



JUNE 21



summer solstice (June 21)



LESLIE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY-JUNE 24

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

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



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DONORS,

CONTRIBUTORS AND

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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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

**95% Street Reporters**

Leslie Cochran
wrote for the
Challenger our
first 6 months.

Clip Art used
from MS Publisher
We use century
gothic font cause
it uses least
amount of ink.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BUS PASSES**

By Val Romness

Once paper passes run out, it will move to the
new reloadable passes; June 1st



Sign up for Emergency notices from COA:
(737)980-1321

<https://mailchi.mp/austintexas/sms-signup>

Should you
come into
contact
with an
individual
you believe
could
benefit from
outreach,
call the
Sunrise
Hotline

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

Time for a discussion Challenger Will Visit Your Org/Hood

Zoom or in person

**Understanding Homelessness and
building empathy.**

Goals

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

Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



PEACE
LOVE
HAPPINESS



@plhfoundation



LET'S TALK DATA- A GLIMPSE INTO AUSTIN'S HOMELESS MANAGEMENT

AN INVESTIGATIVE SERIES: HOMELESS DATA IN ATX PART TWO BY CASWARM

What was and what will be

Last month I took a brief pause from the series to go over the "New Strategic Plan" and what it means for Austin's most vulnerable. This month we will look into the way homelessness has been managed in the City of Austin since 2021. We briefly explained the Coordinated Entry System and the process of getting connected with case management to get housing. In this edition, we will learn more about what the Coordinated Entry System is as well as how the money is directed.



Coordinated Entry System(CES)

The CES was developed by HUD as a federal requirement for Continuum of Care programs. In 2012, HUD mandated that communities have a centralized intake system, and by 2017, they required every CoC to implement or update their process by January 2018. Local communities like ECHO then design their own systems within that HUD framework. ECHO developed the CES which is used in Austin and surrounding area around 2018. However recently the Leadership Council initiated a redesign of the CES due to the present system having many gaps and it no longer serving the community intended to serve.

How the Coordinated Entry System works:

1. A person completes a Coordinated Assessment(CA) with a Service Provider or Outreach worker.
2. The CA uses a 40 point vulnerability scoring tool (most commonly the VI-SPDAT)
3. The score is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
4. They are then placed into a community-wide priority list
5. When housing units open, the highest priority are referred to Service Providers for Case Management.

ECHO serves as the Collaborative Applicant and the HMIS Lead Agency for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care, working under HUD's framework. In that role, ECHO coordinates and submits the CoC's funding applications to HUD, oversees the Homeless Management Information System, and helps guide the CoC's governance, including setting funding priorities and ensuring HUD compliance. Recently, the Leadership Council for the CoC, the governing body, tasked ECHO with initiating a data-driven process in partnership with our community to redesign Austin/Travis County's CES. This is greatly needed since the current system is outdated and has some major gaps. What role does ECHO play? Here are a few things they manage:

When someone goes through Coordinated Entry, via Coordinated Assessment, they get a vulnerability score. That score looks at things like:

- Length of time homeless
- Physical & mental health

- Risk of death or harm
- Disabilities

Often when someone is advocating for themselves they fail to answer these questions honestly out of fear and distrust or simply because they do not see the relevance. However failure to answer these questions or failure to answer truthfully can cost points which they have placed them at a higher vulnerability index.

Dollar Dollar Bills Y'all!!

This is the part of the data that is in the spotlight and under close examination, yet often misunderstood and as a result causes people to get angry. I admit that was true of myself until I began investigating and researching for this series. While yes it is true that hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in the City of Austin on homeless management since 2021. However something we often overlook is all the various departments that actually includes. Here I will identify the sources of funding, how the budget gets distributed and for what, which non-profits hold the largest contracts, and then I will do my best to answer the question the public wants to know the answer to: Are we getting the job done efficiently and effectively?

