



# HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

## NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH



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Call 988 or call 512-472-HELP

## MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

**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

Contributors:

- John Curran
- Twinkle Toes
- Thom the World Poet
- Timothy Warfield
- Lizard King
- Andy Steckel
- Gregory A. Bordelon
- Mary Whistleblower
- Clifton Pappas
- 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
- T.O.O.F.
- 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.



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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Independence Day**, known colloquially as the **Fourth of July**, is a federal holiday in the US which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the USA.

In the United States, **National Ice Cream Month** is celebrated each year in July, and **National Ice Cream Day** is celebrated on the third Sunday in July.

July is Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the unique mental health challenges faced by racial and ethnic minorities. It's also a time to honor the legacy of Bebe Moore Campbell, a passionate advocate for mental health in minority communities. The month focuses on improving access to mental health services and reducing disparities in care.

## WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON BUS PASSES???

By CTOSH email & Val Romness

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 most likely in 2026.



Challenger does advocacy to help end homelessness. Listen to our voices! Find better solutions, quicker!

## 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



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



**Thanks so much to  
Amber, Allen and all our  
friends in Austin  
working to help our  
unhoused neighbors.**

**John Paul DeJoria**



## STREET PAPER LOGIC

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

Hello and good day to y'all my name is Clifton, I'm really country so this will be very different.. Those of you who are hopen, searchin, and slippin just keep holdin on and things will be different. Always look up and trust the MOST HIGH because when you do this HE'S always your guide and always by your side. So keep a chin up and keep tryin to get up and before you know it you'll be up and wiser way better than before.

Just do what I do with stupid and go to the next door. You know when one door closes HE opens another, so again keep that chin up and it's going to get better. I do have a story but I'll save it for later. I hope for the best for everyone this month and with the weather, I'll check y'all later and again LIFE WILL GET BETTER!



## LESLIE IS A CANARY....BY LIZARD KING (REPRINTED FROM AUGUST 2013)

Once upon a time, not so long ago, in this great land, land of the weird, land of the free, land of Willie, Kinky, Anne, Lady Bird, and yes, of course our friend and my personal hero, Leslie.

I spent many nights at ye Ole Bouldin Creek Coffee House discoursing with Leslie about the state of Austin under an oppressive government and police force. You see Leslie Cochran was harassed regularly by the boys in blue, while standing, walking, laughing, posing for pics, sleeping, waking, and looking Austintacious! He was a cop-magnet, he dressed up like a ballerina, and famous ladies, I think he had an Amelia Ehrhart outfit for special occasions. He was a homo-phobe's worse nightmare!

Once I was talking to the late night Leslie, at Casino El Camino, out on the patio. I had spoken to several people who apparently had bad eyesight, who had revealed Leslie tales to me while in conversation. Similarly they had each just about lost their mind at this 'hottie' they saw walking down the street, usually walking down Congress wearing a skirt, but when they looked behind as they passed, they realized it was a dude, and they were freaked. So on this occasion I decided that I should ask Leslie why he doesn't complete his feminine image by shaving his much manly legs and beard. He gave an ex-rated reply, that I cannot repeat in press, but needless to say, he was original, and independent and exercised his free speech. In fact, I have been saying for years that I view Leslie as a canary in the 1st Amend. coal mines that are South Austin streets. As long as Leslie is allowed to run free and speak his mind, we all can. In fact, now that Leslie is gone, I feel less Free in Austin. No matter what you or your secret homo-phobe friend thinks about Leslie, he stood up for the oppressed, those without a voice, those who wish they could speak but are scared, and fashion, baby!

He ran for Austin Mayor at least twice, and he told me that he got 8% of the vote against Kirk Watson (Senator now) who had actually fudged on the residency requirements, in theory Leslie was the legitimate winner, according to him. Yay Leslie! But since the community did not fully stand be-

hind him, he stopped running, and eventually he died. Even a humble homeless man can be a Great loss. Now who will stand up for our Free speech? I think we all should take to the streets, in whatever manner of dress we wish, and speak our minds, whatever we wish to say, for anyone with ears to hear. In honor of Leslie.

