



Challenger

Street Newspaper



Austin, Texas

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Donation
Thank you!

February 2025
Vol 14 Issue 11
(158th issue) **

www.challengernewspaper.org
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

512-560-4735

An Independent Press - 95% Street Written—Voices Of The Street
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FEBRUARY 14



*Lizzardo Giganticus Great quote for talk of
APD harassing Street People*

Happy Valentine's Day



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Mission: The Challenger Street Newspaper advocates, informs, and connects diverse people from all walks of life. We empower street dependent campers with economic opportunity and get their viewpoints heard.

The material printed reflects the opinions of its authors.



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Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Treasure City Thrift
Austin Public Library
T.O.O.F.
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95% Street Reporters

Leslie Cochran wrote for the Challenger our first 6 months.

Clip Art used from MS Publisher
We use century gothic font cause



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THANKS TO ALL OUR

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DONORS,
CONTRIBUTORS AND
DISTRIBUTORS
YOU MEAN A LOT!**

Editorial Policy

Material in the paper reflects the opinion of the author. Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published. We ask you to proof read your article. Grammar is edited only for understanding. Editor doesn't edit your voice.

Deadline is 2nd Sunday or the 15th.

Should you come into contact with an individual you believe could benefit from the Homeless Outreach Street Team **(H.O.S.T.)** you can reach them at 512-804-3720

**Time for a discussion
Challenger Will Visit
Your Org/Hood**

Zoom or in person

Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

Goals

- 1 See the whole person
- 2 Meet them where they are
- 3 Recognize that there may be invisible disabilities
- 4 Use cultural competence
- 5 Never take your eyes off the person's humanity



Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

NEW THRESHOLD: 35 Degrees (Dry, wet or windy) . 24 hr notice. **HOT meal!**

Call for status 512-972-5055 Free bus

Single adult men and women, pets welcome, please arrive at 505 Barton Springs Rd for registration, 6-8 PM or till flow stops.. Rides to locations. Families with children, arrive by 6pm. Pets now welcome!!
They'll stay in a crate near you.



peacelovehappinessfoundation.org
[@plhfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/plhfoundation)

WHAT IS DE-ESCALATION? BY RYAN DOWD



I'm working on a 5-minute training on de-escalation for people new to the concept.

I thought I would try the concept out on y'all!

When someone is rude to you or refuses to follow the rules, most people naturally lean towards one of two responses:

1. **"Fight Back"** - Treat the person the way they are treating you. Show them who's boss!
2. **"Give Up"** - Let them break the rules or treat you poorly. Avoid dealing with them as much as possible.

Take a second and decide which one you naturally are. Now, let's look at pros and cons of each.

FIGHT BACK

Pros:

- Sometimes it stops the rudeness or rule-breaking.
- It doesn't feel like weakness.

Cons:

- It frequently escalates conflict.
- The situation often turns into a shouting match.
- It can even be dangerous.

GIVE UP

Pros:

- It avoids conflict and a potential scene (at least for today).

Cons:

- It doesn't stop the rudeness or rule-breaking. In fact, it often makes it worse in the future.
- It feels like weakness.

Obviously neither of these are great strategies.

That leads us to a third option - **"De-Escalation."**

Using "de-escalation" you enforce your rules and stop rudeness, *but in a way that simultaneously reduces conflict.*

Pros:

- It usually stops the rudeness or rule-breaking.

- It usually avoids increased conflict. It is the safest option.
- It doesn't feel like weakness.
- It is the most compassionate approach when the other person is struggling with a mental health disorder.

Cons:

- It is a new skill that has to be learned (and practiced).
- You will likely be a little uncomfortable while you resist your natural urge to "fight back" or "give up."

If you're not using de-escalation to handle problematic behavior, I'm challenging you today to start.

Here's what you need to focus on – **"RULES with RESPECT"**

RULES

- They can't break the rules.
- They can't treat you disrespectfully.
- You can't ignore rule breaking or disrespectful behavior.

RESPECT

- You can approach and speak to them *calmly* and *respectfully*, EVEN WHEN the other person is not being calm or respectful to you.

Note: You can remain *calm* and *respectful* throughout the conversation, even if you have to call law enforcement.

It is that simple.

It is not easy to do (because of your natural inclination to "fight back" or "give up"), but it is simple.

Have a fantastic week!

Peace,

Ryan

P.S. If you're a supervisor and are interested in de-escalation trainings for your staff/volunteers, we offer a **free two-week trial of our trainings**. To sign up, reply to this email and write **"I'd like a free trial!"**. All you need to include is your organization's name - our team will take it from there and be in touch with you soon.



Don't believe the darkest corners of the human spirit:
 Cynicism is not wisdom. Hope is not naïve.
 Cruelty is not strength. Compassion is not weakness.

Ryan Dowd
 ryan@homelesslibrary.com

GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Please let the paper know if someone has passed;
We want to remember them. A picture is nice
Call 512-560-4735 challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED

J.T. (JONATHAN SALAS) 50 YRS OLD WAS STABBED IN HIS CAMP (IH35 & WM CANNON DR ON NELMS DR), THEN SET ON FIRE. HE WAS AUSTIN'S FIRST MURDER OF THE YEAR 1-4-25 32-YEAR-OLD TOMAS GONZALEZ HAS BEEN ARRESTED & CHARGED.

