall & His Rockaholics (9:30)

ST. ELMO BREWING CO. Grassy Thursday (7:00)

STAY GOLD Willy McGee (10:00)

STUBB'S Happy, Hollow, Ladyfang [inside] (9:00)

SWAN DIVE Motenko, Jeff Hortillosa (8:30)

TAVERN ON MAIN The Rifters (7:30)

TOMS AUSTIN HAAM benefit w/ the Memphis Strange (5:30)

THE TOWNSEND Jeremy Nail (7:30)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Créma hip-hop & cumbia night w/ ulovei (10:00)

VOODOO ROOM Leg Day, Doseph (10:00)

VULCAN GAS CO. Flux Pavilion, Cyran (10:00) **A**

WHIP IN Izor-Glines-Brodnax (8:30) **A**

THE WHITE HORSE Aaron McDonnell (12mid), David Touchton (10:00), Saddle Sores (8:00)



The LUV DOC

"Grow Up!"

Dear Luv Doc,

When we get in a fight, my girlfriend always says I'm immature, and usually she says it when she is throwing a tantrum herself. When I ask her what she means by "immature," she says I need to grow up. That is no help. How can I be more mature? Maybe if you can tell me I'll know what she means.

- Childish Bambino

You would think that at some point after you turn 40 and start bearing a striking resemblance to your old man when you catch your reflection in the mirror in the morning, somehow your mind would magically mature as well. Having more than a few decades of rings on my tree trunk, I can now state unequivocally that this notion is hopelessly naive - emotionally, at least. On a very fundamental level, we're all just frightened children. Yes, I'm talking to you, Chuck Norris. You can't kickbox your way out of crippling emotional insecurity.

I have had octogenarians tell me that, in their minds, they are still an 18-year-old ... or a 21-year-old ... or whatever hallmark age they conjure up. I believe them. I feel it myself. Acutely. In the words of Hamlet, "O that this too, too solid flesh would melt" - ideally into something less wrinkled that better reflects the youthful person staring out from behind these cataracted, rheumy eyes. Better yet, in the words of the less wordy and un-Nobel'd Dylan (Thomas), "Old age should burn and rave at close of day/ Rage, rage against the dying of the light." Pro tip: It's hard to effectively show rage over the age of 80. People mistake it for spunk, which is adorable, but not very ragey.

Well, enough of my geriatric raving. Let's get back to your girlfriend and her obsession with your immaturity. In my opinion, the word "immature" is both overused and ineffective, but not everyone possesses the vocabulary or elocution of a Dylan. My guess is that what she is trying to say is that you are engaging in behaviors that make her feel unsafe. For instance: You might be blowing a lot of money on Jet Skis (which are awesome) or expensive restaurants (also generally awesome) or internet gambling (what a rush!). You might flirt with women a lot, or drive extremely recklessly - exhilarating, too, but dangerous. Dude, nobody wants to shack up with a soon-to-be fresh corpse.

Somehow, in her mind, as a potentially suitable mate you're a bit dicey. Maybe you don't deal well with your emotions. That's also scary in someone with whom she might be considering a long(er)-term relationship. Or maybe you are a terrible communicator. Maybe your emotional vocabulary sucks. And lastly, perhaps, like me, you're just not that hairy. You're smooth and sleek like an otter. I doubt that is the case, but we should leave no stone unturned, should we? I recommend you do some self-reflection about how your behavior might be interpreted as dangerous to your relationship. If you acknowledge her fears specifically, maybe she'll see you as the old dude she feels safe banging.

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC?
SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO luvdoc@austinchronicle.com

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Alexander the Great may have been buried alive.

A tiny population of woolly mammoths endured on isolated Wrangel Island (off the coast of far-eastern Siberia) until 1650BC.

The *Kind of Blue* album by Miles Davis was remarkably cheap to make. Musicians earned minuscule payments and Columbia Records funded only nine hours of studio time, three reels of Scotch 190 recording tape, and a nominal fee paid to a piano tuner.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 9 out of 10 African American smokers prefer menthol cigarettes to ordinary ones, compared to just 2 of 10 white smokers and 3 of 10 Latino smokers.

