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THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

Black Angels frontman
ALEX MAAS
raises first solo offspring, *Luca*

P.38 BY KEVIN CURTIN

STARBUCKS EYES

ALSO Can ProLodges' Transitional Housing Continue? **P.14** Artist Diedrick Brackens Weaves Black Stories **P.20** Tarka Indian Kitchen's Expanding Empire **P.28**

i owe you, i'll see you on the other side

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PHOTO BY DAVID
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Babies on the Brain

Staff writer Kevin Curtin tends not to post pictures of his son on social media; he says he never liked people "clogging up my feed" with their cute kids, and having a baby didn't change his stance. But there have been loads of other changes in Kevin's first year as a father, which he's been documenting in these pages – both explicitly (see his deeply personal April 23 story of Quinn's birth just days into the pandemic) and from a sideways angle, as is the case with this week's cover interview with Black Angels singer Alex Maas.

The occasion is the release of Maas' debut solo record, named *Luca* for his young son, who was gestating in tandem with the album. Unsurprisingly, Kevin, who's also a musician, and Maas' conversation reflected on how raising a child had changed them as artists – and not in ways they were warned about. As Kevin described it to me, "Fatherhood wakes up a new part of your brain." It's the opposite of the fear that having a kid will rob you of something – your edge, your creative juice. It's addition, not subtraction. I found that idea really moving.



Check out Kevin's conversation with Alex Maas starting on p.38, and Doug Freeman's accompanying review (four stars!) on p.39.

Unfortunately, there's no sunny way to spin the latest COVID-19 numbers. The news is bad. We are failing as a community to stop the transmission of this disease, and our hospitals, our health care workers, are at the very brink of being unable to meet demand. See Associate News Editor Beth Sullivan's report on p.10.

Often in my role as editor-in-chief, forever badgering editors to meet their deadlines or respond to my emails, I feel like a professional nag. I'll slip on the same hat here to reiterate the requests of our public health leaders: If you must go out, then cover your face, avoid crowds, and stay outdoors. If you see a business flagrantly flouting safety rules, you can report it by calling 311. But as Austin Interim Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott put it in Monday's press conference, "We cannot enforce our way out of a surge." It comes down to personal responsibility. Benching ourselves on New Year's Eve is the best way we can care for ourselves and our neighbors. There'll be plenty time to party in 2021.

ONLINE THIS WEEK

YEAR OF THE OX Back when the revered artist Rollo Banks worked for the *Chronicle* in the Eighties, he produced a memorable series of Chinese New Year covers. As we approach the Year of the Ox (which starts February 12 on the Chinese lunar calendar), we've reproduced the original cover in T-shirt and mug form, which you can now find for sale in our online shop at austinchronicle.com/store.



STAY SAFE, SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES, STILL GET SLOSHED
Staying in for New Year's Eve is the safest way to tipple – even better when you're putting money in local businesses' pockets. David Brendan Hall rounds up 10 restaurants offering to-go beverages.

BON VOYAGE, JIM Over the holidays it was announced aGLIFF Artistic Director Jim Brunzell was departing the long-running LGBTQIA film festival after seven years at the helm. Brunzell also runs Minnesota-based film/music festival Sound Unseen, which spread to Austin this year in its virtual format.

EVEN THE MARVEL CINEMATIC UNIVERSE IS STUCK AT HOME We preview 12 new TV shows to catch in January, including the hotly anticipated arrival of a couple superheroes on the small screen in *WandaVision* on Disney+.



SEND SNACKS ASAP! Feeling a mite peckish? Here's five tasty snacks from all over that can be delivered right to your Austin door.

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Feedback

LETTERS & COMMENTS

UTILIZING THE WATER

Dear *Chronicle*,

RE Lina Fisher's piece "As Wastewater Plants Fail, TCEQ Fails to Regulate" [News, Dec. 25], the basic problem is well stated, but the solutions reviewed are "truncated." Understanding the rather cursory nature of the piece, still the sole "prescription" offered is to append on changes in operation at the end of the pipe, while the real long-term solution to the problems due to stream discharge noted in the piece will be to fundamentally reorganize the whole system architecture. In short, to move away from the conventional centralized system architecture, essentially the 19th century response to the problems posed by wastewater at the time, the whole aim of which was to pipe the problem "away." Today we have a bit more respect for the impacts this water creates at "away" – the focus of Ms. Fisher's piece – but we have not stopped to question if we *have* to send this water RESOURCE "away" to begin with!

Understand that the whole predicate for even considering stream discharge to begin with is that we have gathered the flow from miles around to one point source; thus, the conventional centralized system architecture is the

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essential problem. We can – and should – consider instead pursuing the "decentralized concept" strategy. Essentially, that is to treat the "waste" water – and *beneficially reuse* it to the maximum extent feasible – as close to where it is generated as practical. We can't detail all that within the word count limit of this letter, so for a rundown on how, and why, to pursue the decentralized concept, see "This is how we do it" and "Let's Compare" and similar pieces in the Waterblogue. Bottom line, in places like Blanco and Dripping Springs, and all over the Hill Country, we need to fundamentally transform our water infrastructure resources model, focusing on *utilizing* this water RESOURCE, not on just piping it "away."

David Venhuizen, P.E.

Updated daily: AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/POSTMARKS

OPINION VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

DR. JILL BIDEN EARNED THE TITLE – AND THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE HER IDENTITY

Ever since *The Wall Street Journal* published an op-ed calling on Dr. Jill Biden – referred to as "kiddo" in a truly cringeworthy line – to stop using her earned title, the internet has been awash with discussion of whether woman Ph.D.s should be called Drs.

The answer according to Mr. Joseph Epstein is that you shouldn't call yourself "Dr." until you have delivered a baby. Well, we're all doctors, and although several of us have birthed babies from our own uteri, we're here to tell you that you don't need to deliver a baby to earn the title of Dr.

To imply as much is to take this important topic to a truly ludicrous place – because the real issue here is not about entitlement, but about yet another attempt to police women's identities, and the choices they make about those identities.

For those of us who have completed a graduate degree, a philosophiae doctor, a dissertation, a book or two or more, a stack of peer reviewed journal articles, and so on, what our 19-year-old students call us could not be less relevant to our senses of scholarly accomplishment. The point, rather, is professional.

This semester, like every semester, classicist Dr. Haimson Lushkov told her students to address her as Dr. In response, they asked her – brace yourselves – if that was what her kids called her. Having our students call us Dr. reminds them that we are not their moms, friends, therapists, or guidance counselors. And that's important, because while our students are lovely people, they tend to forget that the accomplished women in front of them are there because of their expertise in a specific area. Our titles reinforce the very reasons we are teaching them.

Moreover – and Epstein's article demonstrates a baffling lack of reflection on this – academic titles are essential for those of us in the professoriate whose expertise is constantly in question, including and especially women and people of color. The number of times we have all been informally but effectively demoted simply

with the use of our first name – sometimes by colleagues who ought to know better – would likely surprise him. Or maybe not; it sounds like he's one of them: "Meet my colleagues, Dr. Man, Professor Dude, and Jill. Sorry, Mrs. Biden."

Truly, there's nothing quite like condescension to reveal the sexism and anger too often directed toward women with high-level degrees. Even among the physician crowd, the work of primary care doctors and pediatricians is often undervalued because it is considered less important than traditionally male-dominated specialties like surgery or radiology. The fact that the issue is Dr. Biden's title – or the typos in her dissertation – rather than the substance and impact of her work only underscores the innumerable instances in which highly educated women find their credentials questioned due to someone else's insecurity or ignorance.

To complete a doctoral degree is to make a fundamental contribution to the advancement of human knowledge. Those of us who completed these degrees spend a lifetime continuously making such contributions and educating the generations of students who follow us. With no disrespect intended to our husbands, the idea that this scholarship is a "small thrill" in comparison to sharing a name (and home, however nice it is) with our husbands is plainly offensive.

Our objections aren't unique to women with Ph.D.s. If you are a woman, your title, whether it's an M.D., J.D., D.Sc., or Ed.D., seems to magically disappear, first when you get married, then when you have kids, then again as you age.

Even though Ph.D.s were referred to as doctors well before the first M.D. was awarded, our point isn't to choose who gets to be called a doctor. It's far simpler: As women, we have the right to choose how we will be referred to, and that includes using any and all of the professional titles we have earned. If that makes anyone feel small, silly, or afraid, well, practice makes perfect. So repeat with us: Dr. Biden. ■

Christine Julien is a professor and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion in engineering at UT-Austin; Ayelet Haimson Lushkov is an associate professor of classics at UT-Austin; Johanna Hartelius is associate professor of communication studies at UT-Austin; and Aliza Norwood is an assistant professor of internal medicine at UT-Austin's Dell Medical School.

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“We need them to understand that they are putting public health at risk by being open.”

– Interim Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott speaking to Austin Public Health’s biggest concern heading into New Year’s Eve: bars operating as restaurants



JANA BIRCHUM



Volunteers with Central Texas Food Bank load groceries for clients during an emergency relief food distribution on Tue., Dec. 29, at Del Valle High School. The agency’s final mass distribution event of the year is today, Dec. 30, at Nelson Field (7105 Berkman) from 9am to noon. For more info, visit www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now.

JOHN ANDERSON

HEADLINES

ENTERING 2021 IN A “STATE OF EMERGENCY” Last week **Austin Public Health** announced Austin-Travis County had entered **Stage 5** – the highest level of local pandemic restrictions – of APH’s **COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines**. Late Wednesday, APH announced a 10:30pm-6:30am prohibition on dine-in service (take-out is still OK) from Dec. 31-Jan.3. See p.10 for more.

TO GO VIRTUAL, OR NOT TO GO VIRTUAL? The **Austin ISD Board of Trustees** voted unanimously last week to give Superintendent Dr. **Stephanie Elizalde** broadened authority to move the first week of classes after winter break online. Elizalde has said she expects to make her decision by Sun., Jan. 3, before classes are scheduled to begin on Tue., Jan. 5. See p.10 for more.

NEW YEAR’S, ATX-STYLE The city’s **New Year’s Eve** celebration, **Austin’s New Year**, will be an all-virtual affair in light of COVID-19 restrictions. The special will feature prerecorded performances from eight local bands, recorded at local venues. Visit www.austintexas.gov/any for broadcasting details, and see p.25 for more virtual happenings to ring in 2021.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL On Wed., Jan. 6, 6pm, newly elected **City Council** members for Districts 2 and 6, as well as the reelected CMs in Districts 4, 7, and 10, will take the oath of office. The new dais will also elect Austin’s next **mayor pro tem** – a title that’s caught the eye of a few CMs. See p.11.

IN LIGHT OF Stage 5 COVID-19 restrictions, the city has announced revised service schedules and office closures for city facilities and public services. The **Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center** is now closed until further notice. The **Austin Public Library** will be reducing curbside service hours by 25%, and the **Austin Animal Center** will remain closed (pet adoptions may be done online, with fosters, adopters, and rescues available for curbside pickup). In addition, **Travis County Parks** have reduced park capacity.

HIGH SPEED, HIGH FATALITIES Austin experienced more **traffic fatalities** in 2020 than in previously tracked years, but the number of crashes resulting in serious injuries was significantly reduced. So what does that mean? According to the **Austin Transportation Department**, the data indicates that speed was a bigger factor in 2020 traffic crashes.

REMEMBER THE ... ROT? Last week President **Donald Trump** signed into law the **Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act**, which authorizes the **Daughters of the Republic of Texas** to establish a memorial in **Washington, D.C.**, commemorating the **Texas Legation**: diplomats who were sent to D.C. between 1836 and 1845 to represent the Republic of Texas. The bill was introduced by U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**.

A Strong-Mayor Sweet Spot?

Advocates throw some salt on the pleasant-tasting “pro-democracy” reform plan

The latest petition drive to ask Austin voters to amend the city charter – not Save Austin Now’s reborn effort to re-up the ban on public camping (that is, on visible homelessness), or the sputtery push to recall the mayor – is from the good-government campaign calling itself Austinites for Progressive Reform. Its four-proposal package is pitched as a way to “make Austin the most pro-democracy city in the country,” at the vanguard of pushback against Texas’ dismal legacy of voter suppression and disenfranchisement. The most substantive of these measures would make Austin a strong-mayor city, like

Houston (and New York, Chicago, etc.) but unlike other big Texas cities, where the mayor is like the president, the Council is like Congress, and the city manager is just a staffer. That end state has caused concern, as summed up in a letter sent in mid-December to APR’s leader, Andrew Allison, from, among others, local labor leaders (led by AFSCME Local 1624, the municipal employees union) and justice reform advocates on the city’s Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. The letter asks Allison to pull the plug on APR’s drive, saying that the 10-1 council as it has existed since 2014 has “produced significant, tangi-

ble results on behalf of Austin residents,” including the pro-labor and de-policing measures toward which its signatories have invested substantial toil and treasure.

“If passed, your amendment would reward these efforts and hard-earned results by hollowing out the Council’s power and transferring it to a single, unknown person in 2022,” they write, meaning the to-be-elected strong mayor. “We are unconvinced ... that the system proposed would have produced the achievements that the 10-1 council has.”

Allison, who’s been shepherding this effort since last summer amid the noise of the 2020 election cycle, wrote back prompt-

CONTINUED ON P.8

AUSTIN AT LARGE
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON



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AUSTIN AT LARGE CONTINUED FROM P.6

ly to express his regrets. After detailing APR's civic engagement over the last six months – a blue-ribbon steering committee, 17 public meetings in October, and then securing more than 20,000 signatures in “just 22 days” – he says it's basically out of his hands, although APR has yet to submit its sigs to the city clerk. “This campaign belongs to Austin now,” he writes. “Those of us with access or privilege are not entitled to dispense with that process before the voters have a chance to weigh in.”

Allison goes on to make counterarguments and pitch APR's package as actually strengthening 10-1; his response is several times longer than the original letter, and its points are also laid out on the APR website at www.austinprogress.org. It's a well-packaged effort that's projecting much confidence; the steering committee is a diverse group of real players in Austin politics (including noted allies of current Mayor Steve Adler but also opponents), and while it hasn't yet had to file a campaign finance report (its first is due Jan. 15), it has a professional campaign team that's won plenty of elections before. The city hasn't held a May election since 10-1, and if APR has in fact secured enough signatures, it would probably be the only thing on the ballot.

LIKE VITA-MEATA-VEGA-MIN

I think it's fair to say that APR's three other reform proposals are sweeteners to get Austin to swallow its strong-mayor medicine. One would move the mayoral election to higher-turnout presidential years, which, sure. Its current alignment with the gubernatorial midterm is an artifact of when 10-1 was adopted in November 2012, with no greater intent. The second institutes ranked-choice voting, replacing low-turnout run-offs such as we just had, which

would be great and indeed more democratic. (It probably wouldn't have saved Jimmy Flannigan, but it would have spared Alison Alter much agita.) But RCV, and most any other alternative vote system you may fancy, is not permissible under state law, so until that changes there's no urgency. (And yes, the particular limits in current statute have racist origins.)

The third is a public financing system of “Democracy Dollars,” a voucher system where each registered voter would be able to earmark \$25 to a candidate in each Council race. While running against “big money” is a venerable tradition in Austin politics, past electorates have rejected using tax dollars to support candidates; the current limited system, which many candidates opt out of, draws funds from lobbyist registrations, which is intended to make a statement. In practice, though Austin has a lot of registered voters, \$25 isn't much money, and the APR proposal requires candidates to clear a nontrivial threshold of signatures and contributions to show they're legit. So this is more of a fun, symbolic treat, not a major rethinking of Austin's already austere campaign finance environment.

Strong-mayor, though, would absolutely turn City Hall upside down, and activists are right to worry that voters might adopt it as part of a pleasant-tasting goo-goo reform effort without thinking about its implications. That doesn't mean we *shouldn't* consider it; if APR has made it onto the ballot, we have time between now and May to dive deeper. The effort already scrambles the solidarity of Austin's progressive leadership – for example, there are members of the APR steering committee who also signed the union letter – and Allison's pitch all along has been that we should talk through the issues like adults and friends. Let's do that. ■

Happy New Year?

Surely, 2021 will be an improvement

Well, this has been one hell of a year, but as we shut the book on 2020, even as we sink to new lows in economic health and hospital bed availability, there are ample reasons to be optimistic about 2021.

First is the housecleaning in the White House, of course. **Joe Biden** may not have been my first choice – probably wasn't a lot of people's first choice – but at least he's a genuine and decent human being, which really isn't something anyone ever claims about The Donald.

Second is **COVID-19**, of course. And while we've had too many deaths and closings, at least there's light at the end of the lockdown tunnel, and folks are starting to make plans for real-life events and celebrations in the second half of the year. If only everyone can stay alive and sane until then. To that end, stimulus money and local relief initiatives have eased the burden on most of those hardest hit.

Local politics (as is so often the case at the *Chronicle*) are where things get interesting. As I wrote last week, the outgoing **City Council** did a fine job on the twin crises of the year – police oversight and the plague – but was often paralyzed by toxic factionalism when the topic turned to anything else. The incoming Council will be absent its most antagonistic firebrand (for better and worse) in **Jimmy Flannigan**, so maybe the rest of the pack can learn to work better together and concentrate on hating on his replacement, **Mackenzie Kelly**, the first Republican on the dais since the ever-hateable **Don Zimmerman**. Just kidding; I'm sure everyone

will get along swimmingly. The new Council's first meeting will be next week (Wed., Jan. 6), and thus far the interregnum has been marked with talk of reconciliation and of a kinder, gentler climate in the (still-virtual) Council chambers. But then someone asked, “Who's going to be mayor pro tem?” and the knives have already started to come out (see p.11). So, we shall see. I remain hopeful.

Speaking of predicting Council factions: I also wrote last week that Council Member-elect **Vanessa Fuentes** had “cited **Pio Renteria** and **Ann Kitchen** as members she'll likely find common ground with” – but that reference to

Renteria was based on my faulty memory of our endorsement interview; Fuentes did not in fact say that about him but only about CM Kitchen. Read into that what you may, but my sincere apologies to CM Fuentes for the error.

And then there's the **Austin ISD Board of Trustees**, which will have four new members in the new year (two were already sworn in last week; two are still waiting because their races went to run-offs). Here the dynamic is much clearer: It was an activist slate that swept all four seats that were up for election in November – in three separate districts and a citywide at-large race – and they'll be expecting to make some changes regarding the district's school closure plan, and equity in general, where the existing board showed perhaps too much deference to the administration and business interests that tend to put their fingers on the scale.

So ... yeah. There's some optimism for 2021. It can't be any worse, right? ■

PUBLIC NOTICE

BY NICK BARBARO

CIVICS 101

BULLETIN BOARD

For the latest info, visit www.austintexas.gov/covid19. Watch www.austintexas.gov/abn for livestreamed city meetings. **Uninsured Travis Co. Residents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms:** Call CommunityCare's hotline at 512/978-8775.

WEDNESDAY 12/30

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION Via drive-through and walk-up. 9am-noon. 7105 Berkman. www.centraltexasfoodbank.org.

DRAFT TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REVIEW Give feedback on rules, requirements, and technical guidelines for building mobility infrastructures. www.speakupaustin.org/transportation-criteria-manual.

THURSDAY 12/31

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN AUSTIN Flip to our Community listings on p.25 for ringing in 2021, ATX-style. As always, be mindful events may cancel due to health and safety precautions. austinchronicle.com/events/new-years-guide.

CAPITAL METRO NYE SERVICE Regular service on NYE, with free rides after 5pm on all its services, including MetroBus, MetroRapid, Pickup, and MetroExpress. www.capmetro.org.

DRAFT TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL See Wed. Deadline: Dec. 31.

FRIDAY 1/1

CAP METRO NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE Sunday-level service with no MetroRail, Pickup, UT Shuttle, Night Owl, E-Bus, or MetroExpress service. www.capmetro.org.

FIRST DAY HIKE Celebrate the new year with a self-guided hike. *Bastrop State Park, 100 Park Rd. 1A, Bastrop.* tpwd.texas.gov.

MONDAY 1/4

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PANEL Briefing on the RFP for AIPP's TEMPO program (see “Ongoing”), among other items. 6-7:30pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

TUESDAY 1/5

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT Austin Public Health provides an update on the state of COVID-19. 9am. Online. www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court.

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

WEDNESDAY 1/6

CITY COUNCIL INAUGURATION Newly elected council members for Districts 2 and 6, as well as our reelected CMs of D4, 7, and 10, will take the oath of office. Council will also elect a mayor pro tem (see p.11). 6pm. Videoconference. www.austintexas.gov.

THURSDAY 1/7

DISTRICT 1 REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION Learn more about Austin's ongoing police reforms. 5pm. Online. Free. www.austintexas.gov/publicssafety.

COVID-19 CLOSURES

CITY UTILITY PAYMENT CENTERS have temporarily closed. Pay online, at authorized pay stations/drop boxes, or by mail. www.coautilities.com.

TREE RECYCLING

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Recycle your natural holiday tree at: 4501 FM 620; Del Valle Adult Softball Complex (3614 FM 973, Del Valle); 2625 Woodall Dr., Leander; or 6011 Blue Bluff. Remove decorations, and trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half. *Through Jan. 10. 7am-5pm. Free.* www.austintexas.gov/treerecycling.

ONGOING

RFP: TEMPO 2021 Art in Public Places' TEMPO program seeks proposals from practicing visual artists or artist teams for short-term outdoor art installations. *Deadline: Tue., Jan. 26, 5pm.* www.publicartist.org/austinaipp.

2021 MOBILITY ANNUAL PLAN FEEDBACK The MAP provides an annual “look ahead” at planned work that's made possible through 2016 Mobility Bond resources. View the interactive project map, read the plan, and provide feedback through Feb. 7. www.austintexas.gov/transportation.

YWCA GREATER AUSTIN WARMLINE Call 512/548-9922 for support amidst the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Mondays-Thursdays, 9am-8pm; Fridays, 9-5pm; Saturdays, noon-4pm. Citywide.* www.ywcaustin.org.

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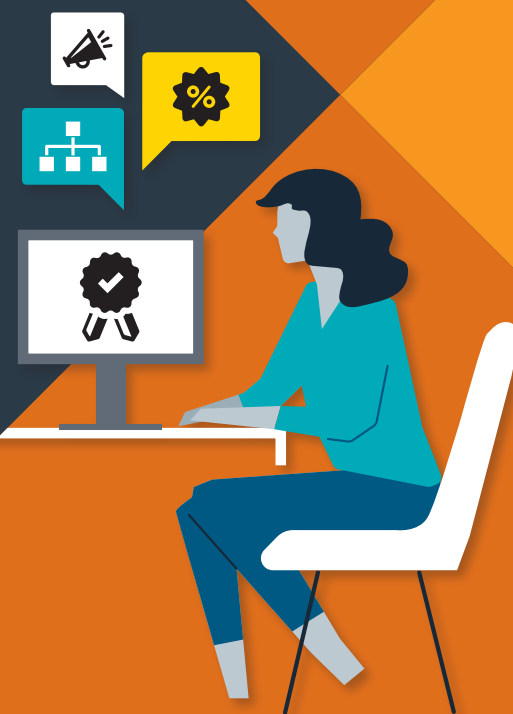
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Ahead of the New Year's Eve holiday, Austin Public Health officials have expressed extreme concern over bars as hot spots for COVID-19 transmission.

JOHN ANDERSON

Entering 2021 in a "State of Emergency"

Bars operating as restaurants are officials' top concern

BY BETH SULLIVAN

Speaking to reporters earlier this week, Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott** spelled out Austin's start to the new year in no uncertain terms: "It appears we are going to enter 2021 in a state of emergency," said Escott at a Dec. 28 press conference. "In the next several weeks, we may run out of hospital beds, we may run out of ICU beds, and it could happen a lot sooner than that – as

early as a week to two weeks from now."

The dire warning is one of many from local health officials amidst what officials have deemed an ongoing worsening condition of COVID-19 in Austin-Travis County since November. **Austin Public Health** announced on Dec. 23 that the city and county had moved into **Stage 5** – the highest level of Austin-Travis County's **COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines** – for the first

time since adopting the guidelines in May. Under Stage 5, local officials urge all residents regardless of their risk level to avoid non-household gatherings, dining, and shopping, as well as recommending that local businesses transition to delivery and curbside services.

The Dec. 23 decision arrived shortly after Austin's **seven-day moving average for COVID-19 hospitalizations** hit the qualifying threshold for Stage 5 restrictions of 50 hospitalizations – a metric that was revised down just prior to Thanksgiving. Local health officials transitioned to Stage 5 recommendations out of concern for the possible impact of the Christmas and New Year's holidays on the disease following a surge in local cases and hospitalizations due to Thanksgiving gatherings.

Now, as Austin-Travis County approaches 2021 with a seven-day moving average of 64 hospitalizations as of Dec. 28, Escott said, "Our projections forward into the new year continue to look worse and worse, day after day." Since the beginning of the month, local hospital admissions on average are up 106%, said Escott, and the number of current hospitalizations – 422 as of Dec. 28 – is a 67% increase since Dec. 1. In the past week alone, he said, there's been a 62% increase in ICU utilization for COVID patients. The last time our seven-day moving average for hospitalizations exceeded 60 was at the end of June, a week before a peak in the July surge. As of Dec. 28, there are only 35 ICU beds available for COVID-19 patients across the 11-county Central Texas region, which includes Travis County.

As of Dec. 28, there are only 35 ICU beds available across the 11-county Central Texas region.

APH's main concern heading into New Year's Eve is bars operating as restaurants. Although Travis County has yet to reopen bars, a loophole made possible by a **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** emergency rule has allowed some bars to reopen as restaurants under food and beverage certificates if they serve food. Escott said enforcing mask-wearing and capacity limits at such establishments has been the focus of APH's enforcement efforts these previous weeks and will continue.

"We need them to close," said Escott. "We need them to understand that they are putting public health at risk by being open."

At a **Travis County Commissioners Court** meeting just before Christmas, Escott released a list of 25 local bars that have received at least one citation from the fire marshal following multiple formal warnings for breaking COVID restrictions. Twelve of them are on East Sixth, with **Soho Lounge** at the corner of Sixth and San Jacinto receiving the most citations – four on four separate dates between Oct. 24

and Dec. 13. Another four bars issued citations – **Concrete Cowboy**, **Play**, **Wyld**, and **Unbarlievable** – are on West Sixth. (In June, the TABC also temporarily suspended Soho Lounge's and Unbarlievable's liquor permits for violating state COVID guidelines.)

Officials have said previously that a curfew could be considered should Austin enter Stage 5. For now, restaurants are encouraged – but not mandated – to close indoor dining spaces and limit outdoor dining capacity to 50%, said Travis County Judge **Andy Brown** in the Dec. 23 press

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

With two new trustees on the virtual dais at last week's **Austin ISD** Board of Trustees meeting, the board unanimously voted to give Superintendent Dr. **Stephanie Elizalde** the authority to close campuses or move to virtual-only learning for the first week of classes following winter break, in addition to approving an extension of paid **COVID-19** quarantine leave for employees.

However, despite the broadened authority, Elizalde said she is unlikely to shutter campuses, barring "exceptional" new data. To understand why, let's start with the budget. "Based on the last conversation with **Austin Public Health**, we are expecting to be open as we closed prior to the winter break," said Elizalde at the Dec. 23 board meeting. "I expect [it] to be on the calendar that we have adopted, and January 5 would be when students whose parents are choosing for them to be allowed on campus [will return]."

Elizalde's reasoning for planning to keep schools open is twofold. First, as she told trustees, "Data is relative." Although Austin's COVID-19 numbers are worsening – with local officials

declaring **Stage 5** pandemic restrictions last week – Travis County is performing much better than other urban areas in Texas. (Austin is not yet at the qualifying threshold at which the **Texas Education Agency** would permit campuses to shutter, as they did in **El Paso**.) Interim Health Authority Dr. **Mark Escott** has recommended restricting extracurriculars and implementing mass testing for athletes, but Elizalde said he had not advised AISD to shutter campuses yet.

Financial concerns also loom. If AISD pivoted to virtual-only learning for the week after winter break – thus violating the TEA directive requiring schools to offer in-person instruction – the district would then only receive credit for half of the teaching time. To make up for it, AISD would need to extend the school year, which would include extra teacher compensation for the additional days of instruction. Elizalde estimated such measures would cost the district an extra \$3 million a year, which would add to the \$50 million deficit the district is currently running. "It is a money thing," said outgoing District 5 Trustee **Amber Elenz**. "Do we have the money to pay teachers?"

Compounding budgetary worries, no matter how AISD decides to reopen after winter break, the district could face an additional budget deficit if the TEA doesn't extend its "**hold harmless**" attendance policy into the spring. AISD budgeted for this year expecting 80,974 students; on Nov.

10, 75,212 were enrolled, falling short by over 5,700 students. As districts are funded based on average daily attendance – a function of enrollment – the drop in enrollment without mitigation could mean over \$50 million in lost funding. Although the TEA funded districts for this fall based on their attendance last year, the agency does not currently plan to extend the leeway for the spring semester. And if the district dips too far into its financial reserves, its bond rating could drop.

"As a district, we're either villains or we might be seen as heroes, depending on what decisions we make. There are no good options here," said Elizalde. "We can only do what we think is best given the data that we have."

