



# Challenger

## Street Newspaper

Austin, Texas

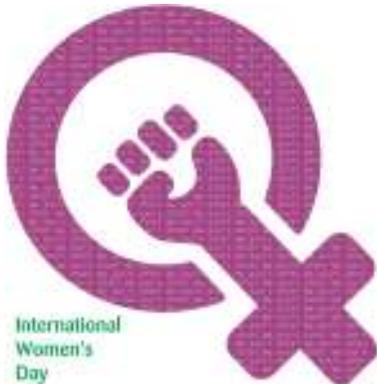
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Donation  
Thank you!

March 2025  
Vol 14 Issue 12  
(159th issue) \*

www.challengernewspaper.org  
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

512-560-4735

An Independent Press - 95% Street Written—Voices Of The Street  
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International  
Women's  
Day  
March 8

March is Women's Month



PIE DAY  
3.14(1592)



### INSIDE

<i>International Women's Day</i>	1
<i>SXSW</i>	
<i>Pie Day</i>	
<i>St Patrick's Day</i>	
<i>Contributors/Announcements- Bus Passes /Editorial Policy/ Class</i>	2
<i>Peace Love &amp; Happiness Ad</i>	3
<i>How Do We Build Trust With Systemic Gaps?</i> By Gregory Bordelon	4
<i>Gone Home</i> Cheny-Brook Gunnells	5
<i>Lizzardo Giganticus</i> Great source for vids of APD harassing Street People	5
<i>Mobile Loaves &amp; Fishes Ad</i>	6
<i>Month of Green</i> By Timothy Warfield	7
<i>Poetry</i> By Thom World Poet	7
<i>The Call</i> By John Curran	8
<i>Truth</i> By John Curran	8
<b>PULL-OUT DIRECTORY</b>	
<i>Distributor Info / Jail Mail info/TCTAd</i>	9
<i>Pg 10-12 Directory</i>	Cont
<i>Challenger Code of Conduct</i>	12
<i>Homer's Demands Updated</i> By Challenger Members	13
<i>De Profundis</i> By Thom the World Poet	13
<i>Distributors</i>	14
<i>I Am The Sands That Sit &amp; Wait</i> By Michael Alan Kurtz	15
<i>Winds Of Wonder</i> By Michael Alan Kurtz	15
<i>ART</i> By Michael Alan Kurtz	15
<i>ART</i> By Kaye Lee	16
<i>ART Plea</i> By David Little	16
<i>ART</i> By Zebra	17
<i>ART</i> By Gregory Bordelon	17
<i>Just Say It!</i> By IB:Sir Twinkle Toes 1st	18
<i>Rochester Man Demands Jus- tice</i> By Levon Jones & AI	19
<i>Subscriber Form/Ad Rates</i>	20

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

The material printed reflects the opinions of its authors.



Director / Editor:

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- John Curran
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- Kaye Lee
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- Zebra
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- Spanish Translation: Belinda
- Web Host: DreamHost
- Web Updates: Val



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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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.

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.



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 the Homeless Outreach Street Team (H.O.S.T.) you can reach them at 512-804-3720

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

Zoom or in person

### Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

#### Goals

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



Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



# Success unshared is failure

John Paul DeJoria



Thru Mar 2024

# HOW DO WE BUILD TRUST WITH SYSTEMIC GAPS?

BY GREGORY BORDELON

Austin, Texas, has demonstrated proactive governance during winter emergencies, particularly in January 2025. The city activated cold weather shelters multiple times, serving over 1,900 individuals during freezing temperatures, with registration centralized at One Texas Center and transportation provided via CapMetro buses. These shelters, opened when temperatures at Camp Mabry dropped to 35°F (1.7°C) or below, prioritized vulnerable groups, including families and pets, while offering meals and hotel vouchers.



Photo By Gregory Bordelon

However, February's Valentine's Day highlighted systemic gaps. While local forecasts underestimated the severity, AI-driven platforms like Google accurately predicted subfreezing

temperatures. Austin's recorded low on February 14 was 0°C (32°F) at 6:51 a.m., with wind chills exacerbating the cold. Despite these conditions, the city did not activate cold weather shelters in February, raising concerns for unhoused and elderly populations—groups already at risk during January's freeze, which saw 35 cold-related EMS responses and two fatalities.