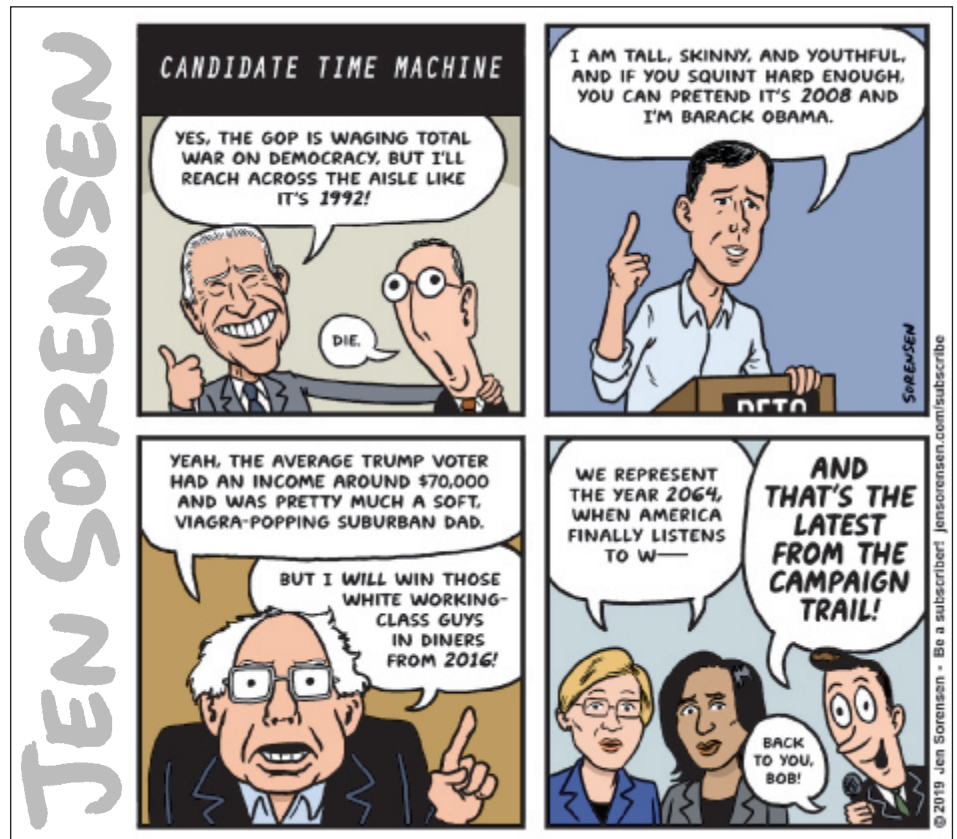
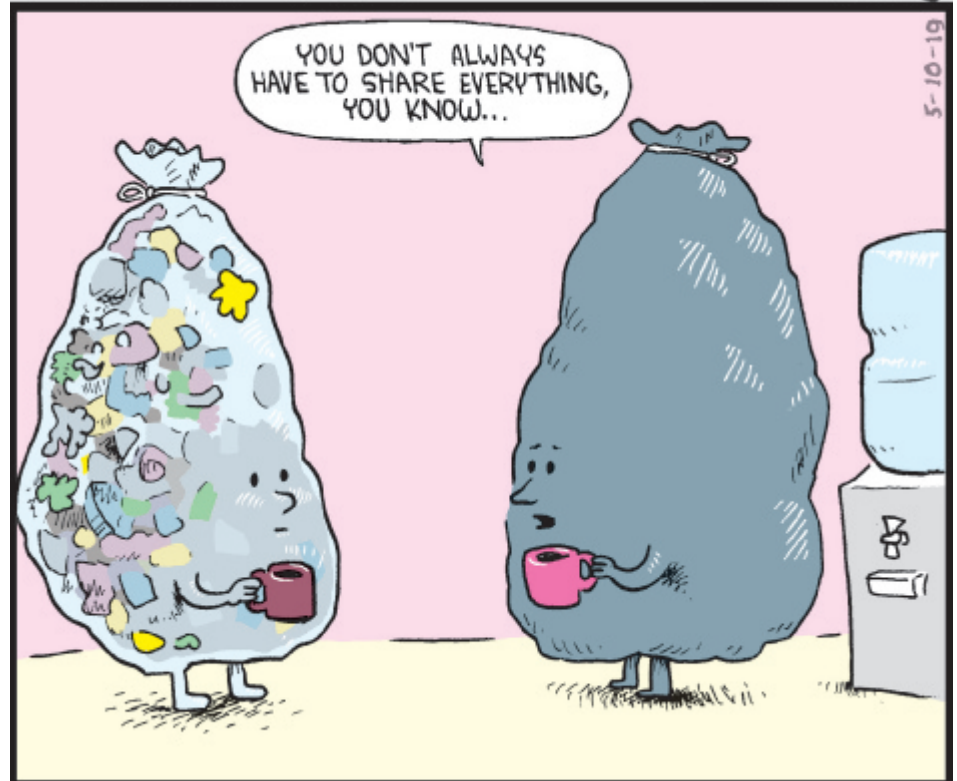


