



CINCO DE MAYO



MOTHER'S DAY MAY 26

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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.



Director / Editor:

Valerie Romness
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contributors:

- John Curran
- Twinkle Toes
- Thom the World Poet
- Timothy Warfield
- Lizard King
- Ryan Dowd
- Andy Steckel
- Cante Tinza
- Val Romness
- Kay Lee
- Clifton Pappas
- Jesse G-Treasurer
- Morlog-IT
- J.T. - Laptops
- Fred Pettit—Co-Founder
- 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



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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

BLAME THE CLOTHES

BY RYAN DOWD

As a college student, I did laundry as infrequently as I could get away with.

Disclaimer: I generally wore clean clothes, but that meant I frequently was down to an empty closet before I headed to the laundromat.

I only remember it being a problem once.

It was an unseasonably warm spring my sophomore year.

I overslept my alarm, waking in a panic.

I had an interview on the other side of campus in 10 minutes.

It was a 5-minute bike ride, but my bike had a flat tire.

It was a 20-minute walk to the building, but I didn't have that much time.

Running was the only option.

I dashed to the closet to get my "good shirt," the one I saved for special occasions like interviews.

Panic!! It wasn't hanging in the closet!!

Oh, that's right! I wore it a few days ago!

I dug it out of the dirty clothes hamper, threw it on and started running.

It was already 90 degrees and sunny. I could feel the sweat running down my back as I sprinted across campus.

I reached the interview with 1 minute to spare.

Sitting in the lobby waiting to be called, I made a horrific discovery...

The fresh sweat of sprinting across campus had somehow "activated" the dried sweat from a few days ago.

My shirt absolutely stunk of body odor!

Did you catch what I just did there?

I wrote "My shirt stunk."

I didn't write "I stunk."

For some reason, the story is less embarrassing when I say that my shirt had the odor, rather than me.

Blame the Clothes

Remember this lesson if you ever need to have "The Body Odor Conversation" with someone.

Being told you have an odor is never pleasant.

Which is worse, though:

- Someone telling you that **your body** smells?
- Someone telling you that **your clothing** smells?

Again, neither is pleasant to hear, but blaming the clothing feels a little less personal.

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

Ryan Dowd ryan@homelesslibrary.com



IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT JOE, WE WILL!

BY RYAN DOWD

Mike didn't look happy as he worked his way through the crowded shelter dining room heading towards me.

Mike had been homeless for several years.

I knew him well.

I knew the conversation we were about to have wasn't going to be pleasant.

"If you don't do something about Joe, we will," Mike hissed at me.

"What did Joe do?" I asked as calmly as I could muster.

"It's what he *didn't* do," Mike said sarcastically. He continued,

"Shower, brush his teeth, wash his clothes, wipe his ***."

This wasn't the conversation I was expecting. People living in homeless shelters are usually very tolerant of odor.

I promised to take care of it and turned to walk away. I heard Mike mutter, "Yeah, you take care of it or we will!"

When I was only 10 feet from Joe I understood Mike's concern.

Homeless shelters generally don't smell very good. Joe's odor, though, was at a whole other level. My olfactory senses were overloaded with a cacophony of odors, some human, some not.

Ugh... this conversation was going to be almost as unpleasant as the smell.

When to have the "Body Odor Conversation"

My general rule is to only talk to someone about their body odor if

it is so bad that it is **ACTUALLY impacting others' ability to use the room** the person is in.

In a homeless shelter that's a pretty high bar. (It still gets crossed regularly, though).

In a library, the bar is probably lower.

In restaurant, it is probably even lower still.

Ask yourself: would the average reasonable person not be able to use this space because of the smell?

A few tips to help you make a determination:

- **Be careful of anti-poverty bias.** People will often use mild body odor as an excuse to have someone who looks poor or homeless removed from a space.
- **Avoid the "most sensitive nose" rule.** Some people feel that public spaces should cater to their exact standards, including being odor free. One person complaining is rarely a situation that is bad enough to ask someone to leave.

Be sensitive to disabilities or medical issues that can cause odor.

There is a rare medical condition, for example, caused Trimethylaminuria (TMAU) that causes the body to produce a specific enzyme incorrectly. The result is that the person has a strong fish odor. It is not dangerous physically, but it is devastating socially, often resulting in anxiety, depression and paranoia.

