



S X S W



Pi Day

3-14

3.141592



Leslie Cochran
Queen of Austin Day
March 8



March is Women's Month

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



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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.

BUS PASSES

By Val Romness

Paper passes with a magstripe on the back will continue to work on the fareboxes, which are not changing.

Once paper passes run out, it will move to the **new reloadable passes;**



2023



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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

WHAT A WASTE OF OUR NATIONS MONEY

“HOMELESS TAKEOVER: CODE-NAME- HB 1925”

BY CASWARM

In 2019 former Austin Mayor Adler fought to have the homeless camping ban repealed and won. I asked what motivated his push to repeal the ordinance and he responded, "I believed the camping ban did nothing to solve the challenge of homelessness but rather only hid the challenge. I thought it was wrong for the city to ticket or arrest people who had no homes, but rather the city should be helping them find homes and support." This act sparked tension from the governor as well as the public, which until this moment they could pretend did not exist. The result became too much for residents and officials alike. The Austin-based non-profit, Save Austin Now, led the fight to have the ban reinstated, and in a landslide victory Proposition B was passed. Alongside the passage of Prop B was the passing of House Bill 1925, a state-wide camping ban for homeless people. Only 3 states had a state-wide law similar at that time because it was normally left to the local government to handle the issue. Those 3 states are: California, New Hampshire, and Florida. The difference between those states and Texas passing HB 1925 was that those states didn't ignite a fire which would forever change the focus and the policies of every other state across the nation. From September 2021 to the end of 2024, the following 46 states would pass similar legislation. Homeless management systems had until then, primarily focused on housing-first models. The shift drew focus from a solution to enforcement on a national scale.

Across the US, the #1 preferred method of enforcement quickly became abatements of homeless encampments and left behind the Housing First models that had been at the heart of the federal governments focus. Abatements are more often called sweeps. The legal definition is the forced dismantling of homeless encampments on public property, including the removal of individuals and their property, sometimes conducted without prior notice.

The following reasons for the methods fast takeover are only a few:

- Large Scale and punitive nature- it is easier to remove quickly and is designed to deter further violations.
- Holds Legal Standing- the SCOTUS ruling in 2024 is believed to have made it a crime to be homeless and wouldn't be challenged.
- Quick Fix- This is probably one of the driving points behind sweeps because it is quick and makes the public happy.

Most people do not want homeless people to live anywhere close to them or near their neighborhoods. There is a misbelief that sweeps solve several issues at once.

Research and available data on the drawbacks of homeless camp abatements indicate high costs to conduct. Presently the actual cost for these sweeps are not tracked or not being shared with the public. It is hard to know the real price. Upon my own deep dive, I found there appears to be a 3-tier



pricing. Smaller sweeps begin at \$2,000 and go up to around \$10,000. Mid-sized sweeps range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Then the larger camps can cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000! This often consumes the majority of city budgets allocated for homeless management. This leaves next to nothing to be directed towards solutions and for service providers, such as developing housing projects or to fund programs that help with prevention. With the focus now on criminalization

and enforcement, unless something happens that causes another shift in how we address this issue, reaching actual solutions that work towards ending homelessness is beyond reality. What could possibly redirect the country? If HB 1925 was the gateway, then it is where we will find another shift of focus; here is how.

I propose a "Clean Bill" be presented to the Senate in the next legislative session in 2027. It is important to amend the current version of HB 1925 in order to track progress of its impact on the public, ensure solution based enforcement, protect those which are experiencing homelessness and their rights, and ensure there is no misappropriation of funding meant to help. There are no current protections nor state policy on how the law should be enforced by any enforcing agent. This process is currently underway, there is hope. I have begun drafting amendments to present to the Senate next session. I am in need of stakeholders to join me in the process to ensure we present a bill that will pass the floor.

Email at:
HB1925revision2027@gmail.com

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*

Thank you to those who inquired and helped search for Mr. Ramon Gonzalez. I regret to share this Silver Alert was canceled after Mr. Gonzalez was found deceased.

UPDATE: *Silver Alert*



RAMON GONZALEZ ALMAGER

- Dementia, Diabetic
 - Requires medication 2x/day for diabetes.
- Hispanic Male, 82 years old
- DOB: 04/15/1943
- 5'10" 180 lbs.
- Gray hair, Gray beard
- Spanish speaker
- Last seen wearing
 - Brown hooded jacket
 - Blue jeans
 - Black baseball hat
 - Hooked brown cane, walks with limp



Ramon was last seen leaving South Austin Hospital on 01/18/2026 at 6:30pm, escorted out by security for his aggressive and threatening behavior. Ramon arrived from Mexico on 01/18/2026 and speaks Spanish only. Ramon has dementia, diabetes, walks with a limp, and uses a cane. Ramon requires insulin twice a day and is unfamiliar with Austin.

