AUSTIN EAGLE'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO. 2 · NOV–DEC 2026 · FREE

THE EAGLE OUTPOST



COVER STORY

THE MAN BEHIND THE RED DOOR

Randy Surratt on Sir Rat, the Eagle and the perfect fit

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

AN EAGLE IN A RED DRESS

The Weird City Sisters' fundraiser aims for $5,000

KINK 101

THE HANKY CODE

A field guide to the colors we flag

PERSPECTIVE

LEATHER WILL EVOLVE

Master J. Tebias Perry on honoring our roots without guarding the gates

PLUS: EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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Randy Surratt, co-founder of Sir Rat Leather and the Austin Eagle. His story starts on page 11.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

AN EAGLE IN A RED DRESS

Sister Spinster Doll Noacital of the Weird City Sisters on four years of the Red Dress Party, and why this year's goal is $5,000.

INTERVIEW BY LUIZ SURRATT
PHOTOS BY GUILLERMO GARZA

SAT, NOV 28 · 9PM-2AM
Tickets: scan the code · **Wear red**
Donate & learn more: weirdcitysisters.org
Questions: spinster@weirdcitysisters.org



Sister Spinster Doll Noacital of the Weird City Sisters.

For people meeting you for the first time, could you introduce yourself and tell us about your work with the Weird City Sisters?

My name is Sister Spinster Doll Noacital, and I am a fully professed member of the Weird City Sisters, a local Austin, Texas, house of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the order founded in San Francisco on Easter weekend in 1979.

My ministry is in our community. I am very involved in fundraising for HIV/AIDS prevention: education, access to safer-sex supplies, clean needles for community members who use drugs, and resources for treatment and housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. My ministry is also in the homeless community, finding and working with resources to help that population. And I stand with members of our community who are fighting for equality because of the pronouns they use or whom they choose to love. As a Weird City Sister of Perpetual Indulgence, I found my calling in our community, helping our community.

FOUR YEARS IN RED

2022	$794	ASHwell and SWEET
2023	$1,194	ASHwell and Project Transitions
2024	$3,795	ASHwell and Project Transitions
2025	$3,245	Project Transitions
2026	$5,000+	Goal · Project Transitions

$9,028 raised for local nonprofits since 2022



A Red Dress Party guest, Mr. Austin Eagle and Sister Polly Nomial Fontaine Delulu.

What is the Red Dress Party, and what can someone expect when they attend?

The Red Dress Party is traditionally a night to remember and raise money for those affected by HIV/AIDS. In Austin, it's a fundraiser benefiting nonprofit organizations.

Expect entertainment by local artists and the sexy clientele of the Austin Eagle dressed in red. At past events I've seen red leather outfits and red nearly-naked outfits (I have been known, and photographed, wearing such). Expect a night to be entertained, mingle, fundraise and dance while having a lot of fun.

An interesting fact from our Sistory: San Francisco's Dianne Feinstein initially saw red whenever someone mentioned the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, but she eventually became an important ally to the LGBTQ community. The San Francisco Sisters started wearing red dresses and other red outfits when they met with her.

THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EAGLE

How did the partnership between the Weird City Sisters and the Austin Eagle come about?

My first Red Dress Party was my novice project for the Weird City Sisters house, part of every fully professed member's journey. It was on October 8, 2022, at Elysium Austin. I always intended it to be the Saturday closest to December 1, World AIDS Day.

When the 2023 party came up, scheduling at Elysium proved extremely difficult. One night I was at the Austin Eagle for an event, and I approached Luiz, one of the owners, to ask whether the Weird City Sisters could do an event there. After some further discussion, we had our first Austin Eagle Red Dress Party the last weekend of November 2023. Since then, the Weird City Sisters and the Austin Eagle have partnered to host it every year on the last Saturday in November, close to World AIDS Day.

What does the Eagle bring to the event, and what does the Sisters' involvement make possible?

The Austin Eagle provides the space and a local DJ. During the show, the Weird City Sisters bring the performers and emcee the entertainment while fundraising for the nonprofits; then the DJ takes over and sets the dance floor on fire. Last year the Eagle also started selling tickets online and giving the Weird City Sisters all the money raised, which makes admission at the door more efficient.

