



INSIDE

<i>Valentine's Day/Black History Month</i>	1
<i>Contributors/Announcements-Bus Passes /Editorial Policy/Class</i>	2
<i>Peace Love & Happiness Ad</i>	3
<i>KVUE TV News Story</i> By Jessica Cha	4
<i>Gone Home</i> Eddie White	5
<i>Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ad</i>	6
<i>Minus Mystery</i> By Timothy Warfield	7
<i>Winter is A Writing Time</i> By Thom World Poet	7
<i>Indoor/Outdoor Code</i>	8
<i>Spilling Secrets Part 4</i> By Val Romness	8
PULL-OUT DIRECTORY <i>Distributor Info</i>	9
Resource Directory	Cont
<i>Challenger Code of Conduct</i>	12
<i>Homer's Demands Updated</i> By Challenger Members	13
<i>Accomplishments</i> By Challenger Members	13
<i>Distributors</i>	14
<i>Cartoons</i> By Andrew Steckel	15
<i>Scrape For Winter</i> By Val Romness & Unboused Advocates	16
<i>What Is "Staff-Splitting?"</i> By Ryan Dowd	17
<i>Set Backs Can Be Discouraging</i> By Clifton Pappas Badge # 497	18
ART By Annette R. Kovac	19
<i>Subscriber Form/Ad Rates</i>	20

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.



Director / Editor:

Valerie Romness
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contributors:

Thom the World Poet
Timothy Warfield
Andy Steckel
Ryan Dowd
Annette R. Kovac
Val Romness
Clifton Pappas
Challenger Members

Jesse G-Treasurer
Morlog-IT
J.T. - Laptops
Fred Pettit—Co-Founder
Spanish Translation: Belinda
Web Host: DreamHost
Web Updates: Val

Our partners:

Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Treasure City Thrift
Austin Public Library
JP's P.L.H. Fndn
Hogg Foundation
Richard R. Troxell-N.H.C.



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 it uses least amount of ink.

This is a good time to get rid of old blankets, hats, gloves, scarfs. Just hand them out your car window or donate to a shelter.



BUS PASSES

By Val Romness

Supply & demand has routes changing soon! Paper passes with a magstripe on the back will continue to work on the fareboxes, which are not changing. Participants will receive paper passes throughout 2025. (Local fare only) Once paper passes run out, it will move to the **new reloadable passes**; There are enough paper passes for the year, change coming in 2026.



To subscribe or make a donation
www.challengernewspaper.org
Venmo Cash app Square or



THANKS TO ALL OUR

ADVERTIZERS,
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 outreach, call the Sunrise Hotline

512-522-1097
M-F 8a-8p

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



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

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com | 512-560-4735

KVUE NEWS COVERAGE BY JESSICA CHA

'It gives us more dignity' | From the streets to the pages: Austin's 'The Challenger' offers a voice to the unhoused.

"The Challenger" is a street newspaper that's 95% written and sold by unhoused people to give them more independence and money to get back on their feet.

Author: Jessica Cha (for KVUE)

Published: 6:32 PM CST January 16, 2026

Updated: 6:32 PM CST January 16, 2026

AUSTIN, Texas — In the median of Manchaca Road and Stassney Lane in South Austin, passersbys might spot distributors like Bob Schrey selling copies of "The Challenger" — a newspaper about Austin's streets, written by those who know them best.

"It's a very unique way to make some legitimate money," Schrey said. "It gives us more dignity because we're selling something to people and not just asking, 'Hey, can I have some change or something,'"

"The Challenger" is a street newspaper that's 95% written and sold by unhoused people, said Director and Editor Valerie Romness.

"There's not enough services for everybody, so we offer employment and independence," Romness said.

Romness said the idea began about 15 years ago, when several of her unhoused friends wanted a way to tell their own stories. "I'm like, 'why did you pick [the name] The Challenger?' And they said, 'because it's challenging to be homeless,'" Romness recalled.

Each Sunday, about a dozen participants meet at Austin City Hall or the Central Library to write stories and produce content for the paper. The group prints and folds around 400 copies each month.

"People can make their own hours and they distribute Challengers on a donation basis," Romness added.

A writer's perspective

For contributor Clifton Pappas, the paper has not only offered income, but also renewed his confidence and creativity.

"They are real people, and you know they've got great stories," Pappas said. "They all have a history and they all have lives."