Above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the *Chronicle*, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

COMICS

EYEBEAM

by Sam Hurt



AG CLASSIFIEDS

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TECHNOLOGY

Apple Inc. has multiple openings for the following in Austin, TX: Refer REQ# & mail resume to: Apple Inc., ATTN: D.W., 1 Infinite Loop 104-1GM, Cupertino, CA 95014: Software Development

Engineer (REQ#4427396) Wrk w/a team of analysts on dly op monitoring & escalation of info scrty events. ASIC Design Engineer (REQ#7532396) Col-lab w/ architect team to define, anlyz, & doc mcro-architctur specs of the HW dsgn bcks. Software Engineer Applications (REQ#7036396) Anlyz, dsgn, dev, test & implmt nxt gen, cstm built entprse HRCMS to replace obsole hme-grwn HR Sys Infrstrct to meet HR glbl busns sys reqs. Refer REQ# & mail resume & transcript(s) to: Apple Inc., ATTN: D.W., 1 Infi-

nite Loop 104-1GM, Cupertino, CA 95014: Machine Learning Engineer (REQ#4583396) Dsgn & implmt machine learning algorithms to prvnt & mitigate fraud waste & abuse in Apple operations. Apple is an EOE/AA m/f/disability/vets.

TECHNOLOGY

Applied Materials, Inc. has openings in Austin, TX: IT Solutions Mgmt. (Req# A845): Work in Billing, Revenue Recgntn, Credit, Clctns & Tax process areas to interpret intrnl/extrnl busnss challenges. May require up to 30% domestic & intl travel. Mail resume to Applied Materials, Inc. M/S 1211, 3225 Oakmead Village Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95054. Must include REQ# to be considered

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An application has been made for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for 7-Eleven Beverage Company Inc./Abrol Retail Solutions LLC, Texas Corporations, d/b/a 7-Eleven Convenience Store #36563B, located at 11643 Research Blvd., Ste. B, Austin, Travis County, TX. 78759. Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. 7-Eleven Beverage

Company Inc. officers: Arthur Rubinett - President Rankin Gasaway - Director/VP/Secretary David Seltzer - VP/ Treasurer Robert Schwerin - Director/VP Scott Hintz- Director Karen Cram- VP Alicia Howell- VP/ Controller Brian Smith- VP Kyle Johnson- VP Abrol Retail Solutions LLC - Officers: Sameer Abrol - LLC Manager

An application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic

Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Star Spirits Series LLC d/b/a Aloft located at 8000 E. Ben White, Austin, Travis County, TX 78741. Managing Members of said limited liability company are Vijay Patel and Dinaben Patel.

An application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit, a Minibar Permit and a Food and Beverage Certificate

by Faustin Hotel LLC d/b/a Fairmont Austin Hotel located at 101 Red River Street, Austin, Travis County, TX 78701. Manager of said limited liability company is Timothy J. Mackey

An application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Star Spirits Series LLC d/b/a Aloft located at 8000 E. Ben White, Austin, Travis County, TX 78741. Managing Members of said limited liability

company are Vijay Patel and Dinaben Patel.

An application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Faustin Hotel LLC d/b/a Fairmont Austin Hotel located at 101 Red River Street, Austin, Travis County, TX 78701. Manager of said limited liability company is Timothy J. Mackey

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off Premise Permit by Micro Cameron LLC dba Mi Amigo, 5511 Cameron Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Mustaqali J. Momin, Manager; Abdul M. Qazi, Manager; Samir A. Maredia, Manager; Rahemtu Maknojia, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG (Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit) and FB (Food and Beverage Certificate) by Nixta Hospitality, LLC dba

Nixta Taqueria, to be located at 2512 E. 12th Street, Unit B, Austin, TX 78702, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Sara Mardanbigi (Member) and Edgar Rico (Member).

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by OBP Lamar, LLC d/b/a Brooklyn Pizzeria & Bar, to be located at 2026 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Travis County, TX 78704. The managing

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by **Rob Breznsky** for May 10-16