2ND BODY BURNT IN HIS CAMP NEAR BEN WHITE & SO AUSTIN HOSPITAL 1-19-25

2 FREEZE DEATHS 1-21-25

LOVE ME; LOVE ME MORE BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

With a warming smile and hug; love me
Love me as if I were a breath of fresh air
Drown me with love as if you were eight foot tall
Soaked with your kisses like the waves in an ocean

As the sun rise and sets, love me more
Whether my cup is full or not; your love please pour
24 hours of love and romance each and every day
Love me more leaving me without a word to say

For the rest of my life be my valentine
May we age with love like wine
To eternity and beyond shower me with your love
You and I together forever is all I dream of

Love me, then love me more
Around the world and back it's you I adore
You are a jewel that I was happy to find in a mine
Love me now and forever more my Valentine





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Empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1998.

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

The Challenger Street Newspaper



mlf.org | [@mobileloaves](https://twitter.com/mobileloaves) | [#ServingGoodness](https://twitter.com/ServingGoodness)

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S Community First! Village PROJECT

I AM HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

BY THOM WORLD POET

TRUSTING FLAGS REMAIN AT HALF MAST

Unless we remember better people
 We are at the mercy of (un-social) media
 So spare this moment for President Carter
 for all he did post-Presidency. People are housed
 thanks to his personal efforts. This changes things..
 Now spare some moments for Martin Luther King Jr
 His rhetoric backed up by his actions. "I have a dream...
 still resonates in every Black church, and on every Civil Rights platform.
 Now send a vote of thanks for President Biden
 He did the best he could under hard conditions
 He still lives! And is capable of benign intentions
 Do not forget that he is still around..
 And, while tithing your time for good example
 Recount the ways you have added to
 This unique attempt at continuing democracy
 The person now who can change things-is you.

THINGS YOU CANNOT SHARE WITH UNSHELTERED ONES

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

DO NOT GIVE THEM A YACHT!

Unless you include a harbor and wharf to park them
 in

Do not give them gold bars (who can eat Aurum
 (gold?..

Do give them shelter/food/clothes/transport/love/
 care/attention

Listen to them. Bandage their wounds. Feed them
 love and kindness.

They wear your face .Your life in their lines. Bread
 lines. Age lines.

Their stories weave among your tapestries. Castles of
 Attention.

Medicinal this reflection in your mirror. For who has
 not fallen/

Been broken/wounded in this Age of Experience?
 Time to heal/anneal.

Release the broken shards of pottery. Vote for hu-
 manity. KINTSUGI.

ONE OCTOBER

BY ZEBRA



Beloved the worst thing happened to me in our happy
 tent. I got food poisoning at our favorite Mexican restau-
 rant, bad Barbacoa. I was sick as a dog. I started feeling
 better so I counted my money and sent Partner on a run
 to Wiggy's Liquor Store on Sixth St. I asked for my favor-
 ite French wine. I was reading a lot of the time with a
 small flashlight. Anywho, I drank half of the bottle. I
 started feeling the wine streaming down my chin. I had
 had a Bell's palsy stroke right where my face switched
 sides. My partner saw my face as he came in the tent. I
 threw up every day for 3 months. Partner had to go to
 the store to get a Blue Bell pint and sweet leaf tea. I
 walked with a stick.

We were preparing for the Art show. Kelly Trulove was
 shocked when she saw my face.. She Insisted, she said to
 Partner, you have to take her to the doctor and eat lunch
 later. Sardines are cheap and good for you. My doctor,
 Dr Jones was on Martin Luther King street on the East
 side. The stroke happened in October so she said I had to
 be a pirate for Halloween and wear an eye patch! She
 told me no coffee only decaff. Dr Jones told Partner to
 keep an eye on me. I had to learn how to walk and talk
 again after the stroke. Later I graduated to grapes. But it
 was the best place for me in that tent.

THE WICKER MAN

BY JOHN CURRAN

So he pulled in to the Common room, the TV was on, it was basketball and most of the pod was there, at the tables, in chairs, about a dozen or so dudes, the second shift, KITCHEN. And a general mixed bag of mostly low level offenders though occasionally someone of some note or notoriety would somehow have slipped through the cracks and landed here where was not supposed to be. Such is the beaurcracy, not perfect, of the correction system.

Our man was one of those, one misfit, pulling up to the rest of the group because laying over there on the bunk was getting wearying. It was his first full day and as such he was feeling all that that entailed, as well as having been charged with a pretty serious crime, really elevated at the moment, elevated like you would not believe, as LA was burning, and the charge was arson. His name was Paki, and he was from Pakistan.