Pappas—who has written for the newspaper for the last year—says the newspaper is filled with poems and comics created by street people, and also offers resources, like domestic abuse hotlines and organizations that offer food or shelter. He added that he mostly writes about his experience living on the street,

saying it helps give people insight into their lives and dispels misconceptions about them.

"Not all unhoused people are drug addicts," Pappas said. "Over 80% of Americans are two paychecks away from being right here."

Working toward independence

Pappas said "The Challenger" helps him maintain independence while meeting daily needs. He says they keep 100% of the donations they receive from selling papers.

"I can get a hot meal and I don't have to go to the food lines every day, you know," Pappas said. "I ain't gotta beg or nothing. I give somebody the paper in exchange for money."

Pappas credits "The Challenger" with helping him reconnect with people. After a year on the job, he says his preferred method of selling is going business to business and striking up a conversation.

"It gets you out there communicating with people again, and because I was getting real reclusive, and not in a good way," Pappas said.

"When I found 'The Challenger,' I'm

talking to everyday working class folks, everybody just, you know, having good conversations."

Sellers like Schrey say it helps him get closer to getting back his identity—literally. He says it's "virtually impossible" to find employment otherwise without it.

"I want to work," Schrey said. "I think [The Challenger] is a very unique way to make legitimate money, and making people aware of homelessness."

He said the money he makes helps him afford the necessities for now, but eventually he said it would pay for a new I.D.

"I hope to get a regular job, but I will continue to dabble with the newspaper, as well," Schrey said. "Being homeless has made somewhat of an impression on me, and I'm grateful that we have the newspaper to sell."

For Romness, that's the heart of the mission — not a handout, but a hand up for those working to rebuild their lives.

"They've gotta work for it," Romness said.

Romness says if you're not able to find one of their distributors on the street to buy a paper from, you can always visit their website and subscribe to receive a digital copy. People are encouraged to donate however much they'd like to.

She says they are looking for more distributors. For anyone interested in joining, meetings are every Sunday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Central Library on 2nd Street & West Avenue on the fourth floor.

To watch the video copy paste to find link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCpv2xTpH4c>



Time to spend money on mental health yet?

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



EDDIE WHITE

DIED EARLY JANUARY

HE LIVED ON CORNER OF
ATLANTA & LAKE AUSTIN
BLVD FOR 12 YEARS

THE NEIGHBORS HELD A
MEMORIAL TO
REMEMBER HIM

HE KNEW THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE



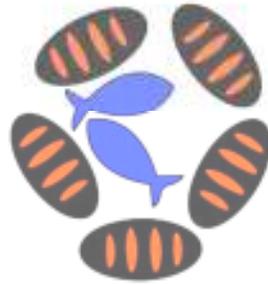
JESS NAIRNS' FRIENDS

REMEMBERED HER

JAN 10 IN REPUBLIC SQUARE PARK. SOON
CITY COUNCIL WILL HAVE A PROCLAMA-
TION FOR HER, RECOGNIZING HER ADVO-
CACY WORK FOR UN HOUSED NEIGHBORS.

HER MOM WILL HAVE A SERVICE SOON ALSO.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.™

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

MINUS MYSTERY

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

Each day I'm trying to improve from the last one
 Awaiting success, I'm active before the rise of sun
 No trophy case, I'm not happy with all I've done
 I'm an individual who carries burdens even if they weigh a ton

Celebrating love as a couple's relationship is me
 One heart, one love accompanied with a solid key
 Even though I'm single, cupid I know is real
 Present yourself with bright colors, my heart one can't steal

January rhymes with February hitting like an upper cut
 I have a dream that my burdens are lifted by love
 My jaw keeps my mouth the opposite of shut
 So that I am so overjoyed flying like a dove

"Will I be your Valentine," is a better phrase
 If you see me eye to eye, I will match your gaze
 Let's take a journey of making our own history
 An open book of love, with no room for mystery



WINTER IS A WRITING TIME

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

WITHDRAWN /INTROSPECTIVE

We flip the Memory Board of experiences
 Recount what we remember and know
 Words come to us-and images
 Lit up with fire glow. We scratch and scrawl
 Our heated hearts/chilled to the very bone
 Compare temperatures with those we know
 Share old familiar stories..but these are different days now
 Our epics contemporaneous..What is happening in the "outside'world
 Is also happening within us..We are watchers,waiters,witnesses-
 We see and hear ,alert ,alive..We report upon emotions,too
 Though they are locked inside.We release those WILD BIRDS
 Sing with Mary Oliver..What matters is to be ALIVE now
 Sharing stories that live forever..



