



METRO & STATE | B1

SID MILLER GETS PRANKED BY 'BORAT'

Texas ag commissioner to appear in comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's new film



TRAVEL | E1

HOPSCOTCH TO SAN ANTONIO FOR AN ART EXPERIENCE

14 interactive, technology-rich installation pieces premiere in new permanent museum space

Austin American-Statesman

Saturday, October 3, 2020

statesman.com | @statesman | Facebook.com/statesman | \$3.50

Trump hospitalized with coronavirus



President Donald Trump arrives at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Friday on Marine One after he tested positive for COVID-19. White House chief of staff Mark Meadows is at second from left. [JACQUELYN MARTIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS]

President flown to Walter Reed

First lady, senior adviser also test positive for COVID-19 days after rallies

By Courtney Subramanian and David Jackson USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump arrived at the hospital Friday after he and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for COVID-19, raising fresh questions about the president's health.

Trump, 74, went to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, in what aides said was a precautionary move. Officials said they expected him to be there for a few days.

Trump boarded Marine One, the presidential helicopter, en route to Walter Reed, which is about 9 miles away from the White House, in his first public appearance since he tested positive for the coronavirus. Wearing a mask and a navy suit and blue tie, he gave reporters the thumbs up as he walked across the lawn but did not stop to take questions.

In taped remarks before his departure, Trump tried to assure the public that he and the first lady were doing well.

See TRUMP, A4



Trump gives a thumbs-up as he leaves the White House to board Marine One. [ALEX BRANDON/ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Inside

- Trump was scheduled to campaign in Texas before diagnosis, **A4**
- Texas politicians send well wishes to president and first lady, **A4**
- Trump's age, health make him a higher risk for COVID-19 illness, **A5**
- Diagnosis thrusts world into uncertain territory, **A5**

'COVID-19 can touch anyone'

Travis County health chief uses Trump's diagnosis as warning for high-risk residents

By Heather Osbourne hosbourne@statesman.com

Several hours after the White House confirmed that President Donald Trump tested positive for the coronavirus, Travis County's top health official said the news should make people like Trump who are at high risk for severe symptoms more vigilant about safety.

Dr. Mark Escott, interim Austin-Travis County health authority, warned that local residents who have high-risk factors like the president, such as being older than 65 or obese, should continue to take the virus as seriously as when the pandemic began. And the rest of the public, he said, should follow suit to protect those around them.

"The news from early this morning regarding the president and the first lady indicates and demonstrates that COVID-19 can touch anyone," Escott said, referring to the disease caused by the coronavirus. "It also demonstrates the importance of having layers of protection within our community."

See COUNTY, A4

Abbott sued over ballot drop-off site limit

Travis, Harris counties were forced to shutter mail-in ballot drop-off sites

By Chuck Lindell clindell@statesman.com

Two Texas civil and voting rights groups have sued Gov. Greg Abbott in federal court, arguing that his Thursday order limiting counties to one mail-in ballot drop-off location was an unreasonable burden on voting rights.

Ordering such a late change – and giving counties less than 24 hours to close multiple drop-off sites – will lead to voter confusion and undermine public confidence in the Nov. 3 election, the lawsuit argued.

"In the midst of an election that is already underway, forcing such new burdens on voters who relied on a different set of election rules to make their voting plan, is unreasonable, unfair, and unconstitutional," said the lawsuit, filed late Thursday in Austin.

Three Travis County locations and 11 Harris County locations were forced to close Friday, when Abbott's order took effect, after officials had been promoting their availability for weeks.

On Friday, the only open Travis County ballot drop-off site was at 5501 Airport Blvd. That's a change from an earlier decision to keep one of the downtown Austin locations open.

Mail-in ballots started going out last month. Voters who don't want to rely on the Postal Service can hand deliver their own ballots after showing a photo ID, signing a roster and submitting the ballot in its designated envelope.