In my quest for data, there is nothing greatly available before the most recent years such as 2024/2025. The Homeless Strategy Office Budget Report for the FY 2024/2025 is my source for most of the data included. There are a total of 61 contracts for that year, with some nonprofits receiving more than one single contract. The total budget amount was over \$123 million which came from 5 sources:

1. American Rescue Protection Act(ARPA)
2. City of Austin Budget(General Fund)
3. State Funding
4. Continuum of Care(CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant(ESG) through HUD
5. Private / Local Grants & Partnerships

Major recipients include organizations such as Caritas of Austin, Integral Care, the Austin Area Urban League, and Casa Marianella, among others. These contracts fund a range of services including permanent supportive housing (PSH), rapid rehousing (RRH), emergency shelter, diversion programs, and street outreach.

A review of available contract data shows that the majority of funding is directed toward housing-focused programs. An estimated 65% to 73% of total funds are allocated to housing interventions such as PSH and RRH. These programs are designed to move individuals directly into stable housing and provide ongoing support services.

For example, Caritas of Austin—one of the city's largest homelessness service providers—received contracts totaling over \$19 million across multiple programs, including rapid rehousing and supportive housing initiatives. This level of investment reflects the city's emphasis on housing placement as the primary strategy for addressing homelessness. In contrast, approximately 27% to 35% of funding supports upstream and emergency services, including street outreach, shelter operations, diversion, and homelessness prevention programs. This imbalance has real-world implications. Individuals experiencing homelessness often report long wait times for case management, limited contact with outreach workers, and difficulty navigating the coordinated entry system. While housing resources may exist within the system, the path to accessing them can be inconsistent and difficult to navigate

without sustained engagement.

Where the System Breaks Down

Despite significant investment in housing programs, Austin's homelessness response system continues to face critical breakdowns in implementation—particularly at the front end of the process. One of the most persistent issues is limited outreach capacity. While housing programs receive the majority of funding, outreach teams—the primary point of contact for individuals living unsheltered—remain comparatively under-resourced. This creates a disconnect between available housing resources and the people they are intended to serve. Without consistent outreach, many individuals are never fully assessed, added to the coordinated entry system, or connected to case management. As a result, access to housing is not only limited by availability, but by visibility within the system itself.

Another major breakdown occurs within the coordinated entry process, which is intended to prioritize individuals based on vulnerability. In practice, the system can be difficult to navigate, slow to respond, and inconsistent in follow-up. Individuals may complete assessments but receive little communication afterward, leaving them uncertain about their status or next steps. Capacity constraints also affect case management services, where high caseloads can limit the ability of providers to maintain regular contact with clients. This can delay document collection, housing placement, and long-term stabilization—ultimately slowing the entire system. Additionally, data fragmentation and lack of transparency make it difficult to track outcomes across providers. While funding is distributed across dozens of contracts, there is limited publicly accessible information showing how effectively each program moves individuals from homelessness into stable housing.

These gaps are further complicated by the structure of funding itself. Because resources come from multiple sources with specific restrictions, providers must operate within narrowly defined program requirements. This can limit flexibility and create situations where available resources cannot be used to meet immediate needs. The result is a system where housing resources exist, but the pathway to accessing them is inconsistent, delayed, and, at times, inaccessible to those who need them most. Understanding where these breakdowns occur is essential—not only for improving system performance, but for ensuring that public investments translate into real, measurable outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

What will be.. In coming months I will examine the data on sweeps and the reality of the aftermath, the real cost to perform, and compare that data to other solution-based enforcement options. Please subscribe on our website challengernewspaper.org and remember it is cheaper if you get the yearly subscription! See you next month!!!

Current Projects get involved

- Austin Encampment Impact Project
- For the People Project Communities Sanctioned Encampment Proposal
- In-Real-Time Sweeps Data Tracker

For more info:

profile: www.linkedin.com/in/candinceswarm or
email: aeip.austin@gmail.com

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



STACK

9-3-1959 TO 2-24-2026

WE JUST FOUND OUT IN MAY THAT MARSHALL STACK CONNECTED WITH HIS FAMILY AS HE DEPARTED.