Indoor/Outdoor Code of Conduct

For Businesses & Housed People

- ◇ Choose to practice empathy over fear
- ◇ Give compassion
- ◇ Don't hate
- ◇ **Safety:** Don't provoke street people, you will cause them to behave like you. You get back how you treat people.
- ◇ Smile, but say, "sorry, no cash"
- ◇ Give cold water, burgers, protein snacks, socks or a Challenger
- ◇ Donate to a charity of your choice, ie. Challenger Newspaper, Community First! Village, Foundation Communities.
- ◇ Don't quawk as you drive by
- ◇ Give a blanket or tent out your car window
- ◇ Don't call their stuff trash, just becuz it's in a trash bag: It may have family photos, meds, import papers, etc.
- ◇ Stop worrying about their pets; they are well cared for. Puppies learn early how to behave. They have more dog food than people food! Everyone deserves unconditional love!



For Campers

- ⇒ Respect the rules. No troublemakers.
- ⇒ Each is responsible for their own belongings
- ⇒ No display of products or substances that are socially unacceptable. (If you come back in a socially unacceptable state - Go to bed or leave! No talking!)
- ⇒ No display of weapons. Watch out for children!
- ⇒ Self-monitor behavior or you get probation or 24 hrs out or 1 week out. (can be left up to group)
- ⇒ Pets if allowed must be controlled (with or without leash)
- ⇒ Volunteer 10 hours/week or what group consensus.
- ⇒ No bad isms (sexism, classism, racism, religiousism, ageism)
- ⇒ Prevent frenzy (rushing) (No monopolizing)
- ⇒ Use composting toilets or cardboard (Don't shit where you sleep)
- ⇒ No fires. Cook with a small campstove
- ⇒ Clean up after yourself! Take your trash out
- ⇒ Listen to each other. Respect quiet time.
- ⇒ Use consensus to be fair; do a gather in to deal with baggage.
- ⇒ Check your ego at the street!

SPILLING SECRETS PART 4

BY VAL ROMNESS

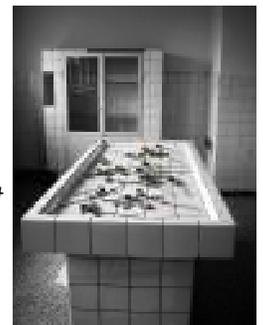
MORE SPILLING SECRETS

MORGUE STORIES:

So the 2 kids in 1996 who were gutted behind the Seven-Eleven on MLK Blvd, surely were taken to the morgue. They weren't on the news, no one questioned what happened. Where were their families? Was it organ harvesting? Was it silencing? What? Was? It? Medical Examiner, Robert Bayardo ended up getting in a lot of trouble for other stuff. I believe he was hiding things like these two. Hiding that he was doing teaching autopsies, making shady deals, not investing in newer technology, etc.

So when I got the wrong report, was it to silence me? Was it an honest mistake? Homeless people's reports were 5 times longer with details on each organ, not general overview. Where was Ms. Peacock? She resigned 2006, shortly before Mr Bayardo left his morgue.

The reason I haven't spoke up until now, is that I feared being silenced by death. Now there is public oversight, and people believe these outlandish events more openly. Anyway, I'm old and don't need to keep these secrets any longer. No me gusta!



Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!

We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 starter kit.

The kit comes with ID Badge & 10 papers to sell on a donation basis

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper on a donation basis. After you sell the 10, future papers costs you \$1 each 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.

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,

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

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

Central Library Rm 471
or Outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez)

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengernewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
512-560-4735

It Works!



JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

We want you, and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. Writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you! Please write neatly.

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

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



Tues-Thurs 1-7 PM
Fri-S-S-Mon 11am-7pm

Moving soon
5201 Cameron Rd



Treasure City Thrift

Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!

5201 Cameron Rd.
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

Solidarity
not
Charity

REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET
LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 2/2026

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.orgVINE 512-936-1200 www.vinelink.comKind 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 center, meals, case management, 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

Austin Community Court— 505 Barton Springs Rd. Help navigating the system, mail, phone, storage of vital records, help fill out forms, case management. Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Mailing address: Downtown Austin Community Court P.O. Box 13464 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 974-4879

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
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.
Each 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.

