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RETURN OF THE
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The Austin Chronicle (ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. 512/454-5766 ©2011 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.

Subscriptions: One year: \$60 2nd class. Half-year: \$35 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.



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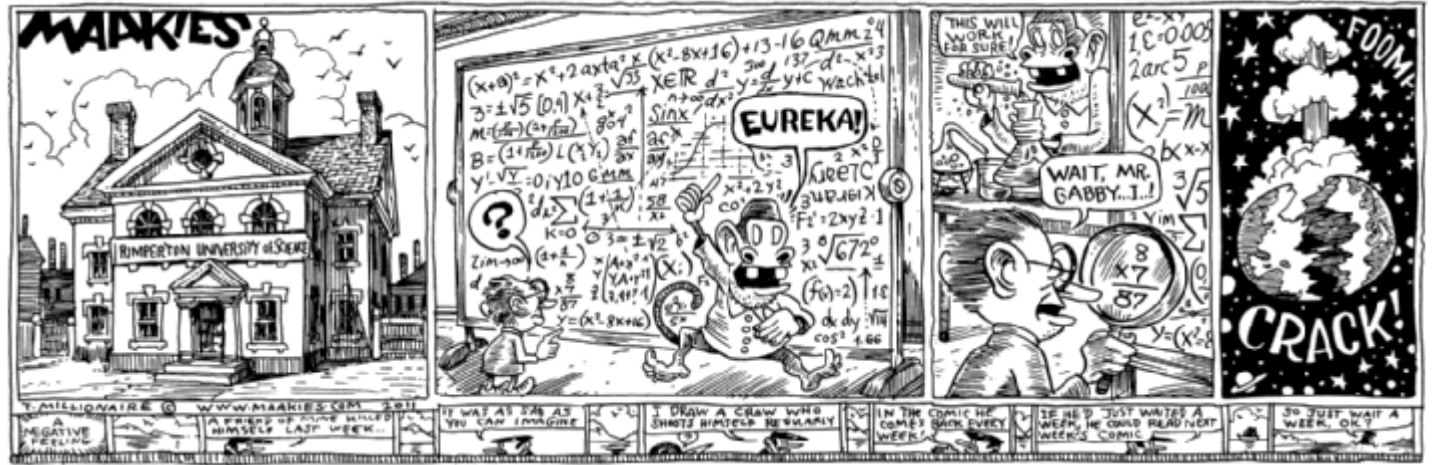
HOPING FOR JUSTICE IN YOGURT SHOP CASE

Dear Editor,

I think the murders at the North Austin yogurt shop were without a doubt the most tragic incident in the history of Austin ["Scene of the Crime," News, Dec. 16]. Four innocent girls were brutally murdered in the most horrific fashion imaginable. The case itself was a near impossible feat, with most of the physical evidence destroyed by the fire department. The crime scene investigation was lacking and not nearly as extensive as it should have been. The interrogation methods used by the police were also coercive and, at best, suspect. In the end, the D.A. used an approach that was blatantly unconstitutional. It seems like the state was not quite up to the difficult task that was placed in front of them. Yet sometimes, the police can conduct a shoddy investigation and the prosecution can present a flawed case, but in the end, somehow manage to get the guilty culprits. I think the police got the guilty culprits. Here is hoping that someday justice will be final and the families of the victims can find some kind of peace.

Mark Guszak

**"PAGE TWO"
IS TAKING A BREAK.**



EXAMINE COMPLEXITIES OF IDEA ISSUE

Dear Editor,

I agree with AISD Board President Mark Williams that the matter of partnering with IDEA to create two in-district charter schools is a philosophical issue ["Kicking Around an IDEA," News, Dec. 16]. Above all, I hope we can expect a vigorous debate that transcends sweeping condemnations of mediocrity and procedural mishaps and instead focuses on the nature and future of charter schools, the strengths and weaknesses of IDEA, and whether the benefits outweigh the costs to East Austin children.

Where I disagree with Mr. Williams and many others is the contention that IDEA will serve as just another choice for East Austin families. I view this as a dangerous oversimplification because unlike the rhetoric suggests, this new

choice will affect – significantly – other schools, families, and most of all, children.

First, Govalle and Ortega will become the bottom rung for students who can't attend or who are later involuntarily removed from IDEA. Texas Education Agency and Texas Business & Education Coalition data suggest that while most likely unintentional, students who struggle the most are less likely to enroll and more likely to wash out of IDEA schools.

Second, Eastside Memorial High School won't see IDEA students until 2013 and then will

coexist with IDEA, slowly shrinking grade by grade through 2018. There is no doubt that the continual changes over the past several years at Eastside have taken their toll on students. Bad enough, but for the next six years, incoming Eastside students will have no choice but to attend a school condemned to a slow death, gradually fading away with fewer means to attract better administrators, teachers, and students.

Finally, struggling with under-enrollment and inadequate yearly progress, Martin Middle School will face the same struggles as Govalle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or email address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

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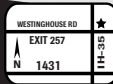
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Holiday Closings

Mind the gaps

The *Chronicle* offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23; Monday, Dec. 26; Friday, Dec. 30; and Monday, Jan. 2. We will resume regular hours on Tuesday, Jan. 3. ■

and Ortega with students who don't succeed with IDEA and as Eastside Memorial to attract administrators, teachers, and students. It's unclear how we expect this school to stay afloat, much less continue to improve.

So to say that we've nothing to lose by moving forward with the IDEA in-district charter school – that it's simply one more choice – is to imply that the potential benefits of IDEA won't also incur very real costs to Govalle, Ortega, Eastside Memorial, and Martin. Whether ultimately right or wrong for Austin, even the most optimistic assessment of the IDEA proposal needs to be weighed against these impacts.

Luke Muszkiewicz

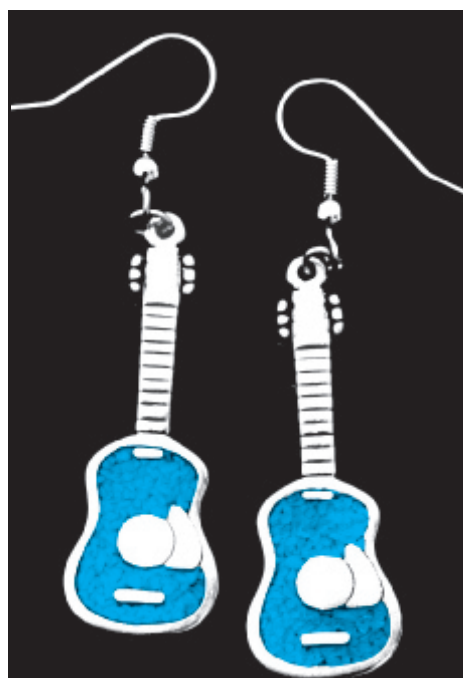
Reader COMMENT

Regarding Bob Schneider:

"My god what is it with this town and its inexplicable infatuation with everything Bob Schneider? The guy's Dan Fogelberg from the Army/Navy store racks." – Patrick Doyle

"Crunk Christmas," Earache! Music blog, Dec. 20
austinchronicle.com/comments

continued on p.8



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SUN. JANUARY 1 - OPEN AT NOON - HAPPY NEW YEARS!

MUSIC SCENE COLUMN STILL NEEDED

Dear Editor,
I would just like to support/echo/reiterate the opinion of reader Joshua Goodman as noted in this week's "One, Two, Tres, Cuatro" column [Music, Dec. 9]. While it is great to occasionally read Margaret Moser wax about the golden age of Austin music "back in the day," and I'm sure there should be a place for these reminiscences somewhere in the *Chronicle*, I really want to be able to see a solid page of Austin weekly music scene "news" in that spot each and every week. If Madge is "too old" to spend her time in the clubs, then for Odin's sake, please find someone who is young enough to take on this chore. You shouldn't have to look very far in this town to find several willing and capable applicants to fill this position.
Donny Payjack

MICHAEL VENTURA: FOG-CLEARING INSTIGATOR, GENIUS

Dear Editor,
Michael Ventura is a genius. This statement is not breaking news to readers of his column nor to Michael himself. The latest example of his genius is expressed in his recent column ["Letters at 3AM," Dec. 16]. While single-handedly Occupying Lubbock, he has enlisted half of Mount Rushmore and that Gettysburg Address dude for the cause.
Normally, discourses on politics or economics fog up the aura of my self-afflicted, consumption-induced psychic coma. But Ventura has managed to set off my alarm clock and clear much of the smoke. It is damned annoying. Stop it, Ventura! Stop it right now! Otherwise I may feel compelled

to stop occupying the couch and stand with my sisters and brothers of the 99%.

James "Big Boy" Medlin
Venice, Calif., and the Spirit of Austin

WAR OF THE ROSÉS

Dear Editor,
Mr. Marshall has once again made a simplistic statement concerning wines. A few months ago, he referred to a wine from Beaujolais as being from southern Burgundy. While technically correct, he failed to make note of the substantial distinctions between the red wines of Beaujolais (from the Gamay grape) and those of Burgundy (Pinot Noir). Now, he has said that American antipathy for dry Rosés is why a certain Rosé is hard to find. No, it is due to American ignorance of Rosé, thinking that all Rosés are like "blush" wines (the sweet Zinfandel crap sold in most supermarkets). Besides, not all Americans are this ignorant. Being a regular customer of the Austin Wine Merchant, I can assure you that it always has a substantial selection of dry Rosés from France (and elsewhere). These Rosés make the Texas summer much more tolerable. It is unfortunate that Austin restaurants are afraid to move into this area; apparently most of them are as ignorant of dry Rosés as most Americans.
Bertrand Piboin

[Wes Marshall responds: Nothing in the wine world would make me happier than being able to find a good supply of robust dry Rosé in every restaurant and store in Austin, except maybe \$10 Champagne. The Austin Wine Merchant is one of the reliable ones that does keep a nice stock of summer Rosés. Cheers.]

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2011 AN ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE AND UTTERLY SUBJECTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW PART THE FIRST

MONTH OF JANUARY: SENSITIVE, CARING REPUBLICANS TRY TO REDEFINE RAPE. IT DOESN'T COUNT UNLESS IT WAS FORCIBLE!
OTHERWISE YOU WERE ASKING FOR IT.

JAN. 8: REP. GIFFORDS SHOT, SIX OTHERS KILLED; USUAL GUN NUT CRAP COMMENCES.
GUN OWNERS ARE THE REAL VICTIMS TODAY!

JAN. 10: SOON-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN CRAZY PERSON GLENN BECK URGES SOON-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN SELF PROMOTER SARAH PALIN TO HIRE MORE SECURITY BECAUSE--
"--AN ATTEMPT ON YOU COULD BRING THE RE-PUBLIC DOWN!!"

FEBRUARY: SOUTH DAKOTA LAWMAKERS CONSIDER BILL JUSTIFYING HOMICIDE IN DEFENSE OF A FETUS. WE CALL IT THE "OPEN SEASON ON ABORTION DOCS" ACT!
HAPPY HUNTING!
(BILL IS LATER WITHDRAWN)

ALSO: HEAVY SNOWSTORMS GENERATE PREDICTABLE RESPONSE FROM RIGHT WING IGNORAMUSES.
WHERE'S YOUR GLOBAL WARMING NOW AL GORE?
HAW HAW HAW

AND: AS EGYPTIANS OVERTHROW MUBARAK, AMERICANS CHEER FOR DEMOCRACY! IT'S SO INSPIRING WHEN ONE OF OUR CLIENT DICTATORS IS TOPPLED!

FEB. 7: VERY SERIOUS DEFICIT COMMISSION CO-CHAIR ALAN SIMPSON CALLS SOCIAL SECURITY--
"--A MILK COW WITH 300 MILLION TEATS!"

MAR. 7: ALAN SIMPSON COMPLAINS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE "WALKING ON THEIR PANTS WITH THE CAP ON BACKWARDS LISTENING TO THE ENEMY MAN AND SNOOPY SNOOPY POOP DOGG!"

APRIL: G.O.P FIGHTS TO ELIMINATE GOV'T FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING.
CONDOMS ARE JUST A SNEAKY WAY OF HAVING A VERY EARLY TERM ABORTION!

ALSO: DONALD TRUMP STAKES HIS SHORT-LIVED PRESIDENTIAL HOPES ON OBAMA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE. I THINK THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS--
[HEW!]

APR. 2: COMPANY THAT OPERATED DEEPWATER HORIZON AWARDS EXCESS SAFETY BONUSES.
IF YOU IGNORE THAT ONE LITTLE ACCIDENT--
"--HAD A GREAT YEAR IN 2010!"
I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE IDENTITY OF THAT PENIS.
NEXT WEEK: MORE CRAZY!

MAY 1: BIN LADEN KILLED. OBAMA DECLARES "WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE SET OUR MIND TO." AS LONG AS WHAT WE SET OUR MIND TO IS KILLING SOMEBODY.
FIXING THE ECONOMY, NOT SO MUCH.

MAY 26: SENATORS WYDEN & UNALL SEEM TO BE TRYING TO WARN US ABOUT SOMETHING. IF YOU KNOW WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE PATRIOT ACT--
"--YOU'D POOP YOUR PANTS!"
*SLIGHT PARAPHRASE.

MAY 26: OBAMA NONE-THELESS SIGNS FOUR YEAR EXTENSION OF SAID ACT. OH WELL! WE WEREN'T USING THOSE CIVIL LIBERTIES ANYWAY!

JUNE 16: ANDREW BREITBART ACQUIRES PICS OF ANTHONY WEINER'S PENIS; WORLD'S STUPIDEST SCANDAL ENSUES.
I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE IDENTITY OF THAT PENIS.
NEXT WEEK: MORE CRAZY!

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NEWS



A protester dressed as the Grinch (the one who stole Christmas) joins opponents of the IDEA charter school plan outside Austin ISD headquarters Monday night. See "AISD Approves Its Big IDEA, 6-3," p.18.

Headlines

- ▶ City Council has packed it in for the year, following a marathon meeting last week tackling everything from an incentives deal for auto parts maker **US Farathane** to the issuance of new **taxi permits** and a **smoking ban in city parks**. See "City Hall Hustle," p.16.
- ▶ Amid cries of "shame, shame, shame" from the audience at the Dec. 19 Austin ISD meeting, the board split 6-3 in favor of a contract to allow South Texas-based **IDEA Public Schools** to run an in-district charter at **Allan Elementary** in 2012 and expand to **Eastside Memorial High School** in 2013. See "AISD Approves Its Big IDEA, 6-3," p.18.
- ▶ Finally, there's some uplifting news from the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**, which has denied granting oil giant **Valero** massive tax breaks at six refineries, which would have squeezed tens of millions of dollars out of financially hobbled **Texas school districts**.
- ▶ The Electric Utility Commission Monday passed a resolution urging City Council to approve **Austin Energy's proposed rate increase** "as quickly as possible" to shore up the utility's anticipated budget shortfall in 2012; the recorded vote was 4-2-1, but Commissioner **Shudde Fath** later changed her abstention to "nay," joining Linda Shaw and Barbara Day, amid concerns that the new rate structure favors businesses and large users over low-income and low-usage customers.
- ▶ A long-working redesign of the **city website** launched this week. Redirecting from previous Web addresses to www.austintexas.gov, the new site is still in beta testing – meaning citizens (or city reporters) struggling with the new interface can send comments, suggestions, and hate mail to the designers from any page on the site.

JOHN ANDERSON

Cart Arrives ... Horse Expected Soon

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S IDEA PROJECT BEREFT OF ACTUAL IDEAS

On the positive side, the Austin Independent School District's agreement to bring the IDEA Public Schools charter program into the Eastside certainly gave its students an instant education in local politics – of the grimly practical sort not generally available in classrooms. That may be the only good news to come out of the controversy, which featured the most spectacularly bungled adoption and public outreach process managed by a local government in quite some time. By the time the board of trustees made its formal adoption vote after midnight Monday, the board majority and Superintendent Meria Carstarphen had succeeded in alienating virtually everyone with some interest in the matter – most particularly those Eastside parents and students to be directly affected by IDEA's arrival at Allan Elementary next fall. Had the district been trying to intentionally undermine IDEA's potential relationships with the community, they couldn't have done a better job.



As for the decision itself, despite two board meetings and roughly a dozen hours in all of discussion, it was clear from the outset that six trustees were determined to approve the still-under-revision IDEA contract come hell, high water, or broad public opposition, and nothing said by any citizen, public official, or opposing trustee would have any effect on that vote. The Monday tip-off was in fact at-large Trustee Annette LoVoi's opening motion to decline the contract; the board had visibly emerged from executive session procedurally and emotionally polarized, 30-plus citizen speakers denouncing the deal had not made a dent, and the eventual 6-3 vote to defeat LoVoi's motion (after much harrumphing on all sides) firmly anticipated how the night was going to go.

Indeed, Monday's meeting resembled nothing so much as a miniature version of the current incarnation of the Texas House: a dominant majority truculently annoyed at

having to defend its presumptive decisions, a beleaguered minority vainly attempting to palatably amend what it could not defeat, and board President Mark Williams in the role of Speaker Joe Straus, nervously trying to maintain order and portray the vexed occasion as the considered deliberations of mature, well-meaning adults, before an audience of outraged Austinites and meek IDEA students trucked in from the Valley. All very inspiring and educational.

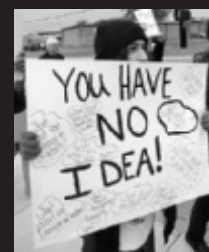
Take It or Leave It

Hours in, when Carstarphen finally got her moment, ostensibly to present the substance of the IDEA project for approval, she

continued on p.16

- ▶ A San Antonio judicial panel approved a bipartisan deal to move Texas **primary elections** from March 6 to April 3; the courts still have to thrash out the congressional and state House and Senate maps, so the deal allows candidates to refile or drop out once district lines are drawn. Even without maps, candidates have rushed to meet the initial Dec. 19 filing deadline.
- ▶ The U.S. **war in Iraq** officially ended Tuesday, leaving a devastated country, hundreds of thousands dead, and a legacy of destruction in the entire region.
- ▶ "My president is black, he snorts a lot of crack. Holla." That message, tweeted Dec. 18 by **UT College Republicans** president **Cassandra Wright**, ignited a firestorm on the Forty Acres and brought international media scrutiny just weeks after former College Republicans Prez Lauren Pierce's similarly stunning Twitter fail, calling it "tempting" to shoot President Obama, just hours after shots were fired at the White House.

QUOTE of the WEEK



"When you say Eastside Memorial is a failure, you're saying I'm a failure, and I'm not a failure."
– Eastside Memorial graduate Anthony Gilbert, now on a full-ride scholarship at the University of North Texas, to the AISD board of trustees

JOHN ANDERSON

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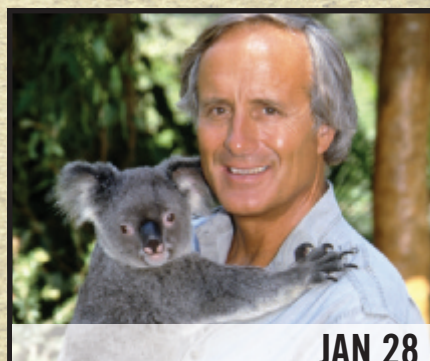
ROBERT ELLIS

ON SALE THURSDAY (12/22) AT NOON



FEB 24 & 25

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JAN 28

JACK HANNA'S INTO THE WILD LIVE

- 12/31 BOB SCHNEIDER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE
- 1/8 *THE UGLY DUCKLING AND THE TORTOISE & THE HARE*
- 1/13 SHAWN COLVIN & LYLE LOVETT
- 1/14 AARON LEWIS
- 1/19 THE CIVIL WARS
- 1/21 BILL BURR
- 1/28 JACK HANNA'S INTO THE WILD LIVE
- 2/2 ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET'S *MOULIN ROUGE: THE BALLET*

- 2/3 ROBERT ELLIS
- 2/4 DEMETRI MARTIN
- 2/8 ANTHONY BOURDAIN & ERIC RIPERT
- 2/9, 2/10, 2/11 JOHN LEGUIZAMO – GHETTO KLOWN
- 2/17, 2/18 PILOBOLUS
- 2/24 *DOIN' IT FOR LOVE*
- 2/26 JEANNE ROBERTSON
- 3/2 THE SECOND CITY'S LAUGH OUT LOUD TOUR
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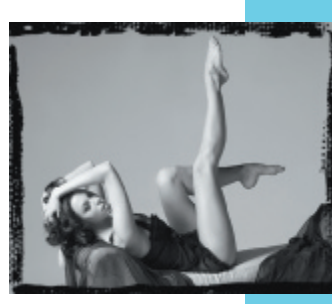
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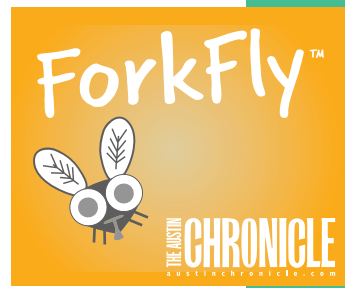
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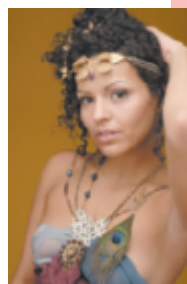


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instead spent her time in a filibuster of self-justification over the administration's "public process." She insisted that the community outreach that everyone from elementary school parents to high school teachers to former mayors Gus Garcia and Carole Keeton Strayhorn described as woefully lacking was instead broad, persistent, and effective. The fact that not a single Austinite had signed up to support IDEA made no tangible impression on her or the board; the fact that she and her administration are now faced with selling this program to a school community in virtually unified opposition to it (opposition greatly reinforced by her mishandling of the preparation) went unremarked.

Laying that groundwork, Carstarphen certainly hasn't done IDEA any favors. Whatever its ostensible virtues, the "non-profit" company will enter the school district to a hostile audience filled with suspicions exacerbated by a school administration that has taken the preemptive position – as Carstarphen put it to a *Chronicle* delegation summoned two weeks ago to her office – that "charters are here to stay, like it or not." Similarly, AISD trustee Sam Guzman told the *Austin American-Statesman*, "IDEA is coming, one way or another" – referring to IDEA CEO Tom Torkelson's implicit threats to set up a competitive shop in Austin if the district failed to hire his firm. Torkelson also told the *Statesman* that those who oppose IDEA are mostly "professional protestors – people who are paid to oppose public school choice for parents."

Torkelson's real targets are teachers, whom he considers disposable at-will subcontractors. But I wonder if he'll have the guts to repeat that nonsense to the Eastside parents and students who camped out or stood in the rain for hours for a lotto's chance to speak for two minutes to the trustees.

The Invisible Hand

So, where are we now? The trustees were still amending the rushed, skeleton con-

tract from the dais Monday – amendments Torkelson quickly endorsed – and embattled district counsel Mel Waxler is supposed to soon provide a revised version for execution. Allan Elementary parents in particular were declaring continuing opposition, some threatening a boycott. But of course, it's of the nature of public schools that they provide the primary or only option for most families – that's precisely why charter operators want to get their hands on the public revenue stream. In that light, one can only hope that whatever happens next fall at Allan, and down the line at the much officially abused Eastside Memorial, it eventually works *at least as well* for those students and their families as the district's current programs.

The board majority has felt no real need to explain or defend its vote, which appears to be a combination of defending its beleaguered and combative chief executive and succumbing to the fairy dust of the word "charter" that has magically entranced everybody from Barack Obama on down to poor parents paying tuition and buying uniforms at the latest fly-by-night operation hanging out a shingle. Calls to eject the incumbents at the next election are certainly understandable, but the truth is that competent school board candidates – for no salary at a thankless and increasingly resourceless job – are not exactly available in abundance.

What we are seeing at AISD is the outcome of relentless state cutbacks in combination with the same fetishized market-worship that is steadily undermining all public institutions, a broadly based folly that increasingly valorizes personal profit or achievement over shared community values. Unfortunately, it's not the fools selling or buying this particular snake oil who will suffer most from the exchange. It's the next generation of students, who will watch the pieces crumbling from their public schools and not realize it was ever any better. ■

The Wages of Faith

PERFECT AND GOOD FACE OFF IN US FARATHANE INCENTIVES DEBATE

Is half a loaf still better than none?

That was the question council wrestled with last week, in its jam-packed end-of-year meeting. The proverbial bread in question was the city's proposed economic development deal with **US Farathane**, a maker of plastic auto parts proposing to open a manufacturing facility in Austin.

The deal itself was pretty austere. In exchange for some \$212,000 over a decade, the company would invest millions of dollars in equipment and improvements and create 228 jobs. City staffers with the **Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office** trumpeted the proposal on its own merits as well as its potential tie-in to Austin's recently re-green-lit **Formula One** races, as well as the chance to support an industry – manufacturing – that's never been particularly strong locally.

However, for opponents of the deal as written, the austerity cut both ways. Some 70% of the jobs created would be entry-level positions, with an average wage of \$10.80 an hour. (After a three-month probationary period, employees would get a 50-cent raise; the company also offers tuition reimbursement and a \$100-200 quarterly bonus tied to performance.)

Several speakers from **Austin Interfaith** were on hand to protest the terms of the agreement, offering that if city funds were going to Farathane, then the company shouldn't be paying "poverty-level wages." Austin Interfaith argued that if full-time employees become eligible for food stamps, for instance, it would amount to a double-dip of public resources.

Mayor Pro Tem **Sheryl Cole** grew increasingly heated over the criticism. "Do you think a high school dropout doesn't use any public subsidies?" she asked one speaker. Indeed, Farathane has touted its willingness to work with the hard-to-employ: dropouts, even felons eager to re-enter the work force. Representatives from job-promoting nonprofits **Skillpoint Alliance** and the **Reentry Roundtable** were on hand to note their support for the agreement.

Other council members were more sympathetic to the AI's at-times strident demands (for instance, the group doesn't support city funds going to projects that pay less than its definition of a livable wage, based on a family of four – \$18 an hour, a laudable, if not necessarily realistic, goal). "I don't think we have enough leverage to force them to crank up those wages all by our lonesome," said Council Member **Bill Spelman**, citing the low stakes of the city's investment.

Those wages were the justification Council Members **Laura Morrison** and **Kathie Tovo** offered for their negative votes, with Morrison saying her support was "almost there" but derailed by the wage scale. Cole enthusiastically noted her own support, saying, "I see it as a social-service proposal," not an economic development deal. **Mike Martinez** also spoke in support, beginning with tales of his own hardscrabble upbringing. "We cannot let perfection, and we cannot let the ultimate and the best, keep us from doing the good and the right – and that's what we're doing here in my mind."

Addressing the pay scale, he said that while he didn't want to endorse "poverty-level" wages, "you can't get past poverty if you're not even there – you have to be given that opportunity to get through that door." Addressing Austin Interfaith's opposition, he said, "Quite frankly, I'm looking forward to the debate." At one of AI's candidate "accountability sessions," Martinez recalled: "I was asked to either commit or not commit to \$18-an-hour on every-

thing that we do. ... I don't think that's a fair debate, and this is a prime example of why. ... A one-size-fits all-policy just doesn't work in this building."

The item eventually passed, 5-2, with Spelman somewhat cryptically but sagely musing, "We may be doing more good for Austin residents with \$20,000-a-year jobs at Farathane than \$100,000-a-year jobs at Facebook." Post that to your Timeline.

I'M TWO PUFFS OVER PAR

The meter was running throughout the day for dozens of **cab drivers** crowding chambers, waiting to see what would become of proposals to add some 75 new permits and consider the creation of a "legacy permit" system, under which drivers themselves – instead of franchises – would own the taxi permits. After much public comment – including would-be franchisees arguing they should be the ones to get any new ones issued, instead of the established **Lone Star Cab** and **Austin Cab** – council delayed any definitive decision till next year, as staff prepares a report on what effects additional permits might have on existing drivers and franchises. A ban on smoking in parks passed – excluding golf courses during rounds, although Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** picked at language allowing smokes only between the first and last holes. "What if you over-hit the green?" he asked.

That's a query the Hustle's golf game is far too familiar with.

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CIVICS 101

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WATER TREATMENT PLANT NO. 4

is on tap for the Environmental Board's committee of the same name; members will hear a staff briefing on the Jollyville Transmission Main project "and issues associated with it." 11am. 505 Barton Springs Rd., Rm. 240.

BLOOD DRIVE The Travis County Sheriff's Office hosts a blood drive for those choosing to give a different kind of gift this season. 6-9am & 1-3pm. TCSO Training Academy, 3614 Bill Price Rd., Del Valle. www.inyourhands.org.



JACK ANDERSON

FRIDAY 23

GLEN MAXEY BOOKSIGNING

See "Glen Maxey's Perry Tale," p.21, then pick up a signed copy of Maxey's self-published paperback, *Head Figure Head*. 11am-7pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos St.

MONDAY 26

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

starts today for city of Austin trash and recycling customers. Just place the tree at the curb on your regularly scheduled collection day; check back here next week for tree drop-off days at Zilker Park in January.



ONGOING

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES

is recruiting volunteers to help low-income residents with income tax preparation, in partnership with the Austin Housing Finance Corporation and the city of Austin. Apply at www.foundcom.org.

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

is taking applications from individuals to serve on the **Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority**, for an appointment starting Feb. 2. Qualified applicants should have "exceptional vision, business and administrative skills, and a history of community involvement." The application deadline is Jan. 13. Call or email Max Jones at 854-4774 or IGR@co.travis.tx.us.



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3652 BEE CAVES RD. (Same center as Twin Liquors) 327-6846
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920 B. N. AUSTIN AVE GEORGETOWN 512-930-0666
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AISD Approves Its Big IDEA, 6-3

Carole Keeton Strayhorn has been a lot of things: Texas comptroller, Austin mayor, Austin Independent School District board president. But at Monday's school district board meeting, she was an Allan Bulldog, watching in disbelief as AISD's board of trustees voted 6-3 to hand over the **Eastside Memorial Vertical Team to IDEA Public Schools** to run as an in-district charter program starting next fall.

The previous week's board meeting (Dec. 12) could be summed up in one word: carnage. Unable to reach consensus, the board delayed the decision on IDEA a week for a special meeting, planned as a three-hour block for the discussion and vote. Instead, Monday's six-hour meeting became what board Vice President **Vince Torres** had predicted: a circus. Eastside community members had camped out overnight to get slots during Citizens Communication, only to have South Texas IDEA representatives ushered past them by AISD staff to reserved seating. Later, even as seats emptied in the board room, AISD police initially refused to admit more people, leaving protesters in the pouring rain. Strayhorn and another aged former-board-president-turned-mayor, **Gus Garcia**, both walked several blocks in the bad weather to speak against the proposal – historically a courtesy that has been automatically extended to retired trustees, but one that was only granted to them by a last-minute board vote.

Earlier in the day, Strayhorn and Garcia held a press conference outside **Allan Elementary** which along with Eastside High is one of the two schools to be moved into the IDEA program. They denounced the current board, noting that when they worked together on desegregating Austin's schools and on founding Austin Community College, trustees proactively visited community schools – something this board has failed to do. "This is AISD through the looking glass," Strayhorn said. "**Austin in Wonderland** turned upside down."

Defending the IDEA proposal, Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** insisted there is a "silent majority" of parents abandoning Eastside and that two-thirds of students eligible to attend there are going elsewhere (in district or out). However, the Citizens Communication list from the last two meetings undermined that claim. On Dec. 12, families rebutted the idea that the district had really consulted with them about any of the plans. At the Dec. 19 meeting, not one of the 30 speakers – including many Eastside students – had a good word to say about IDEA. Instead, they were unified in their support of their neighborhood high school and of public education and constant in their condemnation of Carstarphen and the six trustees – President **Mark Williams**, Torres, **Christine Brister**,



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Left: AISD board members (l-r) Cheryl Bradley, Sam Guzman, and Tamala Barksdale deliberated the IDEA proposal Monday night. Right: Gus Garcia and Carole Keeton Strayhorn, both former mayors and school board presidents, appeared before the board to speak against the charter plan.

Lori Moya, Cheryl Bradley, and Sam Guzman – who approved the deal.

By contrast, the three no votes – at-large trustees **Tamala Barksdale** and **Annette LoVoi** and District 7's **Robert Schneider** – were treated like folk heroes. LoVoi initially moved to reject the IDEA contract, arguing that it violated seven key terms of the district's adopted charter policy. When that motion eventually failed (3-6), Schneider went on the offensive, challenging Carstarphen both on the numbers and on how they had been presented, saying that he still had not seen a comparison of what IDEA was providing vs. what the district could provide. He noted that for all of IDEA's claims that 100% of its graduates go to college, almost half of those are receiving grade point averages lower than 2.0. "I don't call that a college preparatory academy," he said. (Carstarphen countered that it reflects well on IDEA that it even tracks its graduates' college grades.)

Carstarphen seemed dispirited for much of the evening, and district counsel **Mel Waxler** bristled that he had not been given sufficient warning about contract questions – so much so that LoVoi asked him pointedly whether he was answering questions as the board's lawyer or that of the superintendent. ("The majority of the board," Waxler responded testily.) LoVoi remained steadfast in her commitment to this last-ditch due diligence, saying it represented good governance. She said, "Some people have said that board members must be 'anti-charter' if they want to look at the documents in this detail, and I say to them I disagree."



Barksdale insisted on making her fellow trustees vote on the best possible version of a bad deal, adding several contract amendments, not without some struggle. Although he accepted some of Barksdale's changes, Guzman (who had moved to approve) said he had anticipated a simple up-or-down vote on the contract as drafted. Barksdale got a clause amended to require IDEA to exceed AISD – not just match it – in four-year graduation and drop-out rates. "If we're not [requiring that]," she said, "I'm not sure why we're bringing in a partner." She also persuaded the board to clarify and strengthen the parent grievance process. LoVoi offered her own amendments. Earlier, AISD teacher of the year **Caroline Sweet** had raised concerns about the future of Eastside's **Infant Development Lab**, and LoVoi demanded long-term guarantees for childcare provision at the campus, plus clarification on **bilingual immersion** programs. Similarly, to add teeth to Barksdale's performance standards, she pushed to strengthen the quarterly performance review.

Williams said that since IDEA staff present had raised no objections to the revised terms, he expected the contract to be finalized and delivered by the end of the week. That is unlikely to placate Eastside supporters, who left the room promising to make this facility process a key factor in next November's board election. Echoing their dissatisfaction, LoVoi said, "I'm not sure there's a single person on the board who would stand up and applaud the way this was done."
– Richard Whittaker

Morton Seeks Accountability

Looking down from the bench at **Michael Morton**, who was freed this year after spending nearly a quarter-century behind bars for a murder he did not commit, District Judge **Sid Harle** apologized for the system that failed Morton. Then Harle stepped down from the bench to stand face-to-face with Morton and hand him the signed order that would finally dismiss the murder indictment against him, certifying that he is an innocent and exonerated man. Morton took the paper and kissed it as the assembled crowd of onlookers stood and applauded. "This is a happy day, obviously, but let's not forget this was a horrible crime," Morton told the crowd. "My wife's brains were splattered all over the [bedroom] walls and ceiling," he continued. "A lot of people think I

want a pound of flesh. Revenge is a natural instinct, but it's not what I'm asking for here – just accountability."

Morton and his team of lawyers – including Houston attorney **John Morton** **Raley**, as well as **Barry Scheck** and **Nina Morrison** from the **Innocence Project** – allege that then-District Attorney **Ken Anderson**, now a Williamson County district judge, hid from Morton's defense exculpatory materials that would have demonstrated back in 1987 that Morton was not responsible for his wife's murder inside their Georgetown home. In a report filed with Harle, the team is



Morton

asking the judge to rule there is probable cause to believe that Anderson acted in contempt of court by secreting the favorable evidence and to commence a court of inquiry to vet whether that crime took place. The evidence against Anderson – collected in depositions with the judge, former assistant prosecutor **Mike Davis**, and retired Williamson County sheriff's investigator **Don Wood**, as well as affidavits from other former employees of Anderson's D.A.'s Office, including now-sitting Judge Doug Arnold – "demonstrates that Judge Anderson, when he was D.A. violated the laws of Texas."

Whether Harle will agree and order the court of inquiry is still unclear; Harle said he would take the matter under advisement and would give Anderson a chance to respond to the substance of the Morton team's report. A ruling is expected early next year.

Meeting with reporters outside the courtroom, Anderson's attorney Eric Nichols, a former assistant attorney general, said his client is confident that he did nothing wrong in the Morton case and that he provided to Morton's trial attorneys all of the evidence he was required by law to release. The "disclosures [provided] to defense counsel met every burden in place at that time," he said.

Meanwhile, Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott's** office has agreed to try **Mark Alan Norwood**, the man now charged with the murder of **Christine Morton**, on the basis of DNA testing that Morton attorney Raley fought for years to access (over the objections of current Williamson County D.A. **John Bradley**). Norwood is expected to plead not guilty to the charge. No trial date has been set.
– Jordan Smith

For a more complete report, see austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.

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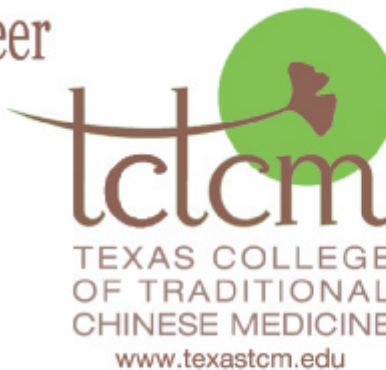
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No Room at Austin's Animal Inn

The brand-new **Austin Animal Center** on Levander Loop has everything a modern city could ask for in a shelter: dog "condos" complete with indoor showers and outdoor Astroturf, state-of-the-art veterinary facilities, and numerous play areas and display rooms where animals can charm their way into the homes of prospective owners.

Everything, that is, except for enough cages.

Say what you will about the old Town Lake Animal Center – that it was dangerous, that it was unclean, that it was old and depressing – it was big enough to house almost 220 dogs. The new shelter, which cost taxpayers \$12 million, increases the number of cat cages by 80 but has only 160 dog runs. And with Austin officially becoming a "no-kill" city in March 2010, and therefore no longer in the business of euthanizing animals for any reason but the health of the animal or the safety of the community, that lack of space means the new shelter is already consistently operating at, near, or over capacity.

The new reality became painfully clear on Dec. 7, when the animal center found itself with 30 more dogs than cages. Going into what she called "crisis mode," Chief Animal Services Officer **Abigail Smith** grabbed 28 of those dogs and moved them across town to the old TLAC site. Volunteers from city

rescue partner **Austin Pets Alive!** were already at the site, but they were busy with the 30 animals they'd agreed to take care of when they signed a partnership agreement with the city in early November. Which meant Smith had to use animal protection officers to staff the new makeshift shelter.

The next day, Smith called in the media. Footage of adorable dogs languishing in kennels and holding rooms was soon being splashed all over the evening news. Meanwhile, the shelter and APA! dropped adoption charges on all dogs more than 35 pounds or 35 dog years to \$3.50. That included spay/neuter surgery, a microchip, and vaccinations – a value of more than \$200 for the price of a glass of very cheap scotch.

The plan worked. Prospective adopters responded, and by Monday the Austin Animal Center had 11 kennels to spare.

By the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 14, though, when I spoke with Smith, she was down 13 kennels again. And by Monday, Dec. 19, the animal center was down 30 cages and APA! had maxed out at 60 dogs at the TLAC site. Smith was faced with the realization that, for the first time since she took over the Animal Services Office last March, she may have to euthanize dogs for

The Austin Animal Center is already hovering at or near capacity because of fewer dog kennels at the new facility.



JANA BIRCHUM

space, an action generally frowned upon by no-kill proponents. Thankfully, an APA! press release and some timely adoptions meant she would be spared that grim duty. For a little while, anyway.

"Things change every minute," Smith said about life at the Austin Animal Center these days. "If you don't start with enough breathing room on Monday, come Wednesday or Thursday, it's a crisis. And it's not sustainable to just keep going on TV and saying: 'It's a crisis. Give me \$3.50, and I'll give you a dog.'"

"We've been behind the eight ball since the day we moved in."

Smith says she'll continue with her current plan – working with APA! to run the TLAC site, an "overflow release valve that has the capacity to help us bridge the gap" – for at least a year, while coming up with a more permanent solution to the problem of overcrowding at a no-kill facility.

"What works is adoptions, and how you increase adoptions is you put the animals in front of people," says Smith. "And you can't expect the entire market of adopters to drive to the shelter, no matter where it is. There's a market segment that has to be met by a select number of animals in a different venue consistently. You can't just show up at

parades and festivals. You need to be somewhere in the community where people feel less intimidated or less emotional."

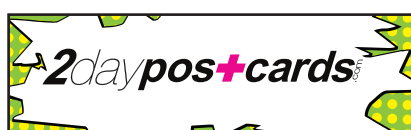
Ideally, Smith said, the city would have two or three permanent storefronts around town – in shopping malls, for example – where people are already in a buying mood. "A pet can be just another thing you're shopping for," she said.


Thus far, despite the overcrowding worries at the animal center, Austin's no-kill status is safe. November saw a 94% live outcome rate – 4 percentage points above the no-kill bar. But another new variable could soon topple Smith's precarious balancing act: Brand-new APA! offshoot **American Pets Alive!** has been tapped by San Antonio's Animal Care Services department to help that city increase its live-outcome rate, which currently hovers around 30%. If that agreement becomes official, San Antonio will pay American Pets Alive! up to \$200,000 annually to help the shelter increase its live outcomes by 4,000 animals, which APA! Public Relations Manager Melissa Miller says they'll do by "helping put foster and adoption programs in place locally" in San Antonio, not by bringing those animals to Austin.

Still, with winter here, kitten season on the way, and pugs and dachshunds and other small dogs sleeping in cat cages at the Austin Animal Center, it may just be a matter of time before Austin officials pressure APA! to choose between expansion and its original mission: making Austin a no-kill city and keeping it that way. – Josh Rosenblatt

Help Your PALS

People love their pets, and research shows that pets help to keep us healthy and live longer. Amen to that. That's the premise behind Meals on Wheels and More's PALS program – **Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors.** In collaboration with Emancipet, the PALS program helps keep healthy the pets who are cherished companions to their homebound and elderly clients. But they need your help! A donation to the PALS program helps pets and people. Contact the program at 476-6325 or pals@mealsonwheelsandmore.org. – Jordan Smith





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Glen Maxey's Perry Tale

"I don't think it's sticking my neck out. I think it's just standing on my feet and saying what I believe." So declared **Glen Maxey** last week, a couple of days after self-publishing *Head Figure Head: The Search for the Hidden Life of Rick Perry*. The book is former Austin state rep (and first and only openly gay Texas legislator) Maxey's saga of his attempts to finally confirm some of the persistent rumors about the governor's alleged walks on the wild side – that is, that Perry may have engaged in sex with men. Of that central and loaded question, Maxey writes bluntly: "Has Rick Perry had sex with men? Personally, I believe he has."

His book recounts the fairly graphic tales of two major (unnamed) sources who Maxey believes engaged in sex with Perry: a former state official (onetime Secretary of State **Geoff Connor**) who twice declined to deny the long-standing rumors about his relationship with Perry, and a brace of secondary sources who independently said they knew, directly or indirectly, of Perry's dalliances with men. Maxey quotes approvingly one of his Facebook correspondents: "I've heard too many stories, first hand kind of stuff, from too many people, some of whom are totally apolitical and have no agenda, not to believe."

The Perry campaign dismissed the book as "false Internet garbage."

Initially, Maxey was collaborating with a reporter ("The Journalist") for a "National News Outlet" – unidentified in the book, but outed last week by Politico as **Jason Cherkis** of the **Huffington Post**. It eventually became clear that Cherkis' story was unlikely to be published. (Despite editorial and legal clearance, **Ariana Huffington** spiked it, last week telling Politico's **Ken Vogel**, there was "simply no there there.") Perry campaign spokesman **Ray Sullivan** suggested to Vogel that Huffington killed the story to avoid a lawsuit, but Cherkis told the *Chronicle*: "I went to Austin in early summer to research a variety of Perry stories. While there, I broke a number of stories – including one on Perry's college transcripts and one on an insurance scheme he brokered. I also talked to two sources for a piece on Perry's personal life. As neither would go fully on the record – a condition we placed on the story before it could be published – we did not proceed."

Maxey decided that he could tell the story simply as the narrative of his search to find out the truth about Perry. "I'm not a journalist," he told the *Chronicle* last week. "I don't have to have people on the record – I can just tell the story of my search and let people make their own decision." He also wanted to release the story while Perry was still on the presidential campaign trail, so he self-published the book via Amazon's high-speed online process; the book even includes a reference to Perry's notorious early December "Strong" TV ad, which, Maxey writes, "suggests that it's wrong to let gays and lesbians serve openly in the military."

Aside from its allegations about Perry's sex life, *Head Figure Head* (the title is a quote from a source who hadn't even known that Perry was running for "head figure head") provides a capsule history of Maxey and Perry's political careers and specifically Perry's relatively recent turn toward anti-gay rhetoric and policies as a wedge tactic for right-wing votes. Maxey traces that to Perry's 2005 grandiose signing of a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, in a shift Maxey calls "pure hypocrisy and pure opportunism." And in a chapter titled "What Is 'Gay'?", he declines to formally apply the honorific term to Perry's alleged sexual escapades. "Being gay is much more than just sex," Maxey writes. "Being gay is having an emotional relationship with a member of the same sex."

Media response has been slow but is beginning to build. **Gawker** published a brief but explicit summary of the book's major allegations, and Politico followed with a lengthier story that addressed the sexual substance only indirectly, focusing instead on the involvement of high-powered Atlanta libel lawyer **L. Lin Wood** defending both Perry and Herman Cain on similar matters. Other online sites (**Burnt Orange Report**, **Queerty**, **Dallas Voice**, etc.) have also reported on the book. **Queerty** followed with a Maxey interview, and Maxey has created his own site, **Is Rick Perry Gay?** (www.isrickperrygay.org), to collect and report additional Perry tips. Maxey said the book features three major stories and nine others that "lead me to believe" in Perry's escapades; as of last week, he said, he had accumulated 26 such independent tips, and they're still coming.



JANA BIRCHUM
Glen Maxey

Occupying Bee Cave

The protracted fight over what is art, according to the city of **Bee Cave**, isn't going to dampen the holiday spirit for **Michael Kleinman**, owner of **Planet K**. Kleinman said Saturday that he will set up shop outside his newest store, at Bee Caves Road and Highway 71, to sell his wares to holiday shoppers. Kleinman has been unable to secure the permits needed to remodel the interior of the new store, site of the old Trading Post, because the city has objected to art posted on the building walls – a pastoral scene painted by Kerry Fitzgerald (aka Austin funnyman **Kerry Awn**) – and has said it won't shake loose the permits until the art comes down. As such, Kleinman will set up a booth outside the store, which will remain open daily, 10am-10pm, until the city issues the remodeling permits. (For more on this, see "Planet K Disrupts Bee Cave's Orbit," May 13.)

– Jordan Smith

The *Chronicle* asked both the Perry campaign and the Governor's Office for any comment on the book's publication or its contents. Campaign spokesman Sullivan replied in an email, "This self-published book is false Internet garbage and unworthy of comment."

Asked if he thought Perry's staggering campaign would undermine the book's effect or relevance, Maxey said: "He's coming back to Texas; he's still going to be our governor, of a state that is spiraling into all kinds of chaos. We've still got another legislative session with him, and I do not believe we're through with Rick Perry thinking he can run for another term as governor, be a U.S. senator, or [whatever]. So the story's not over for those of us who are still living with Rick Perry."

– Michael King

Glen Maxey will be signing and selling his self-published paperback from 11am to 7pm Friday, Dec. 23, at Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos.

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Feds Deny Women's Health Renewal

LANGUAGE INTENDED TO EXCLUDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD MAY JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE PROGRAM

In a letter dated Dec. 12, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services denied Texas' application to renew the successful **Women's Health Program**, citing the state's impermissible narrowing of the provider base to exclude **Planned Parenthood** from any participation.

The WHP is a Medicaid-waiver program that offers low-income and uninsured women ages 18-44 who wouldn't otherwise be eligible for Medicaid an opportunity, unless pregnant, to receive preventative health and family planning care. The program, devised by lawmakers in 2005, was conceived as a way to save the state money and to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It has so far done just that: In 2009, according to the state's **Health & Human Services Commission**, the program averted 10,300 Medicaid-paid births, saving the state roughly \$46 million in all funds. Indeed, the program is paid for by a 90-10 match from the feds – for every \$1 the state kicks in, the feds throw in \$9. In other words, it's a great deal for Texas, especially when you consider that 56% of all Texas births are paid for by Medicaid; in 2009 alone, that cost the state \$2.7 billion.

But the future of the program is now in jeopardy. At issue is new language crafted to eliminate Planned Parenthood from providing any WHP services. This is no small issue, given that in 2008 PP was the single largest provider of such services. But because some PP clinics provide legal abortion services – though none with tax money – lawmakers directed HHSC to ask the feds to reauthorize the program, but with new language that redefines the word “affiliate” in an effort to squeeze PP out of the loop. Because the WHP is a waiver program, it is up to the feds to consider whether the language fits with legal restrictions for funding under Title XIX, which funds Medicaid.

The prevailing wisdom coming from providers and health care advocates was that targeting and excluding a specific provider

– in this case PP – based on its providing legally protected abortion services to private-pay clients would not pass legal muster. Indeed, in the Dec. 12 letter, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services concludes that the new “affiliate” language does just that. The feds “will not approve the State's request for authority to deviate from the requirements of [Medicaid] in order to restrict beneficiary choice of family planning providers,” CMS Director Cindy Mann wrote.

Although the initial WHP waiver contained a provision excluding abortion providers from participation, that measure was never enforced as a wedge to exclude PP. Last year, Sen. **Robert Deuell**, R-Greenville, asked Attorney General **Greg Abbott** if it would be legal to enforce that provision and to exclude PP; Abbott agreed that it would. As such, state health officials this spring began a process of rewriting the definition of the word “affiliate” in order to eliminate PP as a health care provider choice for women; under the new definition, being affiliated with an abortion provider means any connection – so PP clinics that don't offer abortion care would nonetheless be banned since they are essentially members of the same umbrella nonprofit.

According to stats provided to the Health & Human Services Commission's Medical Care Advisory Committee this summer by commission staff, almost 30% of then-current program clients – just less than 130,000 in May alone, according to HHSC – are served by PP clinics. Although Kay Ghahremani, deputy director of Medicaid

policy development for HHSC, told the committee that 98% of clients live within 10 miles of another provider, she had no information about whether the remaining providers had the ability to pick up tens of thousands of clients that would lose their provider should the prohibition on PP stand (based solely on May enrollment numbers, that would be roughly 39,000 women). According to an August report from HHSC, last year 80,430 women accessed WHP services at family-planning clinics, including PPs, while just over 9,000 women were seen at federally qualified health centers, one-stop medical shops that Deuell routinely champions as being the best place for women in need of preventative health and family-

planning services and a replacement for the women's health care system that relies so heavily on PP for services.

Seeing the WHP crash and burn would not be good for Texas women. With the number of enrollees increasing significantly each year – from a total of 91,683 clients served in 2007 to 183,537 in 2010, and expected to top that this year – the program is both a health care and

financial success. And with the Legislature's draconian cuts to the state's family-planning budget for the current biennium – stripping roughly two-thirds of the budget historically used to provide low-income and uninsured women with access to gynecological exams, cancer screenings, and birth control, among other services – the WHP was seen by many as a light in an otherwise dark landscape, a potential way for women cut from the traditional family-planning program to obtain much-needed services. According to a 2008 Guttmacher Institute report, approximately 1.5 million women in Texas are in need of these health services; before the family planning cuts made in April, the state was on average serving roughly 15% of those women.