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

TRANSITIONING

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

The month of transitioning is fast approaching
 I'm suited for it due to having an open mind and good coaching
 I aim to transform from a failure to one who is successful
 Fat to muscle, exercising each day to avoid an outcome that is stressful

Transitioning from cold shoulders to the warmth of open arms
 Standing bright to showcase a smile that won't do you harm
 I hope green is seen more than just in my drink of choice
 From winter to spring I still prefer coffee to stimulate my voice

I yearn for the madness of March's competitive competition
 I'm an athlete, being number one as my only mission
 I'm a wildflower who has thawed out to enjoy the art of winning
 Aiming to endure nature's version of sprouting with a new beginning

Transitioning from a dark start to a charming ending with light
 Glowing I want to be as if I were a three-leaf clover
 Standing out I want to be a successful and handsome sight
 Fighting to the end gracefully until transitioning is all over



CONVERTING HOTELS TO HOMELESS HOUSING: COST, STATUS & MORE

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

SHELTER IS ESSENTIAL(&MULTIVALENT)

Indigenous Australians had Gunyahs and Mia-Mias

Mobile and adaptive as Turtle Island Tipis

Travellers have tents, tarps, weatherproof coverings

But when we stop, age, grow fragile-the quality of sheltering changes

Children have different needs to aged, elders or infirm

Veterans with PTSD need active care-as do infants

Adaptive strategies are essential -as we change

And family, friends, acquaintances may not be able to share their shelter

Light, flexible, mobile housing options can be adapted to our needs

The streets are no place to be (for any body) in this 21st century..



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 gawk 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!

WAGE CALCULATOR

[HTTPS://UNIVERSALLIVINGWAGE.ORG/WAGE-CALCULATOR/](https://universallivingwage.org/wage-calculator/)

PUT IN YOUR ZIPCODE & IT'LL TELL YOU WAGE NEEDED FOR YOUR AREA

AUSTIN IS AT ABOUT \$25/HR TO AFFORD A 1 BEDROOM
APARTMENT AT \$1800/MO

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

Opening soon
5201 Cameron Rd



Treasure City Thrift
Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!
5201 Cameron Rd.
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET
LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 3/2026

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 3/2026

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

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

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

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 8-5

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 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 diagnoses

www.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 experience

Really 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 2

year; 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

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Challenger Newspaper

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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.



ART

BY JESSE D. GREINER

Homer The No Longer 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 ppls 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.*



OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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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
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Julian Reyes
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Erick The Dream
Giver on Youtube
Badge # 489
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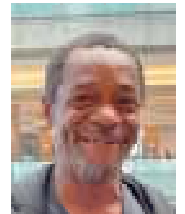
Gregory Bordelon
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Badge # 267
Around town
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John Robbins
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Ardeeth Lewis Jr.
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Joel Robert Dixon
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Twinkle Toes
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Badge # 317
rchristophercarr@gmail.com



Pearlle Blue &
Debra Miller
Badge #474
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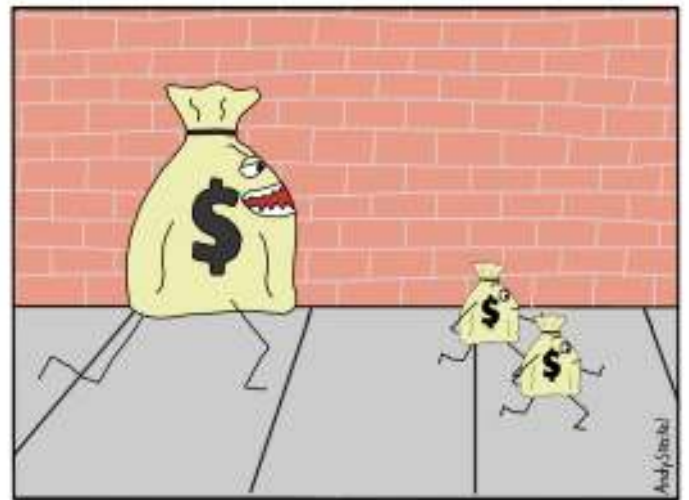
Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.

Nothing about us
without us



CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



Pyramid of White Supremacy

In a pyramid, every brick depends on the ones below it for support. If the bricks at the bottom are removed, the whole structure comes tumbling down.