Elizalde said she would make a final decision on the status of the first week of school by Jan. 3. – *Clara Ence Morse*



conference. Officials are also recommending that indoor retail capacity be limited to 50% and all dining and retail services be shut down between 10:30pm-6am. Should a surge continue despite these recommendations, officials might then consider more significant measures.

However, under Gov. **Greg Abbott's** GA-32 executive order issued in October, local officials may only mandate reduced capacity if COVID patients exceed 15% of

the **Trauma Service Area's** hospital capacity for seven days. Travis County is one of 11 counties that make up **TSA-O**. According to data tracked by the Texas Department of State Health Services, COVID-19 patients account for 10.9% of TSA-O's hospital capacity as of Dec. 28 – with Dec. 27 being the first date since early August that the metric exceeded 10%. Since Dec. 21, COVID-19 patients have exceeded 15% of Texas' statewide hospital capacity. ■

Who Wants to Be Mayor Pro Tem? More People Than You Might Think.

Council Member **Greg Casar** announced in a Dec. 16 message board post that he had enough votes to be elected by his colleagues as the city's next **mayor pro tem**. The title is mostly ceremonial, often granted to the CM with seniority on the dais or to someone who would break through some kind of barrier – such as former Mayor Pro Tem **Della Garza**, the first Latina to hold the position – so it appeared Casar would sail through the backstage campaigning that has characterized past MPT races.

But Casar's post ended on a now-telling note: After naming CMs **Pio Renteria**, **Leslie Pool**, and **Ann Kitchen** among his supporters, the District 4 CM wrote, "I would be honored to have all of your support." The MPT is generally elected unanimously, as a gesture toward consensus on the dais, so Casar's closing line indicated he did not yet have unanimous support.

Then, the next day, a statement from CM **Paige Ellis** objected to Casar's declaration that he would be the next MPT, indicating her desire to appoint a woman as MPT because in January there will be a total of eight women on Council. "Our city has gone through a lot over the past two years, and we should begin 2021 with leadership that brings us together," Ellis' statement read. "As far as I'm aware, discussions are ongoing."



JOHN ANDERSON

Over the weekend before Christmas, CM **Allison Alter** mounted a countercampaign, making her own case for why she should be MPT. In a separate message board post on Dec. 22, Alter announced she had growing support; she also leaned into the desire to elect a woman MPT. "I believe it's important for our children to see that women lead political institutions," she wrote.

Alter's campaigning led to the flipping of at least one vote. Pool initially posted her intent to support Casar as MPT but announced the switch in a reply to Alter's separate thread; citing the "near super-majority of women" now serving on Council, Pool said she had reconsidered her position following feedback from constituents and community leaders.

Casar then posted *his* thread responding to calls that he should withdraw from the MPT race, acknowledging that a female MPT elected by a majority-female Council would send an important message on political representation in Austin politics, but he was clear that the next MPT should not be chosen as someone perceived to be a more moderate voice by reactionaries frustrated by Council's leftward shift over the past four years. "We must make it clear that we are not willing to back down if we truly believe what we are doing is right for Austinites," he wrote.

The post also suggests that Council should consider electing a female MPT from the Eastern Crescent, which has historically had less of a voice at City Hall than the wealthier and whiter central and western parts of the city. CM **Natasha Harper-Madison** was the unnamed, but obvious, choice here, and in yet another message board thread created on Dec. 28, Harper-Madison announced her own intent to be elected MPT.

"I believe the best way to get to where we want to be is through pragmatic solutions reached through collaboration with Austinites from all parts of the city and all walks of life," Harper-Madison wrote in her pitch for the MPT role. "But I also have heard from my constituents and others that lived experience is an essential aspect of the leadership needed in the work to be done."

So the jockeying continues but is expected to be settled ahead of Jan. 6, when new and returning CMs are sworn in. Check back next week for more.

– *Austin Sanders*

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Squaring Conservation With Development

Great Springs Project proposes a network of hike-and-bike trails from Austin to San Antonio **BY LINA FISHER**

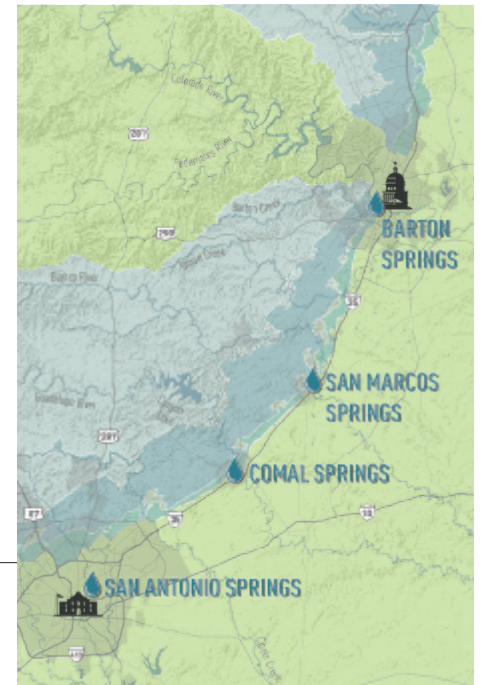
Can one of the fastest-developing regions in the country prioritize conservation? That's the hope of the ambitious **Great Springs Project**, which has inched a little closer to realizing its goal of a national parklike trail connecting two of Texas' most populous cities.

On Dec. 8, the **National Park Service** selected the Great Springs Project to receive backing in the form of "community planning and technical assistance" for their endeavor to build a network of multi-use trails from Austin to San Antonio. The project proposes adding 50,000 acres of

protected land over the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and portions of the contributing zones in Hays, Travis, Comal, and Bexar counties, as well as connecting hike-and-bike trails to the project's namesake four bodies of water: Barton Springs, San Marcos Springs, Comal Springs, and San Antonio Springs.

The southeast boundary of the imagined spring-to-spring trail clings closely to the west of I-35 and its northwest boundary spans along Barton Creek, Onion Creek, and the Blanco River down to San Antonio. The legal mechanism by which this land would be protected in perpetuity is called a conservation easement, in which private landowners get tax cuts in return for ceding their right to develop on the land. But typically the land in those cases is not publicly accessible; Great Springs, conversely, wants to encourage public access to the trails and waterways the same way a state park might.

Co-founded in 2018 by **Deborah Morin**, former board member of the **Hill Country Foundation**, the project aims to protect endangered species and Hill Country water quality from the increasing development along that corridor, especially in Hays



PROVIDED BY GREAT SPRINGS PROJECT

"One great Texas trail from the Alamo to the Capitol!" Is how the Great Springs Project planners explain their vision of protected lands connecting four of Texas' great springs – Barton Springs, San Marcos Springs, Comal Springs, and San Antonio Springs. The southeast boundary of the GSP clings closely to the west of I-35, while its northwest boundary spans along Barton Creek, Onion Creek, and the Blanco River down to San Antonio.

INCOMING D.A. JOSÉ GARZA LOCKS IN LEADERSHIP TEAM

As 2021 begins, incoming District Attorney **José Garza** has nearly rounded out his senior leadership team. In December, Garza announced two new hires: **Jackie Wood**, an old hand within the Travis County criminal justice system who served as an assistant D.A. in Travis County before becoming a defense attorney, and **Leslie Booker**, who served as a prosecutor in both Travis and Williamson counties before departing for the criminal defense side of the system.

Booker will lead a newly created joint division overseeing **juvenile** and **Child Protective Services** cases. Although juvenile cases are part of the criminal side of the system and CPS cases are handled in civil courts, Booker says linking them is critical to achieving more empathetic prosecutions with less punitive punishments. "My vision is to bring kids back home if they are being detained and for both units to keep families together," Booker told the *Chronicle*. "We do that by just being more empathetic and being creative in trying to address needs of families and juveniles, especially in how we address issues that bring them into the system."

Booker said these outcomes can be achieved through a combination of new diversion programs, which aim to keep people entering the justice system out of jails and prisons by diverting them to more rehabilitative programs, and a more compassionate approach to prosecuting cases that often end in families being torn apart. "When you're on the defense side of the system, you get to know the people going through it," he said. "They may have committed a crime, but they're not bad people. Understanding that should be at the core of prosecuting these cases."

Wood will head the special prosecutions unit, where she will be tasked with charging cases involving public corruption and white collar crimes. But prosecutions of **law enforcement officers** accused of criminal misconduct

will still be handled by the **Civil Rights Unit**. There **Dexter Gilford**, who was brought in by outgoing D.A. **Margaret Moore** to lead the newly formed **Civil Rights Division** in 2017, will stay on as one of a small number of Moore hires who will continue working under Garza. (**Guillermo Gonzalez**, Moore's Trial Division director, will also remain in his position.)

In some ways, the prosecution of two high-profile cases involving LEOs – the killings of **Michael Ramos** on April 24, 2020, and of **Javier Ambler** on March 28, 2019 – will serve as a test for Gilford. Garza's administration has faced pressure from the victims' families in both cases to seek justice, and the public will be watching the outcome of each prosecution closely. How these cases are handled will help inform whether or not Gilford is a good fit for Garza's new vision for a D.A. office focused on improving accountability of law enforcement while decreasing the number of people entering the system.

Garza also announced that **Erin Martinson**, who finished third in the Democratic primary to replace Moore, will lead the office's **Special Victims Unit**. Martinson has been an advocate for survivors of violent crime for decades, and she ran on a campaign explicitly criticizing the way Moore's office has failed survivors of sexual assault. "Those who have survived violent crimes deserve to have a justice system they can trust," Martinson said in a press release announcing her hire. "Under José Garza's leadership, we are going to build a justice system where victims are believed and treated with dignity and respect – starting from day one."

In addition to previously announced hire **Trudy Strassburger**, who will serve as Garza's first assistant D.A., the senior leadership team will include **Rick Jones**, director of Policy and Diversion, and **Norris McKenzie**, chief of the Investigations Division. *— Austin Sanders*

Jackie Wood



Leslie Booker



PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

County, one of the fastest-growing counties in the U.S. But Great Springs leadership also contends that it will be an “economic development catalyst,” creating jobs with its ambitious construction.

“We know that more people in Central Texas means we need more places here for those people to live, work, and be outside,” says **Emma Lindrose-Siegel**, their chief development officer. “For that reason, Great Springs Project works with developers and city and county planners to ensure that the things we love most about living here will be protected and continue to be a resource for future generations.”

The project is currently in its design stages, so there’s no clear plan yet as to where the trails will go, but Lindrose-Siegel says they will potentially connect to existing trails, making transportation by bike all the way from Austin to San Antonio a possibility. However much this project aims to involve

the human communities along I-35, she says that only “a small amount of the total land conserved will have actual trail on it ... A priority is protecting the habitat of endangered species endemic to our region.”

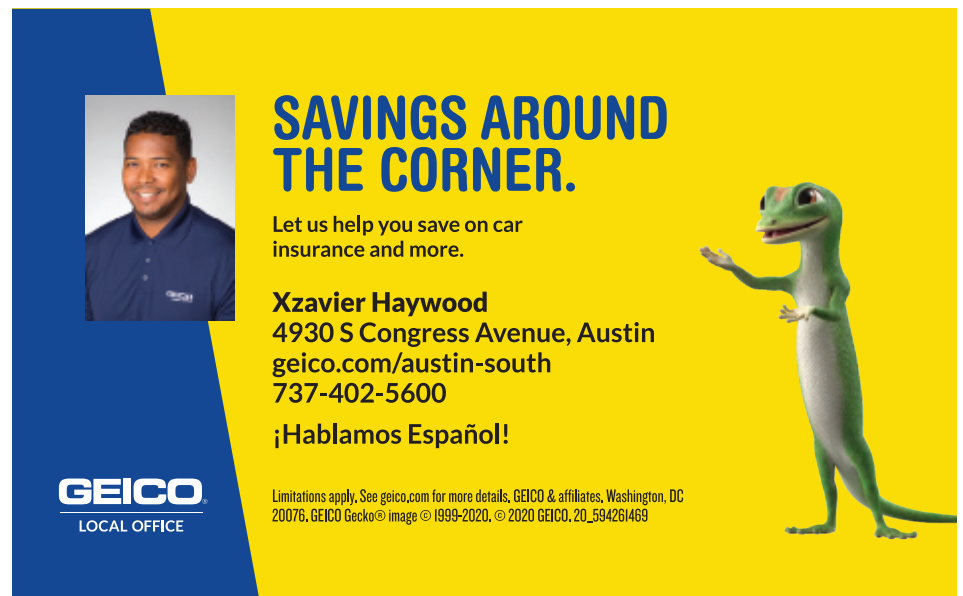
So far, Great Springs has made their pitch to former San Antonio Mayor **Phil Hardberger**, who told the San Antonio Report that the plan is “conceptually” possible, though he worries that the public access part of it could make deals with landowners more difficult to attain. Hill Country landowners might live on their plots and be

The Great Springs Project is still just in its nascency; to get it off the ground, they’ll require large philanthropic donations and probably federal funding, too.

averse to bike trails crossing through their private land, but there are many different types of easements, and in many cases the landowners benefit from negotiating different uses for the land. For example, Shield Ranch, northwest of Austin, hosts summer camps and partners with TerraPurezza regenerative farm to raise their sheep and pigs on the ranch’s property. Easements like this allow the family that owns the land large tax cuts to be able to keep the home- stead in perpetuity, while allowing other uses on other parts of the property – a win-win situation that Great Springs could take advantage of. GSP currently partners with Hill Country Conservancy, Meadows Center for the Environment, San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, Activate SA, Comal Trails Alliance, and Hill Country Alliance, and Lindrose-Siegel says they do want to “collaborate with ... city and county governments and community groups to

both amplify their work and unite conservation efforts.”

Great Springs is still just in its nascency; to help get the project off the ground, they’ll require large philanthropic donations, and probably federal dollars, too. The trail planning process is projected to be finished in 2021, but in order to actually break ground, they first need to seek conservation easements and partnerships with land trusts and local, state, and national parks – and, of course, that all-important funding. ■



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Photo: Chastnut-sided Warbler



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ProLodge guest Genero Robles in his room

JANA BIRCHUM

A Room of One's Own

ProLodges have saved – and changed – some of Austin's most vulnerable lives. Can the city keep them open?

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

When Alejandro Hernandez moved into the motel room provided for him this summer, he was relieved to no longer worry about getting run over by a car while sleeping. Before being admitted to Protective Lodging, at one of the five properties bought or leased by the city to protect unhoused Austinites from COVID-19, Hernandez had been living under I-35 at 38th½ Street for the last six years. “You’ve got to be careful out there,” Hernandez told us in the hallway of his “ProLodge,” while awaiting an appointment with the CommUnityCare street medicine team. “You’ve got to always watch for cars, because if you roll into the street, you might get run over.”

A comfortable, secure place to sleep is just one of the benefits Hernandez has come to appreciate about life at ProLodge 4. “I’m 62 years old and I don’t like myself,” Hernandez said. “I really don’t like myself being out in

the street for so long. But this room, it’s the best thing [the city] has done for me. It’s given me a place to shelter myself, wash myself, brush my teeth, and comb my hair. I’ve been able to take a breath.”

For those who have lived for a year or more on the street, having a room to call their own, where they can lock the door and know their belongings are secure, is no small life improvement. It may be one of the most important benefits of non-congregate transitional housing facilities, like the ProLodges, where guests have rooms of their own. A locked door gives peace of mind, as they know that things – sometimes, literally everything they own – will be secure. It also frees up energy for people to concentrate on the long, hard work of resolving their homelessness.

In our interviews with people who have stayed at ProLodges, with the outreach workers who helped place them there, and with the health and human services pro-

viders who have cared for them, we heard a lot of agreement with what Hernandez told us. Being able to “take a breath” is one of the most profound changes that can happen in the life of someone experiencing long-term homelessness.

“The ProLodges have been the single most important program the city has done for homelessness,” Leah Hargrave, who has done street-level homeless outreach with Mosaic Church for the past seven years, told us. The claim is more than striking; when viewed alongside the persistent frustration that so many front-line providers express with the systems in which they try to help people succeed, it’s next to astonishing.

But the turnarounds Hargrave has seen back up her enthusiasm. One man, in his 60s, suffering from alcoholism and hospitalized after complications from other chronic conditions, was able to recuperate and enter substance-abuse treatment while staying at a ProLodge. He is now working at Goodwill and has reconnected with his family.

Another client, a 69-year-old woman who Hargrave was sure would die on the street, is now preparing to sign a lease on her own apartment after a five-month stay at a ProLodge. “ProLodges have allowed people to get used to housing,” Hargrave explained.

“If you put someone immediately into housing, it doesn’t always work out. I had one client who moved into housing but still slept in front of his building on the concrete for a month. It’s such a hard step to transition into stable housing.”

HIGH COST, HIGH VALUE

Yet ProLodges were conceived as a temporary response to the pandemic. Even as the program was met with near-universal praise, from the street outreach teams all the way up to Council chambers, word began to spread in early November that the city was planning to close some or all of the ProLodges before year’s end. A common question arose – why?

They are expensive – from late March through December, city staff estimates, operations at the five ProLodges cost about \$15 million. Some of that outlay will be recouped from the Federal Emergency Management Administration, but that reimbursement is capped at 75% and doesn’t cover supportive services offered at the ProLodges, only housing costs. Thus far, the city has not received any reimbursement from FEMA.

To control its costs, the city planned to phase out the ProLodges as their guests were placed in other housing programs. But after feedback from Council and service providers, that strategy has changed, interim Homeless Strategy Officer Vella Karman told us on Dec. 21. “All five ProLodges will remain in operation for the foreseeable future,” Karman said. “There is no plan to close them ... and some of the [other] programs we have in place [have been] pivoted to focus on housing people specifically at ProLodges.”

For example, on Aug. 27 Council authorized new case manager positions at the Downtown Austin Community Court, supported by federal COVID-19 relief grants earmarked to address homelessness. As of early December, two case managers and a supervisor had been hired, with interviews ongoing for three more positions, and the DACC team was working with nine guests at ProLodges. The city estimates that 100 people will be housed over the next two years. From the same federal funding stream, Council also authorized a contract with Caritas of Austin on Dec. 10 for \$7.5 million to transition ProLodge guests into rapid rehousing (RRH) programs. Caritas leads a collaboration known as Best Single Source Plus, and will coordinate with another dozen agencies in BSS+ to find or create those RRH options.

“WE GO TO OUR PATIENTS”

The five properties have housed around 530 people at different times since March. As of early December, 275 guests lived at the five properties; they receive three meals

a day, access to medical care offered on-site by the CUC street medicine team, case management from one of several partner agencies, and behavioral telehealth services provided by Integral Care. Together, the combination of wraparound services available – but, crucially, not forced upon anyone – can lead to the transformational change Hargrave has seen.

The medical services have made a particular impact. Dr. Audrey Kuang, who leads the homeless health care team at CUC, explained that people living on the street are often focused exclusively on survival: Where is my next meal coming from? Do I have time to fly signs and earn a few bucks before catching a bus to a community kitchen? Where am I sleeping tonight? With those kinds of questions occupying a person's mental space, long-term health concerns – heart conditions, diabetes, even debilitating vision problems – become less urgent.

But when the first ProLodge opened on March 28, as Austin strove to quickly scale up its response to the public health emergency, on-site medical services were not part of the package. Nonetheless, the launch came at an opportune time – one day after the first COVID-19 case was reported at the Downtown Salvation Army (in what became the first, and to date only, outbreak in Austin's shelters). "The first thing we needed was just a building to put people in," Kuang said. "We didn't know

what we were doing and learned a lot of hard lessons on the way."

On-site care came in mid-May with the launch of the fourth ProLodge. Kuang and her fellow physician-advocates brought the philosophy of street medicine to the ProLodge program – "We don't wait for people to come to us," as Kuang put it, "we go to our patients." Safety protocols kept the CUC team from seeing patients in their own rooms, so they commandeered conference and dining rooms at the motels to provide care.

On a Wednesday afternoon in early December, the *Chronicle* observed the team at ProLodge 4 do this work. Once a week, the nurse practitioners on the team assemble in a spare guest room at the motel, which becomes their remote office. There, they spend the day reviewing files and seeing patients, who may need prescription refills, or follow-up care as they

recover from hospital stays, or preventive services such as cancer screenings.

Kuang and her team say that on-site care at the ProLodges provides guests with an alternative to emergency room visits that, on top of being a sub-optimal and expensive way to provide care, grew more hazardous with the pandemic. According to data provided by Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services, 911 calls for service placed from ProLodge 1 stabilized at around 20 per month starting in May, when CUC

"This room, it's the best thing [the city] has done for me. It's given me a place to shelter myself, wash myself, brush my teeth, and comb my hair. I've been able to take a breath."

PROLODGE GUEST
ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ

CONTINUED ON P.16



Robles (l) and Alejandro Hernandez in the hallway of ProLodge 4

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PROLOGES CONTINUED FROM P.15

began making its weekly visits to each ProLodge. Even as the number of guests grew, those call levels remained consistent.

Regina Evidente, a family nurse practitioner on the street medicine team, told us, “There are limits to the care we can provide here” at a non-medical facility, “but we can build trust and rapport. I encourage patients to see us every week, because eventually, they may trust me enough to act on a referral to a specialist at a brick-and-mortar clinic. Sometimes that means a patient will see a cardiologist for the first time in a decade, or renew a glasses prescription that hasn’t been reviewed in years.”

That trust between doctor and patient can be leveraged to improve chances of success throughout the homelessness response system. From the outreach provided by EMS Community Health Paramedics and the Homeless Outreach Street Team, to the direct care provided by CUC and other practitioners, to the case management that can ultimately lead a person into stable housing, incremental success builds trust and strengthens the supports helping ProLodge guests build new lives – all accessible from the comfort of their temporary home.

FEEDBACK AT STREET LEVEL

The ProLodges encountered early challenges. While prospective guests received medical screenings to identify those put at higher risk by COVID-19, those screenings didn’t translate directly into priority admission for the most vulnerable, and it would be weeks before on-site services were available to meet guests’ medical needs. The outreach teams and practitioners pushed for changes, and by midsummer the screening process became more diligent.

Such on-the-fly improvements to the ProLodges prototype have solidified the

program’s success. Decision makers at the city and county adapted after absorbing feedback from the street-level workers who best understood client needs; because the CUC street medicine team, CHPs, HOST, and others were listened to, the ProLodge concept could better deliver on its core promise of saving lives.

There is still room to improve. Integral Care began providing case management and counseling services to people at ProLodges on April 20, but much of that work – it’s unclear how much – has been done virtually. Spokesperson Anne Nagelkirk told us services have been provided “in person on-site as well as via telephone,” but others – who requested anonymity to protect relationships with Travis County’s largest behavioral health provider – told us that on-site services have fallen short.

When the first COVID-19 cases were identified in Austin in March, several weeks before the first ProLodge opened, Integral Care pulled its clinical staff from the field throughout the city and began offering most of its services over the phone. At one point, a sign at the entrance of one of the ProLodges read “Please note: Integral Care staff are unable to answer the door for face-to-face contact.” The sign provides instructions for how to reach staff at the motel and how to “possibly” arrange a meeting in case a guest needs paperwork signed or to drop something off.

As one would expect, telehealth works well for people who have phones, or at least access to a device, and who aren’t too unwell to use them when they need behavioral health support, which can be at any time. Among Austin’s unhoused, even those who have phones risk them being lost or (frequently) stolen, or breaking, or running out of minutes or battery life in a place without charging options, or losing reception. At the ProLodges, each motel room



Nurses Mimi Chung and De'Andrea Vines speak with Regina Evidente, a family nurse practitioner on CommUnityCare's street medicine team

has a landline, so guests could have regular access to counseling as needed.

But even for people without the challenges faced by many experiencing homelessness, navigating a complicated phone tree to schedule an appointment can be difficult. The value of ProLodges is magnified by offering barrier-free access to services, and for guests who need more intensive psychiatric support, telehealth services may never be adequate to meet the need for care.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY ...

The circumstances that lead any person into homelessness, or that keep someone from exiting, are unique and individual. The experience of exiting homelessness, or beginning to with a stay at a ProLodge, is likewise varied.

Leo Scott moved to Austin about one year ago, after stints living on the streets of Columbus, Ohio – where he was born and raised – Houston, Atlanta, and New York City. In his assessment, Austin has been the worst place to live unsheltered, despite the relative comfort he has enjoyed at a ProLodge since summer.

“Austin is a city where if you don’t have money, you don’t have nothing,” Scott told us. In Atlanta, he had regular access to laundry and food, but could not land himself in a housing program. He’s had similar challenges here. Scott asked his case manager about moving into transitional housing at a site where one of his friends was living but was told it wasn’t the right fit for him.

“[ProLodges] are a bit expensive to run. And more money spent on transitional housing means less money available for permanent supportive housing.”

NIKI KOZAK, HOUSING FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGER, ECHO



Family nurse practitioner Regina Evidente

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM

focus for ECHO and its partners; keeping up with that demand, and meeting the goals of the city and ECHO's housing plans, will require as much money as can be made available from the city's growing, but still finite, pool of housing dollars.

According to the joint city-county Emergency Operations Center, 303 people have exited from a ProLodge stay. Of those, 107 entered another housing program, be it RRH, PSH or other transitional housing. Eight are known to have gone to health care facilities, and 15 to one of the city's shelters; 78 exits were classified as "other," which, per a spokesperson, can include leaving for a job opportunity or to stay with friends or family, as well as entering hospitals, nursing homes, the justice system, and other institutions. The remaining 95 guests did not participate in an exit interview.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

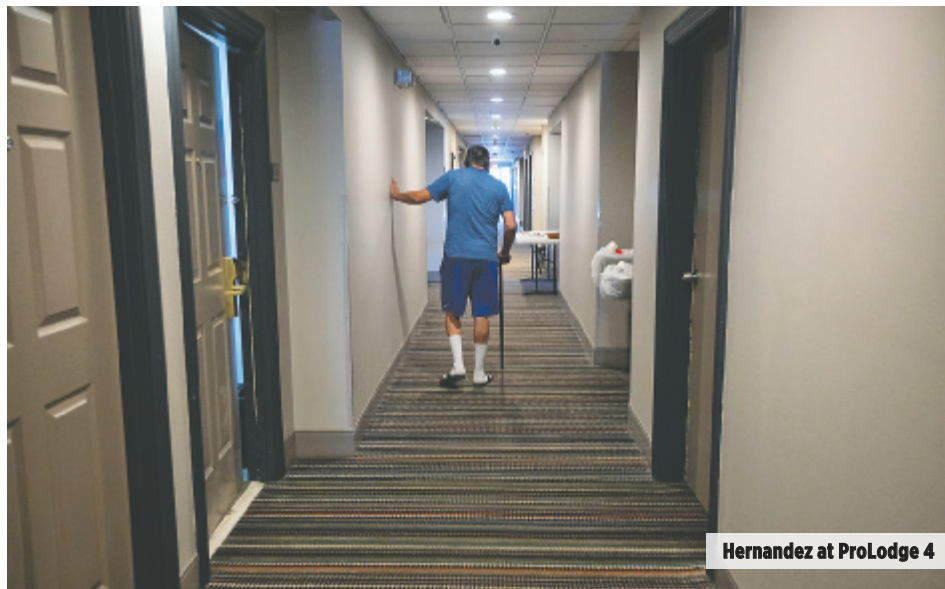
With the new DACC and Caritas programs, more of the remaining ProLodge guests will go into RRH, along with being wait-listed for placement in the city's scarce PSH units. Typically, funding for RRH, which is designed to keep those who abruptly lose stable housing (disasters, unemployment, medical crises, family violence, jail release, etc.) from entering long-term homelessness, lasts for six to 12 months. Those we talked to expressed concerns that, while federal COVID relief funds are available now, will remain in place for two years, and can meet the immediate needs of those exiting ProLodges, they will eventually run out. Some of those being served will not be ready or able to find housing or live without support services; at its core, the PSH model presumes those services will be needed by at least some residents for their whole lives. What will happen to them?

The tension between funding adequate services to meet the present need and creating long-term stability with robust supportive housing has long been felt by ECHO and the city's Homeless Strategy Division, now located within Austin Public Health, as they steer the city and county, and their many partner agencies, toward the goal of ending chronic homelessness for good. Karman expects a new permanent hire for a homeless strategy officer will be made early in 2021, strengthening the broader efforts to resolve this tension. Dianna Grey, who has worked as a consultant for social service agencies providing support to people experiencing homelessness, will serve as the permanent Homeless Strategy Officer beginning Jan. 4, strengthening the broader efforts to resolve this tension. Meanwhile, the people living at ProLodges are just enjoying safety and comfort that they've lacked for a long time, while preparing for what comes next.

For 70-year-old Genaro Robles, his stay at ProLodge 4 has been a time to reflect on his life, which includes a tour in Vietnam followed by a career installing school gymnasiums in four different states. Mainly, he's focused on how to be a positive influence in the lives of his children and grandchildren. "I was doing well for a while, taking care of my family," Robles told us while showing off his room, where his daughter would soon be joining him as a caretaker.

"But now I can barely afford to take care of myself. I don't want my daughter or grandkids to struggle like I have at times. I'm hoping that when I leave here, we can get a place close to their school, so my daughter can go off to work and I can take care of my grandkids when they're not in school." ■

For our gallery chronicling ProLodge 4, visit austinchronicle.com/photos.