Number of Women's Health Program Enrollees, 2007-2010

2007	91,683
2008	144,040
2009	151,989
2010	183,537

The federal government has denied the state's effort to renew its successful Women's Health Program, which serves a growing number of low-income clients each year, because of Texas lawmakers' decision to exclude Planned Parenthood from participating in the program.

the hightower report BY JIM HIGHTOWER

RICK THE REFORMER'S REVOLVING DOOR

As the wise, old adage goes, those who live in glass houses ought not throw stones. That's the moral of today's Perry Tale, tracking the truth-impaired governor of Texas as he stumbles madly across the country in the vain of hope of being the GOP presidential nominee.

The latest Perry Tale is in the form of a campaign ad he's running. In it, he scolds members of Congress who leave office to become lobbyists. That's “a form of legal corruption,” Perry piously intones. Well, he's right about that, but there's not even an iota of truth to the suggestion that he's the one

to fix it. As governor, Perry's been the poster child for revolving-door corruption between his own office and corporate lobbyists.

For example, guess who is now heading the super PAC that's supporting Perry's White House bid? Mike Toomey, who went from being a state legislator to being a highly paid tassel-toed corporate lobbyist in Texas. Then, Toomey the lobbyist spun back through that revolving door of corruption to become Gov. Perry's very own chief of staff. Then – whoop, whoop, whoop – he spun out again to become an even higher-paid lobbyist, using his ties to Perry to get government favors for his corporate clients.

Indeed, several of Perry's top staffers have been “revolvers,” coming to his office directly from the lobbying corps or leaving the Governor's Office to go into corporate lobbying – or both. And while he's now pointing his finger of shame at Washington's revolving door, he's hush-hush about the fact that Texas has had more lawmakers-turned-lobbyists than any other state. Yet, in his 11 years as governor, he never made a peep of protest about their corruption.

No matter what Perry's campaign ads say, “Rick the Reformer” is to governmental ethics what Newt Gingrich is to marital fidelity.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, “The Hightower Lowdown” – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

With the budget cuts in place, tens of thousands of women stand to lose access to health care. Should the WHP dissolve, potentially nearly 200,000 will also lose coverage.

According to the CMS letter, the agency remains open to working with Texas to ensure that the WHP will be renewed, and has agreed to allow the program to continue through the end of March 2012 – it was set to expire, pending renewal, on Dec. 31. Whether Texas will be willing to compromise on the “affiliate” language in order to see the program live on is unclear. According to HHSC spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman, the agency is disappointed by the CMS decision, “which is inconsistent with federal law that gives states the authority to establish qualifications for Medicaid providers,” she wrote in an email. “HHSC will continue to work with CMS to continue this important program and enforce the state's right to establish provider qualifications for the program that reflect the values of our state.”

Indeed, it seems that Gov. **Rick Perry** agrees that the state should be able to evict from the program any provider with which lawmakers have political differences, regardless of that provider's ability to provide the medical services sought. According to a statement released last week, Perry apparently agrees that by denying women their choice of providers, the state is helping to protect unborn children. “We are committed to protecting life in Texas, and state law prohibits giving state dollars to abortion providers and affiliates – a fact the Obama Administration ignores,” he said. “I strongly urge the administration to do the right thing and grant this waiver, so Texas women can access critical preventative health services, including breast and cervical cancer screenings, rather than making them pay the price for its pro-abortion agenda.”

The news did not sit well with other lawmakers, including San Antonio Democratic Rep. **Mike Villarreal**, who has been an advocate for the WHP and who hopes that the state will work with CMS to ensure the program lives on. “Instead of playing politics with women's health, state leaders need to use this time to find a way to continue the critical health services that Texas women rely on,” he said. – *Jordan Smith*

Texas Mexican Mafia Gets Its 'Just Deserts'

Sixteen members and associates of the notorious prison-initiated gang the Texas Mexican Mafia were sentenced to serious time in the federal pen last week – altogether more than 300 years behind bars – as the result of a multiagency task force crackdown on the drug-running gang. The FBI, the Austin Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and a handful of other agencies participated in the two-year initiative, dubbed Operation Mercedo (loosely, “Just Deserts”). The long sentences are “a tremendous gift to the people of Austin,” Police Chief Art Acevedo told reporters at a Tuesday afternoon press conference. – *J.S.*

Give 'Til It Helps, Part 2

Wish List

gift guide

BY KATE X MESSER

Holiday greetings, friends,

Here are lists from local nonprofits detailing what they need to serve our community. We encourage you to research the details on what specific kinds/brands/sizes/conditions of things are needed; some are legal mandates, so please do call ahead to make sure your gift is appropriate. To save space, we've taken requests for cash, volunteers, and office supplies out of the lists. Whatever you wish to give, call your intended recipient and shower them with your tangible affection.

Let's do this, darling Austin. Let's support the good these superheroes do all year long.

— Kate X Messer

ADAPT OF TEXAS

442-0252. adapt@adapt.org, www.adaptoftexas.org.
Cassette-to-digital transfer
8' plastic folding tables
Electric space heaters
Laptops

AFRICA'S PROMISE VILLAGE

512/291-3593. info@africaspromisevillage.org, www.africaspromisevillage.org.
Flip-flops (all sizes)
Travel-size toiletries
Clothing (ages 0-17)

AMERICAN GATEWAYS

478-0546. www.americangateways.org.
New heavy-duty staplers
New printers and paper
New laptops

ANY BABY CAN

454-3743. info@abcaus.org, www.abcaus.org.
Winter coats for children
Baby clothes and shoes
Layette items and diapers
Children's books

URBAN LEAGUE

478-7176. moreinfo@aaul.org, www.aaul.org.
Lateral cabinets
12-passenger van
Laser printers/copiers
Commercial shredder

AUSTIN GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

512/413-0589. jazz@austingermanshepherdrescue.org, www.austingermanshepherdrescue.org.
Leashes, collars, toys
Stainless steel food bowls
Pet store gift cards
Wire folding crates

AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY

646-PETS. info@austinhumanesociety.org, www.austinhumanesociety.org.
High-quality canned food for dogs and cats
Retail, pet store gift cards
Blankets (without stuffing)
Nonclumping cat litter

AUSTIN PETS ALIVE!

961-6519. info@austinpetsalive.org, www.austinpetsalive.org.
Tidy Cats clumping litter
Blankets and towels
KMR and Esbilac milk replacers

AUSTIN ZOO

288-1490. info@austinzoo.org, www.austinzoo.org.
Extension cords, garden hoses, tarps
Canned dog and cat food
HE laundry detergent

BADGERDOG LITERARY

538-1305. info@badgerdog.org, www.badgerdog.org.
Frequent flier miles
Paper shredder
Video camera
Event space

BROWN SANTA

247-2682. volunteer@brownsanta.org, www.brownsanta.org.
Toys for boys and girls (ages 0-2 and 10-14)
Nonperishable food items
Books

COLLEGE FORWARD

512/452-4800. info@collegeforward.org, www.collegeforward.org.
Three point-and-shoot digital cameras
Fifty flash drives (any size)
\$5-20 restaurant, retail gift cards

EASTER SEALS

478-2581. cmurrell@eastersealstx.com, www.centralx.easterseals.com.
Two commercial vacuums
Printer and colored paper
Digital camera
Office desk

FAMILY ELDERCARE

450-0844. info@familyeldercare.org, www.familyeldercare.org.
New winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks
New blankets and heaters
Toiletries in small bottles
Nonperishable food items
Grocery gift cards

GIRLS EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

841-4093. office@genAustin.org, www.genAustin.org.
Color printer/copier
Full-size refrigerator
H-E-B gift cards
Art supplies

GIRLSTART TECH CENTER

916-4775. friends@girlstart.org, www.girlstart.org.
Event lunch sponsor

Airline tickets, miles
Pro bono PR services
Car rental vouchers
Hard laptop cases

GREEN DOORS

469-9130. dwelch@greendoors.org, www.greendoors.org.
Books (résumé writing, nutrition, cookbooks self-improvement, gardening,)
High-protein food items, condiments
Gardening supplies
Gas, retail gift cards
Flash drives

GRIFFIN SCHOOL

454-5797. stephanie@griffinschool.org, www.griffinschool.org.
Kiln and potter's wheel
Tablet computers
Passenger van
Laptops

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

444-2294. hostel@hiaustin.org, www.hiaustin.org.
Kitchen/dining chairs
Bunk beds and sofas
Kitchen equipment
Patio furniture
10 costume racks a-rolling
9 8-foot tall dance studio mirrors (for) dancing
Gr8 graphic designing
7 cameras capturing
6 light and sound boards a-running
5 gazillion volunteers
4-ever family
3 loaded Macs
2 'lectric pianos
And a building for A-C-T!

HOUSE RABBIT RESOURCE NETWORK

444-3277. hrrn@rabbitresource.org, www.rabbitresource.org.
QuickBooks-compatible point-of-sale system
Reverse-osmosis H₂O system
Retail gift cards

IMAGINE ART

448-1840. info@imagineart.net, www.imagineart.net.
Art supply, office supply, and grocery gift cards
Acrylic/watercolor paints
Primed canvas

IMPACT AUSTIN

335-5540. efitzgerald@impact-austin.org, www.impact-austin.org.
Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign
Scanner and laptop

MAMAS OF COLOR RISING

mamasofcolorrising@gmail.com, www.mamasofcolorrising.wordpress.com.
Retail, grocery gift cards

Educational toys and crafts (ages 2-14)

SAMARITAN HEALTH MINISTRIES

512/331-5828. info@theshm.org, www.theshm.org.
Welch Allyn Spot Vital Signs monitor
Automated external defibrillator
Four exam room stools
EasyOne spirometer
Phone system

TEXAS HEARING & SERVICE DOGS

891-9090. shane@servicedogs.org, www.servicedogs.org.
iPods, docks, speakers
Leashes and treats
42-inch wire crates
Lawnmower
Tools

THEATRE ACTION PROJECT

442-8773. maryalice@theatreactionproject.org, www.theatreactionproject.org.
The 12 wishes for ACT:
12 sponsors sponsoring
11 printers printing
10 costume racks a-rolling
9 8-foot tall dance studio mirrors (for) dancing
Gr8 graphic designing
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6 light and sound boards a-running
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4-ever family
3 loaded Macs
2 'lectric pianos
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750-8019. info@urbanrootsatx.org, www.urbanrootsatx.org.
(please call to coordinate)
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10 mil drip tape (8 rolls)
T-Tape high flow
Floating row cover (2 rolls)
Chapin backpack sprayer
Greenhouse plastic

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List compiled by Kate X Messer and Lisa Montierth. Part 1 ran last week in print. The entire list, including many not seen in print, will appear online.

Unchartered Waters

City Hall and citizen advocates look toward a new model of representation – is the seventh time the charm?

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Outside a recent meeting of the 2012 Charter Revision Committee, Martha Cotera and Roscoe Overton – two civic leaders long involved in the struggle for equal rights and equitable political representation – are going back and forth on the committee's primary topic: "geographic representation" and whether Austin's revised form of City Council elections should be based solely on single-member districts or include some form of "super-district," where some candidates can run to represent multiple districts or larger geographic areas.

"Right now, just to use [Council Member] Sheryl Cole as an example," says Overton, "if she was trying to push something that deals strictly with racial issues, she would only have to convince three other people to have four as a majority. But what happens if she gets on there with 10 other people?"

"That's when they start coalition building," interjects Cotera.

"But now she's got to convince five other people to get a majority. That, to me, really puts a little undue pressure on that person."

"Are you saying that with hybrid representation, you can have your geographic champions plus a ... superchampion?"

"Yes, absolutely!"

"Oh, God," Cotera moans.

"Everybody's got the same vote; they've got the same power!" Overton replies. "Your [superdistrict] vote's not any larger than mine if I'm in a single district." But, under a hybrid system, he continues, "I have some allies, I have some help to raise that issue, because I can't do it by myself. Whereas in the 10-1 system [10 single-member districts plus a mayor], I would be by myself – I'd have to create that relationship. But in a superdistrict, I have two people who are at-large in that area I can go to."

"We can try the 10-1 first," offers Cotera, "and if it doesn't work, we can cut it differently."

Geographic representation, single-member districts, hybrid systems – however you want to slice it, people are talking about revisions to the City Charter that would forever change the way Austin elects its council members. If such changes are adopted, we would move from a citywide, at-large system in which council members represent the whole city – but one which makes council members more remote and campaigns prohibitively expensive – to one in which candidates would live in, campaign in, and ultimately represent specific districts, resulting in narrower representation but more direct accountability. The procedural debate, currently focused in a council-appointed Charter Revision Committee, is already having an effect on the current election cycle (filing began last month for May municipal elections), as challengers may be holding off entering the next campaign until it is finally decided whether and what kind of change is coming. (The local uncertainty's been exacerbated by the Supreme Court's recent stay of redrawn maps for Texas state and congressional elections, leaving district lines uncertain and effectively crowding an already constricted election calendar.) The fact that people are indeed talking about city government at all bodes well for potential changes – public apathy having doomed geographic representation several times before – but the ultimate form of the election changes (plus any other revisions the charter committee might propose) remains very uncertain.

A Cycle of Frustration

Over the last 38 years, the question of single-member districts has been posed to voters six times, and six times it has failed. And those are the occasions the matter has actually made it to the ballot; it's been a perennial subject of city politics (Austin remains the largest U.S. city without some form of geographic representation), and in



Martha Cotera and Roscoe Overton

JANA BIRCHUM

"We can try the 10-1 first [10 single-member districts plus a mayor], and if it doesn't work, we can cut it differently."

– Martha Cotera

the most recent attempt, in 2007, a task force failed to gain sufficient public engagement and City Council couldn't arrive at a ballot consensus. In his February State of the City address, Mayor Lee Leffingwell revived the issue once again, issuing a call for a comprehensive City Charter election that would include a switch to geographic representation.

The challenge this time seems to be different, with a greater momentum for change. Perhaps that's due to Austin's growing size and stature – it's increasingly difficult to pretend single council members can represent 800,000 people – and the awareness that few other metropolitan areas elect only at-large. Or perhaps the new urgency reflects the political ascendancy of neighborhood associations, with those neighborhood issues making what was once a largely

race- and ethnicity-based movement more of a locality-based one – although as that Overton and Cotera dialogue reflects, there is hardly unanimity on what form a revised representation system should take.

There was no shortage of support for geographic representation at the Dec. 1 meeting of the Charter Revision Committee. Lending some firsthand perspective to the failings of the at-large system was Perla Cavazos, who unsuccessfully ran against Chris Riley in 2009 for an open Place 1 seat – not for one of the two places unofficially reserved for a Latino (Place 2) or an African-American candidate (Place 6) under Austin's "gentleman's agreement" that was initially designed to avoid the necessity of single-member districts. Cavazos said political consultants advised her that she needed at least \$200,000 for a competitive citywide

CRC: Proposed Charter Changes

The 2012 Charter Revision Committee is charged with more than making a recommendation on geographic representation. Because changes to the City Charter, Austin's governing document, can only be made once every two years, the committee has issued (thus far) several additional recommendations for items to be put before voters next year.

The committee meets again Jan. 5, when it will debate (and perhaps decide) whether to recommend some single-member district plan. The committee's final recommendations will go to City Council for review and approval, and council will decide what proposals to put on the November 2012 ballot. – W.D.

On Oct. 13, the committee issued the following recommendations for questions to be placed on the ballot in the next charter election:

- Move municipal elections from May to November.
- Prohibit council members from switching places to avoid term limits.
- Make the required number of signatures for initiative and referendum petitions the same as that of charter amendment petitions: 5% of the city's qualified voters (it's currently 10% for initiative and referendum petitions).
- Have the city attorney report to council instead of to the city manager.
- Allow council members to appoint their own staff members. (They essentially do already, but currently, appointments are formally made by the city manager.)
- Allow the city clerk to appoint his own deputy clerks (council currently appoints).
- Allow the city auditor to appoint deputy auditors.

On Dec. 8, the committee recommended additional ballot questions:

- Create a new, 30-day fundraising period once an election is completed, so candidates could retire their campaign debts.
- Double current limits on officeholder accounts, from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- Grant the Ethics Review Commission jurisdiction over campaign finance violations and the ability to recommend whether violations have occurred (powers it currently lacks).
- Require rapid disclosure of political expenditures made in the last nine days of a campaign; currently, these disclosures are made after the election.
- Require digital submission of campaign finance and lobbying reports, in a searchable format.
- Require disclosure of independent expenditures from PACs and noncandidates.
- Specify that revenue-bond-financed projects that cost more than \$50 million – usually on large utility projects – be sent to voters for approval.

(Disclosure: The Charter Revision Committee that drafted the recommendations includes Susan Moffat, wife of Chronicle Publisher Nick Barbaro.)

run, and added that the at-large system “perpetuates a cycle of forgotten neighborhoods and people, where voter turnout is low and easy to ignore. Candidates are advised to stick to [high-turnout] precincts. With limited time and resources, a candidate has to go where the votes are, and low-turnout boxes like Dove Springs and other neglected neighborhoods continue to be slighted by candidates. It’s a vicious cycle.”

Many other speakers that night railed against the at-large system, with arguments that were consistently well-intentioned but simultaneously misdirected. No one in the room that night needed to be convinced of the efficacy of geographic representation – only very few speakers dissented, and even they argued primarily for a hybrid system that would maintain some at-large or super-district seats. In fact, the holdouts weren’t in the building – they’re just the majority of city voters who have persistently defied the rhetorical consensus among public officials and political activists and voted down SMDs every single time.

And considering only 10% or so of registered voters (on a good day) turn out for council elections, much less ponder the intricacies of different maps, election scenarios, and the like, it’s no easy task to engage that larger electorate. It’s much, much easier to rail against the invisible opposition at a public meeting and to defend the righteous notion of pure democracy against ... nobody.

And even for the people in the standing-room-only conference room, united in their opposition to solely at-large elections, strong differences of opinion remained on the merits of specific scenarios.

Agreeing To Disagree

That’s not to say there wasn’t a temporary favorite. A number of speakers that particular night were there to support a 10-1 plan – 10 individual council districts, with only the mayor running at-large. (Several others, including Cavazos, declined to endorse a particular plan, instead arguing that any move toward districting at all would be the first step in the right direction.) The 10-1 is the scheme proposed by Austinites for Geographic Representation, an ad hoc organization created to collect signatures to get the plan on the ballot in November 2012. In fact, if their petition drive succeeds and City Council decides

to go with a different plan, there could be competing proposals on the same ballot.

A competing plan has its true believers (e.g., Overton) but hasn’t had as much vocal support: the 8-4-1 scenario – eight individual districts, with two council members each serving in superdistricts that halve the city. The mayor would be the only truly at-large candidate, for a total of 13 council members, and every citizen would get to vote for – and be represented by – four council members instead of just two under a pure district system. Supporting 8-4-1 is the Austin Center for Peace and Justice, which hosted some early discussions on the districting topic; ACPJ President Rudy Williams writes, “The 8-4-1 model is based on the City Council configuration in Memphis,” Tenn., which Overton apparently had a hand in configuring.

“A common interest creates bonding in politics. So that’s why in the superdistrict you have a common denominator of interest.” – Roscoe Overton

“A common interest creates bonding in politics,” Overton notes. “So that’s why in the superdistrict you have a common denominator of interest. You got about 350,000 on the Eastside who have been deprived of a lot of the goodies. So all of these elected officials on that side are gonna have something of a common interest.”

But while the superdistrict’s shared interests could assist a single member requiring backup on a contentious issue, to others, superdistricts raise the specter of a council caste system and only partially diminish the expense of at-large races. Also, it’s easy to imagine superdistrict representation – especially if those are drawn along an east-west city divide – becoming a de facto gentleman’s agreement of its own, with specific expectations for racial representation. (Dave Richards, longtime Democratic activist and one of the panel of experts testifying before the committee, dismissed any hybrid system as simply a redesign of the current system under another name.)

Additionally, there’s the question of whether eight single-member districts are

in fact enough to create a feasible “opportunity district” for African-American voters. In a Voting Rights Act state like Texas (subject to U.S. Department of Justice review of election changes), the DOJ looks at whether districts are drawn so as to provide an appreciable opportunity for minority voters to elect a candidate of their choice. According to Peck Young, director of the Center for Public Policy and Political Studies at Austin Community College, using eight districts allows you to create an opportunity district that would have a 26% African-American population; in a 10-district scenario, you could up that percentage to 31%. (The mayor’s 6-2-1 proposal – six single-member districts plus two at-large council members and the mayor – has received little support in charter revision meetings and comes in at only about 22%.) Within those proposed variations, the question remains: How many additional council districts can the voters as a whole be persuaded to endorse?

But while Austin’s declining (as a percentage) and dispersing black population poses challenges for minority representation, so does the city’s increasing Asian-American population. Speakers from the Asian-American community most pointedly called to retain some form of at-large and superdistrict representation. “We don’t agree with the concept of complete districts,” consultant and engineer Channy Soeur told the charter committee. “We have never been able to have the representation at any time until Jennifer Kim ran, at-large, and won,” said Soeur, echoing Kim’s own testimony on behalf of the Network of Asian American Organizations. Since Kim’s 2006 victory demonstrated that an at-large victory is possible for an Asian-American candidate, Soeur and other Asian-Americans are wary of changing to a solely single-member system, feeling they have a better chance at representation with some form of hybrid. “In some ways, my community is just out of luck,” committee member Richard Jung also noted. “We’re not large enough,” despite a large Asian-American presence in parts of North Austin, “and we were stupid enough to live all across the city. We have no historical relevance to this [districting] conversation in a lot of ways.”

continued on p.26

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EST. HWY.

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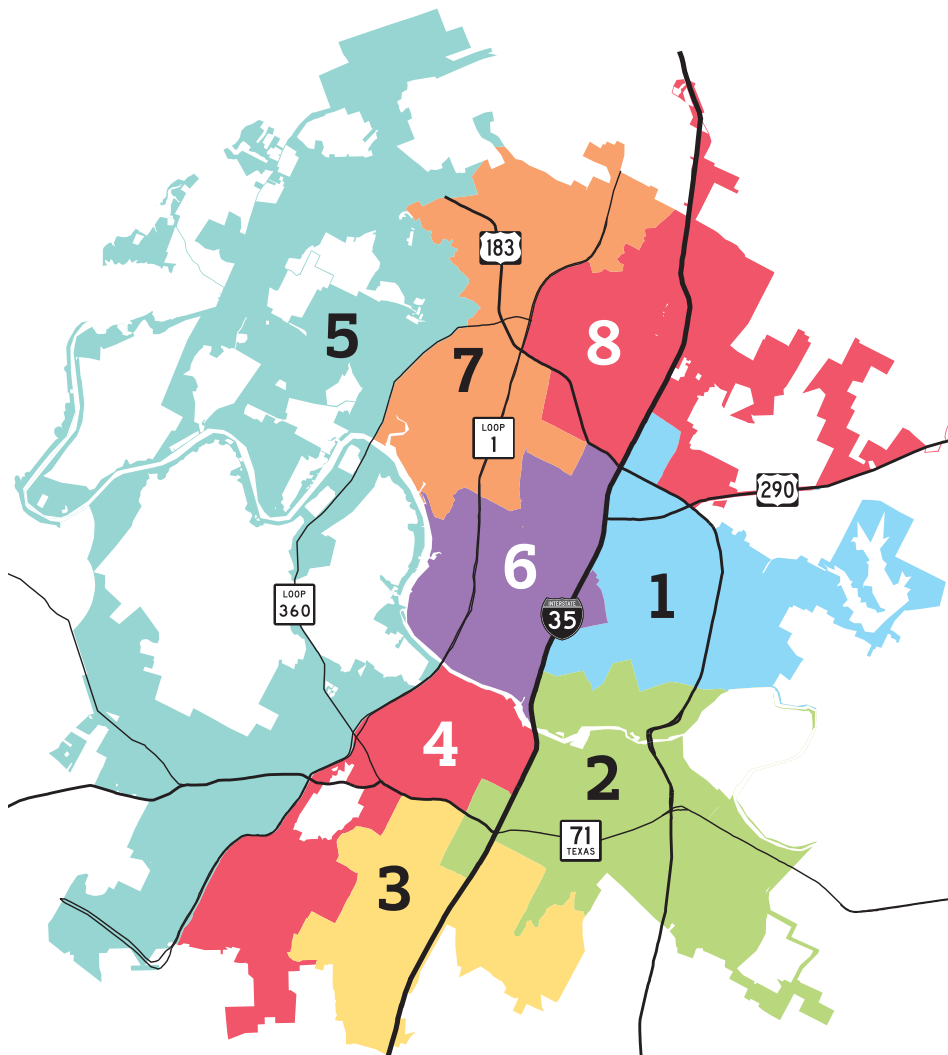
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In the 8-4-1 scenario - eight individual districts and two superdistricts that halve the city, with two council members elected from each half - the mayor would be the only truly at-large candidate, for a total of 13 council members. The Austin Center for Peace and Justice supports such a scenario.

The End of an Era?

Trying to balance calls for geographic accountability, ethnically equitable representation, and rallying a lackadaisical electorate, the Charter Revision Committee has plenty of work to do. City Council recently acknowledged this, extending the committee's reporting period from the end of January to the end of March 2012.

And while the committee hasn't weighed in on the pros or cons of specific scenarios yet, its deliberations have already had electoral effects. All year, the signs had pointed to a hard-fought battle for mayor in 2012. There was the splintering of Leffingwell's mostly reliable four-member voting bloc with Kathie Tovo's defeat of Place 3 incumbent Randi Shade; a bitter battle over whether to move council elections from May to November

Council Candidates a' Maying

Conventional political wisdom currently holds that several potential candidates for mayor are biding their time and waiting to see whether Austinites approve a new form of elections (e.g., geographic representation of some kind) next November. But a spate of recent filings for council seats - and one familiar name exploring a mayoral run - means this spring's elections could still hold some excitement.

- W.D.

INCUMBENTS

All four incumbent City Council members whose terms are up have already filed for re-election. None of them wasted any time either, save Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, who seriously considered a run for mayor but finally filed for re-election to Place 6 in late November.

Mayor: **Lee Leffingwell** (Filed Nov. 14)
Place 2: **Mike Martinez** (Filed Nov. 14)
Place 5: **Bill Spelman** (Filed Nov. 18)
Place 6: **Sheryl Cole** (Filed Nov. 30)

A MAYORAL CHALLENGER?

Former Council Member **Brigid Shea**, who served on the "green council" during the contentious early 1990s, filed paperwork Dec. 5 naming a campaign treasurer, but hasn't yet announced whether she will indeed run for mayor, officially saying only that she is seriously evaluating a potential run.

THE TAG TEAM

A trio of insurgent candidates recently filed for council seats or announced their intentions to do so:

Kris Bailey, who ran for Place 3 last spring (garnering 6.5%) and earlier for a state House seat as a Libertarian, filed Dec. 14.

Laura Pressley, a businesswoman (bottled water) with a doctorate in chemistry and a background in the semiconductor industry and who's deeply involved with Fluoride Free Austin, filed Dec. 2.

Clay Dafoe, familiar to City Hall watchers for his recurrent addresses to council regarding any number of items on the day's agenda, has not yet filed but told the *Chronicle* he's considering it.

All three are involved to varying degrees with **Texans for Accountable Government**, a group "formed with the ambition of reigning in the intrusive and expanding reach of government which threatens to invade every facet of our lives"; Pressley serves on TAG's steering committee. None of the three has yet specified which seat they might run for, but it's unlikely they would run against one another.

(when, it was presumed, Leffingwell would benefit from higher turnout); the re-debate of issues Leffingwell thought settled, like the decision to build Water Treatment Plant No. 4; and backroom chatter of a challenge from a council colleague, most likely Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole. In the end, Cole declared for re-election to her current seat, and the election now looks to be decidedly less exciting than initially anticipated (see "Council Candidates a' Maying," above).

Why the sudden political vacuum?

Well, why would anyone other than an incumbent expend money and labor fighting for a seat that he or she would hold for only a year or so? Should some form of geographic representation be approved by voters in 2012, a new election would be called in 2013, and the entire cycle would reboot. And while things may certainly change by the May elections, that campaign could turn

out to be the calm before the storm - the last contest under an old system, before a new one comes along that will wipe the slate clean. (And with so many of our current council members living in Central Austin and none south of the river, should Austin voters finally approve geographic representation, we should see nearly an entirely new council.)

But all that's assuming we can come to an agreement on what that system should look like - and persuade sufficient numbers of Austinites to vote for it. As Overton told Cotera at that meeting, "The reason I like the model of the superdistrict is because you've got a common interest there, and you have more people than yourself."

"That could be a real pain in the butt," Cotera laughed. "Don't come talk to me - I'm Super-Council Person!"

And the debate continues

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	Walkin' Woody's Road: LaFave, Gilkyson, Cleaves, Hendrix 1/28/12		Chris Hillman & Herb Pedersen 2/23/12
	Judy Collins 1/29/12		Celtic Crossroads 2/24/12
	Blood, Sweat & Tears 2/3/12		Jon Anderson, The Voice of Yes 2/26/12

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Lauren Fensterstock, *Mound*, 2010 (detail), Paper, charcoal, and Plexiglas, Dimensions variable, Courtesy of the artist and Sienna Gallery, Lenox, Massachusetts

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THE ARTS

Hit Where You Live

So there I am, grazing at the buffet line, stuffing the old piehole with just about everything *but* pie (beef tenderloin, grilled asparagus, shrimp, holiday cookies, etc.), when there comes a sound that slices through the white noise of holiday party chatter like a hot knife through figgy pudding: piano music. And not the kind that you'd expect during a holiday party, not the jaunty carols that draw people to the keyboard like moths to a flame, leading to the inevitable sing-along, and not their contemporary counterparts starring Rudolph or Frosty or a lip-locking Saint Nick, jazzed up by some would-be Vince Guaraldi – no, it's nothing seasonal at all, nothing with lyrics even. Is that a Chopin polonaise? A Beethoven bagatelle? I confess, I'm not on good enough speaking terms with the Dead Composers Society to be able to name that tune, but it's a classical piece, and it's being played by someone who not only can name it but also knows every note intimately. I abandon the kitchen for the living room, where I find Anton Nel – yes, *that* Anton Nel, professor of piano at UT's Butler School of Music, fresh from soloing with the Austin Symphony – seated at the Steinway, merrily playing away for no one in particular. Most partiers keep right on conversing, as if it's just standard soiree background music supplied by a pianist for hire. Me, I've shut that old piehole of mine, thinking, "I'm getting to hear one of the finest musicians in our city – strike that, on our *planet* – play in a person's *home*, where I'm as near to him as I would be to my television were I watching it at my house." And that proximity allows me to see his fingers dance a ballet across the keys every bit as enchanting as any waltz from *The Nutcracker*. Their spirited movement is echoed in the



COURTESY OF KMFA

"Seriously, I was *this* close to him."
(Anton Nel at a KMFA event)



sound, the notes bounding and capering through the air in a frolic. And even with all the voices competing for my ears' attention, Nel's mastery can be clearly heard.

The impromptu concert lasts all of 10 minutes, I think, but as brief as it is, it's still a wonder – not least because of *where* it happened. I don't mean the specific home where the party was held (though heaven knows it's splendid, and thanks to James Armstrong and Larry Connelly for welcoming me into it) but in a home, period. A work of art

feels different in a place where people live, where someone has carved out a personal space in the world where they can rest and cook and break bread with loved ones and share time with friends and attend to their most intimate needs; this *is* the room of their own, with what's in it reflecting what matters to whom-ever lives there. In that space, art – whether it's a painting, a dance, a piano performance, or whatever – is integrated into all those other terribly personal activities of life. It doesn't exist apart in a specially

constructed venue you have to go to in order to connect with art; art's in ur base, filling ur soulz. Art in a home is imbued with the intimacy of that space. That's part of what makes Nel's little recital so remarkable: the feeling that I'm so close to the art, as well as the artist. It may not be my home, but it hits me where I live.

The experience makes me crave more of the same, and I'm reminded of a blog post in *The New York Times* Arts section from the day before that may relate to satisfying that craving.

Meet me back here next week, and I'll share with you how. In the meantime, why not share a memorable encounter you've had with art in a home, either yours or someone else's? I'd love to hear about it. ■



Loni Landon and Gregory Dolbashian

Ballet Austin

BIG APPLE SCORES BIG FOR 'NAT/D' 4

Who will be the winner of Ballet Austin's fourth New American Talent/Dance competition in February? Well, this much is certain: It will be someone from New York City. That's because all three finalists hail from the City That Never Sleeps.

Dance-makers from coast to coast submit entries to the company's biennial choreographic contest, but when BA Artistic Director Stephen Mills and company staff made the final cut this year, three New Yorkers were the last choreographers standing: Gregory Dolbashian, founder of the DASH Ensemble; Loni Landon, founder of Loni Landon-projects; and Bradley Shelver, artistic director of Bradley Shelver Contemporary Dance Theater. Each of them will spend 40 hours in residence at Ballet Austin, working with company dancers to create a world-premiere work which will then be presented in the ballet's *New American Talent/Dance* program, Feb. 17-19.

As in previous competitions, those dances are good for more than win, place, and show ribbons; they can earn their creators cash. More than \$24,000 will be awarded to these choreographers, most coming from the jury of noted dance professionals, who this year include Anik Bissonnette, artistic director of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and of L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec; Molly Lynch, assistant professor of dance in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at the University of California-Irvine, founder and artistic director of the National Choreographers Initiative, and former artistic director for Ballet Pacifica; and Zachary Whittenburg, former dancer and current Dance editor of *Time Out Chicago*. But some of that cash is awarded by *you*. Audience members at each performance are invited to vote for their favorite dance via text message, and the dance receiving the most votes at that show wins a cash prize. Don't miss your chance to shape the future of dance. For more information, visit www.balletaustin.org. – R.F.



Peter Bay

Forklift Danceworks

BALLET FOR BAY

How do you follow a monumental endeavor such as *The Trash Project*? How about with something small?

After devoting some five years of her life to staging a work that involved tons of mechanical machinery, scores of city employees, and a massive municipal bureaucracy, choreographer Allison Orr is scaling things back a bit. OK, a *lot*.

Her next dance will focus on an individual, someone whose movements are familiar to many but, like most of the subjects Orr has set her choreographic sights on, not generally considered dance. Her subject will be Austin Symphony Orchestra conductor Peter Bay.

On the Forklift Danceworks blog, company Artistic Director Orr states that she conceived the piece two

years ago after watching Bay for many years. "He has always struck me first and foremost as a dancer," she writes. "I love his light movement quality, the way he attacks the space, and the variety with which he uses space and energy. He is a complete and total musician who does not make one single sound. His job is certainly not easy. It requires many, many skills. He must have: serene wisdom, a fabulous memory, a commanding presence, vast experience, a remarkable power of projection, a strong hand, and perfect pitch. Historically, people in his position have not always been well-liked, for they have been

called: tyrants, dictators, autocrats, and superstars. Thousands have tried, perhaps more have failed. There are very few like him, and he carries an immense amount of responsibility.

"Over the next nine months, I will be watching him, interviewing him, shadowing him, talking to other people about him, learning all I can about him and his job – basically stalking him." Orr doesn't know yet what form the dance will take, only that it will feature music directed and composed by Graham Reynolds and will take place in July 2012 in the Rollins Studio Theatre at the Long Center, 701 W. Riverside. – R.F.

Down These Mean, Ink-Stained Streets

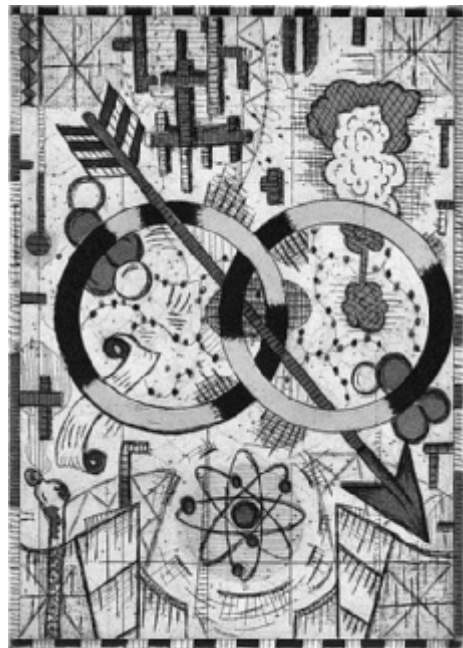
Chicago artist Tony Fitzpatrick brings his 'Nickel History' to Slugfest Gallery

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Tony Fitzpatrick won't settle for just bending your ears.

The articulate Irishman from Chicago, who looks like he could maybe demolish an entire city block with his bare mitts, can spin endless tales of his prizefighting days, his journeys overseas, and his friends in Leavenworth Penitentiary. Fitzpatrick can wax experiential and philosophical about the modern art world, the minutiae of old-school printing presses, the lack of honey wagons on an indie movie set. The hulking fellow with the bright tattoos and gettin'-old spectacles, no stranger to dive bars the world over but now several years on the wagon, can give you the skinny on the Hell's Angels and the Mob, the politics and poise of Dick Tracy creator Chester Gould, the dark side of Chicago's power structure, and the habits of Depression-era hobos. He can reduce a room of people to laughter with accounts of his former Windy City neighbor, a wry and wizened Ukrainian lady who always referred to him as "Mr. Big Shot" and "you son-of-one-bitch."

But Fitzpatrick clams up, when he does, not because he's tired of talking or has run out of stories. He sets aside his gift of gab because he's got a few other gifts to flex, not least of which is a talent for visuals – which he exercises in the form of drawing-enhanced collages and polychrome etchings. Prints from the latter technique, prints as colorful as (and not so stylistically different from) his arms' tattoos, make up his "Nickel History/



Atomic Hobo

The Nation of Heat" collection, currently on display at Slugfest Gallery, down the street from Flatbed World Headquarters.

Fitzpatrick, see, also wants to bend your eyes. He does this with carefully inscribed illustrations that depict the world as viewed from his storied perspective, the art revealing a personal *wunderkammer* of resonant images – all the things he more casually renders with vocabulary and jaw-bone. Comic-strip icons, human faces, birds, insects, hobo signs – each centered in a rough urban ground, cut there in scratchy yet perfectly balanced line-work – the sort of graphic power that led to his album covers for the Neville Brothers' *Yellow Moon* and all of Steve Earle's solo releases since 1996.

But those covers were combinations of collage and drawing, and we're not talking – we're not fuckin' talking – about that, are we? And why is that?

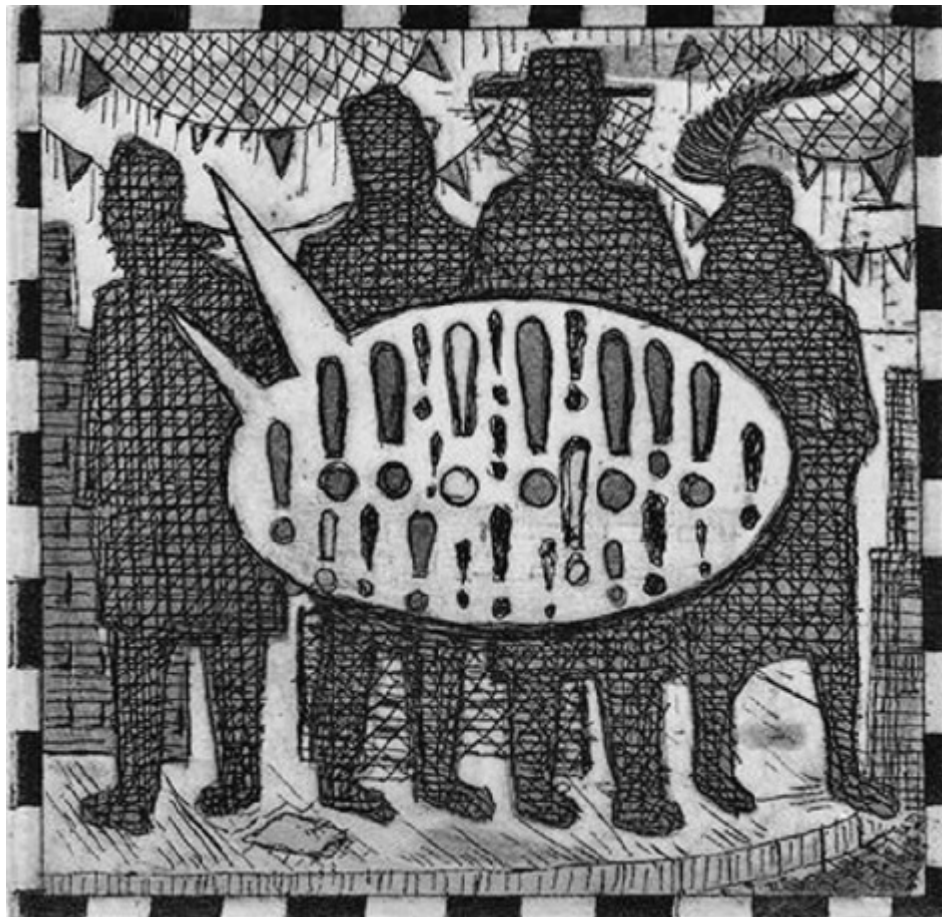
"Well, I've been doing drawing collages for a long time," says Fitzpatrick, "but this 'Nickel History' is my first show of etchings in 10 years."

What brought him back to etchings in particular?

"A lot of it was the idea of a long-form narrative," says Fitzpatrick, "Like Hogarth's 'A Rake's Progress' or Goya's Caprichos. I started 'Nickel History' in 1997 with 10 black-and-white etchings. I started it a year or so before my dad passed away. They were kind of about his long walk in the darkness, but if you've ever known anybody who's had a terminal illness, it's ... well, I stopped making them. Grief has its own kind of logic, you know? Then, about eight months ago, I came across that body of work again and I thought, 'I should've never stopped making these; they were headed somewhere really wonderful.' So I made these little sketches in Tokyo – I spent a lot of time there, met a lot of yakuza guys and had a really good time – and when I came home I went to see Teresa James, my printer, and made an etching with her. And I thought, 'If I like it, OK, that means there's something left in the gas tank, y'know?'"

But these aren't black-and-white?

"We always kind of staked out our territory as color etching," says Fitzpatrick. "Nobody does it, and with good reason: It's very expensive; it's notoriously hard to sell; a lot of print shops shy away from it. But I've always liked it. Like the Blake etchings, William Blake. Those were often hand-colored, but he also made some four- or five-color etchings. He saw what was inside it, and he took the time. And I just thought, if



Lou Reed

I'm going to make a long-form body of work – and I have a couple of them going right now, one of them's about the hobo alphabet, called 'American Etchings,' but it's also got prison tattoos and gang symbols and stuff like that. And 'Nickel History,' also color etchings, because," he pauses, takes a sip from his Sprite, "because the medium rewards this kind of storytelling."

That kind of storytelling, it turns out, is also rewarded by staging. As in theatre.

"When I was a young guy," says the artist, "I wanted to be a playwright. And what I couldn't do at 19, I finally finished at the age of 50: I did a play, and it got produced. Steppenwolf [Theatre Company in Chicago] put up *This Train*; that's where we performed it. And they liked it so much that the next show, it was called *Stations Lost*, we also got to do at Steppenwolf. Luck doesn't begin to cover what it was to be able to do that. And we're doing a third one there, *Nickel History: Nation of Heat*, which opens in July."

But let's not get sidetracked here. With so many different cultural pies that the artist has his fingers in, if we ever want to leave the bakery, we'd better focus on what's displayed across its timeworn walls. Or on the nonmetaphorical walls at Slugfest: the prints of those etchings and the egalitarian spirit that influences their production.

"After *This Train* was done, with all of its narratives, the diary entries," says Fitzpatrick, "I thought there was some real possibility for a book about things like this. I revisited all those Lynd Ward books, *Mad Man's Drum*, and the things that Rockwell

Kent did without any words at all, and I thought, 'Printmaking hasn't seen this in a very long time.' And about five months ago, I found printmaker Catherine Brooks in Lima [Peru] and hired her away from her teaching job. I've never been happier in making the work I'm making than right now – I'm really enjoying it. Eventually there'll be books of these etchings. Because I love making drawing collages, but at a certain point, once they started going for 15 or 20 grand each, none of my friends could afford one. And that kinda bothered me. I'm not a big fan of the classist way the art world now conducts itself – with the full complicity of artists. Fifty years ago, we woulda thrown guys like Larry Gagosian out the door. He stood for everything we found repellent and unctuous in the world – we woulda run him out. And now there's this Republican instinct to be like those guys." Fitzpatrick shakes his head, disgusted. "I think the art world could use an enema," he says. "Or at least a Spartacus, y'know? Somebody that doesn't want to polish Goliath's toenails."

And maybe that's Fitzpatrick?

The big man shrugs, purses his lips, maybe weighing the possibility. "I'm very proud that I have a lot of working-class collectors," he says. "That owning my work hasn't been put outside of the ability of people who, you know, wait tables or cut hair, things like that."

And maybe that's you, reader.

Maybe that's about, oh, 99% of us. ■

"Tony Fitzpatrick: *Nickel History/The Nation of Heat*" runs through Jan. 15 at Slugfest Printmaking Workshop & Gallery, 1906 Miriam. For more information, visit www.slugfestprints.com.

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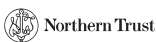
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—Omega Medina, opera singer, former manager of Classical Music for the Grammy Awards

Both individuals' quotes originally published by *The Epoch Times* and New Tang Dynasty Television.

EXHIBITIONISM

A Christmas Carol: The Musical
Georgetown Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave.,
Georgetown, 512/869-7469, www.georgetownpalace.org
Through Dec. 30
Running time: 1 hr., 45 min.

In last week's Sunday funnies, a cartoon of Marley's ghost mistakes the comic strip's protagonist for Ebenezer Scrooge. The bespectacled man remarks in exasperation, "All I said was that if I had to watch one more adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, my head would explode!"

I must admit that he has a point. Since its publication in 1843, Dickens' tale of the miserly, "bah, humbug" grumbling

Scrooge and his late-night visitations from the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come has seen umpteen adaptations. The musical onstage now at the Georgetown Palace Theatre has a score by Alan Menken of Nineties Disney movie acclaim, lyrics by Tony Award-winner Lynn Ahrens, and a book by Ahrens and Mike Ockrent. Succinct and well-rounded, it balances the corny (a macabre song-and-dance number with a host of chain-wearing spirits join Marley's ghost to haunt Scrooge into reformation) and the sweetly sentimental (a few heart-melting bars sung by precious Tiny Tim).

But this *Christmas Carol* is also a doozy, with big Broadway ensemble numbers; countless transitions between the snowy



streets of London, Scrooge's bedroom, and more; and a cast of nearly 45 adults, teens, and children (and those are just half of the actors involved – the show is double-cast). I commend the Palace, a nonprofit organization with robust community support, for mounting this enormous undertaking with contagious enthusiasm. Watching the high-energy, well-choreographed "Mr. Fezziwig's Annual Christmas Ball," the best scene in the production, I couldn't help but grin.

Though this homespun production was touching, it upheld my colleague Adam Roberts' assessment of Palace shows as inconsistent in quality. The company may have grown in this summer's excellent *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, but *A Christmas Carol* suffers from problems with diction, British dialect, and sound balance that make the actors difficult to understand; fog effects that leave the audience coughing; and recurring issues with vocal pitch and blend. The transitions are surprisingly fluid, with cast members manipulating several wheeled flats into various configurations onto which background images are projected, creating a cost-effective if slightly cheesy solution to the show's many set changes. Though the cast struggled with illnesses the evening I attended, they kept up with the recorded accompaniment and were obviously having fun, led by Christmas Ghosts Jared Hill, Wendy Jo Cox, and Jessica Smart, who were among the best performers. As Scrooge, Larry Oubre boasted strong vocals but fell short of the emotional range needed to become Dickens' "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner."

My head certainly didn't explode after seeing this cute *Christmas Carol*, but I think the stage at the Palace Theatre has seen better productions. I look forward to returning to Georgetown later this season to see what else the Palace has to offer.

– Jillian Owens

Poste Restante
Salvage Vanguard Theater,
2803 Manor Rd.
Dec. 17

Poste Restante, from Boston-based company They Gotta Be Secret Agents, is a cocktail of a performance. It encompasses movement, dance, and puppetry, and while it may lack spoken dialogue, its two performers engage in a thoughtful exchange and a sweet little narrative.

Do you remember the last time you received a letter – an actual, handwritten, stamped-and-addressed letter – in the mail? The feeling of receiving a personal note, prepared with thought and consideration, in the midst of bills and junk mail, is very much like attending a performance of *Poste Restante*. A busy week packed with work and other obligations makes room for a brief time of playful, gentle ideas. Company members Bonnie Duncan and Tim Gallagher perform their movement and puppetry show in and around the idea of letters, what it is to send a thought to someone else



in a way that is painstaking and possibly tedious, but all the more special for it.

Using terms such as "sweet," "playful," and "gentle" runs the risk of diminishing the work as fragile and unimportant. It may not be explosive or earthshaking, but *Poste Restante* is still vital and exciting to watch. Perhaps the best word for it is "kind." It's a performance comforting to the eye and the brain. Really, isn't it all right to spend an evening considering how nice it is to have a friend in the world to whom it's worth writing? It ought to be.

And good grief, the U.S. Postal Service totally needs to sponsor these guys if they want to encourage Americans to start sending mail again.

Poste Restante has, alas, already departed Austin. Yet Austin-based companies like Trouble Puppet Theater and Glass Half Full Theatre, who jointly sponsored the Secret Agents' visit, and other groups like Fusebox and Vortex Repertory have made a concerted effort in recent years to bring intriguing, high-quality work to Austin. It's a win-win for audiences here. If you keep your eyes open, you can catch some fascinating work, and when companies you like host work by artists whom they admire, there's a pretty good chance that the show in question is going to be a strong one. It's like having a personal arts shopper: Find companies in town whose work you enjoy and rely on them to find the fascinating, often under-the-radar pieces brought to the stage in Boston, New York, or San Francisco.

And then, when they let you know that they are bringing some friends of theirs to town to perform a show, don't wait. Go see the thing!

– Elizabeth Cobbe

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Of the few parties I attended, attorney Becky Beaver's (l) was a smashing success. Here is Becky along with Martha Oestreich, board chair of Equality Texas.