Now I mentioned before that the community likes to talk about how cool and Austintacious Leslie is, and how much they miss him. I say that's all BS. Sorry if this offends you but I talked to him, I went to his benefit at the 1 to 1 club, on 4th. And of all the 100s of people that brag about Leslie, only maybe 30-40 showed up. He told me that he was beat up and that was what caused the coma. The time to back a person who is a standing up, proud and free, when they are facing up to the oppressor, for you. Not after they are gone. Myself and others in this community have stood up for you, won't you stand up for us? For yourselves? For your children and grandchildren, they are the next generation, they receive whatever world we make. Let's make this a better world.

Love more, live more, speak more, face up to oppression, help the helpless and the voiceless, resist the system, do not trust what the media and your government are telling you. Use your mind, your voice, your gut, your humanity, intuition and your Freedoms! Time is running out, the time to awaken and remake our society is now. For me it's prime time to save the little doggies from police brutality. No one else will speak for them but us. This is the issue I am campaigning mostly for in Austin. And it's only a beginning. I will not fail Austin, I will not fail Planet Earth. I will not fail the children or the dogs in our families.

Join me!  
Come visit my site at [www.facebook.com/supportforshiner](http://www.facebook.com/supportforshiner)



Leslie Cochran  
Photo by Val Romness

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*

**R.I.P. THOSE WHO ARE UNCOUNTED**

RIP

RIP

## Lizzardo Giganticus Column

**Great source for vids of APD harassing Street People**

<https://www.youtube.com/@LizzardoGiganticus>

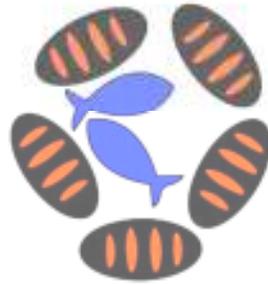
Austin Police and TxDOT steal from the poor, and hide their crimes

Austin Police commit crimes against the poor for TxDOT and with Easter Seals cheap labor

Human Kindness / House the Poor on Facebook;

Patron: Julian Reyes

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**



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

**PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S Community First! Village PROJECT**

## NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

The season of Summer is associated with July  
Sweating so heavily has me looking at a shower saying “why”  
National Ice Cream month is at hand  
Putting on my shoes has me looking for more than a fan

A triple scoop of strawberry and chocolate ice cream is what I prefer  
Not just sweet, but make it cold and tasty so my sight can be a blur  
No more heat waves that make me uncomfortable  
May I reside only at Amy’s Ice Cream with my own table

Fireworks, fireworks, and more fireworks; let’s celebrate  
Happy, at least this heat is allowing me to lose weight  
Wet as if I have been through a two day thunderstorm  
Cheering louder now that I may have a physical positive transform

I can’t pass the proposition that July is National Ice Cream month  
I’m an actor that when it comes to ice cream does his own stunts  
My mouth is opened wide to savor the pleasure of ice cream  
May you melt in my mouth and not in my hands



## RELATIONSHIPS

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

### YOU SEE ME DAILY

I live on your streets  
Policed by your police  
Shopping trolley detritus  
When i must carry all that i own  
With no shelter and no home  
You become afraid of me  
Because i am afraid of you  
Easier to be alone  
More of us on every road



### Underpasses, Green Belt

Our only home-until you welcome us in  
We embody Spirit of Alienated Austin..

<http://austinopenmic.com/>

TUESDAYS 6-10pm AUSTIN GARDEN &STUDIO 1209  
east 6th

OPEN MIC by Convergent Arts

# LA VIDA

BY JOHN CURRAN

It was like she had come back, through the foggy mists of time. It was just so powerful. Really really real. To the point that it still affects me thinking of her. And now in this time, the time of separation, separation, the wheat from the chaff, the same 'ol same getting worse, and what is great will always be great. Unforgettable. But it's left me with this affliction. I tear up at the drop of a hat. It's bad. And those paintings that I got away just in time. Safely removed to a safehouse down there in Free France. Received by my great friend, who was caught, made to suffer. I know he never talked I know him too well. It's been some time now. I hope everythings still ok. It's damn sure not over for me. Here in this place. I think of her now and then. I hope she's doing great. I myself am just overwhelmed by it all now. Truly point of tears. It's like I never imagined this before all this 'n, just blows me away, Senor.