WE PLAN A MEMORIAL FOR SAT JUNE 6,
NOON MONKEY TREE IN ZILKER PARK

STACK WAS BURIED:
TRAVIS COUNTY WELLS SCHOOL RD CEMETERY IN MANOR, TX LOT #27-A-33

RIP
JAMES ANDERSON

RIP
JAMIE



REST IN PARADISE

TRANSOM

MAY 2026



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



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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

AWARE OF MOVEMENTS

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

There are twelve months within a year
Each month you can find something to cheer
Often seen but I'm proud to be a father
So thankful my son in my life is not a bother

I'm thankful for being able to make an income
I often observe those who made the sacrifice for my freedom
Not enough, is better than nothing at all
Each day I am about strength so nothing I've earn will fall

Open minded is my viewpoint of things in this world
Happiness to all no matter your romantic choice
Dreams come true regardless if you are a boy or girl
Unspoken or not, I'm aware that I too have a voice

Movements, I enjoy with or without a penalty
Aware I am for being able to travel positively
No limits or no boundaries, just the fight within me
Open minded I move, even if in the past someone was an enemy



YOUR VOICE MATTERS MORE

THAN YOU THINK BY THOM THE WORLD POET

YOUR BIRDCALL BY MORNINGS

Your sunny disposition(rising)
Your sleeping Siesta smiling
Your Evening Moon Meditations
Your star qualities(shining)
Every verbal articulation
Every Peace Remonstrations
Every syllable of every song
Every step towards Possible Paradises
All lodged in Akashic Records
All remembered by the air around and within
All signals sent to and from /above and below
Everything has consequences(Everyone,too!
Warring worlds of conflict can deter and distract you
Your Peace,serenity,Meditations,songs live within you
Can you hear yourselves sing?

STACK

By JOHN CURRAN

Stack is gone. That's big! I knew him probably as well as most. We had our ins and outs but mostly I was sorry to hear it and sorry that we never reconciled our bad problem that colored my last year in Austin.

Been five years about 'n I was about figuring I've slipped all that old Austin stuff but hearing this news does bring me back. Like has been said, the past is not really past, it's always here too, with all the rest. Some things, places, people, ya never forget.

Stack was one of those. As representative of the old Austin that I lived for 19 years as anything or anyone ever was. His presence was large, to the point that if there were any returns to Austin as there were, visits, the Art show, whatever, one thought was always in my mind namely that probably at some point I'll run into Stack and then what then? Will we finally settle it? Down and dirty style, or can we just maybe shake hands 'n forget it? I never did rip him off but I knew it was much more than that.

Stack, in his big guy way, was I believe much disappointed in me and my continuing inability to shake that damn crack habit, crack, the scourge of Austin and me just giving in to it though it really only fueled



Photo by Val Romness 7-2021

the self disgust I was feeling about myself there at the end and the burnt out feeling I was carrying in those last days towards the town that I had known so well for 19 years, the old Austin, Stack 'n all the rest of us we know who we are and how much fun we had. But the change, oh boy the changes, forces beyond all our control.

Stack was disappointed in me and called me on it. I had to leave it all to finally shake that monkey, but I have. I just wish I could see him now to let him know that yeah Stack finally I know what really bugged you 'bout our friendship but that is all over now so let's just get on with something else like jamming guitar. And yeah, I love you too, always.

I guess I just never knew it, at the time.

GET READY FOR HEAT & HOW TO STAY COOL

Summer Info
Due to extreme heat, all Parks and Library facilities will serve as Cooling Centers during normal operating hours. They have AC, water, and bathrooms. Included is a list of locations.

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

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
ACT FAST • Move to a cooler area • Loosen clothing • Sip cool water • Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve <i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i>	ACT FAST CALL 911 • Move person to a cooler area • Loosen clothing and remove extra layers • Cool with water or ice <i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i>

Heat Exhaustion Symptoms: Dizziness, Thirst, Heavy Sweating, Nausea, Weakness

Heat Stroke Symptoms: Confusion, Dizziness, Becomes Unconscious

Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!

Logos: CDC, MOSH, NIOSH

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!

We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

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

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

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

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

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

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

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

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

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengernewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
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It Works!



JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

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

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

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



Thurs/Jueves 12-6 pm

Fri/Viernes 12-6 PM

Sat/Sabado 11am-6 pm

Sun /Domingo 12-6 pm



Treasure City Thrift

Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!