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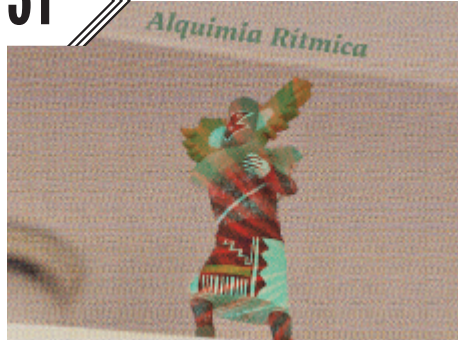


CALENDAR

DECEMBER 31 >> JANUARY 7

AC

31 >> THURSDAY



RUIDO/NOISE: ALQUIMIA RÍTMICA/ RHYTHMIC ALCHEMY Online

Curated by local artist Vladimir Mejia, the gallery invites you to "take a joyride with a mixtape of sound art" online. See more arts events on p.22.

1 >> FRIDAY



FIRST DAY HIKE State parks all over Texas

Keep your New Year's resolution to get healthy by starting 2021 with a hike in a state park. See more community events on p.24.

2 >> SATURDAY



HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING Through Jan. 10, 7am-5pm

Give your natural holiday tree new life by recycling it. Remove decorations, and trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half. Flocked trees not accepted. See more community events on p.24.

3 >> SUNDAY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS Zilker Park

Today is the last day to drive through the trail illuminated by more than 2 million lights. Tune in via your car radio for holiday music, highlights, and history. See more community events on p.24.

4 >> MONDAY



BEERTHOVEN GOGGLES

The Beerthoven cabal plunges into the world of virtual reality! That is, they've made 360-degree films from two Beerthoven programs, and now they're presenting this seasonal extravaganza to you with a VR headset delivered direct to your home. See more arts events on p.22.

5 >> TUESDAY



WIARDON: KAME UP OFF A LICK

East Austin bandit Will Liardon completes his 2020 rap hat trick of solid projects with last month's *Kame Up Off a Lick*. The project continues the "02" native's mold of blending together brash admonishments, hustler braggadocio, and sprinkles of grim autobiographical anecdotes. See more music recommendations on p.40.

6 >> WEDNESDAY



POPE COKE

Pope Coke's eponymous debut bristles with warm synth and key-textured pop. Comprising local power duo Jazz Mills and Stephanie Hunt, blissful vocal harmonies commingle over an amalgam of indie-pop and sun-dappled Sixties pop chansons. See more music recommendations on p.40.

7 >> THURSDAY



RITA'S QUILT: BRINGING WOMEN TOGETHER Neill-Cochran House Museum and online, 5-7pm

When Shannon Downey discovered an unfinished quilt, she knew she had to finish it in honor of the original artist, who had passed on. See the results and hear the story of 150 artists working together to finish #RitasQuilt. See more arts events on p.22.

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COMMUNITY

BY BETH SULLIVAN

AND JUST LIKE THAT, 2020 has come and gone. In a year that felt like a decade of news crammed into 12 months, I'm sure I'm not alone in sitting here thinking, "WTF just happened?" when reflecting on the past year, and "WTF will happen?" when faced with 2021. Though I've never been one for New Year's resolutions, I certainly didn't expect to start this new decade with this year's crowning achievement being just staying afloat. But that's okay – and I hope all of us can take a moment to recognize our individual resilience.

And the same goes for the qmmunity's collective resilience, too. Throughout 2020, as we've mourned the permanent loss or temporary postponement of some institutions – both businesses like BT2 and annual happenings like Austin Pride – to pandemic fallout and witnessed much-loved creatives pivot to the virtual realm with digital drag, online markets, and more, one thing was made clear: Austin's LGBTQmmunity wouldn't be the ever-inspiring, ever-supportive community that we are without the vibrant patchwork of queer-owned businesses and bars, performers, activists, advocates, and queer and trans family, including you, dear Q reader, that call the ATX home. So as we step into 2021, it's vital that we continue to support qmmunity in the best ways each of us can. Maybe that's buying merch from a local artist, subscribing to a maker's Patreon, or donating to a staff GoFundMe for still-closed businesses or those open at reduced operations. Or maybe it's giving a follow to such artists and institutions on the social medias and sharing their work far and wide – as one of my colleagues pointed out the other day, in this age of virtual happenings, local performers and events are now having to compete against a virtual, international lineup, so the more eyes and support behind the local qmmunity scene, the better.

With a new presidential administration and a state legislative session kicking off the new year, 2021 will be a battle to 1) begin to triage the damage of the past four years, and 2) hopefully broaden nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQIA Texans. After a real knockdown of a year, that's, well, no short order. But until then, I hope y'all can find a moment to just be, breathe, and hit restart whenever you're ready. Wishing you a brighter and healthy new year, QTs.

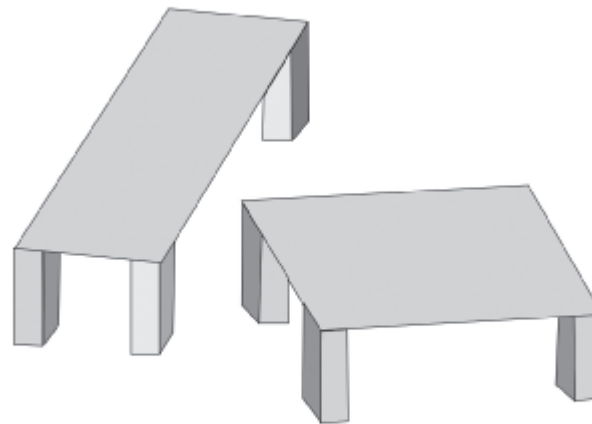


Today, in the new year, and always

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2 TO DO

Fat Bottom Cabaret: Brown South

Kick off the new year with this thoroughly queer and "curvageous" evening celebrating BIPOC drag and burlesque performers, hosted by Nikki DaVaughn. Performances by Lady Lola LeStrange and Chola Magnolia, plus special guests Tulla Moore, Jeez Loueez, and more. *Thu., Dec. 31, 7-8:30pm. Online. \$5-20. www.fb.com/fat-bottomcabaretatx.*

Reading the Rainbow

Queer reads with queer peeps, courtesy of Austin Public Library's monthly queer book club. This month's book is Gabby Rivera's Latinx debut novel, *Juliet Takes a Breath*, which is available for free in both downloadable e-book and audiobook formats with your APL card. *Wed., Jan. 6, 7-8pm. Online. Free (registration required). library.austintexas.gov.*

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

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Arts & Culture

Diedrick Brackens



PHOTO BY MATTHIAS VRIENS-MCGRATH

Looming Legacies

Acclaimed artist Diedrick Brackens weaves multitudes in the Blanton Museum's remarkable "darling divined"

BY SARA HUTCHINSON

Silhouetted figures rendered black stand against bright backgrounds of lime greens, poppy reds, hazy purples. Sometimes the figures are presented together in nature: outside under a starry night or among livestock. Other times, they're presented alone: soaking in a tub or wrapping themselves in a blanket. Strands of yarn left loose and exposed resemble paint drippings.

These rich narrative weavings come from "Diedrick Brackens: darling divined," on view at the Blanton Museum of Art through May 2021. The nine works in the exhibition show how Brackens fuses folk tales and forgotten histories with his own experiences as a Black man, a queer man, a son, a friend, a Southerner, and a custodian of family lore to tell new, expanding stories of identity.

The exhibit was organized by the New Museum in New York City, but for Brackens, currently based in Los Angeles, its run at the Blanton is something special. It's his first major museum show in his home state.

Brackens was born in the small town of Mexia and raised Southern Baptist in a military family. Although as an army brat Brackens moved around, he retained both a Southerness and a spirituality that appear in his art. It seems to reference his ances-

tral home and religious upbringing. His iconography in particular often feels biblical: a figure kneeling in prayer, a son receiving a blessing, men catching fish in a stream.

Yet while some of the images in his scenes are interpretable, others remain open-ended. "He's a great storyteller," says Veronica Roberts, Blanton curator of modern and contemporary art, "but the thing I admire most about his kind of narratives is [that] there are so many different ways for us to enter the story and connect to it, but then there's also not ever one tidy ending."

There's certainly no single story the show is telling. Power and fear, care and trauma, all exist simultaneously. In *demigod*, for example, a solid black figure stands against an intense red and blue background with outstretched arms, as if against a cross. A partially filled-in stallion walks in front of the figure, obscuring his body. Should we read the man as divine, as the title suggests? Some commentary on the might of the natural world? Or perhaps a meditation on the power and dangers of being in possession of a Black and queer body?

Brackens is known to draw from a diverse artistic canon to help inform his practice. He acknowledges influences from the Gee's Bend quilts and the collographs of Belkis

Ayón, as well as contemporary artists like Alison Saar and Martin Puryear. He's also informed by literature, particularly poets such as Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikky Finney, and Essex Hemphill. Many of the titles of the pieces in his show come from Hemphill's poem "The Father, Son and Unholy Ghosts."

"I stand waist deep/ in the decadence of forgetting./ The vain act of looking the other way./ Insisting there can be peace/ and fecundity without confrontation./ The nagging question of blood hounds me./ How do I honor it?" asks the speaker in Hemphill's poem. Later, he continues: "I wanted tenderness/ to belong to us/ more than food or money."

In Brackens' own *in the decadence of silence*, a figure crouches as two dogs bark and jump in his direction. A row of purple and green palm trees line the background. The figure appears calm as he faces these seemingly aggressive animals, but is danger near?

Despite the work's ambiguity, a tenderness is ever-present. "There's a way in which weavings have traditionally been used to provide warmth, and to provide comfort," explains Roberts, "and there's that history embedded in the materials, and so even if you're not wrapping yourself in one and you can't take it off the wall of the museum, there is a level of comfort and care that is embedded in the material."

Beauty and tragedy sit side by side, as the warmth and care imbued also tell stories of trauma, with endings reimagined. In *bitter attendance*, *drown jubilee*, two Black figures stand in a stream of flowing dark-blue and green water. One stands proudly, holding a giant fish in his hands. The other bends downward, reaching to catch a fish

swimming through his legs. Below them, in an attached pane, sit open handcuffs.

The piece was inspired by a story that Brackens heard often growing up. In 1981, three Black teenagers drowned while in police custody after they were arrested at a Juneteenth celebration at Lake Mexia. The site had been home to one of the largest Juneteenth commemorations in the country, with as many as 20,000 people celebrating over a three-day weekend. The teenagers were being transported by boat when it capsized. The young men who drowned were known to be strong swimmers and many have alleged they were handcuffed, although the officers, who all survived and who were acquitted of any wrongdoing in 1982, have denied this.

"The loss of Black life, on the anniversary of Black liberation, at the epicenter of its celebration was gut-wrenching," Brackens explains in the show. "It was made all the more personal that it was situated in the place I was born, on land purchased by my own enslaved ancestors. I created the weaving as a way to tell the story and reimagine its violent ending. To honor the lives lost, the boys are returned to the world transformed as catfish."

"I hope it is some small healing tribute to my ancestors when I choose to sit at my loom and weave my stories."

DIEDRICK BRACKENS

For Brackens, the cotton material itself also carries deep significance. "This plant brought wealth to this country. Generations of my family toiled over its production and reaped no benefits," he states in the exhibition text. "I think often about the unknowable terrors and violence endured, all back-dropped by King Cotton, and I know it is my life's work to try and make something beautiful out of this material."

"I hope it is some small healing tribute to my ancestors when I choose to sit at my loom and weave my stories." ■

"Diedrick Brackens: darling divined" is on view through May 16, 2021, at the Blanton Museum of Art, 200 E. MLK. For more information, visit www.blantonmuseum.org.



(l-r) *the cup is a cloud*; *bitter attendance, drown jubilee*; *in the decadence of silence* by Diedrick Brackens

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

One Sweet Ride

In *Hotrod Golgotha*, poet W. Joe Hoppe delivers a high-octane paean to cars and all that makes them cool

BY ROBERT FAIRES

As someone whose car ownership has consisted almost exclusively of Toyota Corollas and Volvo sedans, and who is more likely to be found driving *under* the speed limit than over it, I may be exceedingly ill-suited to the task of reviewing a poetry collection in praise – *rapturous* praise! – of the automobile, its mechanics, and its ability to achieve blinding, thrilling speeds. But I *am* a child of car culture's heyday. I was there for drive-in burger joints and theatres; drag strips and speedway races (“Sunday! Sunday! Sunday!”); the Beach Boys’ “Little Deuce Coupe” and Jan and Dean’s “Dead Man’s Curve” topping the charts; the Corvette, Mustang, and Camaro rolling out of Detroit; Ed “Big Daddy” Roth’s Kustom Kars; Bond’s Aston Martin; Bullitt’s Mustang Fastback; the *Batmobile!* I mean, I still have a set of original Hot Wheels. So I *get* it, this automotive allure, this roadster rave. Thus, you can trust me when I say that opening up W. Joe Hoppe’s *Hotrod Golgotha* – the title’s lifted from Allen Ginsberg’s *Howl*, and Hoppe clearly takes some inspiration from the Beat king – felt like easing behind the wheel of a car I’d driven many times – and *very fast* – a car that’s alive with a monster V-8 that shakes your frame, rattles your bones, thunders under you, rumbles roars explodes.

See, Hoppe’s poems are fueled by verbs, the gasoline of activity. He’s always *doing* something, though given his passion here, it’s often not what you’d expect in the places you’d think. For the most part, the poet isn’t revving engines, burning asphalt, gunning accelerators, shifting gears, or roaring down streets, strips, highways. He’s not even *in* the car. He’s in the junkyard, scrounging for spare parts; in the garage, chipping paint, grinding rust, soldering wires, welding metal; under a tree, brushing red Rust-Oleum on the interior of a 1968 farm truck.

It isn’t that Hoppe doesn’t relish the power and velocity of these vehicles – his deep-seated love for everything about cars is evident in every line – but in these poems he’s helping us understand “what makes these cool cars go,” as he says in one piece, insisting that’s something “you’ve got to know.” To that end, he dives under the hood to show us what we never see, what the turning of the key sets in motion, what

it *ignites* – starter relays, ballast resistors, wires shooting “tens of thousands of volts/ straight to the spark plugs,” throttle cable, carburetor, crankshaft, pistons, tappets, pushrods, intake manifold, exhaust valve – all are covered in his tutorial explaining “the suck squeeze bang and blow.” “You’ve got to sing it,” he says, and he lets us hear how in his aria, his rhapsodic aria, on internal combustion and the other elements that make cars cool.

But even though *Hotrod Golgotha* spends relatively little time on the road, the chapbook is a journey. It begins in Hoppe’s childhood, before he could get behind the wheel himself, when his early enthusiasm for the automotive takes the form of Hot Wheels, Mattel’s beloved line of miniature die-cast cars. In his home, he makes them race along elaborate roadways that he’s built with their orange track slats, ones running from the dining room table under the sofa to his bedroom and down the basement

stairs, while in his father’s car, he holds them out “to glide them along balustrades and balconies, bridge cables/ billboards, the sleek silhouettes of other real cars/ you knew you’d

never ever ride in.” It extends to his Carter-era adolescence as he joins his angsty teenage pals in sneaking into an abandoned racetrack and running their lame vehicles – “our parents’ Vista Cruisers, Estate Wagons, Safaris/ our own Novas, Ramblers, Darts” – around the oval dirt track “until somebody crashed/ or we ran out of gas.” And it reaches its endpoint in middle age as the older, more patient Hoppe undertakes the restoration of a 1951 Plymouth Cranbrook – one of those hefty, rounded, postwar models out of Detroit. His painstaking efforts pop up here and there through the poems (one is simply a to-do list of work he has to do on the car), and the chapbook ends with his account of a short spin in the Cranbrook, ending at Bartholomew Park on the Fourth of July, 2016. It’s four years into the project, and he knows, in the words of another poet, that he has miles to go before he’s done. But that’s the way of all things, Hoppe notes; there’s always more to do. And what comes through is the idea that when the car is a good one, what sticks with us isn’t the place we end up as much as the drive. In *Hotrod Golgotha*, Hoppe has rolled out one sweet ride.



THEATRE

AUSTIN ACTS! VIRTUAL STAGE TALENT COMPETITION

The eight actors here, competing since July, are vying for the grand prize in this end-of-year online event from Austin’s **City Theatre**, which features the performances that got them to the finals via embodiment of works by Tom Stoppard, Edward Albee, Paula Vogel, Neil Simon, Terrence McNally, Tennessee Williams, Anna Devereaux Smith, and more. *Through Jan. 10. Donations accepted.* www.citytheatreaustin.org.

🌐 **THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL** This is an online community, as playwright and unstoppable force of creative nature **Nick Green** informs us, and it’s been activated to “celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by the need for social distancing that has come about due to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).” It’s not Austin-based, this virtual and ongoing festival of all *kinds* of performance arts, but damned if there aren’t a few talented Austinites among the eclectic (and ever-growing) mix. www.socialdistancingfestival.com.

COMEDY

ColdTowne Theater www.coldtownetheater.com

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS LIVE The former stage on Airport might be defunct, citizen, but the stars of that laugh factory near Mrs. Johnson’s Doughnuts are shining bright every Friday and Saturday night on ColdTowne TV! Tune in for this variety show format and drop a few bucks in the virtual tip jar to keep local comedy alive. *Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

VICTROLA ColdTowne’s sketch comedy podcast goes online with guests from, well, it could really be from *anywhere*, right? Because internets? You wanna see these bright local zanies working the virtual thing for all it’s worth, citizen, you’ll catch every episode. *Mondays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*

YEAH, BUT ARE YOU HAPPY? Austin comedians **Katie Stone** and **Lane Ingram** invite you to an ongoing podcast that explores the intersection between creativity and mental health. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Donations accepted.*



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11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, specialty List additional numbers one or more years)
9K40 QR K4 M1 ARMOR CREW
OS/11 DTHI17 FOLLONS

13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES
RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (3RD AWARD)
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (3RD AWARD)
CONDUCT MEDAL (5TH AWARD)
SERVICE MEDAL (2ND AWARD)

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- Revolution ✓
- Survival ✓
- Jailbait ✓
- Bounty hunter ✓
- Escape from society ✓

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Blue Lapis Light: Beyond the Clouds

The acclaimed aerial dance troupe's 2020 performance (chosen by *Chronicle* Arts Editor Robert Faires for inclusion among his Top 10 shows of the year) is now available in a digital version online – free of charge. Donations accepted. www.bluelapislight.org.

Hideout Theatre www.hideouttheatre.com

PGRAPH The fantastic foursome of improv fabulators returns for another week, bringing their arch spontaneity through Zoom and onto Twitch to make your minds zoom and your hearts twitch at what a talented local quartet can do, off-the-cuff, at the intersection of goofy and brilliant. *Wednesdays, 5pm; Saturdays, 7:30pm. \$5-15.*

🎯 **MAESTRO** This is an all-improvised battle royal, featuring the most ornery cusses in the scene doing their damndest to emerge victorious from a mind-warping multiplayer fray. Imagine: a screen crowded with Zoomers, competing in short improv games and wildass gambits to be crowned the one and only Maestro for the week. Sound good? Yeah – we like it, too. *Wednesdays, 8pm; Saturdays, 10pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

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

DANCE

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Local luminaries enliven the stage with holiday splendor and wintry exuberance in this *Nutcracker* digital film, featuring Ballet Austin's 2019 stage production by Stephen Mills, now streaming on demand and including a plethora of bonus material, cast and crew interviews, and behind-the-scenes featurettes. Note: You can get access with a tax-deductible donation to Ballet Austin and view the kinetic wonderment until the new year dawns. *Through Jan. 1. www.balletaustin.org.*

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: LOOKING FORWARD/LOOKING BACK – NEW PERSPECTIVES This series is a video tribute to Tapestry's history, legacy, and

future, in which alumni dancers returned to the company as choreographers and created new works for Tapestry's current company – dance artists from Australia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Mexico, and Texas. It's "an exciting and thought-provoking tap dance series that premieres works of some of the company's brightest stars: the tap headliners who started their professional career with Tapestry!" Note: Each episode will be livestreamed on Sunday evenings. *Through Jan. 3. Sundays, 7:30pm. Donations accepted. www.tapestry.org.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC

🎧 **BEERTHOVEN GOGGLES** Wait, what? Yes, Daniel Swayze and his Beerthoven cabal are plunging into the world of virtual reality! That is, they've made 360-degree films of more than an hour of music from two Beerthoven programs – *Sacred and Profane*, featuring a brass quintet performance, and those golden-throated Tinsel Singers sharing favorite songs for the holidays, and both shows captured on the steps of the historic Neill-Cochran House – and now they're presenting this seasonal extravaganza to you with a VR headset (Pico G2 4K) delivered direct to your home for complete immersion. Bonus: scenes from the *Austin Trail of Lights*. See website for details. *Through Jan. 10. \$30. www.beerthoven.com.*

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

🎯 **LANDMARKS: SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR** Well, it's always an event, isn't it? When you can take your smartphone to access self-guided tours of the outdoor public art sited by UT's award-winning Landmarks program? The answer is a hearty, full-throated YES. *Ongoing. Free. www.landmarks.utexas.edu.*

🎯 **RUIDO/NOISE: ALQUIMIA RÍTMICA/RHYTHMIC ALCHEMY** Yes, it is sound art, not visual art, but it does seem to fit better here than among the classical music listings, n'est-ce pas? But never mind the pigeonholes, citizen: This is the gallery's final online exhibition of 2020, curated by local artist Vladimir Mejia, who invites you to "take a joyride with a mixtape of sound art" online. *Thu., Dec. 31. www.ruido-noise.squarespace.com.*

OPENING

DIMENSION GALLERY: POLARITY This latest installation by Colin McIntyre balances subtle extremes of light and sound, featuring a constructed setting that's a rhomboid chamber, painted with extreme matte black "that eats light like a two-di-

mensional black hole." Into this Stygian vault the sculptor has engineered neon light and sound that play through cymatic devices to oscillate fluids at the frequency of a specific tone – and those cymatic displays are the only element in the space reflecting light from the minimal neon installation. Note: This is an in-person event inside the gallery, for one to two people at a time, with a strict face mask and social distancing policy. The installation will be accessible for a while, but we reckon it would be a perfect marker for the last outing you'll make in 2020. [Bonus: simultaneous reception for Allyson Lipkin's show of paintings at Blackfeather Vintage right next door.] *Opening reception: Thu., Dec. 31, 4-8pm. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99. www.dimensiongallery.org.*

CLOSING

🎯 **GEORGETOWN ART CENTER: BOOK PASSAGE** This is a show of reclaimed books that have been altered in extraordinary ways by Janice Anderson and John Sager – via collage, via paint, via outright sculpting of the materials. Anderson is new to us, but we saw a few of Sager's bibliophilic alterations over a decade ago and we're still talking about their beauty even now. Recommended, and definitely worth the trip. (Bonus: Check out the excellent Lark & Owl bookstore while you're there, too.) *Through Jan. 3. Georgetown Art Center, 816 S. Main, Georgetown, 512/930-2583. www.georgetownartcenter.org.*

🎯 **ICOSA: TRANSMISSIONS** Terra Goolsby and Tammie Rubin asked Urethra Burns, Veronica Ceci, Antonio Cueto, Chloe Curiel, Michael Anthony García, Jay Roff-García, Ryan Holloway, Delilah Rose Knuckley, Yuliya Lanina, and others, "What's performance without the expectations of the traditional shared experiences?" The answers are a mix of Zoom livestreaming and prerecorded works, ICOSA window performances, and limited-contact open exhibition hours. See website for details. *Through Jan. 3. Gallery hours: Fri.-Sat., noon-6pm. ICOSA, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #102, 512/920-2062. www.icosacollective.com.*

🎯 **PRIZER ARTS & LETTERS: PEOPLE THE WE** This is a collaborative exhibition by Adrian Aguilera and Betlehem Makonnen, conceived in the wake and continuing aftermath of the Black Lives Matter uprisings that were reignited in May 2020. *Through Jan. 3. Prizer Gallery, 2023 E. Cesar Chavez. www.prizerartsandletters.org.*

🎯 **BALE CREEK ALLEN GALLERY: PROMISED LAND** This collaboration between musician John Doe and visual artist Michael Mogavero is a celebration of melding poetry with visual images and a testament to the artists' longtime friendship. *Through Jan. 4. Bale Creek Allen Gallery, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #103. www.balecreekallengallery.com.*

🎯 **FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS: PORTRAITS AT DOWNS FIELD** It's the culminating piece of Forklift's yearlong residency at Downs Field in East Austin: portraits of the Downs Field community by photographer Cindy Elizabeth, installed at the field for everyone to see. The project explores the importance

Rita's Quilt: Bringing Women Together

When Shannon Downey of Badass Cross Stitch discovered an unfinished quilt at an estate sale in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, she knew she had to finish it in honor of the original artist who had passed on. She also knew that she could not do it alone. Now see the glorious results and hear the story of what happened when 150 artists from across the country worked together to finish #RitasQuilt – featuring a beautifully embroidered map, 50 stars, and 50 states' birds and flowers. Downey will speak about the project in-person and online. See website for details, and to sign up for the embroidery workshops. *Thu., Jan. 7, 5-7pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel. \$5-15.*



of Downs Field to the continual flourishing of baseball in Texas through the past, present, and future. *Through Jan. 4. Downs Field, 2816 E. 12th. www.forkliftdanceworks.org.*

ONGOING

☛ **SUFFRAGE NOW: A 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION** This is the show for which **women photographers nationwide were invited to share photos** that comment on the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. *Through Jan. 31. Free. www.elisabeteymuseum.org.*

TEXAS FOLKLIFE: THE BRUSH IS A BOW Howard Rains is a watercolor artist and a master fiddler. Now, the abandonment of touring and the quiet hours in his studio during this pandemic have begun to shift his **portraits of fellow musicians** and others into the realm of the surreal. *www.texasfolklife.org.*

☛ **WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY: CONCRETE TO CANVAS** The gallery formerly known as the **Russell Collection** rebrands itself as **West Chelsea Contemporary** and boasts an inaugural show featuring some of the biggest names in street art – from **Banksy** and **Basquiat** to **KAWS** and **Keith Haring**, among others. *West Chelsea Contemporary, 1009 W. Sixth #120. www.wcc.art.*

THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: EXPANDING ABSTRACTION The Blanton's permanent collection of abstract art is particularly strong in such paintings of the Sixties and Seventies, and you'll want to get an eyeeful of this major new show, subtitled "Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas," organized by the venue's own **Carter E. Foster**. *Through Jan. 10. The Blanton Museum of Art, 200 E. MLK, 512/471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

DAVIS GALLERY: TOGETHER APART This group exhibit is focused on the experience of sharing holidays apart from loved ones, with artists addressing **the importance of family, life and death, our connection to nature, and spirituality**, including work by **Chun Hui Pak, David Everett, Faustinus Deraet, David Leonard, Dana Younger, Fallon Bartos**, and more. *Through Jan. 16. Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th, 512/477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

☛ **FLATBED PRESS: 2020 HINDSIGHT** This is a new exhibition of works from each of the 14 artists who worked at the press this year – along with the "Every Head Is a World, Every World Is a Head" portfolio of prints by **Michael Ray Charles**. *Through Jan. 9. Wed.-Fri., 10am-5pm, and by appointment. Flatbed Press, 3701 Drossett #190, 512/477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.*

☛ **IVESTER CONTEMPORARY: ABSOLUTE RELATIVISM** This is a solo exhibition by Austin-based artist **Dave McClinton**, representing a continuation of his "Black Life" series, an ongoing project that aims to **illustrate the inner life cycle of Black people in America**. Bold, illuminating, confrontational, and aesthetically superlative. Bonus: Ivester's **Project Space** presents "Olas de Perturbación," new works by **Michael Anthony García**. *Through Jan. 9. Ivester Contemporary, 916 Springdale, Bldg. 2 #107. www.iverstercontemporary.com.*

LAGUNA GLORIA This local treasure of a venue, run by those **Contemporary Austin** folks who also bring us the Jones Center shows Downtown, is all about the outdoors – and the many examples of **world-class sculpture** arranged thereupon. *Thu.-Fri., 9am-noon; Sat.-Sun., 9am-3pm. Laguna Gloria Amphitheater, 3809 W. 35th. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/lagunagloria.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: UPWELLING Meghann **Riepenhoff** makes her images with an antiquated photographic printing process and thinks of her work as a collaboration with the ocean, the landscape, and precipitation, **her dynamic cyanotypes** taking on varying shades of blue to give the impression of water in motion. *Through Jan. 16. Lora Reynolds Gallery, 360 Nueces #50, 512/215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

☛ **MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MEXICO, THE BORDER, AND BEYOND** Mexic-Arte Museum presents an exhibition of selections from the **Juan Antonio Sandoval Jr.** collection, an array of work that is considered one of the most important Latinx art collections in the United States. *Through May 30. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 512/480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

NORTHERN-SOUTHERN: BATON The N-S gallery space has been turned into an ever-evolving installation, called **Baton**, by a series of artists working in turn, and here comes the end of the year, and who *knows* what it's become at this point. We say: Check it out! *Northern-Southern, 1900-B E. 12th. www.northern-southern.com.*

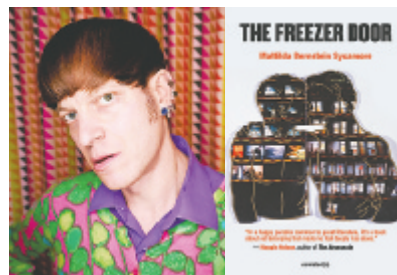
UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN The Umlauf's famed garden remains open, yes, featuring all those expertly wrought sculptures, the bronze or stone cynosures from **Charles Umlauf** and others anchoring sight among the bright foliage and tree-towered paths. *Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-4pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Azie Morton, 512/445-5582. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

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

BOOKS

BOOKS: PICK 'EM UP CURBSIDE! Don't forget, citizen: The best place to get your reading material is from Austin's own **Malvern Books** or **Half Price Books** or **BookPeople** or **BookWoman** stores online. (And for the ultimate in vintage collectors' editions and unique works on paper, we recommend the excellent **South Congress Books** – right there on, well, South Congress.) Or try **Bookshop.org** in general – because Bookshop, unlike the internetted behemoth named after a certain South American river, Bookshop **shares the profits among all its independent-bookstore members**. And that Bezos fellow is already making enough goddamn money, n'est-ce pas? *www.bookshop.org.*

MALVERN BOOKS: THE LION AND THE PIRATE Yes, it's a new year and there's still a pandemic on, but Malvern's **virtual open mic series** continues! They start off with two featured readers, and then it'll be your time to shine. *Sat., Jan. 2, 7pm. Malvern Books, 613 W. 29th. Free. www.malvernbooks.com.*



Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore: The Freezer Door

The author, in conversation with Austin's own **Alyssa Harad**, presents her "complex meditation on the trauma and possibility of searching for connection in a world that relentlessly enforces bland norms of gender, sexual, and social conformity while claiming to celebrate diversity." *Thu., Jan. 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 512/472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*



ALMOST TOTALLY GONE, MAN.