Genocide

Mass Murder

Violence

Unjust Police Shootings

Lynching Hate Crimes

Calls for Violence

Police Brutality

Neo-Nazis KKK The N-Word

Confederate Flags Burning Crosses

Discrimination

Mass Incarceration Swastikas

Racial Profiling

School-to-prison Pipeline

Hiring Discrimination Stop and Frisk

Fearing People of Color

Redlining

Racial Slurs

Anti-Immigration Policies

Funding Schools Locally

Predatory Lending

Veiled Racism

Paternalism

Victim Blaming Racist Jokes

English-only Initiatives Euro-Centric Curriculum

Racist Mascots

Bootstrap Theory

Tone Policing

Claiming Reverse Racism

Cultural Appropriation

Minimization

"We all belong to the human race"

Denial of White Privilege

White Savior Complex

"Post-Racial Society"

"Why can't we all just get along?"

"It doesn't matter who you vote for"

White Ally Speaking over POC

"It's just a joke!"

"Get over slavery!"

False Equivocation

"But my Black friend said..."

Not Believing Experiences of POC

Prioritizing Intentions over Impact

Indifference

"Politics doesn't affect me"

Two Sides to Every Story

Not Challenging Racist Jokes

Avoiding Confrontation with Racist Family Members

Remaining Apolitical

Adapted from Elen Tuzzolo and Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence's diagram

POVERTY CULTURE VS. MIDDLE-CLASS CULTURE

BY RYAN DOWD

In college, I spent some time as an exchange student in Ghana (West Africa).

Culturally, it was VERY different than my upbringing in suburban America:

- My roommate had two wives.
- Unaware that tipping didn't exist there, I left a tip at a restaurant in my first week. The server ran after me to return the money I had "accidentally left on the table."
- I learned the hard way not to use your left hand for passing someone money. (Historically, in a pre-toilet paper society the left hand had only one use. Even after the advent of toilet paper, the taboo remained).

The American students approached the cultural differences in unique ways:

- Some students made fun of customs that made no sense to them.
- Some students talked about how much better Ghanaian culture was than American.
- Some students said things like "There aren't any real differences. We're all human."

How Humans Evolve In Cultural Understanding

Dr. Milton J. Bennett developed a model of the six stages people go through in learning about different cultures.

For simplicity, I have collapsed it down to three:

LEVEL 1 (BIGOTRY) – In this stage, differences between cultures are stereotyped and judged. Your own culture is held up as the best (or, alternatively, the worst).

LEVEL 2 (SYMPATHY) – In this stage, diversity of cultures is ignored. People in this stage "don't see race" and emphasize that "we're all the same."

LEVEL 3 (EMPATHY) – In this stage, differences and diversity are appreciated and understood. Different groups can be "different, not better or worse, just different."

How this Applies to Homelessness

Obviously, different geographic countries can have unique cultures. So can different socio-economic groups in the same coun-

try.

Many (probably most) individuals suffering from chronic homelessness were raised in intergenerational poverty. That means their parents were poor. Their grandparents were poor. Their great-grandparents were poor, and so on.

There are unique cultural aspects for individuals raised in intercultural poverty.

Many individuals working in nonprofits and government were raised in middle-class homes.

There are unique cultural aspects for individuals raised in the middle class.

There can be a "clash" between these cultures. Employees generally approach this in one of three ways:

- "Homeless folks do dumb stuff that keeps them poor." – **STAGE 1: BIGOTRY**
- "There are no differences. We're all alike. We are all humans!" – **STAGE 2: SYMPATHY**
- "There are some differences that I need to be aware of so I can serve my clients better. It doesn't make them better or worse, but there are real differences." – **STAGE 3: EMPATHY**

Help your staff get to stage 3. That is when they become REALLY effective.

Do accept, though, that they may have to go through stage 2 to get there if they start at stage 1.



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



COLD SHELTER

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

Hello everybody, Please let me first say the "warming shelters are a blessing to have available for the unhoused and they do more in this this city than most others. But my experience wasn't a good one and personally I'll never use them again.

So the one I was going to would let you in after 830 pm without being registered at Barton Springs and they had an officer at a table just outside the door and I really liked that part.

But lights out at 10, you see well enough to get up and walk to the restroom. Mind you your in a gym on a mat with many others and a lot of them are drug attic thieves who will act like your best friend and then you go the bathroom and things are missing when you get back.

Cant trust anyone and I went to one three days in a row and things stolen every night. But the people running the center were cool and you check in they give you a mat,blanket, and a small meal for dinner and a biscuit with gravy and a small sausage patty for breakfast and a coffee. (I don't eat pork) so I would give mine away.

Personally I' put another layer on and open a couple hand warmers for the sleeping bag instead of ever going back to one again.



I learned how to live off grid before everything went south so I'm good. I stay to myself most of the time and away from bus stops where people hang out. This time next year I should have a piece of land and something built on it before next winter. At least that's a goal of mine.