The Weird City Sisters bring people into the Austin Eagle, increasing bar and food sales from its delicious in-house kitchen. And we provide a highly entertaining event while fundraising for the nonprofits we name for each party.

Why is it meaningful to bring these two parts of Austin's LGBTQ+ community together for this fundraiser?

It brings awareness to both the Weird City Sisters and the Austin Eagle, blending the two: Sisters dressed as nuns and as guards in leather, alongside Eagle regulars in leather, jockstraps, rubber and gear. And the event provides a safe environment for the community.

FUNDRAISING AND IMPACT

How will this year's proceeds be used?

The 2026 Red Dress Party is November 28, and I hope we can raise over $5,000, making it the most successful Weird City Sisters fundraiser I've been part of planning and hosting. This year's beneficiary, chosen by me and the Weird City Sisters, is Project Transitions, which is dedicated to serving people living with HIV by providing housing and comprehensive support services in compassionate and caring environments.

Is there a particular moment or story that shows you the difference this event makes?

While dressed as a Sister, I have had the opportunity to talk with people in our community whom Project Transitions has helped directly. These people would otherwise be homeless while living daily with HIV/AIDS. This event is very important and has a positive, healthy impact on people's lives.

Why is it important to keep events like the Red Dress Party going?

Fundraising events are vital to help our community find needed resources. The LGBTQ+ community has been through a lot of history, like the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the fight for our equality. We are a resilient community, and we always find ways to strengthen ourselves. ■



ADVERTISEMENT



ADVICE COLUMN

ASK DADDY AL

Gear, etiquette, relationships, first nights at the Eagle: no question too big, too small or too kinky.

Send your questions to outpost@theaustineagle.com

What does being a Daddy mean to you?

Being a Daddy, for me, means owning who I am, living my truth, and using my presence and lived experience to make a difference in the lives of others in the community. It's about providing guidance, being respectful, and offering support emotionally, physically and sometimes sexually. It's about sharing my confidence, strength and kindness in an authentic, supportive, firm, truthful and honest way, all while having fun. I'm a big old goofball, and I say you have to have fun! We get one life; you've got to enjoy it along the way.

Sexually, it means learning how to work with and navigate every inch of the body and mind to bring pleasure that neither of us wants to end.

What's something people often get wrong about Daddies?

There are many things people get wrong about Daddies, but rather than answering for them, let me share a couple of things I got wrong.

— Being a Daddy doesn't mean you have to be in control all the time or have all the answers. It means knowing when to lead, when to ask for help, when to give others room to shine, and when to take the reins and plow ahead with control, respect and wisdom. This Daddy loves plowing, wink wink.

— Being a Daddy isn't always about age. Don't get hung up on that like I did.

— Oh, and being a Daddy isn't just about sex. It can be, and when it is, damn can it be hot fun, but that's just one part of it.

"WE GET ONE LIFE; YOU'VE GOT TO ENJOY IT ALONG THE WAY."

How did you figure out what kind of Daddy you wanted to be?

In my early forties, guys started asking if they could call me Daddy and telling me, "You have a Daddy vibe." But figuring out what kind of Daddy I wanted to be was more about understanding who I already was and leaning into that. I'm a giver, caretaker, teacher and supporter. I'm dependable, truthful and thoughtful. Those qualities have helped shape the Daddy I am, and they are how I show up for my community.

What advice would you give someone who's curious about the Daddy role?

First, understand who you are and what being a Daddy means to you. For me, it's about being authentic, embracing life and being comfortable in my own skin. It's about building trust, showing respect and being someone others can feel safe around, while continuing to learn and grow myself.

What's the most rewarding part of being a Daddy in this community?

Watching someone I've supported, encouraged, advised or guided work through challenges and succeed. It's watching them mature, make better decisions, set healthy boundaries, do amazing work in our community, have lots of fun with life, and become as good as or even better than I am. Damn, that makes this Daddy proud.