It closes January 10, so check out *Expanding Abstraction: Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas, 1958–1983*, while you still can. Full of big, bold, mind-altering art.

Advance timed-entry reservations now required. Details at blantonmuseum.org.

Expanding Abstraction: Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas, 1958–1983 is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

Image: Alice Baber, *Lavender High* (detail), 1968, oil on canvas, 75 1/2 x 75 1/2 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Michener Acquisition Fund, 1969

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COMMUNITY AC

#TSOGIVING HOLIDAY INITIATIVE Tso Chinese Delivery has partnered with seven local organizations with the goal to provide \$100,000 in meals to Austinites in need. Make a direct donation online, or add one to any food order. For every \$1 raised, #TsoGiving can donate \$3 worth of meals. Through Dec. 31. www.tso.com/company/tsosgiving.

DONATE BLOOD, GET FREE WHATABURGER OR MINIBON When you donate with We Are Blood, get a free honey butter chicken biscuit from Whataburger and a free sweatshirt, through Dec. 31. Then We Are Blood partners with Schlotzsky's to kick off 2021 offering donors a free Cinnabon Minibon. Donate blood or platelets to get a voucher redeemable at select Schlotzsky's, Jan. 4-14. Appointments are mandatory; schedule online or call 512/206-1266. *We Are Blood donor centers & mobile drives.* www.weareblood.org.

SANTA'S SLEIGH SELFIES Visit anytime after dark to see the tree lit with thousands of twinkly lights and take photos with Santa's sleigh. Through Jan. 3. *Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway, Cedar Park.* www.cedarparktexas.gov/departments/parks-creation.

WINTER WANDERLAND Snow close, yet snow far out! Austin Motel is decked out for the holidays with a neon rainbow, and they're serving up hot chocolate (with optional peppermint schnapps), a Sugar Plum cocktail, and La Colombe coffee. Snacks include Reindeer Chow and hot pretzels. Through Jan. 3. *Austin Motel, 1220 S. Congress.* Free, but RSVP. www.austinmotel.com/event/winter-wanderland.

WINTER WELL-BEING TOOLKIT Pandemic-related stressors could make this winter and holiday season tougher than usual. Integral Care recently launched a Winter Well-Being Toolkit, a compilation of ideas to boost mental health, fight the winter blues, stay safely connected, and celebrate the season in new ways. www.integralcare.org/en/winter2020.

GHOST PEPPER GLASS: TASTE OF GLASS EXPERIENCES If you've been wanting to cross glass-blowing off your bucket list, here's your chance! Try a crash course to get a quick overview and make your own small souvenir. Private lessons, workshops, and multi-week courses also available. *Fridays & Saturdays (except holidays), 6, 7, or 8pm.* *Ghost*

Pepper Glass, 979 Springdale #100. \$65 per person and project. www.ghostpepperglass.com.

YWCA WARMLINE YWCA of Greater Austin has officially launched a "Warmline" to support people in need of connection amidst the isolation of COVID-19. The Warmline will provide support for people experiencing loneliness, isolation, anxiety, confusion, stress, or other challenges. *Mon.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., noon-4pm.* Via phone: 512/548-9922. www.ywcaustin.org.

TRAVIS COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Give your natural holiday tree new life by recycling it at one of these locations. Remove decorations, and trees over 6 feet must be cut in half. Flocked trees not accepted. *West Service Center (4501 FM 620); Del Valle Adult Softball Complex (3614 FM 973, Del Valle); Collection Center (2625 Woodall Dr., Leander); East Service Center (6011 Blue Bluff).* Through Jan. 10. *7am-5pm.* Free. www.austintexas.gov/treerecycling.

LEGALLINE On the first Tuesday of every month, obtaining good, simple legal advice is easy. Just call 512/472-8303 for LegalLine, the free legal advice hotline sponsored by Austin Lawyer Referral Service. Attorney volunteers can answer questions and give brief legal advice concerning many areas of law. *First Tuesday of every month, 5:30-7:30pm.* Free. www.austnlrs.com.

LUNCH, LEARN & GIVE: FREE LANGUAGE WORKSHOP Jump-start (or continue) your language learning journey in Spanish, French, or Italian with a mini-lesson in language and culture. *Tue.-Thu., Jan. 5-7, noon.* Online via Zoom. Free. www.freestylelanguagecenter.com.

VIRTUAL KWANZAA George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center partner with Six Square to present a virtual celebration of the fifth principle of Kwanzaa, "Nia," meaning "purpose." *Wed., Dec. 30, 6:30pm.* Online. www.fb.com/events/2877151705835507.

PUB QUIZ AT BAKER STREET Triviaficionados are welcome to join this COVID-cautious quiz to compete for prizes. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm.* *Baker Street Pub & Grill, 3003 S. Lamar, 512/691-9140.* Free. www.fb.com/austincitytrivia.

BLACK MIRROR TRIVIA Is there any more 2020 show than *Black Mirror*? Join this socially distanced trivia night to test your knowledge, and bring a fully charged phone, because it's played electronically to limit contact. *Wed., Dec. 30, 6:30pm.* *Volstead Lounge, 1500 E. Sixth.* www.fb.com/volsteadlounge.

BASIC HAND-TOOL WOODWORKING Get an intro to woodworking, tool selection, and tool sharpening. *Sat., Jan. 2, 10am-4pm.* *Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 512/837-1215.* www.pioneerfarms.org.

MANIFEST 2021: VISION BOARD WORKSHOP Clear out the old with yoga and meditation, then create your vision for the next year. *Sun., Jan. 3, 1-3:30pm.* Online or in-person at *Shuniga Yoga Collective, 3703 Kerbey Ln. \$25-35.* www.shuniyogacollective.com.

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

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Iowa State. *Sun., Jan. 3, 2pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. Iowa State. *Tue., Jan. 5, 7pm.* *Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* www.texassports.com.

TEXAS STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Vs. Louisiana. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 1-2, 4pm.* *Strahan Arena, San Marcos.* www.txstatebobcats.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

YOGA IN THE DARK Bring a candle to the mat for this beginner-friendly yoga class with Sarah Beames, themed around the gorgeous and masterfully moody *Pier & Loft* album by Hiroshi Yoshimura. *Wed., Dec. 30, 6:30pm.* Virtual. \$5 donation encouraged. austinfilmsschool.org/play-at-home.

POOLSIDE YOGA AT AUSTIN PROPER HOTEL Revitalize your mind, body, and soul with Liz Davis. Yoga mats, towels, Richard's Rainwater, Supergoop sunscreen, and fresh pressed juices will be provided, and class reservation includes morning access to the pool deck and gym. *Saturdays through Jan. 30, 10am.* *Austin Proper Hotel & Residences, 600 W. Second, 888/333-0546.* \$25. www.eventbrite.com.

IT'S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE The It's Time Texas Community Challenge, hosted by statewide nonprofit It's Time Texas, is working to make healthier lifestyles accessible to all Texans. Participants track healthy activities, like eating healthy foods and doing physical activity, to earn points for their communities and weekly chances to win prizes. *Jan. 4-Feb. 28.* Free. www.ittcommunitychallenge.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

MADD VIRTUAL JINGLE BELL 5K Run, walk, or jog where you are to benefit Mothers Against Drunk Driving. All participants get a participant medal. Through Jan. 6. *Virtual.* \$35, adults; \$10, kids. www.austinjinglebell.com.

LIFE TIME AUSTIN COMMITMENT DAY Life Time is encouraging everyone to make a lasting healthy habit by choosing a movement challenge to kick-start 2021. You can sign up for a free virtual 5K run or choose a 30-day progressive challenge in one or more categories, including walk, run, cycle, and swim. *Fri., Jan. 1.* Virtual. Free. www.runsignup.com/Race/MN/Minneapolis/LTCommitmentDay5k.

KIDS

PEPPERMINT PARKWAY Join Pepper and Mint on their journey down COTA's Tunnel Road in this drive-through holiday experience. Plus enjoy go-karts, amusements, and a zipline. *Various dates through Jan. 3.* *Circuit of the Americas, Circuit of the Americas Blvd.* \$35-90. www.peppermintparkway.com.

GIRLSTART STARRY NIGHTS AT HOME See a virtual star show and participate in hands-on STEM activities for the entire family, centered on the theme of Inuit lore. Get the materials list online. *Thu., Jan. 7.* Online. Free. www.girlstart.org/our-programs/starry-nights.

VIRTUAL FAMILY PROGRAM: SHINING STARS Gather the family in the comfort of your home to enjoy a virtual storytime with a reading of Cynthia Rylant's *The Stars Will Still Shine*, then create a shining star art project together. *Thu., Jan. 7, 10am.* *Bullock Museum Online.* Free. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

OUT OF TOWN

EISBAHN, ICE SKATING IN THE HILL COUNTRY Safety protocols are in place in the outdoor skating rink at Marktplatz. Through Jan. 3. *Fredericksburg.* \$15. www.heritageschool.org/eisbahn.

FIRST DAY HIKE Keep your New Year's resolution to get healthy by starting 2021 with a hike in a state park. *Fri., Jan. 1.* *Texas State Parks.* www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/first-day-hikes.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE & FUN RUN Start the new year off with a run at your location and then jump into the cool waters of Cypress Creek. Those taking the plunge must preregister for one of three time slots. *Fri., Jan. 1, 9-10:30am.* *Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley.* \$25. www.cityofwimberley.com.



TOUR CANYON LAKE GORGE Reserve online to take a three-hour educational walk through the gorge that was cut when the Guadalupe River flooded over the dam. *Ongoing, starting Jan. 2.* *New Braunfels.* \$10. www.gbra.org/canyonlakegorge/default.aspx.

DAY TRIPS BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge** in **Phil Hardberger Park** on San Antonio's north side is open and it's awesome.

After more than a decade of planning and work, the Land Bridge over **Wurzbach Parkway** gives hikers and wildlife a connection between the two sides of the heavily wooded 311-acre park. Landscaping turns the 150-foot-wide bridge into what appears on the trail as a small hill. Iron walls along the edges dampen the traffic noise of the four-lane parkway below to a whisper. By spring when the grasses grow and trees sprout leaves you will hardly know you've left terra firma for a man-made structure.

Hardberger Park is a multifaceted natural area with 3.64 miles of hike-and-bike trails on the west side and 2.84 miles on the east side. Each section has a leash-free dog park, picnic areas, and play-scapes, as well as education centers. The park preserves a swath of old-growth riparian forest along **Salado Creek**.

Surrounded by neighborhoods and businesses, the park is home to a variety of wildlife. Park officials have already spotted deer, raccoons, and other critters using the bridge to safely cross the busy highway. Local artists designed two wildlife blinds on the bridge that blend into the landscape as public art.

Phil Hardberger Park, named for a former mayor, is open from sunup to sunset. The park is northwest of the **San Antonio International**



Airport and easily accessible from I-35 and Highway 281. The land bridge is a little more than a half-mile walk from parking areas at 13203 Blanco Rd. and 8400 NW Military Highway. For more information on the park and to print a map, go to www.philhardbergerpark.org.

1,531st in a series. Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog, at austinchronicle.com/daily/travel.

GERALD E. MCLEOD

Holiday Events!

NEW YEAR'S GUIDE

MUSIC

AUSTIN'S ALL VIRTUAL NEW YEAR w/ Shakey Graves, Parker McCollum, Gina Chavez, Rob Baird, Swimming With Bears, Como Las Movies, Jake Lloyd, BettySoo 8pm. www.youtube.com/user/austintexasgov.

LIVESTREAM PARTY w/ DJ Pete Rock, Marcus Machado, James Robinson, Uriah Mitchell, Noa, Vicky Casis, JaRon Marshall, Mobley, Zach Person, Sam Houston 6pm. www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-2021-live-stream-party-w-dj-pete-rock-tickets-131509852509

LIVE

AUSTIN FAMILY NEW YEARS w/ Ally Venable Band, No Funks Given 7pm. The Far Out Lounge & Stage, www.fb.com/thefaroutlounge.

BROKEN ARROW 6pm. Buck's Backyard, 1750 FM 1626 S., Buda, 512/312-9456. www.bucksbackyard.com.

COUNTRY NEW YEAR'S EVE w/ Nine-Pound Hammers, Chris Ray (acoustic) 3pm. San Jac Saloon, www.sanjacsaloon.com.

DESERT HEARTS NYE w/ Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Marbs, Porky 9pm. The Venue ATX, 516 E. Sixth, 512/415-3112. thevenueatx.com.

DREW MORELAND & THE NEON HUSTLE 9pm. Lone Star Court Hotel, 10901 Domain Dr., 512/814-2625. www.lonestarcourt.com.

FLATLAND CAVALRY, MASON LIVELY 8pm. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281. www.gruenehall.com.

LOS ANGELES LEAKERS, LAMAR 9pm. Summit Roof-top Lounge, 120 W. Fifth, 512/394-7347. www.summitaustin.com.

THE MAXBAND 9pm. Castro's Bar & Grill, 900 RR 620 S., Lakeway, 512/263-3322. www.castrobar.com.

MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR, TALLULA 8pm. River Road Ice House, 1791 Hueco Springs Loop Rd., New Braunfels, 830/626-1335. www.riverroadicehouse.com.

PDA 8pm. Speakeasy, 412-D Congress, 512/476-8017. www.speakeasyaustin.com.

TOMAR & THE FCS 10pm. Antone's Nightclub, 305 E. Fifth, 512/814-0361. www.antonessnightclub.com.

WELDON HENSON 8:30pm. Mercer Dancehall, 23490 RR 12, Driftwood, 512/858-4314. mercerdancehall.com.

THE CHRIS CUEVAS PROJECT 9pm. Riley's Tavern, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132. rileystavern.com.

TWENTY TWENTY DONE w/ Paul Val 10:30pm. Geraldine's, 605 Davis, 512/476-4755. geraldinesaustin.com.

PARTIES & MORE

✪ **AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR** The city of Austin's official New Year's Eve celebration will be virtual in 2020. Presented by the Austin Convention Center, the special will feature prerecorded performances from eight local bands recorded at iconic local venues across the city including Saxon Pub, the Continental Club, Cheer Up Charlies, Antone's, and Mohawk. *Thu., Dec. 31. Virtual.* www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-new-year.

✪ **2020 UNCAGED NEW YEAR'S BASH** New Year's Eve at the HighBall has evolved for the times. The Alamo virtual team has re-created the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, the Highball, karaoke rooms, and theatres into a virtual 8-bit experience. On NYE, you'll be transformed into an 8-bit avatar, enter the virtual party space, and explore rooms full of entertainment and surprises. The party is also a tribute to all-time fave cinematic hero Nicolas Cage and includes a screening of *Mandy*, and the interactive quest, photo booths, and video installations will all pay tribute to the king. There's so much more in store: magicians, game rooms, tarot, even personalized poems from Typewriter Rodeo. 8pm. *Online.* \$25 and up. shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye.

✪ **BACK TO THE FUTURE MARATHON** All three *Back to the Future* movies, starting at 5pm with 30 minute breaks in between. Admission will be donations only; pay what you can to help support the Palace. Wear your best Marty McFly, Doc, or Eighties garb to win a prize, and Eighties music and trivia questions live things up between shows. 5pm. *Georgetown Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. Donations accepted.* www.georgetownpalace.com.

✪ **FUTURE FORWARD NYE 2021** A futuristic outdoor NYE celebration on the heated patio with beats by DJ Phoenix and a complimentary Champagne toast at midnight. Bottle service available at reserved tables. 8pm. *Reina, 78 Rainey. Free.* www.eventbrite.com/e/reina-future-forward-nye-2021-tickets-132840815455.

✪ **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION** Dance (socially distanced) the night away in a private airplane hangar and ring the New Year in with a Champagne toast. Shuttle service available for guests not staying at the resort. 7pm. *JL Bar Ranch, Sonora. \$85; dinner and lodging extra.* www.jlbar.com/nye.

✪ **NYE MASQUERADE** Arcade games, bottle service, and tunes from Offaiah. Masks and social distancing required; age 18+ only. 8pm. *Pinballz Kingdom, 15201 S. I-35, Buda, 512/523-4080.* www.pinballzarcade.com.

✪ **SPEAKEASY'S LEGENDARY NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH** Ring in 2021 at this seated, socially distanced celebration with DJs, live music, bottle service, and a complimentary champagne toast. 8pm. *Speakeasy, 412-D Congress. \$91-150.* www.eventbrite.com/e/speakeasy-legendary-new-years-eve-bash-2021-tickets-127941796357.

FAMILIES & DAYTIME

✪ **NOON YEAR'S EVE AT AUSTIN AQUARIUM** A family-friendly party with all the creatures of the aquarium, with a balloon drop at noon so the kids get in on the fun without missing bedtime. *Thu., Dec. 31, 11:30am. Austin Aquarium, 13530 N. Hwy 183 #101, 512/222-5586.* www.austin-aquarium.com/es/aevents/upcoming-events.

✪ **HIGH 5 LAKEWAY NYE FAMILY PARTY** Family package includes an hour of bowling, shoe rental, a large pizza, and bottomless soda, plus face paint and balloon art from Lilly



GETTY IMAGES

CITY ENCOURAGES SAFE CELEBRATIONS

Austin Public Health would like to remind everyone to spread kindness, not COVID, this season. Keep the health of your family, friends, and neighbors in mind when planning your holiday celebrations, and consider virtual and low-risk activities. Get ideas and COVID-19 info at www.austintexas.gov/holidaysafety.

Sparkles and a NYE countdown Champagne/cider toast. *Thu., Dec. 31, 4-11pm. High 5, 1502 RR 620 South, Lakeway. \$115/family.* www.bowlhighfive.com.

✪ **DYE 2020 NEW YEAR'S EVE WEEKEND** The little craft brewery in the woods has a full weekend of holiday events and music beginning with a tie-dye party on Thursday, a Bloody Mary Friday, and music on Saturday and Sunday. *Thu.-Sun., Dec. 31-Jan. 3. Roughhouse Brewery, San Marcos. www.roughhousebrewing.com.*

✪ **NYE DIY KIDS' PARTY** Your preordered party kit includes hats, party horns, poppers, coloring sheets, mystery prize balloons, and a game card to use on a future visit. Stick around for arcade games if you wish. *Thu., Dec. 31, noon-3pm. Austin-area Pinballz Arcades. \$15.* www.pinballzarcade.com/events.

✪ **NOON YEAR'S EVE AT ALTITUDE TRAMPOLINE PARK** A jumping party with a live DJ, games, a kid-friendly toast, party favors, and a balloon drop at noon with more than \$5,000 in prizes. *Thu., Jan. 7. Altitude Trampoline Park, 2800 S. I-35 #200, Round Rock. \$15.*

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

✪ **AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS** As you drive through the trail, tune in via your car radio for holiday music, highlights, and history. *Through Jan. 3 (except Jan. 1). Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. GA, \$25-60 per vehicle.* www.austintrailoflights.org.

✪ **HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN GEORGETOWN'S HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE** *Through Jan. 2. Historic Town Square, East Seventh Street, Georgetown. visit.georgetown.org.*

✪ **LUMINATIONS AT LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER** Thousands of luminarias light the way through the Texas Arboretum. *Through Jan. 3. Closed Dec. 31 & Jan. 1. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse. www.wildflower.org/event/luminations/2020-11-27.*

✪ **MAYWALD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** A park-and-walk display that's free with a donation to Make-A-Wish at the box upon entry. *Through Jan. 3. 10505 Twilight Vista. www.fb.com/maywaldchristmaslights.*

✪ **MOZART'S 2020 COVID-CAUTIOUS CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW** Sip a delicious hot bevvie and see the beautiful light show by the lake. Reservations required. *Through Jan. 6, 6pm-12mid. Mozart's Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. \$10 per table for one-hour show. www.mozartscoffee.com.*

✪ **NORTHERN LIGHTS HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR** Presented by Toyota of Cedar Park, this drive-through light show has a special bonus of a different holiday movie screening each night. *Through Dec. 31. Light show opens at 5pm; films screen at 7 & 10pm. Haute Spot, 1501 E. New Hope Dr., Cedar Park. www.cedarparklights.com.*

✪ **SANTA'S SLEIGH SELFIES** Visit anytime after dark to see the tree lit with thousands of twinkly lights and take photos with Santa's sleigh. *Through Jan. 3. Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway, Cedar Park. www.cedarparktexas.gov/departments/parks-recreation.*

NYE Fireworks at Doc's

One of the best socially distanced options to ring in 2021 is a drive-in movie, and Doc's is offering a fireworks show after every screening. Choose from *Sing*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, *The Goonies*, or *The Great Gatsby*. They've also got \$2 Champagne plus brisquet chili, Frito pie, burgers, vegan wings, and more. *Thu., Dec. 31, 6pm. Doc's Drive In Theatre, 1540 Satterwhite Rd., Buda, 512/960-4460. www.docsdiveintheatre.com.*



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THE AUSTIN
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Food

Eberly Reopens, Ready for a Whole New Year

The elegant dining venue (and chef Jo Chan) returns with the heartiest food **BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER**

We believe this is another reason for rejoicing: Eberly is open again. The elegantly appointed exemplar of American fine dining just south of the river had been shuttered due to our least favorite pandemic foe, what? Eight months? “It was almost nine months,” said Executive Chef Jo Chan. “We closed in mid-March and didn’t reopen until December first.”

Time really has become a trickier thing to reckon – almost as tricky as trying to run a hospitality business in the current situation. “It’s been a crazy time for our industry, a really unstable time,” Chan agreed, “and we were trying to do the best that we could for our customers, for our staff – for safety and all those things. We kept coming up with days that we were going to open, you know?”

Like back in midsummer, maybe? “We talked about a date in June,” said Chan. “We talked about a date in July, and in September – but things kept happening, and it felt like

the situation was getting worse with the virus. We were like, ‘No, it doesn’t seem like the right time.’ And then, finally, we decided, ‘We’ve got to do it, we’ve got to get back in the game and get jobs for our staff, have to bring everything back to order.’ And that’s what happened this week.”

We know the sorts of things that are involved with an eatery’s reopening in The Time of COVID-19. And, indeed, those are the very protocols Eberly’s figured out and put in place.

“We’ve really reevaluated every step of the restaurant,” said Chan, “from the moment we come in, and the way we make contact with everything. We’re thinking about the ways we interact with each other, making sure we’re always wearing masks, making sure everyone’s washing their hands regularly, and that there’s sanitizer everywhere. It’s been tough, and of course there are additional costs with all the safety measures.”

This is a sadly familiar refrain throughout the industry. But one of the things that makes a restaurant stand out from its fellow nom-mongers (aside from an impressive dining room and a 152-year-old bar from Greenwich Village’s legendary Cedar Tavern) is the individual talent and skill and perspective of its kitchen’s head honcho, of course. It’s about a team, certainly, but it’s also about a person. So we asked chef Chan – a 31-year-old Chinese Filipina American, as the census takers would note, who moved to Austin after working for Marcus Samuelsson and Jonathan Waxman and at Nobu in New York City – what her own personal response was to those nine months of closure. How, we mean, did she keep from absolutely losing her mind?

“I *did* kind of lose my mind for a while,” she told us. “After 10 years in the industry and working in places like New York and abroad in Sweden and all these places, there’s been a real level of intensity to my life. A workday for me is always 12 to 14 hours, and so to go from absolutely pedal-to-the-metal to just nothing ... was a little bit maddening. But I tried to take a silver lining



out of it, like, ‘You know what? Let’s take this almost as a half-time moment, to reevaluate and find some other things to be interested in.’ Because I’d never really had that. I’ve worked somewhere between 60 and 100 hours a week for my entire career – and that doesn’t leave a whole lot of room for hobbies. Or any kind of interest. It was like, working food service, I took a 10-year hiatus from my personal life. So it was kind of nice to jump on a Zoom [call] with my family, to reconnect with friends, to read a book, or watch a TV show. To just have a bit of normalcy, you know? I got a dog. I walked my dog. I was like, ‘Oh, this is a *regular* person’s life!’ But it’s hard to be away from what you love.”

So she’s back at it – and Eberly with her. Eberly and its carefully masked staff, its rooms like you’d imagine Rockefellers dining in back in the day, its unique cocktails to complement that Cedar Tavern bar’s storied history. And of course pastry chef Sarah Seghi’s delectable confections.

“One thing we’ve been surprised by already is how normal things can feel,” said Chan a week after reopening. “It’s been great to celebrate birthdays, to celebrate anniversaries, and it felt like people were rooting for us and were happy to be in our space – and hopefully that continues on through next year.”

And what’s the menu like now, chef?

“Well, my food always comes from a really emotional place,” she says. “And in the winter, even before COVID, I usually revert to comfort food – that kind of stick-to-your-bones, solid, hearty food that makes you feel good with the colder weather and all that – which just so happens to coincide

with where we are now. So when I went to write this new menu, I was like, ‘Let’s get back to that. Let’s cook the things that people don’t know how to cook as well at home or don’t necessarily have access to at home.’ So right now we’re selling an insane amount of our short ribs with cheddar polenta. And I think part of that is, oh, it’s a braised-meat item, it’s short rib – which people don’t buy for themselves at the store on a regular basis – and it really gives you those rich flavors of winter. We’ve got this steak on right now, too, and we’re doing a black garlic and peppercorn sauce on it – so, yeah, all the kinds of deeper flavors that people associate with the holidays.”

And what of the future, we wonder. Not like Chan is going to conjure predictions for anybody – she’s an acclaimed chef, after all, not a haruspex – but, even while continuing to dish up fine meals for Eberly guests, what is she looking forward to when these damned ’ronas are finally history?

“Hopefully we can get back into more exciting things,” she says, “and to doing collaborations. That’s what’s really missing in the industry right now: We’re not able to fly around the country and collaborate with each other, to further the national conversation about food. And hopefully those things will come back as the vaccine comes in. Those are the things that I’m looking forward to in the next year – and to having large gatherings again, to just having that big festive vibe in our building that we used to have, you know?”

Oh, yes. And until then? Chef Jo Chan smiles. “We’re just really thrilled to be open again,” she said. ■



Eberly’s Executive Chef Jo Chan

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EBERLY

FOOD EVENTS AC

FOOD NEWS BUFFET

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Here's some of what's happening in Austin's culinary scene as the new year begins. It's your weekly food news buffet, wrangled from numerous PR releases, official posts, words on the digital street, and even the occasional (verified) IRL eavesdroppings.

So here we are in **Stage 5** of pandemic restrictions, which means everyone's encouraged to rely on takeout or delivery from restaurants and not do any of that lovely dining-in stuff we so habitually crave. And the same goes, but even harder, for bars. Hell of a thing at this particular time of the year. But then, there are worse situations to be in than just chilling Netflix-wise with a pizza from **Bufalina**, a couple orders of **Old Thousand's** brisket fried rice, and a bottle of **Treaty Oak's Ghost Hill Bourbon**. Tell you what: Order as much takeout from your favorite places as you can, because they need the business, and tip big, but otherwise stay the hell home. Play it cool for another five or six months, citizen, and 2021 won't end anywhere near as ugly as 2020 did.