# HAVE YA

BY JOHN CURRAN (REPRINTED FROM DECEMBER 2022)

Have ya ever seen the workers out there in the California  
Agricultural fields,  
Fields that stretch in places as far as the eye can see  
And go on and on for a hundred miles, two hundred  
Vast  
It feeds a nation  
The workers there, bent over to the task  
It must be hard on the back after a while  
They're Mexican though  
It must be damn hot in the summer  
Not much shade  
They're Mexican though so...  
Have ya ever seen



# 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**

We meet

**Sundays 1-3 pm**

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

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're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com  
www.Challengenewspaper.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. 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](mailto:challengenewspaper@yahoo.com)



**Sun-Thurs 1-7 PM**  
**Fri-Sat 11am-7pm**  
  
**Moving this fall**  
**To 5201 Cameron Rd**



**Treasure City Thrift**  
Clothes, Housewares,  
Books and more!  
**5201 Cameron Rd.**  
[www.TreasureCityThrift.org](http://www.TreasureCityThrift.org)

**REALLY REALLY**  
**FREE MARKET**  
  
**LAST SUNDAY**  
**2-5 PM**

# Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 7/2025

## 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](http://www.safeaustin.org)

VINE 512-936-1200 [www.vineline.com](http://www.vineline.com)

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 [www.kindclinic.org](http://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://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](http://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](http://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](http://theCharlieCenter.org)

## First Austin Baptist

Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. [fbcaustin.org](http://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 will finish this summer.

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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

## 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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 7/2025

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**Challenger Street Newspaper**

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or Rm 471 Central Library.. 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](http://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 unhoued. Call 512-568-7557 or email [brian@toofound.org](mailto:brian@toofound.org)

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

**Hungry Hill Foundation.org**  
Jobs, clothing, meals 2xday.  
East Austin-12th & Springdale Rd

**Fair Living Wage Calculator:** enter zip code  
[www.universallivingwage.org](http://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



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

**Texas Veterans Commission** [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://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](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us) for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

**Center Point Texas Veterans Program** 512-297-2990 out-

reach, 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/**Bath House will finish this summer.**  
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

**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](mailto: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](http://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://wait.in.line.or.appt))  
4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319  
Emergency [dental care](http://dental.care) for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs. [Manosdecristo.org](http://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.

**Austin Mental Health Community(formerly 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 diagnoses [www.austinclubhouse.org](http://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.

## Directory continued

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

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-** hair-  
cuts (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 2  
year; waiting list depends heavily on indi-  
vidual circumstance. [www.hacanet.org](http://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. [mfv.org](http://mfv.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), Parent-  
ing 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](http://www.emancipet.org) offers free  
days for pet care

**COOLING CENTERS:**

OASIS: behind ARCH, shade, bathrooms &  
water, pets ok on leash 8 am-7pm

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](mailto:Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com)**  
**@yahoo.com if you notice**  
**changes to the directory**

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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.**



## 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!*

# BOB'S ESCAPE

By JOHN CURRAN

We were beating a fair wind to west by south and the boat was running clean. In fact I loved this boat like I've never loved anything and we've only been out a coupla' days. We're outa Key West actually sailing on for Yucatan. It's Spring, a good time to run this one, and I couldn't be happier than this. The boss, Boss Jimmy, thinks I'm quite a guy. And ya know what, actually I am if we're talking sailing. I've been a sailor all my life and my Daddy before that. Yeah me and Jimmy. I met him at Sloppy Joes, the Hemingway joint. They still call it that. He was playing, the place was packed, and after the first set he makes an announcement. Says he's fixing to head out on his boat tomorrow for Mexico, but only if he can find a good first



mate. Says anyone can talk to me if they think they can, it's serious stuff, talk to me after the show. And that's how I got to this moment, first mate on Jimmy Buffett's sixty foot sailboat and senioritas in our sights. So for sure not bad. And it's just me and Jimmy. Funny thing, he's so famous, and ya ask me, so alone. I think sometimes he's the most alone sort of person I know, not that I've known him very long. Thing is you do see plenty on a boat. And this boat is a good one. Jimmy just let's me take it. He's just somewhere on the rear deck, he's got his spot, and