DEAR DIARY

I haven't done anything that I want to write about except continuing to recuperate from my recent surgeries. I wish I could say that I was recovering from complete body sculpting and a face-lift, but you know better than that. I have, however, become alarmingly slim from weeks of no appetite, but I don't really mind that part. I've certainly been painfully obese in my time, so being really skinny is fun. I just wish it wasn't related to being ill. I even have to use those **electric shopping carts** at Walmart most of the time. When I was obese, I was simply too embarrassed to use them, knowing that everyone at Walmart would know I was using it just because I was fat (of course, everyone's fat at Walmart). It's like seeing someone parking in a handicapped spot and trying to see whether they look disabled. It makes me realize, of course, that not all disabilities are visible. Now I'm the terror of Walmart, zipping through the store as fast as the little cart can carry my bony ass. The aisle that runs from the nursery to the deli is the length of **Rhode Island**, so getting around expeditiously is very important. The carts make me feel like I'm on the kiddie cars at the carnival. Sometimes it's more like bumper cars as I careen around the corner from the frozen foods to the pharmacy, nearly clipping two shopping baskets and several unattended children while hurling frozen pot-pies and **Q-tips** into my cart. I just wish the carts had a horn to alert shoppers to watch out for me; I have no fear of driving backward down an entire aisle if the cart relentlessly beeps with a sound that makes you want to duck and



cover. But finding that I could no longer make it all the way through Walmart anymore was sobering. Being ill is terrible. Hurting all the time has the terrible effect of making a person incredibly self-centered. It's so hard to see past the discomfort that absorbs all emotional energy that there is no one else but you ... and the pain. It's regressing to a stage where no one else matters, and you're helpless and without any control of it. Most of the time, I don't want to talk to my friends who are just checking in because I have nothing to say. I isolate myself in my room watching movies and sleeping. I stand in front of the refrigerator rubbing my scrawny chest and wishing *something* appealed to me. I lay in bed feeling sorry for myself and not knowing why. I have missed virtually every holiday party I was invited to simply because I didn't have the energy to pull myself together. I suspect that since I can no longer produce testosterone, I must be going through what is called **menopause**. I certainly feel hormonal, with lots of crying and irritability one minute and sunshine and roses the next. Most men are extremely uncomfortable discussing this matter, but virtually every woman I've discussed sympathetically and said, "Now you know what we go through." My illness is apparently so severe that it made me watch **Miley Cyrus'** movie *The Last Song*. Well, it'll certainly be her last movie, anyway. Her repellent character reminded me in a weird way of **Elizabeth Berkley** as **Nomi Malone** in *Showgirls*. The only reaction I could summon was wanting to slap her ... and her costume designer. The plot about her living with her cancer-ridden father should have hit home with me, but Miley. Cyrus is such a dreadful actress that if I were her father, I'd send her packing. I also watched *Boys on the Side* with **Drew Barrymore** and shamelessly wept copious tears. Pure schlock, but totally watchable. The whole illness plotline was very sensitively handled. My DVR is my BFF these days. I've watched so many movies that I couldn't even tell you their names. I seem to forget a lot lately, distracted as I am. But what I never forget is how grateful I am to *Austin Chronicle* Editor **Louis Black** and Publisher **Nick Barbaro**. Having this job for more than 12 years has been the highlight of my life. Thank you, Louis and Nick. And to my longtime editor **Kate Messer**, you make it happen. But most importantly, thanks to you, my readers. Even those who hate me. It's the holidays, dammit. Let the cheer begin!

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

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FOOD SEASONAL LISTINGS

Holiday Dining Guide

If you've seen *A Christmas Story*, you know all about the pleasures of dining at a Chinese restaurant on Christmas Day. But there are other festive options as well.

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

The Four Seasons will offer a special holiday buffet from 11am to 8pm in TRIO, and from 11am to 6pm in the ballroom foyer, Champagne included. Reservations are a must. 98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. TRIO seating: \$75 for adults, \$20 for children ages 6-11; ballroom seating: \$68 for adults, \$20 for children ages 6-11.

The Driskill Hotel offers its usual lavish mezzanine brunch with seatings from 10am to 3pm. Downstairs, the 1886 Cafe will be open all day, serving brunch until 5pm. Mezzanine brunch: \$65 per person, \$32.50 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and younger. 604 Brazos, 391-7162 for reservations.

The Renaissance Austin Hotel's Banderas - A Texas Bistro is changing up the Christmas Day program with a four-course plated dinner for \$28.95 per person, from 11:30am to 2pm and from 5:30 to 9pm. 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 795-6100 for reservations.

Hyatt Regency Austin You'll find a Christmas buffet in the Southwest Bistro where you can count on flowing mimosas from 11:30am to 3:30pm. Select antipasti, salads, and desserts from a lavish buffet, and enjoy a plated entrée in between. 208 Barton Springs Rd., 480-2035 for reservations. \$36 for adults, \$13 for children ages 5-12.

Green Pastures Restaurant is already fully booked for this annual Christmas Day brunch, but waitlist spots are still available. 11am-2pm. 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747. \$60 for adults, \$30 for children ages 5-12.

El Arroyo The extensive menu at this longtime Austin favorite offers everything from breakfast tacos to late-night entrées, and best of all, they're open on Christmas! 2-10pm. 1624 W. Fifth, 474-1222.

Threadgill's It's first come, first served for a limited menu at both locations from 10am to 9:30pm. 6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440; 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.

Manny's Uptown Kitchen When you have to nosh, this is the place to do it. The Breakfast Bundle is served all day and allows for latkes and eggs, as well as pancakes. We defy you to find better pancakes in Austin. You'll also find a good lox platter, made even better by fresh bagels. 8am-10pm. 9503 Research #650, 794-0088.

B.D. Riley's Irish Pub Irish music, excellent pub grub, and 20-ounce imperial pints make this a great place to watch sports ... or to enjoy a full turkey dinner on Christmas Day. 11am-12mid. 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335.



A gingerbread village at the Four Seasons

ASIAN

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse See your holiday repast prepared tableside here, with a full dinner menu available all day. 11am-9pm. 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #380, 288-7333.

Din Ho Chinese BBQ will be open for what some say is the best roast duck in town, in addition to the usual favorites. 11am-10pm. 8557 Research #116, 832-8788.

Dragon Gate by Phoenix This meticulous sushi spot will be open from 5 to 9:30pm on Christmas Day. 3801 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Ste. J-180, 732-7278.

First Chinese B-B-Q always serves up its generous Cantonese-style specialties on holidays. 11am-9:30pm. 10901 N. Lamar #401, 835-8889.

Hunan Lion Put some spice in your holiday with curried shrimp. 11:30am-10pm. 4006 S. Lamar, 447-3388.

Peony Asian Cuisine Regulars and newcomers alike will appreciate the rich miso soup on a cold holiday. 10:30am-2:30pm, 4:30-9:30pm. 5308 Balcones, 459-3341.

TC Noodle House has you covered with its regular menu. 10:30am-3pm. 10901 N. Lamar Ste. B-203, 873-8235.

AND FOR XMAS DINING À LA CART...

Chinatown Catch the dim sum cart as it glides by like Santa's sleigh full of surprises from 11am-2:30pm. Reservations are a must this year. 3407 Greystone, 343-9307.

Shanghai Chinese Restaurant will be serving dim sum: 11am-3pm. 6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088.

T&S Chinese Restaurant invites you to celebrate with dim sum. 11am-2:30pm, 5pm-1am. 10014 N. Lamar, 339-8434.

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Sip Chocolates These bags of seasoned, quality chocolate shavings will make voluptuous cups of hot chocolate for Xmas morning. Look for this brand-new product at Rio's Brazilian Cafe, Whip In, and Thom's Market.

Ate. Cafe gift baskets Choose from small (\$30) or large (\$50) breakfast baskets; a wine, cheese, and condiment basket (\$75); or the deluxe assortment (\$125), including Champagne, pâté, candy, condiments, and crackers. www.atefoods.com.

Noble Pig condiments and charcuterie Check out the comestibles in the new deli case here and go for house-made mustards, seasonal pickles, sausages, or out-of-this-world pastrami. 11815 RR 620 N. #4.

Cocoa Puro chocolates The dark chocolate bars with caramelized cocoa nibs or caramelized almonds (\$4) are marvelous, but the milk-chocolate bourbon balls (\$4) in a shell of milk chocolate with pecans will blow your mind; pick them up at the Downtown Farmers' Market on Dec. 24.

Miles of Chocolate I can't show up for Christmas at the ranch without a slab of chocolate to serve with Tèo's bourbon vanilla gelato or Amy's Mexican vanilla ice cream; regular and gluten-free versions are available at Central Market and Whole Foods. — V.B.W.



food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

It could be that **Bola Pizza** is the best new frozen food product developed in Austin since the Night Hawk Top Chop't Classic steak dinner. **Christian** and **Jamie Bowers** imported a portable, wood-fired Italian pizza oven and started Bola Pizza strictly as a catering company a little more than two years ago. Bola made such a favorable impression at the Green Corn Project fundraiser in October 2010 that Sustainable Food Center's Farmers' Market Director Suzanne Santos recruited them to serve pizza at the Downtown Farmers' Market. Once Christian had all the necessary city permits to serve pizza at the market, Bola breakfast pizzas (local cheddar cheese and thin slices of speck ham plus one or two local eggs sunny-side up, \$12-14) became the best way to start or finish a morning of shopping Downtown. As its popularity grew, entrepreneurial types and real estate developers began to approach Christian with ideas about opening a brick-and-mortar location, and he gave all the proposals serious consideration. However, the idea for a line of frozen pizzas was always in the back of his mind, and in the end, that was the direction he chose. After a few months of research and development, three new Bola frozen pizzas – Truffle Daisy, the Godfather, and Polka Dot – rolled out earlier this month. The pizzas are par-baked to give the crust a distinctive char, then flash-frozen and wrapped in plastic before being sealed in an authentic pizza box. All the pizza-loving customer has to do is thaw, bake for a while at 450 degrees F, and enjoy! The sample I received was a big hit around here. Bowers gave Farmhouse Delivery a two-week exclusive on the first batch of frozen pizzas but has just added Greenling and Royal Blue Grocery to his stable of vendors, with more to come soon. Whole Foods has shown strong interest in carrying Bola Pizza, and we'll keep you posted when and if it picks up the product.

I was too busy making desserts for the *Chronicle* holiday party a couple of weeks ago to attend the gala opening celebration for the new event venue at the **Commodore Perry Estate** (East 41st Street and Red River). The lovely Hyde Park estate has always fascinated me, and I even provided desserts for some catered events there in the mid-1980s. We're told that new owner **Clark Lyda** has given the stately mansion, grounds, and many outbuildings a respectful restoration, with more work to come. As busy local caterers will tell you, there's always a need for another attractive party venue in the central city. I can't wait to see it!

Producers of The Food Network's cooking competition show **Chopped** are looking for expert grill masters who would like to compete in a special *Chopped* grilling championship to be held in Tucson, Ariz., March 6-10. Potential contestants should have great grilling skills and a real passion for cooking over fire. There will be four rounds of preliminary competition in which contestants must prepare dishes from foods in mystery baskets; the winners of those rounds will compete in the final for a \$50,000 grand prize. Look for the official application at www.choppedcasting.com. Austin has got to have some potential winners – chefs John Bullington and Paul Petersen, this is definitely in your wheelhouses!

The Sustainable Food Center's Downtown Farmers' Market combines with the **Sunset Valley Artisan Market** this Saturday, Dec. 24, for a **Christmas Eve shopping extravaganza** from 9am to 1pm. As always, admission is free, and there's plenty of free parking in the Toney Burger Center parking lot. The Downtown market will be closed this one week, so plan on shopping at Sunset Valley.

Mrs. Santa's Last-Minute Foodie Stocking Stuffers

Dishin' With the Divas: Songs of Food, Love & Mayhem Foodies on your list will love these jazzy, original food songs by Austin's Beat Divas; \$15 at Waterloo Records or www.thebeatdivas.com.

Recipe Card Box from Royer's Round Top Cafe By popular demand, many of the beloved cafe's most requested recipes are printed on laminated cards in their own box; order online at www.royersroundtopcafe.com for \$23.50.

Trailer Food Diaries Cookbook: Austin Edition (\$19.95) Food trailer maven Tiffany Harelik has compiled recipes from many of Austin's most popular food trailers.

The Texas Hamburger: History of a Lone Star Icon (The History Press, \$19.99) Photojournalist and ambassador Rick Vanderpool's definitive work for the burger aficionado.

Stirring It Up With Molly Ivins: A Memoir With Recipes (University of Texas Press, \$29.95) Foodies and political junkies alike will appreciate this memoir and collection of recipes by Ivins' longtime friend Ellen Sweets.

Ruby's Juke Joint Americana Cookbook (Bando Press, \$21.95) This package deal includes a book of down-home recipes created by local musician Ruby Dee Philippa, plus a CD of authentic Americana music to keep you company in the kitchen. Find it at Antone's Records, Waterloo Records, and www.rubysjukejoint.com.

Dai Due preserved lemons, condiments, and seasonal pickles Check out the online menu at www.daidueaustin.com; order for pickup at the Downtown Farmers' Market on Dec. 24.

Savory Spice Shop Look for tubes of spice blends, packages of hot chocolate mix, and Native Texan barbecue rubs to slip into stockings. 1201-B W. Sixth; 10000 Research #129.

Confituras jams and preserves Find the online menu for these award-winning delights at www.confituras.net; purchase at Con' Olio Oils & Vinegars, Breed & Co., Whip In, Monument Market, Antonelli's Cheese Shop, or the Downtown, Triangle, or Barton Creek farmers' markets.



The historic farmhouse at Boggy Creek Farm

JOHN ANDERSON

This Old House

Sam Houston and the historic jigsaw puzzle of Boggy Creek Farm

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Many of the people who shop at the biweekly Boggy Creek farm stand or attend the various events held on the shady grounds probably have no inkling of the bucolic acreage's historic significance. Urban farmers Larry Butler and Carol Ann Sayle, the current stewards of the farm that dates back to the Republic of Texas, bought the vacant house and five weedy acres in 1992, moving in the day after the sale closed. They've lived and farmed there ever since. Sayle has always said that one of the most compelling aspects of their stewardship of the farm has been researching its rich history. In the early days of their residency, the couple spent Sunday afternoons and rainy days poring over the treasure trove of historical information at the Barker Texas History Center on the University of Texas campus as well as the Travis County archives and the Austin History Center, gathering bits of information like so many pieces of a historical jigsaw puzzle. They discovered that the original 50 acres were purchased as a homestead in 1839 and that the land had belonged to two longtime Austin families before they bought it 19 years ago. Much of the history they've pieced together is posted on the farm's website at www.boggycreekfarm.com.

Butler and Sayle's extensive research reveals fascinating facets of early life on the farm and raises some questions with no definitive answers: When the house was built, and by whom? The city of Austin historic designation for the house lists the date as 1854, but that was a guess, at best. Butler and Sayle contend the house was built much earlier, and they have their own speculation about a possible builder. The house has the same floor plan as a similar Greek Revival home at the French Legation,

and their research reveals that the original owners did business with master builder Abner Cook, as well as two of the French Legation's residents, French Ambassador Alphonse Dubois de Saligny and Dr. Joseph Robertson. While we still can't say for sure who built the Boggy Creek farmhouse, an amateur genealogist researching her own family's relationship to Robertson recently revealed a connection between what is now Boggy Creek Farm and Republic of Texas President Sam Houston. A letter written by Houston to his wife bolsters the contention that the house already existed in late 1841, making it the oldest surviving house in Austin. To fully understand the importance of this newest piece of the jigsaw puzzle, we have to look back at the two main families who owned the farm for the longest periods of time: the Smiths and the Siegmunds.

James and Elizabeth Smith

Southerners James and Elizabeth Smith and James' two sons from a first marriage followed entrepreneur Stephen F. Austin to Texas in the 1830s. The wealthy couple settled in the thriving metropolis of Bastrop in 1838 and began buying properties in the new city of Austin the next year. At a city auction in 1839, they bought four lots (50 acres) three miles east of Downtown for a homestead. The Smiths resided on the property until January 1845, when James Smith was mortally wounded in a confrontation with a "villainous overseer." In the 40 hours it took James Smith to die, he was attended by Robertson (who also delivered the last of the Smiths' children) and dictated a deathbed will leaving 400 acres of farmland to his eldest son, Alfred Smith. The will was witnessed by early Austin notables Aaron

Burleson and James H. Matthews. Abner Cook built James Smith's coffin.

After Smith's untimely death, Elizabeth and her young children moved to a house the family owned in Downtown Austin. Elizabeth eventually contested the deathbed will, contending in handwritten probate court documents that she had brought substantial wealth into the marriage and was by then a widow with five children to support. Alfred Smith countered with details of all the work he had done for his father's estate, including the fact that he had overseen the building of the homestead during the winter of 1840-1841 – which provides the first clue as to the actual age of the house. A subsequent probate court filing in 1854 deals with son James H. Smith's lawsuit asking for a larger portion of the Smith estate, and it is likely those court papers were used to establish the date of the house for the city's historical designation. Despite all the lawsuits, Elizabeth Smith retained ownership of the farm property until she willed it to her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Smith Matthews, in 1874. The farm was sold by Mary's son Eric Matthews in 1885, and then changed hands several times until it was bought in 1902 by Frank Siegmund, the son of German immigrants.

The Siegmund Family

German stonemason Joseph Siegmund bought property at Pine Street and East Avenue (now the corner of East Fifth and the southbound I-35 access road) in 1862 and built a three-story stone building on the property. The first two floors housed his stonemasonry business, and the Siegmund family lived on the third floor. (In the late 1940s, that stone building would become the El Matamoros Mexican restaurant, famous for its puffy tacos.) Siegmund family lore holds that Joseph's oldest son, Frank Siegmund, used his share of the proceeds from the sale of that building to buy the property now known as Boggy Creek Farm in 1902.

Frank and his wife raised a family at the farm and grew vegetables there until the early Twenties, when they moved to South Austin. A family named Lancaster leased the farm from 1923 until 1937, when Frank's daughter, Bertha Siegmund Linscomb, and her family took up residence there. The Linscombs lived at the farm until Bertha's death in 1979, when her husband sold the house and the final remaining five acres to liquor store owner and history buff Don Wiginton. Wiginton secured historical designation for the farm house, although the 1854 date for it is now thought to be an error. He lost the property to foreclosure in 1991, and Butler and Sayle bought it in 1992.

The Sam Houston Letter

Sayle tells the story about looking up from work one day in 1997 to see two women making their way up the farm driveway. The older of the two women identified

herself as Marguerite Siegmund Sherrill, said her grandfather had once owned the farm, and asked if she and her daughter could look around. Sayle invited them to make themselves at home and struck up a friendship with Sherrill and her daughter, Susan Estes, which led to the Siegmund descendants holding family reunions at the farm in 1997 and 2011.

Late last year, amateur genealogist Estes was doing online research about her family connections to Robertson when up popped a letter written by Houston to his beloved wife, Margaret. The letter is dated Dec. 24, 1842, (now believed to be a transcription error), and appears in *The Personal Correspondence of Sam Houston 1839-1845* (written by Sam Houston and edited by Madge Thornall Roberts). Along with florid declarations of love for his wife, Houston also includes the description of his recent attendance at a wedding and subsequent wedding supper at a home in the country. He writes: "Mr. Smith the Bridegroom was a genteel man and well to do. The Bride was a pretty being (nearly). ... Today I dined at his Fathers with the wedding party & many others from this place ... and the 'eating doings' were first rate."

Through careful reading of the letter's footnotes, Estes discovered that the marriage was that of Alfred Smith and Nancy Mills, and the bridegroom's father was James Smith, the original owner of what would become Boggy Creek Farm. She then researched Travis County records to confirm that a marriage license was issued to Alfred Smith and Nancy Mills in December 1841 and shared the news about the Houston letter with Sayle, generating great excitement. The letter further establishes James Smith's

connections with prominent Texas historical figures and appears to bolster Butler and Sayle's contention that the farmhouse was built in 1841, making it possibly older than the French Legation, the first sections of which were completed that same year. Though Sayle has yet to post a transcript of the Houston letter on the Boggy Creek website, she did include it in a fall presentation about the farm at the Neill-Cochran House Museum.

Sayle also shared the story of the Houston letter with Foodways Texas Director Marvin Bendele, as well as farm-to-table advocate and East Side Show Room chef Sonya Coté, who were so taken with the story of Houston dining at the farm that they're cooking up a Sam Houston dinner to be held at Boggy Creek as part of Foodways Texas' annual symposium in Austin in late March 2012. Coté is researching foods that would have been available in Texas in the 1840s, and it's a safe bet that the "eating doings" at the March dinner would impress even President Houston himself. Eventually descriptions of that dinner will become another piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is the rich history of Boggy Creek Farm. ■

A letter written by Sam Houston to his wife bolsters the contention that the house already existed in late 1841, making it the oldest surviving house in Austin.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

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Each of its four theaters are small with 50 seats. Tables are school-style flip-up items that work great if you aren't overweight but can be uncomfortably tight for some. There is no theatre service at the Violet Crown. You order out front, then either eat at the tables there or carry your food and drinks into the theatre with you. One warning: The plates are quite large, so schlepping both a drink and food could take more than one trip, and you may not then have much room on your flip-up tray.



The quality of the food is quite good. Our favorite was the **cheese plate** (\$12), a trio of artisanal cheeses from the geniuses at Antonelli's, along with bread, berries, and a smidge of honey. A hungry person could make a filling meal from the **ginger-pork tapas** (\$8) and an order of **french fries** (\$4). The tapas are bread topped with pulled-pork on mozzarella, with tomatoes and a ginger sauce, while the fries are coated in chili powder and onion powder, then served with lemon-garlic aioli. The two make for a yummy combination. The **Chicago Dog** (\$5) comes as advertised, loaded with celery flavors and crunchy pickle textures. We were especially impressed with the oh-so-traditional **Margherita pizza** (\$9), with its cracker-thin crust and perfectly light topping of tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil. And as for the movie (*Melancholia*), we enjoyed the high quality of the projection and the excellent sound. Highly recommended. — Wes Marshall

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A Galaxy Not So Far Away

AUSTIN'S BIOWARE UNLEASHES 'STAR WARS: THE OLD REPUBLIC' by Richard Whittaker

Who wants to wield a lightsaber? BioWare Austin's Dallas Dickinson, producer of *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, definitely does. "I'm actually running around in the game now as I talk to you," he said, just hours before the game's midnight launch on Dec. 20. The expectations are high: Though California-based Blizzard Entertainment and its breakout title *World of Warcraft* have reigned over the realm of massively multiplayer online role-playing games for nearly a decade, the allure of *Star Wars*' multigenerational fan base could make the Austin studio's game more seductive than the dark side of the Force.

This is not BioWare's first journey to a galaxy far, far away. In 2003, it released *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic*, an

RPG set four millennia before George Lucas' original films. While *KoTOR* (as it's known to fans) was one of the best-reviewed games of the last decade, BioWare handed sequel duties for *The Sith Lords* off to Obsidian Entertainment and concentrated instead on its own sci-fi epic, the equally stellar *Mass Effect*. As a replacement for the last Force-fueled MMORPG – Sony Online Entertainment's hugely successful *Star Wars Galaxies* – and with a reported budget of more than \$135 million, *The Old Republic* has been an epic endeavor almost five years in production. "People ask us why we didn't make *Knights of the Old Republic III*," Dickinson said, "and I tell them we've made [*The Old Republic*] III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X, all in one game."

Now the circle is complete. *The Old Republic* uses *KoTOR*'s story as a springboard, opening with the collapse of 300 years of uneasy peace between the benign Republic and the malevolent Sith Empire. "It's a time period where there are lots and lots of Jedi, lots and lots of Sith. It allows us to create lengthy storylines for someone who is a Jedi knight," Dickinson said. "In the movie era, you can't really do that because there is only one, and it's Luke Skywalker."

Given *KoTOR* and *Mass Effect*, the Austin software house knows about RPGs. Now it adds its own vision of the shared world of the massively multiplayer experience. "We're not going to try to reinvent the wheel across the board," said Dickinson. "We're adding in the things that BioWare does best: the deep storytelling, the companions, really making it feel like your own personal heroic *Star Wars* journey."

Yet there has to be something universal about the adventure. Lucas was openly influenced by Joseph Campbell's deconstruction of mythic tales, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*, and BioWare emulates his use of character archetypes through eight character classes – four each for the light and dark sides of the Force – all with their own unique but iconic story arcs. "The Sith Warrior is very much what we would expect Darth Vader's story to be. The Sith Inquisitor is very much what you would expect an emperor-in-waiting to be," Dickinson said. Through the development, Dickinson has played them all, but the Smuggler was "the one I played the least during the testing period because I wanted to save that one for when the game was actually live." Again, he hopes that adventure will appeal to fans of cinema's most famous space pirate. "People identify with Han Solo," he said, so in the Smuggler's story, "you're on the run from some shady gangsters; you lose your ship; you get your ship back; you're making the tough rascal call from time to time."

Dickinson will measure the game's success by the response from three core audiences: hardcore MMORPG players, BioWare loyalists, and *Star Wars* fans. That last group, with an encyclopedic knowledge of the lore, could be the toughest to please. Throughout development, there was a constant flow of questions and queries between the Austin studio and their partners at LucasArts, checking that designs and concepts fitted that ethos. Dickinson credited his secret weapon – "people in our team, especially on the design and art side, who know *Star Wars* backwards and forwards" – and said that more than any instructions from the bearded one, they made sure the game "stays true to the fantasy." ■

DVD Watch

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale
Oscilloscope Laboratories,
\$29.99 (DVD), \$39.99 (Blu-ray combo)

Chillerama

Image Entertainment,
\$27.97 (DVD), \$29.97 (Blu-ray)

Jalmari Helander, writer/director of the Finnish gem *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*, knows the real Santa Claus was not born of a Coca-Cola sugar high but from a hideous brew of Scandinavian paganism and puritanism. The Finns say he dwells under the peak of sharp Korvatunturi fell, all the better to hear which children have been naughty and nice. This Sinterklaas cares little for knee-sitting and gift-giving; he's all about the naughty, a vicious and unrelenting punisher of wickedness, with a cannibalistic edge. As Pietari, the boy who knows that Santa isn't all presents and eggnog, Onni Tommila adds a *Home Alone* candy coating to this seasonal cousin to *The Thing*. Yet Macaulay Culkin's

First World problems would leave Pietari unphased as Helander straps a leathery toughness onto the boy hero and the lives of Finland's indigenous Sami people. A rough, gruff folk up to their arms in reindeer meat and snowdrifts, Helander gave them and the *Rare Exports* narrative a dry run in two ingenious early shorts, both of which are smuggled up in the extras, while Oscilloscope added Pia Zadora's 1964 misfit toy *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* exclusively to the Blu-ray edition. Extra gift or coal in your cinematic stocking? You decide.

Helander's box of delights actually first came down Austin's chimney back during Fantastic Fest 2010, the same year that Adam Green hosed down the same audience with *Hatchet II*'s goregasm. Now he returns to the small screen with the decidedly family-unfriendly *Chillerama*, which can be summed up in one word: outrageous. That's the idea that drives this microbudget anthology title, directed by four humongous film nerds raised on *Famous Monsters of Filmland* and *The Kentucky Fried Movie*. Drenched in highly inappropriate



cinematic references (you'll never hear a Wilhelm scream in the same way again), it features more bad puns and genital mutilation than an *Antichrist* porn spoof. Adam Rifkin (*Detroit Rock City*) lubes up for atomic monster sexcapade "Wadzilla," Green goes James Whale hunting with only "The Diary of Anne Frankenstein" to guide him, Tim Sullivan (*2001 Maniacs*) finds the leather daddy beach-bopper "I Was a Teenage Werebear," and Joe Lynch (*Wrong Turn 2: Dead End*) gets his hands dirty on Seventies schizer shocker "Deathication." Lynch has the toughest challenge as he

also helms "Zom-B-Movie," the framing mechanism set on the last night at the Kaufman Drive-In. He actually adds something new and NSFW to the revenant trope, whereas Sullivan's lycanthropic riff on the gay subtext in 1960s teen movies is nowhere near as clever as it thinks it is and a fraction as funny as it needs to be. Good thing that Green sews a love for *Young Frankenstein* deep into the sinews of his retro-pastiche. The shorts genius plays resurrection man on Mel Brooks' comedy classic, and it works because it is just as fearless and just as respectful of black-and-white genre classics. Joel David Moore's bumbling Hitler vs. Kane Hodder as Meshuggeneh, the laconic Jewish creature, has genuine belly laughs as well as a series of trilingual translation jokes so subtle it needs a commentary track explanation. He may have stolen any last trace of subtlety from "Wadzilla," but horror fans will thrill to see that Rifkin hired cult masters of perversity the Chiodo Brothers (*Elf*, *Killer Klowns From Outer Space*) to bring mad life to his massive mutant sperm. – R.W.

Full-Gore Press

Mind the viscera: Austin's horror filmmaking scene is exploding

BY MARC SAVLOV

Will 2011 go down as the year the Austin horror filmmaking community definitively established itself as a vital hub for gore? Consider the evidence: At the time of this writing, there are just under a dozen horror films either in preproduction, production, or postproduction, with several already having spun off into other projects, like cranial projectiles from a zombie's blown-out skull spatter.

While Zack Carlson and Bryan Connolly's much-discussed seriocomic vampire opus *Destroy* continues to wait on financing (Michael Stephenson, of *Best Worst Movie*, is slated to helm), other current or forthcoming Austin horror productions include Lindsey Alloway's *Postmodern Undead*, now in preproduction; Ain't It Cool News alum and screenwriter C. Robert Cargill's already-wrapped *Sinister*, starring Ethan Hawke and Vincent D'Onofrio and slated for an August 2012 release from Summit Entertainment; Jesse Dayton's directorial debut, *Zombex*, featuring Malcolm McDowell and Sid Haig; a big-screen adaptation of author *Masters of Horror* screenwriter Stephen Romano's new novel, *Black Light*, to be produced and/or directed by co-writers Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan of *Saw* infamy, as well as producer Michael De Luna; the locally shot comic-book adaptation *Bad Kids Go to Hell* from Matthew Spradlin and Barry Wernick; a potential 13-episode series based on Brian McGreevy's buzzed-about forthcoming genre novel *Hemlock Grove*, to be adapted by McGreevy and longtime writing partner Lee Shipman for Netflix and Gaumont International Television (with Eli Roth set to

Special effects face painting at a Dec. 16 fundraiser for *Postmodern Undead* at the Mohawk



direct and produce, no less); and a series of horror scripts from *Richard Garriott: Man on a Mission* producer Brady Dial, progenitor of Were-Bot Productions. Oh, and lest we forget, Austin teen wunderkind Emily Hagins of *Pathogen* and *Zombie Girl* fame recently struck a deal with MPI Media Group for distribution of her undead prom comedy *My Sucky Teen Romance*. And that's just the sticky crimson tip of the blade.

That's a lot of potentially screaming people sitting in dark rooms. So ... why now? And why Austin, a city that's still probably recognized more in the global cinephile community for the decidedly unchilling *Slacker* and our occasional flirtations with mumblecore as much as it is for Robert Rodriguez and his Troublemaker Studios' semiregular forays into gore-gore girls, green-screen mayhem, and predatorial alien outliers?

Ask anyone, and one of the most recurring of the myriad answers you'll get is this: Fantastic Fest. Tim League and Harry Knowles' dream fest started out as just that — a dream — but there's no denying that in its six-year existence, this annual and truly international infusion of genre films, filmmakers, writers, and fans into the Austin area has sparked friendships and collaborations (including the upcoming 26-director Drafthouse Films anthology pic *ABC's of Death*) that have begun to bear some seriously warped fruit.

"We've always been horror fans," League says, "and we tend to attract horror fans. I'd like to think we nurture that community, because we certainly show a shit-ton of horror movies. In the case of Emily [Hagins], I'd like to think the Alamo and Fantastic Fest had some probably ill-advised misshaping of her mind.

"In terms of why the Austin scene is taking off, there has been something really interesting happening over the last five years — and it does coincide with Fantastic Fest taking off as well — and that is that [horror] movies are just about the only movies that are *selling*. It's not like there's a giant market for mumblecore movies. Those indie dramas that are the Sundance darlings aren't the movies that you see get the deals at market festivals. And with the rise in market share of iTunes, Hulu, and Netflix, there's decent deals to be made for independent horror films."

With all the brouhaha about Austin becoming the third coast of film production over the past 20-odd years, it's easy to forget that *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, Tobe Hooper and Kim Henkel's 1974 paean to rural family values, was one of the very first regional, totally independent, expectation-defying genre films of the modern age of horror. Floridian Herschell Gordon Lewis may have beaten Hooper to the punch by



Zombex
writer/director
Jesse Dayton

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

more than a decade in terms of drive-in tickets sold and viscera splattered onscreen, but his 1963 cri de Grand Guignol, *Blood Feast*, while defiantly vile and generically very much of its place and time, today plays like the amateurish hack job it is compared to Leatherface's squealing nightmare antics.

Hooper's film, however, altered the course of Austin-based indie filmmaking in its own unique way. It not only got under the skin (before flaying it and wearing it, that is) of the collective zeitgeist, both in the city and out, but also set a template that practically defines all Austin filmmaking (and indeed all indie filmmaking, everywhere) today: Do what you can with whatever's at hand, get everyone you know involved, and aim for the audience's gut. Whatever the cost, *get a reaction*. And get it done.

In the Austin of here and now, with (relatively) inexpensive gear readily available to anyone with the means to snatch up a camera and point it at a squib-laden deadite, it's easier than ever to shoot/chop/rock your own dark dream. Add to that the hyperliterate world of genre cinephiles fostered by what has increasingly become a nearly year-round film festival schedule and the presence of core gore special-effects crews like Hawgfly Productions Inc., edutopian idealists like the Austin School of Film, and, yes, the undeniably influential, genre-edifying Alamo Drafthouse (and the increasingly vast empire that name now signifies), and it's a wonder the long-simmering horror film community took this long to boil over in the first place. And so few zombies!

Well, OK, that last bit's about to change thanks to director Jesse Dayton's upcoming splatterthon *Zombex*, a genre-bender from the longtime Austin musician who until now has been best known among the *Fangoria* crowd for penning the hickabilly C&W songs for Rob Zombie's *The Devil's Rejects*. He's also known for his psychobilly alter ego, the titular leader of Captain Clegg & the Night Creatures, who cued the best parts of *Zombie's Halloween II* and ended up being something of a minor sensation.

So how did the goateed hard-charger make the frankly unheard-of move from playing with Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings to directing his first horror feature?

"It's weird, because during the late 1980s and early 1990s, when I was just starting to make a living playing music, you almost had to be a closet horror movie fan because the genre was kind of for geeks at that time. But when I met Rob, it unleashed my inner horror fan, and I began doing more stuff with him, including *The Haunted World of El Superbeasto*.

"When he shot *Halloween II*, we did a whole bunch of videos that Rob directed that are on the outtakes on the DVD. I got to sit there and work with him the whole time, and it was kind of like being in my own little film school, you know? Rob just really encouraged me to try my hand at it, and I learned most of the ins and outs of dealing with the crew, getting the lighting right, and what lenses to use from working with Rob."

While *Halloween II* was a box office success, Dayton's Captain Clegg persona took off on its own via a CD release, *Rob Zombie Presents Captain Clegg & the Night Creatures*, so much so that *Zombie* recruited Dayton and his band as openers on his 2009 tour. It was, as Dayton says, a helluva tour, but more importantly, "every day that we were on tour I'd write three pages of the script for *Zombex*."

Why another zombie movie in a market already as full of the walking dead as George Romero's brainpan?

"I had been telling my best friend Lew Temple [aka Banjo of *The Devil's Rejects* & *Sullivan*] that we should make a horror movie together," explains Dayton, "and do it for a lot less money than I eventually ended up making *Zombex* for. At first I wrote a script about a dysfunctional Pentecostal family in East Texas. I sent it to a screenwriter friend of mine in Los Angeles, and he suggested that I write a zombie movie because it'd be a lot more accessible. That wasn't what I wanted to do, though."

continued on p.42

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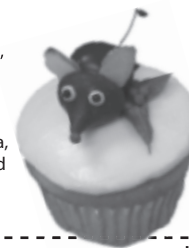
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Meredith Johns (l) and Carolyn O'Hara of Hawgfly Productions

Dayton continues: "Two weeks later I was driving and listening to the radio when I heard Alex Jones go on this big rant about the government being involved with the [Food and Drug Administration] and the pharmaceutical companies. He said something like, 'The Xanax is turning you all into zombies!' And I was, like: 'Boom - there it is. There's my hook for the movie.' I pulled over to the side of the road and wrote a five-page treatment for the whole film in about 15 minutes.

"When I got off the road with Rob, I sent the finished script to some producers and met [Austin producer] Karma Montagne. They liked it and said they wanted to make it and would I be interested in directing? Of course I said yes. We used an all-Austin crew, and we shot in Pittsburg, Texas; New Orleans' French Quarter; and the rest of it in Austin. The whole trick is to surround yourself with good people and then, once you've done that, trust your instincts."

Two of those good people Dayton worked with on *Zombex* are Meredith Johns and Carolyn O'Hara, founders/owners of Hawgfly Productions Inc., the gutsy, gory, and altogether awesome special-effects makeup company responsible for more visceral, locally lensed cinematic moments than even Robert Rodriguez. Or at least more *viscera* than Mr. Rodriguez, seeing as they're the ones who provided the silicone entrails with which Troublemaker's favorite antihero Danny Trejo Tarzanned his way out of a hospital window in 2010's *Machete*.

Anyone who was weaned on the special-effects makeup stars of the predigital era - hands up if you forced your parents to watch Rick Baker's Oscar win for 1981's *An American Werewolf in London* with you! - will note that while the special makeup effects heroes of the Eighties and Nineties were all men (Baker, Rob Bottin, Tom Savini, Robert Kurtzman, Greg Nicotero, Howard Berger, Giannetto de Rossi, Carlo Rambaldi), the moment the millennium hit, the field was suddenly all ... men.

Unique in its industry, Hawgfly Productions remains (to our knowledge) the only female-run SFX company in the country and, quite possibly, the world. It figures they're from Austin - Johns is a native - and their SFX workshop, located in an unprepossessing office park near U.S. 183 and Burnet Road, is crammed top to bottom with spinal remains, "gore cannons," and body parts of every imaginable ghastly description. (There's also a nap room.)

Ask them about Hawgfly's origin story, and you'll get two interlocking anecdotes just odd enough to scream *Austin!* and sound utterly fated.

Johns: "I grew up painting and sculpting and was a budding graphic designer from a family of engineers and artists. I was miserable doing graphics, however, so I volunteered on a zombie movie. I'd come home every week covered in blood, and I loved it. That's where I met Carolyn [O'Hara]. The pair of us would be the first two people there every day, so we'd sit and talk about how much we loved doing this zombie film. At one point I said to Carolyn, 'I think this is what I'm supposed to do,' and she turned to me and said, 'I think this is what I'm supposed to do, too.' We immediately began volunteering on some more films and then it just grew from there. That was just over eight years ago, and we formed Hawgfly in July of 2004."

O'Hara: "I had no idea that I could work in movies and no particular fondness for horror movies, but I was a sailor in the Navy when I was 17 - it seemed like the most romantic possible thing to do at that time - and while I was there, I learned how to do fake tattoos because I thought they'd make me look older. Fast-forward 20 years later, after I'd long since finished school with an architectural degree, and a fellow architect who knows me tells me she's working on a film and asks if I could come by the set and do some fake tattoos. I said 'OK,' and by the end of the very first day I knew I loved [working on movie sets]. I loved everything about it. And the tattoos would be my door into the movies."

It wasn't long after the two ran into each other on the set of the aforementioned zombie film that they realized they could not only work together but also work as professionals in a field heretofore dominated exclusively by men, and - voilà! - blood *everywhere*. The rest, as they say, is *herstory*.

In the seven years since birthing Hawgfly, Johns and O'Hara's résumés have swollen to include all manner of genre gigs, from the Coen brothers' *True Grit* and Brit director Simon Rumley's locally lensed *Red White & Blue* (executive produced by Tim League) to Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life* and TV drama *Friday Night Lights*. Johns was nominated for an Emmy for her work on 2010's *Temple Grandin*.

"*Machete* was a big turning point for us because that was the first time Robert [Rodriguez] had used anyone other than [effects house] KNB in 16 years," she admits. "I had worked on *Shorts* and *Grindhouse* ..."

"Where she spent three days airbrushing go-go dancers' butts and boobs," interjects O'Hara.

"True. And we should mention that it's not just the two of us," adds Johns. "We have a crew of about 10 people we can call on at any time depending on the project. Doug Field of Bloodyfield Special Makeup Effects is our go-to guy and usually my second on the bigger films like *Zombex* and *Machete*."

Asked about the gender issue, Johns, a member of IATSE Local 484 (Studio Mechanics of Texas: Film, Television, Commercial & Music Video), admits, "I think I sometimes catch people off guard because I'm a young woman doing the blood and guts. But I love to see the women doing it, like Emily Hagins. Early on with Hawgfly, Carolyn and I were, like, 'Not only are we going to find a niche in horror but we're going to carve into it with the whole woman thing, too.'"

Ask anyone why horror is booming in Austin, and one recurring answer you'll get is this: *Fantastic Fest*.

And so they have, with a vengeance. Their recent Halloween re-creation of George Romero's *Dawn of the Dead* at Highland Mall had them working around the clock, overseeing a crew of 15 that transformed some 200-plus men, women, and children into a suppurating, shambling hoard of the walking dead. They put the lie to Alice Cooper's "Only Women Bleed." At Hawgfly Productions, *everyone* bleeds. All over the place.

□

Although it may at first seem as if all of this has happened overnight - the myriad elements of the Austin horror scene bursting forth in a froth of glorious gore as though from John Hurt's *Alien*-colonized chest, that's not the case. Nothing happens overnight. The people profiled in this piece have been working on their various thrills and chills for years now,

and it's down to part luck, plenty of hard work, the cinematic synergy of new distribution avenues, endless networking and cooperation, and, more or less indefinitely, the temper of the times. As nearly everyone interviewed for this article noted, horror films almost always make at least some profit, even those with limited budgets and limited time. And here in Austin, there's certainly no shortage of talent. Or horror fans.

"A big part of what's happening in Austin now has to do with the changing models in Hollywood," says *Sinister* scribe C. Robert Cargill, aka Ain't It Cool News' "Massawyrm."

"Piracy has splintered the way movies are being made into two camps: dumbed-down, even more expensive Hollywood films that appeal to a much wider audience, and much cheaper movies that are very niche-driven but yet have guaranteed profit. And if you can make a halfway decent horror film, you can turn a profit on it. If you can make really good horror, you can make unbelievable profit off it."

Which is key, especially when you're struggling to hold down a day job while spending your nights and weekends experimenting with new and creative ways to kill (or, you know, horrifically maim) people using little more than silicone, latex, and boundless imagination.

"I like to say everything's just bloodier in Texas," adds Hawgfly's Johns, revamping the state motto, we think for the better.

"What's so cool about Texas and Austin in particular is that no other place has such a concentration of both horror fans and filmmakers who either want to work or are already working in the genre," Johns adds. "And that's the thing. Austin has this independent market and an indie filmmaker can actually survive here, as opposed to L.A. or New York or wherever. Now we have the crew base to help support that indie filmmaker. A lot of the Austin horror scene has been about people toiling away in the darkness, doing their own thing, on their own, for a long time. This blossoming of the scene that we're seeing now mirrors the fact that we're all maturing together and our projects are beginning to mature and shine right along with us. Everybody's work has become a lot more professional, and as a result, that's attracting bigger films and bigger filmmakers."

That may be the understatement of the year: Thanks in no small part to her connections in Austin's genre film scene, Johns scored a gig on location in Nashville, Tenn., working her special makeup effects magic on the set of legendary Korean director Park Chan-wook's American debut, *Stoker*. "He's one of my all-time favorite directors - I mean, *Oldboy*? C'mon! It was a dream come true."

That dream - alongside the delightfully sick and twisted creative visions erupting from the burgeoning ranks of Austin's genre filmmaking scene - will soon enough be audiences' giddy, goose-pimpling nightmare. It's homegrown horror from deep in the bloody heart of Texas, chain saws optional. ■

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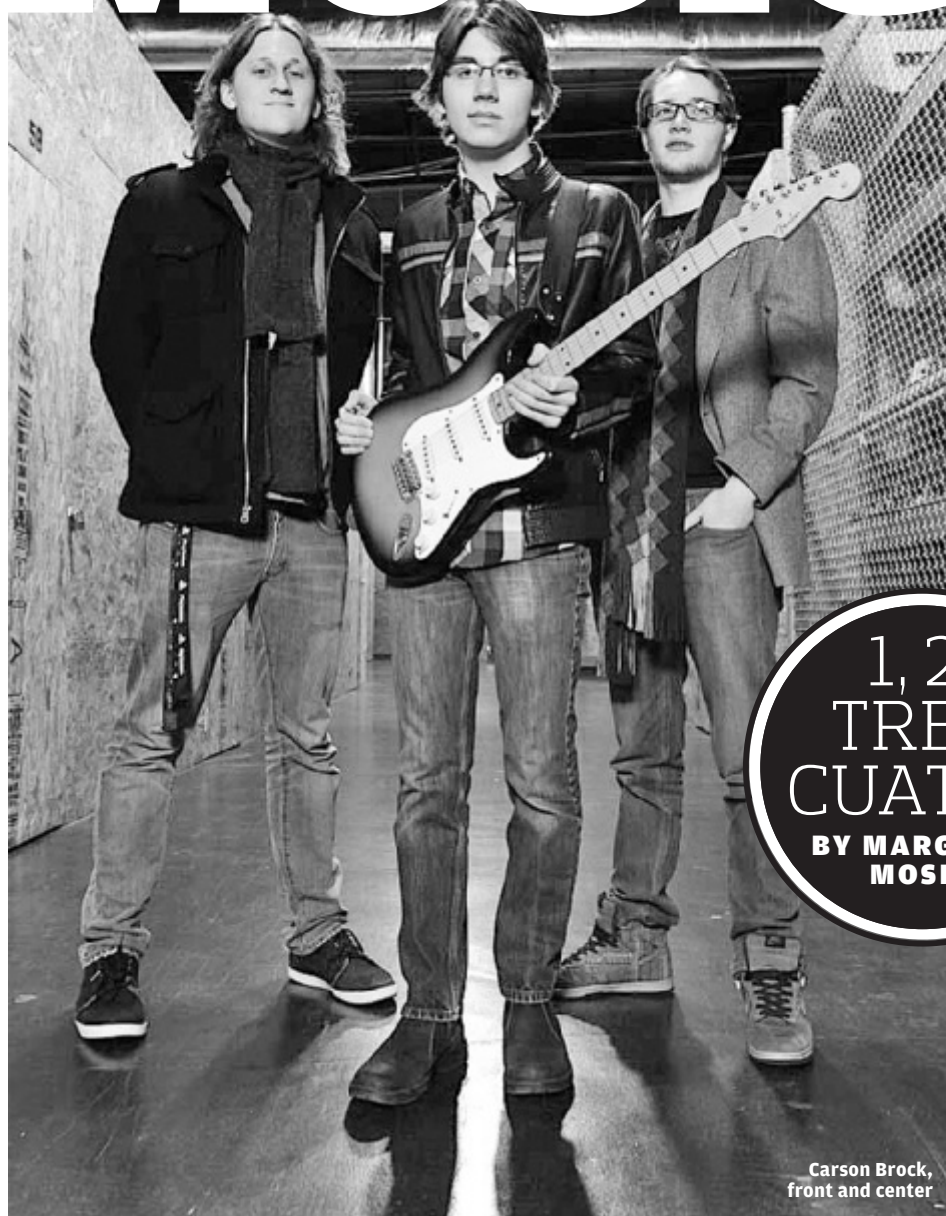
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Carson Brock,
front and center

Young Man Blues

"Would you talk to my grandson?"

That was the essence of the email from **Carson Brock's** grandmother, **Janet Ogden**. Besides the fact that I enjoy helping young musicians, any time a grandparent asks for assistance, I stop what I am doing. This time, perhaps a bit sheepishly, Carson agreed to meet me at Central Market Westgate.

I've been watching and encouraging Carson's career for several years now, having booked him in a series called **Next Up** when I had time to indulge my interest in booking teen bands. It obviously never occurred to me in my younger days of rock & roll debauchery that I might one day be cheerleading youth musicians and fielding inquiries from grandparents, but then again, that started back in about 1982, when I came across 15-year-old **Monte Warden** at the Lubbock Hilton during the **Joe Ely Tornado Jam**. (See Monte on Friday at the **Continental Club** in his forever youthful country vehicle the **Wagoneers**.)

Monte never wore "Little" as part of his moniker, not like **David Murray** did in mid-1970s Austin when **the Cobras** would sneak him into **Soap Creek Saloon** (see "Ten Fingers," Dec. 2) through the side door to play a quick song before **George Majewski** kicked him out for being underage. David had inherited the handle from **Little Stevie**

Vaughan before passing it on to **Charlie Sexton** and **Doyle Bramhall II** in the Eighties.

The last time we saw it used was on **Jake Andrews** in the 1990s. **Gary Clark Jr.** got lucky – he already had a "junior" title to give him the young man's blues.

And Clark, who made his debut on **Letterman's Late Show** last Friday and placed high on **Rolling Stone's** year-end list of best recordings, is posed for the kind of stardom that only comes along once in a decade.

Carson's never had to wear "Little" either, in part because he came along in a generation of musicians under 21 who didn't need to act their age musically. A senior at **Lake Travis High School**, he won't be 18 until February, but with his two bands **Public Soul**

and the **Carson Brock Group**, there's no question he's in the first line of Austin guitarists of his generation. Some of this is genetic – his father, **Kyle**, has played bass for **Eric Johnson** for years – and some of it's environmental, but with 18 staring him in the face, he's upping his game now.

At Central Market, I arrived early and found **Corey** and **Mike Keller** confabbing over a laptop "about a plan." The brothers laughed. It was sheer luck that while meeting me, Carson could meet his future in person: The Keller brothers have been performing together for nearly a quarter-century and are only in their mid-30s. They know what it's like to answer the lure of the blues and find that your fans are much older than you. And in a way, their goals haven't changed.

Drawing listeners is incumbent for acts of all ages, and if Carson feels like he's waiting on his second act, he's wrong. He's just finished the audition. On **Public Soul's** new EP he works with some of the **Blues Mafia**, another act that's spawning names that will be here for a very long time – **Sasha Ortiz** spun off to sing with **T Bird & the Breaks** a few years back. The woodshedding includes regular gigs at **Antone's** over several years.

Carson may find he'll lose the security of being "under 18" and the forgiveness it affords. Having to define your niche in a town known for guitarists is its own challenge, like taking a seat on that long, long bench that comes with a ticket with multidigit numbers. And if, as we all agreed at Central Market, the game of playing live has changed, that's to be dealt with, too.

It's tempting to offer luck, but as one of the next-in-line Austin guitarists, Carson Brock actually has a great deal going for him with the new EP. He's prioritizing the right way as he finishes high school in the spring, and has plans for the Carson Brock Group, too. Plus, he just opened for **Oz Noy** at the **Saxon Pub** and **Eric Johnson** showed up.

Now, let me tell you about **Yayo Sanchez**, poised as not just a guitarist but heartthrob, or **Glenn Peterson** from Bastrop, who is 14 years old and has played with **Pinetop Perkins**, **Buddy Guy**, and **B.B. King**

Inbox

For his 37th birthday on Sunday, **Chris Gray** lived, bless his heart. That's an important distinction since the former *Chronicle* columnist turned *Houston Press* music editor almost died of a massive heart attack in Houston on Oct. 28. Chris Gray *did* die. That's his dead body being hauled off the Metro tracks in that jerky security camera video when the auspicious presence of Metro officers skilled in CPR saved his life. Bless their hearts.

Bless your heart. It's such a Southern, mint julep phrase, but it's a kind sentiment. It's also a potent reminder that while myriad organizations tout the benefit of various organs, good health starts – and stops – with the heart. What happened with Chris? Smoking

cigarettes, poor diet, the wrong sort of exercise – that's pretty much it. It was nothing romantic like a childhood disease, just blocked arteries and a lifestyle that's all too familiar to most of us here in the music community, along with the mounting medical bills.