A new burger joint specializing in drive-through service and boasting hand-formed 100% Angus beef patties has opened on Cameron Road near East Rundberg, so you might be driving past it a couple times a day

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

PRESSED JUICERY: NEW YEAR, NEW JOURNEYS The Pressed Juicery, that bright bastion of plant-based goodness in the Domain, kicks off the new year with a **juice fast deal** and a sneak peek at the company's graphic redesign, offering **half-day juice fasts** (\$20, for a series of four juices and one shot, that you finish with a plant-based meal) and **full-day juice cleanses** (\$29, which includes six juices per day, with one juice consumed every two hours). What a healthy way for you to ditch the dumpster fire of 2020, citizen! *Through Feb. 1. Pressed Juicery, 11401 Century Oak Terrace #103, 512/900-8604. www.pressedjuicery.com.*

FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES FROM SFC A new year dawns, but we've still got a ways to go in dealing with this pandemic. The **Sustainable Food Center** has put together a thorough compilation of food access resources for Central Texans, ranging from farmers' markets to CSAs to delivery options and everything in between, so you can ensure that healthy food stays on your table. And if you're able to contribute they're accepting online donations, which support farmers and low-income families facing food insecurity. Get all the details on their website. *Citywide. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.*



JOHN ANDERSON

Meanwhile, in our online edition, David Brendan Hall's got **10 New Year's Eve To-Go Drink Options**, most with alcohol but at least two without, to make sure your thirst for the end of 2020 is both professionally slaked and safe as houses.

WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FOOD



COURTESY OF BEARD PAPA'S

if you live north – in Pflugerville, say – after we all start going into the office to work again. The name of the place is **Buddy's Burger**, and you'll be happy to know that it also serves beer – and lemonade and milkshakes – in addition to those big bold hamburgers and cheeseburgers and fries.

This next thing's not open until February, but we're thinking about camping out so's to get in a socially distanced line early. Might look a bit out of place in a tent in the middle

of the Domain, though, because that's where **Beard Papa's** is set to make its Austin debut. The specialist bakery first opened in Osaka (yes, in Japan) in 1999 and claimed its fame with the "**World's Best Cream Puffs**"; and of course our big blue marble's humans comprise a global village, after all, and so now those cream puffs are gonna be just down the street. Pastry heaven, we reckon. Oh, that vanilla! Oh, that chocolate! And will they have **butterscotch cream puffs**? Maybe even **cannabis cream puffs**? Probably not the latter – weed's still illegal in Texas, because the state government is willfully ignorant and naturally repressive – but, hell, we don't know. You'll have to get in line and wait until someone shares. Like, ah, cream puff puff pass, right?

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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON



Tarka CEO Tinku Saini

Tarka Indian Kitchen Expands Their Empire

CEO talks mother sauces and customizable curries

BY JESSI CAPE

Tinku Saini says CEO is just a fancy title because in a growing founder-run company like Tarka Indian Kitchen, he wears many other hats. The co-founder, along with wife Regina and three other partners, is laser-focused on staying true to their passion for sharing Indian cuisine with everyone while building a fast-casual empire.

Tarka's original location ("still by far our busiest store") opened at Brody and Menchaca in 2009, serving fast, affordable, fresh-to-order curries, kabobs, biryanis, freshly baked flatbreads, and drinks like fresh fruit lassis. Currently, they've got eight locations – four in Austin, three in Houston, one in San Antonio. They just signed the lease on a ninth, slated to open in Houston in May, and are poised for 10 by the end of 2021. Saini says, "It's just been shocking, even during COVID, how much busier things have gotten."

Vegetarian and vegan customers are a core base, and Tarka is keen on feedback. Last year they launched a digital rewards program that gained 40,000 sign-ups in seven months (compared to their former email listserve of 10,000 people in 10 years) and allowed customers to voice desires for the annual menu refresh. Plant-based and glu-

ten-free menu items were big, but the loudest response was wishing they'd bring back their very labor-intensive vegan and GF vegetable pakora (hand-dipped and fried in seasoned gram flour and roasted cumin batter). "As a fast casual restaurant we've got to come up with ways to simplify operations," he says, "[but] my goodness, the amount of blowback we got, I'd never seen anything like it."

So, the vegetable pakoras are back, along with Beyond keema (plant-based ground beef curry with peas and potatoes, served with vegan yeast rolls), a gluten-free mango cheesecake, and a vegan coconut milk option for the mango and strawberry lassis. "The mango version is like a piña colada, frankly, so if you wanted to get one to-go and add rum when you get home, that's a beautiful [option]."

Tarka's large recipe list has been quilted together from several chefs, including Saini himself, throughout the journey. Before Tarka, Saini was a co-founder and co-owner of Clay Pit, which they opened in 1998 and operated until selling to their head chef, Bali Signh, in 2007. Before Clay Pit, Saini and his wife were working for Chutneys Bistro, a contemporary Indian restaurant in Seattle, when his cousin visited in 1997 and suggested they open something similar in

Austin. "Back then all I knew about Texas was like the show *Dallas*, right? Big hats, big hair, boots. I'm thinking, 'I'm in Seattle, a world-class metropolitan city. Why would I ever move backward in time 10 years to go down to Texas to open a restaurant?' But when we came to visit, we saw a lot of similarities [and] we really fell in love with Austin – it is sort of an oasis."

Saini's friend and co-worker in Seattle was Maqbool Ahmed, who joined them to open Clay Pit. "He was an amazing chef, but as some chefs tend to do, it's a pinch of this and a pinch of that and it [was] not hardcore recipes," Saini says. "Every time he makes a tikka masala or a korma it was mouthwateringly beautiful but slightly different."

When Ahmed broke his hand, Saini stepped in as executive chef, and over the course of the next year, the two worked together to develop written recipes. "Turning his art into science, essentially, is where a lot of our recipes come from," Saini says, in addition to collaborations with partners and chefs like Navdeep Signh (no relation to Bali). He also credits his own background of "good authentic Indian food" as part of Tarka's success. He emigrated from India to America at 5 years

old, settling in St. Louis where his mother hosted community-famous potluck dinners and his father ran a small Indian retail store ("video rentals, clothes, travel agency, groceries") that offered freshly made snacks, desserts, and samosas.

Early on, Tarka opted for fresh-to-order fast casual over the more "Chipotle-style" of high-quality batches assembled to order. "Our goal has always been to bring Indian food to the mainstream and really grow the awareness of it," Saini says. "There's no reason that if you want take-out you shouldn't consider Indian food right next to Italian or Tex-Mex or burgers or pizza. For a long time it was known as a niche cuisine, something you'll get every once in a while – maybe it's a little intimidating, maybe it's too spicy, whatever misconceptions there are – so our whole goal is to make it approachable. We didn't want to, I don't want say 'dumb down,' but reduce the menu so much that it was just 10 items. We

didn't think Indian food could be done the justice it deserves [that way], so we decided to go with the fresh-to-order version."

Saini says that for Tarka, "chicken tikka masala is probably 35% of all items ordered, and the curry section is probably 65%" and

"For a long time [Indian food] was known as a niche cuisine, something you'll get every once in a while – maybe it's a little intimidating, maybe it's too spicy, whatever misconceptions there are – so our whole goal is to make it approachable."

TINKU SAINI, CEO OF
TARKA INDIAN KITCHEN

it's all customized *after* the order is placed: Pick your sauce, your protein, and your spice level. "We're making everything fresh in every location – we butcher all our own meat, we cut all our own vegetables, nothing is frozen, everything is fresh, sauces are being made fresh – and that is not sustainable as you grow to the scale that we are at."

To grow their business, Tarka searched for a partner company to outsource production of mother sauces before settling on the local ATX Specialty Foods. "Just like I did with my chef, learning how he did it, they came to our restaurants to see how we made it and then just scaled that up. So for the first time, we finally found a partner that was able to deliver on the flavor profiles that our guests had become accustomed to." Despite anxieties around customer reactions, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and they still do most prep in-house. Working with ATX Foods (one product is a red base, which is converted to tikka masala at each store) is a precursor for their next steps because consistency is important. "For example, I love Jack Allen's. They have a 12-spice chicken pasta that I adore and it's always the same every time. I hate going to a restaurant when I am craving something that I went for and it doesn't taste like it should. When something is made fresh to order like that, you can have some amount of inconsistency ([like] somebody reducing the mother sauce too much), so even if the flavor profiles were slightly different now – which they're not – that would've more than made up for the fact that it's going to taste exactly the same every single time."

Tarka's near-future goals also include selling finishing sauces at a retail level (like

fan-favorite mint-tamarind-yogurt chutney) and creating smaller footprint restaurants. Saini says, "We don't think takeout and delivery will ever go back to a pre-pandemic stage. What do they say about the power of habit? It takes six weeks to form a habit? Well, we're nine months into this [pandemic] now and I think permanently the landscape has shifted for restaurants. You have to adapt to that."

The Dallas/Fort Worth area is the next frontier, and then regional and national expansion, after they find a "smart capital partner" to take them to the 100- or 200-unit range. "We think in Texas alone you could have 30 Tarkas, but beyond that, absolutely we don't want to just be Texas-based. Again, our [biggest] goal is to expose as many as humanly possible to the amazingness of Indian food."

Business-minded Saini stays true to that shared passion. "When I was running the floor at Clay Pit, I remember there was a lady sitting by the window, and she looked sad. I asked her if everything was okay and she said, 'I just can't believe I waited this long in my life to try Indian food.' Honestly it still makes me emotional because that's ultimately what it's all about. When you fulfill a basic need with fresh healthy ingredients and beautiful flavor profiles, there's such joy that comes from that. Indian food is able to do that – surprise and delight – because it is a little unique, not necessarily what people are used to. So yes the money, the growth, the legacy, all that is wonderful – but in the end the joy has to come from that passion, that human level of connection, and having people fall in love with the cuisine. And then, all those other things will fall into place."

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Screens

The Party Never Stops With the UnCaged New Year's Eve Bash

Meet the Cheddar Goblin in an 8-bit Alamo as South Lamar goes virtual **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

If you can't go to the party, the party will come to you. Or rather, to your 8-bit avatar, as the Alamo Draffhouse boots 2020 out the door with its virtual UnCaged New Year's Eve Bash, a night of simulated cinema, song, mayhem, and general digital merriment.

After a year of social distancing and limited screenings, Alamo founder and executive chairman and self-described "elastic introvert" Tim League said, "It's a nice break from banking, finance, that kind of stuff, to plan an event." However, he credited Rachel Walker, head of programming and creative for Alamo Draffhouse L.A., and Executive Coordinator Ahbra Perry for putting this virtual Hogmanay together. Before the pandemic lockdown, Walker was already an expert on escape rooms and experiential events, but with those kinds of in-person encounters off the table she'd started researching virtual replacements, experimenting with over 100 systems to see which would work best for the Draffhouse.

Meanwhile, Perry has overseen the rollout of Alamo on Demand, the Draffhouse's new VOD platform, as well as organizing livestream watch parties. "Earlier this month, Rachel and Ahbra teamed up and worked on [the] premiere of Adam Egypt Mortimer's *Archenemy*," League explained. They used the screening platform, in conjunction with online interactive systems, to create a virtual version of the lobby at the Alamo South Lamar (the chain's unofficial flagship venue), as well as a digital Highball bar, "and it was a blast," said League. "It really felt like I was hanging out with friends."

With so much of the technical work done and a virtual South Lamar already constructed, the stage was set to use this environment for New Year's, bringing together the Alamo faithful and old friends for a virtual 8-bit party. Attendees will build their own avatar and then spend the night exploring this simulated cinema. For VIP attendees, there will be a special screen-



ing of neocult classic *Mandy*, featuring Nic Cage on a turbo-charged revenge path against acid-blasted religious cultists and BDSM bikers. Comedian, actor, podcaster, and "number one Cheddar Goblin fan" Henry Zebrowski will be joined by the film's bizarre breakout puppet star/product placement expert for a live commentary track of Panos Cosmatos' mind-warping psychedelic revenge horror, and afterward the duo will be lurking in one of the karaoke rooms, delivering scathing insult comedy to guests. League said to expect "a slightly surly Cheddar Goblin who has views about goblins' treatment [in] cinema."

However, it's not all *Mandy*, all the time. League said, "The party has touches of Cheddar Goblin, touches of *Mandy*, but there's music, magicians, karaoke. It's a party." Electro diabolo marching band

across from the river Styx, Itchy-O will be snaking their way through the night after debuting their new documentary, *Sypherlot*. Plus, unlike most festivals where noise-bleed between stages is an old nemesis, there'll be no interrupting rockers from the crypt Drac and the Swamp Rats.

Yet not all decorum is being abandoned. This is New Year's Eve, so your finest (and even fancy) dress is suggested. If that sounds a little too much effort in the year of Zoom calls in your sweatpants, League said, "You could be top-up fancy dress. You can roll up at this party in your underwear and nobody would know."

Alamo Draffhouse and Legion M present the 2020 UnCaged New Year's Eve Bash, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 8pm-3am.

Tickets \$25-\$400 at shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye.

MOVIE LISTINGS **AC**



Finding Yingying

NEW REVIEWS

★ FINDING YINGYING

D: Jiayan "Jenny" Shi. (NR, 98 min.)

"Life is too short to be ordinary," budding doctoral student Yingying Zhang wrote in her diary before she studied abroad in the United States at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sweet, genuine, and with a peculiar passion for studying, Yingying found her new surroundings beautiful and quickly made friends. It's why, when she went missing on June 9, those close to her immediately knew something terrible had happened.

South by Southwest 2020 documentary *Finding Yingying* is as much about Yingying's murder case as it is about the way Yingying saw the refined beauty in the world, which makes it a much more personal venture than your average true-crime documentary. The "finding" in the title is much less about solving the case and its details than it is about discovering the beautiful, almost innocent way Yingying tackled her life.

Her brightness permeates the film, with her monologuelike diary entries overlaid with bright, green imagery of trees, crops, and mountainous terrains. Chicago-based documentary filmmaker Shi depicts a young woman filled with hope and wonder that, when juxtaposed with her murder, makes her death all the more crushing.

When Yingying's mother is picked up from the Chicago airport, she's haunted by signs warning people to not get in cars with strangers. The painful truth is that her trusting daughter hopped into a car with a man she didn't know who promised her a ride home and brutally killed her. A recent university grad, Brendt Christensen, is quickly arrested for her murder, but the process is grueling and Yingying's family is forced to wait years for a trial to even begin.

Shi wants one thing for Christensen: the death penalty. When Shi reveals through voiceover this desire, the humble documentary comes a bit more into focus. Yingying's diary entries make her so alive with ambition, and with that in mind, Shi begs her audience to

Herself



see that the death penalty is what Christensen deserves. As a director who focuses on social justice and human rights, it's a bold viewpoint, and one that Yingying's parents, who live in China, share.

Finding Yingying spends a great deal of time with the Zhang family, and Shi is a fly on the wall to their tearful fights from aching grief. As they wait over a year for Christensen's trial date, they critique the U.S. criminal justice system, one that is so drastically different from their own. It's absurd; they don't understand how someone so painfully guilty can be seen as not guilty until convicted by a jury of peers. The more time that passes, the longer they wait for answers to where Yingying's body resides so they can bring her soul back home.

A film that is equal parts a celebration of a young woman's life and a horrible document on her death, *Finding Yingying* brings humanity to the often stale true-crime subgenre while also giving us a unique perspective from someone on the outside of the American justice system.

Finding Yingying is available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★★

— Jenny Nulf
AFS CINEMA

HERSELF

D: Phyllida Lloyd; with Clare Dunne, Harriet Walter, Molly McCann, Ruby Rose O'Hara, Conleth Hill, Ian Lloyd Anderson. (R, 97 min.)

Stories of the triumph of the human spirit can be a comfort, a balm to lift up spirits when the world has you feeling like one big raw nerve. Whether it's a plucky protagonist who, against all odds, is able to realize a dream, or your favorite superheroes finally banding together to thwart evil after grasping the "no 'I' in 'team'" concept, these narratives offer comfort that, despite a seemingly uncaring universe, we have the inner strength and the outer help of a community to overcome adversity. Resembling

an Irish Lifetime Movie of the Week, much of the running time of *Herself* is spent stacking the deck against Sandra (Dunne, who co-wrote this script with Malcolm Campbell), but fret not, clear skies await just over the horizon.

Herself is set within the framework of the Dublin housing crisis, which due to various economic factors (not the least of which is a lack of public housing) has seen more than 10,000 people without homes in recent years, many of them single mothers. Sandra is one of those moms, raising two young girls, barely keeping afloat with various jobs, and trying to untangle herself from an abusive ex-partner – Gary (Anderson), who in the first 10 minutes brutally assaults her, fracturing her wrist. Sandra and kids flee down the rabbit hole of inept bureaucracy (you can tell this because her caseworker's desk is a comedic mountain of file folders)

OPENINGS

Finding Yingying (NR)
Herself (R)
Shadow in the Cloud (R)
Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13)

RATINGS

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

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Wonder Woman 1984



and wind up with temporary lodgings in a hotel at the airport. One evening, Sandra has an epiphany about just getting a plot of land and building her own house, and, through the magic of the internet, comes up with a plan, aided by Peggy (Walter), a semiretired doctor whose gruff exterior masks a gentle heart. Slowly but surely, ostensibly by happenstance (but actually just movie magic providence), Sandra gets together a group of kind souls to assist the construction of her “tiny house,” headed by Aido (Hill), a contractor she meets outside a hardware store, whose gruff exterior masks a, well, you get the idea. After one of her daughters sustains a minor scrape on the construction site, Gary tries to throw a monkey wrench into the works by seeking custody, so it’s off to court for Sandra. It speaks to the movie’s soppy tone that what could have been quickly resolved by a single detail gets drawn out for labored tension, culminating in the always crowd-pleasing “rousing courtroom speech.”

Dunne does give it her all, though. Her performance is the reason the film exists. She gives Sandra subtle dimensions in an otherwise obvious story and eschews any depiction of Sandra as a victim. The other actors don’t fare as well,

but that’s because they don’t have much to work with. Gary’s character may as well have just been called “generic abusive husband,” the altruistic souls that come to aid Sandra’s plight “co-worker/random mom from school/complete stranger with a heart of gold.” As a shot of dopamine, *Herself* ticks off all the standard boxes of restoring faith in humanity, but it is a temporary and unmemorable high.

★★★ — Josh Kupecki
IPIC

SHADOW IN THE CLOUD

D: Roseanne Liang; with Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Callan Mulvey, Taylor John Smith, Beulah Koale, Benedict Wall, Joe Witkowski, Byron Coll. (R, 83 min.)

Gremlins have long been a favorite creature of Hollywood, and we’re not talking mogwai here. British Royal Air Force folklore about a beastie that tears planes apart in midair flew across the Atlantic, starting with Roald Dahl’s first kids’ book, 1943’s *The Gremlins*, which almost became a Disney animated feature. They remained an ideal subject for cartoons, starting with Warner Bros.’ “Falling Hare,” featuring Bugs Bunny going toe-to-paw with the diabolical

sabotage of the gremlins. They weren’t always so adversarial: 1944’s “Russian Rhapsody” pretty much gave the story away with its original title, “Gremlins From the Kremlin,” as Soviet pixies take a swing at “Der Fuehrer’s Face.” Postwar, William Shatner went face-to-face with a destructive creature in “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet” when he stared out of the window into *The Twilight Zone*. Of course, no one took him seriously. Why would you?

So Flight Officer Maude Garrett (Moretz) is at a double disadvantage when she sees something giant, bat-faced, and malevolent tearing up the B-17 she’s on. A woman, she is gruffly and obscenely told, has no place on a plane. For take-off, she’s confined to the Sperry – the ball turret on the belly, the most dangerous position on a bomber – as a sign of how unhappy the misogynistic crew is about having her onboard. That puts her in the perfect position to spot whatever’s turning this Flying Fortress into spare parts, and an even more perfect position to be ignored by the crew whose lives she is trying to save.

Shadow in the Cloud plays to the cinematic roots of the gremlin with its own cartoon introduction, a knowing nod that doesn’t really fit with the rest of the film. That’s not an issue, because this

high-flying creature feature feels like two movies smooshed together. One half is a broad drama about a woman’s place in World War II, mostly told from Garrett’s cramped position in the Sperry, a one-woman performance with the men’s voices and dismissive attitudes carried over the interior coms system. The other is an absurd green-screen action-horror that is as cartoonish as anything Warner Bros. turned out in those World War II shorts. There is a full-blown Wile E. Coyote gag that may be this year’s most accidentally audacious moment. (Not as in “creatively daring,” but in a “What were you thinking?” way.)

Of course it makes no sense. Credited writers Max Landis and Roseanne Liang machine-gun an absurd number of plot twists and developments into 83 minutes, and the second half is so completely removed from the first that they may have just written it exquisite corpse-style. That’s a point of contention: After allegations of sexual assault and abusive behavior were leveled against Landis, Liang is reported to have handled heavy rewrites. She may want to keep his name on there to share the blame, and it undoubtedly has his heavy-handed, over-blown brand of unlikely heroics – which would be fine, if the first half-hour weren’t a moody, if equally heavy-handed, character-driven period drama. More talk, or more monsters. Pick a side, *Shadow in the Cloud*.

Shadow in the Cloud is available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★

– Richard Whittaker
VIOLET CROWN

WONDER WOMAN 1984

D: Patty Jenkins; with Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Kristen Wiig, Pedro Pascal, Robin Wright. (PG-13, 151 min.)

Anyone who tells you that blockbusters can’t be important should take five seconds to remember *Wonder Woman*. DC’s 2017 headliner for the Amazonian hero gave women a superhero on their terms. Director Patty Jenkins seems to understand what made *Wonder Woman* important and powerful, and audiences responded with rapturous cheers. So it’s beyond disappointing that the follow-up, again directed by Jenkins but this time written by her and DC mainstay Geoff Johns, has sacrificed all that charm and heart.

Having ended World War I in the first film, apparently Themyscira’s finest has been working at the Smithsonian while occasionally fighting crime and mooning over her only love, Steve Trevor, who has been dead for 66 years at this point. As played by Gadot, this 1984 version of *Wonder Woman* is a knock-em-dead fashion plate but also terribly alone, as clumsily noted when a waiter takes away the other setting at her table for two. No wonder she’s shocked when Steve (Pine) suddenly appears out of nowhere, as baffled about his spontaneous resurrection as she is. However, the mechanism also allows the bloated story to cram in two members of *Wonder Woman*’s rogues’ gallery, with Pascal, in an ill-fitting and garish suit, as

the morally ambivalent tycoon Maxwell Lord – here rewritten as an oil speculator/TV celebrity (not sure how that works) – and Wiig transforming from mild-mannered gemologist Dr. Barbara Ann Minerva into the fanged, furred, and clawed Cheetah, Diana’s greatest adversary.

The mechanism for their inclusion is one of a series of MacGuffins that conveniently appear and disappear just in time for the next plot development. The core is a monkey’s paw device, a magical gem that grants wishes with an inherent downside (of the cursed frogurt variety). Seemingly the most cursed wish was audiences’ asking for a sequel.

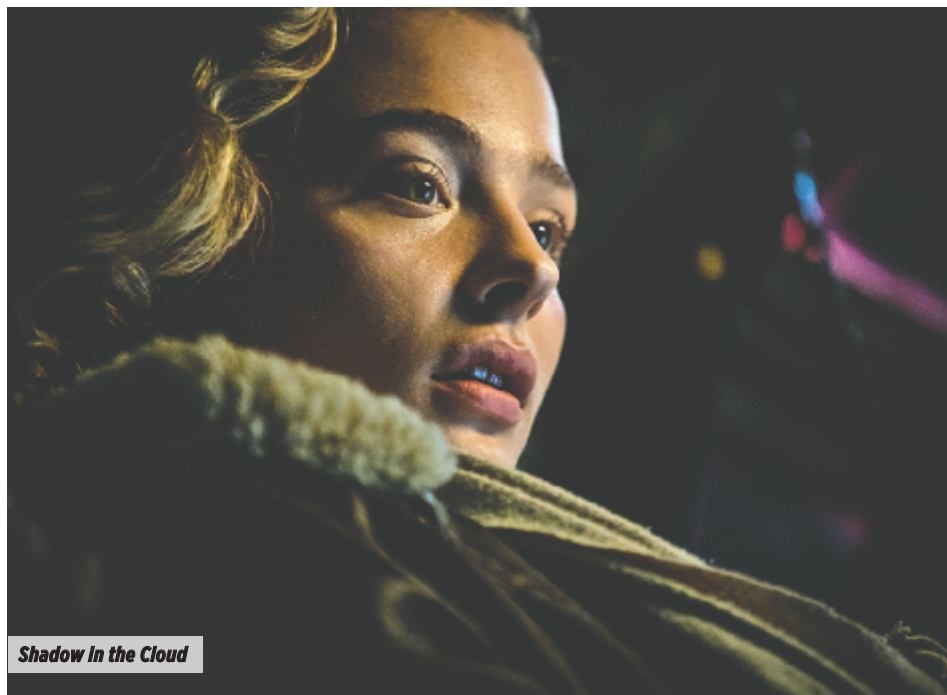
The biggest disappointment in what should be another landmark moment for women in blockbuster cinema is that the only person who seems to get what this film should be is Pine as the mysteriously resurrected Steve. Jenkins teases a better film with a childhood prologue back on Diana’s home island, revisiting the warrior women in all their action splendor, but that’s soon forgotten. It doesn’t help that Gadot doesn’t find a way to bridge the enthusiastic fish-out-of-water Diana of the first film and the hardened warrior of *Justice League*: Instead, her Reagan-era Wonder Woman is reduced to a series of superhero poses, an action sequence that blatantly rips off not one but two *Indiana Jones* films, and a baffling overdependence on the Lasso of Truth, reduced to a swinging rope and turning her into basically Spider-Man. Meanwhile, both Wiig and Pascal seem to be playing for some misguided mid-Eighties action-comedy slapstick. Even the complicated cosmology of Greek gods, so effortlessly integrated the first time around, just becomes exposition here. Yet Pine is so clearly trying to keep within the lines of Steve as a supporting

character that he continues what made the first film so important to so many people. (That said, there’s a weird moment when he swears that seems out of character for both the film and the character, and more pointless than Zach Snyder’s threat of Batman dropping F-bombs in his *Justice League* extended folly.)

And about that period piece aspect. After this, no one can complain about the hints of anachronism in *Stranger Things*, as this is an absurd version of the 1980s, and most especially of D.C. (the city, not the publisher) at the time. It’s insultingly lazy, like sticking a fanny pack over an Ariana Grande T-shirt. The script – a toothless attack on “believe in yourself” culture, the power of positive thinking, and other such *The Secret* tripe – sums up all the problems with making this particular story a period piece. It’s just “now” with a light dusting of “then,” with little to really say about either. Meanwhile, the historical inaccuracies are only overshadowed by the glaring plot holes, so egregious that it feels like a return to pre-*X-Men* superhero movies, when “comic plotting” was misguidedly synonymous with “lazy.”

Jenkins had an opportunity to build on the flawed-but-rousing headlining debut of DC’s greatest woman warrior. Instead, she delivered the modern DC Extended Universe’s *Superman III*. It’s a lumpen mass of half-ideas and glaring fan service, topped by a horrendous montage ending that is clearly designed to inspire hope, courage, and kindness, but will more likely make everyone wonder if this is why they waited two and a half hours.

★★ – Richard Whittaker
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SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS



Mandy

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas (2017) D: Larry Weinstein. (NR, 51 min.) Austin Jewish Film Festival presents a musical doc, set in a Chinese restaurant, about Jewish songwriters who soundtracked Christianity's most musical holiday. Online: www.austinjff.org, through Jan. 1.

Mandy (2018) with Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough. (NR, 121 min.) For the 2020 Uncaged New Year's Eve Bash, a screening of *Mandy* is just part of the virtual adventure presented by Alamo Drafthouse and Legion M. The South Lamar Drafthouse will become an 8-bit experience, and your avatar will explore karaoke rooms, photo booths, and more, with Nicolas Cage being somewhat of a motif. Cheddar Goblin will even be on hand, and VIP tickets include a box of CG mac & cheese. (*) Online: shop.legionm.com/pages/2020-uncaged-nye, Thu., Dec. 31, 8pm.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1941) D: Victor Fleming; with Spencer Tracy, Ingrid Bergman, Lana Turner. (NR, 113 min.) **Virtual Read-Watch-Talk.** Check out the movie from the Austin Public Library and join the book/film discussion. Online: library.austintexas.gov, Tue., Jan. 5, 7pm.

Trinidad (2008) D: PJ Raval and Jay Hodges. (NR, 86 min.) **Virtual Controversy & Conversation.** Presented by the Austin Public Library in partnership with the UT-Austin Humanities Institute, a discussion of the doc about a transgender surgeon in Colorado who turned a small town into a haven for gender reassignment surgery. Online: library.austintexas.gov, Thu., Jan. 7, 7:30pm.

SPACES

Gremlins (1984) D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. (PG, 106 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** The Northern Lights drive-through light show opens at 5, then stay for the film. @Haute Spot, Wed., Dec. 30, 7pm.

Office Christmas Party (2016) D: Josh Gordon and Will Speck; with Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston, Kate McKinnon. (R, 105 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** (*) @Haute Spot, Wed., Dec. 30, 10pm.