Abbott said his order was an election security measure that limited counties to one drop-off site where poll watchers – designated by political parties and candidates – must be allowed to observe ballot deliveries by voters.

See LAWSUIT, A10

Pay unfair at strip clubs, lawsuit alleges

Dancers say work without wages violates federal Fair Labor Standards Act

By Katie Hall khall@statesman.com

For many dancers who work at strip clubs, it's the norm to pay the club a fee to work there, to work without

an hourly wage and to work beyond 40 hours a week without overtime.

Now, in lawsuits filed in Austin and across the country, women are calling the clubs out on it.

"A lot of these performers are sometimes in difficult economic situations, and they don't have a lot of bargaining power," said Jarrett

Ellzey, the Houston-based lawyer who is representing people who are current or former performers at strip clubs throughout Texas. "And this is the culture – even some of the club owners and managers are surprised by this (information). They think it's OK, because it's been going on for so long."

The lawsuits are targeting three Austin clubs – The Yellow Rose, Perfect 10 and Palazio – and similar lawsuits have been filed against roughly 60 strip clubs throughout Texas in federal court, alleging that the businesses violated the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

See CLUBS, A8



GAME DAY

WHY TCU HAS HORNS' NUMBER

Since joining the Big 12, Gary Patterson's Horned Frogs have dominated Texas

AUSTIN360 TRAVEL+ LIFE



Hopscotch co-founder Hunter Inman looks through one of the "Infinity Boxes" from artist Matt Elson at Hopscotch. [CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE]

Immersive art experience Hopscotch opens in San Antonio

By Cynthia J. Drake
Special to the American-Statesman

Among galleries filled with immersive sound, dazzling lights and video powered by a spaghetti of wires and super-sophisticated technology, it was a simple voice on a phone in one exhibit that stirred Hunter Inman's emotions.

In the final preparations for the permanent exhibit

space Hopscotch in San Antonio, open to the public Oct. 2, Inman listened in on some early submissions to "Secrets," an installation by San Antonio-based Wide Awake Creative, which encourages participants to share secrets by phone. The secrets are churned through a database and anonymously shared with Hopscotch visitors, who hear them over phones.

"There was a teacher, and she was talking about how she cries every day — literally every day in the shower — because she doesn't want to go to work. She's just unhappy," says Inman, co-founder of Hopscotch, taking a long pause. "I get a little choked up, I'm sorry. That level of unhappiness is just so widespread right now."

See **HOPSCOTCH, E3**



A green-themed guest room at the new Hotel Magdalena off South Congress Avenue in downtown Austin.

[CONTRIBUTED BY NICK SIMONITE]