5201 Cameron Rd.
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

NOW OPEN

Challenger Directory of Resources

Updated 6/2026

Please notify

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

if you notice changes to the directory

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233

SAFE 512.267.7233 www.safeaustin.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 TRAFFICKING 1 (888) 373-7888

or text "BE FREE" TO 233733

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

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

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

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

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

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

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

BATHROOMS:

-Public Restroom 4th & Trinity
-Public Restroom 6th & Brazos
-Portapotti 7th & Trinity
-Portapotti 6th & IH35
-Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday -- Friday
-Libraries
-Near city trails

Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers
Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:
Bartholomew Pool
1800 E. 51st St East
Barton Springs Pool
2131 William Barton Dr Central
Springwoods Pool
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest
Balcones Pool /closed for season
12017 Amherst Dr. North

Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am
M-F— 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
M-F— Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
The Other Ones Foundation A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

Barton Springs Pool

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

LAUNDRY:

Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles.
Each location 9am-12N
Unscented soap available.
M— Sunrise Navigation Ctr—4430 Menchaca Rd
Tu-Violet Storage—700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)
W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183
W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church
12675 Research Blvd.

FOOD:

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

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

Caritas of Austin: Housing, food, educ, employment, veterans assistance. Housing programs require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily

Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027 Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM caritasofaustin.org

Central Presbyterian (200 E. 8th, corner of 8th and Brazos) Breakfast Thursdays 8-9 am, limited space, clothes and toiletries. 512-472-2445 cpcaustin.org

El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission:

Community Health Worker Training, Adult Educ, Youth Progs, Vaccines and Health Literacy. Office hours: M-F 9a-5p, Food Help: T/Th 8a-10a 7000 Woodhue Dr, 512-439-8900, ElBuen.org

Foundation Communities' Prosper Health Coverage program provides FREE help for all people to find and use affordable health insurance or other health coverage programs. We have phone and in-person advice available. Call 512-381-4520, email enroll@foundcom.org, book an appointment online (<http://prosperhealthcoverage.org/>), or visit one of our community Prosper Centers at 5900 Airport Blvd. or 2900 South IH-35 from 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday

Foundation for the Homeless / Feed My People

Tuesday/Thursday breakfast 5:30-7 am.. First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Showers, AA meetings, a clothing closet (Thursday only), showers, and haircuts (every other Thursday).

Gateway Church - Feed the Community Food Pantry, 7104 McNeil Dr. Wednesdays 9-11am

Green Doors' veterans (transitional housing) and affordable housing residents (affordable rental or PSH with vouchers) until capacity is full. They may require a brief hotel stay for folks seeking to join the transitional housing program (and Green Doors would cover the cost); affordable rentals are immediate admission because they are single occupancy. info@greendoors.org or 512-469-9130 for information or applications.

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

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

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

University United Methodist Church/ Open Door Ministry: breakfast & clothing every Saturday from 8-9 am. 2409 Guadalupe St.

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

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

Resource Directory con't

Updated 6/2026

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

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

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

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

Workforce First: Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently unhouseed. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

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

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

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

REFERRALS:

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

Arcilinc.org
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349

VETERANS

▲ VETERANS ▼

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

Texas Veterans Commission
www.tvc.texas.gov

V. A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Caritas of Austin: 7th & Neches. Community Kitchen is serving lunch M-F 11 AM-12:30PM. Our clients receive case management/housing stability services and groceries through our food pantry. The lobby has public access to water, bathrooms, phones and

info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

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

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

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

Barton Springs Pool

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

SHELTER:

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

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

Marshaling Yard: Appointment only.

Esperanza is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

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

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

YOUTH:

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

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

Street Youth Ministry 2008 Justin Ln

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

SENIORS/ELDERS:

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

Call for locations, 512-450-0844

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

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

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

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

MEDICAL, DENTAL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KIND CLINIC Austin-Koenig Suite 200 Free HIV/STI walk-in testing No appt Mon-Fri 9 am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm 1-833-WE-R-KIND (1-833-937-5463) kindclinic.org

THRA TX Harm Reduction Alliance 512-893-3237 Drop in 1803 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mon-Thurs 11:30-2:30 pm Wed 3-5 pm. We offer support for people who use drugs, including tools, resources, and overdose prevention.