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

**MAN FOUND APRIL 18
NEAR LOVELL DR IN THE
MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD.**

RIP

**MAN FOUND APRIL 25
NEAR RUNBERG LN, MUR-
DERED**

RIP

Lizzardo Giganticus

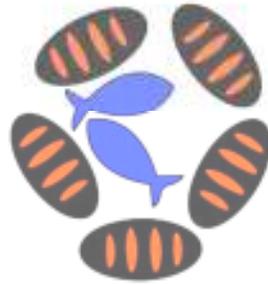
.Alan Graham, the founder and CEO of Mobile Loaves & Fishes – the organization that runs Community First! Village – released a statement Thursday afternoon, remarking on the "caring relationship" the organization shares with local law enforcement officers. Graham said the organization is "deeply grateful" for the many times officers have performed wellness checks on the residents of Community First! Village.

<https://www.kvue.com/>'It's like losing a family member'
| Man shot, killed by Travis County deputy responding to welfare check at Community First! Village

Editors note: It's time to treat black people equally. The damage hurts people mentally. You cannot use Christian privilege to do the devils work!

Newsom was fired by APD for unfair racist treatment, but allowed to come back overseeing the CF!V community with unfair treatment .

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

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

SPIRITED MONTH OF MAY BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

I'm surviving rain showers while looking forward ahead
 Ahead I look to celebrate battles from near and far
 Showing appreciation for women once again
 At the bar I hope to sit full of adrenaline

Drink and be merry is me for sure
 Trying to showcase peace through love and happiness
 For motherhood; for those that endured suffering and pain
 Thank you for allowing me to enjoy life as sweet as a candy cane

Strengthen my drink, hoping it will allow me to see better
 See I want so I can take advantage of the weather
 Parading from bar to bar as I also do the crowded streets
 No crying or feeling sad; a taste bud for some treats

Empanadas and a little bit of jalapenos to cure all my cravings
 Insert, insert, and insert some more; no time for saving
 From beginning to the end, I will celebrate with a smile
 My appreciation for growth and motherhood can go on for miles



SHELTER ME!

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

WITH YOUR HUMANITY

Kind words, welcome, hospitality
 I know you know you could be me
 One paycheck away from displaced poverty
 We are no longer a minority
 Every human being hungers to be free
 Wars, divorces, emotional PTSD
 No shelter for those who only have these streets
 All our life contained within -a dog and a shopping trolley
 You see i smell-i have no place to be
 Can you not keep open basic facilities?
 The little we have demolished by Council sweeps
 How can i then prove i am part of your "Community"?
 "Kings should expose themselves to what the wretches feel"-
 Walk in my shoes (i have no shoes-walk with my dusty feet)



LITERATE

BY JOHN CURRAN

At that place they did not read that was the thing. Nobody, meaning nobody, outside myself, did I ever see with a book being utilized in any way. I never saw anyone as much as carrying a book. The kids of course, well that's how active kids do, they don't, that is, read. Any books may have been in their backpacks as they would come and go to and fro from school on school days. However I never, ever, saw an actual book.

For the adults, young parents, older teenage and older kids, other kids and adults who would come and go, never. And so for myself, eschewing TV and any internet hookups, I read all the time.

Getting an immediate library card because I had a legit fixed address was major. I was in the library and the library was in me you could say, I always had something I was reading. Some books at the library I could buy for a dollar, they were not all check out items. These dollar books I would usually bring back to the library when I was done. More than once can recall lamenting to the nice person at the desk "It's like I rent a book for a dollar. Now I am giving it back to the library because no one, I mean no one, at this



Apt complex where I stay reads, expresses any interest in what I might be reading or anything like that. I never talk about books or reading with any of the other residents and so I give it back to the library." Sad was a word I used. Well I found out about sad finally on that day, when the psychic weight of that place finally fell on me. And part of that was some allegation that in the course of doing the nasty thing they claimed I did, that in that moment I was acting like I was reading a book. I guess actually really reading a book was too much to believe. What did they think I'd been doing everyday for almost three

years on sunny afternoons when I'd sit there in my corner seat by the big picture window facing West. The natural light of that afternoon sun was perfect light for the reading. The fact that I sat at that open window everyday was, finally, perverted into something else, a new element moved in towards the end that accelerated and propagated this slanted take on my activities in this regard. The result fed a set up and take down based on ignorance, paranoia, and hate. The worst experience, the ugliest people, in fact so bad it makes ya wanna just read a book.