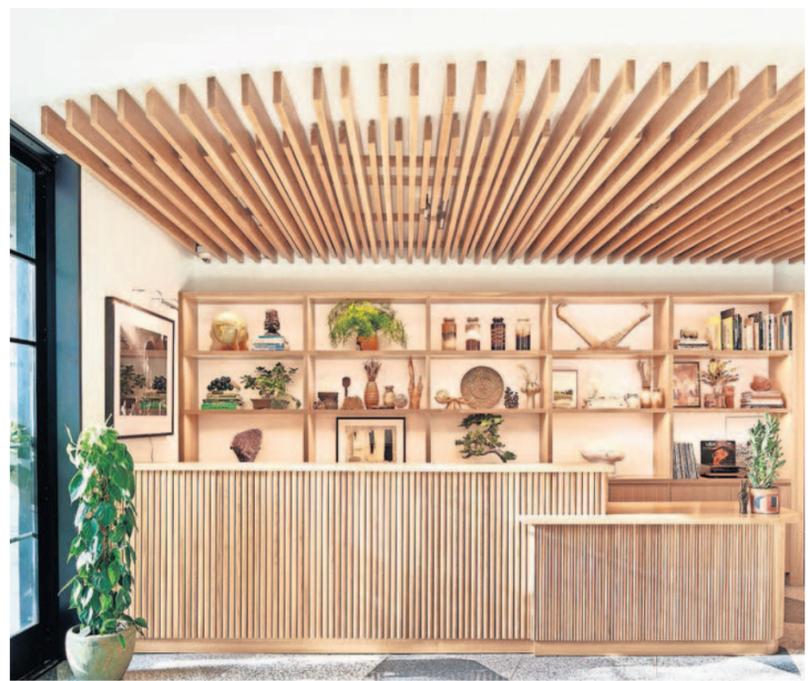
A piece of the lake in the city

10 things to know about Bunkhouse's new Hotel Magdalena on SoCo

By Kristin Finan
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You know Hotel San Jose. And Hotel Saint Cecilia. And the Austin Motel. Now, meet Hotel Magdalena. Austin's Bunkhouse Group has just unveiled its newest property, which is located off South Congress Avenue and was inspired by the city's lake house culture. "It's natural, liberated, airy, earthy and serene. We want this to

feel like an escape to nature, but in the middle of a city," said Tenaya Hills, Bunkhouse's vice president of design. "The story of the hotel is the story of Austin — of live music, the outdoors, and relishing the hot summers in our beloved rivers and creeks. That naturally acted as a springboard for the design elements of the hotel — the pool being our own little swimming hole, the buildings around it inspired by Austin's lake houses in the 1950s, which then informed the materials



The lobby of Hotel Magdalena. The hotel's aesthetic was inspired by Austin's lakeside culture. [CONTRIBUTED BY NICK SIMONITE]

you see and furniture system we designed for the guest rooms."

Hotel Magdalena, led by General Manager Meghan Hughes, who most recently opened and oversaw

Bunkhouse's Hotel San Cristóbal in Todos Santos, includes 89 guest rooms, a dedicated event space, a

See **MAGDALENA, E5**



NEXT WEEK

FALL FUN

Nearby pumpkin patches not to miss in October.

In Blanco, big wheels keep on turning at the Buggy Barn Museum

By Carolyn Lindell
Special to the American-Statesman

Put away that time machine. Visitors to the Buggy Barn Museum in Blanco can feel as though they have landed back in another century by wandering among the many old-fashioned vehicles parked there. As well, an Old West-style town built on the property is used for filming movies and for other events.

About an hour from Central Austin — making a nice week-end jaunt — the museum has about 200 buggies, wagons and carriages displayed inside

and outside. Big, small, black, white, elegant, weather-beaten. Even baby buggies. They date from the mid-1800s and into the early 1900s. New ones keep being added to the collection, with some requiring a bit of fixing up.

"You have to kind of use your imagination," said Jack Rogers, manager of the museum. "There's just so much here. ... I can't pick out a favorite."

Walking among the huge wheels, tourists can find out about the history of many of the buggies from detailed signs.

A highly ornate royal hearse



The sign out front lets visitors know they have arrived at the Buggy Barn Museum. [CONTRIBUTED BY CAROLYN LINDELL]

from Czechoslovakia is black with large windows. Carved angels adorn the corners.

"The royal hearse only carried royalty, not the so called 'common folk,'" a sign reads.

"It came to us in bubble wrap," Rogers said. "I did the

main restoration."

Then he declares: "It's actually haunted," pointing to a photo of the hearse with a cloudy spot of a vaguely eerie image.

See **BUGGIES, E4**



Hopscotch co-founder Nicole Jensen poses with San Antonio artist Gary Sweeney as he works to complete his installation called "Perspective," which employs optical illusion and is modeled on the Ames room, invented in 1947 by ophthalmologist Adelbert Ames. [CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE]



Hopscotch co-founder Nicole Jensen inside "Color Therapy" by Austin's Polis Interactive. [CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE]



San Antonio artist Amada Miller's "A Strange Slant of Light." [CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE]



"Lightlines" is a collaboration between artists in Austin and San Francisco. [CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE]

HOPSCOTCH

From Page E1

Though bearing witness to people's pain — particularly during a global pandemic — can feel heavy, he hopes his newest project will also bring a lot of joy.