RecoveryATX.org Peer recovery/support 512-553-2683

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

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH:

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Directory continued

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

Mental Health Information Help Line
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), M-F, 9-5, CST

Healthcare for Homeless HUB *co-located with Lonestar Circle of Care* 3000 Oak 512-532-9961 for appt.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)
1165 Airport Blvd Walk in M-F 8a-10p and Saturday/Sunday and holidays from 10a-8p.

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

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

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

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

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

We Can Now Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

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

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

Austin Mental Health Community (S.H.A.C.) Self Help and Advocacy Center Drop in. M & Tu 11:30-4:30 W-F 9-4 3205 S 1st St. 512-442-3366

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

Applicant must: Be 18 yrs, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, or peer specialist, etc.). We do not require Doctor's referral letter. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th St (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Antonio St. Austin, Tx

LEGAL:

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

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

Camp Ban Tickets TX Fair Defense Project

512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs 10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild hotline 512-817-4254

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

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

UTILITIES:

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

CLOTHING:

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

Really Really Free Market
Last Sunday 2-5 PM
Treasure City Thrift Camron Rd

FREE HAIRCUTS:
Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

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

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

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:

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

HOUSING

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

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

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

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

Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens
HIV Housing Complex
5606 Roosevelt Avenue

The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

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

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

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

Community First! Village Micro homes, trailers, canvas tents. mif.org Hogeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

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

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

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

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

ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO

"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105 Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM (Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM) Art supplies provided for FREE! Participation allows each artist to be in the annual show in October!

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

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

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

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

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

Government phones:
<https://lifewireless.com/>

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

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

CODE OF CONDUCT

Challenger Newspaper

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

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

We need to police ourselves or the police will.



Homer The No Longer Homeless Goose's Demands

By Challenger Newspaper

- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of ppl's things away! It's illegal & immoral.
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- 8th St. Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Make phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase Federal, State, County, City funding for homeless services (increase private sector funding, also)*
- *Austin Living Wage \$24/hr*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 35 to 80 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed \$18,000 (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society and go back to work.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cold weather shelter Now allows pets; must be leashed and will stay in a crate near you.*
- *Couples can now stay together at some shelters!*

THE WORLD WAS MY HOME

By DON MATHIS

I was 19 in 1970 and lived without a home — by choice. But don't call me homeless, the world was my home. My fellow vagabonds called ourselves 'street people.' We crashed in parks and people's porches, on a new friend's floor or somebody's old couch. I lived on the streets and on the road — in San Antonio and Austin and from Texas to California. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band set the day's fashion — and I picked up a WWII Navy Pea Coat at the surplus store for a buck.



(images from <https://1960sdaysofrage.wordpress.com/2021/02/19/the-rag/>)

I sold The Rag in Austin to make ends meet. Other times, I panhandled for food or cigarettes. I would approach a stranger and ask, "Do you need a penny?" "No," was the inevitable reply. "Great," I would add. "Can you give me the penny you don't need?" I found humor was a great way to dismantle defenses. Folks are more apt to part with spare change if you make 'em smile.



(Keep on Truckin' - image by R. Crumb)

walks to draw attention; "Keep On Trucking" with elongated cross-legged steps in unison. We would sing original ditties in barbershop quartet style — even though

we hadn't visited a barber for a year. Entertainment has value, and we would offer it for free in hopes of a few coins.

A friend introduced the concept of asking restaurants for food. No, we didn't go to the back door or the kitchen. We would enter the front door of a cafe, ask the hostess if we could speak to the manager. And ask the boss for a meal.



(Roy Rogers Family Restaurant near Nueces, image from https://www.reddit.com/r/Austin/comments/ejwpx6/mlk_blvd_nueces_st_looking_east_1972/)

Sometimes we would eat a free steak dinner at the Hungry Farmer. Or get a Ranch Hand Platter at Roy Rogers. Other times, we were asked to do some work, like picking up trash in the parking lot or washing dishes.

More than once, after accepting these menial tasks, the manager would see our sincerity and call off the work detail. And he would interrupt our task with a bag of burgers and fries. And we would wash the trash off our hands and dig in!

I learned how to recognize cop cars at night from four blocks away. I was routinely questioned for suspicion of something.