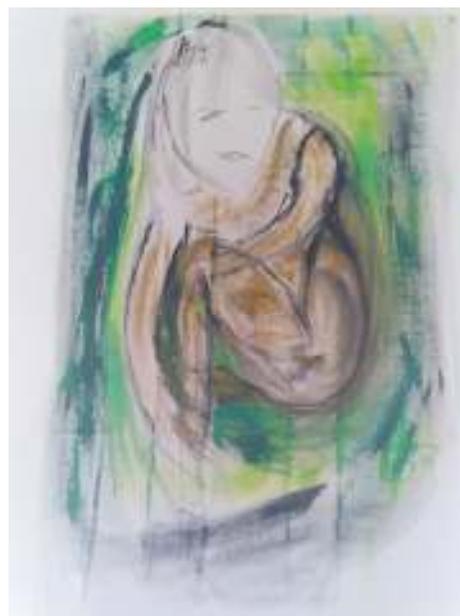
He wanders up, finds the last vacant chair at the back, sits down. Already heads are turning from up front staring at him, hard looks, the old pod guys... so



what is it, new fish? He looks up at the screen. Basketball game. And then it cuts away for a break, an update on the fires, the latest on a suspect charged with arson, one Paki, arrested with a butane he could not account for beside a burning barrel that he also could not inside of a burning corner of a park with trees fronting a neighborhood, also burning and this as well this Paki could not give an account of... it was announced that this Paki had been arrested, suspected

of arson, and that the fire was 17% contained, at least in that area. And then they went back to the basketball game and everyone turned back to the game, all except one, who continued to regard our Paki, sitting there in his last chair trying to watch the game, the dude watching Paki, with some interest, before saying 'well if I was this Paki I'd sure be praying, 'cause that's on

m....rf....r don't need to see another dawn" and with that dude turns back to the basketball 'n Paki wonders, how long a fake name flies, in America.



ART

By John Curran

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!

It Works!



We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper for a donation. Each one costs \$1 and YOU keep the profits.

The Challenger is written & published monthly by 95 % un-housed people. The paper operates from a mobile office with 2 suitcases & a backpack. Our Director/Editor, Val, prints the paper at home, then we fold them when we meet.

If you submit an article, poem or art, you get 10 copies of the issue that you're published in.

We take Venmo, Cash app & PayPal. Make sure they put your name or badge number.

It might take a couple weeks to build your business. We are also digital online,

**Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 kit.
The kit comes with ID Badge & 10 papers to sell
on a donation basis**

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

outside City Hall

(Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez)

or

If it's too hot or too cold-Central Library Rm 471

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com

www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper

PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735

JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

We want you, and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. You should write neatly so we can type or any writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you!

We don't have free subscriptions, but if you're published we will send a copy.

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715 challengenewspaper@yahoo.com



Sun-Thurs 1-7 PM

Fri-Sat 11am-7pm

Moving soon!



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Books and more!

2142 e 7th st
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

Solidarity
not
Charity

**REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET**

**LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM**

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 2/2025

Please notify

Challengernewspaper
@yahoo.com

if you notice changes to the directory

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233
SAFE 512.267.7233 www.safeaustin.org
VINE 512-936-1200 www.vinelink.com
Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 www.kindclinic.org
If this is insufficient or you need help reporting or treating an event, email Challenger ATTN: Jenny

NAT'L SEX ASSAULT HOTLINE 1-800-656-HOPE

HUMAN TRAFFICING 1 (888) 373-7888

NAT'L HUMAN TRAFFICKING Resource Center
Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 English, Spanish and 200 more, traffickingresourcecenter.org
<http://stopthetrafficking.org>

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center (M-F 9-1) .
4430 Menchaca (Ben White) Hot meal, mail, showers, hygiene, ltd clothing, laundry, computer lab, triage referral/navigation: Service Point ID, Coordinated Assessment, MAP/Food stamp sign-up; Medical clinic (Th only), Integral Care; job resources, recovery support. **Hotline:** 512-522-1097 NARCAN VENDING MACHINE sunrisenavigationcenter.org

Trinity Center: 304 E. 7th St. Navigation/service ctr, meals, case mgmt, ID docs, Coordinated Assessment; MAP, SNAP, Food Stamp sign-up; bus passes, ltd travel assistance, clothes/showers (women only on Mondays), mail, phone, computer access, housing referrals. M-F 9a-1p, Sun. 3-4:30p Come in person/ no appts. TrinityCenterAustin.org

Charlie Center-Mosaic Church Navigation Cntr
2675 Research Blvd. (McNeil/183) 512-922-8954
Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. ID's, Social Security Cards, Vital Records, Meal Served Daily, SNAP Sign-Up, Coordinated Assessments, Housing Info & Referrals, Case Management, Mail, Packages, Medication, Secure Document Storage theCharlieCenter.org

First Austin Baptist

Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. fbcaustin.org

BATHROOMS:

- Public Restroom 4th & Trinity
- Public Restroom 6th & Brazos
- Portapotti 7th & Trinity
- Portapotti 6th & IH35
- Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday -- Friday
- Libraries
- Near city trails

Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers
Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:
Bartholomew Pool
1800 E. 51st St East
Barton Springs Pool
2131 William Barton Dr Central
Springwoods Pool
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest
Balcones Pool /closed for season
12017 Amherst Dr. North

Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am
M-F-- 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
M-F-- Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
The Other Ones Foundation A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

Barton Springs Pool

Shwrs available/Bath House being remodeled.
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p (fee charged)
Closed Mondays & Thurs
VETERANS are always in free

LAUNDRY:

Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles. Ea location 9am-12N
Unscented soap available.

M-- Sunrise Navigation Ctr--4430 Menchaca Rd
Tu-Violet Storage--700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)
W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183
W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church 12675 Research Blvd.