he just plays his guitar. He's a good damn guitar player too, much better than a lot of people probably think. Soulful guy I would say, very soulful guy. Much different from his stage act, as he's the first to tell you. We had a crazy incident other evening. The first rough weather. Jimmy's up and with me here now, he's put his guitar away and the clouds are rolling in. It's the last light of day moving in to what looks to be a dark and stormy early night,

closing fast. But then there was a glow there on the far Western horizon, the storm clouds parted, and a last ray of pure strong not dead yet sunbeam came bustin' through. And in that light, framed and raised up, so unexpectedly as it were, was this gleaming black hulled trimaster with sails of white and

scarlet and gold. It was a big boat but low, and sleek. The shiny black of its scimeter curved prow fairly gleamed with cascades of sparkle as it cut it's path across. "Damn Jimmy" says I "that's a boat like I ain't never seen before" And Jimmy, he's like quiet, pensive, and finally says "That's Dylan" And I'm like "Dylan? Wait a minute Jimmy, how you know that?" "I seen it before Dad" he says, and then he wouldn't say no more, and we watched that big boat glide on into it's own misty distance, as the clouds closed in and the rain came down.

# OUR TEAM

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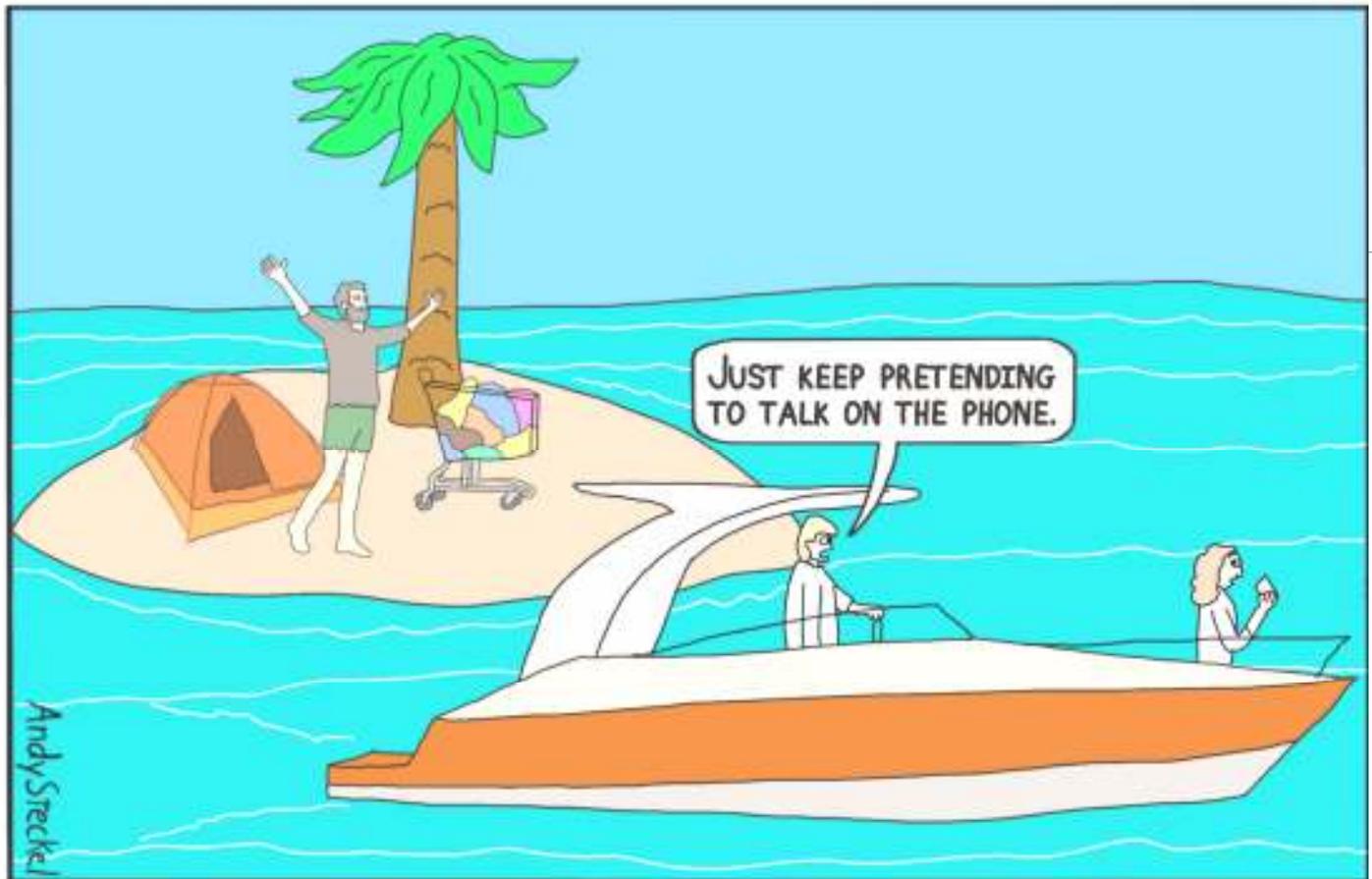
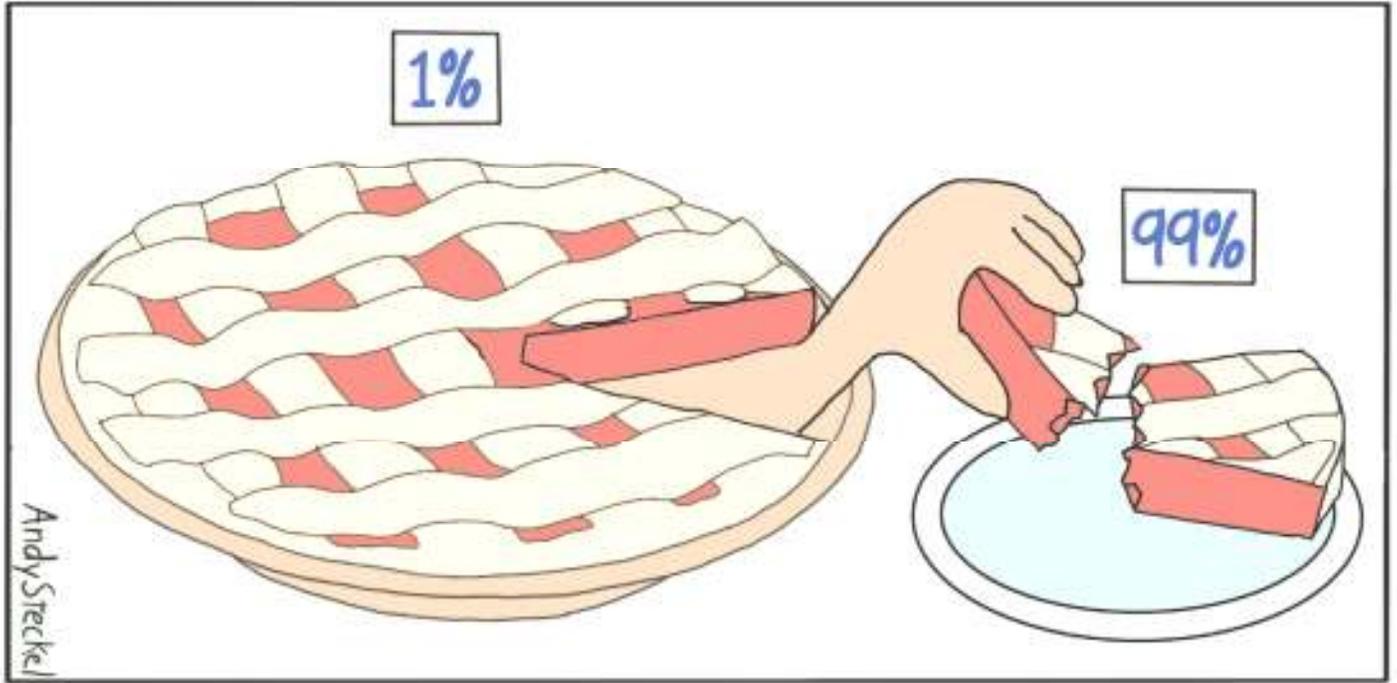
**LIFT FROM THE  
BOTTOM  
EVERYBODY  
RISES**

Nihil de nobis,  
sine nobis.