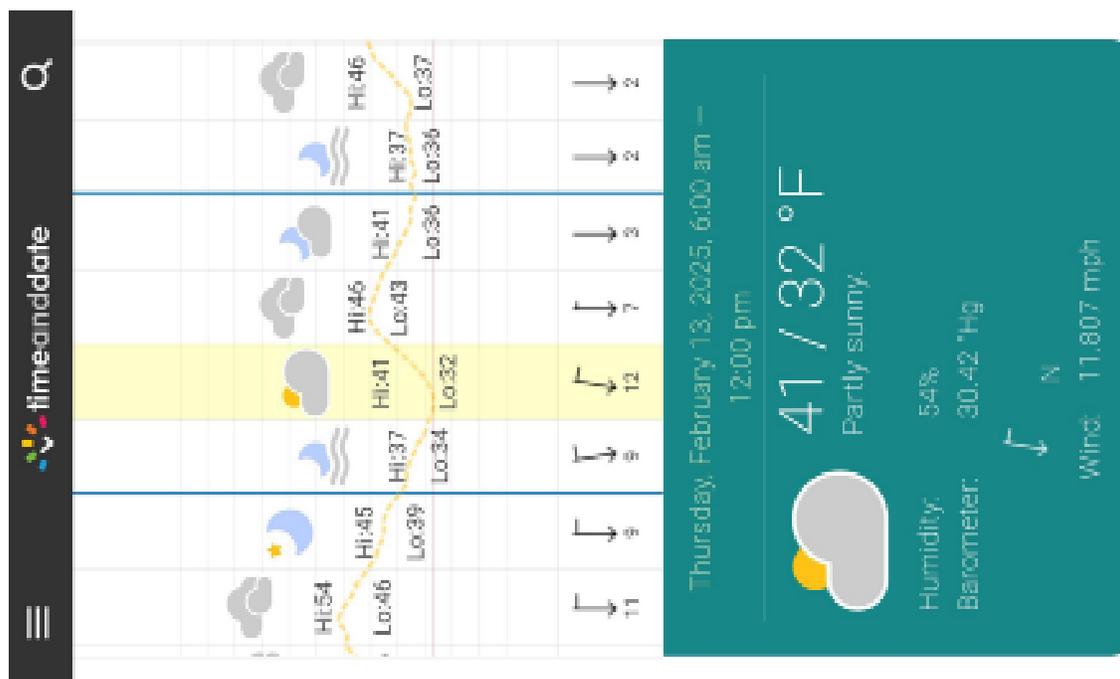
This inconsistency underscores a broader issue: reliance on outdated communication systems and fragmented data. Post-9/11 reforms, which decentralized emergency messaging, may contribute to today's polarized information landscape. While Austin's January response reflects progress, February's missteps reveal vulnerabilities in aligning public alerts with real-time conditions. Transparency in weather sourcing and shelter activation criteria could mitigate risks, ensuring trust in civic institutions.

**\*\*Key Additions from Research:\*\***

- **\*\*Shelter Impact in January:\*\*** 1,700+ individuals sheltered during peak cold (Jan 18–21).
- **\*\*February's Unaddressed Freeze:\*\*** No shelter activation despite Valentine's Day lows of 0°C.
- **\*\*AI vs. Human Forecasts:\*\*** Discrepancies in reporting highlight the need for integrated, real-time data systems.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

Austin's winter policies show commendable effort but require consistency. Prioritizing accurate, AI-supported forecasts and expanding shelter access during *all* freezing events could save lives—a critical step in bridging the gap between governance and community trust. We can't trust the for profit, corporate sanctioned news... it only supports the views of the few.



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

### CHEWY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

**JOSEPH FERGUSON, STREET NAME CHEWY. PASSED AWAY FROM A FENTANYL OVERDOSE IN THE STREETS OF AUSTIN TEXAS**



The name CHEWY is widely known in the streets and homeless camps of Austin Texas. No matter where you go or who you talk to, there's a story that includes CHEWY. And to know CHEWY was to be so deeply touched by his life that his death leaves you eternally affected.