BEFORE THE DAWN

BY JOHN CURRAN

Somehow I took the wrong turn and found myself lost, darkness coming on, and I'm somewhere in some wrong neighborhood, inner city downtown Baltimore. There I was, just trying to get back to the airport. I had an important appointment, a speech tomorrow to key world leaders on the far side of the world and I did not want to be late. The fate of the world ya know, was like hanging in the crosshairs. And here I was, really turned around now. Strange, a little scary, definitely hood, It's all black, and I'm not. I'm in this Tesla that they'd let me have to drive around in, this Elon guy as I was such an important fellow. Whatever, I'll take it. But was it really true that some people hated Teslas and what they supposedly stood for, beyond the car, and the Tesla driver ditto that. Well, that does seem silly. So I just park. Maybe I could ask someone for directions outa' this mess. In fact here comes a promising young man right now, coming up in a hurry and...well, no sooner had I gotten out a pleasant "Oh pardon me my good man but could you perhaps..." well no sooner than that and the gentleman, if I could call him that, had a darn switchblade knife at the ready and was demanding all my money, in a rather threatening tone, I might add. And my only defense, such



as it was, was to truthfully say "Good sir, I have no money. I never have money." I hoped he'd understand that some of us don't even have to deal in that realm anymore. Well he didn't seem to get it, and further assured me that he was about to "cut out yo' heart white honkey" when suddenly a shout from across the yard arrested all our attention. It was a booming shout, or rather roar, such as a lion might make, but actually it was just this kid, a little black boy, and man did he ever proceed to then walk up the commanding general. My accostee immediately then and there ceased forthwith any motion towards carving out my heart and even seemed suddenly a bit cowed and quiet. "What you damned fool

Leroy. Get outa' here. This man's my friend" says the kid, and damn sure Leroy skedaddled. I didn't know what to think, the kid checking me out. "What you lost?" Yes I assured him, and if he would only assist me in getting back to the interstate I would be most grateful. And so he did. He wished me good luck. I asked him his name. "Cory" he says, "Cory Booker."

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!



We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

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

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

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

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

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

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

We take Venmo, Cash app & PayPal. Make sure they put your name or badge number. It might take a couple weeks to build your business. We are also digital online,

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

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengenewspaper.org

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

It Works!

JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

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

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

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



Sun-Thurs 1-7 PM

Fri-Sat 11am-7pm

Moving July 1

Treasure City Thrift
Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!
2142 e 7th st
www.TreasureCityThrift.org
Solidarity
not
Charity

**REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET**

**LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM**

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 5/2025

Please notify

Challengernewspaper
@yahoo.com

if you notice changes to the directory

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233

SAFE 512.267.7233 www.safeaustin.org

VINE 512-936-1200 www.vinelink.com

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 www.kindclinic.org

If this is insufficient or you need help reporting or treating an event, email Challenger ATTN: Jenny

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

HUMAN TRAFFICING 1 (888) 373-7888

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

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

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

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

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

First Austin Baptist

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

BATHROOMS:

-Public Restroom 4th & Trinity

-Public Restroom 6th & Brazos

-Portapotti 7th & Trinity

-Portapotti 6th & IH35

-Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday -- Friday

-Libraries

-Near city trails

Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers

Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:

Bartholomew Pool
1800 E. 51st St East

Barton Springs Pool
2131 William Barton Dr Central

Springwoods Pool
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest

Balcones Pool /closed for season
12017 Amherst Dr. North

Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am

M-F-- 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

M-F-- Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

The Other Ones Foundation A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

Barton Springs Pool

Shwrs available/Bath House being remodeled.

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

8 am to 8 p (fee charged)

Closed Mondays & Thurs

VETERANS are always in free

LAUNDRY:

Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles.

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.

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

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

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

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

University United Methodist Church/

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

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

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

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 5/2025

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, show up at the facility. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-1294

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or Rm 471 Central Library.. Low barrier self employment. Make money today and every day you work. Distribute the paper on a donation basis, you keep all profits. Challengernewspaper.org

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

Hungry Hill Foundation.org

Coordinated Assessment & MAP 24th each month. After the intake M- Th, they take ten people to two parks and a few streets to pick up trash for an hour. They handout food before & after the work. Free clothing closet when the weather is good but mostly women's clothing. East Austin-12th & Springdale Rd

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

▲ **VETERANS** ▼

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

Texas Veterans Commission www.tvc.texas.gov

V. A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metropolis Dr) 78744
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and

hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller
Transitional housing for single veterans.

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

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

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

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

SHELTER:

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

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

Marshaling Yard: Appointment only.

Esperanza is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

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

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

YOUTH:

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

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

Street Youth Ministry 2008 Justin Ln

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

SENIORS/ELDERS:

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

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

MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES:

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training,

Directory continued

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

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 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 2242 E. 7th St

FREE HAIRCUTS::

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

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

Foundation for the Homeless- hair-cuts (every other Thursday). First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St.