I never got arrested for loitering. I did get busted for vagrancy one time; spent five days in jail. Got mugged a couple of times.

By and large, life was good; I lived it on my terms. Until I was drafted.

But that's another story.

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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



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Lorenzo
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Erick The Dream
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Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
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Sabrina Oberg
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Patricia Rose
Badge # 358
Around town
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Pearlie Blue &
Debra Miller
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Photo By Val Romness

CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



WON'T PEOPLE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME?

BY RYAN DOWD

Question

Dear Ryan, Won't some people take advantage of me if I treat them with empathy and compassion? Judy

Answer

Yes. But that's ok, though, for a few reasons:

FIRST: It is inevitable.

Some people will take advantage of you no matter how you treat them.

If it is going to happen anyways, wouldn't you rather live a life of compassion and empathy?

SECOND: Empathy is the most effective way.

No, empathy doesn't work 100% of the time.

It does, though, work more often than any other approach.

THIRD: Compassion and empathy do not mean "anything goes."

You can ask someone to follow the rules with compassion.

You can ask someone to leave with kindness.

You can even have someone arrested with empathy.

FOURTH: Hope is a choice.

We each get to choose whether we believe in humanity.

If we choose to see the good, will we sometimes look like fools? Yes.

Of course!

Would you rather risk foolishness or live in the dark cloud of cynicism that assumes the worst in people? You have to choose.

Cynicism destroys the human spirit and corrupts the soul... and it is ruining our world.

You have to decide whether you believe in humanity.

Your answer has far-reaching implications for your life... ... and the world.

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.
RyanDowd@homelesslibrary.com



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BEWARE OF ESPINOSA

PHOTO BY JULIAN REYES



R.I.P.—STACK'S LAST FB POSTED LYRICS

Facebook post from Marshall stack 7-29-25

This morning when I got out of bed
 Wouldn't anything
 go my way.
 And I could tell by the
 pounding in my head
 it was going to be one
 of those days.
 My eggs were cold and my toast was burnt
 I thought it was Friday
 but I found out it weren't .
 My car wouldn't start
 I was late to work.
 On top of all that
 my boss called me a jerk.
 And that's why I must be a guitar, that's why everyone
 is always picking on me.
 Or maybe I'm just misery
 searching for some company.
 If you've ever felt like this
 where you thought it was
 wrong just to exist.
 Wouldn't nothing bring you up, just gonna be down.
 Feeling like a poor wet homeless hound.
 If it weren't for bad luck
 wouldn't be no luck at all.
 Feeling so low, feeling so poor, got to get up just to
 crawl. Then you might be a guitar, and that's why eve-
 rybody's always picking on you. Or maybe you're just
 misery searching for
 something to do.
 (wowzer,wowzer,woo,woo.
 Oh me, Oh my.



ART BY ANNETTE R. KOVAC



SWEEP AND MOVE

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

Hello all, I hope everyone had a great month last month. This article I figured let's talk about these sweeps in Austin.

First off it's understandable and rightfully so to move someone or several when there downtown and leaving trash, causing a scene etc because yes this is the capital of Texas and we have alot of tourists that come and alot of businesses depend on their money so yes i understand.

But when someone "unhoused" is being clean, kept, not bothering tourists or locals and minding their own business and trying to stay out of the way and they are told to move on,(Not talking about tents yet) that's messed up.

So these people try to go out into the woods away from traffic and so on. And then the seeps are scheduled and they go out to the woods and HUNT THEM DOWN and tell them to move on or else!! Well that's messed up i think. I mean other than camping for months because then they have squatters rights in America (that is what a forest official will tell you and move you after two weeks).

ok but what about just telling them to move to another spot then after two weeks like they tell the RV campers? But now they don't and last winter 2 days before the coldest days of the year they did a sweep and took everyones cold stuff. Now tell me that was a good thing!

I stay around cameras and security guards and yes they sometimes tell me to move on but when I set a tent I break it down by first light and leave no trash. That to me is the best way if you have to be outside then be about yourself and there's less attention.

Last year almost 300 unhoused people died and there was a memorial service. They have been doing so for over 30 years and they planted a tree 30 years ago in memory of unhoused folks that died.