FOOD:

Angel House / Austin Baptist Chapel Soup Kitchen
Food Pantry/breakfast/lunch - daily 9:30-10a, 11a-12:30p, 512-643-2327, 908 E.
Cesar Chavez St

Bread For All: Food Bank Faith Presbyterian Church at 1314 E Oltorf St, 5-6:30 pm Mondays. We also sponsor a mobile distribution with the food bank at Parker Lane United Methodist (2105 Parker Lane) second Monday of the month from 9-10 am. All are welcome. <https://austincitylutherans.org/food/>

Caritas of Austin: Housing, food, educ, employment, veterans assistance. Housing programs require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027 Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM caritasofaustin.org

Central Presbyterian (200 E. 8th, corner of 8th and Brazos) Breakfast Thursdays 8-9 am, limited space, clothes and toiletries. 512-472-2445 cpcaustin.org

El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission:

Community Health Worker Training, Adult Educ, Youth Progs, Vaccines and Health Literacy. Office

hours: M-F 9a-5p, Food Help: T/Th 8a-10a 7000 Woodhue Dr, 512-439-8900, ElBuen.org

Foundation Communities' Prosper Health Coverage program provides FREE help for all people to find and use affordable health insurance or other health coverage programs. We have phone and in-person advice available. Call 512-381-4520, email enroll@foundcom.org, book an appointment online (<http://prosperhealthcoverage.org/>), or visit one of our community Prosper Centers at 5900 Airport Blvd. or 2900 South IH-35 from 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

Foundation for the Homeless / Feed My People

Tuesday/Thursday breakfast 5:30-7 am.. First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Showers, AA meetings, a clothing closet (Thursday only), showers, and haircuts (every other Thursday).

Gateway Church - Feed the Community Food Pantry, 7104 McNeil Dr. Wednesdays 9-11am

Green Doors' veterans (transitional housing) and affordable housing residents (affordable rental or PSH with vouchers) until capacity is full. They may require a brief hotel stay for folks seeking to join the transitional housing program (and Green Doors would cover the cost); affordable rentals are immediate admission because they are single occupancy. info@greendoors.org or 512-469-9130 for information or applications.

Good Apple is providing FREE food assistance to folks 55+ and/or immuno-compromised, people can sign up on behalf of others who meet those criteria. Turnaround time varies but as of right now appears to be within 48 hours; may be one-time rather than on-going; one person reported getting 3 veggie farm-share bags and 3 bags of non-perishables.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes For locations and schedules, visit <http://www.mlf.org/truck-schedules>.

The Other Ones Foundation Work opportunities, out of town transportation assistance, emergency shelter. 512-568-7557 780 S. Hwy 183. toofound.org

University Presbyterian Church/Micah 6 Food Pantry Thursdays at 5:30-7 pm and Saturdays at 9:30-11 am. 2203 SanAntonio St., micah6austin.org

University United Methodist Church/

Open Door Ministry: breakfast & clothing every Saturday from 8-9 am. 2409 Guadalupe St.

Victory Ministries (2300 Canterbury St) supplies are VERY LOW. People being served outside only. If able, PLEASE CALL 512-480-9628 to check status before coming.

Westover Hills Church of Christ Providing food (non-perishable groceries) for everyone Saturdays 9-11 am. Drive-thru style. Located at 8332 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759. Food for Seniors

Meals on Wheels and More [Main Office]
3227 E. 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702

Resource Directory con't

Updated 2/2025

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

Violet Storage 700 E 7th St. 96 gal barrel with lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, show up at the facility. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-4879

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall, Guadalupe side. Low barrier self employment. Make money today and every day you work. Distribute the paper on a donation basis, you keep all profits. Challengernewspaper.org

Workforce First: Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently unoused. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

Skillpointalliance.org Job training: plumbing, HVAC, electrical, manufacturing. Women & Men 512-729-4922

blueappleexpress@gmail.com \$1600 per month rental assistance pilot program" and "bruisedapples.org" mentoring info without charging ad fees to founder.

Fair Living Wage Calculator: enter zip code www.universallivingwage.org

Shelter App: Connecting People In Need to Services.

REFERRALS:

First Call for Help : 211 or 988
Free, bilingual information & referral service about food, clothing, housing, child and youth services, job placement assistance, education, recreation, support groups and other programs and services.

Arcilinc.org
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349



▲ VETERANS ▼

American Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 Text to 838255

Texas Veterans Commission www.tvc.texas.gov

V.A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metropolis Dr) 78744
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Caritas of Austin: 7th & Neches. Community Kitchen is serving lunch Monday-Friday 11 AM-12:30PM. Our clients receive case management/housing stability services and groceries through our food pantry. The lobby has public access to water, bathrooms, phones and info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 -11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35
Housing First- Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Strike Force Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call 254-299-9950. See www.tvc.state.tx.us for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

Center Point Texas Veterans Program 512-297-2990 outreach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741 Up to \$800 housing/car repair.

SHELTER:

ARCH Austin Resource Center for Homeless
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920

8th Street Shelter for single women & transwomen Neches & 8th St (referral only)

Esperanza Community (Governors Camp): Started Nov 2019 780 S US Hwy 183 (Old Bastrop Hwy) between Briggs Equipment and Palm Harbor Homes. Contact the Other Ones Foundation for a space (512) 568-7557. Pets are welcome. Charging station, . Shower trailer Bus Route #217

The Safe Alliance Call for locations, 512-267-SAFE (7233) Emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and case managers for women escaping domestic & sexual violence. children & men also accepted.