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:

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

HOUSING

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

Blackland Community Development Corp.
2005 Saliina 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](http://www.hacanet.org)

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

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

Community First! Village Micro homes, trailers, canvas tents. mfv.org 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! Participation 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 welcome, please arrive at 505 Barton Springs Rd for registration, 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Families with children, arrive by 6pm. **Pets now welcome!! They'll stay in a crate near you.**

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

CODE OF CONDUCT**Challenger Newspaper**

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

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

3. Distributors are responsible for their papers once they purchase them.

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

5. Distributors can't pitch in doorways, directly in front of businesses, or near ATM machines.

6. Distributors must not give the “hard sell” to customers.

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

8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

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

We need to police ourselves or the police will.



Homer The Homeless Goose's Demands

By Challenger Newspaper

- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of plpls 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!*

SEÑORITA

BY JOHN CURRAN

I put up with a lot from that girl 'n she got plenty from me. It was always easy though with her, We always got back together, Until finally we didn't. And that was her, she knew it was done. All the money, the crash pads, the fun. She always did come back for me, until I couldn't back it up, no more. Just another gringo, another wild ride in Mexico. Too much money, not enough sense. Here if not for that damn wild thing, would be some cause sure, for some repents. But knowing and loving someone so true, knowing you'd found the best, for short or long what does it matter, in the Wild and Golden West.



NEW DISTRIBUTOR BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

Hello everyone my name is Clifton and I arrived in Austin the second week of December last year. It's been an interesting experience and I'm officially a Texan resident today with a Texas state ID that took almost four months to get. I've personally traveled this whole country in years past and despite being robbed twice already I like the Austin area and the people here more so than many other places in the states. So there's a rough background. Work wise its been tough before not having ID and being homeless as well but I found a nonprofit three months ago that has a work program that consists of picking up trash for 20 bucks for an hour four days a week. Well I finished their program and got my Map insurance there. So last Friday I was at the Library and noticed a street newspaper sitting on a table called the Challenger. I read it four times and circled housing information and other resources thinking to myself, "this paper is great and I like how it's put together".

I saw the ad towards the back stating, "We need Distributors and be your own boss,

work your own hours". WOW I thought to myself this was great! I saw that they meet up at City Hall or the Central Library on Sundays between 1 to 3pm in rm 471. BOY I was sure to be there that Sunday! The last Sunday of April and that day I met Valerie, Jesse, and Twinkle Toes. Great people and very supportive and they really mean what they say in the paper. They help people, give a hand up and not a hand out and they really are trying to help end poverty. That day Valerie gave me a starter kit and I went out later that afternoon and got donations for four papers! I'm like "WOW THIS IS GREAT!". You see, being outside I have been very reclusive and stand offish. I've always been a people watcher so to speak. The Challenger Newspaper has been a real blessing to me, it's reinstalling social skills I haven't been using for years and I get \$\$\$ EVERYDAY! All I'm doing is going out and enjoying people and having fun with it and that's it! Got papers in hand and you got money! Thanks Challenger team and my hats off to everyone. Clifton Pappas Badge #497

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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



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



Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



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



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



Leslie Cochran
Badge #110
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Distributor/ writer



Sabrina Oberg
Badge #443
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Patricia Rose
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Around town
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Twinkle Toes
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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