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 2/2026

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

Violet KeepSafe Storage 700 E 7th St. (Indoors/ bathroom available) 96 gal barrel with long-shank lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, call first to check bin availability. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-1294

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays Rm 471 Central Library.. If closed—City Hall outside near Guadalupe/ Cesar Chavez. 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 unhoused. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

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

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

City Resources App: <https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

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

▲ **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 Metroplis 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 M-F 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

Barton Springs Pool

VETERANS are always in free
Shwrs available
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p. Closed Mondays & Thurs

SHELTER:

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

8th Street Shelter- Emergency shelter for single women & transwomen 501 E. 8th St (Neches) (referral only) Contact Sunrise Navigation Cntr 512-522-1097 8am-8 pm M-F On site case management

Marshaling Yard: Appointment only.

Esperanza is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

Esperanza Community 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

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 welcome.

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)

So. Austin Senior Center 3911 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78704 (512) 978-2400 M-F 8-5

Conley-Guerrara Senior Center 808 Nile St 512) 978-2660 M-F 8-4;30 Sat 8a-12:30p

No. Lamar Senior Center 2874 Shoal Crest Ave (512) 978-2480 M & W 8:30 A–8:30 P, TU & TH 8:30 A-4 P, F 8:30 A–1:30 P

MEDICAL, DENTAL:

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.

C.D. DOYLE CLINIC operates at Esperanza Community,, we do see non-Esperanza residents with permission from The Other Ones Foundation. Acute, safety-net care rather than longitudinal medical home services. Sundays, 2:00-5:00PM:: 780 S Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78741 (409) 571-9362 <http://www.cddoyleclinic.com/>.

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 pm Wed 3-5 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](http://www.manosdecristo.org))
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.

MENTAL HEALTH:

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

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

Directory continued

Mental Health Information Help Line

1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), M- F, 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 8-5Stonegate Clinic (So. Austin) 2501 W. William
Cannon Dr, Bldg 4 Walk in M-F 8-5St. John Clinic – (North Austin)
6937 N. IH 35 Walk in M-F 8-5**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 Can Now** 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!

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.**Austin Mental Health Community****(S.H.A.C.)** Self Help and Advocacy Center
Drop in. M & Tu 11:30-4:30 W-F 9-4
3205 S 1st St. 512-442-3366**Austin Clubhouse** community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoseswww.austinclubhouse.org**Applicant must:** Be 18 yrs, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, or peer specialist, etc.). We do not require Doctor's referral letter. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th St (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)**Coalition of Texans with Disabilities**

corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Antonio 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 & computers 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 experienceReally Really Free Market
Last Sunday 2-5 PM
Treasure City Thrift Camron Rd**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 Methodist 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 2year; waiting list depends heavily on individual 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. mif.org Hogeeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.**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! Participation allows each artist to be in the annual show in October!**PET CARE:** www.emancipet.org offers free days for pet care**WARMING CENTERS:**

Regular hours at Rec Centers & Public Libraries. Sorry, no pets.

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

35' Dry, wet or windy. . HOT coffee! Call for status 512-972-5055 Free bus

Men and women, leashed pets welcome & will stay in a crate near you. Register at 505 Barton Springs Rd 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Or go directly to location after 8 pm. Families with children, arrive by 6pm.

City Resources App:<https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>**Government phones:**<https://lifewireless.com/>

Want text alerts from City Homeless Strategy Office? Text to 512-972-5055 or 737-980-1321

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

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 responsible for their papers once they purchase 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 businesses, or near ATM machines.

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.**



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! It's illegal & immoral.
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- 8th St. Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Make phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services (increase private sector funding).*
- *Austin Living Wage \$24/hr*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 35 to 80 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed \$18,000 (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society and possibly go back to work.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cold weather shelter Now allows pets; must be leashed and will stay in a crate near you.*
- We refused (turned down) a one year, quarter page ad contract wanted by APD. They won't fire their rapist cops and we can't support that. Esp with an ad trying to build back trust after a faulty rape test fiasco. They also tried to tell us they already paid for the ad the year before. It felt too fishy to follow their commands.
- We got back the support of our roving reporter/cop filmer.
- And he brought another roving reporter/cop filmer to join us.
- We've gotten more serious distributors.
- We got our Treasurer established with a phone so he's reachable and can do his own Venmo.
- Eighth Street Women's shelter more reliable. Salvation Army moved out east to the edge of town. Although you have to get a referral to stay at the new women's place, there are more beds than there were before.
- Had a successful Lone Star Zine Fest.
- Figured out how to help subscriptions not expire. Use Pay Pal with a monthly withdrawal of \$3-6.
- Picked our own cooling items to distribute 400 kits to keep mental health cool. Sponsored by the Hogg Foundation with a \$5000 grant for doing the task.
- Val & Peter (former Treasurer/ass't editor, guided a new street newspaper in Athens, Georgia.
- Found Homer the Homeless Goose (stuffed now) when he's been missing 2 years. Peter & Val jail-broke him and got him to a safe place at Val's living room. We're trying to still get him in the History Center.