On Jan. 14 at the **Continental Club in Houston**, some of Chris Gray's favorite musicians will gather to help out that afternoon, among them **James McMurtry**, who responded to the request immediately, bless his heart. And a visit to the **American Heart Association** offices last week taught me that **the Bee Gees'** "Stayin' Alive" is the perfect beat to apply CPR, something we'll try to demonstrate that day with willing musicians.

Also in the "bless their heart" category is **Chuck Lokey**, owner of **Encore Records, Video & Apparel** on West Anderson Lane.

A local merchant of movies and music in Austin for going on three decades, Lokey was distraught last week at having to close **Encore**. "We have battled the giants of **Blockbuster, Hollywood, Netflix, and iTunes**," emailed Lokey last Friday (see "Encore Records Closing," Earache! Music blog, Dec. 16). "We have put in long hours at little or no pay for over 27 years in four different locations. The economy, the Texas drought, and the giants have taken their final toll." Asked when **Encore's** storewide sale begins, Lokey responded, "When the *Chronicle* comes out Thursday."

Few phrases annoy me more than "stocking stuffer," because I picture myself stuffing endless amounts of cash into a stocking with a big hole in it that empties into someone else's pocket. Nonetheless, my favorites this

year include the annual **KGSR Broadcasts Vol. 19** (especially its **Brady Bunch**-style cover art) and a new addition to the compilation crew, the **Holiday HAAM Jam CD**. *HAAM Jam* features tracks from **Jon Dee Graham & the Resentments, Shelley King, David Garza, Dan Dyer, Tortilla Factory, Laura Scarborough**, and more.

A limited release picture disc from **Shiva's Headband, The Singles Collection**, is out and features the vintage local psych band's four 45s and three unreleased tracks. Order from the website (www.bluthroatmusic.com) – the only place you can get it – and you receive a free T-shirt. Both make for a short history of Austin. Shiva, a wildly progressive act that was putting violin in rock at the same time as the **Velvet Underground**, was the first local rock act signed to a major label.

Collector's Disease

Box sets as catalog ghetto

Two weeks ago, "The Dark Side of the Box Set" compendium proved that most of this year's single-album expansions were gross overkill. The music industry's other trend in box sets, vinyl replica catalog roundups with no bonuses, shakes out here equally questionable. Yes, Virginia, the box set remains in critical condition. — Raoul Hernandez

Thin Lizzy At the BBC (Universal)

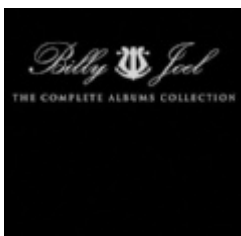
2011 rolls one last seven for Thin Lizzy. Topping a year of double-disc upgrades for *Vagabonds of the Western World* (1973), *Jailbreak* and *Johnny the Fox* (both 1976), *Live and Dangerous* (1978), *Black Rose* (1979), and *Chinatown* (1980), plus single-disc max-outs of the initial Irish trio's eponymous debut, its follow-up *Shades of a Blue Orphanage*, and the eventual London quartet's 1977 sleeper *Bad Reputation*, the 6-CD/1-DVD *At the BBC* archives twice as much as most of this season's overstuffed box sets. A note of what's missing and sessions the group literally mailed in reads a little modest once skinny Lizzy himself, principal singer-songwriter-bassist Phil Lynott, harmonizes over his own croon on *Bad Reputation* suitor "Dancing in the Moonlight (It's Caught Me in Its Spotlight)." There's also the small matter of the British Broadcasting Corporation's vast holdings including at least one long-gone CD from Lizzy's flagging 1983 farewell tour that's substituted here with another show months earlier. These sessions also arc across the aforementioned reissues. Completeness aside (and not claimed), *At the BBC* nevertheless crackles and blasts with an evolutionary pounce through blues, R&B, hard rock, and metal. Eric Bell's volcanic guitar mastery first pegs the Dubliners as Hendrix Experience fire-eaters, while his Belfast stand-in Gary Moore, who died in February,



adds stinging authenticity to the tribal Celtic thunder of "Sitamoia" on the second CD. Les Paul harmonics Scott Gorham and Brian Robertson ignite peak band razzle-dazzle on previously unreleased instrumental "Banshee," after which the remaining three discs bottle every era of the band with BBC concerts, a 1974 set for *Night Life* — ignored by generations of remastering — and a 1981 riposte for *Renegade* (see "Renegade," Jan. 20, 2006) achieving classic canon status. The ubiquitous *Live and Dangerous* DVD pairs with a previously unseen prize set from 1983, hokey *Top of the Pops* lip-syncs, and four *Old Grey Whistle Test* rarities. The boys are back in town. ★★★ — Raoul Hernandez

Billy Joel The Complete Albums Collection (Columbia)

The first six titles of this 15-album catalog in mini-LP sleeves make up Billy Joel's first act, spanning 1971's *Cold Spring Harbor* to 1978 hit *52nd Street*. There's a fistful of genuine radio hits, including "She's Got a Way," "Piano Man," and the genuinely lovely "She's Always a Woman" from 1977's *The Stranger*, but while many of the archival songs from the piano man's youth strive to be cinematic, they come off as melodrama, even if it's a compelling study to cue up his "New York State of Mind" from *Turnstiles* (1976) next to Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind." Joel's second act, the Reagan-era oeuvre, picks up pop-singer steam with "It's Still Rock & Roll to Me" (*Glass Houses*, 1980) and blue-collar anthems "Allentown" (*The Nylon Curtain*, 1982), "Uptown Girl" (*An Innocent Man*, 1983), and "The Downeaster 'Alexa'" (*Storm Front*, 1989). The hidden gem



comes last, in what should be Joel's third act, *Fantasies & Delusions* (2001), music for solo piano composed by Joel and performed by British pianist Richard Joo. A gifted instrumentalist, Joel's real talents, it turns out, have been shrouded by schlock pop. 2005's 4-CD *My Lives* boxed an alternate history of Joel the hit maker. *The Complete Albums Collection* confines him to the sociopolitical zeitgeist of each album's 15 minutes. ★★ — Melanie Haupt

Sam Cooke The RCA Albums Collection (RCA/Legacy)

Singing the phone book's one thing, but packaging said endeavor worse than the Yellow Pages prompts the question: Why bother? Reproduction of vinyl configurations on CD still makes as much sense as failing to include a magnifying loupe for said record miniatures. Of course, that matches an 8-CD minibox



that would fit on half as many discs since each album averages 37 minutes. Worse, *One Night Stand! Sam Cooke Live at the Harlem Square Club* (in Miami with saxist King Curtis) takes the place of Cooke's final LP for the label, 1964's *Ain't That Good News* — before he became a "justifiable homicide" at 33. What RCA saddled the king of soul with when it acquired the free agent crooner in 1960 matches *The RCA Albums Collection* like a suit and tie. *Cooke's Tour: Caribbean treacle. Hits of the 50's: Nat King Cole. Swing Low: o-r-c-h-e-s-t-r-a. My Kind of Blues: hardly. Twistin' the Night Away: "Camptown [Races] Twist," etc. Mr. Soul: OK, yes. Night Beat: RCA's left the building. Wait. But then, in order: "Jamaica Farewell," "Unchained Melody," "Chain Gang," "Since I Met You Baby," "Twistin' the Night Away," "Willow Weep for Me," etc. Sam Cooke could sing the White Pages.* ★★ — Raoul Hernandez

The Jimi Hendrix Experience Winterland (Experience Hendrix/Legacy)

Given Jimi Hendrix's improvisational virtuosity, it's no wonder the late guitarist's vaults continually belch forth product. Even for casual completists, however, *Winterland* is likely too much. This expanded version of 1987 Rykodisc showstopper *Live at Winterland* bulks up into four discs of recordings from San Francisco's titular venue in October 1968, a week prior to the release of *Electric Ladyland*. The Seattle southpaw sounds playful and relaxed, having not yet succumbed to road burnout, but the six sets over three nights consist of the same tunes he'd been doing for nearly two years straight — hits ("Fire," "Hey Joe") and covers ("Like a Rolling Stone," "Wild Thing," "Sunshine of Your Love"), with the occasional deeper cut ("Manic Depression," "Spanish Castle Magic") and the noodling jam "Tax Free" — all of them repeated over the different sets. They're all solid performances with plenty of Hendrixian fireworks, but they rarely have the spark needed to lift them above previously released takes. *Winterland* comes down to this: How many versions of "Red House" (three in this box), "Foxy Lady" (three more), and "Purple Haze" (four) do most folks really need? ★★ — Michael Toland



Phil Spector Presents The Philles Album Collection (Legacy)

The bricks in Phil Spector's legendary Wall of Sound number very few. Spector reigned supreme as producer of the Crystals, the Ronettes, and the Righteous Brothers from 1962 to 1965, with a trademark symphonic swell. This 7-CD box features six Philles in miniature vinyl replicas plus a bonus disc of B-sides and rarities. Included are the teen queen Crystals (*Twist Uptown, He's a Rebel, Greatest Hits Volume 1*); soulful Bob B. Soxx & the Blue Jeans (*Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah*); the Ronettes' satiny 1964 debut, *Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes*; and a bonus disc from

the Phil Spector Wall of Sound Orchestra (*Phil's Flipsides*). It's all fun, but Spector produced singles and that was his strength, like the orchestral opening of "Be My Baby." Presented in LP form, the material is often repetitive: nine of *Twist's* 11 tracks are on *Rebel*, then repeated in hits discs. If Spector's genius lay in his ear for voices and instrumentation, he also knew songs. The set beautifully captures the heyday of the pop songwriting teams — Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann's brilliant "On Broadway" as sung by the Crystals, Carole King and Gerry Goffin's brutal "He Hit Me (And It Felt Like a Kiss)," Jackie DeShannon/Sharon Sheeley diamond in the rough "I Shook the World" — amid schlocky offerings, but Spector's style is undeniable musical genius. ★★★ — Margaret Moser



The Smiths Complete (Rhino)

"They go upstairs to Morrissey's room. There's an Elvis poster stuck on the wall, a life-size cardboard cut out of James Dean from the 1956 film *Giant*." And thus, according to *Complete*, Johnny Marr starts the Smiths, another English Fab Four spun off of the King, Sun Records, haircuts, and leather jackets. Four studio albums, three compilations, and a live recording add up to an 8-CD vinyl replica box set of no additional material. Which leaves Morrissey's erudite vocal mope on 1984's *The Smiths*, its pulpy urbanity already addictive ("Pretty Girls Make Graves," "This Charming Man," "Hand in Glove"). *Meat Is Murder* (1985) cops Elvis' "His Latest Flame" for "Rusholme Ruffians" and rams home "Mystery Train" on side-two opener "Nowhere Fast" ("I'd like to drop my trousers to the Queen/Every sensible child will know what this means"). *Meat* locked down the jangling band, its chemistry, compositions — art, sequencing, everything — and *The Queen Is Dead* crowned itself with a Renaissance-rich surety of hook and execution. Closers "There Is a Light That Never Goes Out" and "Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others" are better than most bands' entire careers, tag-teaming American songbook maturity. Adios to Smithville on *Strangeways, Here We Come* (1987), but *Rank* live, with "His Latest Flame" segueing into "Rusholme Ruffians" — giant. ★★★ — Raoul Hernandez



Queen Limited Edition Collector's Box Set Volume 2 (Hollywood)

Six months ago, Hollywood Records reissued the first five Queen albums, mapping the UK quartet's trip from traditional jazz-loving prog rockers to stadium-rock powerhouse.



Now two boxes complete their 15-album studio career. "We Will Rock You" became *News of the World* in 1977, a sleazy rocker in which Queen screamed "We are the champions." Jazz strides from the profound to the profane as vocal rainbow Freddie Mercury pays homage to his Arabic roots with "Mustapha," then leers lovingly at "Fat Bottomed Girls." Its bonus EP is a treasure trove for Queen's most loyal subjects, as the lost mix of cosmic party stomper "Don't Stop Me Now" resurrects Brian May's full-throated solo. *The Game* (1980) could've been another *Night at the Opera*, but only the street-beat fury of "Another One Bites the Dust" screamed for vengeance. Credit Mercury's days of Studio 54 and roses for the sample-and-synth wonder of 1980's *Flash Gordon* soundtrack; blame them for *Hot Space's* horrible jazz-funk workouts. Only David Bowie's blessing on "Under Pressure" hints back to the dramatic beauty of earlier days while presaging 1984's return to stadium-rock glory on *The Works*. That AOR masterpiece opens *Volume 3*, its heart in "I Want To Break Free," while *A Kind of Magic* escapes its pigeonhole as a *Highlander* soundtrack in the peerless mingling of Mercury and May and asks "Who Wants To Live Forever." Mercury's demise hangs over *Innuendo* even as he laughed in the face of death, but at least the posthumously completed *Made in Heaven* balanced his tragedy and joyfulness. (Both) ★★★★★

— Richard Whittaker

Leonard Cohen *The Complete Columbia Albums Collection* (Columbia/Legacy)



In January, Leonard Cohen's scheduled to release *Old Ideas*, his first new studio album since 2004's *Dear Heather*. That perhaps already renders this mini-LP replica set unnecessarily deficient, but 17 albums on an 18-CD collection capture the vaulted magnitude of Cohen's tower of song. Beginning with his secular trinity – 1968's timeless *Songs of Leonard Cohen* ("So Long, Marianne"), 1969's *Songs From a Room* ("Bird on a Wire"), and 1971's *Songs of Love and Hate* ("Famous Blue Raincoat") – Montreal's prophetic poet establishes his mix of the sacred and sexual in elegant elegies. From there, the highlights become less frequent, falling off after the grandiose multiplicity of 1977's *Death of a Ladies' Man*, produced by Phil Spector, until his first major comeback with the sophisticated modernism of 1988's *I'm Your Man* ("First We Take Manhattan"). Local bassist and current musical director Roscoe Beck earns his stripes, first appearing with his jazz-fusion ensemble Passenger as the backing band for the baroque *Field Commander Cohen: Tour of 1979* and reuniting three decades later for 2009 double album *Live in London* and the following year's *Songs From the Road*. Judging from sheer output, Cohen's most comfortable on the road, a drifting romantic leading masses in quiet worship – a reverie best captured on the recently unearthed *At the Isle of Wight 1970*. ★★★★★

— Austin Powell

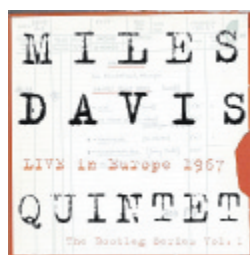
Ray Charles *Singular Genius: The Complete ABC Singles (Concord)*



Ray Charles left Atlantic Records for a deal with ABC that was amazingly lucrative for 1959. The deal included ownership of his master recordings after five years, his own imprint, and an unheard of 75% royalty rate. Much of the results of that agreement are present on this 5-CD set covering 1960-1972, a total of 106 A- and B-sides. With a newfound artistic freedom, Charles explored jazz with a large band that was at times orchestral; turned country music on its ear with hit tunes from Hank Williams, Don Gibson, and Buck Owens; and covered the Great American Songbook with unique elegance and soul. Some of the soul man's biggest hits are here, including "Georgia on My Mind," "Crying Time," and "Hit the Road Jack," but there's plenty of curiosities here: dark Percy Mayfield composition "The Danger Zone," an oddly psychedelized rendition of the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby," a funky-up "Ring of Fire," and the original "I Don't Need No Doctor." Sturdy packaging, sparkling sound, and amply illustrated liner notes by Billy Vera make this set worthy of Charles' *Singular Genius*. ★★★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

Miles Davis Quintet *Live Europe 1967: The Bootleg Series Vol. 1* (Columbia/Legacy)



Trumpeter Miles Davis' second great quintet, arguably the pre-eminent small group in jazz history, had been performing together for three years by the time of this fall 1967 European tour. Calling it well-oiled and ahead of the curve would be a monumental understatement. Grounded by standards Davis had been playing for years ("Round Midnight," "Walkin'," "On Green Dolphin Street") alongside original tunes from the quintet's five superlative albums – "Agitation," "Riot," "Masqualero," and, most notably, "Footprints" – the band would often barely state the theme before taking off on open-ended flights of improvisational daring and dazzling interplay. What's most remarkable about the music contained on this astounding 3-CD/1-DVD set of mostly unreleased material is how fresh and modern it still sounds today, nearly 45 years later. And, indeed, what prescience that national radio and television in France, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany had in documenting it all. This incomparable band would shortly dissolve, but Davis, saxophonist Wayne Shorter, pianist Herbie Hancock, bassist Ron Carter, and drummer Tony Williams forged a template that profoundly influenced musicians for decades to come. ★★★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg

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Blaze Foley

Clay Pigeons (Secret Seven)

Cherry-picking a dozen songs from the post-humorous recordings that have made Blaze Foley legend, *Clay Pigeons*' considerable 12-inch charms are among the medium's local best for 2011 even if vinyl-only Secret Seven Records is out of San Francisco. Foley's chicory voice, tart and strong but backcountry smooth, works its folk noir immediately on opener "Clay Pigeons" (recorded live at the Austin Outhouse on Dec. 27, 1988), which in a blind taste test can't be told apart from John Prine, who famously covered the standout. Foley's haunted acoustic clip on "Election Day" vibrates like some late-Sixties street hassle from San Francisco – Moby Grape, maybe. Champ Hood's fiddle lacing around "Lovin' You," from the aforementioned Austin Outhouse two-night stand, only heightens its affections. Foley was every bit as autobiographically frank as Townes Van Zandt but less self-edited – and for the better. Songs are supplication for Foley ("For Anything Less"). He's also funny, fun, and satiric ("Oval Room"). Studio gravity for "Cold, Cold World," cut in Fredericksburg in 1980, opens the second side as stark as Woody Guthrie and in perfect contrast to the live recordings. When he lets the chorus echo in his chest and up through his sinuses, you'll draw your collar tighter, closer. A sincere beauty, "Moonlight" fronts country ballad "Rainbows and Ridges," which will make you mourn every jukebox across the state that never played a Blaze Foley 45. Signature closer "If I Could Only Fly," again from the Austin Outhouse on Dec. 28, takes your breath away. *Clay Pigeons*, Christmas story.

★★★★

– Raoul Hernandez

BLAZE FOLEY
CLAY PIGEONS



TEXAS PLATTERS

★★★★★ PERFECT ★★★★ GREAT ★★★ GOOD ★★ MEDIOCRE ★ COASTER

Dixie Witch

Let It Roll (Small Stone)

Nuthin' Fancy shrugged Lynyrd Skynyrd in 1975, titling its third LP, which opens by emptying all six rounds of "Saturday Night Special." Metallic Southern rock locals Dixie Witch aren't packing quite suh a classic on fourth album *Let It Roll* other than Detroit indie Small Stone (also home to Tia Carrera) still sponsoring these rock & rollers going back nearly a decade. As such, not one round is wasted here, all 10 songs in 36 minutes clustered around the heart on the shooting range target. Muscle-car riffs, choruses, and production-exhaust rumble and kick from the opening title cut, with "The High Deal" soon thereafter evoking a "wishing well" that might pass as a distant cousin of Free morphed into Bad Company – only harder. "Red Song" and "Second Chance," both blue-collar bruisers assuming confident midtempo, funnel into chopping closer "December." Open 'er up, *Let It Roll*.

★★★★

– Raoul Hernandez



landscape. The Moonhangers mosey "Chicken Funk" more country-fried than "Country Thighs," with the J.J. Cale-style Tulsa two-step of "You're in Love" booming Shaw through the mic like he's a strummin' Paul Bunyan. Waylon to Strahan's Willie, the latter breaks hearts on "Devil Off My Feet" and "Let's Do It Wrong," two that'll have folks swaying slowly on their porch swings. They surely don't make 'em like this anymore.

★★★★

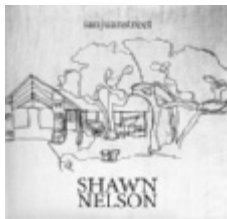
– Chase Hoffberger



Shawn Nelson

San Juan Street (Fonky Tonk)

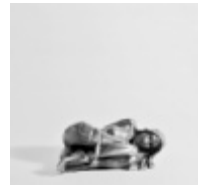
He's been bouncing around Austin since at least 2003. Still, no one would have picked Shawn Nelson to make one of this year's best country albums. *San Juan Street* finds the local working with some of the most sympathetic players he's ever had the pleasure of collaborating with while also demonstrating above-average writing skills. Produced by accordion master Joel Guzman and featuring guitarist Matt Slusher and bassist Will Dupuy (formerly of South Austin Jug Band), plus Ephraim Owens on trumpet and Trisha Keefer on fiddle, Nelson mixes and matches styles flawlessly. There's outlaw-flavored two-stepper "Nobody Got a Hold On Me," the fiddle fueled alt.country of "Anna Lee," and



Rock Box BY AUSTIN POWELL

Sleep ∞ Over Forever (Hippos in Tanks)

Alongside close local contemporaries Pure X and Neon Indian, Sleep ∞ Over is redefining Texas slowcore for the chill-wave generation. While essentially the solo vehicle of Stefanie Franciotti, her debut full-length sounds like a full-band affair, with woozy synths, minimal drums, and breathy vocals. *Forever* is a mood album, heavily sedated and perpetually out of focus, like an R.E.M. dream after cough syrup. ★★★



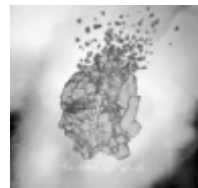
The Asteroid Shop (The Council)

There's no doubting where the Asteroid Shop sets its controls, even if the local quintet never quite reaches that final destination on this Erik Wofford-produced debut outing. The soft-focus space-rock of "Destroyer" self-medicates into a stupor fully realized later on "Cold Blue Sea," while highlight "Planetary" conjures Band of Horses at half-speed. ★★★



The Clouds Are Ghosts (Harbinger)

"We embrace the dawning of our future," sings Jason Morris without irony and in a manner that recalls Damien Rice on "The Welcoming," the nuclear winter opening to Clouds Are Ghosts' five-song EP. His utter sincerity is the saving grace of the sextet's future-perfect trip-rock – New Order meets New Age. Clean though not sterile, TCAG hits the mark on anthemic standout "Beacon." ★★★



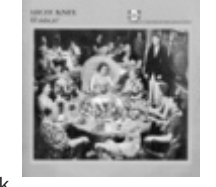
The Ghost Wolves In Ya Neck

Often pegged as a reverse White Stripes – guitarist Carley Wolf leading drummer Jonathan Konya – the Ghost Wolves' punk-blues more closely resembles Dax Riggs' short-lived Deadboy & the Elephantmen: swampy and primitive. Limited to 500 copies, this six-song EP works best when the two are seemingly at each other's throats, as in "Big Star" and rockabilly jive "Snake and Jake Shake." ★★★



Ghost Knife Kill Shelter, Yes! (End Sounds)

Somehow, between scene stalwarts the Riverboat Gamblers and High Tension Wires, punk daredevil Mike Wiebe has found time for another side project. Paired with the J Church rhythm section of bassist Ben Snakepit and drummer Chris Pfeffer, Ghost Knife offers a leaner, looser setting for Wiebe's hand-grenade hooks ("Omnipotent," "The Lightning Test"). The wicked surf riff of "Soft Bullets" and dreamy, near-shoegaze "Basic Fort" break promising new ground. ★★★



We'll Go Machete Strong Drunk Hands (Cedar Fever)

With *Strong Drunk Hands*, We'll Go Machete furiously delivers on the promise of its 2009 EP. The Austin quartet fuses the calculated assault of Chicago noise-rock with the economical intensity of DC post-punk in a manner not seen in Texas perhaps since At the Drive-In. There's not a runt in the 10-track litter, but "Kids in Front" and "Number 13," in particular, go straight for the throat. ★★★



the subdued yet ardent Tex-Mex in "Dreams in the Desert." With 14 cuts, Nelson could've pared down some of the lesser tracks; the reggae-fied "Daydreamers" seems out of place. Overall *San Juan Street* is filled with unexpected pleasures.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri

Wild Child Pillow Talk (Major Nation)

Wild Child's debut LP spills unabashed folk-pop plucked and plied with a willful and necessarily naive lilt. As the LP spools and unravels the threads of youthful love, core duo Kelsey Wilson and Alexander Beggins sow even the lowest moments of romance with an intimate and idealistic flair that, if not innocent, bends toward brighter boundaries. As a singer, Wilson shines throughout, her



perfectly twanged pop drawl floating effortlessly and carefree through the unsettled emotions of "Silly Things," a shimmying "Someone Else," and the yearning twosome of "Whiskey Dreams" and "Winter Pockets." Ukulele foundations for the songs seep through even in the broader arrangements of a full sextet, retaining the light playfulness on boisterous sing-alongs like "Cocaine Hurricane" as well. *Pillow Talk*'s potent beauty lies in capturing dissolving revelations and uncertain fading embers with tunes like "Warm Body" and the title track.

★★★★

– Doug Freeman

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepherd



Paul Moran, possessing, according to his lawyer, “considerable intellectual ability,” nonetheless attempted a procedure to turn his own feces into gold (and was sentenced in October to three months in jail in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, after accidentally setting his apartment on fire in the process).

LEAD STORY

Only the Government: Stung by criticism in 2007 that they were neglecting severely wounded service members, the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs have now gone extreme the other way, routinely providing at least a half-dozen (and as many as two dozen) caseworkers per patient. A Government Accountability Office report in October said the result was “duplication, confusion and turf battles,” according to a November *Washington Post* story, leaving the members and their families often conflicted and overwhelmed about prognoses. At times the Pentagon (serving active-duty personnel) and the VA (ex-military) balked over coordinating their treatments. The agencies, however, told the *Post* that any duplication was intentional, even though the *Post* cited military families who each wished they had a single, authoritative case manager they could turn to. A GAO official called the situation “crazy” and “disturbing.”

CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

The U.S.-Pakistan relationship has reached “the nadir of absurdity,” wrote *Wired* after a December report in *The Atlantic* revealed that Pakistan “secures” its tactical nuclear weapons by moving them around the country in ordinary unmarked vans (“without noticeable defenses”). Pakistan supposedly uses the “Econolines of Doom,” “hidden” in plain sight on the country’s highways, because it fears the U.S. (its “ally”) would steal the bombs if it knew where they were. Dizzily, wrote *Wired*, the U.S. funds Pakistan yet regularly invades

it, though desperately needing Pakistan’s help in Afghanistan, even as Pakistani soldiers fight alongside Afghan insurgents against the U.S.

In October, the superenthusiastic winners of a Kingston, Ontario, radio station contest claimed their prize: the chance to don gloves and dig for free Buffalo Bills’ football tickets (value: \$320) buried in buffalo manure in a child’s plastic inflatable pool. The show’s host, Sarah Crosbie, reported the digging live (but, overcome by the smell, vomited on the air). More curious was a runner-up contestant who continued to muck around for the second prize, even though it was only tickets to a local zoo.

In a federal lawsuit for malicious prosecution, a judge found a “strong” likelihood that EPA agent Keith Phillips “deliberately” set up a hazardous-waste enforcement case against Hubert Vidrine for the purpose of facilitating his own work/sex relationship with a female EPA agent. According to the court, Phillips was married and unable to carry on with the agent (stationed in another city) except when they worked together, which they did periodically over a three-year period on the Vidrine case. In October, Vidrine was awarded \$1.6 million in damages.

Least Competent Plans: L.B. Williams, a black man married to a white woman in Panama City, Fla., reported that the Ku Klux Klan had burned a cross in his driveway in November and left a threatening note. However, the note did not demand that the couple move from the neighborhood; it demanded that they stay. Since the KKK is not known for supporting mixed-race couples,

the police were suspicious and ultimately charged Williams with making the threats himself – to frighten his wife into abandoning the divorce she had recently requested.

Cry for Help: Math teacher Paul LaDuke, 75, was fired in November from the Schaumburg Christian School, in Illinois, after a student reported seeing him brazenly masturbate, with his pants lowered, as he sat behind his desk in a full classroom. LaDuke had been at the school for 26 years, and police believe, according to a *Chicago Tribune* report, he had “committed similar acts at the school several times a year for a decade or longer.”

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

Proportionality: 1) Daniel Vilca, 26, was ordered to prison for the rest of his life (without possibility of parole) following his conviction in Naples, Fla., in November for having pornographic photos of children on his computer. He had no previous criminal record, nor was there evidence of any contact with children. The judge computed the sentence by multiplying a five-year term by the 454 photos police found. 2) A week earlier, a judge in Dayton, Ohio, sentenced former CEO Michael Peppel, 44, for defrauding his shareholders by overstating revenue in a company that went on to lose \$298 million and cost 1,300 employees their jobs. Sentencing guidelines recommended an eight- to 10-year term, but federal Judge Sandra Beckwith ordered Peppel to jail for seven days.

Dog walker Kimberly Zakrzewski was found not guilty in October of violating the poop-scooping ordinance of Fairfax County, Va., despite photographic “evidence” of dog piles submitted by neighbors Virginia and Christine Cornell (who had previously been feuding with Zakrzewski). The jury chose to give greater weight to testimony by the dog’s owner that the photographed piles were bigger than anything she had ever seen from Baxter. The owner also revealed that she had brought to court one of Baxter’s actual piles but decided to leave it in her car.

OOPS! SORRY ABOUT THAT ...

Bad Shots: 1) A 22-year-old man was shot in the face on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in September; his companion on the camping trip thought he was shooting at a bear. 2) An 85-year-old man was shot in the face in Augusta, Ga., in September; a female acquaintance thought she was shooting at an opossum. 3) A 20-year-old woman was shot in Vilas County, Wis., in July; Deputy Sheriff Ty Peterson (a relative) thought he was shooting at a cougar.

THE PERVO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Can’t Stop Himself: Convicted child-sex offender Charlie Price, 57, was arrested in Pittsfield, Mass., in October, but only for disturbing the peace – because the “victim” was merely made of cardboard. Price, spotting a sunglasses display in a Rite-Aid pharmacy, started kissing and licking the face of the pictured model, as well as groping her.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.news-of-the-weird.blogspot.com
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Music

Free up your schedule for this week. Browse or search **2,539** events online at austinchronicle.com/calendar



FILM:
A Very Muppet Christmas
Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 7:30pm



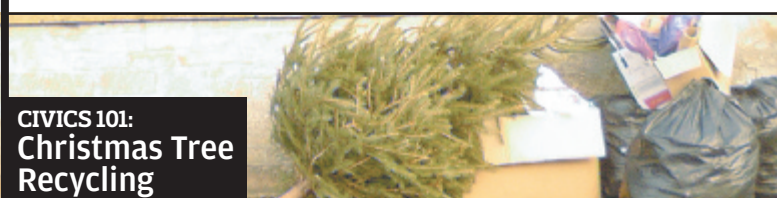
MUSIC:
The Wagoneers
Continental Club, 7 & 11:30pm



COMMUNITY:
Blue Genie & Armadillo Bazaars
Marchesa Hall & Palmer Events Center



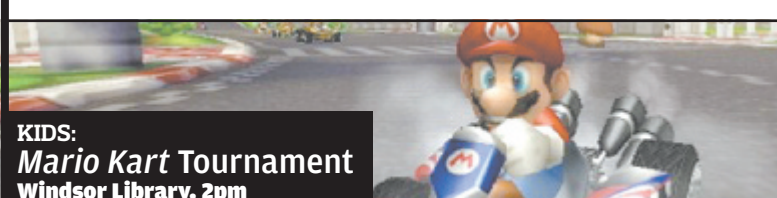
THEATRE:
Santaland Diaries
Zach Theatre, 8pm



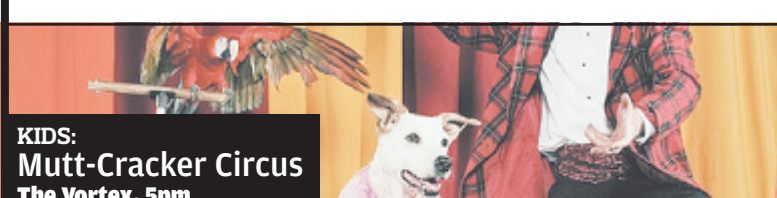
CIVICS 101:
Christmas Tree Recycling



MUSIC:
Jonathan Toubin Benefit
Emo's Inside, 9pm



KIDS:
Mario Kart Tournament
Windsor Library, 2pm



KIDS:
Mutt-Cracker Circus
The Vortex, 5pm

THURSDAY
22

GAY PLACE: **Gingerbread Vagina Party** Bernadette's, noon
DANCE: **The Nutcracker** Long Center, 7:30pm
COMMUNITY: **Holiday in the Park** Zilker Hillside Theater, 7:30pm
FILM: **Bad Santa** Alamo Lake Creek, 10pm

FRIDAY
23

FILM: **Disney's A Christmas Carol** Millennium, 10:15am
LITERA: **Glen Maxey** Progress Coffee, 11am-7pm
FILM: **The Nightmare Before Christmas** Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 6:30pm
COMEDY: **Esther's Follies** Esther's Pool, 8 & 10pm
COMEDY: **Christmas Dinner Improv** Hideout Theatre, 8pm

SATURDAY
24

FILM: **Saturday Morning Cartoon Cereal Party** Alamo Lake Creek, noon
MUSIC: **Texana Dames** Palmer Events Center, 8pm
MUSIC: **Suzanna Choffel** Momo's
MUSIC: **Miss Lavelle's White Christmas** Saxon Pub, 8:30pm
FILM: **Die Hard** Alamo Ritz, 10pm

SUNDAY
25

MUSIC: **Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel** Saxon Pub, 5:30pm
FILM: **Enter the Void** Alamo Ritz, 9pm
MUSIC: **Dale Watson** Continental Club, 11pm

MONDAY
26

SPORTS: **Express Holiday Camps** Dell Diamond
OUT OF TOWN: **Boxing Day** Becker Vineyards, 10am-5pm
FILM: **The Holy Mountain** Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm
MUSIC: **John Wesley Coleman** Emo's Inside, 9pm
FILM: **Exodus: Live at the Rainbow** Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm

TUESDAY
27

SPORTS: **Texas Stars** Cedar Park Center, 7:30pm
FILM: **The Boogeyman** Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm
FILM: **Austin High** Alamo Ritz, 10:20pm

WEDNESDAY
28

SPORTS: **UT Women's Basketball** Frank Erwin Center, 3pm
MUSIC: **Better Than Ezra, Cowboy Mouth** ACL Live at the Moody Theater, 6:30pm
FILM: **Beerfest** Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm
MUSIC: **Sons of Fathers** Momo's, 9:30pm

THURSDAY
29

DANCE: **Shen Yun** Long Center, 7:30pm
GAY PLACE: **Last Lab 11** Hideout Theatre, 8pm
MUSIC: **Quintron** Emo's, 9pm
MUSIC: **The Alice Rose** Frank





The Mutt-Cracker

Circus Chickendog brings its best holiday show to the Vortex stage, featuring acrobatic canines and a performing parrot among a bright spectacle of juggling, unicycling, rope tricks, giant bubbles, and more. Unless you're allergic to sprightly accordion music (and how sad you must be, if you are), this is recommended yuletide fun for kids and adults of all ages.

Thu.-Sat., Dec. 29-31, 5 & 6:30pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (\$5-15, children). www.vortexrep.org.



God of Carnage

Yasmina Reza's Tony-winning comedy about a play date between two boys that goes hysterically awry. (Parents behaving badly? Oh my, yes. Somebody looks like they need a little time-out.) Starring Lauren Lane, Thomas Ward, Eugene Lee, and Angela Rawna; directed by Matt Lenz.

Through Jan. 8. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$25-60. www.zachtheatre.org.

THEATRE

OPENING

FULL THEATER @ FULL ENGLISH CAFE This evening of original works, brought to public life by Norm Ballinger, features *Wuthering Heights: the Musical* (a short play on its way to Frontera Fest) and music by Ballinger, Mark Niblack, and Elliot and Ava Cole-Prechter. *Fri., Dec. 23, 6:30pm. Full English Cafe, 2000 Southern Oaks. 240-2748. Donations accepted. www.fullenglishfood.com.*

ONGOING

THE SANTALAND DIARIES It's David Sedaris' real-life story of his tour of duty at Macy's as Crumpet the Elf, starring Martin Burke as Crumpet. Directed by Dave Steakley and beautifully enhanced by chanteuse Meredith McCall. *Through Jan. 8: Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$40-45. www.zachtheatre.org.*

COMEDY

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Eddie Gossling Dec. 28-31. *Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13.*

Bob Biggerstaff You like comedy? That's why you're reading this. You like sports? Bring your favorite foam finger and catch the latest from this Houstonian hecklerbane. **Forrest Shaw** opens. *Dec. 22-23. Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies The most popular sketch troupe in town brings comedy that skewers the high-and-mighty, riotous song parodies, right there on Sixth Street. Esther's Christmas Medley tracks the candidates in "GOP Superstar!" and lambasts the Prez and the tea party alike with the "Baraky Horror Picture Show." And there are **Ray Anderson's** non-partisan spectacles of magic, too! Reservations recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$22-27 (discounts Thursday-Friday for seniors, military).*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

It's Hideoutrageous! Christmas weekend cometh, and with it the **Threefer**, bringing you three troupes in one night: **The Team**, **Straight Blades**, and **Local Genius Society** *Thu., 8pm. \$5. Christmas Dinner* is an improv send-up of the traditional family feast, with a cast of crazy characters inspired by your own families. You hear that, Uncle Ted? You're in for it, you old creep! *Fri., 8pm. \$5.*

The Spectacle features **Parallelogramophonograph** and the lovable lunacy of **Rachel & Dave**. *Fri., 10pm. \$10.*

DANCE

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER With dance choreographed by BA's Stephen Mills and musical accompaniment by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, this production brings all the delights and excitement of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic to sparkling life with more than 200 dancers. *Dec. 22-23, Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 2pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$15 and up. www.balletaustin.org.*

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ENJOY OUR EXECUTIVE CHEF'S SPECIAL MENU SELECTIONS IN THE CROSSROADS GRILLE & CELEBRATE THE NIGHT LISTENING TO THE SOUNDS OF PAUL EDDY IN OUR LOUNGE!



Eddie Gossling

"Local boy makes good" doesn't begin to cover it as former Austinite Gossling returns for a quartet of nights at Cap City, bringing with him the acclaimed hilarity that's slain crowds in Montreal, in L.A., on Comedy Central and Bravo, and everywhere people know how to laugh. And, awww, **Megan Mooney** opens. Recommended.

Dec. 28-31. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13. www.capcitycomedy.com.

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

COUNTDOWN TO DOOMSDAY Performance art by AVGx, Davinavich, and Beasely. Music by Kingdom of Vertigo and Monkee. Why? 1) Why not? 2) To commemorate the first day of the last Mayan calendar year! AIEEEE! *Thu., Dec. 22, 8pm. Baby Blue Studios, 1522 E. 12th. Free.* www.highestart.com.

MAIL ART CALL: VIPER VIXENS The Electronic Planet Ensemble's upcoming show, *Viper Vixens of 2012*, is gonna deck the Vortex's Butterfly Bar with viperish, vixenish vividness via the Postal Service. Send your mail art creations to: 8003-B Tidale, Austin, TX, 78757. Deadline: Jan. 13.

CLOSING

CHAMPION GALLERY: IDLE Abstract or representational? Form and color merge "not to create allusions to a tangible place ... but to ones that are partly invented by virtue of recalled experiences" in Jonathan Faber's new show. *Through Dec. 22. 800 Brazos, 354-1035.* www.championcontemporary.com.

RUSSELL COLLECTION: RIMI YANG The artist's style bridges Eastern and Western culture. *Through Dec. 24. 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440.* www.russell-collection.com.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: AFTER DARK GROUP SHOW The Workman's fierce stable of brilliant offers works embodying the show's nocturnal theme. With art by Ali Cavanaugh, Helmut Barnett, Margie Crisp, Angie Renfro, Anne Ashley, and others. Who could pass this up? *Through Dec. 23. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428.* www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

ONGOING

ACCESS GALLERY HOLIDAY ART SHOW Work by 20 Texas artists with disabilities. *Through Jan. 6. 3701 Guadalupe #103, 323-6626.* www.vsatx.org.

AMO + ARTHOUSE: TWO TAKES ON ONE SPACE We won't call them AMOHOUSE, lest they sic some violent Art Brut mafiosi on us, but look: The newly merged cultural giants invited Maine-based Lauren Fensterstock and celebrated local Steve Wiman to creatively transform the venerable Driscoll villa out there in the woods. Now the interior and exterior landscapes have become the current exhibition. Much to see and do here: Check the website for more. *Through Feb. 19. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191.* www.arthousetexas.org.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru. 78 San Marcos St., 457-0171. www.pablotoadstudio.com.

AUSTIN ART CONNECTIONS: ART THAT TELLS A STORY New work by seven Texas artists: Good new work, to be sure, and recommended. See website for details. 786-8721. www.austinartconnections.com.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE Local, diverse, and eminently shoppable. 2200-J S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

AUSTIN DETAILS ART + PHOTO: 24 HOURS IN AUSTIN A portrait of Austin as captured by 24 local photographers in one 24-hour day in October. See your city in your city Downtown. *Through Dec. 31. 106 E. Eighth, 391-0999.* www.austindetailsart.com.

B. HOLLYMAN GALLERY: ANIMALIA Henry Horenstein's series of intimate and intriguing portraits of land and sea creatures. *Through Jan. 31. 1202-A W. Sixth, 825-6866.* www.bhollymangallery.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: EL ANATSUI The renowned artist's "When I Last Wrote to You about Africa" spans four decades and includes approximately 60 works drawn from public and private collections internationally. Recommended. *Through Jan. 22. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* www.blantonmuseum.org.

D BERMAN GALLERY: LANCE LETSCHER The collage artist's new "Work from the Middles Ages" presents the history of books brilliantly exploded via postmodern taxidermy. *Through Jan. 28. 111 Old Kyle Road #100, Wimberley, 847-3200.* www.dbermangallery.com.

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW Well, yes, it is another holiday show, with glorious works by Joseph Hammer, David Hefner, Sandra Langston, David Leonard, Susu Meyer, Caprice Pierucci, and Christopher St-Leger, among others. *Through Dec. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.* www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

FLATBED PRESS: THE PIRATE QUEEN Not just any pirate queen, me hearties: **Julie Speed.** *Through Jan. 1. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.* www.flatbedpress.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: BANNED, BURNED, SEIZED, AND CENSORED This is what They had been trying to keep away from you, children, for well-meaning but ultimately pathetic, fear-based reasons. Witness, pay attention, set the world on fire. *Through Jan. 22. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* www.hrc.utexas.edu.

JO ANN SANTANGELO: AUSTIN FACES AIDS Videos and photodocumentary of locals living with HIV and AIDS. *Through Jan. 2. East Side Drive-In, Sixth & San Marcos.* www.joannasantangelo.com.

LA PEÑA: MINDSCAPES New photographs and paintings by Rama Tiru of Austin: East of I-35 fame. 227 Congress. 477-6007. www.ramatiru.com.

LAGUNA GLORIA: BUSTER GRAYBILL The artist's *Progeny of Tush Hog*, which includes sculptures, pho-

tographs, and video, ranges from the venue's stately interiors to its landscaped grounds. *Through Feb. 19. 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191.* www.amoa.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: MADS LYNNERUP Solo exhibition of new works by the New York-based artist. *Through Feb. 4. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965.* www.lorareynolds.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUEUM: MIX 'N' MASH Here's the museum's annual holiday show of 12-by-12-inch Gessobord panels, embellished by more than 200 artists from Austin and across the Lone Star State. *Through Jan. 2. 419 Congress, 480-9373.* www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

NEW EAST GALLERY features works by Ricardo Acevedo, Charles Randolph, Gary Flemmons, Gin Daniel, Lauren Bristol, Rachelle Diaz, and more. 1601 E. Fifth #106. www.diversearts.org.

PUMP PROJECT: MULTIPLE ORIGINALS XVI Multiple ... originals? Of course, it's the 16th exhibition from **Women Printmakers of Austin**, and it's a wonder to behold. *Through Dec. 30. Wed. & Sat., noon-5pm. 702 Shady.* www.pumpproject.org.



TINY PARK: SAM PREKOP AND MICHAEL SIEBEN Welcome the newest Tiny Park show, featuring works from these widely seen wanderers. *Through Jan. 14. Saturdays, noon-5pm. 607 Genard.* www.tinyparkgallery.com.



Balls. The Gay Place luv's 'em.

COURTESY OF MARK MENDOZA

WHOLLY HOLY HOLEY O,

Ho-sanna, sweet 'mos. 'Tis the season. And some folks have different reasons for the season. So, however you worship (or not) and however you identify (or not), know that your buds here at the **Gay Place** and the **Gay Place blog** – yours truly, Kate X; Andy; Rob; Julie; Frank; and Daniel – adore you. Come, let us adore you. Happiest of happys, pals!

ON OUR GAYDAR

GINGERBREAD VAGINA PARTY Celebrate the holiest of hole-ies by making your own. ABC Vagina Supply will supply the gingerbread, frosting, icing, candy, sprinkles, and more. You are welcome to bring your own. (Toppings, silly.) *Thu., Dec. 22, 8pm. Bernadette's, 2039 Airport. \$10.* www.abcvaginasupply.com.

TRILLIANT THURSDAY Procbaborgany Collective throws it two Thursdays in a row, featuring DJs Lotic and Moral Support. *Dec. 22 & 29, 10pm. Cheer Up Charlie's, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133.*

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION HAPPY HOUR *Fri., Dec. 23, 5-9pm. The Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth, 482-8993. Free.* www.theironbear.com.

FUCK YOU, IT'S MY BIRTHDAY Bounce master (Big Freedia DJ), NOLAman, and Austin ex-pat Rusty Lazer (along with Corrine, aka Lady Business) celebrate his B-day. *Yay! Fri., Dec. 23, 10pm. Hotel Vegas, 1500 E. Sixth, 589-1411. Free.*

FUCKME FUCKME FRIDAYS Who you know and who you blow come together on the dance flo'. *Every second and fourth Friday, 10pm. The Eastern, 1511-B E. Sixth. Free.*

E TAKES A HOLIDAY Bernadette's will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3, save for one night: New Year's Eve! *Bernadette's, 2039 Airport.* www.bernadettesbar.com.

PATTERN LANDS SHOW Callie Thompson has a new show. *Saturdays & Sundays by appointment through Dec. 28. Gallery Black Lagoon, 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. Free.* www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

SUNDAY FUNDAY A mere \$5 gets you a heaping helping of beef or poultry. A paltry \$3 earns a yummy hot dog or burger, plus all the fixings and drink specials all afternoon and evening. *Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002.*

THROWBACK TUESDAYS DJ BJ hits the *unos y doses* throwin' back to the Seventies, Eighties, and Nineties. *Through Dec. 19. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339.*

'BOU TIME FOR VOLLEYBALL! Missing Charlie's? Need to shed a few before the holidays? Well, there's always team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights

and pickup games every day at everyone's fave up-north gay bar. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339.*

LAST HOMOSCOPE CINEMA LAB OF 2011 This "program of four films is designed with transition in mind, from one year to the next, one country to another, to our ever changing queer bodies and spirits." O Homoscope! O Homoscope! How richly Bug has decked thee! *Thu., Dec. 29, 8-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. Donations accepted; no one turned away.*

QUINTRON & MISS PUSSYCAT! These two New Orleans nuts will be joined by Mind Spiders, the Manatees, and Flesh Lights. One of the last Red River Emo's shows ever. *Thu., Dec. 29, 9pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 505-8541. \$12; \$10 in advance.* www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/76463.

NEW QUEER'S EVE LISTINGS

Check our special New Year's Eve section for all the queer doings, including God-des & She at Lipstick24, Bearracuda at the Iron Bear, Bernadette's reopening (just for the night), and more! austinchronicle.com/newyears.

HOLIDAY GIFTES

PRIDE GOETH BEFORE THE SOCK Hang it by the chimney with care in a full array of rainbow stripes. This year also in stylish black. www.pridesocks.com.

CHRIS BAKERY CAKE BALLS We can highly recommend these. Plus, they're made by family! Get 'em while they're gooey. *Now through Sat., Dec. 24. \$5.50, half-dozen; \$10, dozen; order five dozen, get six balls free.* chrisbakerycakeballs@gmail.com.

QPOCALYPTIC ALLGO, Texas' statewide people of color org, presents all the dates you need in the new year in this 2012 QPOC calendar, featuring portraits

of local QPOCs! *Now through Sat., Feb. 4. ALLGO, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. \$15, local pickup; \$19.95, delivery.* www.allgo.org.

HEAD FIGUREHEAD *The Search for the Hidden Life of Rick Perry* details former Texas Rep. Glen Maxey's search for answers to that age old question: Is Rick Perry gay? We haven't read it yet. Only his hairdresser knows for sure? For some reason it's not at any local book outlets, not even the gay ones. \$19.99, paperback; \$9.99 download for Kindle.

BOOKWOMAN 2012 CALENDAR SALE We hotly endorse simply going to Austin's feminist heat source just to get your browse on. We guarantee you'll find gifts aplenty. At the very least, send a calendar. Gift from this selection of laydeee-centric date-keepers: Retro Mama, Pema Chodron, Dragons, Ann Taintor, Sierra Club Wilderness Wall & Datebook, We'Moon, Nikki McClure, Thich Nhat Hanh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Celtic Mandala, Susan Boulet's Goddesses, etc. *BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785.* www.ebookwoman.com.

AUSTIN FACES AIDS AIDS Services of Austin presents the full multimedia blowout of Jo Ann Santangelo's new portrait show. *Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10am-4pm, through December. Falcon 5, 1000 E. Fifth. Free.* www.joannasantangelo.com.

BRASS OVARIES DECEMBER DEALS You know what Jerri Blank says, right? Oh, we'll just leave it up to your imagination. But if your girl loves either or both, she'll totally dig a gift cert from these fab fliers on the big stick in the sky. And you'll dig the savings through December. *Brass Ovaries Studio, 4809-B S. Congress, 477-POLE.* www.brass-ovaries.com.

PHILLIPS & DRIVER: DISCO DANCE PARTY 2000 Austin lez-gend Gretchen P releases her inner (and very outer) disco diva with a slew of original tunes collabbed with NYC compadre David D. on a new slab of vinyl and downloads. *End of an Ear, 2209 S. First, 462-6008.* bit.ly/vWE5C4.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.
See the full array of Gay Place listings at austinchronicle.com/gay.

REAL GALLERY: TRES CUBANOS Work by Aldo Prado, Frank Iraola, and Esteban Machado. Through Dec. 31. 1101 Navasota #3. 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.com.

SLUGFEST GALLERY: TONY FITZPATRICK See "Down These Mean, Ink-Stained Streets," p.30, for the lowdown on this gig. Through Jan. 15. Tue.-Sat., 1:30-6pm. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204. www.slugfestprints.com.

STUDIO I GALLERY New works by Rita Marie Ross, Jacob Colburn, Daryl G. Colburn, Dorothy Crummer, and more. 2309 Thornton. 577-3479. www.darylgcolburn.com.

THE GALLERY AT MUSEO: BRINGING BACK TRADITION Oil paintings by Eve Larson. Through Jan. 22. 11266 Taylor Draper.

THE OLD BAKERY & EMPORIUM: TRIO Fresh art by Sherry Fields, Jeffy Leedy, and Tina Weitz. 1006 Congress, 477-5961.