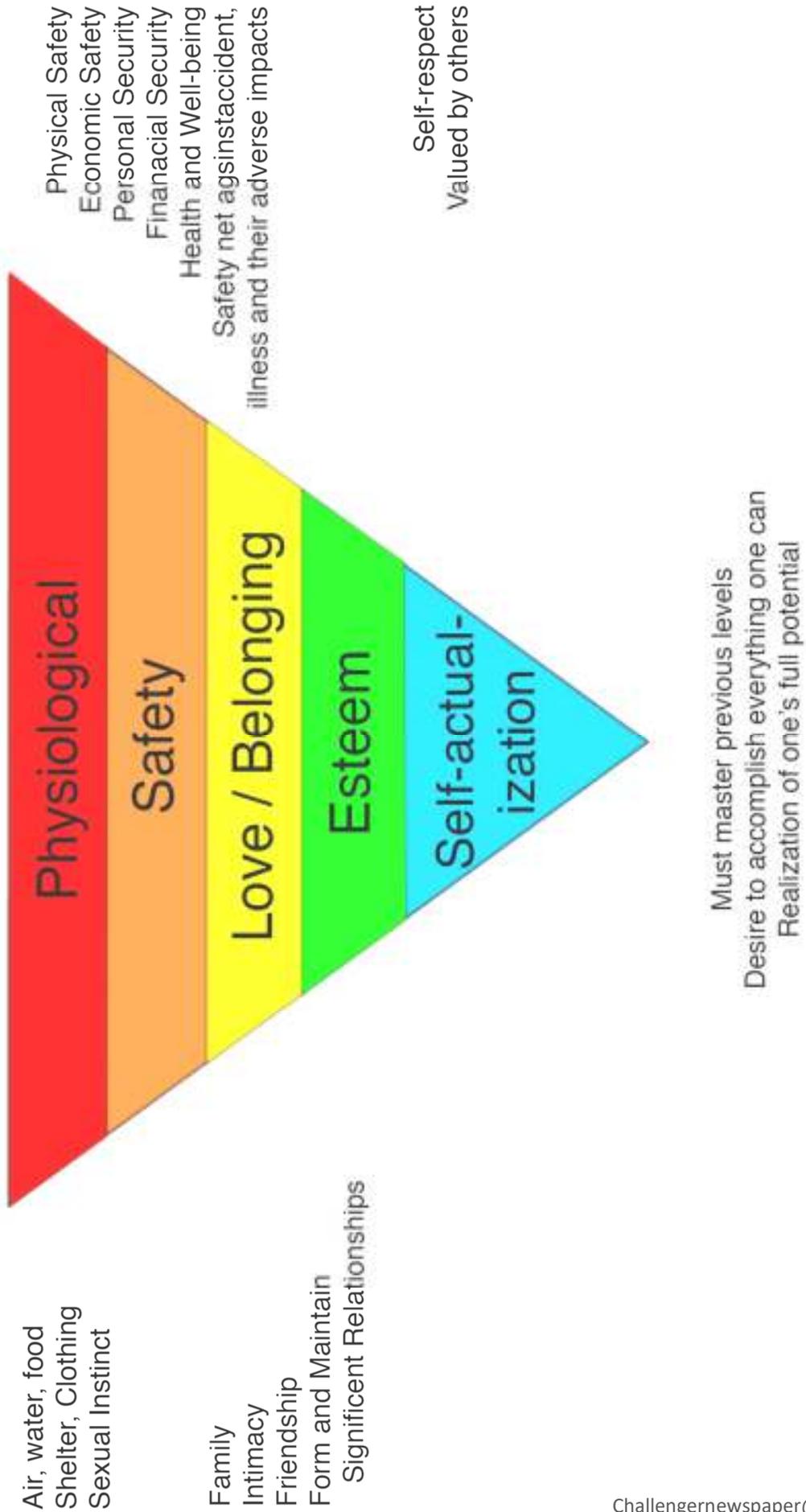
CARTOONS BY ANDY STECKEL



ART

By Kaye Lee





MY RECENT TRIP TO SHERWOOD FOREST

BY TWINKLE TOES 1ST BADGE #490

wakeupalice@gmail.com

Ahh a magical place paying homage to medieval times. A few weeks ago, Twinkletoes and Maid Peas-alot along with a couple of unnamed Friers attended the fair. The excitement had been building for several weeks, The weather had been perfect; warm, bright sunny days. Well, as fate would have it, Texas weather decided to raise its ugly head., The day arrived,,,, cloudy, cold, damp and windy. Needless to say, Twinkletoes was COLD!!

We weren't going to be denied, we sucked it up and made the most of this magical event. We were all looking for Robin Hood. We thought we might have seen him for a fleeting moment.. Where does one start when entering the Kingdom? There are some 150 different activities to choose from. Do you watch skits or theatrical endeavors? Do you see the excitement of the Medieval Joust and hand to hand combat activities, or seeing the Birds of Prey in action all possible but you MUST check the schedules for all activities within the Forest. Visit many of the shops and vendors. Wow, honestly you cannot see everything in a day!!!

We had a great day, but it was cold!! I sincerely hope that many of you will attend some day. It is currently closed but will open again in 2026. I'm hoping that my limited technology will allow me to incorporate several pictures into this article.

Thanks for taking the time to read my review and looking for me on the walking trails. Remember to tell somebody that you love them and have them do the same.



Randy Armstr...

@Randy-Armstron...



venmo



Randy Armstrong
Scan to pay \$Twinkletoes1st

We're coming to get the rapists, the rapist cops! You can't dismiss rape kits any more.

Police rape victims:

Save your rapists DNA for proof.

Take yourself to Grove Avenue—Eloise house 24/7

let them collect a sample for proof. Call 512-267-SAFE (7233)

Don't identify your rapist as a cop.

-By Val Romness

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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