"Secrets" is one of 14 interactive, technology-rich art installations premiering in the new permanent museum space in downtown San Antonio. Inman and co-founder Nicole Jensen (founder of Austin Tour Co.) previously created a pop-up Hopscotch in Austin last year on a smaller scale to gauge interest in experiential art spaces. (Los Angeles-based Wonderspaces has since opened an outpost in Austin, offering a similar immersive art experience).

"We've fallen in love with San Antonio and the arts community," says Inman, who is based in Austin and expects to do future installations here as well. "There's so much talent in Austin and San Antonio."

Hopscotch was created by gutting the 1970s-era office space in the Travis Park Plaza Building on Navarro Street to make the gallery space. More than 40 local and international artists are represented. Artwork will rotate periodically, allowing visitors to experience something new when they return. The exhibits are appropriate for all ages.

Exhibits aren't thematic or cohesive, but they do typically share an interactive component that invites visitors to engage with the artwork. For example, there are several exhibits in which the visitor's image is digitally projected or manipulated on a giant screen — in one of them you can even dance with dozens of versions of yourself. In another installation, visitors can graffiti designs onto walls using laser-projected spray paint cans.

"It's about changing your perception — that's kind of our whole vibe," said Jensen after peering through a series of "Infinity Boxes" from artist Matt Elson, which replicate, slice and dice the viewer's image and even map one person's face onto the face of another, blurring the lines of identity. "I hope that when you're in here, you kind of forget everything."

In New York artist Basia Goszczynska's "Rainbow Cave," 40,000 plastic bags (the same number that are thrown away every 2 1/2 minutes in Texas) are scrunched onto every surface to create an otherworldly white "cave" environment, lit with colored gel lights, that feels peaceful and calming.

Austin-based landscape architect Cameron Campbell collaborated with a group for "Lightlines," an earlier

If you go

Where: 711 Navarro St., Suite 100, San Antonio

When: Open Friday-Sunday with a timed, pre-purchased ticket; adults only after 7 p.m.

Cost: Timed tickets are \$23 for general admission; \$20 for students, seniors (65 and up), military, teachers, health care workers and first responder ID-holders; \$15 for children 4 to 13; free for ages 3 and under. Free parking on-site at the Travis Park Plaza Garage. Details at letshopscotch.com.

iteration of which they displayed outdoors at Waller Creek. Upon entering a pitch-black room, visitors see a disorienting forest of electroluminescent wires pulsing with red lights, which change based on the immersive music and movement of people through the space.

"It really kind of rocks your core in terms of movement and your sense of space and time," said Campbell. "When you see it operating, it's a very powerful thing. It kind of speaks to the idea that we're bombarded with technology, and we live in this very digital world, and it's a crazy, fast-paced moving world, but the way we put together the technology gives order to it."

Currently, artwork has been curated with COVID-19 in mind. The entire space has been designed with special air decontamination systems, limited touch points, required temperature checks and masks for visitors and employees, as well as hand sanitizer stations throughout. Advance timed tickets are required for admission, and Inman said they are restricting capacity to well below 25%.

The Hopscotch mantra is "experiences over things" — a message he believes will resonate with audiences in the "experience economy," as festivals, restaurants and stores work to create more experiences, aided by the evolution of social media.

"There's a huge enthusiasm to create something new," he said. "A lot of these artists haven't had the opportunity to kind of go for it and create something that only lives in their mind. When we curate, our primary focus is on creating great in-person experiences that are powerful and engaging."

In addition to art exhibits, visitors can also visit the sunlit-drenched bar on-site offering Texas spirit-focused cocktails and a monthly featured mocktail, in addition to other beverages. The food truck Smack's Chicken Shack will offer a #LetsHopscotch sandwich: a combination of fried chicken, powdered sugar, honey butter and doughnuts, exclusively served at the museum's patio.