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to science writer Sarah Zielinski in *Smithsonian* magazine, fireflies produce the most efficient light on planet Earth. Nearly 100% of the energy produced by the chemical reaction inside the insect's body is emitted as a brilliant glow. With that in mind, I propose that you regard the firefly as your spirit creature in the coming weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you, too, will be a dynamic and proficient generator of luminosity. For best results, don't tone down your brilliance, even if it illuminates shadows people are trying to hide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here's a message from author Susan J. Elliott: "This is not your week to run the Universe. Next week is not looking so good either." Now here's a message from me: Elliott's revelation is very good news! Since you won't have to worry about trying to manage and fine-tune the Universe, you can focus all your efforts on your own self-care. And the coming weeks will be a favorable time to do just that. You're due to dramatically upgrade your understanding of what you need to feel healthy and happy, and then take the appropriate measures to put your new insights into action.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The next three weeks will be an excellent time to serve as your own visionary prophet and dynamic fortuneteller. The predictions and conjectures you make about your future destiny will have an 85% likelihood of being accurate. They will also be relatively free of fear and worries. So I urge you to give your imagination permission to engage in fun fantasies about what's ahead for you. Be daringly optimistic, exuberantly hopeful, and brazenly self-celebratory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo poet Stanley Kunitz told his students, "You must be very careful not to deprive the poem of its wild origin." That's useful advice for anyone who spawns anything, not just poets. There's something unruly and unpredictable about every creative idea or fresh perspective that rises up in us. Do you remember when you first felt the urge to look for a new job, move to a new city, or search for a new kind of relationship? Wildness was there at the inception. And you needed to stay in touch with the wildness so as to follow through with practical action. That's what I encourage you to do now. Reconnect with the wild origins of the important changes you're nurturing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I have no complaints about the measures you've taken recently to push past unnecessary limits and to break outworn taboos. In fact, I celebrate them. Keep going! You'll be better off without those decaying constraints. Soon you'll begin using all the energy you have liberated and the spaciousness you have made available. But I do have one concern: I wonder if part of you is worried that you have been too bold and have gone too far. To that part of you I say: No! You haven't been too bold. You haven't gone too far.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dreamt of a past that frees its prisoners." So wrote Meena Alexander in her poem "Question Time." I'd love for you to have that experience in the coming weeks. I'd love for you to be released from the karma of your history so that you no longer have to repeat old patterns or feel weighed down by what happened to you once upon a time. I'd love for you to no longer have to answer to decayed traditions, outmoded commitments, and lost causes. I'd love for you to escape the pull of memories that tend to drag you back toward things that can't be changed and don't matter anymore.

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**.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Desire is a profoundly upsetting force," writes author Elspeth Probyn. "It may totally rearrange what we think we want. Desire skews plans and sets forth unthought-of possibilities." In my opinion, Probyn's statements are half-true. The other half of the truth is that desire can also be a profoundly healing and rejuvenating force, and for the same reasons: It rearranges what we think we want, alters plans, and unleashes unthought-of possibilities. How does all this relate to you? From what I can tell, you are now on the cusp of desire's two overlapping powers. What happens next could be upsetting or healing, disorienting or rejuvenating. If you'd like to emphasize the healing and rejuvenating, I suggest you treat desire as a sacred gift and a blessing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "So much of what we learn about love is taught by people who never really loved us." My Sagittarian friend Ellen made that sad observation. Is it true for you? Ellen added the following thoughts: So much of what we learn about love is taught by people who were too narcissistic or wounded to be able to love very well; and by people who didn't have many listening skills and therefore didn't know enough about us to love us for who we really are; and by people who love themselves poorly and so of course find it hard to love anyone else. Is any of this applicable to what you have experienced, Sagittarius? If so, here's an antidote that I think you'll find effective during the next seven weeks: Identify the people who have loved you well and the people who might love you well in the future and then vow to learn all you can from them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn fantasy novelist Laini Taylor creates imaginary worlds where heroines use magic and wiles to follow their bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals. In describing her writing process, she says, "Like a magpie, I am a scavenger of shiny things: fairy tales, dead languages, weird folk beliefs, and fascinating religions." She adds, "I have plundered tidbits of history and lore to build something new, using only the parts that light my mind on fire." I encourage you to adopt her strategies for your own use in the coming weeks. Be alert for gleaming goodies, tricky delicacies, and alluring treats. Use them to create new experiences that thrill your imagination. I believe the coming weeks will be an excellent time to use your magic and wiles to follow your bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I was always asking for the specific thing that wasn't mine," wrote poet Joanne Kyger. "I wanted a haven that wasn't my own." If there is any part of you that resonates with that defeatist perspective, Aquarius, now is an excellent time to begin outgrowing or transforming it. I guarantee you that you'll have the potency you need to retrain yourself so that you will more and more ask for specific things that can potentially be yours; so that you will more and more want a haven that can be your own.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I'm not a fan of nagging. I don't like to be nagged and I scrupulously avoid nagging others. And yet now I will break my own rules so as to provide you with your most accurate and helpful horoscope. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you aren't likely to get what you truly need and deserve in the coming days unless you engage in some polite, diplomatic nagging. So see what you can do to employ nagging as a graceful, even charming art. For best results, infuse it with humor and playfulness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Time to shake things up! In the next three weeks, I invite you to try at least three of the following experiments. 1) See unusual sights in familiar situations. 2) Seek out new music that both calms you and excites you. 3) Get an inspiring statue or image of a favorite deity or hero. 4) Ask for a message from the person you will be three years from now. 5) Use your hands and tongue in ways you don't usually use them. 6) Go in quest of a cathartic release that purges frustration and rouses holy passion. 7) Locate the sweet spot where deep feeling and deep thinking overlap.