Back to the Future Marathon (PG, 387 min.) All three *Back to the Future* movies, starting at 5pm with 30 minute breaks in between. Admission will be donations only; pay what you can to help support the Palace. Wear your best Marty McFly, Doc, or Eighties garb to win a prize, and Eighties music and trivia questions liven things up between shows. @Palace, Thu., Dec. 31, 5pm.

Die Hard (1988) D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot, Thu., Dec. 31, 10pm.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) D: Jeremiah S. Chechik; with Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid. (PG-13, 97 min.) **Northern Lights Holiday Spectacular.** @Haute Spot, Thu., Dec. 31, 7pm.

FEATURED SCREENINGS

The Big Lebowski (1998) D: Joel Coen; with Jeff Bridges. (R, 117 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Wed., Dec. 30, 10pm.



THE SYMBOL (*) INDICATES FULL-LENGTH REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FILM

SUBMISSION INFORMATION: *The Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 15 issue is Monday, Jan. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 512/458-6910; or email. Contact Kat McNevins (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com.

The Maltese Falcon (1941) D: John Huston; with Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre. (NR, 101 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Jan. 7, 7:20pm.

Mortal Kombat (1995) D: Paul W.S. Anderson; with Christopher Lambert. (PG-13, 101 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Jan. 7, 10:10pm.

Alien (1979) D: Ridley Scott; with Tom Skerritt, Sigourney Weaver, John Hurt. (R, 117 min.) See the gorgeous 4K restoration and get a free Mondo enamel pin. Tickets are already moving fast, so get yours now. Fri., Jan. 8. @Alamo South Lamar, 6:15pm; Alamo Lakeline, 7:40pm.

FESTIVALS

AFS & Sundance Film Festival AFS Cinema has announced it will be Austin's exclusive satellite venue for the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. Each satellite will have its own special events and screen selections from the festival program. Sign up now to get on the mailing list for updates. @Austin Film Society, Jan. 28-Feb. 2.

Wild Texas Film Tour In ordinary times, filmmaker and conservationist Ben Masters would be traveling the state sharing wildlife, adventure, and conservation stories, but this year the film festival has gone online. The short and feature films showcase the Scottish Highlands, the Texas ocelot, Buffalo Bayou, paddlefish, swift fox, and several other topics that will appeal to a wide variety of audiences. Online: www.wildfilmtour.com, through Dec. 31.

OFFSCREEN

Intro to Screenwriting Learn the fundamentals of writing for films from award-winning screenwriter Edward Santiago in an eight-week virtual course. Tuesdays, Jan. 5-Feb. 23, 6-9pm. Online: www.austinfilmsschool.org. \$525.

NYE Fireworks at Doc's One of the best socially distanced options to ring in 2021 is a drive-in movie, and Doc's is offering a fireworks show after every screening. Choose from *Sing*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, *The Goonies*, or *The Great Gatsby*. They've also got \$2 Champagne plus brisket chili, Frito pie, burgers, vegan wings, and more. Thu., Dec. 31, 6pm. *Doc's Drive In Theatre*, 1540 Satterwhite Rd., Buda. www.docsdiveintheatre.com.

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SHOWTIMES

An asterisk (*) before a title means that **no passes** or special admission discounts will be accepted. **Changes may sometimes occur**; viewers are encouraged to **call theatres to confirm showtimes**.

For events and info, plus updated Showtimes including theatres in **Bastrop, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Kyle, Lockhart, Marble Falls, Round Rock, and San Marcos**, see austinchronicle.com/events.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKELINE

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

NEWS OF THE WORLD: Wed, 5:40; Thu, 5:25

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:

Wed, 7:10; Thu, 5:45

WONDER WOMAN 1984:

Wed, 5:00, 6:00, 6:25, 6:50; Thu, 5:00, 6:00, 6:25, 7:10; Fri, noon, 1:00, 3:55, 5:00, 7:50; Sat, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:55, 6:45, 7:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:55, 6:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE

5701 W. SLAUGHTER, 512/861-7060.

NEWS OF THE WORLD: Wed, 5:40; Thu, 6:55

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:

Wed, 7:10; Thu, 6:25

WONDER WOMAN 1984:

Wed, 5:00, 6:00, 6:50, 7:15; Thu, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00; Fri, noon, 1:00, 3:55, 5:00, 7:50; Sat, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:50, 6:50, 7:40pm; Sun, 11:00am, noon, 2:55, 3:55, 6:50, 7:25pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR

1120 S. LAMAR, 512/861-7040.

NEWS OF THE WORLD: Wed, 5:40; Thu, 5:25

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:

Wed, 6:40; Thu, 7:00

WONDER WOMAN 1984:

Wed, 5:00, 7:00; Thu, 5:00, 6:00; Fri, noon, 1:00, 3:50, 5:00, 7:40; Sat, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:50, 7:10, 7:40pm; Sun, 11:00am, noon, 2:50, 3:50, 6:40, 7:40pm

AMC DINE-IN TECH RIDGE 10

12625 N. 1-35, 512/640-1533.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC/DVS): Wed-Thu, 12:50, 3:40, 6:40; Fri-Sun, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00; Mon, 4:10, 7:10; Tue-Thu (1/7), 6:10

FATALE (CC/DVS): Wed-Thu, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00; Fri-Sun, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50; Mon, 5:10, 8:10; Tue-Thu (1/7), 8:00

MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS): Wed-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10; Mon, 5:00, 8:00; Tue-Thu (1/7), 6:50

NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/DVS): Wed-Sun, 1:50, 5:10, 8:20; Mon, 3:10, 6:30; Tue-Thu (1/7), 7:40

PINOCCHIO: Wed-Sun, 1:20, 4:30, 8:00; Mon, 3:20, 6:50; Tue-Thu (1/7), 6:20

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/DVS): Wed-Sun, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50; Mon, 4:20, 7:40; Tue-Thu (1/7), 7:00

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS): Wed-Thu, 1:00, 3:20, 4:50, 7:20, 8:40; Fri-Sun, 1:00, 4:50, 8:40; Mon, 4:00, 7:50; Tue-Thu (1/7), 7:10

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

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

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (CC): Wed, 11:45am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35pm; Thu, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:20, 6:50pm; Fri, 11:55am, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35pm; Sat, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35; Sun, 10:30am, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35pm;

FATALE (CC/DVS): Wed, 11:35am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50pm; Thu, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35; Fri, 12:50, 2:45, 5:45, 8:40; Sat, 2:45, 5:45, 8:40; Sun, 4:40, 7:40; Mon-Tue, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00; Wed-Thu (1/7), 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

MONSTER HUNTER (CC/DVS): Wed, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00; Thu, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35; Fri, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35; Sat, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35; Sun, 2:35, 5:20, 8:15

NEWS OF THE WORLD (CC/DVS): Wed, 11:35am, 1:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45pm; Thu, 11:25am, 12:45, 2:45, 3:45, 5:45, 6:45pm; Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45pm; Sun, 12:40, 3:30, 6:30; Wed-Thu (1/7), 3:30, 6:30

PINOCCHIO: Wed, 11:40am, 3:00, 6:20pm; Thu, 11:40am, 3:00, 6:00pm; Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 2:00, 5:20, 8:30pm; Sun, 10:50am, 4:50, 7:50pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15, 4:30, 7:40; Wed, 4:30, 7:40

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (CC/DVS): Wed, 11:30am, 12:20, 4:30, 7:25pm; Thu-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20pm; Mon-Tue, 1:45, 4:40, 7:50; Wed-Thu (1/7), 4:40, 7:50

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS): Wed, 11:30am, noon, 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00pm; Thu, 11:30am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:00, 7:00pm; Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 12:15, 4:10, 8:00pm; Sun, 11:00am, 12:15, 1:10, 4:10, 8:00pm; Mon-Tue, 2:10, 6:00; Wed-Thu (1/7), 6:00

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (CC/DVS, IMAX): Wed, 12:30, 4:15, 8:00; Thu, 10:30am, 2:15, 6:00pm; Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 3:10, 7:00pm; Mon, 3:10, 6:45; Tue, 12:30, 4:10, 7:45; Wed-Thu (1/7), 4:10, 7:45

BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN
300 SAN ANTONIO, 707/787-5072.

BLADE RUNNER: Sat, 10:30

SPIDER-MAN 2: Sat, 10:30

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE: Wed, 7:15; Fri-Sat, 7:00

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

TRUE LIES: Sat, 7:00

BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II

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

ARCHENEMY: Sat, 10:10

I LUV VIDEO PRESENTS: THE BIG LEBOWSKI: Wed, 10:00; Sat, 10:10

BRIDESMAIDS: Fri, 10:20

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS: Wed, 6:00, 10:00; Fri, 10:30; Sat, 10:10; Sun, 7:00

DEADPOOL: Mon-Wed, 7:00

THE FIFTH ELEMENT: Wed, 10:25; Thu (1/7), 7:00

HOWARD THE DUCK: Thu (1/7), 10:30

LABYRINTH: Wed, 7:15; Sat, 9:40; Wed, 7:00

I LUV VIDEO PRESENTS: THE MALTESE FALCON: Thu (1/7), 7:20

THE MARTIAN: Fri, 7:20; Wed, 7:00

I LUV VIDEO PRESENTS: MORTAL KOMBAT: Thu (1/7), 10:10

SCHOOL OF ROCK: Sat, 7:20

SISTER OF THE GROOM: Sat, 7:00

SKYFALL: Mon-Tue, 7:00

SPIDER-MAN 2: Sun-Tue, 7:00

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE: Wed, 7:15; Fri, 7:20

TENET: Fri-Thu (1/7), 7:00

TRADING PLACES: Wed, 10:25

TRUE LIES: Sat, 7:00

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY ...: Wed, 7:15

WOLF WALKERS: Fri-Tue, 7:00

BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK

800 HARRELL PKWY.,
832/915-0332.

SPIDER-MAN 2: Thu (1/7), 7:00

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE: Wed-Fri, 7:00

TENET: Sat, 7:00

TRUE LIES: Fri, 10:10

BULLOCK MUSEUM IMAX

1800 CONGRESS, 512/936-4629.

LASER IMAX 2D: "INTO AMERICA'S WILD": 2:00

LASER IMAX 3D: "TURTLE ODYSSEY": noon

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (IMAX): Wed-Sun, 4:00, 8:00

CINEMARK 2D AND XD

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

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 11:35am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50pm; Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:40; Sun-Mon, 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05; Tue-Thu (1/7), 5:25, 8:05

FATALE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 10:35am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm; Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30pm; Sun-Mon, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40; Tue-Thu (1/7), 4:50, 7:40

FREAKY (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 10:55

HALF BROTHERS (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:05; Fri-Sat, 8:55; Sun-Thu (1/7), 5:55

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 10:50am, 1:35, 2:55, 4:25, 5:50, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10pm; Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20; Tue-Thu (1/7), 4:30, 7:20

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 10:00am, 11:00, noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:55, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:05pm; Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 10:55, 11:55, 12:50, 1:55, 2:55, 3:55, 4:55, 5:55, 6:55, 7:55, 9:55pm; Sun-Mon, noon, 12:50, 1:55, 2:55, 3:55, 4:55, 6:55, 7:55; Tue-Thu (1/7), 4:00, 4:55, 6:55, 7:55

PINOCCHIO (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, noon, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45; Fri-Sat, 12:40, 4:00, 7:10, 10:25; Sun-Mon, 12:40, 4:00, 7:10; Tue-Thu (1/7), 4:05, 7:10

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:05; Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05pm; Sun-Mon, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05; Tue-Thu (1/7), 4:05, 7:05

WONDER WOMAN 1984: Wed-Sat, 10:45am, 12:55, 2:25, 4:35, 6:05, 8:15, 9:45pm; Sun, 1:15, 2:45, 4:45, 6:15, 8:15; Mon-Thu (1/7), 4:45, 6:15, 8:25

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (XD): Wed-Sat, 11:25am, 3:05, 6:45, 10:15pm; Sun, noon, 3:30, 7:00; Mon-Thu (1/7), 4:00, 7:40

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. WHITESTONE,
800/326-3264.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10

FATALE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 4:45, 7:20

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 1:55, 10:00

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL): Wed-Fri, 12:25, 1:25, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 11:25, 12:25, 1:25, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, noon, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15; Wed-Thu (1/7), 4:00, 4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 8:30

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL): Wed-Fri, 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:55, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15; Fri-Sat, 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15; Sun-Mon, noon, 12:40, 1:15, 2:10, 3:30, 4:10, 4:45, 5:40, 7:00, 7:40, 8:15

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 HILL COUNTRY BLVD.,
800/326-3264.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15

FATALE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:35, 3:40, 6:55, 10:05

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:55, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15; Fri-Sat, 12:25, 1:25, 2:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:40, 10:15; Sun-Mon, noon, 12:40, 1:15, 2:10, 3:30, 4:10, 4:45, 5:40, 7:00, 7:40, 8:15

CINEMARK STONE HILL TOWN CENTER

18820 HILLTOP COMMERCIAL DR.
(SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HWYS. 130 & 45), 512/251-0938.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, noon, 3:00, 6:00

FATALE (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00

MONSTER HUNTER (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 12:15, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45

NEWS OF THE WORLD (DIGITAL): Wed-Thu, 11:45am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:55pm

WONDER WOMAN 1984 (DIGITAL): Wed-Sun, 11:30am, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30pm; Mon, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00

DOC'S DRIVE IN THEATRE
1540 SATTERWHITE RD.,
512/960-4460.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB: Wed, 9:00; Tue, 6:45

DESPICABLE ME 3: Wed, 6:45; Fri, 7:45; Sun, 6:15

THE GOONIES: Thu, 9:20

THE GREAT GATSBY: Thu, 9:30; Sat, 7:00

THE HUNT: Tue, 9:00

JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL: Tue, 7:30; Thu (1/7), 6:30

KING KONG: Sun, 7:00; Thu (1/7), 7:30

LABYRINTH: Fri, 9:00; Wed, 6:30; Thu (1/7), 9:15

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE: Sun, 9:00

THE RING TWO: Sat, 9:00

SING: Thu, 6:00; Fri, 7:00; Sat, 6:15

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE: Wed, 7:30; Thu, 6:00; Wed, 7:00

TRANSFORMERS: Wed, 9:00

EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA

166 HARGRAVES STE. A-100,
512/457-0700.

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE: Wed-Thu, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45; Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 6:45; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:15, 3:45, 6:30

THE DISSIDENT: Wed, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Thu, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15pm; Fri, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15pm; Sat, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15

FATALE: Wed, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Thu, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15pm; Sat, 11:15am, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Sun, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; Mon-Thu (1/7), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15

MONSTER HUNTER: Wed-Thu, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45pm; Fri-Sat, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45; Mon-Thu (1/7), 2:15, 5:00, 7:45

Music

Recapping the Year SXSW Got Canceled

Austin music proved a global bellwether at the onset of COVID-19 when the city canceled **South by Southwest** by declaring a local state of disaster. Loss of the capital's most lucrative week, for the first time in the festival's 34 years, made headlines around the country as it reverberated across artists, production workers, venues, Downtown businesses, and more.

The **Moody Theater's** last big gathering occurred March 11 at the *Chronicle's* **Austin Music Awards**, where **Mayor Steve Adler**, to a mixed audience reception, called the decision to shut down SXSW "something that had to happen." Efforts to reschedule gigs held for only a few days before most music spaces announced shuttering and local orders closed all bars. Many remain boarded up.

Between the **Rolling Stones at Circuit of the Americas** on Memorial Day and **Black Pumas'** unprecedented four sold-out nights at **Stubb's** just after Labor Day, spring and summer cancellations avalanched through the fall and winter. Amid devastating losses, Austin music rallied through drive-in concerts, livestreams, and fundraisers. Plus, local artists still delivered landmarks: **Gary Clark Jr.'s** primetime performance of "This Land" on the **Grammys** telecast, **Jackie Venson's** November debut on **Austin City Limits**, and an inaugural **Latin Grammy** nod to **Gina Chavez** for **La Que Manda**.

INDUSTRY IMPACT

Following the fall of **SXSW 2020**, festival founders confirmed the organization's insurance did not cover cancellation due to a pandemic. Days later, the company laid off about one-third of its staff in what a senior source characterized as "the only way to stop the bleeding." SXSW plans for a virtual conference this March 16-20.

Following the January exit of co-founder **Charlie Jones** to start his own events company, local concert giant **C3 Presents** also endured major layoffs. In September, C3 workers called the reduction "wide-spread," impacting "almost everyone except the directors." December dealt a blow with closure of Texas' largest independent concert promoters, **Margin Walker Presents**, whose co-founder **Graham Williams** told the *Chronicle*, "There's definitely a live music scene in the future, it's just further out than people realize."

THE FIGHT FOR VENUE FUNDING

Despite billing as the "Live Music Capital of the World," civic relief for music clubs stalled throughout 2020. In May, the **Red River Cultural District** and **Music Venue Alliance Austin** warned that surveyed Austin venues had, on average, 30 days of operational savings. Despite lengthy discussion by **City Council**, zero **CARES Act** funds for COVID-19 relief were reserved for venues.

During a summer of uncertainty and statewide ban on bar operations, some spaces reopened with food & beverage designation under loosened state rules. Local venue funding wouldn't land on the agenda until September, pushed through by a series of rallies hosted by **Austin Texas Musicians** and the **Amplified Sound Coalition**. City Council eventually passed the **SAVES resolution** on Oct. 1, securing \$5 million for clubs and approving guidelines for the **Live Music Venue Preservation Fund** on Dec. 3.

Efforts paid off when the **Economic Development Department** quickly opened up applications a week later, with the Long Center as administrative partner. Beyond city limits, over 20 Austin venues and promoters joined the **National Independent Venue Association** to support the **Save Our Stages Act**, which provides federal grants for operational costs at small venues. Recent inclusion of the plan in the long-awaited national stimulus package gave hope to indie venues nationwide.

LEASE TERMINATION

Venue relief funds arriving too little, too late forced many music hubs to terminate their leases. In order of closure announcement, 2020 claimed: **Dozen Street**, **Threadgill's**, **Buzz Mill** Shady Lane, **Shady Grove**, **Plush**, the **Townsend**, **Barracuda**, **Scratchhouse**, **Unit 108** (formerly **523 Thompson**), **Skull Mechanix**, **One-2-One Bar**, **Dirty Dog Bar**, **B.D. Riley's Irish Pub** on Sixth Street, **North Door**, **Buffalo Billiards**, and **Texas Mist**.

UNPRECEDENTED PHILANTHROPY

When Austin music workers found themselves out of a job, a local safety net of nonprofits stepped up. The RRCD quickly fundraised for **Banding Together ATX**, which distributed **H-E-B** gift cards to service and creative workers throughout the year, while



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

The line for *The Austin Chronicle's* Hair of the 3-Legged Dog Day Party at Barracuda in 2017

the **Health Alliance for Austin Musicians** expanded offerings to assist with food, rent, and prescriptions. Both found support from June livestream **A Night for Austin**, which raised over \$500,000 for nonprofits including **Six Square**.

Following warnings of funding gaps for health care, HAAM closed the year with upped support via Austin's EDD and Travis County's **Central Health**. On the same front, the **SIMS Foundation** stepped up to unprecedented demand in mental health and recovery services. Catering to health care workers and artists, **Jonathan "Chaka" Mahone** of **Riders Against the Storm** launched grants through the **Diversity Awareness & Wellness in Action** (DAWA) fund.

Alongside creative relief funds through **Austin Creative Alliance** and **Sun Radio Foundation**, local music patrons **Black Fret** pivoted to connect artists with well-paid corporate Zoom happy hours. Nonprofit Austin Texas Musicians asked artists to estimate their losses due to SXSW's cancellation, pushing for the city's first direct divvying of \$1.5 million to musicians under the **Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund**. The June program provided local musicians \$1,000 grants, overseen by the Grammys' charitable **MusiCares**.

BLACK LIVES MATTER IN MUSIC

Nationwide protests over systemic racism prompted conversation about equity in Austin's music industry. In June, guitar hero **Jackie Venson** dropped off a televised broadcast of **Blues on the Green**, citing few spots for artists of color in the event's history. **Blues on the Screen** amended to a historic all-Black bill curated by Venson aired on **Fox 7 Austin**.

At UT, football players and members of the **Longhorn Band** pushed the university to reckon with the racist origins of spirit song "The Eyes of Texas." In August, the band's first-ever Black student org, **LHBlacks**, announced they would not play the song during football season. A recording blared on the loudspeakers instead.

In an unprecedented move, the **Austin Music Commission** voted to designate half of the long-discussed **Live Music Fund** to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) artists and organizations under a plan proposed by **Commission Chair Mahone**. The LMF, created last year, unlocked the first long-term fiscal support for the local music industry with a portion of hotel occupancy taxes. In the private sphere, Mahone's **Black Live Music Fund** accepts donations to support Black entrepreneurs and musicians – including a Feb. 19 fundraiser at **Empire Control Room**.

IN MEMORIAM

The last 12 months took too many leg-ends of local music: East Austin pianist and **Skylark Lounge** resident **Margaret Wright**, outlaw country fixture **Jerry Jeff Walker**, songwriting sage **Billy Joe Shaver**, "Godfather of West Texas Music" **Tommy Hancock**, **Willie Nelson** drummer/accomplice **Paul English**, Tejano innovator **Manuel "Cowboy" Donley**, country troubadour **James Hand**, pioneering punk **Hickoids/Next** drummer **Arthur Hays**, **Iron Age** composer/guitarist **Wade Allison**, "Treat Her Right" rocker **Roy Head**, and "Whiskey River" author **Johnny Bush**. Recently, passionate Austin music photographer, poet, and all-around creative **Nari Mann** died Dec. 18 at age 40.

SXSW ONLINE



Revamp your ideas
Redesign your industry
Redefine tomorrow

Join us at **SXSW Online**, a digital experience from **March 16–20, 2021**



Nonny de la Peña



Jim McKelvey



Cherie Hu



Dr Michael Watkins

Check out these industry trailblazers speaking at SXSW Online 2021:

Founder of Emblematic Group and last year's SXSW Hall of Fame inductee, **Nonny de la Peña**; Independent Director of the St. Louis Fed and Invisibly Inc. Founder and CEO, **Jim McKelvey**; publisher of the incredibly insightful Water & Music newsletter, **Cherie Hu**; and Director of Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), **Dr Michael Watkins**.

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SXSW Online Passes at the \$199 rate won't last long.

sxsw.com/savebig Budget-friendly student and group rates are available

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audible
an amazon company

ONLINE MUSIC
FESTIVAL
POWERED BY

v's'ble



Alex Maas at co-producer Brett Orrison's Spaceflight Records

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

SPINNING PINWHEEL EYES

Black Angels frontman Alex Maas raises first solo offspring, *Luca* **BY KEVIN CURTIN**

Sixteen years into his recording career, Alex Maas remains both one of Austin's best known vocalists and perhaps its most underrated singer.

He isn't so much the "voice" of the Black Angels as their set of spinning pinwheel eyes, transmitting hypnosis through ominous intonations. Amid the transcendent psych band's radiating, homegrown sonics, the native Texan's microphone work rarely dominates the mix, existing rather in coequal contribution with instrumental melodies and rhythmic rapture. As such, he's revered for his "vibe" as a frontman.

That changes with Maas' solo debut *Luca*, which materialized last month on Los Angeles label Innovative Leisure. The

10-track grab bag of ancient folk, bass-heavy antigravity bops, and vintage pop imbued with mellotron and strings gives unprecedented focus to a voice that's sweet and eerie, unorthodox yet timeless.

"One thing is I'm not competing with fuzzy guitars and loud drums," assesses Maas of his singing on *Luca*. "With this record, it was very intentional to have the vocals up front and not have a ton of effects. That's something I'm used to because I create a lot at home, but I'm not used to letting the world hear that side of my voice."

Prompted to think back through his life, he pinpoints the moment he realized dominion over the sound coming from his larynx.

"My dad had a plant nursery when I was a kid and one way he made it a destination was having peacocks and African crowned cranes," he explains. "I remember, as a little boy, I would try to mimic the sounds of these birds. I think maybe a light went off in my head then that I had a good ear, even if it was just imitating peacocks."

Maas also flashes back to singing along to the 1993 debut from Irish alternative rockers the Cranberries and being able to blend his

voice with Dolores O'Riordan's high melodies. You can hear a hint of the latter on *Luca*'s "Shines Like the Son (Madeline's Melody)."

"No matter what I ended up doing in life professionally, I would've ended up singing," Maas states. "It always made me feel a certain way as a child – almost magical, like it's the closest thing to flying."

STRONG WHEN I HOLD YOU

The night before our interview, I laid outside in a hammock listening to *Luca* on a portable speaker and watching my 9-month-old son sleep on a glowing screen. That's when I had a *Twilight Zone* thought: What if I could look into the baby monitor and see my kid's future? Moments later, in a case of cosmic coincidence, "500 Dreams" came on, Maas singing in the dark:

"When you wake up, I'll be looking at you smiling at me/ When you grow up, I'll be thinking about you, thinking about me/ So sleep for your momma and me."

His wife Michelle became pregnant around the same time he began recording the new album. On July 15, 2018, they welcomed Luca into the world.

Parenthood's a head-change. Maas says it provided him with a new set of eyes, "an innocent perspective," to view life though. Those thoughts heavily informed the name-sake album, particularly its author's most beautifully naked and honest composition: a love letter to his son called "Special."

"When you're a parent, you're singing to your kid all the time," he relates. "I remember holding Luca and that song just came to me. It's all the things you never thought about before: 'What are you going to be like? Who are you going to be? Whatever it is, it's going to be okay.'"

Meanwhile, the thread of paranoia within Black Angels' music flashes on *Luca* with the gun violence vision "American Conquest." It predated Maas becoming a father, but now occupies new hopeful context: "The world is bizarre and scary as shit, but you just have to be positive and think you're bringing someone into this world who could potentially change it for the good."

Maas admits one friend predicted parenthood would paralyze his productivity as an artist.

"That awe I had with me when I wrote this record, I've never been more inspired and creative in my life," he exclaims. "When you first have a child, you're full of feelings that are so innocent and beautiful. You need to preserve them. I'm so glad I made them into songs."

He isn't so much the "voice" of the Black Angels as their set of spinning pinwheel eyes, transmitting hypnosis through ominous intonations.



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

BRINGING IT HOME

In the beginning, our subject envisioned the entire LP sounding like “The City,” a stark, spacious, dystopian folk tune that closes *Luca*. Then he realized the songs wanted to be bigger. So he and co-producer Brett Orrison made room to experiment, utilizing combinations of extracurricular instruments and production techniques.

“Brett and I are total brothers,” he says of the local Spaceflight Records operator, who mixed front-of-house for years on tour with the Black Angels. “We’ve traveled the world, worked on scores and documentaries, and produced bands together, so our communication is really good. We can go wherever we want creatively and never worry about being judged.”

Energized by *Luca*, Maas reconvened right away with his flagship act. The Black Angels assembled at Orrison’s studio and tracked a forthcoming full-length. The Austin quintet hadn’t cut a full-length all locally since 2008’s *Directions to See a Ghost*.

Fittingly for an album named after his son, *Luca* represents new life for Maas as an artist.

“Everyone has those ebbs and flows with creativity,” he says. “I have that fresh and magical feeling. Being a parent? That must be it. It’s been such a great spark and I feel lucky that it’s coming at this time. I feel like I’m two-and-a-half years into my musical and everything’s wide open.” ■

Find *Luca* on Alex Maas’ Bandcamp.

ALEX MAAS *Luca* (Innovative Leisure)

Unexpectedly, one of the most beautiful and hopeful albums of the year comes from Black Angels singer Alex Maas. *Luca* capstones 2020 with a reminder of what’s truly important and wondrous in the world. Named for his preschooler, the solo bow strips back the local psych revivalist’s sound, still swaddled in vocal reverb but patient and swaying with soft strings. “Slip Into” evokes the 13th Floor Elevators both titulary and with a fever dream of influences fading in on a sound of folkies Bill Fay or Tim Hardin laced with Portishead rhythms, while “The Light That Will End Us” sets a theme by inverting the Black Angels’ war dreams with a combating light from within. Notably, *Luca* means “bringer of light.” Likewise, “Special” strikes tender, a lullaby set to the Velvet Underground alongside cribside meditation “500 Dreams.” *Luca* embraces a beautiful vulnerability, whether falling in love (“Been Struggling”) or fearing fatherhood’s weight (“What Would I Tell Your Mother”). By the 10 tracks’ closing couplet of “American Conquest” and lo-fi “The City,” the turn toward Maas’ more typical tenebrous worldview becomes prised with a new glow, invective against atrocity replaced by a resolution to create something better, the possibility of the world realized anew.



★★★★

— Doug Freeman

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Honey Made

BRAND NEW www.honeymadeatx.com

One deep sleeper of 2020: November's *Brand New* by Honey Made. Chances are the eight-foot scrim in the front window of Waterloo Records didn't register thanks to the graham cracker album art – and maybe just maybe a global pandemic. Inside the CD, producer (Steve Berlin of Los Lobos), engineer (Jim Vollentine), and studio (Texas Treefort) all make the credits roll, yet zero mention appears of the actual group turning soul-infused retro nectar into viscous ear candy.