UT VISUAL ARTS CENTER UT's Art Faculty Exhibition Organized by Jade Walker and Kate Green. Through Dec. 31. Visual Arts Center, 23rd & Trinity. 471-1108. www.utvac.org.

YARD DOG FOLK ART: KARL MULLEN New paintings by the Irishman from Massachusetts, now heralded by the new Evan Voyles' store sign. Through Dec. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ATELIER 3-D: A SCULPTORS' STUDIO is a centrally located sculpture studio (featuring the work of Steve Dubov, Heather Tolleson, and Terry Wilemon) that offers ongoing classes and workshops for all skill levels; the venue's also open to artists looking for work-space and tools. Call or see the website for details. 701 Tillery, 385-1115. www.atelier3-d.com.

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST FOR THE AUSTIN HOSTEL See website for details! Deadline: Jan. 5. 444-2294. www.hiaustin.org.



Minerva's Wreck

Here's the annual oversized anthology of Austin arts – the final one from Cafe Armageddon, curated by your Arts Listings Editor, Wayne Alan Brenner. Interviews with local creative celebs; original artwork in each instance; fictions, comics, and more handworked textures and inclusions than is healthy for an OCD brainpan. Come see the Domy Books walls decked with the innards and outards of this thick rough beast.

Through Jan. 5. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

Day Trips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Daingerfield State Park is a jewel hidden in the Piney Woods of Northeast Texas that is waiting to be discovered.

We can thank the Civilian Conservation Corps for much of the park's beauty. The Depression-era work force planted the forest of pine trees and dug the 80-acre lake before adding a fishing pier and swimming beach. For some reason they built the bathhouse, boathouse, and cabins out of concrete instead of locally available red sandstone.

In October 2011, the park reopened after a \$5 million remodel. The five-bedroom Bass Lodge and three cabins received upgrades; there is a new boat dock and improved restrooms; the park store in the group shelter is bigger; and a new interpretive center was added to the old boathouse. It's hard to believe that Texas Parks & Wildlife Department was considering giving away this slice of heaven. The city and county decided they couldn't afford to operate the park.

Daingerfield State Park packs a lot into its cozy 500 acres, whether you're taking advantage of the hiking trails, kayak and canoe rentals, or the tree-shaded picnic area by the lake. In the spring, the dogwood blooms sparkle among the trees. In the fall, the bright colors of the trees paint the surface of the lake. For information, call the park at 903/645-2921 or go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/daingerfield.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

volunteers compete to see who could spot the most birds instead of who could shoot the most. Through Jan. 4. Various locations around the state. \$5. www.houstonaudubon.org.

TROUT FISHING IN TEXAS Enjoy the thrill of fishing for trout in Texas streams and ponds after the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department stocks the cold water fish. No licenses and stamps are required in state parks. Stockings continue through March 12. Various locations around the state. Fishing license and \$5 freshwater fishing stamp. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml.

BOXING DAY Take part in the traditional British holiday with fireside readings of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Yuletide music, holiday hors d'oeuvres, and wine. Mon., Dec. 26, 10am-5pm. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2681. Free. www.beckervineyards.com.

OUT OF TOWN

EISBAHN Extend the Christmas season by enjoying the holiday lights and outdoor ice skating in the Hill Country. Through Sun., Jan. 1. Marktplatz, corner of Main and Adams streets, Fredericksburg, 830/456-1742. \$10. www.skateinfred.com.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Join the largest and oldest citizen science project in the world as thousands of observers count birds at predetermined locations. The count began in 1900 when an ornithologist proposed that

1,066th in a series. Collect them all. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips," is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

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**AUSTIN 2012
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NEW YEAR'S GUIDE

There's still time before being inundated with our onslaught of New Year's listings, but if making a good impression at midnight is important to you, we offer austinchronicle.com/newyears, where you will find a growing list of Champagne-soaked offerings. Some of the classier events even require pre-registration. Because nothing's sexier than being well prepared. At least that's what we think. Here are a few to whet your palate:

BAR & RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE NEW YEAR'S EVE Affectionately known as BARENYE, this event is for those who work on NYE. Everything you expect from such a soiree – countdown, balloon drop, prizes, a Champagne toast, etc. – will be there a few days early. *Thu., Dec. 29, 9pm. Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 476-8017. Free. www.speakeasyaustin.com.*

AFAB-ULOUS NEW YEAR'S Celebrate another year of LGBT goodness with music from the Susan Arbuckle Band, hors d'oeuvres, dancing, champers, and a cash bar. A party like this deserves formal attire (Austin formal, anyway). *Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 452-6491. \$110. www.afabaustin.com.*

B-MOVIE BALL Come as your favorite irradiated hero, mad villain, or femme fatale. DJs, interactive art installations, a photo booth, and a Champagne toast help ease you into 2012 ... and certain doom. *Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm-2am. The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 940-0851. \$75. www.grabbableentertainment.com.*

END OF THE WORLD COMEDY BLOWOUT Laugh in the new year with Austin's go-to troupe for all things timely, funny, and magical. Admission gets you a Tex-Mex meal, a Champagne toast, special guest Kerry Awn, and, of course, a show. Two shows, 8 & 10pm. *Sat., Dec. 31. Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. \$45 (\$55, reserved).*

IMPROV EXTRAVAGANZA The Hideout invites you to ring in the new year improv-style with an evening of games and skits and a Champagne toast at midnight to top it all off. Two shows: 8 & 10:30pm. Afterward, you can stumble out onto Congress and wait for armageddon. *Sat., Dec. 31. The Hideout Theatre,*

617 Congress, 443-3688. \$25. www.hideouttheatre.com/shows/newyearevelimprovetravaganza.

MIDNIGHT MAGIC Groove into 2012 with three rooms of themed tunes as well as desserts and cocktails to keep the feet fueled. Advance registration required. *Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. Go Dance, 2525 W Anderson #530, 339-9391. \$40. www.godancestudio.com.*

CROWNE PLAZA There will be food and music in the lounge, but if you really want to make it a memorable evening, get the two-person, \$149 package, complete with a room for the night, Champagne, and breakfast the next morning. *Sat., Dec. 31. Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 800/227-6963.*

DHOL 2012 Dust off the formal duds for a Bollywood themed evening complete with DJs, dinner, party favors, and more. Babysitting and kids' activities available. *Sat., Dec. 31, 8pm. Marriott Austin North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock, 293-8786. \$50.*

LAKEWAY RESORT NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER Music, dancing, and three courses courtesy of Executive Chef Jeff Axline. Reservations required. *Sat., Dec. 31, 6pm. Lakeway Resort and Spa, 101 Lakeway Dr., Lakeway, 261-7379. \$45. www.lakewayresortandspa.com.*

AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR It's not quite First Night, but it is on the shores of Lady Bird Lake; does have art, music, and movies for the whole family; and, thanks to the lifted burn ban, fireworks to wow the crowds. Live music includes Carolyn Wonderland and Joe McDermott, among others. *Sat., Dec. 31, 5-10:30pm. Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside. Free. www.austintexas.gov/holidays.*

NYE AT CUC Nine musical acts (including Ringo Deathstarr and TV Torso) bring the noise to East Sixth's favorite queer spot. Free Tito's Vodka to the first 100 guests. *Sat., Dec. 31, 8pm-2am. Cheer Up Charlie's, 1104 E. Sixth, 293-5976. \$5. on.fm.me/u2yZj.*

BALLROOM DANCEALS Since you're wearing your cocktail attire and the Nash Hernandez Orchestra is on hand, you might as well dance the night away. The Austin Ballroom Dancers also make sure you have hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and party favors. *Sat., Dec. 31, 8:30pm-12:30am. Phillips Event Center, 8140 Exchange, 989-9399. \$60. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*



poem of the issue

Every day I look about in the
Blurred milky way to glimpse one
Idea still an afterthought that
Makes waking not just worthwhile
But as necessary as emptying
My bladder before even
Dreaming of dark coffee



– Dennis Patrick Slattery,
"In the Center Breathes an Idea"

LITERA

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

GLEN MAXEY SIGNS HIS ALLEGEDLY PERRY-OUTING BOOK The author and politico presents his paperback investigation of Those Rumors About the Guv – called *Head Figure Head* – at this popular local coffee shop. *Fri., Dec. 23, 11am-7pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos St., 493-0963. www.progresscoffee.com.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

WRITE BY NIGHT Write, read, collaborate, or just kick back and dream: It's the place you've been looking for. See website for details. 322-5242. www.writebynight.net.

BOOK CLUBS? Where bookish folk gather – in a coffee shop, say, or a bookstore or a library – to discuss what they've been reading? Yes, we have a few of those listed online each week.

BOOKPEOPLE CLUBS **Hard Word Club** backs it up to *Nineteen Seventy-Four: The Red Riding Quartet, Book One* by David Peace. See the film after discussion! *Wed., Dec. 28, 7pm. Happy Hour at the HighBall skates Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris. *Thu., Dec. 29, 5:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar. www.bookpeople.com.*

OPEN MICS

OPEN MICS **Austin Poetry Slam** *Tuesdays, 8pm. Spider House Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562.*
Multimedia Poetry *Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Thrive, 909 W. Mary, 447-9743. Fair Bean Fridays, 5-7:30pm. Fair Bean Coffee, 2210-I St. First, 444-BEAN.*
Full English Tea Room Thom hosts. *Saturdays, 6-9pm. 2000 Southern Oaks. 240-2748. Spoken & Heard Sundays, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. More listed online!*

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY FOURTH THURSDAY Despite the imminent holidays (or perhaps because of them), Ralph Hausser hosts. *Thu., Dec. 22, 7-9pm. NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. www.neworldeli.com.*

MISCELLANEOUS

B&N HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE FOR KIDS Throughout December, Barnes & Noble stores collect donations of new books (purchased at Barnes & Noble) for its holiday book drive benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center. www.dellchildrens.net.

RIC UP YER EARS horse mechanics – how high will your hands reach before the black & white of space freezes forever your bright fire origami of stars galaxies millions of gods scratching their hidden names on the holy mountains in your skull – how do we walk into emptiness – how do you catch a turn before it swallows the next sliver of the moon – a billion hoof prints lovingly relentlessly tracking thru your hatless heart Namaste. Ride.

COMMUNITY

EMILYANN THEATRE TRAIL OF LIGHTS Soak in the holiday spirit with 8 acres of illuminated decorations. Hot chocolate and live entertainment round out the festivities. *Sun.-Thu., 6-9pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-10pm. The EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free. www.emilyann.org.*

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK They were both musicians before they became TV stars, and Nakia and Tje Austin will belt out some tunes for the holidays to prove it. *Thu., Dec. 22, 7:30-10pm. Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr., 974-7804. Free. www.austintexas.gov/music.*

BROWN SANTA is accepting donations of non-perishable food items, books, unwrapped toys (new or gently used), and cash, which you may drop off at the warehouse or mail to: *Brown Santa, PO Box 207, Austin, TX 78767-0207.* (You may also donate online at www.brownsanta.org.) *Brown Santa Warehouse, 2400 Grand Avenue Pkwy. #106.*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEER CALL It's a building blitz, and they need all hands on deck. And that means you and your helpful and handy hands are what's needed to build 12 houses in the next 20 weeks. There will be blisters and lots of good karma going around. Go online to register for one of the many projects. www.austinhabitat.org.

BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET HOLIDAY FAIRE All the local farm-fresh produce you expect with a dash more Santa in the mix. *Sat., Dec. 24, 9am-1pm. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 280-1976. Free. www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org.*

TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB Come watch the choo-choos and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. You might even be allowed to sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the tip jar. *Saturdays, noon-5pm and Sundays, 1-5pm through Jan. 15. 117 Lavaca (next to Ill Forks). Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.*

KIDS



MARIO KART TOURNAMENT You might have thought Mario was nothing but a turtle-hater, but he's also a cutthroat driver. Test your skills against other players (6 years and older) to advance to the finals. *Wed., Dec. 28, 2pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 974-7302. Free. www.connectedyouth.org.*

FAMILY STORYTELLING Emily Harris shares her talent for live storytelling. Kids and adults are invited for a ripping yarn and a short talk about sharing your family's stories. *Thu., Dec. 22, 2:30pm. Panera Bread, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 795-7308. Free.*

MEDIA DIVAS WINTER SESSION DAY CAMP If you can tear your teen girl away from her holiday loot, why not let her spend two days learning the art of video and photography? Scholarships available. *Thu.-Fri., Dec. 29-30, 10am-4pm. Latinitas' headquarters, 1107 S. Eighth. \$40. www.latinitasmagazine.org.*



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HOLIDAY BAZAARS

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Need something Austin-y (art, jewelry, prints, clothing, etc., whatnot, and then some) for a loved one this year? More than 100 artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. Special events occur throughout the month of December, so shop early and often. *Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm. The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. Free. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.*



ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and lord knows what else, surrounded by tunes from one of many musical acts performing this year. Don't worry, Post Office reps will be on the premises to spare you from lugging all those herbal soaps home for the holidays. *Dec. 14-24, 11am-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 447-1605. \$5, weekdays till 7pm; \$8, evenings and weekends. www.armadillobazaar.com.*



STORY TIME & ART For elementary-school-aged kids and younger. *Thu.-Fri., Dec. 29-30, 10:45am. Austin Art Garage, 2200-J S. Lamar, 852-9900. \$10. www.theartgarageaustin.com.*

MUTT-CRACKER CIRCUS Dogs, a scarlet macaw, puppets, jugglers, unicyclists, live music, and a post-holiday partridge in a pear tree. Circus Chickendog will entertain all ages. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 29-31, 5 & 6:30pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 sliding scale. www.chickendog.net.*

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** For more on the Toros, see the Chronicle Sports blog at austinchronicle.com/thescore. Vs. Springfield: *Thu., Dec. 29, 1pm; Fri., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$8-99 plus fees. www.austintoros.com.*

★ **TEXAS STARS** It's H-E-B night at the Cedar Park Center. Bring a nonperishable food item to the game and get \$5 off your ticket. Vs. San Antonio: *Tue., Dec. 27, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$10-70. www.texasstarshockey.com.*



COURTESY OF UT

★ **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball** Vs. Delaware State: *Wed., Dec. 28, 3pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-16. www.texassports.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Cardinal Stritch: *Thu., Dec. 29, 2pm. Recreation and Convocation Center. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball: Vs. Concordia (Ill.): *Thu., Dec. 29, 7:30pm. Women's Basketball:* Vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater: *Thu., Dec. 29, 5:30pm. athletics.concordia.edu.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Southwestern University Classic, Dec. 28-29: Southwestern vs. Wheaton: *Wed., 2pm. Trinity vs. Wisconsin-Eau Claire: Wed., 5pm. Southwestern vs. Wisconsin-Eau Claire: Thu., 2pm. Wheaton vs. Trinity: Thu., 5pm. Robertson Ctr. www.southwesternpirates.com.*

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Houston Baptist: *Wed., Dec. 28, 5pm. Men's Basketball* Vs. Houston-Tillotson: *Wed., Dec. 28, 7:30pm. \$4-6. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. *Mon., Dec. 26, 6:30pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601-K S. Congress, 383-1191. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOC. HOLIDAY CAMPS Holiday Basketball Clinic with Coach Deborah Newkirk: *Mon.-Fri., Dec. 26-30. Holiday Golf Camp: Mon.-Fri., Dec. 26-30. Mon.-Wed., Jan. 2-4. www.waya.org.*

EXPRESS HOLIDAY CAMPS Kids ages 6-11 can learn baseball fundamentals from the Express' handpicked camp staff. There will also be a specialty clinic for advanced players 12 and older. *Mon.-Wed., Dec. 26-28, 9am-noon. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-2255. \$150. www.roundrockexpress.com.*

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. *Tue., Dec. 27, 6pm. LCRA Red Bud Complex, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm. RBC 225. www.townaustin.org.*

AUSTIN TOROS BASKETBALL CAMP Kids can sign up now for the Austin Toros Basketball Academy's youth camp. Call 512/236-8333 to register. Space is limited. *Tue., Dec. 27-Wed., Dec. 28. Cedar Park Recreation Center, 1435 Main St., Cedar Park. \$99. www.austintoros.com.*

'The Hungry Todd Rungy Show'

BY MARK FAGAN

What began as one man's quest to compete at the highest level of the competitive eating world has now become a TV show in the making. Filmmakers **Joshua Riehl** (producer of the excellent *Frontline* doc "Death by Fire" about Cameron Todd Willingham) and **Dan Eppley** have been following and filming überpatriotic up-and-coming competitive eater **Hungry Todd Rungy** as he eats (and pukes) his way through many of my favorite Austin area eateries – Franklin Barbecue, Gordough's, Biscuits + Groovy, Home Slice, Torchy's, etc. They are nearing the completion of the pilot episode for "The Hungry Todd Rungy Show" and need your help with their Kickstarter campaign, which ends on Dec. 31. Funds raised will go toward "a proper sound mix, color correction, a title sequence and music" for the pilot. Rungy's résumé includes an appearance on the Cooking Channel's *Eat St.*, breaking the **world cupcake speed-eating record** (six in 58.9 seconds!), and being the fourth most popular competitive eater on Twitter (@hungrytoddrungy).



To donate, point your browser to www.kck.st/tTRkk2 and help Rungy "keep eatin' for America."

Soccer Watch

BY NICK BARBARO

Saturday morning, the **UT Longhorns** announced that head soccer coach **Chris Petrucelli** had been "reassigned in the department"; effective Monday, the new coach is **Angela Kelly** (pictured), head coach at the University of Tennessee for the past 12 years. Petrucelli had considerable success in his 13 years at UT, but he hasn't been able to take the program to the next level of being a consistent Top 25 threat, and the team's failure this year to either challenge for a conference title or earn an NCAA bid, despite bringing in some high-powered transfer talent, made it time for a change. Kelly's Vols have been near the top of the Southeastern Conference each year, but her greatest success thus far came as a player: During her four years at **North Carolina** (1991-94), the Tar Heels went 97-1-1 and won four ACC regular-season titles, four ACC tournaments, and four national championships, with Kelly playing in every game and making various all-tournament, all-conference, and all-American squads. She also won a couple of national championships as a pro and was on the Canadian national team for nine years, including as a full-time starter in the 1995 World Cup.

Barcelona is back on top of the world with a 4-0 thrashing of South American champ Santos in the final of the **Club World Cup** Sunday. Said Santos' teenage star **Neymar**: "Today we learned how you play soccer."

After a run of dominating success in European competition in recent years, **English teams** have largely disappointed this fall. Of the eight English teams in the **Europa League** and **Champions League**, only three advanced out of the group stages that ended this week. Knockout rounds in both competitions start mid-February.

Cult of personality: **Abby Wambach** was named Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year on Tuesday – the first soccer player, male or female, to win that title... **David Beckham** signed the "contract of the century" the same day, leaving MLS and the LA Galaxy for Qatari-owned Paris St. Germain.



COURTESY OF UT

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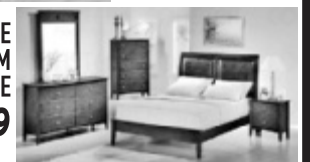
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Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

D: Tomas Alfredson; with Gary Oldman, Benedict Cumberbatch, Colin Firth, Mark Strong, Tom Hardy, Toby Jones, John Hurt, Ciarán Hinds, Stephen Graham, Simon McBurney, David Dencik, Svetlana Khodchenkova, Kathy Burke. (R, 127 min.)

The modern movie spy has become defined by so much running and rappelling and cool seducing that it feels like a luxury to nestle in

with the staid and resolutely unsuave George Smiley (Gary Oldman). A long-time operative in Her Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service, Smiley is forced into early retirement at the film's outset. A less controlled director might milk the moment for drama, but Tomas Alfredson cleverly trains the camera *behind* Oldman, surely knowing what multitudes the actor can contain in a minute cock of the head.

That's about as animated as Oldman's Smiley gets, this unflappable spy with the placid half-smile. His former colleagues are less contained; a veritable den of hotheads and snakes is the SIS, or "the Circus," as it's known in author John le Carré's playful parlance. (Le Carré fashioned a string of best-selling Cold War-era espionage novels around Smiley, and Alec Guinness eternalized the character in two BBC miniseries, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *Smiley's People*.) Though Smiley's been shown the door, ministry officials drag him back into the fray to investigate rumors that a Soviet mole has burrowed deep in the Circus; the title, taken from a British nursery rhyme, is the shorthand for the suspect list devised by Smiley's former mentor, the cryptically named Control (Hurt).

What a delectably tense-making game of Whac-a-Mole it all turns out to be. No running, no rappelling, and only a spot of cool seducing – the last comes care of Tom Hardy's gone-rogue Ricki Tarr. He's but one in a starburst of British character-actor talent collectively baring its teeth and eyeing which back would be best to plunge a knife into. Amid all

the spy maneuverings, jewel-like glints of bracing emotional anguish are slid into the mix surreptitiously, like leafy good things snuck into a child's gorge on mac and cheese.

As with his international breakout, the exquisite *Let the Right One In*, Alfredson proves his mettle in authenticating an atmosphere. Even more compelling than the expert costume and set design – a wash of ambers and ochres, eye-crossing wallpaper patterns, and brown stuff decanted even on the office conference table – is the palpable sense of greasy-faced humans subsisting on canned air cut with cigarette smoke. And Alberto Iglesias, Pedro Almodóvar's go-to composer, provides the crucial aural analog, alternating bar to bar between moody and fusty-sounding.

But a film doesn't succeed on atmospheric alone – although if it did, this one deserves a special citation for Most Awesomely, Bizarrely Cheery Exit Music for a Spy Thriller, courtesy of Julio Iglesias' "La

Mer." Where *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* bobbles is on the plotting level. Co-writers Bridget O'Connor and Peter Straughan have done commendable work in adapting le Carré's twisty

source novel, even improving certain aspects (a botched op in Hungary is brilliantly restaged here), and fans of that eternal unknowable, the MacGuffin, will enjoy the brisk dispatch of plot engine Operation Witchcraft. But one wishes for a chewier whodunit – there just aren't enough clues for the viewer to work with – and the reveal of the mole is perversely anticlimactic. But maybe that's just stickling. We always knew Smiley'd get his man.

RECOMMENDED



Arbor

NEW REVIEWS

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

D: Steven Spielberg; with Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Cary Elwes, Toby Jones. (PG, 107 min.)

I haven't played the video game *Uncharted*, to which this animated via motion capture adventure film is frequently being compared, but I can tell you that *The Adventures of Tintin* is a cracking good adventure film well worthy of classic Saturday-afternoon matinee status. It's also, in myriad ways, a more youthful version of Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, sharing as it does that film's seamless sense of full-steam-ahead storytelling and serialized derring-do. Add to that the photorealistic animation and the wickedly immersive 3-D, and you've got a huge holiday smash on your hands. What you don't have, however, is a great movie.

The Adventures of Tintin is less than the sum of its admittedly magnificent parts. Since the film is adapted from Belgian artist Hergé's long-running, French-language comic book series, the Tintin character – an intrepid young Belgian journalist with a penchant for stumbling into more mysteries than the Scooby Doo gang – is probably less known in America than in Europe (although the Internet has helped change that in recent years). That doesn't matter a jot, though, as Spielberg, working from a crackerjack script courtesy of Edgar Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*), Joe Cornish (*Attack the Block*), and Steven Moffat (*Doctor Who*), mines several Hergé stories to create a typically complex series of risky, slapsticky adventures for the young – and extremely white-bread – hero.

Jamie Bell voices Tintin in a generically perfect tone of gee-whiz Brit-speak as the character searches for an elusive treasure of pirate gold, among many other items of value – not least of which is the friendship of alcoholic and un-able-bodied seaman Captain Haddock (former Gollum/Kong/Caesar Andy Serkis). Frankly, Serkis' Haddock is a vastly more interesting character than the overkeen Tintin, who, despite his titular role, comes off as blandly heroic as a Eisenhower-era Boy Scout. But that's Tintin for you, and there's no changing him.

Daniel Craig voices the villainous Sakharine, a spidery creep with a personal grudge against Haddock and an eye on that aforementioned treasure. Pegg and Frost turn up as bumbling twin Scotland Yard Inspectors Thompson and Thomson, following Tintin and Captain Haddock from London to Morocco

and beyond. The whole film recalls a Hope/Crosby road movie minus Hedy Lamarr that's been filtered through the rosy lens of Spielberg cranking the action up to 11 but leaving the emotional heart somewhere back down around six.

The Adventures of Tintin is a spectacle and a half, sure, but it's not nearly as thrilling to this reviewer as were the few, precious Tintin comics of his youth. Capturing Hergé's wonderfully vivid two-dimensional comic-book panels in their essence was probably too much to hope for, but Spielberg is clearly trying to do just that. The end result is a series of endless action set-pieces that thrill but, unlike the original comic, fail to inspire.

★★★

– Marc Savlov

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE ARTIST

D: Michel Hazanavicius; with Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell, Penelope Ann Miller, Missi Pyle, Malcolm McDowell. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Director Michel Hazanavicius' goofy and inspired French spy satire *OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies* appeared out of nowhere back in 2006 and has rarely strayed far from my DVD player since. Its star, Jean Dujardin, was a revelation, playing up the zany farce at the heart of that film, laughing like a maniac but wearing a tux as well as Sean Connery ever did. Certainly Dujardin, an actor so adept at intellectual, culturally specific comedy that he can express a character's inner life via absurdly graceful physical movements that are near-poetic in their exactitude, was a rare find. He's not Chaplin, but clearly this is an actor who has studied the comic icons of silent film.

As it happens, Dujardin has studied *all* the icons of the silents, not just the clowns – and so has Hazanavicius. This is readily apparent in *The Artist*, an irresistible comic gem that's as light on its feet as its protagonist. It's 1927, and silent film star George Valentin (Dujardin) is the toast of all Hollywoodland. He's a charming leading man, part Rudolph Valentino, part Douglas Fairbanks, and utterly convinced that those newfangled talking pictures are just a fad. They're not, and George's inability to rise to the challenge of speaking aloud (*The Artist* is silent except for a few inspired audio gags) provides much amusement and a certain bittersweet note in a film that glorifies the

openings

The Adventures of Tintin (PG)

The Artist (PG-13)

A Dangerous Method (R)

The Darkest Hour (PG-13)

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R)

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R)

War Horse (PG-13)

We Bought a Zoo (PG)

ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

☹ La bomba

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

sheer imaginative heft of the silent era and foretells a sound-designed Hollywood only slightly less dreamy.

Hazanavicius' film riffs on *A Star Is Born* winningly, as George meets cute with ascendant dancer Peppy Miller (Bejo, exactly as zippy and gamine as her character's name). As George's producer (hefty John Goodman in an inspired bit of casting) badgers him to speak, for the love of movies, *Speak*, already, the silent actor and his firecracker paramour are steadily forced apart by the advent of sound. (Although it will surprise no one that this giddy bonbon ends on a decidedly high note.)

What's so intensely pleasurable about *The Artist*, however, is not its predetermined seriocomic trajectory but the endless parade of smartly creative and self-referential gags, which include all manner of sly, silent delights; the inevitable Jack Russell; and even an extended orchestral cue of Bernard Herrmann's, cribbed outright from *Vertigo*. It sounds odd, but Hazanavicius makes it fit as snugly as the snappy, white formalwear gloves George slips on when out on the town. *The Artist* is a slight confection, really, but it's so delicious and knowing that it may well end up on any number of cineastes' desert-island lists. It's certainly on mine.

★★★★ — Marc Savlov
Alamo Lamar, Arbor

★ **A DANGEROUS METHOD**

D: David Cronenberg; with Keira Knightley, Michael Fassbender, Viggo Mortensen, Vincent Cassel, Sarah Gadon. (R, 99 min.)

Hear the words "David Cronenberg" paired with "erotic drama," and you might feel a sudden shudder of unease, thinking back on the Canadian filmmaker's earlier works like *Crash* or *Dead Ringers*. This isn't that kind of Cronenberg picture, however. In fact, it's a period piece about the origins of psychoanalysis and the sexual confusions of its progenitors that is eloquent and handsomely made, if never quite revelatory.

Adapted by Christopher Hampton from his own play *The Talking Cure* (which was itself based on John Kerr's nonfiction work *A Most Dangerous Method: The Story of Jung, Freud, and Sabina Spielrein*), the film opens with a Russian emigré named Sabina Spielrein (Knightley) in howling, seizing distress, being taken against her will to a Zurich psy-

chiatric hospital. She doesn't know it yet, but her life will in large part be defined by her shuttling between Zurich, the home of Carl Jung (Fassbender), her doctor and eventual lover, and Vienna, the home of Sigmund Freud (Mortensen), who once thought of Jung as his "son and heir."

Fathers and sons, both literal and figurative, are a recurring theme in Hampton's script, but the key figure of the film turns out to be Sabina, whose yearning for sexual humiliation breaks down some of the upright Jung's repressions. (Pre-Sabina, he has a habit of overflowing his dinner plate and oversalting his food, suggesting certain appetites not yet fulfilled.) Sabina's influence loosens Jung from the rigors of Freud's strictly scientific method and nudges him toward a more speculative approach – the film positions her squarely at the center of Jung and Freud's famous break – so it seems apropos that out of a terrific ensemble (including Vincent Cassel's mischievous turn as a hedonist doctor-turned-patient), Knightley emerges as the one you're guaranteed to chatter about after the movie. To dramatize Sabina's troubled state at the sanatorium, Knightley stitches together a synthesis of physical tics – trembling, bared teeth, beaten-dog shrinkings, and a clenched jaw that juts so hard one worries the actress might pop a blood vessel in her brain – and even as Sabina recovers, the ghosts of those tics remain, controlled but not entirely conquered. It's a very particular performance, one that takes some getting used to, but I was rather taken with it.

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Arbor, Violet Crown

★ **THE DARKEST HOUR**

D: Chris Gorak; with Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Rachael Taylor, Max Minghella, Joel Kinnaman. (PG-13, 89 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings for held for this thriller about five young people who lead the advance against an alien attack in Moscow. It is produced by Timur Bekmambetov, the Russian emigré in Hollywood who has been lending his signature touch to such action films as *9* and *Wanted*. (*Opens Sunday.*)

— Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ **THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO**

D: David Fincher; with Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Robin Wright, Stellan Skarsgård, Steven Berkoff, Tony Way, Joely Richardson, Geraldine James. (R, 158 min.)

Rooney Mara nails it, completely. That was the big question/worry regarding David Fincher's (slightly) Americanized adaptation of Stieg Larsson's sensational *Millenium* Trilogy, originally adapted for the Swedish (and international) screen in 2009. There, the role of Lisbeth Salander – punk-rock privateer, hacker-sleuth, damaged goods – was embodied, wholly, by Noomi Rapace, who threw herself into a vicious role with razor-blade panache and an unwavering commitment to the more nihilistic outliers of her character's mammoth story arc. So it should come as a relief to fans of Larsson (and Fincher) that Lisbeth's second incarnation is every bit as unnerving and hypnotic as Rapace's. Sometimes even more so.

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Action Pack: *Die Hard*: Sat, 10:00pm
Action Pack: *Elf Quote-Along*: Sat, 4:15pm; Sun, 4:00pm
High for the Holidays: *Enter the Void*: Sun, 9:00pm
Music Monday: *Exodus: Live at the Rainbow*: Mon, 10:30pm
Action Pack: *Grandma's Boy Quote-Along*: Thu (12/29), 7:00pm
Girly Night: *Love Actually*: Sat, 7:00pm
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows: Fri, 3:10, 3:55, 6:25, 9:30; Sat, 12:15, 1:00, 3:25, 6:30, 9:40; Sun, 12:50, 2:40, 6:00, 7:00, 10:05; Mon, 3:40, 4:25, 7:00, 10:05; Tue, 3:40, 4:25, 7:00; Wed, 3:40, 4:40, 10:35; Thu (12/29), 3:50, 7:20, 10:25
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ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.

Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
***The Adventures of Tintin (3-D)**: Fri, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15pm; Sun, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital)**: Fri, 12:00, 3:45, 7:45, 11:30; Sat, 12:00, 3:45, 7:45, 8:45; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 3:45, 7:45, 11:30
***Hugo (3-D)**: Fri, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10; Sat, 3:45, 7:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 2:30, 3:45, 11:45
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (Fri)**: 12:45, 4:10, 7:30, 10:45; Sat, 12:45, 4:10, 7:30; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:45, 4:10, 7:30, 10:45
***The Muppets: Fri**: 10:00am, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15pm; Sat, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:15, 6:00pm; Sun, 11:30am, 5:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 11:30, 5:45pm
Saturday Morning Cartoon Cereal Party: Holiday Edition: Sat, 12:00pm
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows: Fri, 9:55am, 1:15, 4:40, 8:00, 11:05pm; Sat, 9:55am, 1:15, 4:40, 8:00pm; Sun, 1:15, 4:40, 8:00, 11:05; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 1:15, 4:40, 8:00, 11:05pm
***War Horse (digital)**: Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:30pm
We Bought a Zoo (Fri): 10:05am, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00pm; Sat, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAMAR 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Showtimes

subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
***The Adventures of Tintin: 1:10, 4:00**
***The Adventures of Tintin (3-D)**: 11:15am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20pm
The Artist: 11:25am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm
Action Pack: *The Big Lebowski Quote-Along*: Mon, 10:00pm
***The Descendants**: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:15, 7:50, 9:45pm; Mon, 11:00am, 2:15, 7:50, 10:45pm; Tue-Wed, 11:00am, 2:15, 7:50, 9:45pm; Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 2:15, 7:50pm
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo**: Fri-Wed, 11:05am, 2:50, 4:20, 6:40, 10:20pm; Thu (12/29), 11:05am, 2:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:50pm
***The Muppets: Fri-Sun**, 11:20am, 5:00, 7:00, 10:45pm; Mon, 11:35am, 5:00, 7:00pm; Tue-Thu (12/29), 11:35am, 5:00, 7:00, 10:40pm
***Young Adult**: 10:45am, 1:45, 8:00, 10:35pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090.

Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and their children younger than 6. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily times by phone or website.
Action Pack: Christmas Pops Sing-Along: Fri, 11:30pm
***Hugo**: Fri-Sat, 7:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:05pm
***Hugo (3-D)**: Fri, 10:30am, 1:55pm; Sat, 10:35am, 4:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:05am, 1:00, 10:05pm
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (Fri)**: 11:50am, 1:25, 3:00, 4:25, 6:15, 7:35, 10:00, 10:45pm; Sat, 11:55am, 1:35, 3:15, 6:30, 8:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45pm
***New Year's Eve (Fri)**: 11:00am; Sat, 10:55am, 4:25pm
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows: Fri, 10:45am, 1:50, 4:55, 8:00, 11:00pm; Sat, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:45, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 1:35, 4:40, 8:00, 11:05pm
***The Sitter: Fri**, 4:50, 9:20; Sat, 1:45pm
***War Horse**: Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 3:00, 4:40, 6:30, 10:00pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville),

231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm.
The Artist: Fri, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:25; Sat, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:25
A Dangerous Method: Fri, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Sat, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm
The Descendants: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:45; Sat, 12:50, 3:50, 7:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:45
My Week With Marilyn: Fri, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; Sat, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
Shame: Fri, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy: Fri, 11:55am, 12:40, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:10pm; Sat, 11:55am, 12:40, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:55am, 12:40, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:10pm
Young Adult: Fri, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20; Sat, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac &

Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. Call theatre for Dec. 26-29 showtimes.
***The Adventures of Tintin (3-D)**: Fri, 10:40am, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30, 12mid; Sat, 10:40am, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30pm; Sun, 10:45am, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30pm
***The Adventures of Tintin (3-D, IMAX)**: Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:25pm
***The Adventures of Tintin (digital)**: Fri-Sat, 12:00pm; Sun, 1:25pm
***Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital)**: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45pm; Sun, 10:35am, 1:05, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20pm
***Arthur Christmas (digital)**: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 3:10, 8:20pm; Sun, 9:45am
***The Darkest Hour (3-D)**: Sun, 1:00, 5:50, 10:55, 12mid
***The Darkest Hour (digital)**: Sun, 10:30am, 3:15, 8:30pm
***The Descendants (digital)**: Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:45, 10:25pm; Sun, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo**: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45; Sun, 10:15am, 1:40, 5:05, 8:40, 12mid
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital)**: Fri, 10:15am, 1:40, 5:05, 8:40, 12mid; Sat, 10:15am, 1:40, 5:05, 8:40pm; Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45
***Hugo (3-D)**: Fri-Sat, 10:55am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25pm; Sun, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55pm
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol**: Fri, 11:10am, 2:15, 5:20, 8:20, 11:15pm; Sat, 11:10am, 2:15, 5:20, 8:20pm; Sun, 11:05am, 2:10, 5:15, 8:15, 11:15pm
***Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (IMAX)**: Fri-Sat, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35; Sun, 4:15, 7:30, 10:35
***The Muppets (digital)**: Fri-Sat, 12:35, 3:55, 10:50
***New Year's Eve**: Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:50, 10:40pm; Sun, 9:45am, 3:10, 8:50pm
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 12:20, 5:50, 8:00, 11:40

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***Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows* (digital)**: Fri, 10:55am, 1:55, 4:50, 11:00pm, 12mid; Sat, 10:55am, 1:55, 4:50, 10:50pm; Sun, 10:55am, 1:55, 4:50, 11:05pm
***War Horse**: Sun, 10:00am, 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00pm
We Bought a Zoo: Fri-Sat, 9:50am, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 9:50am, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55pm
Young Adult: Fri-Sat, 9:50am, 12:15, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10pm; Sun, 10:05am, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10pm

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.

The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:40; Sat, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): 11:50am
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 9:40am, 11:00, 12:10, 1:30, 2:40, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:50, 10:00pm; Sat, 9:40am, 11:00, 12:10, 1:30, 2:40, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:40am, 11:00, 12:10, 1:30, 2:40, 4:00, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): Fri-Sat, 1:40, 7:40; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:50, 7:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 10:10am, 12:00, 2:00, 3:40, 5:30, 7:10, 9:00, 10:30pm; Sat, 10:10am, 12:00, 2:00, 3:40, 5:30, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 2:00, 3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:30pm
Hugo (digital): Fri, 10:40am, 4:40, 10:10pm; Sat, 10:40am, 4:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:40am, 4:40, 10:10pm
Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital): Fri, 10:00am, 11:30, 1:10, 2:50, 4:20, 6:10, 7:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 11:30, 1:10, 2:50, 4:20, 6:10, 7:50, 9:20, 10:50pm
New Year's Eve (digital): Fri, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40pm; Sat, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 6:30, 9:30
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows* (digital): Fri, 9:50am, 12:50, 2:20, 4:10, 5:40, 7:20, 8:40, 10:20pm; Sat, 9:50am, 12:50, 2:20, 4:10, 5:40, 7:20pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:50am, 12:50, 2:20, 4:10, 5:40, 7:20, 8:40, 10:20pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (digital): 11:20am
War Horse (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:20am, 12:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 8:20pm
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 9:30am, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50pm; Sat, 9:30am, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:30am, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd.,

800/FANDANGO.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30pm; Sun, 1:50, 7:30, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 1:50, 7:30, 10:20pm
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): Fri-Sat, 12:25, 3:15, 6:05, 8:55; Sun-Thu (12/29), 4:40pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 11:35am, 12:55, 2:10, 3:25, 4:50, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40pm; Sun, 12:55, 2:10, 3:25, 4:50, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:35am, 12:55, 2:10, 3:25, 4:50, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40, 9:50pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55pm; Sun, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55pm
The Descendants (digital): Fri, 12:35, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05; Sat, 12:35, 3:40, 7:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:35, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 11:5am, 2:50, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:15am, 2:50, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20pm; Sun, 2:50, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:15am, 2:50, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00pm
Hugo (digital): 12:30, 3:45
Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital): Fri, 11:30am, 12:50, 2:55, 4:10, 6:20, 7:25, 9:45, 10:30pm; Sat, 11:30am, 12:50, 2:55, 4:10, 6:20, 7:25, 9:45, 10:30pm
The Muppets (digital): Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 1:55pm; Sun, 1:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 1:55pm
New Year's Eve (digital): Fri, 6:50, 9:55; Sat, 6:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 6:50, 9:55
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows* (digital): Fri, 11:05am, 12:45, 2:20, 4:00, 5:35, 7:10, 8:50, 10:15pm; Sat, 11:05am, 12:45, 2:20, 4:00, 5:35, 7:10, 8:50pm; Sun, 12:45, 2:20, 4:00, 5:35, 7:10, 8:50, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:05am, 12:45, 2:20, 4:00, 5:35, 7:10, 8:50, 10:15pm
The Sitter (digital): Fri, 9:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:35pm
War Horse (digital): Sun, 3:05, 6:45, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:25am, 3:05, 6:45, 10:15pm
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10; Sat, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays, Round Rock,

512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for Dec. 28-29 showtimes.
Courageous: Fri-Tue, 12:15, 6:45
Dolphin Tale: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30pm; Sun, 1:45, 4:30; Mon-Tue, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30pm
Footloose: Fri, 3:15, 9:40; Sat, 3:15pm; Sun-Tue, 3:15, 9:40
The Ides of March: Fri, 11:45am, 4:45, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:45am, 4:45pm; Sun, 4:45, 10:00; Mon-Tue, 11:45am, 4:45, 10:00pm
The Lion King 3D (3-D): Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:15pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:15; Mon-Tue, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:15pm
Moneyball: Fri, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:55; Sat, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00; Sun-Tue, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:55
Paranormal Activity 3: Fri-Tue, 2:15, 7:45
Puss in Boots: Fri, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45pm; Sat, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30pm; Sun, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45; Mon-Tue, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45pm
Puss in Boots (3-D): Fri-Tue, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00
Real Steel: Fri, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 10:05pm; Sat, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15; Sun-Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 10:05
The Three Musketeers (3-D): Fri, 6:30, 9:15; Sat, 6:30pm; Sun-Tue, 6:30, 9:15
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas: Fri, 7:00, 9:30; Sat, 7:00pm; Sun-Tue, 7:00, 9:30
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (3-D): Fri, 8:00, 10:15; Sat, 8:00pm; Sun-Tue, 8:00, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO.

Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15pm; Sat, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15pm
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): 10:30am, 1:20, 3:55pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 10:05am, 11:15, 12:25, 1:35, 2:45, 3:50, 5:05, 6:15, 7:25, 9:45pm; Sat, 10:05am, 11:15, 12:25, 1:35, 2:45, 3:50, 5:05, 7:25pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:05am, 11:15, 12:25, 1:35, 2:45, 3:50, 5:05, 6:15, 7:25, 9:45pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): 11:45am
The Darkest Hour (3-D): Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:50, 7:00
The Darkest Hour (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:20am, 4:30, 9:30pm
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 10:10am, 1:40, 2:50, 5:10, 6:40, 8:40, 10:10pm; Sat, 10:10am, 1:40, 2:50, 5:10, 6:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 1:40, 2:50, 5:10, 6:40, 8:40, 10:10pm
Hugo (3-D): Fri, 8:45pm; Sat, 6:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 8:45pm
Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (digital): Fri, 10:00am, 11:10, 1:05, 2:15, 4:10, 5:20, 7:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 11:10, 1:05, 2:15, 4:10, 5:20, 7:15, 8:30, 10:20pm
The Muppets (digital): Fri, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35pm; Sat, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55pm
New Year's Eve (digital): Fri, 2:40, 9:00; Sat, 2:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 2:40, 9:00
Puss in Boots (digital): Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:25pm
Sherlock Holmes: *A Game of Shadows* (digital): Fri, 10:15am, 11:00, 11:40, 1:10, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:50pm; Sat, 10:15am, 11:00, 11:40, 1:10, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:15am, 11:00, 11:40, 1:10, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:50pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 23-THURSDAY, DEC. 29

An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE austinchronicle.com/film.

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

Tower Heist (digital)

: Fri, 7:40, 10:25; Sat, 7:40pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (digital): Fri, 6:30, 9:20; Sat, 6:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 6:30, 9:20
War Horse (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:20am, 1:35, 4:55, 8:10pm
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 10:35am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30pm; Sat, 10:35am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:35am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30pm

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20; Sat, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30; Sun-Mon, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20; Wed-Thu (12/29), 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): Fri-Sat, 10:10am; Sun, 12:15pm; Mon, 10:10am; Wed-Thu (12/29), 10:10am
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 10:20am, 11:35, 12:50, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:20am, 11:35, 12:50, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 9:20pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:35, 12:50, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 9:20pm
Arthur Christmas (3-D): Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 4:30, 7:05pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): Fri-Sat, 9:45am, 12:20, 3:10pm; Sun, 9:45am, 12:20, 3:10pm; Wed-Thu (12/29), 9:45am, 12:20, 3:10pm
The Darkest Hour (digital): Sun, 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35; Mon, 10:45am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35pm; Wed-Thu (12/29), 10:45am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35pm
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 10:30am, 2:05, 5:35, 7:00, 9:30pm; Sat, 10:30am, 2:05, 5:35, 7:00pm; Sun, 2:05, 5:35, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon, 10:30am, 2:05, 5:35, 7:00, 9:30pm; Wed-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 2:05, 5:35, 7:00, 9:30pm
Happy Feet Two (digital): Fri, 10:25am, 1:00, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45pm; Sat, 10:25am, 1:00, 3:40, 6:15pm
Hugo (3-D): Fri, 1:40, 9:30; Sat, 1:40pm
Hugo (digital): Fri-Sat, 9:30am,

FILM LISTINGS

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 & FM 1825, 512/989-8540.
 Cost for 3-D and XD shows is regular ticket price plus a premium.
The Adventures of Tintin (3-D): Fri, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20pm; Sat, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 12:45, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20pm
The Adventures of Tintin (digital): 11:25am
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 10:15am, 11:05, 11:55, 12:45, 1:35, 2:25, 3:15, 4:05, 4:55, 6:00, 6:35, 7:25, 8:15, 9:05, 9:55, 10:45pm; Sat, 10:15am, 11:05, 11:55, 12:45, 1:35, 2:25, 3:15, 4:05, 4:55, 6:00, 6:35, 7:25pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:15am, 11:05, 11:55, 12:45, 1:35, 2:25, 3:15, 4:05, 4:55, 6:35, 7:25, 9:05, 9:55pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): 9:45am, 12:25, 3:00pm
The Darkest Hour (3-D): Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:50am, 2:50, 7:50pm
The Darkest Hour (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:20, 5:20, 10:20
The Descendants (digital): Fri, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45; Sat, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (digital): Fri, 11:45am, 12:55, 3:20, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40pm; Sat, 11:45am, 12:55, 3:20, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 12:55, 3:20, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40pm
Hugo (3-D): Fri, 6:05, 9:20; Sat, 6:05pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 6:05, 9:20
Hugo (digital): 11:55am, 3:00pm
Immortals (digital): Fri, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45pm; Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55pm
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (digital): Fri, 10:50am, 2:10, 3:10, 5:25, 9:05, 10:00pm; Sat, 10:50am, 2:10, 3:10, 5:25pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:50am, 2:10, 3:10, 5:25, 9:05, 10:00pm
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (XD): Fri, 9:45am, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45pm; Sat, 9:45am, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:50am, 1:00, 4:15, 7:40, 10:45pm
The Muppets (digital): Fri, 10:20am, 1:05, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40pm; Sat, 10:20am, 1:05, 4:00, 6:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:30am
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (digital): Fri, 9:45am, 10:50, 11:50, 12:50, 2:00, 4:05, 5:10, 6:15, 7:15, 9:20, 10:25pm; Sat, 9:45am, 10:50, 11:50, 12:50, 2:00, 4:05, 5:10, 6:15, 7:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:45am, 10:50, 11:50, 12:50, 2:00, 4:10, 5:10, 6:15, 7:15, 9:20, 10:25pm
The Sitter (digital): Fri, 9:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 9:10pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (digital): Fri, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:15, 10:15
War Horse (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 2:05, 3:45, 5:30, 7:05, 9:00, 10:45
We Bought a Zoo (digital): Fri, 10:05am, 11:40, 1:15, 2:50, 4:25, 6:00, 7:35, 10:45pm; Sat, 10:05am, 11:40, 1:15, 2:50, 4:25, 6:00, 7:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:05am, 11:40, 1:15, 2:50, 4:30, 6:00, 7:35, 10:45pm
Young Adult (digital): Fri, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20; Sat, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20

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The Adventures of Tintin (digital): Fri, 1:00, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10; Sat, 1:00, 3:50, 6:30; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:00, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (digital): Fri, 11:30am, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:30am, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20pm
Arthur Christmas (digital): Fri, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25; Sat, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25
The Darkest Hour (3-D): Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
The Darkest Hour (digital): Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25
Happy Feet Two (3-D): Fri, 7:10, 9:40; Sat, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:10, 9:40
Happy Feet Two (digital): 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40pm
Immortals (3-D): Fri, 4:05, 9:25; Sat, 4:05pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 4:05, 9:25
Immortals (digital): 12:05, 5:25
Jack and Jill (digital): Fri, 11:25am, 1:45, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05pm; Sat, 11:25am, 1:45, 4:15, 6:40pm
The Muppets (digital): Fri, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm; Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:15am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm
My Week With Marilyn (digital): Fri, 12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
New Year's Eve (digital): Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15; Sat, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
Pastorela (digital): Fri, 11:20am, 1:35, 4:00, 6:20, 8:45pm; Sat, 11:20am, 1:35, 4:00, 6:20pm
Puss in Boots (3-D): 1:25, 6:45
Puss in Boots (digital): 2:45, 8:05
Young Adult (digital): Fri, 11:35am, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15pm; Sat, 11:35am, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:35am, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15pm

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***The Descendants**: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40pm; Sun, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40pm
***Melancholia**: Fri, 11:20am, 9:45pm; Sat, 11:20am, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:20am, 9:45pm
Shame: Fri, 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20; Sat, 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20; Sun, 3:00, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
***Young Adult**: Fri, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00pm

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***Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked**: Fri, 11:10am, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40pm; Sat, 11:10am, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40pm
***The Darkest Hour (3-D)**: Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo**: Fri, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:25; Sat, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:25
Hugo: Fri-Sat, 4:45pm
***Hugo (3-D)**: Fri, 11:05am, 1:55, 7:35, 10:25pm; Sat, 11:05am, 1:55, 7:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:05am, 1:55, 4:45pm
***Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol**: Fri, 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 4:30, 7:10, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40; Sat, 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 4:30, 7:05, 7:50; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 4:30, 7:10, 7:40, 10:05, 10:35
New Year's Eve: Fri, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:35, 10:15
***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**: Fri, 11:15am, 12:50, 2:05, 3:50, 4:55, 6:50, 7:45, 9:50, 10:35pm; Sat, 11:15am, 12:50, 2:05, 3:50, 4:55, 6:50, 7:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:15am, 12:45, 2:05, 3:45, 4:55, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:35pm
The Sitter: Fri, 12:20, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sat, 12:20, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00
War Horse: Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 3:10, 6:50, 10:10pm
We Bought a Zoo: Fri, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:20pm

Mara's Lisbeth is even more enigmatic than Rapace's. Her physical presence is more diminutive and borderline elfin, yet more intense, if such a thing is possible, and her sexual interplay and blossoming relationship with Daniel Craig's unequally damaged journalist crusader Mikael Blomkvist feels more forceful. In all, it's a extremely satisfying performance in a role that's as edgy as it is nuanced.