It's great that the city of Austin provides Cold shelters or warming shelters. There was only one person that died and yes that's one to many of course, just a guess it was someone who may have been mental or on drugs and wearing hardly nothing.

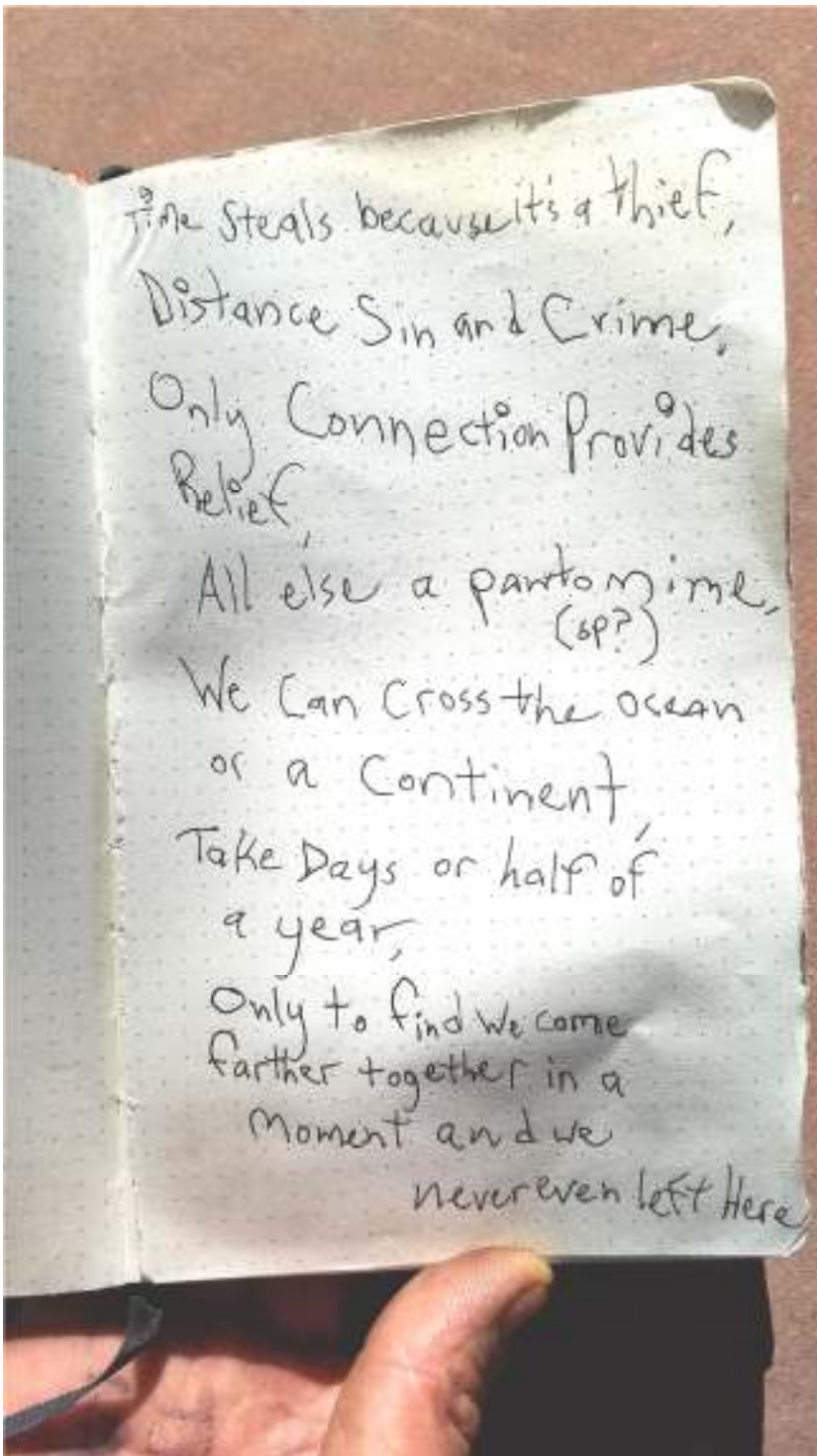
Hats off to the police here in Austin during that cold spell. They were going around and looking for any unhoused and picking them up and taking them to warming centers.

But like I mentioned they're full of thieves waiting for opportunity and not for this guy for sure!



POETRY

BY ALAN RICHARDS 11-15-2020



Time steals because it's a thief,
 Distance Sin and Crime,
 Only Connection Provides Relief,
 All else a pantomime,
 We can cross the ocean
 or a continent,
 Take Days or half of a year,
 Only to find We came
 farther together in a
 moment and we
 never even left here.

Challenger Newspaper

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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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