— *Daddy Al* ■

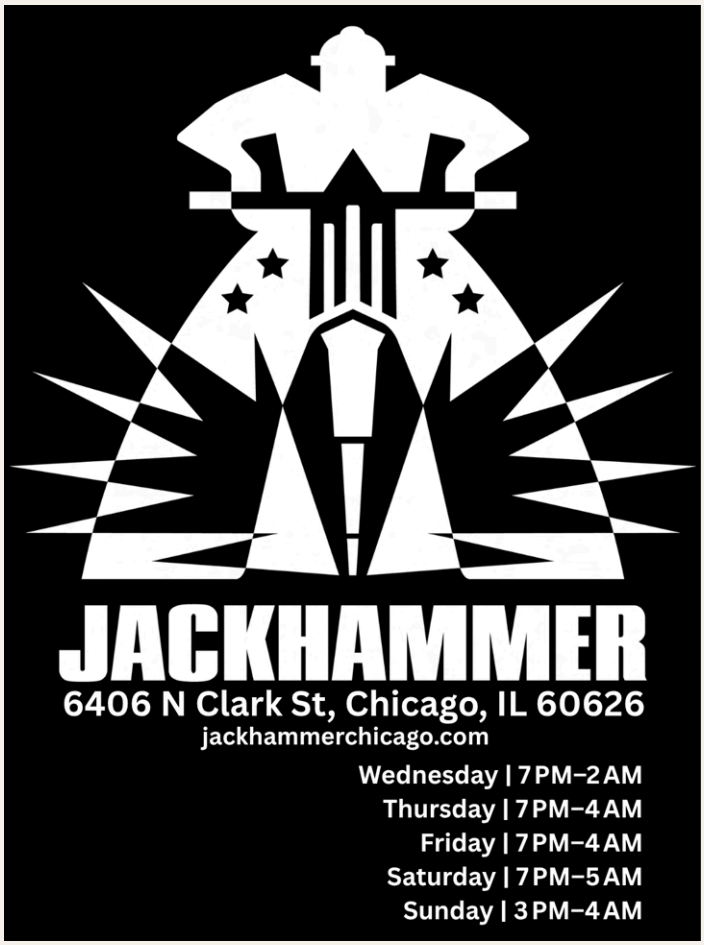
"DAMN, THAT MAKES THIS DADDY PROUD."

GOT A QUESTION?

ASK DADDY AL.

Send your questions and Daddy Al may answer them in the next issue.

outpost@theaustineagle.com



KINK 101

THE HANKY CODE

Born in 1970s San Francisco, the hanky code let men in the leather scene signal what they were into without saying a word: a colored bandana in the back pocket, each color a different interest.

Meanings vary by city and community, and apps have replaced much of it. But it's still a living piece of our history, and you'll still see it flagged at the Eagle.

LEFT POCKET

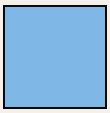
The top: takes the active or dominant role.

RIGHT POCKET

The bottom: takes the receptive or submissive role.



DARK BLUE
Anal sex



LIGHT BLUE
Oral sex



RED
Fisting



BLACK
S&M



YELLOW
Watersports



GRAY
Bondage



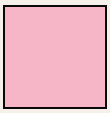
ORANGE
Left: anything goes.
Right: nothing tonight



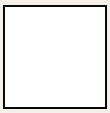
GREEN
Hustler or sex work



PURPLE
Piercing



PINK
Dildo or anal toys



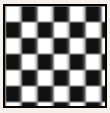
WHITE
Masturbation



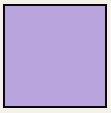
MEDIUM BLUE
Uniform fetish



HOT PINK
Nipple play



BLACK & WHITE CHECK
Safer-sex interest



LAVENDER
Often piercing-related; meanings vary


NS3
HEALTH
Scary Good
Homohexual
Health Care
FREE STI testing &
treatment for when
it burns down
there!
Book your next
appointment now!



COVER STORY BY ELIZABETH BARKLEY

THE MAN BEHIND THE RED DOOR

Randy Surratt, the quiet co-owner of Sir Rat Leather and Gear and the Austin Eagle, on seatbelt harnesses, gray and red, and the hunt for the perfect fit.

PHOTO BY MANUEL GONZALES

Red doors have been an American tradition since colonial times, when a red door told a weary traveler they would be welcome to stop and rest. Red doors have symbolized safe spaces, good fortune and even, according to Randy, brothels. Whether or not you noticed the color, if you have been inside a Sir Rat Leather and Gear, you walked through a red door to get there.