YOUTH:

Lifeworks Under 27 yrs. 835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd. Mon-Thurs 12-4 pm Bus routes 300 & 493. Food, hygiene, bus passes, Wifi, gear, charging, mailing address, coordinated assessment.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Street Youth Ministry 2008 Justin Ln

SAFE CARES a program of The SAFE Alliance, YOUTH 12-22 experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. Case management, advocacy, therapy, and Drop-In services. Call 512.267.7233(SAFE)

SENIORS/ELDERS:

Family Eldercare Outreach and in-home care for those over 60 years old. M-Th 8-4, Fri 8-12
Call for locations, 512-450-0844

Safelink for 60 yrs+ FREE cell phones and service
1-800-Safelink (1-800-723-3546)

MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH:

Dell Seton Medical Center at UT (formerly Brackenridge)
512-324-7000 1500 Red River St. Emergency care-911

ARCH Clinic-Community Care
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920 Mon-Fri 7-11 am & 12-4 pm. walk-ins and appointments

MAP cards 512-978-8130 1313 Red River Ste. 217A
Mon. - Fri. 8am or 1 pm Homeless get right in.
Screening and enrollment done on a walk in basis. appts preferred. Full coverage medical services with reduced or no copay. Must meet a set criteria.

CARE CONNECTIONS CLINIC Walk in. 3706 S. First St.

Tuberculosis Elimination Clinic 15 Waller St., TB testing. Also Community Care-Hancock Cntr

BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY AWARENESS CENTER
1704 EAST 12TH ST 78702 512-965-6950
drduncan924@gmail.com

KIND CLINIC Austin-Koenig Suite 200 Free HIV/STI walk-in testing No appt Mon-Fri 9 am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm
1-833-WE-R-KIND (1-833-937-5463) kindclinic.org

THRA TX Harm Reduction Alliance 512-893-3237
Drop in 1803 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mon-Thurs 11:30-2:30, Wed 3-5 pm pm We offer support for people who use drugs, including tools, resources, and overdose prevention.

RecoveryATX.org Peer recovery/support 512-553-2683

Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic (wait in line or appt)
4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319
Emergency dental care for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs. Manosdecristo.org

STD Clinic 15 Waller St., 512-972-5430
not anonymous, but confidential STD testing. Must have photo ID.

AIDS Services of Austin 7215 Cameron Rd., 512-458-2437 case management, testing, & a variety of financial services available. The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic is a part of AIDS services of Austin and operates on a sliding scale for all HIV positive clients.

Integral Care.org Crisis Helpline 512-472-4357 (HELP) 24/7 Immediate emotional support. 24 hr/day, 7 days/week. or you may call them and an outreach worker will come to you.

S.H.A.C. Self Help and Advocacy Center 3205 S 1st St. Drop in. 512-442-3366

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses www.austinclubhouse.org An applicant must: Be at least 18 yrs, have a mental health diagnosis, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, peer specialist, etc.). We do not require a referral letter from a health professional. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78751 (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES::

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training, don't call 911, call 512-472-HELP.

Mental Health Information HelpLine
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), Mon-Fri, 9.- 5, CST

Healthcare for Homeless HUB *co-located with Lonestar Circle of Care* 3000 Oak 512-532-9961 for appt.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)
1165 Airport Blvd Walk in M-F 8a-10p and Saturday/Sunday and holidays from 10a-8p.

East 2nd Street Clinic (Central Austin)
1631 E 2nd Walk in M-F 8-5

Stonegate Clinic (So. Austin) 2501 W. William Cannon Dr, Bldg 4 Walk in M-F 8-5

St. John Clinic - (North Austin)
6937 N. IH 35 Walk in M-F 8-5

Directory continued

Www.aayhf.org

African American Youth Harvest Foundation
6633 Hwy 290 E. Ste 307 (512) 428-4480
ContactUs@aayhf.org

H.O.S.T Homeless Outreach Street Team
512-804-3720

We CanNow Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

Suicide Lifeline 800-273-TALK
(8255) IF YOU TEXT 741741 WHEN YOU
ARE FEELING DEPRESSED OR SUICIDAL, A
CRISIS WORKER WILL TEXT YOU BACK
IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE TO TEXT
WITH YOU!

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is at the
corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Anto-
nio St. Austin, Tx

LEGAL:

Legal Aid Survivors of Sexual Assault
1-844-303-SAFE free legal assistance to
survivors of sexual assault.

Austin Tenants Council 512-474-1961 (M-F
9-12 and M-Th 1-4 PM)

Camp Ban Tickets TX Fair Defense Project
512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs
10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild
hotline 512-817-4254

Community Court 505 Barton Springs Rd first
floor. Bus 1, 3, 7, 10, 20, 801

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current,
Travis County Civil Law Court House, which
gets confused with old courthouse, 11th &
Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in
the know. At the Current & old Court houses
the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, &
belt & there's barriers to leaving the building
too. But, at new courthouse they have a law
library on 2nd floor, where law books & comput-
ers with internet access, and law clerk librarians
can help you research forms & methods for
filing legal & business forms. All available for
anyone wanting to study law or research what
are common civic expectations, not taught or
explained in public school.