CHEWY cared about us and he made Austin's homeless his family and we were his home.

CHEWY is absolutely missed everywhere. CHEWY is not gone however. Storys laughs jokes and the sounds of motorcycles will keep CHEWY as much a part of streets of Austin as he ever was.

I love you baby brother, thank you for taking care of me! Job well done CHEWY! GO COLLECT HOT WHEELS IN FOX AND CHEWY LAND!

WRITTEN BY BROOK GUNNELLS

## Lizzardo Giganticus

Great source for vids of APD harassing Street People

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

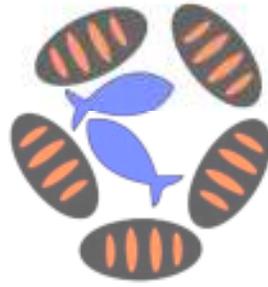
Austin Police and TxDOT steal from the poor, and hide their crimes

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

# MONTH OF GREEN

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

March I will to a better ending  
 I will respect and honor the month for women  
 Green I will wear for both financial luck and companionship  
 Network I will as if my own party or outside occasion needs it

I'm happy to celebrate a green beverage while respecting women  
 International Woman's Day, I flock towards as if I were a pigeon  
 Whether offering bread or advice, with knowledge I'm ready to eat  
 The entire month of March for women, what a treat

To enjoy a celebration, one must have a wardrobe to match  
 Sporting and eating spinach so I can be a lucky catch  
 Drink and be marry is me, especially in the month of March  
 Meet and greet is me while having a back fully arched

Women's Month to St. Patrick's Day as well as a little SXSW  
 As well as any month, in March, to a woman I am no pest  
 I don't want to be fumigated with no love to ruin my luck  
 I'm a pigeon that wants to be fed not plucked



# EMPTY FOOD STOCK SHELVES

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

Means empty stomachs. Means mortalities increase  
 Means more bodies on Austin streets. More recourse to drugs  
 when food and shelter is what folk need. Ask their dogs-  
 the ones, loyal as Cerberus, who stand at intersections  
 or curl around unsheltered legs to warm those February chilled.  
 Ask CASUALTY and EMERGENCY lines that stretch forever  
 Ask why so many more have flu, colds, chills, Covid.  
 Then ask why laws jail the poor-a status- not a criminal offence  
 Ask the next unsheltered why they look you in the eye while Flagging  
 Notice how many more are victims of this economic war-rich vs poor  
 Billionaires vs those with only air to share, not even earth to bury them  
 We are all loved once. When can we start-to love again?



# THE CALL

BY JOHN CURRAN

I aint been doing much art lately. That last blast that lit up the sky, that went up like a rocket...and came crashing down like two tons of lead. All that's confined now, safe and secure. It's only the lonely that's on the run. The desperate hours tick like minutes and the waiting of course is not much fun. Still, what ya gonna do? They got ya saying I'm here for you. I'm here waiting by the telephone. And there it is it's ringing and....I'm on hold, serious hold. I can hear all the background stuff going on, sitting there phone to the ear. Waiting. Ongoing. Real time. I hear laughs and giggles the Big Beat humming along. And it's my life it's only my life, hanging on a meat hook there, in my chair, waiting. I'm on hold. It's the court, setting the trial date, hour, time, for me, just for me, the artist guy who painted beauty, 'cause it was there n there wasn't anything else to do, at the time.