Today we sat down with Randy Surratt, the quiet partner and co-owner of Sir Rat Leather and Gear and the Austin Eagle. Luiz credits him as the heart of everything. He is the man behind the red door.

When did you become interested in leather?
In junior high, when I was in woodworking class.

What was your first gear design?
The first thing I designed was a harness for Luiz, made from seatbelt material.

When did you start wearing leather gear?
Around 2010. My first leather gear was probably pleather. I bought it online for an event. I was worried about whether I would fit in and that people would think my outfit was cheap. At the time, there was Alibaba and little else. There was almost no representation online of men in gear or fetish wear.

"I CAN SEE THE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SMILES."

When and why did you and Luiz come up with the idea for Sir Rat Leather and Gear?
Probably around 2016, when Luiz was working at Apple and I was working at a car dealership. Luiz got tired of my 80-hour work weeks, so he told me to quit my job and make gear full-time. He told me we could buy a house and live on his salary until we started turning a profit. And that is what we did.

When you opened your permanent pop-up at Seller's Underground in Austin, did you plan to open a bigger shop? How long did you think it would take to open a brick-and-mortar store?
I did not plan anything this big at first. Luiz was the one with the confidence. He always believed we would be successful. I don't remember how long we thought it would take, but in the end it took about 18 months for us to start turning a profit.

We began by selling nylon harnesses at Iron Bear when it was at its original location, and then we got the pop-up store at Seller's Underground in 2018, when Jonathan Smith, Dustin White and Adam Stone invited us to be there. We opened our first brick-and-mortar store in 2019 on East 6th Street, moved to the East Cesar Chavez location in 2019, and opened the Houston store in Ripcord and our Houston brick-and-mortar in 2021. Then we opened another store in San Antonio in March 2024.

Sir Rat is a clever play on your last name, Surratt. Did you come up with "Sir Rat"? Was it a nickname or scene name?
Surratt is just my last name. Luiz came up with the spelling "Sir Rat" for the business. I never met someone so creative.

What is your favorite part of the business?
I like the customers: finding out about their fetishes, what makes them feel comfortable and unashamed, and especially seeing their faces light up when they try on the clothes and gear. They feel sexy. I can see the confidence in their smiles.

Do the Sir Rat brand colors have a special significance?

Yes. Gray is no one specific color: no race, no flag, no group, no gender, no age, no orientation. To me, gray is the great equalizer. Red is for a racing stripe. We are in a race to advance our rights and to assert our equality. We use the same colors at all our stores and at the Austin Eagle.

How many Sir Rat locations are there?

We have three brick-and-mortar locations: Austin, Houston and San Antonio. We also have a store inside Ripcord in Houston, and we have pop-ups at leather events and contests around the country. We also have a presence in Germany and London through two wholesale accounts.

Why did you and your partners decide to open an Eagle?

We wanted a safe place outside of downtown Austin where our customers and we could wear gear and not be a tourist attraction, a sideshow, or treated like a prop in a photo. We wanted the freedom to host an event for charity and the flexibility to try new things without asking for permission.

"GRAY IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER."

GRAY

No race, no flag, no group. The great equalizer.

RED

The racing stripe. We are in a race for our rights.



FROM A SEATBELT HARNESS TO THREE STORES

2016
Randy quits the dealership to make gear full-time

2018
Permanent pop-up at Seller's Underground

2019
First store on East 6th, then East Cesar Chavez

2021
Houston: a store inside Ripcord, plus a storefront

2024
San Antonio opens in March

How would you describe the impact Sir Rat, the Austin Eagle and Austin Kink Weekend have had on the local and wider gay community? Did you put Austin on the kink map?

Maybe. I know people come from all over the country and internationally for our contests and Austin Kink Weekend. I know we see more people out in gear than we used to a few years ago. I like to think we had a hand in that.

I think we have helped normalize kinks and fetishes. For instance, although we offer clothing checks for some of our events, we have noticed that most of our Eagle customers come to the bar dressed in gear. That's new. It's bold and shameless. I like it.

Sir Rat and the Eagle host fundraisers for local LGBTQ causes, and community health services offer free testing at your stores. How and why did you go from business to community partner?