Nothing about us  
without us

# CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



**Summer Info Flier** 2025  
 Due to extreme heat, all Parks and Library facilities will serve as Cooling Centers  
 OASIS @ ARCH- SHADE, H2O & BATHROOMS;  
 leased dogs welcome

list of locations.

**CAP METRO IS OFFERING  
 \*FREE BUS RIDES\*  
 TO COOLING CENTERS!**

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing</li> <li>• Sip cool water</li> <li>• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <p><b>CALL 911</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move person to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers</li> <li>• Cool with water or ice</li> </ul>
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p>	<p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>
	<p>Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!</p>

# SPEAK UP

BY MARY WHISTLEBLOWER

"blacks are afraid to stand up and white people are daring them to stand up."?

Apparently that goes for congressman Carson, too. Andre Carson was Julia Carson's grandson; picked by the Republicans in Indianapolis when she died in office triggering a special election.

I remember when she genuinely thought and said with confidence "we ain't going to war because we don't have enough troupes"

That unholy war that They said we would be in and out of in a week. We would be looked at like Liberators... WMD's

Anyway.... he used to be a practicing Muslim with a different name and everything... now he is a Bought Puppet.

NO POWER just a Place Holder.

February 27, 2025

Congressman Andre Carson

300 E Fall Creek PKWY N Dr

Indianapolis, IN 46205

Dear Congressman Carson,

Please, Sir, I need your help because my stress is coming from your cohorts. I am a Black female, Senior Citizen, "ACCIDENTAL" Whistle-Blower! I have mentioned Congresswoman Susan Brooks, Gov. Mitch Daniels, NeoGov system, The City of Indianapolis, and others. Even Texas is involved in this "Man Made Fiasco!" I am under surveillance 24/7, my phone infiltrated and I am followed every day. I have been handcuffed, drugged, cinder blocks thrown in my face and beat up with black eyes, courtesy of the Presbyterians and The City of Indianapolis.

I have been Homeless since all this came to light inside Tabernacle Presbyterian in 2018 with Pastor John Gable. They have video of me and Gable discussing everything, before they excommunicated and filed a restraining order against me after attending for 7 years. I have been on Retreats with them, ate breakfast, lunch and dinner with them, bible study every Wednesday! Now, I am Shut Out of the homeless shelters here, can't eat in Tab's soup kitchen. I am literally on the concrete right now!!

Please, Help me!

Look at this TRUTH I have bestowed upon your desk. Can't this Truth EXONERATE me? Everything is True and has been verified by Jim Babcock, one of the lawyers at Tabernacle, and the city of Indianapolis. I still have my USB that Tabernacle downloaded, trying to find DIRT on me. Witnesses are still alive and living in Indianapolis, but they are forbidden to talk to me!?

Several years ago, I opened a GOFUNDME campaign and it was shut down. Why am I Not Allowed to Share my story with compassionate, empathetic people across this country and the World to raise money to get out of this country that HATES me so much? I catch Indianapolis Discriminating against me

- yet I am the one treated like a Criminal!?! It doesn't make sense! Pre-Meditated Criminal Activity Is being THRUST upon me Daily and I have NO ADVOCATE in my corner. Will you stand up for me, Congressman Carson? I am praying I hear from you. This country is Truly trying to drive me crazy for standing up to power and my Justice.

Thank you for your time. I know you are a busy man.

Sincerely, Beverly Okumu

Bombshell342436@gmail.com

463-246-7182

## THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES

BY TWINKLE TOES 1ST BADGE #490 wakeupalice@gmail.com



Aloha yall ! Tis. Twink I want to talk this month about it's possible. Think of something that you really want, but it has been very difficult. When you think of it, I want you to think two words, it's possible. Do you know that before 1952 the general belief in the whole world was that you cannot run a mile in less than four minutes.

Until Sir Rodger Bannister did it in 1954. Since that time over 20,000 individuals have run a mile in less than four minutes, including high school kids. What changed, the measure of a mile did not get any shorter, simply those 20,000 people knew that it was possible.