# TRUTH

BY JOHN CURRAN

What I know is the Truth. Now, Heavy D, saying something like that, if you've lived, and, if you really think about it, is quite a statement. It's like bragging on yourself or something. There are many ways to look at it, to consider a statement like that. Well, I do know it dammit, this blessing and this curse, and, I have known it all my life. Many times in all that time I have had to shortchange that knowledge, play the game as were, the fake game, just to get on down the road. Yeah man we all know what that statement entails, just to get on down the road. We play it all the time this charade, it's number 1, the new monopoly. And the trick, way I see it, is to never lose sight of what it actually is, it being often in fact so far from any Truth that it is a joke,



an inside sort of joke, that a lot of folks get lost in and never come out. One gets too deep, too comfy. It, so to speak, works. Its when it don't work that is when you can see a lot more clearly just what it really is, the real Hurly Burly, and if ya like it Baby, like it like it really really is, then this becomes the funniest joke of all, the recognition, the admission of what really is , Truth. It's hard to look at. Truth hurts. So get on with that lie. It can be very effective. It can paint a picture that is so horrible that it could, metaphorically speaking of course, incite actual mob violence. Too strange to give credence to Buddy? Beware, I kid you not. So, the Truth, when it's all ya got to save your ass, ya finally realize, this is one damn thing we just cannot, lose.

# Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

## Distributors Wanted!

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS \* CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!**

**It Works!**



### We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

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

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

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

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

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

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

We meet

**Sundays 1-3 pm**

outside City Hall

(Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez)

or

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

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com

www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper

PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735

## JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

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

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

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715 [challengenewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:challengenewspaper@yahoo.com)



Sun-Thurs 1-7 PM

Fri-Sat 11am-7pm

Moving soon!

**Treasure City Thrift**  
Clothes, Housewares,  
Books and more!  
2142 e 7th st  
[www.TreasureCityThrift.org](http://www.TreasureCityThrift.org)

**REALLY REALLY  
FREE MARKET**

**LAST SUNDAY  
2-5 PM**

# Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 2/2024

## 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.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.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 being remodeled.

Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily

8 am to 8 p (fee charged)

Closed Mondays & Thurs

VETERANS are always in free

## LAUNDRY:

### Mission Accomplished

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

Unscented soap available.

M-- Sunrise Navigation Ctr--4430 Menchaca Rd

Tu-Violet Storage--700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)

W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183

W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church 12675 Research Blvd.

## FOOD:

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

Cesar Chavez St

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

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

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

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

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 2/2024

**STORAGE/LOCKERS:**

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

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**Challenger Street Newspaper**

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

**Workforce First:** Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently 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

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

**Fair Living Wage Calculator:** enter zip code *Www.universallivingwage.org*

**Shelter App:** Connecting People In Need to Services.

**REFERRALS:**

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

**Arcilinc.org**  
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349



**▲ VETERANS ▼**

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

Texas Veterans Commission [www.tvc.texas.gov](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 outreach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741 Up to \$800 housing/car repair.

**SHELTER:**

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

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

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

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

**YOUTH:**

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

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

**Street Youth Ministry** 2008 Justin Ln

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

**SENIORS/ELDERS:**

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

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

**MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Austin Clubhouse** community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses [www.austinclubhouse.org](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.

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

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

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

## Directory continued

Www.aayhf.org

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

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

**We CanNow** Street Outreach  
**Sunrise Navigation** Outreach

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

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

**LEGAL:**

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

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

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

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

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

**UTILITIES:**

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

**CLOTHING:**

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

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

**FREE HAIRCUTS::**

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead  
512-481-8900.  
Ron King Academy call ahead 512-596-  
5000. (tip expected)

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

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

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

**HOUSING**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO**

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

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

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

**COOLING CENTERS:**

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

**NO FREEZE SHELTER:**

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

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

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

OASIS: (behind ARCH)  
shade, H2O & bathrooms  
8th Street Shelter for single  
women & transwomen  
Neches & 8th St (referral  
only)

Marshaling Yard: Appoint-  
ment only.

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT****Challenger  
Newspaper**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Stay back 20 ft from  
marked crosswalks.

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

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



## 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!*

## DE PROFUNDIS

BY THOM WORLD POET

AND WHEN YOU SHARE YOUR SECRET SORROWS

Eye listen with respect (apportioned teardrops

Grief and loss in epic proportions

Mean every one of us number millions

Those we love die/get old/blind

We ourselves stumble on the Path to Perfection

If you have gods, petition them

If you love Nature, nurture her

Time is now taxonomy of energies

We grieve the ones we love/remember them

Close as they were to our arts, we must move on

People are burning next door. Droughts. Floods. Wars

Cry for those whales displaced from habitat

Remember the fawn now sliced venison

Everyone is crying, dispossessed, shelterless

Praise and Remembrance to the ones you love best.