Challenger Accomplishments of 2025

By Challenger Members

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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



Clifton Pappas
Badge # 497
Photo by Val Romness



Lorenzo
Badge # 414
Photo by Val Romness



Brianna Arrendondo
Badge #509
Photo By Val Romness



Julian Reyes
Badge #117
Photo By Val Romness



Leslie Cochran
Badge #110
Honorary
Distributor/ writer



Bob Shrey
Badge # 507
Photo by Val Romness



Annette Kovac
Badge #508
Photo By Val Romness



Mary W.
Badge # 415
Photo by Val Romness



Timothy Warfield
Badge #460
Photo By Val Romness



Keith Hammack .
Badge # 511
Photo By Val Romness



Cordell Dawson
Badge # 512
Photo By Val Romness



John Hopkins .
Badge # 510
Photo By Val Romness



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



Gregory Bordelon
Badge # 492
Photo by Val Romness



Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



John Robbins
Badge # 498
Photo by Val Romness



Ardeeth Lewis Jr.
Badge # 499
Photo by Val Romness



Joel Robert Dixon
Badge # 509
Photo By Val Romness



Twinkle Toes
Badge # 490
Photo by Val Romness



Dan Goff
Badge # 493
Photo by Val Romness



Gilberto Beltran
Badge # 500
Photo by Val Romness



DeAntonio L. Brown
Badge # 467
Photo By Val Romness



Michelle Kleber



Chrystal
Badge #289
Photo By Val Romness



Sabrina Oberg
Badge #443
Photo By Val Romness



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
Photo by Val Romness



Patricia Rose
Badge # 358
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Christopher C.
Badge # 317
rchristophercarr@gmail.com



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



CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL





WJY DID THE CITY SCRAPE OVER 600 CAMPS WEEKS BEFORE OUR 1 WEEK OF FREEZING NIGHTS, WITH SEVERAL DAYS INCLUDED BELOW 32'? THEY MADE IT EASY TO FREEZE 30 PEOPLE AT THE BEGINNING. HOW EMBARRISING, THE POOR USE OF MONEY TO MAKE A FEW HOUSED PEOPLE HAPPY.

SHAME!

By Val Romness and unhoused advocates.

WHAT IS “STAFF SPLITTING?”

BY RYAN DOWD

Want to test your de-escalation knowledge again? Can you answer this question?

In the context of mental illness, what is “Staff Splitting?”

- The practice of splitting staff into teams that are specially trained on different mental health disorders.
- A common symptom of schizophrenia, in which the individual assigns different personality traits (“splits”) to different staff members.
- When a client creates conflict between two co-workers by convincing one that the other is treating the client unfairly.
- A conflict resolution technique where the staff member splits their time evenly between two arguing individuals.

The answer is below.

OUR NEXT LIVE TRAINING - LEARNING + FUN!

Our live training on Thursday will be “**Can You De-Escalate?: An Educational (and Fun!) Game Show.**”

With live contestants, we will review and learn core de-escalation concepts using a trivia format.

It is available to member organizations only. *(If you want to learn how your organization can become a member, simply reply to this email and ask!)*

All the information about the training is below.

WHAT IS "STAFF SPLITTING?"

The correct answer is C.

When a client creates conflict between two co-workers by convincing one that the other is treating the client unfairly.

Individuals with personality disorders (especially borderline personality disorder) often create a “Karpman Triangle” with staff members:

Victim - The client

Persecutor – The staff member who the Victim says is treating him/her badly.

Rescuer – The staff member who the Victim goes to for “help” with the Persecutor.



Staff splitting typically creates conflict between the two staff members.

This sounds like a simple thing to avoid, but it is VERY easy to take on the role of **Rescuer**.

The **Victim** usually flatters the **Rescuer** (e.g. “You are the only one here who understands me or treats me fairly.”)