Online, however, behold a nonet straight outta the Stax/Volt annals: three pieces of brass punctuating a trio of Black vocalists – Donald Ford Jr. and brothers Chris (also drums) and Willie Barns II – overlaid atop a triptych of Caucasian rhythm pushers (keys, bass, percussion). “Party band” proclaims the locals’ website, and indeed, several of the 10 tracks do a Dirty Sixth Street shuffle. Slick Eighties dance-and-drink-more “Steppin’ Out” and the naked drink-after-every-line funk thrust of “Canadian Mist” leave one hurtin’ for certain.

More often, *Brand New* fills its honeycomb sweetly.

Opening with Tamara Mack’s guest sass, sauce, and lip, low-down bump-n-grind “Chicken Sweats” delivers as promised, dewy and humid as spring break down on Rainey Street. The succeeding title track, an R&B epidural of pure vocal spirit riding a call and response of guitar and keys, then lays o-u-t. Stone step-off moments such as “Brand New” transcend time as both midnight mover and midday interlude.

Ms. Mack circles back on the horn-braised tell-it-like-it-is “Be True,” a testament to everyday perseverance and the vocal throes of deep American roots manifestation. One drop riddem “Smooove” struts the perfect rejoinder, and loping Seventies urbanity “Can You Feel It” cements an LP midsection prompting reflexive replays. Late-game instrumental throwdown “Southern Fried Funk” platforms a breakdance battle between trombone/trumpet/sax and axe.

Don’t let the snackable kids’ pouch graphics fool you. Honey Made’s *Brand New* stacks up against Austin’s growing tide of sweet soul music.

– Raoul Hernandez



CILANTRO BOOMBOX FT. KALU JAMES, “MASTER PLAN”

Bandcamp

Echoing funk guitar from Andres Villegas and the dense synth pulse of Félix Pacheco cast a mystic rhythm over which guest singer Kalu James enters with a hands-in-the-air refrain sung in Igbo, a native language in Southeastern Nigeria. Consider it another stone-cold global groove from Cilantro Boombox, the capital’s Latin and pan-African dance floor specialists and longtime Sahara Lounge residency, and a poignant moment for James. “It’s also ironic that it took a Venezuelan for this Nigerian to sing an Afrobeat tune, a genre that originated in Nigeria,” James wrote of “Master Plan.” “[It] speaks to the connective power of music and the strength of the idea and notion of America: a nation of immigrants.”

– Kevin Curtin

WIARDON: KAME UP OFF A LICK

Apple Music, SoundCloud, Spotify

East Austin bandit Will Liardon completes his 2020 rap hat trick of solid projects with last month’s *Kame Up Off a Lick*. The 32-minute project continues the “02” native’s mold of blending together brash admonishments, hustler braggadocio, and sprinkles of grim autobiographical anecdotes across its 14 songs. “I was 14 when I hit my first lick,” the recently turned 18-year-old reveals over the eerie, made for true-crime television backdrop of “Fox 5: ‘Overst02d’ features the ghastly line “Walk down on an opp, I lift the mask so he can see my face.” He briefly shakes off doubters of his story on “Off the Muscle.” “All facts, I ain’t rap it if I ain’t live it,” he affirms. The producer now primarily operating behind the mic consistently switches his beat selection from tape-to-tape. Instrumentals on *Kame Up Off a Lick* range from mirroring prime Roc-A-Fella’s high-pitched soul sampling (“Outro”) to barren and bass-heavy (“Shoebx Money”).

– Derek Udens

TARIK HASSAN: YALLA

Bandcamp

Double bassist Tarik Hassan boasts an impressive résumé encompassing work with local and national jazz greats including James Polk, Ephraim Owens, Andre Hayward, and a couple Marsalis brothers. As good a player as he’s become, with a near-perfect balance of melody and groove, his finger and arco work is outshined by his abilities as a composer and arranger on *Yalla*. Hassan folds multicultural influences into a post-bop core, wherein a close ear reveals Latin and Middle Eastern strains woven so skillfully into the arrangements that tracks like “Dance of the Grackles” and “Twice at Once” never become as obvious as fusion. Shapeshifting beauty on “Dublin” and “Arab Spring” point to an ability to create future standards, bringing out the best of both band and tune. Joined by superb local players including pianist Ben Irom, guitarist Brian Pardo, and most significantly violinist Kimberly Zielnicki, the bandleader blends disparate elements into a keenly crafted whole.

– Michael Toland

LETI GARZA, “LA EMPALIZA BROWN RECLUSE REMIX”

SoundCloud

Inspired by a recording from her trailblazing aunt, Mexican American singer Eva Garza, Austin’s Leti Garza recorded “La Empaliza” on her previous long-player, 2017’s *El Unico Para Mi (The Only One for Me)*. Now, local Grammy-winning producer Michael Ramos remixes the track with a techno, four-on-the-floor fervor. The original bursts with trumpet struts, clavinet splashes, and timbales, but Ramos’ version speeds up the song’s bright merengue jolt with electronic flourishes of playful synths and boogie breakdowns. In 2020’s tumultuous times, Garza reminds her listeners to “Breathe. Move. Dance,” as the song “sends out the call to action to embrace life no matter what the hell is beating down the door.” The remix also comes with an announcement of the forthcoming *Border Land*, set for release March 24, 2021. The EP steers into her personal experiences with the U.S./Mexico immigration crisis.

– Alejandra Ramirez

LITTLE MAZARN, “STORY OF AN ARTIST”

Bandcamp

While there’s no shortage of Daniel Johnston covers, including *Built to Sill Plays the Songs of Daniel Johnston* and tribute LP *Honey I Sure Miss You* (both 2020), Little Mazarn taps something essential with their rendition of “Story of an Artist.” Lindsey Verrill’s sparse banjo pulls at the slow drawl of her vocals, the singer’s connection to the song coming through with feeling, a beautiful sadness. Likewise, Jeff Johnston’s saw adds an ethereal haunt to the lo-fi track, accentuated by his telephoned vocals that echo otherworldly, sounding like the late songwriter himself duetting from beyond.

– Doug Freeman

POPE COKE

Bandcamp

Released digitally in early December, Pope Coke’s eponymous debut bristles with warm synth and key textured pop. Comprised of local power duo Jazz Mills and Stephanie Hunt, blissful vocal harmonies commingle over an amalgam of indie-pop and sun-dappled Sixties pop chansons, workshopped over three years of live gigging. Lead single “Danni Gets a Piece of the Action Down on Dirty 6th St.” proved a wistful advance upon its June release, plying bubblegum surf aesthetics with rhythmic key plucks and finding its home as the album opener. Among a platter chock-full of ear worms, “Shangi-La,” “Nobody’s Fool,” and recent single “Midnight Sidewalk” imbue an easygoing yacht rock quality into their lushly produced soft pop, engineered top to bottom by local producer Jank Sinatra. Preorders through Spaceflight Records estimate a February vinyl delivery.

– Greg Stitt

DANIEL DUFOUR / SAM PANKEY / SEAN GIDDINGS / CARTER ARRINGTON: CONVERGENCE

CDbaby.com

A burst of gnarled guitar, some freeform rhythm, and a gleeful shout kick off “Meds,” the first cut on the second album from drummer Daniel Dufour, bassist Sam Pankey, keyboardist Sean Giddings, and guitarist Carter Arrington. Like the locals’ *Distance* in 2018, *Convergence* masterfully executes a variety of jazz sidebars with psychic interplay. The collectively composed fusion of “Meds” contrasts the gentle swing of Giddings’ “Venice,” while the third stream simmer of Pankey’s “Figure It Out” complements the unorthodox blues of Dufour’s “Bones.” Interestingly, despite the improvisatory nature of the musicians’ chosen field, there’s little extended soloing here. Whether it’s Arrington’s lyrical snarl, Giddings’ grounded melodic, Dufour’s steady swing, or Pankey’s bluesy thrum, each player expresses himself with what needs to be said and no more, leading to a concise 33 minutes – just like *A Love Supreme*. There may not be many escalating climaxes, but tasteful, tuneful, and consistent pleasures abound.

– Michael Toland

MIKE FLANIGIN: WEST TEXAS BLUES

Apple Music, Deezer, Spotify, YouTube

For his second solo LP, Hammond B-3 ace Mike Flanigin entered Fire Station Studios in San Marcos with fellow Austin blues specialists (and squeeze) Sue Foley on guitar and Stevie Ray Vaughan’s own drummer Chris “Whipper” Layton. Ten Texas blues standards live from the floor, bleeding mics and all, emerged. Layton and Flanigin’s left hand sync as deftly as the tub-smasher did with Double Trouble bassist Tommy Shannon. That fat, articulate bottom end provides a perfect cushion for the warm harmonic buzz issuing from the organist’s right hand. That sets up Foley’s cutting six-string bursts and the leader’s beautiful rasp of a voice. All of which grace choice material from the great Lightnin’ Hopkins (the title track) to Lazy Lester (“If You Think I’ve Lost You,” on whose original Foley played). Tip back a potent, handmade antidote to a dangerous year.

– Tim Stegall

MARK WILLENBORG: COLD BEER AND COUNTRY MUSIC

www.markwillenborg.com

Mark Willenborg’s debut LP comes as advertised, classic barstool country just looking for a honky-tonk to serenade. The local singer showcases a honed dance floor instinct to keep bodies moving, with songs of leaving, being left, and then going round again swinging between a modern day Ernest Tubb and Ray Price. Produced by the great Marty Muse, who contributes trademark steel guitar and wrangles a host of A-list backers, the title track tinkles behind Floyd Domino’s keys and “Tear in My Eye” struts with Brian Beken’s fiddle. The bandleader’s ballads balance the album with the smooth low croon of “Interesting Old Man,” which broods like Jamey Johnson, and the sharp, poignant “Someday” offering a potential hit in the arsenal of the right superstar.

– Doug Freeman

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LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY 12/31

Antone's New Year's Eve w/ Tomar & the FCs (10:00)
Armadillo Den Southern Angels (6:30)
Buck's Backyard New Year's Eve w/ Broken Arrow (6:00)
Castro's New Year's Eve bash w/ the MaxBand (9:00)
The Far Out Austin Family New Years w/ Ally Venable Band, No Funks Given (7:00)
Geraldine's Twenty Twenty Done w/ Paul Val (10:30)
Gruene Hall New Year's Eve w/ Flatland Cavalry, Mason Lively (8:00), Josh Baca & the Hot Tamales (noon)
Lone Star Court New Year's Eve w/ Drew Moreland & the Neon Hustle (9:00)
Mercer Dancehall New Year's Eve w/ Weldon Henson (8:30)
Riley's Tavern NYE w/ the Chris Cuevas Project (9:00)
River Road Ice House New Year's Eve w/ Midnight River Choir, Tallula (8:00)
Sagebrush Armadillo Road (12mid), Rattlesnake Milk (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00)

Sahara Lounge New Year's Eve w/ Sahara Allstars (10:00)
San Jac Saloon Country New Year's Eve w/ Nine-Pound Hammers, Chris Ray (acoustic) (3:00)
Speakeasy New Year's Eve w/ PDA (8:00)
Summit Rooftop New Year's Eve w/ Los Angeles Leakers, Lamar (9:00)
The Venue ATX Desert Hearts NYE w/ Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Marbs, Porky (9:00)
Vulcan Gas Co. NYE w/ Lost Kings (9:00)
The White Horse Jordan Matthew Young (11:30), the Mellows (9:00)

FRIDAY 1/1

Coliseum Norteños de Ojinaga, Grupo Pegasso, La Autentik 512, La Sencillez de Tierra Caliente (9:00)
The Far Out Dead Love Club presents '80s Obsession (8:00)
Geraldine's Oscar Ornelas (9:30), jazz brunch w/ Daniel Dufour Trio (11:30am)
Gruene Hall Guy Forsyth & Jeska Bailey (6:30), Bo Phillips (12:30)

Lone Star Court Dave Orr, Willie Pipkin (7:00)
Riley's Tavern Danny B. Harvey (8:00)
Sagebrush Jordan Matthew Young (12mid), Strahan & the Good Neighbors (9:00pm), Pearl Snap Playboys (7:00)
The Venue ATX Green Velvet, Adam Auburn, HarveyBombay, Sammi K3rz (9:00)
Victory Grill D-Soul Davis Experience (7:00)
The White Horse Michael Dart (11:30), Saddle Sores (9:00)

SATURDAY 1/2

Come & Take It Live Koningsor, Pala, Revisionist, Covina, Sozora (6:00)
The Far Out Kev Bev (album release), the Selfless Lovers (7:00)
Gruene Hall Shaker Hymns (7:00), Silvercloud (1:00)
Riley's Tavern Joel Hofmann Band (8:00)
Sagebrush Candler Wilkinson (11:00), the Jerrells (9:00), Danny B. Harvey Hot Rod Happy Hour (7:00)
The White Horse David Touchton (11:30), the Golden Roses (9:00)

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY, 9AM, FOR THAT WEEK'S ISSUE. PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SEND VENUE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES TO CLUBS@AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM.

SUNDAY 1/3

The Far Out Sunday Phunday w/ A Live One (noon)
Gruene Hall Lady & the Tramps (4:00)
Sagebrush Colton Turner & the Mellows (9:00), Buffalo Gals (7:00), Texas Blues Party feat. Mike Flanigin & Sue Foley (4:00)
The White Horse Armadillo Road (10:30), Tiger Alley (8:00)

MONDAY 1/4

Sagebrush Ruby Dice (11:00), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00), Choctaw Wildfire (7:00)
The White Horse Adam Johnson (10:30), Texas Tycoons (8:00)

TUESDAY 1/5

The Far Out Eclectic Electro w/ Crystal Voyager, Chromatic Currents, RRB2 (6:00)

Sagebrush The Golden Roses (11:00), Armadillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Caldwell (7:00)
The White Horse Devin Jake (8:00)

WEDNESDAY 1/6

Gruene Hall The Georges (6:00)
Lamberts Dinner & Show series w/ Thomas Csorba (7:00)
Sagebrush Choctaw Wildfire (12mid), Sophia Johnson (10:00pm), Mrs. Glass (8:00)
The White Horse Johnny McGowan's Rugged Gents (8:00)

THURSDAY 1/7

Sagebrush JD Clark (12mid), Aaron McDonnell & the Neon Eagles (10:00pm), Ben Ballinger (8:00)
The White Horse Armadillo Road (11:30), Pearl Snap Playboys (9:00)

Be safe out there, y'all!

Please support local music responsibly. For a complete list of upcoming shows, see austinchronicle.com/events/music.

LIVE STREAMING

THURSDAY 12/31

New Year's Eve livestream party w/ DJ Pete Rock, Marcus Machado, James Robinson, Uriah Mitchell, Noa, Vicky Casis, JaRon Marshall, Mobley, Zach Person, Sam Houston 6pm TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE
Eve Monsees & Mike Buck 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Graham Wilkinson 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
I Always Cry on Thursdays w/ Jean Caffeine 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Lu's Jukebox w/ Lucinda Williams 7pm TICKETS ON MANDOLIN.COM
The Jungle Show w/ Billy F. Gibbons, Jimmie Vaughan, Chris Layton, Sue Foley & Mike Flanigin 7pm TICKETS ONLINE
The Squirrel Show w/ Oliver Steck 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Patrice Pike 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE

Austin's All Virtual New Year w/ Shakey Graves, Parker McCollum, Gina Chavez, Rob Baird, Swimming With Bears, Como Las Movies, Jake Lloyd, BettySoo 8pm YOUTUBE
Bonnie Whitmore & Her Virtual Gallery 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Party Wolfe 9pm TWITCH
The Harms Hang w/ guests 10pm INSTAGRAM

FRIDAY 1/1

Crooner Coffee Hour w/ Lex Land 10:30am FACEBOOK LIVE
Feel Good Hour w/ Monte Warden 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Anne's Freaky 15 w/ Anne Heller & MC Terroristic 10:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

SATURDAY 1/2

The Kids' Show w/ Oliver Steck 10am FACEBOOK LIVE

Kris Schultz Live From the Corner (of Her Apartment) 1pm FACEBOOK LIVE
DJ Mel's Living Room Dance Party 6pm FACEBOOK LIVE
HITW Happy Hour at Home w/ Heather Bishop & Danny G 6pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Free Parking w/ Mandy Prater 9pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Kevin Russell 9pm FACEBOOK LIVE
DJ Chorizo Funk 10pm INSTAGRAM
Synthy & Chatty w/ Todd V. Wolfson 10pm FACEBOOK LIVE

SUNDAY 1/3

Corey Baum 11am FACEBOOK LIVE
Leeann Atherton's Sunday Sing-Along 12:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Shelley King's Soul-O Sundays 2pm FACEBOOK LIVE
First Sunday Songwriters w/ Claudia Gibson 3pm FACEBOOK LIVE

Pamela Hart 5pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Úlla 5:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Sydney Wright 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE, INSTAGRAM

MONDAY 1/4

Bob Appel 6pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Blue Monday w/ Oscar Ornelas 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Cari Hutson & Hunter St. Marie 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
No Lights No Lycra w/ DJ Brian Blackout 8pm TWITCH
Not at Donn's Depot w/ Chris Gage 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Line of Fire: Live From Living Room 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE

TUESDAY 1/5

Brazilian Jazz Happy Hour w/ Paula Maya 5:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Eric Bettencourt 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Miles Zuniga 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Good Time Supper Club w/ Band of Heathens 7:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE

WEDNESDAY 1/6

Pat Byrne 5pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Bruce Smith 6pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Matt Hubbard's "Grandpa's Piano" Livestream 7pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Flamingo Cantina presents Mau Mau Chaplains 8:30pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Sonya Jevette 8:30pm YOUTUBE

ONGOING

Jeff Plankenhorn Mondays, 7pm and Tuesdays, 8pm FACEBOOK LIVE
Karen Mal & Will Taylor Tuesdays, 7:30pm and Wednesdays, 1pm FACEBOOK LIVE

Looking for more?

See austinchronicle.com/events/music for a complete list of upcoming livestreams.

Check out our holiday events listings on p.25 for a rundown of New Year's Eve happenings, both physical and virtual.

THE Luv Doc



"PREDICTIONS"

Dear Luv Doc,

2020 was the worst year ever. Can you give your loyal readers a glimmer of hope for 2021? Will love be in the air? Will I find an exciting new romance? I need something to look forward to. Whattaya got?
— Mistress Griselda

Whenever somebody asks me to predict the future I usually look them square in the eye and tell them that they and everyone they've ever known or loved are going to die. Call it a personality flaw, but I hate being wrong — especially about the future. There's too much riding on it — and by "too much" I mean everyone's hopes and dreams. I don't want to be the asshole who gave someone false hope just because I was too scared to plunge them into a deep, dark, existential depression. Enough with the lies. You are not going to make it into the NBA. No, not even Cleveland. If I'm wrong about that, well, hey, as they used to say in the NBA back in the Nineties, my bad.

I am not here to blow sunshine up your ass. If you want that super-positive, kid-glove prognostication, get with Jesus. Word in the New Testament is that if you're meek, you will inherit the earth. Psst ... before you meek out and start spraying Champagne all over everyone remember: There's a hole in the ozone layer, and the ice caps are melting, so you're kinda getting a lemon. And if you want to fix things, you have to convince a bunch of idiots to stop rolling coal and buying bottled water. Scratch that, you are going to have to tell everyone to stop buying everything — especially Matthew 5:5.

I know it sounds hopeless, Gris, but hopelessness is the hand human beings have been dealt since that energy-draining light bulb of sentience popped on in our noggins a couple of hundred thousand years ago. Earth has pretty much always been a shitshow, but somehow humans have managed to cobble together a pretty decent existence, overall. Is there room for improvement? Of course there is. Anyone who has tried to take a left turn onto 51st Street from the northbound I-35 access road can tell you that, but there are plenty of reasons to remain hopeful. The COVID vaccines are coming, Trump's pouting party is most likely going to relocate to a penitentiary somewhere (Who knows? Maybe he can share a cell with Joe Exotic!), and DJ Khaled is definitely going to pop up on someone's fresh single. So there's that.

But is 2021 going to be an orgy of unbridled optimism and unrestrained economic growth? Unlikely. The scruffy grackles of this dormant economy are going to come home to roost. Hard times are ahead, but fortunately, you're part of a really resilient species. The same one that made it through 536, 1349, 1862, 1919, 1942, 1968, and 1991 (the year the Red Hot Chili Peppers released *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*). Frankly, we're lucky more souls didn't die that year. If that track record doesn't put a spring in your step, I don't know what will.

2021 might look a little bleak, Gris, but, as ever, the ball's in your court. Life is what you make of it — even in a pandemic, even when every fucking convenience store/Sixth Street shots bar/cool dentist's office on the face of the planet seems to be playing "Under the Bridge." You have to wake up, wash your ass, and get out there, and try to make the world a better place. Why? Because to paraphrase President Barack Obama shortly after he sank that sick baseline three, "That's what we do!"

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC? Send your questions to luvdoc@austinchronicle.com.



Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

If you've ever eaten sushi, then you have probably also eaten the red algae called porphyra. That's the species used for the dried edible seaweed sheets.

One in five of all mammal species on the planet today are bats.

Wondering about the 2024 Artemis mission to the moon? NASA is working on a new spacesuit — the first redesign in 40 years — that's called the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit. Currently, it's being tested underwater in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

London psychic Nicolas Aujula, who claims he predicted COVID-19, says he believes Tom Cruise, Natalie Portman, and Kim Kardashian will all experience some sort of heartache in 2021.

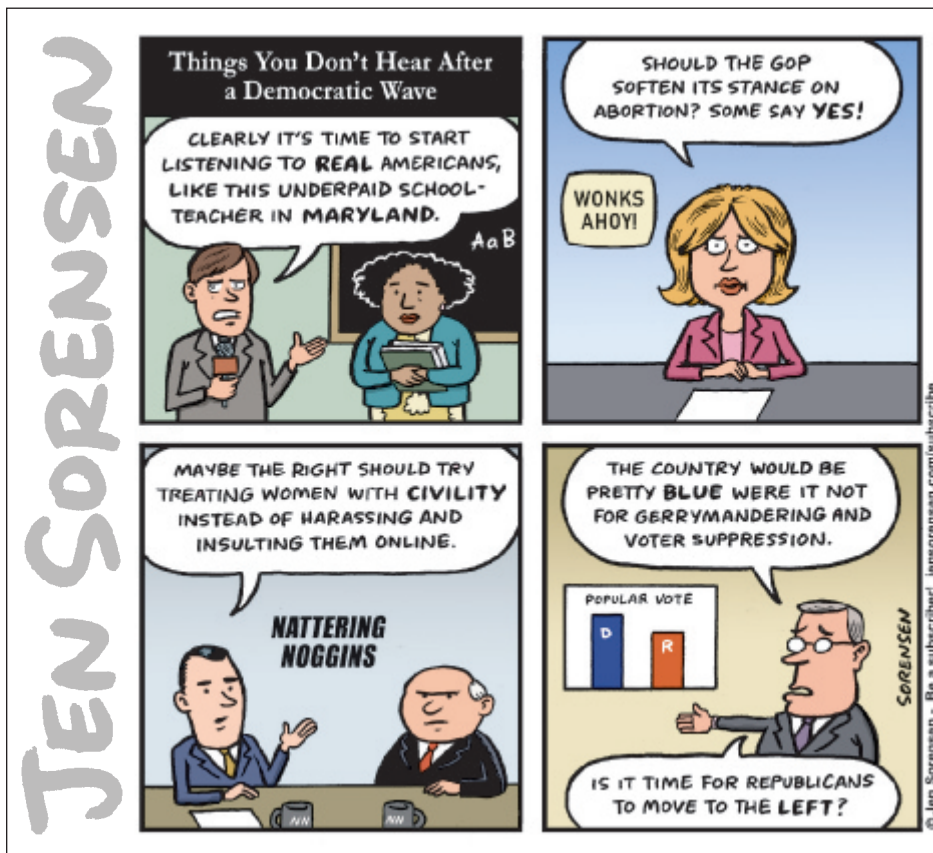
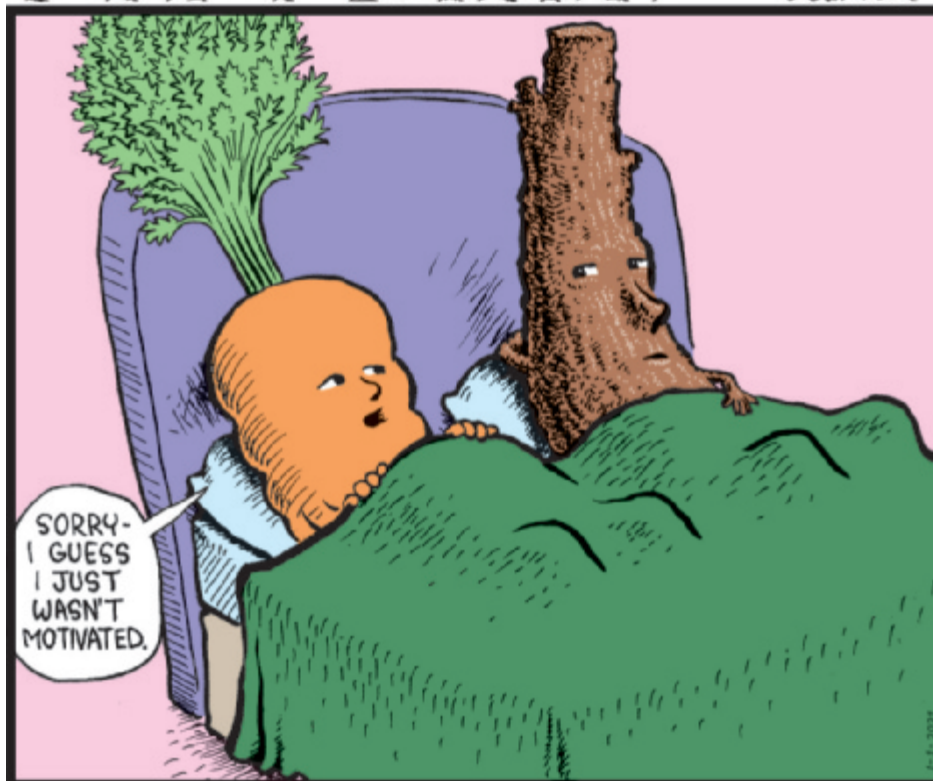
The age of Aquarius began on December 21, 2020, with the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.

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



by Sam Hurt



JEN SORENSEN

COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Accenture LLP; Austin, TX):
Manage project execution to ensure adherence to budget, schedule, and scope. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job de-

scription, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# 00900599). Equal Opportunity Employer - Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

IT PROFESSIONALS
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl QA Analysts, Sftwr Dvlpr. DBAs, Sftwr Engrs, Pega Dvlpr are needed for our Austin, TX Office. May req. traveling. Pls send Resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. Req. to Taproot Solutions Inc 317 Ranch Road, 620 South, Austin, TX - 78734

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER I

Amazon.com Services LLC
- Austin, TX. Software Development Engineer I - Assist senior engineers in the design & development of large-scale, multi-tiered, embedded or distributed software applications, tools, systems, & services. Multiple job openings. Send resume, referencing AMZ4863 to: Amazon.com, P.O. Box 81226, Seattle, WA 98108. EOE.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER III

Amazon.com Services LLC
- Austin, TX. Software Development Engineer III - Drive the architecture & design of large-scale, multi-tiered, distributed software applications, tools, systems & services using Object-Oriented design, Distributed Programming, Java and C/C+++. Multiple job openings. Domestic and international travel required up to 25%. Send resume, referencing AMZ4943 to: Amazon.com, P.O. Box 81226, Seattle, WA 98108. EOE.

SOFTWARE QA TEST LEAD ENGINEER (AUSTIN, TX)

AVEVA Software LLC seeks Software QA Test Lead Engineer (Austin, TX) to provide tech/project leadership, mentoring & consulting to team of Software QA engineers working on InduSoft product lines, while hands on w/execution. Reqs a Master's (or Bach) in Comp Sci or related plus 2 yrs (or 5 yrs if Bach) software QA exp in industrial automation. To apply, submit resume to kay.kolakowski@aveva.com.

WEBSITE If you had a Les Paul Faded Double Cutaway guitar, you could be an awesome musician. Find one in MARKETPLACE at austinchronicle.com/classifieds.

SR. SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
Clothing Tech LLC seeks Sr. Software Developer Req: MS in CS, CE, or related & 4+ yrs exp w/design & dvpmt of apps. Position in Austin, TX. Mail CV to Jeff Kirk, ATTN: 402283, 5113 Southwest Parkway, Suite 240, Austin, TX 78735. EOE.

MEDICAL

CAREGIVER NEEDED
Searching for caregiver or live in caregiver. No experience needed. Hiring now \$10/hr. Call 512-486-0931

WEBSITE
Looking to join a local Austin band? Find more great musicians wanted ads online at austinchronicle.com/classifieds.