# OUR TEAM

## SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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



Christopher C.  
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Around town  
Photo by Val Romness



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



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



Leslie Cochran  
Badge #110  
Honorary  
Distributor/ writer



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Photo By Val Romness



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Around town  
Photo by Val Romness



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Photo by Val Romness



Timothy Warfield  
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Photo By Val Romness



Sheila  
Badge # 440  
Photo by Val Romness



DeAntonio L. Brown  
Badge #467  
Photo By Val Romness



Sunshine Sami  
Badge # 433  
Photo by selfie



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



Gregory Bordelon  
Badge # 492  
Photo by Val Romness



Thom Woodward  
Badge # 284  
Photo by Val Romness



Chrystal  
Badge #289  
Photo by Val Romness



Twinkle Toes  
Badge # 490  
Photo by Val Romness



Dan Goff  
Badge # 493  
Photo by Selfie



Kaye Lee  
Badge # 434  
Photo by Val Romness

Watch our documentary!

<https://vimeo.com/176352813>

“Challenger: Voices from the Street”



**LIFT FROM THE  
BOTTOM  
EVERYBODY  
RISES**

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

## I AM THE SANDS THAT SIT AND WAIT

BY MICHAEL ALAN KURTZ

I am the sands that sit and wait. I am the sand that drift in the wind. Eyes that sparkle in the deepest shadows. Visions of you as you are gazed upon. Fabric adorned is the touch you feel closer to me. Your beauty is secure when you choose your exposure. Hello, is so much as soon as we greet. Not parting has never been so fast. Every flame you see is my heart. You see my eye's at night and they never leave in the day. I am the smell of rain and the soil.

## ART

BY MICHAEL ALAN KURTZ



## WINDS OF WONDER

BY MICHAEL ALAN KURTZ

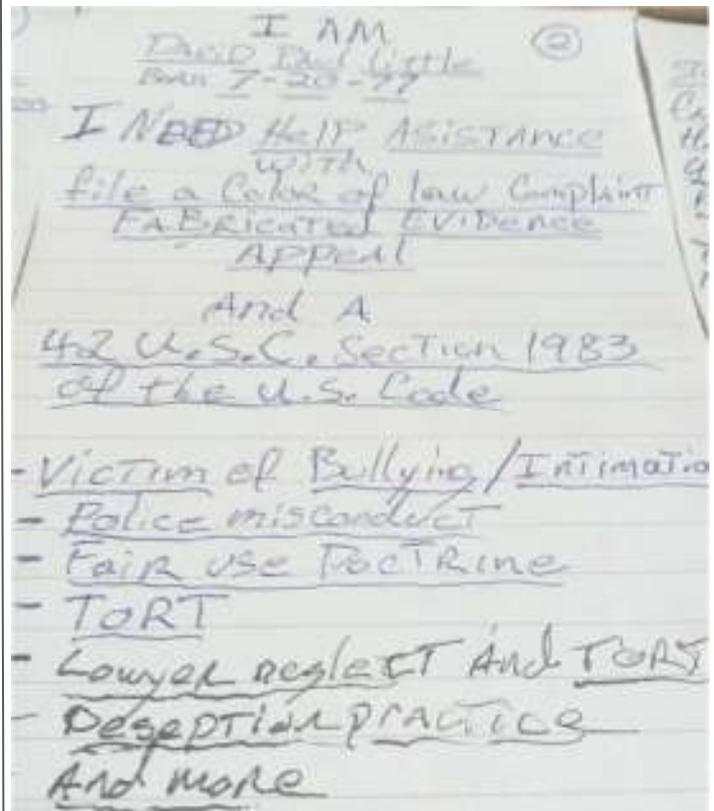
WINDS OF WONDER  
TO SOON TO REPEAT  
TO PULL AND PLUNDER  
TIDY IN THE CRADLE OF CARE  
THROW IN THE TOWEL  
THE NIGHT KNOWS NO CREEP  
THE MEAT IN THE STREET  
SWEAT REST FROM THE BEAT  
STAY FOR THE RAIN  
SOON THERE WILL BE THUNDER  
SOMEWHERE QUITE TO SLEEP  
SOMETHING IN THE NIGHT TREAT  
SMITTEN IN THE OCEAN DROPS OF GLEAM  
SLEEP IS WEAK FOR THE MEEK  
SIDEWALK IN FALLOW  
SHOW'S OF THE GREAT CASCADE  
REALISTATE A NEW EMBARK  
PRESSURE TO SCOWL  
PLAN A NEW MOVE  
PEDAL THE ASPHALT THROUGH THE MORNING HUE  
PACKED BED TIGHT  
NEW HOME TO BE LET ALONE  
MY PALET EXPANDS  
MILES OF SUNDER  
LONG TO STRIVE  
LONG THE AFTERNOON  
LIFE SO DRIVEN BUT NOT SEEN BLEEK  
LIFE IN THE SHALLOW  
LAST LONG SLUMBER  
LAND ON THE SAND  
HUMAN MASS TIDE  
HOUNDS DO HOWL  
HORIZON'S THAT GLIDE  
FROM TOWN TO THE SANDS  
FAR OFF LANDS  
CITY SCAPES A PARK  
BLISTERING OUT THERE  
BEER TO SEPARATE MY DATE  
A PORPER KING'S HALLOW