Steven Zaillian's screenplay includes a handful of deviations from the Swedish version (among them the restoration, from Larsson's novel, of a lengthy if arguably unnecessary sequence of haute couture-clad Lisbeth shopping undercover), but the main thing that establishes this as the superior film is Fincher's exacting directorial aesthetic. Fincher has always loved playing with spatial extremes (recall the crime scenes in *Se7en* and the wide-open fields of that film's horrific conclusion), and here he has the bleakly beautiful Swedish countryside to play with. Investigating the decades-old murder of the favorite niece of industrialist Henrik Vanger (Plummer), Blomkvist prowls around the sprawling but claustrophobic Vanger estate - snowbound, naturally - with the occasional assist from current Vanger spokesperson Martin (an excellent Skarsgård). Bad things - and bodies - begin to pile up.

What transfixes here isn't the labyrinthine plotting - we're almost overly familiar with that by now - but Mara's Lisbeth, surely one of the most incendiary antiheroes in all of cinema. It's a knockout sucker punch of a performance, and although it doesn't completely erase the memory of Rapace (and why should it?), Mara's doomy gaze cuts through the hype and bores straight into your soul.

★★★★ - Marc Savlov
 Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

WAR HORSE
 D: Steven Spielberg; with Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan, Emily Watson, Niels Arestrup, David Thewlis, Tom Hiddleston, Benedict Cumberbatch. (PG-13, 146 min.)

After so many movies set against the backdrop of World War II, Steven Spielberg now turns to the First World War for his latest culmination on the mad brutality of combat. But the madness is only conveyed successfully in a couple of sequences in this overlong film that tracks the war through one horse's experience of it. Spectacularly gorgeous to look at (cinematography by Janusz Kaminski, production design by Rick Carter), *War Horse* skimps on its dramatic pull, notwithstanding the forcefully manipulative score by Spielberg regular John Williams.

Based on a popular 1982 novel by Michael Morpurgo, *War Horse* affords young viewers the opportunity to see war through the horse Joey's perspective. Raised on an English farm, Joey is sold into war in 1914 and has many a harrowing experience on the Western front. The book was also adapted for the theatre in a show that substituted elaborate puppetry for actual horses - a feat that was recognized with a Tony Award. Cinephiles are likely to reflect on Robert Bresson's 1966 film, *Au Hasard Balthazar*, in which the desultory drudgery of existence is seen through



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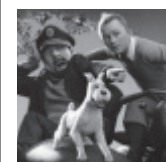
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 Join us as we ring in 2012 with the flat-out greatest New Year's film in the world, Billy Wilder's *THE APARTMENT*, paired with a very special menu and drink pairings.



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High for the Holidays:
AUSTIN HIGH
Tues., 12/27 @ Ritz
 Welcome to Ladybird High, nestled comfortably amongst the soul-searchers, aging hippies, and nouveau weirdos of famously freewheeling Austin, Texas.

ALSO SCREENING: Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along (12/22) » *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* (12/22) » *The Artist* (12/22) » *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* (12/22) » *We Bought a Zoo* (12/23) » *Master Pancakes: X-Mas Show* (12/23) » *Girlie Night: Love Actually* (12/24) » **Action Pack: Die Hard** (12/24) » High for the Holidays: Enter the Void (12/25) » **War Horse** (12/25) » Music Monday: Bob Marley and the Wailers: Exodus (12/26) » **Terror Tuesday: The Boogeyman** (12/27) » *Weird Wednesday: Surprise Title* (12/28) » **Action Pack: Grandma's Boy Quote-Along** (12/29) »

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Austin High

D: Alan Deutsch; with Michael S. Wilson, Bill Wise, Melinda Y. Cohen, Byron Brown. (2011, NR, 97 min.) **High for the Holidays.** In this locally filmed comedy, the staff and students of Ladybird High School stand up to a citywide crackdown on marijuana. It was a big "hit" at this year's Austin Film Festival. @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 10:20pm.



the point of view of the donkey Balthazar. It is one of the great works of cinema, and *War Horse* invites inevitable comparisons, which is unfortunate because they will make the Spielberg film look sadly inert.

A horse is a horse (of course, of course), and it might be said that the folly of *War Horse* is its expectation of emotional resonance to derive from a fairly expressionless equine visage. Yet few of the human characters make strong impressions either. Only Niels Arestrup as the jam maker who gives shelter to Joey for the joy the horse brings his orphaned granddaughter creates a character whose depth of feeling seems cut from the bone.

The film's visual style is a throwback to classic studio movies: epic in composition, drenched in widescreen vistas, and framed by bold background colors. Spielberg's typically emotive storytelling only comes to the fore in a few of the film's pivotal action scenes, a couple of which are truly spectacular and remind us only all too well of what this film might have been. Two of them are battle scenes which, despite being bloodless, are powerfully wrenching and a keen reminder of what Spielberg is capable of accomplishing. But the overlong *War Horse* mostly passes as though Spielberg were in absentia. (*Opens Sunday.*)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

WE BOUGHT A ZOO

D: Cameron Crowe; with Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones, Angus Macfadyen, Elle Fanning, Patrick Fugit, John Michael Higgins, Peter Riegert. (PG, 124 min.)

Animals; griever; one child cute and precocious, another troubled and artistic; a makeshift community of oddballs; the possibility of romance: Cameron Crowe's new film has it all. Its universal appeal and PG rating should make it a go-to film for family outings, but its overall lack of bite will probably cause *We Bought a Zoo* to dwindle at the box office once the relatives all pack up and go home after the holidays.

Based on Benjamin Mee's autobiographical account of his experiences as the new owner of a dilapidated menagerie, the film shifts Mee's story from England to Southern California. Crowe, who co-authored the screenplay with Aline Brosh McKenna, depicts Mee (Damon) at the outset as an "adventure journalist." The story begins six

months after the death of his wife as Mee struggles with the challenges of being a single parent of two young children and the demands of being a newsroom desk jockey in the quickly changing world of electronic journalism. Teenaged Dylan (Ford) remains angered by his loss and takes out his grief by making brooding, antisocial drawings. Seven-year-old Rosie (Jones) remains tousle-haired and golden-glowed, but she is having trouble sleeping because of perpetually partying neighbors. So Mee quits his job and moves the kids from the city to the countryside. His wife bought the farm, so he buys a zoo.

The home Mee buys is on property that houses Rosemoor – a ramshackle zoo that's been shuttered to the public but is still maintained by a skeleton crew of workers led by workaholic zookeeper Kelly Foster (Johansson). The workers are suspicious of Mee's commitment to Rosemoor, but once he opens his checkbook and gets down in the dirt with zoo maintenance, they become a united group. Inevitable flare-ups occur regarding the children's acclamation to the place, the whammy of unexpected expenses, and Mee's ongoing grief process. The film is fortunate to have Damon in the lead, as the actor brings a sense of decorum and realism to a project that could have quickly turned mawkish and saccharine. The zoo crew, however, remains sorely undeveloped. Each character is assigned a single trait and never coalesce as a fully believable community, something that Crowe at his best (*Jerry Maguire*, *Almost Famous*) does extremely well.

To be fair, this film is infused with a generosity of spirit that radiates on occasion. Damon is the film's anchor, whether he's dealing with an aging bear, a depressed tiger, or a petulant adolescent or reproachful brother (Church). Still, the drama is predictable and oddly dispassionate (perhaps in an attempt to not be overemotional). Crowe, the former rock & roll reporter, loads the soundtrack with popular songs from the likes of Tom Petty and Neil Young that resonate with obvious meanings, but it's sonic overkill in a film that's already full of obvious meanings. A score by Jónsi of Sigur Rós is too ephemeral to jibe with the classic rock. By trying too hard to stay on this side of hip and the other side of sentimental, Crowe winds up with a zoo that's neither fish nor fowl.

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED

D: Mike Mitchell; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Jenny Slate; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney, Amy Poehler, Anna Faris, Christina Applegate, Alan Tudyk. (G, 87 min.)

Admittedly, I'm coming to this movie with prejudicial eyes and ears. It's just that Alvin and the Chipmunks were never meant to appeal to anyone whose age had outgrown single digits. *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked* uses lifeless CGI animation to tell a hapazard tale about singing sensations Alvin, Simon, and Theodore, as well as their three backup singers known as the Chipettes, becoming stranded on a remote island. As the film begins, they are traveling to Europe on an ocean liner with their human surrogate dad, Dave (Lee), to collect a prize at the International Music Awards. After they fall overboard and wind up stranded, things take a turn for the tedious. The entire payoff to the Chipmunks' gambit comes in those inevitable moments when Dave bellows in exasperation, "Alvin." Maybe if we all bellow in unison it will be forceful enough to put an end to this painful franchise. (12/16/2011)

– Marjorie Baumgarten
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

D: Sarah Smith; with the voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton, Ashley Jensen, Laura Linney, Michael Palin, Robbie Coltrane. (PG, 100 min.)

The worst thing I can say about this sweet little slice of holiday cheer is that it is preceded by evil incarnate: a Justin Bieber music video. Happily, once Bieber scuttles offscreen and the Aardman Animation (*Wallace & Gromit*, *Chicken Run*) titles come up, you're in good, competent, and refreshingly funny hands. *Arthur Christmas* is an inspired take on the hoary clichés of the Santasploitation genre. This time, Aardman has left its trademark Plasticine stop-motion designs behind in favor of CGI and 3-D techniques, both of which turn out to work splendidly in the service of a very Aardman take on the notion of what it means to be Santa (voiced here by Broadbent) and the perils (and perhaps inevitability) of taking one's profession for granted, no matter how special, magical, or outrageously awesome it may be. If you can get past the Bieber, this is smart, funny stuff. (11/25/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

COURAGEOUS

D: Alex Kendrick; with Kendrick, Ken Bevel, Kevin Downes, Ben Davies. (PG-13, 129 min.)

In this faith-based drama from the makers of *Fireproof*, four policemen struggle with their roles as husbands and fathers. (09/30/2011)

– Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

Disney's A Christmas Carol

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth. (2009, PG, 96 min.) **Holiday Matinee Movie Classics.** Jim Carrey is Scrooge in this motion-capture-animated movie. (*) @Millennium, Friday, 10:15am.



THE DESCENDANTS

D: Alexander Payne; with George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Nick Krause, Amara Miller, Judy Greer, Beau Bridges, Robert Forster, Matthew Lillard, Mary Birdsong, Rob Huebel. (R, 115 min.)

Did anyone ever look less Hawaiian than the dapper and poised George Clooney? It serves his *Descendants* character, Matt King, well. Those constitutionally ill-fitting, loud prints and pleated shorts and boat shoes embody how out of touch Matt has become as a husband and father to 10-year-old Scottie (Miller) and 17-year-old Alex (Woodley). Voiceover opens the film and pops up occasionally, sometimes to describe the depths of the family's dysfunction. However, what we're told and what we're shown by director and co-writer Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *About Schmidt*) don't always square: The girls seem more precociously rebellious than tyrannical, and Matt, who is publicly roasted for his failures as a family man, is never seen as anything less than a competent and loving caretaker. *The Descendants* is beautifully shot (by Phedon Papamichael) and compellingly performed, especially by its young stars, and it has moments of startling tenderness. If only it didn't feel phony to its bones. (11/25/2011)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown

DOLPHIN TALE

D: Charles Martin Smith; with Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd, Nathan Gamble, Morgan Freeman, Cozi Zuehlsoff, Kris Kristofferson, Austin Stowell, Frances Sternhagen, Ray McKinnon. (PG, 113 min.)

This film, inspired by the true story of the first dolphin to be fitted with a prosthetic tail, is solid family entertainment. Though it meanders through some chum-heavy patches, this genuine crowd-pleaser is a worthy new entrant into the boy-and-his-underdog genre. Young Sawyer Nelson (Gamble) of Clearwater, Fla., is a withdrawn kid who, when he encounters a beached dolphin, becomes fascinated by the Clearwater Marine Hospital. He goes to the facility and comes under the spell of its managerial family – Dr. Clay Haskett (Connick Jr.), his daughter Hazel (Zuehlsoff), and his dad (Kristofferson). Sawyer's affinity with the dolphin helps him emerge from his shell, as does support from his mother (Judd) and the Hasketts. It's a little overloaded, but director Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*) handily keeps the sap at bay. Inspirational in the best sense, *Dolphin Tale* honors the values of commitment, perseverance, and inclusion for all life's damaged mammals. (09/23/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

FOOTLOOSE

D: Craig Brewer; with Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough, Dennis Quaid, Ray McKinnon, Miles Teller, Patrick John Flueger, Ziah Colon, Andie MacDowell, Kim Dickens, Ser'Darius William Blain. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Finally, along comes a remake that's not a just a mindless retreat. Craig Brewer's *Footloose* manages to update the popular 1984 original for a new generation without completely pandering to the contemporary box-office gods. First, let's remember that the original was no great classic of cinema, though its heartfelt story about stifled teenagers, small-town myopia, and the joyous, regenerative powers of music and dance has remained resonant through the decades. The remake retains the eternal-teen allure and angst of young upstart Ren McCormack (Kenny Wormald). Julianne Hough as Ariel Moore, the preacher's daughter who wants to be a bad girl, reveals great screen presence, although her sexiness seems a bit sophisticated for a high schooler. *Footloose 2.0* stumbles at a couple of points, but Brewer has a firm command of the material and a great sense of how to film dance sequences. Can't wait to see what this filmmaker does next. (10/14/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

HAPPY FEET TWO

D: George Miller; with the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Hank Azaria, Alecia "Pink" Moore, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Ava Acres, Sofia Vergara, Common, Hugo Weaving, Richard Carter, Anthony LaPaglia. (PG, 100 min.)

There's lots of peril but not much story in this sequel to 2006's animated-penguin blockbuster. The movie opens with a big song-and-dance number in which young Erik (Acres) is unable to dance but is encouraged to do so by his mom, Gloria (Pink), and dad, Mumble (Elijah Wood), who were the central characters in the original. Erik wants to find his own thing, so he takes off with some friends for lands beyond.

Mumble soon rescues Erik, but upon their return, they find the penguins' habitat has shifted, leaving the flock trapped. Concurrently, we meet Will (Pitt) and Bill (Damon), a couple of krill who decide they're tired of being "one in a krillion" and set off on their own adventure. Although appealing to look at, *Happy Feet Two* is unable to spark much emotional involvement, and the film's near-constant peril may intimidate the young ones in the audience. (11/18/2011)

★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Southpark Meadows, Millennium, Tinseltown South

🌟 HUGO

D: Martin Scorsese; with Asa Butterfield, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Chloë Grace Moretz, Helen McCrory, Emily Mortimer, Christopher Lee, Ray Winstone, Michael Stuhlbarg, Jude Law, Richard Griffiths. (PG, 126 min.)

Scorsese steps outside his usual comfort zone here and winds up creating one of the most splendid and personal films of his career. A visual and technological stunner, *Hugo* manages to wrap an emotionally involving story about an orphaned boy in 1930s Paris around a passionate appeal for the practice of film preservation. In the process, Scorsese also schools other filmmakers and viewers in the use of 3-D as a potential enhancement to the art of storytelling rather than its contemporary bastardization as a requisite gewgaw. *Hugo* is perhaps not a story for the youngest of children but should work just fine for older kids, adolescents, and grown-ups. Robert Richardson's cinematography is most impressive. In fact, Scorsese's entire crew functions at the top of its game here. Although a nip and a tuck might improve the film's overall pace, there is no denying that this love letter to the movies is something to cherish. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

🌟 THE IDES OF MARCH

D: George Clooney; with Clooney, Ryan Gosling, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Paul Giamatti, Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, Jeffrey Wright, Max Minghella. (R, 102 min.)

The gray slush of Ohio in winter provides a suitable backdrop for Clooney's morality tale about American politics. This story about the erosion of idealism and loyalty is told from the perspective of Stephen Meyers (Ryan Gosling), press secretary for Clooney's Democratic Gov. Mike Morris, who is engaged in a presidential primary in Ohio. Meyers' mentor is Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman), whose tired, rumpled, and flabby demeanor and constant second-guessing tell us everything we need to know about the mental state of political operatives. He is matched in kind by Tom Duffy (Paul Giamatti), the campaign manager of Morris' rival, who is equally rumpled and flabby but just a little bit meaner. Add to that Gosling again proving his vast versatility and Marisa Tomei as a hustling journalist trolling for a scoop. Despite some narrative missteps, the perfectly cast *Ides of March* still ranks as one of the season's most intelligent and polished films. (*The Ides of March* is playing on a double bill with *Moneyball*.) (10/07/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

IMMORTALS

D: Tarsem Singh; with Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, John Hurt, Kellan Lutz, Freida Pinto, Luke Evans. (R, 110 min.)

What Tarsem Singh's first two films, 2000's *The Cell* and 2006's *The Fall*, lacked in narrative articulateness he balanced out with visual verve. Which, I suppose, made Singh a no-brainer to take on this cobbled-together Greek myth. Henry Cavill plays Theseus, a blank-eyed, bastard-born villager who, unbeknownst to him, has been hand-picked by the Olympian gods to lead a revolt against the blood-thirsty King Hyperion (Rourke). There's more to the story – a magical bow, a sexy virgin oracle (Pinto), and caged Titans – none of it terribly interesting. The plot exists primarily to take us from one gruesome act to the next. Barbarity, of course, was the Greek gods' bread and butter, but there's more to thrill at in three lines of Homer than the whole of Singh's numbingly choreographed chaos and lascivious bloodletting. The Greek myths will endure. The same cannot be said for Singh's silly, self-serious, instantly forgettable, and inaptly named *Immortals*. (11/18/2011)

★ – Kimberley Jones
Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

🌟 J. EDGAR

D: Clint Eastwood; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Naomi Watts, Armie Hammer, Judi Dench, Josh Lucas, Stephen Root, Dermot Mulroney. (R, 136 min.)

It seems right that the man who played Dirty Harry would now, in his ridiculously productive twilight, turn his attention to the legacy of J. Edgar Hoover, played with great virtuosity by Leonardo DiCaprio. For all the good Hoover accomplished in bringing the FBI into the modern age of forensics by using scrupulous scientific methods and establishing a national database of fingerprints, the man was also undone by his bigotry, secrecy, narrow-minded dogma, and unbridled power to ruin lives. Eastwood gives us both sides of this figure – a portrait of a full human being and not just as the butt of an unfounded joke about closeted transvestites. The time frame jumps around, spanning decades in a single leap, but it doesn't strain the structure. Eastwood and DiCaprio have delivered a nuanced story about a man, a mythos, and an institution that relies on the facts rather than the legend. (11/11/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Metropolitan

JACK AND JILL

D: Dennis Dugan; with Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes, Al Pacino, Eugenio Derbez, Nick Swardson, Tim Meadows, Valerie Mahaffey. (PG, 91 min.)

It's probably worse than pointless to ask what has become of the Adam Sandler who once upon a time took a courageous chance on *Punch-Drunk Love* or was as consistently hilarious as he was in *Happy Gilmore*. The downhill slide is only made more comically perilous here, with Sandler cast as Los Angeles ad executive Jack Sadelstein as well as his needy, harpy-esque twin sister Jill, who has arrived from the Bronx to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with her brother's family and then extends her stay way past the sibling breaking point. (Holmes is utterly wasted as Jack's wife Erin.) Two Adam Sanders for the price of one? And Al Pacino?! It's like a dream. A horrible, depressingly cookie-cutter dream conceived by a craven Hollywood exec who thinks no one will notice how similar in hysterical tone and lazy execution this is to too many previous Sandler outings to name. (11/18/2011)

✶ – Marc Savlov
Tinseltown South

🌟 MELANCHOLIA

D: Lars von Trier; with Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kiefer Sutherland, Alexander Skarsgård, Brady Corbet, Charlotte Rampling, John Hurt, Stellan Skarsgård, Udo Kier, Cameron Spurr. (R, 136 min.)

It's the end of the world, and Lars von Trier knows it. The famously depressed Danish filmmaker brings his vision of human annihilation to the screen in this visually stunning, thematically rich, perversely humorous, and sublimely virtuosic film. Earth faces destruction from collision with a planet named Melancholia, which has only recently been discovered because it's been hiding behind the sun. The first half of *Melancholia* is devoted to the wedding reception for Justine (Dunst) and Michael (Skarsgård), held at the lavish estate of Justine's sister Claire (Gainsbourg) and her husband, John (Sutherland). When news reports mount about the impending natural disaster, Claire's state of mind grows frenzied while Justine declares placidly: "The Earth is evil. We are alone." Dunst's performance is a thing of calm beauty and mired grit. If von Trier seemed as though he was at a creative dead end with his last film, *Antichrist*, he has reawakened with this beautiful, haunting disaster film. (11/18/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Violet Crown

🌟 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – GHOST PROTOCOL

D: Brad Bird; with Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michel Nyqvist, Vladimir Mashkov, Josh Holloway, Anil Kapoor, Léa Seydoux. (PG-13, 133 min.)

Maybe I'm just suffering from sequelitis, but my reaction to this fourth impossible mission was one long existential yawn. An opening prison-break sets the tone (wacky and volatile) for what's to come. Impossible Mission Force Agent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) is freed from a grim Russian lockup just in time to be corralled into a new, even more impossible mission. Hunt and company are informed of the evil machinations of Kurt Hendricks (Nyqvist), a Bondian villain who's stolen the codes to a battery of Russian nuclear missiles and is intent on starting World War III. Tasked with penetrating the Kremlin, Hunt gets

more than his share of disguises, gizmos, and falls from high places. Director Bird's vision brings much to the table, but the film's gee-whiz/oh-fuck gadgetry and stunning vistas left me with the feeling I've seen much of this before. It's not that I'd like something better – I'd just like something new. (12/16/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

🌟 MONEYBALL

D: Bennett Miller; with Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright, Kerris Dorsey, Chris Pratt, Reed Diamond, Stephen Bishop. (PG-13, 133 min.)

Moneyball is a smart, funny, and thoughtful baseball movie that tells us more about what happens in the managers' offices than out on the ball field. Based on Michael Lewis' 2003 book, *Moneyball* details the true story of the turnaround strategy employed by Oakland A's General Manager Billy Beane (played by Brad Pitt) in the team's 2002 season. With the help of Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a Yale economics graduate who concocts mathematical formulas to forecast wins, Beane repopulates his roster with undervalued athletes after his top three players are purchased by wealthier teams, and in this way the little guys might be able to even the playing field. While some of its tangents add little to the story, *Moneyball* is certain to appeal to both sports fans and nonfans alike; even when the film is shagging flies, it's an engaging pleasure to watch. (*Moneyball* is playing on a double bill with *The Ides of March*.) (09/23/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

🌟 THE MUPPETS

D: James Bobin; with Amy Adams, Jason Segel, Chris Cooper, Rashida Jones, Zach Galifianakis, Ken Jeong, Sarah Silverman, Feist, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez. (PG, 98 min.)

It is with immense pleasure that I can report that Disney's Muppet reboot movie is an absolute delight. It hews very closely to the original item, with all the original Muppet characters on board, along with one new one: the small, orange Walter (voiced by Peter Linz) who doesn't, in fact, realize that he's a Muppet. He believes he's the shorter, fuzzier, younger brother of Jason Segel's human Gary. Walter, Gary, and Gary's best gal Mary (Adams, redefining the word "perky") journey to the old Muppet Theater, now a cobwebbed, empty shadow of its former self that's about to be sold. What to do? Why, track down the original *Muppet Show* members, of course, and put on the Great Muppet Telethon. True Muppet maniacs are advised to bring a hankie. The Muppets may have been gone, but it's an absolute joy to have them back. After all, to paraphrase Walt Kelly: We have met the Muppets, and they are us. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN

D: Simon Curtis; with Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Dominic Cooper, Julia Ormond, Emma Watson, Judi Dench, Zoë Wanamaker, Dougray Scott, Toby Jones, Derek Jacobi. (R, 101 min.)

Colin Clark was 23 years old when the most famous movie star in the world, Marilyn Monroe, came to England to co-star with acting legend Sir Laurence Olivier in *The Prince and the Showgirl*, which Olivier was also directing and for which Clark served as third assistant director. When the film shoot turned difficult (and what production starring Monroe didn't?), Clark, if we are to believe his account, became Monroe's confidant and partner in flirtation. The truth of what actually occurred between Monroe and Clark is immaterial. There are only two real reasons to see this movie. The first is the spooky-good impersonation of Monroe by Michelle Williams. No slouch either is Kenneth Branagh in his depiction of Olivier. The second reason to see *My Week With Marilyn* is for its encapsulation of a running controversy about the diametrically opposed approaches of classically trained and method actors. No new ground is broken on the subject, however. (11/25/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Arbor, Tinseltown South

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Sun. - Thu. 10:05 10:30 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30 7:10 7:25 10:00 10:15

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:30 3:45 7:00 10:15

WE BOUGHT A ZOO (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:30 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:25 11:55
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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:15 4:30 7:15 9:40 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 11:15 4:30 7:15 9:40


THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) Fri. - Thu. 2:00

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13)
Fri. & Sat. 10:15 10:45 12:30 1:00 1:30 3:30 4:00 4:30 6:50 7:10 7:30 9:45 10:00 10:15
Sun. - Thu. 10:15 12:30 1:00 3:30 4:00 6:50 7:10 9:45 10:00

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri. & Sat. 10:05 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00 11:15
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The Holy Mountain

D: *Alejandro Jodorowsky*; with *Jodorowsky, Horacio Salinas, Zamira Saunders*. (1973, R, 114 min.)
High for the Holidays. Trippy imagery, religious overtones, and hallucinatory symbolism are the hallmarks of this epic film from cult visionary Jodorowsky. @Alamo Ritz, Mon.-Tue., 7:30pm.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

D: Garry Marshall; with Halle Berry, Jessica Biel, Jon Bon Jovi, Abigail Breslin, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Robert De Niro, Josh Duhamel, Zac Efron, Hector Elizondo, Katherine Heigl, Ashton Kutcher, Seth Meyers, Lea Michele, Sarah Jessica Parker, Michelle Pfeiffer, Til Schweiger, Hilary Swank, Sofia Vergara. (PG-13, 118 min.)
 Director Garry Marshall and screenwriter Katherine Fugate lift in toto the framework of their previous collaboration, *Valentine's Day* – the holiday theme, the puzzle-piece narrative, the overstuffed cast of stars, the colorless execution. On New Year's Eve in New York City, disparate people try to make it a night to remember, angling for a midnight kiss, a mystery rendezvous, a reconciliation with a lost love, or the prize of pushing out the first baby of the new year. Marshall has corralled a considerable share of Oscar-caliber talent here, only to coax frankly embarrassing work from them. There's a difference between pleasant escapism and just plain half-assedness, and *New Year's Eve* – a flimsy fiction to start with – can't even muster the strength of its own convictions. There are blips of charm and genuine sentiment, but mostly *New Year's Eve* is appalling stuff, a poorly constructed, sentimental sham. Auld lang suck. (12/09/2011)
 ★ – Kimberley Jones

Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown South, Westgate

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3

D: Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman; with Katie Featherston, Chris Smith, Sprague Grayden, Lauren Bittner, Brian Boland. (R, 81 min.)
 Well, I'll be damned to hell! This third outing in the faux documentary/found footage supernatural shocker series finally gets things right. This one fucking crept me out. Helmed by *Catfish* directors Joost and Schulman, *Paranormal Activity 3* is still no one's idea of a classic horror film, but it delivers the *gotcha* moments with subtlety and brio compared to its clunky predecessors. The plot, what there is of it, finds a cache of old VHS tapes, circa 1988, purporting to show what happened to the frightened Rey family, led by wedding videographer dad Dennis (Smith) and mom Julie (Bittner), who begin to experience odd goings-on after youngest daughter Kristi (Brown) starts chatting up her "invisible friend" Toby. Things go to hell from there, literally. *Paranormal Activity 3* has enough jolts, frissons, and downright freak-outs to qualify as the best teen date movie of the season, if not the year. Boo. Scary. (10/21/2011)
 ★★ – Marc Savlov
 Movies 8

PASTORELA

D: Emilio Portes; with Joaquín Cosío, Carlos Cobos, Eduardo España, Dagoberto Gama, Héctor Jiménez. (R, 95 min., subtitled)
 Not reviewed at press time. In this Mexican comedy, a man who has always portrayed the devil in the town's annual nativity play is miffed when the new pastor recasts the role. (12/02/2011)
 – Marjorie Baumgarten
 Tinseltown South

PUSS IN BOOTS

D: Chris Miller; with the voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Billy Bob Thornton, Amy Sedaris. (PG, 90 min.)
 This animated spin-off from the *Shrek* trilogy presents the origin story of the green ogre's sidekick, Puss in Boots. DreamWorks' hero's tale is bolstered by solid storytelling and voice work, more deranged fairy-tale mash-ups, and an abundance of

feline cuteness. Antonio Banderas' Puss is at once a lover and a fighter, part Zorro and part Pepé Le Pew, and his pairing with Salma Hayek, who provides the voice of Kitty Softpaws, is *muy simpatico*. The plot takes us back to Puss' childhood in an orphanage, where he becomes best friends with Humpty Dumpty (Galifianakis), a large egg who tricks the cat into a bank robbery that goes wrong, leaving Puss in exile and Humpty with a chip on his shoulder. There's a lot of chase and rescue to fill out the meager storyline, but the top-notch voice work keeps us attuned to the screen. *Puss in Boots* is cute and entertaining but hardly purr-fect. (10/28/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
 Movies 8, CM Round Rock, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

REAL STEEL

D: Shawn Levy; with Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly, Anthony Mackie, Kevin Durand, Hope Davis. (PG-13, 127 min.)
Real Steel may have a hardened outer shell, but it's pure marshmallow on the inside. This kids' film mixes the heart of come-from-behind boxing drama with the geeky gadget gestalt of films like *The Transformers*. Thinly derived from a Richard Matheson short story, *Real Steel* is set in a debased near-future in which robot boxing is all the rage. Charlie Kenton (Jackman) is a former champion boxer who now hustles robot matches. He's a gruff, unlikely guy, and when he's informed of his long-lost son, Max (Goyo), whose mother has just died, Charlie makes self-serving financial arrangements for the boy's care, never guessing he and his son will bond before the summer is through. The film's predictability is a serious drawback, but *Night at the Museum* director Shawn Levy hits all the right notes that should guarantee the film's appeal to young and old joystick junkies who, despite outward appearances, harbor sentimental hearts. (10/07/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
 Movies 8

SHAME

D: Steve McQueen; with Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan, James Badge Dale, Nichole Beharie, Lucy Walters. (NC-17, 99 min.)
 All humans have habits, some of them bad. The bad habits of Brandon Sullivan (Fassbender, exhibiting exquisite control and spasming anguish) have curdled into full-bore addiction. The kempt escorts with whom he politely negotiates terms, the workaday masturbation breaks, the foot-fidgeting: This is Brandon's everyday landscape. But soon Brandon's routine is upended by the sudden arrival of his needy, chancy younger sister, Sissy (Carey Mulligan). Where Brandon is ordered and emotionally closed off, Sissy is erratic, fairly lunging at any warm body that might warm her back. Indeterminate damage has been done to them both, and whatever it was, it has steered the course of all future emotional and physical entanglements, including the siblings' own provocative push-pull. Director Steve McQueen has stripped all fat from this dark, obsessively stylized story about sex addiction. Equally harrowing and heartrending, *Shame* is a film that feels akin to going into battle, and I for one didn't emerge unscathed. (12/16/2011)
 ★★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
 Arbor, Violet Crown

Last Lab 11

D: *Various*. **Homoscope.** These four films have been programmed with the theme of transition in mind – from one year to the next, one country to another, and among ever-changing queer bodies and spirits. "Ring Frel" observes a transman as he prepares for his first boxing match, "Hella Strong" looks at Portland's monthly dance party Blow Pony, "Looking for Jiro" is a queer experimental performance video, and "Guerriller@s" is a Spanish documentary about sexual identity. @The Hideout Theatre, Thursday (12/29), 8pm.



SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

D: Guy Ritchie; with Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Jared Harris, Noomi Rapace, Rachel McAdams, Kelly Reilly, Stephen Fry, Paul Anderson, Thierry Neuvic, Geraldine James. (PG-13, 128 min.)
 Exactly like its titular detective, Guy Ritchie's follow-up to his steampunky 2009 take on Arthur Conan Doyle's peerlessly curious antihero is a gorgeous shambles. The whole film, which caroms from 1891 London to Paris, Vienna, and the inevitable Reichenbach Falls of Doyle's "The Final Problem," seems to have been subject to a strict diet of caffeine, nicotine, and coca leaves. Although the first half of *A Game of Shadows* is too chaotic for its own good and riddled with a multitude of subplots that appear irrelevant, the film picks up steam (literally) as Holmes (Downey Jr.) and Dr. Watson (Law) home in on their quarry: the inestimable "Napoleon of Crime," Professor Moriarty (Harris). The final 30 minutes of this revisionist Holmes explodathon are downright thrilling, and it should go without saying: Downey Jr. inhabits the role of Sherlock Holmes to a near-molecular level. The end result is a worthy rush of adrenaline. (12/16/2011)
 ★★ – Marc Savlov
 Alamo Ritz, Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE SITTER

D: David Gordon Green; with Jonah Hill, Max Records, Kevin Hernandez, Landry Bender, Sam Rockwell, Ari Graynor, J.B. Smoove, Kylie Bunbury. (R, 82 min.)
 I hate to join the chorus of nags, but come on, Gordon Green: Stop dinking around. Green's latest feature exercise in backward-glancing, *The Sitter*, is a nonstarter. It recalls its genre antecedents (think *After Hours* and *Adventures in Babysitting*) in concept – here, Jonah Hill plays a reluctant babysitter lugging three kids in a minivan through Brooklyn while dodging a sulky drug dealer (Sam Rockwell) – but never gets at the same itchy spirit of anarchy. There's real energy to the way Green captures the nighttime cityscapes, but the film's set-pieces are static, built on predictable bits of cocaine explosions and kids mouthing off like minigangstas. I liked Hill's mellow-keyed delivery, and the emotional scenes are quite delicately played. I admit to about a half-dozen moments of high-pitched "heh!" – sort of a duck-honk approximation of amusement, I guess – but for a comedy, *The Sitter* is frightfully spare on full-bodied laughs. (12/16/2011)
 ★★ – Kimberley Jones
 Alamo Village, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

D: Paul W.S. Anderson; with Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Orlando Bloom, Ray Stevenson, Luke Evans, Christoph Waltz. (PG-13, 110 min.)
 Have we retained nothing of the lessons of *Hudson Hawk*? Like that early Nineties comical disaster, *The Three Musketeers* hinges on the secret machinations of Leonardo da Vinci. It's worth pointing out that when the Musketeers – roll call: Porthos (Stevenson), Athos (Macfadyen), and Aramis (Evans) – raid Leonardo's vault for the schematics to a flying war machine, they flood the underground lair on their way out, destroying thousands of documents in the process. That carelessness doesn't so much as raise an eyebrow; I mention it here only to highlight the rancid taste of these early scenes, which are an indiscriminately violent bore to behold. Still, once you accept Paul W.S. Anderson's entirely unnecessary adaptation on its own terms (nonsensical, underachieving), it has its limited charms, which include a snigger-inducing alphabet soup of accents, a standout rooftop sword-fight, and British comedian James Corden as the Musketeers' put-upon manservant. (10/28/2011)
 ★★ – Kimberley Jones
 Movies 8

TOWER HEIST

D: Brett Ratner; with Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Alan Alda, Matthew Broderick, Téa Leoni, Michael Peña, Gabourey Sidibe, Judd Hirsch, Stephen Henderson. (PG-13, 105 min.)
 Alert to the righteous rage of the 99 Percenters and canny about how to mine that rage for laughs, *Tower Heist* is like *Ocean's Eleven* meets class consciousness. Ben Stiller plays Josh Kovacs, the manager of a luxury condo in Manhattan called the Tower, where he commands a small army of housekeepers, concierges,

and security guards. When the Tower's penthouse-dwelling big-shot investor Arthur Shaw (Alda) is taken into federal custody for some funny business with the books, his entire staff's pension plans are gone, and the people-pleasing building manager wants revenge. Going rogue, Josh gathers a motley crew – including Eddie Murphy's ex-con Slide – to filch the \$20 million Shaw has hidden in his penthouse. A constitutionally glib director, Brett Ratner is nevertheless a professional: He's made a lean and likable action comedy that motors along at a satisfying clip. *Tower Heist* nails the humor, all right, but also, quite crucially, humanizes the high concept. (11/04/2011)
 ★★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
 CM Round Rock, Metropolitan

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN – PART 1

D: Bill Condon; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Ashley Greene, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 117 min.)
 Alas, this is more or less the same movie we've been seeing all along: Bella (Stewart) wants sex; Edward (Pattinson) won't even heavy pet. Even after the wedding that opens this fourth adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* books, the topic of "will they or won't they" is still on the table. While on honeymoon, their first attempt results in Edward splintering the bed and accidentally roughing up Bella. (When she reassures him she's fine and knows he didn't mean to bruise her, it creepily whiffs of battered-wife syndrome.) So Edward swears off all carnal pleasures; wouldn't she rather play another game of chess instead? With this film, the *Twilight* series officially makes the transition from essentially harmless Victorian-minded trash to something flatly pernicious. And boring, to boot. The filmmakers decided to break the fourth and final book of Meyer's series into two parts, ostensibly to accommodate its surfeit of action. They must be saving all that for *Part 2*. (11/25/2011)
 ★ – Kimberley Jones
 CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North

A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS

D: Todd Strauss-Schulson; with Kal Penn, John Cho, Neil Patrick Harris, Thomas Lennon, Danny Trejo, Paula Garcés, Elias Koteas. (R, 89 min.)
 This is the first of the three Harold and Kumar titles in which the weed-loving pair aren't actively coming or going, and it shows. A grinning but toothless comedy, this Christmas-themed outing pales in inventiveness compared to the original. Ah well. We've all gotten a little older, haven't we? Hell, Harold (Cho) doesn't even smoke pot anymore. Married and settled in the suburbs, he wants to give his wife, Maria (Garcés), and her clan (including Trejo's gruff Papí) the perfect Christmas. That plan goes up in smoke when the tree is accidentally torched during a visit by Harold's estranged best friend, Kumar (Penn), thus setting into motion a quest picture with an ingenuity deficit. It gets a pretty good buzz going with a kicky Claymation nightmarescape, Cho and Penn's genial rapport, and the picturesque three-dimensioning of plumes of pot smoke. But those pleasures are fleeting – gone, if you will, with the weed. (11/11/2011)
 ★★ – Kimberley Jones
 Movies 8, Metropolitan

YOUNG ADULT

D: Jason Reitman; with Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson, Elizabeth Reaser, Collette Wolfe, Jill Eikenberry. (R, 94 min.)
 Thirty-seven-year-old Mavis Gary (Theron) is a beautiful, unhappy, and unlikely narcissist. Mavis' uncommon abrasiveness and the film's avoidance of a tidy resolution make *Young Adult* one of the most original movies around right now, though caveat emptor: This may not be enough to make it likable. Mavis is a pseudonymous author of a young-adult book series that is about to fold. In her mind, she is a famous author in the big city whose life would be the envy of anyone from her hick hometown, where she was the reigning bitch goddess. Soon she is off on what is clearly a fool's mission to return there and reignite things with her high school boyfriend, Buddy Slade (Wilson), who has just sent her an announcement about the arrival of his first baby. *Young Adult* can be harsh to watch at times, but the film maintains a comic edge, and its character portraits are indelible. (12/16/2011)
 ★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
 Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, iPic, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Violet Crown



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DECEMBER 22-29

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

THURSDAY 22

★ **Bad Santa (2003)** D: Terry Zwigoff; with Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Bernie Mac. (R, 91 min.) Thornton plays a thieving, degenerate Santa. (*) @Alamo Lake Creek, 10pm; \$8.25.

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. This seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. @Alamo Lake Creek, 7, 10pm.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) D: Ron Howard; with Jim Carrey. (PG, 102 min.) **Holiday Matinee Movie Classics.** (*) @Millennium, 10:15am.

Elf Quote-Along (2003) D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. (PG, 95 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) D: Frank Capra; with James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. (NR, 129 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** (*) @Alamo Village, 7pm.

Hansel and Gretel (2008) D: Richard Jones. Metropolitan Opera: **Holiday Encore Performance.**

This English-language version of Humperdinck's opera follows the familiar fairy tale. The performance was originally presented in January 2008. Philip Langridge plays the witch; Vladimir Jurowski conducts. @Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, 6:30pm.

SPACES

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" and A Very Muppet Christmas The Austin Chronicle's Marc Savlov presents the evening's Muppet time capsule. @Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 7:30pm.

FRIDAY 23

★ **Beetlejuice (1988)** D: Tim Burton; with Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis. (PG, 92 min.) @iPic, 12:15am.

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Village, 11:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/22.)

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10. (See Thursday, 12/22.)

★ **Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009)** See p.60.

SPACES

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" and The Nightmare Before Christmas @Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 6:30pm.

A Christmas Story (1983) D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon. (PG, 98 min.) (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 9pm.

SATURDAY 24

Die Hard (1988) D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Action Pack.** Free cap guns with admission and live explosions in the theatre. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Elf Quote-Along (2003) Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 4:15pm. (See Thursday, 12/22.)

Love Actually (2003) D: Richard Curtis; with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Keira Knightley, Martine McCutcheon, Billy Bob Thornton, Joanna Page, Rowan Atkinson. (R, 135 min.) **Girlie Night.** This merry skein of loves lost and found is set in holiday-season London. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Saturday Morning Cartoon Cereal Party: Holiday Edition Two-and-a-half hours of fine nutrition. Pajamas and stuffed animals encouraged. @Alamo Lake Creek, noon.

SUNDAY 25

Elf Quote-Along (2003) Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 4pm. (See Thursday, 12/22.)

★ **Enter the Void (2010)** D: Gaspar Noé; with Nathaniel Brown, Paz de la Huerta, Cyril Roy. (NR, 161 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Cinema provocateur Noé turns from the horrific to the psychedelic in this astonishing film. @Alamo Ritz, 9pm.

MONDAY 26

The Big Lebowski Quote-Along (1998) (R, 117 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lamar, 10pm.

Exodus: Live at the Rainbow (2005) D: Roger Young. **Music Monday.** Bob Marley & the Wailers appear in concert in 1977. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

★ **The Holy Mountain (1973)** See p.62.

TUESDAY 27

★ **Austin High (2011)** See p.60.

The Boogeyman (1980) D: Ulli Lommel; with Suzanna Love, Ron James, John Carradine, Nicholas Love. (R, 82 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** A mirror that witnessed a murder years earlier wreaks havoc when smashed into shards in this film directed by horror master Lommel, who was also a regular Fassbinder actor. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm.

★ **The Holy Mountain (1973)** See p.62.

WEDNESDAY 28

Beerfest (2006) D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Jay Chandrasekhar, Will Forte, Kevin Heffernan, Cloris Leachman. (R, 110 min.) The Broken Lizard comedy troupe strikes again. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Surprise Film Weird Wednesday. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

THURSDAY 29

Grandma's Boy Quote-Along (2006) D: Nicholas Goossen; with Allen Covert, Nick Swardson, Peter Dante, Linda Cardellini, Shirley Jones, Shirley Knight, Doris Roberts, Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider. (R, 94 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

★ **Last Lab 11** See p.62.

Check Film Listings online and on your mobile device for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 13 issue is Monday, Jan. 2.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or email.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

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IMAX

Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011)
D: Brad Bird; with Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michel Nyqvist, Vladimir Mashkov, Josh Holloway, Anil Kapoor, Léa Seydoux. (PG-13, 133 min.) See review, p.61. (* Th. (12/22)-Thu. (12/29), 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45pm.

Ocean Wonderland (2003) *D: Jean-Jacques Mantello. (NR, 41 min.)* Underwater 3-D digital cinematography captures diving expeditions in the Bahamas and the Great Barrier Reef.
 Thu. (12/22)-Sat., 10:30am, 12:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (12/29), 10:30am, 12:30pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)*
 Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of producing everything from grapefruit to microchips.
 Thu. (12/22)-Sat., 9:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/29), 9:30am.

Tornado Alley (2011) *D: Sean C. Casey. (NR, 43 min.)* Storm Chasers star Casey joins the researchers of VORTEX 2 in this effort to capture the origins and evolution of tornadoes in 3-D. Thu. (12/22)-Sat., 11:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/29), 11:30am.

OFFSCREEN

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin doubles as a theatre – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. It's also available as a soundstage or green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: The Film Mind Filmmaker Steve Mims offers this class in advanced cinematography and directing, with examinations of current large sensor digital cinematography and classic filmmaking techniques. See website for details. Orientation meeting: *Tue., Jan. 31, 6:30pm. Studio A-7, 701 Tillery. \$960.* www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Prime yourself for cinematic advancement with professional ASoF classes in all forms of digital media this fall: **Sound Recording for Film and Video, Web Video and Viral Marketing, Advanced Final Cut Pro, Lighting 101**, and many more. See website for details. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Cine Las Americas: Call for Entries The Cine Las Americas International Film Festival is accepting submissions for its 15th annual incarnation in the ATX this coming April. They're looking for films made

by or about Latinos in the U.S. or the rest of the world and films by or about indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. *Deadline: Jan. 16.* www.cinelasamericas.org.

Hill Country Film Festival Accepting Submissions The three-day independent film event held in Fredericksburg is now accepting submissions for its third annual festival in April 2012. Indie filmmakers from around the world can submit features, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, and 3-D shorts. See website for details. *Deadline: Feb. 2.* www.hillcountryff.com.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super 35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a break room suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes
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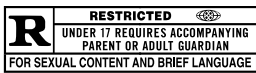
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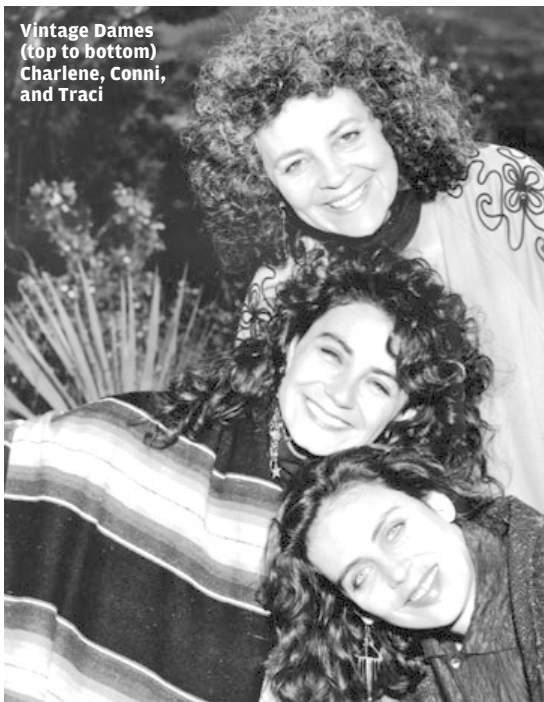
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- DJ KB on Terrace59 with VIP Bottle Service

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Vintage Dames (top to bottom) Charlene, Conni, and Traci

Texana Dames

With the first in a series of fundraisers completed (and the next upcoming Jan. 22 at Antone's), Traci Lamar Hancock still isn't letting any grass grow under her boots. Traditions must be observed, particularly during this holiday season in which this music community's losses have

been deeply felt. That's why there's nothing like the Dames show that closes out another tradition, Christmas Eve at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar.

"The family band always played Christmas Eve and Christmas night because my dad believed that's when the loneliest people were in the bars and it was worth our time to create a loving vibe there," explains Lamar Hancock. "Playing the bazaar means a standing invitation to be a part of that spirit. They made us feel wanted even though they were always exhausted by the time we showed up. It means all the people that we might not see throughout the year coming and helping us make it feel Christmassy.

"I've seen a lot of kids grow up playing percussion on Christmas Eve!"

The recurrence of ovarian cancer keeps Lamar Hancock focused on what's important in her life right now. She was born into the musician's life, the daughter of Tommy and Charlene Hancock, and an integral part of the brood's multigenerational Supernatural Family Band. One of Texas' most accomplished female accordion players, Lamar Hancock's fluency in Spanish broadened her pan-Southwest sound even further, a combination of talents that found a home in the Texana Dames with sister Conni and mother Charlene.

"I am not in too, too much pain; nothing I can't live with," reveals Lamar Hancock. "I did six rounds of chemo, finished last month. Fundraising is making it possible for me to heal stress-free. I have all these wigs and am having a blast. I never knew how much fun it could be to be a blonde!" — Margaret Moser

Palmer Events Center, Saturday 24, 8pm

Cienfuegos (noon), the Jitterbug Vipers (3:30), Annual "String-Off" (7:09pm)

THE WAGONEERS

Continental Club, Friday 23

One of 2011's best local surprises was the Wagoneers reunion. After more than 20 years apart, the rockin' country quartet has reinvigorated some of its still-shiny old songs and come up with a batch of new ones that are just as heartening. These two shows will be their last before heading to Nashville, Tenn., in January to make a new album. Given two showtimes, 7:30 and 11:30pm, we're particularly intrigued by the latter, which they claim is "for the hardcores."

— Jim Caligiuri



The Wagoneers

GARY MILLER

SUZANNA CHOFFEL

Momo's, Saturday 24

Back in town for the holidays, Suzanna Choffel headlines Momo's alternative to a candlelit Christmas Eve service. Despite recently relocating to the Big Apple, the indie chanteuse still makes her presence felt locally with latest *Steady Eye Shaky Bow*, a top-tier contender for best Texas album of the year, with a stunning versatility that showcases her smoky breadth. Betty Black, Jason Blum, and Little Emily Warfield round out the evening.

— Austin Powell



Suzanna Choffel

TODD V. WOLFSON

MISS LAVELLE WHITE'S CHRISTMAS

Saxon Pub, Saturday 24

"You're the young man on Fox, aren't you?," waved Miss Lavelle White. Carolyn Wonderland's March wedding to A. Whitney Brown — as presided over by former Monkee Michael Nesmith — introduced us to Threadgill's back room, where White, W.C. Handy Award nominee and Texas Music Hall of Fame member, and I traded music news (business: terrible), laughter, and lots of soul. Austin's grande dame of R&B remains as feisty as Sharon Jones. White's traditional holiday fundraiser — for Ms. Lavelle — includes Reed Turner, Jackie Bristow, and the Lisa Marshall Band, 8:30pm.

— Raoul Hernandez

BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL

Saxon Pub, Sunday 25

'Twas a banner year for Bobby Whitlock. Derek's damn near last surviving Domino celebrated 40 years of *Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs* with a massive deluxe box set even as his *Bobby Whitlock: A Rock 'n' Roll Autobiography* (see "Superstar," July 15) dominated Amazon's rock-star memoirs. Wife and sax siren CoCo Carmel continued riding high on her lifetime-in-the-making solo debut last year, *First Fruit*. The locals' assorted love songs and duets always stir true Christmas-like joy and good tidings.

5:30pm. — Raoul Hernandez

JONATHAN TOUBIN BENEFIT

Emo's Inside, Tuesday 27

Jonathan Toubin's guitar savagery in local 1990s screamers Noodle and his later work in the Hamicks siphoned that young man's angst into his locomotive success behind the steel wheels as soul DJ New York Night Train. Critically injured, Toubin was run over by a cab while asleep in his motel bed in Portland, Ore., earlier this month, and nationwide benefits include this all-star local pairing of Polanski-esque indie needlepoint (*Knife in the Water*) and Girls Against Boys-like guitar glam (*Glorium*), plus December Boys, the Black, and Quin Galavis.