There's no Sir Rat or Austin Eagle without the community. We are part of the community we serve. We are them. They are us. The health and welfare of the community is our health and welfare. It's that simple.

What is your favorite dish on the menu at the Eagle?

The Philly cheesesteak.

Many consider you an expert in leather and kink. If you had to pick one thing you're truly an expert in, what would it be? (And why is it cock rings?)

I am a cock ring expert! I must have spent $1,000 trying to find the perfect cock ring for myself, one that fits comfortably, perfectly. Now we have a cock ring for everyone. We fit our customers so they can find the perfect one.

Would it be fair to say you have the largest selection of cock rings in Austin?

In Austin, yes. In Texas, probably. Our selection is huge.

We'd like to thank Randy for sitting down with us. You can find him at the Eagle most weekends, and sometimes working a shift at the store. If you see him, stop by and say hi. ■

"WE ARE THEM. THEY ARE US."

— RANDY SURRATT



GROUP SPOTLIGHT

TGRA SPOTLIGHT

Buba Lopez, Mr. TGRA 2026, on gay rodeo, giving back and why you don't need boots to belong.

INTERVIEW BY PUP PUCK

TGRA AT A GLANCE

Texas Gay Rodeo Association
Volunteer-run nonprofit
More than $3.5 million raised for charity
Austin chapter events at the Eagle

TGRA.ORG



Buba Lopez, Mr. TGRA 2026.

ABOUT TGRA

For people who are new to the community, what does TGRA stand for, and what is its mission?

TGRA stands for the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. We're a volunteer-driven nonprofit that brings people together around rodeo and the Western lifestyle, while giving back to our communities. Our bylaws talk about promoting rodeo, building fellowship and supporting charitable work. For me, that combination is what makes TGRA special. We can have a great time together and make a real difference for somebody else.

What is gay rodeo, and how does TGRA bring people together?

Gay rodeo is real rodeo, with traditional competitive events along with some uniquely fun camp events. It grew out of a desire to make space for LGBTQ+ people and our friends in a Western tradition we love. But you don't have to ride a bull, or even own a pair of boots, to belong. TGRA brings people together through our Texas Tradition Rodeo, chapter socials, performances, fundraisers and volunteer projects. People come for the fun and often stay for the friendships and the chance to help others.

What kinds of community work does TGRA support?

Charitable service is part of TGRA's purpose, not an afterthought. Our volunteers and chapters raise money, collect donations and give their time to causes that help people across Texas. That has included helping people with essentials like food, housing and medication. Over its history, TGRA has raised more than $3.5 million for charities. I also know personally what a community can accomplish: my 2025 food drive collected more than half a ton of food. When people show up together, the results can be remarkable.

How can someone get involved with TGRA, even if they've never been to a rodeo?

The easiest way is to come to an event and say hello. You can volunteer, help produce a benefit show, assist with fundraising, join a chapter, sponsor an event or simply bring a friend. There are opportunities for entertainers, organizers, supporters and competitors. We love introducing people to rodeo, but nobody has to compete to be part of TGRA. Visit TGRA.org and connect with the Austin chapter to find a place to start.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO RIDE A BULL, OR EVEN OWN A PAIR OF BOOTS, TO BELONG."

SERVING AS MR. TGRA

What does it mean to serve as Mr. TGRA?

To me, Mr. TGRA is a service title. The sash and buckle are an honor, but the real responsibility is showing up: representing our members well, supporting our chapters, helping raise money and welcoming people who may not know our community yet. I've been fortunate to meet so many people through TGRA, and I want them to feel seen and appreciated.

What are your responsibilities as the current titleholder, and what do you hope to accomplish during your year?

My job is to represent TGRA positively, participate in events, support fundraising and charitable activities, and be accessible to the people who make the organization work. I've been traveling to support chapter benefits and working with other community groups. I want to keep building those relationships, bring new faces into our events and encourage people to see royalty as a way to serve, not just a title. If I leave more people feeling welcome and more people willing to volunteer, that's a successful year to me.

Is there a moment from the competition or your time as Mr. TGRA that has stayed with you?