# HANDMADE ART

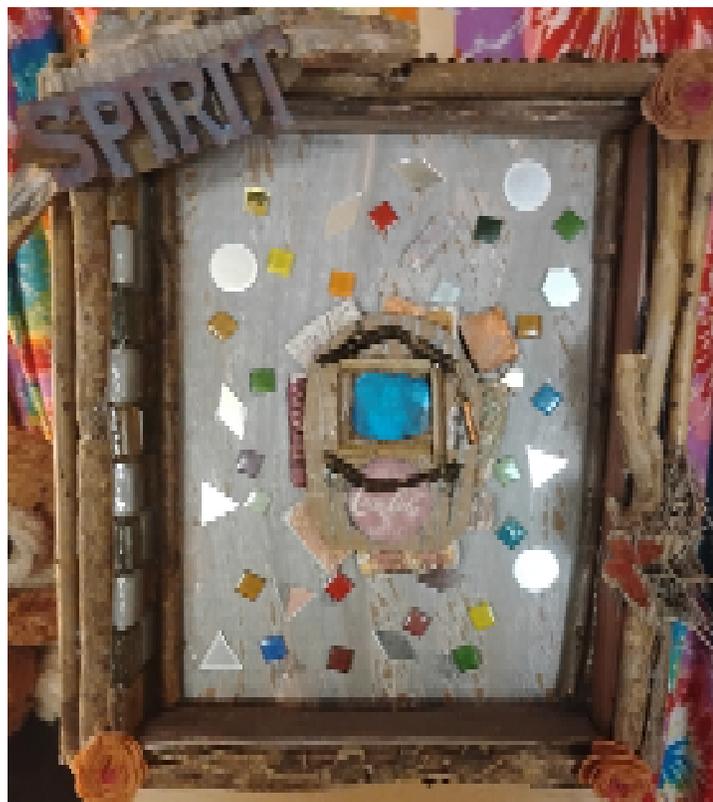
BY KAYE LEE

## David Little needs a Lawyer



Contact David: prissanddave@gmail.com

## David's ART





# ART

BY ZEBRA

JOHN LENNON HAD THIS PHRASE NEAR HIS BED

# ART

BY GREGORY BORDELON



# JUST SAY IT!

BY TWINKLE TOES 1ST BADGE #490

wakeupalice@gmail.com

Aloha Austinite's, I sure hope that we are done with this cold weather. I was wondering if all of you reading this could do me a favor? I need you to tell two or three people that you love them , then ask those people to do the same thing.

However, I do not want you to tell people that you always say I love you to, I want you to tell just one person that you DON'T WANT TO SAY I love you to,

Just go up to them and say I know that we have our differences between us. We can keep those differences, but I just needed to let you know that I love you.