Wow, I never went to anything like that before and I'm really glad I did. We gathered and there were speakers and they had all the names of the lost on little papers with paper clips and strings on the tree and all that attended grabbed however many and as the



Photo By Julian Reyes

names were called out we clipped them on the strings.

I mean wow I'm glad I was there and sorry for all that died. But the sweeps. That big rain last month on the 19th just less than an hour before I watched people get moved from a park where there was a big roof in the center and they raced up and down the street making sure nobody was under a roof around any businesses. saying nope move, can't be here find shelter somewhere else. There were about 20 units racing around. After park hours and business hours. I had shelter and they didn't know about it obviously. I mean of course if their drug attics smoking their drugs and being loud and leaving trash of course off to jail or at the least move on and rightfully so that should happen.

And I'm not saying it's cool to be homeless. It sucks and so on. I hate it and I'm working on my situation but there's many levels of homelessness. Some people have mental problems and or other disabilities.

But this is America and actually people have been sleeping under the stars since Adam and Eve but today its illegal? hmm let's talk AI, AI has and is taking thousands upon thousands of jobs right now. They're hitting transportation, freight, and wearhouse right now. The biggest freight companies are testing driverless 18 wheelers right now.

And the medical industry was thought to be safe but there are robots right now in China and Sweden doing heart surgeries with 98.9 percent accuracy. They actually also said that everyone in college right now by the time they graduate AI will have their jobs. 5 years from now there's going to be more homeless.

People want to complain about foreigners and illegals taking jobs from Americans and yet I hear almost nobody talking about this. Unbelievable but yes it's true research it and it's all over because its really happening.

So next time you see an unhoused individual know that 80 percent of America is two checks from being in a similar situation. Hope everyone's month goes well. I hope everyone makes millions and wish the best for everyone.

TURQUOISE PICK-UP ~A POEM, A MEMOIR

By Annette R. Kovac

Over ~ 20 years, I've tried to write about this damned truck. It happens to be this well-intentioned, miserable way, life in my life's sway. Here it is though, this sad blue story. Y'know, each time reminds me of how long CindyLou has been in heaven, i.e., it's meaning being dead before me, not us simultaneously. She's my little girl, blue heeler, she was just 14, you see. Like my grandpa, gone too fkg early.



The turquoise pick-up truck belonged to my Grandpa, in San Antonio, in 1973. A city of vibrant colors, persons & nationalities. My Grandpa loved turquoise, Shiner Bock, Winstons and us grandbabies.

Where I lived for about 5 years... on 49th St. & I-35 in this goddamned city, CindyLou, our cats & kittens, our Infiniti and me, there's an awesome mural, at 35/51st St. just before where the sno-cones were... soooo awesome because it depicts the exact model, color, year as turquoise as can be, with a darling blue heeler



running alongside happily. The way we were, the color, the heeler, damn near as supercalifragilisticexpialidocious as Grandpa & CindyLou are (or as they say, used to be).

Now stop, start, backspace,

move over, move forward, get straight, go ahead, it's not too late... to remember (& to thank Devo for the advice and objectives)... What heaven to me would be... when I hopefully soon exit, would be for Grandpa to put us all in his turquoise pick-up, Grandma, CindyLou & me, even Daddy...and take that road trip from Texas to Disney, circa 1973.

With a case of Shiner Bock for Grandpa and Daddy (Grandma didn't drink)... in back with CindyLou, and Peppy dog and I, driving under fck_all fascinating, twinkling stars and deep sea midnight blue, movie sky. Willie Nelson & Tanya on the 8-track, nighttime seemed to go on forever. Spellbound by stars across Texas to the West, better than the Disney teacups ride, the turquoise pick-up, this six pack of beings could take us to the Moon ☐ the heavens...any place but here and now. See?

Ruminating, riding in nostalgia. Lord, help me memorize the not presently, please make it Earth shattering. Idk what to do about the mural sparking thoughts, memories.

Too much rhyme time alive, with little reason, not enough dying. How 'bout a Townes song on that note, to make blue bluer. Jesus Neil. What to do. CindyLou, turquoise truck, grand pere et mere, bebo too...how I miss you.

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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!



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