One thing that has stayed with me is seeing people come together for a cause, whether it's a benefit show, a rodeo weekend or a food drive. You look around and realize that everybody has brought something: their time, their talent, a donation or simply their support. That's the part of being Mr. TGRA I treasure most.

THE AUSTIN EAGLE AND TGRA

How does TGRA's partnership with the Austin Eagle support the organization's mission?

The Austin Eagle gives our Austin TGRA community a place to gather, celebrate and do the work of giving back. A benefit show or social event needs more than a stage; it needs a welcoming home and people who care enough to show up. The Eagle helps make that possible. That kind of local partnership is how a statewide mission becomes something tangible right here in Austin.

What impact do TGRA events at the Eagle have on the local community?

They do two important things at once. They bring people together for an enjoyable night of entertainment, laughter and friendship, and they give people an opportunity to support a cause. Someone might walk in knowing nothing about TGRA and leave with new friends, a better understanding of gay rodeo and a reason to come back. For example, the Austin chapter's 2025 Halloween Spooktacular at the Eagle benefited PFLAG Georgetown. That's community connection with a purpose.

How do the Eagle and its patrons help TGRA support its charitable work?

The venue, performers, volunteers and patrons are all part of the equation. When people attend, donate, take part in fundraising and invite friends, they help turn a night out into support for people who need it. Just as important, they help spread the word. I'm grateful for every person who gives time, talent, money or space to make those events possible.

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

What events does TGRA organize throughout the year, and which one would you especially encourage people to check out?

Our biggest showcase is the Texas Tradition Rodeo, where you can see the competition and the community all in one place. Throughout the year, our chapters also hold benefit shows, socials, themed parties and other fundraising events. In Austin, we've had events like the TGRA chili cook-off and the Halloween Spooktacular at the Eagle. If you've never been to gay rodeo, I'd especially encourage you to attend the Texas Tradition Rodeo. And if you want an easy first introduction, come to an Austin chapter benefit night and meet us.

How do TGRA's events create a welcoming place for people to connect and have fun?

We try to make it easy for people to participate at whatever level feels right for them. You can come to enjoy a show, volunteer for an hour, meet someone new or discover that you want to get more deeply involved. There's a lot of humor and celebration in what we do, but also a genuine sense of looking out for one another. I think people respond to that combination.

What's coming up next for TGRA, and where can people find the schedule?

The best place to find confirmed upcoming events is TGRA.org and the Austin chapter's official announcements. I'd also encourage people to follow the Austin Eagle's event postings for local benefits and socials. Our annual Texas Tradition Rodeo is a highlight, and there are chapter events throughout the year.

Is there anything you'd like the Eagle community to know about TGRA or your year as Mr. TGRA?

First, thank you. The people who come to shows, support fundraisers, perform, volunteer and bring their friends are what make this work possible. If you've never been involved with TGRA, please don't think you have to know rodeo or know somebody in the organization to join us. Come introduce yourself. I've seen what happens when people open a door for someone else, and that's what I want my year as Mr. TGRA to be about: showing up, giving back and growing together.

We'd like to thank Buba Lopez for sitting down with us. If you see him at one of his fundraisers this year, stop by, say hi and drop a few dollars in the bucket for a good cause. ■



AUSTIN LEATHER PRIDE

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ESTD 2024 AUSTIN LEATHER CREW

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NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2026 · 8201 CROSS PARK DR

EVERY WEEK AT THE EAGLE

	EVENTS	KITCHEN SPECIAL
MONDAY	Dragula Viewing Party with Louisiana Purchase	**$10 Pretzel & Beer**
TUESDAY	Country Night	**$14 Chicken Fried Steak**
WEDNESDAY	Lip Service Karaoke	**99¢ Wings**
THURSDAY	Eagle Trivia, followed by Underwear Night	**$10 Burger & Beer**
FRIDAY	Leather Night (1st) · Hanky Night (2nd) · FUR / Eagle Ark (3rd) · Special Events (4th)	**$10 Draft Beer, 2 Hot Dogs & Fries**
SATURDAY	Austin Gears Gear Night (1st) · Special Events (2nd) · Sports Gear Night (3rd) · Bear Maximum Bear Night (4th) · Unleashed Drag Brunch with Malibu Imported (4th)	
SUNDAY	Sunday Funday every Sunday, 3–7pm, with DJ Todd / DJ Kelly · Southern Ladies, followed by Kink Bingo (1st)	

Special events: Sat Nov 14 Lumberjack Party · Sat Nov 21 Furball · Thu Nov 26 Friendsgiving Dinner · Sat Nov 28 Red Dress Party · Sat Dec 19 Union Suit Party · Sat Dec 26 TGRA Chili Cook-Off. Details on pages 21–22.