I promise that you will be amazed at the results of this exercise. Thank you.

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



venmo



Twinkle Toes



Randy Armstrong  
Scan to pay \$TWINKLETOES1

Your  
Business Card  
Here  
  
(See Back Pg )

Your  
Business Card  
Here  
  
(See Back Pg )

Your  
Business Card  
Here  
  
(See Back Pg )

# ROCHESTER MAN DEMANDS \$4.3 MILLION AND JUSTICE FOR 1972 THEFT OF CHILDHOOD ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

BY LEVON JONES & AI

Levon Jones, 60, alleges major corporations and property owners profited from his stolen work for decades. His fight for restitution highlights systemic racism and the erasure of Black creativity.

ROCHESTER, NY — Levon Jones, a Rochester native, has launched a bold campaign to reclaim credit—and compensation—for an architectural design he created at just 9 years old in 1972. The design, he claims, was stolen and used to construct Federal Plaza (formerly Changing Scene Restaurant), a downtown landmark that has housed businesses like Panasonic Burger King meal was the carrot for the 9 years Levon Jones Intellectual property. Which he refused and demanded his drawing to be returned.



Jones recently sent formal demand letters to four entities he alleges are complicit in the theft:

1. Donald J. Trump (47th U.S. President, state of New York involvement)
2. Burger King Corporation (which offered Jones a fast-food meal as a "prize" for his work).
3. Panasonic North America (a current tenant).
4. Reynolds 2 LP (the property's current owner).

In the letters, Jones demands \$4.3 million in restitution, public acknowledgment as the building's original designer,

and funding for a youth art program in Rochester.

**The Allegations**  
Jones' story begins in 1972, when he sketched a conceptual design for a building as part of a school project. According to Jones, local developers took his vision, built Federal Plaza, and erased his name from its history. "They offered me a trip to Burger King as a 'reward,' but I refused," Jones said. "They kept my design anyway. For 53 years, I've watched others profit from my creativity while I battled trauma and erasure."

Jones' demands are rooted in common law principles of unjust enrichment and conversion, arguing that the unauthorized use of his work constitutes theft.

**Systemic Racism and Stolen Genius**  
Jones' fight is not just about a building—it's about confronting a legacy of systemic racism that has long silenced Black creators. "Black genius has been exploited since slavery," Jones said. "Enslaved architects built America's landmarks, yet their names are forgotten. My story is part of that same pattern."

His case has drawn comparisons to modern-day disputes over intellectual property theft, such as lawsuits against corporations that profit from Black artists' work without credit or compensation.

**The Four Letters: Key Demands**  
1. Donald J. Trump: Acknowledge Jones' design and pressure tenants to comply.

2. Burger King: Compensate Jones for exploiting his labor as a child.
3. Panasonic: Investigate the building's history and suspend rent payments.
4. Reynolds 2 LP: Cease commercial activities until restitution is paid. Failure to comply, Jones warns, will result in legal action and public exposure of the companies' roles in the alleged theft.

**Community Reaction**  
Local activists and artists have rallied be-

hind Jones, calling his fight a "modern-day reparations case." "Levon's story isn't unique—it's systemic," said Rochelle White, a Rochester-based historian. "Black creativity is commodified but never credited. This is about rewriting history."

**What's Next?**  
Jones has given the recipients 14 days to respond to his demands. If ignored, he plans to escalate with lawsuits, protests, and a social media campaign targeting the corporations' reputations.

**How to Support**  
- Watch & Share: Jones' documentary trailer [https://youtu.be/GZehXpExOic].



Interview Of Jones in Dallas  
<http://youtu.be/e-92DHWqJ6M>  
**Boycott**: Avoid businesses tied to Federal Plaza until justice is served.  
**Donate**: Support Jones' legal fund  
Reach Jones by email: rebelalways@gmail.com  
Or phone: 585-333-2215  
#JusticeForLevonJones  
#StolenGenius  
#BlackHistoryMonth

**Challenger Newspaper**

PO Box 151574  
Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735  
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



“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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