— Raoul Hernandez

BETTER THAN EZRA, COWBOY MOUTH

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Wednesday 28

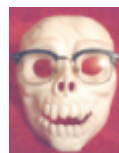
If Louisiana excels in such genres as jazz, blues, and country, it also rules rock & roll thanks in part to the success of Better Than Ezra's lean Southern indie rock, along with Cowboy Mouth, who have been slamming stages with hurricane force since Fred LeBlanc stole the show at South by Southwest 1991. Ezra's latest, *Death Valley EP*, is a return to form, while Cowboy Mouth's *Mardi Gras* reaffirms the band's commitment to rebuilding the Big Easy spiritually as well as physically. New Orleans rock at its spiritual best.

— Margaret Moser

QUINTRON

Emo's Inside, Thursday 29

In case you needed another reason to visit Emo's esteemed bathrooms one last time, this belligerent punk revue should get the legendary venue's demolition started early. New Orleans' theatrical night-clubber Jay Poggi, better known as Quintron, dragged the organ back into the garage with longtime partner Miss Pussycat. Latest Goner LP *Sucre du Sauvage* was recorded at NOLA's Museum of Art and City Park. Mark Ryan's *Mind Spiders* just finished a new album for February release, while Manatees and *Flesh Lights* provide the rhythm and bop, respectively.



Quintron

soundcheck

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

FELIZ NAVIDAD WITH VALLEJO

Antone's, Friday 23

Guitar nativity scene by the Vallejo Bros., with Damesviolet and Bipolar Bears.

RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

Emo's Inside, Friday 23

Punk's PT. Barnum, Gamblers' frontman Mike Wiebe, touches off his last circus inside. Anti-Alls open. \$5-7.

BAREBONES ORCHESTRA

Skinny's Ballroom, Saturday 24

"1 Part Folk 2 Parts Rock 3 Parts Awesome," plus burlesque, 5-8pm.

DALE WATSON

Continental Club, Sunday 25

Austin's Johnny Cash on Christmas: our annual music miracle.

JOHN WESLEY COLEMAN

Emo's Inside, Monday 26

Blowing in the indie wind ahead of *Blöwer* (ex-Didjits), the *Negatives*, and *Scrabble Robot*. Free!

GURF MORLIX, GRANT PEEPLES

Threadgill's World Headquarters, Tuesday 27

Local guitarist/producer/Blaze Foley enthusiast hosts like-minded Florida song journeyman.

SONS OF FATHERS

Momo's, Wednesday 28

Beck quashed the name (Beck & Cauthen), but not the local duo's pure high lonesome. 9:30pm.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER

Long Center, Wednesday 28

Trans-Siberian Orchestra last week; Christmas juggernaut encore.


THE ALICE ROSE

Frank, Thursday 29



Rose frontman JoDee Purkeypille went solo recently on *October House*, but the decade-old psych poppers here lead the Soapbox Spellbinders, Craig Marshall, and Jonas & the Plastic Habits.

the HighBall

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Frank
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Doors 9:30PM \$5 All Ages
Hidden Ritual & Bitter Birds

FRI 23 DEC **DEAD SWAGGER**
Doors 9:30PM \$6.00 All Ages
Pop Pistol & Auroravore

THU 29 DEC **THE ALICE ROSE**
Doors 9:30PM \$6.00 All Ages
The Soapbox Spellbinders, Craig Marshall, Jonas & The Plastic Habits

WED 30 DEC **DANA FALCONBERRY**
Doors 9:30PM \$6.00 All Ages
Chris Salveter (Judson Claiborne) & Hotel Brotherhood

TUE 03 JAN **FREE WEEK! DEAD BLACK HEARTS**
Doors 9:00PM FREE All Ages
Whitesiren Presents: Lauren & The Black List, The History Department, The Greatcoats

THU 05 JAN **FREE WEEK! POLITICS**
Doors 9:00PM FREE All Ages
Austin Vida Presents: Pop Pistol, Vinyl Dharma, Friday Avenue

FRI 06 JAN **FREE WEEK! THE SOLDIER THREAD**
Doors 9:00PM FREE All Ages
Vivogig & Whitesiren Presents: STEREO IS A LIE, The Couch, The Baker Family

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TRIO w/ DENNY FREEMAN
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THUR DEC 22
H. H. **PLANET CASPER**
10PM
DENNY FREEMAN

WITH THE ORIGINAL BAND
12AM **BARFIELD**
THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK!
FRIDAY DEC 23
CHRISTMAS WITH

2 BIG SHOWS EARLY AND LATE
THE WAGONEERS
EARLY ALL AGES SHOW / 12 & UNDER FREE:
DOORS 6:30 SHOW 7PM • LATE 21+ SHOW: 11:30

MONDAY DEC 26
H. H. **ADAM JOHNSON & THE PAY ME'S**
10PM
DALE WATSON
AND HIS LONESTARS
TUESDAY DEC 27
H. H. 6:30PM **TONI PRICE**
12AM **UNCLE LUCIUS**
10PM **ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**
AND THE SENSITIVE BOYS
WEDNESDAY DEC 28
H. H. **ELANA JAMES & ERIK HOKKANEN**
12AM **JAMES McMURTRY**

THURSDAY DEC 29
HAPPY HOUR **PLANET CASPER**
12AM **TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER**
10PM **ROGER WALLACE**
FRIDAY DEC 30
H. H. 6:30PM **THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS**
12AM **PAUL RAY**
AND THE COBBAS ANNUAL HOLIDAZE REUNION
SATURDAY DEC 31
MATINEE DOORS 3PM **REDD VOLKAERT**
12AM **ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**
10PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**

SATURDAY DEC 24
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
HAPPY HOLIDAY Y'ALL!
SUNDAY DEC 25
DALE WATSON'S
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW & DANCE
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
HEYBALE!
AT 8:30PM
11PM

HORSE OPERA

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
- THU 10:30 **TAMECA JONES**
THE PETERSON BROS.
- FRI & SUN 10:30 **MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO**
FRI W/ 8:30 **JOHNNY MOELLER & FROSTY**
ROBERT KRAFT TRIO
SAT CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
SUN W/ DOORS @ 9:00 **DAVE BILLER & KYLE THOMPSON**

ART BY SUE ZOLA

GALLERY OPENS AT 8:00PM
- MON 11:00 **THE LOST COUNTS**
9:00 **AFROFREQUE**
7:00 **BEN LIVINGSTON**
- TUE 10:30 **THE EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**
8:30 **STEVE BERNAL'S ZODIAC**
- WED 10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZZ**
8:30 **BUSTAMOVALATORS**

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KNIFE IN THE WATER

GLORIUM / DECEMBER BOYS / THE BLACK
QUIN GALAVIS

DECEMBER 27
EMO'S INSIDE

QUINTRON

MIND SPIDERS / MANATEES
THE FLESH LIGHTS

DECEMBER 29 - EMO'S INSIDE



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CREATIONISTS • CROOKED BANGS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

INSIDE, DOORS 9PM:
RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS
ANTI-ALLS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

INSIDE, DOORS 9PM: **FREE SHOW!**
JOHN WESLEY COLEMAN
BLOWER (EX. DIDGITS)
THE NEGATIVES • SCRABBLE ROBOT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

INSIDE: **KNIFE IN THE WATER**
GLORIUM • DECEMBER BOYS
THE BLACK • QUIN GALAVIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

INSIDE, DOORS @ 9PM:
RUBBERNECK PRESENTS:
OBN III'S • VIDEO
WICCANS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

INSIDE:
QUINTRON • MIND SPIDERS
MANATEES • FLESH LIGHTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

LAST SHOW @ EMO'S RED RIVER
INSIDE, DOORS @ 9PM:
KILLDOZER
WOMEN IN PRISON • RITUALS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

EAST, DOORS @ 8PM: **NEW YEARS PARTY**
THE BLACK ANGELS
WOODEN SHIPS • UME

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

EAST, DOORS @ 7PM: **FREE WEEK**
MOTHER FALCON
MY EDUCATION
QUIET COMPANY
SPEAK • OH-LOOK-OUT

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EAST, DOORS @ 7PM:

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

EAST, INSIDE DOORS @ 8PM

WU-TANG CLAN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

EMOS EAST, DOORS @ 6:30PM:
SODA JERIK PRESENTS

IN FLAMES • TRIVIUM
VEIL OF MAYA • KYNG

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

EAST, DOORS @ 9PM:
BADFISH
A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME
TIX THROUGH C3CONCERTS.COM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

EAST, DOORS @ 7PM:
NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:
AUGUST BURNS RED
SILVERSTEIN • TEXAS IN JULY • LETLIVE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

EAST, DOORS @ 6PM:
SODA JERIK PRESENTS:
D.R.U.G.S.
HIT THE LIGHTS • LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME
SPARKS THE RESCUE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

EAST, DOORS @ 6PM:
SODA JERIK PRESENTS:
ATTACK! ATTACK!
THE GHOST INSIDE • SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK! • DREAM ON, DREAMER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

EAST, DOORS @ 7PM:
SODA JERIK PRESENTS:
CHILDREN OF BODOM
ELUVEITIE • REVOCATION • THREAT SIGNAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

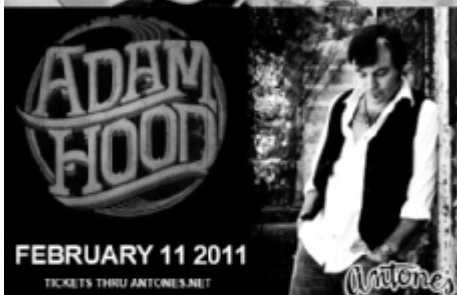
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ICED EARTH • WARBRINGER

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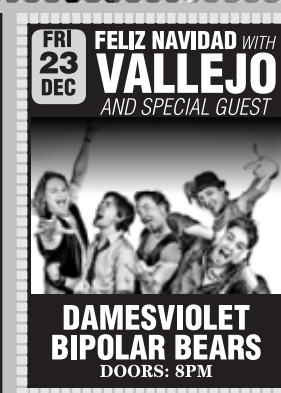
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THU 22 DEC
THE BLITZENS



NEW MYSTERY GIRL
MIKE BUCK OF PUSSYCAT
SPINNING XMAS SOUL
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 23 DEC
FELIZ NAVIDAD WITH VALLEJO
AND SPECIAL GUEST



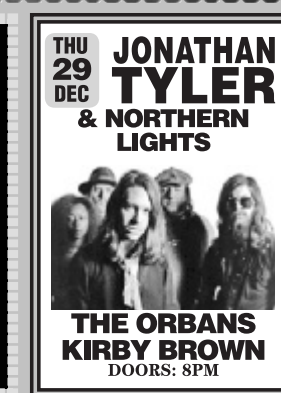
DAMESVIOLET
BIPOLAR BEARS
DOORS: 8PM

WED 28 DEC
ANTONE'S ALUMNI WINTER BALL
MARCIA BALL



LOU ANN BARTON
DENNY FREEMAN
DEREK O'BRIEN+CHRIS LAYTON+SCOTT NELSON
DOORS: 7PM

THU 29 DEC
JONATHAN TYLER & NORTHERN LIGHTS



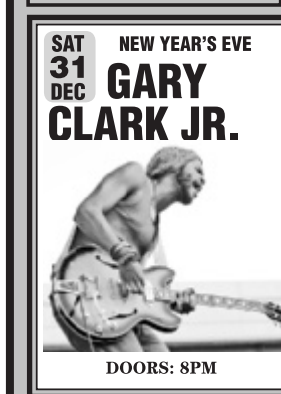
THE ORBANS
KIRBY BROWN
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 30 DEC
JOE ELY BAND



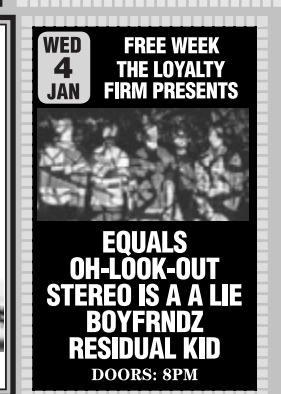
BLACK MATCHES
JONATHAN TERRELL
DOORS: 8PM

SAT 31 DEC
NEW YEAR'S EVE
GARY CLARK JR.



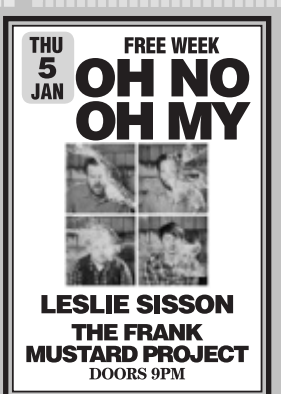
DOORS: 8PM

WED 4 JAN
FREE WEEK
THE LOYALTY FIRM PRESENTS



EQUALS
OH-LOOK-OUT
STEREO IS A A LIE
BOYFRNDZ
RESIDUAL KID
DOORS: 8PM

THU 5 JAN
FREE WEEK
OH NO OH MY



LESLIE SISSON
THE FRANK
MUSTARD PROJECT
DOORS 9PM

FRI 6 JAN
FREE WEEK
KRIS K PRESENTS
PHRANCHYZE



ZAPATA!
THE HOUR BAND
DOORS: 7PM

SAT 7 JAN
FREE WEEK
WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS



THE HAPPEN-INS
GOLD BEACH
DOORS 8PM

SUN 8 JAN
FREE WEEK
SUN RECORDS SUNDAY
A ROCKABILLY DANCE PARTY WITH



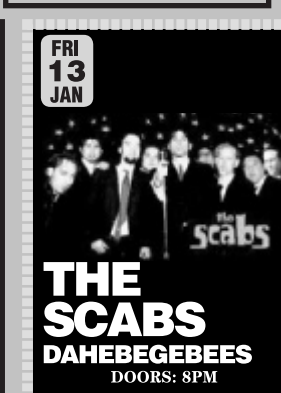
THE DERAILERS

TUE 10 JAN
A SPECIAL BLUE TUESDAY
BOB MARGOLIN



DEREK O'BRIEN
MALFORD MILLIGAN
MIKE FLANIGIN
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 13 JAN



THE SCABS
DAHEBEGEBEES
DOORS: 8PM

SAT 14 JAN
REVEREND HORTON HEAT



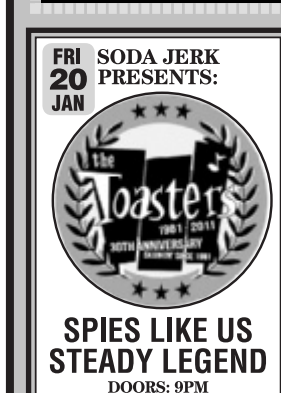
NOT IN THE FACE
WHISKEY SHIVERS
DOORS: 8PM

WED 18 JAN



WESTERN BURLESQUE SHOWCASE
DELIA DREAD,
BETTY BLUE,
DUKE CITY GYPSY,
PANTIE OAKLEY & MORE
DOORS: 8PM

FRI 20 JAN
SODA JERK PRESENTS:



SPIES LIKE US
STEADY LEGEND
DOORS: 9PM

SUN 22 JAN
IN THE NAME OF THE DAME TOO



THE FLATLANDERS
LOST GONZO BAND
MARCIA BALL
MONTE WARDEN
BAND OF HEATHENS
6PM

WED 25 JAN
HOLD MY BABY GALS WITH GUITAR NIGHT



THE RANKIN TWINS
KYLE RAE HARRIS
KIMBERLY KELLY
BRI BAGWELL
DOORS 8PM

THU 26 JAN
WAKA WINTER CLASSIC
THE WAKARUSA MUSIC FESTIVAL
ASHES OF BABYLON
DIMITRI'S ASCENT
HOLDING SPACE
SOUL TRACK
MIND
STRAWBERRY JAM
DOORS: 8PM

SAT 28 JAN
BOB SCHNEIDER



DANNY MALONE
NAKIA
DOORS 8:30PM

COMING SOON: JAN 19 - THE MOUNTAIN GOATS, NURSES (C3CONCERTS.COM) • JAN 29 ME TALK PRETTY / MADINA LAKE / HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS / GET SCARED / NEW YEARS DAY
JAN 30 - THE BLACK MATCHES, JONATHAN TERRELL • FEB 1 - WHERE'S THE BAND TOUR (C3CONCERTS.COM) • FEB 2 - MIKE PINTO • FEB 3 - CORY MORROW
FEB 4 - JUNIOR BROWN / BILL KIRCHEN / DEL-VIPERS • FEB 21 - MATTHEW GOOD W/ EMILY GREENE (C3CONCERTS.COM) • FEB 25 - SUPERSUCKERS / THE SPITTIN' COBRAS / DIXIE WITCH • FEB 27 KGSR PRESENTS GOMEZ / HEY ROSETTA! (C3CONCERTS.COM) • FEB 28 KUT WELCOMES GOMEZ / HEY ROSETTA! (C3CONCERTS.COM)
MAR 13 - BAND OF SKULLS W/ WE ARE AUGUSTINES (C3CONCERTS.COM) • MAR - 30 RAY WYLIE HUBBARD CD RELEASE PARTY W/ CHARLIE SHAFTER

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ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUDITORIUM SHORES, 920 W. Riverside, 416-9667
AZUL TEQUILA MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667
BABY ACAPULCO NO. 3, 5610 N. I-35, 302-1366
BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 3003 S. Lamar, 691-9140
BAR 141, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 512/558-7399
BAT BAR, 218 E. Sixth, 474-6363
BB ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK
BEVERLY S. SHEFFIELD ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER, 2206 William Barton Dr., 397-1463
BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR, 422 E. Sixth, 476-1077
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
BUDDY'S PLACE, 8619 Burnet Rd., 459-4677
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE MONDI, 801 Tillery,
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham St., San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEER UP CHARLIE'S, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991
CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CHUGGIN' MONKEY, 219 E. Sixth, 476-5015
CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519
CONANS PIZZA, 2018 W. Stassney, 441-6754
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger, 512/859-0700
DIZZY ROOSTER, 306 E. Sixth, 236-1667
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S EAST, 2015 Riverside, 474-5370
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541
EMPIRE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, 604 E. Seventh, 477-1047
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 28-CAJUN
FADÓ IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FAIR BEAN COFFEE, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GOGO BAR, 209 W. Fifth,
GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HALCYON, 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637
THE HIGHBALL, 1142 S. Lamar, 383-8309
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 302-1470
HOTEL VEGAS, 1500 E. Sixth, 589-1411
HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, 701 Congress, 457-8800
IRON CACTUS, 10001 Stonelake, 794-8778
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe, 467-IDOL
KICK BUTT COFFEE, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425
LA FERIA RESTAURANT, 2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LATITUDE 30, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335
LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT, 506 West, 236-0083
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MALAI WORLD LOUNGE, 300 E. Sixth, 762-2000
MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA, 8012 Mesa, 349-2126
MARIA MARIA, 415 Colorado, 687-6800
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MIDNIGHT RODEO, 2201 E. Ben White, 443-2623
MISTER TRAMPS SPORTS PUB & CAFE, 8565 Research, 837-3500
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOJOE ROOM BAR & GRILL, 6406 N. I-35 #1600, 206-4110
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth #200, 479-8848
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MUGSHOTS, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008
NEWORLEDEL, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
PALMER EVENTS CENTER, 900 Barton Springs Rd.,
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381
PARKSIDE, 301 E. Sixth, 474-9898
PATSY'S CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
POODLE DOG LOUNGE, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468
QUOFFERS PUB, 117 N. Main St., Elgin, 512/281-0999, 877/811-0422
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
THE RED ROOSTER, 109 E. Pecan, Pflugerville, 251-4129
RED SHED TAVERN, 8504 S. Congress, 280-4899
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock, 512/218-0813
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884
THE SAHARA LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 927-0700
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter #400, 288-9994
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SENGELMANN HALL, 531 N. Main St., Schulenburg, 979/743-2300
SFC FARMERS' MARKET AT SUNSET VALLEY, 3200 Jones, 236-0074
SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SKINNY'S BALLROOM, 115 San Jacinto, 476-1962
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE, 300 Colorado #200, 495-6504
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
TEXAS MIST, 1115 Bastrop Hwy., 385-3553
THE THIRSTY NICKEL, 325 E. Sixth, 473-8891
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
III FORKS, 111 Lavaca, 474-1776
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
29TH STREET BALLROOM, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 291-6211
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE, 1500 E. Sixth, 680-0532
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007
WHIP IN, 1950 S. I-35, 442-5337
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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STUBB'S

801 RED RIVER
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WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

WED JAN 25

THE KILLS
WITH JEFF THE BROTHERHOOD AND HUNTERS
101X

FRI JAN 27

MUTEMATH
ODD SOUL TOUR
101X

FRI FEB 10

Rebellion
PEACE OF MIND TOUR
Green

SAT FEB 18

NEED TO BREATHE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST BEN RECTOR

IN THE CLUB

FRI DEC 30 DOORS 9PM
ACHACHAY! WITH BOB FLOYD BAND

SAT DEC 31 DOORS 9PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW!
T. BIRD & THE BREAKS
WITH THE SIDESHOW TRAGEDY

THU JAN 5 DOORS 9PM
FREE WEEK THE WHITE WHITE LIGHTS
BLACK BOOKS, LES RAV
THE CLOUDS ARE GHOSTS

FRI JAN 6 DOORS 9PM
FREE WEEK AUSTIN VIDA PRESENTS
CHRIS PEREZ BAND
MANEJA BETO, VITERA, KALUA

SAT JAN 7 DOORS 9PM
FREE WEEK ART VERSUS INDUSTRY
WITH EYES BURN ELECTRIC

WED JAN 11 DOORS 9PM
FRANKIE BALLARD

SAT JAN 14 DOORS 9PM
CASS McCOMBS WITH FRANK FAIRFIELD

TUE JAN 17 DOORS 9PM
LANGHORNE SLIM AND THE LAW
WITH RAYLAND BAXTER AND BEAU JENNINGS

THU JAN 19 DOORS 9PM
LELIA BROUSSARD AND **GABE DIXON**

FRI JAN 20 DOORS 9PM
SHINY EMPIRE WITH PAPER HOTEL

SAT JAN 21 DOORS 9PM
SQUINT, WAITING FOR AUGUST NOONER, AND RADIO FALLOUT

CALENDAR

- 1-28* THE FEATURES
- 1-31* THE DIRTY GUV'NAHS
- 2-2* PHRANCHYZE WITH HOUR BAND AND THE SMITES
- 2-4* CAITLIN ROSE
- 2-6* JEREMY JAY WITH SURVIVE
- 2-9* SOUL REBELS BRASS BAND CD RELEASE PARTY FOR "UNLOCK YOUR MIND"
- 2-11* THE SOLDIER THREAD WITH LANGUAGE ROOM
- 2-23* TRIBAL SEEDS
- 3-3* BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS

FOR PRIVATE EVENTS CALL 444-2001 | TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STUBB'S & C3CONCERTS.COM

LA ZONA ROSA

612 West 4th Street Austin, TX 78701



COMING SOON
SAT FEB 4: G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW THROUGH
C3CONCERTS.COM

HOLIDAY SHOPPING, LIVE MUSIC & FUN



Thursday, December 22

12:30 pm..... Hot Club of Cowtown
3:30 pm..... Warren Hood and the Goods
8:00 pm..... Ray Wylie Hubbard

Friday, December 23

12:30 pm..... Sons of Fathers
3:30 pm..... Shelley King
8:00 pm..... Slaid Cleaves

Saturday, December 24

12:30 pm..... Cienfuegos
3:30 pm..... Jitterbug Vipers
8:00 pm..... Texana Dames

Open until 11 PM
on Christmas Eve

**DECEMBER 14-24, 2011 | 11 AM-11 PM DAILY
PALMER EVENTS CENTER**



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Thu 12/30 \$10/\$15 8:30pm

**The Nadis Warriors
Spoonfed Tribe
Hatch**

Fri 1/13 \$11/\$13 9pm

Balmorhea

Sat 1/21 \$22/\$25 8pm

**Mason Jennings
with Jillian Edwards**
(c3concerts.com)

UPCOMING:

- 2/25 The Band of Heathens (c3concerts.com)
- 3/3 William Fitzsimmons (Moved from Stubb's Jr. - c3concerts.com)
- 3/30 Easley w/ Marksmen and Christie Dupree
- 4/11 Bowerbirds w/ Dry the River (c3concerts.com)
- 4/24 Bear In Heaven

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
214 East 6th Street • Austin, TX
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THREADGILL'S dang.

SOUTH ON RIVERSIDE

SOUTH ON RIVERSIDE

Merry Christmas!

Sun Dec. 25

Both locations will be open
From 10 am til 9:30 pm
Brunch Hours: 10 am til 1 pm
no gospel music at south location

THE BACKROOM PRESENTS

School Night SESSIONS

HOSTED BY: JESSIE SCOTT (ALL SHOWS INDOOR)

Mon Dec. 26

Ali Holder & Shakey Graves 8 pm
\$10

Tue Dec. 27

Gurf Morlix & Grant Peeples 8 pm
\$10

Coming Soon...

1/2 - Garrett LeBeau with Friends
1/3 - Marshall Anderson

NORTH ON LAMAR

11 am Sun Dec. 25

Hank & Shaidri

7 pm Wed Dec. 28

Alrich
no cover

Sat Dec. 31

New Years Eve with...
Jimmy LaFave 8 pm
check website or call 451-5440 for details!

TWO LOCATIONS
3 VENUES



SOUTH - WORLD HEADQTS.
301 W. RIVERSIDE
512-472-9304

NORTH - OLD No. 1
6416 NORTH LAMAR
512-451-5440



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SUNDAY 12/25

AUSTIN ICON ALAN HAYNES

THURSDAY 12/22

JO HELL

\$3 YOU CALL IT

FRIDAY 12/23

MIKE MILLIGAN
DOWNSTAIRS

DJ KENN ROOFTOP

MASH-UP DJ TETSUO
IN THE GIBSON ROOM

SATURDAY 12/24

CHRISTMAS EVE

OPEN NORMAL HOURS!

DJ KID IN THE GIBSON ROOM

DJ KENN ROOFTOP DECK

SUNDAY 12/25

CHRISTMAS DAY

OPEN NORMAL HOURS!

AUSTIN ICON

ALAN HAYNES!

\$3 DRINK SPECIALS

MONDAY 12/26

**BLUE MONDAY BLUES JAM W/
MIKE MILLIGAN &
THE ALTAR BOYZ**

\$3 DRINK SPECIALS

WEDNESDAY 12/28

DEREK WINTERS

\$3 DRINK SPECIALS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 • 7PM

STRUMERO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 • 10PM • \$7

BO PORTER

SAT & SUN, DECEMBER 24 & 25

CLOSED-MERRY CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 • 7PM

BRENNEN LEIGH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

LOUIS "COWBOY" JOHNSON 7PM

THE PEACEMAKERS 10PM • \$5

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GRUENE Hall

Texas' Oldest Dancehall

Wednesday, December 28th

ZACK WALTHER BAND

Thursday, December 29th

BRANDON RHYDER

Friday, December 30th

THE BAND OF HEATHENS

Saturday, December 31st - NEW YEAR'S EVE!

CODY CANADA & THE DEPARTED

Sunday, January 1st - No Cover

HAIR OF THE DOG DAY

featuring Midnight River Choir, Guy Forsyth and Walt Wilkins & The Mystiqueros

Check website for complete schedule including FREE AFTERNOON SHOWS ALL WEEK!

GrueneHall.com

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ★ RECOMMENDED ♪ HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

CLUB LISTINGS

THURSDAY

ANTONE'S DJ Mike Buck, New Mystery Girl, the Blitzens (8:00) **A**

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Paper Moon Shiners **A**

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Acoustic Austin w/ Justif (9:00) **A**

BAT BAR Continuums

BEERLAND Bloody Knives ♪, Nazi Gold (9:00)

BEVERLY S. SHEFFIELD ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER Tje Austin ♪, Nakia (7:00)

BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Harold Whit Williams, Bobby Bookout (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Sounds of AM (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Tameca Jones (6:30) **A**

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Hill Country Gentlemen (10:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: The Peterson Bros., Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), Barfield (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Tiffany Alana Dodgen (4:30), Guilty Pleasures (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws (7:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Woody Price (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Rich Harney & Alex Coke ♪ (9:30)

ELYSIUM DJ Chapzzz

EMO'S Crooked Bangs, the Creationists, the Gospel Truth, the Young, Dikes of Holland (9:00) **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Irie Holidaze w/ Stay Sane, Subrosa Union (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Daisy O'Connor (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00) **A**

FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Bo Porter (6:00) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Johnny Gimble (6:30)

THE HIGHBALL Two Hoots & a Holler (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL J.D. Clark, Hello Caller ♪, Shakey Graves (10:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Drew Nix, Johnny Goudie, Joseph King (9:00)

HOUSE WINE A.J. Vincent (7:00)

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Stephen F. Bar: Weldon Henson & Devin Preitauer

JOVITA'S J.R. Gomez ♪ (8:00) **A**

KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00) **A**

KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Big Ole Band (7:00)

LA FERIA RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (7:00) **A**

LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)

LAMBERTS Masumi & the Gentlemen (7:30)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Guy Forsyth, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Protege (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00) **A**

MOHAWK Bali Yaaa ♪, Burning Hotels, the Soldier Thread, Ishi (9:00) **B**

MOMO'S David Johnson, Cheryl Murdock, the Dead Left, Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue, Clayton Colvin, Baby Atlas

ONE 2 ONE BAR Subculture Patriots, Fremen, MC Overlord (9:00) **B**

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Hot Club of Cowtown (noon), Warren Hood & the Goods (3:30), Ray Wylie Hubbard (8:00) **A**

PLUSH Brad Hoods, Anna Love (10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jodi Adair (7:00) **A**

RED EYED FLY Orbitman & Ground Control, Sciborg & the Robopimps

THE RED ROOSTER Rockin' Steve RILEY'S TAVERN Samantha Lynn & the Love Liberation (9:00)

ROADHOUSE Mojo Jam

ROMEO'S Sarah Sharp, the Jitterbug Vipers (7:30) **A**

RUTA MAYA Balam Bar Opening w/ LABS, Ghosts of Texas, Amplified Heat ♪, Honky (9:00) **A**

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR T. Jarrod Bonta (6:30)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00); Ghosts Along the Brazos, Jack Wilson, the Bluegrass Outfit (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Encore **B**

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Rebecca Loebe, Jonathan Jeter, Carson Alexander, Karl Morgan (8:00) **B**

SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE Matt Wilson Band ♪ (7:30)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

OPA!

KALES GIORTES
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

COFFEE & WINE BAR

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!

NO COVER

• DEANN RENE BAND (DANCE MUSIC)

• FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST

• 4 COURSE HOMEMADE GREEK DINNER - \$25 PP

MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTIES NOW AT NO CHARGE!

HAPPY HOUR

3-7PM EVERYDAY
AND ALL DAY SUNDAY

LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

KITCHEN OPEN LATE

FULL BAR
51 LOCAL & IMPORTED BEERS

OPA'N MIC NIGHT EVERY TUESDAY

LOCAL COFFEE & ILLY ITALIAN ROAST AVAILABLE

ROAD SHOWS

December

THU 22

Crooked Bangs, Emo's
Ishi, Mohawk

Fremen, One 2 One Bar
Encore, Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill

Rebecca Loebe, Skinny's Ballroom

FRI 23

Blood Royale, Dirty Charlie Band, Beerland

The Anti-Alls, Emo's
Contrabandits, Flamingo Cantina

Revenants, Hole in the Wall
The Castaneda Project, Jovita's
Grommit, Tyrant, Sloppy Jackson, I/O, Plush

The Haymakers, the Red Rooster

Richard Bowden, Romeo's

SUN 25

Red Young Trio, Elephant Room

MON 26

Blower, Emo's

TUE 27

Encore, Cedar Street
Navasota String Band, Skinny's Ballroom

WED 28

Frenetica, Hotel Vegas

THU 29

Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, Antone's

The Locksmiths, Unspoken Levels, Beerland

Buster Jiggs, Cheatham Street Warehouse

Quintron, Mind Spiders, Emo's

Leopold & His Fiction, Hotel Vegas

FRI 30

Killdozer, Emo's
Nadis Warriors, Spoonfed Tribe, the Parish

SAT 31

Big Don, Auditorium Shores
Young Girls, Cheer Up Charlie's

Wooden Shjips, Emo's East
Royal Bangs, Empire Automotive Service

Big Freedra, Turquoise Jeep, Mohawk

KP & the Boom Boom, Romeo's

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. ACTS ARE LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY. SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO CALL CLUBS TO CONFIRM LINEUPS. START TIMES ARE PROVIDED WHERE KNOWN AND ARE PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY MORNINGS, 9AM, FOR THAT WEEK'S ISSUE, PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SEND VENUE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES

TO: CLUB LISTINGS, PO BOX 49066, AUSTIN, TX 78765; FAX, 458-6910; PHONE, 454-5766 X159; EMAIL, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

AUSTIN BANDS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED AND UPLOADED YOUR MP3S TO THE MUSICIANS REGISTER, GO TO AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/REGISTER. ANYWHERE YOUR BAND IS MENTIONED, YOUR MUSIC WILL BE FEATURED.



HOT BURRITO NO. 29
& **SPIDER HOUSE**

INVITE YOU TO

NYE 1977

CHEAP TRICK

(Max Vandever, Quin Galavis, Caleb Dawson & Jason McNeely)

BLONDIE

(Bobby Jealousy)

DAVID BOWIE

(Roky Moon & BOLT)

B-52'S (Dikes of Holland)

TALKING HEADS

(Party Lines W/ Johnny Walker)

RUNAWAYS | **SUICIDE**

(Members of Lola Cola) (Members of Gospel Truth & Hidden Ritual)

TELEVISION (Shivery Shakes)

DEAD BOYS (Bad Lovers)

BLACK SABBATH (Children of the Grave)

At **29th St Ballroom**

& **SPIDER HOUSE**

DOORS 7PM
DEC 31st

SPIDERHOUSECAFE.COM

THE Saxon Pub
1320 S. LAMAR 448.2552
21 Years as Austin's Home for Live Music

December 22
JACK WILSON 10PM \$10 >
Bluegrass Outfit 12AM \$10
rebecca loebe 8PM \$10
No Cover Happy Hour **EIGHTYSIXED** w/DAVID HOYT AND TOMMY SHANNON 6PM

December 23
W.C. CLARK 9PM \$10
Michael Holt and the Trophy 500s 11:30PM \$10
No Cover Happy Hour **EARL POOLE BALL AND THE COSMIC AMERICANS** 6PM

December 24
MISS LAVELLE WHITE'S CHRISTMAS 10PM \$10
Jackie Bristow 8:30PM \$10
Lisa Marshall Band 12AM \$10
Reed Turner 7PM \$10
Wink Keziah 3PM No Cover

December 25
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 5:30PM \$15
THE RESENTMENTS with Bruce and Scrappy 7:30PM \$10
special guest **malford milligan**
Jeff Plankenhorn 10:30PM \$5

December 26
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 8PM \$10
Jackie Bristow 7PM \$10 **The Leavers** 11PM \$5 **Edison Chair** 12:30AM \$5

December 27
aimless gun 10:30PM \$5
Bruce Hughes and the All Nude Army 8:30PM \$5
RODNEY PYEATT 12:15AM \$5
No Cover Happy Hour **David Grissom** 6PM

December 28
WALT WILKINS & THE MYSTIQUEROS
Hunter McKithan and the Offenders 9PM \$10
Atticus George 12:30AM \$5 No Cover Happy Hour **The Nortons** 6PM

December 29
PATRICE PIKE **December 30**
BUBBLE PUPPY

December 31
GUY FORSYTH

COMING UP
JAN 2 **LONELYLAND**
JAN 6 **WHITE GHOST SHIVERS**
JAN 12 **Moonlighters** | JAN 13 **VALLEJO**
JAN 14 **DEADMAN** | JAN 27 **SETH WALKER**
FEB 7 **ALPHA REV**
FEB 11 **Mickey and the Motorcars**
WWW.THESAXONPUB.COM

FROM THURSDAY

TEXAS MIST Big Money, Don Turnley's Shotgun House (8:00)
THE THIRSTY NICKEL The Bomb Squad (9:00)
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Surf Christmas Party w/ the Lonesome Heroes, Boys & Gull, Nematoads (7:00) A
TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band (6:00); Faceless Preacher, Immerse, Blood For Master (9:00)
TROPHY'S Christmas Formal
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Shake (10:00)
Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

FRIDAY

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
ANDERSON MILL TAVERN DJ Czech One
AZUL TEQUILA MEXICAN RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (8:00) A
BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Dysfunkshun Junkshun A
BEERLAND Dirty Charlie Band, Sabbath Crow, Blood Royale (8:00) R
BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)
'BOU TIME DJ Element
BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Gary P Nunn (8:00)
BUDDY'S PLACE Son Geezinslaw, Glenn Collins (8:00)
CEDAR STREET Trent Durham (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Manteca Beat (6:30) A
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE HalleyAnna (10:00)
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Pool Party w/ Jacob Goldberg (7:00) A
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Guilty Pleasures (9:00)
CONANS PIZZA Matt "Blue Cat" Ferrel (6:30) A
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Frosty (8:30); In the Club: Christmas w/ the Wagoneers (7:00, 11:30)
DIZZY ROOSTER Aaron Navarro (4:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Daniel Stokes, Bordertown Bootleggers (6:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (8:00) A
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mariachi Tamazula (8:00) A
ELEPHANT ROOM The Jitterbug Vipers, Henry Brun
ELYSIUM DJ SynthMaster, DJ Pumpkin Spice, the Cure Tribute w/ Madchester (9:00)
EMO'S The Anti-Aills, Riverboat Gamblers (9:00) R A
FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Shanx, Contrabandits, Dub Gideon (9:00) R
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00) A
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dane Sterling, Clay Harrell (6:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)
HILL'S CAFE Jon Burklund A
HOLE IN THE WALL Bass Line Bums, the Anchor, Revenants (10:00) R
HOTEL VEGAS DJ Lady Business, DJ Rusty Lazer
INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Danielle Reich (5:30)
JOVITA'S Shand Walton, Copy Cats Christmas Show, the Castaneda Project (6:00) R A
LATITUDE 30 Los Jefes (5:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE John Prather (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00) A
MIDNIGHT RODEO Jon Wolfe Band (10:00)
MOHAWK Low Times, Free Beer, Bros. Peabodys (9:00)
MOMO'S Ginger Leigh, Ghosts Along the Brazos, Meggan Carney (8:00)
NEWORLDELI Radiola
ONE 2 ONE BAR Bekah Kelso, Lisa Tingle (8:00)
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sons of Fathers, Shelley King, Sweet Mary's Blazing Bows, Slaid Cleave (noon) A
PLUSH I/O, Sloppy Jackson, Tyrant, Grommit (10:00) R
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Asahley Monical (4:00); Ratliffe Dean, Shandon Sahn (7:00) A
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Infinite Rain
RED EYED FLY Drain, This Is a Joke Please Be Offended, Destructive Guerilla Force, Elery White

THE RED ROOSTER The Haymakers (9:30) R
RILEY'S TAVERN Rosie Flores (9:00)
ROADHOUSE Billy Hamilton & the Low Riders
ROMEO'S Mo McMorrow w/ Richard Bowden, Bleu Cheese Christmas w/ the Saddle (7:00) R A
RUTA MAYA Balam Bar Grand Opening w/ Lost Pines, Deadtown, Squinto (9:00) A
THE SAHARA LOUNGE DJ Thriller
SAM'S TOWN POINT Fossil & the Shrinking Members
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR (7:00)
SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00), W.C. Clark (9:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Video Stars
STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley
TEXAS MIST DJ Joe Hernandez (9:00)
THE THIRSTY NICKEL Gary Lee Cox (8:30)
III FORKS Ken Slavin (7:00) A
TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers, Scott H. Biram (6:00)
TROPHY'S Light the Sun, Vanagen (9:00)

SATURDAY

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
'BOU TIME DJ Element (9:00)
CEDAR STREET Jordan Tanner (6:00)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Rick Broussard, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jimmie Vaughan, Frosty (8:30); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00)
DIZZY ROOSTER Mike V. (4:30), Gary Lee Cox (8:00)
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes (8:00) A
ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell
LATITUDE 30 Los Jefes (5:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Spyda (8:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Jeff Banks (7:00)
MOMO'S Betty Black, Jason Blum, Suzanna Choffel (8:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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Tue 12/27 (10:30p) **Navasota String Band**
Ghosts Along the Brazos (8p)
Bob Hoffnar pedal steel virtuoso (6p)

Wed 12/28 (9:30p) **Noelle Hampton** (8:30p)
Charlie Faye ★ (6p) **Tim Curry Trio**

Thu 12/29 (8p) **Nakia** ★ (7p) **Jane Bryant**

Sat 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE **Miles Zuniga** of Fastball (8p) with **Danny Malone** ★ **Union Specific**

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM SATURDAY

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Cienfuegos, the Jitterbug Vipers, String-Off, Texana Dames (noon) **A**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Thom Shepherd **A**

THE RED ROOSTER Lou Dog

ROMEO'S Mike June (8:00) **A**

RUTA MAYA Latin Jam (9:00) **A**

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Zoumountchi

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Carols w/ Ava Arenella (7:00)

SAXON PUB Miss Lavelle White's White Christmas w/ Reed Turner, Lisa Marshall, Dustin Welch (10:00)

SFC FARMERS' MARKET AT SUNSET VALLEY Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band (10:00am)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Barebones Orchestra (5:00)

TEXAS MIST DJ Spinner (8:30)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Sean Evans (4:30), Guilty Pleasures (9:00)

III FORKS Ken Slavin (7:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN The Pistolsmiths (6:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE DJ Orion (10:00)

SUNDAY

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Open Mic w/ Justif (7:00) **A**

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00) **A**

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CEDAR STREET The Initials (7:00), Much Love (8:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Rob Fulton (9:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jake Langley (8:30); In the Club: Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00), Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00) **A**

DIZZY ROOSTER Sean Evans (4:30), Jo Hell (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Red Young Trio **R**

ELYSIUM Regression w/ DJ Pumpkinspice, DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Ginny's Holiday All-Stars (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am) **A**

HOUSE WINE Justin Landers (6:00)

KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am) **A**

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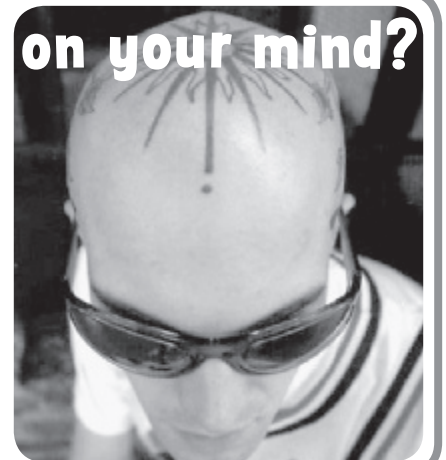
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BREWSKEEBALL AUSTIN
SKEE FOR FREE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 • 9PM
NOTES FLOATS
REAL BOOK FAKE BOOK
PROBLEM CHILD
BAD CHAPTERS
DJ NOTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 9PM
VILLETTE
LEAH NOBEL
THE LIGHT PARADE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
STEADY LEGEND
BEST BEST
BEST FRIENDS
THE NEMATODS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 9PM
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\$5.00 COVER AFTER 8PM
8:45PM - **COPYCATS CHRISTMAS SHOW!**
10:00PM - **THE CHRIS CASTANEDA PROJECT**

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TUESDAY - 12/27
6:00PM - **DANNY PHILLIPS**
8:00PM - **STEFANIE FIX AND FRIENDS**
W/ SPECIAL GUEST **NOELLE HAMPTON**

WEDNESDAY - 12/28
4:00PM - **BRUCE SMITH**
6:00PM - **TEX THOMAS AND THE DANGLIN' WRANGLERS**
8:15PM - **DAVID D STEWART**
9:45PM - **RUSSELL BEACH AND THE STEPCHILDREN**

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29
NANO WHITMAN indie soul pop

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
SON Y NO SON afro-cuban

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
CIENFUEGOS salsa, cuban

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5
CLAY MCCLINTON americana

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
SHELLEY KING americana

SATURDAY JANUARY 7
EPHRAIM OWENS QUARTET jazz

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
BLACKBIRD 3 jazz

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
GHOST ALONG THE BRAZOS swing, folk, pop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
CARPER FAMILY BAND country, bluegrass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28
DRY CREEK RAMBLERS americana, bluegrass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
JOE SUNDELL & MELISSA CARPER americana, bluegrass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
LISA RICHARDS singer-songwriter

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS blues

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
VIRA BOSSA TRIO brazilian afro-cuban

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
ALEX COKE TRIO jazz

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
GUMBO CE SOIR cajun

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
DANIELA RUIZ TRIO afro-cuban

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
PAUL GLASSE, JOHN FREMGEN, MITCH WATKINS jazz, bluegrass

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THU, DEC 22	6-8PM 8-9PM 9:15PM	TONY HARRISON DANCE LESSONS JESSE DAYTON
FRI, DEC 23	8-9PM 9:15PM	DANCE LESSONS GARY P. NUNN
SAT, DEC 24	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	
TUE, DEC 27	6-8PM 8PM	DEBRA PETERS & THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP BILLY GARZA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
WED, DEC 28	6-8PM 8-9PM 9:15PM	TJ BONTA DANCE LESSONS CHAPARRAL W/ JEFF HUGHES

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WED 12/28 9PM **ADAM JOHNSON & THE PAY ME'S**

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Thursday December 22nd No Cover
NARRAGANSETT 9:30PM
JODI ADAIR 7PM
BB MORSE HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Friday December 23rd \$5 Cover
BRIAN POUNDS 9:30PM
RATLIFF DEAN 7PM
JANE BRYANT 6:30PM
ASHLEY MONICAL HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Sunday December 25th No Cover
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS BUFFET 2:30PM
TESSY LOU & THE SHOTGUN STARS 3PM

Monday December 26th No Cover
TEXAS SONGWRITER SHOWCASE 6:30PM
GEORGE ENSLE AND WC JAMESON
BRACKEN HALE 10PM

Tuesday December 27th No Cover
JOHN INMON 8:30PM
WINK KEZIAH 6:30PM
WAKE EASTMAN HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Wednesday December 28th No Cover
No Bad Days Open Noc 7PM
BB MORSE
JASON ALLEN HAPPY HOUR 4PM

NO BAD DAYS

12/30 **JAMES HAND** **WC CLARK**

New Years Eve

BS AND BALLADS JANUARY 7TH

AL BARLOW **JIMMY LEE JONES** **BO PORTER**

FROM SUNDAY

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tessa Lou Williams (3:00) A

SAXON PUB Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Resentments, Malford Milligan, Jeff Plankenhorn (5:30)

SPEAKEASY Adam Rodgers (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

MONDAY 12/24

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (8:00) A

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30) A

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Matt Wilson Band (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Sterling Finlay Bash

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30) A

CHUGGIN' MONKEY The Bomb Squad (9:00)

CLUB 1808 Illustrations (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ben Livingston & the "That's What She Said!" Boys, Afrofreque, the Lost Counts (7:00); In the Club: Adam Johnson & the Pay Me's (6:30); Ben Livingston, Afrofreque, the Lost Counts (7:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Tish & Misbehavin' (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) A

EMO'S Scrabble Robot, the Negatives, Blower, John Wesley Coleman (8:45) A

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) A

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Rambler Rose, the Bluegrass Outfit (6:00) A

GIDDY UPS Mark Allen Atwood (7:00)

HALCYON World Music Jam w/ Roberto Riggio (10:00) A

THE HIGHBALL MatchMaker Band (9:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Cass Brostead, Mike & the Moonpies (10:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Chris Tondre (9:00)

MISTER TRAMPS SPORTS PUB & CAFE Open Mike Acoustic Jam w/ Nick Hirsch (8:00) A

MOMO'S William Kelley, K. Phillips, Amy Annelle (5:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00) A

MUGSHOTS Chuck Miller's Acoustic Open Mic (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tris & Tes, Braken Hale, Songwriters Showcase (4:00) A

ROMEO'S Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (6:45) A

RUTA MAYA Esoteric Dubstep, Gypsy Bazaar (10:00) A

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Moeller Bros.