CALENDAR PRESENTED BY

Miss Barkley's CANDLES
hand poured coconut wax

KEEP IT LOCAL

THE DIRECTORY

ASHwell
Sexual health and wellness: HIV, STI and hep C testing, prevention and harm reduction.
ashwell.networkforgood.com

Vivent Health
HIV medical and dental care, pharmacy, free HIV and STI testing, PrEP, case management and housing help.
104 E Highland Mall Blvd, Ste 100 · (512) 458-2437

Austin Kink Weekend
Classes, parties, vendors and the Texas Leather Contest.
austinkinkweekend.com

NS3 Health
Sexual health and harm reduction: STI testing and treatment, PrEP, PEP, doxy-PEP, HIV and hep C care.
ns3health.org · 2209 W Parmer Ln · (512) 351-6053

Project Transitions
Supportive housing and support services for people living with HIV in Central Texas.
projecttransitions.org · (512) 454-8646



SATURDAY

NOV 14

Lumberjack Party: The Loggers' Lodge





SATURDAY

NOV 21

Furball Austin

THURSDAY

NOV 26

Friendsgiving Dinner





SATURDAY

NOV 28

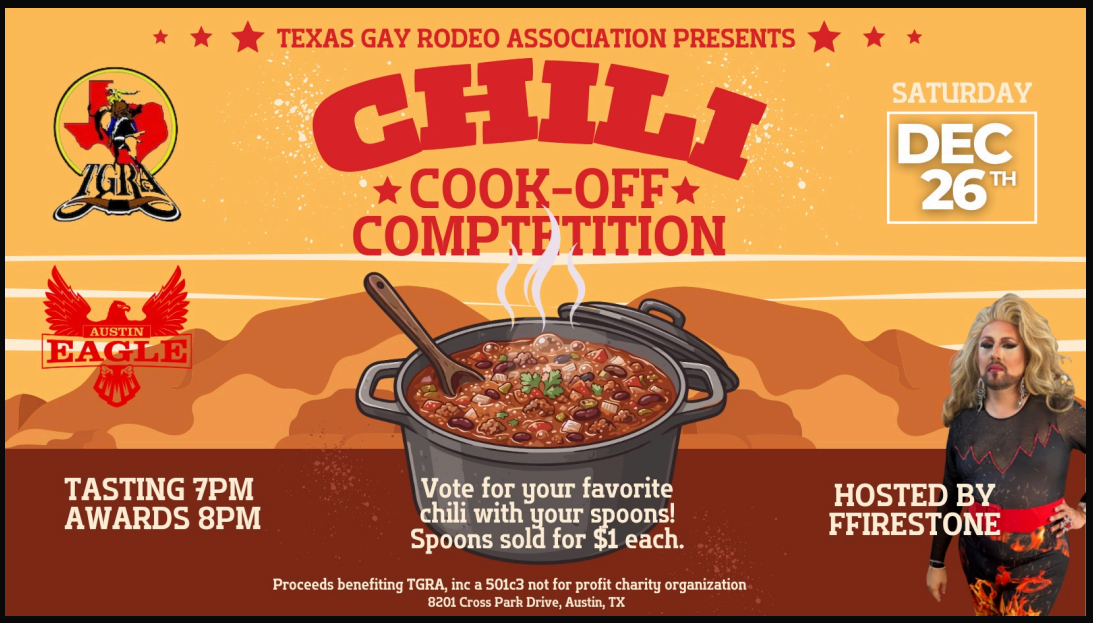
Red Dress Party

SATURDAY

DEC 19

Union Suit Party





SATURDAY

DEC 26

TGRA Chili Cook-Off

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

NO SHAME. NO STIGMA. NO STRESS.