PARK & HOMER
puzzles

Unwanted pressure

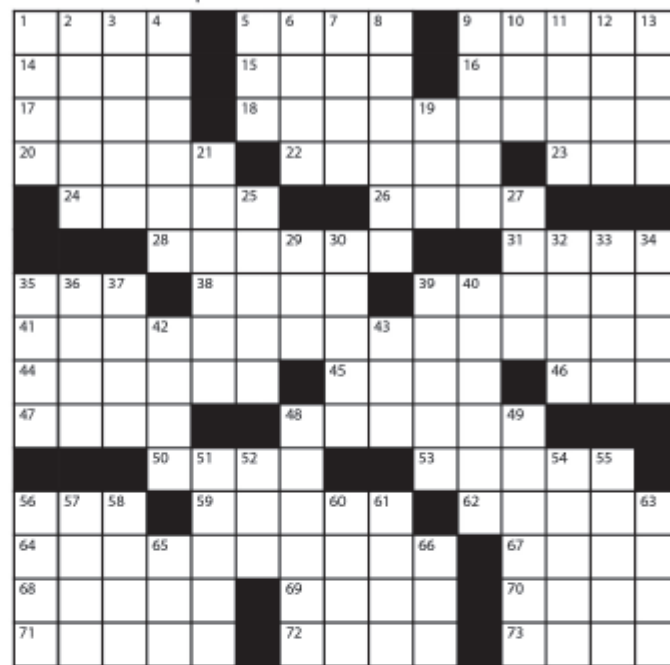
Puzzle by J. Reynolds

No. 583

Across

- Word that could follow the first word of each starred clue
- Taxis
- Stair parts
- Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- Comply with
- San Diego baseballer
- Like a sad sack
- *** Person who looks exactly like another
- Rope fiber
- Like some eclipses
- Cataract site
- Promotes
- Gave the once-over
- Diner
- Spice holder
- Badge wearer
- Short skirt
- Lack of vitality
- *** In the past
- "I couldn't ____"
- Jets or Sharks, e.g.
- Family room
- Univ. lecturer
- Kind of number
- They take the bait
- Musical exercise
- Infomercials, e.g.
- Some college students
- Author Zola
- Popular vacation destination

- Crones
- ____ Island National Monument
- Treat badly
- Hot ____
- New England catch
- Brother of Cain
- Squire



- Get-out-of-jail money
- 2000 Olympics city
- Cathedral topper
- Beachgoer's goal
- Barely beat
- The hunted
- Bone-dry
- Beam of light
- Andean animals
- Time on the job
- Sketched
- Conclude
- Chip feature
- In the thick of
- Give as an example
- Songwriter Gus Abbr.
- Completed
- 100 centavos
- "Tomorrow" musical
- Cancel
- Jazz phrase
- Crew need
- "I can't believe it!"
- Timber
- Cake topper
- Have a bawl
- Paul Anka #1 hit
- "Silas Marner" novelist
- Bullets, e.g.
- Last name in fashion
- Draped dress
- Go out with
- Lasting impression
- Building additions
- Sun follower?
- Mins. and mins.

SEE THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTION AT WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CROSSWORD

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.69

required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law:
c/o John A. Crane
Crane Law Firm
5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78735
DATED the 6th day of May, 2019.
John A. Crane
State Bar No. 05006490
5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78735

(512) 469-9444
Fax: (877) 469-9439
Temporary Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES KETTLER JAYNES were issued on May 2, 2019, under Docket No. C-1-PB-19-000640, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to STEVEN W. SCARBOROUGH.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:
Estate of JAMES KETTLER JAYNES
c/o Jonathan S. Connor
Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, P.C.
3410 Far West Blvd., Suite 385
Austin, Texas 78731
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within

the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 10th day of May, 2019.
Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, P.C.
Jonathan S. Connor Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ARTHUR WILLIAM DOTY, Deceased, were



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BACK PAGE

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