Knowing that anything you want is possible, you must have faith you must not give up. You must keep trying because if you want it bad enough and you're willing to do the work, to get whatever it is you want, it will happen. Why does this happen, because in your heart you know nothing is impossible. If you're believing in God to lead you and you're willing to do the work and pay the price. It's not as easy and at times it seems you will never reach it, but you must not quit. You must continue believing that it is possible to achieve your dream, it will happen cause as I've said before, all things are possible through Jesus Christ our Lord, thank you.

Randy Armstr...  
@Randy-Armstron.



**venmo**



Randy Armstrong  
Scan to pay \$17mrateoes1x



# EULOGY DAY 27 – I WILL NEVER WALK THERE AGAIN

BY GREGORY A. BORDELON

You don't get to call it "care"  
while punishing the ones who do.

Let it be known:  
I will never set foot on the prop-  
erty of Lakeway's Arbor Terrace  
again.

Not after the way I was treated.  
Not after the insults.  
Not after the arrest.  
Not after being denied dinner  
while trying to sit with my father—  
a man I bathed,  
fed,  
fought for.

Not after sleeping in ditches  
during winter just to visit him.

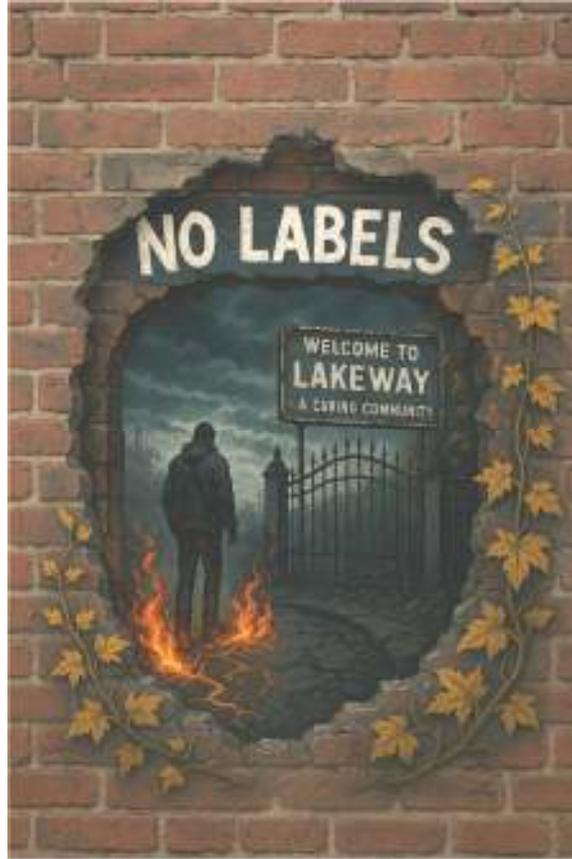
Because if there's one thing  
Lakeway taught me, it's this:

Care ends where profiling begins.

They didn't see a son.  
They saw a problem.  
A man walking while homeless.  
A man grieving with urgency.  
A man who refused to be quiet  
while the system quietly failed  
another vulnerable elder.

I got stopped  
by police  
for walking.

Not robbing.  
Not threatening.  
Just walking.  
That's how Lakeway treats people  
who don't fit their curated brochure.



You win.  
I'm gone.  
But I'm not silent.

Because the things they've  
done—  
they're written in police reports,  
in refusal slips,  
in neglected charts,  
and in the look on my father's  
face  
when no one helps him to the  
bathroom anymore.

Let them bury themselves in pa-  
perwork.  
I'll bury them in truth.

I'll never walk those halls again.  
But I'll write about them  
until their brick façade cracks  
from the inside.

Every damn day,  
we continue.

I've read their intentions.  
I've heard their policies.  
I've lived their cold shoulder.

They don't want visitors.  
They want silence.  
They want passivity.  
They want the dying to stay out of  
sight  
and the caring to stay off their prop-  
erty.

So be it.

**Challenger Newspaper**

PO Box 151574  
Austin, TX 78715

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challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

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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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\$65 both

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The Challenger Newspaper  
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

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Full Page	7.5 X 10	500	1500	2500	5000

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