UTILITIES:

Baptist Community Center Mission 2000
E. 2nd St Elect, water, gas, meds, birth
cert, food

CLOTHING:

Mobile Clothing TRUCK:
Thrift-ish.org Contact for your group to
have a free shopping experience

Really Really Free Market
Last Sunday 2-5 PM
Treasure City Thrift 2242 E. 7th St

FREE HAIRCUTS::

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead
512-481-8900.

Ron King Academy call ahead 512-596-
5000. (tip expected)

Foundation for the Homeless- haircuts
(every other Thursday). First United Meth-
odist Church, Family Life Center, 1300
Lavaca St.

**FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES,
MEDICAID:**

Texas Dept. of Human Services
Moved to Capital Plaza 512-929-7330
Women, infants & Children (WIC)
Call for closest location, 1-800-942-3678

HOUSING

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 (512) 823-
4000
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Blackland Community Development Corp.
2005 Salina St., (512) 220-8751
Transitional housing for families and single
persons.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35
Housing First-Transitional, affordable,
permanent housing.

Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens
HIV Housing Complex
5606 Roosevelt Avenue
The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35
ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2
year; waiting list depends heavily on indi-
vidual circumstance. Www.hacanet.org

Travis County Housing Authority 2200 E.
MLK Jr. Blvd. 512-480-8245 Similar to
Austin Housing Authority.

Foundation Communities
Affordable housing for individuals and
families with low to moderate incomes: 512-
447-2026

Community First! Village Micro homes,
trailers, canvas tents. mlf.org Hogeye Rd

Victory Homes Austin Greater Austin area
as well as the surrounding cities. Lodging,
food, and clothing is provided. Majority of
people providing assistance are former
addicts and gang members who at one time
found themselves trapped in the same
cycle.

For more info: Director Gus Celaya (512)
920-8708 or Admin office 512-822-9182

Excellence & Advancement Foundation
(EAF) provides programs, services and
advocacy to break the school-to-prison
pipeline by coordinating prevention and
intervention programs to support children at
risk of becoming involved in the criminal
justice system. Below are some of the
programs. For more info:
<https://breakthepipeline.org/programs/>

Awesome Activist Leadership Program,
Black Leadership Academy, SPARK
change, The Wrap up, The Excellence
Resource Center (this is the advocacy,
case management program), Parenting
with a purpose

ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO

"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105
Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM
(Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM)
Art supplies provided for FREE! Participa-

tion allows each artist to be in the annual show in
October!

PET CARE: www.emancipet.org offers free
days for pet care

COOLING CENTERS:

OASIS: behind ARCH, shade, bathrooms &
water.
Regular hours at Rec Centers &
Public Libraries. Sorry, no pets.

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

NEW THRESHOLD: 35' Dry, wet or windy.
24 hr notice. HOT meal! Call for status
512-972-5055 Free bus

Single adult men and women, pets wel-
come, please arrive at 505 Barton Springs
Rd for registration, 6-8 PM or till flow stops.
Rides to locations. Families with children,
arrive by 6pm. **Pets now welcome!!**
They'll stay in a crate near you.

Notify Challengernewspaper
@yahoo.com if you notice
changes to the directory

OASIS: (behind ARCH)
shade, H2O & bathrooms

8th Street Shelter for single
women & transwomen
Neches & 8th St (referral
only)

Marshaling Yard: Appoint-
ment only.

Esperanza open & will be
expanding, they got more
land adjacent.