Since the flattery feels good, it is easier to see the whole situation as “true.”

Staff splitting is VERY common in social service settings.

WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT STAFF SPLITTING?

It is up to the staff to stop it.

If you are the **Rescuer**:

- Be suspicious if a client flatters you while complaining about your coworkers.
- Go talk to the **Persecutor**.

If you suspect you are the **Persecutor**:

- Go talk to the **Rescuer**.

The **ONLY** solution to staff splitting is for the staff members to talk to each other.

Once you know, understand what is happening it is easier to respond appropriately.

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

Ryan Dowd ryan@homelesslibrary.com



SET BACKS CAN BE DISCOURAGING

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS

Hello and happy New Years to all of our readers out there! Hope everyone had a great year last year and a safe new years eve.

Well this article is about setbacks and BOY have I personally had my share. You know an old saying that says, "If if it wasn't for bad luck i'd have no luck at all".

Personally I don't believe in luck but somebody once told me that the definition of good luck is when preparation meets opportunity. I wrote an article about thieves on the street about two months ago and in that article I mentioned that since I've been here in Austin that I've been robbed 8 times.

Since then two more times. Very frustrating to say the least. I had a job opportunity for 27.50 an hour and the night before I was going to go in and fill out their paperwork. Somebody watching and waiting in the shadows got my wallet in my sleep!

AAAAYWWW!. I was going to be another success story from the Challenger. Two three weeks I would have been off the streets. So what does this all mean? Give up and kick bags for months or another year?

HeckNo! I keep my birth certificate and other documents in a safe place. So Schedule another appointment for the ID. This sets me back another two three months is all. I was trying to get off the streets before winter set in but obviously this won't happen. I thank all my contributors for your support and this man will persevere sooner than later. A week before this happened I was at a bus stop and watched a guy on the street feed another and then he left his pack at a bus stop down the street and the man he fed took his pack and came down to where I was and took

what he wanted then threw the backpack in the trash!

I said to him. "why not leave the pack at the stop for somebody that needs it (not knowing at the time he stole it). He shakes his head no, then the man that it belonged to shows up made as can be and cursing and accusing the man he stole while digging in the trash then finding his bag. "Then says " I knew you did! where's my stuff"? He looked behind the man and there it was.



Unbelievable and this happens everyday. I still like Austin Texas. I've met a lot of great people in this city selling the paper. I'm focused on that. Always try to look at the positive of things, not dwell on the negative.

I will get my things back in order and get work, you can count on this. And after I'll still sell the paper because again I enjoy meeting new people and seeing the people that have continued to donate. And I got to say there are alot of good people out there that are homeless under all

kinds of different situations out there so please don't stereotype all homeless are drug addict thieves out there because that's not true.

But selling the Challenger has gotten me back to being social and I've also of course gotten to know the city. Meeting new people and seeing people every month is a joy of mine.

And seeing places how they are decorated or their decor rather is really cool. So I'll be there with the paper greeting and meeting good folks.

ART

By Annette R. Kovac



Challenger Newspaper

PO Box 151574
Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

Subscribe
challengernewspaper.org



“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 _____

NON PROFIT 501(C)(3)
2605343430002055

EIN: 45-1291123

Printed on demand with our laser printer in **color!** by **Challenger Street Newspaper**

Donate your devices!

Challenger laptop program helps get technology into the hands of our writers & distributors.



- Tablets
- Laptops
- Chromebooks
- Phones



We have a preference for devices that are 5 years old or newer. Donations or questions can be directed to:

challengernewspaper@yahoo.com or 512-560-4735



With your device, our members get empowered, inspired & educated
Do it today!

Be a Champion \$100 - V.I.P. \$200 - Royal \$400 - Gold Star \$500

Subscription Form

Badge #



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

\$30 /yr for an e-scription
\$50 /yr delivered to your mailbox,
\$65 both

Use Venmo, Square, PayPal @ challengernewspaper.org, or send check to:
The Challenger Newspaper
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

With your subscription, you can read The Challenger every month. You will be taking the challenge to end poverty!

Ad Rates

1 Free 2 Free

Ad size	Approx	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 YR
Business card	3.5 X 2	75	225	375	750
Quarter page	3.5 X 5	125	375	625	1250
Half Page	7.5 X 5	250	750	1250	2500
Full Page	7.5 X 10	500	1500	2500	5000

Ads support an important part of the Challenger! Support our jobs & voices!