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Open Mic w/ Tricky Jones, Amelia Card (7:00)

SPEAKEASY Caitie Taylor (10:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Austin Heat (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Robbie Doyen & James Thompson, Chief & the Doomsday Device (6:00)

VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)

WHIP IN Brittany Shane (8:00) A

TUESDAY 12/25

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Open Mic (9:00) A

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan, Chris Layton (10:30) A

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30) A

BAT BAR The Bomb Squad

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith (7:00)

BLIND PIG PUB Guilty Pleasures

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Encore (8:00) A

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Mayeaux & Broussard (9:30), John Evans (11:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Sonny Wolf (9:00)

CLUB 1808 Jackyls, Bust, Just Sayin', Wildchild (9:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

CLUB LISTINGS

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: James McMurtry, Ephraim Owens Experience (8:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Nothing Left (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kevin Lovejoy (8:00) A

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Marcus Graf (9:30)

ELYSIUM Yacht Club (8:00)

EMO'S Quin Galavais, the Black, December Boys, Glorium, Knife in the Water (9:00) A

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (7:00) A

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jackie Bristow (8:00) A, Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00) A

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Conclusion Jumpers (9:00)

GOGO BAR Guilty Pleasures

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund A

HOLE IN THE WALL Southbound Drive, I Hate the Remix, Captain Meave's Cider Sippers (10:00)

HOUSE WINE David Webb (8:00)

JOVITA'S Danny Phillips, Stefanie Fix, Noelle Hampton (6:00) A

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Jane Ellen Bryant (7:00)

LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT Matt Powell, the Twalls (6:00)

MALAI WORLD LOUNGE Psymbionic (10:00)

MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Austinsongz (7:00)

MOMO'S Curtis McMurtry & God's Chosen People, Songwriter Series, Wounded City (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne Sutton, Karl Morgan, Treetop Sailors (10:45)

PATSY'S CAFE Sand & Sunnie (6:30)

PLUSH Sonar DnB, Sonar

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Wink Keziah, Jon Inmon, Wake Eastman (4:00) A

RED EYED FLY Eliot James, Trevor Davis

RILEY'S TAVERN Kris Smith (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00) A

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Moose Tongue Texture

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SAT 24th 8PM **OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE happy holidays!**

SUN 25th 10PM **OPEN CHRISTMAS KARAOKE**

MON 26th 10PM **MIKE & THE MOONPIES CASS BROSTAD**

TUES 27th 10PM **CAPTAIN MAEVE'S CIDER SIPPERS I HATE THE REMIX SOUTHWEST DRIVE**

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM TUESDAY

SAXON PUB David Grissom (6:00); Bruce Hughes, Rob Baird, Rodney Pyeatt (8:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL John Boyd

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Bob Hoffnar (6:30); Ghosts Along the Brazos, Navasota String Band, Aimless Gun (6:30) **R**

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Aaron Navarro (9:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Grant Peebles, Gurf Morlix (9:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Allen Cote (6:00)

TROPHY'S Acoustic Open Mic (9:00)

29TH STREET BALLROOM The Lonesome Heroes (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Honky-Tonk Tuesday w/ Evan Christian (6:00) **A**

WHIP In Odd Tuesday Open Mic w/ DC Bloom (8:00) **A**

Z'TEJAS Robert Kelly (6:00)

WEDNESDAY 12/23

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Carson Alexander

BAT BAR Austin Heat (11:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brooke Avid (10:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Dry Creek Ramblers (6:30) **A**

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (11:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY John Chavez (4:30), Aaron Navarro (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Bustamoovalators; Trube, Farrell, & Snizz (8:30); In the Club: Hot Club of Cowtown (6:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Mylon English (4:30), the Bomb Squad (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (8:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00)

ELYSIUM Mid-Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister (8:00)

EMO'S Wiccans, Video, OBN III's **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Nic Walker, Thick Red Wine, Quinn Taylor Walton, Dirty Unshaven Lonesome, Pink Miss Liss (8:00) **A**

GIDDY UPS Open Mic (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alan Haynes (9:00)

THE HIGHBALL Black Red Black (10:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Elle King, John Neilson, No Show Ponies, Modrag (9:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Dee Jaeh Cumbe, Huerta Culture, Frenetica (9:00) **R**

JOVITA'S Bruce Smith (4:00); Tex Thomas & the Dangler Wranglers, David D. Stewart, Russell Beach & the Stepchildren (6:00) **A**

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30) **A**

LUCKY LOUNGE Adam Johnson & the Pay Me's (9:00)

MARIA MARIA Jeff Lofton Quartet (7:00) **A**

MOJOE ROOM BAR & GRILL Love & Harmony Open Mic (9:30) **A**

MOMO'S Paula Held, Cactus Fuzz, Sons of Fathers, Ulrich Ellison, King Biscuit (6:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; Dave Scher (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jason Allen (4:00), Open Mic w/ B.B. Morse (7:00) **A**

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY The Chorderos, Son of a Gun, Big Ole Band

RED SHED TAVERN Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (8:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mark Monaco (9:00)

ROMEO'S Tamara Miller, Cass Brostead (7:00) **A**

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (9:00) **A**

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00); Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Hunter McKithan, Atticus George (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Blue Finger Disco

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Tim Curry Trio (6:00); Noelle Hampton, Charlie Faye (8:30)

SPEAKEASY Three Cocks & a Box (10:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Richard Aaron RAB (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Hotel Brotherhood (6:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Libertine Social Club w/ DJ Scorpio, DJ John Gomi (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Open Mic w/ Julie Nolen (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Jeff Plankenhorn, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THURSDAY 12/24

ANTONE'S Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights **R** **A**

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Alan Haynes **A**

BAT BAR Continuums

BEERLAND Higher Than Why, Unspoken Levels, the Triggermen, the Locksmiths (10:00) **R**

BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton (6:00)

CEDAR STREET Sounds of AM (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Buster Jiggs (9:30) **R**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: The Peterson Bros., Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Tiffany Alana Dodgen (4:30), Guilty Pleasures (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kevin Lovejoy **A**

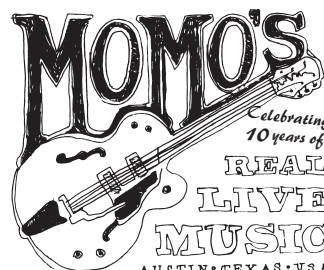
ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00)

EMO'S Flesh Lights, Manatee, Mind Spiders, Quintron **R** **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Globster, Ex-Machina, Perfect Pants (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00) **A**

FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)



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CHERYL MURDOCK 7:45
THE DEAD LEFT 9
STEWART MANN & THE STATESBORO REVUE 10:15
CLAYTON COLVIN BAND 11:15
BABY ATLAS 12:15

FRIDAY DEC 23 \$10

KIMBALL & PAINTER 6:30
GINGER LEIGH 8
GHOSTS ALONG THE BRAZOS 10
MEGGAN CARNEY 12

SATURDAY DEC 24 \$10

BETTY BLACK 8
JASON BLUM 9
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 10:15
LITTLE EMILY WARFIELD 12

SUNDAY DEC 25

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MONDAY DEC 26 \$5

WILLIAM KELLEY NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
ANTHONY LOCKE 6:30
K. PHILLEPS 8
AMY ANNELLE DOES THE SONGS OF THE GREAT UNSUNG 9:45
LAURA JEAN THOMPSON 11

TUESDAY DEC 27 \$5

JAZZ HAPPY HOUR KELSEY'S JAZZ PROJECT 5:30
DAVID ROSENFELD 6:30
CURTIS McMURTRY & GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE 8
& MOMO'S SONGWRITER SERIES
DREW SMITH, GRAHAM WILKINSON, JON BECKHAM 9:30
ALLEN COTE 12

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- Austin Weekly Presents 7pm
- Eric Hokkanen's Lab 9pm

WEDNESDAY (12/28)

- Songwriters Series w/ Lisa Kettyle 8pm

THURSDAY (12/29)

- Troy Campbell 6pm
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RICHARD BOWDEN
9 NILS LASSEN FROM DENMARK
10 THE SADDLE'S 2ND ANNUAL
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Sat, Dec 24

6 FRED JAY ROSS PRESENTS
HOLIDAY TUNES
8 MIKE JUNE & FRIENDS

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Mon, Dec 26

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9 "THE SHOOK-TET"
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FROM THURSDAY

- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)
- GUERO'S TACO BAR** Trent Turner (6:30)
- THE HIGHBALL** Two Hoots & a Holler (8:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Harrison Anderson, Something Real, Jon Stringer, Josh Draper, Squirrel Peit (9:00)
- HOTEL VEGAS** Black Owl Society, Leopold & His Fiction, Zapata! (9:00)
- HOUSE WINE** A.J. Vincent (7:00)
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** Stephen F. Bar: Weldon Henson & Devin Preitauer
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** Open Mic (8:00)
- LA FERIA RESTAURANT** Mariachi Relampago (7:00)
- LA PALAPA** Johnny Gonzales (7:00)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Soulfed (10:00)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00)
- MOHAWK** Joanna Barbera , Little Brave , Jessie Frye (9:00)
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Tom Melancon, AJ Vallejo, Candiland (9:00)
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** Jerry Kirk (4:00)
- QUOFFERS PUB** Achachay (9:00)
- RED EYED FLY** Blak Bird, A Day Over the Moon
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Eric Hisaw (9:00)
- ROADHOUSE** Mojo Jam
- ROMEO'S** Night Train, Beth Lee (7:30)
- RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE** Jeff Lofton (7:00)
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE** Jimmy Dreams
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** T. Jarrod Bonta (6:30)
- SAXON PUB** Eightysixxed (6:00); Patrice Pike, Will Sexton, Fast Luke & the Lead Heavy (8:00)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** WTF?
- SKINNY'S BALLROOM** Nakia, Lisa Marshall (8:00)
- SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE** Matt Wilson Band (7:30)
- TEXAS MIST** Big Money, Don Turnley's Shotgun House (8:00)
- THE THIRSTY NICKEL** The Bomb Squad (9:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Erickson, Lesser Antilles , Debatron, Tramps on Lean (6:00)
- VOLSTEAD LOUNGE** The Shake (10:00)
- WHOLE FOODS MARKET** Justif (7:00)
- Z'TEJAS** The Brew (6:00)

- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio; Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Frosty (8:30); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); W.C. Clark, Paul Ray & the Cobras Holiday Reunion (10:00)
- DIZZY ROOSTER** Aaron Navarro (4:30)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Driskill Bar: Floyd Domino & Redd Volkaert (7:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
- EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Mariachi Tamazula (8:00)
- EMO'S** Rituals, Women in Prison, Killdozer (9:00)
- FAIR BEAN COFFEE** Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00)
- GUERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)
- HILL'S CAFE** Slim Bawb
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Haunted Amps, Bloody Knives , Black Tabs
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** Danielle Reich (5:30)
- LATITUDE 30** Los Jefes (5:30)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)
- MOHAWK** Gogo Beware, Zapata!, Goodnight Goddess, Electric Touch (8:00)
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Tje Austin , Kalu James w/ Donny Jones (9:00)
- THE PARISH** Spoonfed Tribe, Nadis Warriors (10:00)
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** Ashley Monical (4:00), James Hand (7:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Sons of West (9:00)
- ROADHOUSE** Melodic Drifters
- ROMEO'S** Stephanie Fix, Rambler Rose (7:00)
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE** C.J. Edwards & the Finest Kind
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Rich Harney (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Bubble Puppy, Bri Bagwell (9:00)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** The Space Rockers
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH** The Crush (9:00)
- STARDUST CLUB** Aaron Navarro (9:00)
- TEXAS MIST** DJ Joe Hernandez (9:00)
- THE THIRSTY NICKEL** Gary Lee Cox (8:30)

SATURDAY

- AUDITORIUM SHORES** Austin's New Year w/ Carolyn Wonderland & Miss Lavelle White, Vitera, Aftermath, Big Don, Joe McDermott, Madisons, Rambler Rose, Shakey Graves, Rockin' Gospel Project, Nizami, Flying Balalaika Brothers (5:00)
- BABY ACAPULCO NO. 3** New Year's Eve Party w/ Frank Gomez Band (8:00)
- BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Warren Hood & the Goods
- BEERLAND** The Last Cigarette, the Stampede, Stiff Nites, Neon Cobra (8:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)

- CEDAR STREET** Jordan Tanner (6:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Song Swaps
- CHEER UP CHARLIE'S** New Year's Eve Party w/ Gold Spine, Young Girls, the Zoltars, Sleep Good, Marmalakes, the Sour Notes , TV Torso, Ringo Deathstarr (8:00)
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY** Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Rick Broussard, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jimmie Vaughan, Frosty (8:30); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00); Jon Dee Graham, Alejandro Escovedo (9:30)
- DIZZY ROOSTER** Mike V. (4:30), Gary Lee Cox (8:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Michael Holt, Melissa Carper, Joe Sundell, Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers (6:00), Patricia G. (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
- ELYSIUM** Post-Apocalyptic New Year's Eve w/ the Big Dubowski, Creeper, Silkslip, Kydd Jones, Max Frost (9:00)
- EMO'S EAST** Ume, Wooden Shjips, the Black Angels (9:00)
- EMPIRE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE** Apocal-Odyssey w/ Sphynx, Megafauna, Oh Look Out, Royal Bangs, White Denim (8:00)
- FADÓ IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT** New Year's Eve w/ Blaggards (9:30)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** New Year's Eve w/ Luke Bell, Sons of Fathers, Whiskey Shiver
- IRON CACTUS** The Middlemen (9:00)
- LATITUDE 30** Los Jefes (5:30)
- MAGGIE MAE'S** Jeff Banks (7:00)
- MOHAWK** Turquoise Jeep, Big Freedia (8:00)
- MOMO'S** New Year's Eve Party w/ Panjoma , Foot Patrol
- PARKSIDE** El Cocinero, MC Lauritz Sparkman Williams, DJ Mahealani, David Miranda, DJ Resinthol
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** New Year's Eve w/ W.C. Clark
- RILEY'S TAVERN** New Year's Eve w/ Wayne "The Train" Hancock (9:00)
- ROMEO'S** New Year's Eve w/ KP & the Boom Boom (10:00)
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE** Zoumountchi (10:00)
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** New Year's Eve w/ Matt Farrell (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** New Year's Eve Party w/ Hector Ward & the Big Time , Guy Forsyth (8:00)
- SENGELMANN HALL** Charlie Lucas, Tim Hall, Roy Heinrich & the Pickups
- SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN** Aimee Bobruk (10:00am)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Radiostar
- SKINNY'S BALLROOM** New Year's Eve Party w/ Danny Malone (10:00)
- STARDUST CLUB** Aaron Navarro
- STUBB'S** New Year's Eve w/ T Bird & the Breaks
- TEXAS MIST** DJ Spinner (8:30)
- THE THIRSTY NICKEL** Sean Evans (4:30), Guilty Pleasures (9:00)

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CAROUSEL LOUNGE BEAUTY

You: reddish/brownish hair, black jacket, red lipstick, in corner with friends Me: tall, brown hair, black hoodie We kept exchanging glances. Meant to introduce myself, but you disappeared. 2nd chance? **When: Saturday, December 17, 2011. Where: Carousel Lounge. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905459**

HALF-KOREAN UT STUDENT

You were half-Korean/white. Met you last Feb '11, at Target in Ft. Worth. You'd graduated from UT-Arlington, and were starting graduate school at UT Austin this year, in the Biology Dept. **When: Sunday, February 20, 2011. Where: Target, Bryant Irvin, Fort Worth. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905458**

TRIANON 12/7 5:00

You were in the armchair closest to the conference room, carrying a case that looked like it might have held a musical instrument; I was inside the conference room. **When: Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Where: Trianon. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905457**

EPOCH PARTY

you: man me: woman you: seemingly "taken" me: ? **When: Thursday, December 15, 2011. Where: epoch party. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905456**

THRASH AND BURN

You noticed my t-shirt. I enjoyed your company. Sorry I missed giving you a ride home. We should hang out or metal out as the case may be **When: Tuesday, December 13, 2011. Where: Emo's East. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905455**

SPINCYCLE ON GUADALUPE

Dec 12, at 6pm Spin cycle laundry on guadalupe. You: 28yrs old, blonde/red haired girl, white sweater and red pants. Me: The guy that helped you with your washing machine **When: Monday, December 12, 2011. Where: Spincycle on guadalupe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905454**

PARISH CHRISTMAS STORY

You, bartender sporting a mistletoe headband. Me, bouncy 80s night patron with a pension for motor boatin'. Maybe we can head butt each other again over trivia? **When: Saturday, December 10, 2011. Where: The Parish. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905453**

BARBARELLA JAGUAR

You: dark dress, black glasses, dancing your ass off I owe you a ring and one other thing. **When: Sunday, December 11, 2011. Where: Barbarella's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905452**

COBRA LUGIE, BAR

Me: playing mindgames with bartenders, I hooked a lugie on the bar to get a rise. Your brother hurled himself at me, we both flew out the front door. LOLZ! **When: Thursday, December 8, 2011. Where: Spiderhouse. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905451**

TUBA TEMPTRESS

Saw your Chronicle pic a while back, marching with a tuba or something. Wanna get sassy and brassy together? I have gallons of valve oil. Extra virgin valve oil. **When: Monday, October 10, 2011. Where: Chronicle pic. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905450**

SPOOKY BOOK LOOKER

You: Tall, blond, glasses, looking in horror section. I said "Nice boots". You were charmed. Care to talk spooky books over coffee? Me: Glasses, blond hair, purplish flannel shirt. **When: Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Where: Half Price Books North Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905449**

The Luv Doc

This year the Lord's Day is on the Lord's Day – that being Lord Jr. and Lord Sr., respectively, who just happen to be one and the same. Mazel tov! Regardless of the rationalistic quagmire the birth of the Son of God (or for that matter the Holy Trinity) presents, a day of rest isn't such a bad idea. Truly, everybody can probably use some down time after the insane mosh pit of materialism leading up to Christmas. Somehow, in less than a century we've gone from peppermint to pepper spray, from wassailing to retailing, from Christmas cheer to Christmas fear. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is an expensive affair. It can bankrupt you if you're not careful ... which is what Jesus would have wanted anyway, so whip out that credit card and go berserk. At this time of year everyone spends money like they just won the lottery. It doesn't necessarily mean they're crazy; it just means they have Christmas spirit – which may be the result of a spiritually enlightened beneficence toward family, friends, and neighbors, or it may be the result of an ingeniously incessant barrage of Pavlovian conditioning concocted by Machiavellian Madison Avenue marketers. Admit it: Every time you hear sleigh bells jingling, you instinctively reach for your credit card. Why not reach for your ankles instead and eliminate the middlemen? Don't worry, you won't have to hold that position long. During the Christmas season there is no shortage of bankers walking around with raging hard-ons. It's the most wonderful time of the year – an invigorating shot of Viagra for the sagging pillars of capitalism. Thank Jesus! Yes, he's been the reason for the season for nearly the last three millennia – at least since the Romans got on the post-Saturnalia J train. Of course, the three wise men deserve a little credit too, and not just for throwing down with a trifection of sweet swag for the newborn Jesus – gold (babies love bling!), frankincense (babies like to bum one!), and myrrh (babies love ointment!) – but also for taking the long way home to throw Herod off baby Jesus' scent (which, one can assume, was fairly pungent after the wise men's visit). Herod, it turns out, had a hard-on for Jesus (fed by power and greed – sort of like a banker) because folks (wise men included) were claiming that the baby Jesus was the King of the Jews, which would cut in on Herod's turf. Herod was going to have the wise men rat out baby Jesus, but, as they will in these situations, an angel of the Lord appeared and gave the wise men the 411. Hooray wise men! Hooray angel of the Lord! Except that as a result Herod had every male child in Bethlehem under the age of 2 massacred. "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf would have called that "collateral damage." Oops. So really, the origins of Christian gift-giving are soaked in the blood of infants and toddlers. At least that explains the red color scheme. The green is just too obvious, and chances are you've been coughing it up liberally for a few months now, filling up the empty space beneath your Christmas tree, which may or may not be a metaphor for your soul. The good news is that you're in the home stretch. There's daylight on the other side of that Star of Bethlehem, and it's called January ... aka the month of atonement, that meditative time when you figure out it's who you are not what you have. That's why the gyms are so crowded. There are other ways to stay in shape that are a bit less narcissistic – dancing for instance, plus with dancing you stand a chance of meeting interesting people. You can do both this Saturday at Africa Night at the Sahara Lounge. That's when the Sahara's owner/proprietor Ibrahim Aminou and his band Zoumountchi play a night of high-energy West African dance music. Dance yourself dizzy, meet some fun people, and remind yourself of the roughly 4.6 billion people on Earth who don't have any Christmas spirit.

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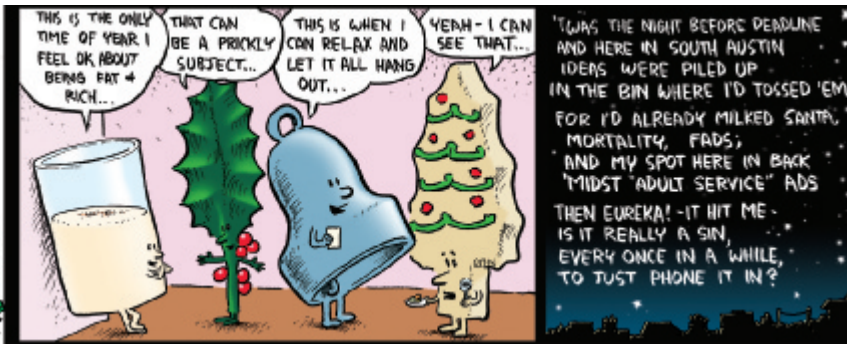
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COMIX

EYE BLEAM
by Sam Hurf



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

According to the BBC, more than half the world works off the books. That's \$10 trillion. This does not include criminal activity.

The late Kim Jong-il liked lavish stage shows by North Korean performers. He also owned more than 20,000 videos and DVDs and counted Elizabeth Taylor among his favorite actresses.

369,629 people died on America's roads between 2001 and 2009.

Buzzards and vultures are two different birds, and they have different meanings in North America and Europe. In the U.S., buzzards are chicken hawks. Vultures have bald heads and curved beaks and are neat eaters, while hawks are smaller and messy eaters.

Thirty-four percent of women like to match their bras to their panties.



At left is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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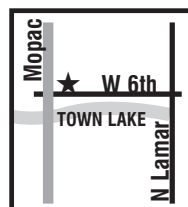
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..WILLIE NELSON.
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***..CIVIL WARS..**
..LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
..TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND..
..GABRIEL IGLESIAS..
..PUSCIFER.
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LEGAL

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Green Tea, LLC dba Traavasa Austin located at 13500 FM 2769 in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The managers of Green Tea, LLC are Christopher T. Manning, Joy A. Berry and Gabe L. Finke.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD JOSEPH REYNOLDS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-002007 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. LEE PRESTON REYNOLDS The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 12, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship and For Appointment of Independent Administrator in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RONALD JOSEPH REYNOLDS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 12, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ M.C. ARZOLA

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOANNE THERESA MOTRONI-HOPKINS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001993 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 09, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOANNE THERESA MOTRONI-HOPKINS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 14, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ ABRAM GONZALEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GARY MARK BILBERRY Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001816 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

KAREN D BILBERRY and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 04, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship and to Issue Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GARY MARK BILBERRY, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 04, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN OLIVER Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-002002 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JACK EDWARD LIVINGSTON JR alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 12, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship AND APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOHN OLIVER, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 15, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ D. MENDEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-11-006875 To: PABLO MARTINEZ and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); **GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Court-house of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PETITION FOR DIVORCE, TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER filed in said court on DECEMBER 15, 2011, and said suit being number D-1-FM-11-006875 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF IRENE RODRIGUEZ and PABLO MARTINEZ, ET AL, and In the Interest of PAOLA ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ RODRIGUEZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 14, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ ELIZABETH GARCIA, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

IRENE RODRIGUEZ
1881 GROVE BLVD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78741

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-11-006222 To: JUAN JOSE SANCHEZ PESINA and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); **GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Court-house of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE, TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER filed in said court on NOVEMBER 3, 2011, and said suit being number D-1-FM-11-006222 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF DORA ELIA ORTIZ MARTINEZ and JUAN JOSE SANCHEZ PESINA, and In the Interest of BRITHANY ARISBETT SANCHEZ ORTIZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 09, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ ELIZABETH GARCIA, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

GRISelda PONCE
11900 METRIC BLVD.
SUITE J-167
AUSTIN, TX 78758
BUSINESS PHONE:
(512) 454-7700
FAX: (512) 590-8732

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-11-006918 To: EDWARD ARLEN MACE JR and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); **GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.** You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Court-house of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on DECEMBER 16, 2011, and said suit being number D-1-FM-11-006918 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF LANIE MARIE MACE and EDWARD ARLEN MACE, JR., and In the Interest of LAYLA MARIE MACE, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 16, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ STROTHER AMY, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
LANIE MARIE MACE
3400 SHORELINE DR #921
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78728

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

AUSTIN CHRONICLE

TO: LINDA TAYLOR Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being MONDAY 01/02/2012, a default judgment may be taken against you.

CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-11-008162

PJ PARTNERS VS LINDA TAYLOR

Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on August 05, 2011.

STYLED: PJ PARTNERS VS LINDA TAYLOR

NATURE OF SUIT: DEBT

Given under my hand and seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on November 15, 2011.

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ C. JONES
Plaintiff Attorney:
PATRICK ANTHONY GROVES
508 W. 14TH STREET
AUSTIN, TX 78701

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-11-003274 To: ROBERT HARRIS, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT HARRIS, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR HARRIS, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LUVERNIA HARRIS EARLS, Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney.

If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 3, 2012, and answer the AMENDMENT OF PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO QUIET TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 261ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 27, 2011, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-11-003274, in which KALAL INVESTMENTS, INC. Plaintiff(s), and JOHN DOES NOS. 1-10, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT HARRIS, DECEASED AND AGAINST JOHN DOES NOS. 11-20, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR HARRIS, DECEASED, JOHN DOES NOS, ET AL Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

the **COMMON LAW**
by Luke Ellis will return on the
FIRST THURSDAY of EVERY MONTH

Until then, here's an *uncommon law* that you may need to be aware of:

In Virginia, tickling a woman is unlawful.

Pet of the Week

SAMMIE

Hi! I'm Sammie, a young retriever mix who is ready to find a place to call home. I'm active, but am just as content going for a nice walk as spending some quality couch time with you. Looking for a fun and smart dog? I'm your girl!



CHRONICLE Austin
Natural
Society

124 W. Anderson Ln. 512/646-7387 ext.105

SPOT

Hi, my name is Spot, a rat terrier mix. I have a few gray hairs, but am still very active and love to play and go on walks! I also like to have my belly rubbed and a good booty scratch too. I want to find a forever family, because I still have lots of love to give!



260-SPCA CALL FOR HOURS
909 S. BAGDAD RD., LEANDER, TX
CENTRALTEXASSPCA.COM

CHRONICLE

AV0118 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

**JANUARY 18, 2012 @ 9:30 AM @
SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S.
CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX 78745**

115056718	2001	AUDI	4DR		WAUED64B01N163127
115057353	2002	NISS	4DR	979SDZ	TX 3N1CB51DX2L624922
115057354	1997	FORD	2DR	006BLP	TX 1FALP62W0VH140349
115057768	1997	MERC	4DR	BNS5861	TX 1MELM13P3VW659743
115057771	1999	MAZD	4DR	BF6L316	TX JM1BJ224X0129420

LEGAL/NOTICES cont.

PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO QUIET TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY, THE CORPORATION IS THE SOLE OWNER IN FEE SIMPLE OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 5, OUTLOT 28, DIVISION B, CHERNOSKY SUBDIVISION NO. 13, AN ADDITION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT RECORDED IN VOLUME 4, PAGE 274, OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S AMENDMENT TO PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO QUIET TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, a Texas, November 28, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ LYDIA ANN MARTINEZ, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

ALBERT J. HEINRICH, JR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

408 WEST 18TH STREET

AUSTIN, TX 78701

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 322-9550

FAX: (512) 322-9675

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCO MARTINEZ ARANDA Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001832 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

OLGA PRIETO The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 09, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship & for Declaratory Judgment in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said FRANCISCO MARTINEZ ARANDA, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 09, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ M. LIMON

D-1-GV-09-000906

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-09-000906, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Manor Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District

d/b/a Central Health are plaintiffs, and Tri Ta a/k/a Ta Tri, Tom Dinh and Oak Hill Partners, LP (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$106,289.49 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 419th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 26, 2011.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3, Block G, Amended Plat of Lot 1, Block G, Walnut Creek Business Park Phase A Section One and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block G, Walnut Creek Business Park Phase A Section 5, Plat Volume 93, Page 130, as described in Document No. 2003133635 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$106,289.49 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-10-000660

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250TH District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-10-000660, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Clifton Hill are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$21,595.07 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 30, 2010.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 4, Block 5, Green Valley No. 1, Plat No. 5/27 as described in Volume 9309, Page 639 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$21,595.07 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Lot 3, Block G, Amended Plat of Lot 1, Block G, Walnut Creek Business Park Phase A Section One and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block G, Walnut Creek Business Park Phase A Section 5, Plat Volume 93, Page 130, as described in Document No. 2003133635 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

D-1-GV-10-001453

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126TH District Court of Travis County, on the 28th day of November, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-10-001453, wherein Austin Community College, Manor Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 and Travis County Healthcare District

d/b/a Central Health are plaintiffs, and Joyce Moffett are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 85906 = \$4,438.09** and **Tract Two: Billing Number 85907 = \$2,967.06** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 8, 2011.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Tract One: Billing Number 85906

Lot 14, Block 1, Kingsbery Park, Section 2, Plat No. 63/75, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 5258, Page 2098 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

Tract Two: Billing Number 85907

Lot 15, Block 1, Kingsbery Park, Section 2, Plat No. 63/75, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 5258, Page 2098 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 85906 = \$4,438.09** and **Tract Two: Billing Number 85907 = \$2,967.06** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-10-001461

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53rd District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-10-001461, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health are plaintiffs, and Don Rivera and City of Austin (Solid Waste Services Dept.) (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$9,843.87 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on March 4, 2011.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

West 60.85 feet of Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Chunn Subdivision, Plat No. 4/120, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document Number 2002231791 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas .

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$9,843.87 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Tract One: Billing Number 85906

Lot 14, Block 1, Kingsbery Park, Section 2, Plat No. 63/75, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 5258, Page 2098 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

Tract Two: Billing Number 85907

D-1-GV-10-001639

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419th District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November, 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-10-001639, wherein City of Austin, Travis County, Plugerville Independent School District, Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a

Central Health and Austin Community College are plaintiffs, and Lusino Flores, Rayo A. Romero, Raquel Penaloza a/k/a Raquelina Perez Avila and Hall Chiropractic a/k/a Hall Chiropractic, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$12,827.33 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 419th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 15, 2011.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

0.365 of an acre out of the Memucan Hunt Survey 88 and the Alexander Walters Survey 67, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2003044418 (no field note description for subject property, the prior conveyance in Document No. 2001197335 references TCAD information) of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$12,827.33 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-096-006742

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of November 2011 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-096-006742, wherein Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, Austin Community College and Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health are plaintiffs, and James S. L. Davis, Jr., if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of James S.L. Davis, Jr., Thelma Davis, Ogereda Marion (Davis) Bowman, Willie Ray Davis, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of Willie Ray Davis, Vessie Vivian Tutt a/k/a Vessie Vivian (Davis) Tutt, Scottie Lee (Davis) Ivory, Agnes Teresa (Davis) Lewis, Floyd Andrew Davis, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of Floyd Andrew Davis, Barbara Jean (Davis) Dotson, Nikki Fonne (Simmons) Hall, Everett Douglas Davis, Frances Elaine Davis, Iris Elizabeth Davis Lanya, Akaimi Waneen Davis, Betty Jewel Thomas a/k/a Betty Ferguson Thomas, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate

of Betty Jewel Thomas a/k/a Betty Ferguson Thomas, Ruth Ann Jones a/k/a Ruth Murphy Jones, Mary Alice Dixon

a/k/a Mary Murphy Dixon, Porter Calvin Murphy, Jr., Paul Kelvin Harbert, Sharon Kay Small, and Gary Dwayne Murphy, City of Austin (In Rem Only), Cassandra Sorrells (In Rem Only) and Melissa Lange (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 78753 = \$30,707.88** and **Tract Two: Billing Number 79490 = \$29,040.46** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 25, 2011.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Tract One: Billing Number 78753

Lot 10, Block 4, Foster Subdivision (Olt. 58, Div. B), Plat No. 1/34B as described in Volume 7732, Page 753, Volume 11962, Page 920, Volume 12097, Page 1116, Volume 12457, Page 387, Volume 12457, Page 417, Probate Cause No. 57,935, document number 1999003426 and document number 2002023481 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

Tract Two: Billing Number 79490

West 50' of Lot 6, Block 8, C.R. Johns Subdivision (Olt. 36, Div. B), Plat No. 1/3A as described in Volume 736, Page 10, Volume 11962, Page 911, Volume 12457, Page 387, Volume 12457, Page 417, Probate Cause No. 57,935, document number 1999003426 and document number 2002023481 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 78753 = \$30,707.88** and **Tract Two: Billing Number 79490 = \$29,040.46** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of November, 2011.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NOTICE VRW Construction Company, Inc. is soliciting bids from all certified MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers for the Morris Williams Golf Course Pro Shop/ Cart Barn project. Bid date is Thursday, January 5th, 2012. Bids due to VRW no later than 10 AM. Phone - 512.282.5406. Send bids by fax to 512.282.0164.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as required by title 18, United States Code, section 983(a) (2)(A) and/or title 19, United States Code, section 1607 et seq of seizure at Austin, Texas,

on the dates specified below, of the following merchandise, liable to forfeiture to the United States under provisions of various statutes cited. Any person claiming such property is hereby notified to file his claim at the Customhouse, 7501 Esters Blvd., Suite 160, Irving, Texas 75063 (or by mail to P.O. Box 619050,

D/FW Airport, Texas 75261), within 20 days (or 35 days if case is denoted as C.A.F.R.A.) after the first publication of this notice together with a bond in the amount of \$5000 or 10% of the value of the claimed property (for cases not denoted as C.A.F.R.A.), whichever is lower, but not less than \$250, with approved sureties as provided for in title 19, United States Code, section 1608. The cost bond amount, if required, is specified below for each referenced case. Once the cost bond and/or claim to the merchandise has been filed, the case will be forwarded to the United States Attorney for the institution of forfeiture proceedings in federal district court. If you are indigent (needy and poor) you may not be required to post the monetary bond. If no claim is filed (or bond given) as provided in the aforesaid statute, the property herein described will be declared forfeited to the Government of the United States and disposed of in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury.

2011550700005401: Fuente Rostro En Manto Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Salome Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Two (2) El Subconsciente Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Caballo Grande Con Textura Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Hogar De Timiso Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Despedida De La Noche Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Princesa De Shanghai Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Astrologo Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Mascara Grande Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante and Blue Round Fish (Pez Globo) Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante - in violation of 18 USC 981, 982 & 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of knowingly, forging, counterfeiting, altering, or falsely making any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States and 18 USC 981, 982 & 1546, because it is unlawful to utter, use, or attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept, or receive any such visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card, or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States which was procured by means of any false claim or statement, or to have been otherwise procured by fraud or unlawfully obtained - seized on August 26, 2011 Austin, Texas (C.A.F.R.A. - no monetary cost bond required)

2011550700005401: Fuente Rostro En Manto Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Salome Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Two (2) El Subconsciente Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Caballo Grande Con Textura Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Hogar De Timiso Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Despedida De La Noche Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Princesa De Shanghai Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Astrologo Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Mascara Grande Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante and Blue Round Fish (Pez Globo) Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante - in violation of 18 USC 981, 982 & 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of knowingly, forging, counterfeiting, altering, or falsely making any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States and 18 USC 981, 982 & 1546, because it is unlawful to utter, use, or attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept, or receive any such visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card, or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States which was procured by means of any false claim or statement, or to have been otherwise procured by fraud or unlawfully obtained - seized on August 26, 2011 Austin, Texas (C.A.F.R.A. - no monetary cost bond required)

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2011550700005401: Fuente Rostro En Manto Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Salome Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Two (2) El Subconsciente Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Caballo Grande Con Textura Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Hogar De Timiso Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Despedida De La Noche Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Princesa De Shanghai Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Astrologo Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Mascara Grande Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante and Blue Round Fish (Pez Globo) Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante - in violation of 18 USC 981, 982 & 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of knowingly, forging, counterfeiting, altering, or falsely making any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States and 18 USC 981, 982 & 1546, because it is unlawful to utter, use, or attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept, or receive any such visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card, or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States which was procured by means of any false claim or statement, or to have been otherwise procured by fraud or unlawfully obtained - seized on August 26, 2011 Austin, Texas (C.A.F.R.A. - no monetary cost bond required)

2011550700005401: Fuente Rostro En Manto Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Salome Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Two (2) El Subconsciente Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Caballo Grande Con Textura Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Hogar De Timiso Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Despedida De La Noche Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, La Princesa De Shanghai Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, El Astrologo Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante, Mascara Grande Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante and Blue Round Fish (Pez Globo) Sculpture by Sergio Bustamante - in violation of 18 USC 981, 982 & 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of knowingly, forging, counterfeiting, altering, or falsely making any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States and 18 USC 981, 982 & 1546, because it is unlawful to utter, use, or attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept, or receive any such visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration receipt card, or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the United States which was procured by means of any false claim or statement, or to have been otherwise procured by fraud or unlawfully obtained - seized on August 26, 2011 Austin, Texas (C.A.F.R.A. - no monetary cost bond required)

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE 2009 JONWEY YY50QT-6 SCOOTER VIN # L8YCAPF59Y072378 AUTHORIZED BY TRAVIS CO. CONSTABLES PCT# 2. DATE OF IMP: 12/13/2011 LOCATED : 11617 MANCHACA RD AUSTIN TX 78748 K & S TOWING 512-291-3672 TOTAL CHGS: \$284.95 /\$200.00 + TAX PER DAY.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to provisions of Article 5 VCS4477-9A Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, this is notice to the owner and lienholder of the following vehicles to reclaim the vehicle within 10 days and pay all fees or your failure to do so shall be a waiver of your rights, title, interest, and your consent to sell the vehicle at public auction:

AUSTIN WRECKER SERVICE
9608 BROWN LANE
AUSTIN, TX 78754
1999 PONTIAC 2DR - 1G2WP-12K9XF237348
1989 CADILLAC 4DR - 1G6CB5158K4377429
2003 CHEVY 4DR - 1G1ND-52JX3M544721

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT TO TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT. THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

1994 HONDA
1HGEG649RL052038
2008 KAITONG MC LY-
DTCKPE881201056
E Z GO GOLF CART NO LP
157055

SALAZAR, LETICIA LUCIO, DORA ROSALEZ & CLIFFORD GILLARD.

www.twauctions.com
Terry Waters #16498

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **January 3, 2012 at 12:30 P.M.** at the YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION located at 12506 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, Texas. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. The items in the unit are furniture and household goods unless otherwise indicated. YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

Your Storage Solution 12506 N Lamar Blvd.

Austin, TX 78753

J. Hinojosa II, Unit C062
Jesus Hinojosa II, Unit C062
Justin Thorn, Unit B189
Melinda Prince, Unit B204
Margarita Barron, Unit B159
Olga Eguwuagu, Unit B154

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following property, currently housed at Budget Storage and Parking, 12001 Manchaca, is to be offered for sale to satisfy a Landlord's lien pursuant to Texas Property Code, Chapter 59.

Alicia Perez - mattresses, Christmas decorations, misc. items

Joan Jackson - picture frames, decoration items, wall clocks, table clocks, ceramic items, clothing, toys, misc. items

Joan Jackson - ceramic dolls, clothing, toys, tables, accessories, misc. items

Wendy Hajduk - big screen TV, china cabinet, foosball, misc. furniture, misc. toys

Jessica Cardenas - vacuum, Christmas tree, bassinet, bouncer, misc. items

Robert Wayne Biege - ladders, clothing, tools, file cabinet, fan, exercise equipment

Robert Wayne Biege - bed frame, mattresses, mirror, misc. furniture, misc. items

Norma Barr - ladder, deep fryer, table, bicycles, ice chest, dolls, tools, misc. items

Jennifer Hoekstra - table, glider ottoma, bookshelf, decorations, misc. furniture, suitcase, misc. items

Ezequiel Manzano - wheel barrow, shovels, bicycle, ice chest, cabinet, clothing, misc. items

The sale shall be held at Budget Storage & Parking, 12001 Manchaca, **Wednesday, January 11, 2012 @ 10:00am.** Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property at any time prior to sale. Successful bidders shall be required to post a \$50.00 refundable deposit to ensure removal of property. Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Mrs. Liz Crum, Property Manager, at (512) 282-7867.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Sheahan Self Storage 11712 N. LAMAR, AUSTIN, TX 78753, 258-5365 will hold a public auction of property to be sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 AM on January 4, 2012 at the above address. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, check or credit card. May require temp. removal/cleanup deposit. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and withdraw property from sale. Units contain misc household, carpet extractor equipment, antiques, misc child items, tools and wooden drawers. Property being sold includes the contents of the units of

the following tenants: James M Sauls, John P alba, Eric A Vaughn, Edward Ardizoni, Bill Owen, Ubaldo Sanchez, Stacey Skates, John A Matheson and Michael A. Cruz. Contact in writing to: Sheahan Self Storage, 11712 N Lamar, Suite 1, Austin, TX 78753, or call: 512-258-5365.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: D1GN10000971 By virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court Court of TRAVIS COUNTY, Texas, October 13, 2011, in cause numbered D1GN10000971, styled ANGEL DELACROSA, JR. versus ERIC MESSING on a judgment rendered against ERIC MESSING; I did on November 01, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of ERIC MESSING the following described real property:

Being the East Seventy-One (71) feet of Lot 7, Block 11, HYDE PARK ANNEX, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Book 2, Page 130, Plat records of Travis County, Texas, locally known as 4600 Avenue F, Austin, Travis County, Texas

On January 03, 2012, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of ERIC MESSING in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, November 04, 2011.

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

CAUSE: 198931111 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the District Court 189 Court of HARRIS County, Texas, October 06, 2011, in cause numbered 198931111, styled MARIANNE PAPAGEORGIOU f/k/a MARIANNE NAAMAN versus JIM MINAHAN, d/b/a MINAHAN INTERESTS on a judgment rendered against JIM MINAHAN, d/d/a MINAHAN INTERESTS; I did on December 05, 2011, at 10:00 A.M., levy upon as the property of JIM MINAHAN, d/b/a MINAHAN INTERESTS the following described real property:

UNIT 34 & 35 MARINA CLUB CONDOMINIUMS a Condominium Project situated in Travis County, Texas together with an undivided interest and to both the general and limited common

elements, according to the Declaration of Covenant, Conditions and Restrictions for Marina Club Condominiums Revised 2001, recorded in Document No. 2002190230, Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On January 03, 2012, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of JIM MINAHAN, d/b/a MINAHAN INTERESTS in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 05, 2011

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ by SENIOR DEPUTY ALMAR SAENZ, Deputy

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the other persons. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH MARY FEILD, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001939, styled Estate of Elizabeth Mary Feild, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 13, 2011, to

Thomas Grady Feild. Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent executor of the estate in care of Patricia A. Campbell at the following address: c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody a Professional Corporation Attn: Patricia A. Campbell Post Office Box 98 Austin, Texas 78767

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 13th day of December, 2011.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY, A Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell

State Bar No. 03714100

(512) 480-5625

(512) 480-5825 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

THE ESTATE OF LAWRENCE JOHN LOTTMANN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances Helen Burt, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001825, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Annelies Lottmann, whose address is 5607 Joe Sayers Ave., Austin, Texas 78756.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Respectfully submitted, ALLEN LOTTMANN A Professional Corporation 3805 Old Bullard Road Tyler, Texas 75701 DATED the 15th day of December, 2011.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to the Independent Executor, Annelies Lottmann, in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor, as follows:

Richard H. Lottmann
Allen Lottmann
A Professional Corporation
3805 Old Bullard Road
Tyler, Texas 75701
DATED the 15th day of December, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, ALLEN LOTTMANN A Professional Corporation 3805 Old Bullard Road Tyler, Texas 75701 (903) 534-0006 (903) 534-3757 (Facsimile)

By: /s/ RICHARD H. LOTT-MANN

Texas Bar No. 12585300

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LONNIE W. RUTTER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LONNIE W. RUTTER, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001870 pending in the Probate Court Number 1, Travis County, Texas, to: LEOLA RUTTER

The residence address of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, and the mailing address of the Independent Executor is:

c/o Nelson M. Davidson, Jr.

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 529

Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 13th day of December, 2011.

Nelson M. Davidson, Jr.

Attorney at Law

/s/ Nelson M. Davidson, Jr.

State Bar No. 05444500

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Loretta Janelle Myers, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011 in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001937 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Diane Bennett.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart PLLC Attorneys at Law 2901 Bee Caves Road, Box D Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 13th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Ellen P. Stewart

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances Helen Burt, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001825, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Guy F. Gebbia.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Glenn M. Karisch

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CONCEPCION M. O'BRIEN, A/K/A CONCEPCION MARTINEZ

c/o Law Offices of Guy F. Gebbia 1505 W. Koenig Lane Austin, TX 78756 Dated the 15th day of December, 2011. /s/ Guy F. Gebbia Independent Executor for Estate of Frances Helen Burt, Deceased 1505 W. Koenig Lane Austin, TX 78756 Telephone: (512) 450-1422 Facsimile: (512) 450-1799

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Whitney Clayton Rowland, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011 in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001792 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Dorothy Rowland.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart PLLC Attorneys at Law 2901 Bee Caves Road, Box D Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Patricia T. Barnes

Attorney for Independent Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Paula N. Handrick, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, under Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001845 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Norma Young.

Claims may be presented to the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed to: Estate of Paula N. Handrick, Deceased

c/o Lynn Hopper, Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 1902

Kingsland, Texas 78639

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Lynn C. Hopper

State Bar No. 09988300

P.O. Box 1902

Kingsland, Texas 78639

325-388-8101

325-388-8102 (facsimile)

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Fred W. Dalton, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001923, pending in Travis County, Texas, to: Gregory S. Marberry.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Glenn M. Karisch The Karisch Law Firm, PLLC P.O. Box 160457 Austin, Texas 78716-0457

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Glenn M. Karisch

Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sarah W. Biedenharn, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2011, in Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001848, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: John D. Biedenharn.

The address of the Independent Executor is in Sunset Beach, Orange County, California. The mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

O'BRIEN, A/K/A CONCEPCION O'BRIEN, A/K/A MARY O'BRIEN, A/K/A CONCEPCION MARY O'BRIEN, Deceased, were issued on November 29, 2011, under Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001081, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to SHIRLEY RATCLIFFE.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative, Estate of Concepcion M. O'Brien, Deceased

c/o Glenn Gonnet

812 West 11th Street,

Suite 201

Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2011.

/s/ GLEN GONNET, Attorney for SHIRLEY RATCLIFFE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of Richard Andre Bell, aka Rick Bell, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001788, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Kathleen Marie Partain.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Brad Wiewel

Attorney at Law

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 550 Austin, TX 78701

DATED the 23rd day of December, 2011.

/s/ Candice H. Bocock,

Attorney

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Ulrich Theodor Anderegg, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001918, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Monique Faith Anderegg as Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Estate of John Ulrich Theodor Anderegg

Monique Faith Anderegg, Independent Executor

c/o Greg Johnson, Attorney at Law

Farrell & Pak, PLLC

1411 West Ave., Suite 100 Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 15th day of December, 2011.

/s/ Greg Johnson

FARRELL & PAK, PLLC

Attorney for Monique Faith Anderegg

1411 West Ave., Suite 100 Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 323-2977

Facsimile: (512) 708-1977

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sarah W. Biedenharn, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2011, in Docket No. C-1-PB-11-001848, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: John D. Biedenharn.

The address of the Independent Executor is in Sunset Beach, Orange County, California. The mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 13th day of December, 2011.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

Attorneys for the Estate

By: /s/ Janice Pierce

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On November 28, 2011, Donald L. Thompson was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jodie Beverlyn Thompson, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-06-085068 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. The address of the independent executor is c/o Craig Hopper, Hopper & Associates, P.C., 400 W. 15th St., Suite 408, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Donald L. Thompson, Independent Executor of the Estate of Jodie Beverlyn Thompson, Deceased

By: Craig Hopper, Attorney for the Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Reta Joyce McSwane Shugart, Deceased, were issued on November 9, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001661, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Ernest Lee Shugart.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Ernest Lee Shugart

John E. Athey, PC

PO Box 202404

AUSTIN, Texas 78720

DATED December 9, 2011.

/s/ John E. Athey

Attorney for the Estate

State Bar No. 01399500

PO Box 202404

Austin, Texas 78720

Telephone: (512) 345-8902

Facsimile: (512) 692-3927

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bessie Sue Sullivan, Deceased, were issued on November 29, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001831, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Michael F. Sullivan.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for Dec. 23-29

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Suzan-Lori Parks is a celebrated American playwright who has won both a Pulitzer Prize and a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant. Between November 2002 and November 2003, she wrote a new short play every day – a total of 365 plays in 365 days. I think you could be almost as prolific as that in 2012, Capricorn. Whatever your specialty is, I believe you will be filled with originality about how to express it. You're also likely to have the stamina and persistence and, yes, even the discipline necessary to pull it off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pigeons are blessed with an extraordinary ability to find home, even if they're hundreds of miles away. They have an internal compass that allows them to read the Earth's magnetic field, and they also create a "map of smells" that gives them crucial clues as they navigate. A team of scientists performed some odd experiments that revealed a quirky aspect to the birds' talent: If their right nostril is blocked, their innate skill doesn't work nearly as well. (It's OK if their left nostril is blocked, though.) What does this have to do with you? Well, Aquarius, you've been like a homing pigeon with its right nostril blocked, and it's high time you unblocked it. In the coming months, you can't afford to be confused about where home is, what your community consists of, or where you belong.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): One of Alexander the Great's teachers was Aristotle, who was tutored by Plato, who himself learned from Socrates. In 2012, I'd love to see you draw vital information and fresh wisdom from a lineage as impressive as that, Pisces. In my astrological opinion, you need much more than a steady diet of factoids plucked from the Internet and TV. You simply must be hungry for more substantial food for thought than you get from random encounters with unreliable sources. It will be time for you to attend vigorously to the next phase of your lifelong education.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In the fictional world of the wizard Harry Potter, muggles are people who have no magical powers. Because of their deficiency, certain sights may be literally invisible to them, and certain places inaccessible. I'm going to boldly predict that you Aries people will lose at least some of your muggleness in the coming year. A part of your life where you've been inept or clueless will begin to wake up. In ways that may feel surprisingly easy, you'll be able to fill a gap in your skill set or knowledge base.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): On Jan. 15, 1885, Wilson Bentley photographed his first snowflake. Over the course of the next 46 years, he captured 5,000 more images of what he called "tiny miracles of beauty." He was the first person to say that no two snowflakes are alike. In 2012, Taurus, I suggest that you draw inspiration from his example. The coming months will be prime time for you to lay the foundation for a worthy project that will captivate your imagination for a long time – and perhaps even take you decades to complete.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In her memoir *Blood, Bones & Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef*, Gabrielle Hamilton suggests my horoscopes were helpful to her as she followed her dream to create her New York City restaurant, Prune. "I killed roaches, poisoned their nests, trapped rats, stuffed their little holes with steel wool and glass shards," she wrote, "while my girlfriend ... walked through the place "purifying" it with a burning sage smudge stick and read me my Rob Breznsky horoscope in support." I would love to be of similar service to you in the coming months, Gemini, as you cleanse whatever needs to be cleansed in preparation for your next big breakthrough. Let the fumigation, purgation, and expiation begin!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In 1992, 30,000 Americans signed a petition asking the governor of Hawaii to change the name of Maui to Gilligan's Island. Fortunately, the request was turned down, and so one of the most sublime places on the planet is not now named after a silly TV sitcom. I'm urging you to avoid getting swept up in equally fruitless causes during the coming months, Cancerian. You will have a lot of energy to give to social causes and collective intentions in 2012, but it will be very important to choose worthy outlets that deserve your intelligent passion and that have half a chance of succeeding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The Palace of Versailles once served as the home for French kings and their royal courts and was the hub of the French government. To this day it remains a symbol of lavish wealth and high civilization. With 26 acres of roof, it has 700 rooms, 67 staircases, 6,000 paintings, and 2,100 sculptures. The grounds feature 50 fountains and 21 miles of water conduits. And yet its namesake, the word "versial," means "terrain where the weeds have been pulled." Prior to it being built up into a luxurious center of power, it was a marsh in the wilderness. I nominate it to be your inspirational image for the coming year, Leo: a picture of the transformation you will begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): George Reiger is a certifiable Disney freak. He has covered his skin with 2,200 tattoos of the franchise's cartoon characters. If you plan to get anything like that much thematic body decoration in 2012, Virgo, I recommend that you draw your inspiration from cultural sources with more substantial artistry and wisdom than Disney. For example, you could cover your torso with paintings by Matisse, your arms with poems by Neruda, and your legs with musical scores by Mozart. Why? In the coming months it will be important for you to surround yourself with the highest influences and associate yourself with the most inspiring symbols and identify yourself with the most ennobling creativity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the classical Nahuatl language of the Aztecs, the word *teocuitlatl* literally meant "god poop." It was used to refer to gold, which was regarded as a divine gift that brought mixed blessings. On the one hand, gold made human beings rich. On the other hand, it could render them greedy, stingy, and paranoid. So it was potentially the source of both tremendous bounty and conflict. I suspect that in 2012, Libra, you will have to deal with the arrival of a special favor that carries a comparable paradox. You should be fine – harvesting the good part of the gift and not having to struggle mightily with the tough part – as long as you vow to use it with maximum integrity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What spell would you like to be under in 2012? Be careful how you answer that; it might be a trick question. Not because I have any interest in fooling you, of course, but rather because I want to prepare you for the trickiness that life may be expressing in your vicinity. So let me frame the issue in a different way. Do you really want to be under a spell – of any kind? Answer "yes" only if you're positive that being under a spell will help you manifest your biggest dream. And please make sure that whoever or whatever is the source of the spell is in the service of love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The Environmental Working Group wrote the *Meat Eater's Guide to Climate Change and Health*. It concluded that if every American avoided eating cheese and meat one day a week, emissions would be lowered as much as they would be by removing 7.6 million cars from roads. This is the kind of incremental shift I urge you to specialize in during 2012, Sagittarius – whether it's in your contribution to alleviating the environmental crisis or your approach to dealing with more personal problems. Commit yourself to making little changes that will add up to major improvements over the long haul.
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES.
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