CODE OF CONDUCT**Challenger
Newspaper**

1. Distributors must wear
their badges in a clear
and visible way when
pitching the
paper.

2. Distributors must be
sober and drug free
when they pitch the
paper.

3. Distributors are re-
sponsible for their pa-
pers once they pur-
chase them.

**4. Distributors are not
permitted to fight over
territory, use abusive
language, or exhibit
aggressive behavior.**

5. Distributors can't
pitch in doorways,
directly in front of busi-
nesses, or near ATM ma-
chines.

6. Distributors must not
give the "hard sell" to
customers.

7. Stepping off the curb
may get you a ticket.

8. Stay back 20 ft from
marked crosswalks.

**Distributors who violate our
code will be warned and
suspended if it continues.**

**We need to
police ourselves or the
police will.**



CHALLENGER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2024



BY CHALLENGER MEMBERS

Homer The Homeless Goose's Demands By Challenger Newspaper

- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of ppl's things away!
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services*
- *Austin Living Wage*
- *Pets must be allowed at shelters—better mental and physical health (get brief orientation for socialization of pets)*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 17 to 35 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cooling/heat Center: behind ARCH—Oasis has shade, water and bathrooms*
- *Find me! Get me on public display!*
- * More digital: Consolidated time & money by meeting one day a week instead of two. More digital work.
- * Visit Challenger members in nursing homes.
- * Spent the hot summer meeting at Central Library Rm 471.
- * Distributed 500 "cooling kits" donated by the Hogg Foundation, at 8 locations: APL, ARCH Cooling Center, Charlie Center, The Clubhouse, Street Forum & Trinity Center, plus various locations out in camps.
- * Received a \$5000 grant from The Hogg Foundation.
- * Refused and stood up to Austin Police Dept about being accused of taking their money for an ad we didn't print yet. APD hasn't fired their rapist police officers so why should the public believe they will be treated fairly if raped in Travis County. We didn't print their ad nor keep their money.
- * Jesse represented the Challenger at the Lone Star Zine Fest.
- * Morlog with various helpers got a majority of the gutting & remodeling done on our RV Office.
- * Got new distributor/writer Twinkle Toes a laptop for 6 mos of participation.
- * Networked with the Hogg Foundation in November at one of their events.
- * Tabled at MLF's Thanksgiving dinner event at Central Baptist Church.
- * Sprinkled Becky's ashes at the House the Homeless Memorial on Lady Bird Lake.
- * Holiday community outreach.
- * Got the Treasurer a phone for better communication.

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



Jesse G.
Badge # 165
Door to Door
Photo by Val Romness



Christopher C.
Badge # 317
Downtown
rchristophcarr@gmail.com



Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Lorenzo
Badge # 414
5th/6th Lamar
Photo by Val Romness



Pearlie Blue & Debra Miller
Badge #474
Photo By Val Romness



Leslie Cochran
Badge #110
Honorary
Distributor/ writer



Sabrina Oberg
Badge #443
Photo By Val Romness



Patricia Rose
Badge # 358
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Mary W.
Badge # 415
Photo by Val Romness



Timothy Warfield
Badge #460
Photo By Val Romness



Sheila
Badge # 440
Photo by Val Romness



DeAntonio L. Brown
Badge #467
Photo By Val Romness



Sunshine Sami
Badge # 433
Photo by selfie



Erick The Dream
Giver on Youtube
Badge # 489
Photo by Val Romness



Greg Bordelon
Badge # 492
Photo by Val Romness



Thom Woodward
Badge # 284
Photo by Val Romness



Chrystal
Badge #289
Photo by Val Romness



Twinkle Toes
Badge # 490
Photo by Val Romness



Dan Goff
Badge # 493
Photo by Selfie



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
Photo by Val Romness

Watch our documentary!

<https://vimeo.com/176352813>

“Challenger: Voices from the Street”



**LIFT FROM THE
BOTTOM
EVERYBODY
RISES**

Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.
Nothing about us
without us

VALENCRIMES:
GOD DANG "IT"s !!!
VS
SATAN MADE "WOOD"s

BY DANG!!!X >\$DC<

ROAD DOGG!!!
VAN LIVIN' DAN...

ALWAYS EAT THE ICE CREAM FIRST; it melts and tomorrow is NEVER a guarantee.

A current indulgence is the infamous Ben & Jerry's assorted ice cream.

*Haven't explored many flavors due to sweet tooth bouncing Jimmy Fallon The Tonight Dough and Coffee Toffee Bar Crunch.

Social media being beast; Jimmy Fallon gasps over his guest: actor Nicole Kidman confessing that during her previous single-mingle she had a "liking" for the former Saturday Night Live goof.

"A friend of mine says Jimmy would like to meet you at his apartment; C'MON OVER and get acquainted!"

- Nicole Kidman confides in the alleged love scheme.

"You (Jimmy) were wearing a baseball cap and like nothing special and turned a video game on...COMPLETELY DISMISSING ANY ATTENTION TOWARDS ME"

- Kidman laughingly recalls computing "He's just NOT THAT INTO ME *shrugs*"

The Tonight Show host caught OFF GUARD; "Wait? WHAT?! (Nicole Kidman WANTED ME?! I had a SHOT with Nicole Kidman???) Where was I in all "THIS" ???)

Jimmy Fallon damn near dies laughing over his horrific OBLIVIOUS fumble (Meanwhile his privates' pout;

"Smooth move; YOU ASS! WOOD have HAD a real TREAT there.")

*Smooth and soothe over stupidity and/or oblivious nature to seize such romantic opportunities; Jimmy Fallon's second scoop...

BEN & JERRY's
JIMMY FAILIN'

Lost in love; fumble and grumble; just can't get the spiel right..or even worse; one doesn't even TRY when the moment is THERE with the heart pumpin' loudly and proudly. Take STAGE and SPEECH!!!

*Jimmy Cricket reaches far into the ear(s) to turn the overthinker off with simple instructions:

CRUCIAL CALCULATIONS

*MOUTH ALL Larry David; turn misfortune into a website/app; ACTION ASSHOLE

Website/app is a virtual diary for shit straight spiels; BLEW/BLOW ITs and the less than 10 seconds of attraction/attention there is before resorting once again to HANDYs.

*Psst!