LEGAL NOTICES CALL TODAY 512/454-5767

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with a Food and Beverage Certificate by Zeds Real Fruit Ice Cream-Austin, LLC . dba Zeds Real Fruit Ice Cream to be located at 1814 Harvey St., Austin , Travis County, TX 78702, officers are Matthew Potter-manager, Charles Schmidt- manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Texas Outer Heaven, LLC dba Outer Heaven, 1808 E. 12th Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Michael G. Lavigne, Manager; Sean R. Daigle, Manager; James B. Chauncy, Manager

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage

Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food & Beverage Certificate by Bendito, LLC dba Asadas Grill & Cocktails located at 501 W. Canyon Ridge Drive, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Guadalupe Barragan, Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Origen LLC dba Ma'Coco, to be located at 501 Comal St. Austin, TX 78702, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation Origen LLC are Javier Magana.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by BMK Sushi LLC DBA Sushi Hi, to be located at 8557 Research Blvd Ste 146, Austin 78758. Officer of said corporation is Mun

Kyong Bae/Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Fifth and Brazos Beverage Manager LLC d/b/a Thompson Hotel located at 506 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, Travis County, TX 78701. Manager and Members of said limited liability company are Brian D. Gordon, Manager/ Member and Omar Palacios, Member.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT WITH A MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS PERMIT AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE CERTIFICATE BY QUESO DELICIOSO BEVERAGES HODLINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY'S TEXAS STAR LOCATED AT 409 W 30th STREET., AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78705. MANAGERS OF

SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE SAM KAUFMAN AND DANIEL SMITH.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-20-007021
To: RICARDO LEON TORRES and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s): GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on DECEMBER 23, 2020, and said suit being number D-1-FM-20-007021 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF YASMIN ARISABETH DEGOLLADO and RICARDO LEON-TORRES". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 23, 2020.
VELVA L. PRICE
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
Austin, Texas 78767
REQUESTED BY:
YASMIN ARISABETH DE-

GOLLADO
1005 BETHEL WAY
PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS 78660
PREPARED BY: STANFORD
ZELDA

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO.: D-1-GN-20-002538
- To: TIFFANY SAENZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s): GREETINGS: - YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. - YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 250th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND ATTACH DISCOVERY Petitioner(s) filed in said court on October 21, 2020 against TIFFANY SAENZ Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-GN-20-002538 the docket of said Court.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of ABEL LOPEZ III, Deceased
Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002521, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas.
ERIN BRITTANY FELTON filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on December 22, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of ABEL LOPEZ III, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate

Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-20-002521, styled IN THE ESTATE OF ABEL LOPEZ III, DECEASED, on or before the above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on December 23, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: S. DELACROIX

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas
To unknown heirs of EDWARD MICHAEL MILLS, Deceased Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002531, in Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas. KENDRA KARR MILLS filed an APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on December 22, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of EDWARD MICHAEL MILLS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court by filing a written contest or answer to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Travis County Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number C-1-PB-20-002531, styled IN THE ESTATE OF EDWARD MICHAEL MILLS, DECEASED, on or before the

above-noted date and time. If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved. Given under my hand and seal on December 23, 2020, Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: B. HICKS

NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS

KIPP Texas Public Schools, Inc. is seeking Request for Proposal from qualified vendors for Telecommunications and Internet Access for E-rate Year 24 eligible Category 1 products and services for all district's schools. Proposals are due January 19, 2021 on or before 11:00 AM CST to cymel.abdul@kipptexas.org. All bid documents will be available at www.KIPPTexas.org/current-bids. Late proposals will not be evaluated. KIPP reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any or all irregularities.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN APPLICATIONS
ARE BEING MADE
TO THE TEXAS
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
COMMISSION BY
PFLUGER BARS LLC,
FOR MIXED BEVERAGE
PERMITS AND MIXED
BEVERAGE LATE
HOURS PERMITS
DOING BUSINESS AS
CITY LIMITS SALOON
TO BE LOCATED AT
15601 VISION DRIVE,
PFLUGERVILLE, TRAVIS
COUNTY, TX 78660
AND AS PLAYER'S
LOUNGE TO BE LOCATED
AT 113 E PECAN
STREET, PFLUGERVILLE,**

TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78660. MANAGER IS WILLIAM BRANNAM.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, www.tdtkr.texas.gov THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.
GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,0655976VSF, 1111 OLD BASTROP HWY, AUSTIN, TX. 78742. (512)441-7094.
2017 HONDA ACCORD 8SQN212 CA 1HGR2F8X-HA277905
12 CHEVROLET EQUINOX BZ30349 IL 2GNAL-BEKKC6400426
2008 MOTORCYCLE 20K9667 CA ZAPM459LX85007082
OTHER MOPED BLUE NO PLATE NO VIN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

"In accordance with the provisions of State Law, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner and/or manager's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Life Storage location(s) listed below. And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated location(s) to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com, which will end on January 27, 2021 at 10:00am.

Life Storage #276
2830 S. A.W. Grimes, Round Rock, TX 78664
512-310-0279

Tiffany Wood-Hsld Gds/Furn Jose L Berrelez-Hsld Gds/Furn Alicia Davis-Hsld Gds/Furn, Boxes

Brandon Baum-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip
Brenda Spencer-Hsld Gds/Furn
Stephen Barr-Hsld Gds/Furn
Juan G Cazares-Hsld Gds/Furn

Life Storage #390
12835 Pond Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78729

512-250-5152
Jeremiah Johnson-Hsd Gds/ Furn

Jason Hall-Hsld Gds/Furn
Jerrell Taylor-Hsld Gds/Furn
Naomi Fesler-Hsld Gds/Furn

Life Storage #392
550 S. IH-35, Round Rock, TX 78681
512-238-6648

Dustin Sink-Tools/Applnces
Howard Harbert-Hsld Gds/Furn
Pedro Mavo-Bikes

Randy Batzer-Hsld Gds/Furn
Life Storage #429
2715 Sam Bass Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681

512-255-3724
Ira Mitchell-Hsld Gds/Furn, TV/ Stereo Equip, Tools/Applnces
Stephen Michaud-Hsld Gds/ Furn

Deaza Gaston Ellis-TV/Stereo Equip, Boxes, DVD's, Bedframe
Life Storage #545
506 McNeil Rd. Round Rock, TX 78681

512-255-7939

Demaso Tubac-Tools/Applnces, Landscpng/Cnstrctn Equip
Justin Nacol-Hsld Gds/Furn
Chris Drake-Tools/Applnces, Off furn/Mach/Equip

Craig Neely-Hsld Gds/Furn
Alice Collins-Hsld Gds/Furn,TV/ Stereo Equip,Tools/Applnces, Boxes

Cathy Blackson-Hsld Gds/Furn
Life Storage #864
16700 RR 620 Round Rock, TX 78681
512-599-8840

Rudy Sanchez-Hsld Gds/Furn
Tomas Reyes-Hsld Gds/ Furn,TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/ Applnces

David Jackson-Hsld Gds/Furn
David Jackson-Hsld Gds/Furn, Off Furn/Mach/Equip, Tools/ Applnces

Patrick Willis-Hsld Gds/Furn
Life Storage #971
2000 University Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78665
512-255-1110

Michel'le Smith-Hsld Gds/Furn
Micheal Deese-Hsld Gds/Furn
Life Storage #7109
3997 FM 1431 Round Rock, TX 78681

512-255-5017
Kathy Marshall-Hsld Gds/Furn, Off Furn/Mach/Equip, Acctng Rcrds/ Sales Sampls, Boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
"Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property code, Life Storage locations listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Self-storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.storageetreasures.com which will end on Thursday 01/21/2021 at 10:00am

Life Storage #8001
2150 Double Creek Dr Round Rock, TX 78664
512)774-5905

Joseph Birdwell
Life Storage #8004
10201 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy Leander, TX 78641
512)456-8106

Kristi Smith
Life Storage #8030
1714 E Parmer Ln. Austin, TX 78754
512)537-3412

Jordan S Kirkham, Lakeskia Davenport, Curtiss Williams, Megan Kirby, Joseph Lucero
Life Storage #8031
981 N Red Bud Ln Round Rock, TX 78665
512)537-3481

Terrance Drayton, James D Shaw.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
At Devon Self Storage, 8008 S Congress Ave Austin, TX 78745
Stored vehicles will be sold to satisfy the Landlord's lien for rent and other charges in accordance with Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. Vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder via an online auction at www.storageetreasures.com

Santana Duran, 1975 GMC Bus
VIN T6H4523A1285.
Abundio Lopez, 2001 Wanderer
Life Travel Trailer
VIN 4XTTN24281C228672.
Evaristo D. Torres, 1963 Ford
Galaxy
VIN 3D5X2113141.
Online bidding will begin on

January 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM and will continue until January 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM at which time a high bidder will be determined.
Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids.
Please refer to www.storageetreasures.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE MORNINGSTAR STORAGE - LAKE TRAVIS IN AUSTIN, TEXAS HEREBY PUBLISHES NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, OF A PUBLIC SALE FOR THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW TO SATISFY A LANDLORD'S LIEN. ALL SALES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY COMPETITIVE BID FOR CASH TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FINAL. MORNINGSTAR STORAGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BIDS. THE SALE SHALL BE HELD AT THE STORAGEACTIONS.COM ON JANUARY 19, 2021 @ 10am. Units below:

#3029 Sonia Linares- sleeping bag, new Coleman stove, camping
#3094 Erika Mora- gas grill, TV, rugs

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
of property to satisfy landlord's lien. The sale will be conducted on https://storageactions.com/ and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on Jan 12,2021 at 10:00 AM. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces at A Mini Storage of Texas, 2381 Hwy 71 East, Del Valle, TX 78617: Household and other goods-construction equipment, furniture, and office furniture. Any questions the property manager @ 512-582-0300. Leslie, Ganous Sara, Loera

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, of property to Satisfy a Landlord's lien. A public Auction to be held at My Attic Self Storage via www.StorageAuction.com on January 13, 2021 at 12:00 pm. A cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants:

Maria E Mora: misc. items.
Casey Lilley: misc. items.
Susie M Pugh: misc. items
Norma Duran: misc. items.
Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 12:00 pm. My Attic Self Storage @ 1602 W. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX 78660.
www.StorageAuction.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **TJO 10 X 10 Management, Ltd** Managing properties listed below will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin on or about the time indicated at www.selfstorageauction.com. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and

cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:00 pm SpringWood Self Storage @ 9206 Anderson Mill Rd, Austin, TX 78729
www.StorageAuction.com
Charles Dykes: misc. items.
William Parker: misc. items.
Cody Michael Fox: misc. items.
12:00 pm Oak Hill Storage @ 7901 W. Hwy 71, Austin, TX 78735
www.StorageAuction.com
Sergio Mendiola: misc. items.
12:00 pm Northgate Storage @ 8833 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758
www.StorageAuction.com
Timothy Rogers: misc. items.
David Nutt: misc. items.
Ellen Whatley: misc. items.
Ursule Kazadi: misc. items.
Andrea Roman Montes: misc. items.
Stephanie Roman: misc. items.
Jonathan Trecenyon: misc. items.
Marcus Lyons Jr.: misc. items.
Rachel Richter: misc. items.
Elizabeth Delrio: misc. items.
Jesse Trevino: misc. items.

12:00 pm Lakeline Storage @ 11000 Lakeline Blvd, Austin, TX 78717
www.StorageAuction.com
Laurie P. Ryan: misc. items.
12:00 pm ATX Self Storage @ 6901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78752
www.StorageAuction.com
Rason McGinnis: misc. items.
Roland Garcia: misc. items.
David Jernigan: misc. items.
Reynaldo Funez: misc. items.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **CubeSmart 10707 N IH35 Austin TX 78753:** Christine Maffei, Michel Chaveco Noa
CubeSmart 400 N HWY 183 Liberty Hill TX 78642: James Frank Dudley Jr
CubeSmart 3706 N Main St Taylor TX 76754: Jeffrey Lauts, Classy Henderson, Angel Kirk, Gerald Wright, Debra Trejo
CubeSmart 2701 FM 1460 Georgetown TX 78626: Cynthia Martinez, Melissa Reveles
CubeSmart 14509 Owen Tech Blvd Austin TX 78728: Kenneth Waddell, Fidelia Francisca, Fidelia M, Roylee Floyd, Timothy Jones
CubeSmart 2400 N Austin Ave Georgetown TX 78626: Jeremy Vidaura, James Ochoa, Paula Rainey, Natasha Harris
CubeSmart 646 W Front St Hutto TX 78634: Rohshun Lee-Turner
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 12:30 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **CubeSmart 2220 E Howard Ln Pflugerville TX 78660:** Jacinda Powell
NOTICE OF PUBLIC

SALE: Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **CubeSmart 244 Benelli Dr Hutto TX 78634:** Amber Vargas
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 2:15 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **CubeSmart 3901 Shell Rd Georgetown TX 78628:** Miguel Gomez, Anubhab Sukul
NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 2:15 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **CubeSmart 3901 Shell Rd Georgetown TX 78628:** Miguel Gomez, Anubhab Sukul
NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash to satisfy a lien on January 13th, 2021 at approx. 2:15 PM at www.storageetreasures.com: **610 E Stansney Ln, Austin, TX 78745:** Laura Nixon, L. Nixon, David Rodriguez, Tabitha Brennan, Richard Hernandez Jr.; **10025 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78748:** C. Long, Christine Long, Joe Cifelli, Jon Leonard, Rosetta Cervantez; **1905 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78744:** Luis Ivan Aguilar Olvera, Ahmad Haywood, Anthony January, Janie I. Guerrero; **6130 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741:** Ashley Brooke Toyar, Arthur Gatica, Rachel Richter, Veronica Ruiz, Viridiana Cortez; **2701 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704:** John Joe Preston; **701 Philomena Dr, Kyle, TX 78640:** Sherard Sorrells, Andrew Pirkle; **21400 IH 35, Kyle, TX 78640:** Isis Alatorre, Isis Aneol Alatorre, Matthew Millard, Reid Dixon, Amanda Wiggins, Chris Jones; **5141 Cromwell Dr, Kyle, TX 78640:** Matthew J Leesekamp, Matthew Harper, Jacob Lucio, Kesa J Larson, Nathan G Allen, Nathan Gabriel Allen, Luis E Macias, Luis Enrique Macias

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
3009 Dawn Dr., Georgetown 78628, 512.364.7202, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am
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Church altar
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for January 1-7

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The mathematically oriented website WaitButWhy.com says that the odds of winning a mega lottery can be compared to this scenario: You know that a certain hedgehog will sneeze just one time in the next six years, and you place a big bet that this sneeze will take place at exactly the 36th second of 12:05 pm next January 20. In other words, WaitButWhy.com declares, your chances of winning that lottery are very small. But while their analysis is true in general, it may not be completely applicable to you in 2021. The likelihood of you choosing the precise moment for the hedgehog's sneeze will be higher than usual. More realistically and importantly, your chances for generating positive financial luck through hard work and foresight will be much higher than usual.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Author Anaïs Nin was supremely adaptable, eager to keep growing, and receptive when life nudged her to leave the past behind and expand her understanding. At the same time, she was clear about what she wanted and determined to get what she wanted. Her complex attitude is summed up in the following quote: "If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is compromise." I hope you will heed her counsel throughout 2021. (Here's another quote from Nin: "Had I not created my whole world, I would certainly have died in other people's.")

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 2013, workers at a clothing manufacturing plant in Gazipur, Bangladesh staged a mass protest. Did they demand a pay raise or better health benefits? Were they lobbying for air conditioning or longer lunch breaks? None of the above. In fact, they had just one urgent stipulation: to dispel the ghost that was haunting the factory. I've got a similar entreaty for you in 2021, Pisces. I request that you exorcise any and all ghosts that have been preventing you from fully welcoming in and embracing the future. These ghosts may be purely metaphorical in nature, but you still need to be forceful in banishing them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Author Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986) carried on a long love affair with books. He read thousands of them, wrote more than 20 of them, and further postulated the existence of numerous imaginary books that were never actually written. Of all the writers who roused his adoration, a certain Russian novelist was among the most beloved. Borges wrote, "Like the discovery of love, like the discovery of the sea, the discovery of Fyodor Dostoevsky marks an important date in one's life." I'm wondering if you will experience one of these pivotal discoveries in 2021. I strongly suspect so. It may not be the work of Dostoevsky, but I bet it will have an impact close to those of your original discoveries of love and the sea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Vietnamese-American novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen has won numerous awards for his work, including the Pulitzer Prize. Here are his views about the nature of accomplishment: "We don't succeed or fail because of fortune or luck. We succeed because we understand the way the world works and what we have to do. We fail because others understand this better than we do." I bring these thoughts to your attention, Taurus, because I think that in 2021 you will have an extraordinary potential to enhance your understanding of how the world works and what you must do to take advantage of that. This could be the year you become both smarter and wiser.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Modern civilization has not spread to every corner of the planet. There are at least 100 tribes that inhabit their own private realms, isolated from the invasive sprawl of our manic, frantic influence. Among these enclaves, many are in the Amazon rain forests, West Papua, and the Andaman Islands. I have a theory that many of us civilized people would love to nurture inner qualities akin to those expressed by Indigenous people: hidden away from the mad world; content to be free of the noise and frenzy; and living in attunement with natural rhythms. In 2021, I hope you will give special care and attention to cultivating this part of you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Hurricane Maria struck the Caribbean island of Dominica in 2017. Scientists studied two local species of anole lizards both before and after the natural disaster. They were amazed to find that the lizards after the hurricane had super-strong grips compared to their predecessors. The creatures were better able to hold on to rocks and perches so as to avoid being swept away by high winds. The researchers' conclusion? It's an example of one of the most rapid rates of evolutionary change ever recorded. I bring this to your attention, Cancerian, because I suspect that you, too, will have the power to evolve and transform at an expedited pace in 2021 - in response to positive events as much as to challenging events.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I hope that in 2021 you will spend a lot of time meditating on your strongest longings. Are they in harmony with your highest ideals, or not? Do they energize you or drain you? Are they healthy and holy, or are they unhealthy or unholy - or somewhere in between those two extremes? You'll be wise to reevaluate all your burning, churning yearnings, Leo - and decide which ones are in most righteous service to your life goals. And as for those that are in fact noble and liberating and invigorating: Nurture them with all your tender ingenuity!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "You can't move mountains by whispering at them," says singer-songwriter Pink. Strictly speaking, you can't move mountains by shouting at them, either. But in a metaphorical sense, Pink is exactly right. Mild-mannered, low-key requests are not likely to precipitate movement in obstacles that resemble solid rock. And that's my oracle for you in the coming months, Virgo. As you carry out the project of relocating or crumbling a certain mountain, be robust and spirited - and, if necessary, very loud.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In his masterpiece the *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo da Vinci applied 30 layers of paint that were no thicker than a single human hair. Can you imagine the patience and concentration that required? I'm going to propose that you be inspired by his approach as you carry out your big projects in the coming year. I think you will have the potential to create at least one labor of love that's monumentally subtle and soulful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Climate change is proceeding with such speed in central Mexico that entire forests are in danger of perishing. In the hills near Ejido La Mesa, for instance, the weather is getting too hot for the fir trees that shelter millions of monarch butterflies every fall. In response, local people have joined with scientists to physically move the fir forest to a higher, cooler elevation. What might be your personal equivalent, Scorpio: an ambitious plan to carry out an idealistic yet practical project? According to my analysis of your astrological potentials, you'll have a lot of energy to work on such a scheme in 2021.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Author Gérard de Nerval (1808-1855) made the following observation: "I do not ask of God that he should change anything in events themselves, but that he should change me in regard to things, so that I might have the power to create my own universe, to govern my dreams, instead of enduring them." If you have a relationship with the Divine Wow, that will be a perfect prayer for you to say on a regular basis in 2021. If you don't have a connection to the Supreme Intelligence, I suggest you address the same prayer to your Higher Self or Future Beauty or whatever source of sublime inspiration you hold most dear.

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.

PARK & HOMER puzzles

NBA Champs

No. 409

Puzzle by J. Reynolds (Originally ran 1/7/2016)

Across

1. Word that could follow the first word of each starred clue

5. Taxis

9. Stair parts

14. Jessica of "Dark Angel"

15. Comply with

16. San Diego baseballer

17. Like a sad sack

18. *** Person who looks exactly like another

20. Rope fiber

22. Like some eclipses

23. Cataract site

24. Promotes

26. Gave the once-over

28. Diner

31. Spice holder

35. Badge wearer

38. Short skirt

39. Lack of vitality

41. *** In the past

44. "I couldn't ___"

45. Jets or Sharks, e.g.

46. Family room

47. Univ. lecturer

48. Kind of number

50. They take the bait

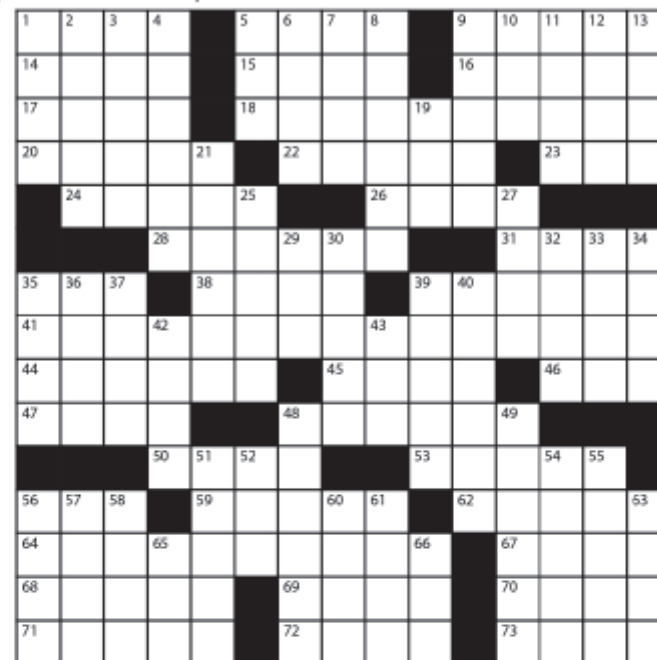
53. Musical exercise

56. Infomercials, e.g.

59. Some college students

62. Author Zola

64. Popular vacation destination



67. Get-out-of-jail money

68. Idiot

69. Celeb

70. Carbon compound

71. Rocket gasket

72. His and ___

73. "Phooey!"

Down

1. Crones

2. ___ Island National Monument

3. Treat badly

4. Hot ___

5. New England catch

6. Brother of Cain

7. Squire

8. 2000 Olympics city

9. Cathedral topper

10. Beachgoer's goal

11. Barely beat

12. The hunted

13. Bone-dry

19. Beam of light

21. Andean animals

25. Time on the job

27. Sketched

29. Conclude

30. Chip feature

32. In the thick of

33. Give as an example

34. Songwriter Gus

35. Nasdaq listing: Abbr.

36. Completed

37. 100 centavos

39. "Tomorrow" musical

40. Cancel

42. Jazz phrase

43. Crew need

48. "I can't believe it!"

49. Timber

51. Cake topper

52. Have a bawl

54. Paul Anka #1 hit

55. "Silas Marner" novelist

56. Bullets, e.g.

57. Last name in fashion

58. Draped dress

60. Go out with

61. Lasting impression

63. Building additions

65. Sun follower?

66. Mins. and mins.

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

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUED FROM P.45

Estate of Eleanor Theone, Deceased pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. Thomas R. Theone, qualified for original letters testamentary on December 8, 2020 and received them on December 22, 2020. Claims may be presented to the representative c/o the attorneys at the following address: Graves,

Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, Attn: John W. Conner, PO Box 98, Austin, TX 78767-9998. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the period prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary

for the Estate of Allan Mitchell Clark, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001840, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Miguel T. Guerrero.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the

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

c/o: **Representative, Estate of Allan Mitchell Clark**
925 Loop 332
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642
DATED the 22nd day of December, 2020.
/s/ Jamie Etkorn
Attorney for Miguel T. Guerrero

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PEGGY ANN WOMMACK, Deceased, were granted on November 19, 2020, in Docket No. CP-1-PB-20-001518, pending in the County Court of Travis County, Texas, to: BEVERLY RHEA DARNELL

The residence of the Executor is in Montgomery County, Texas, the address for notice presentation of claim is: Representative, Estate of PEGGY ANN WOMMACK c/o Merlin Lester 213A West 8th Street Georgetown, Texas 78626 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED January 1, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROY PEREZ, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002102, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Frances Seidel-Perez. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the address listed within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Frances Seidel-Perez The Stroud Firm, PLLC 16000 Pool Canyon Road Austin, Texas 78734 DATED the 22nd day of December 2020. /s/ Rachel Stroud Rachel Stroud Attorney for Frances Seidel-Perez

State Bar No.: 19424700 16000 Pool Canyon Road Austin, Texas 78734 Telephone: (512) 293-8244

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Shirley M. Rudolph, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-000651, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Paulette

N. Rudolph, a/k/a Paulette Rudolph Inez Gibbins. The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb Stewart & Ott PLLC Attorneys at Law Rollingwood Center 2500 Bee Cave Road Building II, Suite 150 Austin, Texas 78746 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 22nd day of December 2020. /s/ Barbara J. Lipscomb Barbara J. Lipscomb Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WALLACE KILBOURNE, a/k/a WALLACE KILBOURNE, JR., Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001891, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: DAVID KENT KILBOURNE. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DAVID KENT KILBOURNE, Independent Executor, Estate of WALLACE KILBOURNE, a/k/a WALLACE KILBOURNE, JR. c/o Lorenza G. Cigarroa December 22, 2020 State Bar No. 24105603 The Law Offices of Kyle Robbins, PLLC 3800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78756 Telephone: (512) 851-1248 Fax: (512) 361-1806 Email: lorenza@kylorobbins-law.com

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate Marilyn C. Jones, Deceased, were granted on December 15, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002149 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Cheryl Jones Ensor, who qualified as Independent Executor on December 18, 2020. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are

required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: **Gabriel G. Gallas Gallas Law PLLC 1403 West 6th Street Austin, TX 78703 DATED** the 22nd day of December, 2020. /s/ Gabriel G. Gallas Gabriel G. Gallas State Bar No.: 24069750 Attorney for Cheryl Ensor Jones

NOTICE TO PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY EUGENE MCCASKILL
Notice is hereby given that on December 28, 2020, Pamela Gail Johnson McCaskill was issued original letters testamentary on the Estate of Timothy Eugene McCaskill, Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002456, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Court Sitting in Probate of Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to Pamela Gail Johnson McCaskill, Independent Executor of the Estate of Timothy Eugene McCaskill, c/o Charles O. Grigson, 604 W. 12th St., Austin, Texas, 78701. Charles O. Grigson, Attorney for Independent Executor

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1. Child Support Enforcement System, RFP 2010-010-LR Opens: December 14, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
Bids should be submitted to: Bonnie Floyd, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.traviscountytexas.com/purchasing/solicitation. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL HACA-20-P-0236 DEVELOPER/OWNER PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS (PBV)
The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) is seeking proposals from qualified developers/owners to receive an allocation not to exceed 50 Housing Choice Voucher Project Based Vouchers. The purpose of this allocation is to enable homeless individuals or families to access affordable housing with an array of supportive services. All proposals will be evaluated by HACA's defined scoring criteria. Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must register with the eProcurement Marketplace and submit the required documents electronically to <https://ha.internationalprocurement.com/req> uests.html?company_id=10217 by 5:00 PM/CST February 12, 2021. Proposal packets may be obtained on the eProcurement Marketplace (as our Agency is paying all costs for the use of this Marketplace, there will not be any additional charges to your firm to use this Marketplace to download the RFP documents or submit a response to our Agency). To take part in this process, please follow these instructions: DIRECTIONS TO ACCESS THE EPROCUREMENT MARKETPLACE
1. Access ha.internationalprocurement.com (no "www").
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HACA reserves the right to reject any or all responses and waive any informalities in the response process. You can also dial 7-1-1 and it will automatically go to a different group such as TTY, Voice, VCO, HCO, etc. Relay Texas TTY no 1-800-735-2989 Customer Service no 1-800-676-3777 (V/T)

State Bar No.: 24047660 925 Loop 332 Liberty Hill, TX 78642 Telephone: (512) 800-6353 Facsimile: (512) 233-5207 E-mail: jamie@etzcornlaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joel Ernest Scribner, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2020 under Docket No. C-1-PB-20-000442, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to Jeffrey Davidson. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Jeffrey Davidson, Independent Executor, Estate of Joel Ernest Scribner, Deceased c/o Law Office of Richard Cahan, 209 12th

Street, Suite 109, Pflugerville, Texas 78660. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED December 22, 2020 By: /s/ Richard Cahan - Attorney for Jeffrey Davidson Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARGARET SCOTT ELLERBROCK, Deceased, were issued on November 3, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-001357, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: JAMES W. ELLERBROCK. All persons having claims

against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: **JAMES W. ELLERBROCK 7811 Palacios Drive Austin, Texas 78749 DATED** the 22 day of December, 2020. Larry P. Schaubhut, Jr. Attorney for JAMES W. ELLERBROCK State Bar No.: 00788361 3839 Bee Cave Road, Suite 100 Austin, TX 78746 Telephone: (512) 330-9656 Facsimile: (512) 330-9528 E-mail: lrschaubhutjr@austin.rr.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that

original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Miriam White Morgan, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2020, in Cause No. C-1-PB-20-002027 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: James Parker Morgan, Sr.. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: **Richard L. Welch Attorney at Law 8140 MoPac Expy North Westpark 4, Suite 260 Austin, Texas 78759 DATED** December 28, 2020 /s/ Richard L. Welch State Bar No.: 21125700

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