BY LUIZ SURRATT



When we talk about taking care of each other at the Eagle, health has to be part of that conversation. That's why I'm proud to give this issue's nonprofit spotlight to NS3 Health.

NS3 is a nonprofit medical clinic offering sexual health and harm reduction care across Central Texas, with clinics in Austin and San Antonio. Their name says it all: no shame, no stigma, no stress. They treat you as the expert on your own life, offer support and resources instead of rules, and talk about sex with openness and curiosity instead of judgment.

What I love most is how practical they are. They test for and treat STIs, offer PrEP and PEP to prevent HIV, provide doxy-PEP and rapid HIV care, and treat hepatitis C. They hand out condoms, lube and naloxone with no lectures, offer confidential support around substance use, and even work with pharmacies and insurance so you actually get the medication you need.

Too many of us have been judged at a doctor's office. NS3 is the opposite of that. Book an appointment, bring a friend, and if you see the NS3 team at an event, tell them thank you. They show up for our community, and we should show up for them.

— Luiz

CLINICS

Austin: 2209 W Parmer Lane, 78727
San Antonio: 2803 E Commerce St, 78203
By appointment only

CONTACT

(512) 351-6053
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SERVICES

STI testing & treatment · PrEP · PEP · Doxy-PEP · HIV care · Hep C cure · Harm reduction · Recovery support

LEATHER WILL EVOLVE

Honoring our roots without guarding the gates.

BY MASTER J. TEBIAS PERRY



Our Leather community was built on survival, service, and a shared understanding of trust, power exchange, and sexual truth. Many of us came up in a time when simply being who we were took courage. Those experiences shaped our traditions, our protocols, and the bonds that continue to hold us together.

But as the years pass and the gray settles into our beards, we face an important question: Are we preserving our legacy, or are we protecting our place in history?

The Old Guard traditions gave many of us structure, discipline, and a sense of belonging when the world offered us little acceptance. That history deserves respect. But respect for our past should never become an excuse to resist our future. There is a difference between honoring tradition and using tradition to decide who belongs.

Recently, Vince Andrews' *The Old Guard: A Leather History* offered a meaningful opportunity to reflect on where we came from, what we carried forward, and how our understanding of Leather continues to evolve. One truth stands out: beneath the titles, protocols, distinctions, and debates, it is, at its core, just Leather.

That doesn't diminish our history. It reminds us that Leather is bigger than any one generation or individual. Our culture is not a museum, and we are not its gatekeepers. We are its stewards.

As a Black leatherman, I understand that history and belonging matter. I also understand that not everyone experienced Leather in the same way. Our stories are different, our pathways are different, and our contributions do not always receive equal recognition. That is precisely why we must be careful not to turn our personal experiences into universal rules for everyone who follows us.

The next generation is navigating a different world, bringing new conversations around gender, identity, consent, and accessibility. We do not have to agree on every approach to recognize that these voices deserve a seat at the table. And if the table we inherited no longer serves everyone, perhaps our responsibility is to make it bigger.

Mentorship must be an invitation, not an imposition. We have a responsibility to pass down our history, teach safety, model

“OUR CULTURE IS NOT A MUSEUM, AND WE ARE NOT ITS GATEKEEPERS. WE ARE ITS STEWARDS.”

accountability, and share the lessons earned through experience. But we must also remain humble enough to listen, ask questions, and learn from those coming behind us. Wisdom is not diminished by being challenged, and leadership is not weakened by admitting we still have something to learn.

I certainly do not have all the answers. I am still learning, still evolving, and still discovering what service to this community requires of me. That, too, is part of the journey.

Our legacy will not be measured solely by how faithfully the next generation repeats our traditions. It will be measured by whether we leave them a community with more knowledge, greater access, deeper respect, and more room to live authentically than we had ourselves.

We can honor the Old Guard without dismissing the new. We can preserve our history without weaponizing it. And we can stand firmly in what we believe while remaining open to what we have yet to understand.

Because Leather has never belonged to just one generation.

Let us make room for the future—not because our past has lost its value, but because what we built is worth carrying forward.



MASTER J. TEBIAS PERRY

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EAGLE OUTPOST

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Gear on, smiles on ♥













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