

AUSTIN360 | D1

## NEWS YOU CAN USE ABOUT OOZE

Everything you wanted to know about slime but didn't want to ask a kid



SPORTS | C1

## AUSTIN FC GETS FIRST MAJOR SPONSOR

St. David's HealthCare's name will adorn MLS team's training facility and practice jerseys



# Austin American-Statesman

Thursday, May 23, 2019

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86TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

# Day care reforms win approval

Four bills set to pass following Statesman investigation

By Sean Collins Walsh  
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Texas parents dropping their children off at day care centers will soon have more

Inside

EXPANDED COVERAGE, A7-A8

reasons to be confident that their kids will be kept safe, thanks to a series of child care reforms lawmakers are adopting in the final days of

this legislative session.

The bills, pushed by a bipartisan group of representatives and senators from Austin, Houston, Laredo and College Station, will mean that:

- Regulators will have more tools, including stiffer fines,

See **DAY CARE**, A5

WHAT WE REPORTED

In December, the American-Statesman published "Unwatched," a three-day, 12-part investigative series that found nearly 90 children had died of abuse and neglect suffered in child care facilities since 2007, while an additional 450 were sexually abused. Though thousands of children have been injured, lax oversight has allowed hundreds of day care providers with scores of violations to continue operating without serious consequences.

# Seduced by suburbs



INSIDE | A4

## TRUMP WALKS OUT ON MEETING

President demands an end to investigations of him by Congress

Judge nominee questioned over abortion

# THE PLANNER



**The County Line on the Lake is once again hosting a beer-soaked fundraiser for the Turtle Survival Alliance in honor of World Turtle Day.** (ARIANNA AUBER / AMERICAN-STATESMAN)

## Dining

**Turtlemania.** County Line BBQ will celebrate its turtle customers — and human ones, too — with the return of this World Turtle Day event. Head to the restaurant on Lake Austin for \$10 pints of Hops & Grain's River Beer in a souvenir pint glass, proceeds from which will go toward the Turtle Survival Alliance's North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group. You'll also learn more about the turtles that are plentiful in the area around the restaurant. Refills of the beer are \$4. 5:30 to 8 p.m. May 23. Free. 5204 FM 2222. facebook.com/events/2563861113645886/.

**Hot Luck Festival.** Food and music get combined at this weekend fest that celebrates the fire of creativity required to make both happen. Founded by James Beard Award winner Aaron Franklin, Mohawk owner James Moody and Feast Portland co-founder Mike Thelin, the Memorial Day weekend event features big names in food and music, including Alon Shaya, Gabriel Rucker and, of course, Franklin on the culinary side. Lucero, El Tule and Salmon Leftovers are among the live performers. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the SAFE Alliance. 6 p.m. May 23-25, 2 p.m. May 26. \$10-\$550. Various locations. hotluckfest.com.

## Music

**Texas Artist Series: Guy Forsyth's Hot Nut Riveters.** Experience the rich diversity of Texas's cultural heritage with the Bullock Museum's Texas Artist series exploring everyone from world-renowned concert pianists to cutting-edge filmmakers. This time, local blues musician Forsyth gives a performance in the Texas Spirit Theater at the museum with his seven-piece acoustic ensemble, the Hot Nut Riveters. Prior to the performance, there will be a reception with light bites and a cash bar. 7 p.m. May 23. \$15-\$20. 1800 Congress Ave. thestoryoftexas.com.

## Gardening calendar



**The Josh Abbott Band performs at the Lone Star Jam this weekend.** (CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS LEBLANC)

## Memorial weekend events are plentiful in Austin

### 1. The Paramount Summer Classic Film Series

**7:30 p.m. May 23 and additional dates and times through Aug. 31. \$12-\$60. The Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress Ave. austintheatre.org/film/classic-film-series.**

This year marks 44 years of bringing classic films to Austin for the beloved series. The three-month-long series will feature more than 125 films, from romance and comedy to thrillers and chillers with well-preserved film prints and typically sharp digital restoration. The series once again opens with "Casablanca" on Thursday. A "Crazy in Love" theme continues that weekend with "When Harry Met Sally," "Moonstruck," "It Happened One Night," "His Girl Friday" and "My Fair Lady." Find the lineup in full on the Paramount website. Joe Gross

### 2. "Dex & Abby" at Ground Floor Theatre

**8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday through June 1. \$25. 979 Springdale Road, Ste. 122. 512-840-1804, ground-floortheatre.org.**

What if you and your dog could talk? That's the basic



**"Casablanca" and other beloved movies about love are kicking off another season of the Paramount Theatre's Classic Film Series.** (CONTRIBUTED)

premise behind "Dex & Abby," the sweet, funny tribute to the animal companions in our lives. The play staged by Ground Floor Theatre highlights the lives of Sean and Corey, who are enjoying the beginning of a relationship and their new home, and their dogs, who are not. Abby, Sean's young, excitable and somewhat mischievous dog, must learn to deal with the older and steadier Dex, who has long been Corey's companion and protector.

### 3. The Summer of Poptails launch party at Lone Star Court

**8 p.m. May 24. Free. 10901 Domain Dr. lonestarcourt.com.**

The Domain hotel welcomes summer with the sort of booze that's going to keep the heat at bay. Head to Lone Star Court on Friday night to enjoy complimentary tastings of the new "poptail" flavors (booze-infused popsicles, that is): the Lone Star Sunrise, Cherry Mint Freeze and Sour Grapes. (There will be "poptails" for your furry friends, too.) Come early for the Friday Night Flix screening of the Molly Ringwald film "Sixteen Candles."

### 4. Lone Star Jam at Travis County Exposition Center

**Noon-11 p.m. May 25-26. \$40-\$300. 9100 Decker Lake Rd. lonestarjam.com.**

If that Texas roadhouse country thing is your scene, this annual bash is your jam. Playing Saturday are Josh Abbott Band, Granger Smith, Stoney LaRue, William Clark Green, Jon Wolfe, Mike Ryan, Shotgun Rider, Copper Chief, Kimberly Dunn and Mason Lively. Sunday's lineup features Turnpike Troubadours, Casey Donahew, Wade Bowen, Jason Boland & the Stragglers, Cody Canada & the Departed, Bart Crow, Read Southall, Shea Abshier & the Nighthowlers, Jaime Wyatt and Grant Gilbert. Peter Blackstock

### 5. Epic Water Balloon Fight at the Jackalope South Shore

**2 to 6 p.m. May 26. Free. 1523 Tinnin Ford Rd. facebook.com/events/359969824624016/.**

With the weather finally starting to heat up, it's high time to cool down with an old-fashioned water balloon fight. The Jackalope is calling it epic for a reason. The bar will be providing tons of pre-filled balloons, water guns and kiddie pools for you to cool off in. You can also BYOB — bring your own balloons. Form a team to help you face the fight, and be ready to get soaked. Drink specials will be available.