SELF-LOVE

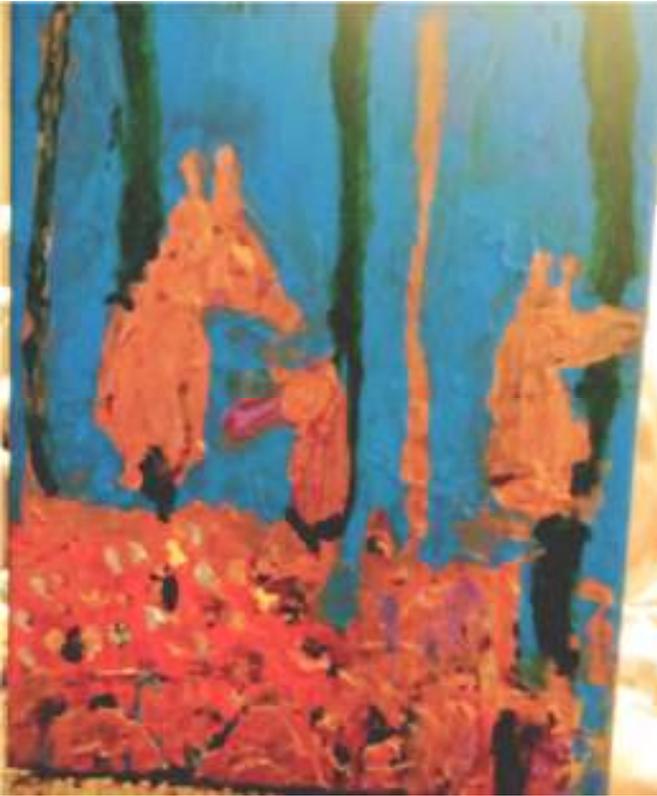




HANDMADE ART

BY KAYE LEE





ART

BY ZEBRA

Male seahorses carrying 300 babies in their pouch.

LAST GASP BY JOHN CURRAN

Nothing short of dying could ever be worse than this, an egg slowly frying, bit by bit by bit. When you're got, you're got until you're finally forced to fight back, call the damn thing for what it was, just the facts maam, just the facts.



But do the facts in fact, justify this? Well, well I surely can't say I tried but the sun keeps sinking, that golden sun in the far away west. Yes Lord the frightful days they come, the time of blood and gore, yet still that river has to run, to freedom at the shore.

And so I guess I gotta go, peaceful pastures elude me lately. The expedition now proceeds. The river of doubt unexpectedly heaves. It will carry on far past my time, my last breath, eternal denial, and come to this.

HOW I BECAME TWINKLE TOES

BY TWINKLE TOES 1ST BADGE #490

wakeupalice@gmail.com



Here is the story of how I became Twinkle Toes. I have a long history with nicknames. The first one that I remember is "Fart blossom". Yes, Pappadopolis still calls me that to this day!

At around 1985, I started racing BMX. That's when I became "Rad Randy Armstrong". I was racing under this identity, as I became the two time state champion in 1986 and 1992.

Then in 1995, when I was 20 years old the vehicle I was in was hit by a tipsy tyrant. So I could not walk and my speech was slurred.

It was summer in 1996 when I started working for austintalks.com, I was the chat administrator. I chatted under the name "why ask why". And it was such a great job for me. All I had to do was log in and people would come chat!

One of my favorite things to do was listening to the Dudley and Bob morning show on 93.7 KLBJ. I had called in many times trying to get on the air. You see, on the radio, there is like a 10 second delay from the time you say something until it comes out on the air. They have this delay in case a caller calls in and then start using profane language. They are able to cut the call before it gets on the air but every time I would call in, they would think I was drunk because of my speech impediment. Finally one day I was able to get their attention before they hung up. I said wait wait, wait don't hang up. I'm not drunk. I have a head injury because of a drunk! They said ohhh ok then you need a nickname. That is when I be-

came known as" Brain".

So it was one year after I've been hit by the drunk driver. I was having my 21st birthday party. I had my party at a local Honky Tonk called the Broken Spoke. The radio station helped me advertise my birthday party on the radio. They said live on the air: "Hey Austinites, on Friday, February 12, you should come and meet Brain. Come and help him celebrate his 21st birthday". Over 100 people showed up.. I was walking at this party using a walking stick. I would occasionally fall. It was only one year after I'd been hit by a drunk driver. Hey, I'm not gonna lie. I fell all the time, but every time I fell, I would do a sick ass breakdance move. You know that I was doing that on purpose, play it off all smooth like. It was that very nite, my friend Manuel, said "Hey fat boy, I've got a new nickname for you". He said "from now on I'm going to call you, 'Twinkle Toes'"



Twinkle Toes

Randy Armstr...
@Randy-Armstron...



venmo



Randy Armstrong
Scan to pay \$TWINKLETOES



THE OTHER ONES FOUNDATION

Pls support our advertisers

Offering humanitarian aid, case management, and extremely low barrier work opportunities to people experiencing homelessness in Austin, TX.

WORKFORCE FIRST

ARE YOU:

- **Unhoused and over 18?**
- **Looking for work opportunities and case management?**

**Contact The Other Ones Foundation's Workforce First Program:
Call 737-320-4863 or email lesha.blunt@toofound.org**

GOING HOME

ARE YOU:

- **Unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused?**
- **In need of one time transportation fare to get to a family member or friend in another city?**

**Contact The Other Ones Foundation's Going Home program:
512-962-2151 or goinghome@toofound.org**

Challenger Newspaper

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Austin, TX 78715

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“It’s alright to say people lift themselves up by your own boot straps. But, it’s cruel to say to a bootless man that he must lift himself up by his own boot straps.”
Martin Luther King Jr.
August 13, 1967



At the newspaper we’re mending bootstraps & lending a hand up, not giving a hand out!



Pls note Badge _____

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